



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
October, 2015 Board of Forestry Report



Resource Management

Resource Protection Program

Seed Bank:

- The Seed Bank has been busy filling seed orders and completing the needed germination testing for our clients and for our own seeds. We have been actively involved with the coordinated effort to provide seeds to the affected property owners in the Valley Fire. Seventy-four pounds of seed have been sent to Cal Forest nursery to grow 300,000 seedlings for reforestation of the Boggs Mountain area for planting in 2016-17. We will continue to assist in providing seeds as well as make a concerted effort to locate and track developing cone crops in the Valley and Butte Fire areas, as well as all other areas where we had large fires.
- We have also received a significant seed order from the South Fork Trinity River area where a fire burned earlier this summer.

State Forests:

- In the aftermath of the Valley Fire, State Forest staff are busy rehabilitating Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF). While there are salvage plans underway, the primary, overarching goal is restoration of the Forest to an environmentally stable condition, and reestablishing a healthy resilient forest.
- CAL FIRE is reaching out to researchers at UC Berkeley, Humboldt State University and the US Forest Service to help us develop a comprehensive plan for research and demonstration at BMDSF, in the aftermath of the Valley Fire.
- The establishment of research plots is underway on BMDSF to study erosion and erosion control methods in the aftermath of the Valley Fire that severely damaged nearly the entire forest.
- Earlier this month, Dr. Joe Wagenbrenner, a researcher from Michigan Tech., consulted on BMDSF to evaluate the potential for additional research on the effects of the wildfire on hydrologic processes, erosion and sediment transport, potential mitigations for post-fire runoff and erosion, and the effects of post-fire management.
- Road and drainage crossing assessments are being conducted on BMDSF to evaluate immediate mitigation needs and long-term upgrades to comply with the new forest practice road rules. Emergency contract requests are in preparation for both roadwork and rock crushing contracts to facilitate the work. In addition, a prospectus and notice of sale was prepared and mailed to prospective bidders for the estimated 60 million board feet of salvage on BMDSF.

- Jackson Demonstration State Forest has applied for a \$400,000 Non-Point Source grant from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to improve Roads on the forest. These grants are funded with Timber Regulation Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) dollars.
- The Sequoia Forestry Challenge was held on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest on October 7th and 8th. There were 88 participants in this year's event.
- The tree mortality on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest is a significant problem. Salvage logging operations were halted on October 15, as the Sierra Forest Products log yard is completely full. The mill manager says that they currently have a one-year supply of logs.

Environmental Protection:

- CAL FIRE's Resource Protection staff are working with the California High Speed Rail Authority on a contract for the department to facilitate tree planting on behalf of the High Speed Rail Authority. 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 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 will be made soon. Additional associate state archaeologist hiring is expected to follow. CAL FIRE should have 12 archaeologists on staff in 2016.

Pest Control:

- Aerial surveys conducted by the USFS estimate that a total of 22 million trees have been killed so far this year due to the combination of drought and bark beetles. On average, 76,000 trees have died each day in 2015 due to drought and bark beetles.
- A new infestation of gold spotted oak borer has been discovered in Los Angeles County in the unincorporated community of Green Valley. The community is located within the Angeles National Forest and is isolated from any other current infestations of the insect. Around twenty trees were found to be infested with the pest. No trees on Forest Service land have been detected at this time. Green Valley is known for heating their homes with firewood and it is suspected that the insect arrived there via firewood movement showing the continuing potential for invasive pests to move around the state and from other states into California on firewood.
- Genetic analysis of the Polyphagous shot hole borer in San Diego County, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties show that not only are the two infestations due to two separate introductions of the pest, but that they are likely two separate species that appear very similar. The Los Angeles/Orange County infestation has been tied to a species that likely came from Vietnam. The San Diego outbreak appears to be a species found in the highlands of Taiwan. Researchers suspect that both introductions may have come to California on wood packing materials from their native ranges.

Vegetation Management Program:

Since March 2015, five of CAL FIRE's Administrative Units treated areas under the Vegetation Management Program, submitted completion reports and requested treated acre reimbursement: Amador-El Dorado Unit, San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit, Tehama-Glenn Unit, Fresno-Kings Unit and Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit.

