



# Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



Resources Building, Auditorium  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
May, 2014 Board of Forestry Report

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## Resource Management

### ➤ Forest Practice Program

#### ➤ Redding and Fresno Review Team Report

**Redding Pilot Project Update:** The one-year timeframe for the Redding Pilot project ended on March 21, 2013; the final draft report was forwarded to the Natural Resources Agency. The Natural Resources Agency has forwarded the report to the legislature for review. Subsequent to submission of the final report, CAL FIRE Redding review team staff compared the review timelines for Redding Pilot Project plans with the previous year's 2011-12 plans, for the same geographic Pilot Project area. This comparison was aimed at identifying any process improvements associated with the Redding Pilot Project. The subsequent evaluation process is completed for all plan and substantial deviations in the study area. An updated draft report was submitted to the Department for review on March 7, 2014, and will be forwarded to Agency before the end of May.

**THP submissions in 2014:** THP submissions are up significantly over last year. In Redding, submissions of THPs are up 38% over 2013 (from 18 to 29 year-to-date). In Fresno, THP submissions are up 55% over 2013 (from 4 to 9 year-to-date). Overall, Emergency Notice submissions are significantly down compared to last year. Redding submissions of Emergency Notices are down 78% year-to-date (from 40 to 9); while Fresno submissions of Emergency Notices are up from 1 to 4. The four Emergency Notices submitted to Fresno in 2014 all cover emergency harvest operations associated with the Rim Fire. Redding submissions of Exemption Notices are up 12% year-to-date (from 340 to 388). Fresno submissions of Exemption Notices are down 59% (from 260 to 107). The primary reason for the decline in Exemption Notice submissions in Fresno is the conclusion of the Forest Care Program in San Bernardino County at the end of 2013.

**On-going 2013 Fire Salvage/Emergency Operations:** For the 2013 fires, 22 Emergency Notices (EMs) have been received at Redding Review Team to date:

- Thirteen EMs have been received for the American Fire (Placer County).
  - The primary industrial timberland owners affected by the American Fire are Simorg West Forests, LLC (8 EMs for 1665 acres.) and SPI (1 EM for 460 acres.), 6 EMs totaling 904 acres were submitted on small non-industrial landowners property to date.
- Two EMs were submitted on the Hough Complex (both from Chy Co. in Plumas County).
- One EM was submitted on the Windy Fire (Tehama Co.).
- One EM was submitted on the Cheney Fire (Lassen Co.).
- One EM was submitted on the Allegany Fire (Sierra Co.).
- Two EMs were submitted on the Panther Fire (Tehama Co.).
- One EM was submitted on the Smith Fire (Shasta Co.).
- One EM was submitted on the Cole Fire (Tehama Co.).

The Rim Fire in Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties burned over 257,000 acres mostly on US Forest Service and US Park Service managed lands; although greater than 18,000 acres of SRA land was burned. The Fresno Review Team has accepted twenty-six Emergency Notices, in Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties to date. Of these 26 EMs, SPI has 9 covering 16,320 acres (SPI is the largest private landowner affected by the Rim Fire, with about 90% of the SRA land). The other 17 EMs are on non-industrial ownerships totaling 2,228 acres.

Additionally, the Department has accepted thirty-two Utility Exemptions to remove burned/felled timber from power line rights-of-ways on industrial and non-industrial ownerships affected by the Rim Fire.

**Redding/Fresno Personnel News:** CAL FIRE has hired new Review Team Chairs, Nick Kent in Redding, and John Ramaley in Fresno. John Ramaley will be engaged in required Basic firefighter training for much of the month of May. CAL FIRE is also in the process of filling a vacant Assistant Review Team Chair position in Fresno. Dale Meese, the Assistant Review Team Chair in Redding, started the Company Officer Academy (COA) on May 5<sup>th</sup> and will be training for the next 6 weeks.

**Sacramento Headquarters Personnel News:** With the recent promotion of Helge Eng and Dennis Hall to Assistant Deputy Director positions, the department will be working to fill the Forest Practice Staff Chief position vacated by Mr. Hall. The Forester III examination must be completed prior to any advertisement to fill the State Demonstration Forest Manager position vacated by Mr. Eng. Eric Huff recently transferred to the department's fire academy overseeing all resource management-training curriculum and delivery; Eric vacated the TRFRF Forester II position at HQ and this position will be advertised in the very near future.

We are moving toward reclassifying our archaeologists to Heritage Scientists, in order to consolidate classifications for job classes with few employees.

A Forester II position to manage the Forest Stewardship program has been advertised and interviews will be held this month.

➤ **Santa Rosa Review Team Report**

**THP and NTMP submissions in 2014:** Plan submissions are up from the previous year. This year, 46 THPs have been submitted compared to 37 year-to-date in 2013. For the same period, 6 NTMPs have been submitted compared to 1 in 2013. Exemption notices are also up year-to-date (118 compared to 94 last year). Amendments are now being submitted (as of April 15) with third-year NSO surveys (spot checks); and timber operations are beginning. Additionally, 7 Notice of Timber Operations (NTOs) for NTMPs have been received this year.

