

Watershed Protection Program Update

- Staff continue to assist with review of the draft interagency Exemption/Emergency monitoring form and with development of statistically valid sampling approaches.
- Staff participated as part of the cadre for the 9th Fire Suppression Repair Workshop for CAL FIRE employees in Seaside, March 7-9.
- BOF Effectiveness Monitoring Committee—several monitoring projects are in varying stages of development:
 - Forester III Pete Cafferata has submitted a detailed project description for the “Effects of Forest Stand Density Reduction on Nutrient Cycling and Nutrient Transport at the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds” study to the EMC; this study is part of a suite of research projects being implemented for the Third Experiment at Caspar Creek.
 - Senior Environmental Scientist (Biologist) Stacy Stanish has developed a project proposal titled “Using Automated Bird Recorders to Determine Differences in Bird Occupancy of Three Habitat Types in a Post-Fire Setting” for EMC consideration during the next meeting.
 - Drew Coe and Pete Cafferata are working with Pat Cunningham, USFS PNW Statistician, to develop a contract for statistical consultations for two EMC projects—FORPRIEM ver. 2.0. and Effectiveness of Road Rules in Reducing Hydrologic Connectivity and Significant Sediment Discharge.
 - A folder has been posted providing older agency generated reports and papers relevant to the EMC Effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules for Unstable Areas project.
- AB 1492 Team participation—Watershed staff continue to participate on the AB 1492 Leadership Team, Ecological Performance Measures and Data and Monitoring Working Groups, Campbell Creek Pilot Project Working Group and Interagency Interdisciplinary Teams, and Interagency Training Team. Campbell Creek pilot project work includes helping to develop a scope of work and critical questions for the project.
- Stacy Stanish continues to track DFW, FGC, and USFWS actions, recovery plans, and listings; participate in Northern Spotted Owl Working Group meetings; conduct Department THP consultations to avoid take of NSOs; and monitor wildlife on Demonstration State Forests with wildlife camera photo stations.
- Drew Coe continues to work on coordinating the SWRCB 319(h) non-point source grant (\$250,000) for the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest post-fire runoff and erosion study between the SWRCB, CAL FIRE, and the USFS PSW.

- Vegetation Treatment Program EIR—Drew Coe continues to work with the VTPEIR team to address concerns raised during the public review process.
- Personnel—Watershed Protection Program Environmental Scientist (ES) Will Olsen reported to work on April 10th in Redding. An existing Forester I position in the program is in the process of being converted to a second ES position.

Forest Practice Enforcement Update

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program received sixteen (16) new cases from the south region. Fifteen (15) of the new cases were related to timberland conversion. The one other new case is related to multiple harvest documents. Fourteen (14) civil cases have thus far been submitted to the program in 2017. The program has a total of sixty-two (62) active cases. Status of the active cases is presented in the following table.

Table: Active Case Status

Status	# of Cases
Under Review	23
Development for Signature	1
CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	6
Due and Payable	2
Hearing Scheduled	2
Settlement Mitigation	2
Payments	7
Probation	10
Judgement Needed	7
Other	2
Total	62

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) Updated from the TRFRF Database (01/01/2017 through 2/28/2017)

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 23,724 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.6%); conducting forest practice inspections (22.9%); participating in mandated training (10.3%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.6%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (10.4%); forest practice law enforcement (2.4%); program/project monitoring (0.4%); and responding to letters of concern (0.8%). 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 26,003 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.9%); conducting forest practice inspections (23.1%); emergency incident support (4.0%); participating in mandated training (10.0%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.1%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (9.7%); other duties in support of unit programs (7.6%); other forestry related activities (8.7%); forest practice law enforcement (2.2%); project/program monitoring (1.3%); and responding to letters of concern (0.7%). 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.)*

Resource Protection and Improvement Program

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF)

- Work continues on all Urban and Community Forestry GGRF grant projects. Projects are actively billing and reporting regularly.
- 2016-17 UCF GGRF Grants: 122 concept proposals were received with a request of \$59.6 million overall. Recommendations were made to the Director on March 3rd and letters were sent inviting project applications on March 6th. 62 proposals were invited to submit project applications and they are due by April 26th.
- The program is engaged in the selection process for sub-granting of 2016 USDA Forest Service 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. It is expected sub-grants will have been funded by the end of March 2017.
- The program has created urban tree canopy cover maps overlaid with disadvantaged community data and urban heat data. The trends are clear throughout the urban areas of the state: places with low tree canopy cover commonly meet Cal EPA criteria for being disadvantaged.

