



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
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September 2015 Board of Forestry Report

Resource Management

Forest Climate Action Team (FCAT)

FCAT will be posting draft sections of the Forest Carbon Plan in the near future at: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat> Shortly thereafter, FCAT will be hosting public workshops (TBD),

Resource Protection Program

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund:

- Grant agreements for the 29 urban forestry grants have been completed and sent out for grantee signature. It is expected that many, if not most of, the 29 grants will be active by the end of the month.
- Grants have also been awarded for Forest Legacy projects. Conservation easement development with the applicants is ongoing.
- We expect to award reforestation (including CFIP), pest control and research grants immediately upon approval by the Air Resources Board (ARB). Fuel reduction grants are delayed pending agreement between CAL FIRE and ARB on appropriate methods to account for reduced wildfire emissions as a result of fuel reduction projects.
- The department has been notified that no Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund monies will be allocated for grants in fiscal year 2015-16. Staff will continue to work with The Natural Resources Agency in developing forest health program initiatives in preparation for opportunities that may arise next fiscal year.

Pest Control:

- Updating of the existing Goldspotted Oak Borer Zone of Infestation has begun. This will include the newly infested areas and redrawing the Zone of Infestation for San Diego County to include all areas that contain California Coast Live Oak and California Black Oak.
- Inquiries for public assistance related to tree mortality have been increasing. In addition to mortality, a variety of drought impacts have been reported and observed on both hardwoods and conifers, including early leaf and needle drop, branch dieback, and needle scorch. June's record high temperatures appear to have contributed to some of the non-lethal impacts.
- The USDA Forest Service is the lead agency for conducting insect and disease / forest health Aerial Detection Surveys statewide. CAL FIRE is a partner in this effort. The Annual Detection

Survey is conducted over many months beginning in the spring and generally not finishing until early fall. Recent large wildfires have delayed the Annual Survey. Results of the Survey are posted online periodically, as they become available.

- Estimated current year mortality reported thus far adds up to about 9 million trees (all species). If you add in additional data that has been collected, but not yet reported, the estimate grows to about 25 million trees. A general consensus among state and federal pest specialists is that tree mortality could exceed 40 million trees this year. Because substantial areas of the state have yet to be surveyed, 25 million dead trees is likely a significant underestimate of what the final total will be for the year. The Annual Survey does not capture all mortality that has occurred. This is because the Survey is a snapshot in time, while tree mortality is ongoing.

State Forests:

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest was substantially impacted by the Valley Fire in Lake County, which began on Saturday, September 13, 2015 at 1:24 p.m. As of this report, the fire is still active, and a damage assessment has not yet been conducted on the Forest. Early reports indicate that the Forest Headquarters is intact, almost all of the 3,493-acre Forest was impacted by fire, and approximately 60 percent of trees were consumed or killed by heat.
- Prior to the fire, Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest had experienced significant western pine beetle infestation and tree mortality, with an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 trees killed by beetles, and the State Forest Manager was planning a public outreach meeting to present the forest health situation and options for reducing fuels, including commercial harvesting.
- The financial viability of salvage logging operations on Boggs Mountain and Mountain Home State Forests is challenging due to the lack of a market for the logs. Export markets in Oakland are buying beetle killed pine, but local sawmills have very limited or no capacity. Current legislation prohibits the State Forests from exporting logs or cants larger than 4 by 12 inches in diameter, which are uneconomical to produce and which would need to be kiln dried in order to export. The last timber sale on Boggs Mountain State Forest (stumpage sale) netted only \$5 per thousand board feet because the logs had to be hauled to the SPI mill in Lincoln.
- Potable water can no longer be provided to the Shake Camp Campground on Mountain Home State Forest, as the spring that feeds the water system has gone dry.
- Tree mortality on the State Forests remains significant and many local vistas are becoming impacted.
- Mountain Home State Forest has received two requests to film documentaries on the Forest.
- Annual cone crop surveys on Jackson Demonstration State Forest indicate that there are no redwood cones and a very light Douglas-fir cone crop.
- Tractor line and hand line were constructed for 6 days on Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest as a contingency line against the Cabin Fire. Two campgrounds were closed on the Forest while the work was being performed.
- Latour Demonstration State Forest has completed the 5-year periodic re-measurement of the 221 permanent Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots on the Forest.
- Sequoia Demonstration State Forest staff met with UC Berkeley Professor Matteo Garbelotto to discuss a new educational/interpretive program for the Forest. The program will be an app for smartphones where users can visit different sites on the forest and listen to recordings about the history, ecology, or research projects.

