

CHAPTER 0350 - FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES

DEMONSTRATION STATE FORESTS 0351

GENERAL 0351.1

California's Demonstration State Forest program (state forests) has been in existence since 1946 when the first forest properties were acquired. Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 4631-4658 provide the authority for acquisition, administration, and operation of State Forests by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Most of these statutes were enacted in 1945 following recommendations of the Forestry Study Committee established by the Legislature in 1943. There are now eight State Forests totaling 69,596 acres as shown below:

DEMONSTRATION STATE FORESTS			
State Forest	County	Acres	Date Acquired
Jackson Demonstration State Forest	Mendocino	48,652	1947
Latour Demonstration State Forest	Shasta	9,003	1946
Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest	Tulare	4,807	1946
Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest	Lake	3,493	1949
Soquel Demonstration State Forest	Santa Cruz	2,681	1990
Los Posadas Demonstration State Forest	Napa	796	1929
Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest	Amador	164	1932
Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest	Trinity	160	1939

Jackson, Latour, Mountain Home, Soquel, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests are working forests, actively managed by Registered Professional Foresters who focus on demonstration of commercial timber management, plantation management, ecosystem restoration, fire prevention (including non-commercial vegetation management and prescribed fire), recreation and monitoring in conformance with detailed management plans. Las Posadas, Mount Zion, and Ellen Pickett State Forests were acquired as gifts to the state and are relatively noncommercial in nature. These smaller forests are used primarily for administrative and recreational purposes, where allowed, and are managed by local CAL FIRE personnel incidental to other responsibilities. Deed restrictions preclude some uses on these forests.

To attain proper management of private timberlands and state owned timberlands in California, there is a need to investigate, develop, and demonstrate new and improved forest management methods, monitor the effectiveness of those management techniques, and educate timberland owners and the public on the suitability and practicality of such methods and techniques. The state forests serve this purpose while contributing to the economic stability and diversity of local communities by

providing forest products and outdoor recreation opportunities which sustain local employment and tax bases. Additionally, outdoor recreation is an important public benefit, and a primary objective, of several of the state forests.

The value of the Demonstration State Forest program will continue to increase as the demand for forest products, recreational opportunities, valuable wildlife habitat, and forest related science increases and as public interest in forest management practices intensifies. Demonstrations of the compatibility and conflicts involved in managing multiple use of forest land are essential as population and development pressures increase.

The state forests require a stable land base to facilitate long range planning necessary in forest land management and experiment design. The State Forest program should, at a minimum, maintain the current land base, preserve the integrity of the existing state forests to assure their continued management, and seek opportunities to acquire new holdings for the Demonstration State Forest system. Reduction of private and public inholdings through purchase or exchange is desired to facilitate more efficient management of the existing state forests. Additional demonstration forests which are adapted to meet local requirements for investigation, demonstration, and education are needed in those counties where management of private timber ownerships is challenging and no state forests exist. Lands already under ownership of the state could assist in meeting these needs through deed transfer.

In consideration of the above facts, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) has adopted the following policies to guide CAL FIRE in administering the Demonstration State Forest program and managing the state forests.
(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

PROGRAM PURPOSE AND LAND USE PRIORITIES

0351.2

The primary purpose of the Demonstration State Forest program is to conduct innovative demonstrations, experiments, and education in forest management. All state forest land uses should serve this purpose in some way. In addition:

- A. Timber production will be the primary land use on Jackson, Latour, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Timber production will be subordinate to recreation on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, and limited on Soquel Demonstration State Forest to those operations necessary to provide funds for the maintenance and operation of the state forest and to achieve its statutory goals of PRC § 4660;
- B. Recreation is recognized as a secondary but compatible land use on Jackson, Latour, Soquel, and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Recreation is a primary use on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest as prescribed by PRC § 4658;
- C. Demonstration State Forests may be used for CAL FIRE administrative sites when such use will benefit state forest or Fire Protection programs;
- D. Special uses primarily benefiting non-forestry and/or private interests will have low priority. Such uses that conflict with state forest objectives are discouraged.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

0351.3

The Board, consistent with PRC § 4631, recognizes and reaffirms that the primary purpose of Demonstration State Forests is to conduct demonstrations, investigations, and education in forest management. The Board supports the emphasis and expansion of demonstrational, experimental, and educational activities on state forests. Accordingly, in the operation of state forests, CAL FIRE will:

- A. Conduct a balanced program of demonstrations and investigations in silviculture, mensuration, logging methods, economics, hydrology, resource protection, fire prevention, and recreation; directed to the needs of the general public, private forest landowners, timber operators and the timber industry.
- B. Continue to develop procedures to assure dissemination and online availability of information obtained on state forests to forest landowners, timber operators, and the general public.
- C. Integrate the Department's Forestry Assistance Program with state forest demonstration activities to more effectively reach private forest landowners and the general public.
- D. Conduct periodic field tours to exhibit state forest activities and accomplishments to forest industry, private forest landowners, relevant public agencies, and the general public. Field tours should be initiated CAL FIRE and conducted at such times and places to encourage public attendance.
- E. Seek special funding as needed from the Legislature to support specific research projects within the Demonstration State Forests.
- F. Consult with and solicit the cooperation of local, state, federal, tribal and private partnerships and other public and private agencies in conducting research and demonstrations requiring special knowledge or investigating forest management problems of mutual interest. It is particularly of mutual benefit to make the State forests available to educational institutions, and other agencies for research projects.
- F. Cooperate with the Department of Parks and Recreation in establishing forest management demonstration areas compatible with recreation for educational purposes.

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TIMBER MANAGEMENT

0351.4

Purposes and policies for timber management on state forests are established in PRC §§ 4631 and 4651. The Board has further adopted the following policies pertaining to management and harvest of timber on state forests:

- A. The Department will conduct regular and consistent periodic timber sales on Jackson, Latour, Boggs Mountain, Soquel, and Mountain Home Demonstration

State Forests. Harvesting may be deferred in accordance with a Board approved management plan;

B. A rotation age, cutting cycle, and an allowable annual cut will be established for each state forest from which timber is harvested. Timber harvesting schedules should be projected at least ten years into the future, and the allowable cut levels must be based on pertinent current inventory and growth data, which is derived from a robust inventory standard that is subject to periodic review.

