



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street

Sacramento, California

March 5-6, 2024



Resource Management

Forest Practice Program

Watershed Protection Program

- The Exemption/Emergency Monitoring Crew has completed 70 percent of the monitoring site samples for the 1038(d) Drought Mortality Exemption. Additional field samples have been scheduled for the month of March 2024.
- Staff delivered a presentation based upon Forestry Report Number 7 on best practices for post-fire salvage logging at the annual meeting of the California Licensed Foresters Association on February 29, 2024.

Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)

The following tables summarize LTO and Enforcement activities since the last report:

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	27	\$139,250	\$400,800
Default	69	\$343,450	\$1,165,626
Paid per CPO	21	\$174,000	\$174,000
Settled	110	\$876,455	\$942,255
Totals	227	\$1,533,155	\$2,682,681
Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due

Forest Practice Enforcement Program penalty collection from January 1, 2016, to present. 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)).

Table 2: LTO License Status

Table 3: Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	#	Status	# of Cases
New Applications Rec'd	57	Under Review	3
Renewal Applications Rec'd	54	Developed for Signature	3
New Licenses Issued	58	CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	17
Licenses Renewed	67	Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	3
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	16	Settlement Mitigation	6
Applications Returned	7	Payments	19
Refunds Issued	4	Probation	3
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	82	Judgement Needed/Granted	38
		Default/Final Order	17
Total Active Licenses	1,263	Total	109

Forest Practice Administration



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- Staff have been working with the Review Team offices and Unit Forest Practice staff to revise the Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) form. These revisions are currently undergoing internal review.

Resource Protection and Improvement Program

Urban and Community Forestry

- The Council of Western State Foresters, Urban and Community Forestry Coordinators met at Sacramento headquarters on February 27-29, 2024.
- A webinar and office hours for Green Schoolyards Childcare Facilities applicants were provided in February to inform updates to applications by March 1, 2024, and then proceed to executing grant agreements. There are 23 awardees selected to receive approximately \$28 million.
- Urban and Community Forestry Grant Guidelines for the United States Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act funding are being completed. A solicitation for proposals is anticipated to open by February 29, 2024, and close at the end of April 2024. The guidelines and other applicable materials will be available on the [CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants page](#). Approximately \$31 million is available to award.

Forest Entomology and Pathology Program

- Gold Spotted Oak Borer has been found in a new location in Los Angeles County in the community of Santa Clarita.
- Invasive Shot Hole Borer has been found for the first time in Northern California in the City of San Jose. The outbreak has likely been there for a couple of years since it appears to be well established. The City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, and CAL FIRE will be working to control the outbreak.
- Since Emerald Ash Borer has been found for the first time on the west coast in Portland, Oregon, California will begin trapping and survey to find any spot infestations that should arise here.

Forest Biometrics Program

- The program finished processing continuous forest inventory (CFI) data collected in the summer of 2023 for one of the new Demonstration State Forest (DSF) in the Shasta-Trinity Unit, including an estimate of coniferous forest growth for management plan development.
- The program is monitoring progress in the review of United States Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (USFS PNW) and CAL FIRE contracts staff of the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Intensification Collection Agreement.
- Tentative consensus has been reached to extend existing FIA contractor data collection agreements through the 2025 survey season.

Demonstration State Forests (DSF)

Boggs Mountain

- A temporary office lease has been secured in Cobb for Boggs staff.



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- Fuels crews continue to fall hazard trees and pile and burn excess slash along community borders for defensible space and within recreation areas.
- A severe winter storm consisting of snow, rain and 60-90 mph winds within a 24-hour period impacted the forest on February 7, 2024, resulting in enough blow down for a small salvage operation by a local timber operator.

