

Land Stewardship Proposal

for the

**North Fork Mokelumne River Planning
Unit**

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



Tuesday, August 10, 2010

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PART 1 – ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

1. Contact Information

a) Primary proposal contact: Helge Eng, Demonstration State Forests Program Manager
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
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PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Phone: 916-653-5000
Email: helge.eng@fire.ca.gov

b) Secondary proposal contact: Cathy Bleier, Climate Action Program Manager
Same location and mailing address as above
Phone: 916-657-0561 or 916-718-6258
Email: cathy.bleier@fire.ca.gov

c) Executive Contact: Del Walters, Director
Same location and mailing address as above
Phone: 916-653-7772
Email: Del.Walters@fire.ca.gov

2. Executive Summary

This Land Stewardship Proposal describes CAL FIRE's application for fee title donation of the PG&E watershed lands from Doaks Ridge northward in the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit.

The primary objective of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in obtaining fee title to the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit is to enhance the existing network of Demonstration State Forests in order to fulfill its mission of sustainable forestry, recreation, research and demonstration. The enabling legislation for the Demonstration State Forest system requires that each major forest type in the State be represented in the Demonstration State Forests system. The addition of this Planning Unit will broaden our ability to practice sustainable forestry, provide recreation possibilities and conduct research to include low-to-mid elevation, central Sierra mixed conifer forest.

We propose to create a demonstration forest for sustainable forestry research and management, with a half-time to full time forest manager, depending on the size of the Forest. We envision this demonstration forest as a central Sierra Nevada destination for monitoring, adaptive management and research on best management practices to support privately owned forestry

enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. The property would become a part of CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest system.

CAL Fire's proposed land management activities on the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection and recreation. Specifically, CAL FIRE would implement the following enhanced management activities:

- A sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices. Essential elements of this program would include building increasing inventories of timber and biomass over time, watershed protection from catastrophic fire, maintaining an overall closed canopy forest and keeping future management options open by developing a variety of forest stand conditions across the landscape, ranging from early to late seral forest conditions.
- A program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management, including a multi-resource inventory system of permanently monumented monitoring plots.
- Habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape, with special attention to species that are endangered, threatened or of special concern..
- Recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and function.
- A program to protect and where appropriate, demonstrate historical and cultural resource management.
- A comprehensive, multi-resource management plan and a sustained yield plan . The management plan would include all resource values. The sustained yield plan would establish an annual harvest level that is in harmony with the annual growth of the Forest, one that is sustainable in perpetuity without degrading the soil or any other elements of the ecosystem.

CAL FIRE has 125 years of experience in forest management and fire protection. We have successfully operated the Demonstration State Forests since their inception in the late 1940's. The mandates for the Demonstration State Forests, emphasizing sustainable forestry, public access and recreation, and protection of ecosystem and cultural resources, are wholly consistent with the Beneficial Public Values identified as mandates for the Stewardship Council lands.

CAL FIRE has experience with numerous programs statewide and in the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed that ensures consistency with the Stewardship Council's objectives to protect habitat and cultural resources, to enhance sustainable forestry, agricultural uses and recreation opportunities, and to preserve open space. For example, our archaeology program ensures that plans, projects, permits and grants protect archaeological and historical resources. Our forest practice program regulates timber harvest activities statewide and in the watershed, requiring on-the-ground staff experience with forest management, forest improvement and environmental protection of habitat, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species, forest soils and long-term forest productivity, watersheds and water quality. CAL FIRE also administers assistance programs. providing expertise, funding and oversight for forest improvement, reforestation, fuels reduction, vegetation management of brush and rangelands and watershed and habitat improvements. Our

department is well known for delivering fire suppression, fire prevention and fuel hazard services, and works closely with federal, state and local agencies, landowners and stakeholder groups to implement them. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's authorities, mission, policies and programs are entirely consistent with achieving these objectives and protecting the six beneficial public values.

CAL FIRE proposes to manage the North Fork Mokelumne River property as a financially self-sufficient working forest. Sustainable revenues from timber sales on this property should be sufficient to support a program of fiscally prudent research, demonstration and management.

Integrating this property into our Demonstration State Forest system will take maximum advantage of the economies of scale afforded by CAL FIRE's deep pool of staff and equipment. We have highly trained staff both locally and statewide with experience in fire protection, forestry, biology, hydrology, archaeology and other disciplines. We commonly leverage CAL FIRE's fire protection resources such as inmate crews and heavy equipment to perform maintenance work on the Demonstration State Forests outside the fire season.

3. Organizational Category

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE, is a State agency.

4. Organization's Tax Exempt Status

CAL FIRE is a State agency. Its Federal Employer Identification Number is: 68-0306069

5. Organization's Legal Name

Our legal name is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

6. Organization's Common Name

Our common name is the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. We are also known as CAL FIRE.

7. Letter From the Executive Director

A letter from our director, approving the submittal of this Land Stewardship Proposal, and our participation in the Stewardship Council's land conservation process, is enclosed.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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August 4, 2010

Ms. Allene Zanger
Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council
15 North Ellsworth Avenue, Suite 100
San Mateo, CA 94401

Dear Ms. Zanger,

On behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), I am pleased to approve and hereby submit for your consideration the CAL FIRE Land Stewardship Proposal for the North Fork of the Mokelumne River planning unit. I fully support CAL FIRE's participation in the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council's land conservation process for the North Fork Mokelumne planning unit, as well as the department's interest in acquiring other units through this process.

CAL FIRE administers numerous programs that demonstrate consistency with the Stewardship Council's objectives to protect habitat and cultural resources, enhance sustainable forestry, agricultural uses and recreation opportunities and preserve open space. CAL FIRE also administers assistance programs for forest improvement, reforestation, fuels reduction, vegetation management of brush and rangelands, pest management, and watershed and habitat improvements. The department's statutory authorities, mission, policies and programs are entirely consistent with achieving these objectives in protecting and enhancing the six beneficial public values.

CAL FIRE has the full support of the Natural Resources Agency Secretary, Lester Snow and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to seek acquisition of these lands. The Board passed a resolution to this effect on June 9, 2010. A copy of their resolution is attached.

Please give our Land Stewardship Proposal your full consideration. My staff and I are available to provide any additional information that you may need during your reviews of the proposal. The department's lead contact is Helge Eng, State Forest Program Manager; phone (916) 653-5000, E-mail: helge.eng@fire.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DEL WALTERS
Director

(Attachment)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
RESOLUTION

**Resolution of Support for Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Acquisition of Lands
from the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council**

Whereas, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (hereafter "Board") has authorities and responsibilities relevant to the disposition of State Forests, including Public Resources Code sections 740 and 4648 and Board Policies 0311, 0316, 0351.2, and 0351.9; and

Whereas, acquisition of forest land to be designated as State Forests shall be made only upon the approval of the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (hereafter "Department") on the advice of the Board; and

Whereas, the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (hereafter "Stewardship Council"), a private foundation established as part of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's bankruptcy settlement, has responsibility for the conservation of over 140,000 acres of "Watershed Lands" in California; and

Whereas, the Stewardship Council has identified protection of the natural habitat of fish, wildlife, and plants; preservation of open space; outdoor recreation by the general public; sustainable forestry; agricultural uses; and historic values as the six "Beneficial Public Values" to be preserved and enhanced across these Watershed Lands; and

Whereas, the Stewardship Council is directed to achieve these Beneficial Public Values through donation of conservation easements, or donation of lands in fee to one or more public entities or qualified non-profits, whose ownership would be consistent with these Values; and

Whereas, the Department is a public agency with statutory responsibility for the management, protection, and reforestation of State Forest lands, consistent with the Stewardship Council's Beneficial Public Values; and

Whereas, the Department has identified an interest in Watershed Lands in the Stewardship Council planning units of "Pit River," "Battle Creek," "Cow Creek," "Burney Gardens," "Lake Spaulding," "Bear River," "North Fork Mokelumne River," and "Lyons Reservoir" that would be suitable for inclusion in the Department's Demonstration State Forests Program; and

Whereas, the addition of these Stewardship Council lands would satisfy a significant public need for demonstrational, experimental, and educational activities in forest types presently underrepresented in the Demonstration State Forests Program, in conjunction with promotion of the Stewardship Council's six Beneficial Public Values; and

Whereas, future revenue generation from Stewardship Council lands transferred to Department ownership would support ongoing management and administration of those lands and the Demonstration State Forests Program in general;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection offers its support for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection seeking transfer of Stewardship Council Watershed Lands, and recommends that the Director approve this transfer upon the offer of fee title by the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council, the California Public Utilities Commission and the Pacific Gas & Electric Company;

APPROVED:



Stan L. Dixon
Chairman

ATTEST:



George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

Dated at Sacramento, California this 9th Day of June 2010

8. Rationale for Applying

The primary objective of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in obtaining fee title to the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit is to enhance the existing network of Demonstration State Forests in order to fulfill its mission of sustainable forestry, recreation, research and demonstration. The enabling legislation for the Demonstration State Forest system requires that each major forest type in the State be represented in the Demonstration State Forests system. The addition of the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels to the Demonstration State Forest system will help fill the gap for research and demonstration of sustainable forestry practices in this ecoregion. CAL FIRE's specific objectives for seeking the parcels in the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit are to implement, study and demonstrate sustainable forestry, to protect recreation and open space resources and work with partners to enhance them, and to protect and enhance habitats and cultural and historical resources.

One of the key research objectives for the proposed North Fork Mokelumne River unit of the Demonstration State Forest Program is to expand the State's capacity to monitor and study large scale, long term forest change, including the effects of climate change. Studies indicate increasing wildfire activity and vulnerability to insect and disease, changes in vegetation such as decreased conifer cover, and potential increases in erosion from changing precipitation regimes. Basic and applied forest research is urgently needed to track, understand and adapt to climate change with actions that avoid or minimize adverse impacts and take advantage of potential beneficial effects where possible.

Since its establishment in 1946, CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest System has been a center for long-term monitoring activities, where access is guaranteed and expensive monitoring infrastructure (equipment and installations) is protected and maintained by CAL FIRE law enforcement staff and resource specialists. CAL FIRE's long history of research partnerships with academic institutions and other agencies (USDA Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game) effectively leverages our research capabilities on the Demonstration State Forests and will enhance our ability to study climate change. As part of this focus, we will investigate adaptive management strategies for making forests more resilient to climate change, potentially exploring alternatives and demonstration opportunities for regeneration, stand improvement, fire hazard reduction, watershed protection and other forest health management activities.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests make significant contributions to rural recreation and cultural resource protection and education. We would continue this commitment with the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit by protecting recreational opportunities, historic and prehistoric sites, and working with stakeholders and adjacent landowners to meet watershed-wide recreation needs and to promote education on cultural history.

