

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**Management Committee Meeting Report**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**April 6, 2010**  
**Time: 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Location: **Resources Building**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1506-12**  
Sacramento, California

**Meeting Attendance**

Committee Members Pam Giacomini, Tom Walz, Doug Piirto (Chair); Helge Eng, Bill Snyder, Dennis Hall, Russ Henly, Allen Robertson, Doug Wickizer, Jeff Leddy (Department of Forestry & Fire Protection); Thom Sutfin (former Forest Manager-SDSF); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Bill Keye (California Licensed Foresters Association); Rhianna Lee, Lorna Dobrovolny (Department of Fish & Game); Charles Greenlaw (non-industrial forest landowner); Dan Weldon; Richard Gienger (Humboldt Watershed Council); Addie Jacobson (Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch); Bob Rynearson, Scott Carnegie (Wm. Beaty & Associates); Michael Sweeney (Mendocino Solid Waste Authority); Jere Melo (Fort Bragg City Council); Mark Andre, Stan Dixon (Board Members); Lucas Frerichs (Assemblyman Wes Chesbro's Office).

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

**Agenda Item #1: Review of Soquel Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and CEQA Documentation.**

Staff introduced the topic before turning the presentation over to State Forest Program Manager, Dr. Helge Eng. Dr. Eng provided the Committee with a briefing on the status of the Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) currently in effect. With the assistance of retired Forest Manager Thom Sutfin, Dr. Eng summarized the level of harvest activity on the Forest since the certification of the EIR and approval of the Management Plan.

Dr. Eng noted that the Department rather than the Board was the Lead Agency that certified the EIR currently in effect. The Committee observed that this issue will need to be addressed such that the Board assumes the Lead Agency role. Dr. Eng further reported that by statute there is a separate "Soquel Advisory Committee" and this body was an integral part of the initial management plan and EIR development. It is not clear if this group has an ongoing role to play in the review of subsequent Management Plans and CEQA documents.

At the conclusion of Dr. Eng's presentation, the Committee identified the following next steps in the review process:

- State Forest Program staff will make revisions to the Management Plan pursuant to the recommendations of the Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group for review by the Committee.
- Allen Robertson and Helge Eng will seek legal advice from Chief Counsel, Giny Chandler on the options for compliance with the CEQA.
- Establish the Soquel Advisory Committee's role, if any, in the ongoing review process.
- Encourage the Department to continue working toward increased timber management activity pursuant to the current Management Plan.
- Helge Eng will draft a review process timeline and provide a progress report at the May Committee Meeting.

## **Agenda Item #2: SYP Renewal Update.**

Professional Foresters' Bob Rynearson and Scott Carnegie of Wm. Beaty & Associates provided the Committee with an update on the status of their SYP Renewal effort. The SYP Renewal proposal is the first of two to be submitted for lands managed by Beaty and is the first attempt at a renewal since the Board's adoption of the SYP Renewal regulations last year. It is anticipated that the initial renewal document will be submitted in the early summer of 2010. Mr. Carnegie reported on the progress of pre-consultation efforts with Review Team agencies. He also discussed efforts toward integration of the SYP with programmatic water quality waiver coverage. Mr. Carnegie will continue to provide updates to the Committee and this item will be placed on the May Agenda.

## **Agenda Item #4: Presentation by Michael Sweeney of the Mendocino Solid Waste Authority on the Proposal for Parcel Exchange with Jackson Demonstration State Forest.**

Staff introduced the topic and turned the presentation over to Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Jere Melo of the Fort Bragg City Council. Mr. Sweeney summarized the proposal for a parcel exchange and detailed the steps necessary for the development of the proposed waste transfer facility. He went on to explain that the Board's resolution in support of the proposed project was a necessary initial step toward further development of the proposal. Without the support of the Board at this stage, work toward CEQA compliance cannot be initiated. Mr. Melo who is also an RPF provided a summary of his timber inventory assessment of the two parcels to be exchanged. He noted that the parcel to be given to the Demonstration Forest has significantly greater commercial conifer volume than the parcel the Forest would give up in the exchange. Msrs. Sweeney and Melo responded to all questions from the Members and meeting participants regarding the proposed project. The Committee then reviewed the draft resolution and suggested one minor edit to the document. Chairman Piirto then solicited a recommendation from the Members.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