Jackson

- The proposed JAG meeting dates for the coming year were issued via press release on February 7, 2024, and are as follows: Thursday, March 7, 2024, Friday, May 9, 2024, Friday, July 12, 2024, Friday, September 13, 2024, Friday, November 15, 2024.
- A Notice of Categorical Exemption posted to the State CEQA Clearinghouse website on January 23, 2024, for the construction of two eddy-covariance flux research towers on JDSF. Construction is expected to occur this summer. CAL FIRE has an agreement in place with the University of California Davis to operate these. Additional members of the science team are from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.
- A fungal foray attended by about 40 people was held at the Caspar Scales on January 10, 2024. This event was co-sponsored by the Mendocino Coast Mushroom Club (MCMC) and was open to the public. A total of 90 species were identified.
- On February 12, 2024, JDSF and MCMC held the Myco-curious Foray for beginners at Camp 1. Starting in the fall of 2024, monthly 2-hour mushroom walks will be held with JDSF and MCMC once per month from September through February and will involve the collection, identification, and discussion of the ecology of mushrooms and other fungi found on the forest.
- JDSF staff is working with Trout Unlimited to design and permit a large-woody debris project to improve fish habitat in the Noyo River.
- Senior Environmental Scientist Robert Douglas completed and submitted JDSF's Annual Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Banding Report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Recovery Permit for NSO) and to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CESA MOU for NSO). Again, a total of nine NSO were captured and banded on JDSF (4) and State Parks (5) in 2023. This project is associated with several other timberland owners in the county and complements the barred owl research project led by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Danny Hofstadter, PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, continues barred owl (BADO) surveys and removals on multiple landowners in Mendocino County. A total of 100 BADOs have been lethally removed on the Greater JDSF area (JDSF plus Mendocino Woodlands & Big River State Parks) since the project started in the fall of 2021. A total of 43 barred owls have been removed in the Greater JDSF area during the past 13 months.



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- A mix of 20,000 seed grown redwood trees and 10,000 redwood clones were planted in the Chamberlain Confluence Timber Harvest Plan (THP) (1-17-140 MEN). Planting was completed by local reforestation contractor Vasquez Reforestation from January 10-24, 2024.
- An emergency repair was done on Road 700. Road 700 is currently the primary access to the Mendocino Woodlands. Per an MOU, State Parks is responsible for maintenance. This repair was a cooperative effort. The emergency notification to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife was performed by State Parks. Woodlands Camp Association purchased 60 tons of riprap. JDSF equipment operators performed the work.

LaTour, Big Bend, Miller, and Noble

- The Royston/Senapl 24 timber sale, approximately 5.4 million board feet, was held on January 5, 2024. One bid was received from Sierra Pacific Industries for \$409,479 or \$75.58/thousand board feet.
- Forest biometrician Chris Quirnbach has completed the analysis of both the Timber Atlas Inventory (TAI) and Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) efforts conducted on the Noble DSF. Summary reports are currently available to support the draft Noble DSF Management Plan currently in development. The standing inventory has been evaluated at 26.3 million board feet with an annual growth of 550 thousand, on the 1,253 acres of manageable timber land.
- Forest Manager Jason Poburko is working with staff from CAL FIRE's Reforestation Services Program to establish a native seed production/collection stand on Miller Demonstration State Forest to help provide a long-term source for low elevation pine, a critical seed need.

Soquel

- Planning meetings have been held with the Swanton Pacific Ranch Fuels and Vegetation Education (FAVE) program coordinators to prepare for public field trips in late June 2024 for the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan and Forest Health Grant work. The educational tours will support the public and local neighbors to better understand integrated forest management approaches demonstrated at Soquel.
- Timber falling for the Sulphur THP (1-22-00090-SCR) began on February 6, 2024. Forest staff worked with the Licensed Timber Operator to coordinate closures in the forest. A News Release, Public Notice and map was circulated and posted to warn of closures to forest areas and roads for timber operations.
- An annual summary report for 2023 from the ongoing herpetological research project is complete. In total, there were ten survey days logging 1,441 individual herps or egg masses counted, and 106 records entered into the North American Herpetological Educations and Research Project (NAHERP). There was also one California Natural History database (CNDDDB) record submitted, accounting for



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114 individual observations of *Rana boylei* (Foothill Yellow-legged frog) or their eggs.

- The online mushroom gathering permit program was so well-used that permit issuance was closed on January 17, 2024, having reached a record 210 permit requests for 465 people. About 80 percent of requesters added a family or household member as allowed in the permit process. With the Special Use Permit (SUP) mushroom workshops held by ForageSF adding 145 more people covered under the one-day SUP, the total participants involved in the mushroom program for the 2023-24 season was 820.

Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Program

Prescribed Fire Program

- CAL FIRE has a new Prescribed Fire public education campaign titled "Why Fight Fire with Fire?"
- There are 83 approved reservations in the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund covering 12,489 acres.

Vegetation Management Program

- The program has three Mitigated Negative Declaration documents in public review for the month of February for fuels reduction projects.

