

From: Clarence Rose [mailto:cwrose@wildblue.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2008 2:35 PM
To: Ryan Hanavan
Subject: Re: Thank you for participating in the HFRA meeting

Dear Ryan,

I enjoyed meeting you in Lewiston last week.

Please include this e-mail in the comments for the Pettijohn Project.

I have 34 years of experience in Trinity County in forestry and timber harvest. I have watched the demise of the engine (timber harvest) that used to pull our economic train. I have watched the steady downward spiral of Forest Service effectiveness in fire suppression here. Our county government has been on the brink of bankruptcy for years, and is struggling to provide even a minimal level of services to its citizenry, due in significant part to the lack of Forest Service land management and the attendant lack of economic activity.

Any projects on federal lands in Trinity County which have the potential to protect communities from wildfire, reduce forest fuel loading, increase timber stand resistance to stand-replacing wildfire, provide logs for area mills, provide local employment opportunity, improve wildlife habitat, create fuels for renewable energy production, reduce reliance on fossil fuels (especially imports) or otherwise benefit our communities will draw my support. Of course any such projects will need to be designed to maintain resource productivity. And I urge FS to design projects which are as economically effective as possible.

A key component of successful fuels projects is community support. I am not convinced that the meeting in Lewiston on November 12th was publicized and structured in a way that was helpful to the community. It looked to me more like a 'this is what we do to be able to cross off another box on the NEPA checklist'.

I don't think the Forest Service generally cares nearly as much as it should about how its actions or inactions affect local communities. As I reflect on all the fancy graphics at the "stations" at the Lewiston meeting, a point comes to mind about enlisting support: "They won't care how much you know until they know how much you care (about them)."

Clarence