



## Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814



June 2016 Board of Forestry Report

---

### Resource Management

#### Forest Practice Program (through 5/31/2016)

##### Plan Submissions:

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa had 54 new THP submittals, Redding had 21, and Fresno had 3, totaling 78. THP submissions through April were down from last year (i.e., 78 compared to 94).
- **NTMP Submissions:** There were 7 NTMPs and 20 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There was 1 NTMP and 8 NTOs submitted in Redding. No new NTMPs were submitted in Fresno, but 1 NTO was submitted. NTMP submissions are up from last year at this time (i.e., 8 compared to 3).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions are up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 166 exemptions submitted, Redding had 671 (compared to 647 last year), and Fresno had 456 (compared to 165 last year). There have been a total of 647 Drought Mortality exemptions submitted under the new regulations, 492 of which were submitted to Fresno.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were slightly up compared to last year. There were 30 Emergency Notices submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 23, and Fresno had 46 submitted.
- **Plan Approval:** 96 THPs have been approved in 2016, in addition to 7 NTMPs.

#### General Review Team

##### Santa Rosa

- Meghan Reeves promoted to Forester II on May 30<sup>th</sup> and is the new Review Team Chair.
- There are two Forester II vacancies (one Review Team Chair Forester II, and one TRFRF Forester II).

- Redding staff are assisting Santa Rosa with plan approval of coastal plans until the vacancies are filled.
- We also have a vacant Program Technician II position (Mail Desk).
- Forestry Assistant II Jeremiah Steuterman graduated from COA. Forestry Assistant II Topher Henderson is attending COA and is expected to graduate June 17, 2016.

### **Redding**

- Forester II Review Team Chair Jon Woessner attended the Basic Forest Practice training as a cadre member the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Forest Practice Manager John Ramaley assisted the cadre on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Jon Woessner has continued to assist the Santa Rosa Review Team in Timber Harvest Plan Review, both in approvals and for First Review.
- Forest Practice Manager John Ramaley attended a field review of post fire habitat conditions for the Northern Spotted Owl on June 1<sup>st</sup>, with CAL FIRE, CDFW, and the USFWS reviewing the Beaver Fire.
- The TRFRF Forester II Dan Craig has been assigned as a Subject Matter Expert for the ACELLA team

### **Fresno**

- Forester I Kevin Kinery attended the Basic Forest Practice training the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Drought Mortality Exemptions have continued to be submitted at an elevated pace in the Fresno office. Recent bark beetle flights have been reported along with an increased submission level of the 1038(k) exemptions. Statewide, over 80,000 acres have been proposed for harvest under the Drought Mortality Exemption to date.
- Butte Fire Emergency Notices for harvesting in TCU are continuing to be submitted to Fresno, along with other non-discretionary documents related to the salvage of the Butte Fire. The Unit is seeing an increase in illegal harvesting as well.

### **Watershed Protection Program Update**

- Watershed Program staff attended the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Elk River Basin Plan Amendment/WDR Order hearing held in Loleta on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The NCRWQCB passed a Basin Plan amendment to establish Elk River watershed sediment TMDL and TMDL Action Plan, and is continuing to consider a HRC WDR Order.

