



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814



August 2015 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Practice Program (through 7/31/2015)

Plan submissions:

- **THP submissions:** Santa Rosa has 89 new THP submittals, Redding 58, and Fresno had 8; totaling 155. THP submissions through July are up from last year (i.e. 155 compared to 152).
- **NTMP submissions:** There have been three NTMPs, and 74 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There has been two NTMP and 8 NTOs submitted in Redding. No NTMPs or NTOs have been submitted this year in Fresno. NTMP submissions through June are down from last year (i.e., 5 compared to 11).
- **Exemption Notice submissions in:** Exemption submissions are up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 247 exemptions submitted, Redding had 829 (compared to 651 last year at this time) and Fresno had 214. Through August 11, 2015 there were 36 Drought Mortality exemptions (14 CCR 1038(k)) submitted, 32 were submitted to the Fresno Office and 4 to the Redding Office.
- **Emergency Notice submissions:** Emergency submissions are significantly up compared to last year. Three Emergency Notices were submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 92 (compared to 16 at this time last year) and Fresno had 40 submitted.

General Review Team:

Redding/Fresno:

- With the increase in fire activity across the state, staff from both Redding and Fresno have been continually involved in fire assignments. Remaining staff have stepped up to maintain review team function.
- In Redding, a LT Forester II Review Team Chair position is currently vacant. This position may be downgraded to a Forester I to assist with First Review of plans and exemption notices.
- Dan Craig, TRFRF Forester II, is monitoring the 1038(k) Drought Mortality Exemptions. He is working with Sacramento Staff to prepare a monitoring report for the Board, as required in the emergency regulations.
- The LT Forester II Review Team Chair position is currently being flown. This position will replace the position formerly held by John Ramaley, who promoted to Forester III, Forest Practice Manager position for the Cascade, Southern and Sierra Region offices.

- Staff Chief Glenn Barley, Unit Forester Edwin Simpson, Forest Pest Specialist Kim Corella, Forester I Review Team Kevin Kiniery and Forest Practice Manager John Ramaley visited the first submitted 1038(k) exemption, located near Shaver Lake on July 23rd 2015 to view the operations and the extent of the mortality. Kim Corella drafted a report on pest conditions, and the RPF was available to show the team the operations.

Santa Rosa:

- The Santa Rosa office received no interest from anyone regarding the recently advertised Forester I position. Therefore, the position has been downgraded to a Forestry Assistant II for recruitment purposes. This is the second position at the office, which has been downgraded for the purpose of recruitment. Interviews are currently being held.
- Staff are working to advertise and fill a vacant Forester II position.

Watershed Protection Program Update:

- Watershed staff continue to serve on and help staff the BOF's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. Staff attended the EMC meeting on August 18th in Redding and have continued to help draft the EMC Strategic Plan, including listing applicable Forest Practice Rules for each of the potential critical questions being considered by EMC.
- Watershed staff also continue to serve on the AB 1492 Ecological Performance Measures Working Group, led by Dr. Russ Henly of the California Natural Resources Agency. Drew Coe provided extensive input on the draft Forest Planning Watershed Pilot Projects Concept Paper, being developed by the AB 1492 Leadership Team.
- The next BOF Monitoring Study Group meeting has been scheduled for September 10th in Willows. This meeting will feature five speakers addressing monitoring that has been or will be conducted in the Battle Creek watershed.
- Drew Coe continues to revise and edit the VTP-EIR document prior to release by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for public review.
- Pete Cafferata has developed a draft outline of concepts to consider incorporating in a new version of the Department's Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Program (FORPRIEM ver. 2.0). We are beginning to explore ways to use GIS layers (e.g., surface erosion hazard rating, slope, deep seated landslide hazard) to assign an erosion risk factor to plans, so that a stratified random draw of completed plans will result in a larger percentage of higher risk plans.
- Watershed staff has provided assistance to BOF staff on the Water Drafting Emergency Regulations, 2015-rule package being developed for OAL approval. Stacy Stanish has developed an outline for a guidance document for RPFs, LTOs, and Review Team agencies on water drafting considerations and BMPs.
- Pete Cafferata attended the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting held on August 13th to hear the Water Board's update on the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL analysis.
- Drew Coe has written a letter for the Department regarding the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board has proposed revisions to the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges related to Timber Harvesting Activities (Order

No. R5-2014-0144), stating that CAL FIRE is committed to working with them on their revisions. The CVRWQCB is going to conduct workshops to solicit comments regarding revisions to the current Waiver to address the BOF's recently adopted regulations for drought mortality and the Working Forest Management Plan. Both of these new rules require permit coverage from the Central Valley Water Board, but the current Waiver does not provide for enrollment.

