



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry
Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
December 2015 Board of Forestry Report



Resource Management

Resource Protection Program

L.A. Moran Reforestation Center:

- Cone processing was completed for approximately 40 bushels of sugar pine cones purchased and collected from private lands by the Reforestation Center. Additionally, 100 bushels of privately owned sugar pine cones were processed and seed added to the seed bank.
- The seed lab is completing germination results of 43 Giant sequoia lots for Blodgett Forest Research Station and SPI's Tree Improvement program.
- In October and November there were 21 seed orders/transfers which totaled 194.51 lbs. of seed removed from the seed bank. – 74.30 lbs. were sent to grow seedlings designated for Boggs Mountain State Forest as the initial reforestation effort following the Valley Fire. Seedlings will be ready for out-planting in 2016-2017.
- Staff is working on a seed trade and increased cooperation with the US Forest Service nursery in Placerville on cone collections and surveys. CAL FIRE staff participated in a two-day meeting on reforestation, seed bank activities and silviculture at the US National Forest Genetics Lab in Placerville.
- The facility will be temporarily operating with limited staff in early 2016. Dorus Van Goidsenhoven, the seed lab manager is currently completing pre-academy training in the Mendocino Unit. He will then attend the Fire Fighters Academy in Lone starting January 2016. Rick Johnson will also start the Company Officer Academy in Lone in January.
- Facilities repairs and maintenance continue. Staff is preparing a request for proposals for reconstruction of the cone tumbler and dewinger machines as well as the cone drying shed.
- The new freezer is very close to completion with final adjustments and completion of the emergency generator enclosure to be finished. Racks have been installed and transfer of seed from the old seed bank is anticipated to occur this winter.
- The LA Moran Reforestation Center hired one new Forestry Assistant II. Rodney Sterling started working in mid-November.

- The partnership with the Putah Creek Council for growing of native plants continues to have a positive influence on the restoration of riparian ecosystems.

Demonstration State Forests:

- As a result of the Valley Fire, over 90% of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF) burned and 80% of the trees appear to be killed by direct flame or heat generated by the fire. A major rehabilitation plan is currently being implemented with the first steps being taken to improve roads for winter salvage harvesting, preparation of salvage logging contracts, initiation of post-fire research projects, and public outreach to inform the users of BMDSF of the current situation. A number of steps have been undertaken to implement the rehabilitation plan and to conduct research and public outreach on Boggs Mountain:
 - A request for the approval of emergency contracts for the harvest of dead trees and associated work was submitted for Boggs Mountain State Forest due to extensive tree mortality resulting from the Valley Fire. The request is based on Governor Brown's October 30, 2015, proclamation that indicates a STATE OF EMERGENCY exists within the State of California due to the severe drought across California which worsens wildfire risk across large regions of the State, life safety risks from falling trees to Californians living in impacted rural, forested communities, and worsens the threat of erosion across watersheds; and such wildfires will release thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants.
 - Since October 5, rotating groups of two to four CAL FIRE Foresters, Forestry Assistant IIs, and Forestry Aides have worked at BMDSF on the fire salvage preparation effort.
 - Four Timber Sales totaling 2,220 acres of the 3,493 acres BMDSF were advertised and sold on November 4, 2015. The total estimated net volume of these four sales is 36,830 MBF.
 - Friends of Boggs Mountain have obtained a \$10,000.00 grant from REI to help rehabilitate recreational facilities on the Forest.
 - Boggs Forest Manager Nick Kent and Division Chief Jim Wright gave a slide presentation and talk on prescribed burning to the Pepperwood Foundation near Calistoga on September 29th.
 - Forest Manager Nick Kent and Fire Captains Joe Fletcher and Emily Smith of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit spoke to a group of 100 students visiting from Willits Middle School on October 29th, and gave a synopsis of the effects of the fire and the rehabilitation efforts underway.
 - Forest Manager Nick Kent and CGS Geologist Don Lindsay gave a half day tour on November 18 to a group of twenty five organized by RPF Fred Euphrat including Santa Rosa JC Forestry Students, members of the Sonoma Land Trust, employees of the Jenner Headlands Management Group, a UCCE forester, and State Park ecologists.

