

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Resource Management

Forest Practice Program

- The Program is pleased to report the Forester III-Forest Practice Enforcement Program Manager position vacancy has been filled by former CAL FIRE employee, Cary Japp as of July 17, 2023.

Forest Practice Administration/Forest Practice GIS/CalTREES

- Forest Practice Administration staff recently completed review and approval of a Timberland Conversion Permit and accompanying Timber Harvesting Plan for conversion of ten acres to support the Seneca Healthcare District Facility Replacement Project in Plumas County.

Watershed Protection Program

- 88.5% (54 of 61 samples) of the second round of post-fire salvage Emergency Notice sampling were complete as of July 14, 2023, with more sampling scheduled for the week of July 17, 2023.
- Program staff and partners from the California Geological Survey conducted their annual Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) training on July 12-13, 2023, in Redding with field locations on the McKinney Fire area in the Siskiyou Unit.

Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)

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

Table 1: Forest Practice Civil Penalty Collection

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	26	\$135,750	\$398,800
Default	66	\$326,450	\$1,148,580
Paid per CPO	20	\$168,000	\$168,000
Settled	109	\$861,705	\$932,505
Totals	221	\$1,491,905	\$2,647,885

- 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



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



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

Table 3: Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	#	Status	# of Cases
New Applications Rec'd	32	Under Review	4
Renewal Applications Rec'd	15	Developed for Signature	8
New Licenses Issued	35	CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	17
Licenses Renewed	5	Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	1
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	4	Settlement Mitigation	6
Applications Returned	6	Payments	23
Refunds Issued	0	Probation	2
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	66	Judgement Needed/Granted	38
		Default/Final Order	14
Total Active Licenses	1,305	Total	113

Resource Protection and Improvement

Urban and Community Forestry Program

- Green Schoolyards round one grant awards were announced for 15 applicants to receive \$47 million to work on 100 school campuses. A second round of funding will be announced soon to award an additional \$40 million. A supplemental solicitation may be opened soon to request proposals from non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding, with the intent to award \$30 million. The total \$117 million of Green Schoolyards funding from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget will address impacts of extreme heat and improve student access to healthy outdoor environments and learning.
- A grant proposal has been submitted to the USDA Forest Service to encumber \$43.2 million from the Inflation Reduction Act. One primary deliverable will be sub-grants for local projects.

Forest Entomology and Pathology Program

- Trainings for forest insect and disease recognition and management for foresters and environmental scientists are ongoing around the State.
- A new potential wood boring insect has been found in Southern California. The velvet longhorn beetle attacks fruit trees, hardwoods, and conifers. We are still awaiting a formal identification from the Department of Food and Agriculture.

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- The United States Department of Agriculture is evaluating the bacteria involved with “acute oak decline” in California to decide whether to establish a federal quarantine.
- Planning is underway for a series of field trips for legislators and their staff concerning invasive species in California. Staff is helping to plan the tours and will be involved in highlighting the dangers of invasive species to our forests, woodlands, and urban forest environments.

Forest Biometrics Program

- The Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest re-establishment and re-measurement of the Continuous Forest Inventory is underway. Final numbers are expected to be available in Fall of 2023, allowing for detailed assessment of the Castle Fire impacts on the forest.
- Forest Biometrics staff is working with Latour Demonstration State Forest staff to implement forest inventories on the newly acquired State Forest property in the Shingletown area.

Demonstration State Forests Program

Boggs Mountain

- Forest Manager Peter Leuzinger has accepted a position with California Forest Improvement Program in the Fresno area and will be leaving his post at Boggs/Las Posadas. Peter has left positive marks on the State Forest Program putting Boggs on a good trajectory for post-fire recovery, recruiting and training valuable employees.
- The trailer serving as the Boggs Mountain office has fallen into disrepair from age and the winter storms. Temporary office space is being pursued in the Cobb area while a more permanent solution can be found.

