

August 17, 2005

Mike Hankins, President  
Dogwood Home Owners Association  
P.O. Box 377  
39311 Woodland Road  
Shaver Lake. California 93664

Dear Mike.

I am writing to follow up on our conversation concerning fuel hazard reduction operations within the Dogwood Mountain Subdivision area. During our conversation, we both acknowledged that the Dogwood area contains ground fuels, grasses, brush, hardwood trees, and conifer trees of all sizes. Areas that contain dense accumulation of these types of fuels, with both horizontal and vertical continuity of stems, limbs, crowns, etc. represent areas of high fire danger. The increased number and density of residential homes throughout the area greatly increases susceptibility for catastrophic wildfire impacts.

As a Registered Professional Forester, I have worked with many property owners within the Dogwood Home Owners Association (DHOA), as well as outlying parcels. In 2004, I was involved in the performance of fuel hazard reduction timber harvesting on the Fresno County lands administrated by WWD #41 and CSA #31B below the Dogwood area. That area was thinned of merchantable trees with slash and brush masticated into chips. Fresno County additionally authorized the use of revenues generated from the timber value for additional mastication treatment of dense non-merchantable trees and brush in areas that were not commercially thinned. I believe the treatment of this property helped reduce the fire hazard to the Dogwood area.

I wholeheartedly endorse your effort to promote fuel hazard reduction within the DHOA area. In respect to hazard reduction involving merchantable trees, state law requires the filing of a Timber Harvest Plan or under certain circumstances an Exemption or Emergency Notice for authorization from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) before conducting timber operations. It is my recommendation that (1) one Timber Harvest Plan be prepared for all property owners within the DHOA and those in the outlying areas.

A Timber Harvest Plan is the equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report concerning impacts upon the environment. A Registered Professional Forester prepares the plan. CDF and other resource based state agencies review the plan to insure compliance with all state and federal laws. Upon approval, the timber/timberland owner has the right to authorize timber operations by a Licensed Timber Operator in compliance with the plan. A timber/timberland owner can defer operations if they wish to postpone any activity. An approved plan can be effective for up to a (3) three-year period with two - (1) one-year extensions possible under certain circumstances providing up to (5) five years of authorization.

Mike Hankins

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An outline of my recommendation:

All Dogwood area property owners shall be contacted requesting participation in the plan as Timber/Timberland owners. Participation in the plan does not require harvesting of trees or reduction of hazardous fuels. Operations upon the participating properties shall require a contractual commitment between the property owner and the Licensed Timber Operator with project work specifically explained for clear understanding. Some properties will generate owner income. Some will require owner expenditures. Desired fuel reduction work on the property will dictate cost or expense.

Timber/Timberland Owners are cautioned that land values, Deed CC&Rs, and Forest Practice Law have tree stocking requirements that are intended to insure forest tree cover and timberland stocking following tree removals. This project does not intend to jeopardize prevailing land values or aesthetics of the DHOA area. This project does intend and encourage removal of excess trees for the purpose of fuel hazard reduction. Some home owners will be afforded an opportunity to enhance their land values through the creation of view lanes and the removal of hazardous fuels.

A Timber Harvest Plan shall be prepared for all areas participating in the plan. The plan will contain maps of all watercourses, homes, roads, water tanks, and general terrain. A confidential archaeological addendum shall be prepared for the area. This report is not released to the public to insure protection of cultural resources. Preparation would occur during fall and winter of 2005-06 with CDF approval anticipated by spring of 2006. Project operations will occur as scheduled in accordance with the contract between Timber/Timberland Owner and Auberry Forest Products.

The Registered Professional Forester preparing the plan shall be Patrick Emmert, RPF# 1839. He shall prepare the plan on behalf of Sierra Forest Products, a lumber manufacturer who would purchase merchantable logs generated from the project. Log values are generally adjusted bi-monthly in accordance with prevailing wholesale lumber markets and are competitive with other lumber manufacturers. Costs associated with professional forestry services shall be paid from the harvested log value of the project.

Matt Allen, Auberry Forest Products of Auberry, California shall be listed as the Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) for the plan. The LTO shall enter into contracts with individual Timber/Timberland Owners for operations specific to their property and their timber. These contracts shall authorize Auberry Forest Products to conduct operations upon the property in accordance with terms and conditions.

Dogwood Home Owners Association shall be the Submitter of the Timber Harvest Plan. The Plan Submitter shall pay the Department of Fish & Game THP fee of \$850.00.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Emmert, RPF# 1839