

FOREST LANDOWNERS E-NEWS

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

October 2007 VOL 9

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*Official publication of the
Forest Landowners of California*

GUEST EDITORIAL: GOOSE PEN PROPOSAL

(This letter was sent as a response to last month's request for input from members regarding future efforts and ideas for the organization. The guest editorial is the opinion of the author and is not opposed or supported by the editorial committee or the FLC Board of Directors. FLC does appreciate member input and we hope this spurs additional interest in the future of the organization. -Ed.)

ALL FOR A NEW COLUMN RAISE YOUR HOEDAD!

Anybody (else) like the idea of Forest Landowners E-News creating a forum for members wishing to connect and share with others common forestry-related ideas and interests? A technology transfer 'springboard' if you will.

I propose the new column be named "THE GOOSE PEN". As Redwood initiates know, the burnt, hollowed out stump of an old growth redwood is referred to as a goose-pen...derived from the pioneer's old practice of using such hollows as weather/predator protection for their livestock. One old tale has a California packer in the late 1870's using "goose pens" to shelter his string of 33 mules! Surprisingly, by the way, the hardy resistant redwood often goes right on living despite the goose pen.

To this end, 'The Goose Pen' would be hollowed out of the Landowner's E-News to bring together small groups of individuals wishing to collaborate on a variety of topics; e.g. Silviculture (site prep, planning planting, thinning, and harvesting); Agro forestry (forest farming, intercropping, short-rotation wood fiber, Non-timber forest products); Wildlife Habitat enhancement/Cover crops (food plots, herbs/forbs management); Forest recreation revenue (fishing, hunting leases, shooting preserve, camping); Christmas trees/boughs (nursery greener, salal, Oregon grape); Innovations/tools (cascara bark peelers, ATV implements, road graders); Vintage logging/forestry equipment; Exotics (mushrooms, Truffles, timber bamboo, ginseng, paulownia) etc.

Individuals could brainstorm, collaborate, and encourage others in their pursuit of forest solutions, income, answers, and dreams. When "Eurekas" are heard, they can be published and shared in the Forest Landowner's E-News, under the "Goose Pen Honkings." (Note: It is believed the reason geese 'honk' while flying in formation is to encourage the others in the flock during their long migrations.)

If this idea piques your fancy, please respond with your contact name, info and area of expertise and interest. A resource file of forest 'creative interest groups' can be started.

-Bob Stewart, agrofor@msn.com Ph. 360-573-06330

Forest Capitol: News from Sacramento

By Bill Keye, California Forest Keepers Incorporated

The regular session of the California Legislature has adjourned for the year. Forestry emerged relatively unscathed in 2007. Probably the most threatening measure (SB 466 – Steinberg) failed to make it out of the Senate this year. It will probably be amended and re-heard in 2008.

Most of the action this year was at the regulatory level. The Board of Forestry approved a rule package to “assist” Timber Harvest Plan submitters in complying with state Incidental Take Permit requirements for coho salmon. The package – and a companion template from the Department of Fish and Game – will need to be approved by the Office of Administrative Law in order to go into effect on January 1st. Assuming this takes place, there is sure to be a period of uncertainty for coastal landowners/managers, as both sides of the regulatory divide learn their new dance steps.

The Board of Forestry is expected to take final action soon on a new Environmental Impact Report and Management Plan for the 50,000 acre Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) in Mendocino County. JDSF is a unique public ownership acquired by the state 60 years ago to serve as a sort of “how to” forest management laboratory for landowners interested in what was then the novel idea of managing 2nd growth forests.

JDSF’s program was litigated to a halt, in 2002, by an organization trumpeting its opposition to all commercial logging on the Forest. After a false start in 2003, the Board (working through the staff of the Department of Forestry) embarked on what has been an interminable planning process to come up with a new vision, and one that hopefully will be able to withstand court scrutiny.

The stakes are high for forest landowners, because traditionally JDSF has generated revenues, through scheduled harvests, that were used to fund a number of forestry programs, including cost-share forest improvement programs for small landowners. If JDSF can get back on its feet, there is a reasonable expectation that this kind of assistance will once again become available.

Also, JDSF is an ideal place to conduct research with practical applications to FLC Members, especially folks in the coastal redwood/Douglas-fir belt. The new preferred alternative calls for a “world class research and demonstration forest,” lower sustained harvest levels and greater consideration for aesthetics and for old growth retention/recruitment.

An issue that’s really taken off in recent months is **forest carbon sequestration**, focusing on the State Air Resources Board’s (ARB) role in implementing AB 32, last year’s landmark greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction bill. Under AB 32, California is supposed to reduce its total GHG emissions, by 2020, to levels that we were belching out in 1990. One way to do this is to put forests to work as carbon “sinks”. Because trees inhale carbon dioxide and use it to build their cells, if a given forest acre has healthy trees, it is capturing or “sequestering” carbon. Active forest management is the key.