- Watershed staff were cadre members for the Basic Forest Practice class held in Lone from May 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Stacy Stanish was the lead for the course. Staff will serve on the cadre for the Fire Suppression Repair class to be held at Lone from June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.
- Detailed peer review comments have been received for the revised watercourse crossing guidance document from Dr. Kevin Boston, OSU, Gordon Keller, USFS (retired), Dr. Bill Weaver, PWA, and Dr. Leslie Reid, USFS (retired). Watershed staff, working with CGS's Bill Short and Don Lindsay, will incorporate their edits in June and July. The goal is to finish the document by August 2016.
- The annual Caspar Creek watershed meeting with the USFS PSW was held in Fort Bragg on May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items covered included a review of sediment, flow, and fisheries data collected over the past three water years; an update on the third experiment in the South Fork and THP development; a PSW staffing update; annual work plan review; and a field tour to the South Fork.
- The BOF's Monitoring Study Group met in Middletown on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Indoor agenda items included a PowerPoint presentation by Nick Harrison, HRC, on his M.S. thesis titled "Understanding the Effects of Soil Exposure in Fuels Treatments that Balance Fuel Reduction and Erosion Control in the Tahoe Basin;" brief summaries on MSG cooperative instream monitoring projects; and brief updates on AB 1492 and EMC efforts. In the afternoon, there was a field tour on of the post-fire runoff and erosion studies being conducted on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. Observation and discussion took place at multiple plot and catchment-scale sediment fences installed in the fall of 2015 after the Valley Fire burned BMDSF. The tour was led by Drew Coe. He is cleaning out the sediment fences for water year 2016 the week of May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Watershed staff continue to participate in the BOF's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. At the meeting held on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Redding, staff provided updated descriptions for four projects: (1) Class II-L monitoring, (2) Effectiveness of the Road Rules in Reducing Hydrologic Connectivity and Significant Sediment Discharge, (3) BMDSF Post-Fire Research and Effectiveness Monitoring, and (4) FORPRIEM ver. 2.0.
- Watershed staff continue to participate in the ad hoc Wood for Salmon Working Group, which held a meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa. Agenda items included presentations on Gualala River restoration activities, the Mattole River heliwood project, and discussion on a draft outline for a short guidance document for THP preparers and landowners on placing large wood in Class I watercourses during timber operations approved under 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9] (v).
- Stacy Stanish continues to monitor the wildlife camera stations she has established on Demonstration State Forests, including Mountain Home DSF. She is working on the Drought Mortality Task Force in the Tulare Unit from May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 17<sup>th</sup>, marking dead and dying trees.

## Forest Practice Enforcement Update

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has had a total of 6 cases submitted in 2016. There are a total of 45 active civil cases. Fourteen active cases are in the review process for signature. Six cases have been served and are waiting for response from respondents. Ten cases are due and payable or in need of judgements. There are payments being made for 5 cases, and an additional 10 are under stipulated settlement mitigation. The enforcement program continues to assist Santa Rosa Review Team with THP processing.
- Also note: Forester I Shane Larsen recently completed the POST academy and is assigned to SHU.

## Timber Operators Licensing Program Update

- The LTO classes have been filling up. An additional class has been added in July in Roseville. The information for the class has been posted on the CAL FIRE website. Staff has been working on mailing out the certificates from the recent classes and working on developing new application forms.

## Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from TRFRF database 1/1/2016 through 4/30/2016

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 43,879 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (27.9%); review and processing of THPs (25.2%); participating in mandated training (19.4%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (11.0%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (9.8%); forest practice law enforcement (2.3%); responding to letters of concern (2.2%); Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities (0.6%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include 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 53,014 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: conducting forest practice inspections (23.1%); review and processing of THPs (20.8%); participating in mandated training (16.1%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (9.1%); other forestry related activities (8.6%); other duties in support of unit programs (8.5%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (8.1%); forest practice law enforcement (1.9%); and responding to letters of concern (1.8%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time (less than 1%) include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, project/program monitoring, emergency incident support, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)

## **Resource Protection and Improvement Program**

### **Urban and Community Forestry:**

- Work continues on all Urban and Community Forestry GGRF grant projects. Projects are continuing work and are actively billing and reporting regularly.
- The program is currently advertising for a Program Manager Forester II. The previous program manager, John Melvin, has promoted to Staff Chief of Resource Protection and Improvement.
- Federal funding (USFS) sub-grants are active. Six projects are funded for FY 2015 funds, and 2 have been completed.
- The program is currently in the process of hiring a Regional Urban Forester for the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast area to replace Guy Anderson (promotion to Forester II in Forestry Assistance).
- The program is beginning the review and selection process for sub-granting of 2016 USFS funding. These funds are used for projects that state GGRF funds cannot be used to fund. These include priority educational, applied research, and outreach projects.

