

Pursuant to its responsibility to determine, establish, and maintain adequate forest policies, the Board has found that:

- A. Timber growing, harvesting and processing are of basic importance to the people of California. Because most forests are renewable resources, they will be as important to future generations as they are to the present one. Thus, properly managed forests are now and can continue to be a major and increasing source of essential raw materials, and of employment and community income for large areas of the State;
- ~~B. Californians annually utilize about 1-1/2 billion cu. Ft. of manufactured wood products in a variety of essential ways, such as for new housing and paper products, for agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, communications and energy production;~~
- ~~B. In 2009, Californians consumed approximately 13,257,000 m³ or 5.6 billion board feet of wood products in a variety of essential ways. In 2009 That same year, the State's forest products industry produced approximately 2,380,000 m³ or slightly more than one billion board feet of wood products (McKeever, D and Howard, J (2011). *Solid Wood Products Consumption in Major End Uses in the United States, 1950 – 2009*. USDA, Forest Service: Forest Products Laboratory, FPL-GTR-199; *California's Forest and Rangeland: 2010 Assessment*. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection);~~
- C. The forest industries of the State currently produce ~~only the equivalent of two-thirds of the less than 20% of the~~ State's ~~wood products~~ annual consumption of wood products, the balance being supplied from national and world markets. Historically, prices of most wood products have risen as a result of demand expanding more than supply, indicating an increasing relative scarcity of wood. In the decades ahead, competition in national and world markets is expected to become increasingly severe from the standpoint of all consumers of wood products. Hence, the maintenance and recovery of an environmentally sustainable wood supply from within the state is of steadily increasing importance and concern to Californians;
- D. Wood is one of a limited number of basic raw materials. Foremost, it is renewable and, once its useful life is finished, it is biodegradable. Energy requirements for extraction, processing, and installing wood materials are often much lower than energy requirements for major competing materials. Wood's low thermal conductivity often makes it superior to nonrenewable materials for building construction. Significant advantages from the standpoint of maintaining a quality environment would therefore result from minimizing scarcity-induced substitution of other materials for wood;
- E. The area of commercial forest land in California has been declining and probably will continue to do so as a consequence of allocations of commercial forest land to residential and commercial construction, rights-of-way, parks and wilderness, reservoirs, and other uses which preclude timber growing and harvesting;

F. The public's need for the other values provided by forests (such as those derived from parks and wilderness, wildlife, watershed, minerals, aesthetics, forage for domestic livestock and scientific investigation) will compete with timber growing for the use of forest land. In some situations, provision of these values may limit the extent to which commercial forest may be fully utilized for timber growing and harvesting;

~~G. The commercial forest lands in California, whether publicly or privately owned, were growing timber in 1970 at a rate of less than 40 percent of their potential. Among the historical reasons for this short fall have been wildfires, ill-considered harvesting practices or timberland conversions, owner disinterest, and existence of relatively large areas of slow growing virgin forest and of young-growth timber not yet contributing significantly to measurable annual growth. More than 30 percent of the privately owned commercial forest land in the State was classified in 1970 as either unstocked or primarily stocked with certain species of hardwoods, which grow much more slowly than do conifers and are less suitable for commercial purposes. Restocking such lands is therefore an important factor in meeting the State's continuing wood products needs.~~

G. The statewide estimate of timberland volumes show constant increase over time after reported declines in the 1970s and 1980s. Private and State owned timberlands are currently the most productive in the State as measured in gross growth (Christensen, G; Campbell, Sally and Fried, J. (2008) *California's Forest Resources, 2001 – 2005, Five-Year Forest Inventory and Analysis Report*, USDA, Forest Service: Pacific Northwest Research Station). Maintenance or enhancement of this growing stock on State and private timberland is an important factor in meeting the State's continuing wood products needs.

