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US FOREST SERVICE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

REPORT TO CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

John Exline
Ecosystem Management Director
June 12, 2019

2018 Recap and 2019 update

- National Perspective
- Wildfire Suppression
- Tree Mortality Response (FMTF)
- Vegetation Management
- State & Private Forestry
- Agreements and Partnerships



National Leadership



Secretary Perdue

7 Strategic Goals
One USDA

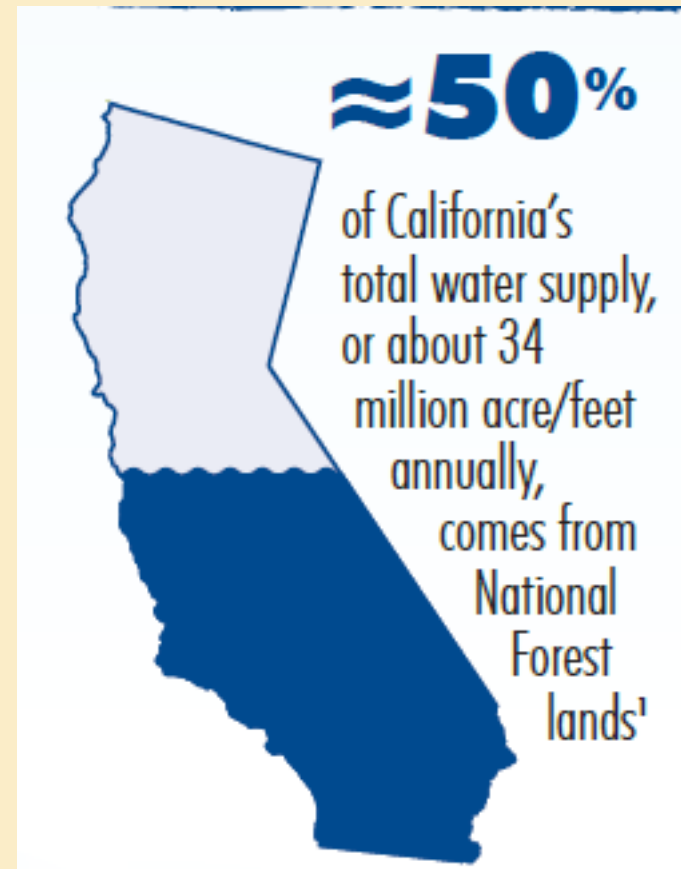


Chief Christiansen

5 National Priorities
One Forest Service

Values and Services

- Over 50% of water supply
- \$2.0 billion annual local wage & income contribution
- 43,000 local jobs
- 24.6 million annual visitors



Wildfire Suppression

965 fires on 728,895 acres

- Human-caused: 708 fires, 614,033 ac
- Lightning-caused: 257 fires, 114,863 ac
- Large Incidents: 24
- 97.7% of fires stayed small





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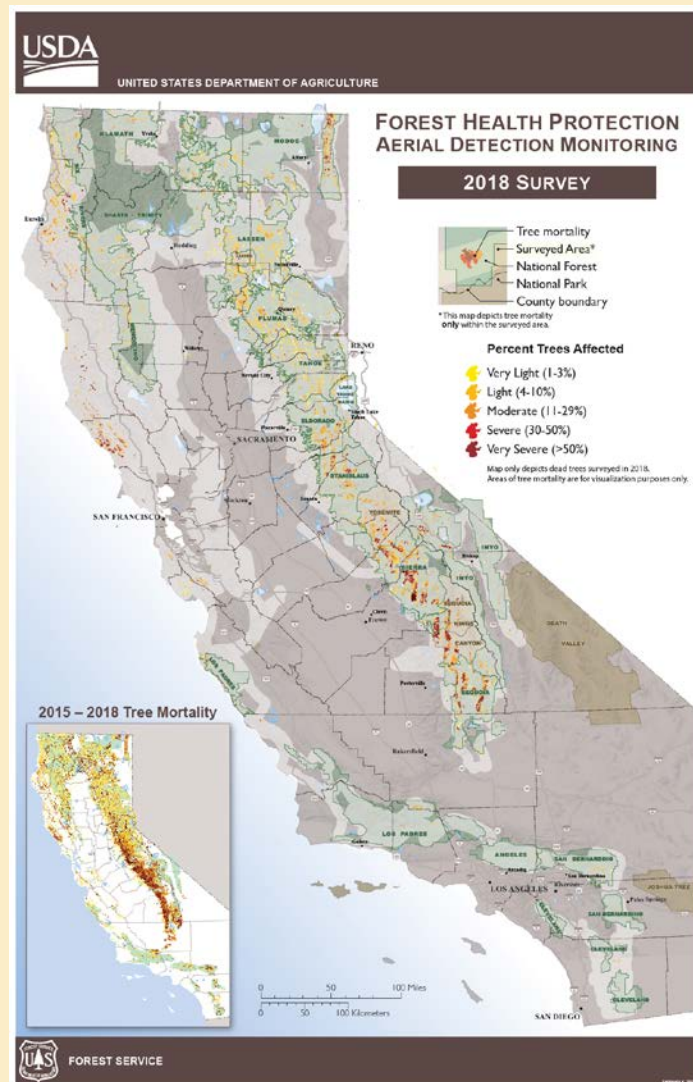
California Historical Fires and Acres*

