



## Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



### Webinar

Registration link for this meeting is available on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website (<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/>).

**September 23, 2020**

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## **2020 Wildfire Siege**

On Saturday, August 15, 2020 a wildland fire siege began in California when a series of lightning storms generated nearly 14,000 lightning strikes with over 650 wildfires reported within the next seven (7) days. This siege is ongoing with additional wildfires having started since the end of the lightning storms. As of 9:00 am on Friday, September 18, 2020, there are 27 major wildfires or wildfire complexes that are 100 acres or greater in size. Since the siege began, over 2.9 million acres have been burned. Since January 1, 2020 CAL FIRE and our Federal partners have reported 7,910 wildfires burning 3,492,375 acres. For the same time period in 2019 there were 5,136 wildfires reported, burning 151,681 acres.

There have been 26 fatalities associated with the 2020 fire siege, three (3) of which have been first responders. There have been over 5,550 structures destroyed and damage assessment is ongoing. Nearly 70,000 structures remain threatened with over 26,000 individuals still evacuated. There are over 18,500 fire personnel from state, local, tribal and federal agencies currently committed. This includes 2,400 fire engines, 322 fire crews, 418 dozers and 474 water tenders. Both resources from outside of California as well as active duty military personnel are committed. Aircraft have delivered over 4.9 million gallons of fire retardant and an additional 8.7 million gallons of water. Five (5) of the top 20 largest wildfires in California's recorded history have now occurred this year and the number is likely to increase.

We continue to encourage individuals to visit our [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org) website for information on preparing for wildfires, preventing wildfires, post fire recovery and forest health.

## **Resource Management**

### ***Forest Practice Program***

#### **Plan Submissions (through 08/31/2020)**

- **THP Submissions:** The number of THP submissions through August 31, 2020 was eight (8) more than the number of submissions through August of last year (149 compared to 141 in 2019).
- **NTMP/WFMP Submissions:** The total number of NTMP submissions through August 31, 2020 was two (2) less than the number of submissions through August 2019 (9 compared to 11 in 2019). Sixty-eight (68) Notices of Timber Operations have been submitted thus far this year compared to sixty-five (65) for the same period in 2019. Zero (0) Working Forest Management Plans have been submitted thus far in 2020.

- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** There were 1,334 exemption submissions through August 31, 2020, compared to 1,560 through August 2019; a decrease of approximately 14%. 190 Post-Fire Recovery Exemptions have been accepted covering approximately 268 acres. 44 Forest Fire Prevention Exemptions were accepted for approximately 4,921 acres. 245 Utility Right-of-Way Exemptions have been accepted through August covering approximately 377,890 acres.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were approximately 58% lower through August 31, 2020 than submissions over the same period last year (75 compared to 179 in 2019). Acreage in Emergencies through August 31, 2020 was approximately 55% lower than through August 2019 (12,685 acres compared to 27,908 in 2019).
- **Plan Approval:** The number of THPs approved through August 31, 2020, was thirteen (13) more than the number approved for the same period of 2019 (167 compared to 154 in 2019). The number of NTMPs approved was one (1) more than the number approved during the same period of 2019 (8 compared to 7 in 2019).

**Watershed Protection Program Update**

- 2020 Exemption Notice monitoring work updates:
  - Nearly all the remaining 1038(c) fire structure protection (0-150 foot) Notice monitoring have been completed this month. Currently, 74 of 75 Notices (99%) have been completed with initial data analysis.
  - One additional 1104.1(c) utility right-of-way (ROW) Exemption Notice was monitored in the past month. Digital observations have been recorded for 8 Notices to date.
- The last month has been heavily dominated by Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) assignments to multiple fires.

**Timber Operator Licensing (LTO) and Forest Practice Enforcement Updates:**

The following tables summarize LTO and Enforcement Activities since the last report.

Table 1: LTO License Status

Table 2: Active Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	#	Status	# of Cases
New Applications Rec'd	11	Under Review	5
Renewal Applications Rec'd	10	Developed for Signature	16
New Licenses Issued	11	CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	17
Licenses Renewed	7	Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	7
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	16	Settlement Mitigation	4
Applications Returned	10	Payments	18
Refunds Issued	0	Probation	2
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	120	Judgement Needed	10
		Final Order/Default	11
<b>Total Valid LTOs</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

Table 3: Forest Practice Civil Penalty Collection

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	13	\$112,450	\$135,800
Default	18	\$220,635	\$265,800
Paid per CPO	9	\$ 98,000	\$98,000
Settled	66	\$536,645	\$600,905
Totals	106	\$944,795	\$1,100,505

Forest Practice Enforcement Program penalty collection from January 1, 2016 to August 31, 2020. Adjudicated are cases that were decided by hearing. The difference in Amount Collected and Total Amount Due indicates respondent is making payments or a judgement is needed. Penalties collected are deposited in the State's General Fund per (PRC§4601.1(d)).

## **Resource Protection and Improvement Program**

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

- The California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee will soon be accepting nominations for several positions. More information will be available on the program web page soon.
- The program has obtained urban tree canopy cover data processed from 2018 National Aerial Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery. The data is now available in a viewer hosted by the USDA Forest Service Region 5 Urban and Community Forestry Program (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/communityforests/>).

### **Shared Stewardship MOU With the USDA Forest Service**

This recently signed MOU is a high level agreement for cooperation between the State of California and the USDA Forest Service at a high level, yet it includes several specific commitments such as the Good Neighbor Authority projects and a network of State and federal research forests for climate change monitoring.

