



The Log of the Central Coast Forest Association

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LOCAL FORESTRY RULES VALIDATED

By Eric Moore

A valuable scientific study has provided validation of our local forestry rules. A "paired watershed" study was conducted at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch near Davenport California. Two watersheds on Little Creek were heavily instrumented and monitored from 2002 to 2008 to establish a baseline. Then one of the watersheds was logged following the Southern sub district rules as required by the State Board of Forestry. The two watersheds were then compared to each other over the next year.

The results were described in the scientific paper "The Effect of Selection Logging in a Redwood Forest on Watershed Hydrology and Sediment Yield in a Coastal California Watershed" by Arne Skaugset, College of Forestry, Oregon State University et al.

- Sediment, no detectable impact
- Storm flows, essentially the same both before and after the harvest

Conclusion: Use of contemporary BMP's (Best management practices) were effective and kept accelerated erosion within background variability.

What this means is that the logging rules for San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Monterey Counties work. No problems were found through the critical first winter period. To the great disappointment of the members of the Central Coast Forest Association, the Lockheed Fire of 2009 burned the control watershed. We had hoped to see this study continued for many years. Cal Poly is transitioning the study to determine the effects of fire and restoration efforts on both watersheds, and we look forward to the results.

The CCFA Board has sent letters about the study to every supervisor in all four counties, The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, The Board of Forestry, and any other appropriate agency we could think of. We even sent one to the environmental reporter for the Mercury News. After two months we received responses only from John Laird, Secretary of the Resources Agency, and Santa Cruz County supervisor Neal Coonerty, both of whom want a copy of the study. The study is about to be officially published. As soon as we have a copy we will make sure they get a copy and we will post it on our web site. ■

STATUS REPORT ON NEW DWELLING OWNER FEES IN STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA FOR FIRE PREVENTION

ALLIANCE 4 FAMILY FORESTS, September 24, 2011

When Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature agreed on a State Budget at the end of June it was the first time in decades the budget had been approved by the July 1st start of the fiscal year. Much of the budget detail was crafted in the governor's Department of Finance, which was charged with finding ways to fund programs that they consider a drain on the state's General Fund. Funding for rural fire fighting and prevention was one of the major areas to be addressed by the Administration.

The big idea was to charge rural landowners a fee to fill a \$50 million budget reduction in the Cal Fire budget dedicated to fire fighting and prevention. Rural interests throughout the state were caught totally off guard and were offended because the rationale for such a fee/tax had not been vetted in public prior to enactment. The ABX 29 budget trailer bill that addressed this issue required the State Board of Forestry and Fire Prevention (BOF) to originate and adopt by Sep 1 emergency regulations requiring parcels with habitable structures in

State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) to pay a fee to be decided on by the BOF but not to exceed \$150 per parcel per year.

The short-handed, five-member BOF agreed to devote full time in August to enact during that month a regulation which met both the few fixed and many discretionary requirements of ABX 29 and also treats landowners and other affected parties fairly, including local fire protection entities. The BOF meeting on August 10th was the first time the BOF had a chance to take public comments concerning ABX 29's directives and how the BOF might act on them. They heard loud and clear from rural county supervisors, fire district representatives and Fire Safe Council leaders who all opposed the potential fee/tax, primarily on grounds it would undercut their own funding and local public support.

On August 22 the BOF held a special meeting to consider specifics and proceed to adoption of the new regulation. During that hearing, BOF Executive Officer "YG" Gentry presented BOF members with a proposed regulation to charge a fee to the estimated 850,000 owners of parcels containing habitable structures. After careful consideration and minor tweaks to its monetary amounts, the BOF unanimously adopted an Emergency Regulation that will authorize charging landowners an annual fee

SRA (Continued on page 3)

GOLD-SPOTTED OAK BORER

Submitted by Cate Moore

California's oaks are facing another threat; an infestation of Goldspotted Oak Borers (GSOB) has been detected in southern California. All sightings to date have been within the boundaries of San Diego County, but it potentially threatens all of California's oak woodlands. The borer attacks Coast Live Oak, Canyon Live Oak and California Black Oak, preferring mature trees.

