CAN'T SEE THE FOREST THROUGHT THE TREES?

CALIFORNIA FOREST FIRES SPECIAL REPORT

CA FOREST FIRES CAN BE TRACED TO FEDERAL MISMANAGEMENT

CALIFORNIA IS EXPERIENCING FOREST FIRES AND A SEVERE DROUGHT

THE FEDS OWN MOST OF THE CA FORESTS

Due to Federal mismanagement, California is experiencing constant forest fires every year! Of the 33 Million acres of Forest in CA - almost 60% is owned by the Federal government.

Two Key Reports

How do Californians know that the forest fires are the Federal government's fault - because of two reports.

WRITTEN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!

"The Healthy Forest Restoration Act", signed into law December, 2003 by President G. W. Bush mandates that our nations forest be properly managed.

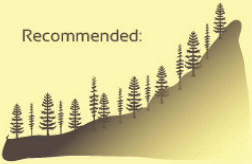
"An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests" is a report by the Fed gov looking at the latest scientific evidence.

- Published in 2009. Its says specifically: a healthy forest has an average of 120-209 trees per acre (the Sierra National forest is on a slope - 209 trees at the bottom of the slope and 120 trees where the slope is steeper at the top of the slope)

- Currently Sierra National Forest (under Fed control) has 600 trees per acre everywhere.

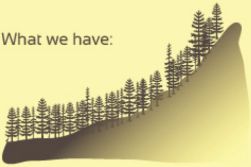
THE BIG ISSUE

Recommended:



VS

What we have:

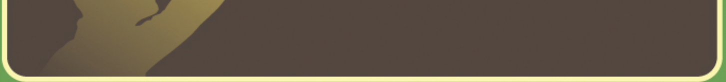


IT'S SIMPLE:
There are too many trees and there is too many dead tree limbs on the forest floor. This makes it easy for fires to start and grow to large size.

THE FED GOV HAS ADMITTED THAT IT KNOWS WHAT A HEALTHY FOREST IS, AND THAT FORESTS UNDER ITS CONTROL HAVE A NON-HEALTHY DENSITY OF FOREST TREES.

FOREST FIRES THAT CALIFORNIANS DEAL WITH ARE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS FAULT FROM MISMANAGEMENT.

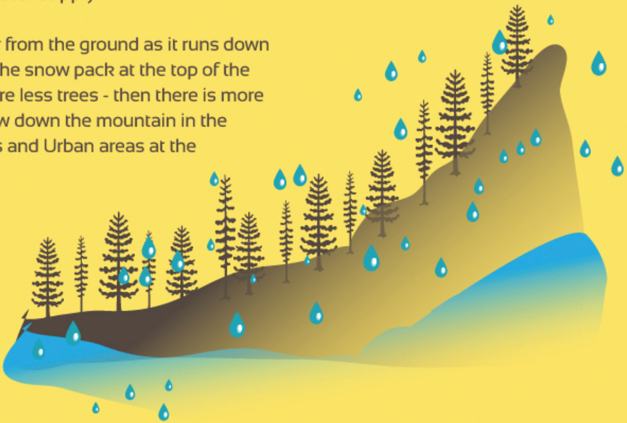
Is it a coincidence then that CA continues to have year after year major forest fires that spread ash everywhere in forests controlled by the fed gov. According to the "State of the Sierra Nevada forest" by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy 2014, it says that Sierra Nevada forests fires have become more "extreme" and larger in size since the last 20 years.



But there is more to the story...

If you thin out the forests and bring tree density from 600 to 120-209 - then you can also increase the water supply.

Trees soak up water from the ground as it runs down the mountain from the snow pack at the top of the mountain. If there are less trees - then there is more water allowed to flow down the mountain in the ground to the Farms and Urban areas at the base of the forest.



Currently CA gets 60% THE MAJORITY of its water from the

Sierra Nevada forest.

If you thin out the trees from 600 - 120/209 you can increase the water provided to farms and cities from the Sierra Nevada by almost 10% to maybe even more than 10%!!!

This information comes from this report:
"Forests and Water in the Sierra Nevada: Sierra Nevada Watershed Ecosystem Enhancement Project" by UC Merced and UC Berkeley, November 29, 2011
"Tahoe Conservation Purchase" By Matthew Hose, California Planning & Development Report, California In Brief Vol. 30 No. 8, August 24 2015

In 2015, California recently ordered DRASTIC LIFE STYLE CHANGES on all Californians with the goal being for urban areas to cut their water use by 25%.

Family Farms Affected

Far too many family farms have been destroyed, crops not grown and trees pulled out of the ground from a lack of water because of this drought. Californians shouldn't have to suffer and we definately have to eat.

So what is the solution to this horrible situation:

THE BIG SECRET

While the majority of Californians think that the Feds own all of the forest that they claim jurisdiction over – that is not actually true!

