

## Community Forest Management Planning Session Summary

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Sustainable Forest Council: Beginnings Session Summary .....          | 1  |
| Key Elements from June 29 <sup>th</sup> Planning Session Notes: ..... | 3  |
| Fire/fuels management .....   | 3  |
| State Policy .....  | 3  |
| Strategies .....  | 4  |
| Next Steps: Coordinated Response.....                                 | 4  |
| Attachment I: Group One Notes .....                                   | 5  |
| Attachment II: Group Two Notes .....                                  | 8  |
| Attachment III: The Knowledge Commons.....                            | 11 |
| Attachment IV: Final Group Comments.....                              | 14 |

### Sustainable Forest Council: Beginnings Session Summary

At the Community Planning Session on June 29<sup>th</sup>, about 35-40 people active in forest management and land use issues and implementation gathered at the Beginnings Octagon in Briceland, CA. Participants represented a variety of perspectives and concerns including professional forest management, conservation, wood products manufacturing, restoration, large and small landowners, environmental advocacy, fire prevention planning, volunteer fire departments, fuels reduction contractors, forest management certification, county government officials and staff and small business development.

The morning session consisted of five informational presentations which gave participants background information on:

- » The economic variables impacting the timber industry including global, national, regional and northcoast perspectives on timber markets, supply, and production capacity. **John Rogers: *The State of Sustainability (ISF)***
- » The current status of state legislation impacting forest managers and forest landowners along with a brief overview of the California Performance Review process. **Paul Mason: *Update on CA legislation (Sierra Club)***
- » A discussion of existing incentives for conservation on the working landscape focusing on conservation easements. **Roger Sternberg: *Easements on the Working Landscape (Conservation Consultant)***
- » A description of the *Program Timber Environmental Impact Report* written for the Weaverville Resource Conservation District focused on fuels management and the possible use of a PTEIR as community forest management planning tool. **Greg Blomstrom: *PTEIR as an opt-in planning framework (BBW & Associates)***
- » The impact of industry wide trends on sustaining north coast production capacity, strategies for remaining viable in the current economic context and strategies for supporting sustainable forest management in the long term. **Art Harwood: *Sustainable Production in a Globalized Market ? (Harwood Products)***

ISF's presentation was based on the *ISF State of Sustainability Report* which is available online at: <http://newforestry.org>. The Rogers, Blomstrom, and Harwood powerpoint presentations can also be viewed online at: <http://newforestry.org/council/>. Hardcopy of ISF's

report was distributed to all participants prior to the planning session. George Johnson from CDF also brought summary sheet handouts for existing incentive programs including CFIP, EQIP and others which were made available at the session. Much of this information is also available online at: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/financial.html>.

In the afternoon the meeting broke into two smaller groups. Both groups were asked to begin the process of defining community land use objectives for the southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino geographic region. We asked each group to address several areas of concern: Conservation (working landscape), Preservation, Fire Safety, Restoration, Resource Based Economic Activity.

Group One prioritized fire safety as a unifying concern for all landowners in the region with an emphasis on using fire management as a tool to promote both fire safety and active forest management. (See Group One Notes.)

Group Two identified growth as a factor encouraging conversion of forest land to real estate development and subdivisions and prioritized developing collaborative strategies to support and maintain large ownerships in sustainable forest management such as conservation easements, forest management and conservation incentives, and landscape level planning. (See Group Two Notes)

Both groups raised specific policy issues and made some policy recommendations.

The primary goals articulated by participants at the planning session were:

**1. Fire Safety**

Focus on working with fire safe councils and local volunteer fire departments to bring large and small landowners together to support firesafe planning, residential fire safety, defensible fuel breaks and, where feasible, to support active sustainable forest management that maintains the provision of ecosystem services and reduces the buildup of hazardous fuel loads.

**2. Communication and Networking**

Focus on getting information to broad cross-section of stakeholders and the general public regarding the situation in the timber industry on the north coast and the potential to develop effective policy and strategies to support sustainable forest management.

