

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

June 13-14, 2023



Resource Management

Forest Practice Program

- The annual Basic Forest Practice training class for CAL FIRE and Review Team agency staff took place June 5 – 9, 2023, in Anderson with field days at Latour Demonstration State Forest.

Forest Practice Administration/Forest Practice GIS/CalTREES

- 2023 Forest Practice Rulebooks have arrived and are being distributed to Region and Unit offices.
- Staff participated in career day at Fortuna High School promoting CAL FIRE and Forestry careers, it was well received with lots of positive feedback.
- There is new functionality in CalTREES for Review Agencies requesting to attend a pre-harvest inspection (PHI) through First Review. An improved section is now allowing input of available PHI dates for the 10-day window from plan filing, as required by the Rules, when the attendee selects the mutually agreeable option.

Watershed Protection Program

- As of June 1, 2023, 79% of the second Emergency Notice sample is complete.
- Staff continue to do analysis and writing to contribute to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) five-year forest assessment.
- Staff continue to participate in the committee to develop monitoring protocols for CAL FIRE Vegetation Treatment Program.
- Staff completed an initial field test of the 1038(d) Drought Mortality/Unmerchantable Sawlog Exemption outside of Mt. Shasta in conjunction with California Geological Survey (CGS) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) representatives.
- Staff will be presenting on Exemption and Emergency Monitoring results to date for the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Forest Activities staff at their statewide meeting in late June.
- Staff presented to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's environmental science graduate seminar on the monitoring and research performed by the Watershed Protection Program, as well as job opportunities at CAL FIRE.

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Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)

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

Table 1: Forest Practice Civil Penalty Collection

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	26	\$134,750	\$398,800
Default	63	\$305,700	\$1,083,580
Paid per CPO	20	\$168,000	\$168,000
Settled	105	\$875,455	\$914,505
Totals	214	\$1,483,905	\$2,564,885

- 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)).

Table 2: LTO License Status

Status	#
New Applications Rec'd	39
Renewal Applications Rec'd	21
New Licenses Issued	27
Licenses Renewed	20
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	9
Applications Returned	15
Refunds Issued	0
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	139
Total Active Licenses	1,249

Table 3: Active Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	# of Cases
Under Review	5
Developed for Signature	3
CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	22
Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	5
Settlement Mitigation	5
Payments	20
Probation	2
Judgement Needed/Granted	33
Default/Final Order	14
Total	109

Resource Protection and Improvement

Urban and Community Forestry Program

- The CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program's Green Schoolyards Grants request for proposals closed on April 28, 2023, with 68 applications requesting \$355 million in grant funds. \$117 million is available to award in Fiscal Year 2022-2023, with an additional \$33 million proposed for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. A summary of received applications is listed [here](#). The review and scoring process is anticipated to conclude by June 7, 2023, with



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award recommendations forwarded to the Director of CAL FIRE for consideration of approval.

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding of \$43,200,000 was allocated from the United States Forest Service for CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program. This money will fund some of the program's statutorily required activities including urban tree planting and establishment, improved urban forest management, and urban forestry workforce development. The IRA funds have a heavy emphasis on serving/prioritizing disadvantaged communities. This requirement is closely aligned with the State's goals and with how the program has been focusing for the past 10 years.

Forest Entomology and Pathology Program

- The Western International Forest Disease Work Conference is scheduled for June 5 – 9, 2023, in Rohnert Park. Forest pathologists will be attending from all over the western United States and Canada.
- Staff will be providing training classes on forest insect and disease recognition and management to foresters and environmental scientists throughout the summer and fall.
- A new bacterial disease of oaks was found in both San Benito and Los Angeles Counties. The bacterium involved is still being determined although those isolated so far are known to be involved in what is referred to as "acute oak decline" in Britain. The role of the bacteria and other pests in California is still being researched.
- The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee will be hosting a series of field trips to look at invasive species issues around the state for legislators and their staff. Program staff will be assisting with the field trips to be certain that forest-related issues are included.

Forest Biometrics Program

- Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Temporal Intensification Project contracts have now been awarded for all seven geographic contract areas. Training and certification of field crews is nearly complete and field data collection has begun. CAL FIRE and United States Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, staff are focused on securing access to lands with plot locations and obtaining permits with public and private landowners across the state.



