



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814



August 2017 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Practice Program (through 7/31/2017):

Plan Submissions

- **THP submissions:** THP submissions through July 2017 were slightly less than the total number through July last year (116 compared to 127 in 2016 for a difference of approximately 9%).
- **NTMP submissions:** NTMP submissions were 23% lower than in July of last year (i.e., 10 compared to 13). NTO submissions were approximately 9% higher than the total received in July last year (i.e. 91 compared to 83).
- **Exemption Notice submissions:** Exemption submissions were approximately 17% lower compared to July last year (i.e. 1479 compared to 1,777). The number of Drought Mortality Exemptions filed in July this year is down by approximately 25% compared to last year and the area covered is approximately 20% lower.
- **Emergency Notice submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were down nearly 65% compared to July of last year (i.e. 49 compared to 139).
- **Plan Approval:** 121 THPs have been approved to date this year; this is 18 less than the total from the same time-period last year. 7 NTMPs have been approved to date this year compared to 9 approved by this time last year.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF)

Updated from the TRFRF Database (01/01/2017 through 6/30/2017)

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 71,495 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.9%); conducting forest practice inspections (23.8%); participating in mandated training (10.8%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (8.9%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.4%); forest practice law enforcement (2.7%); program/project monitoring (0.9%); and responding to letters of concern (1.0%). 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 78,260 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.3%); conducting forest practice inspections (24.4%); emergency incident support (2.0%); participating in mandated training (10.6%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (9.1%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (10.8%); other duties in support of unit programs (6.9%); other forestry related activities (9.6%); forest practice law enforcement (2.5%); project/program monitoring (1.4%); and responding to letters of concern (0.9%). 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.)*
- Timber Operators Licensing and Forest Practice Enforcement Updates:** The following tables summarize LTO and Enforcement Activities since the last report.

Table: LTO License Status

Status	#
New Applications Rec'd	5
Renewal Applications Rec'd	19
New Licenses Issued	10
Licenses Renewed	18
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	0
Applications Returned	0

Table: Active Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	# of Cases
Rec'd in 2017	53
Under Review	23
Development for Signature	17
CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	18
Due and Payable	2
Hearing Scheduled	0
Settlement Mitigation	2
Payments	6
Probation	8
Judgement Needed	9
Other	3
Total	88

Watershed Protection Program Update:

- A Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) was assigned to the Detwiler Fire in Mariposa County. The WERT inventoried potential post-fire life-safety threats from debris flows and flooding. A written report of the Detwiler WERT's findings will soon be released to the public.

Resource Protection and Improvement Program

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

- 2016-17 Urban and Community Forestry California Climate Investments (GGRF) Grants: 37 grants were awarded for a total of just over \$19.5 million in funding. There was a very diverse geographic distribution to the awards. Nearly all grant agreements are complete and can begin work.
- The Department awarded over \$ 21 million in CA Climate Investment funds on August 15 by selecting 6 projects that represent a range of landscape level forest

management activities. Three of the six grants fall under CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program. These grants enable the purchase of conservation easements on properties in Mendocino, San Bernardino, and Siskiyou counties. The remaining three landscape level projects are in the counties of Fresno and Madera, Placer and El Dorado and Trinity.

Demonstration State Forests

- Staff is continuing to work on the Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest General Forest Management Plan update that will be submitted for the Boards review late this year. Dr. John Battles and Jodi Axelson of UC Berkeley are establishing research plots on Mountain Home to study drought effects on tree mortality and fuel loading.
- A contract was awarded to Summit Forests, Inc. for a 1,200-acre vegetation treatment project on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest to control sprouting and germinating brush in support of additional tree planting in the spring of 2018. The work should begin in August.
- A tour of Latour Demonstration State Forest and HQ facilities was conducted with Shasta College staff to generate support for a Memorandum of Understanding which would allow the college to utilize the forest and facilities for summer field classes. The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) has also expressed interest in utilizing the forest and compound for future events.

Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC)

- Cone surveys: LAMRC received a total of 275 cone crop surveys from 13 CAL FIRE Units. Cone production this year has been generally sparse with a few exceptions. Scattered crops of pine (ponderosa, sugar, and Jeffrey pine) are found to be moderate and better in many areas throughout the northern regions of the state. Sitka spruce and western hemlock have been observed to have a heavy cone crop in the North coast areas. True firs, incense-cedar and Douglas-fir are mostly not producing except for a promising incense-cedar crop at low elevations in Seed Zone 531.

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. Status:
 - Total of 12 topic chapters, excluding introduction and synthesis
 - 4 chapters completed
 - 5 chapters close or very close to completion (in internal and/or external review)
 - 2 chapters in semi-final stage (nearing internal review)
 - 2 chapters still in mid-stage (drafts still being written or with significant revisions)

FRAP is sharing some of its work (several indicators in final draft form) with CAL EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment (OEHHA), at their request. In addition, the draft Fire Threat of fire hazards have been provided to OES consultants for use in their statewide multi-hazard mitigation plan. FRAP is working toward public release of the report in October 2017.

Forest Pest Management

- Despite ample rainfall this past winter, bark beetle activity continues at a reduced rate. Pine bark beetles remain active, particularly in the central and northern Sierra Nevada. Fir engraver beetles are becoming more active at higher elevations in the Sierras.
- There has been a find of a single Asian Gypsy moth in a trap on the campus of the University of California Santa Cruz. If there is a find of another single life stage of the insect, it will result in a control operation for the pest. There is greater concern for Asian Gypsy moth since unlike its European counterpart the female moths can fly and spread more quickly and the caterpillars will feed on conifer foliage as well as hardwoods.

Tree Mortality Task Force

- Snow levels remained on the ground later in the season, impeding an accurate estimate of tree mortality in the ten high priority counties. Updated aerial detection survey data will be provided once a more accurate estimate is available.
- On July 25, USDA-Climate Hub, USFS, SNC, and CAL FIRE sponsored a Science and Management Symposium on “Lessons learned from extreme drought and tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada.” Presentations from the meeting can be found here: <http://caclimatehub.ucdavis.edu/drought-and-tree-mortality-science-and-management-symposium/>

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering

Defensible Space Program:

- Have now collected over 100,000 inspections for this calendar year so far.
- Holding meetings with Communications to discuss a new app to track Education hours.
- Involved with first year review of Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with ESRI.
- Continue improvements and development of data collection on multiple fronts.
- Final filing date for RAIL (GIS) position is Wednesday, August 16.

Damage Inspection Program:

- DINS curriculum and task books continue to be developed by FIRESCOPE working group. Next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2017.
- Information on over 300 structures damaged or destroyed by wildfires has been collected across the state so far this year.

- The increasing and ongoing collection of both Pre-and Post-Fire databases are beginning to merge as this information overlaps. More detailed analytics are being formulated with this valuable information.

Fire Plan

- Updated Unit Fire Plans for 2016 have been submitted and are being reviewed at the Sacramento-level. The new plans should be posted online by end of August.
- New Battalion Chiefs have been appointed to the Pre-Fire Engineering positions at both CNR and CSR.
- WUI Grant application deadline was August 15.
- 2018 Fire Plan Committee continues to work on finalizing Goals and Objectives to bring forward for Board review and comment.
- Insurance Sub Group from the TMTF continues to work on improvements and potential solutions for dropped insurance policies in the State.

CAIRS

- 2016 Redbook has been completed, and is going through final approval process.
- Staff is reaching out to state program managers across the nation to help gather data on vendor information in preparation of new reporting program.
- Staff is working with Communications staff to update CAIRS webpage.
- Staff is updating collection and reporting processes of burn injuries across the State.
- Jennifer Bowman will be attending a NFIRS Stakeholder Workshop at the National Fire Academy in September to discuss improvements to the nationwide program.
- S1BA has been submitted to Agency to move forward with acquiring a new reporting program.

Land Use Planning

- Some of the original Region staff members for LUP have transferred to new positions. Vacancies will be filled ASAP.
- Sacramento staff continues to review internal program processes to ensure messaging and level of service is consistent statewide.
- Staff will be taking over full responsibility for Firewise Communities across the State. Transition and coordination meeting with NFPA will take place August 22.