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. Also, UC Berkeley representatives presented survey findings received from FCAT members to gain input on priorities for their resource economic study and insight on approaches to key topics to be included in the plan.
- 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 the 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 workshop was held Monday, October 19th to review the assessment findings with a broad audience including industry, consultants, agencies and community groups actively trying to locate biomass based businesses in their forested communities.
- 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 the end of November, has held listening sessions throughout the state and is hosting two workshops the week of October 26th.

FRAP – Briefing

Forests and Rangelands Assessment:

- Indicator development - Fire and Resource Assessment staff developed candidate draft indicators to report on in the Forests and Rangelands Assessment, 2016. FRAP has continued to work with a two member Board of Forestry group to refine indicators. In addition, FRAP has participated in meeting run by CNRA (Russ Henly) to develop ecological performance measures under AB 1492. Ecological performance measures and indicators are both tools for reporting on trend and status for a range of forest health variables. Continued discussion and coordination is needed to avoid redundancy of effort and clarify reporting.

Wildfire Issues:

- FRAP staff is arranging an interagency team to draft a white paper that highlights where there is consensus among scientists that fuel treatments can be an effective strategy to provide emissions avoidance and promote stable long-term carbon storage.
- Tadashi Moody (FRAP) has started work on developing a standard approach for estimating GhG emissions and carbon balance from fuel reduction projects. Tadashi prepared a project summary that was presented in a recent meeting to GO staff. Of 12 proposals reviewed, three were agreed upon for funding (with written justification) and three-research proposal are requested for funding.

Climate Change:

- FRAP (C. Keithley) will serve as a panel moderator for a forestry session at an upcoming Climate Change Symposium (Nov 2-3) in Sacramento.
- FRAP staff has developed a contract with UC Davis researchers to estimate potential shifts in the range of tree and shrub species under future climate scenarios. Preliminary results are expected in January 2016.

Vegetation Mapping (on going):

- The Fire and Resource Assessment Program continues to work with the USFS to develop a contingency plan to support the update of vegetation/fuels information. There are ongoing issues regarding shared priorities and USFS capacity to conduct joint mapping projects. Jerry Byrd (USFS) has offered to assist in the partnership. Some initial discussions were started to identify a location where a joint vegetation/fuels mapping would be useful for both programs.

Drought Monitoring:

- FRAP is working with Southern Region Staff Chief Glenn Barley and others in Resource Management to map dead, dying and diseased trees affected by the current drought. A Web Map Application was developed to assist Units to prioritize areas with high levels of tree mortality that need to be mapped. USGS provided CAL FIRE with high-resolution digital imagery to map tree mortality. FRAP staff are working to organize the imagery in a format that CAL FIRE staff can use via the web mapping application.

FIA Committee Assignment:

- Mark Rosenberg serves as CALFIRE's Western States Representative to the FIA management team. The program managers from FIA western regions expressed interest in continuing to build and sustain a coherent national voice for western states. Through a process of engagement with western states foresters, land managers, policy makers, science organizations and interested public, we hope to understand information needs that address current issues (i.e. carbon, urban forests, land use/cover change, etc.) and communicate opportunities to leverage the FIA programs. The FIA Program Managers for the two regions that cover Western States would like to conduct a survey of states representatives, and other clients of FIA data to understand current issues and work towards a region wide strategy.

AB1504 (Skinner, 2010):

- Mark Rosenberg provided an update to the BOF Forest Practice Committee on implementation of AB1504. Two agreements have been executed in support of this effort. One of these agreements, the agreement with Spatial Informatics Group (SIG), resulted in a report of potential Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) methods to evaluate if California's forest sector is sequestering 5 million metric tons of CO₂e/yr. Currently, FRAP staff are preparing a Forest Carbon Inventory Report based primarily on FIA data so the BOF can determine if a full LCA is warranted and what the boundaries of such an analysis might require. Mark is coordinating 1504 reporting requirements with inventory reporting provided in the Forest Carbon Plan.

