



FORESTLAND STEWARDS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY FORESTS

Forest management series begins here

“The original concept in 1985 was to convert 960 acres of brush land, scattered oak and timber to a high quality wildlife habitat area with larger timber stands interspersed. The first five years of experiment and improvement encouraged us to reverse priorities... Observation, much patience, and stubbornness are the best personal qualities to produce a forest where none now stands.”

—Doug and Betty Carlson, Redding, CA

In the last issue of *Forestland Steward*, we printed a letter by the Carlsons with advice accumulated from 20 years of experience managing their forest in a harsh environment. The letter discussed solutions that had worked for them.

This issue is the first of a four-part series to address various aspects of forest management relevant to small private landowners in a variety of situations. In discussing this complex subject, it is important to recognize that forest management is a highly individual mixture of science, art, and personality...there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Rather, decisions must be based on your own personal goals and objectives, as well as the biological and physical potential of your forestland to support those goals. The time frame for the results of forest management activities are measured in decades so patience, flexibility—and yes, stubbornness—are necessary qualities.

With that in mind, over the next year we will try to cover many of the major topics in forest

management. Rather than tell you what to do, we will provide a framework for you to better understand the language of forest management, the issues involved, relevant laws, skills, various alternatives, and your options for achieving your goals.

You will notice we always come back to **your goals**. This will be a recurring theme as we go through this series. We can provide information about forest management but only you can decide what you want to achieve and how you want to get there.

We strongly recommend that you begin by creating a management plan for your forest. This can be done in a number of ways (*see the Fall 2005 issue*) and can be simple or complex, whatever you think will best suit your needs.

To determine your management plan needs, you will have to 1) understand the forest resources you have now and 2) decide what you want your forest to become. These two points—your current forest condition and your vision of your forest in the future—are the basis for your management decisions and the actions you will need to take to achieve your goals.



These two points—the current condition of your forest and your vision of your forest in the future—are the basis for your management decisions.

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Forestland Steward is a joint project of the CA Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection, UC Cooperative Extension, and USDA Forest Service to provide information on the stewardship of private forestlands in California.

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This newsletter was produced under a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

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The first step: know your forest

The first step in forest management is to figure out what you have to work with. What is the condition of your forest and what is its potential? And, lastly, how does that fit in with your goals?

What do you need to know?

A forest is more than trees. It includes the shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, plus the animals that depend on these plants. It is also the soils upon which the plants grow, the dead and decaying trees and wildlife, the streams that flow through the forest, the insects, fungi, and bacteria, and the climate. All of these components influence one another and are part of your healthy forest.

Identify your forest type

California is a very large state, with great variations in elevation, soil type, and climate. These conditions are largely responsible for the type of forest that grows where you live.

There are several major forest types in California. These aren't absolute descriptions; within each forest type there are many variations. In some areas there may be overlap of one or more forest types.

• **Coastal Redwood**—Redwoods grow in the fog belt along the north coast of California. The fog provides year round moisture necessary for these tall trees to grow. Other trees associated with redwoods include Douglas-fir, tanoak, grand fir, Pacific madrone, and California bay. The understory typically consists of shrubs, ferns and herbs.

• **Oak Woodland**—In the lower elevations of the California foothills oaks and gray pines are the dominant tree species. The climate here is hot and dry in the summer, mild and wet in the winter. Plants that grow here, including

many chaparral shrub species, are adapted to survive long dry spells. More than 300 species of wildlife are found here, supported by acorns, nuts, and berries.

• **Mixed Conifer**—In the middle elevations (3,000'–6,000') of the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Klamath mountains, the greatest diversity of coniferous trees in the world can be found. Mixed conifer forests may have ponderosa (yellow) pine, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, white fir, Douglas-fir, as well as black oaks and many other trees. Manzanita, ceanothus, bitter cherry, and other shrubs are prominent in the understory. Periodic ground fires have historically been an essential part of the natural ecosystem.

• **Douglas-fir/Mixed Evergreen**—In much of the Pacific Northwest, the Coast Ranges, and the Sierra Nevada, Douglas-fir is the dominant tree. Associated species include California bay, coast and canyon live oaks, tanoak, madrone, and black oak. A diverse array of plants and animals are found here.

• **Red Fir**—At higher elevations in the Sierra Nevada, approximately 6,000'–8,000', red fir forests are found in areas defined by heavy snowfalls and deep, rocky soils. Red fir, white fir, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and juniper are common trees in this forest type.