The rub is in how do we account for and fairly monetize the carbon that California landowners are capturing in both forests and long-lived forest products? Furthermore, is the current obsession with global warming and climate change just a trendy fad or an enduring social movement? The existing Forestry Protocols, developed under the auspices of the California Climate Action Registry, are being promoted by ARB as an “early action item” for AB 32 implementation. But the “Inconvenient Truth”, so to speak, is that the protocols offer limited benefits to most forest landowners. So far, only two non-profit organizations have signed up to participate.

Still, whatever your opinion is on climate change, the issue breaks well for forestry. Trees eat carbon, and both trees and forest products store it. If forest landowners can derive payments for ecosystem services such as stored carbon, it will help stabilize the forestry enterprise in an era of rapid change and mounting development pressures.

See

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ccei/forestry/forestry.htm> for more information on what’s going on with this issue.

Carbon Sequestration - Worth Paying the Forest Landowner?

By John Middlebrook October 2007

How does the forest landowner calculate the value for participating in the carbon sequestration program? This is a vexing problem that requires a thorough knowledge of the CCR protocols and its morass program of ongoing requirements, betting on a carbon market that doesn't exist yet, assuming liabilities associated with the sale and responsibilities for protecting sequestered carbon, and dealing with a third party conservation easement.

Here is a method of evaluation that forest landowners (as a type of landowner – not necessarily FLC members alone) could use if approached to consider carbon sequestration.

The approach is simple. Calculate the average annual income per acre that will be placed in the sequestration program (that is the area covered by the conservation easement). Calculate today's value of the total anticipated income spread out over the life of the conservation easement. Calculate what lump sum of money invested at interest rates equivalent to government bonds (a safe investment) that would also be large enough to pay your income tax when the lump sum is received by you. The concept is to receive a sufficient amount of money, when safely invested, would pay you annually the amount of income you anticipated from your property from your normal forest management activities. Anyone familiar with compound interest business calculations can do this easily.

Your control comes from the terms of the agreement covering the conservation easement and its sale price. If carbon sequestration is such a good deal, the forest landowner could take the position that the advocates of the program (whom we shall call the Lessee) would be willing to pay for the conservation easement for the lump sum of money outlined above. The conservation easement agreement would subrogate the forest landowners rights to the sequestered carbons value to the Lessee, place all the onerous burden of carbon sequestration accounting, and all the carbon credit liabilities including protecting the sequestered carbon, on the Lessee holding the forest landowner harmless and free of liability and cost for the program.

Under this concept, the forest landowner would receive a sum of money that would, when invested, give him an annual income he would have made without the sequestration program, and leave him with use of the land that would not impact the carbon program, and limit his liability from the carbon sequestration program.

If the carbon program is as good as the proponents try to make it, the Lessee would no doubt be trying to find more and more forest landowners, snapping up conservations easements, and maybe bringing in venture capital.

Do you think proponents of carbon sequestration would allow this to happen?

The Origins of the Carbon Sequestration Concept and Its Status in California

John Middlebrook

Excerpted from a July 24, 2005 FLC Newsletter

The term Carbon Sequestration has been used as by persons such Andrea Tuttle, most recent past Director of CDF, Laurie Wayburn, of the Pacific Forest Trust, and others in presentations to the Forest Landowners as a potential source of income to those owning forest lands. The author of this article had no idea of how income could be derived from such a source. In an unpublished paper for the Forest Landowner newsletter in September 2004, FLC member and former Board of Director Jim Doerksen wrote about the California Climate Action Registry legislation and discussed some aspects of Carbon Sequestration. More information about the whole topic is now available and the following provides the forest landowner reader with a broader overview of the topic.

Before jumping right into the topic of Carbon Sequestration, it must be understood the purpose of this article is not to take a position on whether Global Warming is fact or fiction. The United States has not signed the Kyoto Protocols and has not

officially recognized global warming. You must make up your own minds on that issue. However, Carbon Sequestration is based on the premise that Global Warming is a reality.

The process of plant photosynthesis removes carbon dioxide (the prime green house gas) from the atmosphere and incorporates the carbon into the plant. When you consider all the plants in the world, photosynthesis makes plants the largest air scrubber in the world. However, when the plant photosynthesis stops, the plant dies, and over a widely variable period of time ultimately breaks down and carbon is released again to the atmosphere. This is a continuous and ongoing cycle.