Demonstration State Forests

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest completed phase one of their reforestation efforts with the contract planting of 312,000 mixed-conifer seedlings. Another 325,000 seedlings are currently being grown at the Cal Forest Nursery in Etna for planting in early 2018.
- The Friends of Boggs Mountain group has been preparing frequent Facebook updates on the status of the tree planting work on Boggs. Their latest newsletter on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is available on their website at <http://boggsmountain.net/>.

- A couple of weeks of dry weather in March allowed for timber harvesting to continue on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. As many as 20 loads per day of pine were being shipped to Mendocino Forest Products in Ukiah.
- An Emergency Contract Exemption Request has been approved for Soquel Demonstration State Forest to repair roads significantly impacted by the winter storms. The Forest remains closed to the public.
- LaTour Demonstration State Forest received both snow and rainfall in the month of March. Currently there is approximately 7-8 feet of snow at Forest Headquarters.
- The Redding Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club is still actively grooming approximately 20-30 miles of roads on the Forest, dependent upon snow conditions.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest conducted a snow survey on February 27, 2017. Eight stations were measured resulting in an average snow depth of 50 inches, a water equivalent of 21.25 inches, and a water density of 43%.
- Quarterly coordination conference calls are keeping the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Caspar South Fork Experiment Three studies progressing. A March 15th call included planning for the annual meeting scheduled May 10th.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest is looking into the possibility of developing a Safe Harbor Agreement with USFWS and State Agencies for the marbled murrelet.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest staff gave an interactive presentation on the field of forestry and resource management to an Elementary School in Fort Bragg.
- Inspections of the main line forest roads on Jackson Demonstration State Forest have so far identified a total of 8 slides and 7 failed culverts resulting from the February 6th storm event, with estimated repair costs of \$100,000.
- The Wonder Crossing Timber Sale on Jackson Demonstration State Forest was sold on March 14th to Mendocino Forest Products. The winning bid for redwood was \$1,450/MBF, with a second-high bid of \$903.72/MBF submitted by Willits Redwood.

Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC)

- Cone and seed processing continues. True fir is slow and difficult to process, and must be handled with extreme care to preserve seed viability. We still have plenty of true fir seed lots to de-wing, screen, hand clean, and upgrade, which is very time consuming.

- Seed upgrade is now complete for all the incense cedar, ponderosa pine (including the NSTIA PP) and sugar pine seed lots from the 2016 collection season. All these seed lots are now in the State Seed Bank for long-term storage. Germination testing of the 2016 collected seed lots continues.
- CAL FIRE's Technical Services Program supervised the drilling of an additional well on-site to support seed orchard irrigation.
- Thank you once again to Delta Camp Conservation Crews for their continuing assistance with grounds maintenance, washing and repairing of cone sacks, and cleaning of seed boxes.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

- Forests and Rangelands Assessment Indicator development: Fire and Resource Assessment staff continue to work on the Forests and Rangelands Assessment, 2016. FRAP has several draft chapters developed, but due to workload issues the report has been delayed. Expect completion of draft chapter in June-July 2017. Public release is planned in August 2017.
- 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: research and stand inventory monitoring following the Valley Fire at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest is ongoing. Due to wet winter weather fieldwork has been delayed.
- Climate Change: FRAP staff are assisting FCAT in revisions to the draft Forest Carbon Plan. FRAP is coordinating a science team review of the draft Forest Carbon Plan. FRAP staff also assisted in revisions to the Safeguarding report.
- AB 1504: FRAP has recently hired a Senior Environmental Scientist (Nadia Tase) who will serve as a technical expert to support the development of AB 1504 reporting. An agreement with USFS – PNW to develop FIA based inventory tables for the report is in place and FRAP staff are working with PNW on inventory reporting needs. Initial scoping is being done for another agreement to develop accounting methods for harvest wood products (HWP), energy use in mills, and log utilization.
- Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF): FRAP staff are supporting Mapping and Monitoring work group and the Forest Health work group. The Mapping and Monitoring group has completed updates to the High Hazard Zones based on recent Aerial Detection Survey data collected by the USFS. FRAP staff are working with TMTF leads (Rick Carr and Gabe Schultz) to develop a process to request changes to HHZ designation based on local information and approval.

