

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. 21  
was approved as Minute Item  
No. 21 by the State Lands  
Commission by a vote of 3 CALENDAR ITEM  
to 0 at its 2/22/79  
meeting.

21.

2/79  
W 21914  
Black

REPORT ON COALITION  
WITH VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Chapter 881 of the Statutes of 1978 amended Section 32006 of the P.R.C. to require the evaluation of statewide policies of vegetation management. In compliance with this legislation the State Lands Commission was required to seek the advice of the State University and colleges and the University of California in the preparation of a report to the legislature by March 1, 1979. Following the submission of this report the Senate Office of Research will prepare a summary of all reports received by State agencies.

Copies of the draft report were mailed to selected academics and experts in fields of vegetation management at California institutions of higher learning. The report which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" describes the Commission's activities in the field of vegetation management as required by the bill.

A response was received from the University of California which encouraged the Commission to block up its holdings of school lands into units more susceptible to vegetation management.

Vegetation Management Report Summary:

A general policy on vegetative management has not been adopted, although specific activities have occurred in cooperation with public and private interests. The following are specific activities which have occurred to date:

1. Significant Lands Report;
2. On-going management/disposal/exchange with cooperation of the federal government;
3. Range improvement;
4. Salvage and overmature timber harvest;
5. Watershed and forest rehabilitation;
6. Grazing leases;

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7. Preliminary studies involving plantings of jojoba beans and eucalyptas, and various programs involving fuelbreaks;
8. Preservation of riparian and tidal marsh and habitat through acquisition and intergovernmental cooperation.

The influence of the State Lands Commission activity on adjacent property owners and related research are also discussed.

EXHIBITS:           A. Vegetation Management Report.  
                      B. University of California Response.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. APPROVE THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE REPORT ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" CONCERNING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 881, STATUTES OF 1978.
2. AUTHORIZE CONTINUED EVALUATION OF ON-GOING PROGRAMS AND COORDINATION WITH THE STATE'S UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN FURTHERANCE OF VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON LANDS UNDER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON LANDS UNDER THE  
JURISDICTION OF THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION

(A Report in Conformance with Chapter 881  
Statutes of 1978)

The following information is submitted as specified in  
Section 32006 Public Resources Code as amended by Chapter  
881, Statutes of 1978.

- A. Description of present policy on the State Lands  
Commission's support or use of vegetation management.

The State Lands Commission has not adopted a general  
policy as to vegetation management on the lands under  
its jurisdiction. However, it has authorized a number  
of vegetation management activities upon the initiative  
and with the cooperation of other public or private  
entities and has expressed interest in cooperating  
with others in specific vegetation management projects.  
These are described under "B" below.

- B. Description of the State Lands Commission's present  
activity and programs on vegetation management.

The lands under the Commission's jurisdiction that are susceptible to vegetation management include approximately 600,000 acres of forest, range and watershed lands scattered throughout the State in individual parcels of from 10 to 640 acres in size. The Commission has not authorized a program of vegetation or non-mineral resource management on these lands.

However, the Commission has taken the following actions relating to vegetation management on these lands:

1. Approved a report on significant environmental values in 1975 in accordance with Section 6370.2 Public Resources Code.
2. Authorized, in April 1970, the inventory and classification of lands and development of a management plan for disposal and/or retention and use of the existing lands. This is coupled with on-going staff negotiations with federal agencies for land exchange and indemnity selection that would result in blocking up State ownership into units more adaptable to resource management.

3. In 1964 entered into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Conservation for range improvement projects consisting of road construction, stock water ponds, fencing and brush clearing on parcels totaling 3,600 acres in Lassen County.
4. Since 1974, authorized the salvage of damaged timber or harvest of mature timber totaling over 5,000,000 board feet in six areas totaling 600 acres.
5. In 1978, authorized entering into a watershed and forest rehabilitation project funded by federal funds under Title II, Round 2, Public Works Act. To date the project has involved 500 acres of site preparation, commercial tree planting and timber stand improvement. If funding is continued beyond June 30, 1979, up to 3,000 acres may be involved in this project by its conclusion in 1981.
6. Authorized 22 grazing leases, currently in force, totaling approximately 75,000 acres in eight counties.
7. The Commission's staff is currently working with other State and federal agencies that may lead to Commission authorization for cooperative agreements or leases to:

- a) Plant up to 1,000 acres of oil-producing jojoba beans as an experimental project with U C - Riverside and California Conservation Corps.
- b) Plant up to 2,000 acres of eucalyptis as an energy source for a power plant near Barstow, San Bernardino County.
- c) Provide for fuel breaks and fuel management activities in cooperation with California Department of Forestry, United States Forest Service and United States Bureau of Land Management. The initial area to be included in a fuel management project is in the Thatcher Creek drainage in Mendocino County.