PUC Utility Fire Threat Mapping:

- Dave Sapsis continues to chair an independent team of experts in fire hazard assessment to produce maps for implementing PUC fire safety regulations. The draft report summarizing the team's data development, model building process, and draft maps are currently under party expert review in anticipation of a public workshop November 12-13. It is anticipated that the

final maps and report will be completed in early 2016, initiating a second round of map deliberation to create the final regulation zones.

Forest Practice Program (through 9/30/2015)

Plan submissions:

- **THP submissions:** Santa Rosa has 110 new THP submittals, Redding 69, and Fresno has 10; totaling 189. THP submissions through September are down from last year (i.e. 189 compared to 204).
- **NTMP submissions:** There have been six NTMPs, and 102 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There have been two NTMPs and 15 NTOs submitted in Redding. No NTMPs or NTOs have been submitted this year in Fresno. NTMP submissions through September are down from last year (i.e., 8 compared to 11).
- **Exemption Notice submissions:** Exemption submissions are up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 314 exemptions submitted, Redding had 973 (compared to 768 last year at this time) and Fresno had 339. Through October 20, 2015 there were 113 Drought Mortality exemptions (14 CCR 1038(k)) submitted, 100 were submitted to the Fresno Office, 10 to the Redding Office and three to Santa Rosa.
- **Emergency Notice submissions:** Emergency submissions are significantly up compared to last year. Five Emergency Notices were submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 108 (compared to 67 at this time last year) and Fresno had 43 submitted.

General Review Team:

Redding/Fresno:

- A plan was received in the Siskiyou Unit and the PHI was held on October 20, 2015. The plan is drawing public concern about harvesting in the Sacramento canyon and visibility issues for residents of Mount Shasta and other nearby communities. Review Team attended the PHI to review the potential for significant visual impacts. Review is ongoing at this point.
- THP submissions are significantly lower in the Fresno office than in previous years; however, the use of the 1038(k) Drought Mortality exemption is being used throughout the Sierra Region to address the continuing impacts of drought-influenced mortality. There are currently over 13,000 acres being treated statewide under the 1038(k) Drought Mortality exemption.
- The LT Forester II Review Team Chair position is still vacant.

Santa Rosa:

- The Santa Rosa office has hired a second Forestry Assistant II; both positions of which were downgraded from Forester I for recruitment purposes.
- A vacant Forester II position remains at the Santa Rosa office.
- Dominik Schwab accepted the vacant Forest Practice System (FPS) Administrator Forester II position. Dominik will transition and may support his prior review team position as necessary and will assist the FPS cadre for training that is scheduled for October 27th and 28th.

Watershed Protection Program Update:

- CAL FIRE is taking the lead role in coordinating and implementing the State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response Teams (SPFWERT). The main objective is to conduct an all-inclusive rapid identification of exigent life safety hazards affiliated with the burn areas. The

effects of a wildfire on watersheds within the burn area can present conditions under which the threat of flooding, erosion, and debris flows is greatly increased. The SPFWERT plays a major role and is the first step necessary to expedite emergency watershed protection measures designed to protect lives and property. Critical to successful SPFWERT function are cooperation, communication, efficiency and transparency. This is a collaborative effort between federal, state, and local agencies, local tribes and stakeholder groups. The Teams completed their final reports and efforts to implement emergency protective measures are underway.

