



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814



March 2016 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Practice Program (through 1/31/2016)

Plan Submissions

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa had 15 new THP submittals, Redding 3, and Fresno had 1; totaling 19. THP submissions through January were up from last year (i.e. 19 compared to 17).
- **NTMP Submissions:** There were four NTMPs, and 2 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 1).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions were down compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 14 exemptions submitted, Redding had 45 (compared to 102 last year) and Fresno had 21. During January 2016, there were three (3) Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Projects (all in Siskiyou County), and 12 Drought Mortality exemptions accepted (all in Southern Sierra) totaling 2,043 acres.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were slightly up compared to last year. There were 2 Emergency Notices submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 4 (compared to 5 last year) and Fresno had 3.

General Review Team

Santa Rosa:

- The Forest Practice Manager Position is currently vacant but has been advertised and has a closing date of 2/26/16.
- The Forester II Review team Chair position has been vacant for nearly one year. The TRFRF Forester II position is also currently vacant. Efforts to fill the positions have been ongoing with plans to re-advertise as soon as possible.

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

Redding:

- Forester II Review Team Chair Jon Woessner has successfully completed FFA in lone and is scheduled for COA in March-April.
- The Program Technician II position in Redding that started January 11, 2016, has been receiving training and is processing harvest documents and related correspondence.
- The TRFRF Office Technician position was advertised and we are working with Human Resources on the hiring process.

Fresno:

- A number of Butte fire emergency notices are continuing to be submitted to Fresno Region.

Redding - Fresno:

- Overall plan submission has been very low to date, but 1038(k) exemptions continue to increase.

Watershed Protection Program Update

- Staff wrote a comment letter to the NCRWQCB on their draft Order No. R1-2016-0004, Waste Discharge Requirements for Nonpoint Source Discharges and other Controllable Water Quality Factors Related to Timber Harvesting and Associated Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC, in the Upper Elk River Watershed.
- Staff wrote a comment letter to the NCRWQCB on their Upper Elk River Technical Analysis for Sediment document (Tetra Tech Report) and Draft Action Plan for the Upper Elk River Sediment TMDL (Basin Plan Amendment).
- The Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds Experiment Three Study Plan—The Influence of Forest Stand Density Reduction on Watershed Processes in the South Fork—has been approved by Deputy Director Eng and will be signed shortly by PSW Station Acting Program Manager Dr. Josh Wilson.

- Drew Coe is the lead author for a paper abstract that was accepted for presentation by the Geological Society of America (GSA) for a conference being held in Ontario, CA this April. The abstract is titled “Post-fire erosion and sediment delivery rates to headwater streams in the California Coast Ranges” and the presentation will use data being collected from sediment fence monitoring on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) following the 2015 Valley Fire. Dr. Lee MacDonald, Colorado State University Professor Emeritus, visited the BMDSF field sites on February 4th.
- Drew Coe submitted a detailed grant proposal to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for Water Board 2016 timber funding (\$250,000) to conduct the suite of post wildfire erosion studies being conducted on BMDSF. The grant will go to CAL FIRE, with Michigan Technological University and Dr. Joe Wagenbrenner, as a sub-grant recipient. The preliminary grant proposal was accepted last fall, with a request for a more detailed proposal.
- Pete Cafferata, with considerable assistance from Bill Short, CGS, submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for road and crossing improvements at BMDSF through a FEMA hazard mitigation grant. FEMA approved the NOI and a full proposal will be completed in the next few months.
- Drew Coe, Pete Cafferata, and Don Lindsay (CGS) are working on a concept proposal to evaluate the post-fire effectiveness of the Road Rules on BMDSF for the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.
- Stacy Stanish continues to work with Department of Fish and Wildlife timber staff to plan multiple water drafting workshops to be held throughout the state in March and April. The workshops will consist of a half-day session inside and a half a day in the field, with the lone session being videotaped.
- Watershed staff provided considerable input for the draft “Procedural Guide for State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response Teams”, including a potential screening process for determining wildfires to be considered for SPFWERT evaluations.