• **Subalpine**—At about 8,000'–11,000', subalpine forests are found in the central and southern Sierra Nevada as well as the Cascades, and the Warner and Klamath Mountains. This is a harsh environment with shallow soil, snow and frost much of the year, strong winds, and intense solar radiation. The major tree species include western white pine, mountain hemlock, lodgepole pine, and junipers.



The nonliving parts of the forest

Some aspects of the forest ecosystem can be manipulated. For example, you may want to encourage certain trees to grow by managing for those species. Other aspects of the ecosystem, such as climate and soil type, are generally beyond your control. You must learn to live within the constraints of your location.

The soils, elevation, topography, climate, and other nonliving, or abiotic, aspects of the forest are largely responsible for what trees and other living things can grow there. You can't change those abiotic influences, but you can understand their importance and the effects on your forest.

Get the information you need

With just a little research you can learn about many of the factors affecting your forest. Temperature and precipitation are the most important climate parameters for determining what can grow on your property. You'll want to find the average precipitation and temperature, the minimum and maximum temperatures, and the times of first and last frost. The following websites have climate data for California: <http://www.calclim.dri.edu/ccda/data.html> (northern CA), <http://www.calclim.dri.edu/ccda/scaall.html> (southern CA), and <http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/data/precipitation-state/ca.html>.

Soil is another fundamental parameter. The depth, texture, and composition of your soil will control how moisture and nutrients are available to the trees and plants. Soil maps are available from your local NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) office or can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/mlra02/>. Find out what trees are native to your forest.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map (<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/hzm-sw1.html>) and fancy precipitation maps (<http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/climate/data/precipitation-state/ca.html>) are available online or try your local NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, or CDF (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) offices.

Check with NRCS for aerial maps of your property. These can help you locate property boundaries, streams, roads, and other important features. Topographic maps, which show elevation and drainage patterns, are also valuable.

(continued next page)

Measuring your forest

Acre: area of land measuring 43,560 square feet. A square 1-acre plot measures about 208.7 feet by 208.7 feet.

Annual growth: the yearly increase in wood volume, generally expressed in board feet or cubic feet per acre. For most tree species, each year's growth can be found in annual rings which include a band of lighter wood that grows in the spring, and a darker band of summer growth.

Basal area: the area of wood on a plane measured at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. Expressed in square feet per acre.

Board foot: an unplanned board 1 foot long, 1 foot wide, and 1 inch thick (or its equivalent) and often expressed in Thousands of Board Feet (MBF). Although the board will be slightly smaller after planing, it is still referred to as a board foot in the lumberyard. Calculate the board feet by multiplying the width (inches) x thickness (inches) x length (feet) divided by 12.

Eq. a 6' long 2 x 4 would be: $2 \times 4 \times 6 = 48 \div 12 = 4$ board feet

Cord: a standard cord is a stack 4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet long and contains about 85 cubic feet of solid wood. A short cord is still 4 feet high and 8 feet long but the pieces of wood are less than 4 feet in length.

Cubic foot: a solid piece of wood 1 foot wide, 1 foot thick, and 1 foot long. A cubic foot in a log usually produces 3 to 7 board feet of lumber because of losses due to sawing and the log shape. The cubic foot is used in international marketing, pulpwood volume, and when discussing annual growth in the forest.

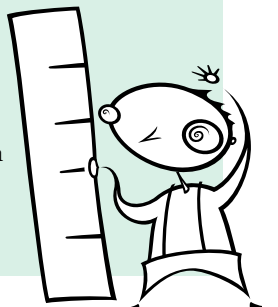
DBH: Diameter at breast height, measured 4.5 feet above level ground. On uneven ground, measure 4.5 feet from the uphill side. Some exceptions: with split trunks, measure both and count as two trees; measure above swells and abnormalities.

Height: estimated by first measuring the distance from the tree, then the angle between the top and bottom of the tree. Using trigonometry, you can calculate the tree's height. Because it is time-consuming, height is sometimes estimated by the number of logs in the tree or by measuring a small sample of heights.

Log rule or log scale: a timber volume estimation system based on a diagram or mathematical formula used to estimate volume or product yield from logs and trees. Scribner Decimal C is used in California.

Logs: cut timber is measured in logs, usually in 8- or 16-foot length.

Volume: the amount of standing trees expressed in thousands of board feet (MBF).



Tools for the job

A number of simple (and some not so simple) tools are available to help you measure property boundaries, slope, standing timber, and other parameters of your forest.

Abney: a hand level that measures ground slope, road grade and tree height.

Biltmore, or cruiser, stick: a simple device to estimate tree height, diameter, and volume. You can purchase a Biltmore stick or make your own (<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/departments/espm/extension/TREESTK.HTM> or http://forestry.about.com/od/forestvaluation/ss/biltmore_stick.htm).

