

MINUTE ITEM

This Calendar Item No. C28
was approved as Minute Item
No. 28 by the State Lands
Commission by a vote of 3
to 0 at its 9-9-93
meeting.

CALENDAR ITEM

C28

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S 1

09/09/93
W 22922
D. Miller
Pelkofer

INSECT KILLED TIMBER SALVAGE

The State Lands Commission has received notice, by letter of August 12, 1993, from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), that timber on one of its forested school land parcels has suffered at least a 40% mortality from an insect infestation. The parcel, Section 24, T38N, R6E, MDM&B, is located about five miles due west of Bieber, Lassen County, California. The Commission's registered forester inspected the parcel and determined that 40% of the white fir and 75% of the sugar pine, or a total 50% of the amount of timber on the parcel has been killed by insects.

In its letter, CDF indicated that trees in the Big Valley Mountains of northeastern California, including portions of Shasta, Modoc and Lassen 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.

Although only one school land parcel has been inspected to date, there are other forested school land parcels which are located within the infested area as identified by the CDF. It is anticipated, therefore, that as many as ten additional parcels will require some degree of comparable salvage. Specific parcels and the extent of the damage on each will be determined by the registered forester.

Staff seeks authorization to remove the infested trees from the inspected parcel and offset the cost of such removal with monies received from the salvaged timber. Staff further seeks authorization to use such monies to inspect other school land parcels within the infestation area, and, if necessary, remove and salvage trees from them using similar processes.

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

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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.

Upon approval, staff will seek direct solicitation of bids for the expeditious removal of the timber at the best salvage price obtainable. Removal of timber will be accomplished under timber harvest plans approved by the CDF and in conformance with CDF pest management practices.

AB 884:
N/A

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

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

2. The Commission's registered forester has verified that insects have been found beneath the bark of the dead and infested live trees and are multiplying. These trees must be removed as soon as possible to prevent continued insect infestation of other trees on the parcel and adjacent areas.

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3. It is anticipated that salvage operations should commence about the latter part of September on the 60 day Emergency Notice.
4. The Commission's registered forester will prepare and submit the Emergency Notice of Harvest to the CDF, the purchaser will pay the timber taxes, the Commission's forester will administer the agreement.
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).

EXHIBITS:

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

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. AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO AN EMERGENCY AGREEMENT TO SALVAGE INSECT KILLED AND INFESTED TIMBER ON THE INTERMOUNTAIN SCHOOL LAND PARCEL LOCATED WEST OF BIEBER, LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. COST OF THE SALVAGE OPERATION WILL BE OFFSET BY THE MONIES DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF THE SALVAGED TIMBER.

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3. 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 REMOVE AND SALVAGE THE DISEASED TREES FOUND ON SUCH PARCELS.
4. 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 AND SALVAGE OF THE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL LAND PARCELS WITHIN THE INFESTED AREA.

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Exhibit A

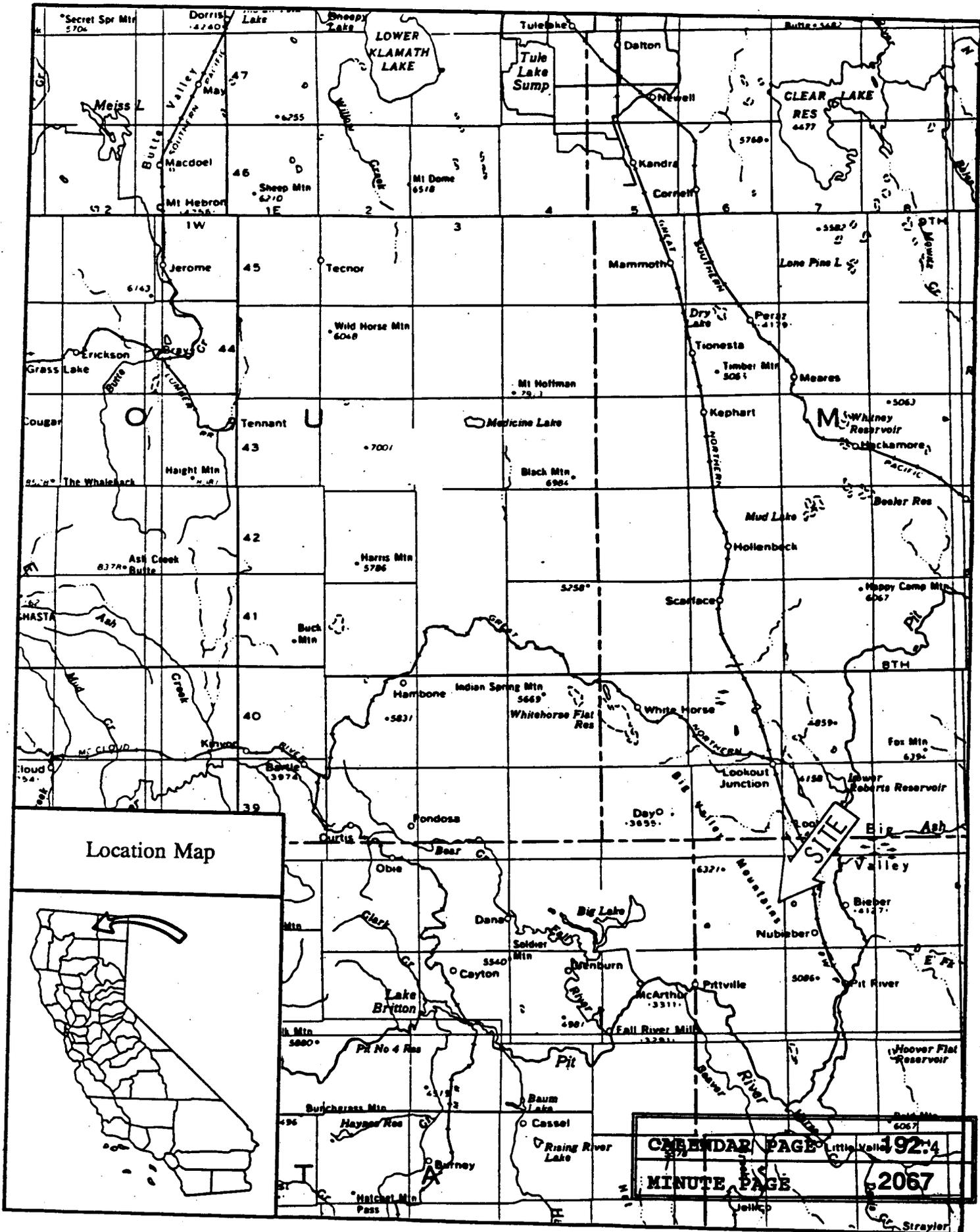


Exhibit B

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

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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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Exhibit C

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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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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