- Portions of Soquel Creek on Soquel DSF were dry as of mid-August.
- State Forests are nearing completion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CAL FIRE and Pacific Union College (PUC) located in Napa County. PUC owns property immediately adjacent to Las Posadas State Forest. The MOU is intended to outline and codify a strategy that is designed to establish collaboration for the long-term management and protection of these resources for the benefit of both parties.

Seed Bank:

- The Davis Seed Bank continues to complete the finishing touches on the new freezer. The new freezer is very close to being ready for the transfer of all the seed contained in both the original freezer as well as the overflow containers. This will be a huge improvement to safely store conifer seed at the Davis Seed Bank.
- The seed bank has two new Forestry Assistant II's that were hired at the end of August.
- The cone season continues to show very low numbers of viable cones, but the seed bank did have approximately 80 bushels of Sugar Pine cones delivered for processing. About half of those cones were purchased by the seed bank, with the other half owned by a private timber company. We hope to test some of the cones purchased for resistance to white pine blister rust, as these cones were selected for harvest from likely candidate trees from private land.
- Seed orders are starting to come in. Many seed orders are in response to past wildfires. We expect that this trend will increase dramatically in coming years. We are hoping to expand efforts and be ready for a bustling cone season in 2016 as the need for restoration plantings after recent fires will be enormous.

Vegetation Management Program:

- The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) treated 3,331 acres with prescribed fire in Fiscal Year 2014. This is slightly better than last year's total of 3,246 acres treated. Of the 27 Units and Contract Counties 15 completed some VMP acres during the fiscal year. Acreage figures can be expected to remain static until such time that more resources are made available, and the VTP-EIR is certified by the Board.

Forest Practice Program (through 8/31/2015)

Plan submissions:

- **THP submissions:** Santa Rosa has 101 new THP submittals, Redding 63, and Fresno has 10; totaling 174. THP submissions through August are down slightly from last year (i.e. 174 compared to 176).
- **NTMP submissions:** There have been four NTMPs, and 88 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There has been two NTMP and 12 NTOs submitted in Redding. No NTMPs or NTOs have been submitted this year in Fresno. NTMP submissions through August are down from last year (i.e., 6 compared to 11).
- **Exemption Notice submissions:** Exemption submissions are up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 284 exemptions submitted, Redding had 889 (compared to 706 last year at this time) and Fresno had 273. Through September 11, 2015 there were 71 Drought Mortality exemptions (14 CCR 1038(k)) submitted, 61 were submitted to the Fresno Office, 9 to the Redding Office and one to Santa Rosa.

- **Emergency Notice submissions:** Emergency submissions are significantly up compared to last year. Five Emergency Notices were submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 98 (compared to 41 at this time last year) and Fresno had 42 submitted.

