FireSafe COUNCIL NEVADA COUNTY

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
AIR RESOURCES BOARD

November 30, 2010

The Honorable Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: The Forest Carbon Offset Program Should Include Even Age Management

Dear Ms. Nichols & CARB Directors:

We are writing to strongly urge the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to retain the proposed cap-and-trade rule to include even age management in the carbon offset program, in order to protect forests and the wildlife that rely on them from catastrophic wildfire. Even age management is a proven siviculture practice and is beneficial when implemented under the California Forest Practices rules administered by the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. Active forest management must be a part of solving the wildfire and carbon emissions problems.

Appropriately, CARB's proposed cap-and-trade rules currently include even age management as a carbon offset project. We encourage CARB to rely on science to make decisions about sequestering carbon and actively managing forestland for multiple uses while protecting communities at risk to wildfire.

The inclusion of a variety of active forest management practices allows resource managers to maximize the amount of carbon to be offset while providing jobs and products to the people of California. Sustainability of forestland is ensured through the proposed protocols and provides management alternatives to give the best opportunity to landowners to keep their land in forests and not permanently covert to another use.

Many groups claim that even age management will covert forests to tree plantations. This is simply not true. Private forestlands provide the diversity needed to support healthy watersheds, wildlife habitat while reducing the fire hazard.

Healthy, productive forests are a critical component of California's environment, economy, quality of life, wildlife habitat, clean air and clean water. We urge you to stand strongly to support active forest management in California while also sequestering carbon.

Sincerely,

Joanne Drummond
Executive Director