9. Organization's Mission

CAL FIRE's mission is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California through the offices of its Fire Protection, Resource Management and State Fire Marshal programs. The Resource Management Program includes the Demonstration State Forest

Program, which currently manages eight Demonstration State Forests. The mission of the Demonstration State Forest Program is to conduct research and demonstration on forests, forest management and forest improvement, while providing recreational use and taking into consideration watershed, wildlife and fisheries, range use and aesthetic values.

The authorities and mandates for the Demonstration State Forest Program are clearly consistent with and will ensure protection and appropriate enhancements of the six Stewardship Council beneficial public values (BPV) on the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4631 and 4631.5 provide for the creation and retention of Demonstration State Forest lands, which is consistent with preserving open space. PRC 4639 and 4651 provide for sustained production of forest products, recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries and aesthetic values. PRC 4656 allows specifically for grazing permits and irrigation development (though these do not occur on the parcels requested in the North Fork Mokelumne River). California Statutes also recognize priorities or special concerns for individual Demonstration State Forests, such as multiple-use and recreation at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, and watershed protection, public education and protection of old growth redwood trees at Soquel Demonstration State Forest. PRC 4648 addresses other issues relevant to successful stewardship mentioned such as multiple use and economical administration, management and utilization.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policies provide additional support, clarification and guidance for the above. For example, Policy 0351.5 provides for development of primarily rustic recreational infrastructure, which is consistent with objectives of many Stewardship Council Planning Units.

Other CAL FIRE programs also demonstrate consistency with Beneficial Public Values. CAL FIRE regulates timber harvest on non-federal lands to ensure sustained long-term timber production and resource protection, and administers grant and assistance programs for reforestation and forest improvement, forestland preservation, fuels reduction and vegetation management for range, watershed and habitat improvement. Our archaeology program ensures that plans, projects, permits and grants protect archaeological and historical resources.

10. Geographic Focus

CAL FIRE has extensive knowledge and experience with protecting and enhancing beneficial public values in the North Fork Mokelumne River Watershed through its local fire protection and resource management programs. Local CAL FIRE entities are well recognized in their communities, and interact regularly with the County Board of Supervisors, County Planning Department, County Fire and local Fire Districts, Fire Safe Councils and Resource Conservation Districts to promote fire protection, public safety and resource management measures.

CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit (AEU) and Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit provide fire protection to forest and rangelands in State Responsibility Area within the watershed, including PG&E lands, for the purposes of protecting life, property, natural resources and other values, including watersheds, habitats and historical resources. CAL FIRE enforces fire safety codes (PRC 4290) and conducts fire prevention projects, such as fuel reduction and

fire breaks, to reduce wildfire damages. CAL FIRE works side by side with local agency cooperators on fire prevention and fuel reduction projects, and is an integral partner in local fire safe councils, actively attending monthly meetings and acting in an advisory capacity for project development, implementation and accounting. CAL FIRE also owns and operates local fire lookouts at Mount Zion in Amador County and Blue Mountain in Calaveras County.

The Forest Practices Act charges CAL FIRE with regulating timber harvest activities on non-federal lands to ensure protection of soils, watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and archaeological resources. In enforcing the State Forest Practice rules, CAL FIRE foresters from the local Units review, approve and conduct on-the-ground inspections of timber harvest plans in the North Fork Mokelumne Watershed. Our archaeology program is also responsible for reviewing all timber harvest plans for effects on cultural resources.

Local CAL FIRE Unit foresters also provide grant and cost-share assistance to landowners to enhance forests and rangelands in the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed through the California Forest Improvement Program and the Vegetation Management Program. These programs are used to restore watersheds and wildlife habitats, reforest abandoned or burned lands, improve timber stands, and control invasive weeds.

CAL FIRE has hands-on management experience with vegetation management work in the watershed. Using Pine Grove Conservation Camp inmate crews, CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit conducted the fuels reduction work on private property and Mt. Zion Demonstration State Forest for the Pine Acres Fire Safe Project, which is located between Pine Acres Subdivision, the community of Pine Grove and the Mokelumne River Canyon. Amador-Eldorado Unit also secured a \$22,000 planning grant for a comprehensive fire safe plan, biomass utilization plan, and community emergency evacuation plan, contracted with a local consultant to complete the work, and distributed the final Fire Safe Plan to the community of Pine Acres. CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit as well as Amador County continues to apply for and receive grants to support the maintenance and development of this fuel break.

Through fire protection programs, landowner assistance programs, regulatory programs, and CAL FIRE land ownership, we are interested and involved in the environmental, economic and social fabric of the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit, and are experienced in the ecology, management and protection needs for the local natural resources and communities. Additional collaborative activities with local partners are discussed in the following question and in Question 18.

11. Organizational Experience and Capacity

CAL FIRE's experience and capacity for land ownership and management of properties with values comparable to the Beneficial Public Values in the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels are demonstrated by the following three examples.

1. Sunset Point Interpretive Trail

The Sunset Point archaeological site on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest was excavated by professional archaeologists so as to determine its scientific significance. The investigation confirmed house pits and artifacts dating possibly as early as the Early Archaic period. As this site lies at 6,000 feet elevation in the Sierra Nevada and is currently snowbound for extended periods each year, we interpret this site as probably resulting from many repeat visits (albeit of short duration) over a long period of time.

Based on the archaeologists' recommendation, Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest personnel constructed an Interpretive Trail through the archaeological site at Sunset Point, including interpretive signs. This educational facility, incorporating a self-guided tour, not only provides a unique forum for public education but underlines the need to preserve intact archaeological sites wherever and whenever they are found. The Sunset Point self-guided tour also focuses attention away from other, less easily protected archaeological sites on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.

Sunset Point is a beautiful area, and it provides the public with an opportunity to walk through a former Indian Village and see Rock Basins, Bedrock Mortars, Midden and Artifacts, and learn something about the people who once lived there. Local Native Americans contributed information for the Interpretive Trail to remind visitors that Indian people are still alive, and flourishing in California.

2. Fish Ladders

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station are partners in long-term watershed research in Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Watershed research is critical to understanding how forest management affects habitat for salmon. The Caspar Creek Watershed study is unique because of its 49 years devoted to the study of managed redwood ecosystems. The former Caspar Creek fish ladders were old and in need of extensive repair. The California Department of Fish and Game, CAL FIRE and the Redwood Sciences Lab recognized the problem and worked together to find a solution.

Additional partners in developing the design were the Department of Fish and Game, the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, and NOAA Fisheries. A grant from the California Coastal Conservancy with funds from the Parks and Water Act, along with mitigation funds from CALTRANS helped finance the project along with funds and support from CAL FIRE and the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

To preserve the scientific value of the Caspar Creek measurement weirs, a unique fish ladder design was needed. The ladders' one of a kind design includes key features. To facilitate the movement of juvenile salmon, removable weirs are installed in the summer. An observation chamber has been incorporated in the passage way so that fish movement through the structure can be studied closely. CAL FIRE and DFG staff have shared their operational experience through their membership in local watershed councils.

The ladders are a tangible symbol to the partners' commitment to recovery of coho and steelhead that are native to these streams. Numerous field visits have included scientists as well as government, restoration and educational groups.

3. Sustainable Forestry, Wildlife Habitat and Carbon Sequestration

We are currently undertaking a project on LaTour Demonstration State Forest in which we are implementing several different silvicultural regimes to evaluate their effects on the net carbon balance of the stands, and wildlife habitats associated with the stands over time.

We have done several different site preparation treatments on an area that was subject to wildfire in the 1980's, including different methods of brush removal. We have planted trees at several different densities. We will monitor the development of stands over time to evaluate how much biomass and carbon is accumulating under different treatments. We are planning different variants of the group selection silvicultural method in order to evaluate its effects on wildlife habitat. In cooperation with biologists from the Department of Fish and Game's Redding office we will implement and monitor different opening sizes and juxtaposition of openings to determine the resulting habitat characteristics for a suite of wildlife species, including both edge-dependent and interior species.

We expect the results of this project will give us detailed information on best management practices aspects of sustainable forestry that account for values such as carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat values.

12. Description of CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection manages approximately 70,000 acres of Demonstration State Forests on behalf of the public. These can be summarized as follows:

Jackson Demonstration State Forest is a 48,658 acre coast redwood forest in Mendocino County, located between Willits and Fort Bragg. It was acquired in 1947. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include 1. Silvicultural practices to encourage late seral stands. 2. Demonstration and research projects. Examples include watershed protection, fisheries, terrestrial wildlife, fire ecology and stand response to different silvicultural methods. 3. Recreation management including campground, road maintenance and building and maintaining new trails.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest is a 4,807 acre mixed conifer/giant sequoia forest located on the west slopes of the southern Sierra Nevada in eastern Tulare County, 30 miles northeast of Porterville. It was acquired in 1946. The legislatively mandated primary land use is recreation. Sustainable forestry is a secondary priority, after recreation. Current management practices include recreation, demonstration and research projects, including effects of thinning and burning on young growth giant sequoia regeneration, silvicultural methods to reduce fire risk, foster regeneration and growth of young giant sequoia, and recruiting old growth giant sequoia from second growth trees.

LaTour Demonstration State Forest is a 9,033 acre Sierra mixed conifer forest in northeastern Shasta County. It was acquired in 1946. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include silvicultural practices to encourage a historical species mix with pine as a significant part of the Forest, demonstration and research projects such as carbon sequestration in managed forests and wildlife response to silvicultural practices, and recreation management including campground, road and trail maintenance.

Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is a 3,493 acre mixed conifer forest in Lake County. It was acquired in 1949, after the entire property had been clear cut. Primary land uses are sustainable forestry, research and demonstration and recreation. Current management practices include silvicultural practices to encourage a natural species mix with pine as a significant part of the Forest, increase fire resilience and recreation management including campgrounds and trail maintenance.

Soquel Demonstration State Forest is a 2,681 acre coast redwood forest located in the Santa Cruz mountains, 20 miles north of Capitola. The property became a Demonstration State Forest in 1990 as part of a debt for nature swap with the Bank of America. The property is managed by the State under a 25-year lease. At the end of the lease in 2015, the property will be transferred permanently to the State. Primary land uses include recreation, sustainable forestry and research and demonstration. Current management practices, consistent with the enabling legislation, emphasize protection of old growth redwood trees, watershed protection and research on interactions between forest management, watersheds and urban areas.

Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest is a 796 acre mixed conifer forest in Napa County, 15 miles northeast of Saint Helena. It was donated to the State in 1925. Primary land uses are conservation, restoration, research and some recreation. Current management practices include primarily vegetation management activities. Las Posadas contains unique stands of coastal redwood occurring at the extreme easternmost natural range of this species. Las Posadas is managed in part to preserve the genetic heritage of these rare coastal redwood stands.

Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest is a 164 acre mixed conifer forest in Amador County. It was acquired in stages, starting in 1926. The fire control lookout tower, built in the late 1920's, is still in use. The forest is currently surrounded on three sides by subdivisions. Primary land uses are research and demonstration, recreation and conservation. Current management practices include primarily fire prevention and vegetation management activities.

Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest is a 160 acre property located in Trinity County. The property was donated to the State in 1939 by Minnie Ellen Pickett for research and demonstration in forestry, botany and experimental planting. The property has no deeded access. Primary land uses are conservation, restoration and research. Current management practices include primarily vegetation management activities.

13. CAL FIRE's Operating Budget for the Current Year

The Stewardship Council Director of Finance has requested that CAL FIRE submit three years of budget information and financial statements for the Demonstration State Forest Program, rather than resubmitting the audited financial statements provided for the Department at large, from the Statement of Qualifications. The following program budgets consolidate all operations and staffing for all Demonstration State Forests for fiscal years 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

Additional in-kind support from inmate labor and other non-Demonstration State Forest staff is not included here. Differences in budget figures between the three fiscal years shown here do not reflect meaningful changes in funding commitments. They reflect changes in market prices and the flexibility of contractors to implement timber harvest plans over several years.

More detailed financial statements showing expenditures and balances against the budgets for FY 07/08, 08/09 and 09/10 are attached as PDF files per request of Joel Wagner in a phone conversation on July 29, 2010.

CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity		Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$53,570	2 Deputy Chief	\$328,251
241	Printing	\$15,070	9 Forester II	\$918,642
251	Communications	\$7,535	9 Forester I	\$718,697
261	Postage	\$301	3 Forestry Assistant I/II	\$215,598
291	Travel In-State	\$7,535	RPS II (GIS)	\$92,036
331	Training	\$15,070	2 HFEO	\$169,610
341	Facilities Operation	\$45,210	Fire Capt. Specialist	\$79,770
361	Utilities	\$30,140	Accounting Clerk II	\$22,527
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$15,070	Wildlife Biologist	\$98,240
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$332,103	AGPA	\$16,691
431	Data Processing	\$9,042	OT--Typing	\$24,451
472	Equipment	\$18,084	Temp. Help	\$247,864
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$9,042		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$6,028		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$9,042		
	Property Tax	\$123,779		
Subtotals		\$696,623		\$2,932,376
TOTAL	\$3,629,000			

CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity	Amount	Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$58,672	2 Deputy Chief	\$380,818
241	Printing	\$21,400	9 Forester II	\$1,076,793
251	Communications	\$10,700	9 Forester I	\$900,358
261	Postage	\$428	3 Forestry Assistant I/II	\$231,437
291	Travel In-State	\$10,700	RPS II (GIS)	\$98,771
331	Training	\$21,400	2 Heavy Equip. Operator	\$137,232
341	Facilities Operation	\$64,200	1 Fire Captain Specialist	\$85,607
361	Utilities	\$42,800	2 Accounting Clerk II	\$48,351
382	Consult/Prof.- Interdept.	\$21,400	2 OT--Typing	\$81,114
402	Consult/Prof.- External	\$541,552	Wildlife Biologist	\$105,428
431	Data Processing	\$12,840	AGPA	\$42,989
472	Equipment	\$25,680	Temporary help, 48 mos.	\$530,393
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$12,840		
520	Uniform Allowance	\$8,560		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$12,840		
	Property Tax	\$123,217		
	Subtotal	\$989,231	Subtotal	\$3,719,290
TOTAL	\$4,708,521			

CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forests Program Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Budget				
Operations and Expenses			Personnel Salaries and Benefits	
Object Code	Activity	Amount	Program/Positions	Amount
201	General Expense	\$114,069	2 Deputy Chief	\$294,094
241	Printing	\$17,441	10 Forester II	\$1,099,466
251	Communications	\$9,405	7 Forester I	\$750,900
261	Postage	\$256	2 Forestry Assistant II	\$158,760
291	Travel In-State	\$9,255	1 Forestry Assistant I	\$70,560
331	Training	\$15,311	1 RPS II (GIS)	\$103,723
341	Facilities Operation	\$46,352	2 Heavy Equipt. Operator	\$230,010
361	Utilities	\$25,621	1 Fire Captain Specialist	\$85,441
382	Consult/Prof.-Interdept.	\$12,811	1 AGPA	\$42,989
402	Consult/Prof.-External	\$574,497	2 Accounting Clerk II	\$46,217
431	Data Processing	\$7,686	2 OT--Typing	\$78,719
472	Equipment	\$22,373	1 Wildlife Biologist	\$91,657
502	Subsistence/Pers Care	\$7,686	Temp. Help	\$407,484
520	Uniform Allowance	\$6,324		
524	Vehicle Operations	\$12,686		
586.01	Property Tax	\$128,000		
Subtotals		\$1,009,774		\$3,460,020
TOTAL	\$4,469,794			

14. Your Organization's Sources of Funding

This section applies to non-governmental organizations only, and is therefore not applicable.

15. Potential or Pending Grant Funds

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection works closely with local, state and federal agencies and with citizens, landowners and stakeholder groups in the performance of its statewide responsibilities. As a result of these collaborations, our department has been successful at securing grant funds from federal and state agencies for all its Resource Management, Fire Protection and State Fire Marshal programs. For example, the Resource Management Program, which includes the Demonstration State Forests, currently receives over \$5 million per year in federal grants for Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy, Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Urban Forestry programs to assist private landowners with activities such as reforestation, forestland conservation and easements, forest health improvement, timber stand improvement, habitat enhancement, watershed restoration, post fire recovery, and fuels reduction.

The Demonstration State Forests program, which has long-standing research and monitoring collaborations with the University of California and State Universities, federal agencies such as the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station, and the Department of Fish and Game, has also participated in numerous grant programs. Demonstration State Forests, often in cooperation with local conservation partners, have successfully applied for and received grants for on-the-ground enhancement projects as well as research. They generally have adopted a strategy of seeking grants in areas where there is a significant need or a demonstration value, such as road maintenance, fuel reduction and carbon sequestration projects. Table 1 summarizes grant activity for Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Table 1. Recent grant awards and pending applications for Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Award year	Project	Grant Amount	JDSF cash cost share	JDSF In-Kind share	Total project cost	Awarder	Awardee	Expiration date
<i>Applications</i>								
2011	Improve 2 miles Berry Gulch					DFG FRGP*	CCC**	2013
2011	Improve 2 miles NFSF Noyo					DFG FRGP	CCC	2013
2011	Build Walton Gulch Bridge	\$120,000	\$20,700	\$25,740	\$166,440	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2013
2011	Assess 15 miles of Noyo River roads	\$44,028	\$5,222	\$10,524	\$60,074	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2013
2011	Decommission 1 mile Ziemer Rd	\$23,931	\$9,624	\$9,875	\$48,029	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2013
2011	Assess 2 miles Rd 120 -121	\$16,886	\$0	\$0	\$24,886	DFG FRGP	MLT***	2013
<i>Successful Awards: projects completed or in planning and implementation stages</i>								
2010	Decommission 3 miles of Rd 550	\$233,907	\$40,000	\$3,500	\$295,407	DFG FRGP	MCRCD****	2012
2010	Assess 6.5 miles of Railroad Gulch Rds	\$15,737	\$6,500	\$7,090	\$31,850	DFG FRGP	MLT	2012
2007	Build Caspar Fish Ladders (2)	\$400,000			\$1,095,300	Cal Trans	JDSF	2009
2007	Build Caspar Fish Ladders (2)	\$600,000			\$1,095,300	Coastal Conservancy	JDSF	2009
2007	Build Walton Gulch Bridge	\$110,000	\$0	\$20,545	\$130,545	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2011
2007	Decommission 1.3 miles Rd 610	\$26,063	\$5,000	\$22,836	\$53,899	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2011
2003	Decommission 3.5 miles Rd 630	\$105,025		\$27,511	\$132,536	DFG FRGP	JDSF	2007
* Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program ** California Conservation Corps *** Mendocino Land Trust **** Mendocino County Resource Conservation District								

The Demonstration State Forests also received a \$200,000 grant from the US Department of Energy's West Coast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (WESTCARB) to demonstrate

the use of carbon protocols, developed by the California Climate Action Registry, for measuring carbon sequestration benefits of reforestation and forest management projects. This cost-share project was conducted at LaTour Demonstration State Forest and has been completed.

Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest has received a grant from the US Forest Service for \$180,000 to conduct fuels reduction on 700 acres, and reduce fire hazards and risks associated with public use and access. Inmates from CAL FIRE's Mountain Home Conservation Camp are removing brush and ladder fuels by hand. This work is to be completed by 2011.

16. Fee Title Holder and Revenue Disposition

The department that would acquire fee title to donated lands would be the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as CAL FIRE.

CAL FIRE is willing to comply with a requirement that timber revenue, lease revenue or funding provided by the Stewardship Council for the specific land management objectives be restricted to use on the donated lands. The simplest way to achieve this result would probably be a requirement that revenues generated on a given property or a group of properties do not exceed the expenditures associated with operations and maintenance on those properties, over a reasonable period of time. For example, the enabling legislation for Soquel Demonstration State Forest (PRC section 4661) requires that harvest be limited only to that which is needed to support maintenance and operations on that particular Forest.

17. Key Personnel/Staff

Key Personnel

We expect that a half-time to full-time forest manager position will be established for the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands, depending on the acreage that is donated. The following is a summary of existing CAL FIRE key personnel that would be involved in the day-to-day management of the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands:

Bill Holmes is the Amador-El Dorado Unit Chief. Bill has 30 years of experience with fire protection, fire prevention and resource management programs and has served six years in the Amador-Eldorado Unit as Unit Chief. He works closely with local Boards of Supervisors, federal agencies (Forest Service, BLM and Bureau of Reclamation), other local government agencies and a diverse array of stakeholders.

Thomas Tinsley is the Unit Forester for CAL Fire's Amador-Eldorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry Management from Colorado State University. He is also a law enforcement officer. Tom is responsible for implementing the State forest practice rules, forest improvement and fire prevention activities. Tom has over 16 yrs experience in forestry in Amador County, working for a private consulting company, Georgia-Pacific and Sierra Pacific Industries. He and his staff work closely with Amador Resource Conservation District, Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development District, BLM, the Forest

Service, industrial and non-industrial private landowners and Amador County Planning on land use and fire safe councils.

Robert Little is an Area Forester with CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. He is also a law enforcement officer. Robert has 15 years of experience in forestry, including the private sector and CAL FIRE.