Notable commitments include:

1. 500,000 acres of vegetation management each, for a total of 1 million acres annually by 2025 (the State currently does approximately 300,000 acres through timber operations, exemptions and emergencies, with another 90,000 acres of CAL FIRE fuels reduction projects, both GGRF and VMP, for a total of about 390,000 acres).
2. Expand forest management and working forests, sourcing more of our 7 billion board feet annual lumber consumption from within California, above the current 2 billion board feet of in-state production. Promote "California grown" timber. Provide incentives to the private sector.
3. Develop markets for wood products.

Also: 4. improve access to recreation for low-income communities, 5. Fire-adapted communities, 6. Advance science and share monitoring, 7. Promote co-benefits, 8. Vegetation treatments, 9. Joint forest and vegetation management plan.

## Demonstration State Forests

### ***Jackson (JDSF)***

- The Caspar Watershed annual meeting was held via webinar on August 12 and 13. It was well attended with 47 attendees, but participants missed the opportunity for casual exchange.
- 90 firewood cutting permits were issued in the month of August for the completed 23 Gulch Timber Sale area.
- Results obtained by Dr. Chis Surfleet for road erosion found sediment values from the road and Distributed Hydrology Soil Vegetation Model (DHSVM) modeling consistent with Barrett and Tomberlin's work for rock surfaces. Findings indicate that retaining and reusing legacy riparian-midslope road systems even with hydrologic disconnection practices would still contribute to cumulative watershed effects.
- The JDSF Recreation Task Force conducted a biannual meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The agenda included discussion of infrastructure improvements and current-planned projects. The task force will meet again in October to discuss JDSF's trail network.

### ***Mountain Home (MHDSF)***

- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest and Balch Park Campground were evacuated on Tuesday, September 7th due to the SQF Complex and predicted extreme fire weather. The Castle fire presents the most immediate threat to the forest.
- Isabel Montanez (UC Davis Professor) and local expert spelunker Greg Roemer entered the Crystal 67 cave with a small team on August 29. The crew extracted a single stalagmite from the cave to study climate changes over time in a method somewhat akin to dendrochronology (see photo to right). They plan to reenter the cave to place small sensors in the cave to monitor climate conditions within the cave. The sensors will be removed in the Spring of 2021.



### ***Boggs and Las Posadas***

- An evacuation order for the town of Angwin, including Las Posadas, was issued on August 19 due to the Hennessey Fire (LNU Complex). The fire was successfully kept away from both the town and forest.

### ***Soquel (SDSF)***

- The Forest has been closed to all public access and recreation since August 23, along with neighboring portions of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, due to weather, wildfires and resource drawdown. A News Release was posted to social media, and signs were posted throughout the forest and at the forest office.

- Interest in the upcoming Forest Stewardship Workshop for the Santa Cruz Mountains increased with the local fire, and now even the waitlist is full. Forest Manager Angela Bernheisel is assisting the UC Extension to organize this event.

## **Forest Pest Management**

- Southern California counties continue to remove and dispose of high-risk trees infested with invasive shot hole borers under state grant funds provided through CAL FIRE. Traps and lures for a state-wide trapping effort are finally going to the field through related funding.
- The edge of the known range of the infestation of the non-native Mediterranean Oak Borer Complex continues to expand in Napa, Lake and Sonoma Counties. Staff is assisting in research on trapping and survey methodology, control options and causes of susceptibility of blue and valley oaks. The wildfires in the area did not impact the zone of infestation but may lead to a further expansion of the zone of infestation.
- Staff is conducting surveys and evaluations for sudden oak death disease in San Luis Obispo and Del Norte Counties. Any positive finds would mean new counties to be quarantined if infested trees are found.
- Work is ongoing on a potential expansion of the Zone of Infestation for Gold Spotted Oak Borer in southern California.
- A potential Zone of Infestation is being developed for invasive shot hole borers in southern California.
- Surveys have found extensive dieback of incense cedar trees throughout much of California. No insect or disease organisms could be associated with the symptoms and the problem is being attributed to climatic conditions.

## ***Wildfire Resilience Program***

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

- LAMRC has received three shipments of cones for processing so far this season: sugar and Ponderosa pine from Yosemite National Park and Sierra National Forest (LAMRC collection), white fire (Industry client), and western white pine from Latour Demonstration State Forest (LAMRC collection). In addition, LAMRC is expecting a shipment of several hundred bushels of North Sierra Tree Improvement Association (NSTIA) Ponderosa pine from the NSTIA/Malin Orchard in the coming weeks. Based on cone survey results, overall it appears this is a light to non-existent cone year.
- LAMRC recently hired Ms. Katherine Bolte as the Environmental Scientist-Assistant Nursery Manager. Ms. Bolte comes to LAMRC from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) where she administered CDFW’s Comprehensive Wetland Habitat Program. Ms. Bolte is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with a focus on Plant Sciences. With the addition of Ms. Bolte, all permanent positions at LAMRC are filled. In addition to permanent staff, LAMRC staff also includes a Retired Annuitant and three Forestry Aides.

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

- The final CFIP Funding cycle for Prop 68 Funds has been put on hold until further notice. Once the fire siege has ended and the staff returns, the Program will select a

new application deadline and begin evaluating those currently approved Prop 68 CFIP Grants that have been impacted by the fires to determine if the landowners wish to continue with the proposed grant or re-adjust the grant through amendments to clean-up/reforest the property.

