



The Log

of the

Central Coast Forest Association

Volume 11, Issue 1

Summer 2011

CCFA INTERVIEWS NEW SUPERVISOR

By Cate Moore

On February 28, CCFA Directors Doug White and Cate Moore met and interviewed incoming Santa Cruz County Supervisor Greg Caput. Before joining the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Caput served on the Watsonville City Council. We found him to be quite knowledgeable about the problems facing his district and very thoughtful about what could improve the area.

We first had a small chat about his opinions regarding the forestry community and its role in the County. We learned that Mr. Caput is a long-time member of the Save the Redwoods League and that he has an interest in preserving the older trees, but he is not categorically opposed to logging and that he indeed voted in favor of the Grizzly Flats timber harvest conducted on Watsonville city lands. He is in favor of selectively cutting and regenerating the younger trees to supply local lumber. He is on a learning curve regarding his forest landowner constituents and their problems. He is currently helping facilitate an investigation where an absentee landowner discovered that someone with a mobile mill had trespassed on his property and cut, milled, and stolen timber. We offered some insights on how this could have happened and what might have become of the stolen timber.

We asked him what he felt the County's most pressing problem was and he answered, "Jobs." Southern Santa Cruz County is particularly hard hit by unemployment. The current unemployment rate is 25%, which he expects to drop to about 17% to 18% when the fields dry and planting season opens up. Even so, this number is too high and the area was hard hit when the Birdseye packaging plant shut down, putting 400 people out of work; when Indelux shut down, the area lost another 100 jobs, and the Gottschalks closure hit the retail sector hard.

He is aware the County revenue streams rely on healthy businesses. He also noted that 70% of the jobs in Santa Cruz County are provided by small business owners. To solve the jobs and revenue problems, he feels Santa Cruz County must do a list of things, including:

- Protect the existing small businesses. The local businesses feel very threatened by Walmart, but find Costco a boon.
- Improve the appearance of the existing vacant properties so that businesses looking to enter the area are not put off by the appearance of blight.
- Streamline business setup requirements. Supervisor Caput feels there are far too many hoops to jump through to start businesses.
- Provide startup incubators. Watsonville currently has a successful incubator program in place that allows startups to rent a facility from the city for one year at a tremendously discounted rental rate. This provides the new business with a

grace period of one year to become robust before requiring them to move out and work with facility rents at market prices.

Supervisor Caput's vision of a green economy involves having jobs close to residential areas, so residents don't need to drive 100 miles a day to/from their jobs. He does not want to see Santa Cruz County become just a bedroom community. Watsonville currently has the youngest per capita population in the state; the schools are bursting and he wants these young people to be able to find local jobs when they graduate in the future. ■

CCFA VISITS SACRAMENTO

By Cate Moore

CCFA Board members, Cate and Eric Moore, traveled to Sacramento over February 1st and 2nd to attend the public hearing at the Board of Forestry in support of our proposed regulation change that would allow timber operations on Columbus Day. We also attended the Board of Forestry's Policy and Resource Protection committee meetings and a mixer hosted by the California Forestry Association.

The text of the proposed regulation is returning to its original wording of explicitly naming Columbus Day as the holiday excluded from the hours of operation ordinances. It was put out for a 15-day public notice and is on track to be accepted during the March Board of Forestry meeting.

The committee meetings afforded us a chance to get a feel of the mood in Sacramento, and the Governor has everyone's attention focused on it. Proposals to remove duplication of effort and overlapping responsibilities are getting more attention than they have in the past. It is a good time to highlight those overlaps that affect us in forestry; we have a much better chance of getting a sympathetic audience.

John Laird mentioned these themes in a guest address that opened the Board of Forestry's general meeting. He also mentioned the observation that there was an amazing tendency for calm, rational people he has known for years to become wild-eyed zealots he could no longer recognize whenever the topic of trees and forest came up in public forums, thus highlighting the experience we have all had when attempting to address these issues.

We caught up with Mr. Laird later at the mixer and had a chance to speak with him directly. It gave us a chance to urge the removal of certain institutions from the California bureaucracy since they are already duplicated at other levels of government such as OSHA/Cal OSHA, and to get the overload of agencies reviewing timber harvest reduced. They so often have conflicting

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THE FULL BOARD OF FORESTRY TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS AT THEIR MEETING IN SACRAMENTO ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

By Eric Moore

County Rules: Hours of work and log haul

The Board unanimously adopted a new rule allowing logging operations on Columbus Day in those counties with county rules. Those counties include Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Marin, San Mateo, Lake and Monterey. Current rules in those counties prohibit logging and log haul operations on federal holidays unless specific permissions is granted by CAL FIRE. The new rule would now allow operations on Columbus Day.

