



## Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814



March 2017 Board of Forestry Report

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### Resource Management

#### Forest Practice Program

##### Plan Submissions

- **THP Submissions:** THP submissions through January 2017, were about 11% lower than last year (i.e., 17 compared to 19).
- **NTMP Submissions:** NTMP submissions are about 60% lower than last year at this time (i.e., 2 compared to 5). NTO submissions are also down from last year (i.e., 0 compared to 3).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions remain higher this year compared to last year for January (i.e., 104 compared to 81 or up nearly 28%). There were twice as many Drought Mortality Exemptions filed in January this year compared to last year covering about 1/2 the number of acres (i.e., 24/1,203 ac vs. 12/2,043 ac). There has been a total of 1,295 Drought Mortality exemptions submitted since the passage of regulations (July 1, 2015), covering a total of 170,087 acres.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions are down 78% this first month from last January (i.e., 2 compared to 9). There were only 34 acres covered under the 2 emergency notices; which is a reduction in acres of approximately 97% compared to last year.
- **Plan Approval:** 20 THPs have been approved in January, which is the same as last year at this time. No NTMPs have been approved this January, nor were any approved in January of last year.

##### Sacramento Headquarters Staffing Changes

- Chief Eric Huff has been appointed Staff Chief for Forest Practice effective February 20, 2017.

## **General Review Team**

### **Santa Rosa**

- The Coast Area Forest Practice Review Team is in the process of filling one of 3 Forester I positions which have been vacant since October 1, 2016.
- Forester II, Shawn Headley will be attending FFA and COA beginning February 2017.
- Redding Forest Practice Review Team Staff continue to assist with coastal plan approval, along with Forester II Forest Practice Enforcement Coordinator, Anthony Lukacic.
- Senior Environmental Scientists (Biologists) Stacy Stanish and Michael Baker continue to assist with the review of Northern Spotted Owl THP amendments.

### **Redding**

- TRFRF Forester II, Dan Craig assisted in the presentation “CAL FIRE Forestry Update” at the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference February 10, 2017.
- TRFRF Forester II, Dan Craig will provide a presentation to the CLFA Spring Workshop on March 10, 2017, on the topic: “Exemptions available for Drought Mortality – are they working? Are there problems/violations/issues with 1038(k) or any exemptions?”
- Forester III, John Ramaley participated as part of the Regulatory Affairs Panel March 1, 2017, at the California Forestry Association annual meeting discussing Review Team processes and ideas for improvement. MEU Forester II, Charlie Martin also served on the panel along with several representatives from the other Review Team agencies. Assistant Deputy Director, Dennis Hall attended the meeting to address Forest Practice policy issues.
- Forester III, John Ramaley attended supervisor training the week of January 16, 2017.
- Forester II, Jon Woessner attended I-300 and I-400 training the week of January 30, 2017.
- Forester II, Adam Deem attended the LTO training hosted by CAL FIRE February 7 and 8, 2017 at the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, at the request of the LTO Class Cadre Leader.

## **Fresno**

- Forester II, Kevin Kiniery attended supervisor training the week of January 16, 2017.
- The Forester I position, previously held by Kevin Kiniery, was advertised and the application filing period is now closed.

## **Watershed Protection Program Update**

- Watershed Protection Program staff continue to work on several different projects, including the following:
  - Assistance with review of the draft Exemption/Emergency monitoring form and development of statistically valid sampling approaches.
  - Development of a contract with Lyme Redwood Forest Company to revive the South Fork Wages Creek THP-scale effectiveness monitoring study begun in 2004 with Campbell Global. The contract signatures will be obtained shortly.
  - Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest post-fire runoff and erosion study—Forester II, Drew Coe continues to lead this research effort. Extensive sediment fence sediment cleanout work took place in late January and early February, and a new OSU graduate student has begun to assist with the project.
  - The second meeting for development of the California Post Wildfire Guide was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, organized by the USACE (CA Silver Jackets); the project objective is to make information on post fire hazard and recovery resources easily available to communities affected by wildfires (similar to efforts undertaken in New Mexico and Washington). A detailed project outline has been completed.
  - Completion of two papers for a USFS General Technical Report providing a science synthesis on stream nutrients for regulatory agencies from the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds and the Kings River Experimental Watershed/Teakettle Experimental Forest. The papers were completed and submitted to the Forest Service technical editor on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - BOF Effectiveness Monitoring Committee—Forester II, Drew Coe is working with Dr. Catelina Segura, Oregon State University, to finalize a scope of work and budget for a comprehensive Class II-Large research project to be conducted in 2017-2018, utilizing in part Jackson and LaTour DSFs.