Year	USFS - Fires	USFS - Acres	All Jurisdictions - Fires	All Jurisdictions - Acres
2018	965	728,895	8,054	1,823,153
2017	1,526	644,640	9,562	1,268,321
2016	889	356,954	7,349	560,815
2015	1,656	537,446	8,745	893,362
2014	1,460	399,713	7,865	555,044
5 Year Average	1,299	533,530	8,315	1,020,139
2013	1,535	350,642	9,907	577,675
2012	1,251	297,212	7,950	869,599
2011	1,049	41,777	7,989	126,854
2010	1,164	39,288	6,554	109,529
2009	1,548	305,371	9,159	405,585
10 Year Average	1,304	370,194	8313	718,994

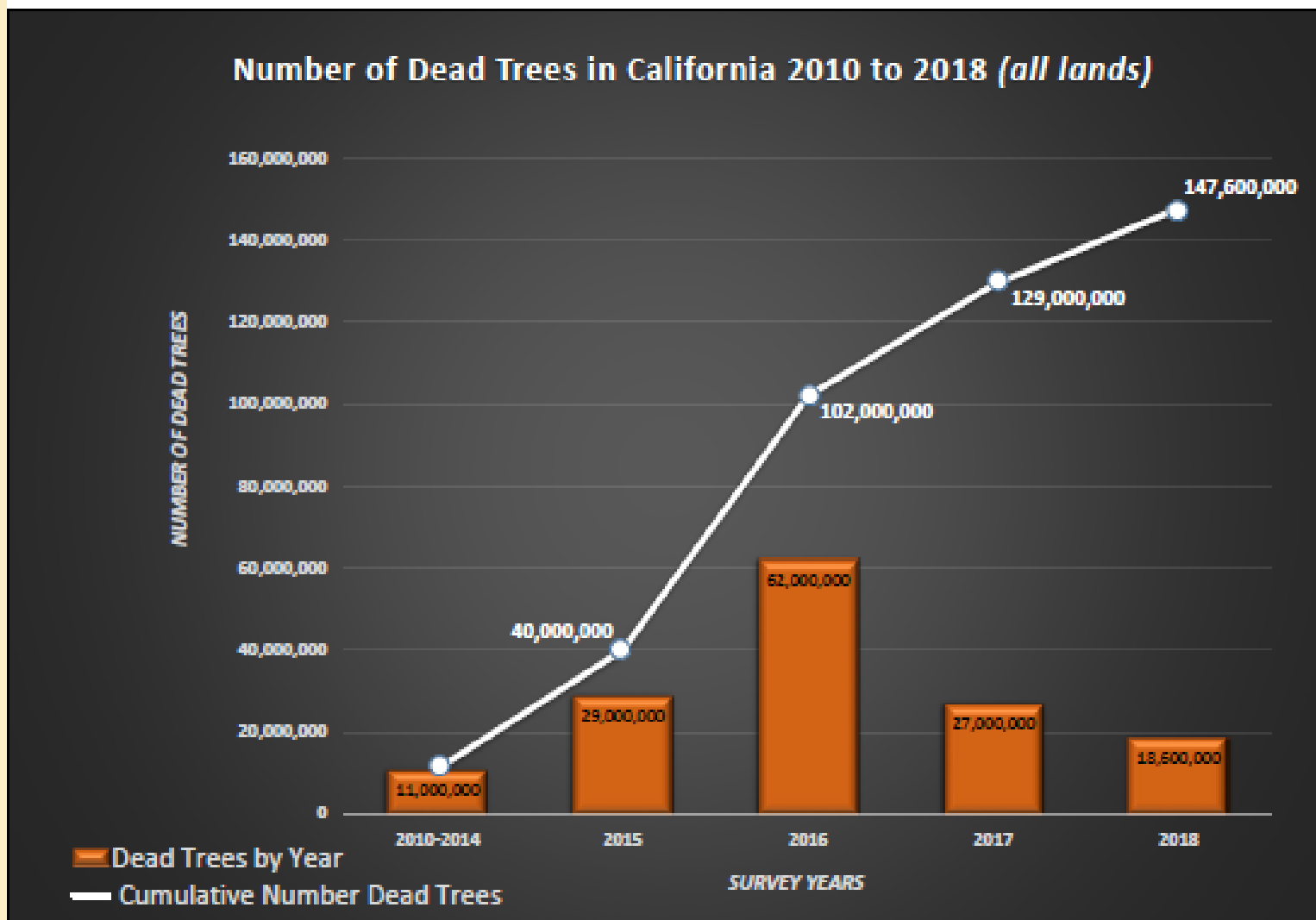
AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY TO ASSESS CALIFORNIA FOREST HEALTH CONDITIONS

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY

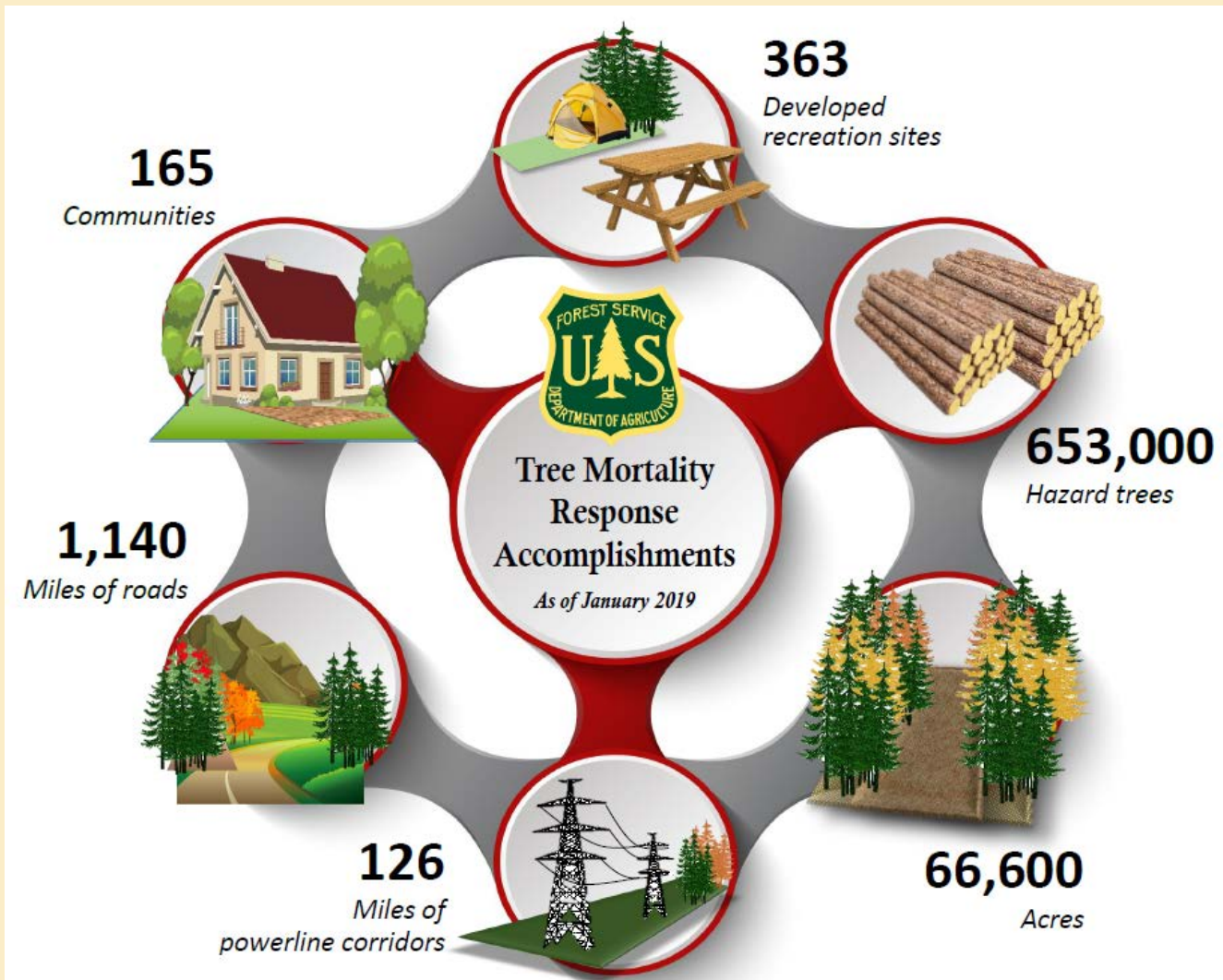
- Surveyed ~ 137 million acres in 2018 across all lands
- 2019 surveys will begin in June
- ADS data informs Tier 1 & 2 designations; Farm Bill insect and Disease watershed designations; collaborative mapping efforts under the Forest Management Task Force; forest manager decisions
- Training CAL FIRE employee to assist with surveys



Tree Mortality – All Lands

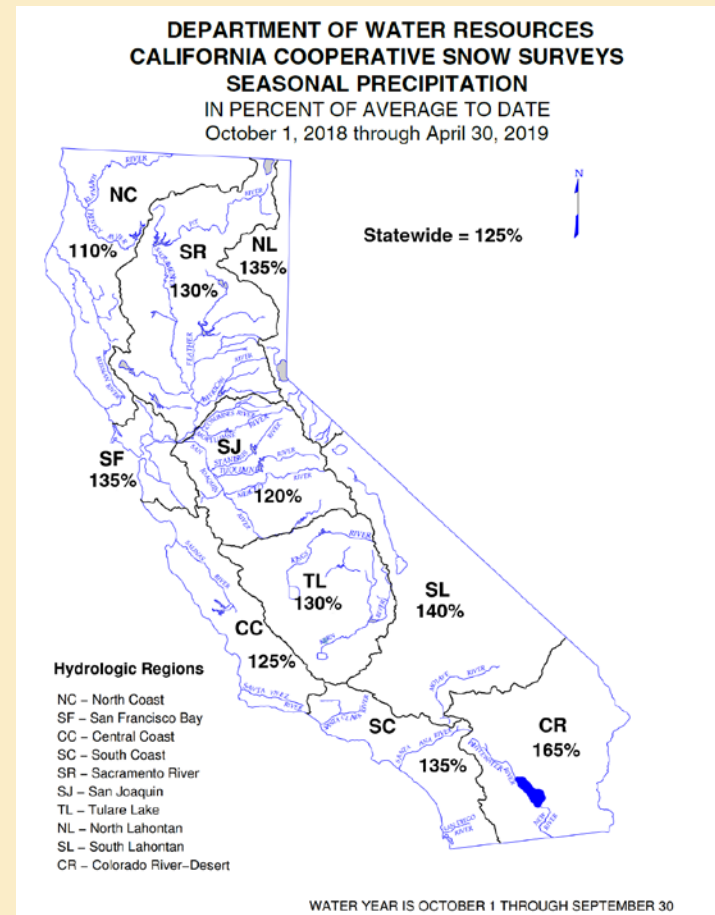


Tree mortality response

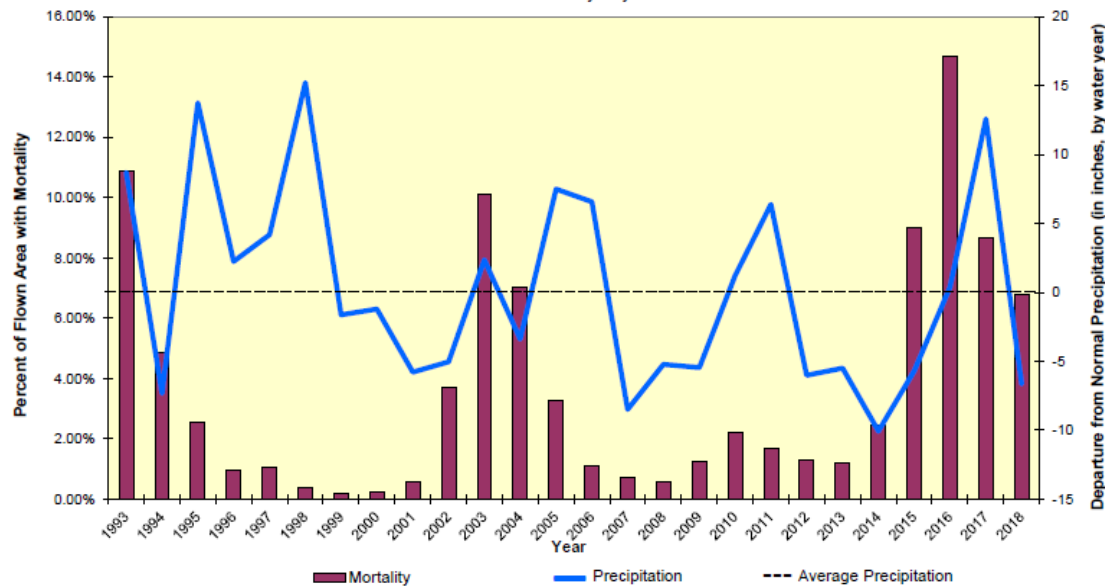


Tree Mortality - 2019

- Tree mortality is expected to continue to decline in 2019 as forested areas received above normal seasonal precipitation.
- Exception may be in tree mortality attributed to sudden oak death as the pathogen does better in wetter years.



Precipitation vs Mapped Mortality for Region 5
Bark Beetle Mortality only



Timber Volume

FY18 Target: 370,000 MBF

Attained 354,000 MBF (~97%)

FY19 Target: 370,000 MBF

- Fire Salvage – 100,000 MBF
- Green – 270,000 MBF
(Estimated Volumes in FY19)



Region 5 MBF Volume Sold, 2016-2018

2016			2017			2018		
Green	Salvage	Total	Green	Salvage	Total	Green	Salvage	Total
218,365	145,192	363,557	213,890	41,791	255,681	311,557	42,380	353,937

Fuels Reduction

Fuels Treatments (FY18 Target): 210,000 ac

- FY18 NFS Fuels Treatments
 - Prescribed – 62,900 ac
 - Mechanical – 158,900 ac
 - Other – 90,100 ac
- Non-NFS Fuels Treatments – 5,900 ac
- TOTAL ALL LANDS: WUI=132,054; Non-WUI=186,298
Exceeded Target by 101,352 ac





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Fuels Reduction

Fuels Treatments (FY19 Target): 235,000 ac

Accomplishments-to-date

Prescribed – 26,000 ac

Mechanical – 51,000 ac

Other – 200 ac

Reforestation

FY18 Accomplishment – 10,500 acres

- Planting – 9,800 acres
- Natural Regen. – 700 acres



Reforestation Need: 266,000 acres

- Anticipated Planting: 84%
- Anticipated Natural Regeneration: 16%

USFS, CAL FIRE, USDA Climate Hub, Partner Collaboration

- FY18 – Completed Reforestation Needs Assessment
- FY19 – Hosted Reforestation Dialog and Symposium

Species Conservation Planning

- Habitat improved – 185,000 acres terrestrial, 750 acres lake, 490 miles stream
- CA Spotted Owl Conservation Strategy
- Sierra Meadows Partnership
- Transportation Infrastructure-Watershed
- Resilience Partnership with NFWF





2018 & 2019 - Project Planning

NEPA TYPE	number of projects ¹	
	2018	2019-to-date ²
ROD/EIS	4	3
DN/EA	24	18
DM/CE	48	72
TOTAL	76	93

¹For projects with purpose of forest products, vegetation management and/or fuels management.

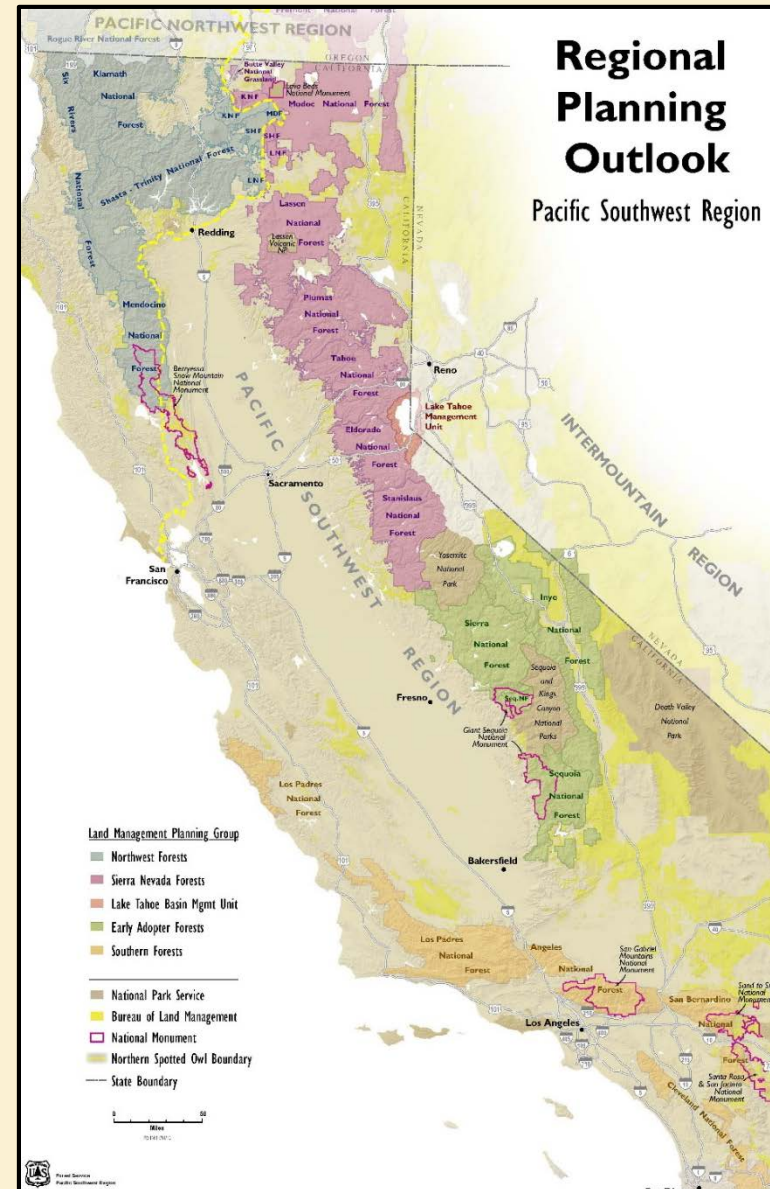
²Signed or to be signed in 2019.

National Forest Planning

- Early Adopters
- Next Adopters
- National Monuments
- Northwest Forest Plan Forests

State Forest Action Plan

- Updated plan due June 2020
- FS working with CAL FIRE to integrate plans and priorities



Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

Goal – manage efficiently and inform decision making focusing on:

- Regulation and Policy
- Business Practices
- Training FS employees



Forest Products Modernization

Forest Products Modernization is a strategic effort designed to better align our culture, policies, and procedures with current and future forest restoration needs, in order to increase the pace and scale of restoration, improve forest conditions, and improve efficiency of product delivery.