Forest Practice Enforcement Update

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 44 active cases. No new cases were submitted in February. 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 has been assisting Santa Rosa with THP review and timber operator licensing.
- Robert Little and Matthew Reischman provided a presentation at the Associated California Loggers State Conference providing review of the responsibilities of LTO’s and RPF’s, insight into CAL FIRE Forest Practice Policy and an understanding of how CAL FIRE conducts inspections. The same presentation was provided by Cary Japp at the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference in February.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update

- The Timber Operator Licensing Program is continuing to process applications. The program will see some additional help with the filling of the limited term Licensed Timber Operator Program Analyst Position next month. Enforcement staff continues to assist Ruby Idmilao with timber operator licensing as she transitions from her previous position.
- The Department provided a timber operator class at the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference in Anderson, CA. The class was well received with 35 individuals attending. There was a great deal of discussion on the drought conditions and insect mortality in the southern part of the state.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from TRFRF database 1/1/2016 through 1/31/2016

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort** : The Forest Practice Program has utilized 10,223 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (26.2%); review and processing of THPs (25.7%); participating in mandated training (17.6%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (13.2%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (10.8%); forest practice law enforcement (2.7%); responding to letters of concern (1.8%); Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities (0.9%). 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 12,452 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (21.5%); review and processing of THPs (21.1%); participating in mandated training (14.4%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.8%); other duties in support of unit programs (9.8%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (8.8%); other forestry related activities (8.1%); forest practice law enforcement (2.2%); and responding to letters of concern (1.5%). 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

- Work continues on all Urban and Community Forestry GGRF grant projects. Many projects have begun work and started billing.

- 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.
- CAL FIRE and California ReLeaf partnered again this year for California Arbor Week and the annual poster contest. New this year is a video contest. This year's theme is Trees and Water: Sources of Life. The submissions were due on February 12th, and judging will occur on February 22nd. Winners will be displayed at the Arbor Week press conference at the State Capitol.
- California Arbor Week is March 7-14. Program staff, as well as many other CAL FIRE foresters, will be attending and speaking at 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 Forests (January 2016)

- 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.
- CAL FIRE legal counsel, has been assisting State Forests with several issues, including release of liability waivers for State Forest related activities (i.e., recreation special use, volunteer and research projects), small-business/DVBE preference requirements as they relate to timber sale agreements, property line encroachment and historical survey interpretation.
- Jackson State Forest staff met with local State Parks Superintendent Loren Rex to review and update an existing MOU related to Woodlands Recreation Area, access into Big River State Park and shared "outlaw" trails, and to discuss future management plans.
- The "Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds Experiment Three Study Plan: The influence of forest stand density reduction on watershed process in the South Fork" on Jackson State Forest was approved by Deputy Director Helge Eng on February 2nd.

- A Jackson State Forest Resource Inventory contract was submitted for a forest wide inventory cruise of just over 5,000 plots. Bids are due mid-March.
- Mendocino College hosted two mushroom educational field trips on Jackson State Forest, and the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz (FFSC) held its second long distance mushroom foray in January.
- Work continues on the Jackson State Forest rock quarry development plan and Large Woody Debris placement projects planned in the James Creek, Big River and Noyo River areas.
- Significant tree mortality remains active in the pine belt and lower ecotone of the mixed conifer forest leading up to Mountain Home State Forest. It is anticipated that many areas between 3500' and 6000' will manifest over 90 percent mortality in the conifers.
- Mountain Home State Forest staff has been working with the USFS in an effort to begin roadside harvesting of hazard trees and subsequent pile burning. Southern California Edison has been removing dead trees within the power line ROW that extends through the state forest office facility, and state forest staff has been burning the slash piles after the trees are processed into logs.
- Technical Services staff in Sacramento are working on new design plans for the new Forest Office and Fire Station at Soquel State Forest after it was determined that a new well will be required.
- Soquel State Forest staff has been working with Verizon and Western Weather to get the Forest weather station set up to transmit data online via a machine-to-machine (M2M) account established with Verizon.
- In late January, researchers from the Mountain Puma Project with UC Santa Cruz baited and captured a young male mountain lion on Soquel State Forest for re-collaring. Researchers have returned to the Forest several times for tracking un-collared mountain lions.
- A Winter Newsletter has been prepared by Soquel State Forest staff for distribution and posting on their CAL FIRE webpage at http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_stateforests_soquel.
- Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC) held a trail work day at Soquel State Forest on January 30th with 37 volunteers. The forest staff has been working to educate the mountain biking community of the need to obtain approved Special Units Permits prior to advertising, scheduling and charging clients for events and guided rides on the forest.
- CAL FIRE Director Ken Pimlott and Assembly Member Bloom visited Boggs Mountain State Forest on February 11th to review fire impacts to the forest and discuss current actions CAL FIRE are taking to manage, study and rehabilitate the forest.