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Demonstration State Forests Program

- **Jackson**

- Prescribed fire operations continued throughout May 2023 in the Chamberlain Creek area. This included the opportunity to work alongside local tribal partners to learn from their traditional ecological knowledge regarding the role of fire in maintaining important natural resources.
- The first listening session for the coastal redwood adaptive management experiment led by Dr. Sarah Bisbing of the University of Nevada, Reno, was held on May 23, 2023. Local land managers were there to discuss long-term threats to redwood forests and the concepts of resistance, resilience, and transition from disturbance events that are exacerbated by climate change.
- The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory team is working on the Demonstration forest monitoring site conditions that will help with the final siting of carbon flux towers they will install. The general site location has been selected. Their measurements will refine where to best place the sensors given local topography and air circulation patterns.
- The Recreation Task Force met on May 22, 2023, to discuss the status of trail improvements and start planning for an upcoming recreational survey to support updating of the recreation plan.
- The Jackson Advisory Group met on June 6, 2023 and took a deep dive into the New Vision and learned how to incorporate those principles into project level review as the management plan is updated.

- **LaTour**

- The Royston/Senapol 23 Timber Sale is planned to thin 543 acres in the 2023 logging season and generate approximately 5.4 million board feet of timber. The bid opening conducted on January 6, 2023, resulted in no bids being offered. It was readvertised. No bidders attended the second bid opening. This will be the third season in a row with no large revenue generating timber sales.
- A \$55,000 contract has been awarded to Schnetzer Engineering Inc. to crush and stockpile 6,000 cubic yards of material in the LaTour rock pit to maintain and upgrade the road system.
- On April 25 – 27, 2023, Forest Manager Jason Poburko toured the newly acquired forest lands with staff from the Reforestation Services Program to explore future opportunities for seed collection, progeny sites, and seed orchard development.



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- On May 4, 2023, Forest Manger Jason Poburko toured the new Shasta forestlands with a representatives from the [Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program \(FFRP\)](#), a nonprofit organization that provides career support to formerly incarcerated firefighters and those currently incarcerated who are interested in careers in the wildland fire and forestry sectors. Chief Bracy participated in locating and measuring a continuous forest inventory (CFI) plot. He left with more knowledge of forestry work, and the job opportunities and career pathways that exist. It is hoped that more members of his organization will participate this summer.
- On May 24, 2023, the Forest Manager provided a presentation hosted by the Shasta Land Trust. It was designed to inform their donors on the role and functions of a CAL FIRE Demonstration State Forest and describe the work that will need to be done to bring the new forest lands online.
- **Mountain Home**
 - A widespread, multi-agency press release was issued on May 23, 2023, to inform the public that due to storm damage, all access to Mountain Home DSF and Balch Park County Park is restricted to authorized vehicles only. There is currently no estimated date for the roads to be made safe for public access.
- **Soquel**
 - The storm damage related forest closure since January 3, 2023, remains in effect. Forest Manager Bernheisel updated the [SDSF Facebook page](#) with this information.
 - The California Geological Survey returned to the forest on May 9, 2023, to finalize designs for emergency road repairs and held a program workshop in which they visited large woody debris, bridge, and culvert projects they have designed and monitored over many years.
 - Resource Management staff from other state forests and CAL FIRE programs have assisted marking the Sulphur Timber Harvest Plan (1-22-00090 SCR). Three additional archaeological sites have been discovered during timber marking.
 - Soquel was added to the sites for new CAL FIRE research on bats in the State Forests. CAL FIRE biologists visited the forest from May 16-17, 2023, to install bat acoustic detector stations to study bats engaged in foraging within forest stands.
 - VIA Magazine (AAA's travel magazine) published an article ["The Top Mountain Bike Trail Centers in the West"](#) that featured SDSF and the Flow Trail in the Santa Cruz portion of the article.



