



Central Coast Forest Association

CARBON MITIGATION BY BIOFUELS OR BY SAVING AND RESTORING FORESTS?

By Renton Righelato and Dominick V. Spracklen
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Choosing from among the host of strategies for mitigation of anthropogenic carbon emissions is not easy. There are competing environmental priorities, social and economic factors, and commercial and political interests. One strategy that has received extensive attention is the use of biofuels for transport, particularly ethanol from fermentation of carbohydrate crops as a substitute for petrol and vegetable oils in place of diesel fuel. Such an approach would require very large areas of land in order to make a significant contribution to mitigation of fossil fuel emission and would, directly or indirectly, put further pressure on natural forests and grasslands.

Two issues need to be addressed before the efficacy of biofuels can be assessed: the net reduction in fossil carbon emission (avoided emissions) arising from use of agriculturally derived biofuels and the effect of alternative land-use strategies on carbon stores in the biosphere. Estimates of avoided emissions vary widely depending on crop, fuel type, and conversion technology used. In these analyses, no allowance has been made for emissions arising from change in land use to produce the fuel crop. In all cases, forestation of an equivalent area of land would sequester two to nine times more carbon over a 30-year period than the emissions avoided by the use of the biofuels. Taking this opportunity cost into account, the emissions cost of liquid biofuels exceeds that of fossil fuels.

Moreover, large areas of land would be needed to make significant quantities of fuel. A 10% substitution of petrol and diesel fuel is estimated to require 43% and 38% of current cropland area in the United States and Europe, respectively. As even this low substitution level cannot be met from existing arable land, forests and grasslands would need to be cleared to enable production of the energy crops. Clearance results in the rapid oxidation of carbon stores in the vegetation and soil, creating a large up-front emissions cost that would, in all cases examined here, outweigh the avoided emissions.

Of the biofuels sources available, only conversion of woody bio mass can be used directly for fuel or converted to liquid fuels. Although still in a development stage, avoided emissions in temperate zones appear similar to assimilation by forest restoration. *Moreover, it may be possible to avoid environmental problems associated with extensive monoculture by harvesting from standing forests. In this case, soil and above-ground carbon stocks may be built up in parallel with sustainable harvesting.*

Bottom line: *The carbon sequestered by growing forests is greater than the emissions avoided by the use of liquid biofuels.* ■

PROTOCOLS PUT TREES AHEAD OF THE FORESTS

By William Wade Keye - Special To The Bee
Sacramento Bee Forum, Sunday, September 23, 2007

Environmentalists like forests, but they don't especially like forestry. Since forestry, by actually touching the landscape, messes with the fantasy of unspoiled nature, activists promote land-use policies that preserve the fantasy but ignore the reality.

Take global warming, and the potential role that California forests -- and forestry -- can play in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in trees, forest soils and long-lived wood products. Only here in the birthplace of the Sierra Club could you have a state-sanctioned Climate Action Registry with a system of forestry protocols carefully concocted to service the fantasy and snub the reality.

Our Kyoto-inspired protocols resulted from legislation passed in 2002 (Senate Bill 812), in the halcyon days before global warming -- and genuine interest in so-called "cap and trade" carbon trading schemes -- really went mainstream. Now, after Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and the passage of Assembly Bill 32, the forestry part of the issue is about to get serious.

Under AB 32, the Air Resources Board is charged with leading California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels. A small but important component of this is expanding and financially crediting the role that forests -- and forestry -- can play in capturing and storing carbon dioxide.

The ARB is scheduled to adopt the existing but flawed forestry protocols at its October meeting. If it takes this action, it will please "cut no tree" environmental types but greatly diminish the true potential for California forestry to help in achieving the goals of AB 32 by playing a vigorous role in the emerging marketplace for carbon credits.

What's wrong with the current protocols? Nothing, if you're managing forest property as a park. Because environmentalists don't like forestry, the protocols are skewed to reward landowners who grow trees but don't harvest them. They have nothing to offer to traditional forestry interests who are in the business of planting, growing and cutting trees.

This is unfortunate, because young trees "eat" atmospheric carbon like teenagers devour pizza. Actively managed forests also generate high levels of wood products that store carbon for decades. Residues such as sawdust are commonly used to generate biomass electricity, a form of renewable energy.

Mature trees store carbon, but does old growth capture -- "sequester" -- more atmospheric CO2 than younger timber stands? No, it doesn't. Old forests have many ecological values, but they're essentially geriatric wards when it comes to their net growth.