The forests in California are overseen by two different Federal agencies

- "National Forests" are only legally allowed to be managed by the Fed gov.
- "National Parks" are legally allowed to be exclusively owned by the Fed gov.

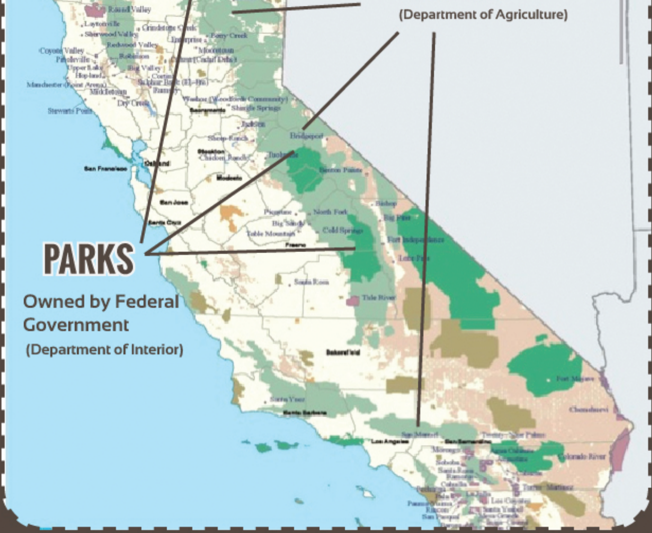
The Fed gov has fooled Californians for years into thinking that "National Forests" are the same thing as "National Parks".

"Parks" and "Forests" may look exactly the same as they are both clusters of pine trees – but to the Federal government they are very different.

Resighini
Quartz Valley
XL Ranch
Yurok
Alturas
Cedarville
Big Lagoon
Hoopa Valley Indian
Lookout
Likely
Trinidad
Big Bend
Blue Lake
Roaring Creek
Table Bluff
Montgomery Creek
Rohnerville
Redding
Susanville
Greenville

FORESTS

"Managed" by Federal Government


Round Valley
Laytonville
Sherwood Valley
Grindstone Creek
Coyote Valley
Redwood Valley
Pinoleville
Robinson
Upper Lake
Big Valley
Hopland
Manchester (Point Arena)
Middletown
Stewarts Point
Dry Creek
Berry Creek
Enterprise
Mooretown
Cortina
Sulphur Bank
Rumsey
Woodfords Community
Sacramento
Shingle Springs
Bridgeport
Sheep Ranch
Stockton
Chicken Ranch
Tuolumne
San Francisco
Oakland
Modesto
Benton Paiute
San Jose
Santa Cruz
Picayune
North Fork
Big Sandy
Cold Springs
Table Mountain
Fresno
Bishop
Big Pine
Fort Independence
Lone Pine
Santa Rosa
Tule River
Bakersfield
Fort Mojave
Chemehuevi
Santa Ynez
Santa Barbara
Los Angeles
San Bernardino
Twenty-Nine Palms
Morongo
Agua Caliente
Colorado River
Soboba
Torres Martinez
Pechanga
Rincon
San Pasqual
Los Coyotes
Santa Ysabel

(Department of Agriculture)

PARKS

Owned by Federal Government

(Department of Interior)

THE COUNTIES OF CALIFORNIA ACTUALLY OWN THE “NATIONAL FORESTS” AND ALLOW THE FED GOV TO MANAGE THEM... AND LEGALLY CAN TAKE BACK MANAGEMENT OF THE “FORESTS” ANY TIME THEY WANT.

WHILE THE FED GOV EXCLUSIVELY OWNS AND MANAGES THE “PARKS” AND THAT CAN’T BE CHANGED CURRENTLY.

By taking back what they legally own – Californians through their counties governments can take control of the OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of the forests that the Feds currently operate in a manner that encourages massive forest fires and doesn’t produce as much water as it could in the middle of a drought.

The Feds would still own the parks – but the vast majority of the forest they mismanage could be taken away from them – and Californians legally have a right to do this.

How do we know this legal understanding is correct:

- Exhibit A – when a crime is committed in “Yosemite National Park” it is investigated by Federal agencies, however, whenever a crime is committed in the “National Forest” the local county sheriff is always called out to deal with it. This is an example of the Federal government ADMITTING jurisdiction of the “forests” goes to the counties.