Biomass and Infrastructure

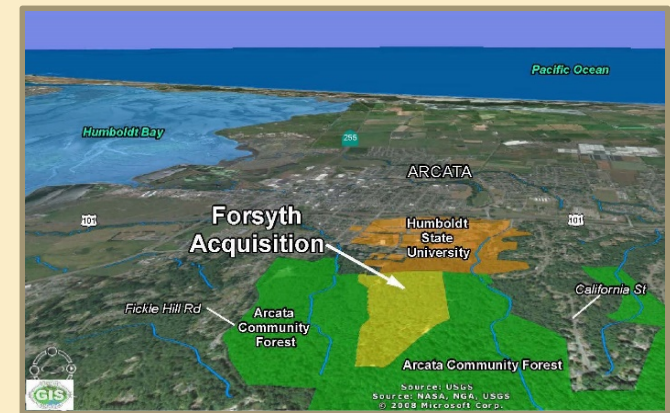
- \$1.0 M invested in 5 wood and biomass utilization projects
- Collaborating with others to supply biomass to facilities with BioRAM contracts
- Fully engaged in state utilization activities



Landowner Assistance

Forest Legacy

- FY18 – Rainbow Ridge completed; received ~\$4.9 million for Mailliard and Grizzly Creek
- FY19 – expect 4 projects to close
- FY20 – submitted 3 projects for National consideration



Community Forest & Open Space Conservation

- FY19 – completed Arcata Community Forest acquisition

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- Collaboration w/ CA Resource Conservation Districts to help private landowners recover from natural disasters

Urban & Community Forestry

- Tree inventory projects
- Stew-Map project and Urban Waters in Los Angeles
- Restoration support for fire-impacted communities
- Smokey Bear Art Exhibit at El Pueblo de Los Angeles
- L.A. Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability – strategic plan, research, outreach events, seminars



COOPERATIVE WORK WITH FS FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION AND CALFIRE FOREST HEALTH STAFF

- Annual joint CAL FIRE and USFS Pest Management Training
June 3-7, 2019 – Redding, CA
- Jointly funding invasive species management position in southern California.
- CA Forest Pest Council and annual Forest Pest Conditions report
- Supporting numerous education and outreach events for goldspotted oak borer, sudden oak death, etc. with numerous partners (UC System, Counties, etc.)
- Co-leading development of Invasive Shot Hole Borer Statewide strategy with CDFA
- Cooperating across all lands to assist with forest pest issues
- Providing post-wildfire salvage marking guidelines support
- Funding sudden oak death surveys and management





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Stewardship Agreements

- 10 Regional Master Stewardship Agreements
- 18 Stewardship Project Agreements with 10 distinct partners
 - ~15 projects involve CCI funds
 - 6 Project Agreements signed 2012-2017
 - 10 Project Agreements signed in 2018
 - 2 Project Agreements signed-to-date in 2019



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Shared Stewardship

Agreement between California and USDA (in draft*)

- Create & maintain safe, fire-adapted communities/landscapes
- Collaborate in planning
- Identify and implement joint projects
- Sustain and enhance forest management infrastructure, expertise and capacity
- Collaborate on advancing science and monitoring

* Governor and USDA Secretary expected to sign this summer



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Farm Bill Tools

Healthy Forest Restoration Act – I&D Designations

- 10.7M acres, 610 watersheds-45% of NFS lands
- Expedited NEPA work
- Doubled the use of CE's in the Region in FY18

Good Neighbor Authority

- 3 Master Agreements
- 5 Signed Project Agreements
- New project: CAL FIRE SPA on KNF
 - Craggy includes timber
- in discussion with CalTrans



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California Climate Investment Forest Health Grants

Working with partner organizations such as:

- Lassen Fire Safe Council
- Plumas Fire Safe Council
- Mid-Klamath Watershed Council
- The American River Conservancy
- Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
- several others

Have successfully competed for approximately \$91 million dollars of which approximately \$40+ million are slated directly for restoration work on forest service lands and the rest on private forest lands in California.



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MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Designed to create efficiencies in how work gets planned, information is shared and accomplished across various jurisdictions and landownerships throughout the state.

Examples include:

- “The Purpose of Increasing the Use of Fire to Meet Ecological and Other Management Objectives - over 35 signatories”
- “Forest Fuels Reduction and Species Conservation in California; for the Northern and California spotted owls”
- “Sierra Nevada Strategic Investment Plan” to improve watershed conditions” - 12 signatories

Partnerships

- Board of Forestry
- CAL FIRE
- Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)
- Collaboratives, private, and many more





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QUESTIONS?

John Exline

www.fs.usda.gov/r5

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