

CALENDAR ITEM

57

MINUTE ITEM
This Calendar Item No. 57
was approved as Minute Item
No. 57 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 5/26/94
meeting.

A 2, 3

S 1, 4

05/26/94
W 21432
W 21869
W 22912
W 25122
D. Miller
Pelkofer

INSECT KILLED TIMBER SALVAGE

The State Lands Commission at its September 9, 1993, meeting, received notice of additional school land parcels that were infested with bark insects. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), by letter of August 12, 1993, indicated that trees in northeastern California, including portions of Shasta, Modoc, and Plumas Counties have suffered extensive insect damage and that the health of the remaining resources depends on the timely removal, i.e. salvage of the infected trees.

The State Lands Commission's Registered Professional Forester (RPF) has visited four school land parcels within the identified zones of infestation and verified that trees on these parcels are affected. It was also determined that the dead and dying trees are incubating the next generation of insects which could spread to trees presently unaffected.

The specific parcels on which staff has verified insect infestations are listed and described below:

Modoc County, Horse Springs, N2, N2S2, SW4SW4, SE4SE4, Section 36, T41N, R9E, MDB&M, 560 Acres, W 21869.

Plumas County, Clearwater, N2NE4, E2NW4, ptn. SE4NE4 (USFS road R/W), 194 Acres, W 22912. Ferris Creek, All, Section 16, T25N, R15E, MDB&M, 640 Acres.

Shasta County, Six Mile Hill, All, Section 36, R4E, MDB&M, 640 Acres W 25122.

The staff RPF will continue investigations to determine the infested parcels which need to be treated. There are probably another ten parcels not visited yet.

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Staff recommends that the Commission authorize: 1) the cutting and removal of the identified infested trees from the inspected parcels and 2) offsetting the costs of site preparation, reforestation after salvage operations and evaluation of other parcels within the designated zones of infestation with monies received from the sale of the salvaged timber.

Title 2, C.C.R., Section 2034 provides:

(a) Timber sales shall be conducted pursuant to competitive bidding, on terms and conditions set forth in an approved bid package for a price of no less than appraised fair market value except that:

(1) Sales of small volumes of timber ... or emergency salvage sales of fire, insect or disease damaged timber may be sold by direct solicitation of bids; and ... removal may be conducted without charge.

Staff proposes to solicit bids for the removal of the timber quickly and at a salvage price that will result in the highest net revenue to the State. Removal of timber will be governed by timber harvest plans approved by the CDF and in conformance with CDF pest management practices.

AB 884:
N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The proposed activity is governed by the provisions of Title 14, Division 1.5 Department of Forestry, Chapter 4 Forest Practices, Subchapter 7 Administration, Article 2, Timber Harvesting Plan, PP# 1052.1 Emergency Conditions. The following are conditions that constitute an emergency pursuant to 14 CCR 895.1:

(a) Trees that are dead or dying as a result of insects, disease, parasites, or animal damage.

("Emergency" means those conditions that will cause waste or loss of timber resources to the timber owner that may be minimized by immediate harvesting of infected, infested, or damaged timber or salvaging down timber, or those conditions that will cause appreciable

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loss to the timber owner that may be minimized by immediate harvesting of timber.)

2. The Commission's RPF has verified that insects have been found beneath the bark of both dead and live trees and are multiplying. These trees must be removed as soon as possible to reduce the potential of continued insect infestation of other presently healthy trees on the same parcels and in adjacent areas.
3. It is anticipated that first salvage operations should commence about the first part of June on the 60 day Emergency Notices, and the latter salvage operations will commence about mid-August.
4. The Commission's RPF will prepare and submit the Emergency Notices of Harvest to the CDF, and will administer the agreements while the purchaser will pay the required timber taxes.
5. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061), the staff has determined that this activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 7, 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905(f)(2) Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources, Timber harvesting of burned or diseased timber on school lands in accordance with the Forest Practices Act (P.R.C. Section 4511, et seq.).

Authority: P.R.C. 21084, 14. Cal. Code Regs. 15300, and 2 Cal. Code Regs. 2905(f)(2).

6. This activity involves lands identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to P.R.C. 6370, et seq. Based upon the staff's consultation with the agencies nominating such lands and through the CEQA review process, it is the staff's opinion that the project, as proposed, is consistent with the use classification.

