



CALIFORNIA
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FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

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December 8, 2004

Mr. Stan Dixon, Chairman, and Members
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Reference: Board of Forestry Tasks and Goals, 2005

Dear Chairman Dixon and Members:

In keeping with the theme for this month's meeting, CLFA submits the following suggestions for Board of Forestry attention in 2005.

First, we hope that you maintain your policy leadership in addressing the fire/hazardous fuel treatment issue. We are gratified by your vigorous action this year to enact emergency rules designed to encourage California forest landowners to conduct comprehensive fuel treatments in overstocked and/or fuel-choked stands. The testimony you've heard from Soper-Wheeler representatives and other foresters supports a contention that state regulations need to provide as much flexibility as possible to professionals on the ground, so that these projects are both attempted and successfully completed.

We also hope that you continue to build momentum in terms of looking at our existing prescriptive forest practice rules and exploring opportunities to replace the current approach with one that is more performance-based.

The fate of Jackson Demonstration State Forest remains an open question, but CLFA remains hopeful that its best days lie ahead. To that end, we patiently await the Draft EIR, which unfortunately has still not been released 10 months after the facilitated scoping session held in Fort Bragg. We encourage the Board to use its good offices to help nurse JDSF through its current difficulties.

In the Policy Statement hearing recently held in Redding, speakers provided testimony as to how the current regulatory environment is broken. CLFA has identified our burdensome state regulatory environment as a serious threat to the Golden State's future. Without market incentives for private landowners to hold working forests undeveloped, the potential for cascading forest development and conversion in this state is almost unlimited. Such an outcome should be unthinkable, but is inevitable if we keep going in the same direction.

We believe sustainable forestry and a revived industrial sector to support it is what the Board should be discussing in 2005. Forestry is the solution rather than the problem. Trees produce oxygen, store carbon, maintain soil structure and wildlife

habitat, and provide places where you can still see the stars at night. Products manufactured from trees store carbon while consuming minimal energy in their production.

CLFA will continue to try to stimulate positive discussion in 2005. Following the completion of our Education/Outreach white paper this fall, we expect to complete our Governance white paper in January and conclude the series with a discussion on National Forest Policy in March. We hope Board Members and other interested parties have a chance to read and consider these papers, which are provided for Board consideration during its development of the upcoming Policy Statement.

All in all it has been a good year, and we appreciate the Board's interests in our views. On behalf of all our members, I wish the Board, Staff and Families the warmest of holidays as we run out the clock on 2004 and greet the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Quirnbach, RPF #2623
President

The California Licensed Foresters Association, with approximately 750 members, represents the common interests of California Registered Professional Foresters. The Association provides opportunities for continuing education and public outreach to its membership, which includes diverse professionals affiliated with government agencies, private timber companies, consultants 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.