- 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.
- Senior Environmental Scientists (biologists), Stacy Stanish and Michael Baker continue 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.
- Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) work—Forester III, Pete Cafferata continues to serve as a co-leader for the Forest Health and Resilience Working Group with Stewardship Program Forester II, Stewart McMorrow. Monthly meetings and reporting continue. A second white paper was completed in February outlining strategies for improving forest health in the Sierra Nevada.
- Personnel hiring—staff interviewed four people the week of February 13<sup>th</sup> for the Environmental Scientist (ES) position in the Watershed Protection Program. A job offer is expected to be made shortly.

### **Forest Practice Enforcement Update**

- **NTMPs being used to facilitate the production of marijuana** – Recently, the Coast Region has encountered situations where RPFs are preparing NTMPs for landowners to facilitate the cultivation of marijuana. The NTMPs include incorrect or misleading information regarding conversion activities that are planned under the NTMP or have already occurred and are not adequately disclosed.

The legislative intent in allowing timber harvesting under an NTMP is to increase the productivity of nonindustrial timberlands to serve the public's need for timber and other forest products, recognizing that low volume timber harvesting under an NTMP causes minimal environmental harm, and reduces damage to watersheds, wildlife and other forest resources. These same findings cannot be attributed to the conversion of timberland for the production of marijuana.

In order to ensure NTMPs are meeting the intent of the Legislature, CAL FIRE is instructing RPFs to exclude all sites from NTMPs that have currently been converted to uses other than growing timber, or that are planned to be converted to other uses such as the growing of marijuana. The Department is requiring full disclosure in NTMPs of all permitted activities within the applicable assessment areas, including marijuana production, in order to fully evaluate the combined impacts from NTMPs and other permitted activities. Incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information can lead to enforcement action and/or RPF licensing complaints from CAL FIRE. The appropriate permitting process for conversion of timberland to uses other than growing timber is through the submission of an application for timberland conversion and associated timber harvesting plan. The Humboldt Del Norte Unit, where these activities have occurred, has discussed CAL FIRE’s concerns and direction with the other Review Team agencies. The Review Team agencies understand and agree with CAL FIRE’s position.

- CAL FIRE Forest Practice participated in the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference February 10, 2017. Northern Region Forest Practice Enforcement Coordinator Forester II, Robert Little provided a presentation comparing the scope of work allowable under a timber operator license with the scope of work for a licensed tree service. As mentioned previously, TRFRF Forester II, Dan Craig discussed the monitoring requirements under some of the exemptions and discussed the different exemptions available to a landowner. The presentations included time for an extensive question and answer session, and were well received.
- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 46 active cases in various stages of processing as presented in Table #1 below:

Table #1: Active Case Status

Status	# of Cases
Under Review	5
Development for Signature	3
CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	7
Due and Payable	2
Hearing Scheduled	1
Settlement Mitigation	1
Payments	7
Probation	10
Judgement Needed	7
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

## **Timber Operators Licensing Program Update**

- Since the beginning of the year, timber operator licensing has received 5 new applications and 29 renewal application packets. Five new licenses have been issued and 29 licenses were renewed. 11 incomplete application packets have been received, 7 were returned and 4 were processed after updated information was provided. Two fully attended LTO classes have been conducted so far this year; one in Willits and one at the Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference. The demand for classes continues. The next class is scheduled for May in Roseville.

## **Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) Updated from the TRFRF Database (01/01/2017 through 1/31/2017)**

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 11,649 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.7%); conducting forest practice inspections (25.50%); participating in mandated training (10.4%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.2%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (9.6%); forest practice law enforcement (2.7%); program/project monitoring (0.3%); and responding to letters of concern (0.5%). 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 12,910 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (23.2%); conducting forest practice inspections (25.5%); emergency incident support (0.7%); participating in mandated training (10.0%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (9.2%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (8.8%); other duties in support of unit programs (7.4%); other forestry related activities (10.2%); forest practice law enforcement (2.5%); project/program monitoring (1.2%); and responding to letters of concern (0.5%). 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 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. Project scoring is complete. Recommendations will be made to the Director by March 2<sup>nd</sup> and letters will be sent inviting project applications by March 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The program has been unable to fill a Program Manager Forester II. The position is being converted to a Supervising Senior Environmental Scientist.