- FEMA claims for repair or replacement of damaged infrastructure on Boggs Mountain State Forest was submitted in February. The Forest is anticipating receiving potentially 75% of the replacement cost of items and infrastructure (primarily pit toilets and signs) that were damaged, as well as funds to help clear hazard trees from roads and trails.
- To help with the workload on Boggs Mountain State Forest due to the Valley Fire, two Retired Annuitant Forester I Positions have been filled with former Forest Manager, Gerri Finn, and former Jackson Demonstration State Forest Manager, Marc Jameson. In addition, a permanent Forestry Assistant II position has been advertised for the Forest, with a February 29th closing date for applications. CAL FIRE, Division Chief Jim Wright has also been made available by the Unit to assist with timber sale administration two days a week. The workload for preparing new contracts, administering current contracts, giving tours and engaging and supporting researchers is quite large, so the added temporary and permanent staff is critical to ensure quality work gets done during the fast moving and massive salvage effort.
- Road work completed on Boggs Mountain State Forest has allowed for start of salvage logging operations. Several miles of dirt roads were reshaped and rocked and drainage structures installed to handle winter logging traffic. Very wet conditions in January prevented startup of log skidding and loading and trucking until late in the month. The remaining timber sales covering 60% of the Forest are planned to be put out for bid by the end of the first week of March with logging commencing on those units in April, weather dependent.
- Boggs Mountain State Forest received a proposal from a local group called Valley Fire Phoenix Rising to consider a low cost stumpage sale that would benefit victims of the fire that plan to rebuild. Under the proposal, both funds and building materials would be generated by the group under a timber sale agreement with a local sawmill.
- Boggs Mountain State Forest will host the field tour for the Northern California Rx Burn Council (TREX) on March 25th. The Forest Landowners of California are planning a field tour in June as part of their annual meeting.
- CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) research personnel have established study plots on Boggs Mountain State Forest to evaluate the impacts of different harvest and reforestation scenarios on carbon storage.
- Greg Kester of the Biosolids Group associated with the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) visited Boggs Mountain State Forest on February 18th and toured prospective study sites where his group in association with UC Davis plans to test their wastewater byproduct on severely burned soils. The biosolids have been found to stabilize soils, improve water quality, increase water holding capacity and provide nutrients on farm and range land and CASA would like to evaluate their effectiveness on forest soils after burns.

L.A. Moran Reforestation Center

- In January there were 8 seed orders which totaled 202.95 lbs.
- The facility will be temporarily operating with limited staff through early 2016. Dorus Van Goidsenhoven and Rick Johnson have attended and passed the Basic Fire Control and Company Officer's academies. Dorus returns in late March for COA and our new hire, Rodney Sterling will be attending both FFA and COA, back to back, starting in late March.
- Ed Medina retired after over 30 years of State service on February 14, 2016. We are currently posting a Forestry Assistant II position for his replacement.
- 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 Climate Action Team (FCAT) met on February 23rd and continues to make progress on developing the forest carbon plan. A draft concept paper has been circulated to FCAT members for review. Public workshops are being planned for March to get public input on the concept paper.
- 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 will be published this month and made available on the Natural Resources Agency'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.
- 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) released commission 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. The Commission is scheduled to take action on the resolution during the February 25th meeting. 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. CAL FIRE is coordinating and providing comments on these documents.