When GSOB larvae create feeding galleries underneath the surface of the bark, their attacks may be recognized by the following evidence:

- * Red or black staining in dime-sized to half foot sections
- * Blistering and oozing on the surface of the tree
- * Crown thinning
- * Twig and branch die-back
- * Premature leaf loss

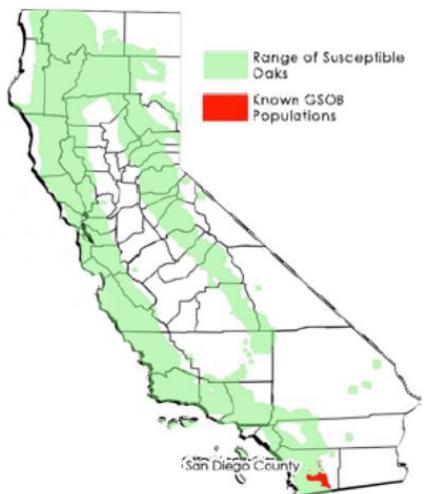
Evidence of injury can also include chipped outer bark from woodpeckers feeding on the larvae and small D-Shaped exit holes where the gold spotted beetles pupate and emerge from the tree. Impact varies between three oak species and can consist of gray or brown coloring in the crown of the tree and thinning of the foliage.

Central California is not yet affected, but vigilance is important. We can help keep our woodlands healthy by watching for the pest and reporting any suspicious trees to UC Extension services. There is a website devoted to the pest where you can read the latest in the infestation. See <http://ucanr.org/sites/gsobinfo/>. If you suspect you have an affected tree, there is a form for reporting it at http://ucanr.org/sites/gsobinfo/Help_MonitorReport_Goldspotted_Oak_Borer_Symptoms/

Let's all do our part to make sure GOB does not find a foothold in the central coast.



**Comparative size—
Gold-Spotted Oak
Borer to a penny**



STUDY DISCREDITS GLOBAL WARMING, AB 32

By Chriss Street

Cal Watchdog, SEPT. 7, 2011

<http://www.calwatchdog.com/2011/09/07/22086/>

Nature Journal of Science, ranked as the world's most-cited scientific periodical, just published the definitive study on Global Warming. It proves the dominant controller of temperatures in the earth's atmosphere is galactic cosmic rays and the sun, rather than man. These "settled science" results should serve as a basis for Californians to overturn the state's radical and now wrong environmental legislation, AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

As one of the report's researchers, Professor Jyrki Kauppinen, summed up his conclusions regarding the potential for man-made global warming: "I think it is such a blatant falsification."

The research was conducted by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, which invented the World Wide Web, built the multi-billion-dollar Large Hadron Collider, and now has constructed a pristinely clean stainless steel chamber that precisely recreates the earth's atmosphere. The climate study involved scientists representing 17 of Europe's and America's premiere research institutes.

The results demonstrate that cosmic rays promote the formation of molecules that can grow and seed clouds in the earth's atmosphere; the temperatures then fall as the density of the clouds increases. Because the sun's magnetic field controls how many cosmic rays reach the earth's atmosphere, the sun determines the temperature on earth.

Nature Journal has been the holy grail of scientific research publication since it was established in England in 1869. Its original editors gave the title to their new scientific journal in celebration of a line by British poet William Wordsworth: "To the solid ground of nature trusts the Mind that builds for aye."

Because research scientists are the primary audience of this most prestigious of journals, the magazine strives to retain its stamp of approval as the pinnacle of scientific credibility for original research. Nature first introduced its readers to X-rays, the DNA double helix, the wave nature of particles, pulsars and, more recently, the mapping of the human genome.

Climategate

But Nature's reputation suffered a huge black eye on November 21, 2009. A hacker broke into the computers at the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit and released 1,079 e-mails and 72 documents exposing willful fraud in several scientific papers published in Nature that supported Al Gore's theory of Anthropogenic Global Warming. CRU houses the world's most extensive data base on atmospheric temperatures. The e-mails exposed blatant exaggerations of the warming data, possible illegal destruction of evidence and a conspiracy to manipulate or suppress data not supporting of the man-made global-warming theory. One e-mail described tricks used supporting anthropogenics in a major Nature article:

"I've just completed Mike's Nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (ie from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 to Keith's to hide the decline."

As the Wall Street Journal and other conservative media hyper-ventilated over the hacker leaks, they referred to as the "Climategate Scandal."

Nature quickly retaliated in defense of anthropogenic global warming with a scathing editorial, "Climatologists Under Pressure," stating:

"Stolen e-mails have revealed no scientific conspiracy, but do highlight ways in which climate researchers could be better supported in the face of public scrutiny."

