

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2023



Resource Management

Forest Practice Program

Forest Practice Administration/Forest Practice GIS/CalTrees

- Staff prepared and recently distributed the “Timber Harvesting Plan Filing Checklist” required by the Forest Practice Act, Public Resources Code Section 4592.5 [AB 2889, Caballero, Ch. 640, Stats. 2018]. The Checklist was distributed through the Board’s email list and is posted on the CAL FIRE website at: [Timber Harvesting Plan Filing Checklist \(azureedge.net\)](http://www.fire.ca.gov/timber-harvesting-plan-filing-checklist).

Watershed Protection Program

- The Exemption/Emergency Notice Monitoring Crew and interagency partners have completed thirty-two percent (32%, 16/50) of the sample for the §1038(d) Exemption Notice (i.e., Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog on Substantially Damaged Timberlands).
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service published findings in the Federal Register on August 28, 2023, to list four of the six clades of foothill yellow-legged frog in California under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The findings include an ESA 4(D) rule for the two clades listed as threatened to allow take of the species when conducting certain activities as in those that are designed to promote long-term conservation of habitat, as in fuels reduction and timber harvesting that promotes fire resiliency. Five of the six clades are already listed under the California Endangered Species Act. Watershed protection staff are developing guidance for addressing the species in CAL FIRE projects as well as timber harvesting plans regulated by CAL FIRE.

Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)

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

Table 1: Forest Practice Civil Penalty Collection

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	26	\$136,750	\$398,800
Default	68	\$336,550	\$1,160,580
Paid per CPO	20	\$168,000	\$168,000
Settled	109	\$864,705	\$932,505
Totals	223	\$1,506,005	\$2,659,885

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)).

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Table 2: LTO License Status

Table 3: Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	#	Status	# of Cases
New Applications Rec'd	16	Under Review	3
Renewal Applications Rec'd	14	Developed for Signature	6
New Licenses Issued	17	CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	18
Licenses Renewed	11	Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	1
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	3	Settlement Mitigation	6
Applications Returned	6	Payments	24
Refunds Issued	0	Probation	2
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	134	Judgement Needed/Granted	38
		Default/Final Order	13
Total Active Licenses	1,321	Total	111

Resource Protection and Improvement Program

Urban and Community Forestry

- Green Schoolyards funding (\$30 million) for “non-profit childcare facilities” solicitation of applications is now open. Informational webinars will be hosted on September 18, 2023, during working hours and September 21, 2023, after hours. Details can be found online on the [program grants web page](#). Outreach to potential applicants is being coordinated with multiple partners including the Department of Social Services, Department of Education, and members of the Health in All Policies Task Force.
- Two California Climate Fellows start work on September 26, 2023, to plan and deliver an urban forestry camp for the next generation. The Urban and Community Forestry Program is collaborating with the EEO/DEI Program to recruit participants from underrepresented demographics and provide meaningful career development.
- United States Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act awards from the national notice of funding opportunity have been announced. California applicants (local organizations) received more than triple the amount of funding (\$102.3 million) than any other state. That is in addition to the \$43.2 million that CAL FIRE received (and will advertise for projects soon). This was over double what any other state program received. It is believed that the coordination and outreach done by program staff led to this massive success. CAL FIRE will cooperate with the US Forest Service to provide applicants with scientific and technical assistance and networking to complementary projects.

Forest Entomology and Pathology

- More sites of “Acute Oak Decline” caused by the bacterium *Brennaria goodwinii* have been found in California. The Department of Food and Agriculture has given the bacterium a “Z” rating until they can decide whether it is invasive.

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- The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) will be sponsoring a series of field trips around the State for legislators and their staffs to look at invasive species issues including those impacting forests and urban shade trees. The field trips are tentatively scheduled for December 2023, with exact dates to be determined.
- The national Forest Health Monitoring Work Conference will be held in Sacramento on April 9-11, 2024, at the Cal EPA Building. This will be the first "in-person" meeting of the program since pre-covid. The Forest Entomology and Pathology Program is hosting the meeting.

