



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814



April 2016 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Practice Program (through 2/29/2016)

Plan Submissions:

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa had 26 new THP submittals, Redding 3, and Fresno had 1; totaling 30. THP submissions through February were down from last year (i.e. 30 compared to 35).
- **NTMP Submissions:** There were 5 NTMPs, and 4 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There was 1 NTMP and 1 NTO submitted in Redding. No new NTMPs or NTOs were submitted in Fresno. NTMP submissions are up from last year at this time (i.e., 5 compared to 2).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions were down compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 63 exemptions submitted, Redding had 182 (compared to 232 last year) and Fresno had 73. During January 2016, there were five (5) Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Projects.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were slightly up compared to last year. There were 11 Emergency Notices submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 2 and Fresno had 11 submitted.

General Review Team

Santa Rosa:

- The Forest Practice Manager Position is currently vacant but has been advertised and Interviews were held on March 29th in Redding.
- The Forester II Review team Chair position has been vacant for over a year. The TRFRF Forester II position is also currently vacant. These positions have been re-advertised with the possibility of a Temporary Authorization Appointment and closed on March 23rd.

- Forestry Assistant II Jeremiah Steuterman has successfully completed the FFA component of his Basic Fire Control Training and is scheduled for COA on March 28. Forestry Assistant II Christopher Henderson has successfully completed FFA at Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside and will be attending COA on May 9th.
- Sacramento Forest Practice staff is assisting with office supervision and review team issues as necessary.

Redding:

- Forester II Review Team Chair Jon Woessner is in COA with an expected completion date of April 15th.
- Interviews for the TRFRF Office Technician Typing position have occurred and an applicant has been selected. We are working with HR for final hiring approval.

Fresno:

- Kevin Kiniery is assisting FKU with preparing a large fuel break.

Redding - Fresno:

- Some large 1038(k) exemptions, approximately 5000 acres, have been submitted to Fresno as the beetle outbreak continues to increase. NEU has seen a rapid increase in 1038(k) exemptions as the outbreak moves northward, and TGU has stated they are seeing some increasing developments of outbreaks as well.

Watershed Protection Program Update

- Pete Cafferata and Drew Coe are participating on a selection panel for a Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station Research Hydrologist position in the Region V Ecosystem Function and Health Program.
- Drew Coe led an interagency team in excavating and weighing sediment from the six channel swale fences located on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest.(BMDSF). Sedimentation rates varied widely depending on ground cover and fire severity. Soil samples from each of the swales are being analyzed at a Rocklin laboratory for moisture content, organic content, etc. These results, along with other data collected to date will be reported at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Cordilleran Meeting in Ontario, CA, April 4th. The intense March rainstorms have generated considerable additional sediment behind the fences, necessitating more field excavation and weighing work in the near future. A field BOF Monitoring Study Group meeting on BMDSF is being planned for late May.

- Stacy Stanish has completed a post-wildfire northern spotted owl survey on BMDSF (negative), allowing further salvage logging operations to proceed. She has also deployed one of the recently purchased wildlife cameras on BMDSF, with the additional cameras to be deployed on the other main State Forests in April or May. Ms. Stanish continues to keep Forest Practice staff updated on new state and federal species listings (e.g., Humboldt marten).
- Stacy Stanish, along with Drew Coe and Pete Cafferata, have assisted DFW staff with the water drafting workshops that are currently being held in five locations throughout California.
- Watershed staff are preparing for several training sessions to be held in April, May, and June, including Resource Management training for the HFEO Academy, two Fire Suppression Repair classes, and a Basic Forest Practice course.
- A draft agency-reviewed revised watercourse crossing guidance document has been produced and was sent to outside experts for peer review during the week of March 28th.
- New contracts have been developed for components of the third experiment at the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds, located on Jackson Demonstration State Forest. These include a contract with Oregon State University to use sediment-fingerprinting techniques to assess the effects of contemporary harvesting practices on sediment sources, and a contract with DFW's Jim Harrington to use rapid bioassessment protocols for assessing the biotic condition of stream reaches under multi-aged silvicultural treatments. Discussions are also underway with UC Davis researchers Drs. Randy Dahlgren and Helen Dahlke regarding a nutrient study. The South Fork Caspar Creek THP is under development by JDSF staff, with logging planned to occur during 2017-18.
- Watershed staff participated in several training sessions and conferences during the past month, including the CLFA annual meeting and workshop, a GeoWEPP training session on post wildfire erosion potential, and Supervision 5.
- Watershed staff continue to serve and staff the Board's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC), the TRFR Program Leadership Team, Ecological Performance Measures and Data and Monitoring Working Groups, Pilot Projects Team, and Interagency Training Team.

