



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

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



Resource Management

Resource Protection Program

State Forests:

- Fire suppression duties have resulted in a significant draw-down of resources on the State Forests, of both personnel and equipment. While the current fire season is challenging, CAL FIRE staff have been anticipating and preparing for this situation. Time-critical tasks related to research, recreation and timber management have been completed, while less time-sensitive tasks have been postponed until later in the fall.
- LaTour State Forest has been providing the State Capitol Christmas tree the last two years. It appears that trees from managed, working forests are aesthetically pleasing, because the state Department of General Services DGS again visited the Forest for the third year in a row on August 20th to select the 2014 Capitol Christmas Tree.
- Revenues from the State Forests, primarily from timber sales, are projected to total approximately \$4.8 million this fiscal year. This is a little short of our projected annual expenditures of \$5.3 million, but we expect to average out in the black over the next two years as two-year timber sale contracts are completed. Lumber prices continue to track a moderately improving housing market, and there are some restrictions remaining on timber harvesting pending completion of the Jackson State forest research plan.
- The drought has prompted numerous outbreaks of tree mortality with dead and dying trees appearing throughout the State Forests.
- As requested by this Board, Rick Standiford of UC Extension assembled an expert panel of research scientists to review and provide feedback for the Jackson State Forest Research Plan. The panel includes Tim Bean from Humboldt State University, Lee McDonald from Colorado State University; Kevin O'Hara from UC Berkeley, and Martin Riche from the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the US Forest Service. The group visited the Forest on August 20th and discussed the research plan with CAL FIRE staff. The completed research plan, incorporating peer review revisions, will be presented to the Board in March, 2015.

California Fire Science Consortium (CFSC) VTP EIR Peer Review:

- The California Fire Science Consortium (CFSC) has completed its peer review of CAL FIRE's Vegetation Treatment Program EIR. CFSC released its report on August 31st.
- A CAL FIRE VTP EIR Technical Team has begun the process of substantially revising the EIR with assistance from the Peer Review panel members.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Forest Management Grants:

The FY 2014/15 Governor's budget allocated \$42 million to CAL FIRE to provide grants and cost share arguments for forestry projects which reduce GHG emissions and improve forest carbon sequestration. CAL FIRE is implementing seven different grant programs:

- Forest Pest Control – Grants to remove and utilize trees infected by Sudden Oak Death, pine bark beetles and Gold Spotted Oak Borer.
- Fuel Reduction with Biomass Utilization - Grants for vegetation treatment projects that reduce wildfire hazards and utilize the biomass for green-energy.
- Reforestation Services – Grants to landowners to reforest lands damaged by wildfires and funding to procure seed from the State Seed Bank.
- Forest Legacy Conservation Easement - Funding for purchase of working forest conservation easements.
- Urban Forestry – Grants to nonprofit and local agencies for planting and maintenance of trees in urban areas.
- Demonstration State Forests and Cooperative Wildland Research – Funding for restoring and reforesting State Forest lands damaged by wildfires and research to evaluate GHG benefits of forestry practices.
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Reports (PTEIR) for Fuel Reduction – Grants to prepare environmental compliance documents that will facilitate vegetation treatments projects that reduce wildfire hazards and utilize the biomass for green energy.

The grant solicitation period for Urban Forestry and Forest legacy (conservation easements) projects funded under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is under way. The remaining grant programs (except for the PTEIR) will be announced on October 1st, 2014.

We have received 11 Concept Proposals for conservation easements to date. Urban forestry workshops are scheduled for the week of September 29th – October 3rd. The workshops will be held in San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Fresno, Stockton, and Oakland. For the remaining programs, staff is planning on seven stakeholder workshops to be held around the state beginning October 15th in Sacramento and ending on October 30th in Sutter Hill.

Cultural Resources:

- Staff will be part of the *Native American Heritage Day* to be held on September 26th at the Capital. Archeological staff will highlight the programs and policies of CAL FIRE related to Native American tribes.
- Staff is providing instruction for the California Licensed Foresters' Association (CLFA) Archaeological Classes in 2014. A five day session for new staff and RPFs will be held on October 27th - 31st in Anderson. Archaeological Refresher Classes will be held at Granzella's Conference Center, Williams, on Thursday, November 13th and Friday, November 14, 2014.