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Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection

Prescribed Fire Program

- The SB 926 pilot program to establish a prescribed fire burn boss liability claims fund is close to accepting applicants for enrollment into the program. Look for an announcement on the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#) website soon.
 - The new program will be used for increasing the use of prescribed and cultural burning.
 - One of the primary obstacles to increasing two of these essential types of fire use (prescribed and cultural) in California is the difficulty for practitioners to obtain adequate liability coverage.
 - The pilot claims fund program will provide liability from damage claims conducted by a certified burn boss or cultural fire practitioner. Each project will have up to \$2,000,000 in coverage. More information will be available when the program becomes active.

Vegetation Management Program

- The California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) continues to be used. Currently, CAL FIRE has 9 VTPs in the Northern Region and 7 VTPs in the Southern Region. There is a total of 40 VTPs listed on the [Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website from all lead agencies](#).
- There are currently 106 Chaparral Management Plans (VMPs) that are open for CAL FIRE.

Environmental Protection Program

- Nothing new to report.

Tribal Affairs/Cultural Resources

Tribal Affairs Program

- Nothing new to report.

Cultural Resources Program

- Nothing new to report.

Wildfire Resilience

Reforestation Services Program

- Efforts are ongoing to replace and improve the infrastructure and build new greenhouses at the Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC). Staff are



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working with CAL FIRE Technical Services to plan and implement capital outlay and deferred maintenance projects according to the Master Plan.

- The L.A. Moran Reforestation Center hosted an open house on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The event saw about 140 people and was well received with attendees from a wide array of backgrounds and interest.

Seed Bank

- Seed Bank staff have prepared and submitted to the Board a proposal for consideration at the June 2023 meeting to increase seed sales and seed processing costs to bring them into alignment with inflation rates. Doing this will maintain the costs being a little higher than those of private entities who also supply private landowners with seed.
- Cone survey efforts are ramping up for the 2023 season with staff finalizing the cone survey memo which seeks assistance from all CAL FIRE Units. Staff are also finalizing survey plans with various contractors and grantees across the State. We expect a robust survey and collection effort this summer and hope that the weather and other factors lead to successful collections.
- Cone Camp training sessions are planned for the following dates at the following locations:
 - Southern Sierra: Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, May 31- June 1, 2023
 - Northern Sierra: Georgetown, June 14 – 15, 2023
 - North State: Mt. Shasta, June 28 – 29, 2023

Nursery

- Seed sowing operations have completed for the 2023 cycle and all seedlings grown in the 22/23 cycle have been distributed.
- With sowing operations completed, staff will begin focusing on identifying sites for seed collection.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- CAL FIRE will be releasing approximately \$1.5 million in CFIP grant funds over about 800 acres for the successful May 2023, applications.
- The program has about \$10 million in current funds (22/23 fiscal year) and will continue to release \$2-3 million in grants every two months. The CFIP backlog of older submitted projects is mostly complete and staff are working with applicants on new applications.



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- An additional \$10 million is expected to be appropriated to the program in the 23/24 fiscal year. Plans are being made to explore extensions of existing grants for technical and financial assistance or another round of Wildfire Resilience Block Grants.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- Plans are being finalized to offer a Forest Legacy Grant solicitation in early summer of 2023 with \$9.25 million, plus a new opportunity for applicants to request due diligence funding only. This new funding is provided by the United States Forest Service and allows applicants to request funding that would be used solely for the purpose of making potential projects ready for an application.
- The project selection process for the Federal Forest Legacy Program (federal fiscal year 25) was released. CAL FIRE is accepting applications to the federal program for the upcoming grant solicitation. Applications are due to CAL FIRE by June 15, 2023.

Climate and Energy Program

Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Program staff attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Sierra Pacific Industries' State-of-the-Art Conifer Seedling Nursery in Gazelle on April 28, 2023. The nursery's first phase, which is estimated to cost over \$10 million, leverages a \$3 million CAL FIRE grant from our program.
- Staff attended the Biomass Energy Technology Symposium in Roseville on May 1, 2023. The event was sponsored by the Placer County Air Pollution Control District. Staff also attended the Resilient Careers in Forestry Project Retreat in Redding on May 2 - 3, 2023.
- Staff represented CAL FIRE at the United States Forest Service Placerville Nursery on May 8, 2023, for the Sierra Nevada Alliance Reforestation and Inspection Training. Attendees included fellows who are supported through a CAL FIRE workforce development grant.
- Together with the Santa Clara Unit Forester, the program hosted a workshop on Access to Public Funding at the Together Bay Area Annual Conference in Richmond on May 10, 2023.
- CAL FIRE program staff hosted a quarterly call on May 24, 2023, for State organizations that support forest biomass and wood utilization projects. Program staff also represented CAL FIRE and presented at the Department of Conservation's Feedstock Supply Workshop on May 25, 2023.



