

THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

ANNUAL REPORT *2016*



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STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) Mission

The mission of the Board is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is a Governor-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department). Members are appointed on the basis of their professional and educational qualification and their general knowledge or interest in problems that relate to watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife, range improvement, forest economics, or land use policy. Of its nine members, five are chosen from the general public, three are chosen from the forest products industry, and one member is from the range-livestock industry.

The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the State, determining the guidance policies of the Department and for representing the State's interest in Federal land located within California. Together, the Board and the Department work to carry out the California Legislature's mandate to protect and enhance the State's unique forest and wildland resources.

Committees of the Board***COMMITTEES REQUIRED BY STATUTE***

1. Range Management Advisory Committee
2. Professional Foresters Examining Committee
3. Soquel Advisory Committee

INTERNAL STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Forest Practice: The mission of the Forest Practice Committee is to evaluate and promote an effective regulatory system to assure the continuous growing and harvesting of commercial forests and to protect soil, air, fish, and wildland and water resources.
2. Resource Protection: The mission of the Resource Protection Committee is to evaluate and promote an effective fire protection system implemented by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and improve forest and rangeland health in California.
3. Management: The mission of the Management Committee is to evaluate and promote long-term, landscape level planning approaches to support natural resource management on California's non-federal forest and rangelands, and to

evaluate State Forest management plans.

EXTERNAL STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
2. Monitoring Study Group
3. Forest Pest Council and the California Oak Mortality Task Force
4. Forestry Climate Action Team
5. Jackson Advisory Group

Current Status and Trends

Forests and Woodlands

Monitoring of Best Management Practices (Forest Practice Rules) on private and public forestlands shows generally high compliance with implementation and effectiveness when implemented properly.

Both private and public forestlands appear to continue to build inventory volume, although the significant levels of drought mortality will affect the levels of inventory within the State's forests.

A recent [Forest Inventory Analysis](#) indicates that while its lands are sequestering carbon at a positive rate, long-term carbon storage will be a function of management inputs over the next 100 years.

A carbon sequestration and storage analysis of California's private timberlands suggests there may be opportunities to increase sequestration on non-corporate private timberlands in the long-run as compared to current trends, particularly when harvested wood products are also considered. The Board is working on developing the AB 1504 report, which will look at this in much greater detail across all forested landscapes, private and public, across the state. The Board will have the first AB 1504 report published during 2017.

Forest Products Sector

The softwood sawmill capacity in California has somewhat stabilized over the last several years after decades of constriction. This stabilization in the forest products sector represents a stabilization in jobs and economic activity. Although somewhat stabilized, the forest products sector is diminutive when compared to decades past. In 2016, California experienced a fluctuating export market, with logs being shipped via container to Asia. This is a very volatile market with demand ebbing and flowing dramatically from one year to another and even month to month.

Ownership patterns have changed for large industrial forest landowners within California.

All industrial ownerships are now privately held firms. Individual Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) have increased in acreage (before 2009 their size was fairly steady). Acres under Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs) continue to rise, although at a slower rate than years past. There are over 700 NTMPs covering over 300,000 acres. There is anticipation from ranchers and owners of mid-sized parcels for the possible implementation of the new Working Forest Management Plan regulations in 2018.

The utilization of Exemptions, as allowed for under PRC § 4584 and 14 CCR §1038, have increased over the last several years in both acreage and number submitted to the Department. The same trend is also occurring with Emergency Notices provided for under 14 CCR § 1052.1. This is likely the result of the increased wildfire activity and the widespread drought mortality across the western slopes of the central and southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Board and the Department will be working cooperatively upon a report to be submitted to the Legislature by December 31, 2017 that analyzes use and effectiveness of Exemptions and Emergency Notices.

Exemption and Emergency Notice Statistics for Fiscal Years 14/15 – 15/16

Fiscal Year	Harvest Document Type	Number of Notifications	Acres	Total Acres
Exemptions				
2014/15				
	1038(b) Exemptions ¹	781	2,884,982	
	All other Exemptions ²	1,009	41,563	
	Total Exemptions	1,790		2,926,545
2015/16				
	1038(b) Exemptions ¹	697	2,589,358	
	1038(k) Exemptions ³	776	110,224	
	All other Exemptions ²	1,003	27,433	
	Total Exemptions	2,476		2,721,015

¹ 1038(b) is a 10% or less dead and dying Exemption

² The category includes 1038(a) Christmas Trees; 1038(c) Up to 300 Foot Habitable Structure, 1038(d) Biomass, 1038(g) Slash Pile Removal, 1038(i) the original Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFPE) and 1038(j) Pilot Project FFPE

³ 1038(k) Drought Mortality Exemption became was adopted by the Board in July of 2015.