Clinometer: measures vertical angles and can be used for the same tasks as the Abney.

Compass: used to measure angles or direction. A compass can help you find boundary lines, do mapping, and keep from getting lost. Information on selecting and using a compass can be found at <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/departments/espm/extension/COMPASS.HTM>.

Diameter tape: this is a steel tape that measures the diameter by converting the measured circumference of a tree.

GPS: a global positioning system (GPS) unit is a sophisticated piece of equipment that plots out points and helps with calculations. Do a little research to make sure you get the right features for your needs (http://forestry.about.com/od/mappinggis/p/GPS_essentials.htm).

Hip chain: an alternative to pacing for accurately measuring long distances, a small box housing a spool of fine, strong thread wound around a wheel. The tread is tied to a beginning point, as you walk the wheel turns a distance-recording dial.

Increment borer/increment hammer: the increment borer is a hand drill that extracts a wood core from the tree to determine the age of trees and its record of growth. An increment hammer has a hollow bit that extracts a short core sample to provide a record of recent growth.

Log volume/tree volume tables: tables that provide log or tree volumes for specific log lengths, tree heights, etc.

Logger's tape: a spring-loaded retractable steel measuring tape with a nail or hook on the end for fastening to the end of a log. The 50- or 75-foot tape hooks on a belt.

Pacing: a reasonably accurate way to estimate distances. A pace is usually counted as 2 steps, each time your right (or left, but be consistent) foot touches the ground. Each person has a different pace so set your pace before using this method (<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/departments/espm/extension/PACING.HTM>).

Rangefinder: an optical tool that provides horizontal measurements that are more precise than pacing.

Taking inventory

Next comes the fun part, walking your forest to find out what is there. Make a map of your property to scale using an aerial or topographic map and graph paper. Take this map with you as you walk the property.

Find the boundaries of your property and note them on your map. Sketch in the unique features of your forestland including tree stands (note species), treeless areas, structures, roads, wetlands, streams, rock outcroppings, fences, snags, downed logs, etc. Some of these features, especially wetlands and annual plants, may change depending on the time of year. It is good to review and add to your map as you walk your property in different seasons.

Besides physical features, you will also want to record the condition of your forest. Look for such things as areas of erosion, fuel hazards, pest damage, wildlife sign, and other findings you may want to address in your management plans.

The type of inventory you need will depend on how you plan to use the inventory (again it comes back to your goals). If you are planning on harvesting timber then the timber volume, species, and value will be of prime importance. If you are more interested in encouraging wildlife, you will want to know what species are present and how to maximize habitat for your species of interest.

Work with experts

While you can do your own simple survey, and should certainly do so in order to get to know your property, there are many reasons to consider hiring professionals to get more accurate information (*see page 12*).

A registered professional forester (RPF) knows how to design an inventory with sample plots and expand that information to include the whole property. If you are planning to harvest timber you will be required to work with a RPF to develop a timber harvesting plan (*see page 9*).

A knowledgeable biologist can help identify the fish and wildlife, as well as likely habitats, found on your property. You may also want to contact a soil scientist, geologist, botanist, hydrologist, archaeologist, historian, or other experts depending on the resources found on your land and your goals for using those resources.



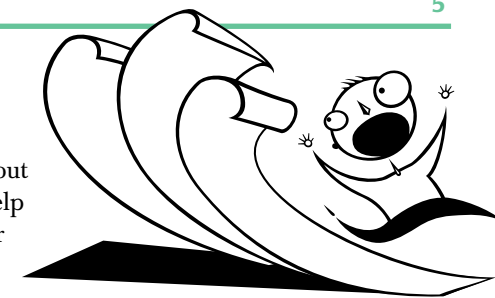
Good recordkeeping a must

Most of us groan at the concept, but keeping good records of your forest management activities and finances can make your life easier in myriad ways.

It will definitely come in handy when tax time comes around (*see page 10*). In addition, forest management records will help you make appropriate decisions and provide data to

determine if things are working out as expected. Your records can help you get a loan, when selling your property, or when handing your forest on to the next generation.

While the IRS does not require a formal bookkeeping system, you should have accounts for land, merchantable timber volume, and merchantable timber value.