Environmental Protection Program

- The program completed the internal CAL FIRE Environmental compliance class at the new Natomas training location. There were 36 students in attendance.

Tribal Affairs Program

- Nothing new to report.

Cultural Resources Program

- The next full Certified Archaeological Surveyor class is April 15-19, 2024. Another class is scheduled for October 7-11, 2024. Both classes are full. Those interested in being on the waiting list may contact the [California Licensed Foresters Association \(clfa.org\)](https://www.clfa.org) (CLFA).
- Archaeological Recertification classes are scheduled for April 23 - 24 and November 6 - 7, 2024. Both classes are being offered in Anderson. Please contact CLFA to register.

Wildfire Resilience Program

Reforestation Services Program

- The Statewide Reforestation Coordinator is continuing efforts to establish a reforestation effectiveness monitoring program. This will be developed alongside other Resource Management programs as part of the CAL FIRE Monitoring Working Group as well as through a "Huddle" led by American Forests. This huddle will include other government agency and private sector partners.
- A Seed Production Area is being established on Miller DSF to ensure a consistent supply of low-elevation ponderosa pine seed for future reforestation needs. This project is funded in part through the United States Forest Service



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and is being developed through partnerships with the Shasta-Trinity Unit and the Demonstration State Forests program.

- 2024 sowing has commenced at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) this week to produce the first 160K of the total 290K seedlings for production year 2024, maximizing the existing infrastructure capacity.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- In January 2024, CFIP awarded ten new agreements totaling \$1.4 million for reforestation and forest health projects on 775 acres. Grant agreements are being completed now.
- Another CFIP solicitation closed on March 1, 2024. Applications are under review.
- CFIP continues to fund individual projects, with ongoing application selection happening every two months.

Forest Stewardship

- A new solicitation to award \$8 million in Wildfire Resilience Block Grants opened January 29, 2024, and closed February 26, 2024. Applications are under review. Preliminary review of proposals received shows an impressive level of interest with 33 proposals for this opportunity.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- The program is planning a state funding solicitation for the spring of 2024. Approximately \$10 million in funding will be made available.

Climate and Energy Program

Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Hosted an applicant workshop for the Business and Workforce Development grant solicitation on February 6, 2024, with approximately 100 attendees.
- Promoted our open Business and Workforce Development grant solicitation at the California Biomass conference in Sacramento on January 31, and February 1, 2024, and the California Forestry Association's Forestry Strategies and Innovations Conference.
- Participated in a technical advisory committee on January 18, 2024, with UC Extension in Richmond to update the Statewide database of primary processing facilities.
- Hosted a quarterly call on January 24, 2024, with State organizations that support biomass and wood utilization. Attendees included CAL FIRE, DOC, CPUC, CEC, and GO-Biz.

Forest Health

- Forest Health and Post-Fire Reforestation & Regeneration grant solicitation closed on January 15, 2024. Application review is underway and expect to make award decisions late March 2024.
- Forest Health participated with CARB in the State of Carbon in Hawaii Summit on January 18, 2024. The panel consisted of CAL FIRE, California Air Resources



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Board (CARB), Green Diamond, and the American Carbon Registry. Hawaii was looking for expertise from states and landowners to gain information to set the stage for potential future work. The panel discussion focused on Cap and Trade versus Voluntary Markets and how the Department was utilizing the California Climate Investments funds.

- Forest Health and Wood Products presented at the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference on February 9, 2024. Topics included the status of the grant solicitations and a brief overview of the Interagency Treatment Dashboard.

Climate Change

- Staff is working with the California Natural Resources Agency and partner agencies to revise California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, per AB 1757.
- CAL FIRE provided a progress update to California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) on the 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Tribal Wildfire Resilience

- We continue to move awarded proposals toward grant agreement from our 2023 solicitation.
- We are working with CAL FIRE Legal and CNRA on sovereign immunity topics for grant agreements.
- Tentatively, we plan for a new grant solicitation to open in late spring.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- The next Task Force meeting is the [Southern California Regional Meeting](#), Thursday, April 4, 2024, at San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park in Escondido with field tours on Friday, April 5, 2024. Registration will open the first week of March 2024.
- The Task Force hosted a virtual public workshop on February 9, 2024, to review and collect feedback on the process for selecting [Core Reporting Metrics](#). The metrics will be used to track and report progress on landscape resilience goals. Feedback is sought through March 8, 2024.
- The February edition of the [Governor's Monthly Update](#) is available.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

Forest Health Research Grants

- The Forest Health Research grant program was open in January 2024, and received 85 concept proposals requesting a total of \$42 million. Concepts are under review by an interagency technical review panel, and a subset will be invited back in March 2024 to submit a full proposal. We intend to award approximately 11 awards for scientific research projects addressing wildfire and forest management for \$4.5 million.

