

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



BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
June 13, 2018

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Keith Gilles
Mark Andre, Vice Chair
Mike Jani
Darcy Wheelles
Susan Husari
Chris Chase
Katie Delbar

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rich Wade
Marc Los Huertos

BOARD STAFF:

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer
Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator
Connor Pompa, Forestry Assistant II
Laura Alarcon-Stalians, AGPA
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Thom Porter, Chief, Southern Region
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice
Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director, Planning, Risk
Analysis, Fire Engineering and Investigations
John Melvin, Staff Chief Resource Protection and
Improvement

Natural Resources Agency:

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources
Management

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session

- The Board discussed the items on the agenda; there were no reportable actions taken.

Approval of April and May 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

06-18-01 Chairman Gilless moved to approve the April 2018 Minutes with Member Husari's edits. Member Andre seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Husari	Aye
Jani	Abstained
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye
Wade	Absent
Los Huertos	Absent

The motion carried unanimously with one abstention and two members absent.

06-18-02 Chairman Gilless moved to approve the May 2018 Minutes with Member Husari's edits. Member Wheeles seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Husari	Aye
Jani	Abstained
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye
Wade	Absent
Los Huertos	Absent

The motion carried unanimously with one abstention and two members absent.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman, J. Keith Gilless

Chairman Gilless announced his retirement as Dean of UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources. He stated it will open more time to dedicate to the Board's activities. He welcomed Mike Jani as a newly appointed member of the Board.

Report of the Director, Thom Porter, Southern Region Chief

Chief Porter reported on behalf of Director Pimlott, who was in Tehama-Glenn Unit attending a prescribed burn that will help in meeting CAL FIRE's prescribed burn goals.

Fire Activity

- Fire season is ramping up with generally small acreages burned within wildland fires now turning to hundreds or thousands of acres burned in each wildland fire event. To date, mainly oak woodlands and grass vegetation types have been affected. A very active fire season is predicted through the summer months.
- CAL FIRE is at peak staffing in the Southern Region. Northern Region is expected to be at peak staffing within a couple of weeks.

CAL FIRE Succession

- Brennen Blue, Unit Chief San Bernardino-Monterey Unit, retired.
- Scott Packwood has been appointed Unit Chief, Lassen-Modoc.

Budget

- There are many budget items that affect CAL FIRE moving through the legislative process. It is anticipated that the Governor will sign the budget before July 1.
- There is a proposed budget of \$10 million for community based fire prevention work, with most of this funding being distributed via grants.
- There is a \$16 million budget item to replace aging fleet vehicles, including engines.
- Forest Carbon Plan implementation funds will help meet fuels management and prescribed fire goals. It will allow for 6 crews that will be made up of crew members, fire captains and forestry assistants that will focus on fuels treatments, not fire suppression. These crews will be deployed across the state.
- \$160 million is in the proposed budget for Cap and Trade, in addition to the \$200 million currently being put to work across the state on large landscape-type fuels and forest health projects.

Fire Prevention Goals

- As of May 31, CAL FIRE had met 70% of their goal of treating 15,000 acres with prescribed fire. They anticipate surpassing last year's acreage, but may fall short of this year's goal due to fire activity taking away staff and equipment time.
- Manual fuel reduction projects were at 51% of the targeted goal of 15,000 acres; again, fire activity and prescribed burns took away crew time from this.
- Defensible Space inspections are within 100 inspection of where the Department was this time last year. As of May 31, the Department had met 61% of their goal of 250,000 inspections for the year.

Climate Investment Grants

- These grants have been the vehicle for getting the initial \$200 million from cap and trade money through to projects. These grants are focused on conservation easements, forest health, and fire prevention projects.
- The grants are in the application review process, awards are anticipated in mid-July.
- The Department is preparing to work immediately on the next round of grants if the \$160 million in the budget is approved in order not to lose another season of work.

Governor's Forest Management Task Force

- The Tree Mortality Task Force has been working the last 2 1/2 years on the tree mortality due to Western Pine Beetle and the drought in the Sierra and their work has been very effective.
- With the Executive Order that came out in May, the Tree Mortality Task Force has migrated into the newly formed Governor's Forest Management Task Force. This Task Force is a cooperative effort between state, federal, and local government agencies to deal with forest health and resiliency issues. The intent is to build interagency momentum that will carry through into the next Administration.
- This past Monday was the final meeting of the full Tree Mortality Task Force before it was folded into the Governor's Forest Management Task Force.

Public Comment

Richard Gienger, Forests Forever, (via webinar) asked if there will be an opportunity for public participation in the Forest Management Task Force.

Chief Porter responded there will be opportunities for public participation and that the meetings will be open to the public.

Mr. Gienger also asked about the structure of the task force.

Executive Officer Dias replied that it will be similar to the structure of the Tree Mortality Task Force.

