

EXPERIMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

5061

(May 1988)

State forests have been established to furnish land for needed investigation, demonstrations, and education in such things as the economic feasibility of artificial reforestation, good forest practices, maintenance of forest land in a productive condition, study of effects of improved cutting methods, proper management and harvesting methods, and economical forest management.

The department has a responsibility to conduct experiments and demonstrations, especially in state forests. Planning, development, reporting, and public release of the results of experiments and demonstrations are discussed in this chapter ([see Section 5073](#)).

Ordinary management and operations of state forest properties are outlined in existing documents such as management plans, work plans, timber sale reports, and work project reports. Similar plans are deemed necessary for experiments and demonstrations.

APPROVAL PROCEDURE

5061.1

(May 1988)

Before initiation of projects, proposed experiments and demonstrations will be placed in written form as a "Proposed Experimental (or Demonstration) Project." This description can be quite brief, especially for minor projects. The following outline can serve as a guide for preparing a plan ([please see Sample Project Plan](#)).

- Proposed Experimental (Demonstration) Project
- Project title
- Short statement of problem to be solved, object of investigation, desired information to be obtained, or what is to be demonstrated.
- Proposed method of layout or experimental design.
- Sources of labor, materials, and technical supervision with estimated amount of effort and costs and information as to whether normal work force and budget will provide adequate resources.
- Proposed dates for starting project (and deadline date for approval of project to permit start at this date); progress reports, if any; completion; final report.
- Bibliography of related material (if appropriate).
- Staff recommendations (region and Director's office).

This method of initiating a project is necessary to:

- Keep all levels informed of experimental and demonstration work in progress.
- Help coordinate the activities of the forests.
- Prevent unnecessary duplication of known research and experimentation.
- Aid in direction of experimentation.
- Help assure that experiments and demonstrations are well thought out and represent the combined thinking of the department.
- Serve as a reminder that experiments should be carried to a logical conclusion at planned dates.
- Indicate that special manpower or financing may be necessary.
- Serve as a guide for budget justifications and estimates.
- Serve as a permanent record for projects conducted.

It is possible for a proposed project to evolve at any level. However, concurrence of all administrative levels should be secured before the project is initiated. Endorsement by the Director will constitute authorization to begin the project.

Projects that are to be experimental and long-term (over two years) in nature (as opposed to short-term demonstrations or reports on observations or "opportunity" studies) will be reviewed prior to commencement by at least two experts from outside of CDF. The initiator may suggest persons to review the design and may have this review prior to submitting the design through channels. These experts should be employed by organizations engaged primarily on research activities (e.g., University of California, Pacific Southwest or Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Stations, California State University system, or Cooperative Extension).

MINOR PROJECTS

5061.2

(May 1988)

Certain projects of an incidental nature, minor in importance, or exploratory towards a larger project, as determined by the region chief, need not have prior approval of the Director. The Director should be advised that such work is being initiated. However, in these cases, the project write-up is still very important and will be made following the fieldwork. The project will be reported, whether it was successful or not. Reports or writings on such minor projects can deviate as necessary from the instructions for major projects.

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