### **Wildfire Resilience**

- Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Block Grants are now being implemented through establishment of contracts with Plumas County Fire Safe Council and the Rebuild NorthBay Foundation.

### **Forest Legacy Program (FLP)**

- The following two projects have closed escrow in June 2020:
  - **Diamond D Forest** is a 2,960-acre family-owned working forest and ranch in Humboldt County
- The following projects are nearing completion:
  - **The Arrowhead Ridge Forest Legacy Project** 78-acre parcel located southwest of Lake Arrowhead.

### ***Climate and Energy Program***

- CAL FIRE Resource Management programs did not receive a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation in the last legislative session. This means that there will be no solicitation for the Forest Health grant program at least until a new budget is passed.
- Climate and Energy staff alerted Forest Health, California Forest Legacy, and Forest Health Research stakeholders that the fall 2020 grant solicitation has been cancelled.
- Tim Robards has been promoted to Forest and Fire Protection Administrator of the Forest Health and Wood Products programs. Tim began his career with CAL FIRE in 1990 after working two years as a researcher at UC Berkeley. He has worked for the Department in the Forest Practice program as the first Sustained Yield Forester, with the Demonstration State Forests as research manager, and at FRAP where he acted as quantitative lead on the committee that developed the CARB forest carbon protocol. Tim took a diversion to the private sector from 2010 to 2018 and then reinstated as a Forester II in November of 2018. Tim received a BS in Forest Management with a minor in Soil Science from Purdue University in 1985. He worked for the CACTOS forest growth cooperative at UC Berkeley, obtaining a MS in Forest Biometrics in 1988. Tim returned to UC Berkeley and received a PhD in 2009 with research focused on statistical modeling of forest inventory and growth in the context of climate change in the interior forests of California.
- Forest Health staff are working with Grants Management Unit and eCivis contractors to input Forest Health grantee project implementation data to a grants management database which will soon be launched. The platform will also be used to collect grant application information when the next solicitation is held.
- Forest Health staff are reaching out to grantees with projects that have been intersected by the current fires with the expectation that forest treatments will need to be amended.

## **Fire Protection**

### ***Fire Protection Program***

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

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made 20 arrests and issued 69 citations (non-4291).
- CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery received \$7,671,725 in recovered fire suppression costs, last month.
- On July 1, 2020, Humboldt County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 700 block of Alpha Street in Eureka to investigate the report of illegal fireworks. While on scene, deputies located illegal fireworks and notified CAL FIRE Law Enforcement. With assistance from Sheriff's deputies, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers seized over 10,000 lbs. of illegal fireworks from the residence and arrested a 34-year-old subject for possession of dangerous fireworks without a permit.
- On July 1, 2020, a vegetation fire was reported to the CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department Emergency Command Center. When the first engine arrived at scene of the "Swedes Fire" in Bangor, fire personnel saw an unknown female leaving the area on foot. As firefighters were controlling the fire, CAL FIRE officers arrived and began a search for the female subject. She was quickly found by fire personnel in the back of a department crew bus, dressed in a CAL FIRE uniform and gathering personal belongings of firefighters. After completing the investigation, the subject was arrested for arson as well as numerous other charges.
- On July 7, 2020, two vegetation fires occurred north of the community of Thermalito in Butte county. During the investigation, CAL FIRE officers determined the fire was arson caused and arrested a 27-year-old female for igniting the fires.
- On July 10, 2020, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers were requested to respond to a commercial structure fire (Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall) in the City of Delhi. During their investigation, it was determined the fire had been intentionally set to the front door of the structure. While at scene they also identified a suspect and conducted an interview. After completing their interview and the investigation, CAL FIRE officers arrested the subject for arson.
- On July 29, 2020, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers arrested a male subject for four arson caused wildland fires. This was the culmination of a month's long investigation that began with the first fire occurring in October of 2019. The San Benito-Monterey Unit officers were able to link the subject to all four fires based on evidence at each fire, witness statements and surveillance video.

#### **Fire Protection Operations**

- CAL FIRE's fire modeling and risk assessment software, provided by Technosylva, has been utilized during the August lightning incidents. Overall rollout and implementation progress continue.
- ALERTWildfire cameras online were used extensively to monitor condition throughout the State and verify intelligence.

## **Aviation Management Unit (AMU)/Tactical Air Operations (TAO)**

- The S70i, CAL FIRE Hawk transition training for the second base, Columbia Helitack Base, is currently scheduled for October 5-16. With the significant amount of statewide fire activity and the commitment of personnel, this training is in jeopardy of being postponed until November 2020. A final determination will be made in the upcoming days.
- There has been an extreme amount of aerial firefighting flight operations over the last month with the current fire situation in California. TAO has been coordinating with multiple other agencies and organizations including but not limited to CHP, California National Guard (CNG), out of state National Guard units, Cal OES, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Civil Air Patrol, United States Navy and Marine Corp, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and United States Forest Service (USFS). Work has included aircraft and airspace coordination, resource availability and acquisition, interagency aviation coordination and the integration of intelligence gathering aircraft into firefighting operations.
- CAL FIRE has increased its fleet of aircraft by contracting several Exclusive Use aircraft including two Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT), one Large Air Tanker (LAT), six Type I large helicopters and two Type II medium helicopters. Notably this includes the 747 and DC-10 VLATs.

## **Mobile Equipment Program**

- Nothing to report due to incident activity.

