

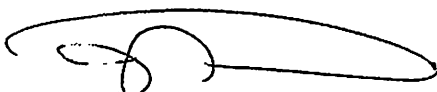
I do not believe the people of California that wanted the Forest Practice Rules in place envisioned a process that would leave the LTO making sure the RPF and CalFire did their jobs correctly. Unfortunately, that is exactly what this process has evolved into. Both the RPF's and CalFire say that they do not have time to check every detail, in my opinion that is not an acceptable reason to leave issues not dealt with on the ground. CalFire would not allow a mistake on the paperwork associated with a THP but they continue to allow mistakes on the ground.

LTO's rarely bring issues before the Board of Forestry however I believe we are just as important as the other 2 legs of the stool that make up Forestry in the State of California. It is unfortunate that an issue that the LTO community feels strongly about gets kicked down the road for 3 years almost like there is hope we will go back into our hole, keep our heads down and do our job.

These last three years have shown me why my father, a former Board of Forestry Member, tried to talk me into pursuing a different profession. It is not an equitable situation that the LTO performs in this equation. It would be nice to see the Board of Forestry discussing how we can lengthen the logging season so that we can retain professionals instead of training people every spring on the entire Forest Practice Rules to ensure the system continues. Perhaps the LTO community should continue to pressure the Board for changes in issues that affect them instead of just continuing to wither away. The tree mortality issue in the Sierras and the new to Logging contractors that have been working up there should be a good sign of what the future holds for the Logging industry in California without some major changes.

These amendments to the Forest Practice Rules are a good first step, they do not fix the problem that we brought to the Forest Practice committee over 3 years ago. If CalFire does follow through with a written policy on appealing a Violation and do training on how to utilize that tool then I believe this issue will be put to bed. Without both of these pieces I believe the LTO community will be required to find an alternate method to ensuring responsibility is handled correctly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myles Anderson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Myles Anderson
Anderson Logging Inc.