

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**Management Committee Meeting Report**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
March 1, 2011
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: **Resources Building**
15th Floor, Room 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members Gary Nakamura (Chair) and Pam Giacomini; Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Frank Mulhair (California Licensed Foresters Association); Charles Greenlaw, Dan Weldon (Alliance 4 Family Forests); Addie Jacobson (Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch); Larry Camp, Jim Little (Forest Landowners of California); Staci Heaton (Regional Council of Rural Counties); Ryan McKillop (Soper-Wheeler Company); Vince Taylor (Jackson Advisory Group); Bill Keye (CLFA/FLOC); Bill Snyder, Dr. Russ Henly, Dr. Helge Eng, Lynn Webb, Chris Maranto (Cal Fire); Eric Carlson (Associated California Loggers).

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

Agenda Item #1: Discussion of Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group Recommendations for modifications to 2008 JDSF Management Plan.

Staff introduced the topic and provided a brief PowerPoint summary of the Jackson Advisory Group's (JAG) Vision Statements (excerpted from the JAG report) as well as a number of key questions for consideration by the Committee. The Committee then requested a brief presentation from State Forests Program Manager, Helge Eng on the harvest schedule modeling work he and biometrician, Jeff Leddy had recently completed.

The harvest schedule model is intended to demonstrate the sustainable harvest level achievable under the JAG's recommended constraints. Following Dr. Eng's presentation the Committee engaged in a rigorous discussion of the modeling methods and results. Mr. Vince Taylor, representing himself, expressed his disagreement with the modeling results. He went on to state his belief that the harvestable volume number under the JAG's constraints is actually closer to that achievable under the original Option a analysis without the JAG's constraints. At the conclusion of this discussion, Chairman Nakamura requested additional harvest schedule modeling information from Dr. Eng in advance of the April Committee meeting if possible.

Mr. Jim Little noted that regardless of the actual harvestable volume number generated, the practical reality is that Mendocino County no longer has the milling capacity it once had. Even if the sustainable annual harvest volume number were greater than 15 MMBF, JDSF may not be able to actually sell that much volume given the loss of local infrastructure and log market conditions. He further noted, however, that any business entity interested in opening a new milling facility in the area would pay close attention to JDSF's annual harvest volume projection numbers.

This item will be placed on the April Committee meeting agenda. Staff was directed to provide the Committee with a timeline for the Committee's decision-making process on this topic. Staff is also responsible for providing a detailed summary of each element of the JAG's recommendations for review at the next meeting. As indicated above, State Forests Program Manager, Dr. Helge Eng was requested to provide additional harvest schedule modeling results at the April meeting.

Item #2: Discussion of possible revisions to Forest Practice Rules for NTMP Notices of Timber Operations and Harvesting Plan Notices of Intent.

Staff briefly updated the Committee on the action taken by the Board in February to remand the NTMP NTO rule proposal back to Committee for bundling with the other related proposal to modify THP/PHP Notices of Intent. Staff is awaiting a response from the Department as to the purpose and necessity of both proposals. As there was no one from the Department available to speak to this item, it was deferred to the April meeting. The item will only be placed on the agenda if there is new information to report.

Agenda Item #3: Discussion of Forming a Technical Working Group to Consider Changes to Existing MSP Rule to Provide Contemporary Standards for MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].

Staff introduced the topic and provided a comparison table summarizing the three options for demonstration of Maximum Sustained Production of High Quality Timber Products (MSP). Following discussion of the various options available according to planning document type, staff was directed to provide the Committee with more information on the legislative/regulatory history of how each option was developed in advance of the April meeting.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion of Options for Increasing Non-industrial Timber Management Plan acreage.

Staff briefly introduced the topic noting that it was a carryover item from the previous meeting. The only way that the acreage limitation can be increased is through legislative change to the enacting statute. Staff noted that the Board has the authorization to propose such a legislative change and seek legislative sponsorship, as it has done with other pieces of legislation in the past.