**Personnel Issues:** Santa Rosa staffing is deficit a Forester II and Forester I; each position has recently been advertised. Review Team Chair Peter Leuzinger has completed both Fire Fighter and Company Officer academies. Forest Practice Officer Daniel Sooy has started training for fire academy by taking some available on-line courses, and is slated for the academy in November and January, respectively.

➤ **Statewide Forest Practice Enforcement Report**

**Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:** There have now been 4 new administrative civil penalty cases submitted in 2014. The most recent case is under review and the *Complaint and Proposed Order* (CPO) is being written. The CPOs for

the other 3 cases have been developed and mailed to respondent. There are approximately 12 cases that are in need of judgments and we are working with CAL FIRE staff attorneys to get them processed. Two cases have recently settled and a settlement agreement has been developed and mailed for 1 additional case. There are 3 cases that have hearings requested and 1 case that has a hearing scheduled this month. The remaining open cases are in process; either waiting to hear back from the respondent, waiting for remediation to be completed, waiting to receive penalty payment, or the violator is on probation. There are a total of 53 open administrative civil penalty cases regarding forest practice violations.

➤ **Resource Protection and Improvement**

➤ **State Forests**

The Boggs Mountain State Forest manager will be meeting with Pacific Union College and Napa County Land Trust on May 6th to look at the PUC property next to Las Posadas State Forest that the Land Trust would like to see become part of the Forest.

Soquel State Forest staff is continuing work on the draft of the Initial Study for CEQA review, for presentation to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at their June meeting.

The Jackson State Forest Research Committee continues work on the new JDSF Research Plan.

Sierra Pacific Industries and Mountain Home State Forests are planning for and awaiting conditions that are conducive to giant sequoia cone collection at Mountain Home.

We anticipate that the Mountain Home State Forest old-growth giant sequoia inventory report and stand table will be done by mid-May.

➤ **Forestry Assistance Programs:**

**Seed Bank:** Staff is working with the State of California RCD to assess opportunities for local RCDs to administer reforestation cost share agreements for small landowners (using CFIP model) and providing RPFs to provide technical assistance to landowners, recruit clients, and administer the field aspects of the tree planting grants. The State RCD has draft a framework for managing grants and issuing funding to local RCDs for implementation.

Improvements to the State Seed Bank facility at LAMRC continue. Seed Bank freezer replacement contractors are conducting site visits in preparation of bids for the new freezer. The building to house the freezer was completed as well as the remodel to the facility office building.

**Forest Health:** Forest entomologists are expecting a significant increase in bark beetle activity and tree mortality in 2014 due to the continuing drought. The western pine beetle, because of its rapid life cycle, is initially likely to be one of the more prominent agents of mortality. Ponderosa pine is its primary host. Other beetle activity and tree mortality will become more apparent as the year advances.

Cal Fire Pest Management Staff will be working with the US Forest Service, the USFS APHIS and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to determine the best plan of operations for the potential polyphagous shot hole borer find in Santa Cruz County. The four organizations will use this find as a test case and template to use for

invasive forest pest finds that are not to be regulated, quarantined or controlled by federal or state agencies.

Pest Management Staff, along with staff from the US Forest Service and Cooperative Extension, will be putting on a training session for forest pest identification and management for forest industry professionals the end of May in Redding.

USFS landscape Restoration Partnership Grant - CAL FIRE has been in cooperation with the USFS to fund \$700,000 for fire prevention planning in San Bernardino area as part of the National Landscape Restoration Partnership. The funding is intended to be a grant by the USFS to the State Fire Safe Council who will award competitive grants for community wildfire protection plans to local fire safe councils in the San Bernardino area.

➤ **Environmental Protection**

CFSC VTP EIR Peer Review – The California Fire Science Consortium completed field visits in Pasadena and greater San Diego County to review typical VTP projects in chaparral for fire prevention. Two stakeholders meeting were also held in these two areas. The scientists reviewed a variety of both WUI and wildland projects and fully explored information from over 30 public stakeholders. The CFSC expects to begin consolidating information on the science used in the VTP IER and are expecting to deliver a report to the BOF by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Biomass Utilization - An agreement has been signed with Nevada Irrigation District to reduce project accomplishments in about half due to the high cost bids received for fuel reduction projects with biomass utilization in the Nevada City/Scotts Reservoir area. Work is intended to start in May.

➤ **Cultural**

Staff is preparing to renew archeological service contracts with California State University Sonoma and CSUS Stanislaus. These service contracts are used to assist staff to support archeological assessment for CAL FIRE projects. The services provided are for vegetation treatment projects, fire suppression emergencies site assessment/damage repair, and Forest Practices review.

