

IN OPPOSITION TO ~~AB~~ 2494
New Forest Management

James L. Able RPF #900
57 years as a professional
Forester Humboldt County
707-448-3051

YOU WERE
SAYING...



Public Comment
I. 1 - 1st meeting



April 27, 2026

Mike Wilson, Chair

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

825 Fifth Street

Eureka, CA 95501

RE: AB 2494- OPPOSE

Dear Chair Willson and Board Members:

The Buckeye Conservancy is an organization of ranchers, timberland owners, and resource professionals from the North Coast. We were organized in 2000 with the commitment to support working landscapes. The Buckeye's vision is that working lands and open spaces in Northwestern California are viable and conserved in perpetuity for future generations and our mission is to promote stewardship of working landscapes through shared experience, hands-on education, and collaboration.

We are concerned about the potential impact that AB 2494 will have on forestry research opportunities and forestry infrastructure on the North Coast and are therefore opposed to the bill as presented. Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) has been instrumental in providing research information regarding growth and yield for young-growth redwood forests. This information has been utilized by landowners and agencies for decades to help understand redwood forest management.

The forest has also conducted world class watershed studies in conjunction with The US Forest Service and other agencies. This information has been vital in helping shape forestry regulations to protect watersheds and water quality. JDSF has also provided a working laboratory for forestry programs from Cal Poly Humboldt and UC Berkeley. The research conducted by these institutions has provided not only valuable information regarding forest management, but also hands-on experience for students.

Through active forest management they have demonstrated how the number of large diameter trees (>36") on the forest can be increased. This has been valuable to other timberland owners that want to grow and maintain larger diameter trees. Over the past several years timber harvest levels from JDSF represent approximately 21% of the growth that occurs on the forest. This means that JDSF has been actively sequestering carbon at a factor of over four to one. Also, the timber that is harvested from Jackson is converted into solid wood products that have a life that exceeds 50 years, storing additional carbon. JDSF is a perfect example of benefits provided by "Natural and Working Lands" described in the Governor's 30 X 30 program.

The Buckeye ♦ P.O. Box 1310 ♦ Ferndale, CA 95536
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501-C(3) Non-Profit California Corporation Tax I.D. No. 94-3368651

The Buckeye membership includes non-industrial forest landowners. These landowners conduct periodic timber harvests and rely on local sawmill infrastructure to market their timber. Over the last several decades we have seen a reduction in the number of sawmills in the North Coast region. The loss of a predictable timber supply provided by JDSF may result in additional losses to North Coast sawmilling infrastructure, further reducing marketing opportunities for small landowners. An open and competitive timber market helps the small landowners maintain the value of their property. Without this, they may seek alternative uses for the timberlands, including subdivision or development.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors do not send a letter of support for AB 2494 and instead refer the issue to the Forestry Review Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Van Duzer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hannah Van Duzer

Executive Director

CC: BOS Members



Outlook

Public Comment on AB2494 Agenda Item 1.1

From Aletta Sauer <aletta.sauer@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/28/2026 10:57 AM

To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Caution: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing in regards to agenda item number I.1., to request that you send a letter of support for AB 2494 on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for Humboldt County.

For several years constituents of Assembly District 2 have urged CAL FIRE to adopt a management approach that centers tribal co-management, biodiversity, climate mitigation and resiliency, and outdoor access as opposed to profit-driven logging in state forests. This bill provides a clear pathway to providing a much needed update to the framework of management for all Demonstration State Forests.

AB 2494 would also provide a stable source of funding for CAL FIRE's Demonstration Forest operations through the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and allow lands to count towards California's 30x30 conservation goals.

Finally, the bill would stimulate rural economic development by increasing tourism through enhanced recreation opportunities and increased restoration projects. Importantly, the bill will not prohibit timber harvesting or timber harvest research on these forests - but rather prioritize timber harvest and research that furthers biodiversity conservation and wildfire resilience. In ensuring that timber harvesting continues to be demonstrated on these forests, we are retaining logging jobs while adding jobs in restoration.

This is a bill with great support from many of us living on the North Coast. I hope you can join us in support of this bill by submitting your letter of support.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,
Aletta Sauer

Aletta Sauër, MS, CPIM
Computer Science, Engineering & Business Educator
(she/her)
Mobile: 707-407-6410

I live in the ancestral homeland of the Kinst'e'e (Wailaki) and Sinkyone/Sinkene peoples and I work in Jaroujji, on the traditional territories of the Wiyot Tribe. Donate to [Native Health in Native Hands](#) to help uplift Kinst'e'e (Wailaki Tribe) traditional ecological knowledge practice, or [Donate to the Wiyot Tribe \(Honor Tax\)](#).