



## Central Coast Forest Association

### ASSAULT ON TP ALLOWED USES BY HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Submitted by Cate Moore

As part of their proposed Chapter 11 Plan for Reorganization, The Pacific Lumber Company and its subsidiaries proposed to develop and sell approximately 22,000 acres of their redwood forest holdings as 160 acre parcels for high-end low-density residential and recreational development. On October 9, 2007 the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors came unglued and passed an interim urgency ordinance prohibiting residential uses on lands zoned Timber Production in Humboldt County. On October 23, the supervisors voted to have their Planning Commission develop two ordinances addressing single family residential development on TP land.

This far over-steps their authority as defined by state law regarding TP zoning. The 1982 California Timberland Productivity Act, as enacted in California Government Code Section 51104(h) allows "compatible uses" on land zoned for timberland; i.e. one can use one's land for other things at the same time, as long as the other uses do not significantly impede growing and harvesting timber. One of the phrases written in this section of the code specifically calls out as an allowed use "A residence or other structure necessary for the management of land zoned as timber production." The normal interpretation of this sentence allow the landowner to build a residence, or he may have a building necessary for land management. Humboldt County is choosing to interpret the sentence to mean that the residence must be shown to be necessary for land management before it can be permitted.

There are a great number of small tree farms about 160 acres in size where the owner of the land has a residence on the land. These residences have not impeded timber production. If anything, they promote good land management, since the owners are present on a daily basis to see just what is happening on their land.

In response to this assault on TPZ property owner's rights, the Humboldt Property Alliance was quickly formed to tackle the issue. They organized a protest on the County Courthouse steps and started a petition drive to protest the ordinance. The Humboldt County Farm Bureau has weighed in opposing the proposed change in compatible use definitions.

There was a public hearing set for December 11, 2007 to discuss proposed changes to Timber Production Zone ordinances which removes residences from the list of principally permitted use types and moves them to a type permitted with a Use Permit. If this passes, each person wishing to build a house on his TP land will have to demonstrate that said house is needed for the management of the land to get a Use Permit allowing them to build. ■

### MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR, DOUG WHITE

By Log editor, Barbara McCrary

Doug was born in Bremerton, WA to Navy parents so consequently moved around the country a good deal...from Washington to Virginia and from California to Panama and back.

He attended and graduated from Stanford University and spent two years in the Marine Corps, where he served in the air wing as an intelligence officer. His job was really as a legal officer, he says, where he tried special court marshals as a trial council (prosecutor.) He says he had fun and never lost a case.



Doug White

After an honorable discharge from the USMC, he moved to Colusa where he remained until last year, when he and his wife Barbara built a new home in the hills above Scotts Valley.

In Colusa, he owned and operated a business that at first was a grain brokerage and an insurance agency. It morphed into an insurance and real estate brokerage business when Cargill, Inc. changed its method of buying grain in California.

Some, and by no means all, of his extra-curricular activities include: 40 plus years in Colusa Rotary Club and its past president; 48 plus years as a member of the California Commonwealth Club; 7 years as an elected member of the Colusa City Council and a mayor for one year; 8 years as an elected member of the Colusa County Board of Supervisors and Chairman of the Board in 2000; several years on the Colusa County Republican Central Committee. He served as an assistant scout master when his sons were in Troop 32 of Boy Scouts of America. He had been active as a Boy Scout for three years when living in Saratoga.

Doug has been an avid duck hunter and trout fisherman, hiker and camper and brought up his sons to participate in these activities. He has run 36 marathons and one 50-miler, plus many races of lesser distances. He has been active in horseback endurance riding, as well.

He is the proud father of five sons and one daughter and considers his wife Barbara to be his greatest good fortune as his partner, friend and guiding light.

It is CCFA's good fortune to have Doug on the Board. ■

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

## MORE AGENCY DELAYS IN THE TIMBER HARVEST PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

By Jim Hildreth, CCFA President

Landowners and foresters alike are extremely frustrated with the timber harvest plan review process. The process has always been unnecessarily slow, but 2007 has seen the process slow down to a crawl.

The timber harvest plan is submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The plan is then reviewed and officially filed. Cal Fire sends out paperwork to the forester, plan submitter and review agencies that clearly states that the pre-harvest inspection must occur within a certain range of dates. This timeline is normally within two weeks of the plan being filed by Cal Fire.

