**Herring, Alisha@CALFIRE**

**From:** Gaia Memmo <gaia.memmo@alice.it>
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:05 AM
**To:** CALFIRE Forest Climate Advisory Team
**Subject:** Forest Carbon Plan

Dear Director Pimlott,

The opportunity for California to demonstrate global climate leadership lies in front of you. From the temperate rainforest of the coastal redwoods to the fire-evolved mixed forests of the interior mountains, California's forests are of global importance in responding to the threats of climate change. Sadly though, California's forests have been subject to decades of industrial exploitation, and to move forward to address climate change it is necessary to recognize what has happened in the past. Only through adequately addressing historic and contemporary deforestation can the right decisions be made to steward California's forests as part of a comprehensive response to climate change.

If the "Forest Carbon Plan" is to be an effective blueprint to guide forest protection for climate change mitigation purposes there can be no question that destructive practices like clearcutting and post-fire salvage logging must be addressed. Clearcutting results in significant greenhouse gas emissions, has negative impacts on wildlife and water resources, and is a major contributing factor to creating conditions on the ground that result in exceptionally severe and volatile fire behavior. At the same time, fire is a naturally occurring and evolutionary necessary process in California's forests and it is an imperative to return natural fire regimes to the landscape. After decades of fire suppression and industrial clearcutting it is clear that destructive industrial forestry practices must be addressed to succeed in maximizing the climate benefits of California's recovering and over-exploited forests.

Please include the need to halt clearcutting and other destructive forestry practices as part of the Forest Carbon Plan. These reforms to forest practices would be best included in the presentation in the Forest Carbon Plan of a clear route for California to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the state's forests.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Gaia Memmo

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