

Sample Letter:

Date:

Feather River Ranger District
875 Mitchell Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 534-6500

comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas@fs.fed.us

Attn: Susan Joyce

Re: Slapjack Project

Dear Ms. Joyce,

I am writing to express my outrage about the proposed herbicide applications in the Slapjack Project. I ask you to do everything in your power to develop and utilize non-chemical alternatives for vegetation management.

I am concerned that you are proposing to spray herbicides to maintain DFPZ effectiveness on over 2,000 acres and to kill Scotch and French broom on as much as 2,000 more acres. While I commend you for addressing hazardous fuel levels and noxious weed problems, I strongly oppose the Feather River Ranger District's proposed use of herbicides for vegetation management. As a local resident and forest user I worry about the irreparable damage these chemicals may do to the natural surroundings and public lands I enjoy, as well as the health hazards these chemicals pose to my family.

I ask that you utilize the many non-chemical alternatives for vegetation management available. Fuel brakes can be effectively maintained and invasive weeds successfully controlled by integrating prescribed burns, torching, goats, hand pulling, mechanical or manual cutting, and re-vegetating with competitive native species.

I am concerned that the proposed herbicide spray actions are unnecessary, unwise, and unsafe for both human and forest ecological health. Forest management on our public lands should be based on long-term ecological health and should err on the side of safety and conservation. I am troubled that our public forests are being managed more for timber productivity, than for ecological integrity and public interests. I worry about the long-term costs of all these pesticide applications, particularly those to the environment, the natural area, and the people who live near and use the national forests.

I ask you to consider the long-term costs of pesticide applications, particularly those to the environment, the natural area, and the people who live near and use the national forest. As the unwanted brush and weeds re-colonize and thrive in the disturbed environments, more and more

of the chemicals are required for treatment, which puts Plumas National Forest on a costly pesticide treadmill for years to come.

Please recognize I represent a significant portion of the community, region, and Californians in my opposition to pesticide use on our public lands, and that we strongly urge you to utilize alternative, non-chemical treatment methods here in the Feather Ranger District and the Plumas National Forest.

Sincerely,

P.S. Many members of my community, myself included, would consider volunteering in periodic manual weed removal efforts if it were to reduce the likelihood of herbicide spraying.