C. State forest timberlands will be managed on the sustained yield principle, defined as management which will achieve and maintain continuous timber production consistent with environmental constraints;

D. State forest timber stands should be harvested on the basis of maximizing sustained production of high quality forest products. This should not preclude intermediate cuts designed to increase total yield and reduce losses from mortality;

E. Timber production and harvesting should provide for coordination with other state forest uses. Silvicultural practices should be compatible with recreation, soil, water, wildlife and fishery values, carbon sequestration, and aesthetic enjoyment;

F. Economically and ecologically justifiable intensified forest management practices to increase total fiber production and timber quality will be pursued on the state forests. These practices will be designed and carried out for maximum applicability (or demonstration values) to private landowners. Financing to conduct such intensive silvicultural practices should be actively sought by the Department;

G. Timber sales should have demonstrational value and include experimental and educational aspects whenever possible.

(Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

RECREATION ON STATE FORESTS

0351.5

A. Recreation is recognized as a valuable stabilizer and diversifier of local economies. As such, recreation is a secondary, but compatible use, on Jackson, Latour, Soquel and Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forests. Recreation is a primary use on Mountain Home State Forest as prescribed by PRC § 4658.

B. The recreation program on state forests will make camping and day use facilities available to the general public, offer a degree of control and protection to the forests, and demonstrate that recreational use and timber management can be compatible land uses.

C. Campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails will be developed on state forests, as funds become available, but only consistent with the recreational carrying capacity as determined in the respective state forest management plan.

D. Recreation improvements will generally be rustic in character with sanitary

facilities and water sources which meet public health requirements. Special attention should be given to maintaining safe and sanitary conditions in all recreation sites utilized by the public.

E. Recreation use will be integrated with timber management activities to demonstrate how these uses can be compatible. The presence of recreationists on the state forests presents a unique opportunity to explain timber management to the general public.

F. The state forests will remain open for public hunting and fishing in accordance with State Fish and Game Code and regulations except for specified closures required for public safety and forest protection as authorized by law.

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SPECIAL USES OF STATE FORESTS

0351.6

Special uses of state forests will be permitted only when there is a clear benefit to the state and when such uses do not conflict with primary (uses) programs of timber management, demonstration, education, research, and recreation. Such concessions must be consistent with this policy and receive written permission of the Forest Manager. The Forest Manager may require use or concession specific permit conditions to protect state resources and promote state forest objectives.

A. Use of state forests for mining, grazing, and commercial concessions is discouraged. Concessions on state forestlands means:

1. The privilege of maintaining a subsidiary business within the forest, or
2. The space allotted for such a business, or
3. The business itself.

B. Examples of concessions that are discouraged:

1. Those that require kiosks or other structures.
2. Those that are commercial in nature, where the operation is tied primarily to commercial revenue generation (e.g., vendors that sell souvenirs or food) instead of a cooperative relationship which promotes activities that are consistent with the compatible uses of the state forests (youth recreation camps, recreation events).
3. Mining
4. Grazing, except where such use has been traditionally recognized on the property, or if there is an existing agreement, or where necessary for research or management (e.g., herbivory to reduce hazardous fuels)
5. Those that have no clear connection to the role of the forest in timber management, demonstration, research, and recreation.

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GRANTING TEMPORARY PERMITS FOR PASSAGE

0351.7

It is desirable to grant temporary permits for passage across state forests to forest products operators or other parties having need of them in the course of their operations where such permits do not interfere with the stated uses of state forests. Applications for

temporary permits for passage may be made to the Director, who will be guided by the following principles in submitting applications to the Director of General Services for approval.

- A. Temporary permits for passage will be granted on a reciprocal basis where practicable.
- B. The state will have free use of all lands and routes over which permits for passage have been granted.
- C. The state will reserve the right to cross, recross, and parallel any such lands or routes with its own roads or utilities.
- D. Temporary permits for passage will be limited to a minimum economical width, but in no case shall exceed 60 feet except for needed cuts and fills.
- E. The grantee of any temporary permits for passage will pay the state the current market value of timber necessarily cut or damaged in clearing and construction on state lands, provided that the price and volume will be determined by the Director, and such timber when paid for will belong to the operator.
- F. Temporary permits for passage will be of such duration as to meet the reasonable needs of the grantee. Five years' non-use of any permit for passage for the purpose granted will constitute an abandonment forfeiture thereof unless the period of non-use is otherwise agreed upon.
- G. The state will be reimbursed for any damage caused to state property in the construction and/or maintenance of such, provided that the grantee will hold the state harmless from any and all liability arising from the construction, maintenance and/or use of areas covered by such permits for passage.
- H. Where it appears that benefit will result to the state, any charge for such permit for passage may be reduced accordingly.
- I. All slash and snags on the area covered by a permit for passage will be disposed of by the grantee. The grantee will have the same responsibility for fire protection on any such area as is required by the Board for fire protection on a timber operating area.

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PERMANENT EASEMENTS ACROSS STATE FOREST LANDS

0351.8

Permanent easements across state forest lands are sometimes necessary to allow adjacent owners access, use, and development of their property. Granting of permanent easements across state forest lands can influence the development of rural subdivision residential complexes which are not in harmony with state forest management activities.

The Board does not support or encourage residential development within state forest boundaries or on lands contiguous with state forest boundaries. The following guidelines will be followed by the Director in considering requests for permanent easements:

- A. Requests for permanent easements and widening of existing easements will be discouraged, but may be considered when no other routing through non-state forest land is physically possible or if such other routing presents substantial and unreasonable difficulties or environmental damage;
 - B. Requests for permanent easements will be submitted by the applicant in complete and understandable form with appropriate engineering data and plots as may be required by the Director. The applicant will prepare any required environmental documents and bear all administrative costs associated with processing this easement agreement;
 - c. Requests for permanent easements will be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit to cover administrative and engineering costs involved in studying the request. The deposit will be applied toward any fees charged if an easement agreement is consummated. This non-refundable deposit will be forfeited by the applicant if for any reason an easement agreement is not granted by the state. All fees may be waived where reciprocity is a consideration;
 - D. In those special cases where permanent easements are necessary for rural subdivision residential development, the easement will be accepted by the county as part of the public road system and developed to public road system standards;
 - E. To prevent proliferation of roads and easements, parcels with multi-ownerships will be required to share a common easement across state forest lands if at all feasible. This may involve substantial increases in planning, negotiation, engineering, and cost to the original applicant;
 - F. To maintain control of easement use which could lead to rural subdivision residential development, an effort will be made to formalize by agreement, any prescriptive rights to state forest roads which adjacent owners may have acquired through uncontested use;
 - G. Permanent easement requests will be considered for only the minimum width and minimum development needed for the requested use;
 - H. A clause will be included in all permanent easement agreements guaranteeing the State all forest management options in areas adjoining privately developed lands without interference from the grantee;
 - I. The Director will record all permanent easement agreements with the local county.
- (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

STATE FOREST LAND ACQUISITION POLICY

0351.9

- A. The state forests should remain intact as management units without further diversion of productive areas to non-forestry purposes. There should be no future transfers of commercial timberland from the state forests except where such transfers meet the program objectives of the state forests.