### **State Forests**

- Salvage harvesting and site preparation operations continue on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest as a result of the Valley Fire. With long haul distances to mills and a lack of sufficient log trucks to keep up with production, large log decks have been created on some logging units awaiting transport.
- A Monitoring Study Group field tour was conducted on Boggs Mountain State Forest on May 18<sup>th</sup> to observe and discuss the erosion studies and carbon sequestration research being conducted on the forest.
- The new Boggs Mountain State Forest Manager, Peter Leuzinger, reported for work on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Jackson State Forests Chris Ardis (Forestry Assistant II) completed the Fire Fighter Academy and is now attending the 6-week Company Officer Academy (COA) at Lone.
- A Jackson State Forest Advisory Group (JAG) meeting was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to review and inspect three of the four 2017 THPs being prepared.
- The Annual Jackson State Forest Caspar Creek Research Cooperators Meeting was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 20 different stakeholders attended the meeting, including representatives from PSW, CDFW, CGS, USFS, UC Berkeley, and CAL FIRE. Dr. Salli Dymond presented an update on the Third Phase Experiment South Fork Research Plan.

- Jackson State Forest staff attended a Utility Arborist Association meeting held at the SMUD Hedge Training facility in Sacramento. The meeting was held to discuss research opportunities for utility Right-of-Ways (ROWs) and research focus areas around Integrated Vegetation Management. PG&E has donated \$250k as seed monies to fund research efforts in this field. The state forest system was introduced as a potential location to conduct research.
- Jackson State Forest staff collaborated with the Mendocino Unit Prevention Staff in the annual Fort Bragg Fire Prevention Day held on May 27<sup>th</sup>, delivering 15-minute interactive presentations to over 400 elementary school students.
- Jackson State Forest staff attended a planning meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> for a project to document the decline in Bishop Pine stands on the Coast. Chris Lee, CAL FIRE Forest Health Specialist, is coordinating work over a two-year period with Oregon State University to examine healthy and declining stands.
- Attempts to locate northern spotted owls (NSO) on Jackson State Forest has become increasingly difficult, as owls are not responding as frequently to auditory survey methods as normal, and those that do, are not found during the daytime follow-up. A new paradigm of lower owl survey effectiveness despite increased effort seems to have emerged in the last three years.
- Bids were received for the Jackson State Forest Resource Inventory (FRI), and a contractor has been awarded the project consisting of plot establishment and data collection on over 17,000 measure and count plots across the entire forest.
- The Latour State Forest Manager position remains vacant. Interviews for the position will be held in the next few weeks. Three Forestry Aides reported for work on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and Trinity River Lumber Company submitted bids in May for the Latour State Forest Old Cow Timber Sale. SPI was the high bidder at \$492,175.00 for 2.96 million board feet of predominantly true fire.
- Latour State Forest contract crews planted 25,000 seedlings in May at various locations throughout the forest. The seedlings were utilized to replant brush conversion sites and to restock group selections units.
- Eight new trail cams were installed on Latour State Forest, and more than a dozen HOBO water temperature and turbidity monitoring devices were reinstalled in South Cow Creek to continue collecting baseline data for the Cave Rock VTAC Timber Harvest Plan project.