Forest Biometrics

- Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) field work almost complete at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (DSF), Noble DSF, and Miller DSF.
- Intensive Forest Inventory field work was recently completed at Noble DSF.
- The program is supporting establishment of CFI plots at recently designated Emigrant Gap and Sawmill DSFs as well as re-establishment of CFI plots at Boggs Mountain DSF. The program is also supporting establishment of intensive forest inventories at Miller and Big Bend DSFs. Field work will begin this fall or early next year on these projects.

Demonstration State Forests

Program

- Program Manager Kevin Conway participated in a planning retreat for the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition on August 30 - 31, 2023. Representatives from each landowner were present and good progress was made in determining the infrastructure and resources required for successful conservation of giant sequoia groves. This will be detailed in a strategic plan expected to be complete in early 2024.

Boggs Mountain

- LA Moran Reforestation Center & Forest staff coordinated in Sugar Pine cone collection on Boggs on August 24, 2023. A total of 96 bushels were collected.
- Thanks to quick action by Forest staff a poacher was cited for illegally harvesting two juvenile deer near Horse Camp.
- Friends of Boggs Mountain were joined by volunteers from Hip-Camp for trail maintenance on August 17, 2023.

Jackson

- Deputy Chief Emily Smith has joined the Mendocino Unit and is Acting Forest Manager providing direct supervision to Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) staff. Program Manager Kevin Conway will remain available as a close advisor to Chief Smith and Unit Chief Kendall.
- Retired Research and Demonstration program Manager Lynn Webb has returned as a Retired Annuitant to provide assistance to the Research and Demonstration Program.



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- On August 8, 2023, staff collected one-year-old redwood sprout material from five sites on the Red Tail Timber Harvest Plan (THP) to submit for provenance trials as part of the Redwood Tree Improvement Cooperative. Cultivars from these collections will be grown in a lab alongside submissions from other landowners, and eventually planted in field trials in the spring of 2025.
- On August 23, 2023, Fey Egan, Lynn Webb, and Jason Serna gave a tour to grant managers and others from the Department of Conservation regarding fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects.
- Fire Prevention Specialist Tricia Austin, and forest staff, Robert Douglas, Josh Theofanides, and Caitlin Grace, participated in the Forestland Expo at the Paul Bunyan Day's Logging Show over Labor Day weekend.
- Logging has been completed on the Red Tail Timber Sale. On Road 350, a Parlin crew started the clean-up process de-limbing roadside trees, cutting high stumps and improving sight lines. These improvements were a result of the JAG sub-committee site visit.
- All road contract work is completed, including the Road 200 North, Road 230 and the Road 100 upgrade projects, replacing 28 watercourse crossings, ditch relief culverts and other road drainage work. JDSF equipment operators are planning to replace four culverts and grade Road 200 while the road is closed.
- Approximately 18 miles of road was treated with herbicide using backpack sprayers for the control of invasive French broom and pampas grass in recent THP areas and roadside mastication projects.

LaTour

- The Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots have been completed on the South Cow Creek forestlands.
- Attempts to conduct salvage operations during the 2023 field season were unsuccessful. LaTour Demonstration State Forest (LDSF) was unable to find a willing purchaser, at a price that would return sufficient revenue to the Forest to justify the administrative responsibility.
- A request for a Timber Sale Agreement Contract was submitted on August 31, 2023, for the Royston/Senapol 24 Sale of approximately 5.4 MMBF.
- Forest staff have been collecting fuel samples on the forest to support anticipated prescribed fire operations, on the portions of the Adaptive Management Experiment (AMEX) study area. The Fire Research and Assessment Program (FRAP) also has two remote weather stations installed adjacent to the burn sites on north and south slopes, to support monitoring of weather conditions.

Mountain Home

- Timber operations commenced on the Houghton Emergency Notice on August 31, 2023. This continues salvage operations of the Castle Fire area.
- The road contractor hired by Tulare County Road Department finished repairs to the many road failures on the Bear Creek and Balch Park Roads. The contract included



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opening/replacing drainage structures. According to the County, the road is not in a condition they deem suitable for the public and will remain closed.

