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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Richard Gienger  
Box 283, Whitethorn  
California 95589  
707-223-6474 mobile  
707-923-2931 office  
23 April 2015

*Sent via electronic mail to: publiccomments@bof.ca.gov on date shown below*

June 15, 2015  
J. Keith Gilliss, Chairman  
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244

RE: Comments on 45-day Notice for Proposed Adoption  
of Regulations for the Working Forest Management Plan

Dear Chairman Gilliss and Board Members:

One of the most disheartening processes I've witnessed at the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and in state government, since my first Board meeting in 1977, is the Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP). And there have been some very disheartening processes. The latest run toward a plan of the WFMP-type started out with great promise with broad and spirited discussions at the much broader-based participation of the Timber Harvest Working Group about what a larger NonIndustrial Management Plan (NTMP) might look like. What could be applied from lessons learned from the NTMP, for instance? And a multitude of other considerations. There was certainly enough that needed to be addressed that warranted the status of a two-year bill. If that had happened, I certainly think that the WFMP would be of a much higher caliber – and still be a real boon for large-small owners, keeping timberland in production, and for increasing the quality of future forests in California.

There has been a strange and persistent resistance to really making the WFMP a modern state-of-the-art forest management plan. These are large plans and if all goes well pertain to the managed lands in perpetuity. I am reminded of Mike Fay's admonition to the assembled forest/forestry people to set the future for the quality and extent California Redwood Forests with the same leadership that California brought to high technology. I'm afraid that we weren't paying attention or taking his findings and vision seriously.

These noticed regulations fall way short of comprising a state-of-the-art management plan that coherently, in well ordered high-standard content, and with basic required templates of information that will stand the immediate and long-term needs for the recovery of California's private timberlands. Basic obvious needs such as adequate implementation of 14 CCR 916.4, and incentives for older higher quality forests are missing. Yes, all-aged management is a worthy goal, but the standards in the present WFMP are not up to the professed or actual needs of future recovered forest and watersheds/.

Respectfully,

Richard Gienger for myself & Forests Forever