

Attachment C – Draft letter regarding Anthony Peak transmitter

Director, Lands & Realty Management Staff,
201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250-1124

RE: RIN 0596-AD44

The US Forest Service is proposing an annual fee which will require radio repeater owners to pay an annual fee (\$1,400) for amateur radio repeaters stationed on public lands.

Covelo/Round Valley, in northeast Mendocino County, California is an area that is affected by wildfire on an almost annual basis. In this remote rural community, Internet, cell phone, and landline phones go out on a very regular basis especially during emergency or extreme weather events. When this happens the only way to get local news or communicate outside our immediate area is via Ham radio, and to do that we rely on our area repeater on Anthony Peak (WB6TCS).

A handful of local HAM radio operators in our community attend local weekly “nets” using the repeater to practice emergency communications. Some of them participate in more widespread weekly nets as well as County-wide disaster drills approximately twice a year.

The Anthony Peak repeater, the small building housing it and the solar panels and batteries that power it were installed and are maintained by local Hams. It is owned by a local HAM radio operator, Denis Moore. The US Government does not pay for the upkeep of the site nor the power it uses.

As the small group of radio operators in our community cannot afford the proposed fee, our community radio operators will likely lose the Anthony Peak repeater and lose the ability to communicate with each other, and other communities, in a time of emergency.

The Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council urges you not to implement this annual fee.

Respectfully,