



United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
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EI-4033  
CG

File Code: 2360

Date: December 19, 2007

Milford Wayne Donaldson  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P. O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

I recently learned that you consulted with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) (pursuant to 36 CFR 800) regarding a proposal to abandon a lengthy segment of the historic McCloud River Railroad (ref. STB050310A) and made some determinations without consultation with the Forest Service. This railroad is privately owned, however, a portion of the land is under permit from the Forest Service.

Although the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) previously determined the railroad line was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), in your November 13, 2007, letter to Jeff Forbis you state the historic property is NOT eligible for the NRHP. You also expanded the railroad's National Register designation to include a vast area of National Forest System lands (Lassen and Shasta-Trinity National Forests and 24 townships). It is perplexing and of concern to me that the National Register designation for the railroad was removed at the request of the landowner. Of even greater concern, however, is your approval of the new NRHP designation without the consent of these forests. Federal agencies and the State Historic Preservation Officer are required to follow a formal, legal process (36CFR 63) to create such determinations of eligibility for the National Register.

While the railroad's consultant was conducting research on the abandonment project, my staff informed her that including National Forest System lands in her evaluations was not appropriate.

We also informed your staff that the Forest Service did not want any new National Register designations applied to the Forest. The new NRHP district discussed in your enclosed letter overlaps and duplicates an existing National Register property boundary (McCloud River Lumber Company) agreed to by the Forest and OHP in 1988. Since this new NRHP district (McCloud River Railroad Historic District) was created without following the proper regulatory processes and the Forest Service was and is opposed to its designation, I formally request that you reverse your agreement of November 13, 2007.

Also noted in your letter was a request for mitigation at historic properties on National Forest System lands adjacent to the railroad. This request was also made without consulting the



Forest Service. In any memorandum prepared for this mitigation, the Forest should be a signatory as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.2 (c) (5). Additionally, the contractor hired to carry out this mitigation on National Forest System lands may need written authorization from the Forest Service to carry out any activities on National Forest System lands.

Please contact Winfield Henn, Forest Heritage Program Manager, at (530) 226-2339 if you have any questions.

*/s/ Scott G. Armentrout (for)*  
J. SHARON HEYWOOD  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
Kathleen Morse, Forest Supervisor, Lassen National Forest