Forest Practice Enforcement Update

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 44 active cases. No new cases were submitted in March. All cases remain in some stage of the civil process, including tracking penalty payments and probationary periods for cases that have been settled or adjudicated. Region enforcement staff continues to assist Santa Rosa with THP review.

- Robert Little provided a presentation at the California Licensed Forester Association Spring Workshop. The presentation provided information regarding Department structure, Department policy in terms of Forest Practice and Forest Practice Enforcement and a review of the responsibilities of RPF's and LTO's. Robert also provided some insight into how CAL FIRE conducts inspections.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update

- The Timber Operator Licensing Program is continuing to process applications. The program has processed approximately 296 license applications and renewals since December 2015. The limited term Licensed Timber Operator Program Analyst Position was filled on March 7, 2016 by Kelle Adair. Kelle came from California Department of Social Services. Ruby and Kelle will continue to process applications as they come into the program. Ruby and Kelle will also be working on updating the application forms, mailing out class certs and updating the filing system.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from TRFRF database 1/1/2016 through 2/29/2016

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort** : The Forest Practice Program has utilized 21,029 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (25.9%); review and processing of THPs (25.8%); participating in mandated training (18.5%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.2%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (10.8%); forest practice law enforcement (2.4%); responding to letters of concern (2.1%); Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities (0.7%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include program/project monitoring, 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 25,473 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.4%); conducting forest practice inspections (21.3%); participating in mandated training (15.3%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.1%); other duties in support of unit programs (9.1%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (8.9%); other forestry related activities (8.2%); forest practice law enforcement (2.0%); and responding to letters of concern (1.7%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time (less than 1%) include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, project/program monitoring, emergency incident support, ecological performance, and litigation. *(This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)*

Resource Protection Program

Urban and Community Forestry

- The Urban and Community Forestry Program held workshops in 8 locations around the state in disadvantaged communities to solicit input on draft grant guidelines that have been prepared in light of the possibility of future funding availability. The locations were: Oakland, Modesto, Visalia, Compton, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and El Centro. The workshops were well attended. Program staff is assessing the need for any additional workshops, or potentially a webinar.
- Federal funding (USDA Forest Service) sub-grants are all active or nearly active. 6 projects are to be funded. These funds are used for projects that state GGRF funds cannot be used to fund. These include priority educational, applied research, and outreach projects. Four of these agreements are already executed, two are in process.
- California Arbor Week was March 7-14. Program staff, as well as many other CAL FIRE foresters, attended many events across the state. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize cities that are doing excellent urban forestry work, as well as a time to provide information and education about best practices to all that attend the events.

State Forest (March, 2016)

- The annual State Forest Managers meeting was held in Davis on March 23rd to discuss individual Forest and overall State Forest Program accomplishments, plans and issues.
- The Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Manager (Nick Kent) resigned from CAL FIRE on March 10th to pursue other career opportunities. Job announcements for the Forest Manager position and the new Forestry Assistant II position on Boggs were advertised in March with the intent to fill both positions as soon as possible.
- Timber salvage operations and road improvement work continued on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest between the March storms. Bids were opened on March 25th for additional salvage volume. Currently, approximately 30 million board feet of the estimated 60 million board feet of salvage timber on Boggs is under contract, with solicitations and negotiations with prospective buyers ongoing for the balance of the salvage volume.

