

THE 2008 CHARTER
OF
THE RESEARCH AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE



OF
THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

GOVERNOR

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

SECRETARY OF THE RESOURCES AGENCY

MICHAEL CHRISMAN

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Necessity:

The Board has statutory responsibility for a comprehensive set of Forest Practice Rules (PRC §§ 4551, 4551.5, et al) that govern planning and conduct of timber operations on private timberlands in the State. The Board also has responsibility for determining forestry research needs and a public information program (PRC §745, §4789.6).

The Board has established a Research and Science Committee to:

- A. Review ongoing research programs;
- B. Advise the Board on research needs, priorities, policy, and such other matters as the Board directs;
- C. Provide science-based recommendations and technical information to advise and assist the Board in making its determinations on forest practice rules and fire regulations;
- D. Coordinate reviews of existing science and produce unbiased technical information for consideration by the Board;
- E. Provide oversight and coordinate the efforts of the Board's technical committees, such as the Monitoring Study Group (MSG);
- F. When funding is available, coordinate research projects at the request of the Board;
- G. Take the lead role to improve coordination and cooperation of the various industrial, educational, State and Federal agencies involved in research; and
- H. Recommend a system through which information can be collected, maintained and disseminated on all completed forestry research projects.

Best available science is considered to be relevant science from all credible sources, including peer-reviewed government and university research, other published studies, and Committee generated research products. Applicable historic information and unpublished data may have value and are to be considered if they can be assessed for accuracy and credibility. The Committee is responsible for providing a cohesive and coordinated approach to 1) focus on research needs, 2) understand available scientific information that is applicable to the questions at hand, 3) selecting the best and most relevant information, 4) synthesizing it into reports for policy and the Board, and 5) providing a biennial report to the Board at its November meeting for its consideration and possible submission to the legislature consistent with PRC §4789.6.

The Research and Science Committee (RSC) includes members drawn from the Department, forest user groups, other State and Federal agencies, the University of

California, and other educational institutions as may be appropriate. The Board appoints the members and designates the Chairman. The Committee meets as required on the call of the Chairman of the Board, or of the Chairman of the Committee, or of a majority of its members. The Committee reports to the Board its recommendations for action biennially, beginning on June 30, 2008, and may submit interim reports of recommendations if needed.

The Committee may enter into arrangements with other agencies or advisory committees of the Board to assist in obtaining information and in conducting such analyses as are required for it to fulfill its functions. The Director, to the extent feasible, provides necessary staff support and funds to assist the Committee in its work.

Purpose:

The purpose of the program is to provide science-based recommendations and technical information to assist the Board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules and policies for forest and fire management to achieve resource goals and objectives.

The goal of the program is to affect change when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules and guidance to achieve the goals identified by the Board. There are three desired outcomes: (1) to protect targeted resources, adaptive management will be utilized; (2) predictability and stability of the process of change so that landowners, regulators and interested members of the public can anticipate and prepare for change; and (3) application of quality controls to study design and execution, as well as to the interpretation of results.

By this charter, the Board establishes a Research and Science Committee to impose accountability and formality of process. The purpose of Committee is to advance the science needed to support adaptive management, and to identify research needs. The Committee also has ongoing responsibility to continue research and education in resource issues. The Committee will be made up of members that have expertise in a scientific discipline that will enable them to be most effective in addressing forestry, fish, wildlife, and landscape process issues. Members will represent timber landowners, environmental interests, state agencies, and federal agencies from a scientific standpoint, not a policy view and will use their independent scientific judgement. The Committee members will be approved by the Board. This will not preclude others from participating in and contributing to the Committee process or its subcommittees. The Committee shall also develop and manage as appropriate:

- A. Scientific advisory groups and subgroups;
- B. Research and monitoring programs;
- C. A set of protocols and standards to define and guide execution of the process including, but not limited to: 1) research and monitoring data, 2) interdisciplinary team evaluations and reports, 3) literature reviews, and 4) quality control/quality assurance processes;
- D. A baseline data set used to monitor change; and

- E. A policy process for approval of research, monitoring, and assessment projects and use of external information.

Values:

Those that serve on the committee agree to the values listed below. The following values shall inform all of the committee's decisions.

- A. Objectively serve the Board and the public's interest, with recognition of the need for a balanced evaluation of relevant scientific information.
- B. Support presentation of the full spectrum of research findings, with every effort to provide consensus findings and recommendations.
- C. The Committee is a highly qualified group of professionals representing a wide variety of disciplines, who will work together in a collegial manner.

