



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814



May 2015 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

CAL FIRE is hosting this year's Western Forestry Leadership Coalition Conference, in San Francisco in May. A field tour is planned in the East Bay Hills.

Forest Climate Action Team (FCAT)

- In light of the Governor's April 29th Executive Order aimed at reducing GHG emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, the Air Resources Board and the Natural Resources Agency will work together with other State agencies to address the Governor's directive. A public process will begin this summer to update the Climate Change Scoping Plan. Also, work on FCAT's Forest Carbon Plan has begun with the development of some draft work products. FCAT meeting minutes can be viewed at: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/reports.html>

Forest Practice Program (through 4/29/2015)

Plan Submissions:

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa has 48 new THP submittals, Redding 32, and Fresno had six; totaling 86 compared to last year's 83 submissions.
- **NTMP Submissions:** There have been two NTMPs, and nine NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There were no NTMPs submitted in Redding or Fresno, but four NTOs were submitted in Redding. NTMP submissions through April are down from last year (i.e., 7 compared to 2).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions are up \approx 26% compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 126 exemptions submitted, Redding had 515 (compared to 387 last year at this time) and Fresno had 119.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** One Emergency Notices was submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 55 (compared to 8 at this time last year) and Fresno had 20 submitted.

General Review Team:

- **Redding/Fresno:** The Department advertised and received no applicants for the Forest Practice Manager position in Redding. Redding has two Foresters II positions vacant; a Review Team Chair and a TRFRF Forester. The positions were advertised, applications have been collected and the selection process is being completed.

- **Santa Rosa:**

- A revised Draft of the NTMP form that captures rule changes back to 2000 has been prepared and is currently being reviewed.
- The office has received a few THPs on the newly revised and finalized THP form; and has found review of the plans to go more smoothly, with fewer questions.
- The Santa Rosa office has hired a Forestry Assistant II, who will begin on May 4th.
- The office currently has one Forester II position vacant.
- The office continues to receive concerns regarding fire hazard as it relates to herbicide use on plans, and general concerns related to climate change.

Watershed Protection Program:

- The annual Caspar Creek watershed meeting with the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station is scheduled for May 6-7 in Fort Bragg. As part of this meeting, Dr. Salli Dymond, PSW post-doctoral research hydrologist, will lead a discussion on study plan development for the third experiment in the South Fork.
- Watershed staff provided considerable input on the Section V site-specific proposals included in SPI's *The LiNe* THP (2-14-102 TEH) and LaTour Demonstration State Forest's *Cave Rock* THP (2-15-008 SHA). Both proposals were included in the plans to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire spread through watersheds in Shasta and Tehama Counties and minimize associated impacts to salmonids.
- Watershed staff continue to work on several different CAL FIRE and other agency training efforts. These include HFEO classes at Lone (April 28th—Dozer safety; May 12-14 —Fire Suppression Repair), and Forester classes (May 18-20—Magalia, Fire Suppression Repair; June 8-12—Lone, Basic Forest Practice). Also, watershed staff are participating in Road Rules, 2013 training at the Annual Forest Landowners of California meeting in Auburn on May 1st.
- Work continues on the revised watercourse crossing guidance document, scheduled to be finished in June, 2015. Don Lindsay of California Geological Survey (CGS-Redding) has sent out a draft version of his sizing procedure for rock armored crossing for internal CGS review, prior to a broader peer review. The crossing guidance document will be used for the interagency training sessions on watercourse crossings planned for August, 2015.
- A draft catalog of ongoing watershed and wildlife monitoring projects has been developed for Section 2.5 of the BOF's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) Strategic Plan. The objective is to make the EMC aware of ongoing work to avoid duplication and help focus priorities for critical monitoring questions.