The following has been taken from the Australian NSW Department of Primary Industries:

“One form of emissions offset is the capture of carbon in *carbon sinks*. The term carbon sinks applies to the concept of vegetation using the power of sunlight to join atmospheric carbon dioxide with water to create organic molecules and oxygen, via photosynthesis. The process of capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in vegetation biomass is also referred to as *sequestration*. While the most effective and long lasting form of sequestration in biomass is captured by forests, the Kyoto Protocol allows for sequestration in other forms of vegetation.”

“The rate of photosynthesis and thus carbon sequestration is influenced by such factors as climate, soil characteristics, topography, species and age of the biomass. Accumulation of sequestered carbon in forests tends to be slow in the early stages of growth, but accelerates as trees grow towards maturity and then decreases once maturity is reached. If trees grow on to an over mature state, the rate of sequestration tends to be negative because biomass materials is breaking down, the rate of sequestration tends to be negative because biomass material is breaking down faster than it is accumulating. Approximately 50% of the dry weight of the biomass in a forest is carbon. All forests are carbon reservoirs and a carbon sink is a carbon reservoir that is increasing in size. Of course, forests can also be carbon sources if they emit more carbon that they sequester, or they may be neutral in terms of carbon when sequestration is balanced by emissions.”

“There are two key points to note with regard to carbon accounting under the Kyoto Protocol. The first is that the amount of carbon sequestration that can be claimed as a “carbon credit” is limited to the net amount of change in the total forest carbon pool from one period to the next. This referred to as stock change accounting. The second key point is that, even though carbon remains stored in the products produced from harvested logs (paper, reconstituted boards, veneers, sawn timber, etc), this on-going “capture” is not recognized under carbon accounting rules as applied to the first Kyoto Protocol commitment period of 2008-2012. Recognition may occur in a later period.”

California Climate Action Registry Protocols: The forest landowner, to be eligible to use the Climate Action Registry, must, 1) dedicate the forest project area permanently to forest use through the use of a perpetual conservation easement (to prevent future to other land use), 2) commit to a minimum size of 100 acres, and 3) must utilize natural forest management practices so that climate benefits are not achieved at the expense of other environmental issues such as water quality, biodiversity and species habitat.

Right now there is no way one could calculate the cost to enter the program and there is no cost data for calculating the future financial return. A responsible forest landowner cannot calculate the return on his investment in this program. Obviously the state of affairs with Carbon Sequestration and the California Climate Action Registry are such that I think it is safe to assume that it will be a long time before a forest landowner will be able to figure out what it will cost to join the program and longer still before information on the value of carbon sequestration credits becomes available to a forest landowner to figure if it would be worth the time and effort to become involved in the program. Much more education into the economics for the forest landowner as well as the public would have to be forthcoming before a carbon sequestration program and a carbon credit exchange would become functional. It has crossed my mind what would happen if you sold carbon credits to the Chicago Carbon Exchange and then a forest fire consumed your biomass. The certified carbon product you sold went up in smoke! Would you have to buy back those carbon credits you sold before the fire – possibly at a higher market price?

Conclusions: After meeting with representatives from the new Climate Action Registry, the following are my conclusions: There may be reasons for someone to place their property into a conservation easement that are valid. To do so solely on the basis of the carbon registration program is fiscally irresponsible because the value of the property is reduced instantly to reflect the 100-year minimum restriction on the use of the property. Additionally, there is a cost involved to place such an easement on the property. I am not up to speed on the tax assessment consequences to the owner if a conservation easement is placed on land. It should be noted that the fee for using the Climate Action Registry is from \$400 to \$7000 depending on size and complexity of participants operations.

Another problem I see with participation in the carbon credits has to do with landowner acceptance of a permanent conservation easement as a condition of entry into carbon credit sales. Once an easement is consummated and newer energy concepts are adopted, it is more than likely forestland would remain tied up after the carbon value become obsolete and worthless. To have any value, both sides of the carbon sequestration equation must have built-in flexibility so the whole carbon program can be reversed in light of unforeseen events.

The forest landowner is responsible for the cost of developing a base line "cruise" and for the ongoing annual "cruise" used to develop and measure the increasing the carbon pool.

The forest landowner is responsible for the "safe keeping" of the carbon pool developed. He must insure the carbon is sequestered and certified by some method. Again, this is an ongoing expense be it through insurance or by some other method of replacement.

In the carbon cycle, as long as the plant is alive it is sequestering carbon. When the plant dies, the carbon gas is released over a variable period of time when the biomass decomposes. This cycle is ongoing. If the carbon sequestered on the forest property is certified, at some point in time it will recycle through natural processes over which we have no control. How does the certification process handle or treat this phenomenon? Through proper forest management the carbon pool will keep increasing to a point of sustained growth and old forest growth. The carbon pool will peak and then natural "leakage" of the carbon pool will begin. How is this fact reconciled with the fact once a certified unit of carbon is sold, the property owner is held responsible for its continued existence?