H. The quality characteristics of timber harvested in the State, judged by current market quality standards, have been changing and will probably continue to do so as ~~a steadily increasing proportion of~~ the annual production primarily comes from young-growth rather than original-growth trees. Considerations of market economics work strongly against timber growing rotations and management regimes which can produce large, fine-grained, knot-free trees comparable in such respects with original-growth trees;

~~I. The State, through the mechanism of timberland preserve zoning, has recognized the need to protect the State's private timberland as an important productive resource. Such protection is especially essential to much of the State's prime timberland which comprise 5 million acres, contain almost half of the entire potential for future wood growth, and well over half of the potential for economically efficient timber growing;~~

I. The State, through the mechanism of timberland production zoning, has recognized the need to protect the State's private timberland as an important productive resource, which comprises approximately 8.7 million acres (*California's Forest and Rangeland: 2010 Assessment*. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). This resource is imperative for future wood growth, and for economically efficient timber growing;

~~J. There is significant unutilized residue in harvesting, processing and manufacturing, and unnecessary waste in the consumption and disposal of forest products. More~~

~~efficient utilization would extend wood fiber resources and is therefore a crucial element in the maintenance of timber supply.~~

J. There has been a significant increase in the utilization of wood residue in processing and manufacturing of forest products over the last several decades, with nearly 100% of mill residues being utilized for alternative industries (Morgan, T; Brandt, J; Songster, K; Keegan III, C and Christensen, G (2012). *California's Forest Products Industry and Timber Harvest, 2006*, USDA, Forest Service: Pacific Northwest Research Station, PNW-GTR-866). Trends in unnecessary waste in during the consumption and disposal of forest products have also decreased over this time period. Continued efficient utilization that extends wood fiber resources is a crucial element in the maintenance of timber supply.

In the light of these findings, the Board has concluded that protection of the public's interest in economically supplying its needs for forest products in this and future generations requires vigorous and coordinated efforts by the Board to (1) maintain ~~prime~~ timberland as a source of current and future timber supply, (2) promote establishment, maintenance, and productive management of forest growing stocks needed to ensure the long-term optimum productivity of such lands, (3) encourage the balance among timber size classes needed to ensure continuity of the timber supply, (4) encourage maintenance of a supply which will have suitably diversified quality characteristics, and (5) encourage ~~more~~ efficient utilization of wood both in the woods, in processing and in consumption as a means of extending timber supplies.

To accomplish these goals, the Board recognizes the need for detailed policies with respect to maintenance of timberland availability, development of optimum management and utilization practices, provision of adequate growing stock, and encouragement of adequately balanced timber size classes and adequate diversity of quality characteristics. Such policies will clearly recognize the Board's differing responsibilities with respect to State forests, the State's interest in Federal land matters pertaining to forestry, and the State's interest in forest resources on private lands, and shall reflect the State's concern that major consideration be given to preventing environmental damage and mitigating the effects of global climate change. The Board recognizes that land-use decisions affecting timber production should be taken in the light both of this policy and of review of the public's need for non-timber values derived from forests and forest land, particularly as those needs are recognized by responsible public bodies.

DEFINITIONS

0334.2

~~"Prime timberland" is forest land capable of growing 120 cu. ft. per acre per year or more, in perpetuity, when fully stocked and measured at culmination of mean annual increment. Generally, it is land with relatively favorable natural endowments or rainfall, soil characteristics, including porosity and permeability, drainage, water storage capability and nutrient availability, length of growing season, and topographic characteristics.~~

The term "timberland" has historically been defined in a number of ways for the purposes of state policy, regulation, and education. For the purposes of this policy statement, the Board includes two definitions that originate in California's forest practice regulation and land zoning statutes: the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act and the Timberland Productivity Act.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act, Public Resources Code Section 4526 defines 'timberland' as, "...land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis." This definition is the foundation of the State's forest practice regulation program and the Board's adoption of Forest Practice Rules for timber management on private and state owned lands.

The Timberland Productivity Act, Government Code Section 51100, et seq established a new zoning designation intended to encourage the growing and harvesting of timber, and compatible uses on California's private and state owned lands. Section 51104 of the Act defines "timberland" as, "...privately owned land, or land acquired for state forest purposes, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, and which is capable of growing an average annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet [180 board feet] per acre." The term "compatible use" is defined in Section 51104(h) of the Act as, "...any use which does not significantly detract from the use of the property for, or inhibit, growing and harvesting timber." The definition goes on to specify compatible uses including, but not limited to management for watershed; management for fish and wildlife habitat or hunting and fishing; a use integrally related to the growing, harvesting and processing of forest products, including but not limited to roads, log landings, and log storage areas; erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of gas, electric, water, or communication transmission facilities; grazing; and construction of a residence or other structure necessary for the management of land zoned as timberland production.