**3. Policy development**

Focus on developing and supporting positive incentives that support private landowners maintaining and managing for conservation and public trust values on the working forest landscape.

## Key Elements from June 29<sup>th</sup> Planning Session Notes:

The key elements identified in this summary were drawn from the notes appended to the end of this document:

- » Notes from breakout Group One,
- » Notes from breakout Group Two,
- » Notes from “*The Knowledge Commons*” where participants were able to express unstructured thoughts and concerns throughout the planning session, and
- » Notes from the final wrap up session with the entire group.

Conversations at the planning session covered a broad range of topics in response to the morning presentations. At the request of the *Sustainable Forest Council* elements from all the tear sheets were grouped by these topic areas:

- » Fire/fuels management
- » State policy
- » Strategies
- » Next steps

These topic areas organize many of the group comments into a set of objectives intended to support community forest management efforts.

---

### Fire/fuels management

Enforce existing (fire safety) county laws/regulations set by county building departments.

1. Create an exemption for small tree harvesting
  - a) CDF regulates commercial harvest through THP's, NTMP's, exemptions, etc. However; what about selling pre-commercial material to offset fuel treatments. E.g., small diameter material 6-10' diameter-- if sold this would institute a commercial THP requirement.
  - b) Help w/policy at state level to change definition of fee/taxable material (requirements for THPs) so that forest managers can afford to reduce fuel load, afford to CREATE jobs to do it?
2. Explore/research how to move small amounts of wood; make value added products; other possible commercially-viable opportunities.
3. Use zoning regulations/use state fire laws to "educate" new immigrants- new immigrants have large income/money but are ignorant of local values and resources
4. Use fire planning and Fire Safe Councils as a tool for collaboration.
5. Build collaborative relationships at landscape level: the issue is not small land-owners vs. large land-owners.

### State Policy

1. Support stewardship NTMP—(M)THP
2. Need for a policy/regulation vehicle that rewards long-term ownership of forest land. Buying and selling timberland (churning) continually raises the debt load & maintenance costs of owning forest land thus requiring "short" rotation intensive management. Better forestry practiced on family-held properties. (there are two issues here – 1) as property values rise, it tends to be more profitable to shareholders to sell land, and 2), while it might seem obvious that retiring debt should be an incentive in and of itself (since income ought to be higher when debt is retired), in actuality it seems like the cash flow to retire debt is the main issue. Maine has a forest regulation that is designed to keep forest land from being developed for 7 years. However it is poorly thought out and, at the end of 7 years the landowner can then sell out.
3. Develop excise taxes on recreational equipment: ie, money back in the community from visitors who buy gear elsewhere: they use it here but we receive no revenue.

Already in place for hunting and fishing: Pittman Robertson Act.

- » 11% excise tax on firearms, fishing lures, etc.
- » \$ 5 billion per year for wildlife refuges. ("I could not confirm this figure," he notes. "Nat'l Wildlife Refuge website admits to \$500 million.")

Outdoor recreation participation trends "Intro to Forest and Renewable Resources"  
Grant W. Sharpe, et al.

## Strategies

1. Need incentives vs. regulatory approach. How do we make it easier? tax benefits, etc. think about the larger land ownerships to make a difference.
  - a. **What do we want incentives for?**
  - b. Public needs to pay for public trust resources
    - i. Conservation incentives: Natural services, valued: Air, water, recreation, education, soil, agriculture>> Huge economic issue. Good forestry produces increased H2O retention and dry period stream flow should be paid by water distribution agencies.
    - ii. Ecosystem services provided by landowners are an unwritten give away of a conservation easement on rural properties.
2. PTEIR: Opt-in framework linking collaborative planning to conservation incentives
  - a. Use the PTEIR process to reduce regulatory costs
    - i. PTEIR as functional equivalent to large ownerships:
    - ii. PTEIR could quantify ecosystem services.
    - iii. Large landowners might buy into PTEIR concept in return for lower regulatory costs *and* getting \$\$ for a conservation easement: CREATE a PACKAGE DEAL; Invite them to "play" and develop attractive demo projects.
3. Have HSU do a project to value ecosystem services.
4. Conservation easements
  - a. Conservation Easements are not happening that fast.
    - i. Need to be combined with planning
    - ii. Improved organizational capacity
    - iii. CA agency review process is challenging for purchased CE
  - b. How to facilitate lease Conservation Easement's in CA?
    - i. Reorganize, efficiency, bringing it down to local level-not a lack of interest
    - ii. Make "Conservation Easement-Lite"- reduce costs, increase neighborhood participation
    - iii. Endow land trusts, increase efficiency, then bring into landscape planning process to target properties for CE's

