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FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

FamilyForestNews

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President's Message

The Good, Bad and Ugly of California's Forest Practice Regulations

Charll Stoneman, FLC President, Monument Mountain Tree Farm and Registered Professional Forester #2375



Rural living, with its subsistence based economies, simpler technologies and close-knit communities, demands of people a greater sense of deference to authority and duty to each other.

Urbanization, on the other hand, generally comes with greater wealth and education, complex technology, broad based commerce and a greater sense of individualism. With adaptation to an urban environment a different set of values becomes more important: personal choice, property accumulation, and materialism with less, or no direct dependence on nature's natural surroundings and its resources. In our urbanized society public perception and opinions of what's going on in the forest is engendered by media: the television, newspaper, computer, laptop, tablet or phone. The disconnect from the day-to-day experiences in the rural environment can lead to misperceptions of the use and management of natural resources, and can result in over-regulation via public opinion.

For good or bad and by all accounts California is considered the leader in the development of prescriptive forest practice regulations with the adoption of the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act (FPA) some 42 years ago, which took effect January 1, 1974. In the summer issue of National Woodlands, John Helms (Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley) provides a good synopsis on the state of California's forest regulation and how we got there. [Note: the article is reprinted in this issue – see page 4.] The Act requires that a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) be prepared by a licensed Registered Professional Forester (RPF) for timber harvest on virtually all non-federal land. The Board of Forestry is the policy arm for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE, which is the enforcement and services branch.

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President's Message

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The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 is regarded as the foundation of environmental law and policy in California. Under CEQA a permitted project requires the protection of all aspects of the public trust resources of the State and must address any public concerns prior to project approval. State and local agencies require the project proponent to prepare environmental impacts analyses that are subsequently reviewed by a multidisciplinary agency review team, which makes its decisions based on study findings regarding the effects of the proposed action. Since its enactment, CEQA has been praised, criticized, amended and subject to litigation. In spite of all this it is the backbone of California's environmental legislation and protection.

Under the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act timber harvesting in and of itself is not considered to create any significant adverse impact on the environment, but this declaration and distinction still must be documented and verified prior to harvest plan approval. In 1976 to ease the regulatory requirements in harvesting and subsequent THP approvals, the State declared the Forest Practice Act the functional equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under California's more stringent CEQA. However, given the litigious state of our society and court determinations in favor of more rigorous documentation, the THP has evolved over time to the point where presently the permitting requirements are virtually the same as those required under a full EIR.

What follows are some of the positive and negative consequences of California's forest practice regulations. A good deal of this content is from a poll of resource professionals conducted by Don Gasser, Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management, UC Berkeley, in late 1994. Much of what was said after 20 years into forest practice regulations and now more than 40 years later is still applicable.

Some of the positive aspects of California's forest practice regulations:

1. There is almost unanimous agreement that 'public trust resources' of soil and water are much better protected than prior to implementation of the FPA. Both awareness and protection have substantially increased with an associated dramatic improvement in water quality with the evolution of rules related to (a) road location, construction, and maintenance, (b) improved stream crossing design and (c) the frequency and placement of erosion control structures to hydrologically disconnect roads from stream channels.

The classification of streams by biological and physical features into four categories, and their attendant buffer strips and protection measures, is seen as a major positive step in environmental protection. Use of erosion hazard ratings (EHR), with site-specific elements of weather, slope, and soil determinations, has substantially reduced erosion problems. The requirement for maintenance of erosion control structures for at least three years following harvest has assured long term interest by landowners in rehabilitation of logged sites. Road classification into permanent, seasonal or temporary, coupled with planning for hundred-year flood events, has helped to ensure continuance of long-term property access, while cross drain specifications and spacing determined by the EHR has assisted in keeping the internal access systems and their soils in place.

2. Current rules have improved riparian habitat and preservation of forest fauna is much improved. A holistic approach that includes a cumulative impact assessment has geared projects to focus on resources that were previously getting short shrift in planning and operations.
3. A feeling that the process is becoming more collaborative amongst project proponents, agencies and the public.
4. Sustained yield, replanting and establishment of proper stocking is all part of the harvest process.
5. A new emphasis on long-term monitoring and evaluation of watershed scale effects of harvesting.

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FLC Field Day – September 10, 2016

Battle Creek Meadows Ranch

In 1894, W.E. Gerber, a Sacramento resident, purchased Battle Creek Meadows Ranch as a summer home for his family. During his lifetime, he turned this unimproved property into a profitable, self-sustaining ranch that his family could enjoy for many generations. Today, our family continues the tradition of stewardship that he began.