Wildfire Science

- FRAP is amending agreements to with San Jose State and Chico State to expand research and monitoring related to prescribe fire effects.



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Forest and Rangeland Assessment

- Several draft Assessment chapters are nearing completion and FRAP is beginning to work with Communications on the format for the publication. Anticipate having complete drafts for all chapters over the next two months.

Adaptive Management Experiments (AMEX)

- Coastal AMEX project is moving forward with a new research site at JDSF. Harvest prescription and experimental design are currently under development.

FIA Management Scenarios

- FRAP is conducting a project with American Forests to evaluate the effects of different management scenarios on carbon storage compared to Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Nadia Tase will provide an update of the project at the next Board of Forestry meeting.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Program

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers have received training on and have been issued body-worn cameras.
- In January 2024, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made a total of 6 arrests and issued 14 citations.
- In Fiscal Year 23/24, \$74.7 million has been collected by Civil Cost Recovery.

Fire Protection Operations

- The University of Washington, which received a CAL FIRE grant to process LIDAR data down to the tree approximate object level, has given CAL FIRE Intel data on most of the forested areas of the entire state from 2019. This will be used as a baseline to show the effects of the 2020 fire season.
- CAL FIRE Hired Equipment program is working with the USFS VIPR (Virtual Incident Procurement) program to make it easier the USFS to utilize vendors hired under a CAL FIRE agreement.

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

- AMU is in the process of retrofitting the first of seven C-130H Air Tankers with the Retardant Delivery System.
- AMU is working with Business Service Office to secure 2024 Fire Season Exclusive Use aerial assets by March 2024.
- AMU is currently conducting initial and recurrent training for both the Fixed Wing and Rotor Wing Pilots.
- Alma and Prado Helitack Bases night transition training completed. All five 24-hour bases will be available for night response this fire season.
- Night Vision Goggle Helicopter Coordinator training is in progress.



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- Attended and supported the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference with Aviation personnel and a S70i static display.
- Assisting Portugal, as subject matter experts, with developing their Blackhawk Helicopter Firefighting program.
- Statewide EU/CWN Manager Basic Helicopter and Safety Training (BHOS) completed this month. 40 employees completed the course.
- Factory acceptance testing of our Hoist Mission Simulator has been completed and are expecting delivery in June 2024.
- New Air Rescue and Night Vision Goggle curriculum has been submitted to the Statewide Training Committee for approval.

Mobile Equipment Program

- Completing builds for last 100 pickups on site from previous Budget Change Proposals.
- First of 72 Emergency Crew Transport from a new contract scheduled for delivery in April 2024.
- New Fire Engine deliveries to begin in April 2024.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Program participated in the 2024 Emergency Command Center Training Workshop the week of January 29, 2024. The program covered items related to Cooperative Fire Dispatch Agreements, including costing, AO-17 reviews, capturing pass-through cooperators, and renewals.
- The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) met on January 25, 2024. Agenda items included paramedic training and retention, employee benefit rate projections, and the 2024 Local Government Workshop (Virtual). A sub-committee was added under LGAC for Paramedic Training and retention.
- The Local Government Program held a Town Hall meeting for all CAL FIRE Units to review the 2024 Salary Benefit rates, including the reduction in retirement costs with the Governor's proposed Budget, and pension liability buydown.

State/Federal Programs

- The State, Federal, and International Program completed the update of the 2024 CAL FIRE Continuity of Operations plan. This update has been submitted to Cal OES for review as part of the annual process.
- The State, Federal, and International Program met with an Engineer from India regarding Fuels Management and Climate Change. Their (India) program would like to work cooperatively with CAL FIRE and the State of California to deal with these issues. Additional meetings will be set once he has completed and submitted the plan to CAL FIRE.