There is a risk that the carbon market (using the Chicago Carbon Exchange) is volatile. As time goes on and carbon prices go up, the property owners who sold credits early on at a cheaper price will be liable for the credits at a higher price if anything should happen to the carbon sequestered on their property.

How long will carbon sequestration be a viable program? No one knows how long this program will exist.

Based on the information available right now, I could not advocate a forest landowner participate in the Climate Action Registry. Too many financial risks have been identified and no reliable source of sufficient income has been cited to assure a timely profit commensurate with the forest owner's risks.

(Author's comment: The above article was written 2 years ago and published in the Fall 2005 Forest Landowners Newsletter. The Protocols have been updated but remain essentially the same. Interest in the program as it impacts forestlands is getting more publicity now. Careful scrutiny of the program appears to be more designed to gain control of the forests from current forest landowners at a much reduced cost and by a more seductive method than normal market forces – including the onerous methods of incrementally increasing forest regulations currently in use by the state legislature resulting in encouraging land division for non-forest uses. John Middlebrook, September 2007)

Protocols put trees ahead of the forests

By William Wade Keye - Special To The Sacramento Bee

*Published 12:00 am PDT Sunday, September 23, 2007
Story appeared in FORUM section, Page E5*

"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.

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.

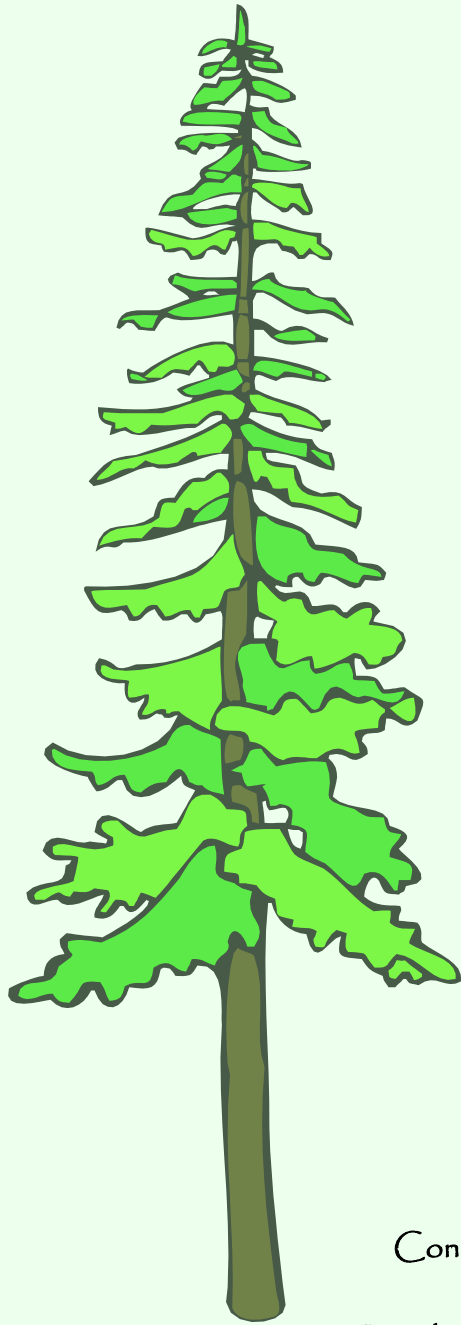
Forested parklands are great for storing carbon, especially if they're protected from wildfire and growth still exceeds the natural rate of decomposition. California has millions of acres of this type of passive carbon reserve, mostly in state or federal ownership.

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.”

FLC Calendar of Events

Nov. 3	12p.m.	Humboldt Property Alliance Protest and Petition signing, Humboldt Cty. Courthouse steps
Nov. 6	1p.m.	Policy Committee Meeting, Board of Forestry, Resources Bldg. Rm. 1506-12, Sacramento
Nov. 23	5p.m.	FLC E-News December issue deadline (<i>send materials to forestlandowners@sbcglobal.net</i>)
Dec. 7	TBA	FLC Capitol Legislative Training with Bill Keye, Sacramento
May 1-3		FLC Annual Membership Meetings, Sonora CA



Forest Management for Small Landowners

November 10th (Saturday)

9:00 am till 4:00 pm in Weaverville

Trinity PUD meeting room (Ponderosa Ln)

Sponsored by:

University of California Cooperative Extension
and Center for Forestry, Berkeley

Trinity County Resource Conservation District

This workshop will help forest landowners answer these questions:

- What are the ecological and financial values of my forest?
- How can I protect these values from fire, insects, disease and erosion?
- What are the current and pending regulations over use of my forest?
 - Where can I get more information and assistance?