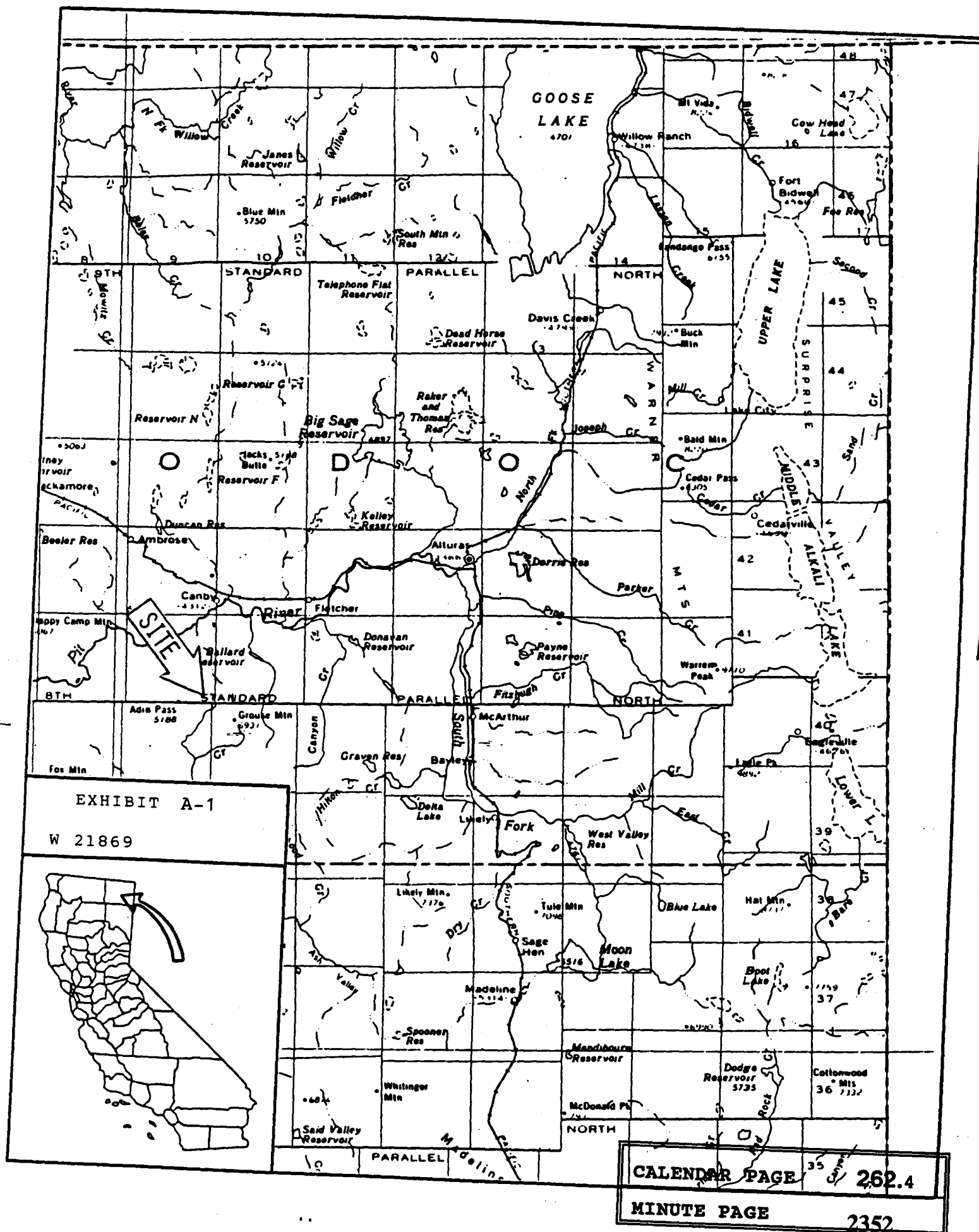
EXHIBITS:

- A. Location Map.
- B. The Board of Forestry's Proclamation of Emergency.
- C. Department of Forestry Letter.