- Watershed staff has developed a preliminary post-fire assessment prioritizing procedure, similar to what was produced for prioritization in 2007. The goal is to be proactive in addressing post-fire impacts related to threats to life and property where appropriate.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has 45 active cases. There are 7 cases for 2015. All of the cases are in the review process. All but one of the 2015 civil cases are related to conversions. There is one case scheduled for hearing this month. Three of the 2014 cases have settled. Settlement agreements were signed and returned at the end of last month. The remaining cases are in some stage of the process.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- LTO renewals and new applications are being processed in the order they are received. We continue to receive applications that are lacking critical information. Proof of proper insurance is a common item that is not included with applications. Applicants are contacted and the additional information requested. Applications are returned with letters of explanation regarding the lack of information if LTO Licensing does not hear back from the applicants.
- Staff are preparing for the upcoming LTO training class scheduled for September 10-11, 2015 at College of the Siskiyous.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from the TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 6/30/2015:

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort :** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 66,822 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (26.6%); conducting forest practice inspections (25.8%); participating in mandated training (16.2%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.9%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.7%); forest practice law enforcement (3.0%); responding to letters of concern (1.8%); and program/project monitoring (0.8%); Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. (*This represents TRFRF funded forest practice effort only.*)
- **Total Departmental Forest Practice Efforts:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized a total of 81,289 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.9%); conducting forest practice inspections (21.2%); participating in mandated training (13.3%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.6%); other duties in support of unit programs (9.7%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (9.7%); other forestry related activities (6.9%); forest practice law enforcement (2.5%); responding to letters of concern (1.5%); emergency incident support (1.2%); project/program monitoring (0.6%); and. Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities,

ecological performance, and litigation. *(This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)*

- **AB 1492 Leadership Team:** The Team met on August 10th and continued discussion on the draft pilot project template. After a lengthy discussion, team members were requested to provide input on further edits to Russ Henly via email. A new draft document will be developed for Leadership Team review and the final document will be posted to the Ca Natural Resources Agency website for sharing with the public. The Team met with members from the CA Forestry Association to discuss several items involved with the review team process. Russ Henly will write up draft action notes and circulate them among the Leadership Team for review and comment. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with CA Forestry Association to complete the discussion.

Resource Protection Program

State Forests:

- Based on the year-end budget report dated July 27, 2015, the State Forests generated \$6.4 million dollars in revenue while expenses totaled \$5.8 million dollars, resulting in a reserve balance of \$546,000 for Fiscal Year 14/15.
- Draft guidelines have been completed for State Forest Special Use Permits, and are currently being reviewed by the State Forest Managers. The guidelines are intended to provide clarity and consistency when issuing Special Use Permits to the public for activities such as biking events or other gatherings that attract numerous participants.
- A draft EIR has been prepared for the proposed three-way land transfer between Jackson State Forest, Mendocino County/City of Fort Bragg, and State Parks, for the City's new waste transfer station. In the land transfer, the County and City would acquire 17 acres of Jackson State Forest (JDSF), JDSF would acquire 12.6 acres of Russian Gulch State Park, and State Parks would be granted the option of taking ownership of 35 acres of the closed Casper landfill. The Board of Forestry approved the property transfer/swap on April 7, 2010. Several entities have expressed opposition recently because the transfer station would eliminate 17 acres of rare Bishop Pine and pygmy forest habitat.
- Soquel State Forest staff participated in Cal Poly's Sustainable Forestry and Environmental Practices course at Swanton Pacific Ranch. The Forest staff is also continuing to coordinate with UC Berkeley on a new interpretive program for Soquel State Forest.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP):

- New applications for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) were due by July 30, 2015. The FLP coordinator and staff have been very busy accomplishing the field inspections necessary as part of the application process and meeting with interested landowners and land trusts. There are 10 applications, totaling over 50,000 acres and requesting nearly \$29,000,000 in funding. All applicants will be scored by the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee following the quarterly meeting in September. Our top 3 applicants must be submitted to the federal program by October 13. Only the top three ranked projects from each state or territory may be submitted to the National Scoring Panel for consideration of federal funding.

California Forest Improvement Program:

- The scoring of the GGRF Reforestation CFIP applications is complete. The final ranking recommendations have been forwarded to ARB for approval.
- The budgetary process has added \$2.5 million in Timber Regulation Forest Restoration Funding (TRFRF) in 2015 and \$3.5 million for 2016. The influx of monies for cost share will allow the full suite of CFIP activities. Additionally, five (5) Limited Term Forestry Assistance Specialists (FAS), 2 Forester II and 3 Forester I, will be hired to provide technical assistance and delivery of the program.

