

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

*-Meeting Held September 8, 2009-*

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members Tom Walz, Pam Giacomini and Doug Piirto (Chair); Caroline Godkin (LAO); Bill Snyder, Dr. Helge Eng, Jim Kral, Allen Robertson (*CAL FIRE*); Bob Rynearson (Wm. Beaty & Associates); Jay Francis (Collins Pine); Addie Jacobson (Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch); Barry Boulton (Central Sierra Audubon Society); Michele Dias (CFA); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Bill Keye, Frank Mulhair (CLFA); Paul Mason (Pacific Forest Trust); Tim Feller (Sierra Pacific Industries); Pete Ribar (Campbell Timberland); Mike Jani (Humboldt Redwood Company); Lloyd Bradshaw (Hearst Company); Gary Rynearson (Green Diamond); Dan Fisher (Fruit Growers Supply).

*~Agenda Items appear in the order in which they were discussed by the Committee~*

**AGENDA ITEM 1: CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF A MODIFIED TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (MTHP) REGULATORY PROPOSAL FOR STREAMLINED PERMITTING OF FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECTS.**

Staff introduced the topic and briefly described the contents of the proposal to date, noting that a new version of the draft MTHP proposal had been circulated for review prior to the meeting. This new version was authored by Registered Professional Forester (RPF), Doug Ferrier of Forest Slopes Management. RPF Ferrier was accordingly asked to review the proposal's contents for the benefit of the assembly. He began by explaining that his version reflected an attempt to return the MTHP proposal to an approach that would be more cost effective for landowners. The proposal includes portions of the two options currently contained in the Committee draft, but is intended to provide greater flexibility and overall utility.

**Following discussion of RPF Ferrier's proposal, staff was directed to attempt to incorporate elements of the Ferrier version and additional suggested language modifications into the current Committee proposal. Staff was further directed to circulate the melded new version of the regulatory proposal to Committee participants prior to the October Committee meeting.**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: PTEIR GUIDANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW.**

Staff introduced the topic before deferring to the document's author, Allen Robertson (Deputy Chief, *CAL FIRE*). As noted previously, *CAL FIRE* Forest Practice staff has provided Mr. Robertson with extensive comments and questions. Mr. Robertson indicated that he and Deputy Director, Bill Snyder intend to meet with Forest Practice personnel to discuss the comments and work toward a common understanding of the distinct differences between the conventional Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) and PTEIR processes. It is therefore anticipated that further discussion and any possible Board action on the document will occur no sooner than the November meeting with a prospective progress report in October.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION OF DRAFT FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOUNTAIN HOME DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST.**

Staff introduced the topic noting that review and concurrence with a Forest Management Plan is the initial step in the Board's process. The Committee and full Board must also review the appropriate public disclosure and environmental impact analysis document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The full Board must then certify the CEQA document in order to implement their adopted Forest Management Plan.

Following explanation of the process, staff introduced State Forests Program Manager, Dr. Helge Eng and Forest Manager, Jim Kral. Dr. Eng and Mr. Kral then provided a thorough review of the various elements of the draft Forest Management Plan. Eng and Kral responded to questions, comments, and editorial suggestions from the assembly. Led by Chair Piirto, the Committee likewise offered a number of suggestions for inclusion in a revised draft of the Plan.

Upon completion of a revised version of the Management Plan pursuant to the Committee's direction, Dr. Eng and Mr. Kral will again present the draft Plan for the Committee's further consideration. Dr. Eng expressed his desire to bring a revised Plan back to the Committee for the October meeting. However, it may not be possible to complete a revised version until November or later. **Staff was therefore directed to agendize the topic for the October meeting though the Committee recognized that the revised Plan may not be ready for further review at that time.**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS TO THE EXISTING SUSTAINED YIELD PLAN REGULATION.**

The Committee directed staff to circulate background discussion documents to Committee participants for the purpose of stimulating informed review of this topic. The two representatives of the remaining three SYP landowners were specifically asked to provide their perspectives on the topic at the November Committee meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

Staff reported on correspondence with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group (JAG). Written correspondence with these respective entities was posted in August pursuant to the Committee's direction. In addition, Board Executive Officer, George Gentry interacted directly with the JAG in the course of that group's regularly scheduled public meeting.

Staff reviewed the Committee's work tracking table for the benefit of the assembly.

