

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-8007
(916) 653-0989 FAX
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov



BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Ventura, CA
August 8, 2013

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Keith Gilles, Chairman
Bruce Saito
Mark Andre, Vice Chair
Susan Britting
Mike Miles
Richard Wade
Stuart Farber
Mary Rickert

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stan Dixon

BOARD STAFF:

George Gentry, Executive Officer
Matthew Dias, Executive Officer, Forester's Licensing
Eric Huff, Regulations Coordinator
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Laura Alarcon-Stalians
Edith Hannigan
Donna Lewis

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Ken Pimlott, Director
Janet Upton, Deputy Director of Communications
Caroline Godkin, Deputy Director Legislation
Bill Snyder, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Duane Shintaku, Asst. Deputy Director, Forest Practice
Phyllis Banducci, Chief, Fire Planning

The Board's Mission:

To lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

Call to Order

Chairman Gillless called the August 8, 2013 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to order.

Approval of Minutes

Deferred

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman

No report

Report of the Director/Department-Ken Pimlott - Full Report available on the Board's website.

- The Director thanked the Board of Forestry Executive Officer George Gentry and Board staff for arranging the Ventura meeting and field tours. He also thanked Chief Phyllis Banducci, CAL FIRE, and Chief Lorenzen and Brandon Ripley, Ventura County Fire, for their work on tours and presentations.
- Fire Activity: Silver Fire broke at 2:00 p.m. on August 7; it was at 6,500 acres with little to no containment at the time of his report. There were multiple structures lost and three injuries. It burned in the same foot print as the Esperanza Fire. There has been significant fire history in this area.
- Fire activity has been well above average in the number of fires and acres burned. As of August 5, 2013 there have been 4,300 fires with 71,000 acres burned.
- The department received an opportunity for additional funding for a number of activities through Fire STEP or the Fire Severity Treatment Education and Planning BCP. A little over \$11 million funded through the Fire Prevention Fee to provide work directly back on the ground in State Responsibility Areas where homeowners and residents are the direct recipient of Cal Fire and states efforts in fire prevention. How the funds will be used is multi-pronged, they are looking at a number of positions that will support land use planning. Senator Kehoe was successful in passing SB 1241 which allows the department and the Board of Forestry the ability to work more closely with county and local government in reviewing the public safety element of county general plans. The department is putting approximately \$5 million and 27 positions into the Vegetation Management Program. It will provide money on the ground to contract counties and Cal Fire to the Conservation Camp Program for additional operating dollars to do fuels reduction projects on the ground. It will also provide Resource Management and other professionals to provide CEQA review to help with project development and approval. \$2 million in forestry aid positions to bolster the defensible space inspection program. It will provide for additional resources for Cal Fire units.
- AB 1492, Lumber Assessment Bill, Cal Fire received six positions from the funding in the budget changes.
- SRA billing started going out July 19, and is currently being distributed to Kings County for fiscal year 12/13. The Jarvis Taxpayers Association has filed a law suit; it continues to move forward as a class action suit.
- Succession planning, the department anticipates additional retirements at the Executive, Unit Chief and Program Chief level by the end of the year. They are working on developed leadership training for those identified as candidates. The department will keep the Board apprised of the developments.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator-Eric Huff

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • §1299 AB 1595 Defensible Space | Under OAL Review |
| • Class II-L Identification Method Amendments 2013 | Initial Hearing October 9, 2013 |
| • AB 1492 Lumber Products Assessment Emergency | Final Readoption Approved |
| • AB 1492-Lumber Products Assessment Permanent Regulation | Initial Hearing September 11, 2013 |
| • MTHP Amendments, 2013 | Initial Hearing September 11, 2013 |
| • § 895.1 Commercial Species Amendments, 2013 | Initial Hearing October 9, 2013 |
| • CRM Program Guidelines, 2013 | Section 100 Pending |

Report of Executive Officer

Thanked Ventura County Fire for their assistance, and introduced Senator Hannah Beth-Jackson for her remarks.

Senator Jackson

The Senator welcomed the Board to Ventura county, and thanked them for their efforts to explore the issue of vegetation management.

Report of the Standing Committees

Forest Practice, Mark Andre, Chair

Road Rules review

- 08-13-01** **Member Andre moved to re-notice the Road Rules Regulations for 45-day notice. Member Britting seconded the motion.**

Chairman Gilless called for a roll call vote

Saito	Aye
Britting	Aye
Andre	Aye
Wade	Aye
Miles	Aye
Farber	Aye
Rickert	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Resource Protection, Bruce Saito

- Vegetation Treatment Program EIR Update
- Update on Wildland Prevention Engineering
- Fire Safe Regulation update
- Safety Element Process update
- Neil Fisher, PG&E, continued discussion on better ways to coordinate vegetation and timber harvests programs with utility companies.

Management, Stu Farber, for Stan Dixon

- Review of the Research Structure for Jackson Demonstration State Forest
- Review of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Charter.
- Draft Conservation Easement

08-13-02 Member Farber moved to accept the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Charter. Member Rickert seconded the motion.

Chairman Gilless called for a roll call vote

Saito	Aye
Britting	Aye
Andre	Aye
Wade	Aye
Miles	Aye
Farber	Aye
Rickert	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

08-13-03 Member Farber moved to approve the Research Governance Structure for Jackson State Forest. Member Saito seconded the motion.