Jackson

- Numerous vacancies at Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) remain unfilled and will continue to be flown, including Forester I in the Research & Demonstration program; Forester II in Research & Demonstration; Forester I in Recreation and Roads; Forester III Forest Manager; Forester I, Forestry Assistant II, and Environmental Scientist (Limited Term) in Research & Demonstration; and Associate Government Program Analyst (Limited Term) to assist with forest administration.

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California



July 25-27, 2023

- Falling and yarding within the Redtail THP was completed in mid-June, with hauling continuing along Road 359. The Camp 1 Campgrounds and Day Use area will be open July 10, 2023. The Camp 1 Loop Trail will continue to be closed until lopping is completed per the timber sale contract.
- During the week of June 6, 2023, the Research and Development team out of CAL FIRE Headquarters along with Dryad technicians installed Dryad sensors on JDSF at Hare Creek to test the ultra-early wildfire detection system. Information regarding Dryad sensors can be found here: [link](#). On June 29, 2023, another early wildfire detection sensor, the N5 sensor, was deployed at Hare Creek. The crew also serviced N5 sensors that were previously deployed along Rd 830 (Camp 20 area).
- A Cal VTP has been submitted to support the Fire Fuels Mitigation Study. Botany surveys for this project are ongoing and being conducted by Heather Morrison (RCD) with help from Fey Egan.
- Kori Roberts, Nathan Harris, and Kari Bencomo, part of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) fisheries biologist staff, continued monitoring and evaluation of salmonid habitat in the James Creek area for follow-up on the James Creek Habitat Enhancement Project and Before-After Control-Impact monitoring. Previous surveys covered Gulch C – a tributary to the Noyo river – Fish Passage Improvement Project. Future surveying will cover the East Branch of the North Fork Big River Coho Habitat Enhancement Project post-treatment effectiveness monitoring.
- Efforts to abandon “user-built” trails have failed along approximately 3 miles of trail adjacent to Russian Gulch State Park where all debris covering trail surfaces and signage was removed, and trail surfaces were improved/groomed. A Recreation Task Force meeting occurred on July 15, 2023, focusing on proper procedures for trail development on JDSF. The meeting was held on a Saturday to maximize public involvement and include site visits to areas impacted from “user-built” trails and trails currently considered for adoption.
- Forestry Assistant II Josh Theofanides, Forestry Aides, and two members of the Mendocino Coast Cyclists (MCC) installed a 36” wide laminated redwood bridge on the proposed “EZ Out” Trail. The bridge replaced a “user-built” bridge composed of a rotting piece of Douglas-fir.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Laminated bridge with running boards and curve

- A third round of marbled murrelet surveys has been completed at 12 habitat areas. Two more rounds of surveys remain to be completed by August 5, 2023. No murrelets have been detected thus far during any of these surveys.
- Danny Hofstadter, PhD student in Zach Peery's Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, continues barred owl (BADO) surveys at previous removal sites. A total of 88 BADOs have been lethally removed on the Greater JDSF area (JDSF plus Mendocino Woodlands & Big River State Parks) since the project started in the fall of 2021. In 2023, a total of 33 barred owls (7 adults and 26 subadults) have been removed in the Greater JDSF area at 14 different territories.
- A total of 1,517 nocturnal station surveys have been completed for northern spotted owl (NSO) across the forest for THP, research, and road upgrade projects. Species detected include western screech owl (45), northern saw-whet owl (30), barred owl (43—most have been lethally removed), northern spotted owl (7), northern pygmy owl (12), and barn owl (2). Daytime site visits and/or follow-ups to NSO detections have occurred at 23 sites, 20 of which were historic NSO territories. So far, only two territories have been confirmed occupied during the daytime in 2023.
- Banding operations have commenced on JDSF and adjacent areas. To date, Robert Douglas and Danny Hofstadter have banded four NSO over the past month. These include the nesting pair of adults at Caspar Creek (the male was previously banded



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



as a fledgling in 2019 by MRC along the Navarro River), the single subadult male at Mitchell Creek, and a female adult on Big River State Park. An effort will be made to capture and band the fledgling at Caspar Creek once the bird is capable of sustained flight.



