



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814



May 2017 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Practice Program (through 3/31/2017)

Plan Submissions

- **THP Submissions:** THP submissions through March 2017 were exactly equal to the total number from March last year (45).
- **NTMP Submissions:** NTMP submissions were about 62% lower than March of last year (i.e., 3 compared to 8). NTO submissions were 40% higher than the total received in March last year (i.e. 7 compared to 5).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions were lower compared to last year for the month of March (i.e. 436 compared to 584, or down 25%). The number of Drought Mortality Exemptions filed in March this year is down 44% compared to last year, and the area covered is 42% lower (i.e. 98/10,454 acres this year vs. 175/18,021 acres last year). A total of 1,443 Drought Mortality exemptions have been submitted since the passage of regulations (July 1, 2015), covering a total of 185,079 acres.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were down 81% compared to March of last year (i.e., 10 compared to 53). 805 acres were covered under the 10 emergency notices representing an 85% reduction in acres covered compared to last year.
- **Plan Approval:** 56 THPs were approved in March, which is three more than the total from the same time-period last year. An equal number of NTMPs were approved in March this year (2 total for 334 acres) as this time last year.

Forest Practice Enforcement

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program received one (1) new case from the Northern Region. This case was related to timberland conversion. Nineteen (19) civil cases have thus far been submitted to the program in 2017. Sixteen (16) of these cases are from the Southern Region. The program has a total of sixty (60) active cases. Two cases were closed this month after full payment of the civil penalty assessment was received. Status of the active cases is presented in the following table.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update

- The May 2017 Timber Operator Licensing Class at Sierra College filled-up early and 21 people were on a waiting list. The Department worked with the college to add a second class which filled-up in less than 10 days. Three more classes will be offered for the remainder of 2017 as previously scheduled.

Watershed Protection Program Update

- Completion of the revised watercourse crossing guidance document is anticipated by June 2017.

Resource Protection and Improvement Program

Demonstration State Forests

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest remains closed to the public as restoration work continues following the 2015 Valley Fire.
- Soquel Demonstration State Forest remains closed to the public due to winter storm damage to roads and other infrastructure. Emergency contract work is currently underway to make the necessary repairs. The Forest remained closed due to lack of access from landslides and road failures. The Forest Manager sent out an additional news release on April 7th, and forest staff contacted local bike shops and mountain biking groups to remind them of the closure. Large signs were posted at the public entrance and near the start of Ridge Trail. Unit Prevention Officers assisted with warning visitors.”

Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC):

- The L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) is pursuing collection of cones from Baja Norte for Ponderosa and Sugar Pine. The collection of cones from Mexico could serve as a means for acquiring native conifer seed from south of our existing seed zone map which ends at the border.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

- AB 1504: FRAP has entered into an agreement with USFS-PNW to develop FIA- based inventory tables for the report. Staff are working towards implementing a second agreement to develop accounting methods for harvest wood products (HWP), energy use in mills, and log utilization.
- Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF): FRAP staff are working with UC Extension on a project to conduct a summer field survey to better understand the forest stand characteristics in areas with tree mortality.

- Staff is working with the USFS and FRAP to fund a second aerial survey for mortality in the southern Sierra Nevada Counties worst hit by the bark beetle/drought mortality event.

Forest Pest Management

- Staff is working with Utah State University to examine the potential causes of Bishop pine decline along the north coast.
- Grand fir is declining along the north coast due to a combination of unsuitable soils, years of drought, fir engraver beetle and the non-native balsam woolly adelgid.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program

- 2016-17 UCF GGRF Grants: 122 concept proposals were received with a request of \$59.6 million overall. Recommendations were made to the Director on March 3rd and letters were sent inviting project applications on March 6th. 62 proposals were invited to submit project applications. Project application prioritization will be complete by mid-May. Awards will occur shortly thereafter.
- Landscape Scale Forest Health GGRF Grants: The Forest Health Guidelines are now advertised. Concept proposals were due by April 7. Scoring will be complete by mid-May with project application invitations to follow.