B. Private and public inholdings within the state forests should be reduced through acquisition or exchange. Irregular property lines should be rectified by adjustment, acquisition, or exchange, where desirable, to facilitate efficient management and to avoid conflicting land uses on adjacent areas.

C. Public Resources Code § 4631(c) permits acquisition of "Demonstration forests of 2,000 acres or less adapted to furnish local needs of investigation, demonstration, and education in those timber counties where the ownership pattern is such that management of small areas is an important problem." Existing sites administered by CAL FIRE involving significant timberland areas should be analyzed to determine if they could be utilized as Demonstration State Forests. Existing Demonstration State Forests without permanent dedicated staff should be evaluated to determine their unique values and contributions to the state forest program. Evaluation should also occur as to whether or not their sale, exchange, or transfer would result in the acquisition of property better suited to meet the objectives of the Demonstration State Forest Program.

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STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

0351.10

Management Plans for Boggs Mountain, Jackson, Latour, Mountain Home and Soquel Demonstration State Forests shall be prepared by CAL FIRE, with appropriate public review, for approval by the Board. CAL FIRE shall present to the Board a thorough review of each existing management plan at least every ten years. After each review, the Board may direct the Department either to continue management under the existing management plan, to prepare amendments to the management plan, or to prepare a new management plan for public review and Board review and approval. CAL FIRE shall submit the revised or newly prepared plan to the Board within a reasonable timeframe as identified by the Board. CAL FIRE shall continue management of the state forests under existing plans, with appropriate consideration for changes in law or regulation, until amendments or new plans are approved by the Board. (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.) (Revised and Adopted by the Board July 19, 2018, Bishop, California.)

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

0352

GENERAL

0352.1

1. The State Board of Forestry finds that forest insects, diseases, and other pests have damaged and destroyed major timber, watershed, recreational, and other public values on California forests, hardwood range lands, and urban forests, and that the threat of future damage from such forest pests is a continuing and potentially serious problem. Accordingly, the following policy is provided for the guidance of the Director of the Department of Forestry and fire Protection and information for concerned and interested agencies and persons.
2. State laws authorizing the control of forest pests, including Public Resources Code Sections 4712-4718, 4799.08-4799.12, and the Federal Forest Pest Control Act (Public Law 110), allows broad administrative discretion in the use of public funds to detect and control forest pests on lands of all ownerships.
3. Any control measure, including the use of pesticides, biological control, fire, or mechanical means, must be ecologically and environmentally sound. Measures must also be justified in terms of practicality, effectiveness, resource values threatened and costs versus benefits. The objective of forest pest management is to keep the pest's impact at acceptable endemic levels. Eradication is not the usual objective, except for introduced pests.
4. It is the policy of the Board that the public be kept advised of the status of forest pests and any control operations involving Department participation. The Board recognizes public concern over toxicity and other health effects of some pest control chemicals. It shall be the policy of the department to minimize the risk of exposure of the public to toxic chemicals. Implementation of this policy will be accomplished by encouraging the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in developing strategies to combat forest pest problems. Proposed uses of toxic agents will be evaluated taking into account the characteristics of the effective chemicals, quantity to be used, method of application and frequency of application to ensure that the alternative posing the least risk of exposure is selected.
5. The Director should employ and promote the principles of sound forest resource management as a means of preventing or reducing damage by forest pests. A basic requirement to prevent or minimize losses due to forest pests is to maintain forest stands in a healthy and vigorous condition.
6. The Director should develop programs to advise and assist private forest owners within the State on the manipulation of forest composition and stand structure in order to minimize the risk of unacceptable losses due to forest pests. Integrated pest management should be an integral part of general silvicultural prescriptions, rules and regulations, and may include, but is not limited to, guidance on the appropriate kinds, intensity, and timing of practices such as selection of genetically pest resistant trees, harvesting, slash disposal, site preparation, regeneration, stocking control, nutrition, the use of pesticides, and biological, and indirect methods of control.
7. It is the policy of the Board to obtain expeditious control of potentially devastating forest insect and disease infestations, and to permit flexibility to meet the many variables of control operations according to principles and guidelines set forth herein.
8. The Director is authorized to cooperate and maintain a working relationship with other State agencies, federal, county, municipal governments, private forest pest

consultants and private timber landowners in carrying out pest control under provisions of State law and in accordance with the general principles stated herein.

Whenever chemicals are used in control of insects and diseases, the Director shall comply with all appropriate rules and regulations of the Departments of Food and Agriculture, Health Services, the Water Resources Control Board, the County Agricultural Commissioners, and other State, Federal, or local agencies.

1. The Department should assume the lead role in native forest insect and disease matters on non-federal forest lands in California as authorized in the public Resources Code.
2. Introduced forest pests may present a serious threat to forest resources. In the event of introduction of a new forest pest, the Director shall cooperate with other responsible Federal and State agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, to secure prompt effective action to prevent the spread of and damage by the new pest. In the absence of action by other agencies, the Director may employ eradication or control measures approved by the Board.
3. It shall not be the responsibility of public agencies to take direct action against native forest pests whose effects are confined to local areas encompassing one or a few properties except as provided in (4) below.
4. It shall be a private and local community responsibility to take direct action against forest pests on several adjacent private properties when there are no intermingled or threatened State or Federally owned forest lands. Other than acting as a technical advisor, State assistance can be justified only when the infestation is of such a threat to adjacent commercial forest lands, and of such urgency and size, that the local owners cannot adequately or expeditiously control the pest.
5. It shall be the responsibility of local agencies and individual landowners to control pests of landscape and ornamental trees except in case such as Dutch Elm Disease where the Legislature has assigned that responsibility to the Department (PRC 4799.08(e) and 4799.10(c)). In other cases, the Department shall exercise its authority (PRC 4799.11(a)(4)) to give advice on pests and hazards of urban trees where practicable.
6. Any State expenditure for forest pest control projects shall be justified by showing that effective, practical, economical, and environmentally sound measures are available, as determined by the Director of the Department.
7. The Director shall offset the cost of direct control projects by seeking contributed funds or labor from affected private forest landowners and any appropriate agency of government. When private landowners or governmental agencies have the ability or authority to expend monies or services in control projects, it is the policy of the Board that the Department's share should generally be limited to 50 percent of the cost of control, excluding regular salaries and wages of permanent Department employees.
8. If infestations are of such size or character as to be beyond the ability of any forest land owner or group of private forest land owners to control as determined by the Director, the Department may finance up to 100 percent of the cost of such forest pest control projects on private lands. Such funding must be in the public interest. The Director shall seek needed funding from the Department of Finance (DOF) for such projects. In the event DF does not authorize full funding, the Director shall proceed with available funds to achieve maximum control.