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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. 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 Fire Adapted 50 project has been identified as a pilot area to develop reporting methods.
- **Climate Change:** FRAP (C. Keithley) is assisting FCAT in developing a companion document to the draft Forest Carbon Plan. The document highlights forest conditions along with goals and management strategies. A draft outline has been drafted and reviewed by an interagency team. FRAP staff (C. Keithley) will serve as the primary FRAP representative.
- FRAP staff (C. Keithley) has participated in a number of meetings and planning sessions for the development of the Natural Working Lands (NWL) section of the Air Resources Board (ARB) Scoping Plan for implementation of AB32.

- 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. The research project will produce current species range maps and projected species range maps under future climate scenarios.
- **Vegetation Mapping:** The partnership between CAL FIRE and USFS has declined over the past 12 – 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. FRAP staff is reviewing opportunities to update vegetation and fuels maps in areas impacted by elevated tree mortality.
- **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).

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

- **Staffing:** Limited term field positions consist of two Forester II's and three Forester I/FAI'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 I's and Forestry Assistant II candidates. This involves rewriting the Duty Statements.
- **Equipment:** The Department vehicle request plan is submitted annually in January/February. Because the positions were authorized in July, the position vehicles were not requested until January/February 2016. This has resulted in a lack of vehicles to support the positions. We have obtained loaner vehicles from Unit/Region and are working with our fleet management to acquire long term loaner vehicles until the program vehicles are ready sometime in the fall.
- **Coordination:** The CFIP Coordinator is holding a regular monthly conference call with all the Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) and interested Unit Foresters. These calls collectively announce issues, work out solutions, ask questions and allow folks to hear how other Regions and Units are working on CFIP.
- **Grant Agreements:** Total number of grants submitted and/or in contracting process is 23. We have encumbered/allotted a total of 15% of our available funds for FY 15/16. Total acreage included to date is approximately 6,100.

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

- The massive drought related pine bark beetle outbreak continues to spread. As well as the southern Sierra Nevada epidemic more beetle outbreaks are showing up in the central Sierras and other regions. The USFS will begin conducting new statewide aerial surveys beginning this spring.

- The Kuroshio shot hole borer is causing massive die back of riparian tree species along San Diego Creek as well as the Tijuana River now in San Diego County. Further serious outbreaks in other riparian zones are expected.
- Planning has begun for the summer insect and disease field trip for the California Forest Pest Council. It will be held in late June in the Happy Camp area of northern California. This is an attempt to stage the same field trip that had to be cancelled at the last minute last year. Everyone is welcome.

Tree Mortality Task Force

- The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to work to implement the directives of the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation. To date, Task Force Leadership has met with Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno and Tulare Counties to gather information on their respective activities and needs as well as to discuss any issues that are hindering implementation of their tree removal efforts. County response organizations are in various stages of development and implementation as all agencies work together to leverage resources in response to this emergency. Common issues relevant to all counties include the desire for a FEMA declaration, the need to extend contracts for existing Bioenergy facilities, lack of adequate storage locations for dead trees, lack of wood utilization capacity, and the need for financial assistance to private landowners for tree removal.
- The next USFS Insect and Disease Aerial Detection Survey is scheduled to begin in April. This survey will provide updated data on the scope, scale and spread of the tree mortality. A number of counties north of Tuolumne, including Calaveras, Amador and El Dorado, are reporting an increase in the number of dead and dying pine trees in their communities.
- In an effort to provide much needed funding in the six affected counties, CAL FIRE streamlined the review and approval process for Fire Prevention Fund Grants in the affected areas. To date, 19 grants totaling \$1.75 million were allocated in the region. Additionally, California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funding, offered through Cal OES, has been approved for Tuolumne County and the Tuolumne Utility District. This funding can be used for hazardous tree removal work adjacent to public infrastructure and public rights-of-way. It is anticipated that additional counties will be submitting applications to Cal OES for CDAA funding.

Fire Protection

Conservation Camp Program

- Program continues to confront the dwindling number of eligible inmates available due to the impacts of Assembly Bill 109 and Proposition 47 (diversion to county jails and sentencing reductions).
- The Ad Hoc CAL FIRE/California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Workgroup continues to explore incentives to increase inmate participation in this voluntary program.
 - Items under consideration include: increased fire pay, increased daily grade pay, the establishment of formal rehabilitative programs within the fire camps and improved living condition items within the confines of current CDCR regulations. All items may require some level of policy, regulatory or statutory change.
- The statewide conservation camps count as of Wednesday February 17, 2016:
 - Current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is **969** (A reduction of 16 from 985 as of January 20, 2015).
 - The inmate population stands at 83% (-4%) of capacity while crew capacity stands at 71% (-5%).

