From: **Chad Hanson** <cthanson1@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 30, 2026 at 10:16 AM
Subject: Re: Re[3]: [External Email]Further significant new information re: Castle and Windy projects--please suspend operations
To: Edwards, Anthony - FS, CA <anthony.edwards@usda.gov>
Cc: Johnston, Barbara - FS, CA <Barbara.Johnston@usda.gov>, Todd Shuman <tshublu@yahoo.com>, Maya Khosla <creekshade@gmail.com>, Jennifer Mamola <jennifermamola@johnmuirproject.org>, Adam Bronstein <wildernut@proton.me>, Brian Ertz <brian@ertzlaw.org>, Michael Graf <mwgraf@aol.com>

Supervisor Edwards, I am writing to bring another significant new information matter to your attention, which warrants cessation of Castle and Windy project activities and the preparation of supplemental environmental analyses for the EAs and the Monument Plan. Several months after USFS released the Castle and Windy EAs in late 2023, including the claim that there is little or no sequoia regeneration in the high-severity fire patches, an internal study was issued by a few USFS scientists through a separate process unrelated to the Castle and Windy EAs. The internal USFS study, Meyer et al. (2024), reported very high sequoia regeneration densities in high-severity fire areas within giant sequoia groves--an average of over 17,000 sequoia seedlings per acre in high-severity fire patches, based on field plot data collected at 1 year post-fire. This finding strongly contradicted the assumption/claim in the Castle and Windy EAs that there would be little or no natural post-fire giant sequoia regeneration in the high-severity fire patches within sequoia groves. One year later, a new version of the study was issued, Meyer et al. (2025), which reported substantially altered sequoia seedling density figures that were 52% to 73% lower than the actual density figures reported in Meyer et al. (2024) for the same sequoia groves. Specifically, please compare the sequoia regeneration density figures for high-severity fire areas in Table 8 of Meyer et al. (2024), for Starvation Creek Grove, Deer Creek Grove, Redhill Grove, Packsaddle Grove, Long Meadow Grove, and Peyrone Grove, to the sequoia regeneration density figures for the very same groves in Table 7 of Meyer et al. (2025). Notably, Footnote 28 of Table 7 of Meyer et al. (2025) states that the data shown in Table 7 for these groves are from 1 year post-fire, the same as in Meyer et al. (2024), so the figures should be the same in both versions of Meyer et al.. There is nothing in Meyer et al. (2025) that attempts to explain the alteration of the sequoia regeneration data, and my repeated attempts by email to obtain an explanation from the lead author, Marc Meyer, have gone unanswered. The data alteration for each of these groves is shown below.

Starvation Creek Grove
Actual density: 818/acre
Altered figure: 224/acre

Deer Creek Grove
Actual density: 24070/acre
Altered figure: 9257/acre

Redhill Grove
Actual density: 12289/acre

Altered figure: 4973/acre

Packsaddle Grove
Actual density: 1493/acre
Altered figure: 604/acre

Long Meadow Grove
Actual density: 404/acre
Altered figure: 192/acre

Peyrone Grove
Actual density: 71965/acre
Altered figure: 29123/acre

What this appears to be is a fabrication of post-fire giant sequoia regeneration data by the Forest Service in an attempt to avoid contradicting or undermining false assertions and assumptions made in two large post-fire logging and tree cutting projects that Sequoia National Forest was eager to implement. If there is some other explanation, none has been offered and there have been no responses by the Forest Service to address this data fabrication. This raises serious questions about the data integrity not only with regard to the six groves noted above, but also for four other sequoia groves with density figures shown in Meyer et al. (2025) (such as Freeman Creek Grove), which were not included in Meyer et al. (2024). I have submitted both Meyer et al. (2024) and Meyer et al. (2025) to you previously, but attach them here again for your convenience.

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