Seed Bank:

- The new Seed Bank freezer is up and running. Seed will be transferred from the older freezer over the next month.

Cultural Resources:

- The Department is keeping a log of all tribal groups we have been working with during the recent fires to make sure cultural resources are adequately addressed.

Forest Health & Pest Management:

- The tree mortality mapping effort is continuing to move forward. The three-pronged approach is to map the statewide tree mortality. The effort utilizes data from the USFS mortality flights and remote imagery from the USGS that will be analyzed by FRAP. The USGS imagery has been received and processed by FRAP and mapping efforts will begin next week. These efforts are focused on state and private lands not surveyed by the USFS in areas of known mortality.
- A new GSOB find in Escondido, San Diego County is currently outside the designated GSOB Zone of Infestation. This find will be included in the revision of the GSOB Zone of Infestation that will also include the new infestation in Orange County.
- The summer Insect and Disease Committee Field Trip for the California Forest Pest Council at Happy Camp in the Klamath National Forest was canceled this year due to USFS travel restrictions. This tour will be rescheduled for next year.
- Dr. Greg Asner presented his recent remote sensing work through the Carnegie Airborne Observatory. The technological advancement melding remote sensing and Lidar work appears very promising to both policy makers and land managers. (<https://cao.carnegiescience.edu/california-forests-in-drought>)

FRAP

Briefing

- **Forests and Rangelands Assessment:** Indicator development. Fire and Resource Assessment staff developed candidate draft indicators to report on in the Forests and Rangelands Assessment, 2016. Public input has been solicited and supported through a UC Davis website (www.indicators.ucdavis.edu/forest). FRAP presented the indicator list at the June Board of Forestry meeting and asked for Board review. FRAP meet with the acting Executive Officer for the BOF to discuss board review of the FRAP indicators. The issue will be discussed at the August board meeting. A request will be made for two board members to work with the Executive Officer to provide review and input to FRAP by the end of October.

- **Wildfire Issues:** FRAP staff arranging an interagency team to draft a white paper that highlights where there is consensus among scientists that fuel treatments can be an effective strategy to provide emissions avoidance and promote stable long-term carbon storage.
- Tadashi Moody (FRAP) has started work on developing a standard approach for estimating GhG emissions and carbon balance from fuel reduction projects. This work will likely result in a recommended reporting approach at both the project and landscape level. The Highway 50 corridor project has been identified as a pilot area to develop reporting methods.
- **Climate Change:** FRAP (C. Keithley) assisted FCAT in developing a data analysis framework and a work plan for developing the Forest Carbon Plan. Continue to provide support to FCAT subcommittees as they implement the work plan. In addition, FRAP worked with Resources Agency (R. Henly) to establish an Interagency Agreement for a Resource Economic Study. Bill Stewart is a part of the UC Team, led by Dr. Matthew Potts. FRAP (C. Keithley) has begun discussions with Bill Stewart on the scope of the project.
- FRAP staff (Chris Keithley) participated in a CNRA Climate Change Symposium (Joint Agency Symposium on Climate Goals and Natural Working Lands) on Aug 5th. The session was well attended and received very positive response.
- **Vegetation Mapping:** The partnership between CAL FIRE and USFS has declined over the past 12 to 18 months and has impacted FRAP's ability to maintain current vegetation mapping. The Fire and Resource Assessment Program continues working to improve the USFS partnership and develop a contingency plan to support update of vegetation/fuels information. There are ongoing issues regarding shared priorities and USFS capacity to conduct joint mapping projects that have strained the partnership. Jerry Byrd (USFS) has offered to assist in renewing the partnership. Some initial discussions were started to identify a location where a joint vegetation/fuels mapping would be useful for both programs.
- **Drought Monitoring:** FRAP is working with Glen Barley and others in Resource Management to map dead, dying and diseased trees affected by the current drought. A Web Map Application was developed to assist Units to prioritize areas with high levels of tree mortality that need to be mapped. USGS provided CAL FIRE with high-resolution digital imagery to map tree mortality from FRAP staff are working to organize the imagery in a format that CAL FIRE staff can use via the web mapping application. Anticipate data development to be completed by the end of August.
- **FIA Committee Assignment:** Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is making a request to USFS-PNW to develop custom FIA tables that can be used to by FCAT for the Forest Carbon Plan and for inventory reporting requirements for AB 1504.
- In January, CAL FIRE launched the CAL MAPPER database application to capture fuels reduction projects for CFIP, VMP, Fire Plan and Fire Prevention activities. Ongoing technical support is needed to keep the tool operational. The current technical support contract will expire in September and no additional contract funds have been identified. The previous technical support contract was funded by the SRA program. Funding is needed for software maintenance (fix bugs, etc.), to enhance the product, and support new programs being added to CalMapper (i.e. Urban Forestry, Camps, Pipeline).