General Review Team:

Redding/Fresno:

- Fresno, Forester I Review Team Kevin Kiniery, was involved in fire assignments in Lake County for half of August. Redding Review staff were able to fill in and keep harvest document review in the Sierra Region on normal schedule.
- Fresno Review Team staff attended a field inspection in Mariposa to review a Fuel Reduction Emergency Notice operation, meeting the mandatory leave stand requirements; however the leave stand is now suffering 30-40% mortality due to bark beetles. It may be more common in the future for landowners to submit successive Notices to address drought related mortality.
- Fresno has been continuing to receive numerous 1038(k), Drought Mortality exemption in Mariposa, Kern and Fresno Counties.
- Overall exemption notices have slowed in Redding. This is likely due to the recent fire siege. An increase in 1038(k) Drought Mortality Exemption Notice submissions occurred in Redding in early September.
- Jon Woessner, Redding Forester II, Review Team Chair, was involved in CAL FIRE's Basic Fire Fighter training during the first 2 weeks of September (basic 179 hour). This is part of the prerequisites for his future training at the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone.
- The Fresno Review Team Forest II position has been advertised and staff are completing the hiring process.

Santa Rosa:

- The Santa Rosa office has hired a second Forestry Assistant II; both positions of which were downgraded from Forester I for recruitment purposes.
- A vacant Forester II position remains at the Santa Rosa office.

Sac HQ Watershed Protection Program Update:

- Watershed staff led and participated in the Monitoring Study Group meeting held on September 10th in Willows. This meeting provided a forum to discuss monitoring work that has been conducted in the Battle Creek watershed, with five speakers providing PowerPoint presentations.
- Watershed staff helped plan and participated in the Wood for Salmon Working Group meeting held on September 3rd in Santa Rosa. The group viewed the Dry Creek Habitat Enhancement Project located below Warm Springs Dam.
- Drew Coe continues to help revise and edit the VTP-EIR document following its release to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at their August meeting.
- Watershed staff compiled 22 published papers on low flows and water drafting, as requested by the BOF's Forest Practice Committee in preparation for further discussions on including 'low flow' as a topic under Watershed Resources in Technical Rule Addendum No.2. The papers were posted on a CAL FIRE ftp site.

- Drew Coe has authored a study plan titled “Changes in Road Sediment Production and Delivery Over Time in the Little River and Elk River Watersheds, Northwestern California.” The goal is to write a published paper that will complement the project Dr. Lee MacDonald, CSU, will be conducting to summarize turbidity and fisheries data collected in the Little River watershed by Green Diamond Resource Company.

Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 45 active cases. There are 8 cases for 2015; three cases have been mailed out for service and the remaining 5 are in the review process. Six of the 2015 civil cases are related to illegal timberland conversions. Two 2015 cases are related to harvest documents. The Regional Forester II, Enforcement Specialist position was advertised last month. The department hopes to have the position filled by the end of September. The Forest Practice Enforcement program will then be fully staffed.

Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:

- LTO renewals and new applications are being processed in the order they are received. We continue to receive applications that are lacking critical information. Proof of proper insurance is a common item that is not included with applications. Applicants are contacted and the additional information requested. Applications are returned with letters of explanation regarding the lack of information if LTO Licensing does not hear back from the applicants.
- Staff are preparing to provide a Timber Operator Licensing Class and a general Forest Practice presentation at the Sierra Regional Logging Conference scheduled for February in Redding.

Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from the TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 7/31/2015:

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort :** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 76,483 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (27.2%); conducting forest practice inspections (26.9%); participating in mandated training (15.2%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.4%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.7%); forest practice law enforcement (2.8%); responding to letters of concern (1.9%); and program/project monitoring (0.8%); Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents TRFRF funded forest practice effort only.)
- **Total Departmental Forest Practice Efforts:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized a total of 95,534 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (21.8%); conducting forest practice inspections (21.5%); participating in mandated training (12.2%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (10.0%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (9.4%); other duties in support of unit programs (6.7%); other forestry related activities (6.7%); emergency incident support (4.0%); forest practice law enforcement (2.2%); responding to letters of concern (1.5%); project/program monitoring (0.6%); and. Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)

- **AB 1492 Leadership Team:** The AB 1492 Leadership Team meetings continue to be held approximately every month, mainly in Sacramento. The charters for the AB 1492 working groups have been finalized and posted on the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) website (<http://resources.ca.gov/forestry/>). The AB 1492 Working Groups have begun to meet more regularly and develop detailed work plans. It is estimated that it will be 2017 before a working set of ecological performance measures will be developed. These measures will drive the monitoring questions that the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration (TRFRF) Program answers. Additionally, a draft concept paper has been posted on the CNRA website describing a potential approach for conducting the planning watershed-based pilot projects to identify opportunities to increase efficiencies for the timber harvest planning processes. Public input is being solicited on this draft document.