In addition, the program is deficient one Regional Urban Forester (Forester I) position in the Sacramento region. This position was advertised and received no applications. It is currently being re-advertised.

- 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 be 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 without tree canopy commonly meet CalEPA criteria for being disadvantaged.

### **Demonstration State Forests**

- Interviews were conducted in February at Humboldt, Cal Poly, and UC Berkeley and positions are currently being offered to successful candidates for approximately 20 Forestry Aide positions available on the State Forests this field season.
- Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) remains temporarily closed to public use until further notice due to large mudslides blocking access to the forest and other numerous hazards on roads and trails. A mitigation plan is being developed.
- Bids were opened on February 15 for the Meridian Timber Sale on Soquel Demonstration State Forest. Redwood Empire was the successful bidder for the 1,637 million board foot timber sale with a total bid of \$985,641.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest staff conducted a snow survey on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Eight stations were measured, registering an average snow depth of 62 inches and a water content of 20.1 inches.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Manager, Jim Kral addressed the San Joaquin Chapter of SAF on January 19<sup>th</sup> in Porterville, and assisted with the Registered Professional Foresters Examination Preparation Seminar on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest rehabilitation and salvage operations are continuing through the winter, with one Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) working as weather allows. The scattered residual trees retained after the Valley Fire were impacted with significant windthrow during the January storms.
- Both the 1,200-acre vegetation control and planting contracts for Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest were awarded to Great Tree Tenders in January. The work is to commence in early March once the contracts are in place. This initial reforestation project includes approximately 300,000 mixed-conifer seedlings.
- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest now has a Facebook page is up and running at <https://www.facebook.com/CALFIREBoggs>.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest Manager, Pam Linstedt is participating in kickoff meetings and providing a 5-mile square area for the pilot project for the Mendocino County LiDAR Project.

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources, is heading the project in association with a TRFRF- funded Forest Planning Watershed project (Campbell Creek). USGS is under contract with the Natural Resources Agency and Dewberry has been subcontracted to complete the work.

- Some road bank failures and culvert washouts have been identified on Jackson Demonstration State Forest following the series of January and February storms, with preliminary repair estimates at approximately \$60,000.
- A new kiosk for Camp 20 area on Jackson Demonstration State Forest is under construction and should be completed in March. It will display interpretive signs for the historic Chamberlain Creek barn, the unique gantry that was inside the Chamberlain Creek barn, and the steam donkey.

#### **Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC)**

- LAMRC staff are making good progress on seed processing and storage with the ongoing assistance of hand crews from Delta Camp. An AmeriCorps team sponsored by our Solano County Water Agency partners has also assisted in seed processing.
- The current staffing level at LAMRC consists of one Forester II position, four Forestry Assistant II positions, and two seasonal Forestry Aide positions. The Forester II, one Forestry Assistant II, and one Forestry Aide position are presently vacant. The program is working to fill those vacancies prior to the upcoming cone collection season. Forestry Assistant II, Michael Esposito has successfully completed the 7-week Firefighter Academy in Lone and has since begun the 7-week Company Officer Academy.



- Additional security measures have been undertaken on the LAMRC campus due to the recent theft of landscaping equipment. Further security measures are anticipated in cooperation with the adjacent CAL FIRE Mobile Equipment Program.
- The contract for the new cone shed structure is moving forward. It is anticipated the contract will be awarded and construction will be under way by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **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. Completion is expected in June-July, 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 is ongoing at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. FRAP staff recently visited LaTour Demonstration State Forest to discuss recommendations for additional research and experimental design.
- Fire Map 1 for PUC: FRAP (Dave Sapsis) lead a technical committee that developed a map depicting 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. FRAP staff have provided input to a draft MOU between CAL FIRE and PUC to support the development of a Fire Map 2 and other related activities.
- Climate Change: FRAP staff are assisting FCAT in developing the Forest Carbon Plan and other supporting documents. FRAP is coordinating a science team review of the draft Forest Carbon Plan.
- Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF): FRAP staff are supporting the Mapping and Monitoring work group and the Forest Health and Resiliency work group. The Mapping and Monitoring group has completed updates to the High Hazard Zones (HHZ) based on recent Aerial Detection Survey data collected by the USFS. FRAP staff are working with TMTF leads (Staff Chiefs, Rick Carr and Gabe Schultz) to develop a process to request changes to HHZ designation based on local information and approval.
- 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. Mark Rosenberg has developed an initial reporting framework and is establishing an agreement with USFS – PNW to develop FIA based inventory tables for the report.