The Ranch consists of 1,215 acres of northern Sierra meadowlands and 910 acres of forestlands located in Mineral, CA, at 5,000 ft elevation with the headwaters of Battle Creek (South Fork), four miles of tributary streams, and several natural springs. Timber products and pasture rental are our primary sources of income. In our fifth generation of family ownership, the Ranch continues to manage and maintain the property for our future generations and the benefit of the region as natural open space.

Field Day

**September 10
9:30am-3:30pm
Battle Creek Ranch
Mineral, CA**

*Look for registration
flyer in the mail or
download from
FLC's website: [www.
forestlandowners.org](http://www.forestlandowners.org)*

Managing Our Forest for Sustainable Yield

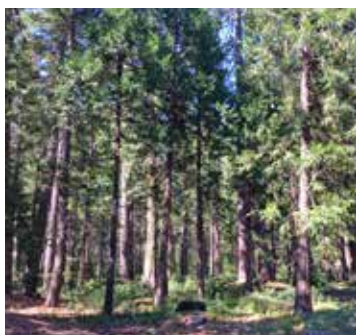
Our forestry practices are based on sustainable yield principles and maintaining forest health. The property parcels are governed by Williamson Act and Timber Preserve Act designations. We are a Certified Tree Farm and have an approved NTMP for forest management. We are assisted by a professional forester and logger, and family members actively perform ongoing fuel reduction and clean-up. Fire prevention is a high priority with creation of defensible brakes and selective fuel reduction in the forests.

Major Restoration Project on Battle Creek and Its Tributaries

Beginning in 1996, the family embarked on a substantial riparian restoration project on the 7+ miles of streams that flow through the ranch having experienced several severe floods, which ripped out many acres of meadowland and streamside vegetation, leaving our streams shallow, wide and barren. Our goals have been to prevent erosion, restore meadowland and streamside vegetation, restore habitat for fish and wildlife, raise the surrounding water table and restore a self-sustaining riparian system able to withstand flood or drought.

We firmly believe that cattle and wildlife can thrive when pastures are managed properly and creeks are protected. We work with our cattleman, whose family has grazed their cattle here since the 1940s, to graze sensitive areas carefully or not at all. One particular one-mile section of our restoration project has recovered so dramatically that we "flash feed" it several times a year and still maintain a very healthy riparian ecosystem.

While we have made significant progress, we still have a great deal of work to do. Every year, we expand the project with additional fencing, revetments, weirs and planting. Our family is deeply committed to spending the necessary time and labor required to restore all of our riparian areas.



Ask a Forester

Question:

My siblings and I own about 30 acres with a small house and tree plantation. It has not been managed during our father's later ownership about 40 years or so. Many of the trees are down or diseased or dying. Do we need permits and if so what type to have the plantation revived? We do not want to clear cut but we do want to sell any cull to pay for the costs of management. Any direction to regulations and resources would be appreciated.

Answer on the next page →

What Is It About California Forest Practice Regulation?

By John A. Helms, Registered Profession Forester 730; Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley; President, Society of American Foresters

[Reprinted with permission from NATIONAL WOODLANDS SUMMER 2016]

Recently I met up again with my colleague Keith Argow and the conversation turned to the stringency of California's forest practice regulations. I made some comments that Keith suggested might be of interest to woodland owners. So, here's my take on how it is that California ended up with its particular set of regulations, commonly regarded as the strictest in the nation, and what lessons forest land owners might learn.

First, some background. The United States, like some other countries, developed its high standard of living by exploiting its inherent wealth of forests, fisheries, minerals, and oil. We were fortunate to occupy a land with vast tracts of old-growth forests. Wood was critically important as a source of fuel, fencing, building, and railroad ties. And land needed to be cleared to support agriculture—cleared land was often more valuable than forested land.

Because wood supply was regarded as unlimited, exploitative, high-grading forest practices in the 1800s and early 1900s were only constrained by technical capability and costs. Later, after the huge demands for forest products needed to support World War II, forestry in the 1950s began to be constrained by understandings of broad ecological interactions.

More recently, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with the advent of the environmental movement and Earth Day, the disparity between historic forest practices and broad environmental values began to be recognized. The effects of timber harvesting in California were especially evident due to having exceptionally big trees requiring big logging equipment, and high visibility afforded by steep slopes. The impact was especially noticeable due to erodible soils, creation of abundant slash, soil disturbance, and increase in stream sedimentation. Harvesting in these conditions was not pretty. Although many forestland owners were sensitive to diverse environmental concerns, others, including some small woodland owners, were still high-grading and focused on exploiting timber values.