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest hosted a tour for the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council on March 25th with approximately 70 people in attendance. The tour included presentations and discussions on the rehabilitation and research projects being conducted on Boggs after the Valley Fire. Speakers included State Forest Staff, CAL FIRE Pathologist Chris Lee, Fuel & Fire Specialist Dave Sapsis, Forest Practice Monitoring Program Coordinator Drew Coe, and Friends of Boggs representatives David Thiessen and Gigi Stahl.
- Carbon storage and hillslope erosion research work continued on Boggs Mountain in March with data collection on established control plots and in catchment basins.
- Latour Demonstration State Forest Manager Ben Rowe promoted to Shasta-Trinity Unit Forester III in March and will begin his new job on April 1st. A job announcement for the Latour Forest Manager position is in preparation and will be posted in April.
- The annual tour of the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Caspar watershed by Nijon University College of Bioresource Science – Fujisawa, Japan was conducted by State Forest staff on March 10th. The recent rain provided a good illustration of watershed processes.
- Seven staff members from Jackson Demonstration State Forest served as school tour guides for the Redwood Region Logging Conference on March 17th in Ukiah. Additional staff worked at the educational booth and assisted with the FFA forestry event from the 17th to 19th.
- An area was identified on Jackson Demonstration State Forest in March for an additional Caspar study that will focus on stream bio-assessments. Collaborators will include Peter Ode and James Harrington from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA-PSW staff, researcher Sally Dymond, CAL FIRE Hydrologist Pete Cafferata and State Forest Staff.
- A Jackson Demonstration State Forest Recreation Task Force meeting was held on March 31st. The meeting was held to review the draft State Forest Recreation Management Plan and to tour Camp 20 to consider the rehabilitation of the campgrounds information kiosk.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest hosted three mycological class field trips from Mendocino College in late February and March.
- The first month of Northern Spotted Owl calling on Jackson Demonstration State Forest was almost completely devoid of auditory responses of NSO. Data from over 250 stations has been turned in, and only 2 responses were heard. Poor weather could be delaying reproduction or barred owl presence is deterring NSO responses. No owls from known Activity Centers have been located.

- The Jackson Demonstration State Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) contract advertisement has been delayed due to the Department of General Service's requirement to discontinue use of BidSync for advertising contracts. Currently there is no functional contract advertisement alternative in place. The delay will likely result in fewer available bidders, and the forest-wide inventory being conducted over two growing seasons.
- Two timber sales were sold on Jackson Demonstration State Forest in March with a total estimated volume of 6.5 million board feet and a total estimated value of approximately \$3 million dollars.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest Manager Pam Linstedt presented an overview of Jackson State Forest to the Fort Bragg Rotary Club in March, and was recognized by the club in celebration of International Women's Day as a "Woman of Achievement".
- Data programming and configuration for a forest weather station on Soquel Demonstration State Forest was completed in March by Western Weather and the station will be installed and online in mid-April.
- Soquel Demonstration State Forest staff met with two adjacent landowners about the landowners desire to donate portions of their land to CAL FIRE to provide trail access from Highland Way to the State Forest. Several reports including geological reports and a title report were forwarded to CAL FIRE Region and Sacramento staff for review regarding a buildable parcel on the adjacent property for a potential location for the Burrell Fire Station.
- Representatives from California Geological Survey visited Soquel Demonstration State Forest on March 17th to monitor and record movement on the Large Woody Debris and Stream bank / road repair sites. The March 5th storm was estimated to be a 12-year return interval storm and significant changes in the Large Woody Debris structures occurred.
- Mountain biking continues to be a very popular activity on Soquel Demonstration State Forest. On March 20th the Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC) conducted a trail work day on the State Forest with 30 volunteers, and a filming permit for a mountain bike company was authorized in late February. Fees based on staff time are now charged for all filming permits for commercial purposes.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Manager Jim Kral attended the California Licensed Foresters Association Spring Workshop and Conference in Sacramento on March 4th and 5th.
- Tulare County Parks and Recreation Department has entered into an agreement with Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest and Mountain Home Conservation Camp to provide \$30,000 to conduct fuel reduction work on the Balch Park property and \$10,000 for work on the State Forest adjacent to Balch Park. The work will compliment fuel reduction work that has already been done on the State Forest adjacent to Balch Park.

