

## **Board of Forestry Comments 1-22-25**

My name is Larry Hanson from Sonoma County.

I once came to your Board dressed in a pin-striped suit. Danny Demon was my made up name supposedly representing the timber industry. I congratulated you on a job well done making the industry and especially me prosperous by approving logging regimes that were actually not sustainable by avoiding ecological concerns in favor of economical concerns.

That was over twenty years ago. Here we are today with ravaging forest wildfires and diminishment of forest watersheds and that the Board may, in fact, be mis-directed. In the intervening years, I have seen clearcutting (even-aged regimes) sanctioned by the Board, selection logging (so-called uneven-aged) eroded protection with Group Selection, etc., and increased exemptions like Salvage Logging with increasing cumulative impacts around the state.

Once the WLPZ was highly protected and now apparently the industry sees it as a gold mine not yet extracted. I hope the Board does not diminish protections for them. Just like I hope the Board has the foresight to see that the biomass industry will spur on the increased thinning of millions of acres of forest land to be shipped across the oceans to be burned for heating sources, or burned in industrial plants that have independently been deemed dirtier than coal.

Increased impact due to logging regimes have increased the threat of high severity forest fires along with climate and suppression. Levine et al 2022 and Zald et al 2018 and many other independent studies (non-timber industry), and fire maps over-laid with logging and mechanical thinning regimes.

Inexplicably, without considering or including the factor of logging, the answer to increased severity of frequent fires is more types of logging. In the meantime, 95% of monies are allocated outside communities diminishing forests' ecological systems and 5% on assisting homeowners with home hardening/defensible spacing where independent science shown most effective.

My message today is that It is not too late to change directions that protect the public over placating the timber industry.

My comments do not, in any way, impugn the Cal Fire fire fighting section since they are doing what they can with the situation and resources afforded them. One of my best friends is retired a Cal Fire captain.