



THE GOOD IN TREE FARMING

By Charles L. Ciancio,
Registered Professional Forester

I have found Tree Farmers, ranchers, all farmers, as well as the other folks found in rural communities to be among the best people in this world. I love them all, but they need a kick in the shins for letting all the benefits and good things they provide and represent slip away. These folks are being nonconfrontational and professional to a fault. Unclear and poorly written regulations are being inappropriately interpreted and misapplied, and the enviro community is running roughshod over these good folks.

There are ways to fight back using historical and proven site specific science and facts, logic, and common sense. These tools can be used to tell the full and true story about the use of natural resources and to force regulators to be accountable when they do not apply authorized regulations, versus unauthorized internally developed regulations, in a proper and intended manner.

When Tree Farmers and other rural community folks have decided enough is enough and wake up to what they are losing by being quiet, compromising, and following a losing game plan, they may take action to slow the loss of what they and many of us hold dear.

Such action can involve heavy duty stuff such as getting involved in the development of regulations, confronting the regulators using existing regulatory tools, going before Personnel Review Boards with examples of regulatory mistakes and abuses, or pursuing lawsuits. More often than not, these approaches to correcting things cost money, time, and commitment the good folks lack or are not willing to expend.

However, there are things that all Tree Farmers can do. Tree farmers can work at promoting the real world pluses and benefits provided by Tree Farming. Tree Farmers need to tout these pluses and benefits and their praises more loudly and more often. Actively getting involved in local natural resource use issues can really do a lot of good. If direct involvement is too much effort, Letters to the Editor once a month can be a simple way to participate. More direct contact with local media sources can lead to interviews and distribution of what is really happening. If the media won't help you, help yourself and pay to have truthful and factual information distributed by the media. Being a pest and keeping simple truths before the uninformed public can do a lot to help keep things on the right track. If you want a reward for your effort, settle for the personal satisfaction of having done the right thing and feeling good that you have done something constructive.

Being silent assures the protectionist enviros and regulators a winning position.

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California Tree Farm News

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California Tree Farm News

Dedicated to providing useful information to Tree Farmers and family forest owners.

THE RED TURPENTINE BEETLE

(*Dendroctonus valens*)

By Lois Kaufman

Summer is here and we are all out checking the condition of our Tree Farms after a long winter. You may notice some broken tops and an occasional blow down when you discover the dreaded pitch tubes! Before you panic and pull out the saw to remove the trees before the hatch, stop and do a closer examination. It may not be as bad as you think.

The red turpentine beetle is a member of the bark beetle family found in pine forests throughout California. It attacks all species of pine in the state, though is rarely a significant pest to any of them. The more commonly affected pine species in California are Ponderosa, Jeffery, Sugar, Lodgepole and Western White Pine. The beetle usually attacks the base of injured, dying or even healthy trees, or freshly cut stumps. Ordinarily it is not considered an aggressive tree killer but can do considerable primary damage and so weakens trees as to make them more susceptible to attack by other bark beetles. It is more noticeably active around logging operations, where it will not only work the stumps, but sometimes produces cat faces on the base of trees left in the residual stand.

The adult beetle has a distinctive reddish brown color and is 1/4 to 3/8 inch long, making it the largest beetle in this genus. Larvae are white legless grubs. They are often referred to as "barber beetles" because of their ability to clip hairs with their powerful mandibles, and are commonly, though erroneously, thought to be the bark beetles responsible for killing pines. Adults attack trees through the warm season and generally peak by mid-summer. Their attacks are characterized by large reddish pitch tubes that form at the point of attack, which is usually concentrated in the basal six feet of the tree, occasionally up to twelve feet, and on the root crown. In the western United States, the Red

Turpentine Beetle is most frequently associated with the Pine Engraver Beetle (*Ips* spp.) and Western Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus Brevicomis* LeConte) which often attack before the Red Turpentine Beetle. This is where tree farmers sometimes become confused and erroneously remove the infected tree thinking they are encountering the destructive Mountain Pine Beetle, when in fact it's the less destructive Red Turpentine Beetle.

The most obvious signs of Red Turpentine Beetle attack is large (up to 2" across) reddish globules of pitch (pitch tubes) at the point of entry or on the root crown. Freshly cut stumps are also a common place of attack. Very weak trees may not produce much pitch in response to beetle attack and pitch tubes may be missing. However, accumulations of reddish brown boring dust will be present at the base of the tree and in bark fissures. Piles of course, granular pitch are often noticeable in the boring dust.

