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**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2015 11:09 AM

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**Subject:** Joint state & county p-dog letter

Importance: High

Good morning, Commissioners.

Please see the attached letter. While perhaps not as direct as we would have been had we gone it alone, I think it covers the basics of your outstanding concerns and sufficiently relays your expectations for addressing them. The Governor is aware of your preferences about how the Forest Service (FS) should proceed in the absence of these concerns being addressed. I have also connected with the FS over the interim (most recently the end of last week) and relayed your concerns and expectations. So, it's safe to say folks are aware of your stance.

The letter provides a June 30 deadline for a product that we can measure against and again assess whether we want to proceed down the existing Amendment path (your recommendation). Alternatively, the FS may present a product that addresses your concerns and provides a secure path forward outside of the Amendment process. As I've mentioned, what exists in the "alternative path forward" is mostly good. It's just about what vehicle is this newfound flexibility and the associated tools best hitched to. I think by June 30 we'll have pretty good idea.

I have been assured by the FS that the work accomplished up to the point of hitting the "pause" button will not be lost. And, if proceeding down the Amendment ends up being the proper path forward, the FS—with the counties continuing to participate as members of the interdisciplinary team—would pick up right where the team left off: with the preliminary identification of 4 alternatives to analyze. Until then, expect the occasional outreach from the FS as it continues to develop its proposal and addresses your concerns by the June 30 deadline.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have. I'll keep you updated as I hear things from my end.

Thank you, and have a great day. Gregory

Gregory M. Cowan Natural Resource Staff Attorney

## Wyoming County Commissioners Association

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