

SIERRA CASCADE INTENSIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH CO-OP MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Whereas, considerable improvement in reforestation, growth and yield can be accomplished through proper seed collection and handling, nursery technology nutritional amendments, vegetation management practices, and spacing:

Whereas, a cooperative would reduce duplication and costs of research by pooling all available resources among members;

Whereas, integrating all components of early forest management into one inclusive Cooperative would allow for a broad range and duration of projects of interest in the members;

Whereas, increased regulatory constraints and environmental concerns have caused land managers to increase productivity on fewer acres with increased environmental awareness;

Now, Therefore, The members mutually agree as follows:

1. There is hereby formed an unincorporated cooperative under and pursuant to the laws of the State of California which shall be know as the Sierra Cascade Intensive Forest Management Research Cooperative.
2. The Cooperative is comprised principally of organizations and agencies concerned with intensive management of young forests but is open to all interested parties.
3. The mailing address of the cooperative is: Manger, Sierra Cascade Cooperative, 3644 Avtech Parkway, Redding, CA 96002.
4. The Cooperative shall have a steering committee consisting of two representatives from the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, one representative from a university offering subject matter related to the objectives of the co-op, and one representative from Forest Industry. Representatives will be appointed by the membership from these organizations. Current representatives are Mark Gray (Sierra Pacific Industries), Matt Busse and Jianwei Zhang (Pacific Southwest Research Station), and Bill Stewart (University of California, Berkeley).
5. The steering committee will solicit, review and introduce research proposals to the membership for open discussion.

6. Each member will appoint a representative to the cooperative. This representative shall have the voting authority for that member.
7. Projects brought forward by the steering committee shall be ranked and voted upon by the full membership to determine which project to undertake.
8. Voting rights will be based on the type of membership chosen by each company or organization. Membership type and fee structure shall be as follows.
 - a. Land Manager Membership-For land managers over 100,000 acres the Membership fee will be \$8,000. per year. For land managers under 100,000 acres the membership fee will be \$4,000. per year. Each member shall receive two votes per their voting rights.
 - b. Associate Corporate Membership – For non-timberland managers (chemical companies, nurseries, fertilizer companies, etc) the membership fee will be \$4,000. per year. Each member will receive one vote per their voting right.
 - c. Affiliate Membership – For any organization or group which does not wish to have voting rights, the membership fee will be \$2,000
9. All members regardless of membership type will have full access to all information derived from the work of the cooperative once it is in its final edited, published form. Data not analyzed within two years of collection will be accessible to all. Requests for unpublished data will be made to steering committee.
10. The cooperative will have the same common objective:

Mission:

 - a. To conduct applied reforestation and young stand management research from seed collection to the first commercial thinning focusing on intensive silviculture of conifer species and how they interact with their biotic and abiotic environments in the interior region of Northern California and Southwestern Oregon.
 - b. Promote research on how to maximize survival, volume, growth and value while meeting other quality objectives of sound land stewardship.

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Objectives:

- a. To develop, implement and evaluate research designed to increase conifer productivity utilizing intensive management techniques in young forests while enhancing or maintaining other forest values.
- b. To integrate the various aspects of reforestation (i.e. seed and nursery technology, vegetation management, nutrition, spacing, etc). into one inclusive cooperative focusing on improving establishment, growth and yield of forest plantations.
- c. To provide an opportunity to forest land managers to focus research on local problems of young stand management associated with interior forest types of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ecosystems.
- d. To provide and inform members on the most current young stand management research..
- e. Present results in a product that foresters can integrate into the decision process.

11. Responsibilities of Cooperative.

Steering Committee:

- a. Provides broad and objective scientific leadership in maintaining the focus and achieving the objectives of the cooperative on the design, installation, and timely completion of research projects.
- b. Ensures sustained progress via regular meetings of the cooperative and reports to the membership by principal research investigators. At a minimum, meetings will be held annually.
- c. Represents the cooperative to other agencies and organizations.
- d. Direct the activities of a co-op manager who facilitates daily operations of the cooperative.

Voting Members:

- a. Activity represents the forest management goals of their organization while recognizing the broader land stewardship aims of all members.
 - b. Participate in thorough and objective discussion of all proposed research projects.
 - c. Support approved projects through the most appropriate means (funding land or labor).
 - d. Support the timely publication of sound research findings for the general betterment of the forest management community.
12. Beyond annual dues, members of the cooperative from time to time may be required to provide services necessary for the successful completion of projects. Such services may include but not limited to land for a study site, labor, nursery space, product, etc. Any costs associated with such activities that are determined by the membership to be above and beyond reasonable contributions to the cooperative shall be reimbursed if approved by 2/3 majority of the membership vote prior to installation of that project.
 13. Any member may withdraw from the cooperative at any time by providing written notice to the cooperative.
 14. Others may become members in the cooperative by making written request to the cooperative, and such request will be granted after it has received approval by simple majority of the membership vote.
 15. Unless terminated by written notice, these articles will remain in force indefinitely and may be amended at any time by the mutual consent of the members.
 16. Membership fees will be due by the 1st of February every year. Checks will be made payable to California Forestry Association.
 17. Fees will be used to provide salary and benefits for one or more part-time or full-time employees, including co-op manager who will facilitate and conduct research projects as determined by the voting membership. Additional co-op monies will be used to purchase supplies and unavailable equipment, reimburse travel expense, reimburse misc. expenses incurred by this employee.

18. Fees will also be used to support research projects either solicited by the voting membership or requested by researchers associated with or outside the co-op members. All funded research project will require a written proposal prior to allocation of funds. Funded proposals will also require an annual progress report that will be made available on the WeedRIC co-op web site.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, by their duly authorized officers, have Executed this Membership Agreement in counterpart as of the date first Herein above written.

BY _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____