Steve DeBenedet is an Area Forester with CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Steve has 15 years of experience in forestry, including the private sector and CAL FIRE. He is also a law enforcement officer.

Brian Kirk is a Division Chief for Fire Protection. Brian has lived and worked in Amador County for over 15 years and in the northern region for his whole career. Brian runs the Pine Grove Conservation Camp, which could provide inmate labor for maintenance and improvement activities on the Planning Unit. Brian works closely with fire protection agencies in Amador County and with local entities such as the Board of Supervisors.

Linda Pollack is the CAL FIRE Senior State Archaeologist with the Southern Region Office in Fresno. She has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from UC Davis. Linda has 18 years of experience in archaeology and forestry. Linda is responsible for cultural resources protection in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Area. Linda and the CAL FIRE team of archaeologists have implemented numerous cultural resources protection and education projects on the Demonstration State Forests.

Patrick McDaniel is a Forester with CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit. He has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Patrick has 15 years of experience in forestry, with the private sector and CAL FIRE. His work focuses on cost share programs for vegetation management and fire prevention programs.

Jan Bray is a Forester with CAL FIRE's Amador-Eldorado Unit. She has an undergraduate degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University. Jan has 25 years of experience in forestry, with the Forest Service and CAL FIRE. Her work focuses on cost share programs for vegetation management and fire prevention programs. She has experience with contract development and administration.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest program commonly pool staff from different Forest and our headquarters office to implement large projects such as management plan development. In addition to the personnel listed above, a wide range of CAL FIRE staff specialists including biologists, hydrologists, archaeologists and foresters will be brought to bear on the development of management plans and sustained yield plans for the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands.

Volunteers and Their Function

Campground hosts on the Demonstration State Forests are typically unpaid volunteers. In addition, several Demonstration State Forests have volunteer groups who work cooperatively with Forest staff. These are typically recreation user groups. The Friends of Boggs Mountain and The Stewards of Soquel formed spontaneously in the communities near these Forests. They represent primarily hiking and mountain bike users. They commonly participate in trail building and maintenance projects with Forest staff. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Recreation Task Force, representing a broad spectrum of user groups, works closely with Forest staff to identify recreation priorities and select projects for implementation. These projects are subsequently implemented by CAL FIRE staff subject to resource availability.

Although hardly volunteers, inmates from Conservation Camps perform a lot of work on the Demonstration State Forests at nominal cost. CAL FIRE has agreements with the California Department of Corrections to jointly manage Conservation Camps that house low risk inmates, who are used primarily as a labor force for fire fighting hand crews. Outside the fire season, these inmate crews perform substantial cultural work on the Demonstration State Forests, such as brush clearing and fuel reduction, at nominal cost to the Forests. Conservation camps are located on or near most of the Demonstration State Forests.

Were CAL FIRE to receive the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels, we anticipate that a substantial labor force from the nearby Pine Grove Conservation Camp will be available to work on this Demonstration State Forest.

Fire fighting equipment such as bulldozers that are stationed at CAL FIRE facilities nearby Demonstration State Forests are commonly used outside the fire season for maintenance and construction work on the Forests, at nominal cost.

18. CAL FIRE Collaborative Efforts with Organizations and Stakeholders

CAL FIRE conducts several collaborative fire safety and fire prevention projects in the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed. In addition to the Pine Acres Fire Safe Project in the North Fork Mokelumne River described in Question # 10 above, CAL FIRE is also currently coordinating with the Eldorado National Forest, PG&E and Sierra Pacific Industries to develop the Doaks Ridge Fuel Break in order to provide a fuel reduction zone that protects Highway 88 and the upcountry communities of Pioneer, Mace Meadows and Amador Pines. CAL FIRE also worked with the Amador Fire Safe Council to complete the Antelope Fuels Reduction Project earlier this year to create a defensible fuel zone between Rabb Park and Sierra Pines subdivisions and Antelope Creek. This was accomplished through a community assistance grant and completed earlier this year. Proposition 40 grant funds totaling \$190,272 dollars were used to complete the fuels project.

In the larger region administered by the Amador El Dorado Unit, CAL FIRE has facilitated, overseen and administered 59 California Forestry Improvement Projects and 40 Community Assistance Grants, totaling over \$5 million since 2004. CAL FIRE's Amador El Dorado Unit currently has six approved and active Vegetation Management Program projects covering approximately 8,920 acres. These projects include forest and range vegetation management and

prescribed burning for reforestation, forest health improvement, timber stand improvement, forest and woodland habitat enhancements, range improvement for livestock and wildlife, invasive weed control, fuels reduction and watershed protection. In the process of developing and implementing these programs and projects, CAL FIRE has cooperated with 17 Fire Safe Councils and satellite councils, 2 Resource Conservation Districts, more than 20 Local Fire Districts, the El Dorado Irrigation District, and more than 300 individual landowners, including Sierra Pacific Industries and PG&E.

The Demonstration State Forest Program has engaged in many collaborative projects to protect beneficial public values in other parts of the State. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Recreation Task Force, a citizen and local stakeholder group, has just released their preliminary recreation recommendations for improving recreational values and uses at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. CAL FIRE will work cooperatively with the Task Force to implement these recommendations, which include:

- Active promotion of Jackson Demonstration State Forest as a recreation destination by updating maps of recreational facilities and improvements, and development and strategic distribution of informational materials, on-line and a physical location for information access.
- Enhanced education related to cultural resources by providing an area for demonstrating to visitors the use of forest materials by Native Americans and early settlers.
- Improved access for recreation use, including purchase of trail right of ways through private property, improved signage, improved parking access, decommissioned road maintenance for trail use, and review of reservation and permit fee policies.
- Maintenance of existing structures, trails and facilities, including vegetation and infrastructure inspections and repair as needed, and more educational signage for historical sites and restoration of the Little Red Schoolhouse, a historical site.
- Development of a strategy for trail building, including an update of the 2008 trail inventory, recommendations and guidelines for developing new trails, projection of costs, and plans for trail maintenance and trail building.
- Overall trail system strategy for addressing multiple uses, equestrian watering needs, wheelchair accessibility, and compatibility with adjacent landowner uses.
- New camp grounds or campground enhancements to expand uses.
- Additional educational opportunities, including promoting Jackson Demonstration State Forest use by county school districts and developing new kiosks or bulletin boards.

CAL FIRE also collaborates with archaeology departments and programs at state universities to assist us in protecting historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. The universities conduct excavations, surveys and California Environmental Quality Act analysis to protect archaeological resources on CAL FIRE properties and facilities (e.g. Demonstration State Forests, fire stations, conservation camps, Unit headquarters) and on private or state lands where CAL FIRE cost-shares its Vegetation Management Program and California Forest Improvement Program projects. This mutually beneficial collaboration has existed for 23 years, providing training opportunities for the universities and their students while offering low-cost archaeological and environmental review services to CAL FIRE.

LaTour Demonstration State Forest has a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Fish and Game that formalizes a cooperative program of research and monitoring of the wildlife habitat effects of different silvicultural practices on the Forest.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest program is a leading member of the California Growth and Yield Model Cooperative, an organization dedicated to improving existing models for the projection of forest growth and development under different management treatments. The Demonstration State Forest Program is also a member of the Sierra-Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative, a group of research organizations, landowners and agencies dedicated to advancing applied silvicultural research.

19. CAL FIRE's Experience Soliciting Stakeholder Input

CAL FIRE has experience soliciting stakeholder input on transfer and permanent protection of land similar to the Stewardship Council process. CAL FIRE was a key player in the establishment of Soquel Demonstration State Forest in 1990, which was made available to the State as part of a debt for nature swap with the bank of America. CAL FIRE played a lead role in public meetings, consensus building, public education, information and field tours. CAL FIRE took lead responsibility for establishing the Soquel Demonstration State Forest advisory committee.

CAL FIRE's experience in soliciting stakeholder input on the establishment and management of other Demonstration State Forests, which provides a potential template for the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed, includes the following:

- We utilize recreation user groups (three) and advisory groups (two) associated with the Demonstration State Forests in order to solicit public input. These gatherings are advertised well in advance and are open to the public. In addition to the two Forest-specific advisory groups, we also have the Statewide Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group, which provides input on overarching issues that affect all the Demonstration State Forests. These advisory groups operate under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Government Code sections 11120-11132).
- We use public meetings and presentations to community groups to obtain public input on proposals.
- We contact interested individuals directly.
- Public comment periods for CEQA documents such as forest management plans and timber harvest plans gives the public an opportunity to provide detailed input to CAL FIRE.

We distribute information to the public on planned management and projects in a variety of ways:

- Management plans are developed for each Demonstration State Forest, under guidance from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. They are developed and discussed in an open public process of Board meetings. Associated CEQA documents are made available to the public.
- Projects are advertised in newspapers and on the CAL FIRE web site.
- The CAL FIRE web site is used to post information on upcoming Demonstration State Forest projects and planned management activities.
- We advertise and host public meetings to inform the public about planned projects and activities.
- We make presentations to Demonstration State Forest user groups and community organizations about planned projects and activities.
- California Forestry Notes are technical papers published by the Demonstration State Forest program. They are mailed to universities and a mailing list of interested individuals.
- Demonstration State Forest Newsletters are sent to a mailing list of interested individuals.
- We give presentations and posters at conferences and workshops.

20. Best Practices, Standards or Guiding Principles

As a public agency, CAL FIRE is subject to a host of legal and ethical standards for its activities. Numerous statutes, regulations, and policies establish the public interests to be protected in the management of the Demonstration State Forests, including those directly related to the Demonstration State Forests or more generally addressing public interests in natural resources (e.g., Forest Practice Act and Rules, California and Federal Endangered Species Acts, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Clean Water Act, California Environmental Quality Act).

California law requires state employees to complete an ethics training course within six months of their hiring, and every two years thereafter (<http://ag.ca.gov/ethics/>). A critical conflict of interest measure, the Political Reform Act (Government Code §§ 81000-91014) requires most state government officials and employees to publicly disclose their personal assets and income through the Fair Political Practices Commission Form 700 filings. They also must disqualify themselves from participating in decisions which may affect their personal economic interests.

CAL FIRE has a Program Accountability Officer responsible for oversight of department ethical standards, audits, and conflicts of interest. The Office of Program Accountability (OPA) assists CAL FIRE management in fulfilling its responsibilities to the public by offering guidance in developing, maintaining, and enhancing accountability. OPA is an independent appraisal entity established to conduct reviews of internal controls, to report opportunities for improvement, and to make recommendations to the programs, management, and the Director. Under the authority

of the Director, the OPA conducts a variety of audits and provides audit-related services requiring adherence to professional standards.