Tree Mortality Task Force

- On April 14th, the TMTF co-sponsored a well-attended workshop with California Office of Emergency Services on County Tree Mortality Mitigation Efforts. Presentations by representatives from the counties, CAL FIRE, USFS, and PG&E can be viewed at <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/reports##1>.
- The Public Outreach Working Group and CAL FIRE's public information office launched a landowner assistance component to the public education website: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Landowner-Assistance-0/>. The website contains resources on reforestation, grants, insurance, utilities, and county tree mortality efforts.
- The Mapping and Monitoring Working Group published a summary of current estimates of tree mortality and high hazard zones, entitled, "Tree Mortality: Facts and Figures." The mortality data is based on the U.S. Forest Service Aerial Detection Survey flown on all forested areas of the State each year. It will be updated as new information is made available at: http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/Facts_and_Figures_April_2017.pdf

- The Forest Health and Resilience Working Group published a white paper titled “Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration”:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/TMTFComprehensiveSierraEcologicalRestorationFINAL4-5-17.pdf>.
 The brief summarizes the working group’s recommendations on what is needed to restore and maintain the health and resiliency of California’s forests.
- Reforestation workshops for forest land owners and consulting RPF’s have been held in Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Madera counties. The workshops have shared lessons learned from other mortality events, reforestation basics, and reforestation cost share opportunities. The next workshop is scheduled for May 31st in Amador County.
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFResources/AmadorReforestationWorkshop53117.pdf>

Fire Protection

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 16 arrests and issued 31 citations (excluding 4291).
- Last month, CAL FIRE received \$3,328,474 resulting from Civil Cost Recovery actions, bringing the unaudited cost to date recovery total for FY 16/17 to \$15,575,209.
- The Law Enforcement Special Equipment Unit has moved to a new location to better serve the Department and is now located with the Telecommunications Program.

Fire Protection Operations

- Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)/Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) project continuing to progress with implementation beginning soon in both the Butte and Fresno Kings Units.
- Telecommunications Program has completed their relocation from the Natural Resources building to 1450 Exposition Parkway.
 - All equipment has been moved from a previous warehouse at McClellan to this new location as well.

- Vendors are continuing to enter into Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs).
 - GIS Support vendors have expressed concerns with the rates remaining unchanged from last year.
 - The vendors concerns have been forwarded to Management Services and will continue to evaluate whether any of those specific vendors sign into EERAs with CAL FIRE.

Mobile Equipment

- Mobile Equipment Management continues the hiring process for several vacant positions with interviews anticipated on May 11th and May 12th.
- The Statewide Forestry Equipment Manager 1 and Forestry Equipment Manager 2 examinations occurred the week of April 24th in Sacramento and Riverside.
 - There were forty-five (45) FEM 1 candidates and ten (10) FEM 2 candidates.
- Once the Forestry Equipment Manager 1 eligibility list is established, that position will be advertised.
 - Once filled, this will be the first time in the past 4+ years that all positions within Mobile Equipment have been filled.

Aviation Management Unit

- AMU is training two (2) new Forestry Fire Pilots assigned to the Lake Napa and Humboldt Units.
- CAL FIRE's next generation helicopter procurement continues with DGS taking the lead on procurement.
 - a. The deadline for vendor bids to DGS was Friday, April 28, 2017.

Tactical Air Operations

- TAO is currently advertising the vacant Assistant Chief position and will be advertising additional vacant positions soon.
- CAL FIRE, in cooperation with the USFS, is conducting an Air Attack Management and Coordination course in Redding the week of May 1, 2017.

Incident Management Teams

- The annual IMT Workshop was held at the Ontario Convention Center the week of April 24, 2017.
- Over 375 personnel attended over a four-day period to discuss motivation, leadership, expectations, and Incident Command System functional collaboration.

Cooperative Fire Program

- Local Government Program: To better explain the intricacies of the administrative rate assessed by the Department on Local Government Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreements, the Local Government Program and Budget Office presented a revised overview document to Region leadership on April 28th. This revision updates the previous version released in 2011 and will be presented to all Unit Chiefs to assist them in working with Local Agency leadership. Upon implementation of the new Bargaining Unit 08 salary rates, anticipated in the first two weeks of May, Program is projecting an increased work load this year due to numerous required contract amendments. Approximately 70 contract renewals are anticipated this year.
- Conservation Camp Program: The Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) continue to meet regularly regarding inmate population. The current population numbers look promising for staffing all of the male fire crews by June 1, 2017. CDCR has submitted proposed regulations for Proposition 57 to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and estimates the approved regulations will take effect in or about October 2017. CAL FIRE will continue to work closely with CDCR regarding the effects of Proposition 57 on the Conservation Camp Program.
 - The statewide Conservation Camps population counts as of Wednesday, April 26, 2017:
 - The current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is **868** (a decrease of 95 from 963 as of March 29, 2017).
 - The inmate population stands at 81% (no change) of capacity while crew capacity stands at 72% (+1%).
- State-Federal Program: The CFMA renewal process is progressing through weekly meetings. The US Forest Service continues to focus on OIG audit findings to redefine structure defense obligations. The final National Guard billings from 2016 are being processed. The 2017 Volunteer Firefighting Assistance (VFA) Grant applications are now being received for evaluation and approval. It is anticipated that the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) will schedule a meeting in May to discuss potential updates to the CFAA Agreement for the 2017 fire season.

