



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

P. O. BOX N • INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526
TELEPHONE (760) 878-0373 • FAX (760) 878-2241
e-mail: pgunsolley@inyocounty.us

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
LINDA ARCULARIUS
JEFF GRIFFITHS
RICK PUCCI
MARK TILLEMANS
MATT KINGSLEY

KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board

PATRICIA GUNSOLLEY
Assistant Clerk of the Board

July 15, 2013

Jan Knight, Acting Field Supervisor
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Randy Moore, Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Forest Service
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Charlton H. Bonham, Director
State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Meeting Regarding Proposed Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad

Dear Ms. Knight, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Bonham:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, we wish to thank you and your staffs for all the hard work you have undertaken to protect the above species. Our Board has followed with interest some of your agencies' efforts to protect these species over the past decade, and has generally supported your integrated approach towards this complex task. However, we are concerned that the designation of critical habitat may severely limit each agency's discretion in protecting these species and that the designation of several large watersheds in the County as essential habitat may decimate important portions of our agriculture and tourist-based economy. Many of our citizens and our tourists value our mountains for the solace and recreation they provide, whether it be for fishing, hiking, packing, boating, off-road vehicle use, backcountry camping, or other pursuits. Additionally, our agriculture industry depends on portions of the proposed habitat for its livelihood. Altogether, the proposed designation has the potential to severely impact our citizens, our visitors, and our economy.

This Board seeks to understand the management efforts that have been performed to date, the results that have been achieved, and how the critical habitat designation might affect the management activities of the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are hopeful that an approach can be adopted that protects the historic culture and economy of the County in harmony with the protection of these species.

Jan Knight, Acting Field Supervisor
Randy Moore, Regional Forester
Charlton H. Bonham, Director
July 15, 2013
Page TWO

Toward this end, we invite you and your staffs to join us to discuss relevant issues and help all parties involved better understand the complex regulatory processes and various statutory responsibilities between your agencies regarding these amphibians. We suggest that we all convene during a special evening meeting of our Board of Supervisors to facilitate this dialogue. Meeting in the evening will help promote broad regional participation and provide that the greatest number of our constituents, who have raised so many unanswered questions on this issue, the opportunity to attend, listen, and learn. This interchange is vitally important to us, and we offer to work with you and your staffs to make any necessary arrangements and assist in meeting logistics.

Thank you. Please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or kcarunchio@inyocounty.us at your earliest convenience to arrange for scheduling, or if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Linda Arcularius, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Planning Director
Doug Wilson, Willdan
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties
Fresno County
Tulare County
Mono County
National Association of Counties
Secretary Jewell, U.S. Department of Interior
Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Robert Moler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Stephanie Weagley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ed Armenta, Inyo National Forest
State and Federal Representatives