- CalMAPPER: FRAP staff continue to provide support for project activity tracking and reporting in CalMAPPER and held a 3-day training for CAL FIRE Staff in March.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- The CFIP program has completed the encumbrance of nearly the entirety of the TRFRF funding allocations from FY 15/16 and FY 16/17. There remains approximately \$40k left to encumber out of a total allocation of \$6.4 million. The final encumbrances and resulting contracts are expected to be completed within the month of April.
- The CFIP program currently has 190 contracts that affect over 52,200 acres statewide.
- High Speed Rail Authority funding for reforestation projects is now available for contracting. This funding source provides \$2.4 million to CFIP however participants are required to calculate the GHG benefit using the ARB Quantification Methodology (QM) developed jointly by ARB and CAL FIRE. This QM is also being used for the GHG grants CAL FIRE is administering.
- CAL FIRE is working with the UC Extension office to plan and implement Reforestation workshops to educate and encourage landowners in high mortality areas to replant trees, and reduce fire danger through site preparation work. The first of several Reforestation Workshops was held in Auberry on February 11th and was considered successful with over 50 participants. The next workshop was held at the Cold Springs Rancheria on February 25th and the third workshop was held in Mariposa with over 40 participants. Additional workshops are being planned for Tuolumne (April 7th), Placer (TBD), Calaveras (TBD) and Madera counties (April 27th).
- Revision of the reforestation manual for California is on track and estimated to be completed in 2017.
- CAL FIRE is funding the completion of a reforestation needs assessment across the State intended to inform planning for cone collection and seedling production.
- Staff is researching the concept of making advance payments available for CFIP participants. Advance payments could increase participation in the program and better secure the expenditure of encumbered funds in a timely manner. Advance payments could also reduce the burden on participating small landowners to provide the upfront capital expenditures necessary to complete the CFIP projects.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- CAL FIRE is waiting for the results of the national ranking for the three projects submitted in November for FY 2018 federal funding of over \$9 million. Usually this is released by February, but we are expecting a delay until April.
- There are currently two projects within the federal Legacy program at varying levels of completion. Rainbow Ridge is within the final stages of completion, having been sent to the Wildlife Conservation Board and Department of General Services for final review. We anticipate closing on this project by spring or early summer. Negotiations on the draft easement language for Ryan Creek, acceptable to the state, the federal government, and the landowner are nearly complete. Once this language is deemed acceptable, the appraisal will be ordered.

Forest Pest Management

- Staff assisted the Western Integrated Pest Management Center in developing a video and photo essay documenting the spread of gold spotted oak borer and efforts directed to its management and control.
- The Kuroshio shot hole borer, one of two invasive shot hole borer pest complexes in southern California, has spread across the border into the Tijuana area of Mexico. Experts on the pest complex are working with Mexican authorities to help with management and control efforts in Mexico.
- Staff is working with the Tree Mortality Task Force to document ongoing research and determine research needs related to the bark beetle epidemic in the Sierra Nevada Range.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program

- Urban and Community Forestry GGRF Grants: Scoring of concept proposals is complete. Letters were sent to all 122 applicants to inform them of the decisions. 62 proposals were asked to submit a project application by April 26th.
- Landscape Scale Forest Health GGRF Grants: The Forest Health Guidelines are now advertised. Concept proposals are due by April 7.

Other Grant Programs

- Both the California High Speed Rail funded grant programs (Urban Forestry and CFIP Reforestation) have been advertised.
- Urban and Community Forestry applications are due by April 30th.
- CFIP applications will be funded on an ongoing basis until the funds are fully encumbered.

Cultural Resource Management

- CAL FIRE just completed a five-day archaeological site recognition course in Los Angeles County.
- The course was primarily intended for fire protection personnel. Another five-day course will occur in the Redding area in October.
- CAL FIRE continues to work with the State Office of Historic Preservation and the Information Centers of the California Historical Resource Information Center on revising the memorandum of understanding between CAL FIRE, the Office of Historic Preservation, the Information Centers and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection on allowing access to archaeological records searches for archaeologically-trained resource professionals. CAL FIRE will brief the Resource Protection Committee once a draft document has been developed.

Environmental Protection

- CAL FIRE HQ staff will provide a half-day CEQA refresher-starter course at various locations around the state in April, May, and June. The course is intended to provide an introduction to CEQA for newcomers and a refresher for those with more experience. It will cover: (1) purpose of CEQA; (2) CEQA and CAL FIRE; (3) CEQA basics; (4) CAL FIRE CEQA projects; (5) CEQA and Grants; and (6) Cultural Resource Management. The expected audience is a wide range of CAL FIRE staff, fire safe council cooperators and contract county staff.

Native American Advisory Council

- CAL FIRE continues to re-form its Native American Advisory Council. The purpose of the council is to assist the department in establishing a cooperative and meaningful relationship with California tribes. CAL FIRE hopes to hold the first council meeting in the next few months.

Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF)

- The TMTF is co-sponsoring a workshop with California Office of Emergency Services (OES) on County Tree Mortality Mitigation Efforts. The workshop will be held April 14, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at OES Headquarters, 3650 Schriever Avenue, MPR-1, Mather, CA. Registration is required: <https://treemortalityworkshop.eventbrite.com>. Topics will include: State TMTF 2017 priorities; innovative approaches to inventory and implementation; best practices in public outreach; commercialization, including saw mills, exports, and biomass; mitigation coordination; monitoring; and private property assistance.

- The Public Outreach Working Group and CAL FIRE's public information office is gathering landowner assistance resources for an expansion to the public education website (www.PrepareForBarkBeetle.org).
- The expansion aims to include information and links to reforestation opportunities; available grants; insurance, utilities and infrastructure FAQs; and county tree mortality task forces.
- A sub-group of the Regulations Working Group was established and will focus on topics relating to insurance including: defensible space verification programs, a wildfire pool concept, informing defensible space models, and incentivizing defensible space for homeowners.
- A local designation process for Tier 2 High Hazard Zones (HHZ) was established by the Mapping and Monitoring Working Group and approved by TMTF leadership and is being used by stakeholders in the Community and Watershed Resilience Program to improve delineation of Tier 2 HHZ in the area of the Rim Fire that burned in 2013.
- The Forest Health and Resilience Working Group is establishing a sub-group to review and update research needs and goals, funding opportunities, and short term and long term needs to reach the goal of a healthy Sierra Nevada region.
- Specifically, this group will (1) identify existing interests/needs for science and management information related to tree mortality; (2) identify ongoing research and monitoring projects that address these interests; and (3) determine where gaps exist, funneling existing funding to appropriate projects. Currently there is no forum to bring all the interests and projects together in a coordinated manner for Sierra Nevada tree mortality. This group, tentatively called the Sierra Forest Science Coordination Group, would work to reduce redundancy and prioritize available funding.

Fire Protection

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 9 arrests and issued 23 citations (excluding 4291).
- Last month, CAL FIRE received \$70,017 resulting from Civil Cost Recovery actions.
- The Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, Bart Chambers, left CAL FIRE on March 6, 2017, to become the State Fire Marshal for the State of Nevada.

- A selection process has started to hire a CAL FIRE Assistant Chief of Intelligence who will be assigned to the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) to represent CAL FIRE in threats related to wildland fire and the State's natural resources.

Fire Protection Operations

- The Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)/Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) project is seeing good progress. The steering committee recently developed the user interface, which is nearly complete. Multiple programs within CAL FIRE are actively engaged including IT, Telecommunications, Command & Control, Operations Support, as well as Cal OES Public Safety Communication. We are still anticipating rolling out the first two units by July 2017.
- The Mobile Communications Center (MCC) annual "round up" occurred this month with multiple personnel being updated on policy and procedure along with familiarization with all our apparatus (picture attached). Draft specifications for the next generation of MCC have been completed.
- Private vendors are beginning to enter into Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements (EERAs) with CAL FIRE now that the rates have been published. We are extending the sign-up period for 30 days due to the delay in publishing rates into policies.

Mobile Equipment

- Statewide Forestry Equipment Manager 1 and Forestry Equipment Manager 2 examination interviews will be held the week of April 24th in Sacramento and Riverside. It is hopeful that a new eligibility list will assist in filling numerous vacant FEM 1 positions around the state.

Aviation Management Unit

- Annual pilot training and maintenance of the Department's fixed and rotary wing assets continues.
- Forestry Fire Pilots (helicopter) hiring interviews for LNU and HUU are occurring April 5, 2017. In-service training will be required for new pilots before being placed in service on their own.
- The next generation CAL FIRE helicopter procurement continues with DGS taking the lead on procurement. The deadline for vendor bids to DGS is Friday, April 28, 2017.

Tactical Air Operations

- Travis Alexander has been appointed to the Deputy Chief, Program Manager position effective Monday, April 3, 2017.
- The program is advertising a vacant Assistant Chief position to be filled prior to fire season.

Incident Management Teams

- The Incident Management Team (IMT) Committee, working with Incident Management Team 3, is putting the final touches on the annual IMT Workshop. It is being held at the Ontario Convention Center the week of April 24, 2017.

Cooperative Fire Program

Local Government Program

- Program is currently experiencing an unusual delay in renewing Local Government Fire Protection Reimbursement Agreements. In December 2016, CAL FIRE Local 2281 and the State arrived at a tentative collective bargaining agreement affecting the Department's rank and file firefighters. The proposed agreement includes salary increases across all firefighting classifications. Until this agreement is ratified (anticipated first week of May), the Department is unable to publish salary/wage rates which are critical to the contracting process. While contracting timelines may not be met, no disruption in service to local government partners under these agreements is anticipated.

