Staff Overview: Status of Joint Policy on Hardwoods

# Overview

At the January 2024 Management committee meeting, Board Staff introduced a memo detailing the current status of many aspects of the Joint Policy on Hardwoods. The Board considered the potential changes which are entirely within the authority of the Board and would not require the inter-agency coordination that would be described in a joint policy. These items as considered included:

* The creation of rules specific to hardwood species growing on timberland.
* Work addressing the prevention and control of damage by forest insects, pests, and disease.
* Considering an exemption concerning the removal of immature trees to aid in the production of designated “minor forest products” that relate to hardwoods.
* If the Board wishes to continue to encourage local governments and citizens to address local hardwood management and conservation through the joint policy, a replacement organization for the now-dissolved Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program would be necessary to address the gap in advising entities on hardwood management and conservation.
* Authoring a white paper addressing forest management for mature tanoak recruitment.

After discussion, the committee directed Board staff to table current efforts to update the Joint Policy on Hardwoods and begin work on the Mature Tanoak White Paper.

Board staff has begun outreach to relevant researchers to determine the scope and need for a the white paper.