- The Demonstration State Forests 2015/16 fiscal year budget was submitted on January 15th, with a projected three million dollar carryover to fiscal year 2016/17. The carryover is largely due to the unanticipated timber salvage revenues generated from the Valley Fire on Boggs Mountain State Forest.

L.A. Moran Reforestation Center

- Staff are working with USFS on a cooperative agreement to survey for and collect conifer cones. This agreement would help both organizations to fulfill their cone and seed needs across a larger geographic area. This cooperative agreement is expected to be finalized before the 2016 cone year.
- Facility repairs and maintenance are ongoing. Staff has held two bidding invitations for local businesses to construct a new cone tumbler line and seed dewinger machines. These bids are due at the end of February with final delivery set for early June.
- The new freezer is very close to completion with final adjustments and completion on the emergency generator enclosure to be finished. Racks have been installed. Transfer of seed from the old seed bank is anticipated to occur in May, following staff return from the academy.
- The partnership with the Putah Creek Council (PCC) for growing of native plants continues to produce a positive influence on the restoration of riparian ecosystems. LAMRC is working with PCC to develop an out-planting project for native oaks and other native plants on the fields at the Davis site. This will include planting of 1 year old oak plugs into tilled soil and woodchip mixture in order to both test the growing medium as a temporary holding site for 3-5 years which will culminate in a lifting of the trees for replanting at restoration sites. We hope to further increase our use of the Davis property for more native oak restoration research in future years.
- CAL FIRE, El Dorado Resource Conservation District and USFS continue to cooperate on a seedling ordering program where private non-industrial timberland owners can order seedlings. The seeds come from CAL FIRE and the seedlings are grown in Placerville at the USFS nursery. El Dorado RCD handles the administrative aspects, including receiving orders and distributing the seedlings. Efforts are being made to expand this program to include speculative seedling orders to support fire recovery and CFIP projects.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Program

- CAL FIRE is discussing possible funding of three FY 14-15 fuel reduction grants with the Air Resources Board. These are the only fuel reduction grants the Air Board has considered funding so far.

Archaeology Program

- **Archaeologist Hiring:** CAL FIRE Sacramento HQ and Southern Region continue the process of hiring two new Associate State Archaeologists. One will be located in Sacramento and the other in Fresno. CAL FIRE hopes to have the process completed by late spring.
- **Updating Memorandum of Understanding:** CAL FIRE, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO) and the Information Centers of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) have a long-standing memorandum of understanding, which allows non-professional archaeologists to access Native American site information contained in the CHRIS database. The MOU is what allows registered professional foresters and other resource professionals who have undergone CAL FIRE archaeological training to access CHRIS. The MOU is an important part of the cultural resource protection system contained in the Forest Practice Rules and practiced by CAL FIRE on its own projects. The MOU needs to be updated to primarily address digital access and wider information sharing associated with emergency incidents. Senior State Archeologist Michael McGuirt has begun work with Eric Allison, Associate Information Systems Analyst with SHPO, on the update. We estimate it will take six months to complete. CAL FIRE reported on the issue to the Board's Resource Protection Committee on March 1, 2016.

Environmental Protection Program

- **CEQA Guidelines Changes:** The California Natural Resources Agency is considering a proposed regulatory update to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines to fulfill the directive issued in Assembly Bill 52, which added specific consultation requirements with California Native American tribes. CAL FIRE staff will be reviewing the proposed changes and may provide comment to the Natural Resources Agency. Comments are due by April 4, 2016. CAL FIRE has developed its own procedures for addressing the requirements of Assembly Bill 52. They are posted on the CAL FIRE Archaeology Program website.