Soquel

- The forest closure since January 3, 2023, remains in effect with no estimated date of re-opening. Forest Manager Angela Bernheisel continues to field questions from the public and update the Facebook page with this information <https://www.facebook.com/CALFIRESoquel/>.
- Forest Manager Angela Bernheisel held a field meeting for the Longridge Habitat Improvement project with the Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District to develop a budget and scope of work. This work is funded through Cal Trans environmental mitigation funds in the Soquel Creek Watershed.
- The Monterey Bay Search Dogs group trained canines in the forest for one day by special permission under their Special Use Permit.
- A bid walk was conducted on August 31, 2023, for the Sulphur 2023 Timber Sale, advertising 2,370,000 board feet. Two mills attended the bid walk. The bid opening is scheduled on September 19, 2023.
- The Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) Storm Damage Repair Contract was executed, and contractor Holmes Logging began to mobilize equipment for work.
- A bid walk was held August 22, 2023, for the new pile burning contract with Cal Poly as part of the Forest Health Grant. The work covers nine additional acres on Longridge and 75 acres in the Rim THP area that contains the Flow Trail. Bids were due September 1, 2023, and four bids were received ranging from \$2400 per acre to \$4760 per acre. The winning bid was awarded to IMB Forestry, based in Southern Oregon.
- Dr. Stephens visited the forest to conduct research on redwood sampling as part of State Forest funded research. The project will measure and determine characteristics of redwood trees in three state forests and compare similar trees across California with the goal of developing new metrics for prediction of tree biomass.
- A new research project began examining decay rates and fire behavior of woody debris in coast redwood forests. The researcher is from UC Cooperative Extension, working under a Board of Forestry Effectiveness Monitoring Grant. This research has already begun at Jackson DSF and is now expanded to Soquel DSF.

Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Program

Prescribed Fire Program

- The [Prescribed Fire Claims Fund Pilot Project Program Guidelines](#) continues to receive and approve reservations for beneficial burning. Currently there are over 40 projects that have been enrolled into the [Prescribed fire Liability Claims fund](#). No claims have been filed to date.

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- There are currently 25 certified California Prescribed Fire Burn Bosses (CA-RX) in good standing with the State Fire Marshall for private burning. More information in becoming a State Certified Burn Boss is available at [State Certified Prescribed-Fire Burn Boss \(ca.gov\)](#)
- The Statewide Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Good Neighbor Authority agreement is in place and CAL FIRE and BLM are looking at potential projects to plan projects utilizing the 4.4 million dollars in funding.

Environmental Protection Program

Environmental Protection Program

- The following have been approved by CAL FIRE as lead agency:
 - 36 Notice of Exemptions (NOE)
 - 2 Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND)
 - 1 chaparral management plan (CMP)
 - 4 vegetation treatments plans (Cal VTP)
- There are 107 open CMPs and 20 open Cal VTPs within CAL FIRE for fuel reduction activities.

Tribal Affairs/Cultural Resources

Tribal Affairs

- The 56th Annual California Native American Day will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the State Capitol. The theme is "Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future".

Cultural Resources

- Nothing new to report.

Wildfire Resilience

- The new Statewide Reforestation Coordinator position was recently filled. This position will provide crucial landowner outreach and stand identification for cone collections as well as guidance across programs to develop post-planting monitoring and best management practices.
- Cone surveys from Unit staff have so far resulted in a total of 376 surveys received across 15 Units in 2023. Cone surveys are still being completed by a few Units. Seed Bank staff plans to follow-up with a survey to Department foresters on their input from the season and provide any additional resources or training to improve participation.
- The Seed Bank's new "Reforestation Because of You" campaign sent out 400 mailers to landowners in high seed need areas, with 76 respondents indicating some interest to support cone surveys and collections on their properties.
- In a general, this was a low cone production year throughout the state. 104 bushels of cones were collected this season, most being sugar pine from Boggs DSF. The majority of Boggs DSF burned in the Valley Fire of 2015, leaving only about one percent of the forest alive. These cones were collected from those remaining trees.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)



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- CFIP continues to solicit and select projects on a rolling 2-month basis. For September round of CFIP selections, 12 applications have been received for a total cost share of \$1,115,647.90, so far. This round is still open and additional applications may be received.
- CFIP hired one new Forestry Assistant II as a Forestry Assistance Specialist to serve areas of Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Eldorado, and Sierra Counties.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- The solicitation period for the State 2023 Forest Legacy Program is over. There are \$23,093,870 in requested funds for \$42,375,813 in total project costs. Application review is being conducted and applicants will be notified soon after.
- The solicitation period for the federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Forest Legacy Program is over. Two projects have been submitted for a total request of \$13,175,000.
- The Weger Ranch Forest Legacy Project closed escrow. CAL FIRE contributed \$9,500,000 towards the project total cost of \$14,300,000.