**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING:**

- 1. Continuing Discussion of a Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.**
- 2. Continuing Review of PTEIR Guidelines Document.**
- 3. Department Presentation of Revised Draft Forest Management Plan for Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.**
- 4. New and Unfinished Business.**

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR 2009

### ***Management Committee***

*The mission of the Management Committee is to evaluate and promote long-term, landscape level planning approaches to support natural resource management on California's non-federal forest and rangelands.*

**NOTE: 22 IDENTIFIED COMMITTEE PRIORITIES RANKED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF IMPORTANCE FROM 1-3; COMPLEXITY RANKED IN ASCENDING ORDER OF PERCEIVED DIFFICULTY OF MATERIAL RESOLUTION FROM 1-3.**

### **Evaluation/Monitoring of Forest Practice Rules:**

#### **Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:**

1. Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review: Rule language under development. Phase 6. Possible adoption in 2009 for 2010 implementation.
2. Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Review: Ongoing review of issues. **Department Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document posted on Department website—currently in use by Department plan review personnel.**

#### **Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:**

3. Programmatic Timberland EIR Guidance Document: Department Guidelines under review by committee.
4. Modified THP for fuel reduction: Phase 5. Rule language development.

### **Demonstration State Forests Management:**

#### **Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:**

5. Jackson (Liaison to JAG): Jackson Plan was approved in the early part of 2008. Ongoing evaluation of the JAG work plan.
6. LaTour: Updated Management Plan was approved in summer of 2008. **All Board tasks completed, no further work required.**
7. Boggs: Updated Management Plan was approved in fall of 2008. **All Board tasks completed, no further work required.**

#### **Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:**

8. Mountain Home: Updated Management Plan under development. **Review to occur in 2009.**
9. Soquel: Updated Management Plan under development. **Review to occur in 2009.**

Items listed below were identified by the Policy Committee after November 2007-8 public input per Strategic Plan Criteria #7 Governance, Strategy E

**Department Comment, 2007 and 2008:**

**Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:**

10. **14 CCR § 1092.04(d)** [in part], A Notice of Intent shall include the following information:  
(4) The acres proposed to be harvested. (5) The regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used. 14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(4) requires stating the acres proposed to be harvested. Board should amend this paragraph to include all acres where **timber operations** will occur. Board should consider the current definition of logging area and the lack of a definition of plan area. 14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(5) This paragraph may not capture all possible treatments that may occur under a plan (special prescriptions, road right-of-way, or fuelbreak.)

**Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:**

11. **14 CCR § 1051, Modified THP.** The Board could make changes to increase the utility of an MTHP, e.g., expanding the allowable acreage, limiting the application to small timberland owners and modifying certain limitations, or, as is currently being considered, focus a category of MTHPs on fuels reduction. **(See above, item under consideration by committee)**

**Priority 2 - Complexity 1 Items:**

12. **14 CCR § 1090.7(e)**, [NTOs shall contain i]dentification of silvicultural prescriptions to be applied. Board should amend this subdivision to require the number of acres of the silvicultural prescriptions to be applied in the NTO. (For tracking)

**Priority 3 - Complexity 3 Items:**

13. **14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)]**. Board should consider forming a technical working group to consider changes to existing MSP rule to provide more concrete standards for the MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].

**Public Comment, 2008:**

**Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:**

14. **14 CCR § 1052**: Time limits of fire salvage emergencies do not allow enough time for a THP to be prepared and approved. **(See item # 2 and 5)**
15. **14 CCR § 1052 and 14 CCR § 917.2**: "Slash to be treated for hazard reduction by burning shall be treated not later than one year following its creation."
16. Expand use of electronic posting to allow for greater public access to information. **(Cal Fire to prepare plan for implementation of electronic posting at Redding and Fresno offices for February 2009 Committee Meeting.)**

**14 CCR § 912.9, Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 2:**

**Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:**

17. Categories need to be expanded to include climate change and effect on fire threat from the proposed harvest.

**Priority 2 - Complexity 3 Items:**

18. *Maps need to show all the past, currently proposed, and likely future THPs layered into one map.*
19. *Biological assessment areas and proportional mitigations, expansion of consideration of non-conifer resources.*
20. *Is mitigation required proportional to the impacts? E.g., small harvest operations required to utilize the same mitigations as industrial operations.*

**Priority 3 - Complexity 3 Items:**

21. *Consider adding adjacent watersheds for evaluating past, present and future projects.*
22. *Assessment of impacts made project by project, need landscape approach. California State Wildlife Action Plan not being adhered to: "Using the best-available science, extent, pattern, and pace for timber-harvest in a forest watershed".*  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/>

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