## Next Steps: Coordinated Response

1. Need to develop a campaign to consolidate grassroots support, public opinion>> state politics, legislation.
    - » LINK : Social Economic and Environmental Issues
    - » INTEGRATE: The different groups that are working separately on specific issues such as County, Land Trusts, RCD, Watershed Councils.
  2. Network with broader region
    - » Summarize today's proceedings
    - » Identify people involved with other initiatives
    - » Build a matrix that show issues of all the groups, what they're doing and how they connect
    - » Expand scope in both counties
    - » Media contact
  3. Do another meeting w/more participants
- 
-

Attachment I: Group One Notes  
 ISF Planning Session  
 June 26th 2004  
 Compiled by Christina Carpenter

| ISSUES   | Resources/TOOLS & Process  |
|--|--|
| Conservation in working landscapes   | FIND OUT what's in place already   |
| Fire safety  | Firesafe councils  |
| Sustainable economies  | Define what's important, the benefit of the work: Sustainable resource-based economy.  |
| Restoration<br>Lots of restorative work needed, including using small diameter material. |  |
| Preservation: Effects of changing recreation paradigm.                                   |  |
|  | Capture influx of new dollars.   |
| Changing demographics/increasing population.   | Use dynamics of changing population ? to foster sustainable economy.   |
| Work together at a watershed scale: HOW?<br>And What Region?                             | Develop a team of people to research * ways to get assistance * resources.<br>Establish group and/or process to research, convene. |

**Getting the Word Out:**

Groups:

- Fire Safe councils
- Senior citizens
- Vets

High profile activities (ex: with red fire truck)

Getting people motivated

Need to encourage > Personal responsibility re: fireproofing properties/ taking care of properties.

We need to build capacity to help people participate in fireproofing their properties.

How do you frame the message?

Publicity

Lifestyle

Need good models as examples: Projects

Need to hear from all sides.

Disseminate basic info via:

Use what people already see and pay attention to: e.g., "Black Gold" bags

Radio, signs-billboards, mail drops, Newsletters and bills: water districts, school districts, fire districts, organizational newsletters, newspapers, internet.

Most effective tool is to keep the educational units small (E.g., Whale Gulch VFD)

- New Immigrants have large income/money but are ignorant of local values/resources-- how do we zone/use state fire laws to "educate" these immigrants?
- Enforce existing county laws/regulations set by county building departments.
- Use GREED and FEAR: Appeal to people's self-interest to treat their vegetation by making it profit.

#### HOW TO MATCH FOREST ECONOMY WITH FIRESAFE ACTIVITIES:

- Maximize economy of scale for fireproofing properties by bringing in more equipment.
- Work together
- Work on policy change: Exemptions for small tree harvesting
- Explore/research how to move small amounts of wood; other possible commercially-viable opportunities.
- Make value added products
- Force evolution in forest practice
- Act to take account of firesafe products/ practices.
- Ecosystem services provided by landowners are an unwritten give away of a conservation easement on rural properties>> Have HSU do a project to value ecosystem services.
- PTEIR could quantify these ecosystem services.
- Large landowners might buy into PTEIR concept in return for lower regulatory costs *and* getting \$\$ for a conservation easement: CREATE a PACKAGE DEAL; Invite them to "play" and develop attractive demo projects.
- Realtors need to provide info on firesafe practices to prospective land buyers; get realtors involved in saving land and promoting sustainable forestry practices/support.