9. Federal pest control funds should be sought where available and appropriate in order to minimize the cost of forest pest control projects by the State and others where the cost of an individual project exceeds \$5,000.
10. In prevention, stabilization or suppression actions, post-treatment evaluations shall be conducted to measure the efficacy of the prescribed treatments.
11. Control of forest pests by indirect methods, such as by thinning, sanitation harvesting and salvage, should be utilized where appropriate to reduce the direct costs of stabilization or suppression of pest populations and to insure full utilization of the timber resource.
12. In determining risk, the Department shall evaluate the available chemicals and shall use the least toxic and most economical chemical(s) available that will be effective in carrying out the desired results. Biological control methods should be used if proven effective and economical.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INFORMATION

0352.3

1. The Director shall develop a public involvement action plan for control projects. Included in this plan should be sections dealing with public information (including media contacts and public involvement); project organization; treatment; delimitation procedures; and budgets.
2. The action plan should include a section on risk assessment and where appropriate, how the decision to take action or not to take action is determined (*e.g.*, cost of control project versus current and future losses if "no action" alternative is selected).
3. The Director in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forest service, California forest Pest Council, and other agencies, shall ensure that the public is kept informed on all forest pest control matters through news releases, articles, other publications, press tours, and the like.
4. The Department is encouraged to develop a Forest Pest Control Note series designed to impart continuing information on forest pests to the cooperating agencies, and the general public.

PEST SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS, AND INVENTORIES

0352.4

1. The Director shall develop and implement a program for monitoring forest pests and detecting damage on non-federal forest lands.
2. The program should include pest detection surveys, evaluations based on biological, environmental, and economic considerations, recommendations and inventories of kinds and amount of damage.
3. The Director shall encourage the widespread use of the Forest Pest Detection Report to assist in determining the extent of damaging forest pest problems or situations.

PRINCIPLES

0352.5

1. The Board of Forestry recognizes the California Forest Pest Council as the primary source of advice on matters of forest pest management and forest pest research needs.
2. The Director shall encourage the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in developing strategies to combat forest pest problems.
3. The Director shall establish an agency liaison working group comprised of representatives of those agencies with statutory authority for control of forest pests in California (California Department of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). This committee should meet on a regular basis to discuss forest pest matters. The committee should address long-range planning needs, evaluation of potential control projects, and focusing research goals and public information efforts. The Department's representative should serve as chairman of this group. Copies of the meeting notes should be sent to the Board and to the California Forest Pest Council to keep them apprise.
4. The Director will determine the specific information needed to guide forest owners toward programs to minimize present or potential impacts of forest pests and develop and implement programs to obtain such information. Such information may include, but is not limited to, pest damage inventories and survey reports; studies of differences in genotype, site, environment, or stand condition which influence susceptibility or risk of damage caused by specific pests or pest complexes; and studies of differences in the nature and timing of specific silvicultural treatments and their impact on forest pests.
5. The Director shall continuously evaluate the staffing needs of the Department in forest pest control matters and shall seek approval from the Department of Finance to increase staff when it is shown that additional personnel are needed.
6. The Director should periodically report to the Board on staffing needs and where Board support is needed to obtain additional staff.
7. The Department shall maintain a sufficient number of personnel holding a "Qualified Applicator Certificate" to enable the Department to carry out required control projects. Departmental staff are encouraged to become Certified Pest Control Advisors and to maintain their skills in this area through continuing education courses.
8. The Department shall provide training for its forest advisors and other staff in the principles of forest pest management. The Department is encouraged to provide such training for those foresters, landowners, and others outside the Department through short courses, field trips, or other means. The Department should work with Cooperative Extension, the Forest Service, the California Forest Pest Council, and others in arranging for such training.

FOREST PEST RESEARCH

0352.6

1. The Board supports an aggressive program for research on integrated forest pest management to improve the effectiveness of efforts for prevention, detection,

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evaluation, suppression or stabilization of forest pests in the State; and encourage collection and dissemination of information on pest incidence, biology, management, and control through the Department, the California Forest Pest Council, the Cooperative Extension, the several research agencies, and other appropriate entities.

2. It is the policy of the Board, directly and through its Committee on Research, with input from the California Forest Pest Council, in the discharge of its responsibilities for research and information programs, to periodically identify forest pest related research needs, and these needs should be communicated to research organizations.
3. The Director shall cooperate with the University of California, the California State University system, the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, private industry, forest landowners, and others in seeking an adequate level of funding for forest pest research in California. The Department shall solicit and consider the recommendations of the California Forest Pest Council in setting research priorities.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

0352.7

1. Control - Includes acts of prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, or stabilization of pests or pest damage.
2. Director - The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
3. Endemic - The normal population level of a potentially destructive native species; in contrast to epidemic.
4. Forest - A plant community, predominantly of trees and other woody vegetation growing more or less closely together and managed for a variety of resources, including timber, soil and watershed, range, wildlife, recreation values, fuelwood, and aesthetics.
5. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics or strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable. It is implicit that the actions taken are fully integrated into the total resource management process in both planning and operation.
6. Introduced Pests - Pests that have been introduced into California after the first Europeans arrived. These pests are generally without adequate biological controls and cause serious disruptions to the native ecosystems.
7. Native Pests - Pests that are indigenous and are part of the native ecosystems.
8. Pests - Organisms that diminish the value of resources in which man is interested. For purposes of this policy, they are biological agents such as insects, diseases, animals (vertebrates), and plant weed species; either singly or in combination, which occur in sufficient numbers, population, or extent so as to cause, or potentially cause, significant or unacceptable losses to forest resources values.