Topics:

Forest Ecology Gary Nakamura, Forestry Specialist, UC

Forest Stand Assessment Kenneth Baldwin, RPF

Forest Pests Gary Nakamura, Forestry Specialist, UC

Forest Regulations CalFire (CDF)

Conservation Plans & Cost Share Programs Tiffany Riess,
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Roads and Road Management Richard Harris, Forestry Specialist, UC

Fuel Reduction Options & Biomass Coordination TCRC

Forest Watersheds & Streams Richard Harris, Forestry Specialist, UC

And more.....

Join us for a field trip to the Weaverville Community Forest and fuels reduction projects around the Weaverville Basin.

The workshop is free, but pre-registration is requested. Space is limited. For more information and to register contact UC Cooperative Extension, Trinity County at (530) 628-5495, e-mail to

cetrinity@ucdavis.edu, or <http://cetrinity.ucdavis.edu>.

Become a Tree Farmer

The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide community of nearly 70,000 individuals and families joined by their desire for excellence in forest stewardship. To qualify for Tree Farm certification, woodlands must be:

- Ten acres or more
- Under management, with a written and implemented plan that accounts for water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities as well as production of forest products.
- Protected from fire, insects, disease and destructive grazing
- Reforested after harvesting

If you meet these criteria, an inspection of your property can be arranged through the State Tree Farm Committee. If you are working toward obtaining these criteria, you may be eligible for Pioneer Tree Farmer status. Contact George Belden, by phone at: (530) 229-3798, through the mail at: 1777 Lakeside Dr., Redding, CA 96001 or by email at: lake1777@pacbell.net

THE SOPER WHEELER COMPANY TOUR

Earlier this fall, FLC Board Member, Charles Greenlaw, had the opportunity to attend Soper-Wheeler's Field Day. It was an informative event for all participants. He was able to send this summary of some of the things he learned at the field day.

Soper Lumber Co was established in 1859 in Wisconsin. They were big, but The Great Depression wiped out their debt-rich holdings there. They had bought 14,000 ac California lands in South Eastern Butte County along La Porte Rad in partnership with the Wheeler family in 1904, but didn't harvest regrowth (after miners blitzed virgin stands) until World War II demand and the advent of tractor logging made it economical. Their first in-house forester was Bill Holmes, hired in 1944 fresh out of Yale Forestry School. The present firm president is his son Jim Holmes, RPF. They now have 47 employees.

Currently they hold 40 thousand acres west of the Sierra crest in 5 counties, with 25 thousand acres east of the crest in Plumas County, several more acres of newly reforested land in Sonoma County, and several hectares on both New Zealand islands where they have 5-yr old plantations of California Coast Redwood growing prolifically. New Zealand gets 60" rain per year and gets plenty of moisture during peak growing season. Soper-Wheeler has also planted coast redwood on Sierra west slopes in their "mixed conifer" forestland (sugar pine, white fir, Douglas fir, and incense cedar) at and above ponderosa pine-rich elevations, with success.

Company RPF's VP Paul Violet and Bill Morrison were presenters for the bus-loads of guests; Paul kept up a richly informative commentary while the bus was moving us about. Cecil Wetsel, former owner of Wetsel-Oviatt timberlands and sawmill in El Dorado County, was a guest speaker.

A highlight of the tour was a thorough presentation on the cultivar method of supplying plantings for future Soper-Wheeler forests. Their redwood plantings supply is laboratory-cultured. They select standing trees with the optimal qualities they seek, harvest them, take cuttings from the resulting root sprouts, finely divide that material, cultivate the bits in Petri dishes in a lab, finely divide what grows and repeat that growth again, then transfer the multiplied volume into a different cultivation process that causes roots and uppers to develop on the bits, then nursery raise that end-result into plantable, non-seed seedlings that they call "cultivars." They assert that these cultivars are not "clones" in that no changes to natural genetic content occurs.

California Forestry Association 2008 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for next year's annual meeting being held January 30-February 1 at the Hyatt Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Annual meeting brochure and registration will be available soon. Contact Lori Vance at (916) 444-6592 or loriv@foresthealth.org with any questions.

California Forest Pest Council Annual Meeting

The California Forest Pest Council Annual Meeting will be held on November 13-14 at the Heidrick Ag Center in Woodland, CA. The 56th annual meeting will provide the membership a chance to review what has happened in 2007, formulate and vote on resolutions and address the featured topic of California Climate and Forest Health. Visit <http://www.caforestpestcouncil.org/> for more information.

