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**File Code:** 1560  
**Date:** May 19, 2021

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
825 5th Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Board of Supervisors:

In an era of ever-growing catastrophic wildfires and changing climate conditions, it is more imperative than ever that we work together across physical and jurisdictional boundaries to protect the lands and communities we serve. To achieve this, I am proposing Humboldt County join the Forest Service in partnership in the CalForest WRX<sup>3S</sup> Alliance.

CalForest WRX<sup>3S</sup> is an alliance aimed to address the myriad of risks to communities in northwestern California that arise from the overstocking of small diameter trees and biomass on forest lands. This alliance convenes partners from government, private, tribes and non-profits to support an all-lands approach to promote forest health and community well-being. The key strategy we are convening around is to create economic drivers in emerging high-value forest product markets to fuel forest thinning.

With that said, the Six Rivers National Forest is fully committed to working with Humboldt County to generate support for a market driven approach to fuel forest thinning and biomass removal, while creating living wage jobs, reducing carbon emissions and providing products society needs.

We are fully committed to working in partnership on this alliance to create a market demand that generates a positive revenue flow from small diameter timber and biomass to not only unlock opportunities to increase the pace and scale of restoration on national forest system lands, but also on state, private, tribal and local government lands to address needs on an all-lands landscape approach. The challenges we face due to the sheer scale of treatment needed and the immediacy of action required, call on an integrated approach that leverages the diversity of resources and support needed to solve these problems.

The results of this project will immediately benefit local communities and will impact our regional and global community well into the future. The benefits include forest thinning and biomass removal that will provide multiple lasting benefits to the watershed health and to downstream communities, including wildfire risk reduction, improved wildlife habitat, safeguarded water supplies, carbon storage, local jobs, and increased forest health and resilience to future stressors.

This alliance is critical for the contributions it will make to increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration by creating a market mechanism to implement the Forest-wide Fire and Fuels Environmental Assessment currently under analysis. The efforts currently underway would provide a significant source of feedstock for forest product manufacturing.

We will bring our local, regional and national resources to bear in this alliance by providing staff support for convening the alliance and agreements on measures of success, data, including analysis and support, conservation finance expertise, grant administration where appropriate, and efforts to secure a federal long-term supply of small diameter and biomass feedstock.



This partnership and alliance will not only invest in the health our forest(s) and grasslands, but also create a sustainable local marketplace for overstocked forest lands with small diameter timber and biomass. I look forward to working with Humboldt County in pursuit of improving our communities' well-being by seizing creative opportunities to improve forest health through economic development.

Sincerely,

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Signed by: TED MC ARTHUR  
TED O. MCARTHUR  
Forest Supervisor