



CDF Says Logging Has Adverse Effect

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FRESHWATER — Logging in the Freshwater watershed has led to "significant adverse cumulative effects."

That's what John Marshall, deputy chief of resource management for the Humboldt Ranger Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told more than 50 residents who assembled Monday night in the Garfield School here.

Marshall said he'd take the matter to the next higher level in the CDF, but noted that he has "no control of what they'll choose to do."

There's been a public outcry to have forest practices enforced to deal with the cumulative impact of

logging on damage to watersheds, but Marshall said the problem is not lack of enforcement.

"The real issue is the lack of thresholds and site-specific standards for cumulative impacts set by the Board of Forestry," he said.

Marshall said the board has steadfastly refused to adopt thresholds for cumulative impact.

Residents documented problems they've experienced over the past two years. One showed a videotape of silting in Freshwater Creek. Another reported that 146 logging trucks rolled through the town on a recent day from 4 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. And others told of silt and flooding and described how the creek bed has risen in recent years.

Five members from the CDF, two

from Water Quality, one from Mines and Geology and one from the Environmental Protection Agency turned out for the meeting.

CDF officials confirmed residents' beliefs that logging in their area has increased in recent years.

Hugh Skanlin, a CDF field inspector, said that 54 percent of the 102 harvest plans filed in the Freshwater area since 1986 were filed in the past three years.

Pacific Lumber Co.'s sustained-yield plan calls for clear-cutting a significant portion of the watershed in the first five to 10 years.

Officials said virtually all harvest plans are approved after minor or major mitigations are met.

Marshall's office denied several harvest plans in the past few weeks

because of concern over wet-weather road use. All denials are referred to the regional offices in Santa Rosa for a second hearing.

One CDF forester said he has asked that some five to eight harvest plans be denied based on cumulative impacts. But those denials were reversed in Santa Rosa.

Humboldt County Supervisor John Woolley urged Marshall to take "radical action to stop logging" until the problem is worked out.

And resident Rudy Langlois asked: "With all you've heard, what's the bottom line? Winter's going to be here in 30 days."

Marshall admitted there's little that can be done. "The THPs have been decided. We can't go backwards and change things."