The editorial skewered academic doubters of man-made global warming as the "climate-change-denialist fringe." And in a shocking Freudian slip, the Nature editorial roared its political partisanship:

"This paranoid interpretation would be laughable were it not for the fact that obstructionist politicians in the US Senate will probably use it next year as an excuse to stiffen their opposition to the country's much needed climate bill. Nothing in the e-mails undermines the scientific case that global warming is real — or that human activities are almost certainly the cause."

Nature Backtracks

For Nature now to publish research that eviscerates the anthropogenics theory heralds a tectonic rejection by academia of support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The U.N. protocol requires every nation on earth to reduce its atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gas to 94.8 percent of 1990 levels to "prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The U.S. Senate legislation that Nature sought to stridently lobby for is named "America's Climate Security Act of 2007"; it's commonly known as the Cap-and-Trade Bill.

The Heritage Foundation estimated that the costs of complying with Cap-and-Trade would include: a 29 percent increase in the price of gasoline, the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and reductions of \$1.7 to \$4.8 trillion of the U.S. GDP by 2030.

Furthermore, Cap-and-Trade would set up a gargantuan intergovernmental bureaucracy that would likely ban natural gas fracking, the steam injection of tar sands and surface coal mining for exploration and the development of America's immense energy reserves.

After 20 years of academic supremacy and hundreds of billions of dollars of costs, the anthropogenic global warming theory seems headed for the dustbin of history. Perhaps the admirable action of the Nature Journal of Science to place scientific integrity above partisan politics will be a valuable lesson for the scientific community in the future.

But don't expect California liberals to abandon their collectivist integrity for mere scientific conclusions. ■

SRA (Continued from page 1)

of \$90, a discount of \$45 for those in existing fire districts, and with the net revenue apportioned by specific dollar amounts per ownership to a variety of worthy programs within ABX 29's range of "fire prevention" possibilities. BOF staff was charged with submitting the regulation to the Office of Administrative Law forthwith.

In our opinion, YG and the Board crafted a masterful implementation of the letter and spirit of the as-enacted ABX 29. Nothing in the bill was either shorted or over-reached. The Board properly complied with what it had no choice in and exercised its discretion intelligently where it was plainly expected to.

When the Governor's Department of Finance later learned

the details of the BOF's Aug 22 action they reportedly came unglued, claiming the \$90 per parcel adoption would not come close to filling the \$50 million budget hole. During the subsequent last week of the Legislative Session the displeased Administration sent a draft SRA fee "clean-up" bill to the Legislature, including a mandate to charge \$175 per parcel (landowners with parcels in existing fire districts would get a \$25 discount), and expanded use of the fee for firefighting (not just fire prevention). Also included was an outrageous idea to charge landowners a contiguous acreage fee of \$1 per acre for the first 100 contiguous acres owned, fifty cents per acre for the next 900 contiguous acres, and up to not more than \$3,000 for 10,000 contiguous acres.

The Regional Council of Rural Counties, a lobbying organization, organized a broad coalition of landowner and forestry organizations to fight passage of this bill. This opposition did their job well and the SRA fee bill failed to pass out of legislative policy committees, thus stalling the Administration's ambition to charge fees to landowners for fire suppression costs. The possibility still exists of the Governor calling a special session of the Legislature to address these fees, but the coalition which effectively derailed the "clean-up" proposal is prepared to resist any such action.

So where does the Board of Forestry stand now? During the September 14 BOF meeting YG Gentry announced that he is prepared to submit the \$90 per parcel fee to OAL, but is holding off proceeding until further discussion with the Governor's office. Our September 20 phone call to the BOF office confirmed that they are awaiting word about how to proceed "by the end of the week" (ending Friday, September 23). It also seems inevitable that any regulation charging fees/taxes to rural landowners will face stiff legal challenges. For instance, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has vowed to fight the measure in court because it violates Prop. 26, which requires that tax increases must pass with a two-thirds majority vote.

In our opinion, the Administration, including the Dept. of Finance, has done an extremely poor job of communicating with the Board of Forestry on this matter, and probably with the legislature as well. They apparently did not participate in the formal rulemaking process that affords anyone the right to submit written and orally presented comment before and/or during a pre-announced open hearing. Additionally, these Finance people appear to prefer that the Board of Forestry disregard obedience to enacted legislation the governor could have rejected but didn't, and instead be responsive to unrevealed agendas held by—or withheld by—non-participating Dept. of Finance, in circumvention of the open public process ordained by the state's Administrative Procedures Act.