Jackson Demonstration State Forest

From California Forestry Association Weekly Update

The Board was ready for bear after the Calif. Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection's (staff) presentation on the Demonstration Forest's Draft Management Plan (Plan) and associated public comment. Several board members pressed staff for an explanation on why Alternative G of the Plan includes "arbitrary limits" (their words, not mine) on even-aged treatments and stand structure. When staff was unable to explain the limitations to the board's satisfaction, it was suggested that the "arbitrary limits" language be removed because existing Forest Practice Rules provide all the restrictions necessary for management of the forest.

In early 2006, after receiving more than 6,000 comments from the public on the Plan's alternatives, A-F, the Board directed staff to craft an alternative to the management plan primarily focusing on the research aspect of the demonstration forest, including increased flexibility to choose research projects. This new Alternative G has been the sole consideration of the Board and staff since that time. While industry supported the research focus of the new alternative, many believed the harvest levels were far too low.

Apparently, the Board agreed and instructed staff to increase the allowable harvest levels from 20-25 million board feet (mbf) to 35.6 mbf, the maximum sustainable level. The Board, however, did not instruct staff to change the even-age treatment limits (currently set at 100 acres/decade) because, allegedly, the Plan allows for an additional 500 acres of treatment that meet certain research requirements.

Once staff has amended the Plan and the Draft EIR, they will come back to the Board for certification and approval. Based on the reaction of the Sierra Club representative, we can expect continued debate about the proper management of this forest.

SAVE THE DATE!
THE FOREST LANDOWNERS ANNUAL MEETING
May 1-3, 2008
Sonora, California
MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
IN THE DECEMBER E-NEWS

Forest Landowners to include advertising in Future Newsletters

If you are interested in placing an ad in future electronic E-News publications or the printed membership directory for the Annual Membership Meeting in May, please contact Melinda at the FLC office. Pricing and submission dates and specifications are available. Ad size will be pre-determined and space will be limited. FLC reserves the right to refuse advertising which does not reflect the mission and/or purpose of the organization and its members.

Want to Educate Legislators about Forest Landowners' Concerns?

FLC Legislative Consultant, Bill Keye, president of Forest Keepers, Inc., will be conducting a Capitol Legislative Training Day on December 7th in Sacramento. This all-day training will help to familiarize you with the workings of the Capitol, the location of key offices and meeting rooms, and prepare you to interface with legislators and their aides on issues of concern for FLC. No prior experience is necessary, but you should be willing to commit to staying the whole day and to attend the next training scheduled for early 2008. FLC needs faces at the Capitol and present at various meetings, willing to share testimony and to visit committee members as needed.

Lunch will be provided, with mileage and parking reimbursed by FLC. Please contact Bill Keye at 530-355-0670 or email bk@forestkeeper.com. You can also contact Melinda at the FLC office (209) 533-1625 or email forestlandowners@sbcglobla.net.

The following is a brief summary of the most recent Board Meeting of the FLC Board of Directors:

October 19, 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

Williams, California

The treasurer, Charles Greenlaw, reported that FLC is in better standing at this time of the year, this year, than we have been in a long time. Due to the structural changes within the organization, FLC is able to keep overhead down and costs are reduced for administration.

It was decided that FLC would join with other northwest forest associations and provide their members with subscriptions to the Northwest Woodlands magazine. This quarterly publication will add FLC on the cover tagline which now includes Oregon Small Woodlands, Washington Farm Forestry, Idaho Forest Owners and Montana Forest Owners Associations. The first issue that will go to FLC members will be the Winter 2008 issue. Members will get the opportunity to vote at the annual meeting in May if they wish to continue the subscriptions at a dues increase of \$5 per member (including Associate and family members) for the 2009 membership fees.

FLC President, John Williams, attended the Board of Forestry meeting and presented a letter regarding FLC's position on the management plan for the Jackson State Demonstration Forest. A copy of the letter will be included in the public record.

The board decided to solicit the membership for interest in advertising in the newsletter. (See information in this issue.)

A legislative report was given by Bill Keye. A training day (December 7) was planned for FLC members interested in educating legislators and aides in the capitol and at home in their districts. (See announcement in this issue.)

During the board discussion on AB32 and the protocols, Charles Greenlaw stressed the importance that should be placed on keeping a close eye on this and how the protocols will affect Forest Landowners. John Middlebrook will represent FLC in Sacramento at the upcoming meeting.

