California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

FORESTLAND STEWARD

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY FORESTS FALL 1996

New challenges, new directions

This issue of *Forestland Steward* is presented in the midst of changes that will affect the entire Stewardship Program. The news is both good and bad.

The bad news first. The bottom line is that federal funding for the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) has been reduced by 84%. Financial assistance to landowners will be greatly reduced.

Now for the good news. Change is often positive–it can lead to reevaluation and new directions that turn out to be beneficial in the long run. We hope this will be the case with the SIP.

Part of our new direction involves an increased emphasis on projects initiated by groups of landowners and other stakeholders, rather than by individuals. This comes from the knowledge that many of the issues involved in managing healthy forestland (e.g. fire danger, pest control, water quality) require the cooperation of all those involved in the watershed.

In addition, funding will no longer be allocated on a first-come basis. Now projects will be prioritized for the most effective use of the money.

What is our role now? That is also changing. We are becoming more of a resource than an initiator. Recognizing that community groups know their needs better than outside government agencies, the Stewardship Program will continue to provide support to help communities help themselves.

Specifically, the new Stewardship Program will include the following components:

- *Forestland Steward* newsletter–to provide information to stakeholders.
- Master calendar–events and resources relevant to land management.
- Helpline–a toll-free clearinghouse for Stewardship issues/information.
- Information/educational survey–assessment of the needs of groups and landowners to determine best delivery methods.
- Educational materials–review of existing material and development of needed resources.
- Coaching/mentoring–professional expertise provided to groups and landowners for short-term assistance.
- Mini-conferences–development of customized mini-conferences to address community needs.
- Coached planning–development of a computer decision-making program.
- Demonstration projects–provide funds for projects that model a cooperative community approach for solving problems. Funds distributed in an annual Call for Proposals *(see box above)*.

Your input is vital. As we make the transition from funding individual landowners to support for community cooperative efforts, we need your ideas on what you need and how we can help. Please use the form on the back or call, fax, or e-mail your suggestions.

1996 Call for Proposals

CDF is interested in funding proposals that assist communities in solving an environmental problem that involves multiple ownerships. $158,000 available. Individual contracts up to $15,000. Deadline: November 1, 1996. Contact the Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE, or Jim Geiger, (916) 653-8286.

Inside

Calif Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection
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Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

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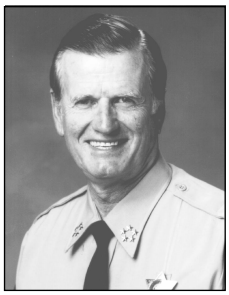
From the Director

Cooperation is the key

Stewardship of environmental resources is becoming more and more complex. We all want clean water, clean air, abundant wildlife, stable soils, and economic viability. We all want a healthy watershed.



Richard A. Wilson
Director, CDF

To achieve this will require cooperation. The diverse groups and individuals, government agencies and nonprofits, will need to communicate and find ways to solve the many problems facing our forestlands.

We at CDF are part of the collective effort to heal the watershed. We are not here to tell you what to do or how to do it. We recognize that communities can do the job best. You know what you need; we have many resources to assist you and help you help yourself. Welcome to our new way of doing business.

As the competition for resources intensifies, it is encouraging to see so many community efforts being organized. We are just one part of the puzzle. Working together, our common goals will be more easily realized.

SNEP report available for review

SNEP, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, is a congressionally mandated three-year study of the entire Sierra Nevada range. The study was managed by the University of California Centers for Water and Wildland Resources, Davis, CA under a research agreement with the U. S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Albany, CA.

Formal release of the report to Congress occurred on June 7, 1996. Several elements of the report are posted on the World Wide Web at **http://www.ceres.ca.gov/snep**.

The project Summary (24 pages) and Volume 1 (12 chapters, many tables and figures), summary of the assessments, case studies, and alternative strategies are now available.

These reports provide a broad overview of the study and include the table of contents for volumes 2 and 3 which are the in-depth studies of the various components of the Sierra. Volume 1 also includes appendices that explain the congressional origin of the study, the charge for the study, administration of the project, and names of team members. Locations where hard copies of the entire document can be seen or copied are included.