## ***Cooperative Fire Program***

### **Conservation Camp Program**

- The current statewide strength of CAL FIRE/California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is 106 Type I crews (22 crews have less than 12 offenders) leaving 84 crews available for statewide response (short 108 crews). There are currently 14 California Conservation Camp (CCC) crews staffed out of 15 total crews (1 of those crews are being quarantined). A total of 120 Type I crews are staffed out of 207 total allocated with only 96 available for statewide response.
- COVID-19 continues to impact the Camp program, all three institutions that train inmate firefighters to staff the camp program remain on quarantine. California Correctional Center in Northern California which trains all offenders for the camps in the north, Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown which trains all offenders for the south and California Institute for Women which trains all the female inmate firefighters statewide remain on quarantine.
- CAL FIRE and the California National Guard (CNG) currently have 32 hand crews assigned to fires throughout the State.

### **Local Government Program**

- Nothing new to report.



## **State-Federal Program**

- The current ten (10) Joint Task Force (JTF) California National Guard Crews are providing the units with hazardous fuels mitigation and fire response. The Federal Title 32 continues to fund the JTF Fire Crews although we anticipate funding to transition to a combination of Federal and State funding. Currently we have two crews in SHU, two in NEU, one in BEU, one in SLU and four in FKU.

## **Safety/EMS Program**

- Nothing significant to report due to incident activity.

## **Training Program**

- Training continues at the CAL FIRE Training Center with both FFA and COA classes continuing. Training Center South continued training with on FFA class.
- Both Training Centers' staff continue to assist in the statewide incident response.

# **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

## ***Wildfire Planning and Engineering Division***

- Most of the Wildfire Planning and Engineering staff have been committed to large fire support since the start of the fires on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Wildfire Prevention Engineering**

- The D-Space program continues to see success despite COVID-19 and the 2020 fire season
  - To date 2019 Compliant 95,604, Non-Compliant 21,866, Total 117,470
  - To date 2020 Compliant 110,753, Non-Compliant 21,952, Total 132,731
- DINS has been fully engaged on all CAL FIRE incidents since the start of the lightning fires on August 15<sup>th</sup>. We are significantly ahead of last year.
  - To date 2019 Destroyed 29, Damaged 8, Total 37
  - To date 2020 Destroyed 4,823, Damaged 594, Total 5,417
- In May, we made a D-Space Self-Assessment Survey available online. To date, we have had 759 completed surveys with 512 of those occurring since August.
- Continued work with NIST, USFS, and IBHS on a multi-year Structure Separation Experiment.
- Staff continue working on automating all Department burn permits. Significant process in the development of the database and work continues with the Prescribed Fire Working Group to narrow down the fields and choices the permittee will have. The goal is to increase the ease with which the public can obtain a burn permit (online), streamline the process, create an electronic geospatial database, and allow for better reporting.

### **Fire Plan**

- The Fire Hazard Severity Zone remap is ongoing.

- Continue documenting fuels project as ‘success stories’ that made a significant impact on the recent wildfires.

### **California Incident Data & Statistics**

- Statewide, all fire departments continue to capture all COVID-19-related contacts for incident reporting purposes.
- Staff continue working on completing the 2019 Redbook.
- The Data Entry Tool (DET) used to download statewide NFIRS data is scheduled to be decommissioned by the USFA in October. Staff is working with IT to develop an in-house version of this tool to enable OSFM to maintain the statewide incident database.

### **Land Use Planning**

- Continued discussions with the Office of Planning and Research to update to the “Fire Hazard Planning - General Plan Technical Advice Series” document, as required by AB 2911.
- Ongoing discussions, assistance, presentations and meetings with various jurisdictions’ statewide for Safety Element, LHMP, General Plan, Firewise, CALBO, Stats and Regs courses and Land Use Planning overview.

### **Fire Prevention Grants**

- Staff continue working with BSO for the procurement of the Inter-agency agreements for the \$10 million appropriation.
- Staff have completed the Inter-agency agreement with the California Fire Safe Council for the \$5 million appropriation for defensible space.
- Staff continue working on success stories from previous grants that have been awarded.
- Fire Prevention Staff, Grants Management Unit, and other CAL FIRE Grant Program Staff have been learning and testing the new Grants Management System. This system is in place and will be utilized for the 20/21 grant cycle.
- The Department has not received its normal appropriation of grant funding from SB 901 due to budget constraints. We are waiting to see if the legislature appropriates funds for grants at a future date.

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices  
Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through August 31, 2020

Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2019		2020	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(b) (03/2019)	10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris v2019	Cascade (Redding)	182	629,963	190	1,104,160
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	31	384,166	54	437,750
		Riverside (South)			1	240
		Sierra (Fresno)	14	23,500	45	60,736
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1,037,629</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>1,602,886</b>
1038(a)&(b)	10% Dead, Dying or Diseased Fuelwood or Split Products	Cascade (Redding)	74	496,274		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	18	28,895		
		Riverside (South)	1	240		
		Sierra (Fresno)	3	18,579		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>543,988</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038.6 (03/2019)	Butte Post Fire Recovery	Cascade (Redding)	365	885		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(a) (03/2019)	Christmas Trees	Cascade (Redding)	3	840	4	1,050
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			2	27
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,077</b>
1038(k)	Drought Mortality	Cascade (Redding)	3	324		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	26	192		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(d) (03/2019)	Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	Cascade (Redding)	1	212	14	3,684
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			13	3,245
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6,929</b>
1038(j)	Forest Fire Prevention PILOT Project	Cascade (Redding)	3	258		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	2	263		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	120		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(i)	Forest Fire Prevention Project	Cascade (Redding)	1	10		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2019		2020	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038.3 (03/2019)	Forest Fire Prevention v2019	Cascade (Redding)	8	728	24	3,570
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	11	720	19	1,301
		Riverside (South)			1	50
		Sierra (Fresno)	4	908		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4,921</b>
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	92	138	107	180
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	25	48	21	39
		Riverside (South)	1	3		
		Sierra (Fresno)	16	13	15	19
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>238</b>
1038(l)	Oak Woodland Management (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	2	237		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(e) (03/2019)	Oak Woodland Management v2019	Cascade (Redding)			1	112
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	2	94	5	56
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>168</b>
1038(m)	Post Fire Recovery (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038.5 (03/2019)	Post Fire Recovery v2019	Cascade (Redding)	1	1		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	2		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Post Fire Recovery v2020	Cascade (Redding)			189	266
		Coast (Santa Rosa)			1	2
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>268</b>
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	152	94,016	110	157,326
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	70	148,890	55	155,875
		Riverside (South)	1	1		
		Sierra (Fresno)	87	23,630	80	64,689
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>266,537</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>377,890</b>

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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2019		2020	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(f) (03/2019)	Small Timberland Owner	Cascade (Redding)	1	2	5	58
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	2	55	1	56
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	80		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>114</b>
1038(c)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	Cascade (Redding)	20	94		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	18	25		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	11	22		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(c) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)	213	303	220	397
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	54	1,084	73	1,797
		Riverside (South)			1	7
		Sierra (Fresno)	9	34	39	146
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>2,347</b>
1038(c)(6)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) Includes exemptions previously submitted with both 0-150ft and 150-300ft options	Cascade (Redding)	1	3		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(c)(6) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)	11	36	27	97
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	16	88	15	75
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	2	5	2	18
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>190</b>
1038(d)	Substantially Damaged Unmerchantable Sawlog	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(g)	Woody Debris and Slash Removal	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>All Exemptions</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>1,855,981</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,997,028</b>

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2019		2020				
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres		
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	144	22,252	62	11,848		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	33	4,726	10	548		
		Riverside (South)						
		Sierra (Fresno)	2	930	3	289		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>27,908</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12,685</b>		
<u>Emergency Conditions</u> More than one condition can be selected per Notice of Emergency Timber Operations - acreage may be reflected multiple times  *Others may include multiple emergency conditions		Drought		Cascade (Redding)	5	1,326	14	2,737
				Coast (Santa Rosa)				
				Riverside (South)				
				Sierra (Fresno)				
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,326</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,737</b>
		Fire		Cascade (Redding)	137	20,807	52	10,411
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	26	4,447	10	548
				Riverside (South)				
				Sierra (Fresno)	1	582		
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>25,835</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10,959</b>
		Insects		Cascade (Redding)	22	3,653	28	4,034
				Coast (Santa Rosa)				
				Riverside (South)				
				Sierra (Fresno)			1	2
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4,036</b>
		*Others		Cascade (Redding)	219	35,620	147	28,205
Coast (Santa Rosa)	19			2,207	3	7		
Riverside (South)								
Sierra (Fresno)	1			582	6	861		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>239</b>			<b>38,409</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>29,073</b>		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)			16	1,724		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)						
		Riverside (South)						
		Sierra (Fresno)	2	750	4	369		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,093</b>		
Fuel Hazard Reduction		Cascade (Redding)						
		Coast (Santa Rosa)						
		Riverside (South)						
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	193				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
Sudden Oak Death Disease		Cascade (Redding)						
		Coast (Santa Rosa)						
		Riverside (South)						
		Sierra (Fresno)						
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

**CALENDAR YEAR 2020  
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH August 31, 2020**

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans 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	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
THPs Received	97	96	34	45	0	0	10	8	141	149
THPs Returned	34	34	12	23	0	0	3	3	49	60
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	100	92	38	47	0	0	10	9	148	148
THPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Approved	106	97	39	56	0	0	9	14	154	167
THP Approved Acres	26,345	23,413	23,892	45,019	0	0	2,658	7,971	52,895	76,403

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
NTMPs Received	10	4	1	4	0	0	0	1	11	9
NTMPs Returned	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	7
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	6	6	1	3	0	0	0	0	7	9
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	5	6	1	2	0	0	1	0	7	8
NTMP Approved Acres	676	1,968	519	980	0	0	438	0	1,633	2,948
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	54	55	7	10	0	0	4	3	65	68

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
WFMPs Received	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
WFMPs Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
WFMPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Approved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Approved Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**CALENDAR YEAR 2020  
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH August 31, 2020**

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans 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



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.

Acres represent those reported on the Notice as accepted by the Department and may not reflect actual operations on the ground.

Data Source: CalTREES



**AGREEMENT FOR SHARED STEWARDSHIP OF CALIFORNIA'S FOREST AND  
RANGELANDS**  
**Between the**  
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**And the**  
**USDA, FOREST SERVICE**  
**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between the State of California, hereinafter referred to as "the State," and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, hereinafter referred to as "the U.S. Forest Service" and together referred to as "The Parties."

**TITLE:** Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forests and Rangelands

**PURPOSE:**

This MOU establishes a joint framework to enhance science-based forest and rangeland stewardship in California. The U.S. Forest Service and the State of California commit to maintain and restore healthy forests and rangelands that reduce public safety risks, protect natural and built infrastructure, and enhance ecological habitat and biological diversity. The Parties agree to develop shared tools, coordinated processes, and innovative approaches to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of forest and rangeland stewardship in California.