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 57 (CONT'D)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15061 AS A CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PROJECT, CLASS 7, ACTIONS BY REGULATORY AGENCIES FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, 14 CAL. CODE REGS. 15300 AND 2 CAL. CODE REGS. 2905(f)(2), TIMBER HARVESTING OF BURNED OR DISEASED TIMBER ON SCHOOL LANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREST PRACTICES ACT (P.R.C. SECTIONS 4511, ET SEQ.).
2. FIND THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE USE CLASSIFICATION DESIGNATED FOR THE LAND PURSUANT TO P.R.C. 6370, ET SEQ.
3. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO EMERGENCY AGREEMENTS TO SALVAGE INSECT KILLED AND INFESTED TIMBER ON THE HORSE SPRINGS SCHOOL LAND PARCEL LOCATED NORTHEAST OF ADIN, MODOC COUNTY; CLEARWATER SCHOOL LAND PARCEL LOCATED EAST OF TAYLORSVILLE, PLUMAS COUNTY; FERRIS CREEK SCHOOL LAND PARCEL LOCATED WEST OF DOYLE, PLUMAS COUNTY; AND SIX MILE HILL SCHOOL LAND PARCEL LOCATED SOUTH OF FALL RIVER MILLS, SHASTA COUNTY, ALL IN CALIFORNIA. COST OF SITE PREPARATION AND REFORESTATION AFTER SALVAGE OPERATIONS WILL BE OFFSET BY THE MONIES DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF THE SALVAGED TIMBER.
4. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO INSPECT ADDITIONAL SCHOOL LANDS PARCELS WITHIN THE AREA OF INFESTATION AS DEFINED BY THE CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF FORESTRY (EXHIBIT "B") AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN OF SALVAGE WHICH SHALL SPECIFY APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO:
1) REMOVE AND SALVAGE THE DISEASED TREES FOUND ON SUCH PARCELS AND 2) RESTORE AND REFOREST SUCH PARCELS.
5. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ESTABLISH A FOREST MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT INTO WHICH THE MONIES DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF THE SALVAGED TIMBER WILL BE DEPOSITED AND USE THE FUNDS FROM THE ACCOUNT TO OFFSET ALL COSTS, INCLUDING STAFF COSTS, FOR THE INSPECTION, SALVAGE AND RESTORATION OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL LAND PARCELS WITHIN THE INFESTED AREA.