The summary of *Management Strategies for Ecosystem Sustainability* is reprinted here on pages 4 & 5.

Articles for the taking

This newsletter exists solely to provide you with useful information. Please feel free to reprint any of the articles in your own publications; we ask only that you send us a copy and give us credit.

Our audience is diverse, including landowners, government agencies, watershed organizations and others. For that reason, the information contained here covers a broad range. If you don't find topics that address your needs, let us know. We depend on your input to help guide us.

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CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

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The Internet: another tool for information and assistance

"Oh, no, not another Internet article," you moan.

Well, yes. It's hard to talk about information these days without bringing up the Internet. How else can you dial up to find out the latest on the SNEP report or learn about forest pests or ask questions of an expert forester–all at 2:30 a.m.?

Every day, more and more resources become available online. In fact, the information possibilities of the Internet are almost beyond comprehension…and growing! Since information is one of the keys to making good decisions and solving problems, learning your way around is a must.

For those who have already discovered the treasures of the Net, check out some of the goodies at the addresses below.

If you are a devout Luddite, still hoping that computers will go away, try to suspend your distaste and do a little exploring.

The best way to start is by finding a friend who is already connected and comfortable with the Internet–preferably a Web addict. (The World Wide Web is the most graphically interesting and user-friendly part of the Internet.) Set up a time to visit and bring along the list of addresses at the right. Your friend will be thrilled at your interest and will help you navigate until you can work all the buttons and arrows.

Another strategy, one that protects friendships, is to go to your local public library and see if they are connected to the Internet. Most are these days, a testimonial to the information resources online. There should be a knowledgable librarian there who can help you find your way around; the down side is that there may be competition for the machine(s) and a time limitation.

[We won't go into the mechanics of putting together a system and getting onto the Internet. It's a very personal experience, fraught with excitement and frustration. Again, find a knowledgable friend to help.]

What is important is that you find out what is available for your needs. Do you need a GIS map of your county? You can order one online from CDF (see below). What is the latest on forestry legislation (ask the National Association of State Foresters)? And be sure to check out the Virtual Library, which has everything from publications and databases to usenet groups related to forestry where you can join in discussions with people interested in the topics you are. Links lead to links which lead to new links.

Get started and you will find the Internet to be an indispensable tool. Some people may even find entertainment value there as well.

Web sites of interest to forest stewards

Calif Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF) ..... http://www.fire.ca.gov/

Virtual Library:Forestry ..... http://www.metla.fi/info/vlib/Forestry.html

CA Environmental Resources Evaluation Syst. (CERES) .... http://ceres.ca.gov

FireNet ..... http://online.anu.edu.au/Forestry/fire/firenet.html

Seventh American Forest Congress ..... http://www.yale.edu/forest_congress/

USDA Forest Service ..... http://www.fs.fed.us/

Hazard Tree Web Page ..... http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/Hazard/hazard.htm

National Association of State Foresters ..... http://sso.org/nasf/nasf.html

National IPM Network ..... http://www.reeusda.gov/ipm/ipm-home.htm

SmartForest http://imlab3.landarch.uiuc.edu:80/SF/SF.html

Management Strategies for Ecosystem Sustainability

SNEP, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, developed a number of strategies to address problems found in the assessments. These focus on specific individual ecosystem components of the Sierra Nevada and on combinations of elements. The latter examples illustrate how in practice actual solutions must integrate multiple overlapping components and adapt to local needs and constraints. The strategies are briefly summarized here.

Population and Settlement

The Sierra Nevada is likely to undergo significant land conversion because of population growth over the next half-century. The amount of land converted will depend on the rate of population growth, the spatial pattern of settlement, and the average density of homes. Four alternative futures of settlement over this time period were estimated from models of settlement, existing density options from county General Plans, and population projections from the state Department of Finance.

