



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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**NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

8/27/2018

Chair Edward Scofield
Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City, CA 95959
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RE: Letter of Support for Nevada County Urgency Ordinance Banning Open Fire along the South Yuba River Corridor

Honorable Chair Scofield,

It has come to our attention that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors will be considering a proposed Urgency Ordinance banning open fire along the South Yuba River in Nevada County at its Regular meeting on September 11, 2018. On behalf of Bureau of Land Management, Mother Lode Field Office, I am submitting this Letter of Support to express our support for the Urgency Ordinance as a member of the Yuba River Public Safety Cohort and as a land manager that manages over 17,000 acres of public land in Nevada County. Unfortunately, wildfire is the new normal in California, with devastating fires sweeping throughout the state. As noted by the Governor on March 13, 2018, "It is critical we take strong and comprehensive action to protect all California from the threat of natural disasters and climate change," which include, but are not limited to, fire evaluation, hazard mitigation and tree mortality and forest management practices.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made it a top priority objective to implement existing County policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property, and the environment, as well as explore other ways to reduce the threat and damage from wildfires. The Bureau of Land Management supports the Urgency Ordinance as a precautionary measure to mitigate the hazards of human caused wildfire in the Yuba River Corridor that would have devastating impacts on the County and the community and encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to take the necessary actions to adopt such a needed measure. A prohibition on open fire on private land during fire season as declared by Cal FIRE, would further align the policies that are already in place on public lands and would protect the watershed and its resources that contains extraordinary scenic, recreation, fishery, and wildlife values of statewide significance.

The proposed Urgency Ordinance takes a reasonable approach to wildfire prevention and public safety in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than they have ever been. Therefore, Bureau of Land Management strongly supports the proposed Urgency Ordinance and encourage the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed Urgency Ordinance.

Sincerely



William Haigh

Field Manager
Mother Lode Field Office