Biomass Utilization:

- A project with the Nevada Irrigation District for fuel reduction with biomass utilization in the Nevada City/Scotts Reservoir area is underway. A second biomass project has been awarded to the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for fuel hazard reduction and Sudden Oak Death control in the Redwood Creek area of Humboldt County.

Forest Legacy Program:

- Usal Redwood Forest, 49,576 acres: The transfer of this conservation easement to CAL FIRE is almost completed. The transfer documents (Assignment and Assumptions Agreement) are being signed and notarized. The item is on the November 14 Public Works Board agenda.

Pest Management:

- Western States Cooperative Grants: The Department reviewed 5 proposals for the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition's competitive grants proposals. CAL FIRE submitted three for consideration. The following were selected:
 1. Conservation and Landscape Restoration Strategies for Blue Oak Woodlands (UC Davis).
 2. Yellow Star thistle control project.
 3. Monitoring, Outreach and Coordination to Manage Goldspotted Oak Borer and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer and Emerging Pests (UC Riverside Cooperative Extension).

Urban and Community Forestry:

- The grant solicitation period for projects funded under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is under way. Concept proposals are due November 13th. A Webinar is scheduled for September 24th, 1PM – 3PM. Workshops are scheduled for the week of September 29th – October 3rd. The workshops will be held in San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Fresno, Stockton, and Oakland.
- The California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee nominations process is complete, and letters to those selected have been sent.

Forest Practice Program

Redding Pilot Project-Draft Implementation Report:

- Following submittal of the Redding Pilot Project final supplemental report to the Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), staff has provided comments to Assistant Secretary of Forest Resource Management, Dr. Russ Henly, to assist CNRA in developing the Redding Pilot Implementation Report, which will address the recommendations from the Redding Pilot Project.

THP submissions:

- **THP submissions in 2014** are up significantly over last year. In Redding, submissions of THPs are up 12% over 2013 (from 66 to 74, YTD). In Fresno, THP submissions are steady from 2013 (from 19 to 19, YTD). In Santa Rosa, submissions of THPs are up 22% over 2013 (from 80 to 102 as of September 22, 2014).
- **NTMP:** Redding submissions of NTMPs are up from 1 to 2 YTD. There were no NTMPs submitted to Fresno in 2013 or 2014 to date. Santa Rosa has received 9 NTMPs YTD, compared to 4 last year. Notice of Timber Operations for Santa Rosa are up 15% compared to last year (101 versus 86 as of September 22, 2013).
- **Exemption Notice submissions:** Redding submissions of Exemption Notices are up 4% (from 720 to 751, YTD). Santa Rosa submissions of Exemption Notices are up 15% (from 225 to 263, YTD). Fresno submissions of Exemption Notices are down 72% (from 829 to 229, YTD). The decline in Exemption Notice submissions in Fresno is primarily due to the conclusion of the *Forest Care Program* in San Bernardino County, where Exemption submissions went from 611 in 2013 to 0 in 2014.
- **Emergency Notice submissions:** Emergency Notice (EM) submissions are down significantly. Santa Rosa submissions of Emergency Notices are down to 2 from 6 last year, YTD. Redding submissions of Emergency Notices are down 24% (from 89 to 68, YTD). Fresno submissions of Emergency Notices are down from 65 to 11, YTD.
- Submission of Emergency Notices and subsequent timber harvesting activity is expected to increase significantly in response to the large wildfires of July/August/September 2014 where approximately 75,000 acres of industrial timberland has burned. To date, the industrial timberland owners affected are: Fruit Growers Supply Co., Sierra Pacific Industries, Red River Forests, Michigan California Lumber Company, Crane Mills Corporation, Simorg West Forests, LLC, and Timbervest Partners California LLC. Additionally, many small non-industrial landowners have also been affected by the wildfires.