Adopted by the Board on July 8, 1987, in Sonora, California.

NURSERIES 0353

GENERAL 0353.1

Pursuant to its responsibility to determine, establish, and maintain adequate forest policies, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) finds that:

1. An adequate, reliable, and continuous supply of forest tree seed, tree seedlings, non-tree species, and other associated plant materials must be assured if the forest values of declared public interest are to be maintained.
2. State laws, regulations, policies, and goals, as demonstrated in the Forest Practice Act, other related sections of the Public Resources Code, the California Forest Improvement Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Board's Strategic Fire Plan, the Climate Action Plan, the Forest Carbon Plan, and the public demand for vegetative material of various types to ensure forest resiliency, promote restoration, protect soil and water quality, provide wildlife habitat, mitigate climate change, enhance and improve urban settings, and enhance other forest values foster a substantial demand for seedlings of widely varying type, species and seed sources. The State Nursery Program is uniquely positioned to collect, process, and store the highest quality available seed across all seed zones to meet this demand.
3. California has highly varied topography, geology and climate. Historically, more than 80 separate zones of unique ecological characteristics have been identified and delineated. However, shifting climatic conditions have likely precipitated changes to those established seed zones. Although the effect is not yet fully described, it should be understood that the utilization of current seed zones will require discretion. Though most of the annual statewide seedling production is focused on a limited number of zones, there exists a demand for seedlings throughout all zones, for plantings of non-commercial native species, and for climate adaptation needs. Without an appropriate seed source, seedlings from zones of different climatic adaptation are often planted, resulting in sub-optimal conditions. Seedlings or saplings well adapted and suited for plantings other than for commercial forest production also may not be available from commercial nurseries. The State must provide for production of many diverse lots of seedlings covering these zones. Even though the seedling production costs are comparatively high for small lots, it is in the State's interest to avoid planting offsite seedlings that are not adapted or suited to a given site.
4. Site specific, genetically diverse, and viable seed is an essential link in the continued supply of tree seedlings. Such seed has not always been available. Good seed crops are the exception and occur intermittently. While adequate seed crops are often borne every five to seven years, some important tree species and seed zones have not had collectable seed crops for up to 20 years. Although some seed is produced every year, not all species and seed zones produce collectable seed on the same cycle. In view of such periodicity and variability of seed crops, the State must maintain a highly reliable and sizable seed bank, along with an appropriate processing and testing facility. The seed bank will insure a continuing supply of seed for all appropriate species and zones during the years between collectable crops. California forests experience severe damage and mortality as a result of frequent wildfire, drought, floods, climatic change, insect and disease outbreaks, and other natural causes. When such events occur, the demand for seedlings of specific species and seed zones can increase dramatically for several years. The seed bank will, in addition to meeting the above periodicity and genetic reserve concerns, also insure a seed supply to meet unexpected needs of catastrophic events or unforeseen opportunities.

5. The production and utilization of seedlings involves substantial uncertainties for the producer, the consumer, and the public. Nursery stock may take more than one year to grow to the optimum size and cannot be held past this optimum age. Consumers cannot always predict their need, but still must have adequate stock or access to private nurseries that produce stock on a timely basis in order to take advantage of economic and climatic opportunities. Finally, if plantings are unsuccessful, long-term timber production and wildland revegetation needs cannot be met.
6. The Board encourages public and private collaboration on the study and evaluation of alternatives to the use of potentially harmful fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, and the application of those alternatives in nursery seedling production. Such evaluation should include a cost analysis relative to the effectiveness of such alternatives. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) should provide for rapid technology transfer as any alternatives become available.
7. Under Public Resources Code Sections 4681-4695, CAL FIRE has the responsibility for maintaining a nursery system; collecting, processing and storing seed; for protecting the genetic integrity and diversity of forest trees and plants species, giving emphasis to native species threatened with extinction; and providing technical and reforestation assistance to landowners. The Board recognizes that private nurseries produce seedlings for a wide range of clients and that its state nursery system seeks to cooperate and coordinate with these producers to help ensure reliable, affordable seedling.
8. Increased needs for reforestation efforts are present due to elevated size and intensity of wildland fires, drought mortality and previously understocked forestlands. To meet these needs, CAL FIRE should continue to partner with other public agencies including, but not limited to, the National Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Resource Conservation Districts, and the University of California Cooperative Extension to create a reforestation network service to provide for and focus on:
 - Coordination in determining reforestation needs/demands;
 - Facilitation of seed collection;
 - Centralized seed processing and storage at CAL FIRE's L.A. Moran Reforestation Center in Davis;
 - Facilitation of network and contractual arrangements with private nurseries to grow small lots of seedlings;
 - Help with seedling specifications or growing;
 - Coordination with customers to contract grow seedlings through the nursery network;
 - Landowner financial assistance programs (cost share grants);
 - Technical advisory services; and
 - Reliable funding to support the reforestation services components.

(Section 0353.1 modified 11/7/2018)

In light of these findings, it is the policy of the Board that CAL FIRE shall maintain a State Nursery Program pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 4681 through 4695, and that this program shall reflect the following policies:

PRODUCTION 0353.2

1. CAL FIRE shall maintain a seed bank as insurance against poor seed crop years, unexpected wildland fire, drought, floods, insect and disease events, climatic change, or other natural causes and to ensure the restoration and genetic diversity of native tree and plant species threatened with extinction. The seed bank will strive to contain a sufficient supply of viable seed, to meet the needs of forest landowners and CAL FIRE's Nursery Program and the capacity of the nursery program should be expanded to address projected future needs. Seed may be sold to private nurseries, and landowners unable to be supplied by private seed dealers. The factors to be considered when determining the quantity of seed to be stored shall include frequency of adequate and diverse seed crops, anticipated annual demand, availability of seed from other sources, potential for emergency reforestation needs, and seed storage capacity. The seed bank reserves will be sufficiently diverse to provide a depository for protecting genetic diversity of tree and plant species giving emphasis to native species threatened with extinction where practicable. Where feasible, CAL FIRE may acquire cones and seed from private persons, organizations, public agencies, tribal organizations, or other suppliers. It is important to ensure the continued availability of quality, source-identified seed for CAL FIRE and private landowners.
2. CAL FIRE shall maintain a facility for cone processing, seed extraction, seed testing and storage, capable of producing an adequate quantity of high quality seed on a timely basis. Processing and testing services may be made available to persons or organizations on a contract or percentage share basis when adequate facilities are not available elsewhere in the State.
3. CAL FIRE shall maintain a nursery system, that can produce or facilitate production at private nurseries, a broad spectrum of species and seedlings, both container and bare root, for the purposes of:
 - a. Public planting or reforestation of public lands, with emphasis on forestland damaged by fire, drought, flood, insects, disease, or other natural causes;
 - b. Restoration of native tree and plant species threatened with extinction;
 - c. Soil erosion control, watershed and riparian protection or restoration, or farm windbreaks;
 - d. The production of forest products on private, State, public, and tribal lands;
 - e. Demonstration urban tree plantings;
 - f. Climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
 - g. Supplying various State-funded projects.
4. CAL FIRE shall plan annual seedling production consistent with the premise that this production is a back-up to anticipated private output for high demand species. CAL FIRE shall continue to serve as the basic source for low demand species, for unique species or zones, and for those native species threatened with extinction. It is recognized that natural events, public pressure, legislative or governmental mandates or availability of new grants for plantings may cause unexpected shortfalls in production or rapid increases in seedling demands. CAL FIRE's plan will address the need to produce seedlings to mitigate these factors.

5. If CAL FIRE's production shall not interfere with private nurseries demonstrated capability and willingness to meet landowner needs for high quality, genetically suitable planting stock.
6. CAL FIRE shall prepare a report to the Board at ten-year intervals from the approval date of the Board's most recent nursery policy statement (11/7/2018). This report shall contain the Department's evaluation of the statewide public and private seed and seedling production. A recommendation of how the Department proposes to adjust its production in the light of current seedling markets and in response to the demonstrated capabilities of private nurseries will be included.

PRICING 0353.3

CAL FIRE shall determine appropriate pricing for all nursery products based upon market prices, but which are adjusted such that they do not disadvantage existing private nurseries or are overly burdensome to purchasers. Pursuant to PRC § 4684, CAL FIRE's pricing schedule is subject to Board consideration and approval, as are any adjustments or amendments that are made to that schedule.

The Board recognizes that if CAL FIRE produces or supports production of speculative stock it is often priced substantially above equivalent contract material in response to the risk and the uncertainty of sale and that such differential pricing must be considered in nursery policy.

(Section 0353.3 modified 11/7/2018)

MARKETING 0353.4

1. CAL FIRE may grow seedlings for private, public, or tribal entities on a contract basis.
2. General public sale of nursery stock should allow all buyers an equal opportunity to purchase. Individual sales may be limited so that one large order does not exhaust the existing supply. Contracts, reservations and delivery commitments may be made by the nursery sooner than general public availability for State and Federal projects, and planting and reforestation projects which require a planning span of greater than one year.
3. CAL FIRE may, for the purpose of distributing information on the availability of seedlings or for determining the numbers of seedlings or species needed to be grown, advertise or provide news releases to solicit sales or information. CAL FIRE also is encouraged to develop and utilize its Forestry Assistance, Forest Practice, Fire Prevention, Wildfire Resilience, and Urban Forestry Programs to disseminate information on seedling availability and to solicit information on anticipated seedling needs. After fires or other natural disasters, CAL FIRE should ensure that the affected landowners are made aware of the private, state, tribal, and federal nurseries as potential sources of seedlings for replanting their burned or otherwise deforested properties. This information should be incorporated in any Watershed Emergency Response Team report or fire recovery plan provided. Recovery team information gathered needs to be provided to the appropriate nursery on a timely basis to ensure seed can be ordered and stratified in time for sowing.

(Section 0353.4 modified 11/7/2018)

OTHER 0353.5

1. CAL FIRE shall utilize existing Programs for information collection and dissemination related to cone crop evaluations; projection of seed and seedling demands; sources, types, genetic diversity, and quantities of available seed and seedlings; reports of studies in forestry nursery practice and discussions of problems being experienced by both consumers and producers. Additionally, CAL FIRE shall investigate the opportunity for cooperative agreements with other governmental agencies with similar information disseminating responsibilities. CAL FIRE shall continue to provide technical information to seedling consumers, including the option of contracting with private growers, through its Forestry Assistant Specialist, Resource Management, and Wildfire Resilience Programs.
2. CAL FIRE shall promote and support regional and statewide programs in genetic tree improvement and identification of diverse and resilient species as a means of increasing the quality and quantity of available commercial timber in the future, to help sustain endangered species, and to promote the growing of other species with important environmental, economic, or social values.
3. CAL FIRE shall provide demonstration, study, and information transfer in the broad area of nursery practices and reforestation. These activities may include investigations of cone crop forecasting and periodicity, cone and seed maturity, new methods of cone processing, seed testing and storage, nursery cultural and seedlings handling practices, species adaptation to climate change, and reforestation techniques. Also, these activities may include the use of workshops, multimedia program development and organization and coordination of any technical nursery cooperatives.
4. In the event that CAL FIRE proposes to expand the nursery program, expansion proposals will be reviewed with the Board before implementation. Conversely, the Board should be advised of any plans for downsizing or closing of the program for their review and recommendations.
5. CAL FIRE is encouraged to collaborate with the USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation Districts, Universities, and other public entities on a wide range of nursery and reforestation matters, including measures to address tree seed collection, seedling propagation, and adaptation to climate change.
6. The CAL FIRE is encouraged to use Conservation Camp Crews, when available, as a labor source for all appropriate phases of cone collection and processing, seedling production, and facilities maintenance.
7. Excess production capacity, if any, at nursery facilities may be utilized, at the discretion of the Director, by government agencies or nonprofit organizations for production of seedlings and other plant materials for purposes such as reforestation, restoration, carbon sequestration, or urban greening purposes. A written agreement shall be entered into for such uses and shall include provision for reimbursement of any CAL FIRE costs resulting thereby.
8. The CAL FIRE may enter into agreements with non-profit organizations and other government organizations, as well as private contractors, to facilitate and assist in all reforestation service needs. These include, but are not limited to: cone crop surveys, cone sampling, cone collection, contract seedling growing, and technical assistance for reforestation, including site preparation and planting.

