

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

Joint Hearing
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
and
Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation

INFORMATIONAL HEARING:

**Wildfires, Drought, and Climate Change's Impact
on Tree Mortality**

Monday, February 22, 2016

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 447

Sacramento, CA 95814

AGENDA

I. Opening Remarks:

- Assemblymember Das Williams, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
- Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation

II. Overview of Forest Health in California

- Brandon Collins, Research Forester, UC Center for Fire Research and Outreach
- John Laird, Secretary, Natural Resources Agency

- Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy California Environmental Protection Agency

III. Tree Mortality Task Force

- Ken Pimlott, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Randy Hanvelt, Supervisor, Tuolumne County
- Craig Thomas, Conservation Director, Sierra Forest Legacy

IV. Landowner Perspective

- Randy Moore, Regional Forester, Federal Forest Service
- David Bischel, President, California Forestry Association
- Larry Camp, Past President, Forest Landowners of California
- Laurie A. Wayburn, President, Pacific Forest Trust

V. Public Comment

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Background

California is facing a tree mortality crisis. Experts predict that an estimated 29 million trees are dead and many more are likely to die by the end of the year due to wildfires, drought, disease, and climate change. The purpose of this hearing is to better understand the threats California's forests face and the actions the Administration is taking to respond to those threats.

Approximately one-third (or 33 million acres) of California's land is classified as forests. Federal agencies, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, own and manage 57% (or 19 million acres) of those forests. State and local agencies, including the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), local open space, park and water districts, and land trusts own 3% (or 1 million acres) of California's forests. However, the state is responsible for fire protection, as well as forest practices, on more than just land it owns. The state is responsible for fire protection on 31 million acres of forests, watersheds, and rangeland. The other 40% (or 13 million acres) of California's forests are owned by individuals, corporations, and Native American tribes. Within the 40% mentioned above, industrial timber companies own 15% (or 5 million acres).

Forests provide many important functions for the state. Forests provide high quality habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, including many endangered species. Coastal forests play a vital role maintaining California's salmon population. Forests sequester carbon to mitigate climate change and provide clean air benefits. They also play an important function in California watersheds by improving water quality and controlling runoff. California forests provide a variety of outdoor recreation and educational opportunities. Many people in rural communities are employed in the forest products industry or tourism industry supported by forests. According to CAL FIRE, approximately two billion board feet of timber is harvested per year, with a value of over \$1 billion.

Yet California's forests face many threats, including, wildfires, drought, disease, climate change, and forest conversion. The past four years of drought have made many trees more susceptible to

disease and wildfire, which has caused an estimated 29 million trees in California to die. In 2015, there were 8,397 fires in California that burned 846,895 acres. The major fires of 2015 included the Rough (151, 623 acres), Valley (76,067 acres), and Butte (70,868 acres) fires. These three fires destroyed thousands of homes and caused the deaths of ten people. The Valley and Butte fire destruction alone caused an estimated \$1 billion in insurance claims. The cost of the state effort to fight these fires is over a half a billion dollars of general fund expenditures, which is on top of over \$1 billion of budgeted General Fund spending for CAL FIRE.

A century of fire suppression has increased the density of California's forests and reduced the size of trees. In 2013, a team of University of California, Berkeley researchers were surveying and conducting research in the Stanislaus National Forest when the Rim Fire broke out, and they were required to evacuate. Prior to their evacuation, they discovered as many as 400 trees per acre on the land. In 1911, the land had between 60 and 90 trees per acre. Researchers also found between 30 and 40 tons of woody debris per acre on the forest floor, compared with six to eight tons 102 years ago. In addition to the dramatic increase in tree density, the researchers found more undergrowth species, and while there were still old-growth trees, the average size of the trees was smaller than in 1911. California has also lost many of its old growth trees to logging. Larger trees are a more secure way to store carbon because they are more resilient to disturbances such as drought and fire. Climate change looms as a threat to California's forests because it will increase the likelihood of conditions that lead to tree mortality. The study titled, "Flammable Planet: Wildfires and the Social Cost of Carbon," claims that by 2085 California could experience a 36% to 74% increase in area burned by wildfires under a high greenhouse gas emissions path.