We regard the BOF's rulemaking conduct in this SRA fee adoption as impeccably correct and the Dept. of Finance's (as we understand the facts) as something far short of that. The BOF should resume proper observance of the law by forwarding their mandated rule adoption of Aug 22 to Office of Administrative Law for its required review for correctness, and let the Administration rue its own inept role of scofflaw-like, behind-the scenes machinations. Next time, the Administration should at least avoid signing into law legislation that plainly bears unwanted consequences, fails to provide desired ones, and forces those defects onto the implementing agency. ■

See follow-up article on Page 8.

THE SPOTTED OWL'S NEW NEMESIS
An epic battle between environmentalists and loggers
left much of the spotted owl's habitat protected.
Now the celebrity species faces a new threat—a
tougher owl.

By Craig Welch, *Smithsonian magazine*, January 2009

Eric Forsman tramped across the spongy ground with one ear tipped to the tangled branches above. We were circling an isolated Douglas fir and cedar stand near Mary's Peak, the highest point in Oregon's Coast Range, scouring the trees for a puff of tobacco-hued feathers. I had come to see one of the planet's most-studied birds—the Northern spotted owl—with the man who brought the animal to the world's attention.

Forsman stopped. "You hear it?" he asked. I didn't. Above the twitter of winter wrens I caught only the plunk of a creek running through hollow logs. Then Forsman nodded at a scraggly hemlock. Twenty feet off the ground, a cantaloupe-size spotted owl stared back at us. "It's the male," he whispered.

Before I could speak, Forsman was gone. The 61-year-old U.S. Forest Service biologist zipped down one fern-slippery hill and up another. For years, he'd explained, this bird and its mate pumped out babies like fertile field mice, producing more offspring than other spotted owls in the range. Forsman wanted to reach their nest to see if this year's eggs had hatched—and survived.

Every chick counts, because spotted owls are vanishing faster than ever. Nearly 20 years after Forsman's research helped the federal government boot loggers off millions of acres to save the threatened owls, nature has thrown the birds a curveball. A bigger, meaner bird—the barred owl—now drives spotted owls from their turf. Some scientists and wildlife managers have called for arming crews with decoys, shotguns and recorded bird songs in an experimental effort to lure barred owls from the trees and kill them.

To Forsman and other biologists, the bizarre turn is not a refutation of past decisions but a sign of the volatility to come for endangered species in an increasingly erratic world. As climate chaos disrupts migration patterns, wind, weather, vegetation and river flows, unexpected conflicts will arise between species, confounding efforts to halt or slow extinctions. If the spotted owl is any guide, such conflicts could come on quickly, upset the way we save rare plants and animals, and create pressure to act before the science is clear. For spotted owls "we kind of put the blinders on and tried to only manage habitat, hoping things wouldn't get worse," Forsman said. "But over time the barred owl's influence became impossible to ignore."

When I finally hauled myself up to Forsman, yanking on roots for balance, I found him squatting on the ground looking at the curious female spotted owl. The bird, perched unblinking on a low branch not ten feet away, hooted a rising scale as if whistling through a slide flute. Her partner fluttered in and landed on a nearby branch.

Both creatures stared intently at Forsman, who absently picked at a clump of fur and rodent bones—an owl pellet regurgitated by one of the birds. Moments later the female launched herself to a tree crevice some 40 feet off the ground. Her head bobbed as she picked at her nest. Over the next hour, we looked through binoculars hoping to spy a chick.

It was here, not half a mile away, above a trickle of runoff called Greasy Creek, that Forsman saw his first spotted owl nest in 1970. He had grown up chasing great horned owls in the woods outside an old strawberry farm near Eugene, and as an undergraduate at Oregon State University he prowled the forests in search of rare breeds. One day he shimmied up a tree and poked his head inside a crack. He escaped with brutal talon marks on his cheek and one of the earliest recorded glimpses of a spotted owl nest. He also scooped up a sick chick—its eyes were crusted shut—planning to nurse it back to health and return it to its nest. When he came back, though, the adult birds had vanished, so Forsman raised the baby bird himself. It lived in a cage outside his home for 31 years.