The U.S. Forest Service and the State of California, through the California Natural Resources Agency, make this commitment in accordance with the following provisions.

**STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:**

Restoring healthy forests and rangelands in California will yield both ecological and community benefits. Healthy forests will improve climate resilience and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, safeguard water quality and air quality, protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance biological diversity, sequester carbon, improve recreational opportunities, and generate good jobs and economic opportunities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Home to some of the largest, tallest and oldest trees in the world, rich biological diversity, vast watersheds, and spectacular recreation, the grandeur of California's wildlands has captivated generations. California's forests naturally adapted to low-intensity fire, nature's preferred management tool, but Gold Rush-era clearcutting followed by a wholesale policy of fire suppression resulted in the overly dense, ailing forests that dominate the landscape today.

Compounding risks have made it nearly impossible for nature to self-correct. A cycle of catastrophic wildfires, longer fire seasons, severe drought, intense wind, tree mortality, invasive species, and human population pressure threaten to convert conifer forests to shrublands and shrublands to invasive grasses.

The health and wellbeing of California communities and ecosystems depend on urgent and effective forest and rangeland stewardship to restore resilient and diverse ecosystems.

With California's landscape heavily divided among multiple landowners, coordinated stewardship is critical to success. The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region manages over 20 million acres across 18 National Forests in California. The State of California has nearly 14 million acres of private or state-owned forested lands within its jurisdiction. Together this represents over one-third of California's landmass.

In August 2018, the USDA announced a new Shared Stewardship Investment Strategy, committing to establish shared stewardship agreements with state partners throughout the nation. The USDA strategy outlined three core elements:

1. Manage together. Establish a joint forest stewardship plan to combine capacity and assets to achieve shared goals across jurisdictions.
2. Do the right work in the right places at the right scale. Identify and prioritize forest treatments and other investments that can do the most good to protect the most vulnerable communities, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat, and economies.
3. Use all available tools for better stewardship. Utilize all available authorities, investments and programs to do more work on the ground, which includes carefully managed fire, appropriate timber harvest, non-commercial mechanical treatments, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and other habitat and watershed restoration activities. Work with partners and stakeholders to utilize appropriate tools for each project.

California's Shared Stewardship Agreement will enable the Parties to increase pace and scale of science-based forest and rangeland stewardship efforts, and better protect California's people, infrastructure, and ecosystems. It is incumbent upon us to restore California's forest through stewardship that returns natural fire regimes to the landscape and restores the natural functions of California's ecosystems.

## **PRINCIPLES:**

1. **Utilize Science:** Use science to inform and prioritize stewardship decisions. Adapt stewardship tools and techniques around improvements in scientific understanding. Support long-term research and studies to deepen our understanding of forest management. Use the best technology and tools to acquire accurate and detailed data. Share data, maps, and analyses and assess any gaps or duplication. Apply this science to all management techniques to ensure the right management plan support the right ecology, including taking into account California's wide variance in fire return intervals for shrublands vs. conifer forests.
2. **Prioritize Community Safety and Ecology:** Manage risk across broad landscapes by prioritizing vulnerable communities and ecosystems for improved fire suppression and

prevention capabilities. Protect vulnerable communities by expanding wildfire risk models beyond fire-prone topography and vegetation to include socioeconomic factors such as age, car ownership, disability, and ingress or egress corridors that hinder evacuation. Ensure that all management plans and projects incorporate ecological goals and protections to avoid solving one problem by creating another.

3. **Improve Efficiency:** Adopt efficiencies and streamlined regulatory procedures to quickly and effectively complete environmental review while maintaining environmental safeguards and opportunities for public engagement. Streamline and synchronize permits through on-line permitting systems. Utilize all tools available including but not limited to, state-delivered landowner technical assistance, forest health assistance, wildland fire suppression, prescribed fire, State and private forestry programs, Good Neighbor Authority and other Farm Bill authorities.
4. **Scale Up Ecologically-based Forestry Across Sectors:** Evaluate and deploy available resources such as staff and funding for targeted investment to help local governments, small landowners, tribal governments, and businesses scale up sustainable ecological forest management efforts that deliver multiple ecological and social co-benefits. Explore opportunities to leverage public-private partnerships and investments. Government investments should act as a force multiplier for private and local funds.
5. **Coordinate Land Management:** Wildfires don't stop at jurisdictional boundaries. Work with landowners, including small landowners, tribal governments, utility companies and owners of road rights-of-way to promote consistent, efficient, economic and environmental forest stewardship across a contiguous landscape.
6. **Collaborate and Innovate with all Stakeholders:** Utilizing the Governor's Forest Management Task Force, coordinate and collaborate with environmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other federal and state agencies, tribal governments, local governments, and private landowners. Consistent and clear communication and collaboration will result in more effective policy outcomes, foster better public understanding, encourage constructive engagement across multiple stakeholders and promote effective stewardship, problem-solving and decision-making. The Parties will embrace new thinking, innovation, and take measured risks to seize opportunities for shared success.

## **ACTIONS:**

The Parties commit to the following actions to advance shared stewardship opportunities:

1. **Treat One Million Acres per Year:** The Parties will scale up vegetation treatment to one million acres of forest and wildlands annually by 2025, committing to each sustainably treat 500,000 acres per year. Treatments will follow a joint plan and will be driven by public safety and ecological goals including reducing wildfire impacts in high priority areas and maintaining or restoring healthy, resilient forests and rangelands.