9. The CAL FIRE is encouraged to promote the services of its nursery program to enrollees of the California Forest Improvement Program and the Environmental Quality Improvement Program and to work closely with the participants of those programs to accurately assess their seedling needs in order to make seedlings readily available for those projects.
10. The CAL FIRE will periodically update the California Forest Improvement Program practices and cost share rates, consistent with the policies and regulations of the Board, to facilitate the reforestation services outlined above.

(Section 0353.4 modified 11/7/2018)

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	0356
FINDINGS	0356.1
INTRODUCTION	

Historically, great changes have taken place in California's plant communities. Among the many causes of these changes, three stand out.

First, major vegetation changes were caused by the introduction of domestic livestock grazing and concurrently the introduction of Mediterranean annual grass and forbs.

Another is the significant series of changes that occurred in the early 1930's with the beginning development of a State fire protection system. In 1932 there was a serious attempt made by the Board of Forestry to determine a sound fiscal system for handling the State's money resources and fire protection responsibility. A system also was established of hiring and stationing crews of firefighters throughout the State during the eight to ten month fire season. And, in 1934, a Master Fire Plan study was initiated.

Wildfires were becoming routinely suppressed at all times and the practices of intentional burning by ranchers was discouraged by prosecution and billing for suppression costs of escaped fires. These policies were justified by the need to protect watersheds from wildfire, and from the floods and debris flows that followed them.

A more recent change has been extensive and intensive urbanization. The development occurring on much of coastal, foothill, and prime agricultural land has resulted in enormous vegetative changes and places significant restrictions on land management options.

Summary of Findings	0356.2
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Overview:

- A. California's growing population is exerting tremendous pressure on the State's natural resources. People are using more products and other benefits from the land. They are also demanding more space for living, working, and recreation.
- B. Despite being the nation's most populous state, California retains extensive areas of rural and undeveloped forest and rangelands. Eighty-five million of the state's 101 million acres are considered forest and rangeland, including desert, mountain, wilderness, and other non-urban, non-agricultural lands.
- C. The primary economic outputs derived from forests and rangelands are timber, firewood, forage, recreation, and water.

- D. California's diverse forest and range cover types provide habitat for a large and varied array of wildlife species. Altogether nearly 650 different wildlife species are permanent residents of or regular migrants of these lands. Vegetation age, density, and size class, as well as the composition and distribution of plant species, affect which wildlife species occur in an area. The presence of special habitat elements such as snags, downed logs, or water are required to support many species.
- E. Both wildlife and livestock graze billions of pounds of forage every year. Much of the forage that is usable is never actually grazed due to constraints, such as rough topography, lack of water, and seasonal changes in forage quality and palatability.
- F. Currently, about 44 million acres are grazed, producing 14 million AUMs (Animal Unit Months). Ninety percent of these AUMs comes from private lands. Areas too steep or rocky, or soils too poor for farming may still produce large quantities of grass and other vegetation. Cows, sheep, and goats are self-propelled harvesters. They convert this inedible vegetation into food for humans, as well as to wool and leather. The range livestock industry is a major source of both high protein and land management expertise.
- G. California's Mediterranean type climate makes wildfire a major threat to the state's forest and rangeland.
- H. Fires from lightning and those set by Indians, prior to European settlement, had pronounced structural impact on the vegetation. The evidence of these impacts is clear from early-day descriptions and pictures of the vegetation and is reinforced by recent research contrasting the changes that occur in places where fires are allowed to burn, either naturally or under control, with the changes at sites where fires are excluded. (Biswell 1989)
- I. Increased development and use of the wildlands, the reduction of grazing, and the effectiveness of fire suppression activities have in many areas resulted in a buildup in forest and rangeland fuels. In this situation, given extreme fire weather, the threat of uncontrollable wildfire is great.
- J. Fire protection responsibilities, including the Vegetation Management Program, are performed by some counties under contract to the State. These counties are known as Contract Counties.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

0356.3

- A-1 Vegetation management is the planned manipulation of vegetation and/or growing conditions affecting vegetation to increase or enhance desired products or outputs (water, forage, wildlife habitat, recreation) or to protect the site from destructive agents (wildfire, floods, accelerated erosion).
- A-2 Vegetation management activities include the disposal, rearrangement, or conversion of vegetation using various treatments.
- A-3 Treatment methods and action include manual and mechanical, chemical, biological (grazing), and prescribed burning.
- A-4 Techniques of vegetation management treatment may be applied singly or in any combination needed for a particular vegetation type to meet specific objectives of resources management. Within existing physical, environmental, ecological, social, and legal constraints of the area to be treated, the method or methods used

will be those which are most likely to achieve the desired objectives while protecting environmental quality.

- A-5 The amount of herbicides used in vegetation management is extremely small compared to cropland use. Herbicides are often perceived by the public as dangerous, and their concerns have led to legal challenges. This will continue to affect the use of herbicides.

POLICY FINDINGS FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING

0356.4

- B-1 Used properly under proper fuel and weather conditions, fire is a force for modification of the wildland environment.
- B-2 Effective management of chaparral stands will facilitate fire suppression with more options open to fire suppression forces than exists in unmanaged "free-growing" stands.
- B-3 Unregulated smoke from intense wildfires may concentrate and impact an air basin, whereas when fire is prescribed, atmospheric stability and wind direction are considered prior to ignition to avoid excessive problems in smoke sensitive areas.
- B-4 The use of fire for any agricultural or other land management purpose is closely regulated by the State Air Resources Board (ARB), local Air Pollution Control Districts (APCD), and The Department. Some APCDs are now initiating fees for prescribed burning projects which will act as a disincentive to engage in controlled burn projects.
- B-5 High-intensity wildfires in chaparral produce significant chemical changes in soils (hydrophobic or water repellent layers) and may lead to severe losses of soil and nutrients if followed by large storms. Prescribed burning under moderate or low intensities can reduce undesirable soil changes and reduce the changes of or even prevent large high-intensity wildfires.
- B-6 The rapid development of buildings in wildland areas has increased the damage potential of wildfires and has made vegetation management to reduce fuel accumulation more important.
- B-7 Increasing age and density of the chaparral stands not only increases fire hazards, it also reduces wildlife habitat, decreases water yields in many areas, and decreases the productivity of the land.
- B-8 An aggressive vegetation management program, coordinated with fire protection programs, can improve resource productivity and lessen the losses from the large high-intensity wildfires that historically have ravaged thousands of acres and destroy valuable resources.
- B-9 The use of prescribed burning, a major treatment method to reduce fuel loading, has steadily declined over the past two decades. This has been due to many reasons, such as greater liability and cost, changing land ownership patterns, and expanding population into forest and rangelands.
- B-10 Proper prescribed burning can provide environmentally and economically sound ways to reduce the threats of fire and help advance many resource management goals. These include reducing fuels, increasing fisheries and wildlife habitat, increasing long-term productivity of forest and rangelands, improving water yields

and quality, improving air quality, increasing forage production and maintaining diverse ecosystems.