California's forests are not only susceptible to the effect of climate change but are also contributing to emissions. Wildfires are now the single largest source of black carbon emissions in California, representing 66% of black carbon emissions in 2013. Black carbon or soot is a major contributor to climate change. Dead, decaying, and dying trees have been shown to emit greenhouse gases reducing the carbon storage capacity of the wood. Recent studies have put into question whether California forests are net carbon sinks or emitters, which will impact California's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

In August of 2014, the Forest Climate Action Team was assembled with the primary purpose of developing a Forest Carbon Plan by the end of 2016 to address many of these issues. On October 30, 2015, Governor Brown issued a proclamation of a state of emergency and sent a letter to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture urging federal support and partnership to address the tree mortality crisis. The Governor's 2016-17 budget includes a budget change proposal to spend \$140 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for a comprehensive forest health program to further secure forest carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These forest health programs will focus on landscape-scale projects in high risk fire areas.

Executive Department
State of California

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS the State of California is experiencing record drought conditions, which have persisted for the last four years; and

WHEREAS on January 17, 2014, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout the State of California due to severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS a lack of precipitation over the last four years has made trees in many regions of California susceptible to epidemic infestations of native bark beetles, which are constrained under normal circumstances by the defense mechanisms of healthy trees; and

WHEREAS these drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestations across broad areas have caused vast tree mortality in several regions of the state, with the United States Forest Service estimating that over 22 million trees are dead and that tens of millions more are likely to die by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS recent scientific measurements suggest that the scale of this tree die-off is unprecedented in modern history; and

WHEREAS this die-off is of such scale that it worsens wildfire risk across large regions of the State, presents life safety risks from falling trees to Californians living in impacted rural, forested communities, and worsens the threat of erosion across watersheds; and

WHEREAS such wildfires will release thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of the tree die-off, by reason of its magnitude, is or is likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the State of California due to these events; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8571 of the California Government Code, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the State of California.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Energy Commission shall immediately identify areas of the State that represent high hazard zones for wildfire and falling trees using best available science and geospatial data.
2. State agencies, utilities, and local governments to the extent required by their existing responsibilities to protect the public health and safety, shall undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in these high hazard zones that threaten power lines, roads and other evacuation corridors, critical community infrastructure, and other existing structures. Incidental vegetation such as shrubs that restrict access for safe and efficient removal of the dead and dying trees also may be removed. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall issue emergency guidelines setting forth the relevant criteria, and the California Conservation Corps shall assist government entities in implementing this directive to the extent feasible.
3. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall identify potential storage locations for removed trees across impacted areas in partnership with federal agencies and local jurisdictions.
4. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, Title 23, United States Code section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for removal of dead and dying trees that are adjacent to highways.
5. The Department of General Services will identify state facilities, and the California Department of Transportation shall identify highway and road corridors, where woodchips produced from dead trees can be used as mulch.
6. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall work with impacted counties to distribute portable equipment across high hazard zones so that isolated communities can remove and process wood waste locally where appropriate.
7. The California Air Resources Board and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall work together and with federal land managers and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to expand the practice of prescribed burns, which reduce fire risk and avoid significant pollution from major wildfires, and increase the number of allowable days on a temporary basis to burn tree waste that has been removed in high hazard areas.

8. The California Public Utilities Commission shall utilize its authority to extend contracts on existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high hazard zones.
9. The California Public Utilities Commission shall take expedited action to ensure that contracts for new forest bioenergy facilities that receive feedstock from high hazard zones can be executed within six months, including initiation of a targeted renewable auction mechanism and consideration of adjustments to the BioMat Program defined pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 399.20. No later than six months after the BioMat program begins, the California Public Utilities Commission shall evaluate the need for revisions to the program to facilitate contracts for forest bioenergy facilities.
10. The California Public Utilities Commission shall prioritize facilitation of interconnection agreements for forest bioenergy facilities in high hazard zones, and shall order the use of expedited mediation or other alternative dispute resolution processes when conflicts delay development of projects.
11. The California Energy Commission shall prioritize grant funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment, consistent with direction from the California Public Utilities Commission.
12. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Energy Commission, and other appropriate agencies shall work with land managers to estimate biomass feedstock availability, storage locations, and volumes that may be available for use as bioenergy feedstock at existing and new facilities.
13. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Energy Commission shall work with bioenergy facilities that accept forest biomass from high hazards zones to identify potential funds to help offset higher feedstock costs.
14. The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will work with affected counties and existing wood product markets to determine the feasibility for expanded wood product markets in California.
15. For purposes of carrying out directives 1, 2, and 5 through 8, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended. This suspension applies to any actions taken by state agencies, and for actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for implementing the directive concurs that local action is required, as well as for any necessary permits or approvals required to complete these actions.