CAL FIRE also is subject to audits by the Department of Finance Office of State Audits and Evaluations, the Bureau of State Audits, and the California Office of the Inspector General.

Protection of the public interest is in part assured through the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, a nine-member governor-appointed body that has policy oversight over CAL FIRE. The Board is responsible for reviewing the management plan for each of the Demonstration State Forests every five years and providing direction as to whether the plan should be maintained, modified, or rewritten. The Board is responsible for approving Demonstration State Forest management plans and is the lead agency for CEQA for these plans. The Board's management plan review and CEQA process provide ample opportunity for public disclosure, review, and comment on CAL FIRE's management of the Demonstration State Forests.

For two of our Demonstration State Forests, (Jackson and Soquel), there are advisory groups that help to provide public input and accountability for forest management. There also is a statewide Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group. The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group members are appointed by the director and subject to confirmation by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The other two advisory groups are appointed by the director without Board confirmation. These advisory entities operate under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

All our professional staff at the Forester I level or higher are required to hold a valid California Registered Professional Forester license. As such we are required to comply with the Foresters Licensing Law, and adhere to the legal and ethical standards of this legislation.

We endorse and encourage our employees to follow the code of ethics of their respective professional organizations. An example is the Society of American Foresters' code of ethics. Although it does not carry the force of law, there are clear accountability standards. Consequences of violations can include termination of membership.

All employees are required to follow CAL FIRE's Employee Rules of Conduct.

21. Land Trust Accreditation

This section applies to non-governmental organizations only, and is therefore not applicable.

22. Transfer of Ownership to Another Organization

We have not made provisions for another organization to assume ownership and management responsibilities for our assets in the event that we should be unable to continue operations. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been in existence since 1885 and has 125 years of experience managing forest lands. The Demonstration State Forests program has maintained all donated and acquired land as open space for their original intended research and recreation uses. We are the fifth largest State agency in California. We employ more licensed professional

foresters than any other public entity in California. The probability that Cal FIRE should be unable to continue operations of its Demonstration State Forests are for all practical purposes nil.

23. Violations of Law Associated with CAL FIRE

We know of no current violation of law that may involve our organization in any way.

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has approximately 4,700 permanent employees and 2,200 seasonal employees, and oversees the activities of up to 10,000 other volunteers and inmates during the fire season. CAL FIRE investigates all reports of employee misconduct or malfeasance under rules established by the Department of Personnel Administration.

CAL FIRE is the lead agency charged with enforcing the California Forest Practice Act and the associated forest practice rules. As a regulatory agency, we enforce and prosecute violations from an array of regulations related to timber harvesting, land use and conversion of timberland, fire safe regulations, and State Fire Marshal codes including building standards, particularly within high Fire Severity Hazard Zones. At any given time CAL FIRE may be defending challenges to its regulatory decisions.

24. Barriers to Conservation Easements

We know of no law or policy that precludes us from accepting a conservation easement. Easements or other mechanisms are available to ensure that the objectives of the Stewardship Council are met and implemented for the long term.

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests are in fact already managed under a range of de facto conservation easements and restrictions. Statutory constraints on the Soquel Demonstration State Forest in the Public Resources Code specify that a modest amount of timber harvest shall be permitted, not to exceed the costs of operating and maintaining the Forest. Legislation was also enacted to protect old growth giant sequoia trees on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection policy incorporate requirements for management of CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forests.

Each Demonstration State Forest is required to develop management plans that are approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. These management plans must be updated and reaffirmed by the Board every five years. Each Demonstration State Forest also develops a sustained yield plan as required by the forest practice rules.

The Demonstration State Forest system was established in 1946. All properties have been managed and maintained according to the original intended uses and objectives for which they were established.

The Demonstration State Forest Program accepts donated lands with a range of deed restrictions per request by the donor. An example of this would be the donor-specified deed restriction on recreation uses on Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest. The deed for the Ellen Pickett Demonstration State Forest specifies that the tract shall be used for research purposes.

25. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

We are not aware of any personal or financial relationships between any of the Key Personnel described in this proposal and members of the Stewardship Council Board, their family members or the board member's constituent organization. Our employees are also subject to the Political Reform Act which requires positions specified in conflict-of-interest codes to publicly disclose personal assets and income through California Form 700 and to disqualify themselves from participating in decisions which may affect their personal economic interests.

PART 2 – LAND STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

26. Parcels CAL FIRE is Interested in Receiving in Fee Title

Some areas are identified in the Background Information Package as "constrained" (cross-hatched areas on the maps), due to the configuration of FERC boundaries, which would necessitate extensive survey and subdivision work is necessary in order to transfer fee title ownership. We believe these areas can be delineated at relatively low cost without extensive survey and subdivision work (see question 27 below). We expect the legal descriptions and necessary field surveys can be performed by licensed professional surveyors from CAL FIRE's Technical Services division, at a relatively reasonable cost.

We are tentatively making the assumption that roads in and of themselves do not constitute FERC projects. We are willing to discuss modifications to details of our proposal, including areas to be retained by PG&E. CAL FIRE is interested in receiving the following parcels in fee title:

Parcel	Interest
959	All lands outside the FERC boundaries.
960	All lands.
961	All lands outside the FERC boundaries.
974	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including constrained areas.
975	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including constrained areas.
976	All lands outside the FERC boundaries.
977	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including constrained areas.
978	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including roads and constrained areas.
979	All lands.
980	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including roads and constrained areas.
981	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including roads and constrained areas.
982	All lands outside the FERC boundaries, including roads, constrained areas and the portion of the parcel located in the northeast corner adjacent to parcel 978.

We are interested in each parcel on its own merits, and set no precondition on receiving any minimum acreage of the above parcels. The complex of parcels that we have identified above, however, is just beyond the acreage threshold necessary to be a self-supporting sustained yield unit, which can sustainably produce enough timber revenue to support a manager, infrastructure maintenance, research and recreation. If the acreage is reduced significantly below that threshold, the management, research and recreation activities that can be supported will have to be reduced.

27. Lot line Adjustment, Boundary Survey or Legal Parcel Split

CAL FIRE does not own any property that shares a common boundary with any of the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands in which we have expressed an interest. As such, no lot line adjustments are possible.

The State, including CAL FIRE, is exempt from the Subdivision Map Act. This means that transfer of property to the State can be done by preparing and recording a proper Grant Deed, with FERC project areas denoted as excluded portions of the transfer. Subdivision and associated surveys are not necessary.

For many of the FERC facilities, such as dams, reservoirs, canals, roads and power lines, a boundary survey is not required because the facility itself can serve as a physical monument. A legal description can refer to the width around the monument. A metes and bounds description is not necessary. For other areas, such as equipment yards and lay down areas, there may be a need for surveys to be performed as a basis for creating a legal description.

Exact boundary survey costs are difficult to estimate without more detailed information about the extent of FERC boundaries. Because we are applying for the areas delineated as constrained due to extensive survey and subdivision costs, CAL FIRE is prepared to cover the costs of surveying and preparing title documents for constrained areas. Boundary surveys can be performed by CAL FIRE's Technical Services Lands Unit. For the reasons described above, we believe surveying costs for the constrained areas will be relatively reasonable.

28. CAL FIRE's Internal Process for Approving the Acquisition

The State's land acquisition process can take up to one year. The major issues in land acquisitions are usually determined during the due diligence process and include environmental concerns, title issues, valuation, etc. CAL FIRE would bear the State's administrative costs for processing the acquisitions. Below are the major steps we normally go through in acquiring land by purchase (PG&E watershed lands would be gifts of land, and we expect the process would take less time than a purchase):

1. Preliminary Site Investigation: includes site visits, environmental review, obtaining title report, review legal description, identify title issues, obtain appraisal (if gifted property no appraisal is needed but a land valuation should be provided) and identify project funding for overhead, escrow costs and land costs.
2. State Public Works Board (PWB) Site Selection Approval: Submit agenda item, cost funding summary documents to Department of Finance for approval by the PWB. The State Public Works Board has monthly meetings where proposed projects are submitted for their approval.
3. Detailed Site Studies: Plot legal description/exceptions, identify and resolve entitlement issues, if any, environmental clearance (CEQA documents), prepare to clear unwanted exceptions to title (quitclaims, partial reconveyance, etc.)

4. Negotiation: Prepare Purchase Agreement, Deeds, escrow documents.
5. PWB Acquisition: Submit agenda item and cost funding summary documents to the Department of Finance for approval by State Public Works Board.
6. Escrow and Close Out: submit all fully executed documents with escrow instructions to title company, review title insurance, tax cancellation letter (unless already tax exempt).

29. Baseline and Enhanced Land Management

CAL FIRE's proposed land management activities on the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands would focus on sustainable forestry, research, habitat maintenance and restoration, cultural resources protection and recreation. A first step in the management of the property would be the appointment of a Forest Manager. The Forest Manager would be responsible for patrol, safety, vegetation management and planning, management and coordination of other activities on the Forest. Given the uncertainty over the actual acreage that would be donated, we have tentatively assumed that the forest manager would be a half-time position. We anticipate this position would be incorporated with existing CAL FIRE forestry staff headquartered at CAL FIRE's Amador El Dorado Unit facility in Sutter Hill. This would result in significant savings on office rent, supplies and equipment.

a) Proposed Activities: Baseline and Enhanced Management

There is some degree of overlap between the baseline and enhanced management activities that CAL FIRE would commit to undertake on the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands. Generally however, baseline management would consist of road maintenance, patrol and recreation management, trash removal and law enforcement. Categories of enhanced management activities would include items 1 through 7 below. For all these activities, the frequency of activities would be continuous. Duration of activities would be permanent.

1. Establish a Demonstration State Forest that would encompass all the donated lands. We envision this as a central Sierra Nevada destination for monitoring, adaptive management and research on best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. We plan to dedicate a half-time to full time forest manager to the Forest, depending on the size of the Forest.
2. Develop a sustainable forestry program of research, demonstration and implementation of best management practices focused on:
 - a. Watershed protection from catastrophic fire. An important part of such a program will be an active fuels and fire hazard reduction and vegetation management program. Fire has an ecological role in California mixed conifer forests. Large, intense wildfires however, often have a negative effect on water quality and beneficial uses as a result of increased erosion and sedimentation, and increased runoff and peak flows.
 - b. Increasing timber inventories and standing biomass over time, and fostering a component of mature large trees and older forest on the landscape.

c. Silvicultural methods that maintain an overall closed canopy forest. This results from an emphasis on single tree and group selection silvicultural methods, mimicking the small gap regeneration processes that occur in natural forests.

d. Keeping future management options open by developing a variety of forest stand conditions across the landscape, ranging from early to late seral forest conditions. This creates viable conditions for a range of research projects, and provides flexibility for evaluating new management strategies to address uncertain changes in climate.

