

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/>
(916) 653-8007

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

-Meeting Held December 2, 2008-

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Doug Piirto (Chair), Tom Walz, Pam Giacomini; Helge Eng, Bill Snyder, Allen Robertson, Chris Maranto (*CAL FIRE*); Rhianna Lee (CA Department of Fish & Game); Addie Jacobson, Susan Robinson, Hugh Ewing (Ebbets Pass Forest Watch); Arne Hultgren (Roseburg Resources); Michelle Dias (CFA); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Bill Keye (CLFA).

AGENDA ITEM 1: DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS AND OUTCOMES OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTRONIC POSTING OF TIMBER HARVESTING PLANS.

Board staff introduced the presentation by *CAL FIRE* Deputy Director, Bill Snyder noting that Ebbets Pass Forest Watch members' Jacobson and Ewing had requested a report on the subject at the October 2008 Committee meeting. Mr. Snyder then provided a thorough explanation with accompanying PowerPoint of how electronic posting of timber harvesting documents is carried out at the Santa Rosa region office. He went on to share the Department's conclusion that the pilot program had been successful, was cost effective, and resulted in greater efficiency in the dissemination of public information. The Department would accordingly like to carry e-posting forward to its Fresno and Redding offices, but recognizes that it will have to do so without further staffing or funding.

Following considerable discussion amongst the assembly, the Committee requested that Deputy Director Snyder provide it with a proposed plan for implementing e-posting at the Fresno and Redding offices. Mr. Snyder indicated that he would try to have a draft plan available for the Committee's review at the February 2009 meeting. In response to concerns expressed by Susan Robinson of Ebbets Pass, Mr. Snyder will also report on the reason(s) why the Department does not currently post public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 2: CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF A MODIFIED TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (MTHP) REGULATORY PROPOSAL FOR STREAMLINED PERMITTING OF FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECTS.

Staff introduced the topic and identified specific revisions to the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and accompanying draft regulatory language added since the November Committee meeting. Following review of the edits, Deputy Director Snyder reiterated the Department's concerns about the scale of operations that would be authorized under the proposed regulation as well as the accompanying potential for cumulative effects. He went on to state that the Department would have a difficult time supporting the proposal in its current form. Ms. Rhianna Lee of the Department of Fish and Game likewise expressed concerns. The Committee responded with additional explanation of the purpose and nature of the regulatory proposal and a request for *CAL FIRE* and DFG's specific proposed revisions to the rule language. The existing MTHP "fair argument" standard language was reviewed and it was noted that the Director would always have the discretion to require further cumulative impacts assessment information prior to making a plan conformance determination.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Committee reiterated its request for Mr. Snyder and Ms. Lee to suggest specific rule language revisions that would help alleviate their respective Department's concerns. The topic will be placed on the Committee's agenda for January 2009 in anticipation of that further comment by the Department representatives.

AGENDA ITEM 3: CONTINUING REVIEW OF DRAFT REGULATORY PROPOSAL FOR RENEWAL OF SUSTAINED YIELD PLANS (SYPS).

Staff introduced the topic and identified specific revisions to the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and accompanying draft regulatory language added since the November Committee meeting. Following review of the edits, staff indicated that a conference call would be scheduled with full public notice for sometime later in December. The purpose of the conference call would be to review and consider rule language edits with those currently operating under SYPs as well as agency representatives and members of the public. Staff believes that the rule proposal is very close to a final draft form and could be considered by the full Board as early as February pending Committee concurrence.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF JACKSON ADVISORY GROUP PROGRESS REPORT AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR FULL BOARD APPROVAL OF THE GROUP'S PROPOSED WORK PLAN.

This item was deferred until January at the request of the Jackson Advisory Group.

AGENDA ITEM 5: MOUNTAIN HOME DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW.

State Forest Program Manager, Dr. Helge Eng provided a thorough review of the current management plan with detailed explanation of the history and primary functions of this state forest. In addition, he provided copies of the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group's (DSFAG) suggested edits to the current plan. Dr. Eng noted that MHDSF had a specific statutory mandate for public recreation rendering timber management a secondary focus. The Committee provided Dr. Eng with numerous suggestions for updating the management plan as well as topics for further exploration by the Department. The Committee concurred with Dr. Eng's assessment that a significant rewrite of the plan was warranted at this time. The Committee further recognized that the plan update would be followed by an *Initial Study* for determination of the proper authorizing CEQA document.

COMMITTEE MOTION AND VOTE:

MEMBER GIACOMINI MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE OPERATING UNDER THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT PLAN WHILE PROCEEDING TOWARD COMPLETION OF AN UPDATED PLAN. MEMBER WALZ OFFERED HIS SECOND AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ONGOING REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PTEIR GUIDANCE DOCUMENT.

CAL FIRE Environmental Protection Chief, Allen Robertson and Sustained Yield Forester, Chris Maranto provided a review of their draft Guidelines section on the demonstration of Maximum Sustained Production (MSP) for the purposes of a PTEIR. As explained by Mssrs. Robertson and Maranto, the Forest Practice Rules for PTEIRs allow for the demonstration of MSP by means other than those described in the Forest Practice Rules for THPs, SYPs, and NTMPs. As stated by Maranto and Robertson in paragraph four of the proposed MSP section, "Depending on landowner goals (e.g. timber production, fuels management, wildlife, watershed health, etc.), several methods for performing an analysis may exist and the appropriate method may be dependent on the intensity of management proposed and goals and objectives of the project proponent as identified in the Project Description." Upon conclusion of discussion, Mr. Robertson indicated that he would continue work on the Guidelines document in anticipation of further discussion at the January Committee Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Staff presented the assembly with copies of the Executive Officer Gentry's draft summary of Board Committee priorities for 2009. The document will be presented in PowerPoint format for the full Board's review and consideration on the following day. Members were encouraged to review the draft priorities identified for their respective Committee assignments in anticipation of further discussion following Mr. Gentry's presentation.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR JANUARY 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING:

- 1. Continuing Review of Draft Regulatory Proposal for Renewal of Sustained Yield Plans (SYP).**
- 2. Continuing Discussion of a Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.**
- 3. PTEIR Guidance Document Review.**
- 4. Review of Jackson Advisory Group Progress Report and Possible Approval of the Group's Proposed Work Plan. (Committee and Full Board).**
- 5. Review of Committee Priorities for 2009.**
- 6. Presentation by Department on Collaborative Research and Management Opportunities for the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands administered by the Pacific Stewardship Council.**

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE CONTINUED AT FEBRUARY 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING:

- 1. Presentation of Department's Plan for Implementation of Electronic Timber Harvesting Document Posting at Redding and Fresno Offices. Status Report on Electronic Posting of Public Comments.**

###