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March 20, 2015

Maria Ulloa
U.S. Forest Service
Forest Plan Revision
1839 So. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
Re: PTC Proposal Objections

Dear USDA:

The Kernville Chamber of Commerce allocates thousands of dollars towards the marketing and promotion of outdoor recreational activities. We have been a voice for our community by having a seat on the Dam Task Force, we comment on access to public lands and travel management. We are much vested in the social and economic wellbeing of our community as it is part of our mission statement.

Our local economy has been impacted negatively due to the drought and state of emergency it has caused. We believe that the PTC Land Grab will have a negative bearing in our efforts to promote other recreational activities that do not involve water.

We do not see that the Forest Service has established a need for the PCT proposal restrictions. The 1982 PTC Management Plan embraces all current recreation. The Pacific Crest Trail Corridor, in an attempt to provide users with a primitive or "wilderness" like setting beyond designated Wilderness areas (this was never included in the 1982 PTC Management Plan), would place new restrictions on public land use and management which would be detrimental to other forest users. The negative impacts of a PCT Corridor would be especially profound in the Piute Mountain area of the Sequoia National Forest where an already delayed Piute Travel Management process was underway only to be placed "On Hold" in order that the Forest could give priority to completing the Forest Plan Revision. At stake is the integrity of a diverse trail/road network comprised of approximately 125 miles of inventoried routes, some of which cross the PCT. A Sequoia Forest Plan Revision Decision of Record containing the PCT Corridor plan would render the collaborative travel management planning process for the Piute's all but meaningless.

There seems to be no imminent threat on the use of these public lands. We contend that this land grab will not benefit the Sequoia National Forest. Such privatization of the proposed 2650 square acre miles would likely undesirably affect travel and tourism, which generate significant and growing revenue for businesses throughout our County.

In short, the Kernville Chamber of Commerce is convinced that there are more drawbacks than benefits to the PTC proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lily Mason, Executive Director