- CalMAPPER: FRAP staff continue to provide support for project activity tracking and reporting in CalMAPPER.

### **California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)**

- CAL FIRE's CFIP program has been very active in the mortality areas with forest landowners continuing to apply for cost share contracts to remove dead trees and prepare their land for planting new trees. CAL FIRE currently has over 50% of the Forestry Assistance Specialist staff assigned specifically in the mortality counties to deliver cost share funding.
- Over \$2 million has been encumbered specifically within the mortality counties for dead tree removal and reforestation projects across 48 project areas affecting over 1,500 acres.
- TRFRF funding in FY's 15 and 16 has enabled the CFIP program to encumber 183 projects across 52,200 acres statewide.
- \$300,000 in funding remains available for CFIP projects statewide under allocations made from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund.
- \$2.4 million is expected to be made available in 2017 from the High Speed Rail Authority for reforestation projects under CFIP. The quantification methodology is being reviewed now and, once approved, CAL FIRE will begin to encumber projects against this funding source.
- 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 11<sup>th</sup> and was considered successful with over 50 participants.

The next workshop will be held at the Cold Springs Rancheria on February 25<sup>th</sup> with additional workshops being planned in Mariposa, Tuolumne, Placer and Madera counties.

- Revision of the reforestation manual for California is proceeding well and on track 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. Though the results are typically released by February, we are expecting a delay possibly until April 2017.
- Required annual monitoring has been completed for all Conservation Easements except Sunny Brae in Arcata. Inclement weather and road closures have impacted our ability to schedule and conduct this inspection. It is anticipated this will be completed in March.
- 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 DGS 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, federal government and the landowner are nearly complete. Once this language is deemed acceptable, the appraisal will be ordered.

## **Forest Pest Management**

- Forest Pest Management Staff is working with Utah State University researchers investigating the causes of a severe decline of coastal pines between Fort Bragg and Salt Point State Park. Shore pines have been declining since before the drought began.
- Grand fir is declining along the north coast due to the invasive pest, Balsam Woolly adelgid, fir engraver beetle, off-site stands, and the severe drought.
- Forest Pest Management, along with UC Cooperative Extension, hosted a visit by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University Cooperative Extension to Humboldt County.

The purpose of the visit was to examine sudden oak death sites and discuss sudden oak death management efforts to date. A surge in sudden oak death is anticipated within the next few years in response to previously noted inoculum buildup and the very wet winter. Additionally, the European (EU1) strain of the pathogen—previously unknown outside of nursery and closely nursery-linked locations—has appeared in Oregon forestlands, generating concern about possible increased pathogen virulence and disease impacts as the strain spreads.

- Forest Pest Management participated in initial planning efforts by the County of Santa Clara to develop a Forest Health Plan for the 3,200+ acre Mt. Madonna County Park on the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County line. Staff is currently in the process of identifying a soil-borne Phytophthora species that may be responsible for killing large numbers of tanoaks and madrones in the park and on neighboring private properties.
- CDFA and Forest Pest Management staff have identified several previously unobserved pathogens causing branch cankers on mature redwoods and contributing to moisture stress on young redwood trees on private forestlands and along roadsides in Humboldt County. The pathogens include several species, some that do not match up with previously known species, in the genera *Diplodia*, *Dothiorella*, *Neofusicoccum*, *Cytospora*, *Alternaria*, and *Seiridium*. Pathogenicity tests and further species identifications are planned in cooperation with CDFA and UC Berkeley.
- Extensive willow dieback along Escondido Creek in San Diego County was found to be caused by several fungal pathogens. The invasive shot-hole borers were not found in the area.
- A symposium was held in San Diego County on the problems and potential for utilization of woody biomass resulting from mortality due to invasive forest and agricultural pests. The utilization of woody biomass remains an ongoing issue throughout the state.

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

- Urban and Community Forestry GGRF Grants: Scoring of concept proposals is near completion. Successful applicants will be asked to submit full project applications.
- Landscape Scale Forest Health GGRF Grants: The Forest Health Guidelines are being revised and finalized based on public comment. The request for Concept Proposals will occur in early March and be due in early April.

