



"Managing trees and forests forever."

1405 Chews Landing Road, Suite 9
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021
Phone: (856) 352-2090
Fax: (856) 352-2189
bob@pinecreekforestry.com
brian@pinecreekforestry.com
maria@pinecreekforestry.com

October 20, 2015

Mr. John Kingsbury
Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
P. O. Box 251
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Site Visit of King Fire Area, October 5, 2015

Dear John:

It was great to spend the day of Monday, October 5, 2015 with you and the forester, Rob Fecko from Sierra Pacific Industries touring the results of the 2014 King Fire and the salvage and reforestation efforts of Sierra Pacific Industries on their private lands.

As a forester who works on the east coast within the Pinelands National Reserve in southern New Jersey, it was amazing to see the scope and scale of this fire that included areas of the Eldorado National Forest. We see news clips of these fires on the east coast, but one cannot appreciate the forest destruction that results. We too have overstocked pine forests that await their turn to go up in smoke.

From my brief tour, there is no question you should have great concern for your water supplies that originate in these mountain forests. Your watersheds are at great risk at this time. Although the King Fires appears huge, it is dwarfed by the landscape in this region that has yet to burn. As with our pine region, it isn't a question of **if it will burn**, it's a matter of **when will it burn** and what will the resulting costs be in life and property.

As with your area, we could mitigate some of this risk with a judicious use of active forest management. Yet both sides of the forest management issue remain polarized. In reality, it's not an either or answer. It is neither economically or physically possible to manage all the land for many reasons. So those that want a hands-off approach will have plenty of "natural areas". Yet it's irresponsible of us to allow the continued benign neglect of so much of our forested landscape when we could better sustain these forest resources with an ecological approach to active forest management.

Mr. John Kingsbury
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
October 20, 2015
Page 2

In the future, people will ask why we neglected our natural treasures. We are living in a time when the political/social culture is allowing our forests to be loved to death with a paralysis of analysis. I look forward to visit your area again and writing something about what I saw.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert R. Williams, C.F., R.P.F. #341
President

RRW:mm
cc: Rob Fecko