This is where the delays begin. It is extremely rare for a pre-harvest inspection to be held within this time period. Due to scheduling conflicts, it is very difficult to find a date where Cal Fire, Department of Fish & Game, County, Water Quality, California Geologic Service, Archeology and others are all available. In past years, this would lead to delays but the pre-harvest inspection would typically be held within 30 days from plan filing. In 2007, this scheduling conflict caused delays and sometimes led to multiple pre-harvest inspections. There is always the possibility that an agency will request a second pre-harvest inspection to clarify an issue. This request may be reasonable, but it causes delays as the agencies try again to set up a mutually agreeable date. In 2007, multiple pre-harvest inspections, due to a simple lack of attendance by review team members, have become common. When they do not attend, and then ask for a make up inspection, it causes further delays to an already long review process, costs the plan submitter another day of forester fees and costs the plan submitter another day off of work if they wish to attend.

Another area of substantial delay is the time it takes for the agencies to produce the pre-harvest inspection reports. These reports contain their recommendations, and the forester cannot proceed without this information. The California Geologic Survey almost always produces this report within two weeks of the pre-harvest inspection, so it can be done in a timely manner. But other agencies may take anywhere from one to three months to submit their reports. This means that the plan is on hold, and is a major cause of delay in the review process.

These delays have caused a great deal of frustration and added expense to the landowner. Who is responsible for the additional forester expense for multiple inspections due to scheduling conflict? And the expense of agency delays that cause the landowner to delay harvesting until next year? The landowner is the sole bearer of these extra, and often unnecessary, additional costs.

To solve this problem, the review team agencies need to give the timber harvest plan review process the priority that timber harvest plans, by regulation, require. The Board of Forestry is aware of the problem, but it may be a long time before this problem is solved.

As a landowner or plan submitter, you need to plan ahead for your harvest. Remember, after the lengthy timber harvest plan review process, you still need your waiver from the Water Quality Control Board. Unfortunately, the waiver process does not begin until after the timber harvest plan has been formally

approved. In this region, the waiver typically takes another one to three months (or more) to secure. ■

## CCRWQCB - WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

By Bob Berlage, forestry consultant to CCFA

Any forest landowner in Santa Cruz County who received a permit to harvest their timber after July 2005, or who plans to do so in the future, is subject to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (CCRWQCB) "General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest Activities."

For those CCFA members who are already operating under this General Waiver, you are aware that the water quality monitoring requirements are costly and time consuming. When the CCRWQCB enacted their General waiver, they committed to a review and analysis of the process after 30 months. They also promised regulated landowners that they would hold a public hearing to assess the effectiveness of the program.

The 30-month period ends in January 2008. CCFA strongly recommends that our members contact the CCRWQCB in writing and request that they produce the report and schedule a public hearing to hear landowner testimony as soon as possible.

Please send your letters to:

Roger Briggs, Executive Officer  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place  
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401

## SIERRA ACRES GO UP FOR SALE

Reprinted from Timber West

In November 2007, nearly 5,000 acres in the Sierra Nevada were suctioned by Sierra Pacific Industries.

Among the acres auctioned is a 338-acre tract of Nevada County land along the upper reaches of the South Yuba river. Other parcels are located near the Feather River north of Sierra Valley. The company said it chose these parcels because they didn't fit into its future plans.

"We have a series of these properties that are isolated," said company spokesman Mark Pawlicki. "They don't sit near our mills."

Despite the remoteness of these pieces and the variable California real estate market, auctioneers say demand for the fairly undeveloped land is still high. ■

## CCFA'S CONCERN

The Log Editorial

The above article confirms CCFA's continuing concern with the State's and individual counties' policies toward timber harvesting. Even though the southern redwood district has the most stringent and protective measures in place to keep our forests looking beautiful and producing well, there are many folks who oppose harvesting in any manner.

We believe that rigid restriction of harvesting will eventually lead to timberland sellout for housing. Should the counties refuse to allow harvesting or development on timber land, this constitutes a "private property taking." ■

## EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT AGRICULTURE'S BENEFITS, SAYS MONTANA LOGGER

Christine Souza

Condensed from Ag Alert 12/19/07

Third-generation logger, environmental activist and self-proclaimed "jaw-jacker", Bruce Vincent of Libby, Montana, provided California Farm Bureau members with a dose of inspiration at the organization's 89th Annual Meeting in Sparks, NV.

With a humorous, common-sense style, Vincent, a member of the Montana Farm Bureau, shared his personal story as a logger in a rural community of 2,800 people. He spoke of his family growing timber there since the early 1900s and how that sector of agriculture has changed over the years due to environmental regulations. He said the public must be educated about the many benefits that agriculture provides.

"If we are to save rural America, we save it by addressing the true enemy and this is ignorance - the public's ignorance of who we are and what we do for them and our ignorance in this discussion of how to lead the dialogue over the environment in our country and not just fight," Vincent said.

