



Friday, August 3, 2018

Re: Sagehen Forest Project Support

To Whom It May Concern:

The Sierra Business Council (SBC) and the Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are writing to express our support for recognizing the Sagehen Forest Project with the *Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award* in recognition for their work developing a new model for ecological forest management and wildfire risk mitigation in the Sierra Nevada.

One of the thorniest problems in the region has been the gradual demise of the timber industry over the last 40 years, leaving timber dependent communities in poverty while the increasing impact of climate change in the region leave forests in need of a much higher level of management to retain their ecological function and reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfire. The vision of the Sagehen Forest Project to link forest restoration to local economic development, job creation and economic and environmental justice in rural communities is critical to our mission.

Our organization works on the long-term sustainable economic development of the region and has partnered with the Sagehen Creek Field Station in their effort, which applied the lengthy record of science at the station to develop management and policy addressing the growing problem of western wildfire, return forest resiliency to our region, and scale up to address the growing impact of a changing climate.

As a former recipient of the Governor's Award Sierra Business Council and our appurtenant Small Business Development Center wholeheartedly support Sagehen Creek Field Station as a worthy recipient of this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Frisch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" and "F".

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Steven R. Frisch