Emergency Notices

2014/15	Emergency Notice	270	66,876
2015/16	Emergency Notice	231	30,348

Note: 14 CCR §§ 1038 (e)(f) and (h) are not exemptions for the commercial harvesting of trees, but rather are regulatory provisions that apply to exemptions that address special conditions, such as geographic location or the presence of large trees that may be harvested under an exemption.

NTMP and THP Statistics for Fiscal Years 11/12 – 15/16			
Fiscal Year	Harvest Document Type	Number of Plans	Acres
2011-12	THP	270	139,553
2012-13	THP	243	107,051
2013-14	THP	278	146,384
2014-15	THP	260	128,644
2015-16	THP	249	99,271
2011-12	NTMP	14	10,932
2012-13	NTMP	12	7,365
2013-14	NTMP	10	4,126
2014-15	NTMP	12	3,367
2015-16	NTMP	17	8,100

Biomass

The biomass market, particularly as it applies to forest management, has been challenging. Short term contracts between energy producers and purchasers, fluctuating energy values, lack of energy sector subsidies, and the economics involved in treatment, handling and transport of forest material lends itself to a challenging economic sector to develop.

The shuttering of existing biomass facilities across the state has been the trend over many years and the retention of the remaining few biomass facilities has been the focus, particularly in the face of the extreme and growing drought mortality across the state. Thus, SB 859 was passed by the legislature and ultimately chaptered by the Administration. The bill, in part, calls on electricity retailers to enter into five-year contracts for 125 megawatts of biomass power from facilities that have the ability generate energy from wood harvested from high fire hazard zones. Additionally, this bill features an expenditure plan for unallocated cap-and-trade proceeds.

Biomass, when implemented correctly, is recognized by many stakeholders as a carbon-neutral opportunity for responsible management of California's forested ecosystems. The

utilization of generally non-merchantable material or dead trees as a means of reducing catastrophic fires in lieu of traditional forest products producers that do not have the infrastructure to manage has become a clear need. Therefore, biomass utilization should be developed into an important component of the forest product sector within California.

Rangelands and Range Industry

Like the timber industry, the ranching industry has been in steady long-term contraction. The maintenance of large ranches across California landscapes cannot rely on amenity values alone; these operations must be economically viable to avoid conversion, abandonment, or fragmentation.

Conversion of working rangelands is increasing due to pressure from high management costs, low returns, infrastructure loss and generational turnover. Permanent land cover change occurs most often in grassland/scrubland types, most dramatically in grazing lands along the edges of the Central Valley. The rate of conversion is occurring at approximately 47,000 acres annually⁴.

To address these issues, the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) was reconstituted and outlined priority concerns for years 2014-2016.

Wildfire Activity

As with the last several years, 2016 was also an active fire season throughout the state. The largest fire within the state during 2016 was the Soberanes Fire, with a total size of 132,127 acres. CAL FIRE was responsible for suppression efforts on 37,194 acres; the remaining acres burnt across portions of Los Padres National Forest. Total FY 2015-16 Emergency Fund wildfire suppression expenditures were \$608,176,000. Of that total, \$428,706 was spent from the General Fund and \$179,470,000 is in current or anticipated federal reimbursements. The table below provides key data on the most notable CAL FIRE wildfire incidents over calendar year 2016.

⁴ California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, Forest and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). (2010). *California's Forests and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment*. Retrieved from http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/assessment2010/pdfs/california_forest_assessment_nov22.pdf.

CAL FIRE DIRECT PROTECTION INCIDENTSNotable Wildfires for the Period of January 1st, 2016 – December 31st, 2016

<u>Name/CAL FIRE Unit</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Structures Destroyed</u>	<u>Injuries/Fatalities</u>	<u>Peak Firefighters</u>	<u>Suppression Costs</u>
Border 3 – MVU	7,609	5 homes, 11 other	0/2	1,969	\$19,500,000
Sherpa – SBC	7,474	1 commercial, 4 other	4/0	2,178	\$19,400,000
Trailhead – AEU	5,646 (USFS 5,530 ; CAL FIRE 116)	0	3/0	2,127	\$25,782,000
Goose – FKU	2,241	5 homes	0/0	1,784	\$10,400,000
Cold – LNU	5,731	2 other	0/0	1,625	\$10,497,869
Mineral – FKU	7,050	1 home	0/0	1,801	\$11,318,195
Blue Cut – BDU	36,274	216	2/0	914	\$18,813,000
Clayton – LNU	3,929	188 homes, 10 commercial and 102 other	0/0	2,372	\$18,580,412
Rey – SBC	32,606	5 other	2/0	2,020	\$35,000,000
Willard – LMU	2,575	2 homes, 5 other	1/0	1,786	\$11,495,469
Soberanes - BEU	132,127 (94,933 acres Los Padres NF; 37,194 acres CAL FIRE)	57 homes, 11 other	12/1	4,855	\$262,500,000
Chimney - SLU	46,344	49 homes, 21 other	1/0	4,106	\$78,300,000
Erskine - KRN	48,019	285 homes, 1 commercial	3/2	2,079	\$23,000,000
Loma – SCU	4,474	12 homes, 16 other	0	2,104	\$16,300,000

