News Advisory

WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND POST-FIRE RECOVERY THE FOCUS OF BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FIELD TOUR

Date: May 2, 2019 Contact: Katie Harrell

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CHICO/PARADISE—The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) will be touring the Butte County Camp Fire to observe the devastation to the town of Paradise and surrounding wildlands as well as the reconstruction needs of impacted communities. The Board will also gather information on the value of fire prevention investments such as fuel breaks in high-risk areas in maintaining the delicate balance between protecting the environmental health of forestlands while protecting people and property.

“Six of the deadliest California fires occurred in the last 2 years, killing 153 people, and in the last
4 years, fires destroyed 34,310 structures. This tour will inform the Board as they consider emergency regulations for post-fire recovery as well as regulations for emergency fuel hazard reduction work,” said Board Executive Officer Matt Dias.

**WHAT: Fire Prevention and Recovery Field Tour**

**WHEN: Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

 **8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Ramada Inn**

 **685 Manzanita Ct.; Chico**

 **R.S.V.P.: Contact Katie Harrell if you plan to attend any portion of the field trip. Media must supply their own transportation. Lunch is not provided.**

 **NOTE: A detailed itinerary of stops throughout the day can be found at** <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8545/may-2019-meeting-and-agenda.pdf>**.**

“Hearing from local public and private stakeholders regarding real-life community needs following a catastrophic event such as the Camp Fire is key to ensuring the Board’s forest practice regulations remain on target, address the changing climate, and safeguard environmental resources,” said Board Chair Keith Gilless.

Post-fire recovery regulations are currently geographically distinct and have only been adopted after catastrophic wildland fires. Rather than react to individual wildfires, the Board is analyzing the feasibility of a robust statewide regulation focused on allowing the removal of trees in close proximity to structures that were damaged in impacted communities where reconstruction is necessary. Since the Camp Fire, 113 exemptions have been accepted by CAL FIRE under the Board’s current emergency regulations.

Existing emergency fuel hazard reduction regulations are also under review. Observing new and proven-successful fuel breaks will help the Board gain insight as to how to improve the regulations to make them more relevant and manageable over time, while also maintaining the ecological health of treated forestlands.

**For more information on the field tour, the Board, or fire prevention and recovery, contact Katie Harrell at (916) 698-1035.**

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