- A research group meeting was organized by CAL FIRE Assistant Deputy Director Helge Eng on November 10th and the group toured the Forest. Attendees included UCCE (Bill Stewart), UCB (Rob York), FRAP (Dave Sapsis, Tadashi Moody, Chris Keithley, Dave Passovoy), USFS PSW Research Station (Martin Richey, Brandon Collins) , CGS (Don Lindsay), and CAL FIRE (Tom Smith, Dave Loveless, Nick Kent, Helge Eng, Drew Coe). Research priorities and potential projects were discussed.
- A number of research efforts are currently underway including Dead and Dying Tree Assessments using Tree Note 33 by CAL FIRE Pathologist Chris Lee; Post-fire Erosion Effects Studies by CAL FIRE Hydrologist Drew Coe, CGS Geologist Don Lindsay, and Hydrologist Joe Wagenbrenner of Michigan Tech; Wildlife Habitat Impacts Post-fire by CAL FIRE Biologist Stacy Stanish; Annosus Root Disease Study by Chris Lee; Black Oak Study by Chris Lee; Continuous Forest Inventory and Monitoring of Post-fire Effects by State Forest Biometrician Jeff Leddy; Long-term Forest Structure Monitoring Control Plots by State Forest Staff; and Post-fire Forest Stand Development Comparing Site Preparation Treatments by Forest Service, UC and CAL FIRE FRAP.
- A Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) Research Committee meeting was held with the primary focus being review of the Caspar Creek Third Experiment (South Fork). Dr. Salli Dymond's plan was well received by the Committee.
- A JDSF meeting was held on November 16 in Fort Bragg with all 6 members in attendance as well as Matt Diaz.
- JDSF Management Plan revisions were submitted to the Board for their review in anticipation of the regular 5-year plan review in 2016.
- All 141 JDSF Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots have been measured and a final data audit is underway. These plots have been re-measured every 5 years since the installation in 1959.
- The JDSF Recreation Task Force held its meeting on October 30th.
- All logging operations on JDSF have been completed for the year. The total volume and revenue for the 2015 field season (calendar year) is 18.786 million board feet and \$7,478,304.
- After acceptance of their preliminary grant proposal, JDSF has been notified to submit a full project proposal for a \$400,000 Water Quality Non-Point Source grant to improve Roads. The proposal is due in January.
- The State Capitol Christmas Tree was harvested from Latour Demonstration State Forest on November 2nd and transported to Sacramento on November 3rd. The tree lighting occurred on December 2nd.

- Latour received over 14 inches of snow on November 15th, which shut down operations on the Cabled Cow Timber Sale for the season. Approximately 250 thousand board feet remain to be harvested. The total estimated volume and value for this sale is 4 million board feet and \$850,000.
- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant - funded fuel break/biomass operations on Latour has been completed with over 260 acres treated.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest is closed for the winter due to snow. The entire four person staff spent the week of November 16th at Boggs Mountain laying out harvest units in preparation for the salvage operations.
- A draft research publication entitled "Forest Response to Vegetation Management Strategies" has been submitted by Dr. Doug Piirto for review regarding research on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. The research was the culmination of a 25 year study on the Forest.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF):

- All GGRF grant agreements from last year (2014-15) are now either fully executed or near completion. The one exception is fuel reduction projects. We are still discussing carbon accounting methods for demonstrating a greenhouse gas reduction resulting from the fuel reduction projects that have been submitted. Program staff is nearly done holding pre-work meetings with all grantees to insure they understand program requirements and expectations, as well as to offer the program's assistance in making successful projects. Work has already begun on several projects.
- CAL FIRE and ARB are in preliminary discussions on possible future GGRF funded projects depending on state budget outcomes. The Governor's October 29th Proclamation of a State of Emergency on tree mortality will affect CAL FIRE's priorities for grant funding.

Urban and Community Forestry:

- Federal funding (USDA Forest Service) sub-grants are in progress. Six projects are expected 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. Three of these agreements are already executed, two are in process, and one is about to be submitted for consideration.
- The California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (CUFAC) meeting was held near the end of October. It is expected that CUFAC will be submitting a letter reporting on their activities and with recommendations for the Director's consideration.