If current population growth and settlement patterns continue, then half the private land in the Sierra would be settled. If a more compact form of settlement were followed, then the land area occupied would still double from the present amount. If low population growth and compact development were chosen, then little additional land (8% more) would be required, assuming that infill and carefully targeted density transfers are used. Under any future scenario, however, significant changes in land-use and infrastructure policies will be needed to achieve lower impact on critical habitats, especially in the foothill zone, where many unique vegetation types are at risk.

Community Well-Being

Greater reinvestment in ecosystem management and restoration activities may provide an opportunity to improve well-being in some Sierran communities. Such activities are likely to have the most impact on improving well-being in communities that already have a moderate level of community capacity that is, where the residents have sufficient knowledge and other attributes necessary to take advantage of new job opportunities (almost half of the communities in the Sierra). If greater reinvestment occurs, then the range of ecosystem management activities could be quite large (e.g., monitoring, maintenance and restoration of forest roads, erosion control, mining reclamation, fuels reduction, stand density management). All activities would require a change in reinvestment patterns for natural resource management. Many activities would require significant training (e.g., scientific training for monitoring) or local economic development (e.g., access to capital and vocational training for watershed rehabilitation) to effectively improve socioeconomic status and hence improve well-being.

Other ways of improving well-being include making the link between forest commodity use and local communities. This approach would make products available locally for processing and secondary manufacturing development and provide capital and price incentives for such activities.

Institutions

Strategies are suggested to (1) improve return from beneficiaries of the Sierra to those who will maintain and enhance the ecosystem qualities from which benefits flow, (2) strengthen cooperation among federal, state, and local governments and agencies whose authorities and resources overlap in the ecosystem and strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors, (3) increase community involvement in the protection and management of Sierran ecosystems, (4) provide legal, regulatory, and financial support to advance such reforms beyond current levels of ad hoc spontaneity, (5) take advantage of characteristic aspects of Sierra Nevada regions to leverage progress on issues of regional and rangewide scale.

Fire and Fuels Reduction

SNEP strategies recognize fire as a major ecological process in the Sierra Nevada that exerts profound influences on the evolution of Sierran ecosystems. Today the wildland-urban intermix of homes and flammable fuels, other widespread forest fuel hazards, and the potential for intolerable forest resource damage from major forest conflagrations require overall strategic planning by federal, state, and local agencies and the affected public with attention to cost and benefits of proposed actions. Such planning would seek to (1) avoid further community development in flammable wildlands without mitigating fuel hazards, (2) establish defensible space/fuel reduction zones buffering

communities and certain wildlands, (3) identify other resource-threatening intolerable fuel hazards and prescribe mitigation treatment, (4) support a return of managed fire and prescribed wildfire, where practicable, to specific forest areas to provide the natural ecological functions believed necessary for ecosystem health and sustainability, and (5) advocate strong prevention and suppression capability.

Biodiversity Management Areas

The biodiversity management area (BMA) strategy is a forward-looking, scientific conservation approach to efficiently reducing the vulnerability of Sierran biodiversity and conflicting land uses. BMAs are specially designated public or private lands with an active ecosystem management plan whose purpose is to contribute to regional maintenance of native genetic, species, and community levels of biodiversity. The strategy uses mapped information about land ownership, land use, potential impacts to biodiversity, and biological communities to identify biological types (e.g., vegetation types and their associated animal species) most in need of protection and to calculate the most efficient or least-cost solution to providing protection for some predetermined proportion of each such type identified.

Applications of BMA alternatives indicate that satisfactory solutions to represent all plant community types of the Sierra cannot be found that use public lands alone for BMAs, that the contribution of matrix lands (i.e., lands outside the BMAs) is essential to achieving rangewide goals, that a modest degree of overlap with other SNEP biodiversity strategies can be achieved, and that some areas appear especially well suited to serve as BMAs. Certain regions (e.g., the northern Sierra) would require more lands in BMAs to achieve targeted levels of biodiversity protection than others (e.g., regions containing the national parks).