A summary of some of the different land and timber accounts that can be established and the type of information that should be recorded in those accounts:

Account	Description	Value	Volume	Recovery
Land Accounts				
Land	The number of acres of timberland (bare land value)	Basis from asset allocation		When property is disposed of
Non-depreciable land improvements	Improvements of a permanent nature (i.e., clearing, grading and ditching of permanent roads, land leveling, impoundments)	Basis from asset allocation		When property is disposed of
Depreciable land improvements	Non-permanent structures or improvements (i.e. bridges, culverts, gravel surfaces of roads, fences, firebreaks, temporary roads)	Basis from asset allocation		By depreciation (see IRS publication 534 Depreciation)
Timber Accounts				
Merchantable timber	Timber that can be marketed for utilization in accordance with the standards of utilization prevailing in the region at the time of the acquisition	Basis from asset allocation	MBF, cords	Depletion or allowable basis
Young growth	Timber too small to be sold as pulpwood or other cut products	Basis from asset allocation	Number of acres	Recovery when transferred to merchantable account and disposed of
Plantation or deferred reforestation	Used to record the costs associated with the regeneration of timber by natural or artificial means	Cost of seed or seedlings and all other costs associated with the reforestation		Recovery when transferred to merchantable account and disposed of

—from the Timber Tax Website <http://www.timbertax.org/getstarted/recordkeeping/summarytable.asp>

Setting your goals

It keeps coming back to this...what is important to you? Your personal goals are the basis for all your forest management plans. This is of primary importance so spend some time thinking about what you want your forest to be and do. Be creative and think big. You may want to consult a forester or other professionals to help you understand the potential of your forest (*see page 5*). Write down your goals in order of priority.

After you have determined your goals you can decide on some objectives, the measurable steps you can take to achieve those goals.

After you have determined your goals you can decide on some objectives, the measurable steps you can take to achieve those goals. The following list may give you ideas on some common goals and objectives. Note that this is by no means an inclusive list; you may have other goals and objectives not mentioned here.

Examples of Goals/Objectives

Long-term Planning Goals

Increase certainty for your forest

Sample Objectives:

- Discuss and write down family goals
- Develop a management (stewardship) plan
- Develop long-term relationships with a forester and other specialists
- Develop an estate plan—talk to a tax accountant and lawyer
- Explore the benefits of a conservation easement—contact a tax accountant and lawyer
- Identify cost-share funding possibilities
- Develop an Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) or other state approved harvest document
- Explore incentive programs

Safety Goals

Reduce fuel hazards throughout your property

- Get involved with your local FireSafe group
- Contact your local CDF pre-fire management officer to learn how firefighters are likely to respond to a fire on your property
- Identify likely ignition points and wind patterns



- Develop a fire response plan that includes
 - Firesafe your home
 - Creation of defensible space adjacent to places of value
 - Firefighter access
 - Fuel breaks
 - Water storage
 - Understory thinning/prescribed burns

Conservation Goals

Water quality protection, restoration, and/or enhancement

- Inventory riparian areas
- Inventory large woody debris
- Inventory road conditions / impacts on streams
- Develop road management plan to:
 - Stormproof roads
 - Remove any unneeded crossings and upgrade existing crossings as necessary
 - Move roads if necessary
 - Stabilize any human-caused erosion sources
 - Remove/repair culverts which block fish passage
- Monitor stream temperatures
- Plant more trees where deficient

Soil protection, restoration, and/or enhancement; improve soil fertility

- Develop recruitment and retention policy for coarse woody debris inputs into soils
- Stabilize and revegetate areas of high erosion
- Prevent and minimize soil compaction during timber management or other soil disturbing activities
 - designate permanent skid trails
 - use least impacting yarding equipment

Wildlife protection, restoration, and/or enhancement

- Inventory wildlife species; determine what was historically found there
- Decide which wildlife species you are managing for and their habitat requirements (e.g. enhance and/or maintain/retain ecotones (edges between habitats), snags, down wood, create habitat mosaics, etc.)

- Enhance structural complexity through thinnings
- Encourage species diversity in trees and shrubs
- Inventory condition of riparian migration corridors and connectivity between habitats
- Plant conifers in riparian areas as needed
- Develop recruitment and retention policy for snags
- For deer: promote early successional brushy areas
- For quail, rodents, and others: create brush piles
- For fish and amphibians: follow water quality protection goals
- Include any ideas for raptors, neotropical migrants, cavity nesters, etc.