As mentioned previously, it is stressed and weakened trees that are the most often successfully attacked by the Red Turpentine Beetle. The management practices of tree farmers which maintain healthy, vigorous trees are the best preventative maintenance on the market. Preventing direct injury to the tree bole and roots during logging is imperative.

If you do find Red Turpentine Beetles in freshly cut pine logs or firewood, remove the infected wood from the site or kill beetles before they emerge. Logs can be chipped, burned or cut into firewood. Firewood should be placed in a sunny location and covered with thick (=3 mil) plastic, which will bake the beetles under the bark. Leave the pile covered for about three months during hot weather. This method also works on the Pine Engraver Beetle and the Western Pine Beetle.



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Tree Farm Mission

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.



A BEAUTIFUL LILY, CAMAS

(*Camassia quamash*)

By George E. Belden

The first couple of weeks in May are the general times for the flowering of the common Camas. This plant grows in wet meadows and moist hillside areas of the Pacific Northwest and in Northern California, where it is prevalent in Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties. The elevations I have encountered this lily range from 2000' to over 6,000'. The plant grows 12" to 24" tall with a dense flower (spike-like) cluster which are light to dark blue in color.

Camas was and continues to be one of the most important root foods of western North American indigenous peoples. The part of the plant most desired was the bulb. Camas bulbs were usually dug in the early summer and were eaten fresh, cooked or dried. I have eaten several fresh camas bulbs, after washing, and they tasted like a mild radish. Since pit-cooking the bulbs is no longer utilized, I pan cooked several bulbs in water for two hours on top of the stove. Eating the bulbs after cooling,

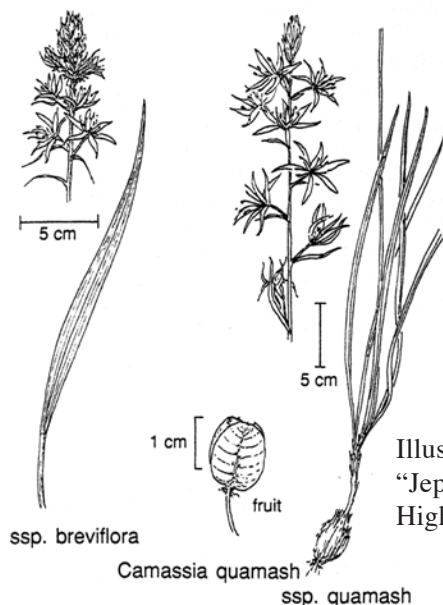


Illustration is from the "Jepson Manual" Higher Plants of California

Gift Ranch is approximately 1 hour drive east of Eureka between Kneeland and Bridgeville.

The group will meet at the county parking area across Old Arcata Road (Myrtle Avenue) from Three Corners Store. The meeting site is approximately 2.4 miles northeast of Eureka or 6.3 Miles south of Arcata on Old Arcata Road. Lunch will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. to George Belden by phone: 530-229-3798 or by e-mail: lake177@pacbell.net.

DALE MEESE, in 2007, was the TREE FARM INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR

Dale Meese, Plumas and Butte County Forester for CAL-FIRE performed outstanding Tree Farm inspections during 2007. Dale inspected over a dozen tree farms involving various types of landowner communications. Congratulations to Dale! A plaque designating Dale as Tree Farm Inspector of the Year, was mailed to him and hopefully the plaque is hanging on his office wall.

the flavor and consistency reminded me of banana quash.

The view of a 40-acre field of blue flowering camas, gives the illusion of a lake existing within your view. As the breathtaking beauty of the camas flower disappears into June, I observed that deer grazing on the flowers in the meadow was a contributor to its demise.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