### **Other Grant Programs**

- Both the California High Speed Rail funded grant programs (Urban Forestry and CFIP Reforestation) could be advertised soon, pending posting of the forest health carbon quantification methodology by ARB.

## Tree Mortality Task Force

- The Regulation Working Group minutes for the recent insurance workshop will be finalized and circulated to the task force. Our primary concern is incorporation of local fuel reduction and vegetation treatments into fire risk analysis. Following the workshop, CDI provided a legislative concept they would like to share with the TMTF. The CDI is sympathetic to coverage availability issues many people are experiencing, and hope to gain statutory authority to intercede on behalf of homeowners. The proposed legislative language was circulated to the RWG for review.
- On Thursday February 16, USEPA provided a 30-month exclusion from federal Title V air quality permitting. The exclusion will allow the ACIs to remain operating due to the tree mortality emergency. A local air district can request delegation from USEPA to enforce Title V permitting and must demonstrate an ability to enforce the regulations. An air district can demonstrate this ability by developing and adopting a similar set of rules. The RWG will evaluate this option over the next 30 months in hopes of receiving federal delegation.
- Mapping and Monitoring WG is working to develop a local High Hazard Zone designation process for Tier 1 and Tier 2 zones. Both processes will have evaluation criteria and we anticipate developing web-based applications to facilitate each process.
- Forest Health WG has completed work on a second white paper titled "Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration." This document outlines the actions needed for comprehensive forest restoration across the Sierra Nevada. The main theme of the white paper is robust implementation of programs such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program, supported by enhanced efforts from relevant state and federal agencies. It is anticipated the document will soon be released to the TMTF and posted on the TMTF website.
- Emily Meriam, CAL FIRE-FRAP has produced a final map and accompanying Excel spreadsheet overlaying tree mortality areas with conifer seed zones. The map and accompanying table are intended to be used as a tool for identification of target areas for conifer cone collection and subsequent reforestation planning. They were produced by overlaying GIS data for tree seed zones, 500-foot elevation bands, and forest type vegetation maps in the 10-County high hazard area. The new map title is "Tree Mortality Impacts on California Seed Zones." It is anticipated these products will soon be released to the TMTF.

## **Fire Protection**

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

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 15 arrests and issued 30 citations (excluding 4291).
- Last month, CAL FIRE received \$3,998,350 resulting from Civil Cost Recovery actions.
- CAL FIRE's Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, Bart Chambers, will be leaving CAL FIRE on March 3, 2017 to become the State Fire Marshal for the State of Nevada on March 6, 2017.
- In the process of hiring a Deputy Chief in the State Threat Assessment Center to represent CAL FIRE in threats related to wildland fire and the state's natural resources.

### **Fire Protection Operations**

- Fire Protection Operations provided extensive support to both the field and CalOES during the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident. Operations staff was fully engaged functioning as subject matter experts in areas such as Telecommunications, ordering processes, resource mobilization, interagency coordination, and command & control. Agency Representatives were assigned to the State Operations Center and assisted CalOES with understanding processes and procedures while acting as facilitators for communication between various CalOES Branches.
- The Automated Vehicle Locating (AVL)/Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Non-Competitive Bid (NCB) has been signed. There were delays associated with getting the NCB approved and may have potentially affected the roll-out timeline for the project. Information Technology, Telecom, Operations Support, and CalOES Public Safety Communications are all actively engaged in expediting the procurement and engineering portions of the project to ensure it can get back on track. A steering committee has been established along with an inter-agency working group to identify items of importance to the field as well as infrastructure/support needs.
- The 2017 Hired Equipment rates have been published. Vendors can now begin the sign-up process within the CAL FIRE Units. Updated policies and procedures will go into effect May 1, 2017, which will streamline processes and better serve both the vendor community as well as the Department.

## **Mobile Equipment**

- Mobile Equipment Management is currently working on filling current vacancies. Through the support of the Regions and Units, field personnel are assisting in keeping the operations running.
- Mobile Equipment Management held its annual Heavy Equipment Manager (HEM) and Forestry Equipment Manager (FEM) Workshops to provide annual training on the latest technology available to assist in providing faster and more efficient customer service.

