Inventory of the Board of Forestry Records

Processed by Meghan Kane and Archives staff
California State Archives
1020 "O" Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: (916) 653-2246
Fax: (916) 653-7363
Email: ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov
URL: http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/
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Inventory of the Board of Forestry Records

Collection numbers: R161; F3849

California State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Sacramento, California

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Encoded by: Lisa DeHope

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Board of Forestry Records
Dates: 1885-2002
Collection numbers: R161; F3849
Creator: Board of Forestry
Collection Size: 1001 file folders and 4 volumes
Repository: California State Archives
Sacramento, California

Abstract: The records of the Board of Forestry cover 1885-2002, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period from the late 1970s through the 1990s. There are fourteen series including Minutes, W.S. Rosecrans Papers, Organization and Policy Files, Miscellaneous Files, Meeting Files, Chronological Correspondence, Rulemaking Files, Committee Files, Meeting Agendas, Board Meeting Monthly Binders, Permail Files, District Technical Advisory Committee Files, Mass Mailings, and Publication Notice Files.

Physical location: California State Archives
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Board of Forestry Records, [Collection Number],[Series Number], [box and folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

Acquisition and Custodial History
The California State Archives acquired the Board of Forestry Records according to state law.

Administrative History
A State Board of Forestry was first created in 1885 (chapter 11) consisting of three persons appointed to four-year terms by the Governor. The Board was authorized to collect and disseminate statistics in regard to forestry and tree culture, to make investigations, enforce and carry out national and state forestry laws, and other responsibilities. The first Board was legislated out of existence in 1893 (chapter 187) and its property turned over to the Agricultural Department of the University of California. Maintenance of established forestry experimental stations was also transferred to the University's Agricultural Department.
A new State Board of Forestry was created in 1905 (chapter 264) consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and State Forester, to supervise all matters of state forest policy and management. The office of the State Forester, created by the same act, was to serve as Executive Officer of the board. In 1919 the membership of the board was changed to five persons, the State Forester and four others with specific qualifications in the areas of timber, livestock, grain and hay industries, and one at large (chapter 544).

With the creation of a Department of Natural Resources, the State Board of Forestry became the policy making body for the division (Statutes 1927, Chapter 128). Each member represented one of the following industries: pine-producing, redwood producing, forest land ownership, range livestock, agriculture and water, and one member from the general public at large (Statutes 1945, Chapter 316). The State Board nominated the State Forester, who was appointed by the director as Chief of the Division of Forestry.

On January 1, 1998 the Board of Forestry became the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection through an amendment to the Public Resources Code. Chapter 2.5, Article 2, Statute 730 states "on and after January 1, 1998, wherever any reference is made in any law to the State Board of Forestry in the department, the reference shall be deemed to be a reference to, and to mean, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection."

The Board remained responsible for developing the general forest policy for the state, aiding in the development of the guiding policies of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and for representing the state's interest in federal forestland in California.

In its current manifestation, all members of the board are appointed by the Governor based on their professional and educational qualifications and general interest in problems relating to watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife, range improvement, forest economics, and/or land use policy. The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

**Scope and Content**

The records of the Board of Forestry cover the majority of the twentieth century, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period from the late 1970s through the 1990s. The Board of Forestry records illustrate the changes in the forestry industry over time, timber policy, fire prevention, pest and disease prevention and logging areas.

The first and largest series, Meeting Files, begins in 1919. These files contain some of the earliest Board of Forestry meeting agendas, board information, policies and rosters. The Meeting Files relate to the monthly board meetings from August 1919 to November 1989. The most complete files are those for the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the meeting files from 1973 onward contain a discussion of the Forest Practice Act. This act, passed in 1973, gave the Board of Forestry the authority to regulate logging on privately owned land in the state and the ability to enforce forest protection policies. The Forest Practice Act formed the basis for the board's policy decisions. In the late 1980s, specifically 1987, the Board of Forestry spent several board meetings discussing different tree diseases and pest infestations.

The Board Meeting Monthly Binders series span from January 1993 to May 2002 and contain articles, statements, agendas and correspondence relating to the monthly board meetings. There are several articles about forest fires throughout California and the growing problem of marijuana cultivation in the north coast of the state.

Throughout the Board of Forestry records there is information specific to Lake Tahoe including fire prevention, bark beetle infestation, and efforts to preserve the area. There is also information in several different series specific to logging in Mendocino and Humboldt counties.

The Board of Forestry became the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on January 1, 1998 through an amendment to the Public Resources Code. All the records created when the board was known as the Board of Forestry have an R161 number while the records created after the January 1, 1998 name change have an R162 number. Some series, like the Premail Files series, have two different R numbers.