- Watershed Protection Program staff spent most of the last month on (1) wildfire-related work (Cafferata and Stanish), and (2) Basic Fire Control-Fire Fighter Academy (Coe).
 - Staff served as team leader and GIS analyst for the Valley Fire Phase I State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team (SPFWERT) effort. A final report was prepared on October 12th and presented to a group of local representatives in Middletown on October 13th.
 - Staff has prepared a draft paper documenting the steps that were followed for the Valley and Butte Phase I effort so that future work can benefit from the lessons learned from these fires.
 - Drew Coe authored a study plan and submitted a grant application titled “Post-Fire Response to Forest Management: Mitigations for Improved Water Quality Performance” for Water Board 2016 timber funding (\$162,000 with a \$56,700 match). CGS’s Don Lindsay has begun to install sediment fences on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest, burned by the Valley Fire in September.
- Pete Cafferata presented a talk titled “Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds: Background Information and Summary of Results from the First Two Experiments” to the 22nd Annual Meeting of the California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup on October 20th at UC Davis.
- The five-year update to the Caspar Creek 100 Year MOU has been signed by Director Pimlott and PSW Station Director Alexander Friend, and will be posted on the Caspar Creek website shortly.
- Work on the third Caspar Creek experiment study plan, being led by postdoctoral Researcher Salli Dymond is progressing. Staff participated in a conference call where it was decided that an un-replicated treatment gradient approach would be used in the new South Fork experiment.
- Stacy Stanish is developing a draft comment letter for the federal Coastal Multispecies Public Draft Recovery Plan (comment period closes December 4th). Public workshops will be held throughout the northern part of the state from October 14th to November 5th.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program is now fully staffed. Robert Little from AEU has accepted a Forester II promotion, filling the Region Forest Practice Enforcement Specialist position. He started his new position on October 5, 2015.
- There was one new conversion law enforcement case submitted last month. One of the active cases was closed. The total number of active cases (45) has not changed. There have been nine cases submitted in 2015. The majority of the new cases are related to illegal conversions. Two 2015 cases are related to harvest documents. The remaining active cases are in some stage of the process.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- LTO renewals and new applications are being processed in the order they are received. We continue to receive applications that are lacking critical information. Proof of proper insurance is a common item that is not included with applications. Applicants are contacted and the additional information requested. Applications are returned with letters of explanation regarding the lack of information if LTO Licensing does not hear back from the applicants.
- Staff is preparing to provide a Timber Operator Licensing Class and a general Forest Practice presentation at the Sierra Regional Logging Conference scheduled for February in Redding.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from the TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 9/30/2015:

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort** : The Forest Practice Program has utilized 85,717 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (29.5%); conducting forest practice inspections (26.0%); participating in mandated training (14.0%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.1%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.6%); forest practice law enforcement (2.9%); responding to letters of concern (2.0%); 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 118,186 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.4%); conducting forest practice inspections (18.9%); emergency incident support (13.2%); participation in mandated training (10.1%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (8.7%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (8.4%); other forestry related activities (8.4%); other duties in support of unit programs (5.9%); forest practice law enforcement (2.1%); responding to letters of concern (1.5%); and project/program monitoring (0.6%). 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 Leadership Team**: The AB 1492 Leadership Team meetings continue to be held approximately every month, mainly in Sacramento. The Team recently discussed a follow-up meeting with CA Forestry Association, updates on work completed by the Center for Collaborative Policy, a web-based work-sharing site for the TRFRF program, data development for the 2016 Legislative Report and updates on the TRFRF grant programs. A meeting was held October 7, 2015 to brainstorm ecological performance measures.

FIRE PROTECTION

Cooperative Fire, Training, Safety and EMS

- **Local Government Program** – With Governor Brown's approval of Senate Bill 239 on October 10th, any new or renewed Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreement meeting specified criteria will require analysis and approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the Department of Finance (DOF). Those criteria include: (1) a *transfer of the responsibility for providing services in more than 25 percent of the area within jurisdictional boundaries of a public agency affected by the contract or agreement*; or (2) *the change of the employment status of more than 25 percent of the employees of a public agency affected by the contract or*

agreement. Amador Agreements (PRC §4144) are specifically exempted. Local Government Program staff is current working on a communication strategy to convey this information to CAL FIRE administrative units.

- **Conservation Camp Program** –As of October 14th, 8 crews statewide have fallen below full strength (14+) and the inmate population remains at 87% of capacity while statewide crew strength remains at 77%. The current number of early release inmates as a result of Prop 47 and realignment was not available at the time of this report. CAL FIRE and CDCR continue to be engaged in discussions regarding incentives for inmates to volunteer for the Program.
- **EMS Program - The CAL FIRE 7200 Issuance Handbook** has been posted for use statewide. This has been a work in progress since the inception of AB2917, also known as EMT 2010. The department's EMS Working Group has done an excellent job providing this material for use.
- **Safety Program** - The Safety Program working with CalPIA finalized the wildland Nomex specification for our firefighter wildland ensemble. CalPIA is producing this interim garment as the Safety Program continues to evaluate the department Hazard and Risk Assessment for production of a future wildland firefighting ensemble.