Environmental Protection:

- CAL FIRE's Resource Protection staff are working as a contractor for the California High Speed Rail Authority (HSR) to plant trees on behalf of HSR. The project will be funded by HSR GGRF funds. The planting will occur in urban (about 5,000 trees) and rural settings (about 4,000 acres) and is meant to offset carbon emissions associated with early phases of high speed rail construction. CAL FIRE expects to get the work accomplished through grants issued through its California Forest Improvement (CFIP) and Urban Forestry Programs. On-the-ground work will likely begin in 2016.
- Resource Management staff held interviews for three senior state archaeologist positions in mid-October. The positions with duty stations are: (1) State Responsibility Area Program Archaeologist, Sacramento; (2) Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund Program Archaeologist, Sacramento; and (3) Southern Region Program Archaeologist, Fresno or Riverside. Job offers are being made. Additional associate state archaeologist hiring is expected to follow. CAL FIRE should have 12 archaeologists on staff in 2016.

Pest Control:

- On October 30th Governor Brown issued a proclamation concerning the impact of bark beetles and drought related tree mortality upon the health of California's forests and the safety of the State's residents. CAL FIRE is working with the Governor's office and other state agencies as well as the federal government to determine the best ways to implement the proclamation.
- Tree mortality has continued to spread due to bark beetles and the ongoing drought. The most recent aerial surveys conducted by the USFS have found over 29 million dead trees around the state with the majority found in the central and southern Sierra Nevada and the southern coastal regions of California.
- The Polyphagous shot hole borer has been found in Ventura County. This is a new record for the invasive pest which appears to be spreading rapidly and moving beyond the urban forest environment to both agricultural lands and native woodlands and forests. Also, the find in San Diego County has been determined to be a separate invasive pest complex, the Kuroshio shot hole borer, from Taiwan. This insect is morphologically identical to the polyphagous shot hole borer and carries similar but different fungi. It has spread to the Tijuana River Valley next to the Mexican border and up to Orange County. Along the Tijuana River it is killing native willows that are essential habitat for rare and threatened bird species.
- A University of California-funded oak management symposium in mid-November in Eureka attracted a great deal of interest from a variety of groups, including many small landowners. Over 180 people attended from as far away as British Columbia. At the meeting's field trips, CAL FIRE staff spoke about oak health/pest issues as well as vegetation management for oak woodland conservation (e.g., permitting processes, prescribed fire use).

- Along with researchers from Humboldt State University, CAL FIRE's pest management staff is increasing efforts to detect soil-borne Phytophthora species in forest soils. The group recently detected *P. cambivora*, a pathogen known for damaging oak, chestnut, and chinkapin, in a Humboldt County oak woodland. Their initial results were presented in a poster at the Soil Science Society of America Conference in Minneapolis in November. Further targeted sampling of north coast soils will follow in 2016.

Vegetation Management Program:

- **VTP EIR:** The VTP EIR technical team is preparing for the third Board of Forestry and Fire Protection workshop coming up in December. The team has been providing changes to the document and updating a spreadsheet used to share information and track comments and changes with the Board. The Team hopes to offer a revised final draft to the Board which the Board could choose to put out for public comment by the January Board meeting.
- A 30-day public comment period was opened on the revised Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP comment period closed on November 3, 2015. It was open for the 30-day requirement to receive comments on the NOP. The VTP technical team is drafting responses to the comments received. The team is trying to determine if the provisions of AB 52 will apply to the VTP EIR now that the NOP has been revised.
- **VMP:** There are currently 35 open VMP projects for a total of 27,991 acres. Two of the 35 projects totaling 567 acres will expire in mid-December. The Units have not yet reported any treated acres for the two projects that are about to expire.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP):

- Eel River Peninsula Phase II, The appraisals for the three tracts (Summer Camp, Foster Mountain, and Garcia Creek) have been approved by the USDA Forest Service Appraisal Reviewer. The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has sent the appraisal and associated report to the Department of General Services for final State approval. We anticipate the project will be on the February WCB agenda and upon approval will close on the 15,640 acre project soon thereafter.