Other Grant Programs

- CAL FIRE is currently negotiating an inter-agency agreement to assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority meet its environmental commitments to offset direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction of Phase 1 of the California High-Speed Rail Project. CAL FIRE plans to provide tree planting services through its Landowner Assistance and Community and Urban Forestry Programs. The tree planting will provide climate benefits by sequestering carbon.

Climate and Energy Program

- The Forest Carbon Action Team (FCAT) circulated a draft concept paper and held a public workshop in late March, written public comments are due April 8th.
- The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to make progress on implementing the tree mortality emergency proclamation. There are two working groups focused on biomass management: 1) Bioenergy and 2) Markets Development. Recently the California Public Utilities (CPUC) adopted resolution E-4770 authorizing biomass procurement in high hazard zones. The resolution allows utilities to hold a solicitation for facilities that use biofuel from high hazard zones using the Renewable Auction Mechanism (RAM). The resolution also allows utilities to enter into bilateral contracts with existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving forest feedstock from high hazard zones during their 2015 Renewable Portfolio Standard solicitation cycle. CPUC also released a ruling on accepting into the record the Energy Division staff proposal to implement targeted changes to the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff Program (BioMAT) to facilitate contracts with facilities using fuel from high hazard zones and seeking comment on a staff proposal. A final decision is expected soon.
- In Executive Order B-30-15, Governor Brown set aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and called for the *Safeguarding California* climate adaptation report to be updated. CAL FIRE serves as the lead for the forest sector, one of eleven sectors outlined in the report and in this capacity, drafted the forest sector chapter. The report was completed and published in early March and made available on CAL FIRE's website. The purpose of the report is to identify the state's vulnerabilities to climate change by sector; outline primary risks to residents, property, communities and natural systems; identify an agency or group of agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector; and to prepare an implementation plan of necessary state actions. The report also analyzes what actions have already been taken to prepare for climate change and details steps that still need to be taken.

FRAP

- **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. FRAP is in the process of restructuring the format of the Assessment report around indicators.
- **Wildfire Issues:** FRAP staff (Dave Sapsis – lead) arranged 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. The white paper has been reviewed and nearing completion.
- 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 support CAL FIRE GGRF funded projects at both the project and landscape level.

- Fire Effects, Carbon, and Forest Recovery research is ongoing following the Valley Fire at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. Forest-wide evaluation of direct impacts using Continuous Forest Inventory plots; replicated experiments including controls have been established to evaluate alternative site preparation techniques will look at forest recovery, carbon and fuel dynamics over time, as well as basic monitoring of floristics for both understory and tree species.
- **Climate Change:** FRAP (C. Keithley) assisting FCAT in developing a companion document to the draft Forest Carbon Plan. The document highlights forest conditions along with goals and management strategies. Public meetings were recently held to receive input on the document and proposed management strategies.
- FRAP staff (T. Meyer, R. Walker) are working on a project with climate change researchers at UC Davis to develop species distribution models and maps for forest tree and shrub species under future climate scenarios. Draft results are being reviewed and should be finalized by May, 2016.
- **Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF):** Working through the Mapping and Monitoring work group FRAP staff implemented significant revision to High Hazard Zones (HHZ). The revisions resulted in two tiers for HHZ. The revised HHZ has gone through internal review and presented to members of the Tree Mortality Task Force. The revised HHZ has been posted on the TMTF map viewer.
- **FIA Committee Assignment:** Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is making a request to USFS-PNW to develop custom FIA tables that can be used by FCAT for the Forest Carbon Plan and for inventory reporting requirements for AB 1504.
- **CalMAPPER** FRAP staff are working with IT, OSFM (D. Shew) and Phyllis Banducci to implement a contract that will be used to upgrade and enhance CalMAPPER. The upgrade will allow CalMAPPER application to be better integrated with existing GIS software.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and California Forest Improvement Fund (CFIP)

- **Staffing:** Limited term field position consist of two Forester II's and three Forester I/FAII's that will be stationed in the Unit/Region Offices at AEU, SCU, LNU, Riverside and Fresno. To date, the Forester II positions have been filled. The Forester I positions were advertised but not filled due to lack of interest. The Forester II's are engaged in CFIP program activities, actively providing Technical Assistance to landowners and RPFs delivering on-the-ground CFIP services. The Department is working to re-advertise the Forester I positions in order to consider both forester Is and Forestry Assistant II candidates. This involves rewriting the Duty Statements.

