

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Chuck Marshall <fieldrepfsc@buttefiresafe.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 9:19 AM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: VTP

I support the state wide “Vegetation Treatment Program” – draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). We have a serious overgrowth of vegetation within Butte County. Over the past decades numerous large fires have burned and destroyed homes as well as lives. This unhealthy forest environment has aided the spread of the Pine Bark Beetle and its destruction through out the county. Most areas historically were never thick stands of trees with 300-400 per acre. They were grass range land intermixed with brush fields and pockets of trees. This overgrowth has degraded the quality of water runoff as well as reduced the flow in the natural springs by drawing the available water out of the ground in the “trans evaporation” process that trees and brush go through. I vote to reduce the barriers to forest thinning work and increase the number and size of these projects so that we can adequately address the wildfire challenge we have.

Our Butte County Fire Safe Council has undertaken many forest health projects funded by public grants through the years in several of our Wildland Urban Interface Communities. However there has been a challenge in cost and time to each of the grants in since every project has had to have individual CEQA work. For example, in the Magalia community there have been 6 adjacent forest health documents. We see the PEIR as an opportunity to increase our community’s ability to improve forest health and reduce cost and time constraints in accomplishing these critical projects. Lack of positive action such as passage of PEIR will contribute to an increase of “Megafires” and their death/destruction.

Sincerely,

Charles Marshall

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