

Forest Resiliency – What Needs to be Done and Where?

Roger Sternberg, RPF



Fed up with the chaotic life of modern civilization, Mr. *Sternberg* withdrew to the forest, taking with him only a small shaving kit and his file cabinet.

Priority No 1: *Change Attitudes About Forest Management & Energize Forest Management Activists?*

1. Brooktrails experience: Minority rule and fear-based positions on commercial forestry ; lack of strategic thinking.
2. Continue to build coalition of forest *management* activists, like the Working Forest Group to participate at critical points in decision-making process.

Make the connection between forest management and timber management:
timber revenues finance critical non-timber forest values: stream restoration, reduced sediment delivery to creeks, open space vs forest fragmentation, habitat protection
reduced fuel loads

“Ecological restoration is grounded in principles of ecosystem science, including dynamics, disturbance ecology, and landscape ecology. However, restoration activities will have to provide economic returns if they are to be widely implemented, with such benefits typically coming from commercial timber harvest.”

Dr. Jerry Franklin, Forest Ecologist, founder of “new forestry” approach to forest management

Priority No. 2: *Regulatory and economic relief for small forest landowners and for landscape-level efforts to build resiliency*

- Current regulations are a major financial disincentive & psychic barrier for small landowners to participate in fuels reduction and management for resiliency.
- Eliminate overlapping regulation: Coastal Commission oversight of forest management practices; County regulation of riparian corridors.
- CFIP reimbursement for NSO, yellow and red-legged frog surveys, archaeological surveys & tribal notifications should be at 100% of actual cost.

Priority No. 3: *Identify the magnitude of the problem of wildfire in Sonoma County and a permanent source of funding*

- Identify the cost of initial treatment for wildfire “prevention” in high-priority areas
- Identify the cost of regular maintenance

Example: 200,000 acres of forestland in County

- 50% infected with SOD
- 10% highly flammable now?
- 20,000 acres x \$3,000/acre = \$60,000,000 first treatment
- 20,000 acres x \$1,000/acre follow-up every 5 years = \$20,000,000
- Add 30-40% to above numbers for administration, supervision, and regulatory processing

Priority No. 4: *Reintroduce public works programs to focus on high-priority wildfire hazard areas on public and private land? (Fund programs until climate change is resolved...)*



Priority No. 5: *Identify economically-feasible strategies to handle mega volumes of dead, dying, and low-value trees.*



- Cogeneration plant in Sonoma County?
- Works great in the Sierras, enabling more acres to be treated and more effective fuel load reduction programs on the ground
- Reduces reliance on fossil fuels and emissions associated with trucking.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions from burning