- **Grant Agreements:** CFIP Agreements funded with Timber Regulation Forest Restoration Funds (TRFRF) continue to be processed and approved. Over \$792,000 worth of grants have been encumbered to date.
- **Training:** The LA Moran Reforestation Center hosted CAL FIRE foresters from all over the state for a CFIP two-day training course. Over 20 CAL FIRE unit and staff RPFs, as well as some staff from the Grants Unit, attended the March 23rd and 24th session. While some of those attending had experience with CFIP most did not. It is hoped that the training provided will allow Units to provide some assistance to their landowners even in the absence of a CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS).

Forest Legacy Program

- The Forest Legacy Program Coordinator will be requesting the Board to approve resolutions allowing the Department to accept three grants totaling \$3.5 million for three working forest conservation easements in Mendocino County, collectively known as the Eel River Peninsula Phase 2, FLP project. The FLP Coordinator will be working with the Acting Executive Officer to provide the members and appropriate committee(s) with all necessary background materials on the 15,620 acre project.
- The above project is expected to close in spring of this year and will bring the total acres conserved in California through the FLP to over 100,000 acres.

Forest Health & Pest Management

- Bark beetle activity is increasing in the central Sierra Nevada counties north of the epidemic counties of the south Sierra. Spot infestations are appearing throughout the region but are the result of attacks that occurred last year. Upon checking the beetles were already active and flying which will likely lead to further bark beetle activity in this area of the state.
- An outbreak of polyphagous shot hole borer/Fusarium dieback has been found along the Santa Ana River in Riverbed Park in Riverside. The insect and disease complex was found attacking willows, sycamores and cottonwoods. A major concern is that this infestation could follow the riparian areas along the river throughout the urban forests of the area and up into the forested areas of the nearby mountains.

Tree Mortality Task Force

The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to work to implement the directives of the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation. The following are highlights:

- **Market Developments** - Several market opportunities are being investigated by the Market Development group, including:

- Exports of logs – Logs from private property are being exported by operators to overseas markets. This is a very specialized market and the Working Group (WG) is exploring if there are opportunities to expand these markets. Export of logs off Federal lands has been investigated by the USFS. The process that would allow this is quite onerous and opportunities are currently limited though the USFS is continuing to look for options.
- Biochar – The Office of Planning & Research (OPR) provided information of potential markets in this arena. While nothing is on the immediate horizon, this potential market warrants continued investigation.
- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) – Taskforce leadership attended a CSAC regional conference in Redding to provide membership information on tree mortality, State Taskforce activity, funding sources, and expected beetle activity. Interest from counties north of Tuolumne was significant due to the increasing mortality in those counties. There were a number of inquiries about the addition of new counties to the 6 priority counties.
- An overflight was conducted to view the level of mortality in heavily impacted areas as well as counties that may be added to the priority counties. Areas north of Tuolumne County are in roughly the same state that areas in the southern Sierra were in at this time last year. It is anticipated that mortality will expand in these northern counties.
- High Hazard Zones (HHZ): The second iteration of HHZs was added to the Tree Mortality Viewer available on the reetaskforce.org and prepareforbarkbeetle.org websites.
- Legislative Tour: Providing elected officials and their staff the opportunity to see the unprecedented mortality firsthand is key to developing a good understanding of the extent of this disaster. As a result, work to solicit participation from elected officials and their staff for the April 15th tour has been ongoing in order to gather as many members as possible.
- Homeowner's Insurance: The Regulations Working Group in partnership with the Department of Insurance is in the process of finalizing a Residential Insurance and Wildfire FAQ sheet. The purpose of the FAQ document is to provide answers to homeowners related to residential insurance cancellations, non-renewals, and denials, as well as California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan coverage.