Vincent explained that rural America is having a collision with the urban parts of the country because the people have fallen in love with the natural and cultural qualities of the rural landscape.

"They've been fighting to protect the last best places of America and they've been imprinting their vision of protecting us on top of us. They've been protecting us to death. Sadly, their vision for protecting the last best places of America has a fatal flaw - there's no provision in their vision for the last best people. And if that is not fixed, the very thing they want to save is going to pay the price for their protection and we're seeing it all over rural America.

"They were going to steamroll my rural town because they could. When it comes to protecting our environment, our rural population was disposable. We are a lot of stuff in rural America, and there is one thing that we are not and that is disposable.

"If this nation of 300 million consumers would like to continue to enjoy the standard of living we have helped build for them while protecting the environment they have suddenly come to love, they would be ill-advised to peel off the people who have provided for and protected their environment for 300 years.

"Stewardship is one of the ethics that we farmers and loggers share - a love of the land. We share a number of cultural values like hard work and hard play, but the biggest thing is stewardship. If we do a decent job of taking care of the environment, that environment will do a good job of taking care of us," Vincent said. "As a person who lives on Earth and want to feed people, take care of the environment and take care of wildlife habitat, I want you to be our there telling the story, telling the truth about agriculture, because your story is going to take care of the land that we value."

Vincent provided CFBF members with what he called three inspiring truths to get agriculture's message out to the public and to legislators.

#1 "We've got to remember democracy works, but it is not a spectator sport. We are going into a presidential election year. That red and blue map, if either party thinks that is Democrat or Republican, I beg to differ with them. That map is

rural/urban. If you have a PAC (political action committee), give to it. Be engaged in the political process.

#2 "When people lead, leaders follow. When you send people to Sacramento you've got to find out when you need to show up or when you need to make a phone call and talk to people about how you can have clean water and agriculture. You better be painting a picture of California in 100 years with you in it or somebody is going to paint you out.

**#3 "The world is run by those who show up. Meetings are held every day in counties, at water boards and on the editorial pages. You guys are the experts, so take time out of your busy lives and address the issues. Don't let somebody else take that from you. Show up."**

After speaking to schoolchildren in Montana about being a logger, Vincent said he realized that young people are hungry to learn more about the people who make up their community.

"America is tired of the doom and gloom. They are sick and tired of hearing what's wrong," Vincent said. "There is a generation out there that is wanting to hear from you. So what we have to do is give them a reason to want to hear from us. Remember, they want to hear the truth, warts and all. We have to remember it is not an industry they want saved, it is a culture."

In 1997, Vincent started a pilot program in his home state called Provider Pals, where children and teacher adopt farmers, ranchers and miners into their classrooms. The program has grown to involve 10,000 children a year throughout the United States, and reaches 3,000 children in California annually. The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom works with counties to educate students about agriculture. (In Santa Cruz County we have Agri-Culture that similarly educates schoolchildren.)

More information can be had by going to [www.providerpals.com](http://www.providerpals.com), or [www.cfaic](http://www.cfaic).

**Remember, forestry is a branch of agriculture, so this article relates well to CCFA members' interests. ■**

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## THE POWER TO CONSERVE FORESTS Burn biomass for clean energy, not in wildfires

By Carol Kennedy, forest soil scientist for Tahoe National Forest  
Condensed from California Forests, Fall 2007 (Reprinted with permission)

Most climate change models project significant changes in California's precipitation. We're in for longer summers and shorter winters. Already, California's summers are about two weeks longer than there were a hundred years ago. The expected shift in precipitation has implications for everything from how farmers grow crops to what Californians pay for drinking water, aquatic species survival, forest composition, firefighting costs and more.

With less snow melting, there may not be sufficient in-stream water to generate the hydroelectric power Californians rely on. Current predictions are that there won't be enough moisture to sustain our conifer-dominated forests. There will be dryer, stressed forests even more susceptible to insect infestation, disease and catastrophic wildfires than today's forests. More than 8 millions California acres stand at high or very high risk of wildfire, Californians spent more than \$1 billion on firefighting between 2000 and 2006, and climate change figures to

See *Conserve* (Continued on page 4)

**Conserve** (Continued from page 3)

make the wildfire picture worse. Fortunately, we can take steps to mitigate the impact of climate change on our forests and energy challenges.

It's no secret that many of California's forestlands are seriously overcrowded. On some public lands, more than 500 trees per acre stand where fewer than 80 per acre stood historically. The excess trees and shrubs, or biomass, often become fuel for devastating wildfires. What if rather than watch all that biomass go up in smoke, we put it to good use making clean energy?

First, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions from wildfires, which in itself would be significant. Removing biomass from the forest before it burns means fewer and less intense wildfires, which in turn means less greenhouse gas released into the atmosphere and less loss of life and property. We'd get clean energy from a renewable resource in return. Biomass energy is carbon neutral - burning organic material in boilers to produce energy releases the same amount of carbon as the plants and trees absorbed from the atmosphere while growing. Burning fossil fuels creates significant greenhouse gas emissions; burning biomass for energy doesn't.

Removing some biomass frees remaining trees from competition for water and nutrients so they grow faster and absorb carbon more efficiently. Harvesting some trees to become wood products keeps much of the carbon absorbed by trees stored long-term in homes and furniture. Re-growth (such as with redwoods) or replanting seedlings begins the cycle again, with young growing trees rapidly turning carbon dioxide into wood fibers.

Today, biomass generates less than 2 percent of California's energy. That should change.

The obstacles that have prevented biomass from playing a bigger role in California's energy picture should not prove insurmountable. Biomass energy remains relatively expensive to produce, but its cost can't be viewed in a vacuum. Utilizing biomass for energy can save millions of dollars in firefighting costs.

Tapping biomass's potential will take innovative solutions and require private sector involvement. There isn't enough money in the federal budget to fund sufficient biomass removal without partnering with forest products companies. Adjusting the federal tax structure, which offers up to four times for production credits for wind and other renewable energy source than biomass, should be on the table, too.

The Tahoe National Forest is taking a lead position in preparing for a warmer climate. We are working with the Placer County Water Agency to figure out how forest management and biomass energy might help offset its expected loss in hydroelectric power production due to a changing climate. The Tahoe is one of two national forests on the West Coast serving as case studies in climate change. The first phase is nearly complete with a national report currently being drafted.

As our climate has changed in the past 140 years, Ponderosa pine forests have moved 1,600 feet upslope and more than 16 miles east. That's huge, and more changes lie ahead.

Now is the time to conserve our forests. If we want to sustain California's forests, we should manage our natural resources to make biomass energy a meaningful part of our effort to address climate change. ■

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?**

By Doug White, CCFA Director

Most California counties consider economic development to be one of their top priorities. It takes lots of money to operate a county government, and lack of revenue is, without doubt, the one overriding problem faced by county supervisors.

If there is an economic development department operating in Santa Cruz County, it does so with a very low profile. It occurs to me that retail business operations in the county receive little or no support from the local government. The sales tax here is already high, yet there is a move afoot to further raise it in order to pay for widening Highway 1 so people could more easily drive out of town to shop elsewhere.

Our forests and forest landowners provide a considerable source of county income, but the County does little or nothing to aid and abet this viable revenue source. It appears that our Board of Supervisors generally acts on land use matters as per instructions handed down from the Sierra Club instead of seeking the good advice of their forest landowners' constituency who work hard in order to feed their families and pay taxes to run this County.

So, instead of catering to the local folks who do the work and take the risks to develop revenue that the Supervisors could use to fix our rapidly disintegrating infrastructure, it appears they think first of themselves and their comrades within the County government.

Check this out:

Last year, they awarded themselves an outrageous 18% salary increase, doing so with our tax dollars.

They pay the Santa Cruz District Attorney an annual salary of \$197,648. The State pays the California Attorney General, Jerry Brown, a salary of \$184,310.

They pay the Santa Cruz Chief Administrative Officer, a person they hire to do the job they, by law, are supposed to do, a salary of \$211,453. The Federal Government pays John Roberts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a salary of \$202,900, and the State of California pays Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger a salary of \$212,129.

It looks to me like we don't have King Arthur and his loyal Knights of the Round Table running things in the County Administrative Building. We don't even have Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. I don't want to label them, but I'll tell you this - we couldn't do much worse, and we could do a damn sight better. Think about it. ■

*Doug White wishes to recognize the efforts of Bob Suhr for supplying the salary amounts listed herein. Bob has thoroughly researched these county fiscal matters for many years. He has been a guiding light, a friend, and an inspiration to many in this county who would champion open and honest government.*

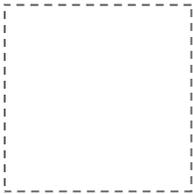
Save June 28, 2008 for CCFA's annual membership meeting. There will be a potluck BBQ with CCFA providing the meat, drinks and table service.

Our guest will be Sandy Lydon, professor emeritus of Cabrillo College, who will guide a forest tour and speak on the history of redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Ken McCrary will display his antique steam-driven tractor and logging equipment. **DON'T MISS THIS!**



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



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Capitola, CA 95010



**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](http://www.ccfassociation.org) or by e-mail to: [ccfa@ccfassociation.org](mailto: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.*