A female adult northern spotted owl with her recently fledged offspring on Caspar Creek. Photo by Danny Hofstadter.

LaTour

- Staff has been focusing on establishing the newly acquired forestlands in the Battle Creek, South Cow Creek, and Pit-Tunnel areas. Public outreach to the local community continues and permanent inventory plots are being established with help from the Biometrics Program.

Mountain Home

- Access to Mountain Home remains restricted to authorized vehicles only due to winter storm damage with no estimated date for the roads to be made safe for public access.
- A Tulare Unit loader helped clear large boulders and trees from internal forest roads to re-establish administrative access to the forest after this winter's storms.
- A timber harvesting plan (THP) is under development to support the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Experiment. The silviculture distributions have been revised from the original proposal to accommodate the stand damage from the 2020 Castle Fire.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- The pack station lessees have moved a few stock onto the forest to support re-opening trails from Castle Fire and winter storm damage.
- Initial surveys of reforestation efforts show good survival of both artificial and natural regeneration.
- All staff attended and supported “Cone Camp” at Mountain Home on May 31 and June 1, 2023. Hedrick Pond Campground was made available for overnight accommodations to about 25 participants.
- No applications were received for the Research and Demonstration Forester I position that closed on June 16, 2023.

Soquel

- The forest closure (storm damage) since January 3, 2023, remains in effect with no estimated date of re-opening. Forest Manager Angela Bernheisel continues to field questions from the public and update the Facebook page with this information:
[SDSF Facebook](#)
- Staff are preparing the volume estimates and maps for the Sulphur timber sale and Forest Health grant marking. A prospectus and timber sale advertisement will be advertised by the end of summer.
- Members of the Adaptive Management Experiment (AMEX) team who are engaged in research at Mountain Home, LaTour, and Jackson visited Soquel along with other Foresters from the local area to discuss the applicability of the AMEX research in the redwood region.
- The new CAL FIRE research on bats at Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF) continued. CAL FIRE Biologists visited the forest June 19-20, 2023, to maintain bat acoustic detector stations to study bats engaged in foraging within forested stands.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



CAL FIRE Biologist Michael Baker installing acoustic monitors.

Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection

Prescribed Fire Program

- The [SB 926: Prescribed Fire Claims Fund Pilot Project Program Guidelines](#) is now available for Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning. There is a dashboard created to see how the program is providing the needed liability coverage at [Prescribed Fire Claims Fund - Main Application \(arcgis.com\)](#).

Vegetation Management Program

- Nothing new to report.

Environmental Protection Program

- Nothing new to report.

Tribal Affairs/Cultural Resources

Tribal Affairs Program

- The 56th Annual California Native American Day will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023, from 10 am to 3 pm at the State Capitol. The theme is "Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty: Past, Present, and Future".

Cultural Resources Program

- The program has made a selection for the Supervising Senior Environmental Scientist that will lead the Cultural Resources Program. An announcement will be made in the near future.
- Several vacant Cultural Resources Specialist positions in the program have been advertised or will be in the near future. The positions will be Environmental Scientists or Senior Environmental Scientists. Cultural Resources education and experience will be required characteristics. For more information, contact Staff Chief Len Nielson.

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Wildfire Resilience

Reforestation Services Program

- Cone surveys have begun across the State, staff are conducting these surveys in key areas identified in our Seed Needs Assessment.
- The Seed Bank launch a new campaign this summer titled “Reforestation Because of You”. This program seeks to find forestland owners who are willing to allow CAL FIRE staff to monitor cones on their property and if possible, harvest cones and provide the landowner with a share of the seeds for their own reforestation needs.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- The program remains well funded with over \$20 million available for contracts in the 23/24 fiscal year with selections made every two months until funding is exhausted.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- The program closed on the Mattole Headwaters Conservation Easement, a 1,222-acre project that was funded \$5,815,000 for a working forest conservation easement.
- The program just released a new project solicitation. Available funds are approximately \$20 million in state funding and \$250,000 of federal funding from the United States Forest Service.
- The program is hoping to close escrow on a state funded project, Weger Ranch, in August of this year.

