

Sound Watershed Consulting



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February 27, 2008

Tanya Avile-Medeiros
Executive Assistant to the Director
CALFIRE
135 Ridgway Ave
Santa Rosa, 95401

Re: Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group

Dear Mrs. Avile-Medeiros,

I am writing to offer my services for the recently announced Jackson Demonstration State Forest Advisory Group. I believe I bring a unique set of skills and experiences that could provide considerable value to this project. I've been a forest watershed scientist, manager, and consultant for nearly 15 years and have worked in forests throughout the western United States. I specialize on the interaction between the management of forests and protection of watershed functions. I've worked closely with both industrial forestry interests as well as environmental advocates. I'm proud to say that have helped to facilitate agreement among many contentious and high-profile issues by taking a fair and scientifically credible approach to forest management. Mr. Peter Heide, the Director of Forest Management for the Washington Forest Protection Association has stated, *"In my experience, Mike is an impressive scientist who brings innovative thinking and a solid, thorough technical approach to forestry and watershed issues."*

I have served and/or chaired several forest watershed technical committees. I was a key technical advisor to the forest management industry in Washington State during the landmark Forests & Fish Plan. I've also served the Washington State Forest Practices Board as the chair of the Upland Process Science Advisory Committee and a key participant in the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Steering Committee. I've also participated in the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement's Forest Watershed Task Group. More recently, I have partnered with the Pinchot Institute of Washington DC to provide a report to the US Congress on the effectiveness of the Quincy Library Group Community Forestry Plan.

I have worked in several capacities that have addressed landscape-based management approaches that have integrated significant research and monitoring components. I was formerly a lecturer at the University of Washington, teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses in Forest & Fish Interactions, Wildland Hydrology and River Ecology. I understand how to properly design forest management practices in sensitive areas like wetlands and streamside areas in ways that reduce protect these resources while addressing risks associated with fire, disease and wildlife issues, all in support of ecological processes that restore or enhance watershed functions.

For example, in a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Klickitat Forest in eastern Washington, we developed an innovative and effective streamside management approach that addressed some of the issues with fire, wildlife habitat and disease management along sensitive streamside environments. The Klickitat forests had become overgrown in response to fire suppression, a lack of forest thinning, and natural conditions that supported a dense accumulation of Douglas fir that formed fuel ladders to the canopy. We also had to address issues with spotted owls, and a spruce budworm epidemic (partly created by the poor forest health associated with stand density). The approach we developed scheduled aggressive riparian thinning operations in association with a landscape-scale strategy to reduce fire risk. Our approach also integrated erosion controls and stream protection strategies that promoted clean water and fish habitat, and we backed our approach with a solid adaptive management strategy so that we could learn from implementation efforts.

One of the most favorite periods in my life were the years that I spent as part of the management team for a 300,000 forest in western Washington. During this time, we developed innovative approaches to forest watershed stewardship that we were quite proud of. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Advisory Group, and I would be honored to serve the great state of California. I've attached my resume and contact information for your assistance. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (510) 927-2099 or at mike@soundwatershed.net.

Sincerely,

Mike Liquori
Principal & Owner
Sound Watershed Consulting