



January 3, 2012

Steve Chaney
National Park Superintendent
Redwood National and State Parks
1111 Second Street
Crescent City, CA 95531

Dear Superintendent Chaney:

We are writing in support of the Middle Fork Lost Man Creek project (MFLMC). Redwood National Park has taken a leadership role in using restoration forestry to accelerate the development of older forest conditions in dense, young stands dominated by redwood and fir. The careful, thoughtful approach that you are taking with the South Fork Lost Man Creek (SFLMC) project is to be commended.

Restoration forestry is an exciting technique that we hope will grow the old redwood forests of the future. However, it is still a relatively new conservation tool and the efficacy of restoring young forests through forestry remains unknown. Only through diligent monitoring and the comparison of restored and control stands over time will indicate whether restoration actions do help to accelerate the recovery of forests structure, composition, and function.

With this in mind, we encourage you to continue to play a leadership role in the northcoast in terms of collecting data on key variables that will document forest ecosystem conditions over time in each of the proposed treatments. This will inform the future restoration projects of yours and others so that the best restoration practices are always employed and prescriptions are altered, even intensified, if data suggests such actions are in the best interest of the forest's recovery.

We realize that restoration monitoring and analysis greatly increase the staffing and overall project cost, but this information is seriously needed for older stands to understand restoration efficacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to seeing the final proposed project description and the project implemented in the future.

Sincerely,

Emily Burns Limm, Ph.D.