

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

-Meeting Held October 6, 2009-

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Tom Walz, Pam Giacomini and Doug Piirto (Chair); Allen Robertson, Chris Browder, Dennis Hall (*CAL FIRE*); Jay Francis (Collins Pine); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Bill Keye (CLFA); Pete Ribar (Campbell Timberland); Lloyd Bradshaw (Hearst Forest); Rhianna Lee, Lorna Dobrovolny (CDFG); George Gentry (Board EO); Dave Fowler (NCRWQCB); Stacy Heaton (RCRC); Ken Zimmerman (RMAC).

~Agenda Items appear in the order in which they were discussed by the Committee~

AGENDA ITEM 1: CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF A MODIFIED TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (MTHP) REGULATORY PROPOSAL FOR STREAMLINED PERMITTING OF FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECTS.

Staff presented a new version of the MTHP regulatory proposal that combines elements of Mr. Doug Ferrier's draft regulatory proposal and the previous staff draft. This new draft rule plead was prepared pursuant to direction from the Management Committee at the September meeting. Staff reviewed each of the new rule plead sections for the assembly and explained the rationale for each revision of the previous staff proposal. Meeting participants discussed each significant revision and offered suggestions for improvement of the draft rule plead.

As directed by the Committee, staff will incorporate suggested edits into the new draft rule plead for further discussion at the November meeting. In addition, staff was directed to make certain the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) was ready for discussion once again at the November meeting. The revised rule plead and ISOR are to be circulated to the Management Committee email distribution list and posted to the Board's website in advance of November. Committee Chair Piirto with the concurrence of Members' Giacomini and Walz indicated a desire to bring this item before the full Board following the November meeting.

The Committee anticipates a report at the November meeting on the status of the fuel reduction modeling conducted by the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP).

Lorna Dobrovolny (Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish & Game) provided the Committee with a recent USDA research publication entitled, An Ecosystem Management Strategy for Sierran Mixed-Conifer Forests by North, Stine, O'Hara, Zielinski, and Stephens. Committee Chair Piirto thanked Ms. Dobrovolny for providing the publication and assigned it as required reading in advance of the November 2009 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PTEIR GUIDANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW.

Following staff's introduction of the topic, the document's author, Allen Robertson (Deputy Chief, *CAL FIRE*) explained that the document was now in final draft form. The Department's internal review of the document has been completed and a small number of edits were made to the draft previously presented. Mr. Robertson highlighted three key sections in the document that were among the items most discussed in the internal review. These three sections were, "Alternate Standards" on page 15 of the draft guidelines; "Substantial Differences Between PTHPs and THPs" on page 25; and "PTHPs that are 'out of scope' of the PTEIR" on page 27. Considerable discussion of the three highlighted sections, applicable regulatory citations, and other portions of the guidelines continued.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Committee Chair Piirto with concurrence of Members' Giacomini and Walz thanked Mr. Robertson for his thorough work to complete a final draft. Staff was then directed to agendaize both Committee review and possible full Board action to formally authorize the Guidelines at the November 2009 meeting. Chair Piirto also requested that the assembled meeting participants offer any editorial suggestions or written comments to Mr. Robertson or Board staff well in advance of the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION OF DRAFT FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MOUNTAIN HOME DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST.

This item was deferred to the November 2009 Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. Jackson Advisory Group Meeting

Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer of the Board provided the Committee with an update of his attendance of the September Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) Meeting. Mr. Gentry advised the Chair and Members that the Board's memorandum to the JAG regarding timber sale opportunities was discussed and is to be agendaized for discussion at a subsequent JAG meeting. **Mr. Gentry also noted that JAG Chair, Dr. John Helms will provide his periodic JAG Report to the Committee at the November 2009 Committee meeting.**

- 2.** Staff reviewed the Committee's work tracking table for the benefit of the assembly and several edits were made to the table at the direction of the Chair and Members.

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING:

- 1. Continuing Discussion of a Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects.**
- 2. Final Committee Review of the draft PTEIR Guidelines Document. Possible Committee Recommendation for Full Board Authorization of the Guidelines. (Full Board Action Item)**
- 3. Department Presentation of Revised Draft Forest Management Plan for Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.**
- 4. Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Committee (JAG) Report – Committee Chair, Dr. John Helms.**
- 5. Department Report on Status of THP Form Revision and Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines.**
- 6. New and Unfinished Business.**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR 2009

Management Committee

The mission of the Management Committee is to evaluate and promote long-term, landscape level planning approaches to support natural resource management on California's non-federal forest and rangelands.