- Exhibit B – In 1964 the Federal government admitted that it didn’t actually own most of the lands that people think that it does, and that territory commonly referred to as “Federal lands” are actually under county jurisdiction.
  "Inventory report on jurisdictional status of Federal areas within the states as of June 30 1962" by the Federal General Services Administration, 1964

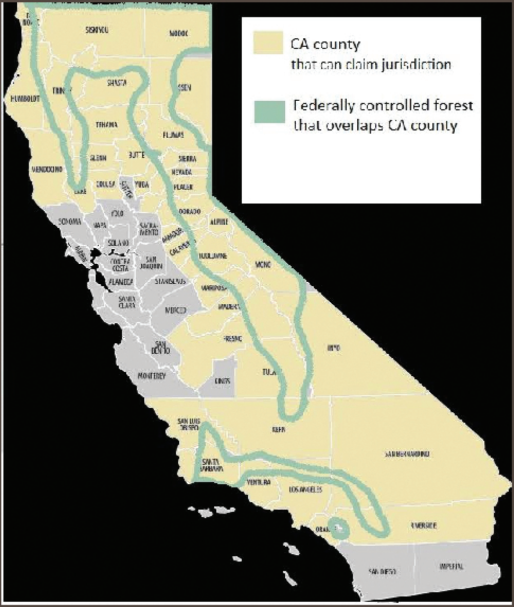
- Exhibit C – in 2013 a California county sheriff in El Dorado county, named John D’Agostini wrote a letter to the Federal government telling them that they had no jurisdiction in the forests in El Dorado county and were not welcome by him to enforce the law. The Federal government never refuted the letter. And John Meyers a professor of law as the McGeorge School of law at the University of the Pacific supported the California sheriffs interpretation of the law.

- Exhibit D – also in 2013, the Arizona Sheriffs Association led by President Joseph Dedman Jr, and representing the counties of Coconino, Yavapai, Mohave, Apache, Navajo, Greenlee, Gila, Cochise, Graham, Santa Cruz, Pinal and Yuma passed a resolution saying that they could choose to listen to the Federal government or not listen to their directions when it came to “National Forests”. The Federal government never refuted the resolution.

- Exhibit E – also in 2013, on August 6, the Fresno county board of supervisors adopted a resolution which stated that the county had “ the exclusive authority over certain roads, rights-of-way, and routes of travel within Fresno county and located on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management”. The Federal government never refuted the resolution.

SO HOW DO CA COUNTIES TAKE THE FORESTS BACK FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

Each county needs to have its top legal authorities issue public declarations that they recognize that the county actually has jurisdiction over “National Forests” – and not the Federal Government. To be especially thorough, every single Sheriff and Board of Supervisors of every CA county listed below should issue a letter/resolution saying that they recognize this understanding of the law.

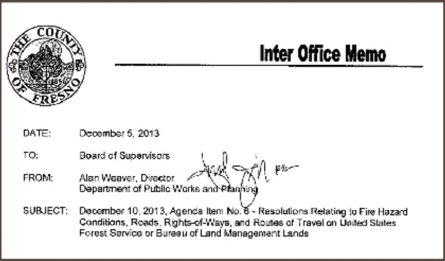

CA county
that can claim jurisdiction
Federally controlled forest
that overlaps CA county
SISKIYOU
MODOC
HUMBOLDT
SHASTA
TEHAMA
PLUMAS
GLENN
BUTTE
SIERRA
NEVADA
MENDOCINO
COLUSA
YUBA
PLACER
LAKE
YOLO
EL DORADO
SONOMA
NAPA
SACRAMENTO
ALPINE
SOLANO
AMADOR
CALAVERAS
TUOLUMNE
CONTRA COSTA
SAN JOAQUIN
MONO
ALAMEDA
STANISLAUS
MARIPOSA
SANTA CLARA
MERCED
MADERA
FRESNO
SAN BENITO
INYO
TULARE
MONTEREY
KINGS
SAN LUIS OBISPO
KERN
SAN BERNARDINO
SANTA BARBARA
VENTURA
LOS ANGELES
ORANGE
RIVERSIDE
SAN DIEGO
IMPERIAL

Fortunately we have models of how to do this.

On December 5 2013 – Fresno Counties Board of Supervisors issued a resolution that all other CA counties Board of Supervisors can use as a template

Sheriff John D'Agostini

On June 17 2013 - El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini issued a letter that all other CA counties sheriffs can use as a template



THE COUNTY OF FRESNO

Inter Office Memo

DATE: December 5, 2013

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alan Weaver, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning

SUBJECT: December 10, 2013, Agenda Item No. 6 - Resolutions Relating to Fire Hazard Conditions, Roads, Rights-of-Ways, and Routes of Travel on United States Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management Lands

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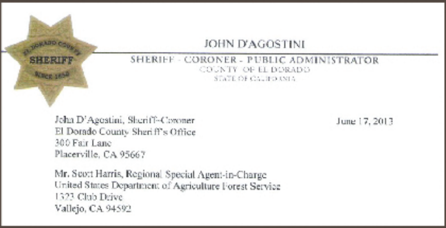


JOHN D'AGOSTINI
SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY OF EL DORADO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