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Forest Health

- Forest Health was represented on a panel about [Regional Investment Strategies](#) at the Central Coast regional meeting of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. Forest Health staff also continue to work on developing Pilot Regional Grants with the North Coast Resource Partnership, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and Southern California partners.
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience grant review is ongoing. Step 2 review included presentations and more detailed proposal outlines. These are now moving on to award decisions followed by approval from both CAL FIRE and CNRA.
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience grant agreements totaling \$1 million of Early Action Funds were added to current Forest Health grant awards. These grant funds will go towards expanding a shaded fuel break for the Hoopa Tribe, planning and workforce development with the Yurok Tribe, and two more years of supporting the Karuk Indigenous Women's TREX event.

Climate Change

- The program has hired a new Environmental Scientist to model the greenhouse gas impacts of California Climate Investments-funded projects.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- The [Task Force's Central Coast Regional Meeting](#) was held in Santa Cruz on May 11, 2023. It was hosted by the California State Coastal Conservancy and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District. Discussions focused on the unique landscapes and land management issues of California's Central Coast, with updates and panel discussions about real progress being made on the ground, and opportunities to network with partners from around the state. The meeting was recorded and is available [online](#).
- The Task Force's May 2023 monthly update to the Governor is available [online](#). The June 2023 update will be posted by June 6, 2023, and all previous updates are [available](#). Sign up for all Task Force communications by following the link on the Task Force's [homepage](#).
- The [next Task Force meeting](#) will be held on July 27, 2023, in Sacramento.

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

- FRAP continues to support the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in making Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) model revisions and in response to public comments. A total of 91 map-specific comments for technical review have been received, and we are working through the review process to implement map revisions. FRAP is also assisting with planning for the upcoming FHSZ development for Local Responsibility Areas (LRA).



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- Forest Health Research Grant solicitations are now closed. Science staff reviewed concept proposals through March 27. Approved concepts will be invited to submit full proposals. FRAP intends to award up to \$5.5 million in research grant funds through this solicitation. The grant program provides support for applied research/monitoring related to forest health and wildfire issues.
- FRAP is working with the Climate Wildfire Institute (CWI) on the development of the first phase of the Forest Data Hub. The data hub supports interagency treatment tracking, Regional Resource Kits (GIS data), and planning tools.
- FRAP staff (Joe Restaino) is leading a committee that is developing a simplified monitoring protocol for use by CAL FIRE Units to expand monitoring of fuel reduction projects.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Program

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- During the month of April 2023, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made 15 arrests and issued 12 citations.
 - CAL FIRE Law Enforcement has made 17 arson arrests in 2023.
- CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery received \$1,782.30 in recovered fire suppression costs in the month of April.
 - CAL FIRE has received \$73,115,201.07 in recovered fire suppression costs during FY 22/23.

Fire Protection Operations

- As of June 5, 2023, CAL FIRE is staffing 262 engines statewide. On June 19, 2023, CAL FIRE will move to peak staffing with 356 engines staffed statewide. The Department will continue to see upticks in new initial attack fires and increased activity as the grass crop continues to dry.
- CAL FIRE will be partnering with Alert California to trial a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that has been developed to assist in identifying anomalies detected by the cameras that may be early warnings of fires. Four CAL FIRE Command Centers received training on this new tool the week of June 5, 2023, and will begin assessing the accuracy and reliability of the technology. This tool will be limited to trained emergency personnel and will not be available to the public.