Drawn by the romance of this obscure creature that hides in dark woods, Forsman became a spotted owl expert. He was the first to note that the birds nest primarily in the cavities of ancient trees or in the broken-limbed canopies of old-growth forests, where they feast on wood rats, red tree voles, flying squirrels and deer mice. Logging of the Pacific Northwest's conifers accelerated during the post-World War II housing boom and continued afterward. Forsman and a colleague, biologist Richard Reynolds, warned Congress and the U.S. Forest Service that shrinking forests threatened the owl's existence. They sent one of their first letters, to then-Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, in 1973.

The owl population crash finally began in the 1980s, about the time the environmental movement was finding its footing. In an effort to save what remained of the old-growth forests the birds needed to survive, radical environmentalists pounded steel or ceramic spikes into firs, which threatened to destroy chain saws and mill blades. They donned tree costumes to attract attention to their cause and crawled into tree platforms to disrupt logging. Counter-protests erupted. In angry mill towns, café owners provocatively served "spotted owl soup" and shops sold T-shirts and bumper stickers ("Save a Logger, Eat an Owl"). There were lawsuits, and, in 1990, the Northern subspecies of spotted owl came under the Endangered Species Act (two subspecies in other parts of the country were not affected). A sweeping federal court ruling in 1991 closed much of the Northwest woods to logging. By the end of the century, timber harvest on 24 million acres of federal land had dropped 90 percent from its heyday. The spotted owl crystallized the power of the species-protection law. No threatened animal has done

HEARING HELD TO ADDRESS FOREST ACCESS

From California Cattlemen's Association Legislative Bulletin
September 23, 2011

On Monday, Sept. 19, CCA staff attended a Forest Access Field Hearing of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, held at the California State Capitol. Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA) were all in attendance. Various users and managers of public lands, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Regional Forester Randy Moore, presented to the committee.

As each panel participant addressed the members of the subcommittee, the representatives had a chance to question them about their practices, reasons for desiring increased uses on public lands and inquiring as to what barriers existed to achieving the desired outcomes. Much pressure was placed on the regional

forester, as well as the environmental groups, which frequently seek to limit public access, to reconsider their stances and relinquish use of the land to the public to whom it belongs.

In his opening statement, McClintock incited the Forest Service to significantly alter their current practices, saying, "I believe that the vast timber, land and recreational assets administered by the U. S. Forest Service represent a limitless and renewable source of prosperity for our nation and for our local economies, a portion of which can then be redirected to assure the maintenance and preservation of the national forest lands for the use, enjoyment and prosperity of the American people in perpetuity. But, that will require a significant change in policy within the current administration."

Throughout the hearing, rhetoric from all three congressmen became more direct, citing USFS and environmental groups as roadblocks and aggressors against the fight for public use on public grounds. CCA applauds the representatives for holding this hearing and encourages their continued work on increasing access to public land. ■

WOOD IS THE GREENEST BUILDING MATERIAL, USDA SAYS

Los Angeles Times, October 3, 2011

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/10/wood-green-building-material.html>

Susan Carpenter

A report from the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday found that using wood in building products yielded fewer greenhouse gases than other common building materials, such as concrete and steel. According to the report, which analyzed dozens of peer-reviewed scientific studies, 2.1 tons of greenhouse gases were saved for each ton of carbon in wood products versus non-wood materials.

"This study confirms what many environmental scientists have been saying for years," U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement. "Wood should be a major component of American building and energy design. The use of wood provides substantial environmental benefits, provides incentives for private landowners to maintain forest land, and provides a critical source of jobs in rural America."

According to the USDA, the use of forest products in the U.S. contributes more than \$100 billion to gross domestic product and supports more than 1 million jobs in the country. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service report found that developing wood products from small-diameter trees, dead trees and brush provides revenue to land managers to treat ecosystems damaged by fire and invasive species, helping to promote a healthful environment and a strong economy.

"The argument that somehow non-wood construction materials are ultimately better for carbon emissions than wood products is not supported by our research," said David Cleaves, the U.S. Forest Service Climate Change Advisor. "Trees removed in an environmentally responsible way allow forests to continue to sequester carbon through new forest growth. Wood products continue to benefit the environment by storing carbon long after the building has been constructed."

Over 100 years, the report said, net greenhouse gas emissions of wood-based homes was 20% to 50% lower than for homes built with concrete or steel. ■

SIERRA FORESTERS SAY MODERN PRACTICES DEBUNK OLD MYTHS

By Kate Campbell, assistant editor, Ag Alert, August 24, 2011

New research, technology, and management practices shape the forests of the future, according to foresters, loggers, and sawmill operators who described their work during a tour of Tuolumne County forestry sites last week.

