



August 2, 2021



To Randy Moore, Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

## An Open Letter to the new Chief of the Forest Service

Dear Randy:

As many of us have already communicated to you on behalf of our conservation organizations, we applaud your selection as the new Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Over the 14 years that you served as Regional Forester in Region 5, our groups worked closely with you on a broad range of issues.

**With this letter, we urge you – as the new Chief – to apply your leadership so that the Forest Service ramps up the pace and scale of needed actions to effectively address the pressing challenges of high-severity wildfires, climate change, and loss of biodiversity.**

It is timely that as you begin your role as Chief, the Forest Service may be on the cusp of Congress providing your agency with a significantly increased level of funding that would enable the agency to more effectively address the many challenges facing national forests and the communities that rely upon them.

We look forward to working with the Forest Service, national and state policymakers, tribes, and diverse stakeholder interests to ensure that taxpayer-funded investments are applied so that agency actions are carefully prioritized and science-based and provide beneficial social and

ecological outcomes. By focusing on ecological restoration and science-based actions, the Forest Service can continue building trust so that individual national forests can ramp up the scale of forest treatments while minimizing controversy.

Our organizations have come to know you as a straight talker, a respectful listener, and a strong advocate for action. It is our collective position that maintaining the status quo is not the right answer by the Forest Service to often-extreme wildfires, drought-stressed forests, and unhealthy watersheds.

We urge you in your new role to do all possible to markedly increase ecologically based forest treatments, such as prescribed burning and thinning of surface and ladder fuels. With this emphasis, the Forest Service can partner with Congress, the states, tribes, and the Administration to move past divisive forest management policy debates and to take action with balanced science-based strategies that have extensive support and are proven to enhance ecological integrity.

**Our organizations trust that under your leadership the Forest Service can meet the challenges we are confronting. We are eager to work with you and your team to develop strategies and policies that significantly increase landscape resiliency, reduce surface and ladder fuels, restore fire as a beneficial disturbance process, and promote science-based forest thinning in appropriate locations.**

We welcome your leadership, and we will look forward to following up to build upon our history of collaboration and support in California, and to forge new partnerships and support in your role as Chief.

Respectfully,

**California Wilderness Coalition  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center  
Sierra Forest Legacy  
Foothill Conservancy  
Friends of the Inyo  
The Training and Watershed Center  
California Native Plant Society  
Sierra Nevada Alliance  
The Nature Conservancy  
South Yuba River Citizens League  
Sierra Business Council  
The Tuolumne River Trust  
American Rivers  
The Fire Restoration Group**