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- From February 26 through March 1, 2024, CAL FIRE and the Butte County Fire Department hosted (10) Japanese firefighters for structure fire operations training. Butte County Fire Department is the lead agency with CAL FIRE Butte Unit personnel assisting with the instruction of the training and drills.
- CAL FIRE was contacted by the Department of Forestry in Chile with a request to engage in discussions about nighttime aviation firefighting operations. This request was prompted by the Chilean government in response to the recent mega-fires in Chile, which have resulted in more than 120 deaths and are believed to be the worst in the country's history. We have begun talks on renewing the MOU between both agencies.
- The State, Federal, and International Program is working with Costa Rica regarding an MOU between both agencies and putting a working plan together. Costa Rica would like to get CAL FIRE personnel to travel and view the current fire season Costa Rica is experiencing. This assistance is to provide potential recommendations for mitigation, including guidance to Costa Rica with Command-and-Control issues in their country. Costa Rica would also like to travel to California to participate in Incident Management Team (IMT) deployments.
- The State, Federal, and International Program met with the Contract Counties Annual Operating Plan (AOP) working group on February 21 and 22. Small edits were made to the current AOP. As a result of the previous fire season being slower, the current AOP was not used often limiting potential challenges or identification of additional issues.
- CAL FIRE and The Department of Water Resources (DWR) met to discuss updating the MOU between both agencies. DWR would like CAL FIRE to provide training to its employees with IMTs during deployments. This training would help DWR be self-sufficient in commanding all hazard incidents.

Hand Crew Program

- The Hand Crew Program hosted the Camps and Fire Centers quarterly meeting on January 31, 2024. Included in the meeting was an update on orange Nomex Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) availability in response to Prison Industries ceasing production. An update was received on the Youth Offender Program (YOP) at Growlersburg Conservation Camp, which is in its second month of implementation, including the current status, review of the pilot program, and timeline overview. The intent of the YOP is to identify youthful offenders and allow them greater access to programs with the goal of increasing the likelihood of rehabilitation.
- The Hand Crew Program continues to assist in statewide Fire Center leasing and special repairs. As the Hand Crew Program continues to expand, it is essential to focus on information sharing to ensure efficiency is priority.
- One of the Hand Crew Program Deputy Chiefs, Tim Davis, has been identified as



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the CAL FIRE Hand Crew Program representative on FIRESCOPE. FIRESCOPE is a system for efficient interagency resource coordination system for fire and other emergencies in California. The mission of FIRESCOPE is to provide recommendations and technical assistance to the Office of Emergency Services (OES), and their decision process

- CAL FIRE currently has 106 of the 236 allocated Type I Hand Crews Staffed.

Safety/EMS Program

Safety Program

- Working with USFS counterparts to develop a research project on bulldozer fire curtain and cab protection designs under fire conditions.
- Recently distributed funds to all Units, Regions, and Programs for additional wildland and structural personal protective equipment (PPE) to meet the Cal/OSHA PPE regulations.
- Staff along with other Southern California fire agencies recently met in San Diego to study test burns and best practices regarding lithium-ion battery fires.
- Creating a working group to update the facility safety inspection policies which are part of the Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP).

EMS Program

- The EMS Program is gathering background information for a report being developed through a Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) working group focused on our paramedic shortage focusing on training and retention.
- Coastal Valleys EMS (Mendocino and Sonoma) has approved CAL FIRE for optional skills including Epi-Pens and naloxone.
- The Tehama County Fire cooperative agreement has transitioned to CALePCR for medical incident documentation.
- Staff have been assisting several Units with presentations during annual Unit training meetings.

Statewide Training Program

- Effective February 5, 2024, Staff Chief Catherine (Cat) Frazer has oversight of the Training Program, including Statewide Training and the CAL FIRE Training Centers.