#### HIGHER PROFILE: INCLUSIVENESS< MOTIVATION

Get entire community involved in outreach/education

What is the community vision: Short-term, Mid-term, and Long-term?

Can there be a program to help landowners to firesafe their property [used] as a community organizing tool?

How do you justify funding for FSC (Fire Safe Council) without waiting for disasters to help justify?

How do you foster engagement & continuing commitment-- where will leadership come from-- how do we foster inter-organizational solutions/engagement?

#### WHO SHOULD BE INVITED TO FURTHER THE DISCUSSION:

- Bring in state legislators

- Bring in more FSC people (fire safe activities lend motivation, are readily productive, worthwhile)
- Provide incentives for people to share their successes.
- Where is academia, high school teachers? }Road Associations
- Tourists/tourism industry
- Timber company reps from local area.
- Bring in concepts fro PTEIR; have FSC bring consultants together to develop alternatives for their communities-- a good community=planning tool.

**Summary Report Back Notes:**

Fire Planning – successful models – great organizing tool

(using fire as a way to talk about forest health generally)

Real estate community involved (Humboldt Association of Realtors)

Neighborhood Scale!!

Quantifying benefits of Enviro services

Valuing Enviro sevices (involve HSU)

Finding and creating successful models

How to out reach to reach people who don't come to meetings – (real estate)

Play on greed and fear (using people's self interest)

ID'ing what's already out there.

Questions to Address:

Impacts of economics and planning

- **Who are other groups that need to be in this conversation? How do we link up with these groups? What are their interests?**
  - ◊ Land owner associations,
  - ◊ FSC's, Chambers of Commerce,
  - ◊ Environmental organizations,
  - ◊ NGO's,
  - ◊ Rural health services, etc
- **Where do we go from here, after today?**
- **Is there an appropriate scale to encourage local markets? To meet local markets needs?**
  - ◊ Whitethorn Construction went from over 50% local to over 50% “export” (65% outside of north coast region), at same time, sales nearly doubling
  - ◊ Local markets are small
- **Are we better off locally with growth or not?**
  - ◊ Accept the fact that we are growing, how do we deal with it?
  - ◊ Do you want higher or lower growth rate than expected?
  - ◊ Can influence this with public policy
  - ◊ Every new house built costs local government, the more spread out the development the higher cost, however
  - ◊ Commercial development is cost effective-this is a function of tax structure- Prop 13- equally true in incorporated and non-incorporated area
  - ◊ American Farmland Trust-investment in land conservation is a better investment than development
- **Why are we here today?**
  - ◊ Subdivision threats
  - ◊ If mills close it makes sustainable forestry even more challenging
  - ◊ Can we deal with county regulations
- **Southern Humboldt/Northern Mendocino- specific policy regulation changes or suggestions-What can we do besides reducing regulatory costs?**
  - ◊ How to maintain local viability?
  - ◊ Management
  - ◊ Policy
  - ◊ Socio-economics
- **Petrolia example: Huge turnover in landowners**
  - ◊ Old folks are dying , kids not interested
  - ◊ You can “eat the view” now (You CAN’T eat the view??) under lying values changing
  - ◊ CES-reality check-not happening that fast, needs to be combined with planning
  - ◊ B/c lack of organizational capacity, \$\$\$