BMA Case Study in El Dorado Co

An application of the BMA approach was developed for watersheds in El Dorado County. This case study emphasizes the cooperative, multisector, multijurisdictional nature of effective biodiversity conservation in the Sierra Nevada. In El Dorado County, all adequate BMA solutions required the inclusion of significant private lands, because many important biological communities are almost entirely unrepresented on the public lands. On the other hand, the BMA strategy shows how several of these communities can be included in one watershed to improve the efficiency of the solution.

Areas of Late Successional Emphasis

SNEP analyzed six strategies to counter the major declines in high-quality late successional forests and to enhance forest late successional conditions throughout middle-elevation conifer forests of the Sierra. Each strategy assumes that existing high-quality late successional forests must be retained and expanded to support the full range of organisms and functions into the future, that distribution of late successional conditions across the landscape involves a combination of focus areas and management of matrix land, and that fire is reintroduced into the forest.

The areas of late successional emphasis (ALSE) strategy was developed in detail by SNEP with new simulation models, multiple alternatives, and explicit landscape solutions. The strategy was developed primarily for west-slope forests, specifically mixed conifer and red fir/white fir types on public lands. The strategy stratifies forestland into two landscape categories. ALSEs are large areas (20,000,000 acres) with a management emphasis on maintaining forests in late successional conditions. Active management would occur in ALSEs primarily use of prescribed fire, although some mechanical fuel treatment could be allowed. Fire protection of ALSEs would receive high priority. Matrix lands, those forested areas exclusive of ALSEs, would typically have management objectives other than to attain late successional representation. Restoration of late successional structures in these lands to minimum standards is an essential part of this strategy.

Distributed Forest Conditions

An alternative strategy was developed that distributes rather than concentrates areas of late successional emphasis widely over the landscape. Targeted for east-side middle-elevation conifer forests (but applicable elsewhere), this strategy divides the planning landscape into watershed units of about 5,000 acres. As in the ALSE strategy, the watersheds would be divided into cores and matrix areas. On about 30% of each watershed (about 1,500 acres, but not necessarily contiguous) the main management objective would be to maintain late successional conditions. Additional biodiversity values would be given high priority in core areas, including restoration and maintenance of native plant diversity and genetic diversity. Emphasis would be on minimal disturbance, although mechanical treatments would be permitted to attain goals.

The remaining matrix areas in each watershed would be available, as appropriate, for more intensive uses. Matrix management would include maintenance of late successional structure and function to the degree possible.

Resources

CDF has publications for all your [forest] needs

Need information on planting seedlings or on the current status of pitch canker disease? How about a start-up guide for marketing cooperatives or a marketing directory for forest products? Or you may want a comprehensive booklet on estate planning for forest landowners.

CDF has information that can assist in any aspect of forestland management. To find out what is available, contact the California Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-8733, or the CDF Forestry Assistance Program, 1-916-653-8286.

Technical Assistance Resources

Many agencies are available to provide technical assistance, referrals, information, education, land management plan assistance, and advice.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Forestry Assistance Program
Jim Geiger ..... (916) 653-8286

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Julie Spezia ..... (916) 447-7237

California Resources Agency
California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)
Deanne DiPietro ..... (916) 653-8614

Coastal Conservancy
Neal Fishman/Carol Arnold ..... (510) 286-4181

Farm Service Agency
Larry Plumb ..... (916) 498-5300

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jerry Reioux ..... (916) 757-8256
..... (209) 946-6229

California Department of Fish and Game
Terry Mansfield ..... (916) 653-1921

U.C. Cooperative Extension Forestry
John LeBlanc ..... (510) 642-6678

USDA Forest Service
Sandra Stone ..... (415) 705-2587

California Stewardship Helpline ..... (800) 738-TREE

Revised CRMP handbook

The California Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP to its friends) Handbook 1996 revised edition is now available.

The CRMP strategy encourages direct participation of everyone concerned with natural resource management in a given planning area. By including land users, landowners, governmental agencies and interest groups to discuss their viewpoints, constructive problem-solving is encouraged.

The CRMP Handbook provides some background and history, an overview of the CRMP process, a useful checklist, names of facilitators, and other resources to help groups get started.