This was a CCFA-sponsored rule change, an informative exercise in how regulations are enacted in the Board of Forestry, and we look forward to using this knowledge on meatier issues in the future.

The CCFA Board would like to hear suggestions from our members of other issues that could be approached through this venue. ■

Special conditions requiring disapproval of plans

The Board unanimously adopted a new rule that revises the Forest Practice Rules to allow the director to disapprove a plan if that plan would result in significant adverse slope stability issues that could affect public safety. This determination by the director would have to be supported by a review from the California Geological Survey. This proposal was previously remanded back to the Policy Committee for further review and revisions, and then was brought back to the full Board for approval.

Board member Mark Andre re-appointed

On February 17, Board member Mark Andre of Arcata was re-appointed to the Board by Governor Brown. Mark Andre is a registered professional forester and currently is the environmental services director for the City of Arcata. He was initially appointed to the Board in 2010 to replace David Nawi who left the Board. There are still currently three unfilled positions on the Board.

Board re-organization

Board Chairman Stan Dixon announced he will propose changes to the Board of Forestry. These changes may include modifications to committee meetings and changes to the conduct of actual Board meetings. He indicated that the goals of these changes include cost-cutting and the need to make the board more efficient. Chairman Dixon will present proposals to the other Board members by mid-March. ■

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

By P. Anthony Thomas

AB 1005 - A BAD BILL

Assemblyman Roger Dickinson (D-9) has introduced AB 1005, which would in effect bring the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) review process to a grinding halt. The bill requires the following: additionally require the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the appropriate regional water quality control board, the

California Geological Survey, and where applicable, the California Coastal Commission to conduct a review of a THP to determine environmental issues and mitigation measures. If the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF) director does not agree with one of the agencies' views, the bill will require review by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

At present, all of the aforementioned agencies have a seat at the table during the THP review process. The bill adds another layer of bureaucracy to a process that is "not the most swift" at best. By requiring the additional entities by statute, the THP review process will slow to a crawl. By adding additional time, timber will be delayed getting to market, therefore backing up the system. AB 1005 takes the current authority out of the hands of CDF and gives responsibility to sister agencies. The cost to review THPs will increase for the submitters and the state. These are just a couple of the issues with AB 1005, but there are PLENTY more. The sponsor of AB 1005 is a Forests Forever follower and unfortunately, the organization continues to have issues with the industry, while constantly functioning from a distant past regarding forestry.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO DEFEAT THIS BILL

We are asking Assembly members Chesbro, Monning, and Brownley to "lay-off" of this bill. What that means is that the member does not vote for or against the bill but simply does not vote when his turn comes to vote in committee. CCFA requests that you call the aforementioned offices and state that this bill hampers the THP review process, places another layer of bureaucracy in the THP review process, and costs jobs. The office will ask if you are a constituent. If you are not, indicate that you are not, BUT that as you read the bill, it will cost you or a member of you family their job for the reasons stated. If you live in one of the member's districts, reply yes and ask for the member to lay-off of the bill. The Assembly Members' Sacramento offices are as follows: Wes Chesbro, 916-319-2001; Julia Brownley, 916-319-2041; and Bill Monning, 916-319-2027.

A hearing date has not been set for the bill. We are attempting to keep the pressure on throughout the month until the bill well be heard. No need to be abrasive, simply state you concerns and ask for the member to lay-off the bill. ■

TO OUR MEMBERS

Dear CCFA members and affiliates,

The hearing scheduled for AB 1005 was canceled at the last minute due to the tremendous number of objections coming from the forestry community. We would like to thank all of you who sent letters or phone calls to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee registering your objections.

This blow certainly slowed it down, but it is not officially dead yet.

We have subscribed to this bill to track its progress and will keep you informed.

Yours truly,

Cate Moore, CCFA Director

UPDATE ON AB 1005 - BILL PROPOSING DRACONIAN NEW THP REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

By Cate Moore

In late March, we received a red alert from the California Foresters Association (CFA) of a bill in the assembly, **AB 1005 - Dickinson**, that would:

“Require the Department of Fish and Game, the appropriate regional water quality control board, the California Geological Survey, and, where applicable, the California Coastal Commission to conduct a review of a timber harvesting plan to determine environmental issues and mitigation measures. If that review raises environmental issues and mitigation measures suggested by the reviewing entities are not deemed necessary by the director, the bill would require the Secretary for Natural Resources to review the plan for final determination.”

This bill, if enacted, would do nothing but bring our already ridiculously burdensome process of getting a Timber Harvest Permit to a screeching halt as the various involved state agencies squabble over what are the real environmental problems in a certain project and what are the appropriate mitigations.