Drought

On January 17, 2015 California State Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency for the severe drought conditions. On April 1, 2016, the California Department of Water Resources measured the statewide water content of Sierra snowpack at eighty-five percent of average for April 1st. While higher than the previous two years, this was still not enough to achieve average runoff levels. The April 1st snowpack measurement is crucial due to snowpacks normally being at their peak at that time. This generally predicts how much water will eventually reach California's streams and reservoirs. Snowpack, through runoff, provides about one-third of the water used by California's cities and farms. A trend of smaller snowpacks will greatly impact future water management in California.

California's 2016 Water Year, which ended September 30, 2016, is notable for its "snow drought." Although many parts of the state saw average to slightly above average precipitation, it fell more often as rain than snow. Record warm temperatures during the year created early and below-average runoff that was largely absorbed by dry soils before it could reach the state's reservoirs. The Department of Water Resources estimates that 60% of the state remains in extreme or severe drought. Dry, hot and windy weather, combined with dry vegetation and potential ignition sources— through human intent, accident or lightning - can start a wildfire. Additionally, drier than normal conditions have the ability to increase the intensity and severity of wildfires. In the aftermath of wildfires such as the 2013 Rim Fire, or the 2015 Butte and Valley Fires, ash, woody debris and sediment can flow downstream from burn areas and contaminate water supplies. Flash flooding and mudslides in burn areas can also be damaging and deadly.



The persistent statewide drought has resulted in a lasting effect on much of the state's forested landscapes, particularly the western slopes of the southern and central Sierra. Aerial surveys conducted by the United States Forest Service (USFS) have recorded in excess of 102 million dead trees as a result of drought mortality. 62 million of those dead trees succumbed to mortality from a multi-year bark beetle epidemic and warmer temperatures.

Although the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada are the hardest hit at this time, significant levels of mortality have been observed and are increasing within the northern Sierra Nevada, Cascade Mountains, and Coast Ranges. The primary concern with this extreme mortality event is public health and safety, with serious concerns surrounding increased risk of catastrophic wildfire, loss of habitat, vegetation type conversion and the arduous and costly task of reforestation.

Pest Conditions

The following is a 2016 summary regarding specific invasive species that continue to threaten and alter impacted urban and wildland forests in California. The below mentioned forest disease and pests are mentioned because they are the most notable during 2016. Forest pest conditions change dramatically from year to year and are varied and endemic through the state's forests. The [2015 California Forest Pest Conditions Report](#) can be reviewed for additional detailed information on pest conditions throughout the state. The 2016 California Forest Pest Conditions Report is currently being prepared and will be available on the Board's website in the near future.

Phytophthora ramorum/Sudden Oak Death (SOD; invasive plant pathogen) continued to be the primary cause of tree mortality in coastal California from Monterey to Humboldt Counties, with USDA Forest Service aerial surveys estimating over 125,630 dead trees across 28,834 impacted acres (down from 2013 levels due to the drought). In April 2016, the pathogen was found for the first time in San Luis Obispo County, bringing the number of infested California counties to 16. The infections were identified on California bay laurel and oak mortality is not evident, suggesting these outbreaks are recent. Other substantial increases in SOD were also found in the San Francisco East Bay, where the infection rate was triple that reported in 2015 for the area east of Oakland/Berkeley Hills and double for the area west of Oakland/Berkeley Hills. SOD was also found for the first time on Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County and in the cities of Piedmont and Hayward in Alameda County. The two Mt. Diablo infections were identified on California bay laurel and oak mortality is not evident, suggesting these outbreaks are recent. Overall, statewide infection rates doubled from 2015.

In the North Bay, infection levels are on the rise in Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino Counties. The disease reemerged in areas where it had subsided during the drought - positives were common around Cloverdale and in the Valley of the Moon and Napa Valley. New outbreaks were detected in Mendocino County, including one near Ukiah in the interior and two near the coast, south of the city of Mendocino. In Marin County, infection rates increased by 2.3% and in some areas of California that used to be marginally affected by SOD, there have been sharp increases in infection, such as in western San Mateo and western Santa Cruz Counties. In San Francisco, a significant outbreak was identified in the southeastern region of Golden Gate Park around and in the AIDS Memorial Grove. That site has tested positive previously, but the current outbreak is more significant than earlier ones. For the first time, the disease has been detected in the world-famous San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum. Golden Gate Park and the Botanical Garden house an impressive collection of plants of worldwide origin. Two positives were identified there from new hosts, but their susceptibility to *P. ramorum* needs to be further studied in order to be confirmed.