~~"Working forest" is an actively managed forested landscape which derives economic value through harvest of forest products, goods and services, while providing for protection of public trust resources, including but not limited to, clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and archaeological remains. These conservation values are attained through compliance with all appropriate regulations, restrictions or limitations that apply to the forested landscape.~~

LAND AVAILABILITY

0334.3

In order to maintain timber growing land in California as a permanent source of current and future timber supply, the Board has found that it is in the public interest:

- A. To oppose ~~diversion~~ conversion to uses which preclude timber growing and harvesting ~~or on~~ such privately owned ~~prime~~ timberland and other lands which have been classified as timberland ~~preserve~~ production zone (TPZ) under provisions of the Z'berg-Warren-Keene-Collier Forest Taxation Reform Act of 1976, except where the public values to be achieved by such ~~conversion~~ diversion exceed the public values derivable from timber growing. This policy applies both to conversion ~~diversion~~ proposed by the owner of the land and to proposals for public acquisition of such land that do not include a managed timberland component;
- B. To manage all ~~prime~~ timberland on State forests to investigate and demonstrate management for optimum long-run timber production. Where such forest lands contain or adjoin areas of high recreation value in State or other ownership, timber growing and harvesting practices may be modified in order to minimize conflicts

between other land uses and to demonstrate the costs and effectiveness of such practices;

- C. To support ~~designation in specific~~ land management plans ~~of such "commercial forest" on the federal public lands as is prime timber uses, except where the public values to be realized from precluding timber use exceed the public values derivable from timber growing; that are environmentally responsible and support economically sustainable rural communities and infrastructure;~~
- D. To recognize that conservation easements pursuant to Civil Code 815.1 can be useful planning instruments ~~that are entirely~~ compatible with the public values associated with timberland and Timberland Production zoning designations. Such public values include, but are not limited to preservation of watershed integrity, and floral and faunal habitat.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

0334.4

To encourage the prudent and responsible forest resource management which is the intent of the Legislature, continuing efforts will be required (1) to fully use, maintain and enhance the productive capacity of forest soils; (2) to stock and to manage young stands of timber so as to increase their rate of growth in volume and/or quality, subject to maintaining soil fertility; (3) to fully utilize, consistent with other goals, both the mature timber and what would otherwise be normal mortality in young stands; and (4) to encourage efficient harvesting, processing, and manufacturing of wood and wood products. Pursuant to these objectives, the Board will:

- A. Include in recommended research programs (1) studies designed to monitor and assess the long-term effects of various regimes of forest management on timber site fertility; (2) studies to develop optimum treatment regimes for representative timber stands; (3) studies to determine optimal stocking; and (4) surveys of size class distributions of public and private lands;
- B. Encourage public agencies and private concerns engaged in forest products research to study timber quality characteristics, to assess trends in timber demand as they may affect needs for wood of varying qualities, and to develop new harvesting and processing technologies suited to utilizing available wood supplies effectively in the light of market needs;
- C. Develop and encourage adoption by private timberland owners of forest management standards designed to maintain or improve site productivity, timber growth, and utilization;
- D. Encourage adoption, by both public and private owners, of forest management standards designed to optimize the growth in volume or quality of timber on those forest lands designated for timber growing;
- E. Promote reforestation of unstocked and understocked lands;
- F. Encourage, by service forestry and other methods, recognition by small timberland owners of their importance to continuity of timber supply in California and of the benefits to be derived from actively managing their timbered property.

Although past research and analysis have provided a significant body of information about forests and forestland in California, maintenance of an adequate timber supply policy requires continuing research and analysis. Environmental, economic, and social data must be updated continually if policies are to be kept current. As human pressures on resources increase and as more is learned about the nature of resources, new areas of investigation must be studied. Information and research related to timber supply policy are continually being developed by numerous organizations. Such data needs to be brought together and analyzed in ways that are significant for public policy formation. It is the policy of the Board, in the discharge of its responsibilities for research and information programs, to encourage cooperative and coordinated efforts by the several research, information, and operating agencies within the State to develop a strong and continuing system of forest resource research and analysis as an integral part of the State's policy for maintenance of the timber supply. ~~Further, the Board recognizes the need to develop, organize, and publish this information on a regular basis for the benefit of timber growers and for the people of the State.~~