B-11 Improved understanding of fire behavior and the development of fire modeling techniques have increased the safety and reliability of prescribed burning over the last decade.

B-12 In the past, the Department administered a Range Improvement Program for prescribed burns on private lands. A total of 2,660,000 acres were burned under this system since 1945. While initially successful in several areas, this program left the costs, risk of liability and responsibility for escaped fire suppression costs entirely to the landowner. Increased litigation led to a great reduction in the use of this program.

B-13 In 1981, the Department developed a prescribed burning program (vegetation management) that reimburses up to 90 percent of the costs, based on the degree of benefit to the public. Through mid-1987, more than 258,000 acres had been burned statewide under this program. While the program has failed to reach the program acre goals, it has had a positive effect in helping to reduce acres burned and in reducing suppression costs on several wildfires since the inception of the program. Treated areas are limited because of the high risks, and institutional and technical difficulties which accompany prescribed burning.

PRESCRIBED BURNING POLICY STATEMENT

0356.5

The Board supports and encourages the use of prescribed fire as a management tool on forest and rangelands. The Board strongly advocates the use of prescribed fire for fire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, watershed protection, reforestation, and range and livestock management plans. The Board recognizes that such fire must be carefully planned and controlled. Plans for the use of fire, as an integral part of land management activities, must be conveyed to and understood by nearby landowners, local communities, other cooperative fire agencies and the public at large.

In light of this statement and consistent with Board rules in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the Board adopts the following vegetation management program policy statement:

I. The Director shall implement general program objectives that:

- Incorporate long-term vegetation management as an integral part of the Department's overall mission (*i.e.*, resource management, fire control, fire prevention, fire defense planning, etc.);
- Employ and promote principles of sound vegetation management practices to reduce wildland fire hazards, improve wildlife habitat, increase water yields and quality, promote air quality, and increase forest and range productivity; and
- Reflect a vegetation management plan involving resource management and fire control professionals.

II. The Director shall:

- A. Foster and encourage a vigorous program of vegetation management on public and private lands.

- B. Continue to pursue adequate and stable funding to accomplish the program objective.
- C. Emphasize the use of prescribed burns near urban areas with the primary goal of reducing fuels to lessen the potential intensity, spread, and resistance to control of wildfires.
- D. Give high priority to treatment of areas in any part of the state where conflagrations have periodically occurred or have a high potential for occurring in the future.
- E. Provide timely, accurate, and consistent information to the public on the purpose, presence, and status of prescribed burning.
- F. Provide technical advisory services to private landowners, local governments and public agencies to assist in the carrying out of vegetation management projects.
- G. Where appropriate, encourage joint projects with non-SRA agencies, *i.e.*, incorporated cities, irrigation districts, military reservations, counties, fire districts, etc.
- H. Provide specialized equipment, management expertise, and fire crews to assist with prescribed burns.
- I. Develop and distribute public information material to describe and encourage good vegetation management practices.
- J. Work to achieve exemption from any imposed fees that are a deterrent to the program's objectives (*e.g.*, Air Pollution Control Districts).
- K. Utilized prescriptions for burning that incorporate the latest fire behavior prediction and fire effects technologies.
- L. Develop a comprehensive vegetation management training program on prescribed burning including the following: fire behavior, fire effects, environmental concerns/impacts, assessment of fuel loading, use of specialized tools, development of prescribed burn plans, use of prescribed burning in conjunction with fire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, reforestation, range and livestock management plans, team building, and contract preparation for CDF and other cooperators including private landowners.
- M. Where appropriate, use the Department's contracting authority for private consultants, contractors, or agencies to do the project planning, preparation, and project execution in areas where there are more requests for prescribed burning operations than can be conducted directly by the Department in a single fiscal year (PRC 4480).
- N. Encourage follow-up treatments after wildfires and/or initial prescribed burnings. Monitor and evaluate the effects of prescribed burning to more adequately evaluate the results of the project and to encourage re-burns to prevent recurring fuel build-up.
- O. Establish project priorities as follows:
 - 1. Assess the needs for vegetation management on a statewide basis with primary focus on fuel hazard reduction.

- a. from this assessment prepare a 5-year action plan. This plan should indicate the degree of benefits to be derived.
 - b. establish the highest priorities for action based on benefits, costs, and risks by ranger unit (for purposes of this policy, Contract Counties shall be considered Ranger Units).
 2. Prioritize and fund projects based on expected fuel reduction in high hazard fire areas, wildlife habitat improvements, increased water yield and quality, and forest and range improvement.
 - P. Develop annual statewide program targets for acres burned that:
 1. considers past program performance and future plans.
 2. considers the difficulty of burns, benefits derived, and planning time in preparing for and executing a project.
 3. Considers planning time for those projects that were planned and yet unable to be burned because of external controls.
 4. Relates acres targeted to vegetation need for hazard reduction and past unit performance in meeting targets.
 5. Sets target acres to be burned by categories of fire hazard reduction in high fire hazard areas, wildlife management, range improvement, or some similar categories or category mix by ranger unit.
- III. Commencing October 1990, the Director shall submit an annual October report to the Board of Forestry on the following:
- A. Prior fiscal year's accomplishments including:
 1. number of projects planned, prepared, completed, benefits derived and backlog by ranger unit.
 2. quality of burn, *i.e.*, hazard burn, wildlife habitat, forest or range improvement
 3. performance against desired burn objectives (end result) and why any were not met (statewide, regional, and ranger unit)
 4. method(s) of treatment
 5. environmental impacts/concerns
 6. other burning permit activities
 7. non-SRA cooperative burns.
 - B. Current fiscal year:
 1. Program priorities for current year
 2. Program needs for future years
 3. Follow-up management of past and current year burns
 - C. A description of how the program has met the objectives described in I. and II. above of this policy statement.