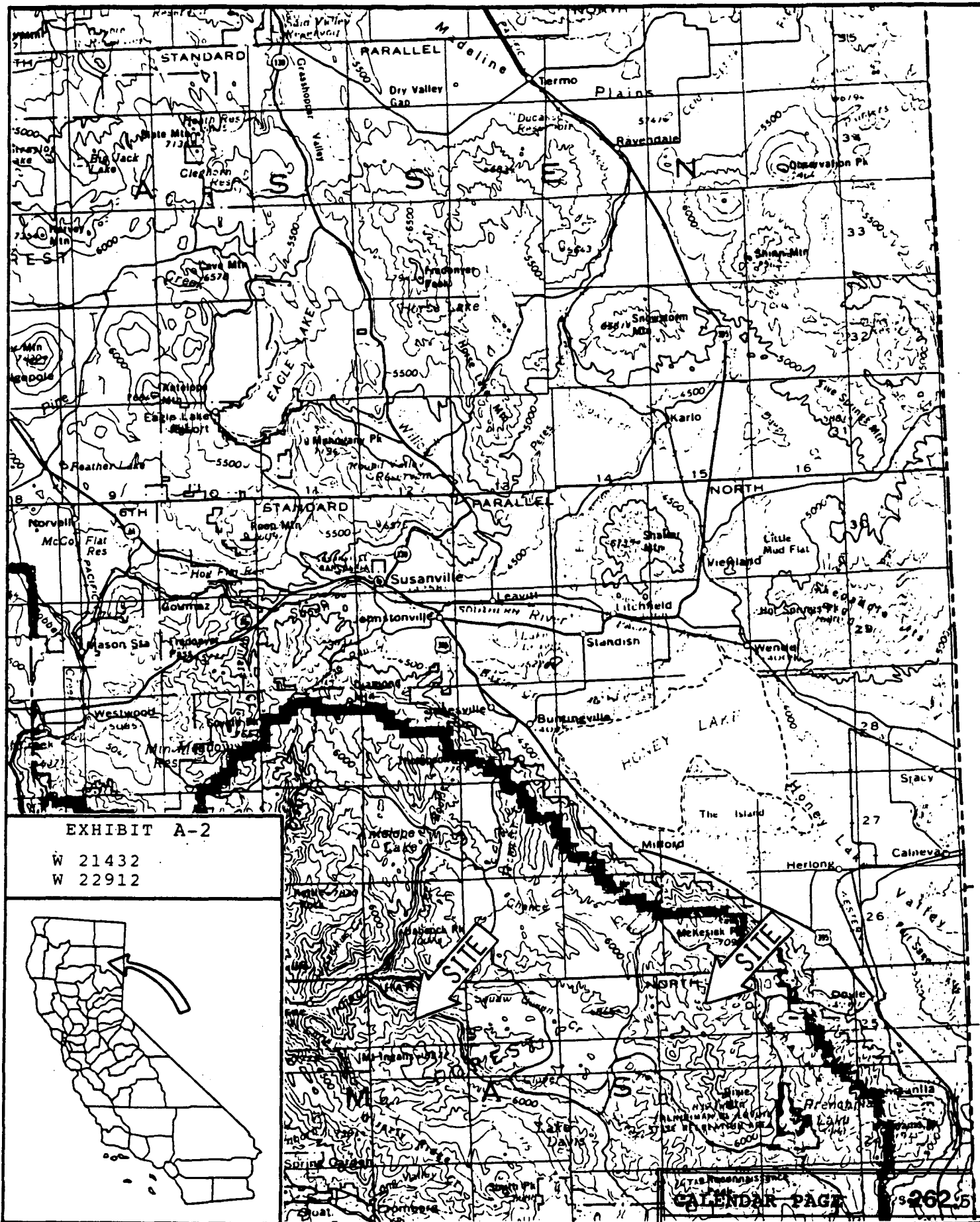


EXHIBIT A-2

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W 22912

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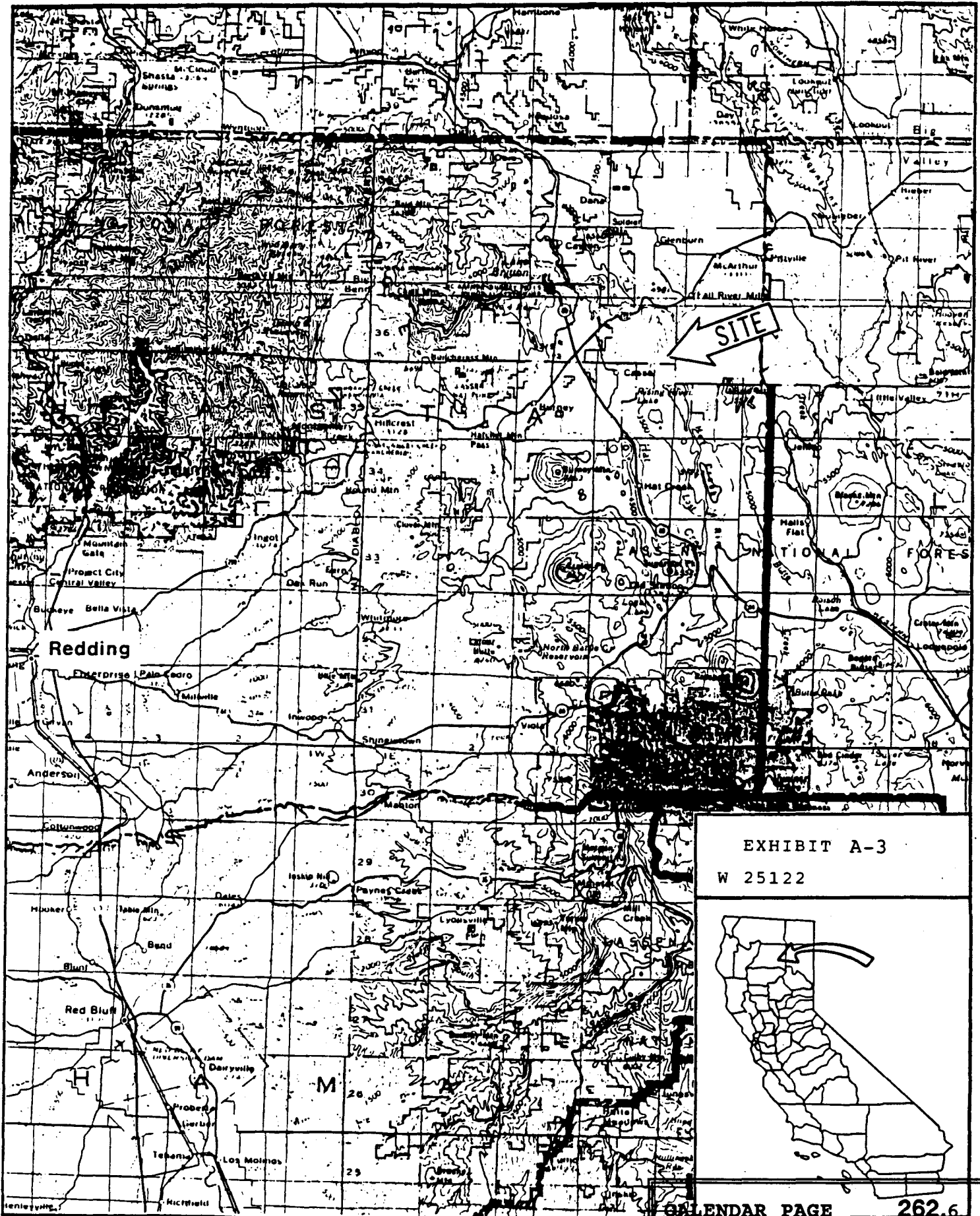