- **Grazing like timberland-values low, hard to compete/survive**
- **Subdivisions-pure economics**
- **CE's-Is it just an issue of money? YES!!!**  
**What needs to happen to ↑?**
  - ◊ **VT example**
  - ◊ **CA agency review process is challenging for purchased CE**
- **How to facilitate lease CF's in CA?**
  - ◊ Reorganize, efficiency, bringing it down to local level-not a lack of interest
  - ◊ Make "CE-Lite"- reduce costs, increase neighborhood participation
  - ◊ Policy issues-both at state and county level
  - ◊ Need incentives vs. regulatory approach. How do we make it easier?
    - tax benefits, etc
    - think about the larger land ownerships to make a difference
- **Endow landtrusts, increase efficiency, then bring into landscape planning process to target properties for CE's**
- **PTEIR as functional equivalent to large ownerships**
- **What do we want incentives for?**
- **How do we get them?**
- **Not small land-owners vs. large land-owners-need to build collaborative relationships at landscape level**
  - ◊ Fire planning as a tool
- **Mini CE tools-Williamson Act, TPZ**
- **Focus on large ownerships NOW before they are small**
- **Parcel taxes have significant impact on larger ownerships with many parcels. Majority imposed on minority. These dollars provide community service, but at what cost to local forests?**
- **Where are the leverage points to foster maintenance of working lands**
  - ◊ **TPZ**
  - ◊ **Williamson**
  - ◊ **State Tax**
  - ◊ **County Assessment**

TOOLS: CEs, (Planning), (Regulation), (Markets), Tax benefits, (Incentives), Endow land trusts, PTEIR, RFFI, TPZ, Williamson Act, Zoning

### **County Sketch Plans**

#### **#3 "Conservation"**

- ◊ **Limit development**
- ◊ **Increase parcel size on larger ownerships**
- ◊ **No houses on timber industry**

## Leverage Points

### TPZ

Williamson

Media-local press, NCJournal feature

### Neighborhood

- How to make it easier to do collaborative planning? Joint NTMP's CE's (arrows to State)

### Community

- Farmers markets as media/outreach tool, including local wood products
- Education system
- Foundations establish endowments
- Fire planning

### County

- Merger provisions up to small size parcels
- Income stream at county level-xter (?) tax, ect for CE's

### State

- Reduce regulatory costs-PTEIR
- Public needs to pay for public trust resources
- Support stewardship NTMP—(M)THP (arrows to National)

### National

- Recognition for environmental compliance for public trust
- Need money for environmental services

### International

- Shut down WTO
- Stop Iraq War
- Energy costs

Attachment III: The Knowledge Commons  
ISF Planning Session  
June 26, 2004  
Wall Comments  
Compiled by Christina Carpenter

## “THE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS”

LINK : Social Economic and Environmental Issues

INTEGRATE: The different groups that are working separately on specific issues.

CDF regulates commercial harvest through THP's, NTMP's, exemptions, etc. However; what about selling pre-commercial material to offset fuel treatments. E.g., small diameter material 6-10' diameter-- if sold this would institute a commercial THP requirement.

Churning of forest land-- buying and selling timberland continually raises the debt load & maintenance costs of owning forest land thus requiring "short" rotation intensive management. Better forestry practiced on family-held properties. Need a policy/regulation vehicle that rewards long-term ownership of forest land.

CONCEPT: Attractive vs. Extractive Industries.

Enquiring minds want to know: WHY, not just what. Need more information on relational dynamics. Regulation>> Market dynamics >>

Incentives to harvest/ to collaborate?

IRAQ - plywood prices up?

Volume> Harvest> Not a direct correlation to impact at a local level.

What global dynamics impact us at the local/regional level?

Economic clusters:

Clout, Negotiating power >>

Mitigate market vagaries>> What matters?  
Productivity? Profitability?  
Long range forest health?  
Sustainability?

Support innovation, Entrepreneurship.

Predictable income streams.

Job creation through process of implementation of sustainable forest practices and watershed health.

Social/political capital

>> Conservation incentives:

Natural services, valued: Air, water, recreation, education, soil, agriculture

Excise taxes on recreational equipment

## “WHAT DO YOU THINK?”

Trust = A renewable resource

Need to develop a campaign to consolidate grassroots support, public opinion>> state politics, legislation.

Potential; coordinated permitting process:

- Easier on good steward" landowners= incentives
- Develops capacity, better working relationships-- communication, trust among agencies, etc.