Additionally, the Commission has jurisdiction over approximately 4 million acres of tide and submerged lands, a significant proportion of which includes tidal marsh and inland riparian vegetation. Management of these lands is broadly governed by the trust to accommodate commerce, navigation and fisheries. The Commission's boundary and title settlements, in recent years, have consistently required mitigation in the form of preservation and enhancement of tidal marsh and riparian vegetation and have resulted in State acquisitions of thousands of acres of valuable

habitat including areas at Bolsa Chica, Petaluma River, Suisun Marsh, and San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. These acquisitions have resulted from close cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game whose vegetation management programs to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat will be applied to the acquired lands. In addition the Commission has authorized 78 other projects of the Department of Fish and Game throughout the State, many of which involve that agency's vegetation management to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in tidal and riparian vegetation.

C. Description of the State Lands Commission's regulatory programs affecting vegetation management.

The Commission has no regulatory program affecting vegetation management other than its control of all activities on the lands under its jurisdiction.

D. Description of any activities of the State Lands Commission that prohibit, promote, or otherwise influence the ability of private landowners to undertake vegetation management programs.

The lands under the Commission's jurisdiction are intermingled with private lands in many places. If a vegetation management project on private lands required the inclusion of all or a portion of an adjacent State-owned parcel,

it would require Commission authorization. The requirements of CEQA would have to be met in-so-far as the State land is concerned. Also any use of these State lands would require compensation in accordance with the trust implied in the federal school land grant by which these lands came into State ownership.

- E. Description of which of the State Lands Commission's existing programs would be affected by an active vegetation management program in its agency or by another agency.

The existing property management function within the Division of Land Management and Conservation would be affected by an active program by another agency on lands under the Commission's jurisdiction. If the Commission initiated a program of its own, it would probably require establishment of a resource management function and presumably it also would be within the Division of Land Management and Conservation.

- F. A copy or a summary description of any research or reports on or relating to vegetation management prepared by or for the State Lands Commission.



There has been no research nor have any reports been prepared by or for the State Lands Commission other than staff or consultant recommendations as to timber harvest or reforestation on specific parcels of land under the Commission's jurisdiction. These reports are in the Commission's files but are too specific and limited in extent to be applicable or of benefit to the general field of vegetation management.

In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 32007, the following Public Resources Code Sections contain the statutory authority for the foregoing activities:

Public Resources Code, Division 6, Public Lands

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Part 1. Chapter 1 | Sections 6001 through 6008 |
| Chapter 2         | Sections 6101 through 6110 |
| Chapter 3         | Sections 6201 through 6225 |
| Chapter 4.5       | Sections 6370 through 6378 |
| Part 2. Chapter 1 | Sections 6501 through 6509 |
| Part 3. Chapter 1 | Sections 7301 through 7424 |

(Rev. 2/20/79)

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

EXHIBIT "B"

W 21914

January 3, 1978

R. J. Shimer  
Senior Forest Property Appraiser  
State Lands Commission  
1807 - 13th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

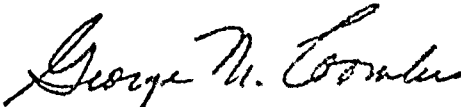
Dear Mr. Shimer:

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on your report to the Legislature regarding Vegetation Management on Lands Under the Jurisdiction of the State Lands Commission.

I have long been aware of the State lands authorized by the School Grants, but am surprised that the accumulated acreage is approximately 600,000 acres. It would be important to know how many individual parcels this involves, as that fact would further emphasize the difficulty and complexity of management of these lands. This large an acreage has potential for providing a significant amount of goods and services to the people of California, if placed under intensive management.

Perhaps the main comment I would have would be to further emphasize the desirability to block up State ownership into units more adaptable to resource management. This would perhaps be a long-term process, but should pay off in the long run.

Sincerely,



George H. Coombes  
Extension Forester  
163 Mulford Hall  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720

GMC:sir

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