In Humboldt County, *P. ramorum* caused several new sudden oak death outbreaks downstream of intensive control efforts along Redwood Creek in Redwood National Park. These infestations appear to have resulted from pathogen transport in the watercourse rather than from aerial spread and have influenced a change of management direction by the park, which will no longer attempt direct pathogen suppression using large-scale host tree removal. This development, along with increasing disease pressure along the California-Oregon border, increases the likelihood that the pathogen will invade Del Norte County relatively soon.

The **goldspotted oak borer (GSOB- *Agrilus auroguttatus*)** was found for the first time in LA County in August 2015 at one isolated location in Green Valley affecting coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees. The Board unanimously approved the expansion of the GSOB Zone of Infestation (ZOI) in January 2016 to include all areas with susceptible host tree species in San Diego County, Wier Canyon in Orange County, and Green Valley in LA County. In Idyllwild, the number of GSOB-infested trees increased to more than 100, and infested oaks were found for the first time on adjoining San Bernardino National Forest land. The Orange County Weir Canyon infestation (discovered in 2014) remained localized, but increased to approximately 248 trees. In Green Valley, GSOB has been found on 233 coast live oak trees and on coast live oak trees in Spunky Campground on the Angeles National Forest in 2016. Surveys and suppression efforts are actively taking place in Idyllwild, Wier Canyon and Green Valley and in areas in San Diego County where the presence of GSOB is in a new location within the ZOI.

The **shot hole borer/*Fusarium dieback* (SHB/FD) (*Fusarium euwallaceae*)** complex of linked insects and fungal pathogens has been found in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. There was one Kuroshio shot hole borer (KSHB) caught in a trap in San Luis Obispo County, but no other beetles have been trapped or seen on landscape trees. The Polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) currently has 49 reproductive hosts and the KSBH has 15 reproductive hosts. The KSHB was detected in 2016 throughout Orange and San Diego Counties. It is physically identical to PSHB, but is genetically different and spreads a fungal disease caused by other species of *Fusarium* and *Graphium* that are different from the three fungal disease species, *Fusarium euwallaceae*, *Graphium euwallaceae*, and *Paracremonium pembeum*, that are carried by PSHB. Currently there are no sustainable efficient control measures for this pest complex.

Accomplishments 2016- Regulatory

SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grant Program (Regular Rulemaking)

The California Governor signed ABx1 29 (PRC § 4210, et seq.) into law on July 7, 2011. This law levied a fire prevention fee on the owners of structures within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) to fund fire prevention activities. One of the specified activities under that fee is to provide grants to eligible organizations to perform fire prevention projects that reduce the risk and potential impact of wildfire to habitable structures in the SRA. Public Resources Code (PRC) § 4210 et seq. requires that money deposited into the SRA Fire Prevention Fund (SRAFPF) be distributed back to the communities of origin proportional to how they were collected. No grant program, through the Board of Forestry

and Fire Protection (grants programs exist through CAL FIRE), exists to assist in distribution of SRAFPF funds.

This rulemaking creates a Board of Forestry and Fire Protection grant program to distribute any funds appropriated by the Legislature to their communities of origin for fire prevention activities designed to benefit habitable structures within SRA, including public education, that are provided by counties and other local agencies, including special districts, with SRA within their jurisdictions.

Drought Mortality Amendments, 2016 (Permanent Rulemaking)

These amendments were originally established in 2015 as the Drought Mortality Amendments (Emergency Rulemaking) to provide a regulatory avenue for landowners to efficiently handle the removal of large numbers of dead trees with the unprecedented tree mortality that is currently gripping the entire state. This exemption proved to be especially effective and was extended twice by the Board, the maximum allowed by Administrative Procedures Act (APA). Prior to expiration of the second extension, the Board and staff created final permanent rulemaking documents with small amendments to the emergency text and an inclusion of a sunset date that was submitted to Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The emergency rulemaking was extended to be effective until December 31, 2016, upon which date the regular rulemaking effort will become effective on January 1, 2017. Before December 31, 2018, the Board will decide whether to extend or allow the expiration of these amendments, following review of implementation and monitoring data from the regulated public and state/federal agencies.

White and Black Oak Management Special Prescription, 2016 (Regular Rulemaking)

Following numerous concerns submitted to the Board that were raised by landowners, ranchers, foresters, academics, and agency researchers, the Board delved into possible rulemaking regarding the subject of conifers encroaching upon, and eventually overtopping, black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) woodlands in the Northern and Coast Forest Practice Districts. The loss of oak woodlands has been especially alarming since oak woodlands support a unique set of wildlife species, but also create valuable working landscapes for range managers, and are essential to California's Native American people's customs and cultures. The main cause of this encroachment has been the historical and widespread practice of aggressive initial attack on wildland fires during the 19th and 20th centuries, disrupting historical fire regimes and allowing aggressive conifer species such as Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) to outcompete these oaks for scarce resources. This has ultimately culminated in degradation of the integrity and distribution of black and Oregon white oak woodlands within California these regions.

Relying on forestry professionals, UC Extension researchers and the Board members' own expertise, final amendments were submitted to OAL to create a special prescription within the forest practice rules that allows landowners to manage specifically for oak woodlands, negating post-harvest stocking requirements for commercial conifer species currently required within the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs). This special prescription takes effect January 1, 2017.

**Listed Anadromous Salmonid Amendments, 2016
(Regular Rulemaking)**

The intent of this rulemaking effort arose from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) efforts to re-introduce experimental populations of listed anadromous salmonids above permanent dams attenuating fine sediment. Permanent dams and fishway structures inhibiting anadromy have been determined to be a major impediment to the health and recovery of California's listed anadromous salmonid species. NMFS realized that if the FPRs were not explicit in providing a relief from the more restrictive Anadromous Salmonid Protection rules, that timberland owners within these areas would not be supportive or proponents of these re-introductions. Under the existing FPRs, one could reasonably assume that the ASP rules would apply to experimental reintroductions of these salmonid species. To alleviate this possible result, amendments were put into place that would allow the less rigorous watercourse protection rule to apply to private and state timberlands.

More specifically, these amendments provide person(s) engaging in the harvesting of timber a reprieve, from the restrictive 14 CCR, §916.9 et seq., when either of the two following situations exist. First, this amended regulatory language will apply when Experimental Populations, as identified under the federal Endangered Species Act, of listed anadromous salmonids are introduced into watersheds associated with activities regulated by the FPRs or in situations where historical but unoccupied habitats can be restored to support listed salmonid populations, but man-made or natural structures inhibiting anadromy are in place and their removal or remediation is deemed impractical or not economically feasible. Second, this exemption seeks to relieve the Director from the immediate disapproval of proposed Timber Harvest Plans (currently required by 14 CCR §898.2), in watersheds where listed anadromous salmonids are present and affected by lawful activities governed by the FPRs, if "take" is authorized by the appropriate federal or state wildlife agency in accordance with the FESA or California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

These amendments take effect January 1, 2017, with NMFS hoping to begin experimental reintroductions in spring 2017.

**Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Amendments, 2016
(Regular Rulemaking)**

Guided by efforts to ensure the FPRs are both effective and not unnecessarily burdensome to the regulated public, the Board prioritized amending the less than 3 acre conversion stipulations to allow timber operations on sites with properly protected significant archaeological sites. The effect of the proposed regulatory amendment is to create an exception to the current regulatory language which strictly prohibits timber operations on a property containing a significant archeological site. The Board was presented with real life examples of the regulated public being disallowed from conducting a less than 3-acre conversion where this very situation manifested, even if there had been privately funded measures implemented that properly mitigated and protected the site from any type of disturbance.

The proposed language allows timber operations on a site with a significant archaeological site when the project proponent agrees to apply measures to properly protect these sites, such as to cap the site to prevent any harm when timber operations are conducted. Before the Less than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption is filed, the Department Archeologist must concur with the project proponent the mitigations and/or protections of the archaeological

site will protect the significant archeological site from harm. These amendments take effect January 1, 2017.

Utility Notice of Overhead Operations Amendments, 2016 (Regular Rulemaking)

To sustain the Board's mission of "...a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state," a regulatory proposal was prioritized to improve communication between the Department, timberland landowners, and the various Public Utilities (PUs) operating within California in regards to timber management activities when within a specified distance from powerlines. Improving the communications and working relationships between forest landowners and PUs will aid in a productive utility grid delivery and grid protection. By notifying PUs of impending forest management activities, linemen crews will have ample time to ensure the integrity of the electrical equipment in that area, reducing the chance of lost power delivery. Utility linemen will also have the opportunity to either replace power equipment or perform maintenance on existing structures and protect them from faulty electrical transportation before the commencement of the timber operation, avoiding possible compromises of the power delivering structures. The maintenance of these structures does fall within the legal responsibility of the PU and by receiving early notice of proposed timber operations, they will be able to assure that the timber operations will be consistent with the maintenance needs of the PU. Finally, timberland owners are also expected to benefit economically by realizing the commercial value in trees growing near overhead power lines. Utility crews will be able to consult the LTOs on how to fall and safely retrieve logs that would otherwise be left behind during timber harvest activities. In conclusion, this regulation is expected to benefit timberland owners, public utilities, and the general public. This rulemaking effort is effective January 1, 2017.

Accomplishments 2016- Policy

Vegetation Treatment Program

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is completing a Statewide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report titled "California Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program," known as a the VTP EIR. The document will provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for CAL FIRE and other public agencies' vegetation management projects. This VTP EIR is intended for vegetation management projects that lower the risk of catastrophic wildfires on nonfederal lands by managing vegetation to modify/reduce hazardous fuels.