- A draft “Pilot Projects Template” for launching planning watershed pilot projects has been developed for the AB 1492 Leadership Team. The draft was discussed at the AB 1492 meeting held on April 10th and revisions have been made reflecting comments received.
- A meeting with NRCS staff was held on April 29th in Davis to further provide Suzanne Lang and her staff a greater sense of confidence in supporting people using the E-EHR (electronic erosion hazard rating) program tool developed by NRCS, prior to moving it into a web interface environment.
- There are two vacant positions in the watershed program; a Senior Environmental Scientist position, and a Forester I. Staff is working to fill these positions.
- The Scope of Work and budgets for new contracts are underway with (1) Humboldt State University Foundation and Dr. Andy Stubblefield for the Railroad Gulch BMP Evaluation Project, and (2) Colorado State University and Dr. Lee MacDonald for the “Historic and Recent (post-2000) Forest Management Effects on Ground Disturbance, Erosion, Water Quality and Fish: A Case Study from Northwestern California”.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- No new cases have been submitted for 2015. Recently, the probation period ended on two cases and settlement discussions on three cases have not been finalized. Three of five cases served last month requested hearings, two are in default. There are a total of 38 active cases. Nine of the 38 cases are settled with mitigation, probation or payments being made. Eight cases are in default or in need of judgments. Four of the 38 cases are in court having been heard or are under appeal. Ten cases are in some stage of the process, either having to be mailed again because of return to sender or having documents updated and reviewed.
- The Forester III, SAC HQ Forest Practice Enforcement Coordinator position is still vacant, but should be filled soon.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- LTO renewals and new applications are being processed in the order they are received. We continue to receive late renewal applications. We have received six (6) new applications that are lacking critical information required prior to issuance. Five (5) renewal applications have been received, but are incomplete and need further information before they can be processed (most of them are lacking proper insurance). Applicants have been contacted and the additional information requested. Applications will be returned with letters of explanation due to the lack of critical information if LTO Licensing does not hear back from the applicants.
- We have received two (2) “early” renewal applications that are not due to renew until December 2015; LTO Licensing will contact the LTOs to determine if they would like to process their renewals early or obtain a refund.
- We have received 4 incorrect insurance certificates that are lacking the appropriate coverage. We have contacted insurance agents and/or LTO’s and are waiting for submittal of the correct insurance certification.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from the TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 04/29/2015:

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort** : The Forest Practice Program has utilized 31,965 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (26.7%); review and processing of THPs (25.5%); participating in mandated training (14.6%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (14.1%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (12.2%); forest practice law enforcement (3.1%); responding to letters of concern (1.6%); and program/project monitoring (0.9%); Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, 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 39,115 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (21.8%); review and processing of THPs (20.8%); participating in mandated training (11.9%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (11.5%); other duties in support of unit programs (10.8%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (10.0%); other forestry related activities (7.2%); forest practice law enforcement (2.5%); responding to letters of concern (1.3%); project/program monitoring (0.7%); emergency incident support (0.3%); and. Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. *(This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)*
- **AB 1492 Update:** The AB 1492 Leadership Team met on April 10th to discuss the post-ACELLA demo to the BOF and the next steps on ACELLA. The Team discussed the first steps for the Center for Collaborative Policy advisory committee work plan and the need to identify stakeholders for the stakeholder assessment process. The Team reviewed/discussed a draft one-pager on the public input process for AB 1492, reviewed revisions to the draft working group charters and discussed the next steps for the working groups. The Team is considering the development of an AB 1492 Leadership Team charter that will set the broad mission or goals related to sustainable, resilient forests; tasks/responsibilities; membership and process. The Team discussed launching a Planning Watershed Pilot Project, by identifying staff, choosing a place and how to start the process. The Team reviewed the status of the Annual Report to Legislature.

Resource Protection Program

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Programs:

- A total of 328 entities have been invited to submit grant applications. Urban Forestry applications are due April 30th; the rest are due June 10th. Applications will be evaluated in June and grant awards should begin in July 2015.

- A series of webinars to help explain methods to calculate greenhouse gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration was hosted this past month by the Northern California Society of American Foresters, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and close collaboration with CAL FIRE. Experts discussed GHG estimation procedures for reforestation, fuels reduction projects, and other project types. The webinar covered data requirements, analytical/modeling options, and monitoring with examples. These webinars were recorded and can be accessed at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/Webinars/California_Greenhouse_Gas_Webinar_Series/

Cultural:

- Staff will provide instruction for the CLFA Archaeological Refresher Classes in Williams on Friday, May 15, 2015. This is the final refresher training for 2015.

State Forests:

- The JDSF Thompson Gulch timber sale was sold on March 5th to Mendocino Forest Products. There were three bidders for this sale. This is a two-year timber sale. The contract should be approved by late April to mid-May.
- The JDSF Peterson Gulch timber sale was sold on March 20th to Mendocino Forest Products. There were three bidders for this sale. This is a one-year sale.
- Instream water monitors were installed at LaTour State Forest the week of April 20th. Monitors collect water and ambient air temperatures and water turbidity. This data is being utilized in the justification of the proposed timber sale operations and will be part of monitoring program for the Forest.
- Reflecting the effects of the ongoing drought, three of the five State Forests are drilling wells to replace dried out water sources elsewhere on the Forest.

Forest Stewardship Program (FSP):

- The USFS has recognized our NTMP and THPs as essentially Stewardship Plans as defined by national standards. This has increased the number and acres of forest lands in CA under management. This will potentially increase USFS stewardship funding.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP):

- Requests for management plans have dramatically increased as the public is becoming more aware of the CFIP program.