- High Hazard Zone Tree Removal Guide: The Regulations Working Group has posted the Draft Guidelines for High Hazard Zone Tree Removal to the TMTF website. They will be working with the Public Outreach Working Group to host a public meeting prior to adopting the guidelines pursuant to the Emergency Proclamation in mid-to-late April.
- Equipment Training: Training on air curtain burners and tracked chippers is scheduled for next week for those who will be operating and maintaining the equipment so it can be deployed to the field for safe and efficient operation.

Fire Protection

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery Programs

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 6 arrests and issued 49 citations (non-4291 violations).
- CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery received \$610,243.54 in recovery last month.
- Staff Chief, (3) Deputy Chiefs, (4) Assistant Chiefs, (1) Forester II, and (1) SFM Division Chief completed the POST Management Class in March; a class required for POST compliance.

Local Government

- Program was notified that BDU has declined to respond to the Morongo Valley Fire Protection District's RFP. Reasons cited include the pending local ballot measure to fund the existing fire department as well as fiscal limitations which would not allow CAL FIRE to staff a Cooperative Agreement at acceptable levels.
- The Monterey County fire prevention contract proposal request from 2014 has been renewed. The draft Proposal has been forwarded to Sacramento Programs for review and comment. The comment period ends May 2nd. (Note: Per Department Legal, this agreement will not require LAFCO approval.)

State-Federal

- The interagency California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) working group will meet in April to finalize and recommend the approval of a revised salary survey letter to be sent to all participating fire agencies in California. This will address the majority of recent issues surrounding USFS reimbursement of local government fire resources who respond to federal fires.
- Program continues to work on finalizing the renewal of the California Military Agreement, incorporating a few minor, non-substantive changes requested by CalOES. This Agreement provides CAL FIRE access to National Guard assets such as the MAFFS, helicopters, and hand crews.

Conservation Camps

- As of March 16, 2016, the current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is 990 (an increase of 10 from 980 as of March 3, 2016).
- The overall statewide Camp population is at 83% with the overall statewide Crew strength at 70%.
- Fire Crew Captain #51 class (operations module) started at the CFA on March 21st. The two week course has 40 students participating, who have already completed the two week administrative module.

Aviation Management Unit

- The Invitation For Bid (IFB) for the replacement of CAL FIRE's helicopter fleet was cancelled by DGS after it was determined that the potential for misinterpretation of some of the performance specification language existed. Corrections are being made and the IFB is targeted to be re-released in mid-April. CAL FIRE is working with the Department of Finance as to the impacts, if any, on budgeting for FY 16/17.
- All three S2 airframe hulls to be used in constructing a replacement air tanker behind the tragic loss of Tanker 81 have been delivered to McClellan. The project is estimated to take between 18 to 24 months to complete.

Tactical Air Operations

- TAO staff will be coordinating the visit of a Fire Officer from Victoria, Australia the week of March 28th. Staff will be orienting the Officer to CAL FIRE's air program, and facilitating meetings and tours with the USFS, CA National Guard, CHP, and Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Operations Support

- The Emergency Command Center Chiefs Workshop is scheduled March 28, 2016 through April 1, 2016.
- The Fire Danger Operating Plan Workshop will be at Sac Metro Fire HQ at Mather, April 11-15, 2016.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Planning and Risk Analysis Division

Wildland Fire Engineering

- Electronic Collector Application is being used by 4 Units to collect Defensible Space Inspection data. Work continues with ESRI to fine tune the app.
- PRA Staff has been working with FRAP and CAL FIRE IT staff to finalize an agreement with ESRI to create a department wide Enterprise system for all GIS work.
- Statewide application for electronic Defensible Space data collection will launch in 2017.
- Plans are being made to hire a new Deputy Chief to fill behind Matt Lee, who retired in December.