Aggressive public activism arose in California in the 1970s and graphic images were distributed of destructive logging on private land. It was the period of the "Timber Wars." It became apparent that the rate of evolution of forest practices moving from exploitation to sustained yield management was not as rapid as the rate of evolution of society's concerns and expectations towards environmental protection. Society in California, which is mostly urban and not familiar with forestry, became impatient with the perceived reluctance of forest practices to change to reflect changes in societal values.

The existing forest practice regulations introduced in 1945 with standards and guidelines set by the industry were challenged as a case of the fox being in charge of the chickens. The five-member State Board of Forestry, composed of foresters, was criticized for being self-regulating.

There was a section in the State Constitution allowing timber lands to be taken off the tax rolls for 40 years if more than 70 percent of the volume was removed. This encouraged clearcutting and became the standard "silviculture" on private land. As a result, in 1973, a new Forest Practice Act addressing forestry practices on private land was passed requiring new, enforceable Rules and a nine-member Board of Forestry in which foresters made up the minority.

The development of new rules was dominated by the utter lack of trust between forest activists and foresters. Because of this, regulations became very prescriptive and detailed rather than goal-oriented. A Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) is required that must be prepared and supervised by a Registered Professional Forester. This plan is accepted as a substitute for the alternative requirement of an Environmental Impact Report required under the California Environmental Quality Act. The plan must not only demonstrate sustainable forestry practices but must also address issues of archeological protection and ensure no deterioration of water quality, wildlife, and other forest resource values. To demonstrate compliance, field inspections are required. And penalties up to suspension of a forester's license can be invoked if details within the plan are

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What Is It About California Forest Practice Regulation?

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not met. Additionally, there was lack of trust and sometimes conflicting views over regulatory mandates among the various state Departments of Forestry, Mines and Geology, Water Quality, and Fish and Wildlife regarding which should be the lead agency or the applications of regulations.

To ensure that views of the various departments are represented, the Forest Practice Act requires that these state departments and agencies participate in reviewing plans jointly with the Department of Forestry serving as lead agency. These departments and agencies are also expected to participate in field inspections.

Currently, California spends about \$28 million annually in forest practice regulation, employs about 195 department and agency personnel to review and approve about 300 THPs, issue other permits, and inspect operations on active plans. Since 2012, funding for the program comes from a one percent assessment on the value of lumber and lumber products sold within the state. This recent fee circumvented consideration of an earlier funding proposal, which would have assessed submittal fees to cover costs to the State for harvest plan review. Landowners must still, however, cover their costs of plan preparation.

Despite this cumbersome process, I must emphasize that concerns about California's comprehensive forest practice regulations are typically not technical. Any individual regulation can be regarded desirable for prudent stewardship of forest land. The problem is the administration of so many regulations. The major concern is the cost associated with development of plans and the many months needed for plan preparation, review, modification, and final approval. Another factor is uncertainty and instability created by the frequency with which the rules are amended.

Costs to the landowner for preparation of a timber harvesting plan may vary from a few thousand dollars to many tens of thousands of dollars. For the small, private woodland owner this means that harvesting small volumes may be precluded as revenue may not cover the cost of plan preparation and administration. The many months needed for plan approval prevents a landowner from acting quickly to harvest timber if the need arises.

In total, the especially comprehensive and costly regulations tend to drive private landowners towards divesting forest lands for development and the diminishing of state forest acreage. Landowners who own fewer than 2,500 acres may now prepare a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). While costs associated with preparation of this type of plan are typically higher than a THP due to inventory necessary to support sustained yield projections, once approved, timber operations can proceed through a notification process which allows operations to begin almost immediately. NTMPs also do not have a termination date. Currently, there are approximately 772 approved NTMP covering approximately 320,000 acres. The Department of Forestry has received an average 114 notices per year over the past six years.

Complying with California Forest Practice Regulations has been argued as being equivalent to third-party certification. This argument has not been accepted. However, having met state regulations, it has been relatively easy for California forest industries and private landowners to meet the very similar certification standards.

So, what's the bottom line for woodland owners? Forest practices must always be consistent with societal values and expectations. If not, society can invoke regulation, require licensing, or encourage third-party certification. To keep up with societal expectations and avoid restrictions or forced shut-downs, forestry must demonstrate sustainable practices, avoid perceptions of high-grading, and accommodate diverse environmental needs and values. There is a big difference between careful logging and practicing credible, verifiable, sustainable forest resource management.