The Safety Program is preparing to host Serious Accident Review Team (SART) training to Los Angeles City and County. Costs associated with this training will be paid for and/or reimbursed by Los Angeles City and County.

- **Training Program** - The California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC) will be hosting a three-day conference November 4 - 6, 2015. CAL FIRE Training Officers will be present to obtain up to date information for the future of our JAC Program.

Preparation is being finalized for the startup of the Ben Clark Training Center Fire Fighter Academy on November 9, 2015, being hosted by the CAL FIRE Academy in Riverside County.

Operations

- Command and Control staff attended IRWIN (Integrated Reporting of Wildland-fire Information) meeting in Boise October 6th – 7th. The purpose was to ensure that any data requirements in regards to ICS 209 submittal and CAL FIRE's interests were articulated and supported. The meeting went extremely well with a follow-up on-line meeting scheduled for 10/22/2015
- Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) workshop scheduled for April 2016. This is a result of the re-write of the 7800 Fire Environment Handbook and the Federal update of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Units will be updating their plans to incorporate historical and current fire weather, fuel conditions, NFDRS components, and fire history to assist in Dispatch level determination and decision-making.

AMU/TAO

- Currently developing a strategic aviation plan for the Department. The committee has been identified and the first meeting was held with future meeting dates set.
- TAO staff attended the National Aerial Supervision meetings in Boise. CAL FIRE has also submitted proposals for consideration in utilization of USFS contracted "super scoopers" while operating in California. TAO also participated in the National Interagency Aviation Committee's subcommittee meeting for aerial supervision.

LE/CCR

- September 2015 arrests = 19
- Fiscal Year-to-date arrests = 178
- September 2015 citations (non-4291) = 66
- Fiscal Year-to-date citations (non-4291) = 644
- September 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$1,055,093
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$14,621,557

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Plan:

- 2015 Annual Update of Fire Plan Accomplishments presented at today's meeting.
- Continuing work on Prescribed Fire component for inclusion into the Fire Plan.
- BC Scott Witt attended Western States Forestry Managers (WSFM) Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant Workshop in Santa Fe, NM. \$12 Million was available for 17 Western States.
- California submitted 10 Grant proposals, and three of these grants have tentatively been approved for just under \$700,000.
- Annual Fire Plan/Pre-Fire Engineer Workshop in November at the Lone Academy is being prepared.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee (SRAFPF) Program:

- New Deputy Chief, Joel Vela, started work in Sacramento on September 14, 2015.
- Transition of SRA Program moving from FRAP progressing well.
- SRAFPF staff met with BOE staff on October 1, 2015, to plan for FY 2015-16 Fire Prevention Fee billing cycle (Note: this will be the 5th year of the SRAFPF program)
- FY 2015-16 SRAFPF Grant Program for \$5 Million is ongoing. The Procedural Guide and Application have been updated application period opened Monday, October 26, 2015. Grant Applications are due no later than January 7, 2016, at 3:00 PM.

CAIRS:

- 2014 Redbook has been completed and is now available publicly.
- CAIRS software program updates have been delayed due to staff changes and current contract issues requiring contract amendment.
- Kirsti Fong has accepted an offer to transfer into a DSFM position, and efforts are being made to fill her position.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

- Accela software program has been cancelled for the Pre Fire Inspection and Post Fire Assessment programs.
- Pre-Fire Inspection program is moving forward with a cloud-based solution from ESRI.
- Major Damage Inspection Team deployment on four separate incidents for 2015 so far. OSFM Divisions have been heavily engaged on each deployment with leadership from members of the Land Use Planning Program.
- Damage Inspection Training class has been completed for 24 students, including OSFM personnel.

Land Use Planning:

- Land Use Planning staff members were heavily committed to helping with the Valley Fire's and Butte Fire's Damage Inspection Teams.
- Coordinated assistance is being planned for Land Use Planning staff to help local CAL FIRE personnel navigate the difficult rebuilding process in both Lake and Calaveras Counties.
- Staff members continue to reach out to city and county jurisdictions to help with updates to Safety Elements and Housing Elements of General Plans.