16. In order to ensure that equipment and services necessary for emergency response can be procured quickly, the provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to state contracts, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, are hereby suspended as necessary to carry out this Proclamation. Approval by the Department of Finance is required prior to the execution of any contract entered into pursuant to these directives.

17. For purposes of this Proclamation, Chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code is suspended for the development and adoption of regulations or guidelines needed to carry out the provisions in this Order. Any entity issuing regulations or guidelines pursuant to this directive shall conduct a public meeting on the regulations and guidelines prior to adopting them.

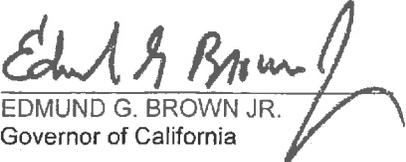
18. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide local government assistance as appropriate under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, California Government Code section 8680 et seq. and California Code of Regulations, title 19, section 2900 et seq.

19. State agencies shall actively monitor tree removal efforts directed by this Proclamation to assess their effectiveness in protecting forest health and strengthening forest resilience.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

I **FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 30th day of October 2015.


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

California is facing the worst epidemic of tree mortality in modern history. Four years of drought and resulting native bark beetle infestation have killed millions of trees on federal, state, and private land, and millions more trees are currently dying. The United States Forest Service recently estimated that 22 million trees have already died due to current conditions, while other scientific studies identify even higher estimates. Tree mortality across California's forests is putting lives and critical infrastructure at risk - greatly increasing already dangerous wildfire conditions and exacerbating threats posed by falling trees. Today, I am declaring a State of Emergency to respond to this threat.

Several actions by our federal partners can reduce life safety risks to our residents including: providing federal matching funds authorized in the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill for insect and disease designated areas to augment state resources; deploying more technical assistance and program support of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to assist private land owners overwhelmed by the number of dead and dying trees on their properties; redirecting funding by the U.S. Forest Service to remove trees on federal lands adjacent to communities; and expediting federal approvals of emergency actions on or nearby federal lands..

Changes to our forests driven by climate change require that federal, state and local governments think creatively and act aggressively. It is essential to immediately reduce risks from widespread tree mortality while working together to improve the long-term health of California's forests. A crisis of this magnitude demands action on all fronts.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for federal support and partnership.

Sincerely,



Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Brandon Collins

Brandon Collins is a Research Scientist with UC Berkeley, Center for Fire Research and Outreach. He has a B.S. in forestry from UC Berkeley, M.S. in forest science from Colorado State University, and PhD in the field of fire science from UC Berkeley. His research interests involve characterizing effects of fire and restoration treatments on forests. Much of Brandon's research is intended to be applied to inform forest management aimed at improving resiliency and incorporating more natural fire-vegetation dynamics across landscapes. His active research areas include: 1) stand development/recovery following fuel reduction treatments and wildfires, 2) modeled effects of landscape fuel treatment networks, 3) fire severity patterns and interactions among managed wildfires in long-term natural fire areas, and 4) characterizing variability in forests under more natural fire regimes.

John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources

John Laird was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown on Jan. 5, 2011. He has spent nearly 40 years in public service, including 23 years as an elected official.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1972. He then served on the district staff of U.S. Representative Jerome Waldie, and as a budget analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrator.

In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988. During his local government service, he served as a board member for local transit, transportation, water planning, and regional government agencies. Laird was the executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project from 1991 to 1994 and an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002.