To build trust, forestry, like all professions such as engineering, medicine, and law, must demonstrate high technical and ethical standards. Society must be well-informed. Credibility in forest management suggests the desirability of management plans developed by professional foresters that cover not only sustained timber growth and yield but also address broad environmental values. That is why the Society of American Foresters has an accreditation process verifying that university programs in forestry meet professional standards; SAF also has a Certified Forester program. It is why about 15 states have forest practice regulations and about 15 states

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Ask a Forester

Answer:

I assume that the trees are about 40 years old as you stated there has been no management for the past 40 years. CalFire, the agency responsible for forest management in California, requires that some form of permit be issued by them for any removal of products that are commercial in nature. Luckily there is a brand new Forest Fire Prevention Exemption that allows you to thin the plantation to a spacing that would slow the spread of wildfire. In addition to the thinning of trees, the permit also requires the owner to remove woody fuels from the ground so that 85% of the ground fuels are within 9 inches of the soils surface. This often involves a separate operation to remove the ground fuels to accomplish the goals of the exemption.

That is the "good news." The "bad news" is it is doubtful with current small log prices that the cull logs removed from the plantation will pay for the management and the logging operation.

FLC Website— News You Can Use

The website includes a page titled, “News You Could Use.” It features current drought updates, other water saving resources and the California Forest Pest Conditions Report for the last three years, which includes the latest 2015 report.

If there is information you would like to see on this page or if there are other areas where the website could be expanded, please contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office – (877) 32603778 or deidreb@forest-landowners.org. We look forward to adding content that is valuable to our forest landowner members.



FLC 2016 Annual Meeting Recap – Healdsburg

“What’s Happening Around You and What It Means for Your Forest Management”

This year’s annual meeting saw more than 90 attendees enjoy a strong roster of speakers discussing the web of rules within which we steward our forests, and how we and our neighbors are impacted by ever-changing political and economic processes. A ‘Takeaway Message’ from each speaker, and ‘Actions you can do’ are as follows.

Alyssa Ravasio, Founder/CEO, Hipcamp:

Takeaway Message: *hipcamp.com offers an online service matching urban camping enthusiasts with owners of forest properties to host campers, with mutual benefit.*

Actions you can do: *Explore the hipcamp.com website and contact its staff to see if and how listing your property in its roster might provide you with a modest alternate income source.*

Russ Forsburg, RPF, Senior Forest Appraisal, AgCredit:

Takeaway message: *The Pacific Northwest forestry sector of the economy is bouncing back, but not with the strength of the U.S. Southeast, which is providing Europe with pellets and the U.S. housing markets with pine. California’s strict regulations continue to prevent competitiveness.*

Actions you can do: *Continue your active management of your forests. “Keep calm and carry on,” in our improving economy.*

William Condon, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Timberland Conservation and Native Plant Programs, Environmental Program Manager:

Takeaway message: *The Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) database, under the authority of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), yet administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), needs improvement with respect to intergovernmental cooperation to repair inaccuracies and improve interagency coordination. The USFWS lacks funding to provide NSO-related technical assistance for all but existing NTMPs, causing regulatory bottlenecks. At the urging of private landowner groups, the CDFW has formed a NSO Working Group of agencies’ people to try to solve these issues. FLC and The Buckeye Conservancy (of Humboldt County) request participation in the Working Group.*

Actions you can do:

1) *If your property is impacted by NSOs, let Charll Stoneman (stoneman_forestry@sbcglobal.net) or Claire McAdams (Claire.mcadams@sbcglobal.net) know you are willing to serve on the Working Group should it be opened to non-agency membership in the near future.*

2) *The NSO California-level Endangered Species Listing proposal will be voted on by the CA Fish and Game Commission on August 25, 2016, in Folsom. Following strong staff support, it is expected that the Commission will approve the Listing. Write to the commission ASAP, requesting that FLC be included in the post-listing decision-making processes by which a listing decision will be implemented. Remind them that affordability and simplicity of rules are needed by private non-industrial forest landowners. And mention the importance of resolving the database and technical advisory issues with USFWS, and how non-industrial forest landowners wish to participate in those processes so that our unique needs are represented. Attend the August hearing if you possibly can. See the wildlife.ca.gov website for hearing location and time. Letters can be mailed/emailed to: President Eric Sklar, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814; Eric.Sklar@fcg.ca.gov.*

Dr. Russ Henly, California Department of Natural Resources, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources:

Takeaway Message: *Using funds from AB 1492, the Timber Reform and Forest Restoration program of the State is creating pilot projects demonstrating the efficacy of watershed-scale multi-stakeholder forest planning. The initial pilot project is located in Mendocino County’s Campbell Creek on Ten Mile watershed; duration of the pilot project is about two years; travel cost reimbursement and per diem may be funded (TBD by legislature soon). To learn more: resources.ca.gov/forestry.*

Actions you can do: *If your forest property is in Mendocino County, apply to the advisory pilot watershed committee immediately, as staff has extended its search for advisory committee members. Contact russ.henly@resources.ca.gov; 916-651-3139.*

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Emily Burns, Director of Science at the Save the Redwoods League:

Takeaway message: Conservation easements on working forests can be a tool to help ensure your forest remains as forest. Dr. Burns shared the experiences of the SRL, showing how, when creating a conservation easement, one should use a trusted, experienced, financially robust conservation easement holder, to ensure that the owner's goals prevail into the future.