- The Soquel State Forest weather station was upgraded with modem and increased power supply to provide data on the internet. The weather station is now accessible on a Western Weather website <http://www.westernwx.com/calfire/>, Weather Underground <https://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=pws:KCASOQUE20>, as well as a password enabled database website for archived weather data. The website can also be queried for real-time data during emergency incidents on a separate url.
- Retired CAL FIRE Captain Lawrence Erickson led a team of volunteers on Soquel State Forest to complete a spring herpetology survey along Soquel Creek. A journalist from UC Santa Cruz ran a story on the local NPR radio station. It is posted at <http://kazu.org/post/herpers-help-scientists-protect-cold-blooded-wildlife>, and available for listening.
- Researcher and graduate student Benjamin Plourde returned to Soquel State Forest in May to follow up with his study of tick-borne disease and small mammal populations in the Comstock Mill THP area and control sites.
- Soquel State Forest staff led a field trip for the public organized by the Coastal Watershed Council of the large wood projects with Cheryl Hayhurst of the California Geological Survey (CGS) and Sue Sogard of NOAA Fisheries. Forest staff also led a field trip of the large wood projects for local foresters and hydrologists involved in stream restoration on the Central Coast.
- Both Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest and the adjacent Balch County Park opened for public use on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Balch Park has only opened 38 of its 68 campgrounds due to water delivery issues. By noon on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, all 104 campsites at Mountain Home were occupied, including the four equestrian sites.
- The three Forestry Aides hired for Mountain Home State Forest reported for work in May.
- Five cone collection permits were sold on Mountain Home State Forest, resulting in the collection of 150 bushels of giant sequoia cone.
- Cal Fire Biologist Stacy Stanish installed baited camera stations on Mountain Home State Forest. Numerous bears, foxes, two Pacific Fishers, and a pine marten have been caught on camera.
- There was no measurable snow on Mountain Home State Forest for a May snow survey at the normal survey sites.

## **L.A. Moran Reforestation Center**

- Staff is very busy maintaining LAMRC facilities and machinery and trying to get all equipment ready for cone season.
- Seed lab personnel are coordinating getting the new freezer fully operational. This process will take several months to complete as they are concurrently confirming the entire inventory, and there are approximately 8,500 boxes of seed to move and confirm contents.
- We have completed the contracting for the new Dewinger build project and new Cone Tumbler build project. Both of these units are being constructed right now and will be ready for operation in approximately 2 months. Additionally, staff are seeking bids and coordinating new Cone Shed build project.
- Staff are assisting in field cone surveys in several of the units hit especially hard by the tree mortality in an effort to capture any cone crops from those areas.
- Staff are assisting Tech Services with old well surveys to renovate/reuse the old well on site. This project has just been approved. Wells will be available as irrigation water source for LAMRC.
- Now that staff are back from the Academy, we have started to stratify several seed lots (from 2015 collections and seed lots that need a retest at the five year interval) for germination tests.
- The new UltraFocus x-ray unit was shipped off to the Faxitron headquarters in Arizona after image issues and is undergoing extensive troubleshooting. The unit will be repaired, as it is under warranty.
- Staff at LAMRC is going to assist with a Giant Sequoia cone collection for research at Whitaker Forest the first week of June, and the cones will be processed at the LAMRC facility.
- CAL FIRE LAMRC welcomes a new staff member, Mike Esposito who started working on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mike comes to us from Southern California Edison Company as a forestry technician. He has a degree in forestry from Berkeley and will be focusing his efforts on management of our seed orchards and North Sierra Tree Improvement Association, as well as all other duties related to cone and seed processing. He will be attending the fire academy in early winter 2017. Mike has extensive wildland fire experience.

## California Forest Improvement Program

- To date 68 CFIP contracts are either signed or are pending signature. This represents over 20,000 acres and \$1.75 million in encumbrances for forest improvement work and forest management plans.
- The Deputy Director of Resource Management has been asked to sign a policy memo stating that the 90% cost-share rate be applied to those projects where more than 10% of the cost is associated with activities “... *devoted to conservation measures and/or fish and wildlife habitat improvement practices.*” This is allowed under PRC § 4795 (c) (3) and CCR Title 14 § 1530 (b) (2).
- The Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance has issued a moratorium on any CFIP agreements in which the landowner wishes to do all or some of the work his/her self. In the past the program has always utilized the NRCS EQIP rates to establish the hourly rate a landowner may be paid. However, landowners are complaining that the rate is too low. The moratorium will continue until such time as we can establish a fair and equitable rate, regionally or statewide. The new rates will be established with guidance of the California Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and must be approved by the Board of Forestry.