CFA asked all of the forestry community to back them in asking the Assembly Natural Resources Committee to lay off this bill.

Most of the members of CCFA are represented by Bill Monning, who is a member of this committee, so the CCFA Board saw an excellent opportunity to rally our members to put pressure on him to lay off this bill, which will cause it to ultimately die in committee. Those members who have given us their current e-mail address got a message with an attached letter that they could then send to Mr. Monning via e-mail, fax or US Post, along with the appropriate contact information. A physical letter with the same information was sent to all members as soon as we could package them.

Our protests must have made an impact; the scheduled hearing for the bill was canceled at the request of the author.

It's not dead yet. The CCFA Board has subscribed to the bill to ensure that we know the instant anybody does anything with this bill. We will keep you posted.

Other bills worth watching include:

SB 455 - Pavley:

This bill creates a “Watershed Timber Harvest Plan” (WTHP) for the purposes of managing entire watersheds as a single entity. The proposed implementation is fast becoming cumbersome and costly.

AB 380 - Chesbro:

“This bill would require the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Board of Forestry, when implementing a pilot project to protect and restore the riparian zone in watersheds with listed anadromous salmonids, among other things, to provide the industry, agencies, and the public with the opportunity to participate in the development of the pilot project in a transparent manner and to ensure that the pilot project has certain goals. The bill would also require all documents that form the basis for the pilot projects to be posted on the department's Internet Web site.”

AB 992 - Nielsen:

This bill would provide that damage caused by an escaping

fire, other than an arson fire, shall not be deemed a trespass for purposes of these provisions. The bill would provide that the amount of monetary damages recoverable by any person, including a governmental entity, for fire escaping to the land of another, other than arson, shall be limited to the fair market value of the land and timber affected by the fire in its pre-fire condition, less the fair market value of the land and timber in its post-fire condition. The bill would provide that non-fee-based public benefit use, land conservation management activity, and timber operations conducted in compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining or related to fire safety shall not be deemed a foreseeable risk in the context of any damage related to fire or its escape onto the property of another.

AB 1414 - Assembly Natural Resources Committee:

This bill makes a number of clean-up modifications to the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, including:

- delete the January 1, 1988, date limitation on the definition of "timber operations." The bill would also delete the January 1, 1988, date limitation with respect to rules and regulations relating the site preparation work.
- repeal and delete provisions relating to the district technical advisory committees.
- repeal the definition of, and delete the reference to, cutover land.
- delete and repeal outdated stocking requirements relating to transition period of original act's enactment.
- delete the requirement that the board adopt rules relating to minimizing the effects of erosion on watercourses and lakes by maintenance of installed drainage facilities and soil stabilization treatments on skid trails, roads, and landings, as provided.
- delete authorization of the board to exempt from the act a person engaged in forest management whose activities are limited to certain things, including the cutting, removal, or sale of timber or other solid wood forest products from the species *Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific Yew.) ■

CCFA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

CCFA's Annual Membership Meeting & BBQ is upcoming next month. We urge you to come, enjoy good food, socialize with other members, and especially—hear our keynote speaker, Sandy Lydon.

Sandy is our favorite speaker. This will be his third attendance at our annual meeting. He is dynamic, funny, and above all, an accomplished historian. He is a professor emeritus of Cabrillo College and specializes in the history of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, as well as China and Japan. Those two countries figure greatly in the history of California.

He will be speaking on the history of railroads as they related to the forestry industry in the Santa Cruz Mountains, from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s.

Do plan to attend this meeting on June 18th and listen to Sandy enthrall us with history many of us never knew, or even thought about.

WE'VE BECOME A NATION OF TAKERS, NOT MAKERS

More Americans work for the government than in manufacturing, farming, fishing, forestry, mining and utilities combined.

By Stephen Moore

If you want to understand better why so many states—from New York to Wisconsin to California—are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, consider this depressing statistic: Today in America there are nearly twice as many people working for the government (22.5 million) than in all of manufacturing (11.5 million). This is an almost exact reversal of the situation in 1960, when there were 15 million workers in manufacturing and 8.7 million collecting a paycheck from the government.

It gets worse. More Americans work for the government than work in construction, farming, fishing, forestry, manufacturing, mining and utilities combined. We have moved decisively from a nation of makers to a nation of takers. Nearly half of the \$2.2 trillion cost of state and local governments is the \$1 trillion-a-year tab for pay and benefits of state and local employees. Is it any wonder that so many states and cities cannot pay their bills?