- Safety & EMS: Program staff are working with the Department's Business Service Office on coordinating a purchase process for AEDs to provide one AED for each Conservation Camp crew as well as CCC and National Guard Fire Crews. Approximately 250 of the compact, ruggedized AEDs are needed and will be carried by a crew member while the crew is in the field on grade projects or assigned on the fireline.
- Training Program: A new Dreager Phase 5 two story burn prop is now in service at the CAL FIRE Training Center. This is an instrumental prop in training firefighters on structural firefighting and rescue techniques during live fire conditions.
 - Ongoing CAL FIRE Training Center projects:
 - A bid walk with DGS and 11 potential bidders was completed on April 27th for the new three story dormitory.
 - The Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) paving contract was awarded and has an anticipated start date of July 1st.
 - Training Center staff are working with CAL FIRE Tech Services staff on replacement of the facility's main and trunk water lines.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering

Defensible Space Program

- Memo from Director Pimlott has been distributed to the field, providing program guidance and procedures on the new electronic data collection program.
- New LE-100a Form has been created, incorporating education information. Form is going through final Green Sheet review before being distributed.
- Training was conducted in Riverside, Fresno, Lone, Redding and Santa Rosa, and an additional Webinar was presented and recorded for online training.
- As of the end of April, approximately 70 tablets have been distributed to five Units for Schedule B Engines to perform inspections.
- Preparing a PO-200 hiring package for a new GISS position.

- There continues to be extensive interest in this new program from local jurisdictions.

Damage Inspection Program

- DINS curriculum and task books continue to be developed by FIRESCOPE.
- This new format will standardize the DINS process throughout California.
- Overview presentation was made by Chief Steven Hawks to the Planning Sections for the Incident Management Teams at the April Team Workshop.

Fire Plan

- Updated Unit Fire Plans for 2016 are due for submittal and review to Region Headquarters on May 5, 2017. Region review will be completed, and all Unit Fire Plans submitted to Sacramento no later than June 16, 2017.
- Staff is developing training for new Pre-Fire Engineer personnel on how to use the new ESRI ELA.
- The 2018 Strategic Fire Plan rewrite committee is continuing work on the new Plan. Proposed changes to Goals will be presented to the Board for review at the June meeting.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee

- Program is working with the CAL FIRE Grant Management Unit to close the FY 2014-15 SRAFPF Grant Program. All grant work had to be completed by March 15, 2017, and all documentation had to be submitted by April 15, 2017.
- 106 of the 107 agreements for the 2016-17 SRAFPF/Tree Mortality Grant Program have been executed.
- Program continues to provide administrative support to the FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 SRAFPF and Tree Mortality Grant Program grantees.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee bills continue to be mailed to SRA homeowners. This year's billing cycle is scheduled to end on June 13, 2017.
- Program has hired two employees. Adriane Sahmaunt (AGPA) will be filling in behind the retirement of Linda Hedberg. Adriane will be handling SRA Fee payer inquiries and phone calls. Additionally, Deepti Sharma (AGPA) has been hired to assist with the process of generating information from fiscal reports for the SRA Informational Report.

CAIRS

- BCP Concept Proposal is being prepared in anticipation of software contract renewal.
- Interviews for the new SSA position were completed in April. We anticipate the successful candidate will begin work no later than June 1, 2017. This will result in 3 personnel assigned to CAIRS – a staffing level that has not been seen in more than 6 years.
- Staff is excited to expand work to include identification, tracking, and management of Statewide Fire Departments, outreach and education for CAL FIRE and local government agencies, incident reporting recruitment, and burn report management, to name a few.
- CAIRS Staff is nearing completion of 2016 Redbook data. Final components are completion of SRA and DPA maps, which are anticipated to be completed in June.