SRA

- With the recent suspension of the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee Program, staff continues to wait for the Appropriations Bill to identify details and direction for ongoing prevention work.
- Grant work for the past two Grant cycles continues.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 28 arrests and issued 99 citations (excluding 4291).
- Last month, CAL FIRE received \$58,521 resulting from Civil Cost Recovery actions.
- In July 2017, the Butte Unit, with the assistance of CAL FIRE Northern Region staff, arrested a 36-year-old male on eight counts of arson following a lengthy serial arson investigation. The subject is accused of allegedly setting three of the eight fires during a declared state of emergency in Butte County.
- In July 2017, the Butte Unit, assisted by Butte County Sheriff's Office, arrested a 56-year-old female who allegedly set eight wildland fires in the north Chico area, over the course of several months.
- In July 2017, a 62-year-old male subject was arrested in the CAL FIRE Tulare Unit, with assistant from CAL FIRE Southern Region staff, Tulare County, and Kern County on five counts of arson.

Fire Protection Operations

- The Call When Needed (CWN) Helicopter Directory is being moved from an archaic, unsupported Access database to our Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS) by September 1, 2017. This will help the Department realize significant efficiencies in the ordering and tracking of these hired resources to the benefit of Command & Control, Aviation Management, and the CWN vendors.
- The Predictive Services Agreement between the USFS and CAL FIRE to fund meteorologists at the Regions has been signed. This will ensure continued support of our Fire Weather Centers, who in turn provide a myriad of services to the field including weather briefings, instruction, forecasts, prescribed fire support, etc.
- The Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) project continues to move forward. Preliminary installations will begin in the Fresno Kings Unit on August 22, 2017. Once these are completed and any bugs are identified and addressed, the balance of the Fresno Kings Unit fleet is scheduled for installations the week of August 28, 2017.

Mobile Equipment

- Mobile Equipment Management has purchased many vehicles of various types and kinds from the approved FY 2016-17 Fleet Acquisition Plan. New replacement vehicles should begin arriving at the Davis Equipment Facility for outfitting in the next 90 – 120 days.

Aviation Management Unit

- In addition to our front-line aviation assets, we obtained approval to hire four helicopters on Exclusive Use contracts to be placed in Santa Rosa, Chico, Fresno, and Paso Robles. We also placed two more large air tankers (LATs) on Exclusive Use at McClellan and Porterville. This was due in part because of the number of hours our own aircraft were flying and the need for additional maintenance because of those hours of operation.
- The Department of General Services posted an “Intent to Award” for the new CAL FIRE helicopter procurement. The intended awardee is Air Methods/United Rotorcraft offering a Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopter to replace our fleet of Bell UH-1H Super Huey helicopters.
 - As expected, the bid has been protested by the unsuccessful bidder, AgustaWestland/Leonardo, who was offering their AW-139 and AW-189.
 - The protest will be heard and ruled upon by an Administrative Law Judge in the next 60 to 90 days.
- An interagency team of CAL FIRE and US Forest Service Aviation experts conducted an inspection of the Global Super Tanker (GST), Boeing 747, aircraft in Colorado Springs the first week of August. 57 items were found in which GST will need to repair prior to the interagency team carding the aircraft.
 - After the aircraft is carded, the pilots must be carded as well by completing various tasks under the supervision of the team members where the aircraft will drop water on simulated targets.
 - This is tentatively schedule for either the week of August 14 or August 21 depending on GST’s progress.
 - After all carding of the aircraft and pilots is completed and approved, we may see this Boeing 747 flying on fires in the State.

Tactical Air Operations

- Two new Assistant Chiefs have been placed within the Program to assist the Units, Regions, and Sacramento with our tactical aviation needs.