Every state in America today except for two—Indiana and Wisconsin—has more government workers on the payroll than people manufacturing industrial goods. Consider California, which has the highest budget deficit in the history of the states. The not-so Golden State now has an incredible 2.4 million government employees—twice as many as people at work in manufacturing. New Jersey has just under two-and-a-half as many government employees as manufacturers. Florida's ratio is more than 3 to 1. So is New York's.

Even Michigan, at one time the auto capital of the world, and Pennsylvania, once the steel capital, have more government bureaucrats than people making things. The leaders in government hiring are Wyoming and New Mexico, which have hired more than six government workers for every manufacturing worker.

Now it is certainly true that many states have not typically been home to traditional manufacturing operations. Iowa and Nebraska are farm states, for example. But in those states, there are at least five times more government workers than farmers. West Virginia is the mining capital of the world, yet it has at least three times more government workers than miners. New York is the financial capital of the world—at least for now. That sector employs roughly 670,000 New Yorkers. That's less than half of the state's 1.48 million government employees.

Don't expect a reversal of this trend anytime soon. Surveys of college graduates are finding that more and more of our top minds want to work for the government. Why? Because in recent years only government agencies have been hiring, and because the offer of near lifetime security is highly valued in these times of economic turbulence. When 23-year-olds aren't willing to take career risks, we have a real problem on our hands. Sadly, we could end up with a generation of Americans who want to work at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The employment trends described here are explained in part by hugely beneficial productivity improvements in such traditional industries as farming, manufacturing, financial services and telecommunications. These produce far more output

per worker than in the past. The typical farmer, for example, is today at least three times more productive than in 1950.

Where are the productivity gains in government? Consider a core function of state and local governments: schools. Over the period 1970-2005, school spending per pupil, adjusted for inflation, doubled, while standardized achievement test scores were flat. Over roughly that same time period, public-school employment doubled per student, according to a study by researchers at the University of Washington. That is what economists call negative productivity.

But education is an industry where we measure performance backwards: We gauge school performance not by outputs, but by inputs. If quality falls, we say we didn't pay teachers enough or we need smaller class sizes or newer schools. If education had undergone the same productivity revolution that manufacturing has, we would have half as many educators, smaller school budgets, and higher graduation rates and test scores.

The same is true of almost all other government services. Mass transit spends more and more every year and yet a much smaller share of Americans use trains and buses today than in past decades. One way that private companies spur productivity is by firing underperforming employees and rewarding excellence. In government employment, tenure for teachers and near lifetime employment for other civil servants shields workers from this basic system of reward and punishment. It is a system that breeds mediocrity, which is what we've gotten.

Most reasonable steps to restrain public-sector employment costs are smothered by the unions. Study after study has shown that states and cities could shave 20% to 40% off the cost of many services—fire fighting, public transportation, garbage collection, administrative functions, even prison operations—through competitive contracting to private providers. But unions have blocked many of those efforts. Public employees maintain that they are underpaid relative to equally qualified private-sector workers, yet they are deathly afraid of competitive bidding for government services.

President Obama says we have to retool our economy to "win the future." The only way to do that is to grow the economy that makes things, not the sector that takes things.

Mr. Moore is senior economics writer for The Wall Street Journal editorial page.

CCFA has a new address. Please make these changes to your address book:

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CALIFORNIA IS REGULATING ITSELF OUT OF BUSINESS

By Nathan Mintz, Californians for Common Sense

LA Daily Breeze, Posted: 04/12/2011 04:47:27 PM PDT, http://www.dailybreeze.com/editorial/ci_17828093?source=email

California is a tough state to do business in. The reason for this has only partly to do with our highest-in-the-nation corporate, income and sales taxes. The primary reason is our hyper-regulatory environment.

My friend Rick owns a sod business in Artesia and relies on a threshing machine as the heart of his business. When this machine is turned off, no product goes out his door. His thresher machine is powered by a small diesel engine, barely 50 horsepower. Because of this very small diesel engine, his business falls under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District and their draconian regulations. They restrict him to using his machine just 13 hours a week, place a meter on his machine so he will not cheat and then charge him \$1,000 a year for the meter and the inspector. With his weekly production cut in more than a half, it is no wonder Rick is considering moving to Arizona.

He is not alone. Thousands of small businesses here in the South Bay are crossing the same regulatory minefield as they struggle to stay in business. The results are startling. A 2009 study from California State University, Sacramento put the yearly cost of regulation in California at close to \$500 billion in total costs on the private sector, including approximately \$135,000 on average to each small business. This higher cost of doing business translates into millions of jobs lost and \$16 billion in lost tax revenue for the state.