2014 Fire Salvage/Emergency Notices:

Continued fire activity has damaged several thousands of acres of timberland across the North Region. The following represents a brief summary of recent fire activity and impacted lands:

- July Complex-Log Fire (Siskiyou Co.) of the 3,283 fire acres, 1,634 acres of Industrial Timberlands (49%) were burned.
- Little Deer Fire (Siskiyou Co.) of the 5,503 fire acres, 699 acres of Industrial Timberlands (12%) were burned.
- Beaver Fire (Siskiyou Co.) of the 32,315 fire acres, 15,218 acres of Industrial Timberlands (47%) were burned.
- Day Fire (Modoc Co.) of the 13,153 fire acres, 10,849 acres of Industrial Timberlands (82%) were burned.
- Bully Fire (Shasta Co.) of the 12,661 fire acres, 3,760 acres of Industrial Timberlands (29%) were burned.
- Eiler Fire (Shasta Co.) of the 32,001 fire acres, 15,907 acres of Industrial Timberlands (49%) were burned.
- Lodge Fire (Mendocino Co.) of the 11,443 fire acres, 1,149 acres of Industrial Timberlands (10%) were burned.
- King Fire (El Dorado & Placer Co.) of the 91,529 fire acres (as of 9/25/14), 28,840 acres of Industrial Timberlands (31%) were burned.

Over 157,000 acres of timberlands were burned during the recent fires. This includes both larger industrial and smaller nonindustrial timberland ownerships.

Note: Acreage estimates are based upon the best information available at the time this report was prepared; final acreage estimates may change due to incident activity prior to final containment. Additionally, acreages are based on ownership by industrial timberland owners and not the presence or absence of timber.

THP Non-concurrence:

- We received a non-concurrence from DFW September 16, 2014 on an SPI THP 1-14-068 HUM ("Burton"). The two primary issues raised by DFW are related to information in the THP needed to verify presence or absence of Late Successional Forest Stands and the marking of potential Pacific Fisher den trees. CAL FIRE is working with SPI and DFW to resolve the issues and is currently waiting for additional information from SPI.

Review Team Personnel Issues:

- Two of Santa Rosa's Review Team staff are currently undergoing prerequisite training for firefighter and chief officer academies in lone; each will be engaged in fire training through the end of the calendar year. We expect additional impacts to the Forest Practice Program staffing due to anticipated retirements. We are working to fill existing vacancies.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- There has been one new civil penalty case submitted in the last month. Three civil penalty cases have been dropped and will be pursued criminally through the local county District Attorney's office. There have been five civil prosecution cases submitted thus far in 2014. There are a total of 42 open civil prosecution cases. There are currently five civil penalty cases under review by the Department. All other complaint and proposed orders at a minimum have been served. There are approximately 12 cases that are in need of Judgments and five that are in default. CAL FIRE Legal Counsel is assisting in processing the Judgments. Two cases are in need of hearing dates through OAH. The seven cases that had been mailed out in June have either had no response and are in default, requested a hearing or requested a hearing and are in settlement talks. A total of 8 cases are waiting for payment. The remaining 14 cases are open cases in process either waiting for settlement agreements to be returned, in court, waiting for remediation to be completed, or on probation.