CAL FIRE defines sustainable forestry here as a suite of management practices that 1) are consistent with the Stewardship Council definition of sustainable forestry, 2) comply with all statutory requirements, e.g. the California Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice Rules, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc., 3) adhere to Demonstration State Forest guidelines for forest management, and 4) protect and enhance the specific Beneficial Public Values in the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. The Council defines sustainable forestry as: "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations." The CA Forest Practices Act is established to "ensure high quality timber products while considering recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, fisheries, regional economic vitality, employment and aesthetic enjoyment." The Forest Practice Rules, which implement the Act, regulate forest harvest to ensure that it does not exceed forest growth and that it provides watercourse and lake protection, fire hazard reduction and fire protection, wildlife protection, and archaeology and historic resource protection. Public Resources Code section 4645 requires that when Demonstration State Forest manage for forest products, they consider recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, range and forage, watershed, wildlife, and fisheries values.

3. Develop a program of ecosystem monitoring and adaptive management. An important part of this program will be a forest-wide, multi-resource monitoring inventory system, consisting of a grid of permanently monumented plots that will be periodically remeasured. This will include cultural, floral and faunal surveys. Objective measurements of forest development over time under different management regimes will provide information about which management regimes are most sustainable and robust against a wide range of possible future climate and fire scenarios.

4. Habitat protection and restoration in the context of a working forest landscape. These activities would be aimed at developing a robust forest ecosystem with a wide range of wildlife habitat features, providing for habitat resilience to wildfire, and implementing habitat restorations where needed. Examples of such management practices include density control, retention of structural habitat features such as snags and downed woody debris, and fuels management to reduce habitat loss and the likelihood of adverse impacts to sensitive species. The development of information and guidance to address trade-offs between reduction of fuel loads for fire resiliency and maintenance of habitat structural elements for wildlife habitat will be a key area for research and demonstration of best management practices.

5. Recreation and education. These activities would take advantage of the features of a working forest to demonstrate the effects of different types of management on forest structure and

function. Activities could take the form of science camps, tours and hikes, displays and self-guided trails. We will evaluate the feasibility of constructing a rustic campground facility.

6. Develop a program to protect and where appropriate, demonstrate historical and cultural resource management. CAL FIRE already has a department-wide cultural resources management plan that spells out detailed measures for protection of cultural resources, which applies to all the Demonstration State Forests. These lands, if donated to CAL FIRE, would also be covered by this management plan. The Demonstration State Forests have extensive experience with protecting cultural resources and providing education opportunities where appropriate.

7. Develop a comprehensive, multi-resource management plan and a sustained yield plan¹. These are critical activities for implementing and maintaining a Demonstration State Forest. The management plan would include all resources, including but not limited to forestry, flora and fauna, water quality and watershed function, recreation and cultural values. There is substantial opportunity for public input into the development of Demonstration State Forest management plans, through requests to the public for comments, public meetings, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Plan review and approval process, and the associated CEQA process. The sustained yield plan would establish an annual harvest level that is in harmony with the annual growth of the Forest, one that is sustainable in perpetuity without degrading the soil or any other elements of the ecosystem.

b) Enhancement Contributions to Management Objectives

The Land Conservation Plan Volume II identifies six management objectives and related recommended measures for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit (Table UM-3), corresponding to the six overall Beneficial Public Values identified by the Stewardship Council. The Land Conservation Plan recommended concept for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit is to focus management on enhancing forestry and habitat resources, protecting cultural resources and enhancing the recreation experience.

Preserve and Enhance Habitat in Order to Protect Special Biological Resources:

Enhanced management category 4 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. As a preliminary scoping measure, CAL FIRE conducted a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) query for the upper reaches of the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit and within USGS quads Garnet Hill, Devils Nose, Peddler Hill, Caldor, Calaveras Dome, Mokelumne Peak, and Tamarack. A number of special status plant and animal species were identified that, with additional inventory effort, might be found on specific upper reach planning unit parcels where suitable habitat exists. These species include foothill yellow-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (1993 sighting on the Stanislaus National Forest), western pond turtle, California spotted owl, American peregrine falcon (1994 sighting near Salt Springs Reservoir), and Pacific fisher (1965 sighting and tracks prior to 1973--North Fork Mokelumne). Plant species included the Pleasant Valley mariposa lily and three-bract onion.

¹ The term "sustained yield plan" is used here to denote any of the alternatives available under the California forest practice rules section 933.11 to demonstrate maximum sustained production of high quality timber products (CAL FIRE 2010a).

CAL FIRE will conduct surveys for biological resources on its Demonstration State Forest lands as a part of Forest Management Plan development and during the planning and design of individual management, maintenance, research, recreation, timber harvest and other types of projects . Cal Fire typically utilizes a project-specific scoping process to identify those special status species likely to occur in the affected environment of a project area and the potential habitat impact from the activity either individually or cumulatively. Sources of information that are typically consulted to predict species occurrence and contribute to the planning process include CNDDDB (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>) for known species occurrence, the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (<http://dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/>), and previous surveys associated with other projects that have been done in the watershed. This information will be used to develop forest- and project-level measures to protect and enhance biological resources.

The frogs and western pond turtle, if present, would be largely restricted to aquatic or riparian habitats that will be protected from timber harvest activities and associated roads. Additional enhancements could include restricting access or recreation use in those habitats. Timber harvest rules would address pacific fisher and spotted owl habitat, if located, with seasonal activity restrictions and protection of critical habitat elements such as nest trees. Recreational uses or enhancements would be managed to avoid areas, seasons or specific types of activities to reduce disturbance to the species if needed. Compliance with CEQA processes for Forest management plans and individual projects further helps to ensure that biological resources are protected.

CAL FIRE is also committed to working on its existing Demonstration State Forests and in multi-landowner efforts to ensure watershed protection and enhance aquatic habitats. Examples include the design of Demonstration State Forests management measures for watercourse and lake protection zones for the that exceed the Forest Practice Rules. We would participate actively in existing partnership efforts on the North Fork Mokelumne River (e.g., Mokelumne Ecological Resource Committee and Eldorado National Forest efforts), and would collaborate in future Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority efforts to preserve water quality and to identify and implement critical protection and improvement projects. The research and demonstration activities carried out on the Demonstration State Forests will increase our knowledge of how to protect and enhance biological resources as a part of sustainable forest management.

Develop and Implement Forestry Practices in Order to Contribute to and Promote a Sustainable Forest, Preserve and Enhance Habitat, as well as to Ensure Appropriate Fuel Load Management:

Enhanced management categories 1, 2 and 3 and 4 above directly address this objective and recommended concept. CAL FIRE has a long history of Demonstration State Forest management, research and restoration projects that contribute to and promote sustainable forests, protect and enhance habitat and address fuel loads. We would continue this pattern on the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed lands

A key element in sustainable forest management is maintaining or increasing timber volumes over time. All of our existing Demonstration State Forests are managed to increase timber

volumes over time, and we would manage the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit in the same fashion.

CAL FIRE will develop a Forest Management Plan and sustained yield plan for the North Fork Mokelumne River unit that maintains a diversity of natural stand conditions for long-term ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits. Forest conditions will be evaluated over time using the widely-accepted Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. Forest structural elements such as multi-canopy stands, snags, down woody debris, and hardwood stand components will be identified for management and protection. The Management Plan will provide quantitative goals for these stand structure elements. Outside research installations, CAL FIRE typically implements uneven-aged silviculture on its Demonstration State Forests, maintaining a predominantly closed forest canopy over time.

CAL FIRE has established a goal of attaining third-party sustainable forest management certification for all of its Demonstration State Forests and would extend this goal to the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. Jackson Demonstration State Forest currently receives Forest Stewardship Council sustainable forestry certification as a Group Member under the Group Certification held by Mendocino Redwood Company.

Fire protection and fuels management in fire prone areas is an important component of sustainable forestry and of Demonstration State Forest management plans. CAL FIRE is already engaged in many fuels management and fire hazard reduction projects in the North Fork Mokelumne River. CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit is currently scoping out an additional project for Tiger Creek that would connect with the Doaks Ridge fuel break (described in question #18) and extend to the Tiger Creek Powerhouse, however there is no funding for it at this time. The Demonstration State Forest will make it a priority to fund and implement this enhancement if we receive these parcels.

Noxious weed control is also a concern for sustainable forestry. CAL FIRE addresses noxious weeds as a part of its Forest management plan development and planning for individual management projects. Our experience working with partners on regional efforts to address noxious weeds, includes Jackson Demonstration State Forest membership in the Mendocino Weed Management Area and invasive species control research at Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Identify and Manage Cultural Resources in Order to Ensure their Protection, as well as to Support Opportunities for Public Education:

Enhanced management category 6 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. The North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit has historic and prehistoric cultural resources, as well as traditional Native American gathering sites. A CAL FIRE archaeologist has reviewed much of the available cultural and historic resource information for the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels of interest to CAL FIRE. Material reviewed included the archaeology report for the Doaks Ridge parcel prepared for our Department as part of a joint Vegetation Management Program project with PG&E and Sierra-Pacific Industries. The entire parcel has been previously surveyed and contains one prehistoric site and fifteen historic sites. Recent THPs for this area also were reviewed for archaeological information.

CAL FIRE is committed to the identification, management and protection of cultural resources on the properties that it manages. Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to inventory archaeological resources under their jurisdiction and develop policies to preserve and maintain them. Governor Executive Order W-26-92 required State agencies to prepare inventories and develop management plans for cultural and historical properties under their ownership and control.

Interpretation of cultural resources is a part of CAL FIRE's research and demonstration mission, and also fits with its recreation role. CAL FIRE's overall commitment to cultural resources is demonstrated by the comprehensive cultural and historic resource management plan for all CAL FIRE properties that was completed in 2001. CAL FIRE has a staff of six professional archeologists, who dedicate a portion of their time to the Demonstration State Forests. Cultural resources will be researched, identified, and addressed as a part of our Forest management plan development process. Cultural resources are further surveyed and addressed at the project level. CEQA provides review opportunities at Plan and project level. CAL FIRE's archaeology staff has established relationships with a number of Native American entities. For example, at the Sunset Point prehistoric site at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest where CAL FIRE conducted an excavation and developed an interpretive trail, the local tribe contributed the interpretation and signage.