EXHIBIT A-3

W 25122



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Memorandum

To: Mr. Doug Miller
State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Date: August 18, 1993
R44

Telephone: ATSS () 453-9450
(916) 653-9450

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject: 5000 FOREST MANAGEMENT
5000 General
Zones of Infestation

The Board of Forestry at their February 3, 1993 meeting expanded the northern Sierra Zone of Infestation and renamed it the Sierra Cascade Zone of Infestation. This Zone of Infestation will cover all school lands located in Modoc, Lassen and eastern Plumas counties.

Attached you will find a map of the current Zones of Infestation, Board of Forestry Resolution, Board of Forestry News Release and background information on the expansion and renaming of the northern Sierra Zone of Infestation.

Stephen M. Jones

Stephen M. Jones
Manager
Forest Pest Management

vs

Attachments

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RESOLUTION
SIERRA CASCADE ZONE OF INFESTATION

WHEREAS, Section 4712 through Section 4718 provides that whenever the Director determines that there exists an area which is infested with insect pests injurious to timber or forest growth and said infestation is of such a character as to be a menace to the timberlands of adjacent owners, the Director, with the approval of the State Board of Forestry, may declare a zone of infestation and describe and fix its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, said sections provide that the State shall have the power to go upon state and private lands within said zones of infestation and cause the infestation to be controlled in a manner approved by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Director has determined that there exists such an infestation of injurious pests on public and private forestlands in portions of Modoc, Lassen and Siskiyou Counties, State of California, within the following described boundaries:

Extension to the Northern Sierra Zone of Infestation (includes portions of Modoc, Lassen and Siskiyou Counties)

T48N R8W, T47N R10W, T46N to T44N R11W, T43N and T42N R10W, T41N and T40N R9W, T39N and T38N R2E, T37N R3E, T36N and T35N R2E, T34N R3E, T33N and T32N R4E, T31N R6E, T30N R8E, T29N and T28N R6E.

(The above description covers an area of 8.6 million acres.)

WHEREAS, the above described area is an extension of the Northern Sierra Zone of Infestation, and together with the new Sierra

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Cascade Zone of Infestation would total 11.4 million acres of public and private land.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the State Board of Forestry in Regular meeting in Sacramento, California on February 3, 1993, that said Board does hereby approve the declaration by the Director of the Sierra Cascade Zone of Infestation within the boundaries of and comprising the area described above, and including the area previously known as the Northern Sierra Zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to use such funds as have been or may hereafter be made available for the purpose of controlling said infestation in accordance with the established Forest Pest Management policy of the State Board of Forestry.

Attest: Dean Cromwell

Dean Cromwell, Executive Officer
State Board of Forestry

Approved: Terry Gorton

Terry Gorton, Chairman
State Board of Forestry

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CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY



CONTACT: Dean Cromwell
916-653-5121

RELEASE DATE: February 8, 1993

BOARD OF FORESTRY LAYS OUT 1993 PRIORITIES; EXTENDS NORTH SIERRA ZONE OF INFESTATION

The California State Board of Forestry has released its plans to deal with forestry issues in 1993. The Board's agenda will focus on four major priorities: issues related to fire protection and prevention; review of effectiveness of the current regulatory process; defining and implementing landscape forestry approaches; and review of the status of the hardwood resources.

"Any one of these areas probably would be enough for a year," said Terry Gorton, Board Chairman, "but the public has placed so many demands on our forests that we must try to address all of these issues this year."