In 2002, Laird was elected to represent the 27th Assembly District in the California Assembly, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. He was re-elected in 2004 and again in 2006, when he received more than 70 percent of the vote. At the beginning of his second term, Laird joined the Assembly leadership team when Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez named him chair of the Budget Committee, a position to which he was reappointed by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass in 2008.

While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law. These bills established the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restored community college health services, expanded and clarified state civil rights protections, reformed the state mandates system, and significantly expanded water conservation.

Laird was a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009 and taught state environmental policy at University of California Santa Cruz.

Continuing his public service as California's Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird has made climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability among other issues top priorities. As Secretary, he provides administrative oversight to thirty departments, commissions, councils, museum, boards and conservancies – and is a sitting member of sixteen conservancies, councils, boards and commissions within the purview of the Agency.

Laird has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

Ashley Conrad-Saydah

Ashley Conrad-Saydah, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy, was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in April 2012. She works with multiple agencies and stakeholders to achieve the State's ambitious climate goals and implement climate mitigation strategies throughout the State's communities, ecosystems and industries.

Prior to joining CalEPA, Ms. Conrad-Saydah served as California's Renewable Energy Program Manager for the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, beginning her tenure as a Presidential Management Fellow. Ms. Conrad-Saydah earned her master's degree from the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara, where she was a Doris Duke Conservation Fellow, and undergraduate degree from Princeton University.

Ken Pimlott

Director

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Chief Ken Pimlott was appointed on July 12, 2011 by Governor Edmund G. Brown as the Director of CAL FIRE, after serving as the Acting Director since November of 2010. He is also California's State Forester.

Chief Pimlott began his fire service career nearly 30 years ago as a reserve firefighter with the Contra Costa Fire Protection District. His subsequent years of service include 28 years with CAL FIRE. Prior to being appointed, Pimlott was the Deputy Director of Fire Protection, responsible for CAL FIRE's statewide fire protection programs, including Command and Control Operations, Cooperative Fire Protection, Conservation Camps, Fleet Management, Aviation Management, Training and Safety.

During Chief Pimlott's career, he has risen through the ranks, beginning as a seasonal fire fighter in the Tulare Unit in 1987. He has held a variety of resource management and fire protection positions within the department, including Pre-fire Management Division Chief, Fire Chief for the City of Moreno Valley and program manager for CAL FIRE's Cooperative Fire Protection Programs.

He served as co-chair of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan Steering Committee within the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and represents CAL FIRE on the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee Board of Directors. He is currently the incoming chair of the Council of Western State Foresters.

Chief Pimlott has well rounded experience in fire protection at the operational and program levels within CAL FIRE. He holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Fire Technology from American River College, a Bachelors Degree in Forest Resource Management from Humboldt State University and is a registered professional forester.

Craig Thomas – Executive Director

Craig Thomas, our Executive Director, co-founded Sierra Forest Legacy in 1996 as the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign. Craig oversees all of our programmatic work and coordinates our Forest Conservation Program. Craig has been intimately involved in the protection and restoration of the forests of the Sierra Nevada for over twenty-five years and continues working to find solutions to the threats facing Sierra Nevada forests and communities today.

Craig has a degree in cultural ecology, which is the study of the ecological, economic and spiritual relationship of people to their landscapes. He has lead Sierra Forest Legacy's efforts to not only defend Sierra from excessive logging but to also protect Sierra communities from wildfire and to find environmentally sustainable solutions to reducing wildfire hazard through the utilization of small diameter trees and brush removed in forest thinning efforts. Before founding Sierra Forest Legacy Craig was a small-scale organic farmer and often lectured at local universities on sustainable farming practices and holistic agriculture.

Craig is a 28-year resident of the Sierra Nevada and calls the foothills north of Placerville his home. When he is not working hard on behalf of the forests he enjoys organic gardening, playing guitar and mandolin, fly-fishing, backpacking, botanizing and canoeing with his wife Vivian.

Randy Moore

Pacific Southwest Regional Forester

Randy Moore became Pacific Southwest Regional Forester in late October 2007, giving him overall responsibility for 18 National Forests in California, as well as S&PF programs in Hawaii and the affiliated Pacific Islands, covering one-fifth of the state or 20 million acres of land. He was previously the Eastern Regional Forester in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a position he took in 2002.