Elizabeth Maybee gave the board an update on the Humboldt County Supervisors' recent ruling on TPZ lands and the relationship between that supposed temporary ruling and PalCo's proposed land sales. Jim Little said FLC needs to prepare a response and be ready to act on this issue. Charles Greenlaw said that FLC needs to defend the TPZ act in every county any time it is threatened. (See alert in this issue.)

Nan Deniston gave a report on the Parker Family Ranch Field Day which was held October 13th. Nan said they had good weather. About 30+ folks attended. (Story in this issue.)

Ralph Gaarde asked for member input on what topics they want to have presented at the Annual Meeting. Ralph attended the Natural Resource Summit and Tour hosted by Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment (TuCARE) on October 12. He really enjoyed the summit presenters, especially Dr. Tom Bonnicksen. He also thought the thinning demonstration in the woods was done very well. He wants to repeat some of that at the annual meeting. He passed around some ideas and asked Melinda to include this in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

(This is a sampling of the complete minutes which are available upon request by any member in good standing.)

Parker Family Field Day Offers a Walk in the Woods

By Nan Deniston



Despite the early arrival of wet weather on the north coast, we were blessed with a cloudless day for the Parker Family Field Day on October 13. Twenty-eight friendly and enthusiastic folk gathered at the historic Manchester Ranch, a magnificent old growth redwood grove which served as a company picnic site for Union Lumber Company during their heyday. After greetings by family members and our RPF Linwood Gill, (*pictured at left*) everyone climbed into 4 wheel drive vehicles to tour a unit that had been harvested one year previously.

Our forestland is managed under a Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP), prepared by Blencowe and Associates in 1992. For forestland owners with 2500 acres or fewer, the NTMP is an attractive alternative to the THP. The NTMP allows the landowner to plan timber harvests for many decades into the future removing the need to reapply to the state for each harvest under constantly changes rules. In return for this reduction in red tape and uncertain expense, a more in-depth evaluation of the harvest's ecological impact is required upfront. In addition, the NTMP allows only uneven-aged, sustained-yield harvests. Linwood explained that the main, long-term goals of our management plan are:

- Improve the stands in terms of size, species and quality of residual trees by selecting trees on an individual basis;
- Favor high-quality redwood while maintaining a balance of native species;
- Increase the overall standing inventory by harvesting less than growth.

At the tour sites, we examined the condition of the forest before and after harvest activity. Our forestland is divided into 10 distinct management units averaging approximately 200 acres each. Generally, we log one unit each summer. Cable logging is employed on all slopes greater than 50 percent using a small, mobile yarder. Corridors can be as narrow as 25 feet. Slash is lopped and spread on the forest floor and over spur roads when the harvest is complete. Tour goers got a first hand look at logging corridors, landings, roads, slash and the overall stand characteristics of a regenerating redwood forest. As we explained to an attentive group at lunch, our overall land management philosophy is to accept less than optimum short-term production in favor of income for future generations. A brief history of the Parker ownership and its organizational structure elicited good questions and discussions about the challenges of family forest ownership.

After lunch, we walked through a unit that was logged this summer and one that will be reentered (after 10 years growth) for logging next summer. Linwood explained his strategy for single tree selection in a 2nd growth, young redwood/Douglas fir forest. The criteria for tree removal can be lumped into three strategies:

- Sanitation strategy-remove damaged, dying or diseased trees which may die prior to next harvest (wildlife trees/snags excepted).
- Thin from below strategy- remove suppressed and intermediate crown class trees which are generally smaller but older trees.
- Spacing improvement strategy-remove selected larger trees to provide space for high quality crop trees to be retained for future growth.

In terms of economics, the family believes that fewer, larger redwood trees are a better investment than more, smaller trees even if the annual increase in board feet is the same. Redwood logs are valued for their natural beauty, strength and rot resistance, which are characteristics that can be obtained from growing older, larger diameter trees.

The Parker family enjoyed sharing the ranch with such an interested group of visitors and friends. Thanks to all the wonderful folks who joined us at Ten Mile!



CALIFORNIA
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September 5th, 2007

Reference: Best Management Practices

During the past several years, the California Licensed Foresters Association has been an active advocate for using *performance based* standards in the regulatory system for California forestry. During this time a consensus of support for the concept – which contrasts with *prescriptive* standards – has developed. But relatively little progress has been made in applying performance based rules. CLFA is interested in continuing to push for regulatory relief and better quality environmental protection by shifting to the use of performance based forest practice rules.

One obstacle for performance based rules is that many parties have trouble seeing “how it will work.” To address this, CLFA offers the following approach: We are currently looking for landowners willing to sponsor a performance based experimental project. An entire Timber Harvest Plan, for example, could be designed to meet the *intent* of each of the forest practice rules while continuing to meet all applicable CEQA requirements. However, the protection measures applied to the resources governed by the experimental THP process would be site specific and performance based.