**Related Collections at the California State Archives**

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

California. State Board of Forestry
California. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Logging
Forests and forestry Fire management
Physical Description: 1 volume and 18 file folders.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Minutes (original and transcript) of original Board of Forestry, April 1, 1885-December 10, 1892. Included in the back cover of the volume is a newspaper clipping, press release, and photograph of the original minute book being turned over to the State Archives after it was found in a cabin near Mokelumne Hill in 1968.

Minutes of the December 17, 1931 meeting deal with a report of the California Labor Camp Committee and the progress and activities of the labor camps to date. The minutes detail camp regulations, list status of camps in operation, and other information of camp organization and procedures.

Minutes from 1944-1957 are more uniform in content. Minutes include resolutions, reports, correspondence, and other attachments pertinent to the minutes of a specific meeting. Filed with the minutes for 1945 is a report of a Special Committee on Resolutions regarding resolutions passed by former boards from 1920-1943. The resolutions are included as an index to Board of Forestry minutes, 1920-1943.

Also present are the minutes of the regular meeting and 75th Anniversary Commemorative Extraordinary Session held on September 30, 1960, at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. They include a meeting program, letters of acceptance or decline, minutes, and proceedings.
Series 2 W.S. Rosecrans Papers 1943-1958 1963

Physical Description: 53 file folders and 3 volumes

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically and alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Content Note

W.S. Rosecrans was first appointed to the Board of Forestry on January 10, 1944, as Chairman and continued in that office until his resignation in February 1957. The files include letters received, copies of letters sent, memoranda, reports, minutes, and other records relating to Board meetings and agenda items. Subject matter in this series includes correspondence with and recommendations to Governor Earl Warren on appointments to the Board made in January 1944; recommending the appointment of DeWitt Nelson as Deputy State Forester; legislative proposals; invitations to attend various functions; development of a comprehensive forest practices policy (1944-1945); proposed reorganization of Division of Forestry (1944); county cooperative fire agreements and policies; allocation of Clarke-McNary funds; recommendations, appointments, and first meeting (November 9, 1945) of District Forest Practices Committee as established under the Forest Practices Act (Statutes 1945, chapter 85); legislation and hearings regarding establishment of Forest Practices Act; proposed forest acquisition policy (1946); control burning; adoption of rules for forest districts; The Forest Situation in California, report to the Legislature by the Forestry Study Committee (Statutes 1943, chapter 1086), May 1945; Fire Prevention Committee minutes (July 18, 1947, November 18, 1947); proposed purchase of Caspar Lumber Company, Boggs Mountain Track, Lake County, and Jackson State Forest lands for a state forest (1946-1947); brushland and range management policies; Range Advisory Committee (November 17, 1949); federal control of private forest lands, Forest Purchase Committee (February 11, 1949); forest taxation; conservation education; Range Improvement Advisory Committee meetings; brush burning; Conservation Association of Southern California; deforestation and soil erosion in Spain; and resignation from the Board.

This series also includes subject files on: Attorney General Opinions regarding Board requests, actions, legislation and miscellaneous memoranda concerning litigation in which the Board is a party, 1955-1957 (2FF); Caspar Lumber Company - appraisal reports and other documents, indexed, on lands to be accepted for State Forest purposes, 1946-1947 (1FF); Forestry Study Committee, California (Statutes 1943, chapter 1086) - minutes, statements before hearings, correspondence, proposed legislation, background information, outline of proposed report regarding survey of forests in California and their use, preservation, and management, 1944 (2FF); Jackson State Forest - negotiations and drafts of exchange of Right of Way between Union Lumber Company and State Division of Forestry, 1953 (2FF); Legislature - statements, reports and background information presented before joint hearings of Senate Interim Public Lands, Assembly Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry and Range, and State Board of Forestry on forestry management problems, programs, and progress, November 6-8, 1952 (1FF); Mid-Century Conference on Resources for the Future (Washington, D.C.) - miscellaneous correspondence, press releases regarding conference organization, 1953-1954 (1FF), Task VIII, Timber Resource Review of Productivity of cut over timber lands, program coordinated by U.S. Forest Service, 1954 (1 volume); and 1956 Fire Plan and Fire Control Manual (2 volumes).

Series 3 Organization and Policy Files 1944-1945, 1967

Physical Description: 2 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note

Synopsis of resolutions made by the Board from 1920-1943, an explanation of the Board's powers, and the findings of the Policy Review Task Force comprised of CDF employees. The Task Force studied the Board's policies along with recommendations by the Task Force.
Series 4 Miscellaneous Files 1887-1889, 1893-1930, 1965-1966

Physical Description: 2 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged generally in chronological order.

Scope and Content Note
Miscellaneous pamphlets, appointments, articles and correspondence concerning the Board of Forestry. Included are an 1889 appointment made to the Board by Governor Robert Waterman and a reprint of an article titled "The California State Board of Forestry, 1893-1930", Southern California Quarterly (September 1965), with "A Letter to the Editor," by C. Raymond Clar (March 1966).