Gorton cited fire protection as an example: "Urbanization is seriously complicating our ability to fight wildfires; years of drought have killed many millions of acres of brush and trees and dead vegetation is a severe fire threat. Also, the state's budget crunch has reduced our ability to fund new engines and personnel. The Board must find new, more efficient ways of doing business."

The Board, which oversees the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, will be revising

the State Fire
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- MORE -

Plan which guides CDF's fire fighting efforts. Chairman Gorton believes that will be a challenge, "We face some very difficult questions, like do we offer less wildland fire protection or ask the public to pay more?"

"Hardwoods are also a priority." stated Gorton. "The Board has received a number of letters complaining about heavy harvest of oak trees and demanding that the Board take regulatory action to stop this harvesting." She indicated that the Board, which regulates the harvesting of commercial species of trees on timberlands, would look at this issue in May.

In another action, the Board added 8.6 million acres to the Northern Sierra Zone of Infestation and renamed the zone the Sierra Cascade Zone. "The Board took this action because heavy drought stress has led to insects killing huge numbers of white fir, red fir, and pine trees in Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, and Lassen counties," said Gorton, "we have to do everything we can to facilitate control of insects." According to CDF sources, in areas of heaviest damage, it is not uncommon to see 50 percent or more of the true fir stands dead or dying.

By declaring a zone of infestation, the Board facilitates direct control efforts and pest evaluations as necessary. It also serves to tell the public that the forests in these areas are in very bad shape.

Copies of the Board's priorities and of the Sierra Cascade Zone of Infestation are available from the Board Office in Sacramento.

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Extension of the Northern Sierra Zone of Infestation

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Sierra Cascade Region proposes to extend the Northern Sierra Zone of Infestation to include approximately 8.6 million additional acres to the north and rename the entire Zone the Sierra-Cascade Zone of Infestation, which would total 11.4 million acres. The proposed extension encompasses a broad area commonly referred to as the eastside timber type. With the continuation of the drought in 1992, mortality of white and red fir increased dramatically in the proposed extension and remained at a high level within the existing Northern Sierra Zone. Pine mortality, although less severe, is scattered throughout the proposed extension. Emergency Timber Operations within CDF Region II are at an all time high because of this tree mortality, which is expected to continue through 1993 and into 1994.

Area Description

The California border forms the northern and eastern borders of the proposed extension. The southern border is the existing Northern Sierra Zone (Map 1). The western border is based on an isohyet of 40 inches of mean annual precipitation from a map prepared by S.E. Rantz, USGS, Menlo Park, CA 1969. The isohyet, highlighted on the attached Maps 1 and 2, serves as a demarcation between timber stands to the west which mostly have a mean annual precipitation exceeding 40 inches and stands to the east which mostly have a mean annual precipitation less than 40 inches. Stands to the east of this isohyet have been severely impacted by the drought and have suffered the most tree mortality.

Since the 40 inch isohyet cannot be described in standard units of land division, the western boundary of the proposed extension is defined by townships that roughly follow the isohyet (see attached Map). Going from north to south, the following townships lie at the western edge of the proposed extension:

T48N R8W, T47N R10W, T46N to T44N R11W, T43N and T42N R10W, T41N and T40N R9W, T39N and T38N R2E, T37N R3E, T36N and T35N R2E, T34N R3E, T33N and T32N R4E, T31N R6E, T30N R8E, T29N and T28N R6E.

These townships and all townships to the east (to the Nevada border) are included in the proposed extension. See attached map(s) for boundary of proposed zone.

Conditions

The proposed extension to the Zone is based on tree mortality reported in Forest Pest Conditions in California - 1992, a publication of the California Forest Pest Council, as well as personal communications with CDF, Industry, and USFS foresters. Areas with heavy true fir mortality include the following: higher elevations around the Scott Valley and north and east of Pondosa, Siskiyou Co.; West of Goose Lake, Modoc Co.; Big Valley Mountains, Modoc and Lassen Cos.; and much of the true fir forest type in Lassen Co., with greatest mortality in areas to the west and south of Eagle Lake. Ponderosa pine mortality is more limited, with significant areas of mortality around the Scott Valley, southwest of Yreka, and near McCloud, Siskiyou Co.; in northeastern Shasta Co.; and at scattered locations in Modoc and Lassen Cos. Sugar pine mortality is widely scattered across the proposed extension, with evidence of increased mountain pine beetle activity late in 1992.