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

- AMU held our 2023 Safety Stand Down, Awards Ceremony and BBQ in recognition of Amentum and Logistics Specialties, Inc (LSI) staff on May 19, 2023.
- Currently reviewing a proposed MOU between Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and CAL FIRE related to joint S70i Helicopter training opportunities.
- We are scheduled to conduct the S70i Helicopter "Acceptance Inspection" at Air Methods/Untied Rotorcraft in Colorado on CAL FIRE Hawk #12, the week of June 19, 2023.
- 2023 Exclusive Use Type I Helicopters and additional aerial assets are identified and in the contracting process for activation on the predetermined dates.
- Engineering analysis and testing for Plastic Sphere Dispenser (PSD) aerial ignition capability from the CAL FIRE HAWK has been completed. Full integration for this capability at all helitack bases is in process and will be completed commensurate with receiving all approved equipment and training of personnel.
- Completed annual aerial ignition training for Unstaffed Aerial Systems (UAS), helitorch, and PSD operations. These operations are used in large or remote broadcast burn operations.
- CAL FIRE UAS Aerial Ignition Pilots assisted California Army National Guard with a controlled burn of 8,000 acres at Camp Roberts on June 1, 2023.
- Staff continue to work with the United States Air Force on potential National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) adjustments to consider transfer of ownership of the C130H's slated for retardant delivery systems to the State of California.

Mobile Equipment Program

- Vehicle deliveries are accelerating, and supply chain affected vehicles are arriving more frequently.
- BCP Fleet Acquisition Plan (FAP) is still at the Office of Fleet and Asset Management (OFAM) being analyzed. We are expecting it to be approved June 30, 2023.



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Cooperative Fire Protection

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Program has been meeting with Units in person throughout the state to assist with agreement renewals. This includes the counties of Placer and San Luis Obispo.
- The Local Government Program is in the process of completing the annual Budget Plan exercise to identify statewide position allocations within our cooperative agreements.
- The Local Government Program has been conducting individual agreement educational presentations for Unit staff. These have been similar to the annual workshops, but with focus on specific local issues, concerns, or education needs.

State/Federal Programs

- CAL FIRE and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) have started an MOU agreement rewrite/update. This agreement currently allows CAL FIRE Crews to do fuels management work on BOR land. CAL FIRE receives reimbursement for the work performed under this agreement.
- Contract Counties addendums for the contracting years of 2020, 2021, and 2022 have been completed. All contracts have been submitted for encumbrment of funding.
- Contract Counties new contracts for 2023, 2024, and 2025 have been completed at the program level and have been sent to CAL FIRE's Business Service Office (BSO). These contracts will provide expected expenditures for each of the contract counties.
- 8500 Handbook sections 8500 Cooperative Fire Services, 8501 Authority for Cooperative Fire Service, and 8502 Protection Area Responsibility have been updated and renumbered to current policy standards. Old policies 8500 and 8501 have been consolidated into one new policy. 8500 gives a current overview of Cooperative Fire Protection. Policy number 8501 shows updates to Government Codes. 8502 gives a more streamlined overview of protection area responsibilities.

Camps and Crews Program

- The current statewide strength of Type I Handcrews is 107 staffed of the 233 total funded crews. That includes 57 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) crews out of 152 funded, 24 California Conservation



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Corps (CCC) Crews out of 32 funded, 13 of the 35 funded CAL FIRE Firefighter I Crews, and 13 of the funded 14 California National Guard Crews.

- The current CDCR inmate crew strength is 909 inmates out of the allocated 2584, leaving the Conservation Camp Program with a shortage of 1675 inmates. The total CDCR Camp population is at 52% with a crew capacity of 35%.
- All of CAL FIRE's Handcrews have either completed or are nearing completion of the Annual Readiness Exercises. These readiness exercises are performance evaluations put on every year to examine the ability of the Handcrews to become Type I Handcrews. Once they are completed, those Handcrews will be able to respond to wildfires across the state.