CAL FIRE cultural resource enhancements to the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels will include creating a confidential cultural resource data base for any new parcel acquired. Information sources will include: 1) formal consultation with the local tribes listed on the CAL FIRE/NAHC Native American contact list 2) the PG&E archaeological staff 3) the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) Information Centers and 4) the NAHC Sacred Lands Files. The assembled data base for each parcel would be routinely consulted for every project that involves ground-disturbing activities. We will collaborate with the Mokelumne Archaeological District and support traditional tribal activities on lands we may receive.

Enhance Recreational Facilities in Order to Provide Additional Public Access, Education, and Enhance the Recreation Experience:

Enhanced management category 5 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. Public access is a universal priority on all the Demonstration State Forests, and is only restricted for safety or environmental reasons. CAL FIRE has substantial experience in managing recreation opportunities across property boundaries, and will work with the Forest Service on the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. Should portions of the River be designated under the Wild and Scenic River Act, CAL FIRE would ensure that its management was complementary. The San Joaquin County Office of Education has offered to serve as a conservation partner assisting CAL FIRE to develop the outdoor recreation portion of the management plan for the parcels we have requested.

CAL FIRE addresses unauthorized uses through its planning, management, and law enforcement staff. Physical measures such as locked gates on roads, signage, staff presence, information from members of the public, and law enforcement actions are all used to control unauthorized uses, and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for law-abiding recreationists. CAL FIRE restricts

OHV use on its Demonstration State Forests to public roads. We would similarly manage OHV use on the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. CAL FIRE is committed to using its existing deep pool of available resources (funding and staff) to maintain, improve, and expand recreation opportunities on the Demonstration State Forests.

We recognize the importance of public input and participation on recreation matters. On Jackson Demonstration State Forest we have a standing Recreation Task Force which meets monthly and provides input on recreation management on the Forest. On Soquel Demonstration State Forest, we work closely with the members of the nonprofit Stewards of Soquel Forest. The Friends of Boggs Mountain similarly work with staff on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest to identify recreation priorities and implement projects such as trail building and maintenance. We would support similar recreation and general public interest groups interacting with us in the management of the North Fork Mokelumne River lands.

CAL FIRE would support establishment of the Coast to Crest Trail if it were to cross the parcels acquired by us. We have had initial positive discussions with Mary Boblet about this potential trail and how CAL FIRE management could support it.

Preserve and Enhance Grazing in Order to Support Associated Economic Benefits, as well as to Protect Open Space and Habitat Resources:

Although the parcels we have expressed interest in are primarily forested and have limited grazing opportunities, CAL FIRE is willing to consider grazing use on any North Fork Mokelumne River parcels that we may receive. CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection have a long history of working with the range community on vegetation management, research, monitoring and restoration of rangelands and oak woodlands. The Board has a dedicated seat for a representative of the range-livestock industry and the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to advise it on rangeland issues. CAL FIRE, RMAC and the Board recognize that carefully controlled grazing can be done in a manner that protects and in some cases enhances biological resources, provides an economic basis for landownership, and provides open space values.

Preserve Open Space in Order to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources, Viewsheds, and Agricultural Land Uses:

Enhanced management category 1 above directly addresses this objective and recommended concept. The Demonstration State Forests research and demonstrate best management practices to support privately owned forestry enterprises that are both ecologically and financially sustainable. This helps provide an economic basis for landownership, especially on smaller properties, that can help the land to “pay its way,” so that landowners do not have to look to other, more intensive economic uses that result in land conversion and the loss of open space.

CAL FIRE would accept the North Fork Mokelumne parcels with conservation easements that ensure preservation of open space. With the exception of two Conservation Camps located within Jackson Demonstration State Forest, CAL FIRE does not develop its Demonstration State Forests beyond limited facilities for forest management, research and demonstration, and recreation. Development of property is contrary to the purposes of the Demonstration State

Forests. CAL FIRE considers and protects natural and cultural resources and viewsheds as a part of its forest- and project-level planning, including CEQA processes.

CAL FIRE recognizes that there can be short-term impacts to viewsheds from timber harvesting. These can be managed by using lighter-touch selection harvesting, layout of harvest units in irregular, natural shapes, and careful treatment of logging slash. Conversely, “hiding” all timber harvesting activity decreases the potential for demonstrating some of the principles of sustainable forest management to the public.

c) Proposed Enhancement vs. Current Management

We estimate that our proposed sustainable forestry program for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit would be somewhat less intensive than historical harvest levels². We expect that public access and recreation opportunities will be enhanced if the Planning Unit is managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. Our proposed monitoring and adaptive management program will be more comprehensive and detailed than current inventory data. CAL FIRE would expand on PG&E’s timber resource inventory data and incorporate it into our more comprehensive forest resources information system.

We expect that public access and recreation opportunities will be enhanced if the Planning Unit is managed as a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest. We will also conduct comprehensive surveys of biological resources for the development of our Forest Management Plan, creating better information and more opportunities for wildlife enhancements. We will also survey and document archaeological resources on the property, as required by law and Governor’s Executive Order, and will incorporate this into our update to our Management Plan for CDF’s Historic Buildings and Archaeological Sites. This provides opportunities for education and preservation. Finally, our ownership of these parcels will create a research and demonstration program where one has not existed before.

d) Proposed Management Impacts on Public Use

CAL FIRE’s proposed management of the North Fork Mokelumne River as a Demonstration State Forest would enhance public use and sustain existing economic uses. The Demonstration State Forest mission for research and demonstration while supporting recreation as a secondary use provides a more significant basis for public use than current management. Over time, we believe that there will be increased public utilization of the area, for example through field tours to see sustainable forest management demonstration projects. Current recreational opportunities

² Our review of available inventory, growth and harvest information leads us to estimate that historical average harvest intensities over time on the Demonstration State Forests have been 10 to 15 percent lower than on the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit. Average standing timber inventories on the Demonstration State Forests are generally higher than on the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit.

will be maintained or enhanced (e.g., the Coast to Crest Trail). We expect that increased patrol will reduce illegal OHV use.

Demonstration State Forest operation will continue sustainable forest management as an activity that supports the local economy. Research and demonstration projects will bring additional activity to the area, resulting in expenditures in hotels, restaurants, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. By statutory direction, CAL FIRE pays the same property taxes as would a private landowner. Harvesting also generates timber yield tax payments to counties.

e) Timeline for Enhanced Management Costs

Enhanced management costs will start immediately upon acquisition with the need to conduct resource surveys, develop a Management Plan, and develop the required CEQA document for the Management Plan (typically a mitigated negative declaration). The completed Management Plan will help to identify the suite of management actions that are required over time.

During the first year of ownership, CAL FIRE would rely on its deep pool of existing resources, including professional staff, law enforcement officers, heavy fire equipment and conservation camp inmate labor, to minimize costs of ownership. Enhanced management and associated costs will build up in the second year of ownership, as timber revenues begin to materialize.

f) Proposed Enhancement Activities and Best Management Practices

The primary mission of the Demonstration State Forest is to investigate and demonstrate the implementation of enhanced forest management techniques and best forestry management practices. The establishment of a Demonstration State Forest in the North Fork Mokelumne River watershed will contribute to the body of information and research on best management practices and to the technology transfer of these techniques to other forest land owners.

The actual management of a Demonstration State Forest on the North Fork Mokelumne and the conduct of forest management will be under the charge of a Registered Professional Forester. CAL FIRE baseline and enhancement activities will meet or exceed applicable Forest Practice Rule standards for forest management. CEQA compliance at the forest management plan and project level will further help to ensure that best management practices will be applied.

30. Physical Enhancements/Capital Improvements

CAL FIRE divides up the ownership phase between the startup phase (the first year after ownership), and the long-term phase (year two onward). We plan to postpone physical enhancements and capital improvements to the long term ownership phase, when revenues can be generated from timber harvests to support the project costs.

The following projects are planned during the long term ownership phase:

1. Road maintenance and improvement. This includes grading, culvert maintenance and replacement, and dust control during logging operations. Expected ongoing annual costs are \$5,000. Road maintenance and improvement help to protect water quality and contribute to the recreation objective by enhancing access to the Forest. The project also contributes to the sustainable forestry objective by improving access for silvicultural activities and harvesting. The project contributes to the objective of enhancing public access.

2. Construction of trails. Design and layout will be done by CAL FIRE staff. Estimated one-time costs are \$1,500, assuming most of the work will be done by inmate crews from Pine Grove Conservation Camp, at nominal cost. Estimated ongoing annual maintenance costs are \$500. This project contributes to the recreation objective. It contributes to the open space objective by minimizing the foot print of the project on the landscape.

3. Construction of at least one rustic campground facility. Estimated one-time costs are \$4,000, for developing access and camp site development, including fire pits and picnic tables. Estimated ongoing annual maintenance costs are \$500. If camping fees are charged, the campground should be self-sustaining. This project contributes to the recreation objective. It contributes to the open space objective by minimizing the foot print of the project on the landscape.

31. Potential Land Conservation Partners

CAL FIRE has agreed to partner with the San Joaquin County Office of Education to consult with them on the development of an outdoor recreation plan that identifies strategies to increase access to youth and the general public. If CAL FIRE acquires the requested North Fork Mokelumne parcels, we would be interested in fostering youth recreation and education programs, such as science camps and nature quest hikes.

Other potential land conservation partners include research partners such as academia, the USDA Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game. We expect all our Demonstration State Forests, including the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels, will become parts of a larger network of research and monitoring stations under our developing research consortium with the University of California and the USDA Forest Service.

32. Previous Experience With Proposed Land Conservation Partner

CAL FIRE's Demonstration State Forest Program does not have previous experience working with the San Joaquin County Office of Education. We do have experience working with schools and educational organizations to arrange youth recreation activities on the Demonstration State Forests.

33. Letter From the Executive Director of Potential Land Conservation Partner

A letter from Mick Founts, Superintendent of the San Joaquin County Office of Education, is enclosed below:



San Joaquin County Office of Education
Mick Founts, Superintendent of Schools

July 15, 2010

Helge Eng, Demonstration States Forests Program Manager
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mr. Eng,

It is with great pleasure that I offer the San Joaquin County Office of Education's (SJCOE) support for the CAL FIRE Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Stewardship Council Land Proposal. With over 50 years of experience in providing outdoor education opportunities for youth, SJCOE is proud to serve as a land conservation partner assisting CAL FIRE in the area of outdoor recreation. SJCOE will consult with CAL FIRE on developing an outdoor recreation plan for their parcels of interest. The plan will identify strategies to increase access to the lands for youth and the general public. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mick Founts, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

34. Public Input

CAL FIRE attended all field trips and participated in the public workshops to hear stakeholder interests. All public comments and responses on the Stewardship Council web site were considered in the development of this Land Conservation Plan.

During the preparation of the Land Stewardship Proposal for the North Fork Mokelumne River, CAL FIRE contacted numerous “Local Conservation Partners” identified by the Stewardship Council. These phone calls and conversations generated support for our objectives from a number of conservation partners and one specific collaboration.

The San Joaquin County Office of Education and CAL FIRE agreed to work together to ensure access and develop opportunities for youth education in the Planning Unit. Contacts for Amador County Resource Conservation District (Steve Cannon, President), Amador Fire Safe Council (Kathy Koos Breazeal) and Coast to Crest Trail (Mary Boblet) expressed support for fire hazard reduction activities. CAL FIRE has worked with the Fire Safe Council, the Resource Conservation Districts and numerous other local agencies and stakeholders on fuel reduction projects (described in greater detail in questions 10 and 18), though no specific projects were suggested during our discussions about the North Fork Mokelumne River parcels. The RCD supported our objectives for sustainable management for forest products, grazing and recreation.

CAL FIRE talked with Mary Boblet from the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail about our willingness to consider trail access, and provided information about trail, campground and equestrian improvements at other Demonstration State Forests. Figure UM-6 in the Land Conservation Plan Volume II North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit chapter (page U-28) shows the Coast to Crest Trail potentially traversing parcel 961, however Ms. Boblet said that this route was not currently under consideration. CAL FIRE also communicated with the Foothill Conservancy. They did not identify any specific concerns or interests at this time.

35. Budget and Funding Plan

CAL FIRE requests no funding from the Stewardship Council other than basic land transfer costs. This reflects a prudent fiscal stewardship strategy of starting management of these lands conservatively using existing in-house resources to develop a management plan for the property. As the management plan is completed, a gradual build-up of sustainable harvests will be the major funding source for a developing program of resource management, protection and restoration, research, monitoring and recreation. A secondary funding source for specific projects will be grants. We believe this strategy is preferable to starting a more ambitious land management strategy at the outset on a budget that is subsidized by the Stewardship Council and that may not be sustainable in the long term.

Our budget is based on the assumption that all the lands identified in table 2 will be donated to CAL FIRE. These lands constitute a forest property that is just beyond the acreage threshold necessary to be a self-supporting sustained yield unit, one that can sustainably produce enough timber revenue to support a full time manager, infrastructure maintenance, research and recreation. If the acreage is reduced significantly below that threshold, the management, research and recreation activities that can be supported have to be reduced.

The budget is based on our analysis of the harvest levels that are sustainable in perpetuity from these lands. Table 2 below shows our estimates of near-term and long-term sustainable harvest levels that are achievable on the parcels of interest to us. The estimated long term sustained yield for this property is estimated at 1.2 million board feet per year, or 900 board feet per acre per year. The near-term sustainable harvest level, at 60 percent of current growth, is estimated at 641 thousand board feet, or 485 board feet per acre per year.

This harvest level and associated estimated revenue will be sustainable in perpetuity by allowing growth on trees to exceed harvest levels at all times, protect the productivity of the soil and maintain a general closed canopy forest habitat structure. There are several limitations to the analysis. FERC lands were not broken out by TMU in the inventory reports, so the land base is over-estimated. We had no information about PG&E management history beyond timber harvest plan public records. Electronic inventory information at the individual tree level was not available. For these reasons, several simplifying assumptions were made:

The 2002 inventory reports provided by PG&E are still valid, and annual harvests have not exceeded annual growth since that time.

The sustainable harvest level was set at 60 percent of estimated current growth. This harvest level and the associated estimated revenue should be an adequate buffer against uncertainty around PG&E-retained FERC project areas and uncertainty regarding forest structure and species composition.

Were CAL FIRE to become the recipient of these lands, this analysis will be revised using more detailed inventory and management history data, and included in a management plan for the property.

Table 2. Long term sustainable harvest levels and revenue estimates.

Parcel ID #	TMU #	TMU Name	Total Acres	Forest Land Acres	Total Net Conifer Vol (MBF)	Net Conifer Vol/acre (BF/ac)	Est. Annual Growth (MBF/yr)	Est. Annual Growth (BF/ac/yr)	Site Class (Acres)					
									IA	I	II	III	IV	NT
959	25	Calaveras Dome:	89	34	348	10,235	11.2	330.0			34			55
960 & 961	18	Bruce's Crossing:	128	91	1,538	16,901	47.5	521.5		56	35			37
960 & 961	230	NF Moke River:	128	106	728	6,868	26.1	246.5		30	76			22
		Panther Creek:	317	204	4,723	23,152	182.5	894.5	151	53				
974	147	Panther Ck	281											
975	147	Panther Ck	40											
		Doaks Ridge:	1,013	888	17,973	20,240	801.0	902.0	119	769				
962	62	Doaks	1											
976	62	Doaks	109											
977	62	Doaks	161											
978	62	Doaks	73											
979	62	Doaks	84											
980	62	Doaks	152											
981	62	Doaks	89											
982	62	Doaks	315											
Totals				1,323	25,310	19,131	1,068.3	807.5						
Estimated annual sustainable harvest level, MBF: 641														
Estimated long term sustained yield, MBF/year: 1,191														
Estimated annual revenue: \$134,601														

BF = board feet.

MBF = thousand board feet.

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Land Stewardship Proposal Budget and Funding Plan for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit						
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection						
PROJECT BUDGET - TRANSACTION COSTS						Comments
A. Document Preparation Costs						
Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	
Title Report	Report	1	500	500		
A. Total Document Preparation Costs				500	-	
B. Closing Costs						
Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost / Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	
Title Insurance	Transaction	1	1,400	1,400	1,400	
Escrow	Transaction	1	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Recording Fees	Transaction	1	-	-		The State is exempt from paying recording fees and transfer tax fees.
B. Total Closing Costs				2,400	2,400	
C. Other						
Task	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	Total Cost	Funding Request	
Boundary Surveys				3,000		
C. Total Other				3,000	-	
TOTAL TRANSACTION COSTS				5,900	2,400	

Land Stewardship Proposal Budget and Funding Plan for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit													
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection													
PROJECT BUDGET - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (SEE NOTE 1)													
PROJECT REVENUES													
									Startup Phase (Year 1)		Long Term (Year 2 on)		
									Non- SC Sources of Funding				
Source	Description								One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	Comments
Committed Funds (cash received or award made)													
Grant Awards													
Fundraising													
Matching Funds													
Lease Revenues													
Timber Revenues													
General Fund/Reserves													
Other (Describe):	Forest Resources Improvement Fund									6,106			Revenue from other Demonstration State Forests.
Total Committed Funds									-	6,106		-	
Pending Funds (no award made to date)													
Grant Awards													
Fundraising													
Matching Funds													
General Fund/Reserves													
Other (Describe)	Timber Revenues											134,601	See table 2 page 41 in our LSP.
Total Pending or Potential Funds									-	-		134,601	
TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES									-	6,106		134,601	
PROJECT EXPENSES													
A. Baseline Management Activities													
					Startup Phase (Year 1)		Long Term (Year 2 onward)						
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost / Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs					Comments
Road maintenance		Mile	10	500		2,000		5,000					Annual average. We expect some of these costs will be shared with PG&E, who will also be using the roads.
Patrol and recreation management		Acre	1,300	-		2,000		-					Patrol will be done by the Manager once appointed
Infrastructure maintenance		Acre	10	200				2,000					
Trash removal, cleanup		Acre	500	3		500		1,500					
Salary 1/2 Time Forester II (peace officer)		Position	1	62,000				62,000					
Operating Expenses		Position	1	25,000				25,000					
A. Total Baseline Management Activities					-	4,500		95,500	-	-			
B. Baseline Land Ownership Costs													
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual							
Property Taxes						1,606		1,606					Source: 6/22/10 email from Vanessa Parker-Geisman
Insurance						-		-					As a State agency, CAL FIRE is self-insured
B. Total Baseline Land Ownership Costs					-	1,606		1,606	-	-			
C. Other													
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual							
C. Total Other					-	-		-	-	-			
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES					-	6,106		97,106	-	-			
NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - BASELINE LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES					-	-		37,495	-	6,106	-	134,601	



Land Stewardship Proposal Budget and Funding Plan for the North Fork Mokelumne River Planning Unit													
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection													
PROJECT BUDGET - ENHANCEMENTS TO BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES													
									Non- SC Sources of Funding				
PROJECT REVENUES									Startup Phase (Year 1)		Long Term (Year 2 onward)		
Source	Description								One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	One-Time Grants	Ongoing Funding	Comments
Pending Funds (no award made to date)													
Grant Awards												5,000	
Fundraising													
Matching Funds													
General Fund/Reserves													
Other (Describe)	Forest Resources Improvement Fund									1,000			Revenue from other Demonstration State Forests
Other (Describe)	Timber Revenues									-		37,495	Total estimated timber revenues minus baseline management expenses.
Total Pending or Potential Funds									-	1,000		42,495	
TOTAL PROJECT REVENUES									-	1,000		42,495	
PROJECT EXPENSES													
A. Enhanced Land Management Activities													
					Startup Phase (Year 1)		Long Term (Year 2 onward)						
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost / Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs			
Vegetation Management	Fuel reduction and thinning projects	Acre	100	20		1,000		2,000					Fuel reduction projects will be done by CAL FIRE's Pine Grove conservation camp inmate crews, at nominal cost.
Comprehensive multi-resource management plan development						-		-					The management plan will be developed by CAL FIRE professional scientists and staff.
Forest resource monitoring inventory		Plot	6	500				3,000					Total cost of installation and monumenting for 48 plots = \$24,000. Costs will be spread out over 8 years at \$3,000 each year.
Cultural/biological surveys		Acre	60	50				3,000					
Research and demonstration		Acre	100	40				4,000					Costs associated with funding or maintaining research projects
Timber sale preparation and review		Acre	65	20				1,300					Costs associated with preparing timber harvest plans, regulatory reviews, fees
A. Total Enhanced Land Management Activities					-	1,000		13,300	-	-			
B. Capital Improvements													
									Non-SC Funding				
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs			One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs			
Trail construction and maintenance		Mile	15	100				1,500	500				Trail construction and maintenance will be done by CAL FIRE's Pine Grove conservation camp inmate crews, at nominal cost.
Campground construction		Campground	1	4,000				4,000	500				
B. Total Capital Improvements					-	-		5,500	1,000	-	-		
C. Other													
									Non-SC Funding				
Task	Description	Unit of Measure	Number of Units	Cost/Unit	One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs			One-Time Costs	Ongoing Annual Costs			

C. Total Other					-	-	-		-	-			
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES					-	1,000	5,500	14,300	-	-			
NET REVENUE/(EXPENSE) - ENHANCEMENT OF BENEFICIAL PUBLIC VALUES					-	-	-	22,695	-	1,000		42,495	