NOTE: 22 IDENTIFIED COMMITTEE PRIORITIES RANKED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF IMPORTANCE FROM 1-3; COMPLEXITY RANKED IN ASCENDING ORDER OF PERCEIVED DIFFICULTY OF MATERIAL RESOLUTION FROM 1-3.

Evaluation/Monitoring of Forest Practice Rules:

Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:

1. Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review: Rule language under development. Phase 6. Possible adoption in 2009 for 2010 implementation.
2. Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Review: Ongoing review of issues. **Department Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document posted on Department website—currently in use by Department plan review personnel.**

Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:

3. Programmatic Timberland EIR Guidance Document: Department Guidelines under review by committee.
4. Modified THP for fuel reduction: Phase 5. Rule language development.

Demonstration State Forests Management:

Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:

5. Jackson (Liaison to JAG): Jackson Plan was approved in the early part of 2008. Ongoing evaluation of the JAG work plan.
6. LaTour: Updated Management Plan was approved in summer of 2008. **All Board tasks completed, no further work required.**
7. Boggs: Updated Management Plan was approved in fall of 2008. **All Board tasks completed, no further work required.**

Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:

8. Mountain Home: Updated Management Plan under development. **Review to occur in 2009.**
9. Soquel: Updated Management Plan under development. **Review to occur in 2009.**

Items listed below were identified by the Policy Committee after November 2007-8 public input per Strategic Plan Criteria #7 Governance, Strategy E

Department Comment, 2007 and 2008:

Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:

10. **14 CCR § 1092.04(d)** [in part], A Notice of Intent shall include the following information:
(4) The acres proposed to be harvested. **(5)** The regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used. *14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(4) requires stating the acres proposed to be harvested. Board should amend this paragraph to include all acres where **timber operations** will occur. Board should consider the current definition of logging area and the lack of a definition of plan area. 14 CCR § 1092.04(d)(5) This paragraph may not capture all possible treatments that may occur under a plan (special prescriptions, road right-of-way, or fuelbreak.)*

Priority 1 - Complexity 2 Items:

11. **14 CCR § 1051, Modified THP.** *The Board could make changes to increase the utility of an MTHP, e.g., expanding the allowable acreage, limiting the application to small timberland owners and modifying certain limitations, or, as is currently being considered, focus a category of MTHPs on fuels reduction. (See above, item under consideration by committee)*

Priority 2 - Complexity 1 Items:

12. **14 CCR § 1090.7(e)**. [NTOs shall contain i]dentification of silvicultural prescriptions to be applied. *Board should amend this subdivision to require the number of acres of the silvicultural prescriptions to be applied in the NTO. (For tracking)*

Priority 3 - Complexity 3 Items:

13. **14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)]**. *Board should consider forming a technical working group to consider changes to existing MSP rule to provide more concrete standards for the MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].*

Public Comment, 2008:

Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:

14. **14 CCR § 1052:** *Time limits of fire salvage emergencies do not allow enough time for a THP to be prepared and approved. (See item # 2 and 5)*
15. **14 CCR § 1052 and 14 CCR § 917.2:** *“Slash to be treated for hazard reduction by burning shall be treated not later than one year following its creation.”*
16. *Expand use of electronic posting to allow for greater public access to information. (Cal Fire to prepare plan for implementation of electronic posting at Redding and Fresno offices for February 2009 Committee Meeting.)*

14 CCR § 912.9, Board of Forestry Technical Rule Addendum No. 2:

Priority 1 - Complexity 1 Items:

17. *Categories need to be expanded to include climate change and effect on fire threat from the proposed harvest.*

Priority 2 - Complexity 3 Items:

18. *Maps need to show all the past, currently proposed, and likely future THPs layered into one map.*
19. *Biological assessment areas and proportional mitigations, expansion of consideration of non-conifer resources.*
20. *Is mitigation required proportional to the impacts? E.g., small harvest operations required to utilize the same mitigations as industrial operations.*

Priority 3 - Complexity 3 Items:

21. *Consider adding adjacent watersheds for evaluating past, present and future projects.*
22. *Assessment of impacts made project by project, need landscape approach. California State Wildlife Action Plan not being adhered to: "Using the best-available science, extent, pattern, and pace for timber-harvest in a forest watershed".*
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WAP/>

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