

**MARIPOSA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**AGENDA  
ACTION FORM**

97-337  
DATE: August 19, 1997  
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors BY: Doug Balmain  
Supervisor, District 2

PHONE: 966-3222

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:** (Policy Item: Yes \_\_ No X)  
Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter written to Congressman George Radanovich, regarding Mariposa County's concern over the loss of revenue due to mismanagement of the salvage timber harvest by the Forest Service.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**  
Mariposa County and Mariposa Schools have already lost approximately \$248,900 in revenue from the salvage timber harvest of the Ackerson-Rogge fires due to mismanagement by the U.S. Forest Service. Congress needs to be made aware of this loss of revenue. A possible review by the General Accounting Office may result in a reimbursement of these funds to Mariposa County.

During this difficult fiscal year every possible revenue source needs to be explored and acted upon. By sending this letter Mariposa County may be the recipient of additional revenue.

The Board has made a practice of keeping our local federal government representatives aware of issues that have an impact on Mariposa County.

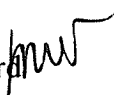
**LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**  
1. Mariposa County may not be reimbursed for the \$124,450 lost in revenue.

<b>COSTS:</b> ( ) Not Applicable A. Budgeted Current FY \$ B. Total Anticipated Costs \$ C. Required Additional Funding \$ D. Internal Transfers \$		<b>SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:</b> List the attachments and number the pages consecutively: Letter to Congressman George Radanovich.
<b>SOURCE:</b> ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required \$ A. Unanticipated Revenues \$ B. Reserve for Contingencies \$ C. Source Description: _____		
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: _____		
<b>CLERKS USE ONLY:</b> Res. No. <u>97-337</u> Ord. No. _____ Vote - Ayes: _____ Noes: _____ Absent: _____ Abstained: _____ ( ) Approved ( ) Denied (X) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office Date: _____ ATTEST: _____ MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board County of Mariposa, State of California BY: _____ Deputy		
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:</b> This item on agenda as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> For Policy Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted with Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Returned for Further Action Comment: _____ CAO's Initials: <u>JH</u>		

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

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TO: SUPERVISOR BALMAIN  
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board   
SUBJECT: REVENUE LOSS FROM THE ACKERSON-ROGGE FIRES OF 1996;  
RES. 97-337

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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 19, 1997

ACTION AND VOTE:

Discussion and Direction Regarding Revenue Loss from the Ackerson-Rogge Fires of 1996 (Supervisor Balmain)

**BOARD ACTION:** Supervisor Balmain initiated discussion and advised of changes to the draft letter. He further advised that the sale has been advertised and the bid opening was scheduled for this date for a portion of the burn area. Supervisor Parker requested that consideration be given to inviting the Forest Service representative to discuss this matter with the Board prior to taking action. (M)Balmain, (S)Pickard, Res. 97-337 adopted approving letter to Congressman Radanovich regarding the County's concern regarding the revenue loss/Ayes: Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Noes: Reilly; Abstained: Parker.

cc: File

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



**JANET HOGAN**  
County Administrative Officer

**MARGIE WILLIAMS**  
Clerk of the Board

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August 19, 1997

District 1.....PATTI A. REILLY  
District 2.....DOUG BALMAIN  
District 3.....ROBERT C. STEWART  
District 4.....GARRY R. PARKER  
District 5.....BOB PICKARD

The Honorable George P. Radanovich  
United States House of Representatives  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: 1996 Ackerson and Rogge Complex Fires

Dear Mr. Radanovich:

We have become aware of an issue with the United States Forest Service which we wish to bring to your attention. You have been helpful in the past in assisting with Forest Service matters, and we hope that you will again lend a hand.

We are disturbed about the way the Forest Service has handled the salvage harvest of timber from the Ackerson and Rogge Complex fires. As you know, large volumes of timber were burned or killed by these fires with the majority of the timber being pine. Mariposa County and the surrounding counties stand to lose a significant amount of revenue because of this mismanagement.

Time is of the essence when managing a salvage harvest, and production must begin before timber deteriorates. A year after the tree has been killed blue stain will occur in the pine that will reduce the value by 25 percent. During this time period, bug infestation, checking, and cracking of the logs will also occur, reducing the value by 50 percent. The optimum management of the salvage harvest of these fires would have been for an initial assessment of the damage during the fall when it was safe to enter the burn area. Advertising and sale of the timber should take place in the winter, with the actual logging beginning in the spring of this year.


Approximately 80 percent of the fire occurred within the Park and the remaining 20 percent outside the Park. When timber is destroyed due to natural causes, the Park does not usually allow for the salvage harvest of timber. In the harvest area outside the Park, 25 percent of the gross receipts go to county governments and schools. Because of failure to promptly address the salvage by the Forest Service, several millions of dollars will be lost, in addition to a loss in the creation of jobs. The loss in production of forest service product is critical, especially when we are trying to conserve our natural resources.

For example, using \$400 per thousand as the stumpage value before down grade and 53 million as the volume before deterioration, the estimated value of the timber to be harvested, had that been done timely, would be \$21.2 million. Due to the delays, that value has been reduced to approximately \$10.6 million. Total revenue to Mariposa County and Mariposa schools would have been approximately \$498,000 (split fifty-fifty between us). The reduced amount is \$249,100, a difference of \$248,900. The County share supports the Road Fund which cannot stand to lose this kind of revenue.

Currently there is a large amount of green timber blow down and bug kill. The Groveland District is not putting this volume up for sale but instead is letting this timber go to waste. They claim they do not have the funds to hire staff to take care of this resource. Utilizing this resource would help their budget, but most of all it would create jobs and a much needed product for the private sector.

Special interest environmental groups have played a part in the inaction of the Forest Service due to misconceptions of the effects salvage harvesting has on the environment. I believe that Congress needs to be aware of the consequences of forest mismanagement. Perhaps this is a matter the General Accounting Office could review. We would also ask that, should a review verify this loss, consideration be given to reimbursing the affected counties and school districts for our losses.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT C. STEWART  
Chairman

cc: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Mariposa County Schools  
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors  
Tom Pyle

RCS/DB/mbh