Academy Training Program

- The Training Program is pleased to welcome Information Officer I (Specialist) Jason Balangue to the training team.
- The Training Center and Region Training are currently working on a *retooling* plan for Fire Control Training #24-04 (lone) and #24-05 (lone)
 - #24-04 – February 26 to May 10
 - #24-05 – March 4 to May 17
 - Evaluating needs:
 - Open List Fire Captains
 - COVID Early Journey Fire Apparatus Engineers



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- Fire Apparatus Engineer JAC Flags
- Fire Apparatus Engineer JAC (all plans)
- Fire Fighter II (Paramedic)
- Fire Fighter 1A (Structure)
- Fire Fighter 1 Certification and Testing
- Fire Control Training #24-03 (Riverside) was retooled to support JAC training needs
 - #24-03 – January 22 to April 5

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee:
 - Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee is meeting again on March 19, 2024, where the Committee will receive a presentation from Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison on ignition trends and an update on wildfire mitigation efforts.
 - For information on this monthly meeting, visit our website at: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/>

Wildfire Preparedness

- Defensible Space:
 - We would like to welcome Gene Potkey as the new Assistant Chief of the Defensible Space team. Gene comes to us from the Land Use Planning program.
 - The Qualified Entity Assessor policy and procedures were recently approved during the January Department Leadership Team (DLT) meeting.
- Burn Permits:
 - The burn permit team continues to work to incorporate interested Contract Counties and associated air districts. This ensures standardized data collection and streamlines the public experience when applying for a burn permit.
 - The burn permit policy and procedures were recently approved during the January DLT meeting.
- Home Hardening:
 - North Coast Opportunities conducted their first contractor pre-quote walk-through on January 25, 2024, in Kelseyville and contractor quotes were received on February 8, 2024. The community is in the process of reviewing the quotes.
 - CWMP Executive Director J Lopez in discussions with Riverside County and Siskiyou County about bringing on new pilot communities in each of these counties with newly available grant funding sources.



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- CAL FIRE staff conducted a DSI/HIZ training for the San Diego County pilot community personnel on February 14-16, 2024.
- Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:
 - The supervisory position in this division was recently upgraded to Assistant Chief with Differential. The position is currently seeking applications and is expected to be filled sometime in March 2024.
 - The final 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) was published on February 12, 2024. Work has begun on updating the 2026-2028 WMP format and re-structuring multiple sections.
 - All of the utility companies have begun to build up their PSPS training and scenario exercises. Full scale exercises will take place before June 2024.
 - We will be conducting a PRC 4292/4293 Powerline Safety and Identification training course with members of Energy Safety, CPUC, and other agencies on March 19, 2024.

Wildfire Planning and Statistics

- Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
 - The State Responsibility Area (SRA) regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law on January 31, 2024, and will become effective April 1, 2024.
- Pre-Fire Planning:
 - Provided training/orientation of the Pre-Fire Planning program at both LE & ECC workshops the week of January 29, 2024.
 - Annual fire perimeter collection was due March 1, 2024, from the Units, to be aggregated with federal datasets in early spring.
 - 5-year SRA review will begin spring 2024, to be concluded June 2025. Expect rollout early to Units & Contact Counties this spring.
 - Ongoing Unit Annual Fire Plan updates, due May 10, 2024.
 - Reviewing Western States Forest Manager (WSFM) WUI Grant and federal Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG) to be completed by March 1, 2024. California has submitted two WSFM grants from Placer County.
- Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting:
 - Rx Burn Data – Annual request for prescribed fire perimeters for FRAP. We are developing a new QA/QC process for accurate reporting. In the past there has been a difference in geometry (GIS polygons) and reported tabular acres.
 - PFIRS Data – Collaborating with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on identifying differences between CalMAPPER prescribed burn acres and reported prescribed burn acres in PFIRS for consistent reporting.
 - CalMAPPER upgrade – Reviewing statement of work for new CalMAPPER desktop version and mobile application build with Technosylva. Working on identifying timelines for development with the vendor.



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- Task Force's Monitoring, Reporting, and Assessment Work group – A subgroup has been working on how to report collaborative work between departments within Agency, without missing acres or double counting.
- CalStats:
 - NERIS:
 - Our team is diligently working to compile and submit our contributions and feedback for the new NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) Framework and Data Schemas that were due February 16, 2024, ensuring that they meet our standards. Additionally, we're collaborating with other stakeholders who have sought our assistance in preparing their submissions. Together, we're committed to delivering comprehensive feedback and contributing to the success of this important system that will replace NFIRS by 2025.
 - Wildfire Ignition Data:
 - We are engaged in multiple ways to improve our wildfire ignitions: we are collaborating with Federal partners to upload NASF (National Association of State Foresters) ignition data from the past year, working closely with Pre-Fire staff to enhance the accuracy of current ignition locations, and bolstering the reliability of reporting across various agency programs. Additionally, we're implementing changes and conducting thorough reviews of location data reported in CALFIRS reports to ensure seamless continuous quality improvement (CQI) for reviewers. Our primary focus remains maintaining consistency in our data narrative, particularly as we integrate new systems and establish updated reporting protocols.

Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

- Land Use Planning:
 - Staff continue working with jurisdictions to update the local Safety Elements in their General Plans statewide.
 - Currently two Safety Elements will be up for review at the March 2024 RPC Meeting.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA:
 - Program staff are working with NFPA Firewise USA to maintain "good standing" for 2023 communities needing to renew their application to be current in 2024.
 - NFPA rolls their community portal over each January Nationwide to status communities as archived, not renewed, and good standing.
 - Currently 784 communities in good standing. This number may fluctuate over the next few weeks as we work with NFPA to finalize the yearly renewals.
- Subdivision Review Program:
 - Continues to work with jurisdictions throughout the state in identifying Subdivisions that meet PRC 4290.5 criteria.



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- Staff conducted field surveys in Marin County in February 2024.
- Several jurisdictions in the northern part of the state are engaged and will be surveyed in the near future.
- Continued collaboration meetings with many statewide jurisdictions.
- Fire Safe Regulations Workgroup:
 - Committee continues building course curriculum for training on "How to Implement the Fire Safe Regulations".
 - Planning to hold pilot course later this year.
- Introduction to Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California course:
 - Registration is now open for at least 10 training dates in 2024
 - Register at www.communitywildfire.org/trainings
 - First trainings held recently: February 6, 2024, in Riverside, February 8, 2024, in Sierra Madre, February 27, 2024, in San Marcos and February 29, 2024, in Lake Forest
- Wildfire Prevention Grants Program (Burke)
 - FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Closed on January 10, 2024.
 - Received 224 applications requesting \$254,242,614.85 in funding.
 - Unit reviews are underway as of February 20, 2024.
 - Learn more about our Wildfire Prevention Grant program at: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants>

Communications

Statistics

Year to Date Wildfire Statistics (CAL FIRE and Federal) as of February 26, 2024

Interval	Fires	Acres
2024 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal) *	137	265
2023 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal)	235	89
5-Year Average (same interval) *	353	1,496

***These numbers are subject to change until the final fire season reports are completed and tabulated.**

(2024 stats include all wildfires dispatched to by CAL FIRE in SRA & LRA as reported in CAD, SRA wildfires within Contract Counties and federal data based off NIFC Incident Management Situation Report and Department of Defense).

- **CAL FIRE All Incident Activity**
- 2024 All Incidents (YTD) – 89,652 Total Incidents.

Education and Safety Messaging

- The statewide Forest and Fuels campaign will run through March 16, 2024. This campaign consists of billboards, e-blasts, and radio public service



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street

Sacramento, California

March 5-6, 2024



announcements that drive traffic back to ReadyforWildfire.org, where Californian's can learn more about forest health, prescribed fire, and the efforts to ensure our forests are resilient to wildfire, pests, disease, and other potential disturbances.

- Winter weather & safety messaging continues with winter driving safety, flood safety, emergency preparedness and home heating safety.
- California Arbor Week is March 7-14, 2024. CAL FIRE will partner with California ReLeaf to celebrate trees with a press conference in Los Angeles where the winners of a statewide youth art contest will be announced. A video featuring the art contest winners and a video showing how to plant a tree will be released.

Program and Project Messaging

- Training and recruitment are being highlighted on all social media channels.
- CAL FIRE's all risk mission is being showcased as crews across the state engage in swift water rescues, help prepare for and mitigate flooding and generally help their communities prepare for and recover from winter storms.
- A prescribed fire and fuels reduction education campaign is running on social media.

Traditional and Nontraditional Media

- The VLOG (Video Blog) [Airborne Firefighters](#) has been filming CAL FIRE aircraft training at McClellan.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)/ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program (DEI)