Archeological Certification Training for 2014

Full Certification Class –

Date: October 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

Location: Holiday Inn – 2810 Main Street, Red Bluff, CA

Set-up: Three days class room – two field days

Refresher Trainings

Dates: May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>

Location: Granzella's, Williams

Dates: November 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Location: Granzella's, Williams

➤ **CEQA**

Staff has completed five Unit level CEQA trainings and is planning additional training in June 2014. To date over 120 employees have participated in the training conducted by our CEQA Chief Chris Browder and other staff.

## **OSFM**

### **SRA Fees**

- New Program Chief – Sam Walker is the new Chief (Forest and Fire Protection Administrator) for the SRA Fee Program.
- Status and Statistics
  - ✓ Service Center
    - Service Center Calls 3/3/14 to 5/2/14 (13/14 billing): **22,631**
    - Petitions Received 3/3/14 to 5/2/14 (13/14 billing): **4,922** (88% declined; 12% approved)
  - ✓ BOE Billing status
    - Counties billed (4/25/14 to 5/2/14): **Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino**
    - Counties to receive bills (5/5/14 to 5/9/14): **San Bernardino, San Diego**
    - Bills/rebills sent month ending April 2014 (13/14 billing): **373,834**
  - ✓ Fees collected
    - Fees collected month ending April 2014 (13/14 billing): **\$26,672,479**
  - ✓ Previous year fees accumulated
    - Fees collected accumulative to 3/2/14 (12/13 billing): **\$76,485,972** (refunds mailed \$668,085)
    - Fees collected accumulative to 6/30/13 (11/12 billing): **\$77,195,445**

### **Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering**

- LE-66 Training - Webinar training with the field personnel is ongoing, prevention staff has been completed
  - ✓ Scheduled to conduct five CAIRS/ LE-66 training classes at the Academy
  - ✓ Have completed two classes and have accomplished training for an estimated 500 personnel thru multiple webinars and the Academy
- Forestry Aide Inspectors - Forestry Aide inspectors were deployed on April 4 to the Units and are actively conducting PRC 4291 inspections
- Fire Prevention Activities - to date for FY 2013/2014 for CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties (combined):

Northern Region - All Units and Contract Counties Totals:

Defensible Space Inspections - 8402

Number of 4291 violations - 1245

Number of 4291 citations - 0

Number of hours of fire prevention education – 11288

Southern Region - All Units and Contract Counties Totals

Defensible Space Inspections – 36,306

Number of 4291 violations - 2670

Number of 4291 citations - 102

Number of hours of fire prevention education – 10348

### **Direct Protection Area (DPA) Information and 2015 State Responsibility (SRA) Review:**

- The new DPA layer will be released to the Units in late May 2014.
- SRA review at the Unit level continues. Units are required to have all data submitted to Regions by October 6, 2014.

### **Fire Plan / California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS):**

- Dave Shew has now fully transitioned to Chief of Fire Plan/CAIRS.
- Jana Luis has taken a position as Division Chief for Predictive Services in Fire Protection.
- The program is in the process of adding additional staff to CAIRS to increase research and service capacity.

### **FRAP:**

- 2015 Forest and Range Assessment – Staff developing chapters, reviewing and revising data; quarterly workshops/webinars being held for public participation Assessment updated expected to be completed in late 2015.
- Climate change – FRAP staff involved with reviewing ARB sponsored work to update the State GhG emissions estimates for the forest sector.
- California Biodiversity Council (CBC) – CAL FIRE (FRAP), USFS, State Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and DWR are viewed as examples of programs that are encouraging collaboration. Dr. Chris Keithley, FRAP Program Manager, is co-chair of a CBC subcommittee on developing environmental indicators.

### **Fire Protection and Prevention**

- Helicopter specifications completed and in Draft to BSO.
- All aircraft request for early activations will be available for the scheduled dates.
- All fixed wing and helicopter pilot training has been completed.
- Three day training with a functional exercise was conducted for all 6 statewide Incident Management Teams. The Exercise consisted of an all-risk incident that included, in part a large scale mass evacuation scenario, and involvement of multiple cooperators. Training topics also included interaction with FEMA resources, aviation lessons learned, and considerations IMTs will need to address due to the existing drought.
- Ongoing preparations occurring to support drought augmentation including; addressing potential additional Telecommunications needs, conducting meetings with Cal OES, reviewing and updating Command and Control policies and procedures.
- Helicopter Fuel Supply Apparatus – Helitender – bid closed 4/18/2014 – awaiting Bidder award and Pre-Construction Conference.
- Low-Bed Gooseneck trailer bidding submittal deadline is 5/13/2014.
- Fire Fighting Bulldozer and Transport Truck specification/procurement bidding & questions expected June 2014.

- Pre-delivery inspection of latest Mobile Command Center in Florida May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Pre-delivery Inspection of first 2014 HME #34 from latest contract scheduled June 24th.
- Waiting for DGS/Office of Fleet & Asset Management FY 13/14 Annual Acquisition plan approval.
- For April, CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery closed two civil cost recovery cases (with recoveries totaling \$333,908) and Law Enforcement Officers affected eight arrests and issued 36 citations (non-4291).