2. **Develop a Joint Plan:** The Parties will develop a coordinated, statewide, 20-year project plan by 2021 for forest and vegetation management. This plan will be based on landscape level analysis, risk assessment and other relevant methods and will be updated at five-year intervals. This plan will be captured on a master map that includes recently completed, ongoing and planned vegetation management and forest thinning projects across State, Federal and private landowners. This project map will overlay landscape level risk assessments including ecological, wildfire and community risks, identifying any gaps and highlighting the highest priority areas. The Parties will consult with, and seek input from, tribal governments, local governments, other state and federal agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders in developing and updating this map. This map will be shared publicly to foster coordinated planning, dialogue and feedback among community and environmental stakeholders.
  
3. **Use Sustainable Vegetation Treatments:** The Parties will use science-based management to ensure vegetation treatment tools are ecologically appropriate to specific vegetation and landscapes. Treatments will include thinning in excessively dense stands, timber harvesting, mechanical fuel reduction, prescribed fire, grazing, and reforestation.
  - a. Expand Prescribed Fire: Expanding and accelerating the use of prescribed fire is key to effective stewardship at scale. The Parties will build public awareness about prescribed fire and develop tools to support expanding natural fire on the landscape.
  
  - b. World Class Research Forests: To effectively monitor treatment types and climate change, the Parties will establish a world-class monitoring and research program. Coordinating and expanding the existing network of 50-plus experimental forests in California, the Parties will partner with state and national parks, universities, and non-profits. Future sites can focus on non-forested areas like Southern California chaparral systems, ensuring that treatments are ecologically appropriate for non-conifer ecosystems.
  
4. **Expand Forest Management and Associated Infrastructure:** To increase the pace and scale of forest stewardship, especially for small landowners, the entire infrastructure behind forestry and vegetation management will need to expand, including the workforce, investments in projects and equipment, and technical support for small landowners to manage their land.
  - a. Improve Sustainable Timber Harvest: Californians purchase 7 billion board feet of lumber annually, but only 2 billion board feet is produced in the state. Given that California has some of the highest environmental standards for timber harvest in the world, producing California lumber could decrease demand for timber harvested with lower ecological standards. Given California's increasing housing needs and greenhouse gas emission goals, California has a direct interest in consuming ecologically sourced lumber. Improving ecologically and financially sustainable timber harvest in California will support rural economies, reduce transportation emissions from imported lumber, stem conversion of forestland to developments, improve air and water quality, promote carbon sequestration, protect biodiversity and

most importantly reduce wildfire risk.

To enable landowners to better harvest and thin their forestland, the Parties will work to streamline permitting, support public-private partnerships, continue to incorporate the latest science-based management standards and provide technical support to help small landowners design and execute timber harvest. The Parties will explore incentives for ecologically beneficial harvest outcomes like multi-age class stands, stable carbon storage, and biological diversity. The Parties will identify tools to promote timber as a California agricultural product using labels like “California Grown” and better integrate timber into policies that prevent conversion of agricultural land. The Parties can also better support landowners adjacent to or within State or Federal land to achieve contiguous forest health.

- b. Increase Access to Capital: Shortages of equipment and resources for forest treatment is driving up the price per acre and slowing California’s capacity to restore forests. Parties will explore ways to incentivize investment in vegetation treatment equipment like masticators, chippers, and bulldozers and forest products processing facilities like mills. Parties will also support finance mechanisms like loan guarantees, revolving loan funds, and cooperative models to attract private investment.
  - c. Grow the Workforce: The Parties will support training and workforce development to increase the current labor pool available to meet the challenge of forest management, forest health and fuels reduction. The Parties will develop career pathways into forestry through high schools, community colleges, the California Conservation Corps, local certified conservation corps, and the Public Land Corps. Parties will promote alternative education venues such as vocational training targeted to specific professions such as timber faller, heavy machine operator, vegetation treatment crews, and ecological restorationists. State and Federal entities will work to avoid bottlenecks or oversight gaps.
  - d. Expand Landowner Agreements: Build on the existing fuels reduction MOUs and Good Neighbor Authority agreements to achieve efficiencies and increase support in forest and rangeland stewardship. Expand MOUs to include local governments, tribal governments, utility companies, consortiums of small landowners, and owners of road rights-of-way, like CalTrans and County Governments.
5. **Promote Ecological Co-Benefits**: In addition to public safety, recreation, job creation, and economic opportunity, restoring the ecological function of California forests will yield multiple ecological co-benefits. These include habitat protection, watershed health, air quality, and carbon sequestration.
- a. Protect Biodiversity: California is a world biodiversity hotspot. Among the 50 states, California is home to more species of plants and animals and the highest number of species found nowhere else. Protecting and fostering that diversity is both fundamental to the citizens of California and will help to reduce wildfire risk. The California Biodiversity Initiative highlights state agencies roles to understand the

threats to biodiversity, protect native species, manage natural and working lands to promote biodiversity, and promote partnerships to achieve biodiversity protection. The Parties will incorporate increased biodiversity into forest management plans and prioritize vulnerable habitats and species for protection and restoration.