Actions you can do: Learn more about successful conservation easements in your geographic area, comparing the record of locally-based conservation easement holders and those of larger groups such as SRL. Let experts help you in clarifying your goals for your forest, and choosing the types of development rights which would be best transferred to achieve your goals. Dr. Burns can be reached at eburns@savetheredwoods.org.

Julia Levin, Executive Director, Bioenergy Association of California:

Takeaway Message: Biomass plants are rapidly closing as their long-term utility contracts expire, but are crucial resources to deal with fire-and insect-killed trees in the millions, in the Sierras and soon across the state. Biomass fuel provides critical baseload power (24/7, unlike solar and wind), but cannot compete economically with solar and wind, so needs government subsidy and PUC directives to Utilities such as PG&E and others.

Actions you can do: Urge the governor and president of the California Public Utility Commission to require Utilities to establish at least 800 KW worth of long-term contracts with biomass plant operators, if needed using governmental subsidies, to enable the state's fire- and insect-damaged trees to be utilized as biomass fuel in time to help the forests recover. To mail/call/fax: Timothy Sullivan, Interim Executive Director, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA , 94102-3298; 415-703-3808 phone; 415-703-1758 fax.

Paul Ederer, RPF, Campbell Global:

Takeaway Message: He humorously reminded us that there is and always will be challenges for our abilities to actively manage our forests. We should 'keep calm and carry on' despite the seeming chaos of changing economic and political/regulatory trends, secure in the knowledge that our forestry efforts help our society.

Actions you can do: Keep up your stewardship, stay active in decisions impacting your forestland, and remain optimistic about the future.

Before-dinner Speaker Representative Jim Wood

Takeaway Message: California will be looking more favorably upon active forest management as it struggles with ongoing wildfire prevention and drought recovery.

Actions you can do: Be sure to remind all decision-makers you meet that the needs and circumstances of non-industrial forest landowners are NOT THE SAME as those of industrial natural resource companies, and our smaller finances need regulations that are the simplest possible to administer, to make them affordable to the ¼ of private forest landowners in California who are non-industrial/family in nature.

The remainder of the FLC annual meeting included a friendly social hour and live and silent auction. Following a fine dinner, amid lots of humor, some beautiful and delicious items were auctioned to raise funds for FLC. Many thanks to all who contributed and arranged these auctions!

The final day of the annual meeting was devoted to field tours.

The Oliver Max family forest near Healdsburg was a gorgeous example of loving care on the part of its owners, whose NTMP harvest income is recycled into many improvements on the property—from water storage, to drainage improvements, bridge construction/fish restoration, well-maintained roads, and healthy stands of redwood, Douglas-fir, and tanoak. This property exemplifies the challenges of forest stewardship within a rapidly expanding, affluent urban area, which brings urban development pressure. The land provides emotional respite from the owner's city life and its active management is a personal passion, as he and his family employ creativity in physical management and awareness of the full toolbox of financial and legal possibilities.

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Did You Know That Forestland Owners of California Has a Facebook Page?

A great place to read interesting articles, network with fellow forestland owners around the world!

Share information and stay current with FLC activities!

Check us out and "Like" our page!

Share with friends and family!

Help us build this new FLC resource!

Go to www.forestlandowners.org – on the home page click on the Facebook image.



Have a Question About Your Property?

There is a form on the FLC website you can use to submit a question. We are building a library of FAQs. Send us your question—it might help another landowner. Or send your question by traditional mail—we will send you a response.

Go to FLC's website—under the menu "Managing Your Forest," select "Ask a Forester."

President's Message

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Some of the negative aspects are:

1. Reliance on prescriptive rules, rather than performance-based standards. Prescriptive regulations can greatly reduce management flexibility.
2. There is concern that many fish bearing streams are being overly protected to their detriment. State regulations mandate a minimum 85% plus overstory canopy retention within the stream protection zone, or a recovery to that level if lacking, in order to maintain a deep, dark and cold channel zone condition. Lack of sufficient sunlight entering the zone will lead to 'nutrient theft' in the long run.
3. Emphasis in developing a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) has become one of documentation and process, diverting expertise from proper land management activity to paperwork and form filing. The operational logging instruction section of the THP itself is now a minor part of the entire THP package. Substantial time and effort is now put into rule compliance rather than land management.
4. Regulation has become a politically-driven process, and there is little faith that the motivation for new regulations will cease. Political forestry reduces the ability to practice good forestry and often serves litigious environmental advocacy businesses, not forests.
5. Substantial costs and time are incurred with little environmental benefit. Harvest plan preparation costs are now \$10,000 to \$50,000, with a few contentious projects swelling to more than \$100,000. Plan approval from the start of fieldwork, with wildlife surveys, archaeological surveys, public notification to neighbors and downstream water users, preparation of the 100- to 250-page document, agency review time, etc., to plan approval is at minimum a nine-month to an 18-month process before the first tree may be cut.
6. Turf battles between regulating agencies do occur. The Departments within the State's Resources Agency do not always work together to foster attainment of a private forest landowners forest management goals. Agency staff often neglect that the private forest landowner is part of the very public they are intended to serve.