Climate and Energy Program

Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Met with undeclared UC Berkeley students on August 17-18, 2023, about majoring and minoring in forestry. The students attended a week-long program at the Cal Forestry Camp in Plumas County, which was one of a series of mini camps funded through a contract with CAL FIRE.
- Presented wood products topics to small timberland owners at the Forest Stewardship workshop on August 22, 2023, hosted by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Presented feedstock supply requirements at the Department of Conservation's Biofuels RFI Workshop number 2 on August 30, 2023.
- Completed a site visit with East Bay Regional Parks District of their Wildfire Hazard Reduction Project on August 31, 2023.
- Provided 1:1 consultation with applicants preparing proposals this month for Workforce and Business Development grants. The current solicitation for this grant program closes on September 30, 2023.

Forest Health and Tribal Wildfire Resilience

- Tribal Wildfire Resilience notified applicants of award decisions on August 23, 2023. A total of 13 grants were awarded. A press release announcement is expected from the Governor's Office on September 22, 2023, in coordination with Native American Heritage Day at the State Capitol.
- 20 Forest Health and Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration grant agreements have been executed to date with eight remaining (one remaining is the Lassen Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) grant, now RRF Westwood LLC)
- Forest Health held their new grantee kickoff workshop on September 6, 2023. A spatial data virtual workshop is also being developed, to be completed in the next few weeks.

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- Success Story: A strategic fuel break that was installed by the Butte FSC near Magalia via a Forest Health grant (8GG20627) was successful in aiding CAL FIRE crews to contain the Dog Fire on August 7, 2023. It is believed that the fire could have grown much larger without the installed fuel break.

Climate Change

- Climate Change staff is beginning to work on a report to the Legislature required by [SB 63](#) and has begun coordination within the Department and with other agencies.
- Climate Change staff provided technical reviews of research proposals submitted under [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's Core Climate Research Program](#).

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- On August 29, 2023, the Task Force launched the beta version of a first-of-its-kind [Interagency Treatment Dashboard](#) that displays the size and location of state and federal forest and landscape resilience projects in California. The dashboard offers a one-stop-shop to access data, provide transparency, and align the efforts of more than a dozen agencies to build resilient landscapes and communities in California.
- On August 29, 2023, the Task Force held its quarterly meeting at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento and live on Zoom. [Recordings of the sessions](#) are available on the Task Force website.
- Registration is open for the Northern California Regional Meeting – October 5 - 6, 2023, in Redding. Hosted by Shasta College, Northern CA Resource Partnership, and Tehama & Napa County **Resource Conservation District** (RCDs). [The meeting agenda](#) on October 5, 2023, will focus on Northern California's unique physical and socioeconomic landscapes and the partnerships that are working to address all aspects of forest health and community resilience, including water security and watershed health, workforce & business development, and Indigenous stewardship.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

Forest Health Research Grants

- The Forest Health Research Program received 35 full proposals intends to award up to \$5.5 million for research projects addressing priority topics in forest health and wildfire management. Review of full proposals has been completed and we expect to announce the grant award list by the end of the month.

Prescribed Fire Monitoring and Research

- FRAP is collaborating with RDI to evaluate the use of air quality sensors for use with prescribed fire monitoring.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

- FRAP continues to support OSFM in making FHSZ model revisions and in response to public comments.

Forest and Rangeland Assessment

- Work continues on developing materials for 13 core chapters. FRAP expects to have draft chapters completed by the end of the calendar year. FRAP is targeting the first



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quarter of 2024 for completion and public release. Expect draft chapters to be completed by early fall. Number of RM Staff have assisted with Chapter development.