Examples of how much more expensive our regulations on business are than other states' are everywhere. Another study, this one from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, tallied the regulatory costs of farming oranges in the San Joaquin Valley at 11 times the cost of growing them in Texas - more than \$347 per acre versus \$31 per acre. This makes it more than twice as expensive overall to raise oranges here (\$1,945 per acre) than in Texas (\$963 per acre).

As if this wasn't bad enough, with a \$26 billion budget deficit, we are spending billions to enforce regulations that make the deficit even worse by killing the private-sector tax base. Think about how many auditors and state employees are required to audit the thousands of businesses like Rick's. The California Air Resources Board alone has an annual budget of more than \$700 million. This is only one of dozens of job-killing state agencies that we can no longer afford to keep paying for. We do not have enough money to keep firefighters protecting our homes, police officers in the neighborhoods and

teachers in the classrooms, let alone enough to keep agencies going that chase more tax revenue out of state.

What we need in California is for the Legislature and governor to apply a means test for new regulations: If a regulation costs more to enforce than it saves the citizens in grief, then the regulation should be eliminated. We should also continuously review old regulations and allow those that no longer make sense to expire.

A regulation that clearly flunks that test is Proposition 65, which requires warning signs be posted everywhere that say, "This facility contains chemicals known by the state of California." These signs are now so widespread they are completely ignored by the public, but their absence can lead to a useless lawsuit that can be crippling to business owners. Trial lawyers are making tens of millions off these frivolous lawsuits - they have even set up a Web community, **prop65clearinghouse.com** to share the tools of the trade. In 2009, they clogged up our courts with 321 of these lawsuits, costing us millions to hear and rule on these cases, with virtually no benefit for the general public beyond the postage of more of these signs. Rolling back the broad definition of this regulation would save taxpayers millions and save hundreds of businesses from more legal headaches.

Sadly, the majority in the state Legislature do not seem to have a clue. They are more eager to increase these regulations. In the past two years, the majority in the Legislature has passed or proposed: a ban on private ownership of ultrasound machines, a ban on manufacturing certain types of plastics in the state, a regulation mandating that California cows used in commercials be from California, and a law mandating a new type of parking spot for electric vehicles (because it is not hard enough to find parking in the South Bay as it is).

But until we start to hold our state officials accountable and start electing leaders who are willing to stop writing these senseless new regulations, we receive what we deserve. ■



COAST REDWOOD FORESTS IN A CHANGING CALIFORNIA: A SYMPOSIUM FOR SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS

Date: June 21-23, 2011

Location: University of California, Santa Cruz Campus

Organized by:

- University of California, Berkeley Center for Forestry and UC Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Natural Resources Management Dept.
- Humboldt State University Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources

Conference Website: <http://ucanr.org/sites/redwood>

Complete information on the symposium is available at the conference website. The symposium is designed to include both peer-reviewed science papers as well as innovative management and conservation case studies. Authors should specify if their abstract is intended to be a formal oral presentation (peer-reviewed science or case study), or a poster presentation. Abstracts are entered on-line at: <http://ucanr.org/redwoodabstract>.

Note: It's too late to submit papers, but timberland owners and forest professionals are invited to attend. ■

MAY 2011 FOREST POLICY REPORT

By Alliance 4 Family Forests

North Coast Water Board Amends NTMP Waiver Policy – Since the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board handed down their revised NTMP waiver policy in 2009, landowners with existing NTMPs have found compliance with the policy exceedingly costly and unworkable. As a result, the California Farm Bureau Federation, several other landowner organizations and Cal Fire filed an appeal with the State Water Resources Control Board seeking reversal of onerous waiver provisions on the North Coast. While it is unclear whether the state board directed the regional board to take this action, the North Coast board did acknowledge that they had not intended “to create unnecessary regulatory burdens on Cal Fire or NTMP landowners, or to create conditions that are duplicative of adequately-protective Forest Practice Rules (FPRs). NTMP provisions in the Timber Waiver Order No. R1-2009-0038, including Sections I(E), Section III, and application procedures contained in Section II as applicable to NTMPs are stayed until February 1, 2012. In this interim time period, NTMP provisions from the 2004 Waiver (Order R1-2004-0016) shall apply. The waiver policy change for NTMPs approved by Cal Fire prior to June 2004 are covered under the 2004 Waiver conditions:

May continue to conduct timber harvesting activities provided the plan meets the conditions of that waiver.

Submit a Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) to the Regional Water Board at least five (5) days prior to commencement of timber harvest activities.

NTMPs approved by Cal Fire after June 2004 and not previously covered by 2004 or 2009 waivers: 1 - Must submit a Certification Notice to apply for coverage under the Categorical Waiver order No. R1-2009-0038 (as amended by Order No. R1-2011-0038). 2 – Submit an Erosion Control Plan with each NTO. 3 – May commence timber harvest activities no sooner than fourteen (14) days after Regional Water Board receipt of the Certification.”