Protect ecosystems from nonnative species

- Inventory/map exotic pest plants
- Develop a weed management plan
- Take steps to control exotic weeds

Pests and diseases

- Inventory property for insects and diseases
- Make plans to take remedial actions if needed

Protect historical and pre-historical resources

- Inventory historical resources
- Take steps to protect those areas

Economic Goals

Timber harvest

- Increase inventory and stand productivity
- Improve stand structure and quality of future crop trees
- Enhance quality of hardwoods
- If you do not have a forester, select one.
- Develop a harvest schedule to realize economic and ecological goals now and into the future for generations to come
- Explore timber stand improvement opportunities (precommercial thinning, pruning, commercial thinning, etc)
- Determine if there are tree planting needs (understocked areas, planting to increase diversity, etc)
- Inventory property for species of interest that can be sustainably harvested
- Explore certification options

Firewood

- Develop markets for firewood

Special products

- Inventory potential non-timber forest products on your property
- Learn about the biology of the products you wish to market to find the most sustainable approach to growing and/or harvesting
- Determine which products have markets
- Develop a marketing plan

Graze livestock on the property

- Develop a livestock management plan to protect sensitive habitats

Other economic opportunities

- (e.g. develop recreational, photography, other potential uses)
- Identify potential markets
- Enhance potential (create hiking trails, mountain bike trails, etc.), which follow guidelines for roads and protect water quality

Quality of Life Goals

Aesthetics

- Determine what is aesthetically pleasing to you
- Potentially thin fuels in highly visible areas
- Utilize thinnings to promote structural development and complexity so as to take on older forest characteristics
- Establish retention goals in highly visible areas
- Limb along hiking trails
- Remove invading conifers in oak woodlands

Special places; spiritual/sacred places

- Identify places with deep significance to you
- Take steps to protect those areas

Recreation

- Enhance recreation potential (develop hiking or biking trails, waterways, hunting blinds, etc.)

Landscape scale goals

How do all your goals fit together at the property and watershed/regional level?

- Talk to neighbors and local watershed groups to find out about local priorities and concerns

—from A Forest Landowner's Curriculum by UC Cooperative Extension (soon to be released).



Your personal goals are the basis for your forest management strategy.

Regulations and permits

Laws, regulations, and court decisions increasingly shape private forestland ownership and the practice of forestry on private lands. Designed to protect public trust resources, these laws and regulations have been formulated to protect forest health, as well as environmental and economic sustainability.

Land management activities, including timber harvest, can impact soils, fish, and wildlife habitat, rare plants, air and water quality, and archaeological resources within or adjacent to the activity area. As a result, protection of these resources is required through a number of state, federal, and local land use laws, which are implemented by a variety of county, state, and federal agencies.

The rules and regulations that affect private forestlands are many, complex, and confusing. Timber harvesting is regulated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). Many activities that do not involve harvesting trees are also subject to regulation, such as replacing culverts, building roads, conducting prescribed burns, etc.

It is best to contact your local California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office or a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to find out what rules must be met and what steps taken in order to accomplish your land management goals.

Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 is the primary law forest landowners need to be aware of. It is recognized as the most comprehensive forest regulation statute in the nation. The purpose of the law is “to achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products while giving consideration to values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment.”

The detailed regulations used to enforce the law are embodied in the **California Forest Practice Rules** (CFPR). The regulations, among other things, define the size and location of harvest areas, and matters such as protection of riparian corridors, archaeological sites, timing of harvest during wildlife nesting periods, locations of roads, operations during certain seasons, and protection of soils. You

can get a copy of the California Forest Practice Rules from your local CDF office or online (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/resourcemanagement/forestpractice.asp>).

Other rules

- **County Rules**—some counties have their own rules which are included in the California Forest Practice Rules. These special rules currently apply to Marin, Monterey, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.
- **Sensitive Watershed Rules**—special rules have been designed to address the issues of sensitive watersheds. A list of these watersheds can be found in the CFPR.
- **Endangered Species Acts** (state and federal)—these laws have been enacted to protect threatened and endangered animals and plants. This includes actions that would “harass, harm, (including significant habitat modification or degradation), pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.” A complete list of protected species can be found online (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/TEAnimals.pdf>).
- **Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act**—protects water quality. Regional Water Quality Board staff are involved in activities including preharvest, active, and post harvest inspections; THP review team meetings; stream monitoring and assessment; and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.
- **California Environmental Quality Act** (CEQA)—requires an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to disclose significant effects of a proposed project and identify measures to avoid and reduce environmental damage.
- **Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Permit** (1603 permits)—this permit is necessary for water diversion, culvert replacement, road repair, gravel removal, or other activities that will change the natural flow of a waterway (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/1600/index.html>).
- **Smoke Management Plans** (SMP)—besides a burn permit, SMPs are required for all burns greater than 10 acres in size or estimated to produce more than 1 ton of particulate matter.
- **Clean Water Act** (CWA)—federal law to protect streams (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb8/pdf/303d.pdf>)



More on timber harvest permits

Timber Harvest Plans (THP)

Harvesting timber in California is complex, time-consuming, and costly. Any time you sell, barter, or trade timber you will need a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) that is approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) or else a notice of exemption.

