

Good Morning Chair Haaland and Members of the Committee

My name is Keith Groves, District One Supervisor from Trinity County California. And we are grateful to have Congressman Huffman as our representative. I'm a life time resident of Trinity County, my great grandfather was a Trinity gold miner and my father was a registered forester. I have served as a school board member, fire board member, planning commissioner as well as serving during the founding stages of the of Trinity collaborative and now a two-term supervisor. I have watched Trinity County go from boom to bust and back again. My claim to fame is I'm the last child from the the town of stringtown before Trinity Lake inundated the Trinity Valley destroying its towns and industry. Today, my opening remarks I will be representing the Trinity County Board of Supervisors as a whole.

Trinity County has a population of approximately thirteen thousand people and encompasses just over two million acres. Of the two million acres, one and a half million (76% of county) are controlled by the federal government (see insert). Currently within the county, five hundred twenty thousand acres (25% of county) are in wilderness and HR 2250 would increase that number to seven hundred seventy thousand acres (37% of county). Trinity County wilderness would then total 1.5% of the wilderness in the continental United States. HR 2250 would also move seven hundred thirty thousand more acres to a "restoration area". How much of this restoration area is in Trinity County is an unknown, but the vast majority of it is located within our county borders.

On July Second the Board of Supervisors decided in a 4-1 vote to move to a neutral stand on HR 2250. This decision was made in a large part due to a lack of information and understanding of the bill. The board has many questions and that as a whole they feel the answers remain unknown. The board will be contacting, Congressman Huffman office requesting a work shop style meeting with the Congressman and his staff. This should put to bed any confusion the board and the public might have.

I was asked that we give a list of concerns to the congressman and his staff so they can be prepared to answer.

1. The use of wildland fire as a management tool. (Sec 104-4- b) "the secretary shall use.... wildland fire to the extent practicable to achieve

the purpose of this section”. Many feel the Shall should be changed to a May.

2. Road decommissioning (Sec 101-5) There has been no accurate mapping of legal roads, many worry, what this may or may not mean to access to the forest.
3. Grazing (Sec 101-7) The elimination of future grazing as a fuel’s reduction management tool.

4. Withdrawal (Sec 101-7- e) Withdrawal in the future from “all forms entry, appropriation, and disposal under public land law” and withdrawal from “location, entry and patent under mining law “and disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials”. The question: why is the restoration area being treated different than the national forest.

5. Stewardship contracts (sec 101,7, f) There is a loss of potential royalties to the county under forest reserve. Will there be reimbursement in some form to the county?

6. Trail Study (Sec 205) This enacts a study of much needed trails in the non-wilderness areas, will there be studies for trails in the new wilderness area and a plan for maintaining trails in the old wilderness areas within Trinity County.

I and the board of supervisors thank you for your time, and we look forward to future interactions with this committee.

Any questions