FRAP Update

- AB1504 (Skinner, 2010): On September 29th, Mark Rosenberg will provide an update to the BOF Forest Practice Committee on implementation of AB1504. Two agreements have been executed in support of this effort. One of these agreements, the agreement with Spatial Informatics Group (SIG), resulted in a report of potential Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) methods to evaluate if California's forest sector is sequestering 5 million metric tons of CO₂e/yr. Currently, FRAP staff are preparing a Forest Carbon Inventory Report based primarily on FIA data so the BOF can determine if a full LCA is warranted and what the boundaries of such an analysis might require.
- California Public Utility Commission Fire Threat Mapping Project. Dave Sapsis has chaired an independent panel of experts on developing a Utility-specific Fire Threat Map for implementation of new fire safety regulations. The Draft Report outlining a review of past work, the development of a map methodology, and draft data inputs and outputs was filed with the CPUC on Sept.3rd. A party review process will proceed for roughly two months, and then a workshop will be held to go over the draft products and any alternatives being proposed by parties. Finalization of the Map is expected around Jan. 1, 2016, with the next phase of mapping to develop explicit implementation zones beginning then.

Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire, Training, Safety, and EMS

- State-Federal Program – The Program is currently very busy reviewing and approving invoices submitted by the National Guard and local fire departments for assistance rendered during the past two fire sieges. Program is also currently processing five Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) for fires which met the criteria of major disasters. These grants, approved through FEMA, will reimburse the state 75% of the suppressions costs associated with the North, Wragg, Rocky, Valley and Butte Fires.
- Conservation Camp Program – Currently 138 (70%) of the 196 CAL FIRE crews are committed to major incidents. The Camp Program continues to experience low numbers of offenders that volunteer for the program. Overall inmate numbers remain somewhat stable though lower than necessary to staff the program at full strength. The CAL FIRE Camp Program's inmate/ward population is currently at 88% of capacity.
- The current number of offenders released early due to Proposition 47 is **349** as of August 17, 2015 (No updated numbers are available for September).

- The CAL FIRE Academy completed its last Company Officer Academy, which has been continuously running since the Fall of 2014, on September 4, 2015. The Academy is on a three week break until Monday, September 28th, to conduct much needed maintenance in the absence of students.
- The CAL FIRE Academy has assisted the regional and statewide fire activity by sending many of its personnel on overhead assignments to fires and support functions. In addition, the CAL FIRE Academy has loaned out all apparatus to administrative units for their firefighting efforts. The CAL FIRE Academy is supporting the Butte Fire by housing up to seven engine strike teams (35 fire engines plus leaders) in its dormitories.
- The Safety Program continues to work on an issue paper to improve the future wildland firefighting ensemble for CAL FIRE employees. The same group is also working on a new specification for a future department-wide Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Additionally, the Safety Program has been actively assisting Units, Regions, and Incident Management Team Safety Officers with conducting Serious Accident Reviews, developing Blue Sheets and Green Sheets associated with the statewide fire activity.

Operations

- All six of CAL FIRE's Type 1 Incident Management Teams have been deployed in the last month on major fires statewide, as well as the National Association of State Foresters annual conference in Lake Tahoe.
- During the peak of fire activity, in cooperation with the CalOES Public Safety Communications Office, CAL FIRE was successful in getting emergency approval and licenses from the FCC for three additional frequencies to support fire operations on the Butte Incident.