## **Aviation Management Unit**

- The CAL FIRE annual Aviation Safety Conference was held at McClellan Conference Center January 24 – 26, 2017. CAL FIRE aviation personnel from across the State conducted a review of the 2016 fire season specific to aviation and trained on mountain flying techniques.
- Mandatory annual Bell Helicopter refresher training is occurring at McClellan. Over the course of the two-week period from February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 10, 2017, all CAL FIRE helicopter pilots will have completed hands on training in a variety of real life simulations.

## **Tactical Air Operations**

- Working with the California Military Department to plan for the 2017 annual training with our helicopter managers.
- Working with the CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Program and the California State Threat Assessment Center to conduct vulnerability assessments on all CAL FIRE fixed and rotary winged bases.

## **Incident Management Teams**

- Incident Management Team 3 (Lawson) was assigned on February 9, 2017, to assist DWR in the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident. IMT 3 was released on February 24, 2017.
- Incident Management Team 4 (Derum) was assigned on February 12, 2017, to assist Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties in contingency planning and evacuation planning downstream of the Oroville Dam Spillway Incident. IMT 4 was released on February 23, 2017.

## Cooperative Fire Program

- Local Government Program – Program has released the FY 2017-18 Benefit Rates which are assessed on local government agreements. Modest rate increases occurred for retirement (1.5-3.2%), health/dental/vision (1.5) and the prefunding of retiree healthcare (1.0-1.5%). The Administrative Rate declined by 0.20%.
- Conservation Camp Program – The Camp Program will participate in the Military Crew Advisor Workshop during the second week of March. This joint training is to prepare the California Military Department (National Guard) Type II hand crews for possible deployments this coming fire season.
  - The statewide Conservation Camps count as of Wednesday, February 15, 2017 identified the statewide shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is **951** (An increase of 32 from 983 as of January 3, 2017).
  - The inmate population stands at 80% (+1%) of capacity while crew capacity stands at 71% (+1%).
- State-Federal Program – CAL FIRE met with all parties of the California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA) on February 17<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on the renewal of the current agreement. Work groups have been established to focus on the review and possible revision of the following paragraphs:
  - 21 – Protection Areas, Boundaries and Responsibilities
  - 22 – Methods of Fire Protection and Suppression
  - 46 – Payment of Structure Defense
  - Exhibit I – Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement
  - The current agreement will expire on February 28, 2018
- Safety and EMS – At the request of the Director, the EMS Program has kicked off a 100% CPR training challenge to the entire Department. The EMS Program initiated the kickoff on Valentine’s Day, in front of the Natural Resources Building. Within 4 hours, CAL FIRE staff was able to train 93 civilians from various State agencies, including non-uniformed CAL FIRE employees, on “Hands Only CPR.” Staff also performed 30 blood pressure checks.
- Training – The first 2017 Firefighter Academy (FFA) and Company Officer Academy (COA) classes graduated on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the CAL FIRE Academy. These two classes were the first Basic Fire Control (BFC) classes instructed using the new 7-week format.



## Office of the State Fire Marshal

### Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering

#### Defensible Space Program

- Refinements to Electronic Collector App continues to be made.
- New LE-100 Form has been created, incorporating education information.
- Ad Hoc Committee has been created to identify new procedures and guidelines to perform the inspection program electronically – first meeting was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Formal statewide implementation of new electronic program will launch in March.
- Training for new program is being planned across the state.
- There is extensive interest in this new program from local jurisdictions.

#### Damage Inspection Program

- Deputy Chief Steve Hawks has been assigned to participate in a FIRESCOPE working group to rework the DINS curriculum.
- This new format will standardize the DINS process throughout California.
- This group is also developing task books for Damage Inspection Lead position, and Damage Inspection Specialist position for incorporation within ROSS.

#### PRC 4290 Working Group

- Official title of this new group is Fire Safe Development Working Group.
- Goal of this working group is to tie any revisions for PRC 4290 to same timeline as California Building and Fire Code process.
- Group will also be making updates and revisions to the current Field Guide.