## Forest Legacy Program

- The Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance has named Division Chief John “Brook” Darley (Forester II) as the new “acting” FLP coordinator. All applications and grant agreements will now go through him. Chief Darley will be working with WCB and various Land Trusts as needed to deliver both State and Federal funding allocated to the program
- The three working-forest conservation easements of the Eel River Peninsula, Phase 2, FLP project closed on June 2, 2016. The addition of 15,620 acres will bring the total in the California program to 111,379 acres.
- The Legacy Program also has two projects with approved funding and within the “Due Diligence” information gathering phase of the process: Ryan Creek in Humboldt County (federal funding) and Rainbow Ridge in Siskiyou County (combination of federal and state GGRF funding).
- The USFS conducted a 5 year audit of California’s FLP program in March, 2016. From the review, only minor administrative recommendations were noted.

## **Cultural Resources**

- Michael McGuirt, the SRA Program Archaeologist, prepared procedures for Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) related projects to follow for cultural resources that will expedite the process of getting TMTF work accomplished while still protecting cultural resources.
- CAL FIRE expects to hire two new Associate State Archaeologists (one based in Sacramento, and one in Fresno) this year.

## **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program**

- CAL FIRE completed its annual reporting on FY 14-15 GGRF projects to the Air Resources Board.
- The Governor's budget should provide funds for Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Legacy, and Forest Health projects that provide climate benefits in FY 16-17. Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Legacy will be similar to past GGRF programs. Forest Health will be a new program in FY 16-17.
- Program development is currently underway. Meetings with Air Resources Board staff on this topic are ongoing.

## **Other Grant Programs**

- CAL FIRE is nearly done negotiating an inter-agency agreement to assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority meet its environmental commitments to offset direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction of Phase 1 of the California High-Speed Rail Project.
- CAL FIRE will provide tree planting services through its Landowner Assistance and Urban and Community Forestry Programs. The tree planting will provide climate benefits by sequestering carbon.

## **FRAP**

- 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 is in the process of restructuring the format of the Assessment report around indicators.
- Wildfire Issues: FRAP staff (Dave Sapsis – lead) arranged 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. The white paper has been completed and is being made available as a CAL FIRE Forestry Note.

- GGRF Quantification Methodology: Tadashi Moody (FRAP) continues to work with ARB on quantification methodology for estimating GHG emissions and carbon balance from fuel reduction projects. This work will support CAL FIRE GGRF funded projects at both the project and landscape level.
- Fire Effects, Carbon, and Forest Recovery – ongoing research and stand inventory monitoring following the Valley Fire at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest.
- Fire Map 1 for PUC - FRAP (D. Sapsis) lead a technical committee that developed a map that depicts areas of California where there is an elevated hazard for the ignition and spread of fire from utility lines under conditions with strong winds and dry vegetation. The PUC adopted Fire Map 1 and are under deliberation of the second phase of the project.
- Climate Change: FRAP (C. Keithley) assisting FCAT in developing the Forest Carbon Plan and other supporting documents.
- Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF): FRAP staff are supporting Mapping and Monitoring work group and the Forest Health work group. Staff has developed a mapping application that local government can use for entering tree removal projects. The application will also show CAL FIRE projects that have been captured in Cal MAPPER. Coordinating with USFS on revised tree mortality estimates.
- FIA Committee Assignment: Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is in the process of developing a contract with USFS-PNW to develop custom FIA tables and take a primary role in preparing an inventory report that meets AB 1504 reporting requirements.
- CalMAPPER FRAP staff are working with IT, OSFM (D. Shew), and Phyllis Banducci to implement a contract that will be used to upgrade and enhance Cal MAPPER. The upgrade will allow CalMAPPER application to be better integrated with existing GIS software.

### **Forest Pest Management**

- Bark beetle activity continues to expand northward in the Sierra Nevada Range. More activity is appearing in Calaveras, El Dorado, Amador, Nevada, and Placer Counties in addition to the high hazard counties of the southern Sierra. Much of this activity is from attacks that occurred last year. More activity is likely to appear as the season continues.
- Work has begun on a study of bishop pine decline along the Mendocino/Sonoma Coast. Bishop pine decline was first noted around Fort Bragg around a decade ago and has been spreading southward ever since. The study is a joint venture by CAL FIRE, Cooperative Extension, California State Parks, independent scientists and the Oregon State University and is being funded by the USFS. Potential causes to be examined are extreme tree age, poor regeneration due to fire control, and insects and diseases.

- Conspicuous bark beetle and disease activity has increased all along the north coast since the beginning of 2016. Most activity is in planted pines of various species, and the major bark beetle involved is the Ips Engraver beetle.
- Aerial detection surveys for tree mortality have begun by the USFS. The surveys are likely to show further spread of the bark beetle epidemic.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium is scheduled for the end of June in San Francisco. Although the disease has been greatly reduced in the past few years due to drought, it is likely to return as a problem with the return of rainfall to the central and northern coastal areas of the state. A potential positive find for sudden oak death from San Luis Obispo County presently being analyzed to see if it is truly positive for the disease. San Luis Obispo County's is not presently listed as a positive county for SOD.
- Polyphagous shot hole borer continues to spread in southern California along with the Kuroshio shot hole borer. A new infestation has been found along the Santa Ana River in Riverside that offers the potential for spread along the river corridor up into the forested mountain regions in southern California.

### **Climate and Energy Program**

- The Forest Carbon Action Team (FCAT) established a technical team to manage the drafting of the Forest Carbon Plan. The team consists of representatives from CAL FIRE, CNRA, CARB and USFS. Compiling data and drafting the report is in progress and on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.
- The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to make progress on implementing the tree mortality emergency proclamation. There are two working groups focused on biomass management: 1) Bioenergy and 2) Markets Development. The Investor-Owned Utilities have filed advice letters and supplemental letters and riders to the CUPC for the BioRAM program. These letters outline the terms of the power solicitation and are one of the first steps for CPUC to approve initiation of the RAM auction. Two protests have been filed by facility operators. Several issues have been resolved and parties have come to agreements, however there are outstanding issues. If the protests are not resolved and removed, the CPUC will need to issue a resolution for Commissioner review, which will slow the program launch by 2 months or longer.
- The CPUC Administrative Law Judge released a request for supplemental comments addressing the interconnection issue. Several questions were posed related to the Bioenergy Association of California's proposal which was submitted in prior comments. CPUC will take these comments into account when issuing the final BioMAT program decision.

- CAL FIRE is coordinating with USFS and other land managers to compile data to provide an estimate of the volume of trees that will be removed over the next 5 - 10 years and associated costs. This is important in order to ensure an adequate amount of facilities and megawatt capacity is available to help manage the trees.
- Market Development - Several market opportunities are being investigated by the Market Development Working Group, including:
  - Exports of logs – Logs from private property are being exported by operators to overseas markets, primarily China. The volume limitation is a shortage of delivery trucks.
  - The Office of Planning & Research (OPR) has formed a Technical Advisory Group to compile data on potential markets for biochar. CAL FIRE is a member. While nothing is on the immediate horizon, this potential market warrants continued investigation.
  - Salton Sea is required to mitigate dust on the playa. CAL FIRE is coordinating with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and others to evaluate the potential to apply chipped dead trees to abate dust. As part of this, the potential to transport the wood by rail is under consideration.

### **Tree Mortality Task Force**

The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to work to implement the directives of the Governor's State of Emergency proclamation. The following are highlights:

- An updated Aerial Detection Survey was conducted in May by the USDA Forest Service. The flight covered low elevation forestland along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Range (below snowline). Results are anticipated within two to four weeks.
- The possible use of heavy equipment from out-of-state, such as logging trucks and boom trucks, to augment resources available within California for tree removal work has raised the question of out-of-state equipment's compliance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. This potential impediment to bringing additional resources to assist in California will be reviewed and solutions sought in conjunction with CARB.
- The Bioenergy Working Group continues to compile data to provide an estimate of the volume of trees that will be removed over the next 5 - 10 years and associated costs. This is important because it potentially impacts the number of facilities and megawatt capacity available to help manage the biomass from removed trees.

- The Investor-Owned Utilities have filed advice letters and riders to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). These letters outline the terms of the power solicitation and are one of the first steps for CPUC to approve initiation of the RAM auction. Several issues need to be resolved and facility operators, utilities, CPUC, CAL FIRE and other stakeholders are talking these through in hopes to resolve the issues informally. If this is not successful, the CPUC will need to issue a resolution which will slow the process for 2 months or longer. The CPUC Administrative Law Judge released a request for supplemental comments addressing the interconnection issue. Several questions are posed related to the Bioenergy Association of California's proposal which was submitted in prior comments. Comments are due May 25<sup>th</sup>, and reply comments are due June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Governor's May Budget Revision was released on May 13<sup>th</sup>, which included a request for a one-time increase of \$11 million General Fund dollars for CAL FIRE to assist in the removal and disposal of trees in high hazard areas. This includes:
  - \$6 million for the California Conservation Corps and grants to local entities, including local government, fire districts, local conservation corps, tribal entities, and fire safe councils, to provide support to local efforts to remove hazardous trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.
  - \$5 million to support additional miscellaneous equipment, personnel overtime for foresters, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators, for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.

## **Fire Protection**

### **Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery Programs**

- CAL FIRE's Regular Basic Course (RBC, aka "POST") graduation is Friday, June 3, 2016.
- 18 new peace officers will be graduating the academy and entering their field training program.
- For the month of May 2016, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made eight arrests and issued 29 non-4291 related citations.
- For the month of May 2016, CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery received \$183,799 in fire suppression cost reimbursements.

### **Mobile Equipment**

- Released (1) Engines, (5) Light Utilities, (14) Artisan/Mechanic Vehicles, (8) Bull Dozer Support Units, and (1) Van in May.

- An incident of vandalism occurred at the Davis Mobile Equipment Facility, resulting in damage to the exterior perimeter fence and theft of four tires off of a new vehicle.
- CAL FIRE's Fleet Acquisition Plan is going through final approvals at DGS.

### **State-Federal**

- CAL FIRE and USFS Region 5 executive staffs met recently to discuss how to address the findings of November 2015 Federal Office of Inspector general (OIG) audit of USFS operations.
- An Ad Hoc working group has been established with representatives from both agencies to begin identifying and prioritizing specific areas of the State for evaluation where direct protection areas (DPA) were brought into question by the audit.
- Both agencies also developed a strategy for initiating the review and renewal of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFMA) which expires in February of 2018.

### **Conservation Camps**

- As a result of the current inmate shortage, five CAL FIRE conservation camps have "browned out" one crew each. Rather than staff crews which are under the required number of members (minimum of 12), the decision was made to fully staff fewer crews with 14 to 16 until the inmate population issue improves.
- The Butte Fire Center in Magalia (CCC/CAL FIRE) is on schedule to be fully operational by July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the first operational fire crew has already received its Type I rating.
- The statewide conservation camps count as of Wednesday, May 25, 2016, stands at 84% of capacity, while crew capacity stands at 73%.
- The current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is 885 (a reduction of 5 from 890 as of May 11, 2016).

### **Local Government Program**

- Program has been providing technical assistance to the Region and Unit Chiefs relative to the cost impacts of the recent minimum wage increase legislation on local government cooperative agreements.
- This increase, as well as other potential wage increases through collective bargaining, has become a concern for some local government agencies under agreement with CAL FIRE for fire protection services.