Mr. Jim Little reported that the Forest Landowners of California is working cooperatively with the Forest Landowners of California and the Buckeye Conservancy and a legislative proposal to increase the NTMP acreage allowance. To date, these parties have been directed by legislative staff to work with other interested parties to resolve any outstanding disagreements and issues with the proposal.

Mr. Charles Greenlaw recommended that staff be directed to examine the NTMP program's efficacy over the course of its history for the purpose of building support for the program. This work could help bolster efforts to increase the maximum acreage allowance through legislative action.

Staff was directed to conduct the aforementioned examination of the NTMP program with the assistance of Cal Fire. Committee Chairman Nakamura indicated that he would discuss the Board's options for legislative liaison with Board Chairman, Stan Dixon. This item may be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

Agenda Item #4: New and Unfinished Business.

a. Soquel Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee Update.

This item was deferred as there was nothing new to report.

b. Forest Practice Rule Guidelines Update

Staff noted that this topic was originally brought forward by Mr. Charles Greenlaw. His idea was to consider assembling of a comprehensive, tabbed guidelines document to inform timber harvesting plan preparation and review. Mr. Frank Mulhair has subsequently continued to solicit comments from RPFs, LTOs, and reviewing agency representatives as to the perceived utility of such a document. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the target audience for the document, format, and the possible utility of a Best Management Practices guidebook as opposed to the Forest Practice Rulebook.

Chairman Nakamura requested additional information from Mr. Frank Mulhair. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April meeting.

c. Review of Agenda Items and 2011 Committee Priorities

Staff suggested that the Committee consider placing an item regarding the management of eucalyptus in its priorities for the remainder of the year. It was noted that regulation of eucalyptus harvesting has long been a grey area and that the topic may be ripe for discussion in light of recent eucalyptus management issues of which staff was recently made aware. Staff was directed to produce a briefing paper on the topic for the Committee's further consideration.

Possible Agenda Items for April 2011 Meeting

1. Continued discussion of Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group Recommendations for modifications to 2008 JDSF Management Plan.
2. Continued discussion of forming a technical working group to consider changes to existing MSP rule to provide contemporary standards for the MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].
3. Continued discussion of possible revisions to Forest Practice Rules for NTMP Notices of Timber Operations and Harvesting Plan Notices of Intent. **(May be deferred)**
4. Discussion of the Non-industrial Timber Management Plan acreage maximum. **(May be deferred)**
5. New and Unfinished Business:
 - a. Soquel Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee Update
 - b. Forest Practice Rules Guidelines Update
 - c. Review of Agenda Items and 2011 Committee Priorities

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.

PRIORITIES 2011

PRIORITY 1:

Evaluation/Monitoring of Forest Practice Rules:

1. **(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 early 2011***
2. **Jackson (Liaison to JAG):** *Harvesting began in 2009. Nearing end of interim period; will need to consider revisions to management by end of 2010.*

PRIORITY 2:

3. **Soquel:** *Updated Management Plan under development. Objective: Management Plan Update and CEQA coverage to be completed by 2011.*
4. **(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.)
5. **(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:

6. **Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review:** *Rules for SYP extension adopted. Comprehensive review of SYP and implementation of extension, 2010. Objective: Complete in 2011*
7. **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 early 2011*

UNPRIORITIZED

8. Long term stability and management

- Increase NTMP acreage (cuts burden of repetitive THP processing)
 - Create a separate but complimentary rule package that provides incentives for community owned forests, properties with some portion of the ownership covered by conservation easements, and or non- industrial landowners who own more than 2,500 acres (5,000, 7500, 10,000?) of timberland whereby other public benefits are provided such as public access, recorded conservation easements, agreement to maintain higher than regional average stocking levels and restrictions on harvest within stream buffers.
- Fuel reduction projects that allow log sales as cost-defraying incentives
- Changes to the Modified THP to increase utility and reduce costs
- Promote PTEIR cooperatives for regional/watershed groups (Mattole Restoration Council, Fire Safe Councils)
- Use private forest certification concepts to reduce costs and regulatory oversight

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