R161.1. Box 1, folder 1 - Box 25, folder 12.

Series 5 Meeting Files August 1919 - November 1989

Physical Description: 516 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by meeting date.

Scope and Content Note
Meeting Files include meeting agendas and announcements, some meeting minutes and transcripts, articles and information about issues discussed at the monthly meetings. Topics addressed in these meeting files include logging practices, pest information and policy decisions, fire prevention techniques, timber harvesting plans and forester licensing.

R161.2. Box 25, folder 13 - Box 29, folder 18.

Series 6 Chronological Correspondence January 1976 - December 1989

Physical Description: 98 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically by month.

Scope and Content Note
Series includes both incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Board of Forestry. It includes constituent correspondence, professional correspondence, and letters of support or opposition to certain Board of Forestry policies. There is correspondence to and from environmental groups, timber organizations, loggers and registered professional foresters. The majority of the constituent correspondence is from residents in the northern counties of the state who were opposed to logging in certain areas.

R161.3. Box 29, folder 19 - Box 31, folder 10.

Series 7 Rulemaking Files 1975-1986

Physical Description: 67 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by topic.

Scope and Content Note
This series contains information about various rule changes the Board of Forestry made from 1975-1986. Topics included are administrative regulations, fire protection, logging practices, organization and operation and silvicultural systems. The most complete information available is about water quality control and Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, that requires area waste treatment management plans be prepared for areas of each state designated by its Governor which have substantial water quality control problems.
Series 8 Committee Files 1939, 1958-1975

- **Physical Description:** 9 file folders
- **Arrangement**
  - Arranged alphabetically by name of committee.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Files contain documents relating to the function of several committees within the Board of Forestry. The committees in this series are the Advisory Committee on Forest Research, the Alternate Plan Research Task Force, the Editorial Committee, the Forest Practice Act Emergency Regulations Committee, the Forest Practice and Environmental Protection Committee, Forester Licensing Committee and the Organization and Policy Committee.

Series 9 Meeting Agendas 1984-1998

- **Physical Description:** 8 file folders
- **Arrangement**
  - Arranged chronologically by meeting date.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Files contain meeting agendas for the Board of Forestry's monthly board meetings. Each agenda outlines the topics for the monthly board meetings including timber harvesting plans, pest control, tree diseases, and fire prevention. This series is continued under the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Records as series identification number R162.1.


- **Physical Description:** 157 file folders
- **Arrangement**
  - Arranged chronologically by month.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Series includes meeting agendas, newspaper articles, publications, memoranda and correspondence pertaining to the monthly Board of Forestry meetings. However, there are no records for the months November 1995 to August 1996. There are very few files for December of any year. This series is continued under the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Records as series identification number R162.2.

Series 11 Premail Files April 1995 - November 1997

- **Physical Description:** 62 file folders
- **Arrangement**
  - Arranged chronologically by month.
- **Scope and Content Note**
  - Premail Files consist of articles and announcements sent out prior the Board of Forestry's monthly board meetings. The information covers topics such as logging practices, timber harvesting and fire prevention. There are several articles about fires throughout California. The topics included in the premail were discussed at the following month's board meeting. This series is continued under the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Records as series identification number R162.3.
Series 12  District Technical Advisory Committee Files 1991-1992

Physical Description: 4 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by name of regional committee.

Scope and Content Note
The District Technical Advisory Committee (DTAC) was composed of scientists and agency representatives that oversaw the literature review of scientific articles related to forest management effects on anadromous salmonids (salmon). There are regional subcommittees of DTAC and the files are organized accordingly. The subcommittees include the Coast Technical Advisory Committee, the Northern Technical Advisory Committee, and the Southern Technical Advisory Committee.

Series 13  Mass Mailings July 1997 - December 1997

Physical Description: 2 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
The mass mailings include articles, meeting information, agendas, and policy updates sent out by the Board of Forestry to interested parties prior to Board meetings. These files also contain articles on the logging and timber harvesting practices in California, service orders, and meeting announcements. This series is continued under the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Records as series identification number R162.4.

Series 14  Publication Notice Files September 1997 - February 2002

Physical Description: 3 file folders

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Note
Files contain copies of notices published in local newspapers to notify residents of proposed changes to the Board of Forestry's rules and practices. There are also notices giving the required 45-day notice for policy changes and hearings to be conducted by the Board of Forestry. These notices were submitted to the Daily Journal Corporation and published in the (Sacramento) Daily Recorder, the (Los Angeles) Daily Commerce, Marin County Recorder, Orange County Recorder, Riverside Business Journal, San Diego Commerce, San Francisco Daily Journal, San Jose Post-Record, Sonoma County Herald-Recorder, the Los Angeles Daily Journal and the (Oakland) Inter-City Express.