Pest Control:

- The bark beetle epidemic is continuing to spread in the southern parts of the state with at least some level of drought related beetle activity statewide. Staff is working with the USFS and others to create bark beetle information and guidelines for use by the Units, impacted communities and the public.

- A 13-minute video is available on line produced by filmmakers Stephen Most and Kevin White. The video examines how problematic policies, fuel build-up, and climate change have endangered America's forests. When the Rim Fire burned 256,000 acres of the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park in 2013, it exposed the impacts that high intensity wildfires are having on watersheds, wildlife, and carbon storage. It also forged a coalition of environmentalists, loggers, scientists, officials, and land managers who are responding to this huge wildfire event through proactive planning and collaboration. The video can be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/122811230>.

Communications

May 3rd-9th is California's 'Wildfire Awareness Week'. Governor Brown has signed a proclamation highlighting the Department's efforts to call the public to action to do their part in preventing our state's wildfires before they start. Visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org and www.PreventWildfireCA.org for more on CAL FIRE's public education programs.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Planning and Risk Analysis Report

CAIRS:

- Continuing to provide NFIRS Training to newly reporting local government fire departments.
- Continuing training for new OT (Katie Dobrinski).
- Has updated more than 200 contacts for FDID lists.
- Is rapidly learning local government incident reporting procedures, which will greatly improve our statistical reports.
- Has been trained on Monday morning reporting procedures.
- Working with IT staff to finalize the statement of work for CAIRS updates and enhancements that will be sent to IT management for contract initiation with the CAIRS vendor.
- Provided an update of the CAIRS reporting system for CAL FIRE's Fire Plan meeting on 4/29/15.

Land Use Planning:

- Conducting meet and greets with local fire and planning agency officials statewide.
- Introduction of LUP Staff.
- Explaining CAL FIRE Land Use Planning Program.

- Providing presentations on Land Use Planning Program.
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments 2/26.
- Contract Counties 4/23.
- Sacramento Council of Governments 5/22.
- Participating in Safety Element Development Instructional Course.
- Diablo Fire Safe Council (Hills Emergency Forum) 5/5.
- Working with UC Davis on curriculum development for Land Use Planning Course.
- Liaison between the Board of Forestry and CAL POLY Study.
- Data collection coordination.
- Local Unit Case Studies.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

Fire Prevention Activities to date for FY 2014/2015 for CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties (combined):

- Northern Region - All Units and Contract Counties Totals:
 - Defensible Space Inspections – 10,919
 - Number of 4291 violations – 2,644
 - Number of 4291 citations – 151
 - Number of hours of fire prevention education – 11,129
- Southern Region - All Units and Contract Counties Totals:
 - Defensible Space Inspections – 33,721
 - Number of 4291 violations – 2,162
 - Number of 4291 citations - 268
 - Number of hours of fire prevention education – 7,612
- Northern Region – Forestry Aides Totals:
 - Defensible Space Inspections – 11,832
 - Number of 4291 violations – 2,908
 - Number of 4291 citations – 22
 - Number of hours of public contact hours – 6,234

- Southern Region – Forestry Aides Totals:
 - Defensible Space Inspections – 41,612
 - Number of 4291 violations – 5,403
 - Number of 4291 citations – 94
 - Number of hours of public contact hours – 3,505
- Provided DINS presentation to Plans IMT.
- Continue PFIS project management, developer challenges.

Fire Plan:

- New Pre-Fire BC has started (Scott Witt).
- Meeting held 4/29/15 with Sacramento and Region Staff for Fire Plan/Pre-Fire discussions.
- Unit Fire Plans due to Region offices on May 1, 2015.
- Will be gathering data on current status of PFE's across the State.

SRA Fire Prevention Fund/Grants:

- May 11, 2015, Court Hearing in San Diego for Motion to Vacate small claims judgement against the fee.
- May 19, 2015 – Scheduling statewide Go-To Meeting with Grants Unit to provide training to Unit and Region personnel on continuing procedures for Grant applications.
- Grant contracts / agreements currently being signed and distributed.
- Minor revisions to some final grant applications still being completed.
- BOE is starting to send demand letters out for collection of unpaid fees for this year's mailing.
- BOE has also begun to withhold tax return dollars to collect unpaid fees.

Fire Protection

Operations:

- CAL FIRE hosted its annual Incident Management Team (IMT) training the week of April 27th at the Sacramento Double Tree. Over 300 IMT members attended and reviewed last year's large fire incidents and discussed strategies for "all-hazard" type incidents with emphasis on Bakken Oil and high volatility crude, epidemic/pandemic incident management, and planning strategies in preparation for fire activity commensurate with the impacts of a fourth consecutive year drought and increasing tree mortality being experienced statewide.
- CAL FIRE hosted a joint State and Federal IMT Incident Commanders meeting on May 1st at the Sacramento Double Tree. This provided an opportunity to review significant fires in California last year that resulted in the significant sharing of state, federal, and local government resources and unified command in order to bring the incidents under control.