Climate and Energy Program

Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Issued a press release on June 19 to announce new grant offers in workforce and business development. Grant data presented below:

Award Offer Statistics		
	# Award Offers	Total Award Offers
Workforce Development	3	\$3 million
Business Development	9	\$8 million
Biomass Transportation Subsidy	2	\$5 million
Total	14	\$16 million

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Forest Health and Tribal Wildfire Resilience

- Forest Health staff are working with the CAL FIRE Grants Management Unit and newly awarded grantees to secure executed grant agreements for both Forest Health and Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration grants.
- Tribal Wildfire Resilience proposal review continues. The next step is California Natural Resources Agency Secretary approval of proposed awards. We are aiming for public announcement of awards later this summer.
- Staff attended a Cultural Burn Awareness training put on by the Blue Lake Rancheria and CAL FIRE.
- Staff worked with North Coast and Sierra Nevada Regional Pilot grantees on finalizing grant guidelines and drafting grant agreement scopes of work.

Climate Change

- The program submitted biannual reporting on California Climate Investments funding for the Forest Health grant program and Forest Carbon Plan implementation to the California Air Resources Board.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- Governor's Monthly Update: The latest from the Task Force and its partner agencies and organizations is available in the [July Monthly Update](#) and on the [Task Force homepage](#).
- Upcoming Task Force Meetings: Meeting information can be found on the [Task Force Meetings](#) page.
 - a. August 29, 2023, Sacramento: The next Task Force meeting is August 29 (rescheduled from July 27). The meeting will be held in the California Natural Resources Agency's Auditorium (715 P Street, Sacramento 95814) and via Zoom from 1 pm to 4 pm. The agenda will focus on the Regional Resource Kits including a demonstration of a new Interagency Tracking System for acres treated. A panel of regional leaders will weigh in on the Task Force's Regional Frameworks.
 - b. October 5-6, 2023, Redding: The Northern California Regional Meeting will be hosted by Shasta College. Details and registration coming soon.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



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- c. December 15, 2023, Sacramento: The final meeting of 2023 will be held from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, location TBD. The agenda will focus on the Action Plan's Goal 2, "Strengthen the Protection of Communities."

Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

Forest Health Research Grants

- The Forest Health Research Program received 96 concept proposals in response to our recent grant solicitation. Of those, 37 have been invited to submit full proposals by August 3, 2023. FRAP intends to award up to \$5.5 million in early September for research projects addressing priority topics in forest health and wildfire management.
- FRAP has been hosting a science webinar series focused on sharing results from CAL FIRE-funded research. To date we have hosted eight webinars with 46 attendees on average. The next webinar will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 3 pm, featuring Dr. Kristin Brunk from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Registration and recordings of past webinars can be found on the FRAP website.

Prescribed Fire Monitoring and Research

- A new partnership between FRAP and Chico State University was recently initiated. Work has begun under a 5-year contract to support prescribed fire research and monitoring at the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve.
- Numerous successful prescribed burns were completed this spring as part of the California Prescribed Fire Monitoring Program, a partnership between FRAP and the University of California Davis. This endeavor was recently restructured and renewed to provide three additional years of support.
- Building on the successful October 2022 Canyon Fire Experiment on the Bengard Vegetation Management Project (VMP) in the San Benito-Monterey Unit (BEU), further work is now underway in partnership with San Jose State University to characterize post-fire diversity in chaparral, and to develop remotely sensed measures of treatment effectiveness.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

- FRAP continues to support the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) in making FHSZ model revisions and in response to public comments. An updated FHSZ map for State Responsibility Area (SRA) was made available for public comment beginning on June 23, 2023.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- An FHSZ data package providing intermediary modeling steps was also posted in June, containing 34 spatial datasets and eight tables available for download.
- FRAP is assisting with planning for FHSZ development for Local Responsibility Area (LRA).