The tour, sponsored by the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau and the Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources, gave California Farm Bureau Federation leaders and natural resources policy specialists a firsthand look at what's happening in Sierra Nevada forests.

In general, there are two types of forestry management approaches, said Tim Tate, Sierra Pacific Industries district manager: management that uses individual tree selection, and even-age stand management.

"Our preference is to manage our timberlands in an even-age manner," Tate said during one of the tour stops.

Even-age management calls for cutting all of the trees in a small area and replanting using a variety of tree species that in 70 to 100 years will provide commercial lumber, he explained. Modern even-age management practices provide improved visual appeal for the public, better habitat for a variety of woodland species, and a tripling of lumber yields at harvest, Tate said.

The practice used to be called clear-cutting, he said, which has been highly criticized. He noted that the practices that created environmental concerns haven't been used in California in nearly 50 years.

He said it's a myth that only one species of tree is replanted after an even-age harvest and that the diverse seedlings are planted only in uniform rows "like radishes that need to be thinned." It's also not true that the visual impacts of harvest remain forever; in fact, the forest ecosystem begins to regenerate with in year or two, he said.

While noting that "an even-age cut immediately after harvest looks pretty rough," Tate said the practice offers a number of advantages. By starting from an open area and planting the seedlings of native trees that will do well in the location, foresters gain control of stocking levels from the very beginning. That means healthier trees grown in appropriate densities, which provides better yields for wood that will be used by future generations.

"Our even-age units, when harvested by ground-based equipment, are limited by state law to 20 acres in size," Tate explained, "and harvested units are separated from one another by buffer areas."

Looking at the forest from the perspective of professionals was an eye-opener, said CFBF First vice President Kenny Watkins, who participated in the tour.

"This kind of background helps when we talk to regulators and legislators about what is actually happening in our forests," said Watkins, who is a San Joaquin County cattle rancher and farmer. "Forestry is such a huge part of our state, with about a third of California covered by forests. It's a major economic engine based on the jobs it provides and the variety of products made from wood."

California has more forestland than any other state except Alaska, and is the nation's third largest producer of wood

Old Myths (Continued on page 7)

Ties to the Land Workshops

11 Evening Workshops Offered This Fall!



Subject: Ties to the Land Workshops series this fall - please pass this on to potentially interested attendees.

If there is interest in the Central Coast, I could come down in the winter of 2012. Bill Stewart billstewart@berkeley.edu

General Overview

Forest landowners and their families are invited to a workshop to learn simple techniques to help with passing your land and its legacy on to the next generation. Succession planning involves more than just having a will or an estate plan, as those legal tools will only ensure your heirs inherit the property, but not that they will want to carry out the vision for it or even want. It also need you and your family to ensure that your values and plans are clearly laid out in your own management plans. Succession planning helps you pass on more than just the land. Passing on your passion takes preparation and planning, and can be legally and emotionally challenging. Despite this, many people find working through the challenges to a completed plan rewarding, satisfying and results in peace of mind.

The Ties to the Land Workshops are designed to give you a firm understanding of the succession planning process and the tools to get started.

At the workshop you will:

- Learn the steps to succession planning
- Clarify your values and goals for your family forest or ranch
- Take home tools to determine your heirs' interests
- Gain knowledge of legal and other business considerations

Understand the financial impacts of ownership transfers across generations.

This is a two park workshop series with one workshop in the fall before the holidays when family members often come together and a follow-up workshop in early 2012. The follow up workshop will focus on the financial and legal approaches and tools (trusts, limited liability companies, easements, etc) and specific resource management planning approaches.

We encourage multiple members of the family to attend both fall and winter workshops. Even if the family does not all live in the same location, family members are encouraged to attend the workshop location that is nearest to them, as the curriculum will be the same at all locations.

Registration

Registration is required. The cost is \$25 per family for the workbook and DVD, along with light refreshments. On-line registration and credit card payment is available.

Registration by mail is accepted too. A mail-in registration form is available.