California Forest Improvement Program:

- There was much interest in the three Forester II FAS vacant positions (two limited term and one full time). We expect to make job offers based on resume reviews before the end of the calendar year.
- We received only two applications for the Forester I, limited term position but when they found out that the position would actually be housed in St. Helena both applicants declined to continue with the process.
- Applications for the CFIP grants using Timber Regulation Forest Restoration Funds (TRFRF) have begun to come into the Units and some Agreements are now being processed.

Climate and Energy Program:

- The Forest Carbon Action Team (FCAT) continues to make progress on developing the Forest Carbon Plan. FCAT convened October 19th to review progress and discuss sections of the plan that are in draft form. FCAT members are providing written feedback on the draft. FCAT will convene in mid-December for its next meeting. The first public workshops are being planned for January 2016.
- The USFS entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the National Forest Foundation to conduct an assessment of the California wood industry and infrastructure to identify opportunities to increase pace and scale of ecosystem restoration by developing new markets for non-merchantable biomass. CAL FIRE staff has served on the steering committee of this California Wood and Biomass Opportunities Assessment. The assessment outlines the following four wood products as viable options: cross-laminated timbers (CLT), green veneer, oriented strand board [OSB], and small-scale biomass power with co-located businesses. A financial analysis for each of the four viable options will be completed 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 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 Natural Resources Agency is seeking public comment through early December and will release the final draft early next year.

Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP):

- **Forests and Rangelands Assessment:** Indicator development is in progress. FRAP 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 (2015) Board of Forestry meeting and asked for Board review. Two board members agreed to work with the Executive Officer to provide review and input to FRAP by the end of October. Following an initial review meeting, FRAP has developed indicator summary pages that it will provide to Board of Forestry members (Keith Gillless and Kim Rodrigues) for review.
- **Wildfire Issues:** FRAP staff is arranging for 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.

- **Fuel Reduction and GhG:** Tadashi Moody at FRAP has been developing a standard approach for estimating greenhouse gas 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.
- **Fire Threat and PUC:** FRAP's has led an independent expert team in developing a consensus map of Utility Fire Threat for the California Public Utilities Commission. This work has been ongoing since January 2014, and is expected to finish the first phase of model development with a filing of a jointly agreed consensus report in December. The second phase of mapping will involve taking the 2 km Fire Threat Map and classifying and delineating fire safety implementation zones.
- **Post-Fire Research Project:** FRAP and the UC Center for Forestry are developing a post-fire research project at Boggs Mountain Demonstration Forest to explore issues related to reforestation, post-fire carbon and fuel dynamics, and impacts of site preparation treatments on planting success.
- **Climate Change:** FRAP is continuing to support FCAT in developing the Forest Carbon Plan. The FCAT inventory subcommittee is working to ensure consistency with FIA-based inventory data tables that will also be used for the Board of Forestry 1504 report.
- **Conference:** FRAP staff (Chris Keithley) participated in a Climate Change Conference held in Sacramento; moderating a panel on forest impacts from climate change.
- **Vegetation Mapping:** The Fire and Resource Assessment Program continues working to develop a plan to support the update of vegetation/fuels information. There are ongoing issues regarding shared priorities and Forest Service capacity to conduct joint mapping projects that have strained the partnership. Jerry Bird with the Forest Service has offered to assist in renewing the partnership.
- **Drought Monitoring:** FRAP is providing GIS support to the Governor's Tree Mortality Task Force, initiated in response to the recent Emergency Proclamation by Governor Brown. FRAP is assisting in identification of High Hazard Zones, and will develop one or more web-based map viewers to support interagency coordination and public transparency. An initial map viewer has been developed and will soon be made available to the public. Tree removal projects conducted by CAL FIRE will be entered into the CAL MAPPER database, which is also supported by FRAP staff.
- **FIA Committee Assignment:** Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is making a request to the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station to develop custom Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) tables that can be used by FCAT for the Forest Carbon Plan and for inventory reporting requirements for AB 1504.

- **CAL MAPPER:** In January (2015), 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 Cal Mapper (i.e Urban Forestry, Camps, Pipeline).