See Protocols (Continued on page 4)

STEPS TO TIMBER HARVEST PLAN APPROVAL IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

By Jim Hildreth

The redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains are some of the most regulated forests in the world. These regulations require that forest management activities are conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner. This has resulted in managed forests that have multiple resource values including lumber production, wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. Selection harvesting (thinning) is the only type of commercial harvesting allowed in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Timber Harvest Plans are required for commercial operations where you intend to sell your timber. These plans must be developed and signed by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). All plans are then reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team of resource professionals including, but not limited to, the California Department of Forestry, Department of Fish & Game, California Geological Survey, Water Quality Control Board and the County.

There are many steps that must be completed prior to the approval of a harvest plan. The following is a partial list of some of the steps required for plan development through approval:

A. Conduct research prior to the fieldwork to prepare a Timber Harvest Plan.

1. Review property maps, assessor maps, aerial photos, deeds.
2. Research Biological databases for rare, endangered and unique species of fish, wildlife & plants.
3. Research soil, geologic & landslide maps for soil types and the potential presence of unstable areas.
4. Contact Archeological Information Center for possible recorded Native American and historic cultural sites, and contact Native American Representatives for information.
5. Research the presence of domestic water supplies within and near the plan area.

B. Complete field work to prepare the Timber Harvest Plan. During the course of field work, the following are some of the items that are located, identified, flagged out, protected, and activities mitigated.

1. Rare, endangered, or unique species and habitat
2. Archeological and historical sites
3. Landslides, excessively erosive soils and other hazardous geologic features
4. Stream classification & watercourse and lake protection zones.
5. Domestic water intakes
6. Fire protection zones near home sites.
7. Roads, trails and landings will be laid out to be compatible with special items in #1 above, to move as little soil as possible and to protect the residual vegetation.
8. Determine the best location for the roads, trails, and landings in the field and flag them.
9. Design erosion control features into the planning of the roads, trails, landings and watercourse crossings. Size all crossings to handle 100-year storm events. Include mitigation measures into the plan such as straw mulch-

ing, seeding, tractor slash packing, rocking, outsloping, waterbreaks and rolling dips.

10. Incorporate the flagged special treatment areas, their protection and mitigation measures into the plan.
11. Select the conifer trees to be removed and mark them with paint. An individual tree evaluation and selection method is used. The trees when marked are measured, tallied, and the volumes are estimated.

C. Prepare the Timber Harvest Plan

1. Prepare maps
 - a. Location map
 - b. Haul route map
 - c. Planning watershed map
 - d. Notice of Intent to Harvest/Domestic Water Supply Inquiry map
 - e. Erosion hazard rating map, soils map, cutting unit map
 - f. Harvest Plan map showing the following:
 - 1) Location of special treatment areas: rare and endangered species and habitat, archeological and historic sites, and water pickups
 - 2) Streams and springs
 - 3) Landslides and other geologic features
 - 4) Existing and proposed roads, trails, landings and watercourse crossings.
 - 5) Areas to be harvested and yarding method
 - 6) Dwellings in immediate vicinity
2. Completion of the THP application and its addendum's.
 - a. Soil erosion hazard rating
 - b. Stream protection measures
 - c. Watercourse crossings and treatment
 - d. Address any rare, endangered, or unique species or habitat and provide for its protection
 - e. Road, trail, and landing construction
 - f. Silvicultural and timber stand data and discussion
 - g. Harvesting practices and type of equipment
 - h. Erosion control practices to be carried out
 - i. Archeological and historic report
 - j. Department of Fish and Game 1600 report
 - k. Domestic water uptake report and notification
 - l. Cumulative Impacts Assessment that addresses:
 - 1) The planning watershed
 - 2) Soil productivity
 - 3) Biological resources
 - 4) Recreation resources
 - 5) Visual resources
 - 6) Traffic
 - 7) Fire

m. A "Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber/Domestic Water Supply Inquiry" must be mailed to neighbors and published in a newspaper prior to plan submittal. This work includes obtaining neighbors names and addresses to be notified, notifying them and agencies, and posting and publishing the notice.

D. Obtain signatures on the plan and file it with the California Department of Forestry for review.

- ### E. Participate in the plan review process
1. Pre-harvest inspection with review Agencies.



2. Provide additional information as requested by the Agencies.
3. Work with all review agencies and personnel to reach agreement on an acceptable plan and revise THP language.
4. Participate in the second review team meeting.
5. Participate in the Public hearing.

