

## Board of Supervisors' Special Meeting, Tuesday, April 14, 2009

### What's Needed

- The U.S. Forest Service must be allowed to manage the national forests of California in a manner that will enhance forest health, improve carbon sequestration, and produce raw materials for mills and biomass electric generation plants. This can be done without compromising environmental values. In addition, better management will reduce the threat of devastating wildfires.
- Using categorical exclusions or placing projects under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to expedite the approval process and the reduction of litigation gridlock would move projects forward. As an example in 2002 then Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle had language inserted in a bill that restricted litigation for projects that included Forest Fuels and Thinning in his home state.
- In El Dorado County the forest grow an additional 161 million board feet annually with a 55 million board foot mortality. Only 25 to 30 million board feet are harvested annually. Mortality out paces harvest.
- The California State Legislature and the Governor must undertake initiatives to help timberland owners in the state to manage their lands productively. This includes lengthening the term of Timber Harvest Plans to 10 years from the current three-year maximum to accommodate market price swings, and providing an opportunity for landowners to file one-time permits on large areas for up to 20 years. These broader permits would be voluntary and replace the THP process. They would incorporate environmental protection measures, cumulative effects analyses, and public input and be considered the functional equivalent of an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Forest products companies and land owners in California would be able to more effectively manage their land with the passage of AB 1066
- Governor Schwarznegger and the legislature needs to be brought into the process to understand how important the mill jobs and infrastructure are to El-Dorado County and forest health.

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