Chairman Gilless called for a roll call vote

Saito	Aye
Britting	Aye
Andre	Aye
Wade	Aye
Miles	Aye
Farber	Aye
Rickert	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

- **Forest Pest Council-**
 - **California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF)**
Report included in binder, no presentation
- **Monitoring Study Group- George Gentry (Full report can be found on the BOF website)**
Report included in binder, no presentation
- **Research and Science Committee- George Gentry**
No report
- **Committee on Criminal Trespass- George Gentry**

Working on a symposium for the September meeting. He sent several articles on the impacts of marijuana cultivation to Board members. There are conversions that are going on without oversight throughout the state. An informal request has been made to Shasta and Mendocino Counties for presentations. He is also going to make a formal request to three individuals from North Coast Regional Quality Control Board to speak about the issues their

agency encounters. He has invited an instructor from HSU to talk about the economics of the industry.

- **Range Management Advisory Committee- George Gentry**
No report
- **Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Matt Dias**
Requested Board direction for staff to file a section 100 to amend California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 1651 to reference the current program guidelines. He proposed to strike the noted 1993 guidelines and replace it with the April 2013 program guidelines.

08-13-04 Member Gilless moved to direct staff to file a section 100 to amend California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 1651 to reference the current program guidelines. Member Farber seconded the motion.

Chairman Gilless called for a roll call vote

Saito	Aye
Britting	Aye
Andre	Aye
Wade	Aye
Miles	Aye
Farber	Aye
Rickert	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Ventura County Fire Plan, Brendan Ripley, Captain, Ventura County Fire Department

Captain Ripley reported on the Ventura County Fire Plan. He noted that Collaboration is the key component. Over 40 Representatives from Communities, Agencies, land managers and Fire Safe Councils were involved in the plan development. The Plan recognizes the effects of wildfire: Air Quality, Rangeland, Agricultural Land, Recreation Land, Structures, Water and Watershed, Wildlife Cultural, Historic, and Scenic Resources.

Presentations on Vegetation Management in Chaparral types.

Jon Keeley, Research Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center

Vegetation treatments designed to alter fuels generally represent resource sacrifice. However, fire hazard reduction benefits may pre-empt resource issues, if there is a clearly demonstrable value to such treatments. Treatments are least effective under severe Santa Ana wind conditions. Strategic placement of treatments and effectiveness under moderate weather conditions is badly in need of study. In terms of protection of values at risk, focus should be from the home out (e.g., Ventura Co Fire Department).

Hugh Safford, Regional Ecologist for the Pacific Southwest Region

A tale of two fire regimes:

- Fire Regime I

- Pine and oak forests of frequent, low severity fire; Sierra Nevada

- Fire Regime IV

- Chaparral and serotinous conifers of infrequent, high severity fire; southern California

With growing populations and warming climates, strategic fuel reduction is necessary for protection of certain values at risk, both human and natural

Fuel reduction is relatively easy to align with restoration objectives in Fire Regime I. Outcome leads toward desired ecological conditions. Spatial expansion of fuel reduction efforts ecologically recommendable. Successful restoration typically requires reintroduction of fire.

Fuel reduction difficult to align with restoration objectives in Fire Regime IV (or V). Outcome leads away from desired ecological conditions. Fuel reduction efforts should be done carefully and sparingly, in strategically justified locations and conditions. Successful restoration often requires reduction of fire frequency.

JoAnn Fites-Kaufman, Region 5 Planning Ecologist

San Diego: Systems Approach to Vegetation Management.

Chief Thom Porter and Fire Marshal Greg Schreiner, San Diego County Fire Authority

After the Cedar and Witch Fires, the County set about on a process of analyzing the event and put in motion what has become a multiyear effort implement a “systems approach” to address community protection in the WUI environment. This includes:

- ▶ Code Development
- ▶ Defensible Space
- ▶ Planning and Land Development Policies

This has resulted in reduced structure losses since the Witch fire.

Public Comment

David Magney, shared his concerns with fuels management. He commented on the importance of defensible space to prevent structure loss.

Ryan Lawler, California Chaparral Institute, emphasized collaboration, current science, and recognizing distinct ecosystems.

Robert Taylor, Fire GIS Specialist, National Park Service, commented on collaboration and how extreme weather changes conditions.

Dan Silver, Executive Director Endangered Habitat League, current evidence shows that treatments need to focus on the wildland urban interface from the house out rather than on wildlands many miles away from structures. The Vegetation Treatment Program released as a programmatic EIR provides for an excellent opportunity to work together. He asked the Board to reach out to Cal Fire to provide direction so that will be open and collaborative and willing to reexamine its practices on the basis of the best available science. These adaptations should be reflected in transparent protocols and decisions to guide how, when and where specific treatment regimes should be applied.

Michael Fitts, Attorney Endangered Habitat League, would like to see the EIR project description fundamentally revised to disclose priorities as they relate to separate fire regimes and to provide a

transparent decision making path showing how these priorities will be reflected at the community and unit fire plan level.

CONCLUSION
Public Forum

New and Unfinished business

None

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



George D. Gentry
Executive Officer

ATTEST:



Mark Andre
Vice-Chairman

Copies of the attendance sheets can be obtained from the Board Office.