Conservation Camp Program

- April and May will focus on the annual crew preparedness exercises. At these exercises, camp crews are evaluated on performance and safety topics including fire shelter deployment, fire line construction and hiking. Numerous exercises will occur in Northern California including: Red Bluff (May 1-4), Garberville (May 16-18) and Coloma (May 16-17). Board members are encouraged to attend and may coordinate this through the Executive Officer.
- The statewide Conservation Camps count as of Wednesday, March 29, 2017:
 - The current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is **933** (a decrease of 18 from 951 as of February 15, 2017).
 - The inmate population stands at 81% (+1%) of capacity.
 - Crew capacity stands at 71% (no change).

State-Federal Program

- The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) Committee will meet in April for its annual review and adjustment of rates. This agreement facilitates the use of local government resources on state and federal responsibility fires. Rates to be reviewed and established include the base administrative rate, personnel base rates and equipment rates. The parties to this agreement are CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the California Office of Emergency Services.
- The Emergency Medical Services Program processed 98 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) applications in March, the most ever since the inception of the program in 2010. This is a result of the EMS Program encouraging CAL FIRE EMTs to certify within the Department rather than their local EMS authority. On March 1, 2017, a Serious Accident Review Team (SART) was activated because of an inmate tree climbing accident resulting in minor injuries. The informational accident report was distributed statewide. An Executive Board of Review will be scheduled this Fall to review the final report to address the cause of the accident and to make any recommendations to Department operations in an effort to prevent future occurrences.

Training Program

- A new Drager Phase 5, three story drill tower is scheduled to be delivered to the Academy by the middle of April. This gives the Department another structural firefighting training tower and the ability to conduct live fire burns while simultaneously performing ventilation operations. The next Fire Fighter Academy (FFA-2) and Company Officer Academy (COA-1) graduations are on April 14th. The bid walk for the Academy solar project took place in mid-March. It is anticipated that the project will be awarded by the end of April. The Academy's new dormitory project bid walk is scheduled for mid-April and the project is on track to start in July.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Planning and Risk Analysis Division

Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering

- Defensible Space Program:
 - Refinements to Electronic Collector App continue to be made.
 - New LE-100a Form has been created, incorporating education information.
 - 350 tablets have been delivered to Sacramento. Distribution to Units will be done when all final accessories have been received and tablets have been formatted.
 - Training is scheduled for Riverside, Fresno, Sacramento, Redding and Santa Rosa, with an additional Webinar to be recorded for online training.
 - There continues to be extensive interest in this new program from local jurisdictions.
- Damage Inspection Program:
 - DINS curriculum continues to be developed by FIRESCOPE.
 - This new format will standardize the DINS process throughout California.

Fire Plan

- Statewide CalMAPPER workshop was held in late March – refinements for data entry and project tracking continue to be made.
- Staff is developing training for new Pre-Fire Engineer personnel on how to use the new ESRI ELA.
- The 2018 Strategic Fire Plan rewrite committee is continuing work on the new Plan.

SRA Fire Prevention Fee

- The 2014-15 SRAFPF Grant Program ended on March 15, 2017. SRA Program staff members are working with the CAL FIRE Grant Management Unit in gathering the final documents for the program. All final grant documents are due into CAL FIRE by April 15, 2017.
- All but one of 107 current year 2016-17 SRAFPF/TM Grant Program agreements have been executed. Program staff has been working diligently to process the agreements in order to allow tree mortality projects to commence as soon as possible.
- The Fire Prevention Fee bills continue to be mailed to SRA homeowners for the current fiscal year of 2016-17. The billing process began on March 1, 2017, and will end on June 13, 2017.

CAIRS

- New CAIRS software evaluation process is continuing with coordinated input from IT and Fire Protection Staff.
- Interviews for the new SSA position will be held in April. We anticipate the successful candidate will begin work in May 2017.
- CAIRS Staff has designed presentations as a training tool to discuss the CAIRS Program and delivered the training to the MMU unit.
- CAIRS Staff is coordinating completion of all CAIRS reports to begin producing the 2016 Redbook data.

Land Use Planning

- CNR staff working with LNU staff on PRC 4290 Ordinance certification.
- CSR continues outreach to consultants specializing in General Plan and Safety Element.

Program continues to work with 1270 Fire Safe Development Working Group with BOF and local fire officials.