## Training

- CAL FIRE's new Statewide Training Staff Chef, Brent Stangeland, began work on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The CAL FIRE Academy is winding down its 2016 training season.
- On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the final Company Officer Academy (COA) for this training season began.
- The Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO) academy will graduate on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The last Fire Fighter Academy (FFA) for this training season graduates on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Safety

- CAL FIRE's new Staff Chief of Safety, EMS and R&D, Curtis Brown, started work on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Program is working on the hiring process for the vacant Department Safety Officer Battalion Chief position and will soon begin working on the hiring process to fill the vacant EMS and Safety Deputy Chief position.

## Aviation Management Unit

- The air tanker reconstruction project continues to progress with many of the ordered parts being delivered.
- Air Tanker reconstruction project is estimated to be approximately 15% complete.
- Next generation helicopter project acquisition team has met three times, and the final specification is nearly complete.

## Tactical Air Operations

- Program is coordinating training for CAL FIRE's newly designed helitender to be conducted the first and second weeks of June.

## Operations Support

- **Telecommunications:** In an effort to meet CAL FIRE's mission requirements with the least amount of impact to firefighter safety, over 100 of the "legacy" GPH hand held radios were distributed to the field after being refurbished. With the gracious assistance of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, an additional 180 Kenwood TK790s mobile radios were distributed to the field after going through the PSCO for narrow band tuning and repair in only 38 days. A tremendous Thank You to the cooperative efforts of both our sister agency and CalOES Public Safety Communications for making this possible.

- **Command and Control:** Office space at CalOES for CAL FIRE's Sacramento Command Center continues to be a constraint. There is currently no agreement in place for the existing space at the State Operations Center and no guarantee that we can continue providing Command and Control from that location due to increased needs on part of both agencies. CAL FIRE is evaluating all options, including the possibility of relocating to another location.
- **Command and Control:** Ramping up for increased activity with a Joint CAL FIRE/ CalOES pre-season meeting scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a CAL FIRE Intel meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and Intel training on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2016  
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH MAY**

*Note:* This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans, Exemptions, Emergencies, and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans submitted to the Department during a calendar year. The numbers are the cumulative totals for the calendar year as of the specific date

Year Comparison	Santa Rosa		Redding		Riverside		Fresno		Totals	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
THPs Received	59	62	21	38	0	0	3	8	83	108
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	9	13	4	25	0	0	2	7	15	45
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	62	65	20	32	0	0	3	6	85	103
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
THPs Approved	61	49	33	20	0	0	2	8	96	77
Acreage in Approved THPs	18,700	12,506	14,999	29,467	0	0	806	2,281	34,505	44,254
NTMPs Received	9	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	3
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	8	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	4
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	5	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	5
NTMPs Approved Acres	842	721	2,917	84	0	0	0	0	3,759	805
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	21	25	8	5	0	0	2	0	31	30
Exemption Notices Received	165	172	669	643	2	4	453	162	1,289	981
Emergency Notices Received	30	1	22	66	0	0	46	28	98	95
<b>Exemption Types Received 2016</b>	<b>&lt; 3 Acre Conversions</b>		<b>Fire Hazard</b>		<b>Forest Fire Prevention</b>		<b>Dead Dying Diseased</b>		<b>Other Exemp</b>	<b>Rec'd 2016</b>
Santa Rosa	64		41		2		42		16	165
Redding	194		93		11		259		112	669
Riverside	1		0		0		1		0	2
Fresno	14		29		0		57		353	453
<b>Emergency Types Received 2016</b>	<b>Fire</b>		<b>Fuel Hazard</b>		<b>Insect</b>		<b>Wind</b>		<b>Other Emerg</b>	<b>Rec'd 2016</b>
Santa Rosa	29		0		0		0		1	30
Redding	17		0		5		0		0	22
Riverside	0		0		0		0		0	0
Fresno	45		0		1		0		0	46