Forest Practice Program (through 11/30/2015)

Plan Submissions:

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa has 125 new THP submittals, Redding 99, and Fresno has 13; totaling 205. THP submissions through November are down from last year (i.e. 205 compared to 261).
- **NTMP Submissions:** There have been seven NTMPs, and 105 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There have been 3 NTMPs and 16 NTOs submitted in Redding. No NTMPs have been submitted this year in Fresno but two NTO were recently submitted. NTMP submissions through November are down from last year (i.e., 8 compared to 12).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions are up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 370 exemptions submitted, Redding had 1,148 (compared to 900 last year at this time) and Fresno had 424. Through November 30, 2015, there were 163 Drought Mortality exemptions (14 CCR 1038(k)) submitted covering 42,582 acres. There have been 17 Forest Fire Prevention exemptions submitted in 2015, 9 of those have been the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot project.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency submissions are significantly up compared to last year. Fifteen Emergency Notices were submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 122 (compared to 112 at this time last year) and Fresno had 57 submitted.

General Review Team:

Redding/Fresno:

- The THP with visual concerns discussed in the previous Board Report had a second day PHI with recommendations to alleviate some of the visual impact concerns addressed by the public. The landowner has left a significant amount of retention and agreed to the recommendations on the PHI. While the silviculture is still even-aged regeneration harvesting and portions will be visible from the freeway (I-5) and local residences, the retention provided is expected to break up the continuity of the open areas.

- Forester II Review Team Chair Jon Woessner will be attending additional basic fire fighter training at MEU to complete his prerequisites to attend Lone Academy in 2016.
- Review staff have started the hiring process for the Program Technician II position that was vacated at the end of November.

Santa Rosa:

- Leslie Markham is retiring from her position as the Santa Rosa Review Team Manager at the end of December, 2015. Leslie's knowledge, experience and dedication has greatly benefited the review process, she will be sincerely missed.
- The Santa Rosa office has hired a second Forestry Assistant II; both positions were downgraded from Forester I for recruitment purposes.
- A vacant Forester II position remains at the Santa Rosa office.
- Dominik Schwab has transitioned into the Forest Practice System (FPS) Administrator Forester II position.

Watershed Protection Program Update:

- CAL FIRE staff and crews continue to support the State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response recovery for the Valley and Butte fire areas. The recovery efforts have transitioned to emergency protection measure project implementation with Cal OES taking a greater lead in coordination. CAL FIRE crews continue to support both Lake and Butte Counties to implement protection measures based on county priorities.
- Watershed staff are preparing a Procedural Guide listing the steps to follow for State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team (SPFWERT) Phase I and Phase II assessment work based on lessons learned from the Valley and Butte Fires. The CAL FIRE Handbook will be modified to reference this document for future post-fire assessment efforts.
- Drew Coe authored a grant proposal for Water Board 2016 timber funding (\$162,000) for a suite of post wildfire erosion studies at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. The proposal is titled "Post-Fire Response to Forest Management: Mitigations for Improved Water Quality Performance." It was accepted, with a request for a more developed proposal totaling \$250,000 that is due in January 2016. CGS's Don Lindsay has been the project lead for the first phase of implementation and he has utilized personnel from CGS, CAL FIRE, and the CVRWQCB to install six large swale sediment fences and five control plot scale fences over the past several weeks. Dr. Joe Wagenbrenner from Michigan Tech is the lead scientist involved in the project and has worked with agency staff selecting sites, installing instrumentation, providing graduate student assistance, etc.

- Watershed staff reviewed the Upper Elk River Technical Analysis for Sediment prepared by Tetra Tech and the NCRWQCB's draft WDR for Humboldt Redwood Company in the Upper Elk River Watershed, as well as attended the NCRWQCB Elk River TMDL/WDR workshop held on November 18th in Santa Rosa. Staff will generate a comment letter to be submitted in January 2016.
- Watershed staff have participated in a field visit to observe current watershed conditions in the Elk River watershed on December 2nd, including the Railroad Gulch BMP Evaluation study area, Kristi Wrigley's apple ranch, and other areas where homes have been impacted by sediment.
- Work on the third Caspar Creek experiment study plan, being led by postdoctoral Researcher Salli Dymond, continues to progress. Staff participated in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Research Committee meeting held on November 9th in Willits, where Dr. Dymond presented the main components of her study plan.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 45 active cases. There are 8 new cases for 2015. One 2015 case has been settled. The remaining 2015 cases are in the review process. A hearing is scheduled in December and a second hearing is scheduled for January. The remaining 35 cases are in some stage of the civil process.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- We hope to have a new Staff Service Analyst for the Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) program hired by the end of the year. Staff continues to process LTO renewals and new applications in the order they are received even though we are short staffed. Proof of proper insurance is a common item that continues to be a problem requiring follow up with the LTOs. Staff are working to get the LTO class schedule for 2016 confirmed and posted on the CAL FIRE website
- Staff are preparing for the upcoming LTO training class scheduled for December 3-4, 2015 at Sierra College in Rocklin.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 10/31/2015:

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 106,777 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (29.3%); conducting forest practice inspections (26.9%); participating in mandated training (12.6%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.5%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.3%); forest practice law enforcement (3.3%); responding to letters of concern (1.9%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time (less than 1%) include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, 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 153,355 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.4%); conducting forest practice inspections (18.7%); emergency incident support (16.3%); other duties in support of unit programs (8.32%); participating in mandated training (8.7%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (8.7%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (7.8%); other forestry related activities (5.8%); forest practice law enforcement (2.3%); and responding to letters of concern (1.3%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time (less than 1%) include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, project/program monitoring, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.) Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from the TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 9/30/2015:
- **AB 1492 Leadership Team:** The AB 1492 Leadership Team met on November 11, 2015. The Team recently discussed a follow-up meeting regarding comments from the California Forestry Association and the Coastal Action Group on AB 1492 concerns, a draft charter for the Advisory Group developed through work completed by the Center for Collaborative Policy, a web-based work sharing site for the TRFRF program, general work group updates, status for the 2016 Legislative Report and updates on the TRFRF grant programs. Additionally, a state-wide forest practice Round Table Meeting was held on December 3, 2015, in Willows, CA.

Fire Protection

Operations

- The CAL FIRE Emergency Command Centers in Santa Clara, San Mateo-Santa Cruz, San Benito-Monterey, and San Luis Obispo are scheduled for management reviews the week of December 7th, 2016. Focus will be on Continuation of Operations, Continuation of Government plans (COOP-COG)
- Multiple agencies have been inquiring about the CAL FIRE Remote Area Weather Station (RAWS) network and the availability to use this Winter. Some of the agencies are taking a proactive approach to monitor for potential flood/debris flows that might be associated with El Nino. The areas of most concern by the National Weather Service have been the Valley Fire and Butte Fires. CAL FIRE has permanent RAWS deployed in both those areas

Aviation

Helicopter acquisition specifications are on target to be completed next week. DGS is anticipating a release of an RFP or IFB by December 31st, 2015.

LE/CCR

- October 2015 arrests = 12
- Fiscal Year-to-date arrests = 190
- October 2015 citations (non-4291) = 47
- Fiscal Year-to-date citations (non-4291) = 691
- October 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$518,569
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$14,140,126

Mobile Equipment

- 19 new standardized CAL FIRE Law Enforcement specific Dodge Crew Cab Pickups were released to the field this month from the FY 13/14 Acquisition Plan.
- The first 2 of 5 new fire engines from the FY 14/15 Acquisition Plan arrived at Davis Mobile Equipment Facility the week of December 1st.
- CAL FIRE's Heavy Equipment Mechanic Workshop/Training will be conducted the week of December 7th at McClellan.
- An equipment outfitting campaign for the first group of 70 pickup trucks is scheduled Dec. 14th -18th. Ten additional repair staff (*HEMs & HFEOs*), and four additional Fleet Managers will be at Davis for the campaign.

Cooperative Fire Program

Conservation Camps Program

- The ad hoc CAL FIRE – Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Committee continue to discuss possible incentives to increase the number of eligible minimum security inmates which volunteer for the Conservation Camp Program. With the expansion of the 2:1 credit for early release to full custody inmates (AB 109) within the prisons, the motivation to volunteer for firefighting has been significantly curtailed.
- On December 15th both CAL FIRE and CDCR will participate in a one day workshop organized by the California State Sheriff's Association and focusing on the interactions between the Conservation Camp Program and local law enforcement. This meeting in Ukiah will be hosted by Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman.
- As of November 25th, 7 additional crews statewide have fallen below full strength (14+), the inmate population remains at 87% of capacity while crew capacity remains at 76%.
- The current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is 816.