For more information, call your local Cooperative Extension office, call (510)643-5429, or visit online at: <http://ucanr.org/tiestotheland/>

Workshop Location and Logistics

The location, dates and addresses of the 11 workshops are shown at the links below. Each workshop will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

[Redding, Tuesday, October 25](#)

[Yreka, Wednesday, October 26](#)

[Quincy, Thursday, October 27](#)

[Ukiah, Tuesday, November 8](#)

[Garberville, Wednesday, November 9](#)

[Eureka, Thursday, November 10](#)

[Berkeley, Tuesday, November 15](#)

[Rohnert Park, Wednesday, November 16](#)

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(Office Location: 211 Mulford Hall)

Old Myths *(Continued from page 5)*

products. The California Department of Food and Agriculture noted in its current agricultural statistics report that, if efficient, environmentally sensitive timber harvesting was permitted, California forests could every year sustainable provide nearly 100 percent of the state's demand for wood.

But analysis by the California Forestry Association found that on private lands statewide, harvest restrictions mean less than 10 percent of annual tree growth is removed. For public forests, only 4.1 percent of annual growth is being harvested.

Tour leaders pointed out that in Tuolumne County, timber harvesting has fallen from an economically sustainable 100 million board feet 20 years ago to about 25 million board feet this year.

"Congress clearly mandates that our national forests are to be managed for multiple uses, including timber production, grazing, and ecological services," said Jack Rice, CFBF associate counsel for natural resources and the environment.

"These forests should be setting an example for how public land can be managed in a way that supports sustainability and allows for profitable resource use," Rice said. "Our forest managers know how to do this, but persistent litigation by special interest groups has resulted in land use decisions being made in

the courthouse instead of the field. That really hurts the health of our forests and our communities."

At a Stanislaus National Forest experimental harvest site, the tour focused on a select harvest project—only pre-selected trees are removed to open up an overly dense area and promote forest health, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat.

Mike Albrecht, co-owner of Sierra Resource Management, described the harvesting process using equipment that leaves little impact on the land. In addition, selected trees are mechanically stripped of limbs and chipped on site, with chippings going to generate electricity at a biomass power plant in Sonora.

The tour also included a visit to the Sierra Pacific Mill in Chinese Camp, which processes timber for cedar fencing and wood used to make No. 2 pencils. The mill employs about 300 workers and is among the few still operating in California. About 70 percent of the state's sawmills have gone out of business in the past 20 years.

Sierra Pacific spokesman Mark Luster pointed out the for California mills to say in business, it's essential to compete in a global market. But he said many factors prevent that.

He cited as an example the \$70,000 cost of preparing a timber harvest plan in California, compared to \$8,000 in Washington state.

Regulations, he said, aren't just restrictive, they're also a moving target given to frequent changes. This adds to the challenges of cutting timber, the only agricultural crop that requires a harvest permit.

"In the current situation, we can't compete against the rest of the nation or the world," Luster said. "For the most part, the wood we use in California today we get from other countries." ■

JUDGE CRITICIZES U.S. FISHERY AGENCY IN RULING ON SALMON

By Kate Campbell, assistant editor, Ag Alert, September 28, 2011

In a scathing 279-page decision, a federal judge in Fresno threw out elements of a species management plan for salmon and steelhead, developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Judge Oliver Wanger called parts of the plan "arbitrary, capricious, and unlawful," going so far as to call an agency official dishonest and a "zealot."

Wanger continued to hold in his decision that pumping operations negatively effect protected species and critical habitat in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but stressed in his decision that other factors also play a major role in the health and viability of delta fish populations.

The court's decision means the agency will have to go back and, for the third time, rewrite its plan for addressing the impacts on water project operations and water flows through the delta. Past biological opinions also have been challenged in court and found inadequate.

Wanger, who steps down from the bench Sept. 30 after 20 years of service, called for NMFS to develop a new, science-based opinion that helps protect migrating salmon and steelhead, as well as other species, and at the same time allows adequate operational levels for water deliveries to urban and agricultural users.

NMFS *(Continued on page 8)*

NEW STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA) FIRE PROTECTION FEE BILLS LEFT IN COMMITTEE

From California Forestry Association

As you know, SRA fees were originally included in a budget trailer bill last June that provided the Board of Forestry (BOF) adopt a fee up to \$150 on "habitable structures" in the SRA for "fire prevention" purposes. Much of this fee was apparently intended to cover a \$50 million reduction in Cal Fire's budget. When it became questionable if the "habitable structure" and "fire prevention" purpose may be too limited in scope to generate enough funds to cover the hole in Cal Fire's budget, and when the BOF adopted a fee of only \$90, the Department of Finance indicated they were going to propose a "clean-up" bill to expand the potential uses of the fee and mandate the \$150.