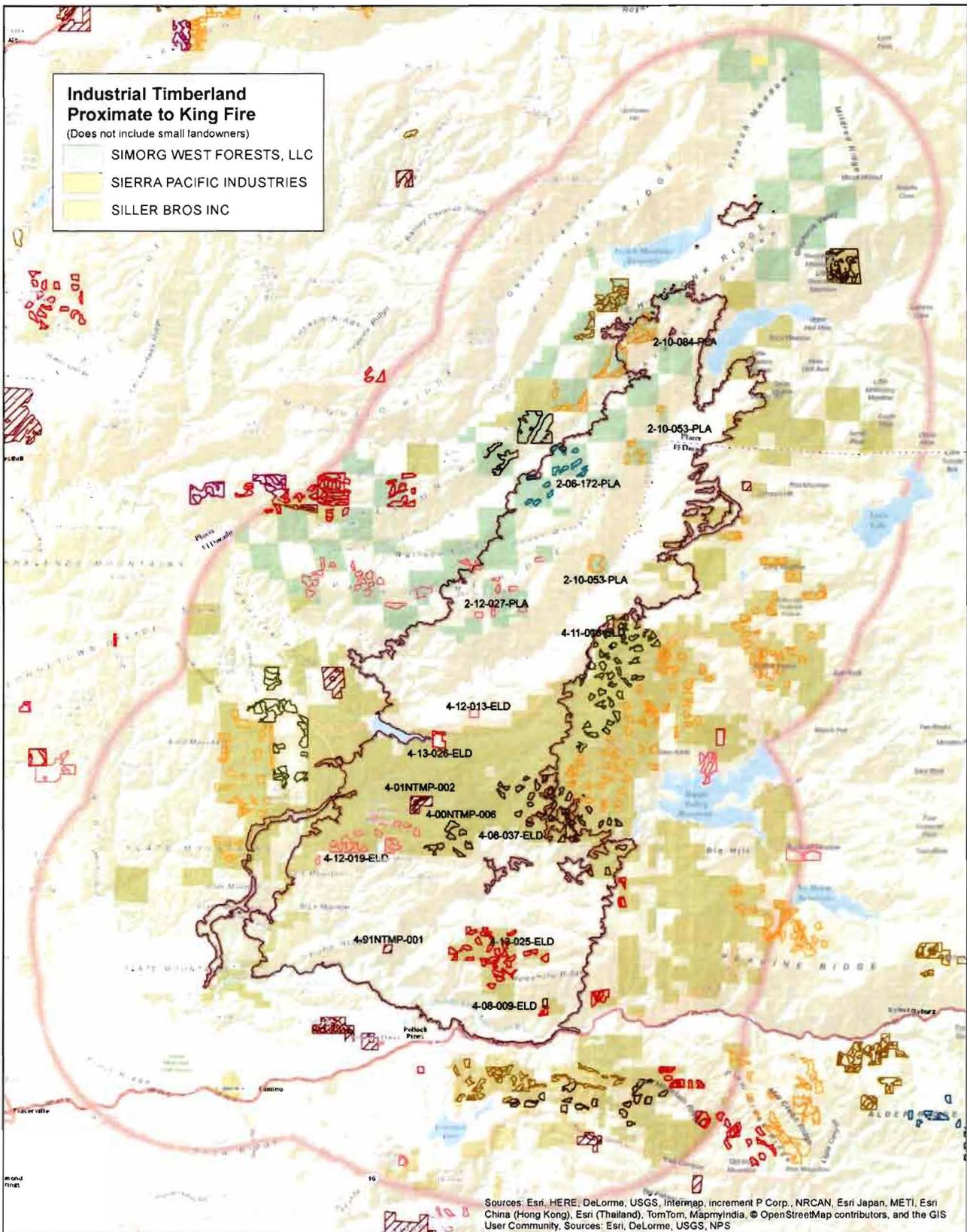
Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- 42 applications for Timber Operators Licenses (LTOs) were recently submitted and are in the process of being issued. Of those, only 25 applications were submitted correctly. The majority of these applications are new "A" LTO licenses, and therefore, will also require verification of work experience/qualifications. The remaining 17 applications for new and renewal licenses were submitted incorrectly and will have to be returned for additional information. Most applicants have been contacted and we are awaiting a response.
- Recently, 8 Invalid insurance certifications were received ("Invalid" meaning they lack the required insurance). The insurance agent and/or LTOs have been contacted and we are awaiting a response.

- We have received 10 valid insurance certifications for individuals who do not have licenses. Some insurance agents and potential LTO's/new applicants have provided notification that they will be submitting an application packet in the near future.