Incident Management Teams

- July 2017 was a busy month for CAL FIRE IMT deployments. In that time, we deployed multiple Incident Management Teams to assist the local CAL FIRE Units on the Wall Incident (Butte County), Alamo Incident (San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara Counties), Garza Incident (Kings/Monterey Counties), Park Incident (Kings County), and Detwiler Incident (Mariposa County).
 - The California National Guard was also activated for these incidents and responded with support in the form of additional Type 1 water dropping helicopters and two Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS) C-130 air tankers

Cooperative Fire Program

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Program staff is currently in the peak of the contract renewal cycle. Of the 104 agreements, serving approximately 142 communities/agencies, 70 are in the renewal process this year.
- On July 25, Program staff released the Salary, Pay Differentials, and Operating Expense Schedule Memo outlining salary costs for FY 2017-2018 contract/agreements. This memo is revised each year and its release marks the beginning of the renewal cycle for each fiscal year.
- The termination of the San Miguel Fire Protection District agreement has been completed with no layoffs, and limited displacement of CAL FIRE personnel. Most employees received the first choice of their desired assignments.

Conservation Camp Program

- The Fire Crews have been busy responding to wildfires and have been assigned to similar amounts of fire hours this year as compared to last year at this same time (1,152,256 hours (2017) v. 1,180,996 hours (2016)).
- The statewide Conservation Camps population as of Thursday, August 3, 2017 was at 3510 offenders, which is 86% of capacity while crew strength is 2514, standing at 75% (-2%) of capacity.
- The current statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is 818. (An increase of 25 from 792 as of July 20, 2017).
- Program continues to work with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to find solutions for the reduced number of available offenders.

State-Federal Programs

- CAL FIRE accepted a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant award of \$2,090,103 from the United States Forest Service. CAL FIRE will manage the grant benefiting rural Volunteer Fire Departments.
 - The grant authority includes a 50/50 match for the volunteer companies.
 - The grant will assist the volunteers in purchasing wildland fire personal protective clothing and equipment such as radios and wildland fire hose.
 - The volunteers can utilize the funds for training attendance.
 - This grant process has been immensely successful and the multiple volunteer companies benefiting from this process are beyond thankful for the funding.
- Two major wildland fires, Wall and Detwiler, were approved for the Fire Management Assistance Grant. The State of California General Fund will be reimbursed for as much as 75 percent of the cost of these fires by the Federal Government.

Safety, EMS Program

- Staff received a letter from the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) Director approving CAL FIRE's Public Safety First Aid (PSFA), CPR, and Tactical Casualty Care (TCC) curriculum. The curriculum will be valid for 4 years.

Department Training Program

- The Target Solutions Working Group is making good progress and has been able to create an electronic Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) training documentation form. This new form is being Beta tested with the Amador-EI Dorado and Riverside Units starting in September and is expected to roll out to the Department after the first of the year.
 - This will allow the Department to track hours more accurately, resulting in no lost JAC training hours once implemented.
- The CAL FIRE Training Center three-story dormitories will be breaking ground in August.
- The CAL FIRE Training Center is currently conducting two Firefighter Academies with a total of 92 students
- The 4039 Policy section revision addressing Incident Management Qualifications is in the beta test stages. We are coordinating our efforts with both FEMA and Cal OES.
- Policy Section 4020 (position training standards) is being completed for uniform personnel and there is a plan and meeting scheduled to complete the same process for non-uniform personnel.

California Forest Practice Rules -Exemptions and Emergency Notices
Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through July