Forest and Rangeland Assessment

- Work continues on developing materials for 13 core chapters. Authors have been assigned five chapter-related tasks to complete, as part of the process for creating narratives for each chapter.
- FRAP executive group meets weekly for briefings from three chapter leads on the status of their work, and whether they are requesting additional resources for it.
- Summer schedules and the wildfire season will likely impact Assessment work. FRAP is targeting the first quarter of 2024 for completion.

Adaptive Management Experiments (AMEX)

- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF) has been re-marked for a full replicate of the Sierra Nevada AMEX, after the 2020 Castle Fire/SQF Complex Fire burned through. Plans are being made for a prescribed fire at the LaTour DSF site.
- An agreement is in place to establish a Coastal AMEX with a study site at Jackson DSF. Pre-treatment field work will begin this summer.
- FRAP and the Demonstration State Forests Program are currently negotiating a jointly funded agreement with the University of Nevada Reno for long-term monitoring and maintenance of Sierra Nevada AMEX study sites.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Program

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- During the month of June 2023, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made 22 arrests and issued 75 citations.
 - CAL FIRE Law Enforcement has made 39 arson arrests in 2023.

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery received \$7,000,425.00 in recovered fire suppression costs in the month of June.
 - CAL FIRE has received \$80,558,061.04 in recovered fire suppression costs during FY 22/23.

Fire Protection Operations

- CAL FIRE will staff an Intel aircraft this summer. Intel-503 has a sensor operator and pilot to provide incident awareness and assessment on extended attack fires. Intel-503 is outfitted with a fire mapping sensor package. The aircraft sensor system can see through smoke, map fire line/perimeter, identify hotspots, and effectively assist in damage inspection through identity change detection.
- As reported previously, CAL FIRE and the University of California San Diego's ALERTCalifornia program initiated an Artificial Intelligence (AI) trial. There were two fires this past week in NEU where the ALERTCalifornia pilot project using AI technology picked up two fires as first reports to the Grass Valley ECC (Nevada Yuba Placer Unit), one being a small illegal debris burn in the North San Juan area (49er fire area 1988) and the second was a 3,500 square foot two story residential structure partially involved with vegetation in the community of Alta near the interstation 80 corridor. These are some very early successes to this partnership and project.

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

- Aviation Program representatives will be presenting at this year's Asia Pacific Aerial Fire Fighting Symposium and Exhibition in Dubbo, Australia August 2 - 3, 2023, being hosted by New South Wales Rural Fire Service and Dubbo Regional Council.
- The Australia, New South Wales Rural Fire Service Boeing 737, 4000-gallon capacity is hired and in service as one of our Exclusive Use Large Air Tankers (LAT) for this summer.
- Aviation continues to take appropriate actions in the event the proposed 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation to transfer the C-130's directly to CAL FIRE is approved.
- Aviation has entered into a three-year agreement with two optional one-year extensions on July 1, 2023, for logistical services in support of our program.
- The 12th S70i CAL FIRE Hawk from the original 12 ordered under the Department of General Services (DGS) Firefighting Helicopter contract arrived at CAL FIRE on



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Wednesday June 21, 2023. It is currently undergoing CAL FIRE initial provisioning for tactical operations.

Mobile Equipment Program

- 400 new vehicles (mainly pickups) are on the premises.
 - These 400 span three fiscal year purchases due to supply chain issues.
 - Anticipate the delivery of close to 200 more assorted vehicles.
- Davis Mobile Equipment has received the final next gen Mobile Kitchen Unit, the last of 11.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Local Government Program

- The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) quarterly meeting was held on July 12, 2023. The LGAC is the body that makes policy recommendations regarding the Local Government Program on all Cooperative Local Government based agreements to the Staff Chief and Assistant Deputy Director for Cooperative Fire. In turn those Chiefs take LGAC recommendations to the Management Council for executive review before being approved, amended, or rejected as Department policy and procedure. Previous meeting minutes are available as needed.
- The Local Government Program currently is processing 24 of 77 2023/2024 Cooperative Fire Protection agreements (Schedule A, Dispatch, Wildland Agreements) for renewal or that have been completed.
- The Local Government FY 23-24 Budget Plan Exercise has been completed. This process outlines any potential fire department growth with our Local Government Fire Protection Agreements. A total of 162 additional positions were identified between five units. Two units identified a reduction in positions for a total of 10.