- b. Protect Water Resources: California's forested watersheds function as critical natural infrastructure for wildlife and people. Catastrophic wildfire devastates both the natural and built infrastructure endangering California's drinking water. By prioritizing vulnerable watersheds for restoration and vegetation treatment, our work will protect and purify California's water supply for communities, agriculture, and critical fish and wildlife habitat. Much of California's physical water infrastructure including reservoirs and pipelines run through high risk fire zones. The Parties will focus on protecting water systems against damaging wildfire effects from the forest to the faucet.
- c. Carbon Sequestration: The mega-fire phenomenon has turned California's forests into carbon emitters rather than carbon sinks. Well-managed forests provide a significant source of stable carbon storage. The Parties will manage for carbon sequestration by thinning dense stands and undergrowth and promoting growth of large trees, which provide hundreds of years of carbon storage. The Parties will work with experts like the California Air Resources Board to establish forest-specific carbon accounting techniques to incentivize stable carbon storage.

6. **Develop Markets for Wood Products and Recycle Forest Byproducts**: The byproduct of forest management projects are limbs and small trees referred to as woody biomass. Currently woody biomass is either piled and burned in the forest or left to rot, diminishing air quality, increasing wildfire risk, or emitting green-house gasses. As pace and scale of forest management increases, it is imperative to develop cleaner and more sustainable alternative uses for woody biomass. Developing markets for wood products includes:

- a. Innovation: The Parties will explore innovative uses for wood products and establish a strategy to signal, subsidize, or incubate alternate uses for woody biomass products. Innovative products like cross-laminated timber, gasification, or cellular reconstruction, sequester carbon or provide carbon-efficient alternatives to fossil fuels and building materials such as steel and concrete.
- b. Biomass Energy: To avoid mass pile-burning, biomass energy will be a key component of forest recycling. To site or support new facilities, the Parties will use the principles of right scale, right place, right technology taking externalities into account like air quality impact, environmental justice, and wildfire avoidance. The Parties will help identify and untangle market distortions, inefficiencies, and obstacles to the use of forest waste for alternative energy.
- c. Supply Signals: Investors are unlikely to build wood product facilities for logs, small logs, and woody biomass without a sustainable, uninterrupted raw material supply. The Parties will make their Joint Plan public so investors will know when and where

wood supply will be available. The Parties will work with stakeholders to develop additional supply signal tools to guarantee multi-year supply contracts and incentivize new investments in wood processing facilities in California.

7. **Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:** Foster a range of forest and wildland opportunities that reflect the needs of and better serve California’s diverse population. The Parties will pursue mission-appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities in ways that leverage resources and extend capacity through partnerships and alignment around a shared vision of access and diversity. Examples include improved transportation opportunities, more affordable lodging options, increasing accessible trails and facilities, and targeting low income communities that lack access.
8. **Fire-Adapted Communities:** Identify and protect communities most vulnerable to fire impacts. These vulnerability factors include proximity to high fire risk, communities without good ingress or egress corridors and socioeconomic factors that hinder evacuation such as age or car ownership. The Parties will work together to improve fire suppression and fire prevention capabilities that safeguard communities, including but not limited to, these vulnerable populations.
9. **Advance Science and Share Monitoring and Data Analytics:** Leverage scientific expertise and capacity to maintain healthy and resilient forests in a changing climate. Coordinated data will enable stakeholders to adapt priorities and management techniques to the dynamics of California’s changing ecosystems. The Parties will:
  - a. Consolidate Data: Consider co-locating data teams from State and Federal agencies to reduce redundancy and improve efficiency. Establish joint monitoring methods, joint protocols, and work on developing a single, statewide shared data set that all Parties can utilize and update.
  - b. Ecological Monitoring: Consistently monitor forest health, carbon sequestration, biological diversity, watershed quality, and other parameters that impact forest and wildlands in California. The Parties will coordinate closely with environmental organizations and universities to ensure monitoring techniques are addressing the most current ecological concerns.
  - c. Research and Innovation: Support long-term research and monitoring efforts. Enhance surveying and monitoring programs such as the Forest Inventory and Analysis program with joint funding contributions, allowing a greater number of monitoring installations to be remeasured more frequently.

#### **MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES:**

- A. The Parties are bound by all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. If conflicts arise, the Parties will evaluate how authorities can best achieve the goals of a project.

- B. The Parties will protect sacred sites and preserve cultural resources and take all necessary actions to protect data collected from Native American tribes.
- C. All Parties will communicate on a regular basis to enhance and develop the institutional arrangements necessary to facilitate the purposes of this MOU.
- D. The Parties will meet at least twice a year to evaluate progress on the MOU and will meet regularly with stakeholders including the environmental community, local government, tribal governments, and industry.

**NONBINDING AGREEMENT. This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity. The Parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, coordinated, and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes or requires either of the Parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.**

**Specific, prospective projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to, from, or between the Parties requires the execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon numerous factors, including, as applicable, but not limited to: availability of appropriated funds and other resources and administrative, regulatory, and legal requirements (including authorization by statute).**

**This MOU neither provides, nor meets these criteria. If the Parties elect to enter into an obligation agreement that involves the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to, from, or between the Parties, then the applicable criteria must be met. Additionally, under a prospective agreement, each party operates under its own laws, regulations, and/or policies, and any obligation of the Parties is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and other resources. The negotiation, execution, and administration of these prospective agreements must comply with all applicable authorities.**

**Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the Parties' statutory and regulatory authority.**



I. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES



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Gavin Newsom, California Governor



Victoria C. Christiansen, Chief, US Forest Service



Randy Moore, Regional Forester Pacific Southwest Region



Frank R. Beum, Acting Regional Forester, Intermountain Region



Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary