

PFEC Item 3 – Item 1.16 Forest Management Task Force

INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO SMALL PRIVATE LANDOWNERS Significantly increasing the pace and scale of forest management across the state can only be achieved through significant contributions from small private landowners. Family-owned forest lands make up about 20 percent of California’s forests, approximately 7 million acres. Nearly 90 percent of this acreage is comprised of parcels that are 50 acres or less in size. Almost 60 percent of the state’s 200,000 non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPFs) are 65 years and older, and only nine percent derive income from their forest land. The state offers various assistance programs to NIPFs, including the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), Forest Stewardship Program, and Wildfire Resilience Program. However, limited state funding generates competition among small landowners, and the lack of a common framework or shared goals poses further challenges to expanding forest management across private lands. Accordingly, CAL FIRE is partnering with the USFS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the American Forest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to create a comprehensive program to assist small landowners with forest assessments, thinning, prescribed fire and rapid recovery after wildfires.

1.16 Expand Lumber Certifiers: Expand Lumber Certifiers: BOF will assist in establishing additional small-scale forest product infrastructure, such as portable sawmills, and will explore the potential for Registered Professional Foresters to become third-party certified as Lumber Graders.