The burden of regulation is not equitable, and the oppression is most onerous on the smaller non-industrial private forest landowner. This burden often drives owners of forest lands into one of two different directions.

With the extreme cost of THPs, landowners are cutting their lands harder than what would be silviculturally desirable in order to defray the cost of regulation as well as to reduce the need for harvest in future years; e.g., when the cost of a new THP needs to be borne again.

The other result of the regulatory burden is driving landowners out of timber production and leads to conversion of forest land to other uses such as vineyards, grazing livestock, subdivisions for homes or clearing for other uses. More than one landowner has avoided the harvest permitting process, and thus regulation, by simply bulldozing the timber down and piling and burning it in place.

California's forests are extremely diverse and it is often difficult at best to apply a standard set of rules across all its timber types and conditions. That is why to address this prescriptive nightmare, the rules and regulation handbook that governs the State's private forests is 375 pages in total, all in fine print.



Legislative Update

Brian White, KP Public Affairs, FLC Legislative Advocate
Larry Camp, FLC Legislative Committee Chair

Status of Key Resource, Energy and Environmental Bills

AB 1923 (Wood) would require the CPUC to direct the electrical corporations to authorize a bioenergy electric generation facility with a nameplate generating capacity of up to 5 megawatts to participate in the bioenergy feed-in tariff, if the facility delivers no more than 3 megawatts to the grid at any time and complies with specified interconnection and payment requirements. **Watch. ALIVE – State Senate for 3rd reading**

AB 1958 (Wood) would authorize the Board of Forestry, until 7 years after the effective date of regulations adopted by the board, to exempt a person cutting or removing trees in specified areas, including through commercial harvest, to restore and conserve California black or Oregon white oak woodlands and associated grasslands. **Watch. ALIVE – State Senate for 3rd reading**

AB 2029 (Dahle/Gordon) would among other things, authorize the La Malfa exemption until January 1, 2023; expand the exemption to instead permit the removal of trees less than 26 inches in stump diameter, measured at 8 inches above ground level; allow the construction or reconstruction of temporary roads of 600 feet or less on slopes of 40 percent or less; and apply the exemption to activities anywhere within those 28 counties. In order to move the bill out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, the author and sponsors had to take amendments to narrow the exemption or face the possibility of the bill stalling for the year (attached is a copy of bill). **Support. ALIVE – Senate Appropriations Committee**

AB 2146 (Patterson) would provide that an amount not to exceed \$200,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund shall be made available to the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, upon appropriation, for specified activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state caused by uncontrolled forest fires. **Support. Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

AB 2162 (Chu) would enact the Oak Woodlands Protection Act, which would prohibit a person from removing from an oak woodland, as defined, specified oak trees, unless an oak removal plan and oak removal permit application for the oak tree removal has been submitted to and approved by the Director of Fish and Wildlife. **Oppose. DEAD – Held in Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife**

AB 2700 (Salas) would require the CPUC, when doing the rank ordering and selection of least-cost and best-fit eligible renewable energy resources, to consider criteria that takes into account jobs retained associated with contracting for existing eligible renewable energy resources as a way to promote a more balanced process for utilities to consider biomass projects. **Support. ALIVE – Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

SB 1043 (Allen) would require CARB to consider and, as appropriate, adopt policies to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of renewable gas, in addition to ensuring renewable gas provides direct environmental benefits and identifying barriers to the rapid development and use of renewable gas. Despite trying to encourage production of renewable gas using forestry biomass, there is a provision in the bill that would actually add an impediment to forest biomass by limiting the type of forest that would qualify to only those that would be harvested pursuant to the Governor's October 30, 2015 emergency proclamation on tree mortality. Calforests and CLFA have requested that specific language be removed from the bill. **Oppose Unless Amended. ALIVE – Held in Committee**

SB 1383 (Lara) would require the State Air Resources Board, no later than January 1, 2018, to approve and begin implementing that comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants to achieve a reduction in methane by 40%, hydro fluorocarbon gases by 40%, and anthropogenic black carbon by 50% below 2013 levels by 2030. **Watch. ALIVE – Assembly**

Interested in the Governor's Tree Mortality Task Force

You can monitor the progress of the Task Force and the numerous committees by checking the following website: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/>.