This change in waiver policy will apply until February 1, 2012, after which time the 2009 Waiver conditions will automatically become effective again, unless the Regional Board takes action to modify the conditions before that date. In the meantime the findings state that the Regional Board staff are in the process of reviewing Anadromous Salmonid Protection (ASP) rules as applied to all NTMPs to determine if NTMPs are in full compliance, especially in areas designated as sediment and temperature impaired.

Erosion Control Plan Will Cost NTMP Owners – The big problem with these new waiver provisions is the Erosion Control Plan requirement for new NTMPs and those not previously covered under the 2004 or the 2009 waiver. What's an Erosion Control Plan ECP? According to the document explaining the waiver decision the ECP “shall be developed and implemented for the NTMP or the area covered by each NTO, including roads used for timber harvest activities owned by or under the control of the Discharger. The ECP shall be designed to prevent and minimize the discharge or threatened discharge of sediment from controllable sediment discharge sources into waters of the state to the degree necessary to avoid a violation of water quality requirements or other provisions of this Order. Sediment discharge sources include, but are not limited to, failing or failed

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aims and requirements that we are expected to satisfy simultaneously, such as removing obstructions from water courses per the Water Quality Boards and adding woody debris per California Department of Fish and Game. We also suggested that California's tendency to push environmental regulations such as the CARB diesel regulations ahead of the rest of the country is economically insupportable. It drives out the industries that are mobile and cripples those that are not.

In the Board of Forestry general meeting, we commented on the revamped management plan for the Jackson Demonstration State Forest. We remarked that forest landowners want to see regulations and restoration strategies checked out for effectiveness on the demonstration forests before the landowners are expected implement them. They want to see studies developed that produce best management practices under the conditions the landowners, themselves, have to work under, up to and including navigating the regulatory climate. We also mentioned the Soquel Demonstration Forest is very under-utilized for these purposes.

We hope to continue following up on these topics as the year progresses. Member can contribute to the discussions in Sacramento by writing the legislature about the issues we discussed above, to keep the topics fresh in their minds as they develop the budget and look at revamping the bureaucracy. ■

watercourse crossings, road failures, road surfaces, landslides, unstable features discharging to or near watercourses, unstable watercourse banks, soil stockpiles, storage waste, skid trails, landings, exposed harvest units, or any other location discharging waste or earthen materials. The ECP shall be amended and revised, when necessary, to meet this standard.” Further detail is contained in the Order pertaining to methods required to describe inventory and treatment of controllable sediment sources, as well as the implementation schedule. The waiver and amendment are available at the Regional Board’s website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/timber_operations/timber_waiver. Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Regional Water Board staff member Jim Burke at (707) 576-2289. jburke@waterboards.ca.gov.

BOF to Vote on Modified THP for Fuel Hazard Reduction – After several years of negotiations in the BOF Management Committee, the Modified THP for Fuel Hazard Reduction (MTHP-FHR) is finally coming before the Board of Forestry for final vote on May 4th. Initially brought to the BOF by RPF Doug Ferrier following the devastating fire seasons in 2007 and 2008, Ferrier suggested there must be a better way to encourage landowners to reduce heavy fuel loads in private forests across the state. He encouraged the BOF to try using the existing Modified THP regulation as a framework for moving ahead. The idea was to find ways to cut back on the costly cumulative effects analysis requirements contained in regular THPs. The two existing primary permitting options available to landowners have been the “Forest Fire Prevention Exemption” and the “Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction.” These two permits have had limited application by private forest owners because they both share the constraint that timber operations other than slash burning must be completed within 120 days of project commencement. Additionally, because these permit options are non-discretionary, the harvest tree diameter limit as well as the ladder and surface fuel treatment specifications are codified in regulation rather than developed by an RPF based on site specific conditions. The proposed MTHP-FHR intends to allow for longer term (three years like a normal THP) permitting of fuel hazard modification treatments developed by the RPF to fit individual project site conditions.