Numerous comments were received on the last draft of the VTP EIR that was authorized for public comment. The scale and complexity of the public response prompted the Board to commission an independent group of scientists to review the draft. Their report, received in 2014, was used by a new agency team to begin an update of the plan. The new draft was presented to the Board at their August 2015 meeting, and the Board hosted a series of workshops at their September, October, December 2015 and January 2016 meetings to receive public comment and discuss the preliminary draft document. A Revised Notice of Preparation was also distributed in 2015. A draft incorporating revisions from these workshops was presented to the Board in March 2016 and released for public comment under CEQA from April 1 to May 31, 2016. The Board reviewed the comments at

workshops at their August, September, November, and December 2016 meetings, and revisions are expected in 2017.

Local Government

The Board reviewed General Plan Safety Elements for the following jurisdictions in 2016:
 Counties: Tulare, San Diego, Merced, Sacramento, Amador, Kings, Mariposa
 Cities: Monterey, San Leandro, Oakland, Mission Viejo, Susanville

The following county ordinances are certified as meeting or exceeding the SRA Fire Safe Regulations in 14 CCR § 1270 et seq:

<u>SRA Counties</u>	<u>Certification Date</u>	<u>Ordinance Number</u>
Del Norte	9/29/2016	Title 19
Humboldt	12/9/2015	Ordinance 2540
Napa	11/2/2016	Road and Street Standards
San Bernardino	11/2/2016	see files
Shasta	4/6/2016	Ordinance 712
Tuolumne	7/21/2016	Certified Title 11 and Chapter 15.20

Range Management

The Range Management Advisory Committee proposed revisions to the Board and CAL FIRE policies on grazing on state demonstration forests that were adopted by the Board, and recommended to CAL FIRE, at the Board's July 2016 meeting. The revisions replaced outdated language about grazing, separated grazing policies from ones about other extractive and commercial activities, and framed grazing as a potentially beneficial vegetation management tool in state forests. RMAC stayed engaged with a variety of issues affecting the rangeland environment in California, including water quality, public lands grazing, rangeland health indicators, and drought impacts.

Climate

The Board is part of the Forest Climate Action Team (FCAT). FCAT is currently drafting a multi-agency document known as the California Forest Carbon Plan developed to set near-term and long-term planning targets to ensure increased net forest carbon storage. This team is an intergovernmental working group, that will focus on forest inventory (critical to tracking whether forests are a carbon sink or emission source at any point in time), co-benefits from forest management, and state state/federal public land issues and policy. The FCAT formation was specifically directed by the recent California AB 32 Scoping Plan Update. The Forest Carbon Plan has a target completion date of early 2017.

The Board has also initiated the development of an analysis work plan in response to AB 1504, the "Carbon Sink Act" (Skinner 2010). This act amended the California Forest Practice Act to take into account the capacity of forests to sequester carbon dioxide, and meet the

forestry sector greenhouse gas emission reduction goals mandated by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). Under this legislation, the Board is to assess the capacity of its regulations and forestry programs to meet or exceed the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, specifically by determining:

- Whether regulations for timber harvesting are sufficient to ensure a net reduction or sequestration of carbon emissions from primary forest carbon sources, sinks, or reservoirs;
- Whether regulations governing conversion of timberland and forestland to non-timber and non-forest uses are sufficient to offset lost sequestration capacity and carbon emissions associated with the non-timber use; and
- Whether forest growth, harvest, and conversion information obtained is sufficient and reliable to track changes in carbon stocks, including net emissions and reductions, across the State's forested landscape.

In 2016 the Board entered into an interagency agreement with the Pacific Southwest Station (USFS) to assist the development of the first draft AB 1504 report. In addition, a Senior Environmental Scientist was hired, through CAL FIRE Forest and Rangeland Program, to assist the Board in preparing the annual report required under AB 1504. The Board expects the first draft of the required report to be considered in early 2017, with a final draft being approved mid-year.

Effectiveness Monitoring

The Board formed the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) in 2014 to develop and implement a monitoring program to address both watershed and wildlife concerns and to provide a better active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public. Effectiveness monitoring is necessary to assess whether management practices are achieving the various resource goals and objectives set forth in the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), and other natural resource protection statutes and laws, codes and regulations, and is a key component of adaptive management. Effectiveness monitoring is also a crucial component for complying with the "ecological performance" reporting requirements outlined in AB 1492. The EMC and the Board developed a suite of critical monitoring questions based on input from a variety of stakeholders and organized them into groups of 10 individual themes. The EMC uses these themes and critical questions as guidance to solicit and evaluate specific monitoring projects with a goal of developing a process-based understanding of the effectiveness of FPRs and associated regulations in maintaining and enhancing water quality, and aquatic and wildlife habitats. The following is a summary of the activities and progress made by the EMC in the past year:

- Updated EMC Strategic Plan.
- Reviewed the 2015 list of themes and critical questions in the EMC Strategic Plan and made no additions or alterations to the priorities in 2016.
- Added a detailed appendix in the Strategic Plan listing mandated monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure their completion.
- Refined and beta tested the EMC project ranking procedure included in the Strategic Plan.
- Provided detailed comments on the study plan for the third experiment at the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds, Jackson Demonstration State Forest, which will evaluate forest stand density reduction on watershed processes.