Composition:

The Committee is a team of professional, highly qualified scientists and professionals that will be appointed and serve at the direction of the Board. The Committee will be comprised of members with a variety of professional disciplines with expertise related to forest management research. Disciplines may include fisheries biology, terrestrial wildlife, forestry, hydrology, geology, soil science, fire sciences, and any other disciplines the Board deems necessary. It will be composed of approximately 7 members. The committee may call upon, with approval by the Board, other experts to provide subject matter expertise. A staff member of the Board will attend meetings for coordination purposes and as a resource to the Committee.

One of the Committee members will be designated as the Chair of the Committee. The Chair will be responsible for facilitation of activities and formal communications from the Committee to the Board. The Committee Chair will coordinate meetings, provide leadership, ensure progress of the Committee toward timely completion of its tasks, and coordinate reports to the Board.

The Committee (or the Committee Chair) may, as it deems appropriate and subject to financial constraints, obtain assistance from other qualified professionals for the purpose of providing unique expertise related to specific subject matter.

There will be no financial compensation for services provided to Committee members from the Board. Committee members will be reimbursed for their expenses in attending meetings.

Meeting Logistics:

The Committee will meet periodically as needed to complete its tasks. Meetings will be convened for the entire Committee. The meetings of the Committee will be duly noticed meetings which will be open to the public [pursuant to the Bagley-Keene State Open Meeting Act]. The public will be invited to comment by the Committee Chair at specified times during a meeting. The meetings will be conducted in person, with provision for telephonic attendance as may be necessary and appropriate. The Committee Chair may be responsible for determining meeting format, location, and duration. The RSC Chair may assign individual tasks to subcommittees between meetings. In order to ensure progress and allow public access to the meetings, the Committee Chair will establish a schedule of formal RSC meetings.

RSC Actions:

All actions and recommendations presented to the Board or otherwise made by the committee shall be subject to standard parliamentary procedures. Quorums are required for any actions (minimum of four members in attendance with a simple majority of votes). Meetings may be held in absence of a quorum where no action is taken.

Identification of Research Topics:

The strategic planning process defines and communicates the Board's guiding values and priorities. This planning directs resources and efforts on the most important issues. It also defines both the Board's and Department's desired future outcomes, and how performance is measured and reported. This reporting, in turn, provides for an improvement cycle that allows the Board and the Department to make informed and timely changes.

The Strategic Plan is only one step in a process that will lead to further development of specific work plans, refinement of the indices that will define progress, and ongoing adaptation through a public process to ensure that the Board's vision is achieved.

The process began with the development of the Fire and Resource Assessment Program's (FRAP) thorough evaluation of the state's wildlands. This evaluation included participation and input by affected stakeholders and the public.

After the Assessment was completed, the Board began developing the framework for its mandatory policy statement. It was decided after discussion in committee, and following three public hearings, to utilize a framework (in the policy statement) that would allow for ongoing evaluation of current status and the ability to adapt strategies after that evaluation. The framework would clearly describe the mission and goals of the organization.

After the completion of the framework, the next phase in the process shifted to determination of goals and strategies. The framework included many of the possible strategies, but is not absolute. As part of the process, the Board held several hearings over the second half of 2006 to ascertain what the framework ultimately identified as the key actions to pursue.

Among the strategies identified there were numerous research items. They are listed below with their Strategic Plan identifiers.

Strategies as Identified in Board's Strategic Plan (5-1-07)**1. Biological Diversity**

- B. Strengthen analysis of cumulative impacts of land uses on terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- C. Improve mapping and monitoring technologies and systems.
- D. Strengthen collaboration between regulatory agencies, the public, and the industry in addressing fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat concerns.

G. Develop focused research program on State Forests for fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat.

2. Productive Capacity

J. Support for continued assessments and research on the capability of California's forests to produce timber, non-wood forest products, recreation, water, fish and wildlife habitat, and other forest values.

3. Forest Health

C. Develop monitoring and reporting systems for legislative reporting requirements.

K. Develop overall plan to guide forest and rangeland pest research and control, including public involvement.

L. Expand research on control methods.

T. Maintain periodic assessments of impacts of ozone and other pollutants on forest and rangeland vegetation and aquatic resources.