A THP is a legal document equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report. It is intended to protect the harvest site and the environment from damage. The plan provides project information to the state and the public and direction to timber operators for compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules. It spells out the types of activities proposed, when and how they can be performed, and treatments that minimize impacts to the environment. A THP emphasizes protection for streams, ponds, domestic water supplies, and erosion prevention.

THPs must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). They are then reviewed and approved by CDF, the lead agency. To help ensure environmental protection, other agencies may review the document and provide recommendations to CDF that may be incorporated into the conditions of approval. These include the CA Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Geological Survey, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies, such as the County, may also be involved.

The review and public comments can take up to three months before a permit is issued.

A CDF inspector will conduct THP inspections. A pre-harvest inspection (PHI) is normally conducted to examine the THP area and logging plan. All review team members (see agencies above) may attend, as well as other experts and agency personnel requested by CDF. As a result of the PHI, additional recommendations may be made to provide greater environmental protection.

CDF may conduct inspections during

A THP is a legal document equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report. It is intended to protect the harvest site and the environment from damage.

active harvest operations. Within 30 days of completion of work, the timber owner is required to file a work completion report and a second CDF inspection occurs. For THPs that rely on planting, the stocking report is submitted and inspected no sooner than two years following planting to ensure that planted trees have at least two growing seasons in the ground.

Restocking of the plan area through planting must occur within five years of completion of operations. The timber owner or its representative must file a stocking report that documents the survival of the trees that will make up the next stand and planting will need to be scheduled. Erosion controls must be maintained in working condition from one to three years after completion of operations.

For those THPs that utilize silvicultural methods that require that State stocking standards be met immediately, upon completion of timber operations the stocking report may be filed concurrently with the work completion report.

Non-industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMP)

A Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) provides an alternative to preparing a THP for forest landowners with fewer than 2500 acres. Unlike the THP, which must be prepared whenever a harvest is done, when a NTMP is approved a landowner can harvest with only a simple notice to CDF. Additional benefits include the advantage to sell when timber markets are high and reduction in the amount of time and money spent on preparing harvest plans. Like the THP, a NTMP must be prepared by a RPF.

A NTMP requires that the landowner practice sustained yield principles utilizing uneven-aged management techniques. The landowner must demonstrate through a property-wide inventory that harvest will not exceed the growth.

While the NTMP requires more data than a THP, if harvesting is done on a regular basis this cost may be less than writing multiple THPs. The relative costs should be determined before deciding whether to write a THP or NTMP for your property.

—adapted from A Forest Landowner's Curriculum by UC Cooperative Extension.

Timber Harvesting Plan Exemptions

Landowners who harvest a small amount of wood for their personal use, typically firewood, do not need a THP. You can file for an exemption if you harvest Christmas trees; dead, dying or diseased trees; split products; establish a right-of-way; or remove fire hazard trees within 150 feet of a structure. There is also a one-time exemption for conversion of less than 3 acres to another use.

An exemption from a THP is not an exemption from following the Forest Practice and other environmental rules and regulations. The idea is that activities exempted from THP are of a size and scale that will not significantly impact the forest resources.

For a more complete list of exemptions, see the California Forest Practice Rules.

Resources

Tax time and other economic topics

The technology of the web continues to improve all the time. Take advantage of these two great resources:

The Mendocino

County RCD now has many of their publications (and videos, CDs, and DVDs), including the famous Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads, for sale online at <http://mrcd.ca.nacdn.org/pubs.html>.

Timber Tax Website

What's new in the tax arena this year? Visit the National Timber Tax website (<http://www.timbertax.org>) to find the answers to many of your tax questions.

Publications such as *Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2005 Tax Year* and *Federal Income Tax on Timber—A Key to Your Most Frequently Asked Questions* are available there as well as *Ag Handbook #714: Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax*.

New developments include a revised Form T—Forest Activities Schedule and a new form and requirements for conservation easement donors. The forms and instructions are available on the site as well as discussion and links to other sources of information.

In addition, there are numerous estate planning resources plus estate tax resources:

- *Estate Planning Opportunities and Strategies for Private Forest Landowners* by Michael G. Jacobson and John Becker
- *Estate Planning for Forest Landowners—What Will Become of Your Timberland?* by Haney and

Siegel

- *Estate and Gift Tax Law: Changes Under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.*

Be sure to look over the “Getting Started” section, which has everything from recordkeeping and determining your basis to reforestation expenses and cost-share payments.