John D'Agostini, Sheriff-Coroner
El Dorado County Sheriff's Office
300 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

June 17, 2013

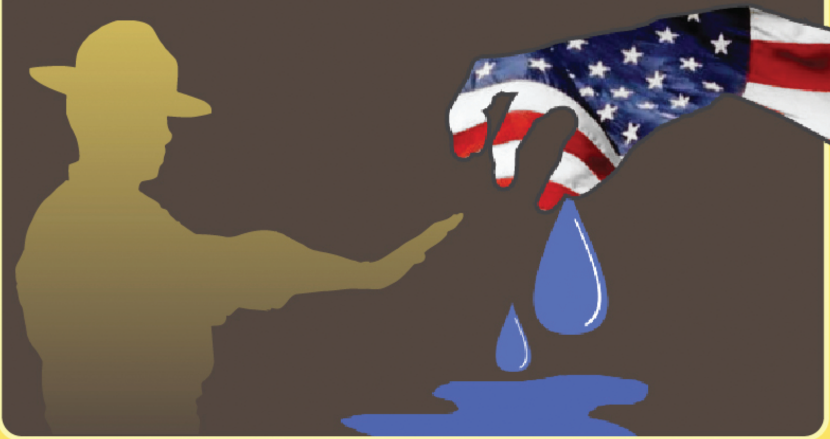
Mr. Scott Harris, Regional Special Agent-in-Charge
United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

OF 58 TOTAL CA COUNTIES - 35 HAVE A FEDERALLY CONTROLLED "NATIONAL FORESTS" IN THEIR JURISDICTION.

1.Del Norte
2.Modoc
3.Humbolt
4.Trinity
5.Shasta
6.Lassen
7.Tehama
8.Butte
9.Sierra
10.Nevada
11.Placer
12.El Dorado
13.Calaveras
14.Mariposa
15.Madera
16.Alpina
17.Mono
18.Inyo
19.Tulare
20.Kern
21.Santa Barbara
22.Ventura

23.Los Angeles
24.Riverside
25.San Bernardino
26.Orange
27.Lake
28.Mendocino
29.Colusa
30.Fresno
31.Tuolumne
32.San Luis Obispo
33.Amador
34.Plumas
35.Siskiyou

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THESE COUNTIES THIS ISSUE IS ABOUT YOU.



WHAT DO YOU GET BY TAKING BACK YOUR FORESTS CALIFORNIA:

① Stop forest fires which kill Californians (firefighters) and destroy property and pollute our air

② Allow trees to better clean the air of pollution that is already up there

③ Increase the water supply dramatically - in the middle of the worst drought ever

④ Also, increase the amount of jobs - someone will have to go into the forest and chop down trees and remove dead trees on the ground - either a logging company or someone = jobs in the middle of the worst recession in a century.

⑤ Generate more clean energy by having more water to flow through hydroelectric dams AND by delivering trees and dead brush to biomass production sites which burn the trees in an environmentally friendly way to produce energy - when oil prices are the most chaotic they have ever been because of the war on terror

⑥ Save tax dollars (in 2008 CA spent $1B on fighting forests fires) "State of the Sierra Nevada forest" by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy 2014:

IF NOTHING IS DONE IT IS ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE:

> "In recent years, California has seen a steady increase in the amount of forests lost to large damaging fires, such as the 2013 Rim Fire. "

> "Wildfires in California have become larger and more extreme over the last two decades and many predict that this trend will continue to increase"

> "The total acreage burned on the west slope of the Sierra has trended upward over the last century."

From *"The State of the Sierra Nevada's Forests 2014"*

HOW MUCH DAMAGE DOES ONE BIG FOREST FIRE DO:

EXAMPLE: 2013 RIM FIRE

OCCURRED: in Federally managed Stanislaus "National Forest"

ACRES OF FOREST DESTROYED: 257,000

COST TO CA TAXPAYER TO PUT OUT: $127 million

ADDITIONAL COSTS: $35 million in additional electricity costs as Dams shut down

NUMBER OF CALIFORNIANS INJURED TO STOP FIRE: 10

TIME IT TOOK TO STOP FIRE: 2 and ½ months

IMPACT TO CALIFORNIANS: 2.6 Million almost had supply of fresh water cut off

IMPACT TO CALIFORNIA CHILDREN: All schools in forest fire area closed for 9 weeks

NUMBER OF ANIMALS KILLED: estimated at 10s of millions

ENDANGERED ANIMAL IMPACT: 25% of Spotted Owl range destroyed

ADDITIONAL POLLUTION PUT INTO AIR: 2.3 Million tons (OR equivalent to all of the pollution the entire Sierra Nevada forests cleans up in a year)

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT COULD BE RAISED BY CLEANING UP THE FOREST: $15-20 Million for county