

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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**Management Committee Meeting Report**

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
March 2, 2010
Time: 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: **Resources Building**
15th Floor, Room 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members Pam Giacomini, Tom Walz, Doug Piirto (Chair); Helge Eng, Jim Kral, Bill Snyder, Dennis Hall, Chris Maranto, Russ Henly (Department of Forestry & Fire Protection); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Bill Keye (California Licensed Foresters Association); Rhianna Lee (Department of Fish & Game); Charles Greenlaw (non-industrial forest landowner); Dan Weldon; Richard Gienger (Humboldt Watershed Council).

Agenda Item #1: Ongoing Review of Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Statute and Regulations

Staff presented a review of NTMP-related discussion topics identified at the February Committee meeting including prospective increase of the 2,500 acreage maximum; collection and synthesis of NTMP information; the total number of NTMPs and acreages by region; and demonstration of the balancing of growth and yield. Deputy Director Snyder provided a historical perspective on the Department's 2004 NTMP Workshops and legislative efforts to increase the NTMP maximum acreage allowance to 10,000 acres. Charles Greenlaw, Dan Weldon, and Bill Keye added their further historical insight and shed light on the political impediments to increasing the NTMP acreage maximum.

Member Walz suggested that the Committee and Board should be focused on the bigger picture of supporting timber management as a whole in this state. He noted that California imports 70-80% of the lumber sold in the state without apparent regard for domestic timber producers. Member Giacomini and Chair Piirto concurred with Member Walz and offered that the Committee needs to remain focused on the bigger picture while still examining opportunities for permit level encouragement of non-industrial timberland owners. Bill Keye offered that the Board might want to consider convening a "forestry summit" for examination of the imbalance of California's wood products consumption and simultaneous demand for additional regulatory constraints.

The assembly engaged in rigorous discussion of methods for demonstrating the balancing of growth and yield in NTMPs. Chris Maranto provided several examples of finely detailed and more simplistic approaches to NTMP growth and yield analyses. The status of the Department's "NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines" document was discussed and Dennis Hall reported on the status of the document. He noted that a number of revisions were necessary before the Guidelines could be brought back before the Board for further review and possible Board authorization. Helge Eng offered that growth and yield requirements for NTMPs should be focused on accuracy rather than complexity.

Discussion concluded with identification of a number of further discussion topics for consideration including Bill Snyder's suggestion for a Board sponsored NTMP workshop, Bill Keye's idea of a broader Board sponsored, "forestry summit," further Board review of the Department's draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document, and a presentation/workshop on the forthcoming Windows-based Cactos/Cryptos growth simulator known as "FORSEE."

Staff was directed to work with Department personnel on these discussion topics for future presentation to the Committee.

Agenda Item #2: Status Report on Implementation of the Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Renewal Regulations

Staff reported that Wm. Beaty & Associates is continuing to work in consultation with review agency personnel in the development of their first SYP renewal document. This item will be agendaized for further discussion in April.

Agenda Item #3: Review of Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update, Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. Possible Action Item.

State Forest Program Manager, Helge Eng and State Forest Manager, Jim Kral led the Committee through the responses to comment on the Plan Update and CEQA document as well as the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The Department of Fish and Game was the only substantive commenter and was included as an additional preparer of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Plan Update. Rhianna Lee of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Richard Gienger, and the Members offered several edits to the documents that were incorporated by Msrs. Eng and Kral. Ms. Lee expressed her support of the Plan Update on behalf of DFG. Both the Department and Members likewise offered their appreciation for Ms. Lee and DFG's efforts to assist in the development of the Plan Update and CEQA document.

ACTION ITEM:

MEMBER GIACOMINI MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND THAT THE FULL BOARD:

1. **ADOPT THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION INCLUSIVE OF THE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS;**
2. **ADOPT THE MITIGATION, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PLAN;**
3. **AND APPROVE THE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR MOUNTAIN HOME DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST.**

MEMBER WALZ SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE FULL BOARD ON THE FOLLOWING DAY UNDER BOARD AGENDA ITEM #9.

Agenda Item #4: Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects. Cal Fire Presentation of Additional Fuel Behavior Simulations.

This item was deferred until the April Committee Meeting.

Agenda Item #5: New and Unfinished Business.

- a. **Status Report on Mendocino County Solid Waste Authority Proposal for Parcel Swap with Jackson Demonstration State Forest.**

Assistant Deputy Director, Russ Henly provided the Committee with an update on the status of the proposal. Michael Sweeney of the Mendocino County Solid Waste Authority will provide the Committee and full Board with a presentation on the proposal at the April Meeting.

b. Review of Committee Priorities for 2010.

Staff was directed to review the Committee Priorities Report and suggest lower priority items for inclusion in forthcoming Committee agendas.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion of Items for Next Month's Agenda.

The assembly identified the following agenda items for inclusion on the April agenda:

1. Review of Soquel Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and CEQA documentation.
2. SYP Renewal Update
3. Continuing Discussion of Modified Timber Harvesting Plan (MTHP) Regulatory Proposal for Streamlined Permitting of Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects. Cal Fire Presentation of Additional Fuel Behavior Simulations.
4. Report by Michael Sweeney of the Mendocino County Solid Waste Management Authority on the Proposal for Parcel Swap with Jackson Demonstration State Forest (**Full Board**)
5. New and Unfinished Business:
 - a. Review of Committee Priorities for 2010.

Management Committee Priorities for 2010

PRIORITY 1:

Evaluation/Monitoring of Forest Practice Rules:

1. **Sustained Yield Plan (SYP) Review:** *Rules for SYP extension adopted. Comprehensive review of SYP and implementation of extension, 2010. Objective: Complete by end of 2010*
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. Review Guidelines, February 2010. Objective: Complete by mid 2010*
3. **(D09 #12)Modified THP for fuel reduction:** *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. Phase 7. Stakeholder input. Discussion of monitoring, photo points. Objective: Complete by end of 2010*

Demonstration State Forests Management:

4. **Jackson (Liaison to JAG):** *Harvesting began in 2009. Nearing end of interim period; will need to consider revisions to management by end of 2010.*
5. **Mountain Home:** *Updated Management Plan under development. Review to occur in 2010. Initial Study being reviewed, possible mitigated negative declaration. Objective: Complete by mid-2010.*

6. **Soquel:** Updated Management Plan under development. **Objective:** review to begin by mid-2010.

PRIORITY 2:

7. **(D09 #15)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.)
8. **(D09 #14)14 CCR § 1090.7(e)**, NTOs shall contain identification 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)
9. **(D09 #4)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)]. Consider implications for assuring AB 32 targets.

PRIORITY 3:

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

10. Categories need to be expanded to include climate change and effect on fire threat from the proposed harvest. **(To Policy Committee)**
11. Maps need to show all the past, currently proposed, and likely future THPs layered into one map. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
12. Biological assessment areas and proportional mitigations, expansion of consideration of non-conifer resources. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
13. Is mitigation required proportional to the impacts? E.g., small harvest operations required to utilize the same mitigations as industrial operations. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
14. Consider adding adjacent watersheds for evaluating past, present and future projects. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
15. 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/>. **(Phase III of ASP review)**
16. CEQA case law states that where the environmental baseline demonstrates existing significant impacts, this heightens, rather than reduces, the scrutiny that must be applied in the resulting cumulative impact assessment. The Board of Forestry, Cal Fire, DFG, Water Boards, and the scientific community should begin to address CWEs by developing detailed guidance documents on the subject. **(to Policy Committee discussion regarding WQ policy issues)**