F. Prepare and obtain other permits such as the Water Quality Control Board Waiver, and if necessary, the Fish and Game 1600 series permit

As you can see, there are many steps to developing a Timber Harvest Plan. The THP has a life of three years in which to complete the logging. This three year expiration may be extended no more than two years (for a total of five years) at the discretion of CDF.

Believe it or not, there is another type of harvest plan that requires even more work and expense. It is called a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP). This type of plan does not expire. But since it is a long term plan, the plan includes more information. In addition to the information required for a Timber Harvest Plan, the NTMP must include a timber inventory, an estimate of growth and yield, and a determination of the sustainable amount of harvesting over time. The review process is typically longer and may have more issues due to the Agencies having only one chance to participate in the review of the plan.

Due to the vast amount of local regulation, local experience by the RPF and logger is very helpful in the development and implementation of these harvest plans. You will help yourself by planning far ahead. It is not uncommon for the forester to require several months to complete the work necessary for plan submittal. Once submitted, the review process can take anywhere from four months to well over a year for plan approval. In addition, all plans need a separate permit from Water Quality. Unfortunately, this requirement has frustrated many landowners as our local Water Quality Control Board takes at least 30-140 days to approve the waiver. And they will not begin to work on the waiver until the plan is almost approved. If there is any lesson to be learned it is to PLAN AHEAD! ■

WHAT CCFA HAS BEEN DOING TO SUPPORT ITS MEMBERS

CCFA Staff Report

On September 7, 2007, in San Luis Obispo, CCFA Board member Eric Moore testified on behalf of landowner Steve Dousman before the Central Coast Regional Water Quality control board. Mr. Dousman has been trying to get a timber waiver for his Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP.) Opposing the plan were Jodi Frediani and Kevin Collins, local professional anti-logging activists. During the testimony, the two were challenged by the Water Board when they tried to present a five-year-old photo of a slide as the current condition of that area. It also came out that despite having filed detailed objections to the NTMP, they had not actually read the NTMP until the day before the hearing. Furthermore, they did not object to being identified as paid activists.

The hearing allowed Mr. Dousman to modify his waiver, removing the more egregious errors, such as the requirement

that Mr. Dousman trespass onto City of Santa Cruz property to take water measurements. With the errors cleared from the waiver requirements, Mr. Dousman now has his waiver.

On another front, the CCFA Board sent a letter to the Santa Cruz County Planning Department requesting a full environmental impact report in regard to their Negative Declaration requiring Timber Production (TP) properties be forty acres or more. We find that this, in conjunction with the rule that requires logging occur only in TP zones, can dramatically increase the risk of wildfire due to vegetation overstocking in those areas where small forested parcels and housing are intermingled. These urban interface areas are heavily populated and have few avenues of evacuation. ■

AGRICULTURAL CRIME OFFICE OPENS

The Rural Unit's Agricultural Crime Office is now open. They are recruiting volunteers to assist them in running the office. If you are interested, contact Sgt. Christine Swannack at (831) 763-4420 or Deputy B. Erbe at (831) 212-1775.

If you wish the assistance of the Rural Crime Unit, the phone number is (831) 763-4420.

Please bear in mind that the California Farm Bureau Federation recognizes timber as an agricultural crop

TIMBER SALES DROP

Ag Alert, September 5, 2007

The slowdown in the housing market had reduced demand for timber. The Western Wood Products Association projects continued slower demand for timber through next year. That leaves California tree farmers to cope with declining demand even as costs increase for their required timber harvest plans. A university study shows those harvest plan costs have jumped some 1,200 percent in the last 20 years. ■



CCFA Loses a Board Member and Good Friend

Charles Burton, longtime local forest landowner passed away on September 19 after a long illness. Charles was a founding member of CCFA, a member of the Board of Directors and a good friend and strong supporter of the forest industry. He cared for his land and its trees and planted hundreds of them, as well as having them selectively harvested. He will be missed.

His wife Jane survives him and a son, Dick, was a CCFA Board member until recently when he resigned to care for his father.

We're hoping Dick will come back onto the Board when he is ready and able.

Protocols *(Continued from page 1)*

Younger trees are photosynthesizing much more than they're decaying, scrubbing CO₂ out of the air and replacing it with oxygen.

Another pitfall of the current protocols is that they require forest landowners to grant a permanent conservation easement on their property before being allowed to participate. That's simply a nonstarter for most potential players in the private sector.

Forested parklands are great for storing carbon, especially if they're protected from wildfire and growth still exceeds the natural rate of decomposition. California has millions of acres of this type of passive carbon reserve, mostly in state or federal ownership.

