

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.

COMPLETED OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN 2015:

1. Emergency Harvest of Trees within Wildfires:

Status: *In 2015, the Board adopted an Emergency Procedures Handbook that will provide guidance to the Board and staff in future instances where emergency actions may need to take place to facilitate removal of damaged timber as a result of wildfire. This was in direct response to the issues that were faced by the citizen in Weed, California subsequent to the Boles Fire.*

2. Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP)

Status: *The Management Committee has substantially completed much of the development of the draft regulatory language throughout 2015, although the deliberative process of some aspect of the WFMP will continue in 2016. The Board anticipates that the regulations will likely become effective for the WFMP on January 1, 2017.*

3. Timberland Conversion:

Status: *The Management Committee decided to approach the issue of timberland conversion in a modest manner, by addressing individual issues that the regulated public and Department have experienced. In 2015, the Management Committee heard the issue of the limitation experienced by a landowner, Ms. Rassmusen, from Plumas County. As a result, the Management Committee did develop and draft regulatory proposal that was forwarded to the Board and authorized for 45 Day notice in August of 2015. That notice has not yet been published due to staff limitation, but has been identified as a regulatory priority for the Board in 2016. Additional issues pertaining to timberland conversion will be addressed by the Management Committee in 2016 and beyond.*

PRIORITY 1:

1. Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP)

Status: *Although substantially completed by the Management Committee in 2015, the WFMP requires some additional regulatory development in response to concerns expressed by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in regards to consistency and clarity of the regulatory language. The concern expressed by OAL resulted in the Board rescinding the June 2015 adoption of the regulatory language. The Management Committee will be focusing the early portion of 2016 upon additional*

review and development of the draft regulatory language for Board consideration. The target effective date of these regulations is January 1, 2015.

2. Regulatory Revisions for Electronic Plan Submission

Objective: The Administration has allotted significant funding for development of an electronic THP, NTMP, MTHP and Exemption submission system. The overarching goal of this effort is to attain a new level of efficiency and transparency for plan preparation, submission and review. Existing Board regulations do not currently recognize electronic submission as an acceptable standard of conveyance of prepared Plans to the Department. The Natural Resources Agency and the Department have requested that the Board consider revising current regulatory standards to allow for, or require, electronic Plan submission to support the development of the new technological platform that is currently being explored.

3. Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) for Carbon Sequestration and Fuel Reduction Program

Objective: AB 862, chaptered by the Administration in 2014, directs the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop regulations, guidelines or publications to facilitate a grant program that allots funding for the development of PTEIRs that promote carbon sequestration and fuel hazard reduction on state or private lands. The grant program is to be administered by CAL FIRE.

4. Small Landowner Options for Harvesting

Objective: Find effective methods to facilitate small landowner harvest. Such approaches include 1) An NTMP approach for landowners of 320 acres or less that cannot utilize a regular NTMP and 2) Woodlots owners of less than 40 acres seeking minimal harvesting.

Status: The Management Committee has intermittently discussed over the course of 2014 and 2015. Additional attention will be provided to this issue in 2016 if time permits.

5. Boggs Demonstration State Forest Management Plan

Objective: Management Plan Update and CEQA coverage to be completed by 2017.

Status: Management Plan and Initial Study is currently being worked upon by CAL FIRE staff and will be submitted to the Management Committee for review during 2015. The Board took action in December 2015 to allow for development of a new Draft Initial Study and New Draft Management Plan for the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest for submittal to the Board by March 1, 2017 for review. The Board also acknowledged the need to continue management of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest under the current Management Plan. This action was commensurate with Board Policy 0351.10 and in response to the significant change on the state forest as a result of the Valley Fire.

6. Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF):

Objective: Continue to review the management of JDSF pursuant to Board Policy 0351.10.

Status: The Board approved the Research Plan for JDSF in early 2015. In addition, a newly approved Option "a" is currently guiding management of the state forest as well. Given that the current management plan is relatively new, as are some of the other guiding management documents; the Department has requested that the Board allow for continued management under the current plan. The Board will consider this request in spring/summer of 2015 after a thorough review of the current research and operations on the forest. This review will allow the Board to ascertain if the provisions within the current iteration of the management plan are appropriate.

PRIORITY 2:

7. Research Plan (PRC 4789.6)

Objective: The board, assisted by the director, shall biennially determine state needs for forest management research and recommend the conduct of needed projects to the Governor and the Legislature.