But when the SRA fee "clean-up" bills were drafted (SBx1-7 and ABx1-24), they now included a fee up to \$3000/year for contiguous acreage at the following rate...one dollar (\$1) per acre for the first 100 contiguous acres owned, fifty cents (\$.50) per acre for the next 900 contiguous acres owned, and twenty-five cents (\$.25) per acre for each additional contiguous acre owned, not to exceed a total of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for 10,000 acres or more owned (interpreted as contiguously owned).

This could have cost CFA members potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) put together a broad coalition of organizations opposing the bills, and CFA weighed-in with our labor allies.

With strong bi-partisan opposition, the bills never passed out of policy committees by the end of the legislative session.

While this was a good win, rumors suggest this issue could be revisited in special session, or more likely in the 2012 legislative session. Meanwhile, the BOF will likely be asked to reconsider increasing the previously adopted fee schedule. ■

NMFS (*Continued from page 7*)

He has already issued an injunction related to adjust the location of the delta's fresh water and salt water mixing zone, which called for scientifically unsupported water releases from storage facilities.

"Given the potential serious impacts of these measures, the agency must do more to comply with the law," the judge stressed in his ruling.

"The court got it right again," said Tom Birmingham, general manager of Westlands Water District, which was one of numerous plaintiffs in the consolidated salmonid case. "The court repeatedly found that the federal agencies charged with implementing the Endangered Species Act have failed to comply with the law because they have failed to base their decision on science."

He said the agencies "now have an opportunity to make fundamental changes in the way they implement this law, and it is our hope they take advantage of that opportunity."

A major premise of the government's biological opinion is that pumping water from the delta for storage and delivery through state and federal water projects threatens species and

habitat.

To prevent loss at the pumps, the biological opinion required reducing operations and increasing river flows, "but does not support the BiOps conclusions about the connection between project operations on the one hand and pollution and/or food limitations on the other," Wanger found.

"The operations of the farmers we serve are repeatedly crippled by regulations that provide little, if any, benefit to fish," Birmingham said. "We must find a better way to serve the needs of these fish and the people who depend on water supplied by these projects."

"The California Farm Bureau Federation has consistently sought reliance on sound science," said Farm Bureau environmental attorney Chris Scheuring.

"The back-and-forth over the science in the delta has not improved the level of certainty about what needs to be done," Scheuring said. "It continues to be unclear what culpability water export operations have in the decline of species' populations."

Scheuring said Farm Bureau has urged government agencies to look at the full range of impacts on fish, beyond delta water diversions.

"Restricting water deliveries to cities, industrial operations, and farm water users is a big thing and we can't just experiment with one factor related to California's water supply in hopes fish in the delta will recover," he said. "It's bad for the species, bad for urban water users, bad for agriculture, and bad for the California economy." ■

IN THE LAST QUARTER, CCFA HAS:

- * Reported on a new pest that just entered the state, the Gold-spotted Oak Borer
- * Attended the 2011 Redwood Symposium. Watch for ongoing reports of what we learned in subsequent newsletters
- * Corresponded with the governor and the Board of Forestry about SRA fees and subscribed to the legislative bills addressing them.
- * Corresponded with our local Congressmen regarding the Silvicultural Exemption bills and subscribed to the bills addressing them.
- * Corresponded to the Assembly Accountability and Administrative Review Committee about THP fees and testified in the September 27 hearing.

Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness and is power of endurance. The cheerful man will do more in the same time, will do it better, will reserve it longer, than the sad or sullen.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

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BIZARRO
BY DAN PIRARO



Condensed from "Will the UN Grant 'Mother Earth' Human Rights?", American Hunter, July 2011

Bolivia is pushing a United Nations treaty that would give "Mother Earth" the same rights as humans. Bolivian President Evo Morales is modeling his treaty on one he signed into law in Bolivia that grants insects, reptiles and shrubbery the same rights as humans. Granting rights to Mother Earth would give human lawyers the open-ended ability to sue "on behalf of the Earth." Perhaps you'd have to see the "relatives" of the buck you shot last season in court. Of course, you are still unlikely to get satisfaction from Mother Earth, if you sue her for a drought, hurricane damage, insect infestation or coyote depredations. Bolivia has already established a "Ministry of Mother Earth" which provides the planet with an arbitrator whose job it is to hear nature's complaints (as voiced by activists).

Cass Sunstein, Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, is on the record supporting this legal concept.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any weirder...



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.ccfaassociation.org or by e-mail to: ccfa@ccfaassociation.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

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.*