The provisions of this proposal are designed to encourage landowners to get involved in fuel reduction projects while limiting potential environmental effects. A big advantage of the MTHP-FHR is increasing the maximum permissible project size to 2,500 acres. The thinking here was to make sure projects are large enough to contribute to landscape level fire intensity reduction. A minimum overstory canopy tree cover is to be retained after harvest consistent with post-harvest stocking standards for commercial thinning silvicultural prescriptions. Conditions are set forth concerning use of the rehabilitation silvicultural method (no more than 10% of the MTHP area). The specific purpose and necessity of the MTHP-FHR as stated in the Initial Statement of Reasons: “The threat of catastrophic fire requires landowners to constantly manage vegetation to reduce fuel loads while maintaining growth to meet Maximum Sustained Production (MSP) of high quality timber products pursuant to the Forest Practice Act. The Board’s proposed MTHP-FHR is intended to encourage forest landowners to consistently manage their fuel loads for long term resiliency to the impacts of fire. The most controversial part of developing

this proposal has been negotiations with Fish & Game representatives who are charged with protecting wildlife and botanical species. It was decided in committee that all requirements for protecting wildlife and botanical species contained in the Forest Practice Rules apply to projects using the MTHP-FHR. For situations where the Director has determined that operations are likely to affect a species listed under state or federal ESA, a consultation process with Fish & Game will be required prior to approval.

New BOF Committee Process Discourages Effective Public Input – The April BOF meeting brought changes in the way the four standing committees conduct business. Instead of each committee meeting separately with state and federal agency personnel and members of the public directly providing interactive input on each agenda topic, the process has been revised so that each committee conducts its meetings with all BOF members present to listen in. Each committee is allotted less than an hour to address its entire agenda. Rigid time constraints are placed on each topic. After a staffer’s oral briefing, initial discussion is limited to only the two or three members of the committee plus any Cal Fire witness present to serve as technical expert. Then other BOF members in attendance are asked to provide any input they might have, followed by comments from representatives from other state or federal agencies. Members of the public are not allowed to get involved in the questioning of Cal Fire technical experts or to state their opinions until the very end of the committee meeting after all topics have been covered. In order to participate each member of the public must submit a card in advance and indicate which topic they want to address. Their input is limited to two minutes well after the agenda item was heard and is out of context with when the topic was originally discussed by the committee.

IN OUR OPINION - This new committee procedure is distressing to the Alliance 4 Family Forests because Dan Weldon and Charles Greenlaw feel their most valuable and influential time at Board of Forestry meetings has been during committee meetings when they provide welcomed constructive input as part of open forum discussions involving BOF committee members, state and federal agency representatives and stakeholders from all perspectives. We understand the stated reasoning for moving to the new committee format: to keep all BOF members up to speed with what the four standing committees are doing. With only six members on the BOF now, the thinking is that the new committee procedures will better utilize board member time. While A4FF was initially willing to give the new process time to work, we can now see it is doomed to be counterproductive. A good example was during the April meeting when the very first topic was the Road Rules Task Force discussion in relation to Anadromous Salmonid Protection rules as part of the Forest Practice Committee. This discussion occupied over two hours when the committee was allotted only one hour to complete their busy agenda. The other three committees were forced to compress their agendas and limit debate because of time constraints. One solution may be the creation of workshops on individual topics to be called at the discretion of the committee chairman. We at A4FF will begin an effort to seek reinstatement of the old committee process or something akin to it that preserves the informal, collegial, round-table nature of the older

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way. Management Committee under recent chairs Piirto and Nakamura, with Eric Huff as lead staffer, in our opinion was the best of the four in effectiveness and in affording nearly a “brainstorming” level of mobilizing and refining the ideas of everyone who attended. It’s hard to imagine how that committee’s spirited development of the proposed Modified THP for Fuel Hazard Reduction would have been possible under the confining, stilted formality newly being used.

BOF Committee Agendas for May 3rd

Forest Practice Committee – 1. Review Anadromous Salmonid Protection rules related to roads and the Road Rules Task Force regulatory proposal. 2. Review Protection of Wildlife – Aspen and Meadow Restoration. Possible action item, publish 45-day notice

Management Committee – 1. Discussion of Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group Recommendations for modifications to 2008 JDSF Forest Management Plan. 2. discussion of NTMP acreage maximum. 3. Regulatory opportunities for restoration of native landscapes through removal of eucalyptus plantations.

Policy Committee – 1. Director’s Determination. Cal Fire recirculation of harvesting documents. 2. Review of Board policies for conversion, findings of the board, possible regulations for conversion process.

Resources Committee – 1. Review of the draft revisions to the 100 foot defensible space regulations and guidelines. 2. Update on utility line clearing exemption for major woody stems. 3. Vegetation Treatment Programmatic EIR update. 4. Regulatory concepts for the Sudden Oak Death Emergency Notice permanent regulation, possible action item, publish 45-day notice of rulemaking. ■

SAME OLD STORY—OVER AND OVER**Excerpt from the Highlander**

“For millennia, these two species (Coho salmon and Steelhead trout) returned to Bonny Doon. While their population was compromised by erosion associated with old-time timber harvesting in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th, as recently as the 1950s, lifetime angler Hal Janssen viewed them as “inexhaustible” and said, “We would have huge schools and schools of [coho] in California in the 50s and 60s in the San Lorenzo River and Pescadero.”