Adaptive Management Experiments (AMEX)

- An agreement is in place to establish a Coastal AMEX with a study site at Jackson DSF. Pre-treatment field work is being conducted to establish pre-treatment inventory along with stakeholder outreach.
- Working on a three-year maintenance agreement for AMEX.

WFR Task Force

- FRAP continues supporting an inter-agency effort to develop regional planning data sets referred to as Regional Resource Kits (RRK) as part of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. RRKs have been developed for the Sierras, Central Coast, and South Coast. The North Coast RRK is currently under development.
- FRAP staff is working with a consulting group Timmons on data analysis tool for Fire Protection. The GIS based tools analyzes wildfire hazard conditions, socio-economic factors, and workload metrics.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Program

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- During the month of August 2023, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made 56 arrests and issued 151 citations.
- CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers have made 81 arson arrests so far in 2023.

Fire Protection Operations

- On September 12, 2023, CAL FIRE IMT 1 completed a 28-day activation to Maui that assisted Maui County and Hawaii EMA with response and recovery efforts.
- The Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC) has a new domain address: WFTIIC.ca.gov. Old links will automatically redirect you for the foreseeable future.
 - There are lots of updates on the site such as the Statewide Seven Day Fire Potential, Statewide Initial Attack Viewer, and the Fire Weather Snooper

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

- AMU provided a tour of our facility to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Commander of the Pacific Area and staff during a recent USGC exercise in the area.
- AMU continues to renumber aircraft in accordance with the new department directive. As of this report, five CAL FIRE HAWKS have undergone their call-sign identification changes to the 600 series.
- New South Wales Rural Fire Service Air Tanker B210 has returned to Australia as of August 31, 2023. We would like to express our gratitude for their partnership and collaboration. There are no additional Large Air Tankers available currently to backfill this vacancy.

Mobile Equipment Program

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- Over 200 vehicles from recent Budget Change Proposals (BCP's) have been outfitted and released to the field.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Program has received 51 of the 77 FY 23/24 Cooperative Fire Protection agreements that are in the process of renewal or completion. These agreements have been or will be reviewed by Region, Sacramento, and forwarded to DGS for approval.

State/Federal Programs

- The policy for International Visitors (8504) has been added to the CAL FIRE Handbook system. This policy defines the process for CAL FIRE hosting international visitors. This includes the screening process, potential visits and commitment of CAL FIRE personnel, communication paths, and possible future collaborations.
- Renewal contracts were released to all six Contract Counties (Marin, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura) for review and approval. These agreements cover three years encompassing FY 23/24 - FY 25/26
- We have been in coordination with Cal OES on conducting training on their Mutual Aid Reimbursement System (MARS) has moved forward. MARS digital system replaced the paper reimbursement process for California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Agencies under the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) terms.
- The CAL FIRE/British Columbia Wildfire Services MOU has been completed and posted to the SFI Programs page. This Agreement will improve efficiencies and capabilities within emergency management, technology, training, research in disaster risk management, aviation firefighting & detection initiatives, including the provision of aircraft during operational activity and personnel exchanges for professional development purposes. It enhances and promotes safety and preparedness awareness in at-risk populations by sharing best practices, technologies, collaborations, and training opportunities.

Camps and Crews Program

- Staff are working with CDCR on a review of the current Master Agreement between the two agencies regarding our camps program.
- The current statewide strength of Type I Handcrews is 138 staffed of the 233 total funded crews. This includes 64 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) crews out of 152 funded, 27 California Conservation Corps (CCC) Crews out of 32 funded, 33 of the 35 funded CAL FIRE Firefighter I Crews, and 14 of the funded 14 California National Guard Crews.
- The current CDCR inmate crew strength is 987 inmates out of the allocated 2584, leaving the Conservation Camp Program with a shortage of 1597 inmates. The total CDCR Camp population is at 55% with a crew capacity of 38%.