Fire Plan/Pre Fire

- Staff Chief David Shew will be presenting the proposed new Appendix to the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for the Boards consideration.
- Staff continues to work on tree mortality issues, and responding to requests for reports and maps.
- Work continues with CalMAPPER to increase quality control, and improve data in projects that are listed throughout the State.
- CalMAPPER Working Group has entered a phase to fund a broad upgrade to the program. Fiscal commitments are being made to fund this "Phase 3" upgrade during the current Fiscal Year.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee

- SRA staff is currently working on an updated Information Report that will be shared with the Board in the next month.
- In addition to the 19 SRA Grants that were awarded in January for projects in the six Tree Mortality Counties, an additional 44 Grants have now been awarded throughout the state. These grants will fully utilize the entire \$5 million dollar allocation appropriated for this Fiscal Year. All grants involve vegetation management projects to address the ongoing drought and Tree Mortality issues around the state.
- The 2015-2016 SRAFPF billing cycle continues as bills are mailed by BOE throughout the state. No significant issues to report.
- Every effort was taken to remove homeowners who are documented as losing their homes to fires from the current billing process. In the event individuals still receive a bill, the Department is prepared to help process a Request for Exemption from the Fire Prevention Fee due to a natural disaster.

CAIRS

- Transition work with new CAIRS staff continues to progress. Numerous requests for statistical data are being provided on a timely basis.
- A new SSA position is currently being posted, with hopes of filling this position by early April.
- One additional SSA position will be added prior to June, giving the CAIRS program a total of 3 full time personnel – a staffing level that has not been seen in several years.
- CAIRS Program and IT Staff are working with Riverside Unit to report EMS information into a third party program owned by Riverside County. Data will then be transferred to CAIRS automatically.
- Contract amendments are being processed to increase storage capacity for CAIRS data.

Land Use Planning

- Meetings have been held with LUP Staff to clarify changes to the Government Code and Subdivision Act as a result of SB 1241. Primary issues revolve around how local government agencies engage with PRC 4291 requirements.
- LUP staff requested to participate with Tree Mortality Task Force. Collector Application instruction for use in the field is primary focus.
- Continue to work closely with Lake and Calaveras Counties on rebuilding efforts from the Valley and Butte Fires.

CALENDAR YEAR 2016
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH FEBRUARY

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans, Exemptions, Emergencies, and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans submitted to the Department during a calendar year. The numbers are the cumulative totals for the calendar year as of the specific date

| Year Comparison | Santa Rosa | | Redding | | Riverside | | Fresno | | Totals | |
|---|------------|-------|---------|-------|-----------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| THPs Received | 26 | 20 | 3 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 30 | 35 |
| THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned) | 3 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 |
| THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections | 30 | 32 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 35 | 44 |
| THPs with NON-Concurrences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| THPs Denied | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| THPs Approved | 16 | 13 | 21 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 37 | 22 |
| Acreage in Approved THPs | 5,326 | 3,251 | 12,509 | 7,910 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 202 | 17,835 | 11,363 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| NTMPs Received | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| NTMPs with NON-Concurrences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NTMPs Denied | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NTMPs Approved | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| NTMPs Approved Acres | 47 | 84 | 603 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 650 | 84 |
| NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exemption Notices Received | 47 | 46 | 182 | 232 | 2 | 1 | 73 | 31 | 304 | 310 |
| Emergency Notices Received | 11 | 0 | 7 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 32 | 18 |

| Exemption Types Received 2015 | < 3 Acre Conversions | Fire Hazard | Forest Fire Prevention | Dead Dying Diseased | Other Exemp | Rec'd 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Santa Rosa | 20 | 12 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 47 |
| Redding | 26 | 22 | 5 | 101 | 28 | 182 |
| Riverside | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Fresno | 0 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 52 | 73 |

| Emergency Types Received 2015 | Fire | Fuel Hazard | Insect | Wind | Other Emerg | Total Rec'd 2016 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Santa Rosa | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Redding | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Riverside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fresno | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 14 |