It is important to understand that performance based rules are not just about regulatory structure, but also about long-term effective environmental protection. CLFA has sponsored rules and supported rule language that has elements of performance based rules; to date, these efforts have not been able to illustrate the potential gains in efficiency and environmental protection that are achievable.

At this time, CLFA is not advocating new legislation or a massive rewrite of the current forest practice rules; in cooperation with the Executive Office of the Board of Forestry, we are pursuing several options under the existing rules which would allow this experimental concept to move forward. Our aim is to have several performance based projects in different regions of the state, representing a variety of land management strategies.

For this experimental approach to be tested, we need landowners interested in participating. CLFA is offering to work with landowners on individual project development, in addition to working with the regulatory and public interest communities in order to help this process move forward.

Currently, we are compiling a list of landowner contacts who may be interested in exploring this unique opportunity to reshape how working forest landscapes in California are regulated and protected.

A tentative meeting has been scheduled for December 10th – in Redding, between interested parties and CLFA to further discuss potential projects.

Comments and questions can be directed to CLFA:

Email: clfa@volcano.net

Or to me directly at:

Email: chantzj@wmbeaty.com

Phone: 530-524-9563

Sincerely yours,
Chantz Joyce
RPF No. 2753
President

The California Licensed Foresters Association, with a membership responsible for the sustained management of millions of acres of California forestland, represents the common interests of California Registered Professional Foresters. The Association provides opportunities for continuing education and public outreach to its membership, which includes professionals affiliated with government agencies, private timber companies, consultants, the public, and the academic community. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, CLFA was established in 1980 after the passage of the landmark California Professional Foresters Law.

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA ALERT!

HPA: Humboldt Property Alliance

Protecting the right to "life, liberty, and property."

HPA (Humboldt Property Alliance) was founded to fight the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors passing of an interim ordinance prohibiting building on TPZ (Timber Production Zone) land. Our goal is to gather TPZ landowners, and other community members to fight this unjust ordinance, and, hopefully, change the minds of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors before they vote to make the changes permanent.

Timber Preserve Zones (TPZ) are parcels of land which a person can own without paying taxes on the timber value until the owner harvests the timber. The goal of TPZ land is to keep timber landowners from having to harvest the timber prematurely to be able to afford their taxes. They still pay taxes on their homes.

PALCO is going into bankruptcy and is attempting to sell some of their timber land in 160 acre TPZ parcels. Humboldt County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance in response which states, "While this interim ordinance is in effect no new residential use shall be established and no new construction, building permit, or other approval shall be granted...."

The problem is that this ordinance does not simply affect PALCO, but all owners of TPZ land. By prohibiting the building of residential units on TPZ land the property value goes down, making the monetary value of ALL landowners simply lower.

We stand on the idea that private property should be simply that; private. The County may have the legal right to pass this ordinance, but they most certainly do not have the ethical right.

The Ordinance:

*"...it is the policy of this County to do the following:
(4) Encourage investment in timberlands based on reasonable expectation of harvest."*

The County is actually discouraging investment in timberlands by taking away the property value of TPZ. Why would someone want to invest in TPZ land if it has been shown that the County will change regulations at a whim? "Policies and goals currently under review include: (d) Protect forestlands from the encroachment of incompatible land uses as a strategy to prevent forestland fragmentation and conversion to residential uses."

Contact your supervisors and let them know you disagree with their TPZ ordinance!

Supervisor's Contact Info:

District 1	Jimmy Smith	707-476-2391
District 2	Roger Rodoni	707-476-2392
District 3	John Woolley	707-476-2393
District 4	Bonnie Neely, Chair	707-476-2394
District 5	Jill Geist, VP	707-476-2395

Mailing address: Humboldt County Supervisors 825 5th Street Eureka, CA 95501

**November 3rd- PROTEST/PETITION SIGNING
When: 12 p.m.
Where: Steps of County Courthouse**

UPDATE:

The Humboldt Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, October 23 to raise a variation of the issue in a more permanent sense and have it crafted into to the County General Plan. FLC has just been notified that the hearing for the Emergency Ordinance banning building permits on forest parcels has been set for the afternoon of Tuesday, November 6. Please spread the word around. This will be a must-attend meeting for all who value the most cherished right we have: To build a house on our own property!!!

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR IDEAS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

(Email, Fax or Mail this response form back to FLC.)

What I'd really like to have a presentation on at the Annual Meeting is:

Forest Landowners' concerns and "hot" topics I would like to have discussion about at the Annual Meeting include:

Ideas I have for speakers and presentations for the Annual Meeting in Sonora, California:
