



EST 2000



## Forest Landowners OF CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 87 • Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
phone • 707.964.4815 fax • 530.463.7521  
email • [clfa@volcano.net](mailto:clfa@volcano.net) web • [www.clfa.org](http://www.clfa.org)

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown,  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Reference: AB 904 (Chesbro)**  
**Coalition Request: Please Sign This Bill!!**

Dear Governor Brown,

With your signature, this legislation will create the Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP) in the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act. The new WFMP will extend the benefits of the existing Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan<sup>1</sup> (NTMP) program to a larger class of qualifying timberland ownerships, while adding a corresponding suite of contemporary environmental safeguards.

AB 904 is the result of years of efforts to expand the NTMP, which is limited to ownerships of less than 2,500 acres. Both the existing NTMP and the proposed WFMP are built upon a mutually beneficial agreement between the landowner and the state: In exchange for strictly limiting their timber management activities to unevenage silviculture and sustained yield, the landowner receives a comprehensive NTMP/WFMP that is valid, potentially, in perpetuity.

There are currently over 700 approved NTMPs covering in excess of 300,000 acres. The new WFMP, by pushing the maximum qualifying acreage up to 15,000 acres, has the potential to greatly expand this coverage area – and therefore the total landscape-scale “footprint” of nonindustrial California timberlands devoted exclusively, on a long-term planning basis, to unevenage forest management.

AB 904 was developed with extensive input from conservation interests and state agencies. Our representatives and Assemblymember Chesbro sought to craft a legislative compromise that qualifying landowners will want to voluntarily make use of while complying with regulatory requirements that arguably are the most comprehensive in the world. These new requirements include more detailed forest inventory and reporting, as well as periodic interagency reviews of all approved WFMPs to ensure that they are in ongoing compliance. The WFMP also features an innovative “no net loss” standard for protecting Late Successional Forest Stands. This enforceable

---

<sup>1</sup> SB 1566 (Keene). Chapter 1290, Statutes of 1989.

standard will protect unique habitats while still providing on-the-ground management flexibility to landowners as timber stands grow and conditions change over time.

We are gratified by the broad support that this legislation attracted as it moved through the legislature. Key supporters include the Pacific Forests Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Lands and the California Council of Land Trusts. These organizations, and others, recognized the critical long-term conservation benefits that AB 904 offers.

We do note that the Author was forced to take amendments in the Senate that deleted the Southern Subdistrict (primarily Santa Cruz/San Mateo counties) and also a provision to assist very small timberland owners of less than 320 acres. With regard to the regulatory challenges facing very small landowners, we are encouraged that discussions continue with the Author and at the Board of Forestry on how to improve upon the current situation. As to the Southern Subdistrict exclusion, this had no basis in science. We hope that as the WFMP program is established and proves to be successful, its benefits will be made available statewide.

Keeping forests working and not subdivided or otherwise converted to less environmentally friendly uses is of critical importance to the state's future quality of life. Ongoing stewardship also helps to manage flammable woody fuels and to maintain optimal wildfire preparedness. The Working Forest Management Plan will create a powerful incentive for nonindustrial California timberland to be conservatively maintained, and working, for the long term.

We respectfully ask you to sign AB 904.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Tadlock  
**President, California Licensed Foresters Association**

Lawrence D. Camp  
**President, Forest Landowners of California**

Jim Able  
**Forest Policy Coordinator, Buckeye Conservancy**

Cc: The Honorable Wesley Chesbro.

Mr. Mario DeBernardo, ASM NR Senior Consultant.

Ms. Darla Guenzler, California Council of Land Trusts.

Mr. Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust.

Mr. Pablo Garza, The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Rico Mastrodonato, Trust for Public Lands.

Ms. Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation.

Ms. Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor.

Ms. Caroline Godkin, CAL FIRE Deputy Director, Legislation.

Mr. William Key, CLFA Government Affairs.