Most interesting for most people will be the Reports and Deliverables and the Working Groups tabs at the top of the webpage. Unfortunately, the problem only seems to grow worse with numerous tree deaths being observed further north in El Dorado and Placer counties and not nearly enough milling capacity and the PUC unable or unwilling to modify current biomass purchase agreements to continue operations of the existing power plants in the state. The issues have been presented to the Governor's office but there has been limited movement to resolve the issue. Stay tuned!

We Appreciate the Generous Support from Our Contributors!

As of August 2, 2016

Sapphire (\$5,000+)

This spot reserved just for you!

Diamond (\$2,000 to \$4,999)

This spot reserved just for you!

Platinum (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Fran Belden
Carol Michener

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C. Robert Barnum
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Nan Deniston
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Bronze (\$100 to \$199)

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Gary & Jan Anderson
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Dennis & June Bebensee
James V. Bengard
Ron & Martha Berryman
Jon Burke
Don & David Bushnell
Donald Campbell
Delmer Clements
Daniel & Cheryl Cohoon
Timothy Cookenboo
Gloria Cottrell
Gilda L. Drinkwater
David C. Ericson
Edward & Mary Filiberti
Ralph & Barbara Gaarde
Dorothy Goodyear
Peter & Sarah Goorjian
Russell Greenlaw
Michael R. Harrison
Malcolm Hill
Tim Holliday
Jerry Jensen
Craig Kincaid

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New Members

**New members as of MAY 1, 2016. Please join us in welcoming the following new members to FLC!*

Forest Landowner Members

Erik Anderson
Trinity County
Pam Augspurger Family Member

David & Carolyn Beans
Oregon Spring Ranch & Tree Farm
Trinity County

Daniel Beans
Trinity County
David & Carolyn Beans Family Member

Bob Britt
Humboldt County

Richard Doyle
Lassen County
Kay White Family Member

Alicia Galliani
Mendocino County

Larry and Geri Hyder
Indian Rock Tree Farm
El Dorado County

Dan Linville
Siskiyou County
Tom & Jan Linville Family Member

T.J. Linville
Siskiyou County
Tom & Jan Linville Family Member

Linda Mercurio
Mendocino County

Berle & Linda Murray
Murphy Ranch
Humboldt County

Jason & Jan Murray
Murphy Ranch
Humboldt County
Berle & Linda Murray Family Member

Dan Rowe
Shasta County

Judy Rosales
Coast Ridge Community Forest
Sonoma County

Ed & Judy Stewart
North Woods Tree Farm
Shasta County

Gay G. Toroni
Green Point Ranch
Humboldt County

Steve Tunzi
Tunzi Ranch
Mendocino County

Duane & Charle Sue Varble
Slate Creek Springs
Lassen County

Ron & Kristin Ward
Maple Creek Ranch
Butte County
Donna Hall Family Member

Thomas Walther
Wagner Land Company
Humboldt County
Charles Wagner Family Member

Jim Westphal
Old Forbestown Properties
Butte County
Ted Westphal Family Member

Associate Members

Brady Dubois
Sierra Pacific Industries

Zachary Jones
Lyme Redwood Forest Company, LLC

Jim Kerrigan, LTO
Kerrigan Timber Services

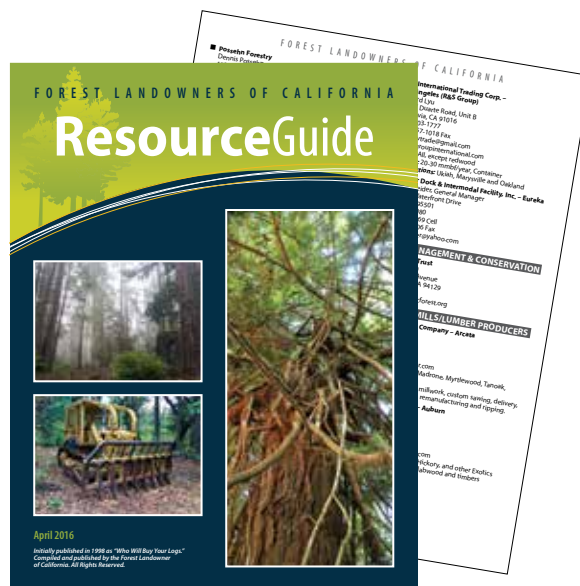
Alyssa Ravasio
Hipcamp

What Is the FLC Resource Guide?