Fire Protection

- The Conservation Camp Program anticipates adding five additional inmate fire crews with the repopulation of the Ventura Conservation Camp. The 110 person Fire Camp will provide additional fire protection in the central coast area, which has experienced a strategic gap in services with the closure of the former juvenile facility in December of 2011. We anticipate that the camp will be populated in October or November of 2014.
- The September 2014, "Safety Stand Down" released by the Safety Program identifies four incidents involving personnel having to take refuge from an advancing fire front and/or fire equipment being burned-over and destroyed since August 1, 2014, as a result of increased fire activity due to continued extreme drought conditions. CAL FIRE is conducting accident reviews on all four incidents.
- LE/CCR – Over the last month, CAL FIRE law enforcement made 18 arrests and issued 115 citations statewide. CAL FIRE also participated in a recent high-profile arrest of the individual suspected of arson resulting in the King Fire.
- The Civil Cost Recovery Program collected \$286,451.45 last month and settled three cases.



Industrial Timberland Proximate to King Fire
 (Does not include small landowners)

- SIMORG WEST FORESTS, LLC
- SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES
- SILLER BROS INC

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS

Commercial Timber Harvesting

King Fire - September 25, 2014

As of this date, the King Fire is 43% contained and still represents a fluid situation. Counts and acreages are based on data available at the time of publication and do not represent final counts or acreages affected by this incident. Most current fire information can be obtained from www.fire.ca.gov.

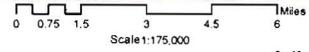


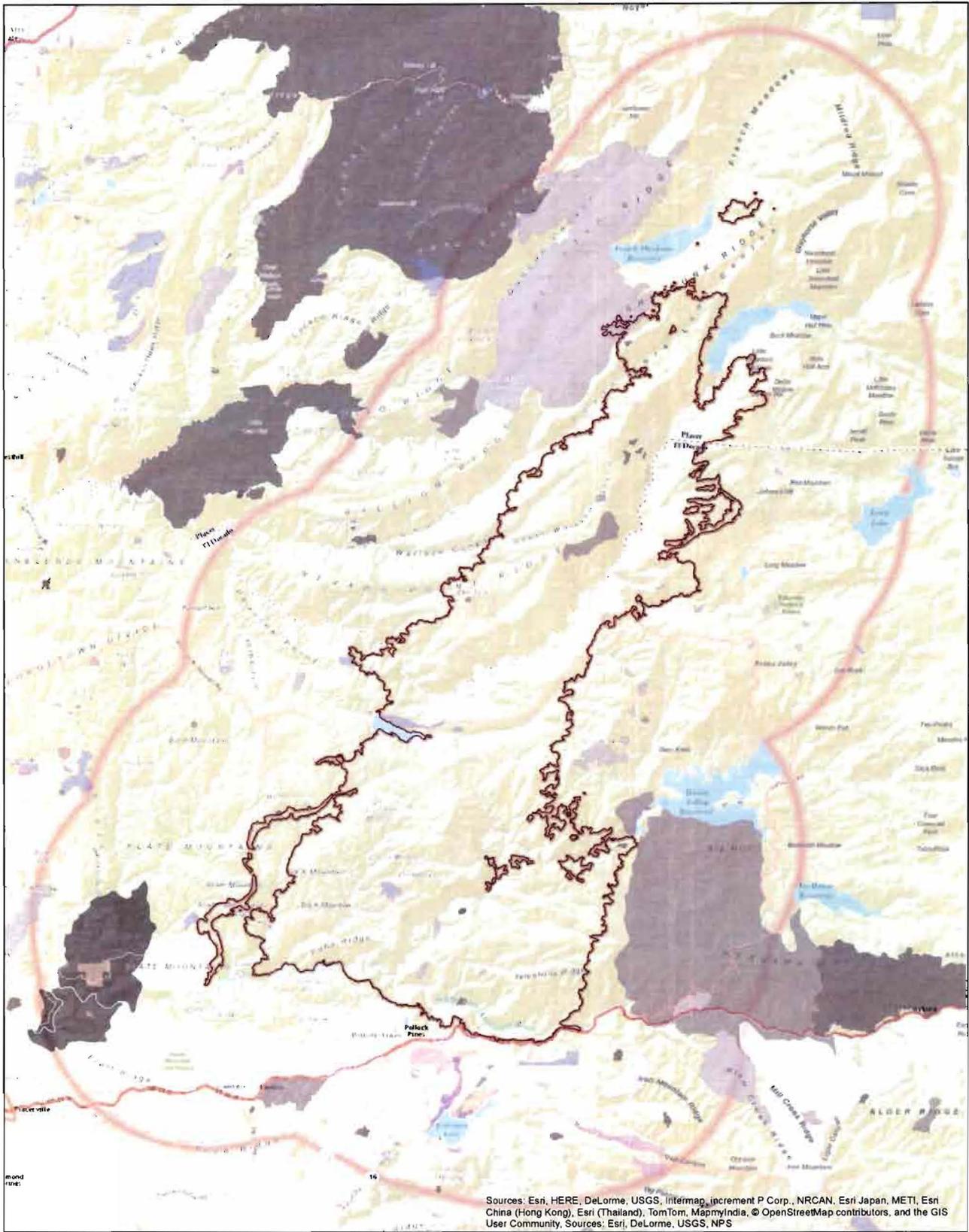
Within King Fire Perimeter (09/25/2014:0031)