By Dr. Bill Stewart, UC Forestry Specialist

- Land Conservation easements are primarily about acres of land where certain existing values (the IRS requires open space, wildlife habitat, and public education or recreational values) are protected in perpetuity by restricting changes in land use and management. Currently, conservation easements only have to be permanent if the donor wants to claim a federal or state income tax or estate tax deduction. It is possible to have long term contract, (i.e. 50 year) easements. Some state and federal wildlife agencies are doing this type of term easements with payments to the landowner.
- 'A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowners and an eligible organization that restricts future activities on the land to protect its conservation values' (The Conservation Easement Handbook, 2005, Land Trust Alliance and the Trust for Public Land).
- A basic land conservation easement prohibits residential subdivisions or commercial development but typically does not include other restrictions on how the agriculture or forestry is practiced as long as it protects the existing open space and habitat values. Additional restrictions or requirements can be included if both parties agree. Easements covering forest land often govern location of harvest (such as near stream zones or around specific wildlife habitats) and harvest rates. Some conservation easements on large parcels do allow for new buildings within specified 'building envelopes' as long as they do not impair the conservation values of the property.
- The valuation of a conservation easement is typically based on the difference in land value of the entire property with and without the restrictions. The easement valuation must also consider any enhancement to adjacent lands owned by the same party that are not covered by the easement. IRS regulations require that other easements be used as the first valuation tool if they are available. Historically, easements have not been used because there are few of them but sales of easement encumbered properties are now

beginning to occur. The enhancement issue can reduce or void an easement's value entirely. For example, where an easement covers a river or lake area with a building setback but adjacent lands are not precluded from subdivision/development, the value of those potential lots with an unimpeded view may be enhanced for the landowner who grants the easement and offset any "lost" value within the easement area. Likewise, it may be the case that the value of a conservation easement that is required to avail a CARB approved forest carbon contract would need to be reduced by the value of the carbon contract to account for the fact that the easement created the ability to sell the forest carbon under certain rules. This would only be the case if the carbon contract was in hand at the time of the easement, speculation that a carbon contract could be sold in the future for X amount per ton would be too hard to appraise.

- The payments to a landowner for conservation easements come from a combination of funds from government grants, private donations, and federal and state income tax benefits (for the difference between any cash payments and the appraised value).
- Basic land conservation easements are widely used and have an established set of guidelines, appraisal methods and government rules to govern them.
- Conservation easements written for specific vegetation or habitat conditions are hard to appraise as they are few comparable easements to compare them to. If additional ecological monitoring is required of the easement holder, it can reduce the residual value they can pay for the easement itself. Even fairly straight forward easements are often difficult to value because of alternative highest and best use scenarios and land restrictions contained within the easement document. The existence of certificates of compliance that predated zoning restrictions can add considerable value to parcels that have evidence of these historic rights. California's Legislative Analyst Office produced a report in 2007 that addressed some of the complexities of appraising easement values for conservation goals.



TREE FARMER QUIZ

- List three of the four terms used to define "taking" under the Federal Endangered Species Act?

- When the original cost of a natural resource, such as timber, is written off the books as the resources are used, the accounting procedure is called? _____
- Name three (3) "greenhouse gases" present in Earth's atmosphere? _____
- One furlong equals ten chains or 660 feet. What does one tally equal? _____
- Who was David Douglas? _____
- How many acres are in a standard sub-section designated as W1/2 of the SE1/4 of the NE1/4, Section 23, T23N R10E, MDB&M? _____

ANSWERS: (1.) Harass, Harm, Pursue, Hunt. (2.) Depletion. (3.) Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Hydrofluoro Carbons, and Sulfur Hexafluoride. (Via AB 32) (4.) Five Chains or 330 feet. (5.) Explorer and Botanist. The tree which bears his name was only one of 210 species which he was the first to collect and describe. (6.) 20 Acres.



Biomass—Harvesting

By Frank Barron

For the past 100 years, the state and federal government have done their best to suppress forest fires. This has resulted in an unnatural accumulation of growth in many of our forests. During drought years, many of California's forests come under severe stress, inviting outbreaks of insects and disease. Millions of acres are now primed for catastrophic fire.

For the past few years, foresters have used biomass harvesting as one of the tools to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire. Biomass is classified as any organic matter available on a renewable basis. The goal of a biomass harvesting operation is to create a forest that is healthy and fire resistant, with improved habitat for fish and wildlife.

Biomass harvesting creates a forest very much like what existed prior to the mid-to-late 1800's.

There are several options for addressing the overcrowding and unhealthy conditions in many of our forests. One is to do nothing and leave overstocked forests to stagnate. This invites attack from insects and disease, and increases the risk the forest could be destroyed by fire.

Using prescribed fire or deliberate fire, can be a light touch on the land that clears out the underbrush, much like nature used to do. Deliberately setting a fire is expensive, has its own risks, and is subject to restrictive air pollution regulations.

When biomass harvesting is chosen as the preferred alternative, it accomplishes the goal of improved forest health, but in addition creates a marketable product out of the unwanted forest biomass. This helps reimburse landowners for part of the costs of the operation.