- To commemorate Black History Month, CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit Chief, Baraka Carter, participated in the Secretary Speakers series alongside other Agency leaders on February 27, 2024. The session dove into the profound history and impactful contributions of the Black community, heritage, and the continuous pursuit of equity.
- CNRA has actively collaborated with Equity Leads and is nearing completion of the 2023 DRAFT Equity Year in Review. This document underscores the praiseworthy endeavors of the organizations under the Agency umbrella in promoting equity, environmental justice, and tribal affairs across California. It also features the noteworthy accomplishments of the department in 2023. We are eagerly looking forward to the public release of these achievements.
- In response to California's budget deficit, the department has faced the challenging necessity of delaying the 2024 Camp Cinder (CAL FIRE's free Firefighter camp for young women aged 16-18). Despite this setback, our commitment to the Camp Cinder program remains steadfast, and we express gratitude for the efforts already invested in preparing for the 2024 camps.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2024
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH February 26, 2024**

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	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
THPs Received	25	26	3	8	0	0	0	0	28	34
THPs Returned	7	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	9	9
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	11	24	1	4	0	0	0	2	12	30
THPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Approved	9	20	9	9	0	0	1	5	19	34
THP Approved Acres	1,908	4,624	4,922	8,882	0	0	572	2,493	7,402	15,999

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
NTMPs Received	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
NTMPs Returned	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
NTMP Approved Acres	0	755	0	0	0	0	105	0	105	755
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
WFMPs Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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 2024
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH February 26, 2024**

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

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
 Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through February 26, 2024

Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(b) (03/2019)	10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris v2019	Cascade (Redding)	26	395,617	25	388,260
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	9	5,341	8	6,075
		Riverside (South)	1	240	1	250
		Sierra (Fresno)	5	809	4	52,767
		Totals	41	402,007	38	447,352
1038(a)&(b)	10% Dead, Dying or Diseased Fuelwood or Split Products	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038.6 (03/2019)	Butte Post Fire Recovery	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(a) (03/2019)	Christmas Trees	Cascade (Redding)	4	108,366		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	2,505
		Totals	4	108,366	1	2,505
1038(k)	Drought Mortality	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
	Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog v2019	Cascade (Redding)	6	2,088	3	1,289
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	31
		Totals	6	2,088	4	1,320
1038(j)	Forest Fire Prevention PILOT Project	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(i)	Forest Fire Prevention Project	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038.3 (03/2019)	Forest Fire Prevention v2019	Cascade (Redding)			3	173
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	6	815	3	157
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	6	815	6	330
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	5	11	7	10
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	6	14	4	10
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	3	2	3
		Totals	12	28	13	23
1038(l)	Oak Woodland Management (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(e) (03/2019)	Oak Woodland Management v2019	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	2	42	2	152
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	2	42	2	152
1038(m)	Post Fire Recovery (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038.5 (03/2019)	Post Fire Recovery v2019	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
	Post Fire Recovery v2020	Cascade (Redding)	3	7		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	5		
		Totals	4	12	0	0
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	5	930	2	101
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	6	96	3	48
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			3	725
		Totals	11	1,026	8	874

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(f) (03/2019)	Small Timberland Owner	Cascade (Redding)	1	40		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	1	40	0	0
1038(c)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(c) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)	10	114	11	60
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	10	33	11	16
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	4
		Totals	20	147	23	80
1038(c)(6)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) Includes exemptions previously submitted with both 0-150ft and 150-300ft options	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(c)(6) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)			4	28
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	2	1	2
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	5
		Totals	1	2	6	35
1038(d)	Substantially Damaged Unmerchantable Sawlog	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
1038(g)	Woody Debris and Slash Removal	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	0	0	0	0
	All Exemptions	Grand Total	108	514,573	101	452,671

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2023		2024						
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres				
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	9	3,197	3	5				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	5	136	1	5				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	2	148						
		Totals	16	3,481	4	10				
<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)	2	593				
				Coast (Santa Rosa)						
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	1	138				
				Totals	3	731	0	0		
				Insects		Cascade (Redding)	1	253		
						Coast (Santa Rosa)				
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	1	138		
						Totals	2	391	0	0
				Fire		Cascade (Redding)	8	2,857	3	5
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	3	134	1	5
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)				
						Totals	11	2,991	4	10
		*Others		Cascade (Redding)	11	3,878	3	5		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	7	139	1	5		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	3	414				
				Totals	21	4,431	4	10		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)	1	62						
		Coast (Santa Rosa)								
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		Totals	1	62	0	0				
Fuel Hazard Reduction		Cascade (Redding)								
		Coast (Santa Rosa)								
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		Totals	0	0	0	0				
Sudden Oak Death Disease		Cascade (Redding)								
		Coast (Santa Rosa)								
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		Totals	0	0	0	0				