Safety/EMS Program

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- The Safety Program will conduct a field evaluation of five different wildland respirators on September 12, 2023, at CAL FIRE Training Center-North. The respirators range from particulate filtering to powered air purifying respirators (PAPR). CAL FIRE is hosting this multiagency evaluation with Cal/OSHA. This evaluation is a first step in the ongoing development of a Cal/OSHA WUI respiratory regulation. It will likely be 2025 before product development and the regulation are approved.
- The Aviation Program and Safety will be conducted air sampling at Sonoma Air Attack Base on September 12, 2023. The goal of this monitoring is to identify airborne hazards when working around aircraft. The results will be used to develop any necessary changes to processes and procedures already in place. The Wildfire Conservancy will conduct a more comprehensive research project on the topic of aviation next summer.

Statewide Training Program

- The Program is now operational and continues to build out.

Academy Training Program

- Graduation statistics for August 3, 2023, to September 8, 2023.
 - We have graduated 74 Company Officers (70 Fire Apparatus Engineer, One Fire Apparatus Engineer Paramedic, Two Fire Captains, One Forestry Assistant II)
 - CAL FIRE Training Center North - graduated its first full 11-week course with 35 Company Officers
 - CAL FIRE Training Center - graduated 39 Company Officers and Six Firefighter II's on Friday, September 8, 2023.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation (CWPM)

Wildfire Risk Reduction

- CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal partnered with the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) to conduct a series live building burn to show the latest science driving wildfire mitigations for defensible space and home hardening.
- Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee
 - The committee met early this month and received a presentation from the Risk Modeling Advisory Workgroup on their final Risk Modeling paper, as well as heard presentations from the Indigenous Stewardship Network on Cultural Burning and from the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority on and overview of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.
 - The Committee is meeting again on October 17, 2023, where the group will receive a presentation from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) and Sheds - Structure Specification Distance.

Wildfire Preparedness

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- Defensible Space
 - Coordination with the California Conservation Corps for three defensible space assessor training classes in the next month. Butte – Fresno - Pomona
 - Model Defensible Space access form complete for use by local government.
 - Conducted a Defensible Space presentation for the Ventura Firewise event.
 - New Defensible Space Inspector recruitment pamphlet created – Retention and Recruitment is finishing edits.
 - Defensible Space Self Survey being updated with additional material.
 - Qualified Entities application is ready, and the lesson plan and material are finalized.
- Home Hardening
 - Completed the virtual classroom and in-person portions of our Defensible Space Assessor training for the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District for the West Mount Shasta Project.
 - Shasta County Fire Safe Council was awarded a \$9,302,134.99 grant on August 31, 2023, to create defensible space and harden 144 homes in Whitmore. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided \$6,976,601.24 and the state provided \$2,325,533.75.
 - San Diego County was awarded a \$12,688,600.00 grant on August 31, 2023, to create defensible space and harden 229 homes in Dulzura. FEMA provided \$9,516,450.00 and the state provided \$3,172,150.00.
- Burn Permits
 - Working with air districts to align permitting processes.
- Damage Inspection
 - Limited activity on the Happy Camp Complex. Inspections are being done locally, with Geographic Information System (GIS) support from the Division.

Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- Consultation continues with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) on the review of the investor-owned utility (IOU) company's Wildfire Mitigation Plans.
- Update, Energy Safety published drafted decisions for Southern California Edison and Sand Diego Gas & Electric (20-day public comment period began August 30, 2023)
- Conducted Powerline Fire Prevention training (PRC4292 and PRC4293) in Amador-El Dorado Unit on August 8, 2023.
- Collaborated with the CAL FIRE Intel Program to develop an intel product for executive for forecasted fire potential areas combined with powerlines to help assess validity of PSPS events from IOUs.
- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Public Safety Power Shutoff event August 30, 2023, PG&E ultimately de-energized 3,928 customers in seven counties (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Shasta, Tehama, and Yolo). Restoration was made August 31, 2023, by noon.