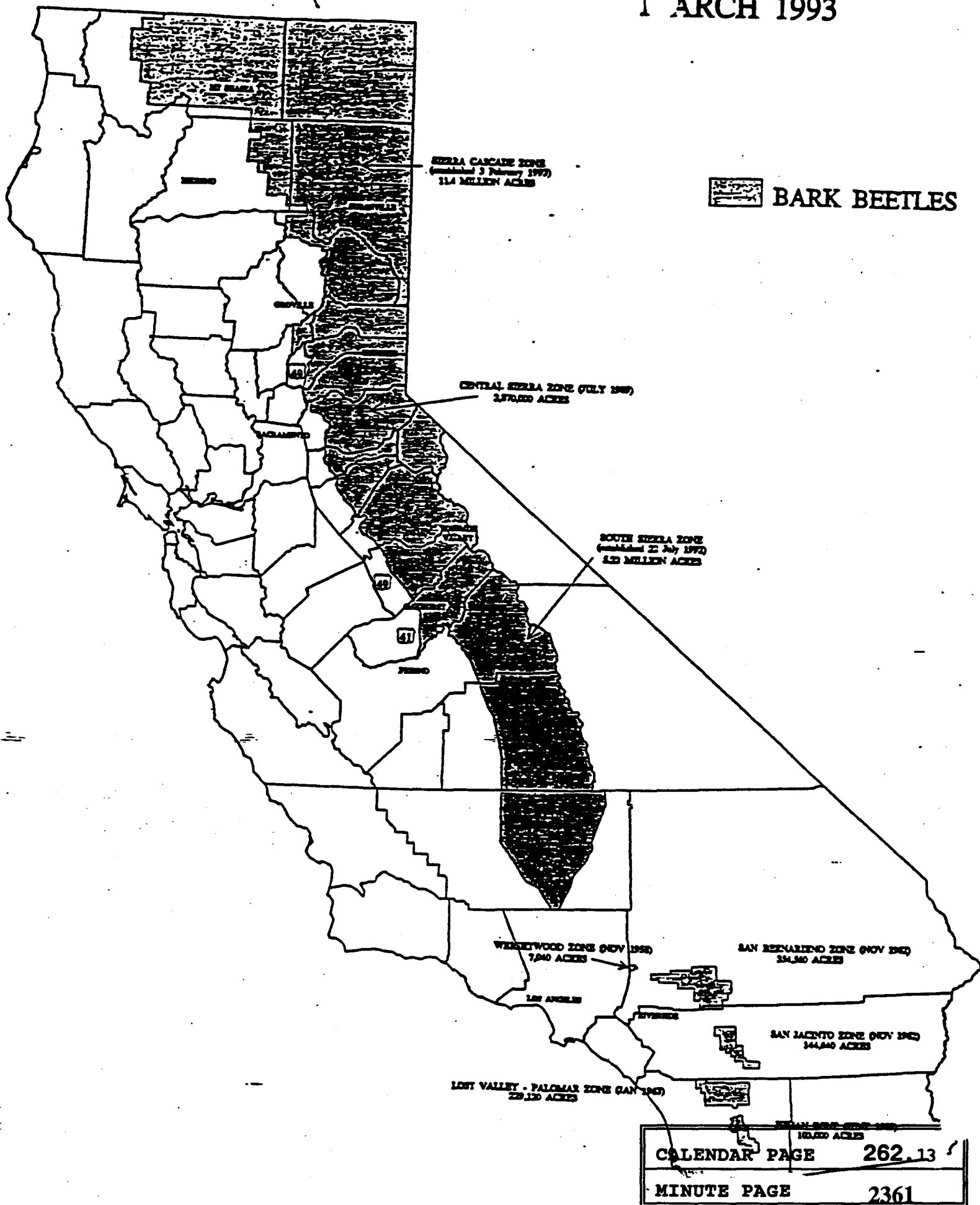
The Sierra Cascade Region has received below normal precipitation during the past 6 years, with the rain years (July 1 - June 30) of 1990/91 and 91/92 being particularly dry. Annual rainfall reported at the Redding Municipal Airport for these last two years was 53.9 and 69.6 %

of normal respectively, Eastside
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CONCURRENT ZONES OF INFESTATION 1 ARCH 1993



Memorandum**To:** State Lands Commission**Date:** August 11, 1993**ATTN:** Doug Miller**Telephone:** (916) 224-2459**CALNET**