Safety/EMS Program

- The National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) is requiring a nationwide update to data points collected on patients. The EMS Program and the ePCR Working Group have been working on these changes and the programming required to make CALePCR meet these new requirements. This is a big undertaking and will require EMS Program staff to be available to make programming updates in real time during the transition. The transition is planned for July 2023, to meet the November 1, 2023, requirement.
- The EMS Program is creating a plan to add the ability to complete Advanced Life Support (ALS) ePCRs. This opportunity is available due to a planned upgrade to CALePCR that will allow real-time data exchange with other responding agencies. Development and implementation will be ongoing through the remainder of 2023.
- The EMS and Safety Programs are providing funding for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), Basic Life Support (BLS) medical bag, and burn kit for each of the 11 Mobile Kitchen Units (MKU). This is being coordinated with the Incident Management Team (IMT) Logistics and Safety groups and provides a very visible standardized location for these items at each incident base.
- The Safety Program recently taught the C-404 Safety Officer and Serious Accident Review Team (SART) classes. In addition to our own employees, the SART class had several local government fire department attendees interested in creating their own SART processes modeled after CAL FIRE's.
- The Safety Program has begun creating the Annual Focus on Safety, with the topics approved by Executive. It will be sent out July 5, 2023.



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- The Safety Program continues to work with Cal/OSHA on the development of a wildland firefighter respirator. The group has changed direction and will now do a field evaluation with no live fire in LA County in August 2023. The study will involve work capacity parameters and metrics used by Dr. Rahn in his 2010 Initial Attack Effectiveness Study that involved CAL FIRE and looked at three-person vs four-person staffing. A survey is also being created to determine what types of cultural or other barriers may exist with firefighters using a wildland respirator.

Training Program

- The Regular Basic Course (RBC) / P.O.S.T Law Enforcement Academy will graduate on June 9, 2023.
- The Basic Fire Protection Skills Performance Examination (4064-2) has been approved. This procedure aligns the annual performance examination standard with State Fire Training Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 training standards. Full implementation is January 2024.
- The Training Standards Policy (4002) has been updated to address non-uniformed personnel training and add inclusive language.
- The Joint Apprenticeship Committee (SubJAC) has approved the 2023 Heavy Fire Equipment Operator JAC program, with final department approval pending.
- The JAC Program has begun updating the 4100 Handbook to align with current direction on policy format, as well as updating content in response to evolving technology and procedural changes.
- The next Statewide Training Committee meeting is August 17, 2023.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee

- Met on May 16, 2023, where the Committee received an update from the Division, as well as presentations by CAL FIRE – OSFM on the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program Overview, Pacific Gas and Electric Company on sharing information on progress, outreach efforts, and key programs and the Community Wildfire Planning Center (CWPC), presented on an overview of the Land Use Planning Program as well as the CWPP Best Practices Toolkit.
 - Next meeting will be held on June 20, 2023, both in person and virtually via Zoom.
 - June presenters will be:
 - Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety



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- Wildfire Plan Overview
 - CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
 - Risk Modeling Workgroup Update
 - Land Use Planning Program Overview
 - These meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 1 – 3PM.
 - For information on this monthly meeting, visit our website at:
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/>

Wildfire Risk Reduction

Wildfire Preparedness Defensible Space (D-Space)

- 222,342 Defensible Space inspections performed this fiscal year which is 89% of the goal.
- Nearly 80 individuals from Qualified Entities within El Dorado County have been trained to conduct Defensible Space and Home Hardening assessments. This is a pilot group, and the results of their efforts will be highlighted in the coming months. This endeavor is an outcome of Senate Bill No. 63 (CHAPTER 382 2021).

Home Hardening

- Work continues on the Joint Powers Authority with CalOES in the initial three pilot communities.
 - San Diego County, Shasta County, Lake County
 - Encumbered \$8M
 - Funding needs to be liquidated by June 30, 2024
- Staff continue to expand pilots beyond the initial three counties to include:
 - San Diego County, Tuolumne County, El Dorado County, and Shasta County
 - The JPA recently approved a 100% State funded Defensible Space project in Siskiyou County.
 - Encumbering \$13.9M
 - To be liquidated by June 30, 2025



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Burn Permits

- Since January 1, 2023, we have issued 45,883 burn permits throughout the state using the new electronic on-line burn permit issuance system.
 - More than 5,900 treatment acres approved through LE-5 and LE-7 permits which allow for prescribed and cultural burning, as well as other non-residential burning activities.
 - Access to the on-line burn permit webpage can be found here:
 - <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

Utility Wildfire Mitigation

- Completed five regional powerline fire prevention trainings throughout the state with our Defensible Space Inspectors to be able to spot, collect, and report powerline hazards.
- Participated in 2023 Operation Santa Ana kick-off meeting for joint Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU) powerline inspections with Southern California Edison (SCE) on June 6, 2023.
- Work continues on the consultation to Energy Safety on Investor Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan review.

Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Pre-Fire Plan (Fire Plan)

- Over 1,100 comments were received during the public comment period for Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area. Staff have been reviewing public comments and anticipate another public comment period.
- Annual CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans are being finalized by Units for submittal to Regions & Sacramento Program,
- Personnel turnover of CAL FIRE Unit & Contract County Pre-Fire Engineers has been significant; providing monthly training for new staff is ongoing.
- Work continues on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) tool kit and updated website to assist local jurisdictions and community organizations with CWPP development.

California Incident Data & Statistics Program

- Program built a report for Wildfire Technology Research & Development to present to NASA on all wildland fire incidents 300 acres or greater from 2017 to 2022.

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- Program is in the processing of three new custom developments to improve the CALFIRS program including one that will improve location of wildfire ignition points.
- Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) with Units and Regions is complete for SRA wildland fires, the team is starting to process the Redbook and will be moving it forward for Communications review before starting the Executive review and approval process.
- NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) is transitioning to what will be called NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System). The platform will integrate data from multiple federal data sets, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and other authoritative live-data sources to inform community risks including vulnerable populations, the wildland urban interface, drought areas and flood plains. Further, it will support rapid data capture from hostile event response, including response to structure fires, emergency medical incidents and hazardous materials events.
- Conducted NFIRS fire reporting training with the Contract Counties on May 4, 2023. Had a good turnout and was able to answer a lot of questions for those that participated.

In process to move our CAL FIRE Incident Reporting System policy from 7700 handbooks to 9200 handbooks under Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation.

Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting as of May 10, 2023.

- Fuel Reduction Projects: 443 projects, 88% of the goal
- Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - 47,594 acres treated, 47% of the goal.
 - Unit Projects –26,792 acres
 - Grant Projects –20,802 acres
- Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - 20,501 acres treated, 77% of the goal.

Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Land Use Planning

- Staff continue to assist jurisdictions with revisions to the Safety Element of the General Plans.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

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- Staff are engaged in Statutes and Regulations, Damage Inspection, and Damage Inspection Manager courses for the department.

Firewise

- California continues to lead the nation with 686 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing.
- Continuing to equate to over 30% of all NFPA Firewise USA Communities nationwide.
- Staff are also assisting new and existing Firewise Communities throughout the state with applications, training, and community education days.

Fire Safe Regulations (FSR)

- Statewide workgroup has been developed and consists of staff that implement FSR as part of their everyday job duties.
- The group meets every two weeks.
- Provides periodic training on FSR to Contract Counties and CAL FIRE Units.

Subdivision Review (SDR)

- 1,389 Fire Safety Surveys and been completed and reviewed by the Board.
- 61 Surveys are up for review by the Board during the June Resource Protection Committee (RPC).

Wildfire Prevention (WP) Grants

- FY22-23 Grant solicitation update.
- First solicitation using new Grants Portal database.
- Developed user guides for Grants Portal.
- Supported applicants with learning the new database.
- 227 applications received for \$433+ million requested.
- Applications are currently in the final steps of the review process.
- Projected FY 22-23 awards announcement in July, 2023.

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

CAL FIRE + LinkedIn

- CAL FIRE + LinkedIn Career Page is live. The DEI Program will continue to collaborate with Workforce Planning and Recruitment Program (WP&R) to

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



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build upon and promote DEI initiatives along with additional resources and career opportunities available through CAL FIRE.

Workforce Planning & Recruitment (WP&R)

- The DEI program recently attended the Leroy Green Academy Summit event with WP&R. The event was designed to bring students (grades 6-12), staff, faculty, parents, mental health experts, and business professionals together to foster an interconnected learning environment. DEI and WP&R participated in three 1-hour breakout sessions throughout the day, highlighting DEI initiatives and career opportunities for students interested in future careers with CAL FIRE.