State/Federal Programs

- The State/ Federal/ International Intranet page has added an International Visitor/ Foreign National Screening section to provide an overview introduction of CAL FIRE and how to process inquiries on setting up meetings/visits with CAL FIRE.
- The 2020 Wildfires Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Federal Assistance Program - DR-4558 is in closeout with the California Governor's Office of

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Emergency Services (CalOES) and FEMA. This includes ensuring all necessary documentation is in place and packaged for processing by FEMA.

- The FEMA DR-4683 December/January Storms site inspections are taking place at the identified CAL FIRE facilities with storm damage. These inspections will help verify damage caused by the Winter storms to qualify for financial Federal Assistance. All Regions/ Units affected have been advised of the upcoming site visits.
- The 2023/2024 Contract Counties Annual Operating Plans have been updated and presented to each county for signature. These agreements with Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties will contract the six counties to provide initial attack fire protection of State Responsibility Area in place of CAL FIRE.
- As CAL FIRE is considered one of the leaders in Wildland Firefighting and large incident management, other countries continue to contact for assistance in developing their own practices. With the continued outreach with assisting other wildland agencies, we are sending a small contingent to New South Wales. This is in support of the signed MOU from 2022 and includes sending (2) Aviation representatives, (1) Fuels Management representative, and (1) Technology and Systems representatives. These representatives will have the chance to speak about their programs with other representatives of fire agencies from all over the world.

Camps and Crews Program

- The statewide Camps and Crews Program currently has a total of 129 Type I Handcrews staffed and available out of the 233 funded. This total is comprised of 58 out of 152 funded California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Crews, 28 out of 32 funded California Conservation Corps (CCC) Crews, 29 out of 35 funded CAL FIRE Firefighter I Crews and 14 of 14 funded California National Guard Crews.
- The current CDCR inmate crew strength is 938 inmates out of the allocated 2584, leaving the Conservation Camp Program with a shortage of 1646 inmates. The total CDCR Camp population is at 52% with a crew capacity of 36%.

Safety/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program

- The upgrades to our Electronic Patient Care Report (CALePCR) program required by the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) 3.5



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



update are about 75% complete. The transition is planned for August to meet the November 1, 2023, requirement.

- The next EMS Committee meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2023, in Los Osos. One topic the committee will discuss is new burn protocols and procedures coming to the US based on research from Australia. This new process has seen up to an 80% reduction in burn severity and skin grafts simply by flushing a burn with cool running water for 20 minutes in the first three hours.
- The Annual Focus on Safety for the Department has been released.
- The first wildland/wildland urban interface (WUI) respirator field evaluation is set for LA County in Del Valle on August 30, 2023. The San Francisco Chronicle will be attending and printing a story soon on the topic of wildland respiratory protection. Several members of the Department have been interviewed including representatives from the Safety Program. Location and dates for a second field evaluation hosted by CAL FIRE in Northern California are being set.

Statewide Training Program

- A lease at 11383 Prospect Drive Jackson was fully executed on July 12, 2023. This facility will house the Statewide Training Program including Specialized training, SAC HQ, JAC Program, Curriculum Development and Policy Development for the expanding Training program and staff.