State-Federal Program

- The Department recently met with the parties to the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) to discuss issues related to pay for local government agencies responding to federal jurisdiction fires.
- The federal fire agencies (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs) have recently stated that compensation based on portal to portal assignments and average wage rates may no longer be acceptable.
 - They maintain that they may only reimburse for actual costs with proper documentation. This has the potential to create a series of onerous, and possibly insurmountable, requirements for responding local government fire agencies.
- The CFAA Committee has formed a workgroup that will attempt to resolve the issue with a goal of April 1st.

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery Stats

- January 2016 arrests = 3
- January 2016 citations (non-4291) = 20
- January 2016 Civil Cost Recovery = \$13,851.61 (4 cases)
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$6,565,085.45

Civil Cost Recovery

- Conducted final interviews for a Civil Cost Recovery Attorney.

Aviation Management Unit

- Helicopter pilot emergency procedures training is being conducted during the weeks of February 23rd and February 29th, 2016 at AMU.
- Air Tanker and OV-10 instructor training is being conducted at AMU the week of February 22nd.
- New Helicopter Invitation for Bid will close on March 8th, 2016.
 - AMU has been addressing multiple questions directed to DGS about the specifications.

Mobile Equipment

- Program has released 101 various vehicles.
- Working to resolve pump concerns with HME on four new fire engines.
- Working to advertise and hire three positions; Senior FEM, FEM II, FEM I.

Operations Support

- Staff are working to formulate plans for the operations and staffing of various Budget Change Proposals.
- Personnel are fully engaged reviewing and analyzing multiple “drone” and “unmanned aerial Systems” bills coming from the legislature.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Planning and Risk Analysis Division

Wildland Fire Engineering

- Meetings have been held with ESRI and CAL FIRE IT to discuss the new Collector Application currently in development for Defensible Space Inspections. The plan is to have a program created for beta testing during the 2016 Fire Season.
- 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 is working with BOF staff to discuss a potential addition to the Strategic Fire Plan. This addition would be adding a recently signed MOU as an Appendix to the Fire Plan in response to direction from the Governor's Office.
- Basic GIS Class was held in early February; well attended by many new Pre Fire Engineers around the state.
- 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 continues to work on improving User Guides for the program.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee

- SRA staff attended and gave a presentation of the CAL FIRE SRA Program at three Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan meetings.
- Nineteen 2015-2016 SRAFPF Grants received early approval on January 22, 2016 in six Tree Mortality Counties totaling \$1.7 million in an attempt to immediately begin addressing and mitigating tree mortality hazards.

- The remaining 2015-2016 SRAFPF Grant application review process will begin in late February and early March. The goal is to announce the awarded grants in late March.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee Program has begun work on updating the Annual SRA Report.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee Program met with Board of Equalization and SCI staff in preparation of the 2015-2016 SRAFPF billing cycle which will begin March 1, 2016.
- To date, over 400 Request for Exemption from the Fire Prevention Fee Due to Natural Disaster have been submitted by fee payers whose homes were damaged or destroyed in natural disasters during 2014-15 and 2015-16.

CAIRS

- Jennifer Bowman started work as the new AGPA for the CAIRS Program on February 8, 2016. She is transitioning quickly with Kirsti Fong, and is learning the CAL FIRE world very well.
- A new SSA position is currently being posted, with hopes of filling this position by end of March.
- 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.
- Meetings have been held to discuss progress with expanded CAIRS storage capacity, and also address long term direction for the program and outside contracts.

Land Use Planning

- Presentation on new PRC 4290 requirements given to Calaveras County Board of Supervisors by Land Use Planning Program staff.
- LUP staff requested to participate with Tree Mortality Task Force. Collector Application instruction for use in the field is primary focus.
- Successful LUP staff participation with Lake County redevelopment workshop.
- Continue to work closely with Lake and Calaveras Counties on rebuilding efforts from the Valley and Butte Fires.