



February 8, 2019

RE: Comments on January 2019 Draft California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan

To whom it may concern,

Climate change is the most significant threat our forests has ever faced, and the most pressing environmental challenge for our nation and the world. In the absence of clear federal leadership, states hold the key to continued progress on developing and implementing ambitious climate action strategies. This includes the potential to drive emissions reductions and enhanced carbon sequestration through forests and other elements of the land sector. The Draft California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan is great example of the crucial role states play.

American Forests stands ready to help the State of California double the pace and scale of forest management and restoration as outlined Implementation Plan. We are currently engaging federal, state and local partners to incorporate climate science into restoration designs that will improve the long-term health of California's forests and are investing private funding into restoration projects in the Sierra Nevada, San Bernardino Mountains and other priority locations in the state. Our status as co-chair of the Forest Climate Working Group and "impact partner" to the U.S. Climate Alliance will also allow us to support California's goals at a national level and look for opportunities to transfer the State's lessons learned to other regions.

We applauded you for your efforts and look forward to seeing these conversations and tactics evolve as science and policy do. Please continue to diversify the California climate change portfolio with natural and working lands solutions and enhance the urgency to creating "ecologically meaningful change."

Respectfully,

*Brittany Dyer*

*California State Director*

*American Forests*

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