

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-8007



April 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Full Board Workshop
FROM: Board Staff
SUBJECT: Current Status of Committee Progress on Issues Related to Basal Area Stocking

As indicated in the 2019 Annual Report and Committee Priorities, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Board) Management Committee (Committee) had previously requested of the William Main group, a review of statutory minimum stocking standards (within PRC § 4561) in light of the legislative revisions within AB 2082 (2014) and AB 417 (2015), which allowed the Board to make revisions to those standards, under specified conditions.

The William Main group identified that existing point count standards for minimum resource conservation, as identified within PRC § 4561(a) could be revised in order to address various ecological goals, as specified by the Board, and in 2019, the Board took regulatory action to reduce the minimum resource conservation point-count standards, consistent with their authority under PRC § 4561.2. Upon completion of their review, the William Main group did not identify any necessity to modify the minimum resource conservation standards with regard to the basal area requirements of PRC § 4561(b), and made no recommendations to modify those regulatory requirements.

Since that time, the Committee has received interest in the revision of these standards from several stakeholders, including desires to see potential revisions of basal area requirements within existing silvicultural methods, requirements surrounding Maximum Sustained Production requirements, and other specific issues which, though tangentially related to the issue of stocking, are not directly related to the minimum resource conservation standards of PRC § 4561(b).

At their January 2020 meeting, the Committee directed Board staff to participate in stakeholder discussions surrounding the development of potential actionable revisions to the regulatory basal area stocking standards within the Forest Practice Rules. Since that time, staff have been in contact with these stakeholder groups to arrange further discussion, but conditions have not yet allowed for collaborative engagement on these issues and, due to current conditions, this issue is unlikely to become resolved in the near future. To date, no substantive progress has been on this issue.

It is the recommendation of Board staff that this issue of potential revisions to basal area stocking standards be removed from the Committee's agenda until such time as all parties are able to fully engage on the issue, at which time staff will return to the Committee with an update. This action will allow the Committee and staff to allocate additional resources to their ongoing commitments, as well as to provide bandwidth to the Committee in the event of an unexpected resource requirement.