A native of Bastrop, Louisiana, Moore graduated from Southern University and began his federal career with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service in North Dakota. He started his career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1980, with assignments on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests in Colorado, and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands in Kansas. He served as Deputy Forest Supervisor and then as Forest Supervisor of the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. He has served in numerous other assignments at the local, regional, and national levels.

Moore has also had national-level experience in Washington, D.C., having served as acting Associate Deputy Chief; acting National Deputy Soils Program Manager; and participating in the Legislative Fellows Program working with former U.S. Senator Johnston (D-LA).

David Bischel

David Bischel is a licensed professional forester and president of the California Forestry Association (Calforests). Calforests is the forest industry's Sacramento-based trade association representing a diversified membership of California's forest landowners, wood products manufacturers and forestry professionals.

Previously, Mr. Bischel was the executive officer of the Board of Forestry's Professional Foresters Licensing Program. Mr. Bischel has 20+ years of forest management experience, 10 years as the forestry manager for Southern Pacific's 220,000-acre Mt. Shasta District.

Mr. Bischel has a degree in Forestry from the UC Berkeley School of Forestry, and Renewable Natural Resources emphasizing Wildlife Fisheries Biology from UC Davis.

Lawrence Camp
Registered Professional Forester

- ❖ April 1984 to Nov. 2011 -- Forester with the Internal Revenue Service, San Francisco, CA.

Assignments involved corporate and non-industrial private land and timber properties in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Louisiana. Responsibilities included the allocation of purchase price, valuation of casualty losses, charitable donations, and conservation easements, estate and gift tax appraisal, federal taxation credits for energy saving investments, and technical support to IRS Counsel.

Qualified as an Expert Witness in U.S. Tax Court (*William Thornton v. Comm. T.C. Memo. 1988-479*, 1988 affirmed by 9th Circuit, 908 F.2d 977), and Montana Federal District Court.

- ❖ April 1977 to April 1984 -- Lawrence Camp & Associates, Ukiah, CA.
Worked as an independent consulting forester in the redwood region primarily with smaller non-industrial forest landowners and NGOs. Work involved timber inventory, development of property management plans, preparation of Timber Harvesting Plans, and layout and supervision of timber sales. I also participated in land and timber appraisal projects for non-profit groups, and the Federal Government for land acquisition including the 1978 Redwood National Park expansion.

Qualified as an Expert Witness in Trinity and Mendocino County Superior Courts.

- ❖ October 1973 to April 1977 -- Forester with Robert T. MacDougall, Jr., Ukiah, CA.
Staff forester in a small consulting forestry firm working in the redwood region primarily with smaller non-industrial forest landowners. Work involved inventory, development of property management plans, preparation of Timber Harvesting Plans, layout and supervision of timber sales. I also participated in land and timber appraisal projects for non-profit groups for land acquisition.
- ❖ April 1972 to September 1973 -- Staff Forester with Commander Industries, Red Bluff, CA. Responsibilities included timber inventory, timber harvesting layout and supervision of contract loggers.

Forestry-related Memberships and Activities:

- Society of American Foresters, Member
- California Licensed Foresters Association, Member
- Forest Landowners of California, Statewide Non-industrial Landowner group. President 2013-2015, current volunteer Legislative Committee Chairman.
- Small non-industrial forestland owner in Nevada County, California.



PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Laurie Wayburn

President and Co-CEO

Ms. Wayburn is an accomplished forest and conservation innovator who advises policy makers at the state, regional, national and international level. She pioneers new approaches to develop sustainable resource economies using her deep experience in the fields of conservation, ecosystem services and sustainability. A preeminent authority on the climate and ecosystem benefits of forests, she leads efforts enacting climate change policies that unite conservation and sustainable management with market-based approaches.



She has received several highly prestigious honors bestowed for her leadership, and is a frequent speaker, writer and media commentator on working forest conservation.

Prior to co-founding PFT with Connie Best in 1993, Wayburn worked internationally for 10 years in the United Nations Environment Program and Ecological Sciences Division of UNESCO. She later served as Executive Director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and was the Founder and first Coordinator of the Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve, part of the International Biosphere Reserve System.

Wayburn is a graduate of Harvard University.