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Wildfire Planning and Statistics

- Risk Modeling Workgroup Draft Report was approved by the workgroup and will be reviewed by the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee in September.
- Pre-Fire Planning
 - Refining Fuel Treatment Effectiveness tool and reports (success stories).
 - Planning for the Pre-Fire workshop in November.
- Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting
 - Completed a quality control review of FY 22/23 data. Nearly 92,000 acres treated.
 - FY 23/24 update: 163 projects, 4,848 acres treated (including 1,346 acres of prescribed burning)
- CalStats (Incident Reporting)
 - Coding Lithium-ion Battery Related Fires:
 - Incorporated new plus-one codes into both eNFIRS and CALFIRS to enhance the tracking of Lithium-ion battery related fires.
 - The newly introduced battery subcategories have been integrated into the Wildland Module within CALFIRS.
 - The Validation Rule has been in effect since last week, starting from August 25, 2023.
 - NFIRS reporting
 - Continue to reach out to Departments that we are still missing NFIRS data from 2022 and beyond. Have received some good responses already from Departments advising they are submitting the data now, planning to, or working with their vendor to get the data in.

Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

- Actively engaged with Units on support of the Fire Safe Regulations (FSR) statewide. Continuing with quarterly webinars regarding the FSR and developing introduction course to be presented in early 2024.
- Land Use Planning
 - Informal Safety Element (SE) review support continues. 19 SE are in an informal review process.
 - City of Santee and City of Oakland on Agenda for RPC this week.
 - Stats and Regs class occurred on August 22-23, 2023, in San Rafael.
- Firewise
 - Assistance throughout the state with new applications continues.
 - Currently 716 communities in good standing
 - Continued efforts working with NFPA Firewise on new mapping project.
- Subdivision Review Program
 - Mendocino County completed last week with 46 Surveys for RPC this week.
 - BEU - Continued efforts working with jurisdictions on subdivision data.
 - Engagement with various AHJ's:
 - Hollister FD – currently identifying SD's.



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- Monterey County Regional Fire District – currently identifying SD's.
- CAL FIRE BEU – currently identifying SD's.
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps
 - Staff continue working on roll-out plan, initial outreach, GIS Hub, training of local jurisdictions, tracking and CRM.
- Committee updates
 - Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Project (CWMAP) clearinghouse project
 - Assigned two program BCs that are very knowledgeable with technology to move project quicker.
 - Staff continue working on this build behind the scenes.
- Fire Safe Regulations Workgroup
 - Next meeting September 26, 2023.
 - Next webinar training (Delegation of Authority): September 19, 2023, at 09:00.
 - Work continues building course curriculum for training on "how to implement the Fire Safe Regulations".
- Wildfire Prevention (WP) Grants
 - FY 23/24 WP Grants Procedural Guide is up for revisions.
 - Infographic was published on the CAL FIRE social media on August 31, 2023, to highlight the 80% DAC/LIC demographics.
 - The next Infographic is set to be published on September 22, 2023.
 - FY 22/23 agreements are in the process to be distributed to awardees and will be due by October 31, 2023.

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

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Event – October 12, 2023

- Observed each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees. ODEP has chosen "Advancing Access and Equity" as its theme for NDEAM 2023. CAL FIRE is partnering with CHP and various other agencies/departments in attending the NDEAM event at the State Capitol on October 12, 2023.

Upcoming Disability Survey – October 2023

- Department Equal Employment Offices shall conduct an employee disability survey campaign annually to capture employees' change in disability status from the previous year. All departments shall conduct the annual employee disability survey during October in consideration of October's annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2023



- CAL FIRE's Disability Advisory Committee (DAC): The DAC is mandated by Government Code Section 19795(b). It is comprised of CAL FIRE and CNRA employees. The DAC assists the Department in its efforts to enhance employment and promotional opportunities, as well as equal treatment and physical & programmatic access for persons with disabilities.
- Purpose of the DAC: Promoting disability employment awareness, providing ideas and feedback related to CAL FIRE efforts to recruit, retain, and provide upward mobility employment. Advising the Department regarding its provision of a reasonable accommodation and enhancing health and safety
- For more information regarding DAC efforts and/or to be a part of the DAC, please contact our EEO office.

DEI Manager Vacancy (SSM I)

- The DEI program currently has a vacancy for a DEI SSM I Manager. The vacancy is currently advertised, so if you know anyone who would be interested, please refer them to the CalCareers site to obtain further information and/or apply.