**MEMBER GIACOMINI MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FULL BOARD:**

- **ADOPT THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE, IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION.**

**MEMBER WALZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE FULL BOARD ON THE FOLLOWING DAY UNDER BOARD AGENDA ITEM #10. COPIES OF THE REVISED RESOLUTION LANGUAGE WILL BE CIRCULATED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS PRIOR TO THE NEXT DAY'S MEETING.**

## **Agenda Item #3: Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects. Cal Fire Presentation of Additional Fuel Behavior Simulations.**

Staff introduced the topic before turning the presentation over to Mr. Jeff Leddy from Cal Fire's State Forest Program. Mr. Leddy presented visual representations of fire behavior simulations under untreated and treated fuel conditions on low and moderate slopes. Among other things, Mr. Leddy reported that the modeling indicated stand treatment at any level concurrent with surface fuel reduction resulted in less stand mortality than would occur under an untreated condition. He further noted that the modeling indicated increased bole scorching as stand density was reduced.

Mr. Bill Snyder, Cal Fire Deputy Director suggested that the Committee consider appointment of a subcommittee to work on the MTHP proposal.

The Members concurred with this suggestion and appointed Member Walz as Chair along with Ms. Lorna Dobrovoly and Rhianna Lee of the Department of Fish & Game, Bill Snyder, Dennis Hall, and Jeff Leddy of Cal Fire, and Addie Jacobson of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch. Management Committee staff was directed to serve as staff to the subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairman Walz will coordinate the work timeline and meeting schedule with staff.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Discussion of Items for Next Month's Agenda; Review of 2010 Priorities.**

The assembly identified the following agenda items for inclusion on the May 2010 Agenda:

1. Continuing Review of the NTMP Program and Growth and Yield Guidelines Document.
2. Status Report on Proposed Revisions to Soquel Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and Options for Addressing California Environmental Quality Act Compliance.
3. Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.
4. New and Unfinished Business:
  - a. SYP Renewal Update
  - b. Review of Committee Priorities for 2010.

#### **Management Committee Priorities for 2010**

##### **PRIORITY 1:**

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

1. **Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review:** *Rules for SYP extension adopted. Comprehensive review of SYP and implementation of extension, 2010. Objective: Complete by end of 2010*
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. Review Guidelines, February 2010. Objective: Complete by mid 2010*
3. **(D09 #12)Modified THP for fuel reduction:** *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. Phase 7. Stakeholder input. Discussion of monitoring, photo points. Objective: Complete by end of 2010*

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

4. **Jackson (Liaison to JAG):** *Harvesting began in 2009. Nearing end of interim period; will need to consider revisions to management by end of 2010.*
5. **Mountain Home:** *Updated Management Plan under development. Review to occur in 2010. Initial Study being reviewed, possible mitigated negative declaration. Objective: Complete by mid-2010.*

6. **Soquel:** Updated Management Plan under development. **Objective:** review to begin by mid-2010.

## **PRIORITY 2:**

7. **(D09 #15)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.)
8. **(D09 #14)14 CCR § 1090.7(e)**, NTOs shall contain identification 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)
9. **(D09 #4)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)]. Consider implications for assuring AB 32 targets.

## **PRIORITY 3:**

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

10. Categories need to be expanded to include climate change and effect on fire threat from the proposed harvest. **(To Policy Committee)**
11. Maps need to show all the past, currently proposed, and likely future THPs layered into one map. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
12. Biological assessment areas and proportional mitigations, expansion of consideration of non-conifer resource. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
13. Is mitigation required proportional to the impacts? E.g., small harvest operations required to utilize the same mitigations as industrial operations. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
14. Consider adding adjacent watersheds for evaluating past, present and future projects.. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
15. 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/>. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
16. CEQA case law states that where the environmental baseline demonstrates existing significant impacts, this heightens, rather than reduces, the scrutiny that must be applied in the resulting cumulative impact assessment. The Board of Forestry, Cal Fire, DFG, Water Boards, and the scientific community should begin to address CWEs by developing detailed guidance documents on the subject. **(to Policy Committee discussion regarding WQ policy issues)**