

NLWJC- Kagan

Counsel - Box 004 - Folder 001

Timber-California Sales

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

02-Sep-1996 08:25pm

TO: Elena Kagan
FROM: Dinah Bear
Council on Environmental Quality
SUBJECT: RE: california timber

i'm not sure which memo you read by now, but in very short summary, here's where we are:

- o WH press office confirmed, in response to reporters' questions, that draft EIS was not going forward at this time and there were concerns with scientific analysis;
- o after considerable internal debate, USDA and FS have developed and united around a proposal to establish a FACA-chartered scientific committee to analyze science coming out of Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project report and make recommendations on EIS;
- o there is a draft directive embodying the above that will be presented to Sec. Glickman tomorrow am (Tues.). I haven't seen it yet.
- o CEQ and other WH offices are hoping the directive/announcement today to answer continuing questions.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

August 16, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KATHLEEN A. MCGINTY *Kathleen McGinty*
CC: LEON PANETTA
RE: CEQ WEEKLY REPORT

CALIFORNIA TIMBER SALES

Earlier this summer, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was set to go final with a decision that would have substantially increased timber harvests in California. However, because of public concern about timber sales under the salvage rider and the imminent release of the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Report, the USFS decided to add new information to its environmental impact statement, publish it as a revised draft, and then hold a series of workshops in the Sierra Nevada to focus on public concerns about old growth logging in California.

Although this course of action seems to be moving us towards a more environmentally sustainable timber program. Nevertheless I'm concerned that releasing of the new draft Tuesday, August 20, with the preferred alternative that it currently contains will generate considerable criticism in California. The draft identifies a preferred alternative that doubles the proposed timber harvest level from the 1995 level (though substantially lower than timber levels before 1993) and moves away from current restrictions on logging old growth trees. Environmentalists may react as badly to the loosening of restrictions on logging old trees as to the increase in timber harvest.

Given the likely public reaction to this draft, and since we will most likely move away from its proposed alternative anyway, I have asked that the Secretary of Agriculture to assess the options available at this time regarding this decision. It seems to me that we are about to take an unnecessary and unwise hit for something we don't intend to stick with anyway.

NEW WORLD MINE

Your announcement of an agreement to stop the New World mine has been well-received throughout the country. The press was nothing short of fabulous. Editorials in the New York Times, Washington Post, and regional papers in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado have been favorable toward the agreement. They also note that it was the need to overcome the deficiencies of the 1872 Mining Act that required us to take this dramatic step. There

remains much work to be done, of course, and I will keep you informed of developments as we fulfill our end of the agreement. I have attached several clips for your review.

WHITEWATER

I wanted to make sure you had seen the attached by Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK).

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

16-Aug-1996 07:16pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Dinah Bear
 Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: California timber

Earlier this summer, the Forest Service was set to go final with a decision that would substantially increase timber harvest in California. In light of public concern about timber sales under the salvage rider and the imminent release of the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Report (a Congressionally mandated scientific assessment of the Sierra Nevada mountain range), the Forest Service decided to go out with a revised draft environmental impact statement (EIS) instead, hold a series of workshops to get the public more involved, and then go forward with what we were told would probably be a significantly changed preferred alternative.

While some of this seemed to be moving us towards a more environmentally sustainable timber program, we just learned that the revised draft EIS will identify a preferred alternative that would double the timber harvest level from 1995 (though it is substantially lower than timber levels before 1993). Perhaps even more importantly from an environmental point of view, it moves away from current restrictions on logging old growth trees. The Forest Service currently plans to release this draft EIS on Tuesday, and is gearing up to explain that this is just a new beginning to the process and not a final decision.

We learned about this because the Los Angeles Times is working on a story highlighting the move towards more - not less - timber and more - not less - old growth. Katie has asked the Secretary's office to quickly assess the available options, other than going forward with this option at this time. We will keep you posted.

Distribution:

TO: Ron Klain
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TO: Deborah L. Fine
TO: Jennifer Palmieri
TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor
TO: Elena Kagan

Name	Date
<i>Steven Reich</i>	<i>6/2/99</i>

Counsel