Editor’s Note: Historical records show that the Coho was introduced into this area around 1908 as a “new sport fish” and the population was artificially supported by planting fish into the streams until the 1970s, when this practice was ceased. Since then, the population has declined. And we wonder why???

LOG PRICES DOWN IN EARLY 2011

By Gary Paul

Unfortunately for timber owners, the price of redwood did not improve at the beginning of 2011, as opined by this author in the previous edition of this newsletter. Opening prices are about \$20-25 less than prices in 2010.

The reasons appear to be that lumber sales are not brisk, and that the mills had adequate stocks of logs left over from 2010. Thus, lumber mills are not being overly aggressive at this point. If the pace of sales begins to quicken, we may see some slight improvement as the year goes on. ■

LAND TRUST TO PRESENT LAND AND RESOURCE PROTECTION PLANS

From the Highlander, publication of the rural Bonny Doon Association
May/June 2011

Two years ago, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County undertook to bring scientists and citizens together to formulate a comprehensive Conservation blueprint for Santa Cruz County. After four public forums and input from 120 technical advisors, the Blueprint, available at <http://goo.gl/tKW1j>, contains an overview of the natural heritage of our county, our attitudes toward it, and more importantly, makes a series of recommendations on priorities and strategies to protect that heritage.

This past winter, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, together with the Nature Conservancy, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Save the Redwoods League, and Semperviron Fund announced the ambitious Living Landscape Initiative, livinglandscapeinitiative.org/ to protect over 80,000 acres in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The Initiative has four targets: Coastal Lands, the Redwood Heartland, the Pajaro Corridor, and the Essential Links connecting these critical natural and agricultural habitats.

The guest speaker at our May General Meeting, Executive director Terry Corwin, has led the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for the past six years and has been centrally involved with both of these important projects. She last spoke to us two years ago about the late lamented Senate Bill 211, which sought to establish an Open Space District of Santa Cruz County. Please join us May 11 and support these latest efforts to keep Bonny Doon, Santa Cruz County, and Central California “Rural and Natural.” ■

Editor’s Note: I would like to hope that this is not another plan to turn the whole coast from sea to mountain summit, and from San Francisco to Santa Cruz, into one grand and glorious parkland, as a few groups planned some 40 years ago. Keep your eyes on this one.

Central Coast Forest Association
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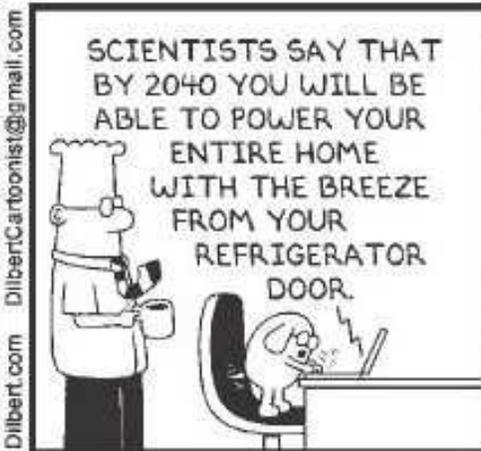
CCFA appreciates your support



Notes From the Nut-House



DILBERT | Scott Adams



We're on the web!
www.ccfassociation.org

Central Coast Forest Association
 P.O. Box 66868
 Scotts Valley, CA 95066



IMPORTANT NOTICE: HELP US COMMUNICATE!

Occasionally we need to rally the membership to respond to abrupt government actions. We must be able to contact you in a hurry in such circumstances. Please submit your current e-mail address to us via our website, www.ccfassociation.org or by e-mail to: ccfa@ccfassociation.org. We will keep it strictly confidential at all times.

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The forests must be, and will be, not only preserved but used, and the experience of all civilized countries that have faced and solved the question show that the forests, like perennial fountains, may be made to yield a sure harvest of timber while at the same time all their far-reaching beneficent uses may be maintained unimpaired.

John Muir

Founder of the Sierra Club in 1895

CCFA's Mission

The Central Coast Forest Association is a non-profit alliance of small forestland owners, forestry professionals and forest-oriented businesses with close affinity to the woods, mountains, streams and wildlife of the Central Coast. Our purpose is to uphold and preserve our values, our property rights and our way of life. To advance this objective, CCFA will:

- *Interact with community, political and environmental interests as a voice for forestland owners.*
- *Understand the news, law and technology of forestry and apply this knowledge for the benefit and protection of forestland owners.*
- *Inform members of matters affecting their lands and forests.*
- *Take political and legal action to defend the rights and property of all Central Coast forestland owners.*