Forest and Range Website

From the Timber Tax website, it's just a click and a jump to the Forest and Range website (<http://www.forestandrange.org>). Created by the National Learning Center for Private Forest and Range Landowners, this is a “virtual natural resource education center” providing interactive online instruction for private forest and range landowners. Interactive materials such as “Making Estate Planning More Accessible” and “You and Your Forest: A guide to understanding and managing your forest resources.”

This site covers other topics, such as coping with the aftermath of a wildfire including restoration, economic issues, and tax implications. There is also a section on developing a wildlife enterprise with information on planning, legal aspects, habitat management, and marketing.

Technical Assistance

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

California Stewardship Helpline
1-800-738-TREE; ncsaf@mcn.org

California Dept of Forestry & Fire Protection
Forest Landowner Assistance Programs
Jeffrey Calvert
916-653-8286; jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov

Forestry Assistance Specialists
Jill Butler (Santa Rosa) 707-576-2935
Gary Whitson (Fresno-King) 485-7500 x107
Ed Cranz (Placer) 530-889-0111 x128
Mary Huggins (S. Lake Tahoe) 530-541-1989
Patrick McDaniel (Ama/El Dorad) 530-647-5288
Dale Meese (Butte) 530-283-1792
Alan Peters (Calav/Tuol) 209-754-2709
Kevin Whitlock (Yuba/Nevada) 530-265-2661
Jim Robbins (Fortuna) 707-726-1258
Adam Wyman (Red Bluff) 530-528-5116

California Association of RCDs
916-447-7237
staff@carcd.org

California Dept of Fish & Game
Marty Berbach
916-327-8839; mberbach@dfg.ca.gov

California Resources Agency
California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)
Deanne DiPietro
916-653-8614; deanne@ceres.ca.gov

Farm Service Agency
Larry Plumb
530-792-5520

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jerry Reioux
530-792-5655; jerry.reioux@ca.usda.gov

U.C. Cooperative Extension Forestry
Richard Harris
510-642-2360; rrharris@nature.berkeley.edu

Gary Nakamura
530-224-4902; gmnakamura@ucdavis.edu

USDA Forest Service
Sandra Stone
707-562-8918; sstone01@fs.fed.us

Calendar

March 27–30, 2006

Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference: Fuels Management—How to Measure Success

Location: Portland, OR
Sponsor: Int'l Association of Wildland Fire
Contact: 650-890-2348; iawf@iawfonline.org
Cost: TBA
<http://www.iawfonline.org/fuels/overview.shtml>

April 4–6, 2006

Board of Forestry Meeting
Location: Alpine (San Diego County)
Contact: 916-653-8007
<http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>

April 5–6, 2006

California Biodiversity Council Central Valley Regional Meeting
Location: TBD
Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Contact: 530-224-4902; slcooper@ucdavis.edu
Cost: \$12 for lunch
<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/>

April 6–7, 2006

Making Biomass Work: How to Meet Community, Economic, and Ecological Needs
Location: Running Y Ranch, Klamath Falls, OR
Contact: 503-221-6911 x105; john@sustainablenorthwest.org
Cost: \$200
<http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/biomass/biomassindex.php>

May 2–4, 2006

Board of Forestry Meeting
Location: Northshore Lake Tahoe
Contact: 916-653-8007
<http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>

May 3–5, 2006

Forest Landowners of California: Tax and Estate Planning for Family Forests
Location: Chico, CA
Sponsor: Forest Landowners of California
Contact: Dan Weldon 916-972-0273; dweldon@forestlandowners.org
Cost: TBA
<http://www.forestlandowners.org/>

May 7–11, 2006

Monitoring Conference: Monitoring Networks: Connecting for Clean Water
Location: San Jose, CA
Sponsor: Nat'l Water Quality Monitoring Council
Contact: NWQMC2006@tetrattech-ffx.com
Cost: TBA
<http://water.usgs.gov/wicp/acwi/monitoring/conference/2006/>

May 19–21, 2006

Northwest California Regional Fire Safe Council Conference
Location: Del Norte County
Sponsor: Del Norte Fire Safe Council
Contact: 707-951-5437; dnfsc@charterinternet.com

June 6–8, 2006

Board of Forestry Meeting
Location: Los Angeles County
Contact: 916-653-8007
<http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>

June 11–17, 2006

Forestry Institute for Teachers
Location: Manton, CA
Sponsor: N. Cal. Society of Am Foresters & others
Contact: 1-800-738-8733
Cost: N/C
<http://www.forestryinstitute.org>

June 18–24, 2006

Forestry Institute for Teachers
Location: Quincy, CA
(see June 11 listing)

June 25–28, 2006

Forest Products Society International Convention “Building Smart”
Location: Newport Beach, CA
Sponsor: Forest Products Society
Contact: 608-231-1361 x208; conferences@forestprod.org
Cost: see website
<http://www.forestprod.org/confam06.html>