From: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Wendell Reeves
Assistant Chief Resource Management

Subject: Resource Management
Dead and dying trees

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the presence of substantial numbers of dead and dying white fir, sugar pine, and ponderosa pine in the Big Valley Mountains of northeastern California, including portions of Shasta, Modoc, and Lassen Counties. The tree mortality is due to the cumulative stress of six consecutive years of drought and the activity of tree killing insects, most notably bark beetles. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has detected elevated levels of tree mortality in the Big Valley Mountains since 1988, with the highest levels of white fir and sugar pine mortality appearing this past spring. In many areas white fir mortality exceeds 50%; sugar pine mortality may be as high or higher in some areas.

All portions of the Big Valley Mountains have been affected, including lands managed by the State Lands Commission. The Big Valley Mountains are part of a much broader area of tree mortality that includes virtually all of the eastside timber type in northern California. Because of the extreme level of insect activity and tree mortality, the State Board of Forestry has designated the eastside timber type from Lake Tahoe north to the Oregon border as the Sierra-Cascade Zone of Infestation. The Big Valley Mountains have some of the highest levels of tree mortality within the Zone. The fire hazard created by large numbers of standing dead trees is a very serious concern.

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sites received similar or in some areas lower percentages of normal precipitation. The Palmer Drought Severity Index, a cumulative measure of drought stress, indicated that drought conditions in the Sierra Cascade Region reached their most severe level this past summer (1992) since the beginning of the drought.

1991 was a turning point for true fir in the eastside forests from Lassen County north. Tree mortality in this area had been minor up through 1990. In 1991, however, the fir engraver beetle and associated insects began killing true fir trees over large areas. Due to the lag time from when a true fir is killed to when its foliage fades in color, it was not apparent that trees were dead until the spring of 1992, at which time substantial numbers of faded true fir trees began appearing (for example: an estimated 150 million boardfeet on the Eagle Lake Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest, pers. comm. Tom Simonson, Aug. 1992). In the most severely impacted areas, it is not uncommon to see 50 percent or more of the true fir stands either dead or dying.

We do not yet know how many trees were killed in 1992 since most have not yet faded. However, given the cumulative effects of drought combined with epidemic beetle populations, it is reasonable to assume that this coming spring we will see levels of tree mortality that equal or exceed what appeared in 1992.

Precipitation for the current rainfall year is only slightly ahead of normal at Redding. Even with a wetter than normal year, the impacts of the past 6 years of drought will not end immediately. High beetle populations and the weakened condition of trees indicate that tree mortality will be elevated at least through 1993 and in to 94. More than one year of normal or above normal precipitation is needed before we can expect to see tree mortality return to a pre-drought level.

Forest Management Activities

Although no direct control measures are currently contemplated, extension of the Zone will help implement the Board of Forestry's Pest Management Policy. CDF's role of providing information to the public, evaluating management responses, and advising affected parties will continue. The extension of the Zone will help emphasize that the past six years of drought will continue to impact forest ecosystems for years to come and that appropriate responses are still needed.

Salvage of dead and dying timber is now the major timber harvest activity in the Region with 503 Emergency Notices submitted in 1992. The harvesting of trees with green crowns has become an important issue during Emergency Timber Operations, especially since it can take over half a year for the crown of a dead true fir tree to fade in color. CDF Forest Practice Inspectors and the Regional Pest Specialist have spent a great amount of time assisting landowners and foresters in identifying high risk and beetle infested trees as well as conducting an increased number of inspections of Emergency Timber Operations to ensure that only dead, dying and high risk trees are being harvested.

As precipitation patterns return to normal, beetle populations and tree mortality will decline. The current condition, however, illustrates the need to manage stands so that they are more resistant to beetle outbreaks and the effects of drought. Long term recommendations need to emphasize preventative treatments, such as thinning, disease control, and species conversion.

Questions regarding this report should be directed to Region II Forest Pest Specialist Don Owen.

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Economic return from harvesting these dead trees is greatest if the trees are harvested as soon as possible. Timber value declines rapidly if insect killed trees are not harvested in a timely manner. This is particularly true of white fir, which may lose nearly its full value in a year due to sapwood decay.

If you have any questions about this memo, please contact our Forest Pest Specialist, Don Owen at (916)224-2494.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Owen for

Wendell Reeves
Assistant Chief
Resource Management

WR/do/tk

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