Partnership Equity Coordinators

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Summit: Executive leadership and potential DEI staff to attend the EJ Summit in November (further details are actively being discussed). This two-day event will include a panel discussion to hear from EJ folks on the ground and share ideas and resources to further building upon CNRA's equity initiatives. A series of focus groups, comprised of Directors and EJ groups in attendance, will be formed with the expected outcome to help CNRA develop an updated EJ policy and guiding principles.
- June is Pride Month, to celebrate the lives, contributions, and experiences of members of the LGBTQ+ community, the CAL FIRE DEI program is partnering with the CNRA EJ program in recognizing and celebrating in June. A Career Panel Discussion, multiple outdoor events and a socializer is currently being planned.

Language Survey Dashboard

- The DEI program has completed a comprehensive Language Survey Dashboard to include the number of bilingual certified staff located within our 21 units and CAL FIRE programs. This data will assist with the development of an implementation plan to determine where additional BCEs are needed and will be housed on our internal webpage for management and staff to access when needing to identify BCEs available at their respective stations/programs. BCEs are crucial to ensuring that non-English speaking individuals can receive information and services available through CAL FIRE and ensures documents, forms, and other written materials can be translated to further assist the public in disseminating important information.

CALENDAR YEAR 2023
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH May 25, 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	62	60	16	12	3	0	5	1	86	73
THPs Returned	25	29	3	8	1	0	2	1	31	38
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	50	37	8	5	2	0	2	0	62	42
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	40	35	12	12	1	0	5	1	58	48
THP Approved Acres	11,120	8,154	6,750	6,056	15	0	929	560	18,815	14,770

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
NTMPs Received	4	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	6	7
NTMPs Returned	3	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	5
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
NTMP Approved Acres	0	77	617	0	0	0	0	105	617	182
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	20	12	2	2	0	0	1	1	23	15

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 May 25, 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



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 May 25, 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)	97	491,364	59	436,199
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	24	3,752	29	32,662
		Riverside (South)	1	240	1	240
		Sierra (Fresno)	22	54,145	14	2,117
		Totals	144	549,501	103	471,218
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	5	117,399
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	14	1	14
		Totals	5	159,853	6	117,413
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)	28	15,070	20	5,069
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	3	4,244		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	9	1,610	1	268
		Totals	40	20,924	21	5,337
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)	7	521	6	405
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	18	959	14	1,321
		Riverside (South)	2	328	1	269
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	27	1,808	21	1,995
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	51	71	28	53
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	25	54	23	59
		Riverside (South)	1	0	1	1
		Sierra (Fresno)	11	10	2	4
		Totals	88	135	54	117
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)	7	109	7	145
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	7	109	7	145
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)	12	12	8	21
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	5	2	1	4
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	9	34	1	5
		Totals	26	48	10	30
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	18	931,764	7	5,830
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	13	1,596	13	512
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	20	25,941	2	13
		Totals	51	959,301	22	6,355

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(f) (03/2019)	Small Timberland Owner	Cascade (Redding)	2	69	1	40
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	2	69	1	40
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)	46	147	41	233
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	65	282	56	145
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	3	4	5	15
		Totals	114	433	102	393
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)	3	13	2	7
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	24	111	12	58
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	1		
		Totals	28	125	14	65
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	532	1,692,306	361	603,108

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2022		2023						
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres				
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	81	32,007	36	9,878				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	17	1,689	14	659				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	26	6,894	14	2,878				
		Totals	124	40,590	64	13,415				
<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)	6	893	3	623		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)			1	93		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)			2	191		
				Totals	6	893	6	907		
				Fire		Cascade (Redding)	74	30,762	35	9,538
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	16	1,459	8	404
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	18	4,256	4	967
						Totals	108	36,477	47	10,909
				Insects		Cascade (Redding)	10	2,630	2	283
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	144		
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	3	1,544	2	191
						Totals	14	4,318	4	474
		*Others		Cascade (Redding)	104	49,036	42	10,679		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	19	2,093	21	1,134		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	9	4,019	5	510		
				Totals	132	55,148	68	12,323		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)	5	1,641	3	406				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	86						
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		Totals	6	1,727	3	406				
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				