

Memorandum

To: BILL HOLMES, Northern Region Chief
DALE HUTCHINSON, Southern Region Chief
BILL SNYDER, Deputy Director, Resource Management

Date: February 4, 2013
Telephone: (916) 653-7772
Website: www.fire.ca.gov

From: 
KEN PIMLOTT, Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

Subject: Conservation Easement Constraints for Stewardship Lands

The Department is currently negotiating and developing conservation easements as part of the acquisition of PG&E lands through the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council). With multiple easement holders and Unit, Region, and Sacramento Staff reviewing and negotiating the easements, it is important to ensure the language within the conservation easements is consistent amongst all the properties. The following criteria are to be followed as easement negotiations move forward:

1. All land use and management restrictions will correspond to the Forest Practice Act and Board Rules, statues, Board policy, CEQA processes, and the public process of forest management plan development.
 - No areas will be designated as reserve areas where all management is prohibited. Special management zones may be designated for certain habitats or ecotypes that currently exist.
 - Qualitative goals may be set within the conservation easements for retention of snags, mature trees, down woody material, etc., but no quantitative goals will be established. Quantitative goals, where appropriate, will be addressed in the forest management plans.
 - Diversity of forest stand conditions will be established consistent with research and demonstration purposes and forest type. CAL FIRE's commitment to a full range of spatially flexible seral stages across the landscape will addressed in the forest management plans.
 - Silviculture, forest types, or seral stages shall be addressed in the forest management plans. All silviculture allowed under the Forest Practice Rules or undertaken as part of research and demonstration will be permitted.
 - Harvesting timber will be allowed for a) continuous timber production or economical forest administration; and/or b) for the purpose of maintaining a desired balance of seral stages; and/or c) specific research or demonstration purposes.

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- Development of land may be permitted to allow for Department infrastructure to manage the properties for research and demonstration, timber production, and recreation purposes or provide for public safety e.g., conservation camps, fire stations, forest headquarters, public education centers, and infrastructure for research and outreach.
- Review by the conservation easement holder of any harvest documents or forest management plans prepared by the Department will include a Registered Professional Forester.

For questions please contact Kelly Dreesmann at (530) 224-2472 or Kelly.Dreesmann@fire.ca.gov

cc: Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Russ Henly, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Management
Kelly Dreesmann, Staff Chief – Northern Region Resource Management
Steven Hollett, Staff Chief – Southern Region Resource Management