Rule	Type of Exemption	2016		2017		
		Admin Area	Count	Acres	Count	Acres
1038(a)&(b)	Dead, Dying, Diseased/Fuelwood, Split Products/Christmas Tree	Coast	85	306,013	77	308,105
		Cascade	330	1,682,858	262	1,605,865
		South	1	240	2	240
		Sierra	64	230,149	38	248,426
		Totals	480	2,219,260	379	2,162,636
1038(k)	Drought Mortality	Coast	11	938	13	4,201
		Cascade	172	18,279	101	7,894
		South	1	20	0	0
		Sierra	503	61,761	402	52,944
		Totals	687	80,998	516	65,039
1038(c)	Fire Hazard (150 ft.)	Coast	56	81	62	88
		Cascade	133	254	103	193
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	41	219	14	36
		Totals	230	554	179	317
1038(c)(6)	Fire Hazard (150 ft.) and Fire Hazard (300 ft.)	Coast	5	21	0	0
		Cascade	0	0	3	47
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	0	0	0	0
		Totals	5	21	3	47
1038(c)(6)	Fire Hazard (300 ft.)	Coast	1	6	5	13
		Cascade	3	13	6	28
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	3	7	7	32
		Totals	7	26	18	73
1038(i)	Forest Fire Prevention	Coast	0	0	1	58
		Cascade	3	30	3	229
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	1	29	1	57
		Totals	4	59	5	344
1038(j)	Forest Fire Prevention Pilot	Coast	2	120	1	67
		Cascade	13	1,409	8	1,162
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	0	0	1	161
		Totals	15	1,529	10	1,390
1104.1(a)	Less Than 3 Acre Conversion	Coast	85	218	45	119
		Cascade	198	413	89	169
		South	1	3	1	3
		Sierra	18	30	25	40
		Totals	302	664	160	331
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public Agency/Utility Right-of-Way	Coast	6	16	6	447
		Cascade	8	79	48	51,926
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	29	1,790	151	180,986
		Totals	43	1,885	205	233,359
1038(g)	Slash Removal	Coast	0	0	1	2
		Cascade	2	1,890	1	243
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	0	0	1	1
		Totals	2	1,890	3	246
1038(d)	Sub Damaged Timberlands	Coast	0	0	0	0
		Cascade	2	1,500	2	133
		South	0	0	0	0
		Sierra	0	0	0	0
		Totals	2	1,500	2	133
	All Exemptions	Grand Totals	1,777	2,308,383	1,479	2,463,915

California Forest Practice Rules -Exemptions and Emergency Notices
 Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through July

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice	Admin Area	2016		2017	
		Count	Acres	Count	Acres
Drought	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	3	1,336	1	27
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	2	4	6	218
	Totals	5	1,340	7	245
Fire	Coast	39	5,836	5	359
	Cascade	25	2,250	26	5,256
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	64	4,628	0	0
	Totals	128	12,714	31	5,615
Fuel Hazard Reduction	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	2	53
	Totals	0	0	2	53
Insect	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	4	403	1	244
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	2	143	2	174
	Totals	6	546	3	418
All Other Emergency Notices	Coast	0	0	2	25
	Cascade	0	0	4	63
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	Totals	0	0	6	88
All Emergency Notices	Grand Totals	139	14,600	49	6,419



The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of or arising from the use of data or maps. Acreage is taken from the documents of record and may not represent acres harvested on the ground.

Data Source: Forest Practice System (FPS)
 Data Contact: fpgis@fire.ca.gov

**CALENDAR YEAR 2017
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH JULY**

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	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
THPs Received	85	86	22	36	0	0	9	5	116	127
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	22	17	5	9	0	0	5	4	32	30
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	88	89	26	37	0	0	9	7	123	133
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Denied	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Approved	89	84	28	52	0	0	4	3	121	139
Acreage in Approved THPs	25,307	25,480	10,392	27,047	0	0	358	1,078	36,057	53,605
NTMPs Received	8	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	13
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	8
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	9	9	9	1	0	0	0	0	18	10
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	6	6	1	3	0	0	0	0	7	9
NTMPs Approved Acres	760	1,222	1,638	4,311	0	0	0	0	2,398	5,533
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	72	69	9	10	0	0	10	4	91	83
Exemption Notices Received	210	251	631	860	3	3	639	656	1,483	1,770
Emergency Notices Received	7	40	32	32	0	0	10	68	49	140
Exemption Types Received 2017	< 3 Acre Conversions		Fire Hazard		Forest Fire Prevention		Dead Dying Diseased		Other Exemp	Rec'd 2017
Santa Rosa	45		67		2		77		19	210
Redding	89		109		11		262		160	631
Riverside	1		0		0		2		0	3
Fresno	25		21		2		38		553	639
Emergency Types Received 2017	Fire		Fuel Hazard		Insect		Wind		Other Emerg	Rec'd 2017
Santa Rosa	5		0		0		0		2	7
Redding	26		0		1		0		5	32
Riverside	0		0		0		0		0	0
Fresno	0		2		2		0		6	10