Urban and Community Forestry Program California Climate Action Corps Fellowship: Urban Forestry Next Generation Camp

- CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program has hired two fellows for the 2023-2024 11-month fellowship. The fellows will be planning and organizing the "Urban Forestry Next Generation Camp." Fellows will be officed at Sacramento headquarters and receive mentoring from the staff of the UCF Program, and Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Program. The camp will focus on recruiting and training people who are underrepresented in professions related to urban forestry, environmental protection, natural resources management, and related fields. The Fellows will also participate in volunteer events throughout California, receive training to match career goals, and learn about CAL FIRE programs and services. The fellows will be start on September 28, 2023.

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through September 14, 2023

Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2022		2023	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(b) (03/2019)	10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris v2019	Cascade (Redding)	150	709,390	116	858,063
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	55	440,033	63	452,831
		Riverside (South)	1	240	1	240
		Sierra (Fresno)	41	80,888	23	26,562
		Totals	247	1,230,551	203	1,337,696
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	159,839	8	117,573
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	14	1	14
		Totals	5	159,853	9	117,587
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)	58	61,928	41	25,549
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	5	4,322	6	145
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	13	1,659	7	994
		Totals	76	67,909	54	26,688
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	2022		2023	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038.3 (03/2019)	Forest Fire Prevention v2019	Cascade (Redding)	16	1,481	12	724
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	32	1,753	25	1,727
		Riverside (South)	2	328	1	269
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	132		
		Totals	51	3,694	38	2,720
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	85	114	57	92
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	48	105	43	96
		Riverside (South)	1	0	1	1
		Sierra (Fresno)	24	28	6	8
		Totals	158	247	107	197
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)	12	198	23	660
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	12	198	23	660
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)	14	18	14	44
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	8	64	3	8
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	19	117	1	5
		Totals	41	199	18	57
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	34	932,511	13	5,854
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	32	1,904	20	544
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	35	29,810	7	410
		Totals	101	964,225	40	6,808

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices
 Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through September 14, 2023

Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2022		2023	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(f) (03/2019)	Small Timberland Owner	Cascade (Redding)	2	69	2	50
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	2	69	2	50
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)	77	216	92	640
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	119	392	110	245
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	3	4	7	18
		Totals	199	612	209	903
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)	5	39	4	15
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	41	163	28	119
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	1		
		Totals	47	203	32	134
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	939	2,427,760	735	1,493,500

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2022		2023						
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres				
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	143	58,722	82	24,191				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	29	2,036	28	1,886				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	50	14,975	26	5,290				
		Totals	222	75,733	136	31,367				
<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)	9	1,429	5	1,743		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)			1	93		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)			2	191		
				Totals	9	1,429	8	2,027		
				Fire		Cascade (Redding)	134	57,251	77	22,704
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	27	1,791	21	1,628
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	21	4,792	5	1,057
						Totals	182	63,834	103	25,390
				Insects		Cascade (Redding)	12	3,700	8	2,448
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	144		
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	3	1,544	2	191
						Totals	16	5,388	10	2,639
				*Others		Cascade (Redding)	176	80,359	99	29,764
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	32	2,455	38	2,366		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	10	4,184	6	600		
				Totals	218	86,998	143	32,731		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)	5	1,641	5	416				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	86						
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	51	1	3				
		Totals	7	1,778	6	419				
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				

CALENDAR YEAR 2023
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH September 14, 2023

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	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
THPs Received	104	98	32	24	3	0	5	3	144	125
THPs Returned	42	47	7	14	1	0	3	3	53	64
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	88	84	26	21	2	0	4	5	120	110
THPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
THPs Approved	84	84	27	19	3	0	5	4	119	107
THP Approved Acres	23,969	22,825	12,558	9,301	29	0	929	2,481	37,485	34,608

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
NTMPs Received	6	7	1	1	0	0	1	0	8	8
NTMPs Returned	4	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	5
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	4	7	1	1	0	0	1	0	6	8
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	7
NTMP Approved Acres	376	1,087	617	0	0	0	0	105	993	1,192
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	90	73	3	8	0	0	3	1	96	82

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
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 2023
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH September 14, 2023**

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



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

Data Source: CalTREES