- Received an allocation of \$425,000 each year for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 fiscal years from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund. The money will be used to fund EMC- supported projects based on priority and availability of resources.
- Developed and posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) soliciting monitoring project proposals to the [EMC website](#).
- Reviewed project proposals in April and October of 2016.
- Added two new members to fill vacancies on the EMC, and renewed the term for one existing member.
- Utilized project ranking procedures as provided in the Strategic Plan to rank four proposed monitoring projects. These projects include EMC 2015-001, EMC 2015-002, EMC 2015-004 and EMC 2016-001. Additional information on each project, request for funding and ranking can be located on the [EMC website](#).

AB 1492

The Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) Program is a component of Assembly Bill 1492. The major elements of the TRFRF Program are to provide a funding stream via a one-percent assessment on lumber and engineered wood products sold at the retail level, seek transparency and efficiency improvements to the State's timber harvest regulation programs, provide for development of ecological performance measures, establish a forest restoration grant program, and require program reporting to the Legislature. The following are targets of the four AB 1492 Working Groups that the Forest Practice Committee has been and will continue to track on behalf of the Board:

- Working Group Charters Completed (June 2015)
- Working Group Draft Work Plans Completed (Updated Periodically)
- Background paper on approaches to ecological performance measures completed (First Quarter 2017)
- Public Scoping Workshop on Ecological Performance Measures (First Quarter 2017)
- Public Workshop on First Draft of Ecological Performance Measures (Late 2017)
- Public Workshop on Second Draft of Ecological Performance Measures and Proposed Implementation Plan and Adaptive Management Approach (Mid-2018)
- Completed Ecological Performance Measures, Implementation Plan, and Adaptive Management Approach (Early 2018)
- Complete planning Watershed Pilot Project (end of 2017 or preferably earlier)

State Forests

Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF)

The Board was responsible for updating the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan in 2015. The 2015 fire season took its toll on BMDSF. The Valley Fire, noted as the state's third worst fire in recorded history, significantly impacted the state forest and surrounding communities. Over 90% of BMDSF was burned. As such, the

Board and Department staff understands that the current Management Plan for BMDSF will require an entire re-drafting versus an update due to the changed conditions that resulted from that Valley Fire, harvesting of dead trees, implementation of various post fire trend monitoring projects, artificial regeneration of forested stands, road upgrading and redesigning and/or re-establishment of trail systems that support recreational activities. Thus, the Board has provided additional time for BMDSF staff to work on a full redrafting of the Initial Study and Management Plan, with a scheduled review during spring of 2017.

Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF)

The Board was responsible for the updating the JDSF Management Plan in 2016. Several new components of the management plan, as called for in the 2008 Board approved JDSF Management Plan, have been completed by the staff of JDSF. The required Research Plan was reviewed and approved by the Board in January of 2016. The Board has also reviewed a draft version of the Recreation Plan, which is currently in final draft form. In November of 2016 the Board directed staff to prepare an addendum to the existing [Environmental Impact Report \(SCH#2004022025\)](#) that was certified by the Board in 2008 and provided the environmental documentation necessary for the 2008 JDSF Management Plan. The addendum is being prepared to incorporate the approved Research Plan and the Recreation Plan into the JDSF Management Plan. The Board will consider certification of the addendum to the EIR and approval of the updated JDSF Management Plan (which included the Recreation and Research Plans as appendices) in early 2017.

A newly updated “Option a”, that provide projected growth and yield estimates for JDSF, was completed in late 2015. The Management Committee heard a presentation on the implementation of the “Option a” in March of 2016 to compare the current management regimes in contrast to the approved Management Plan.

Stewardship Lands

The Stewardship Council Board has recommended lands for CAL FIRE at the North Fork Mokelumne River, Pit River, Tunnel Reservoir, Battle Creek, and Cow Creek planning units. The Stewardship Council Board is expected to make an additional recommendation for lands to CAL FIRE at Lake Spaulding in the first quarter of 2017; work on this transaction would begin in mid-2017. This would complete the anticipated fee title recommendations for CAL FIRE. Additionally, the Stewardship Council is expected to review final Land Conservation and Conveyance Plans (conservation easement and agreements known also as LCCP) for several additional projects during 2017.