U. Develop improved modeling of air quality impacts of wild and prescribed fire.

4. Soil Conservation and Water

A. Continue support for watershed assessments using common watershed models and risk assessment capacity, enhancing cooperative mapping and monitoring techniques, and using long-term plans for large scale analysis and monitoring schemes.

B. Continue monitoring, especially to link in-stream conditions to hillslope processes. Incorporate in-stream monitoring technologies to track effectiveness of regulations and restoration efforts, and provide the basis for adaptive management.

F. Use the Demonstration State Forests as a venue for testing and demonstrating watershed assessment approaches and restoration techniques.

G. Conduct focused research on the dynamics of fish populations and their linkages to instream conditions and land uses.

H. Validate forest practice regulations as appropriate water quality protection measures.

5. Forest and Climate

D. Refine carbon sequestration accounting and carbon trading mechanisms. Encourage systems that recognize all life stages of forests and forest products.

F. Develop a contingency plan for ecological impacts of climate change, including seed banks and land trades adjusted to ranges of vegetation types.

6. Socio-Economic Well Being

U. Strengthen monitoring and adaptive management approaches for individual parcels as well as larger landscapes.

7. Governance

F. Focus on achieving agreement on desired landscape goals and then address potential practices and conflicts.

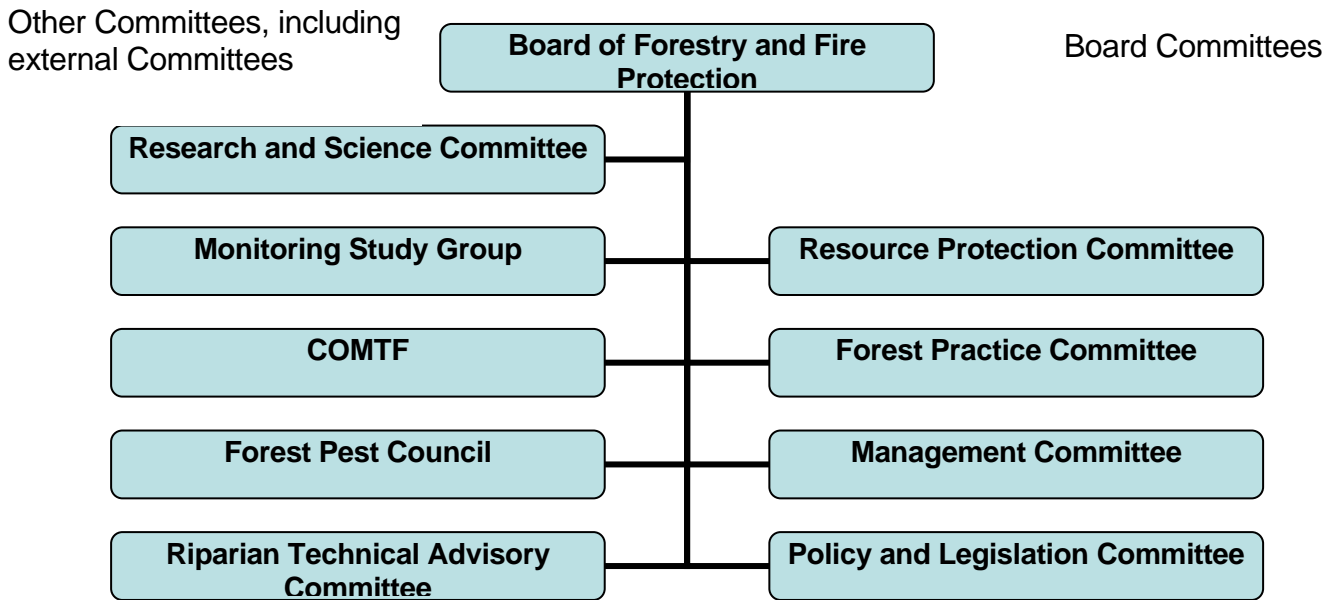
G. Evaluate performance based rules structures to replace existing prescriptive standards as a means to encourage innovative approaches to resource management.

M. Develop overall forest and rangeland research plan for California.

P. Continue to hold research symposia to share results.

R. Develop and support a science review team that will provide the Board with timely review of existing rules, and, where appropriate, recommendations for modification of rules and evaluation procedures.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Research and Science Committee will report to Board and coordinate with other committees. The Board and/or the Chair may designate other committees as necessary.