## **Fire Plan**

- Battalion Chief Scott Witt assisted with instruction at the Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) Workshop held in Folsom.
- CalMAPPER continues to be updated and improved. A training webinar and workshop has been planned for early March for Unit personnel to receive additional training.
- 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**

- CAL FIRE's first State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) Grant Program will end on March 15, 2017. The 2014-15 SRAFPF Grant Program distributed over \$10 million to 83 SRA Grant Projects throughout the SRA. Program staff is working with the Regions, Units and grantees to ensure all required documentation is on order and submitted by the grant program deadline.
- The \$16 million 2016-17 SRAFPF/Tree Mortality Grant Program (SRA \$10 million and General Fund \$6 million) is moving forward with executing agreements. The goal is to have the funds released to the grantees so that fire prevention and tree mortality projects can commence as soon as possible. As of mid-February, approximately half of the grant agreements has been executed. The remaining agreements are in the final process of completion.
- The California State Board of Equalization will commence FY 2016-17 SRAFPF billings during the first days of March, 2017. The SRAFPF bills will be mailed to each county in alphabetical order through mid-June. This will be the sixth year for the SRAFPF billing cycle.

## **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 late March. We anticipate the successful candidate will begin work in April, 2017.

- CAIRS Staff has designed presentations as a training tool to discuss the CAIRS Program for various Units around the state. Staff has traveled to 3 Units to provide training and information on CAIRS.
- CAIRS Staff is coordinating completion of all CAIRS reports to begin producing the 2016 Redbook data.

### **Land Use Planning**

- Staff is spending more time dealing with PRC 4290 issues and providing guidance to the Units on planning initiatives and projects throughout the state.
- BOF Staff has asked LUP, HCD, and OPR to participate in presentation ideas for the upcoming APA conference being held in Sacramento this summer.
- Deputy Chief Pete Munoa is involved with the new Fire Safe Development Working Group as described under Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering.

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices

Accepted by CAL FIRE - January

Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2016		2017	
		Count	Acres	Count	Acres
1038 (c) 150 FT Fire Hazard	Coast	3	3	2	2
	Cascade	3	3	1	1
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	6	139	1	1
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
1038(c)(6) 300 FT Fire Hazard	Coast	1	6	0	0
	Cascade	1	2	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	1	1	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(d) Substantially Damaged Timberland	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	1	1,000	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(i) Forest Fire Prevention	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(j) Forest Fire Prevention Pilot	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	3	308	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038 (k) Drought Mortality	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	12	928
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	12	2,043	12	275
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,203</b>
1104.1 <3 Acre Conversions	Coast	9	22	2	5
	Cascade	2	3	1	3
	South	0		1	3
	Sierra	0		4	6
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>
All other Exemptions (Christmas Tree; Dead,Dying,Diseased; Fuelwood, Split Products; Lake Tahoe Region; Public Agency; Slash Removal; Utility Right-of-Way)	Coast	1	3	13	51,619
	Cascade	35	189,149	32	222,185
	South	1	240	1	240
	Sierra	2	18,696	22	19,240
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>208,088</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>293,284</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>211,618</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>294,508</b>

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices  
 Accepted by CAL FIRE - January

Type of 1052 Emergency	Admin Area	2016		2017	
		Count	Acres	Count	Acres
<i>Drought</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	2	299	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Fire</i>	Coast	2	508	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	1	31
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	3	96	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>
<i>Fuel Hazard Reduction</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	1	3
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Insect</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	2	397	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>All other Emergencies</i>	Coast	0	0	0	0
	Cascade	0	0	0	0
	South	0	0	0	0
	Sierra	0	0	0	0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>



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

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

*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	13	15	3	3	0	0	1	1	17	19
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	14	13	1	3	0	0	1	0	16	16
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Approved	9	5	11	15	0	0	0	0	20	20
Acreage in Approved THPs	2,029	1,697	5,520	10,561	0	0	0	0	7,549	12,258
NTMPs Received	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	5
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Exemption Notices Received	17	14	46	45	2	1	39	21	104	81
Emergency Notices Received	0	2	1	4	0	0	1	3	2	9
<b>Exemption Types Received 2017</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 2017</b>
Santa Rosa	2		2		0		13		0	17
Redding	1		1		0		26		18	46
Riverside	1		0		0		1		0	2
Fresno	4		1		0		4		30	39
<b>Emergency Types Received 2017</b>	<b>Fire</b>		<b>Fuel Hazard</b>		<b>Insect</b>		<b>Wind</b>		<b>Other Emerg</b>	<b>Rec'd 2017</b>
Santa Rosa	0		0		0		0		0	0
Redding	1		0		0		0		0	1
Riverside	0		0		0		0		0	0
Fresno	0		1		0		0		0	1