But not all California forestland can or should be in parks. Millions of other acres are owned by individuals, families and companies. To reduce development pressures, private timberlands should be encouraged to profitably manage their holdings. After all, undeveloped forestland already provides a suite of ecosystem services to the public (wildlife habitat, clean air and water) that are not properly monetized.

Science, not emotion, should play the major role in setting policies putting California's extensive forest resources to work combating climate change. This will, in turn, stimulate a more productive and stable rural forestry sector in the Golden State. The ability of California forests -- and forestry -- to capture and store carbon should be the focus of the ARB, not the retention of a politically correct but inadequate set of forest protocols. ■

CSA 48 --- WHAT IT WILL MEAN TO YOU

By Tom Walsh
Senior Coalition

What is a CSA (County Service Area)? A County Service Area is designed to provide expanded services tailored to specific unincorporated areas of a county.

Background

In unincorporated areas, basic services like water, sewer, police and fire protection are provided by the county. Because counties often consist of large and diverse geographical areas, providing a consistent and adequate service level across all areas can be difficult. Residents of urban communities may want more services than those residing in rural areas.

The County Service Area Law (Government Code §25210.1 et seq.) was created in the 1950's to provide a means of providing expanded service levels in areas where residents are willing to pay for the extra service.

CSA 48 is asking for a 100% increase in our tax dollars. Currently we are paying approximately \$900,000.00 for special fire service provided by CAL-FIRE. The communities serviced are Bonny Doon, Davenport, Summit/Loma Prieta, South Skyline and Corralitos. The money collected from CSA 48 will help fund County Fire, which is in financial disarray. Can you name these expanded special services, especially, if you have a volunteer Fire Department?

If this ballot measure loses, we will lose nothing. The CSA 48 will continue to receive the approximate \$900,000.00 it gets from taxpayers now, and has for many years, and will continue to receive for many years to come. What extra service did you get from CAL-FIRE??

This is the worst type of TAX!!

- ✓ There is **NO Sunset Clause**, the tax goes on indefinitely. It has a provision to raise the tax based to the Consumer Price Index.
- ✓ There is **NO** accountability!
- ✓ The charge per parcel is not **uniform and equitable**.

The CSA can and does spend our money as they see fit for fire-related services. This explanation is very broad and not specific. Most of the increase in the **TAX** would be for payment of wages, **not service or equipment**. Where has the reserve for vehicle replacement gone over these past years??

It appears that this new **TAX** is really intended to provide an additional \$900,000.00 that will go directly for Santa Cruz County salary increases and has nothing to do with providing or maintaining CSA 48 services.

A **100% TAX increase** will allow the County Supervisors to free up **\$900,000.00** from the general fund which now provides for the CSA 48 services. You are being **TAXED** to pay for the County employees salary increases, not improved service or safety. ■

CCFA offers two exceptional publications



"The Great Salmon Hoax"

An Eyewitness Account of the Collapse of Science and Law and the Triumph of Politics in Salmon Recovery

by James Buchal

Price \$10



"Assessment of the Southern Range of North American Coho Salmon: Difficulties in Establishing Natural Range Boundaries"

by V.W. Kaczynski and Fabian Alvarado

Price \$5

Please contact Cate Moore for your copies
cateymoore@mac.com, phone 831-335-4764

Central Coast Forest Association Membership / Renewal / Contribution

Name _____ Date _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for: New Membership Membership Renewal Legal Fund

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to:

Central Coast Forest Association P.O. Box 1670 Capitola, CA 95010

| Membership Category | Dues |
|---------------------|-------|
| Individual | \$50 |
| Business | \$500 |

CCFA appreciates your support

CCFA is a 501-(c) 4 tax-exempt organization. Donations may be tax-deductible as a business expense.



Notes From the Nut-House



Non Sequitur

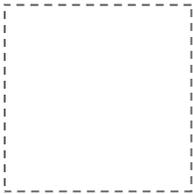


QUOTE, UNQUOTE

NO INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HAS A MONOPOLY ON THE LOVE OF NATURE OR A CONCERN FOR THE ECOLOGY OR THE ENVIRONMENT OR WILDLIFE. ACCUSATIONS OR STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY ARE A VIOLATION OF ANY SENSE OF DECENCY ON THE PART OF SUCH ACCUSERS AND IMPLIES A SELF-RIGHTEOUS ATTITUDE.

*Marvin M. Schumacher
Mayor of Monona, WI 1975*

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



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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.*