



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

December 10, 2013

Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Attn: Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Plan
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

Re: Restoration of Native Species in High Elevation Aquatic Ecosystems Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for inviting us to participate in development of the Sequoia and Kings National Parks Restoration of Native Species in High Elevation Aquatic Ecosystems Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“Plan” and “Draft EIS”, respectively). These resources are an integral component of our natural environment and the history of our County, and we are committed to working with you to preserve and enhance native biological diversity in the Sierra Nevada. We also acknowledge the significance of the proposed plan to restore populations of two species of mountain yellow-legged frogs (*Rana muscosa* and *Rana sierra*). We recognize that these actions will require substantial efforts locally as well as regionally and nationally.

We have reviewed the proposed Plan and Draft EIS, and are in support of the balanced nature of the Plan, which seeks to ensure National Parks visitors will continue to enjoy a range of experiences and recreational opportunities at wilderness lakes and streams. We further approve of the evaluative criteria for individual lake selection, which favors restoration of lakes with low recreational fishing value, and preserves fisheries that support a range of visitor values including lakes that are easily accessed from popular trailheads, remote lakes that provide solitude and lakes with large trophy fish.

That said, we are concerned regarding the impacts to important components of our local society, culture, history, and economy associated with recreational fishing in the Sierra Nevada. These activities are and continue to be integral to our well-being. Management actions over the last half-century have persistently worked to reduce access to our public lands for recreation, thus eroding our culture and our historical connection to the land, as well as impacting our economy. Many of the most popular angler destinations in Sequoia and Kings National Parks are accessed from trailheads originating in Inyo County. It is imperative that the Plan and Draft EIS recognize the significant and detrimental impacts to Inyo County’s economy and cultural heritage that would result from curtailing these recreational opportunities.

Superintendent
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
December 10, 2013
Page TWO

We request that the Plan and Draft EIS remove lakes that are popular angler destinations accessed via trailheads originating in Inyo County from consideration for ecosystem restoration. Specifically, we request the following lakes be removed from consideration for restoration including: lakes adjacent to the Bishop Pass Trail in Dusy Basin; lakes adjacent to the Kearsarge Pass Trail; and lakes adjacent to the John Muir and Pacific Crest trails.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input into the Restoration of Native Species in High Elevation Aquatic Ecosystems Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. If you have any questions, please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or kcarunchio@inyocounty.us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Linda Arcularius, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Planning Director
Secretary Jewell, U.S. Department of Interior
Secretary Vilsack, USDA
Doug Wilson, Willdan
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California State Association of Counties
National Association of Counties
Fresno County
Tulare County
Mono County
Jan Knight, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Ashe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ed Armenta, Inyo National Forest
Chief Tidwell, Forest Service
Heidi Sickler, California Department of Fish and Wildlife