To get a copy of the Handbook, contact the CRMP office at 801 K Street, Suite 1318, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone (916) 447-7237; e-mail cacrmp@ns.net.

Helpline is the place to start

Don't forget the Stewardship Helpline which can help forest landowners get information about the many programs available for forest stewards. Wendy Wickizer, of the Society of American Foresters, will provide answers to inquiries of all kinds. Call 1-800-738-TREE (8733).

Calendar

October 16-17

Sparks, Nevada
2001...A Fire Odyssey
California-Nevada-Hawaii Forest Fire Council Annual Meeting
Contact: Ben Beall, 916/275-9758

October 19

UC Davis, 9:00 am - 1:15 pm
Land Use and Wildlife Conservation Symposium
Contact: Dr. Lee Fitzhugh, 916/752-1496; e-mail <elfitzhugh@ucdavis.edu>

October 23-26

Stateline, NV
Biennial Watershed Management Conference Sue Enos, 916/752-8057

October 24-25

Sacramento, CA
Internet and the Web: Specialized Training for Env. Professionals
UC Davis University Extension. Cost: $285 includes course materials. Contact Linda Pike, 916/757-8887

October 24-27

Portland, OR
Trail's End- Tree Farms' Frontier
Annual Tree Farmer Convention
Betty Denison, Oregon Tree Farm System, 503/362-0242; e-mail: <bdenison@denilass.com>

October 29-30

UC Davis
Habitat Conservation & Endangered Species Protection: The Role of Research in Decision Making
Conference on Environmental Sciences and Policy sponsored by UC Davis and California Resources Agency. Dorothy Ross, e-mail <dwross@ucdavis.edu>; fax 916/752-4789

October 29-30

San Joaquin Experimental Range
Workshop for Resource Management Advisors UC Hardwood Rangeland and Rangeland Watershed Educational Program. (Audience limited to UC Extension, NRCS, CDF, and CDFG.) Cost: $60. Joni Rippee,510/643-5439; e-mail: <rippee@nature.berkeley.edu>

October 30-November 3

Yosemite Valley, CA
SERCAL Annual Meeting
In for the Long Haul: Integrating Restoration into the Economy
Society for Ecological Restoration, California Chapter, 805/634-9228

November 6

UC Berkeley, 8:00 - 9:00 am
Clark Kerr Campus
Facilitating and Mediating Effective Environmental Agreements
Topic: Professional negotiation skills for complex environmental policy issues
For more information call 408/491-9374

November 6

Davis, CA
Erosion Control and Land Restoration
A Land Use and Natural Resources course presented by UC Davis
Contact: For more information contact Linda Pike, 916/757-8887

November 8

San Francisco, CA
Erosion Control and Land Restoration
A Land Use and Natural Resources course presented by UC Davis with UC Berkeley Extension. Call 510/654-7143

November 12-17

Huntington Beach, CA
Watchable Wildlife Conference
Call 800/SAY-OCEAN

November 13

Davis, CA
Wetlands Regulation and Mitigation
A Land Use and Natural Resources course presented by UC Davis
Contact Linda Pike, 916/757-8887

November 15

Sacramento, CA
California Licensed Foresters Site Preparation-Release Workshop
Presented by California Licensesd Foresters Association
Hazel Jackson, CLFA, 209/293-7323

November 15-17

Arcata, CA
Urban Streams Conference
A western regional conference for communities with urban streams
Contact: City of Arcata, 707/822-8184

December 4

Davis, CA
GIS: An Introduction A Land Use and Natural Resources course presented by UC Davis. Linda Pike, 916/757-8887

–special thanks to Hannah Kerner for compiling this information.

