



MEDIA ADVISORY

MONO COUNTY, *California's Eastern Sierra*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 13, 2014

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USDA Provides Emergency Loans to Local Ranchers and Farmers

Mono County, Calif. – On December 13, 2013, President Obama declared the Rim Fire a federal Major Disaster. Pursuant to this declaration, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering an emergency loan program to assist local farmers and ranchers who conduct family sized farming operations and had physical or production losses caused by the fire that occurred from August 17 – October 24, 2013.

Mono County Board of Supervisors Chair Larry Johnston commented, “The Rim Fire impacted Mono County’s economy and air quality. These federal resources are appreciated and could be essential for our local farmers and ranchers.”

The deadline to submit a loan application is August 13, 2014. For more information about applying please see the attached letter from Cal OES or you may contact the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (760) 873-7860 or go to the following website:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=efl>

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Mono County offers a rural setting with the most spectacular landscapes in the state. Situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the California/Nevada border, Mono County has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of this land is contained in the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests. As a result, Mono County is home to vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and adventure.

The county is home to, and named after Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake. Also located in the county is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800's was home to as many as 7,000 people, and is today maintained as a State Historic Park for the public to come and enjoy. The county seat is proudly located in Bridgeport. Scenic Highway 395 weaves its way north-south through the heart of the county, effectively dividing the steep mountains to the west from the vast desert valley to the east. As it provides access to Yosemite National Park via Lee Vining, it passes beneath towering peaks, and past broad desert expanses.