Humboldt Resources: Growing Population, HSU, Port, Coast property values rising, Working forests, Housing, Economics- capture income streams

Good jokes:

"a couple of elderly RPF's we know met through a carbon dating service. "

## OBSERVATIONS:

"Attractive industries in Western States are now generating more cash flow than extractive industries & ranching combined/" *High Country Times*

Recreations: excise taxes on equipment gear, ie, money back in the community from visitors who buy gear elsewhere: they use it here but we receive no revenue.

Already on place for hunting and fishing: Pittman Robertson Act.

- 11% excise tax on firearms, fishing lures etc.
- \$ 5 billion per year for wildlife refuges. ("I could not confirm this figure," he notes. "Nat'l Wildlife Refuge website admits to \$500 million.)

Outdoor recreation participation trends "Intro to Forest and Renewable Resources" Grant W. Sharpe, et al.

Related article: Open-Door Policy in "Popular Mechanics" magazine, May 2001

[Popularmechanics.com](http://Popularmechanics.com)

[Highcountrytimes.com](http://Highcountrytimes.com)

Get REI, Big 5 to donate % of sales, establish a LEGACY fund for conservation, restoration, stewardship endowment fund?

Partners: County, Land Trusts, RCD. Watershed Councils.

Forest products= wood, water, wildlife, & recreation

>> Huge economic issue. Good forestry producing increased H2O retention and dry period stream flow should be paid by water distribution agencies.

Help w/policy at state level to change definition of fee/taxable material (requirements for THPs) so that forest managers can afford to reduce fuel load, afford to CREATE jobs to do it?

Community Forestry groups

Watershed groups

\$\$ for:

Forestry and ecological services

To help generate money for Volunteer fire agencies

Transportation for training

Fire/EMT ?First responder

Insurance to respond to emergencies

Websites:

Cfsc- [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)

Ca Fire Alliance- [www.cafirealliance.org](http://www.cafirealliance.org)

CWPP Guidleline- [www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpp.cfm](http://www.safnet.org/policyandpress/cwpp.cfm)

Legislative info- [www.sen.ca.gov](http://www.sen.ca.gov) (follow links for legislation to a search engine)

Redwood Forest Foundation Inc- [www.RFFL.org](http://www.RFFL.org)

**Who should be here?**

Buckeyes  
Rodoni  
New and or young landowners  
New Fort Bragg Supervisor  
Sanctuary Forest  
Cattlemen's Association  
Educational Community  
Farm Bureau  
NCR Land Trust  
Coastal Headwaters  
Board of Realtors  
Fire Safe Council  
Health  
Volunteer Fire Departments  
Industrial Landowners  
Community Foundations  
    HAF  
    McClellan  
Economic Development Organizations  
Restoration Groups  
C of C's  
Media  
Schools  
Radio Station  
Loggers, LTO's Mill owners  
Local Enviro Orgs  
Local Pot Growers  
Salmon trollers and river guides  
DFG  
Parks  
BLM

**Cultivate**

Arts Alive  
Foundations  
Lytel Foundation  
McClellan's  
PL  
Homeland Security  
OES  
Green Diamond

**Resources**

ISF  
HAF  
HSU  
CR  
Mendo College  
Community Services Districts  
Ag Extension  
RCD  
RCAA  
CDF  
Local VFD's  
Buckeye  
FSC's  
General plan update  
NC Prosperity!  
FRAP  
Mendo Community Foundation  
Sanctuary Forest  
Tribes  
Intertribal Wilderness Council  
Save the Redwoods  
Fairs, Festivals, Reggae on the River

**Next Steps**

Expand scope in both counties  
Network with broader region  
NC Rural action  
Identify people involved with other initiatives  
Do another meeting w/more participants  
Convince each member of the community that they have an effect  
Build a matrix that show issues of all the groups, what they're doing and how they connect  
Media contact  
Summarize today's proceedings  
Funding  
Evaluation of the effects of this meeting  
Attend General Plan Meeting (jr)