



April 10, 2026

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
California State Assembly

**Re: Assembly Bill 2494; State Forests; Forest Management**  
**Position: Oppose**

Dear Chair Wicks,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Assembly Bill 2494. I write to respectfully express our concerns with the legislation, which would restrict forest management on Demonstration State Forests, undermining the intent of the State Demonstration Forest System to educate the public about the benefits of multiple-use sustainable land management, including reducing wildfire risk to protect communities and conserve fiscal resources. We respectfully encourage you to table the legislation.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

We are strongly opposed to changing the management objectives of the State Demonstration Forest System and its funding structure. We are concerned that Assembly Bill 2494 would transition Demonstration State Forests to practices more appropriate for State Parks and limit research and demonstration opportunities for the public to learn about the importance of active forest management to forest health, wildfire risk mitigation, fish and wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation access.

---

### **Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation**

110 North Carolina Ave. SE • Washington, DC 20003 • 202-543-6850 • 202-543-6853 Fax •  
congressionalsportsmen.org  
Federal Tax ID • 52-1686163



Timber management is not incongruous with the legislation's goals to support biodiversity and forest resiliency. The research conducted on Demonstration State Forests enables natural resource managers to confront the challenges that a changing climate poses to the biodiversity and resilience of California's forests through informed timber management decision-making that understands the impacts that severe wildfires, insects, disease, and other stressors have on long-term forest sustainability.

Research on hazardous fuels treatments and other wildfire risk reduction work is arguably more important than ever. Restricting forest management research that informs wildfire prevention is a penny-wise and pound-foolish decision that will cost the state significantly in the long run. Additionally, the Forest Resources Improvement Fund is a proven, sustainable system that funds Demonstration State Forests not dependent on appropriations. We see no reason to jettison this successful self-funding model by redirecting revenues to the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund, which would jeopardize funding for the State Demonstration Forest System, as CAL FIRE would have to compete with other agencies for limited funding.

Forest management is critical to improving forest health, increasing forest carbon sequestration and carbon storage capabilities, protecting watershed health, and conserving wildlife habitat. We encourage you to table the legislation to support the integrity of the State Demonstration Forest System and continue timber management on Demonstration State Forests to educate the public and maintain trust in the sustainable stewardship of multiple-use lands that support the state's economy, reduce wildfire risk for communities, and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, including for California sportsmen and women who hunt and fish on Demonstration State Forests.

Thank you for considering our comments, and please let us know if you have questions or would like additional input.

Sincerely,

*Kaylee Mortensen*

Kaylee Mortensen  
Coordinator, Southwestern States  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

---

### **Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation**

110 North Carolina Ave. SE • Washington, DC 20003 • 202-543-6850 • 202-543-6853 Fax •  
congressionalsportsmen.org  
Federal Tax ID • 52-1686163