2013 Focused State Responsibility Area Review

Legal Basis - Public Resource Code

- PRC 4125 - Gives authority to BOF to classify
- PRC 4126 - What types of lands can be SRA
- PRC 4127 - What types of lands cannot be SRA
- PRC 4128 - Allows lines of convenience
- Board of Forestry SRA Classification Document

SRA Defined - PRC 4125

a) The board shall classify all lands within the state, without regard to any classification of lands made by or for any federal agency or purpose, for the purpose of determining areas in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the state.

The prevention and suppression of fires in all areas that are not so classified is primarily the responsibility of local or federal agencies, as the case may be.
Forest, Watershed or Range – PRC 4126

The board shall include within state responsibility areas all of the following lands (a, b, and c)

a) Lands covered wholly or in part by forests or by trees producing or capable of producing forest products.

b) Lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth, or grass, whether of commercial value or not, which protect the soil from excessive erosion, retard runoff of water or accelerate water percolation, if such lands are sources of water which is available for irrigation or for domestic or industrial use.

c) Lands in areas which are principally used or useful for range or forage purposes, which are contiguous to the lands described in subdivisions (a) and (b).
Not SRA – PRC 4127

The board shall not include within state responsibility areas any of the following lands:

a) Lands owned or controlled by the federal government.

b) Lands within an incorporated city.

c) Any other lands which do fit within any of the classes described in Section 4126.

Drawing of SRA Boundaries: PRC 4128

The board may, for purposes of administrative convenience, designate roads, pipelines, streams, or other recognizable landmarks as arbitrary boundaries (commonly referred to as lines of convenience).

Board of Forestry Regulation
Board of Forestry SRA Classification System provides direction on how to implement the PRC.
Since the implementation of the Fire Prevention Fee, CAL FIRE has focused on three levels for SRA Map updates:

- Automatic changes that do not require Board approval; these were completed in November 2012.
- A Focused SRA Review that take a look at areas where errors and inconsistencies that were identified by Fee bill payers
- Tracking changes to be reviewed in the 5-Year Review, scheduled for 2015.

2012 SRA Update (automatic fixes)

CAL FIRE updated the SRA maps based on Board regulations that allow for automatic changes (as per Existing Regulations on Automatic Inclusions or Exclusions)

These changes will be incorporated in the SRA12_1 GIS layer which was completed November 15, 2012, this SRA map will be used for the July 1, 2012 billing cycle.

2013 Focused Review categories:

- SRA that would be excluded or included due to housing density or agriculture
- Major boundary adjustment that fits with a line of convenience or parcel line
- Major SRA islands e.g. those created after city annexations
- LRA created due to ownership changes from federal to private
2013 SRA Review Timeline Due Dates

February 4, 2013 - CAL FIRE Units submit approved final changes to Region.

March 1 - Regional Review Team received the findings and approves recommendations; forwards to the State SRA Review Team.

March 12 - The State Review Team reviews changes, and submits to Director for acceptance. The changes will then be submitted to the Board for review and approval.

2015 SRA 5-Year Review

A State Review shall occur in 2010 and every five years thereafter, the 2015 review will be initiated in the winter of 2014 or sooner.

Areas not addressed in the 2013 review may be placed in, “check status” for the 2015 Review by creating a record in the SRA Tracker (more on this later).

SRA Tracker (SRAT):

- Oracle database developed by CAL FIRE IT as a permanent database to track SRA changes
- Accessible via log-in (through Citrix) by Contract Counties and CAL FIRE Staff
- GIS interface
- Can print reports and summaries
Regulations define the SRA Review and Update Process:

- Provide Training to CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties
- Units and Contract Counties conduct review in coordination with Local Government
- Region submit changes to State Review Team (March 4)
- State Review Team review changes from Regions (March 12)
- Director briefed on changes and approves changes (March 29)
- Director makes recommendations to the Board (April 9?)
- Public Hearing held (May 8?)

State Review Team and Board Approval as defined in Regulation

- Fire Plan Staff
- Board of Forestry and Fire Protection – Executive Officer,
- Region SRA Coordinators - Northern Region, and Southern Region,
- Contract County Representation as needed

- The State Responsibility Area Classification System specifies that
  the Board will act upon the Director’s recommendations for changes
  in classification of SRA, after appropriate public hearings.
  If approved, the Board will, at its choosing:
  1) Set an implementation date no earlier than 90 days from
     approval date.
     OR
  2) Set a July 1 (next calendar year) implementation date for
     all changes.

What follows are examples of situations that are considered in the detailed review process;

delineating SRA is complicated.