Know your numbers

1 acre = 43,560 square feet = 4046.86 square meters = 0.4047 hectares

1 standard cord = 128 cubic feet gross = 85 cubic feet solid wood

1 standard section = 1 square mile = 640 acres

1 cunit = 100 cubic feet

1 unit wood chips = 71 cubic feet solid wood

1 pound = 0.4536 kilograms

1/5 acre plot = 52.7 feet radius circle

1 cubic foot = 0.0283 cubic meters

1/10 acre plot = 37.2 feet radius circle

1 square feet/acre = 0.2296 square meter/hectare

1 meter = 39.37 inches = 3.28 feet

1 cubic foot/acre = 0.0699 cubic meter/hectare

A Modern Parable

The Blind People and the Watershed

(Below is an adaptation of the Indian parable, "The Blind Men and the Elephant," created by Jeffrey Keidel, coordinator for the Upper Arkansas Watershed.)

Once upon a time, seven blind people from the Land of Stereotypes came to the Azure Watershed. They all marvelled at the rich natural resources the area had to offer. Because they were blind, they travelled together, walking one behind the other, talking and communicating so they would not fall down. Eventually the blind people were at the banks of the Azure River.

The first blind person was a miner. He noticed that the geologic formations nearby held gold, silver, and other mineral ores that all the world would need to make important things. To get the minerals from the mountains and to dissipate mining's waste he would need water from the river. "This river was made for mining," he said.

The second blind person was a farmer. She noticed all the level land in the valley and nearby plains, and thought, "This is a good place to grow food for the people of the world. Too bad it doesn't rain much around here." She then realized that she could divert water out of the river to water her crops. As she began to dig the ditch, she said, "This river was made for agriculture."

The third blind person was a fisherman. He felt the splash of the cool river water and the tickle of a mayfly landing on his arm. "This is a good place for the people of the world to catch fish," he thought. As he readied himself for the first cast, he said, "This river was made for fishing."

The fourth blind person was a city mayor. She knelt down and tasted the river and thought that the water was good to drink. "But my city is so far away," she said. "If I could only get this water to my city, it could grow and prosper. It would be a great city of the world." From behind a rock popped up an engineer. She said, "I can help you build a dam to hold the river water and pipe it to your city." The mayor was pleased and said, "This river was made for cities."

The fifth blind person was a rafter. He said, "Wow, the holes in this river are awesome. Class four or five, for sure. This is a great river for the people of the world to scream, laugh, and get an adrenaline rush," he thought. As he strapped on his life jacket, he said, "This river was made for rafting."

The sixth blind person was an environmentalist. She thought, "This watershed is so beautiful. Back in the land where I come from everything is so polluted and scarred. I can't let that happen here," she said. "I must save it for the world." As she pondered the meaning of life, she said, "This river should be left alone."

The seventh visually impaired person was a government bureaucrat. "With all these people competing for the use of the river, they will need my help," she thought. "I will have to regulate all of them. I can show the world how effective government works." And as she made her budget request to Congress, she thought, "This river was made for regulating."

At the end of the day, the blind people were tired. They began to talk about the Azure Watershed.

"This river was made for mining," said the first blind person.

"What? You're wrong. This river was made for farming," said the second.

"Whoa," said the third blind person. "This river is for fishing."

"You're wrong. This river is for cities," said the fourth.

"NOT!" said the fifth blind person. "This river is for rafting."

"Rafting?" said the sixth. "This river should be left natural."

"I am with the government," said the last. "I am here to help you."

The blind people could not agree. Each one shouted louder and louder. And called his or her lawyer.

Finally, a voice from the watershed said, "Stop!"

The seven blind people stopped shouting. "The Azure Watershed is a very big ecosystem. Each of you has only considered one part. You must put all the parts together to understand what the watershed really is," said the voice.

The seven blind people listened. They sat down together, and talked quietly. Although they did not agree on everything, they listened to each other sincerely. Afterwards, they took off their blinding glasses and saw more than they had before. And even though they were no longer completely blind, they travelled together, one beside the other, talking and communicating, so they would not fall down.

–Thanks to the Upper Arkansas Watershed Council for permission to reprint this story.

How can the *Forestland Steward* newsletter help you?

I'd like to see more information on _____

_____

My suggestion is _____

_____

❑ Add me to the mailing list / change my address:

Name_____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone_____

Send to CDF, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460. Fax: (916) 653-8957; e-mail: jim_geiger@fire.ca.gov