Report of the Executive Officer, Matt Dias:

Executive Officer Dias reported on the following matters:

- Provided a legislative update on current legislation that may impact the Board;
- Provided an update on the AB 1504 Report;
- Provided an update on the 2018 Draft Strategic Fire Plan; and
- Discussed Executive Order B-52-18.

Assembly Member Brian Dahle (CA-01) shared his concerns with the fire hazard severity zone maps. He noted the high fire hazard zones are growing due to the overly dense number of trees because of 85 years of fire suppression. Having land in a high fire hazard severity zone means that dead and dying materials more susceptible to fire can be harvested and taken out of the forest. The zones expand as the forest dies, meaning it's difficult to treat forests that aren't dead yet. He would like to see the high fire severity zone be extended to areas that are still green so they can be thinned before they begin dying.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator:

Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator, reported on the following matters:

- Reviewed the Board Rulemaking Matrix
- Discussed of Extension of Emergency Regulations (14 CCR § 1038 (m)) Post Fire Recovery for the Counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa

06-18-03 Chairman Gillless moved to approve the Extension of Emergency Regulations (14 CCR § 1038 (m)) Post Fire Recovery for the Counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa. Member Husari second the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Husari	Aye
Jani	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gillless	Aye
Wade	Absent
Los Huertos	Absent

The motion carried unanimously with two members absent.

Agency Comment

Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management, stated that CAL FIRE supports of the extension of Emergency Regulations (14 CCR § 1038 (m)) Post Fire Recovery for the Counties of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Forest Practice Committee

Committee Member Delbar, reported on the following matters:

- Reporting to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices (PRC § 4589);
- Request from Blodgett Experimental Forest Research Station for designation as “Experimental Forest Land” (PRC § 4526) in support of the Board funded EMC-20174-006;

Agency Comment

Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director Resource Management, stated CAL FIRE supports the request from Blodgett Forest Research Station for designation of 245 acres as “Experimental Forest Land” (PRC § 4526) in support of the Board funded EMC-20174-006.

06-18-04 Member Delbar moved to certify the Categorical Exemption for Blodgett Forest Research Station for designation of 245 acres as “Experimental Forest Land” (PRC § 4526) in support of the Board funded EMC-20174-006

Roll Call Vote:

Husari	Aye
Jani	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Chase	Aye
Andre	Aye
Wade	Absent
Los Huertos	Absent
Gilless	Chair Gilless recused himself for this pending Board action.

The motion carried unanimously with three members absent.

- Discussed Northern Spotted Owl and potential revisions to the Forest Practice Rules to address related issues.

Resource Protection, Susan Husari, Chair

Committee Chair Husari reported on the following matters:

- County of Riverside Safety Element Review;
- California Public Utilities Commission Wildland Fire Mitigation Activities;
- Reviewed Existing Board Fire Protection Policies (commencing with policy 0340);
- Discussed the 2018 Land Use Planning and Prescribed Fire Legislation; and
- Provided updates on 14 CCR § 1270 Fire Safe Regulations revisions.

Management Committee, Mark Andre, Chair

Committee Chair Andre reported on the following matters:

- Provided Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan update;

06-18-05 **Member Andre moved to notice the DRAFT Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan and Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration for a 30-day comment period. Member Chase seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote:

Husari	Aye
Jani	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilles	Aye
Wade	Absent
Los Huertos	Absent

The motion carried unanimously with two members absent

- The ongoing review of Board Policies 0350 – 0350.10 as they pertain to the State Demonstration Forests;
- Provided update on Stewardship Land; and
- Discussed potential updates to the Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan.

Report of Board’s Advisory Committees

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) – Susan Husari, Co-Chair

Co-Chair Husari provided an update on Requests for Proposals and Call for Membership

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Presentation: Range Management and Watershed Health: Lesa Osterholm, Chair, and Rich Ross, Range Management Advisory Committee

Presentation: Cove Fire Salvage Project - A New Collaborative Approach for Increasing Pace and Scale of Forest Health Projects: Todd Sloat, Watershed Coordinator, Pit and Fall River Resource Conservation Districts

Presentation: The Known and Less Well-Studied Threats to Conservation of Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs: Dr. Sarah Kupferberg, Consulting Ecologist, Questa Engineering and Independent Researcher

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Taiga Takahashi, Latham & Watkins, (online) commented on his experience with the Board in the rule making process for the Certified Rangeland Manager Program. He requested that the Board direct staff to take the following actions:

- Draft and provide a written statement of reasons regarding why the Board granted the petition in November 2017, pursuant to Government Code section 11340.7(d); and
- Draft and provide a report or statement that addresses Rancho Guejito’s specific proposals for new regulations.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dias". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Matthew Dias
Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Gilles". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with multiple loops and a long horizontal tail.

Keith Gilles
Chair