



File Code: 1560
Date: June 23, 2022

Rajinder Sahota
Deputy Executive Officer for Climate Change and Research
1001 I St #2828
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Sahota,

As U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region (Region) with responsibility for managing 20 million acres of land in California, I'm writing to express my support for the California Air Resources Board 2022 Climate Scoping Plan. I offer the following comments for your consideration:

- Since 2011, the Region has consistently supported the inclusion of Natural and Working Lands as an essential component to meet California's climate resilience and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- The range of 3 to 6.2 BDT of biomass per acre in Table 32 of the Natural and Working Lands Appendix is a significant underestimate. My staff estimates an average of 10 to 25 bone-dry tons (BDT) of non-merchantable biomass are generated per acre of vegetation management activities on National Forest System lands in the Sierra Nevada, Klamath, and Northern Cascades eco-units as defined in the plan. We suggest validating and updating the estimates in this table.

The Forest Service is committed to accelerating the pace and scale of forest restoration treatments to improve ecosystem function, protect water resources and carbon stocks, and reduce the harmful effects of wildfire on our communities and environment. Removal and use of forest biomass from vegetation management play an essential role in such efforts. Using forest biomass for clean energy and wood products supports the transition to a sustainable low-carbon future as outlined in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and subsequent efforts.

I applaud your efforts and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Scoping Plan. Please contact Helena Murray of my State and Private Forestry staff for assistance in refining the biomass estimates. She can be reached at helena.murray@usda.gov or 707-980-2375.

Sincerely,

 Kara Chadwick

Kara Chadwick for Jennifer Eberlien

Signed by: KARA CHADWICK

JENNIFER EBERLIEN
Regional Forester

cc: Sherry Hazelhurst, Chris Fischer, Jerry Bird, Helena Murray