Aviation Management Unit:

- BCP has been written and submitted to build up a replacement air frame located to take the place of T-81.
- Currently advertising to fill vacant Aviation Safety Officer and Fixed Wing Program Manager positions.
- Request for Information (RFI) on prospective replacement helicopter models was released by the Department of General Services (DGS) and closes on May 1st. This provides an opportunity for potential helicopter manufacturers to provide information on their products that they feel meet the department's specification requirements for replacing its aging Vietnam-era helicopters.

Tactical Air Operations:

- The annual CAL FIRE / California Military Department / US Forest Service joint Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) training has been completed and the annual CAL FIRE/U.S. Marine Corps Defense Support of Civilian Authority (DSCA) is scheduled for April 30th and May 1st.
- CAL FIRE / Riverside County MOU to develop Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base finalized with support from Department of General Services; expect Riverside County Board of Supervisor review with approval forthcoming.

Mobile Equipment:

- 14 new Chief Officer vehicles and 4 new Emergency Crew Transport (ECT) vehicles, completed and released in April despite two vacant positions.
- The first of 10 new Caterpillar firefighting bulldozers is scheduled for pre-acceptance inspection May 12th. It is anticipated we will begin receiving one a month starting in June. An additional 12 new dozers are in the acquisition process for FY 15/16.

Cooperative Fire Program:

- Conservation Camp Program – The Conservation Camps Program inmate population continues to slowly decline, largely due to the impacts of Proposition 47. This decline has begun to become apparent through the decline in “pipeline” numbers of inmates awaiting firefighter training at the numerous CDCR training centers. To date 285 inmates have been released as a result of Proposition 47. That number includes CAL FIRE as well as Los Angeles County Camps. Conservation Camp Program staff continues to work with their CDCR counterparts to maintain population levels at the Department’s 39 Camps.
- Local Government Program - The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is scheduled to meet on May 18th in Redding. Items to be addressed include developing a training program for chief officers, primarily Unit Chiefs, designed to increase awareness of the issues and needs facing our cooperative partners as they relate to Local Government Agreements. Additionally, the Committee is revising the current evaluation criteria for determining the feasibility of new potential Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreements.
- Safety Program – The Safety Program conducted a workshop with the CAL FIRE Administrative Unit Safety Officers on April 22 – 23, 2015. Fifteen Administrative Units were represented for education on railroad safety from Union Pacific Railroad, inspection information from a Cal OSHA representative, accident and injury documentation related to our IAPS program, and useful information when work with and around Serious Accident Review Teams. In addition, on April 29, 2015, the Safety Program met with the CAL FIRE Incident Management Team Safety Officers on the same subject matter.
- Training Program – The CAL FIRE Academy is in the process of training 241 new Fire Apparatus Engineers, Fire Captains, Heavy Fire Equipment Operators, and Foresters in our Company Officer Academy to meet the demands of the current seasonal outlook. As we enter the fall months, we will train an additional 92 new company officers in our Company Officer Academy for a total of 333 new company officers in 2015. The Firefighter Academy has trained 92 firefighters and company officers thus far, and will train a minimum of 368 more, for a total of 460 in 2015.
- The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is scheduled to meet on May 18th in Redding to begin developing a training program for chief officers, primarily Unit Chiefs, designed to increase awareness of the issues and needs facing CAL FIRE's cooperative partners as it relates to Cooperative Agreements. The Committee is also working on revising the current evaluation criteria to determine the feasibility of future fire protection reimbursement agreements.
- The CAL FIRE Academy is in full swing of training 241 new Fire Apparatus Engineers, Fire Captains, Heavy Equipment Operators, and Foresters in our Company Officer Academy. An additional 92 are scheduled for later this Fall for a total of 333 new company officers being trained in 2015. Additionally, the Academy has trained 92 firefighters and company officers in the Basic Firefighter Academy thus far, and have an additional 368 personnel scheduled during the remainder of 2015 for a total of 460 in 2015.
- CAL FIRE's Safety Program hosted its annual Safety Officer Workshop April 22 and 23. Participants were trained in railroad safety by representatives from Union Pacific Railroad, work site inspections by representatives from CalOSHA, accident and injury documentation for CAL FIRE's Injury Assessment and Prevention System (IAPS), and working with CAL FIRE Serious Accident Review Teams (SART).

LE/CCR:

- April 2015 arrests = 4
- Fiscal Year-to-date arrests = 95
- April 2015 citations (non-4291) = 31
- Fiscal Year-to-date citations (non-4291) = 298
- April 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$2,918,038
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$6,957,298