AMU/TAO

- In the process of establishing Exclusive Use (EU) contracts for additional firefighting helicopters to augment statewide aerial operations. There will be two Type I and four Type II helicopters contracted for sixty days. The projected contract start date is Monday, September 21. These will be State assets and moved around statewide to meet fire activity demands.
- Plans are in place to commence the rebuild of Tanker 81. The Logistics contract has been modified to add additional employees and contracting authority increased to purchase two engines for the aircraft. The Services contract has yet to be modified to add authority, ten additional personnel and secure hangar space to complete the project. As soon as the modification is approved, we will move forward.
- Tactical Air Operations has convened a small working group to begin drafting the framework for an Aviation Strategic Plan. The first meeting has been scheduled but may be rescheduled based on current and expected fire activity.

LE/CCR

- August 2015 arrests = 23
- Fiscal Year-to-date arrests = 159
- August 2015 citations (non-4291) = 54
- Fiscal Year-to-date citations (non-4291) = 578
- August 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$2,137,421
- Fiscal Year-to-date Civil Cost Recovery = \$13,566,464

Office of the State Fire Marshall

- Damage Inspection Teams (DINS) have been heavily staffed at both the Valley and Butte Fires by Land Use Planning and Fire Engineering personnel. The magnitude of devastation will result in very lengthy reports, in order to include accurate data for all damaged and destroyed structures.
- The DINS Reports will play an important role with validating the high number of anticipated SRA Fee Exemption requests when they begin to be submitted.
- Program has already started discussions with Legal staff to address a number of questions about these Exemption requests, and how we best accommodate the public that has been impacted. (Questions include how to get notifications out, whether to grant exemption requests prior to start of billing, reconciliation of requests prior to establishment of this year's mailing and account list, and how to deal with requests that do not show up on the DINS report, among others.)
- Have hired a new Deputy Chief to oversee the SRA Fire Prevention Fee Program – Joel Vela comes to us from Riverside Unit, and will be moving to Sacramento in the near future.
- Dave Shew and Kim Carr gave presentations to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee at UC Merced on Tuesday, September 22. Information on forest health, climate change impacts, biomass challenges, and prevention activities was well received.
- Dave Shew participated in a webinar hosted by the California Department of Insurance on "Wildfire Planning in California." Over 100 attendees from throughout the state and numerous insurance agencies signed on to listen to the webinar.

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH AUGUST

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans, Exemptions, Emergencies, 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	Santa Rosa		Redding		Riverside		Fresno		Totals	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
THPs Received	101	95	63	64	0	0	10	17	174	176
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	23	24	31	34	0	0	9	7	63	65
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	107	95	57	53	0	0	9	14	173	162
THPs with NON-Concurrences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
THPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Approved	103	97	43	65	0	0	11	12	157	174
Acreage in Approved THPs	26,548	23,271	40,144	49,187	0	0	2,666	4,066	69,358	76,524
NTMPs Received	4	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	6	11
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	4	9	3	1	0	0	0	0	7	10
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	5	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	7
NTMPs Approved Acres	1,041	2,396	84	0	0	0	0	0	1,125	2,396
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	88	95	12	16	0	0	0	3	100	114
Exemption Notices Received	284	251	889	706	4	0	273	210	1,450	1,167
Emergency Notices Received	5	2	98	41	0	1	42	9	145	53
Exemption Types Received 2014	< 3 Acre Conversions	Fire Hazard	Forest Fire Prevention	Dead Dying Diseased	Other Exemp	Rec'd 2015				
Santa Rosa	60	119	3	82	20	284				
Redding	223	209	8	419	30	889				
Riverside	3	0	0	1	0	4				
Fresno	30	51	2	128	62	273				

Emergency Types Received 2014	Fire	Fuel Hazard	Insect	Wind	Other Emerg	Total Rec'd 2015
Santa Rosa	1	0	4	0	0	5
Redding	60	0	22	16	0	98
Riverside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresno	24	1	17	0	0	42