

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

*-Meeting Held April 1, 2008-*

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members Piirto, Walz, Giacomini; John Munn, Russ Henly, Helge Eng, Bruce Beck, Allen Robertson, Mike Chuchel (*CAL FIRE*); Bill Keye (CLFA); Richard Gienger (Humboldt Watershed Council); Bob Rynearson & Bob Carey (Beaty & Associates); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management).

**AGENDA ITEM 1: DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION OF INITIAL STUDY/CEQA CHECKLIST FOR THE LA TOUR DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

*CAL FIRE* State Forest Program Manager, Helge Eng presented a final draft of the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist to the Committee and reviewed its contents by section. As Mr. Eng proceeded through his presentation, the Committee Members asked questions and requested certain minor edits to the Initial Study and Checklist. Other members of the assembly likewise posed questions and offered comment on the content of the document. After lengthy discussion, the Committee Members requested that the Department provide a written summary of the edits specified for full Board consideration on the following day (April 2, 2008) along with a revised version of the Initial Study and Checklist. The Department agreed to provide the edit summary and will likewise attempt to include the requested edits in the revised Initial Study and Checklist for presentation to the full Board.

The Committee Members expressed their satisfaction with the Initial Study and Checklist and praised Department staff for their diligent efforts to complete the document in time for the Board's review during the April Meeting. Committee Chair Piirto solicited the Members' perspectives as to a possible recommendation for full Board consideration. Member Giacomini responded that she believed the Initial Study and Checklist supported the Board's preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed La Tour DSF Management Plan update. Member Walz and Chair Piirto concurred with Member Giacomini's observation. The Committee concluded discussion with the following recommendation to the Board:

**ACTION ITEM**

**The Committee recommends:**

- 1. The Board support preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the draft updated La Tour Demonstration State Forest Management Plan.**
- 2. The Board enter into an agreement with *CAL FIRE* to complete the Mitigated Negative Declaration.**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL FOR UTILIZATION OF A MODIFIED TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (MTHP) APPROACH TO SUPPORT STREAMLINED PERMITTING OF LANDSCAPE FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION**

Staff introduced consulting forester, Mr. Doug Ferrier who provided historical background on the Board's adoption of the original MTHP regulation. Mr. Ferrier went on to suggest that several portions of the existing MTHP regulation could be revised to create a similar regulation for the purpose of encouraging landscape focused fuel hazard reduction.

Member Walz explained the purpose for such a regulatory proposal and highlighted the potential environmental benefits of increasing the number of acres treated for fire resiliency. Member Walz suggested that with very little modification, the existing MTHP regulation could provide a new means for permitting landscape level fuel hazard reduction operations. He also noted the importance of Board findings in support of the proposed regulation. The assembly continued discussion of the topic and several possible modifications of the existing MTHP were discussed. At the conclusion of discussion, the Committee directed staff to:

1. Prepare a draft regulatory proposal incorporating the various suggested edits.
2. Distribute copies of the draft proposal to interested parties.
3. Post the draft on the Board's website in advance of the May Board Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: NEW AND UNFINISHED**

The Committee received a status update from Assistant Deputy Director, Russ Henly on various matters pertaining to Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Board staff informed the assembly that Mr. Jay Francis of Collins Pine has proposed to hold the workshop on Sustained Yield Plans sometime between June 5 and 13. Staff will coordinate with Mr. Francis and Mr. Bob Rynearson of Beaty and Associates to schedule and appropriately notice the workshop.

**POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR MAY COMMITTEE MEETING:**

1. **Discussion of a Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Landscape Fuel Hazard Reduction.**
2. **Presentation by the Department of the Draft Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update.**
3. **New and Unfinished Business (SYP Workshop)**