Academy Training Program

- NTR

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee

- Met on July 18, 2023, where the Committee received an update from the Division, as well a presentation from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on Camp Fire 4 report on Notifications, Evacuations, Traffic, and Temporary Refuge Areas.
 - Next meeting will be held on August 15, 2023, both in person and virtually via Zoom.
 - August presenters will be:



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
 - Brief on the 2022 Safety Culture Assessments process and findings for the 2021/2022 cycles
- Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - Update on Zone 0
- CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
 - Prescribed Fire Claims Fund
- For information on this monthly meeting, visit our website at:
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/>

Pre-Fire Planning (Fire Plan)

- CalMAPPER fuel treatments are now available as a layer in our Automatic Vehicle Location system (AVL).
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone – Started an additional 45-day public comment period on a revised map in the State Responsibility Area and will conclude on August 9, 2023, (June 15 map).
 - Have provided additional GIS data which includes intermediate modeling datasets and detailed modeling steps.
 - Updated the website: osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz/

Wildfire Preparedness

- General Update
 - 379,393 Defensible Space inspections performed this fiscal year (including contract counties) which is 152% of the goal.
- New applications/projects
 - Common Reporting Platform
 - Model Defensible Space program tools for local jurisdictions



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- Defensible Space Assessors from Qualified Entities
- 2023 Burn Permits – 50,977 permits issued.
 - 96% Residential
 - 3% General – 3,879 approved acres
 - 1% Broadcast – 3,224 approved acres
 - New policy and procedures are in review.
- Home Hardening
 - On April 4, 2023, Lake County received a \$22.2 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to create defensible space and harden 500 homes over a three-year period.
 - CWMP JPA approved a Defensible Space/Zone 0 project in Siskiyou County which will be initiated in mid to late summer.
 - FEMA recently approved and issued funds for El Dorado and Tuolumne counties California Wildfire Mitigation Program Home Hardening Initiative, Phase One.

Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

- Local Planner Training:
 - 12 classes to be scheduled this fall and into next spring.

California Incident Data & Statistics Program

- CALSTATS/CALFIRS Quarterly Flyers
 - Quarterly flyers were sent out, focusing on how to code Fireworks fires considering the recent July 4, 2023, celebrations. The codes included indicators for incidents or injuries caused by Fireworks.
 - The flyers are also posted on the department's Intranet page and the CalStats public site.
- Lithium-Ion Battery Coding
 - Collaboration with other states is ongoing to determine best coding practices.



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting

- Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting as of June 30, 2023. (Final Fiscal Year numbers subject to change after reconciliation.)
 - Fuel Reduction Projects
 - 591 projects, 118% of the goal
 - Combined Fuel Reduction
 - 72,366 acres treated, 72% of the goal.
 - Unit Projects – 42,786 acres
 - Grant Projects – 26,832 acres
 - Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - 34,952 acres treated, 69% of the goal.

Land Use Planning

- 23 Safety Elements (SE) are in informal review throughout the state.
- Currently staff have four SE up for review by the BOF for the July Resource Protection Committee (RPC). (Humboldt, Colfax, Santa Barbara County)
- 16 SE completed to date in 2023.

Subdivision Review (SDR)

- Fire Safety Surveys:
 - Statewide 1824 identified.
 - Statewide 1529 surveyed.
 - Approved by the BOF 1508.
 - Public Records Act (PRA) requests are beginning to come in. Have process for that.

Firewise



Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- Currently 692 communities in good standing.
- 11 new applications awaiting approval, staff were on vacation last week.
- Planning to issue news release later this month recognizing the 700th Community.

Fire Safe Regulations (FSR)

- Developing curriculum for Unit level FSR review position.

Wildfire Prevention (WP) Grants

- First year we have a full digital process for solicitation, 248 apps for 400 million in applications. 115 million available to disperse.
- Region and Sacramento reviews complete.
- We expect announcements/notification letters sent out by the end of July 2023.

Utility Wildfire Mitigation

- Year to Date (YTD) Ignitions CAL FIRS
- YTD 2023 utility-related ignitions 59, same time last year 152 Enhanced Vegetation Clearances Study
 - Using 2019-2022 enhanced vegetation management GIS data we acquired through MOU with the Office of Emergency Infrastructure Safety (OEIS), created a web map to show those areas.
 - In the early stages but appears promising in those areas treated. Still need to factor some things to better understand.
 - Vegetation caused outage data.
 - Other hardening mitigations
 - Normalize with fire weather and fuel conditions.