The 2016 edition of the Resource Guide, published by the Forest Landowners of California (FLC), is the second printing of the Guide. The original publication was called, "Who Will Buy Your Logs?" which was published in 1998. The Resource Guide is compilation of mills and log buyers – personal contacts were made prior to printing in April this year to ensure that the publication is as current as possible. If you know of changes or updates, please send the updates to staff at the FLC office (see below for contact information).

Associate members of FLC receive a complimentary listing in the Resource Guide. Associate members are individuals who provide a service or product to forest or timber landowners – consulting foresters, CPAs, appraisers, attorneys, etc. If you know a professional service provider who should be listed in this Resource Guide, please send the information to staff at the FLC office (see below). It is our goal to expand the Resource Guide with resources that benefit the forest or timber land owners.

Send your updates, inquiries or additions to Deidre Bryant, deidreb@forestlandowners.org, or by regular USPS mail – or call (877) 326-3778.



What Is It About California Forest Practice Regulation?

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have some form of forester credentialing through licensing or registration statutes. It is why other states have voluntary "Best Management Practices" and educational outreach programs. And why demonstrating progressive forest management often includes third-party certification and chain-of-custody of forest products. In particular, it's why it's important for small private owners to be active in forest woodland owner associations and the Tree Farm Program.

It must always be remembered that even though private property rights are recognized, forest management must be consistent with current societal expectations and values. Public trust is something that can only be earned. We need to recognize that, today, forest management is as much about people as it is trees.

FLC 2016 Annual Meeting Recap – Healdsburg

Continued from page 7

The Sturgeon's Historic Mill near Sebastopol gave us a rare glimpse of how mills were operated in the steam era, as operations are reenacted by a crew of dedicated volunteers. We also enjoyed gourmet boxed lunches from a Healdsburg bakery/deli that helped fend off the intermittent chilly rain.

Seeing the products of this mill—primarily table-sized slabs—reminded us that custom milling can provide additional income for those with the skills, resources, and desire to mill our harvested trees.

We rounded out the day's field tour with our final stop at the Alder Creek Ranch in Occidental. We were treated to a multi-use land discussion that included vineyards, cattle, wildlife usage, and timber management. The landowners' forester Matt Greene shared with the group the NCRS and CFIP Cost Share programs that were employed on the property. He also discussed in detail the nearly completed RCD (Resource Conservation District) Landsmart Plan. The field tour concluded with a hike to a beautiful pocketed clearing where we were surrounded by a redwood dominated mixed conifer stand. Along the hike and once at the opening we viewed and discussed the results of 30-year old interplantings of redwood and ponderosa pine on the property. Also of interest, there was an opportunity to hike down the slope a short distance to view one of the oddities that occasionally occurs along the north coast, an "albino" redwood clump.

Contributors

Continued from page 10

Heide Kingsbury
Fred Landenberger
Charles & Lynn Lawrence
Steven & Denise Levine
Tom & Jan Linville
James Little
Cate & Eric Moore
Phillip Noia
David Olson
Val & Kati Parik
Francis Schutz
Ed & Judy Stewart
Frank Teiche
George Thompson
Larry Tunzi
Steven Vanderhorst
Ted Westphal
Kay White
John & Laura Williams

Friends (up to \$99)

Pam Augspurger
Robert & Julie Barrington
Frank Beidler IV
Robert W. Benfield
Jim & Lana Chapin
William Dann
Bonnie J. Elliot
Carol Fall
John J. Fleming
John Gaffin
Linwood Gill
Michael Goodner
Peter Hanelt
John Hughes
Larry & Geri Hyder
Zachary Jones
Ron & Nancy Knaus
Brian Koch
Bill Krelle
Jack & Jane Lewis
Dustin & Danielle Lindler
Daniel & Marian Lucero
Randal Mac Donald
Frank & Pat Marshall
Elizabeth Marshall Maybee
Kelli Mathia
John & Cynthia Miles
Fred Nelson
George Schmidbauer
Bruce & Ellen Strickler
Todd Swickard
Grant Taylor, Jr.
Forest Tilley
John Urban
Susan K. Walsh
Jeff Webster
John & Linda Wilson
Richard Wortley



Calendar of Events

These calendar activities are also located on FLC's interactive calendar on the website. Click on the Calendar menu for other details, such as registration information, etc.

September 10, 2016

FLC Field Day
Battle Creek Meadows Ranch (Tehama County)

September 13-15, 2016

Coast Redwood Science Symposium
Sequoia Conference Center (Eureka, CA)

November 18, 2016

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
Granzella's Inn (Williams, CA)



*Forest Landowners of California
is a proud sponsor of the
California Tree Farm Committee.*



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

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