Acrees Burned	91,529
Active THPs	11
Acrees Active THPs	2,417
Pending THPs	2
Acrees Pending THPs	1571
NTMPs	3
Acrees NTMPs	195
Sierra Pacific Industries Ownership	21,510
Simorg West Forests, LLC Ownership	7,330
Federal Land	60,407

Active Timber Harvesting (Year plan submitted)

 <2006	 2010
 2006	 2011
 2007	 2012
 2008	 2013
 2009	 2014
 NTMPS	
 King Fire 09/25/14	
 5 mile buffer 09/25/14	

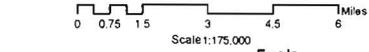




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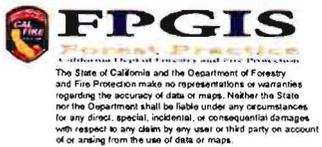
Fire History and Fuels Management

King Fire - September 25, 2014
 As of this date, the King Fire is 43% contained, with 91,529 acres burned; this is still a fluid and volatile situation. Counts and acreages are based on data available at the time of publication and do not represent final counts or acreages affected by this incident. Most current fire information can be obtained from www.fire.ca.gov



Fuels Management & Rx Burns	Decade	Fire History
	1964 - 1973	151 acres
	1974 - 1983	23 acres
	1984 - 1993	605 acres
	1994 - 2003	360 acres
363 acres	2004 - 2013	172 acres
	King Fire 09/25/14	
	5 mile buffer 09/25/14	

(Acreage statistics are within the fire perimeter 09/25/2014.0031)



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

**CALENDAR YEAR 2014
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH AUGUST**

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	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
THPs Received	95	74	64	50	0	0	17	17	176	141
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	24	23	34	12	0	0	7	3	65	38
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	95	78	53	42	0	0	14	17	162	137
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Approved	97	88	65	57	0	0	12	20	174	165
Acreage in Approved THPs	23,271	24,188	49,187	55,592	0	0	4,066	8,078	76,524	87,858
NTMPs Received	9	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	11	5
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	2
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	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	7	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	7	6
NTMPs Approved Acres	2,396	3,933	0	2,206	0	0	0	0	2,396	6,139
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	95	70	16	9	0	0	3	4	114	83
Exemption Notices Received	251	205	706	671	0	563	210	185	1,167	1,624
Emergency Notices Received	2	6	41	78	1	52	9	5	53	141
Exemption Types Received 2014	< 3 Acre Conversions		Fire Hazard		Forest Fire Prevention		Dead Dying Diseased		Other Exemp	Rec'd 2014
Santa Rosa	69		87		2		75		18	251
Redding	141		247		1		281		36	706
Riverside	0		0		0		0		0	0
Fresno	35		69		0		78		28	210
Emergency Types Received 2014	Fire		Fuel Hazard		Insect		Wind		Other Emerg	Rec'd 2014
Santa Rosa	1		1		0		0		0	2
Redding	35		1		3		2		0	41
Riverside	0		1		0		0		0	1
Fresno	4		3		1		1		0	9