July 9–15, 2006

Forestry Institute for Teachers
Location: Humboldt County, CA
(see June 11 listing)

September 8–October 13, 2006

Forest Stewardship Course
Location: Plumas/Sierra Counties
Sponsor: Plumas-Sierra Counties UC Cooperative Extension & UC Center for Forestry
Contact: Mike De Lasaux 530-283-6125
mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu
Cost: TBA
Notes: 5 evening session and 2 field trips

October 9–12, 2006

California Oak Symposium: “California's Oaks: Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities”
Location: Rohnert Park, CA
Sponsor: UC Integrated Hardwood Range Mgmt. Program and others
Contact: 510-642-0095; forestry@nature.berkeley.edu
Cost: TBA
Notes: Field tours on October 9
<http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/symposium.html>

Tax and Estate Planning for Family Forests will be the topic on May 3–5, sponsored by Forest Landowners of California in Chico. For more information, call 916-972-0273 or go to <http://www.forestlandowners.org/>.

For more information on these events call the number provided or the Forest Stewardship Helpline, 1-800-738-TREE. To submit an event, contact Sherry Cooper, 530-224-4902; slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu. Find a more comprehensive calendar at the Forest Stewardship website <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward>.

Some notes on hiring professionals

You want to find someone who will look out for your interests and who will listen to your ideas, help you find ways to achieve your goals, and who you are comfortable working with.

It is best to talk over your management goals and objectives with experienced professionals, whether they be UC Extension or CDF specialists, a professional forester (RPF), or other consultants. These experts have the education and experience to see possibilities and solutions that can save you time and money in achieving your goals. You must work with a RFP if you are going to harvest timber.

If you decide to hire a forester or other specialist, it is important to choose the right individual for your needs. You want to find someone who will look out for your interests and who will listen to your ideas, help you find ways to achieve your goals, and who you are comfortable working with. This is especially important when you have a relationship that may continue for many years, such as with a RFP. As with your family doctor, personality may be just as important as expertise.

How do you go about finding the best person for the job? Here are a few basic steps:

- Identify potential professionals
- Check qualifications and credentials
- Check references
- Check insurance (if necessary)
- Meet with potential candidates
- Sign a contract

Begin your search by making a list of the

professions you think can help with your situation. A forester, licensed timber operator (LTO), surveyor, wildlife biologist, botanist, hydrologist, archaeologist, and engineer are just a few of the natural resource management professionals available.

Personal recommendations are often the best way to find a professional. Talk to your friends and neighbors about their experiences, good and bad. Your local Cooperative Extension or CDF office generally has lists of professionals. In addition, professional organizations, such as the California Licensed Foresters Association, Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of American Foresters, and the Wildlife Society will supply a list of members that offer consulting services. A search of the phone book or internet can also give you names.

In California, professionals in some fields, e.g. forestry, surveying, and pest control, need a license to practice. Check with the appropriate agency to see if your candidate's license is in good standing and to find out about any possible disciplinary actions. Check at the courthouse for records of lawsuits.

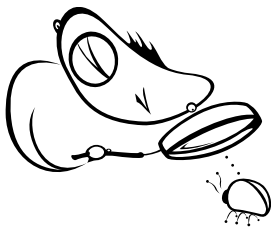
Boards, agencies and professional organizations can offer certificates of specialization or training. For example, CDF offers a training course in archaeology for RFPs. Foresters who complete this course are then qualified to conduct preliminary archaeological surveys on private property. You may want to confirm that your candidate professional has a certificate of specialization.

It is essential to ask for references and check them by talking to previous clients and, if possible, viewing recent jobs. Prepare a list of questions to help you get started. Some possible questions:

- Were you satisfied with the services performed? Why or why not?
- Did this professional respond to your questions in a timely and professional manner?
- Were there any surprises?
- Would you hire this person again? Why?

After you narrow down your list, meet with several of the candidates before making your choice. It is best to tour your property with each. Ask questions such as "Given our family's goals and objectives, how would you recommend we proceed? What are our management options?" Decide which candidate is the right fit for you.

Once you have selected a consultant, make sure there are no surprises by signing a contract or agreement that specifies services and costs.



How can the Forestland Steward newsletter serve you?

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My suggestions are _____

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- To save on printing costs and paper, we encourage you to get the internet version of Forestland Steward. Check here for an email copy of each issue instead of a hard copy.

Send to CDF, Forestry Assistance, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460.
Phone: (916) 653-8286; Fax: (916) 653-8957; email: jeff.calvert@fire.ca.gov