

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

-Meeting Held March 4, 2008-

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Piirto, Walz, Giacomini; John Munn, Russ Henly, Helge Eng, Bruce Beck, Allen Robertson (*CAL FIRE*); Bill Keye (CLFA); Richard Gienger (Humboldt Watershed Council); Jay Francis (Collins Pine); Arne Hultgren (Roseburg Resources); Bob Rynearson (Beaty & Associates); Mike Jani (Mendocino Redwood Company); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management).

AGENDA ITEM 1: DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION ON UPDATED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LA TOUR DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST

CAL FIRE State Forest Program Manager, Helge Eng presented the updated draft La Tour Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and provided a comparison of the current draft with the 2003 Management Plan. Mr. Eng then described the CEQA compliance document options available to the Board for the Committee's consideration.

Assistant Deputy Director, Russ Henly presented the Department's recommendations for various actions toward eventual Board adoption of the 2008 Draft La Tour DSF Management Plan. The Department recommends that the Board consider contracting with *CAL FIRE* to produce the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist for determination of the appropriate level of CEQA documentation to support the Plan. The Department likewise supports continued operation under the 2003 Management Plan in the interim.

Mr. Henly suggested that the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist could be completed for Committee and full Board review at the April 2008 Board Meeting. He also suggested that the Board schedule a public information meeting prior to the April meeting for the purpose of soliciting local perspectives on the management of LaTour.

Mr. Eng then provided the Committee with an updated schedule for review of the various State Forest Management Plans. The Committee concurred with the Department's proposed schedule.

The Committee concluded discussion with the following recommendations to the Board:

ACTION ITEM

The Committee recommends:

- 1. The Board include review of the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist for the La Tour DSF Management Plan as a Committee and full Board item on the April 2008 Meeting Agenda.**
- 2. The Board enter into a contract with *CAL FIRE* to complete the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist.**

3. The Board direct the Department to continue operations at La Tour DSF under the 2003 Management Plan.
4. The Board hold a public information meeting at a location to be determined in Redding prior to the April 2008 Board Meeting, provided it is possible to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DISCUSSION OF THE FOREST PRACTICE RULES FOR SUSTAINED YIELD PLANS (SYPS) AND PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROPOSED SYP FOR LA TOUR DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST

CAL FIRE State Forest Program Manager, Helge Eng presented the Department's "Rationale for Abandoning the Sustained Yield Plan Effort for La Tour Demonstration State Forest." Discussion continued with the participation of the representatives of SYP holders, Collins Pine and Beaty and Associates. The Committee concluded lengthy discussion of the topic by noting that Jay Francis of Collins Pine would be hosting an SYP workshop sometime in the summer. Mr. Francis suggested that this workshop might be helpful in identifying potential revisions to the SYP for the purpose of increasing its overall utility.

AGENDA ITEM 3: UPDATE ON MENDOCINO REDWOOD COMPANY AND MATTOLE RESTORATION COUNCIL'S RESPECTIVE PROPOSED PROGRAM TIMBERLAND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS (PTEIRS)

Mike Jani of Mendocino Redwood Company provided the Committee with the background and history behind his Company's decision to pursue a PTEIR. He noted that the idea of completing a PTEIR began with the decision to pursue a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). The Company is pursuing these and other programmatic documents in an effort to provide itself with the greatest opportunity for regulatory certainty possible. Mr. Jani indicated that the draft HCP is nearly ready for public review and that the various other permitting processes such as the PTEIR are in process closely behind.

Richard Gienger representing the Mattole Restoration Council provided the Committee with the background and history behind the Mattole PTEIR effort. He noted the differences and similarities between the Mattole and Mendocino Redwood PTEIR proposals. To date, four public meetings and one public scoping session have been held to solicit public input on the proposed PTEIR. Mr. Gienger noted that pursuant to State Water Board direction, this PTEIR effort must also result in completion of a coho recovery plan. The Committee continued discussion of the difficulties in creating PTEIRs for a large number of smaller landowners.

Discussion concluded with assurances by Messrs Jani and Gienger that the Committee would continue to receive periodic updates on the respective PTEIRs.

AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW AND UNFINISHED

The Committee postponed discussion of Item 4 concerning the proposal for a Modified Timber Harvest Plan for Fuel Reduction, in order to discuss the status of the Board's Archaeology Program and CAL FIRE's current staffing and budget constraints. Mike Jani opened discussion of the topic by presenting his perspective on the success of the program to date and the necessity of increasing support for that program. It was noted that the program has suffered a severe cut to its program resources and that oversight of certified archaeological surveyors may be suffering as a result.

The Committee discussed a host of possible actions to assist the archaeology program. This discussion led to recognition by Member Walz that the issue with the archaeology program is really symptomatic of the larger issue of the need for greater support of the Resource Management mission of the Department.

The discussion concluded with the following recommended action:

ACTION ITEM

The Committee recommends:

- 1. The Board request that the Director of the Department review budget allocations for the archaeology program as well as all other programs within the Resource Management Program.**
- 2. That the Director provide the full Board with a presentation of the findings of his review at a future Board Meeting.**

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING:

- 1. Discussion of the Potential for Utilization of a Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Approach to Support Streamlined Permitting of Landscape Fuel Hazard Reduction.**
- 2. Presentation by the Department of the Initial Study/CEQA Checklist for the La Tour DSF Management Plan.**
- 3. New and Unfinished Business**