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

Maternity Wear – Class M Uniform

Director's Report to the Board of Forestry



715 P Street
Sacramento, California

July 25-27, 2023



- The Ad Hoc working group of the CAL FIRE Uniform Advisory Committee (UAC) will soon receive sample specifications from a vendor regarding the Class M uniform. Additionally, the committee is in the process of drafting an issue paper that will be discussed at the upcoming UAC meeting. The objective is to further advance the Department's initiatives in providing a uniform option for expecting parents. The UAC meeting is currently scheduled for August 2023.

DE&I Implementation Support

- CAL FIRE's DEI program is actively engaged in ongoing efforts and working collaboratively with CAL FIRE's Curriculum Review Working Group. The primary objective of the DEI program is to strengthen and expand DEI initiatives in areas such as Wellness, Leadership Cadre Functionality, Onboarding, and Sustainability.

**CALENDAR YEAR 2023
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH July 13, 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	79	76	22	13	3	0	5	2	109	91
THPs Returned	30	35	3	8	1	0	3	2	37	45
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	70	63	19	9	2	0	4	2	95	74
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	60	54	17	14	3	0	5	1	85	69
THP Approved Acres	18,012	12,592	8,403	6,154	29	0	929	560	27,373	19,306

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
NTMPs Received	6	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	8	7
NTMPs Returned	3	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	5
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
NTMP Approved Acres	250	456	617	0	0	0	0	105	867	561
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	53	46	2	5	0	0	1	1	56	52

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 July 13, 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 July 13, 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)	126	656,331	99	637,012
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	37	390,628	44	445,215
		Riverside (South)	1	240	1	240
		Sierra (Fresno)	30	60,323	19	20,956
		Totals	194	1,107,522	163	1,103,423
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	7	117,569
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	14	1	14
		Totals	5	159,853	8	117,583
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)	40	51,738	30	15,912
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	5	4,322		
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	10	1,624	3	919
		Totals	55	57,684	33	16,831
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
Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through July 13, 2023

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)	10	669	9	572
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	26	1,448	17	1,446
		Riverside (South)	2	328	1	269
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	38	2,445	27	2,287
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	73	98	41	69
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	40	89	29	66
		Riverside (South)	1	0	1	1
		Sierra (Fresno)	18	22	4	7
		Totals	132	209	75	143
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)	10	148	17	506
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		Totals	10	148	17	506
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)	14	18	13	43
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	6	2	3	8
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	11	42	1	5
		Totals	31	62	17	56
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	22	931,931	10	5,841
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	22	1,771	13	512
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	23	25,958	4	37
		Totals	67	959,660	27	6,390

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)	60	190	66	479
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	86	319	79	167
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	3	4	7	18
		Totals	149	513	152	664
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)	4	32	3	11
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	34	135	18	75
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	1		
		Totals	39	168	21	86
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	722	2,288,333	541	1,248,009

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2022		2023						
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres				
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	109	43,641	59	17,716				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	24	1,854	22	1,444				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	34	7,680	23	4,629				
		Totals	167	53,175	104	23,789				
<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	4	662		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)			1	93		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)			2	191		
				Totals	6	893	7	946		
				Fire		Cascade (Redding)	102	42,396	58	17,376
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	23	1,624	15	1,186
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	18	4,256	5	1,057
						Totals	143	48,276	78	19,619
				Insects		Cascade (Redding)	11	3,390	4	794
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	144		
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	3	1,544	2	191
						Totals	15	5,078	6	985
				*Others		Cascade (Redding)	133	61,430	67	19,028
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	26	2,258	32	1,924		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	9	4,019	6	600		
				Totals	168	67,707	105	21,552		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)	5	1,641	3	406				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	86						
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	51	1	3				
		Totals	7	1,778	4	409				
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				