Status: During review of Demonstration State Forest Management Plans the Committee has requested improvements in the documentation and distribution of forest management, wildlife, fisheries, botanical and watershed research conducted on each forest or by the Department. The Committee intends to continue to work with each state forest and the Department to better document and catalog results of these research efforts and seek improvements in the distribution of research reports through either the Department or Board internet website.

8. Issues pertaining to conversion of Timberland

- **Regulatory amendments to 14 CCR § 1100(g)(2) - Definition of Timberland Conversion**
- **Regulatory amendments to 14 CCR § 895.1 – “Crop of Trees, Available for, and Capable of”**
- **Increased and widespread use of 14 CCR § 1104.1 – 3 acre or less conversions**

Objective (bullet point 1): Existing Board regulations are currently inconsistent with PRC § 4621 as it applies to conversion of timberland. Current Board regulations address proposed conversions in Timber Production Zone (TPZ) where an immediate re-zone out of TPZ has been approved. State law does not recognize zoning as a controlling factor in the conversion of timberland. The Department has requested that the Board bring the current definition of conversion into conformance with State law to recognize all timberland conversions regardless of zoning status.

Objective (bullet point 2): The Department has made the request to address the definition of “crop of trees” to aid the Department in identification of timberland. The

Management Committee has received briefings from Board staff and the Department on potential options to address this issue.

Objective (bullet point 3): CDFW submitted comments that expressed concern over the widespread use of the 3 acre or less conversion, particularly as it relates to marijuana cultivation. CDFW contends that impacts ranging from fragmentation, acutely impaired stream habitat, and take of listed species are a result from over use of these existing Board regulations.

9. Maximum Sustained Production (MSP) 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].

Objective: Review performance of existing MSP rule over previous 15 years. Based on results of review, Board may 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)]. Consider implications for assuring AB 32 targets.

Status: Committee reviewed February of 2011 and found no further action necessary. The Department has resubmitted the issue in 2015, which may indicate that further investigation into this issue is necessary.

10. Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Review:

Objective: Ongoing review of issues with the regulatory standards associated with the NTMP, including the Department Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document posted on Department website—currently in use by Department plan review personnel.

PRIORITY 3:

11. Site Index for major Young-Growth Forest Woodland Species in Northern California: Discussion of update to 14 CCR 1060 Site Classification.

Objective/Status: FPC completed initial review of topic in April-June of 2010 and deferred additional review until completion of the Road Rules. MGMT Committee will continue review of the issue when sufficient committee time is available.

12. Development of pilot programs for SERM/ Option v projects

Objective/Status: Department has formed a Technical Advisory Committee (VTAC) to develop and provide advice on pilot programs to implement option (v) projects under the Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rules (ASP).

13. Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council

Objective: Board approved Department effort to acquire lands in the Stewardship Council planning units of "Pit River," "Battle Creek," "Cow Creek," "Burney Gardens," "Lake Spaulding," "Bear River," "North Fork Mokelumne River," and "Lyons Reservoir" that would be suitable for inclusion in the Department's Demonstration State Forest Program.. Board must approve management plans for these acquisitions when final.

Status: The Stewardship Council Board has recommended lands for CAL FIRE at the North Fork Mokelumne River, Pit River, Battle Creek, and Cow Creek planning units. The Stewardship Council Board is expected to make an additional recommendation for lands to CAL FIRE at Lake Spaulding in the second quarter of 2016, work on this transaction would begin in early 2017. This would complete the anticipated fee recommendations for CAL FIRE.

The North Fork Mokelumne River final Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (conservation easement and agreements) was approved by the Stewardship Council Board in November 2014. The Department of General Services is currently reviewing the LCCP and associated documents. It is anticipated that final documents will be brought back to the committee for discussion in 2016.

Work on the draft conservation easement and documents for the Cow Creek project resumed in January 2016. The Battle Creek and Pit River draft conservation easement and agreements will be developed starting in the second quarter of 2016 and may be available for review in late 2016 or early 2017

Conservation easement holders for each of the properties have been recommended by the Stewardship Council Board and includes: Shasta Land Trust (Cow Creek, Pit River), Western Shasta RCD (Battle Creek), and Mother Lode Land Trust (North Fork Mokelumne River).

14. Progeny Sites

These sites are usually planted over a long period of time 3-10 year period to get various age classes and seed sources. Some of the land may sit fallow for a number of years and not meet a 5 year stocking requirement. Exempt up to 40 acres from meeting the required stocking standard if the property owner designates that area for a progeny plantation.