Land Use Planning

- LUP Staff members met with planning consultants from private industry in San Francisco in mid-April to discuss program offerings and local government participation requirements. Meeting was well received.
- An “All City Managers” meeting will be held in San Bernardino County the week of May 1st. LUP Staff have been invited to present information on program and future FHSZ Maps.
- Program continues to work with the 1270 Fire Safe Development Working Group with BOF and local fire officials.

CALENDAR YEAR 2017
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH MARCH

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	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
THPs Received	32	33	9	9	0	0	4	3	45	45
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	8	4	4	1	0	0	4	2	16	7
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	41	37	2	5	0	0	1	1	44	43
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Approved	37	26	18	26	0	0	1	1	56	53
Acreage in Approved THPs	8,378	8,204	8,349	13,493	0	0	139	188	16,866	21,885
NTMPs Received	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	8
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	5
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	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
NTMPs Approved Acres	0	47	334	603	0	0	0	0	334	650
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	6	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	7	5
Exemption Notices Received	56	82	213	328	2	2	160	171	431	583
Emergency Notices Received	5	20	4	11	0	0	1	19	10	50
Exemption Types Received 2017	< 3 Acre Conversions		Fire Hazard		Forest Fire Prevention		Dead Dying Diseased		Other Exemp	Rec'd 2017
Santa Rosa	9		13		1		29		4	56
Redding	17		27		0		105		64	213
Riverside	1		0		0		1		0	2
Fresno	8		8		6		12		126	160
Emergency Types Received 2017	Fire		Fuel Hazard		Insect		Wind		Other Emerg	Rec'd 2017
Santa Rosa	4		0		0		0		1	5
Redding	3		0		0		0		1	4
Riverside	0		0		0		0		0	0
Fresno	0		1		0		0		0	1

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
Accepted by CAL FIRE - March

Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2016		2017	
		Count	Acres	Count	Acres
<i>1038 (c) 150 FT Fire Hazard</i>	Coast	14	17	12	16
	Cascade	35	77	24	66
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	17	154	5	12
	Totals	66	248	41	94
<i>1038(c)(6) 300 FT Fire Hazard</i>	Coast	2	9	1	1
	Cascade	2	4	3	50
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	2	6	3	19
	Totals	6	19	7	70
<i>1038(d) Substantially Damaged Timberland</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	2	1,500	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	Totals	2	1,500	0	0
<i>1038(i) Forest Fire Prevention</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	3	10,611
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	1	55
	Totals	0	0	4	10,666
<i>1038(j) Forest Fire Prevention Pilot</i>	Coast	0	0	1	67
	Cascade	6	708	2	310
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	Totals	6	708	3	377
<i>1038 (k) Drought Mortality</i>	Coast	1	15	3	38
	Cascade	54	1,942	39	4,276
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	120	16,064	56	6,140
	Totals	175	18,021	98	10,454
<i>1104.1 <3 Acre Conversions</i>	Coast	40	104	9	25
	Cascade	75	142	17	35
	South	1	3	1	3
	Sierra	3	4	8	14
	Totals	119	253	35	77
<i>All other Exemptions (Christmas Tree; Dead,Dying,Diseased; Fuelwood, Split Products; Lake Tahoe Region; Public Agency; Slash Removal; Utility Right-of-Way)</i>	Coast	24	269,632	31	287,877
	Cascade	155	1,200,487	127	1,327,011
	South	1	240	1	240
	Sierra	30	118,666	89	113,440
	Totals	210	1,589,025	248	1,728,568
Year to Date		584	1,609,774	436	1,750,306

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
Accepted by CAL FIRE - March

Type of 1052 Emergency	Admin Area	2016		2017	
		Count	Acres	Count	Acres
<i>Drought</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	3	1,336	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	1	3	0	0
	Totals	4	1,339	0	0
<i>Fire</i>	Coast	21	2,249	4	341
	Cascade	6	336	3	400
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	20	1,041	0	0
	Totals	47	3,626	7	741
<i>Fuel Hazard Reduction</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	1	3
	Totals	0	0	1	3
<i>Insect</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	2	397	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	Totals	2	397	0	0
<i>All other Emergencies</i>	Coast	0	0	1	3
	Cascade	0	0	1	58
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	Totals	0	0	2	61
Year to Date		53	5,362	10	805



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Data Source: Forest Practice System (FPS)
Data Contact: fpgis@fire.ca.gov