Training and Safety

- The CAL FIRE Academy has begun training our firefighters at two locations as part of the Fire Fighter Academy (FFA) in two locations; Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside, CA, and the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone, CA. Dual locations will begin to ease the increased demand for training our new firefighters and company officers.
- The CAL FIRE Academy continues to take steps to improve its policies and best practices as the program recovers from previous personnel actions and media attention.
- The CAL FIRE Safety Program conducted an Executive Board of Review for six serious or near serious accidents over the course of the last four years. Director Pimlott will be reviewing the recommended action items from each review. Those action items will be implemented by designated programs, regions, and/or units.

Local Government Program

- Program continues to work, in concert with CAL FIRE Legal and Legislative Programs, to interpret the language contained in SB 239 (Government Code 56134) as it applies to LAFCO approval of future fire protection agreements CAL FIRE may enter into.
- The Legislative Program has produced a set of Frequently Asked Questions and the Local Government Program has produced a decision matrix to determine if the process applies.
- These documents and other related issues will be discussed at the next Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) meeting scheduled for December 14th in Sacramento.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Fire Plan:

- As a follow-up to the Fire Plan Accomplishments presentation in October, Fire Plan staff will be working with BOF staff to begin discussions on adding Prescribed Fire components to the Fire Plan, as well as planning for a future update to the Fire Plan itself.
- Annual Fire Plan/Pre-Fire Engineering Workshop was held in November at the Lone Academy. Very successful participation from all Units and Contract Counties.
- Arc/GIS Training Class is scheduled for new Pre-Fire Engineering personnel in February.
- CalMAPPER improvements continue to increase reporting of both emergency incidents as well as prevention activities.
- Working with CCC's to improve recording of their prevention activities funded through SRA.

- Chief Shew presented an overview of the 2015 Fire Season to CPUC Senate Hearing in San Francisco, chaired by Senator Hill. The hearing primarily focused on testimony from utility companies and the connection of power lines igniting wildfires.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee (SRAFPF) Program:

- Several hundred Exemption Applications have already been received from residents who lost homes in this summer's fires. SRA Staff is working closely with BOE to coordinate responses.
- Interviews are being scheduled to hire a new SSA position to assist with Grants and long term data review.
- FY 2015-16 SRAFPF Grant Program is progressing well. Staff has fielded a number of inquiries from potential applicants, and recognize high interest in the Program.
- RFP is being finalized for the Fee Administrator contract (currently held by SCI). Anticipate finalizing applications and awarding new contract in January.

CAIRS:

- CAIRS Training for field personnel scheduled for December 15th.
- Coordination with IT continues to increase data storage of CAIRS reports, and extend retention deadlines of LE-66 documents with CAIRS contractor.
- Interviews being scheduled to fill AGPA position behind Kirsti Fong.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

- Damage Inspection reports for both the Valley and Butte Fires are being reviewed by CAL FIRE. There is significant interest from parties outside the Department to have copies of the documents.
- A DINS Training Class will be held in Monrovia the week of December 7, resulting in additional personnel qualified to gather post fire damage information.
- Continue working with IT and ESRI to create a more robust cloud based solution for both Defensible Space Inspections as well as Post Fire Assessment.
- Chief Matt Lee will be retiring in December. Plans are underway to fill this position.

Land Use Planning:

- A three day workshop was recently held with all Land Use Planning personnel to review the first year's progress of the program.
- Land Use Planning personnel are coordinating assistance for local CAL FIRE Units to help with the long term rebuilding process in both Lake and Calaveras Counties.
- Conference calls have been held with Planning and Building Officials from Lake and Calaveras Counties to discuss lesson's learned from San Diego Officials. Efforts are underway to provide assistance from CAL FIRE from Unit personnel and Land Use Planning members.
- Staff continues to reach out to city and county jurisdictions to help with updates to Safety Elements and Housing Elements of General Plans. Staff anticipates meeting with all 56 Counties and 189 Local Jurisdictions by June, 2016.