Fire Protection

Training

- The CAL FIRE Academy is completing the last of the continuous Company Officer Academies (COA #60). 195 new CAL FIRE company officers have been trained since January 5, 2015. Company officer specific training will resume on November 2, 2015.

Safety

- The Safety Program has been busy assisting our field Safety Officers with all of the increased fire activity and large incidents. Fortunately, there have been very few serious injuries on CAL FIRE major incidents to date. This is due in large part by keeping safety in the forefront of everyone's minds as we continue through a busy fire siege.

EMS

- The EMS Program is actively working with Business Services to obtain approval for a three year CAL FIRE Medical Director, personnel services agreement. This personnel services agreement is imperative to the continued success in the EMS Program, as well as having a medical expert available to assist our Legal and Safety Programs in the review and testimony at Cal OSHA hearings.

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Program is currently verifying and reconciling all positions within the Cooperative Agreement process involving local government fire protection agencies. This involves approximately 100 contracts providing approximately 150 services ranging from full service structure protection to dispatch services to wildland protection. CAL FIRE has a specific reimbursement and position number limitations for this program. All positions must be accounted for with the California Department of Finance and must be projected for future years. The resulting projections will determine increases or decreases in spending and personnel reimbursement authority.

Conservation Camp Program

- With the passage of Assembly Bill 109 and the voter approval of Proposition 47, the Conservation Camp program has seen a gradual, yet consistent, decline in the number of inmates eligible for camp placement. In an attempt to remedy this situation, CAL FIRE and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation have formed a working group to investigate inmate incentives to bolster the camp population. Concepts being investigated include: (1) increasing inmate fire pay, (2) increasing the daily inmate project work pay, (3) increasing educational/rehabilitative programs within the camps and (3) establishing additional "milestones" for accomplishments that will result in reduced custody times.

Operations

- Represented CAL FIRE at the CA First Responder Network (CAL FRN) / FirstNet State consultation between 7/28 and 7/30. This was a meeting between the Federal FirstNet Board and the CA Board to advise on the foundational topics of concern by CA. These included coverage levels and locations throughout the State, current interoperability, and data sharing benefits that FirstNet can bring to the State. Additionally the definition of "First Responder" for prioritization and/or pre-emption on the Public Safety

Broadband network, tribal and rural concerns, data sharing limitations, etc., were also discussed. Follow-up meeting with the CAL FRN board was held on 8/11. An information gathering survey has been sent to public safety agencies statewide.

- Sacramento Intel Function is currently staffed. Sacramento CC, the Sac Duty Chiefs, and those personnel who have stepped up and assisted with the Sac Intel function have done an outstanding job. A new "Sacramento Intel Manual" is being created to capture current business practices, products, and staffing requirements to produce those products, and will be submitted to Executive for review and inclusion into an updated policy/procedure as appropriate.
- Hired equipment policies/procedures have recently been revised to better support and address both Department and Vendors' issues. We continue to improve business practices and increase efficiencies in the Hired Equipment program thanks to the efforts of the Hired Equipment committee and the fields' input.

Mobile Equipment

- Vehicles released since 7/31/2015:
 - 7 ea. - Emergency Crew Transports
 - 7 ea. – Model #34 Fire Engines
 - 5 ea. – Dozer Transport Trucks
 - 6 ea. - ¾ ton & 1 ton Pickups
 - 2 ea. – Stake-side trucks
 - LE dedicated Pickup truck outfitting 75% complete
 - 5 ea. – Caterpillar Dozers arrived @ DEF – installing Curtains and Radios
 - FY 14/15 Light Vehicles beginning to arrive – Explorers & Impalas

LE/CCR

- July 2015 arrests = 21
- Fiscal Year-to-date arrests = 136
- July 2015 citations (non-4291) = 121
- Fiscal Year-to-date citations (non-4291) = 524
- July 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$1,066,695
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$11,429,043

Aviation Management/Tactical Air Operations

- Exams for Aviation Officer II and III (Operations) will be conducted the 1st Week in September. There are two open positions that will be filled from the list generated from this exam.
- Exams for Aviation Officer II and II (Maintenance) will be scheduled soon. There is one open position to be filled from this list.
- Modification of current Service Contract with DynCorp International and LSI has been submitted to Department of Finance. This will expand the scope of the contract to accommodate the additional maintenance demand caused by extended availability period and fire activity.
- RFP for a new Service Contract beginning January 1, 2016, will be released by August 24. Previous intent to award was cancelled due to an increase in scope of work necessary to meet increased demands and to provide staffing and funding for the Tanker 81 replacement project.