The North Fork Mokelumne River final LCCP was approved by the Stewardship Council Board in November 2014. The Department of General Services and PG&E have developed the final form and content of each of the transaction documents, which will be applied to all transactions going forward. The California Natural Resources Agency has also participated in these discussions and is working to bring along associated transactions with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Parks. It is anticipated that final CAL FIRE documents will be brought back to the Management Committee for discussion in early 2017. Development of the draft conservation easement and documents for the Pit River, Tunnel Reservoir, Battle Creek and Cow Creek projects was started in late 2016. Conservation easement holders for each of the properties have been recommended

by the Stewardship Council Board and include: Shasta Land Trust (Pit River, Tunnel Reservoir, Cow Creek), Western Shasta RCD (Battle Creek), and Mother Lode Land Trust (North Fork Mokelumne River).

Professional Licensing and Forest Practice Enforcement

Licensing

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code (PRC) §750 *et seq.*, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is authorized to grant licenses to Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) and specialty certificates (Certified Rangeland Managers (CRMs)). Earning either license is contingent upon meeting the educational, work experience, and moral standards, and passing an examination specific to each respective field.

The term “Professional Forester” is defined in PRC § 752 and refers to a person who, by reason of his or her knowledge of the natural sciences, mathematics, and the principles of forestry, acquired by forestry education and experience, performs services, including, but not limited to, consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, or responsible supervision of forestry activities when those professional services require the application of forestry principles and techniques. The CRM certification is the only “Certified Specialist” (pursuant to 14 CCR §1600) credential bestowed and recognized by the Board. A CRM is defined in 14 CCR §1651 as “... a person who provides services pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 1602, at the request of the landowner or hiring agent, relating to the application of scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and range.”

Valid Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and Certified Rangeland Managers (CRM) as of 12/31/2015	
RPFs	1198
CRMs	85

Professional Discipline

Most professional disciplinary matters are confidential in nature, in that they are handled administratively and do not culminate in a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge and/or the Board. During 2016, the Board adopted a settlement in a disciplinary matter involving a RPF, which is noted as Licensing Case 329. The action of the Board resulted in a Disciplinary Order which included a 9-month license suspension with 3 years’ probation, \$5,000 cost recovery and life time monitoring of professional forestry work by a licensed RFP in good standing with the Board.

Enforcement

California Public Resources Code §4601 *et seq.* authorizes the Board to investigate and discipline, “Any person who willfully violates any provision of this chapter or rule or regulation of the Board....” These civil penalties are identified, investigated and pursued by

CAL FIRE, with final adjudicative authority on these matters residing with the Board. During the 2015 calendar year, the Board deliberated and took action upon two civil penalties for non-compliance with the Forest Practice Act and/or the Forest Practice Rules. In 2016, the Board adjudicated three civil penalties for non-compliance with Board rules and regulations.

State Responsibility Area Fee

State Responsibility Area Five Year Review

Every 5 years 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 (PRC §4125)." The Board approved the recommended changes to the State Responsibility Area, effective July 1, 2015.

Fee Adjustment

The Board is required to consider adjusting the SRA Fire Prevention Fee each and every year by statute and regulation. Prior to 2015, the Board had no choice in the matter and the fee adjustment was automatic and implemented by Board staff via the Section 100 rule revision process. Recent revision to the PRC § 4212 through Assembly Bill 2048, signed into law on September 30, 2014, now provides the Board the authority to select if the fee is to be adjusted in a given year. The amount in which the fee is to be adjusted is pre-Determined by statute and not subject to Board discretion. Yet, the actual application of a fee increase is a discretionary action by the Board and is subject to regular rulemaking under the APA.

The Board, with input from the Department, reviewed the necessity for an increase to the fee structure and it was determined that no increase to the fee would be necessary in 2016.

Annual Reporting by the Board on the SRA Prevention Fee

PRC § 4214(f) requires the Board to submit to the legislature a written report on the status and uses of the State Responsibility Area Fee Fund (SRA FPF) monies. This final report by the Board is required by January 1, 2017, making this the last report on SRA that the Board will submit to the legislature. The report to the legislature is to contain the following information:

- An evaluation of the benefits received by Counties based on the number of habitable structures in the SRA;
- The effectiveness of the Board's grant programs;
- The number of defensible space inspection in the reporting period;
- The degree of compliance with defensible space requirements;
- Measures to increase compliance; and

- Recommendations to the Legislature.

Benefits Received by Counties

SRA fees have been collected since fiscal year 2011/2012. While the Board is responsible for reporting expenditures to the Legislature, the SRA Fire Prevention Fee is collected and allocated by the Department. The Department, through updates to their fiscal accounting system, have revised the fiscal expenditure data that was published in a report and submitted Legislature in September of 2016 by the Board. The fiscal data contained herein is the most contemporary, accurate and complete fiscal reporting available to date and provides information necessary to evaluate the benefits received. Refer to "Recommendation to the Legislature" below as in regards to report upon benefits received as currently required by statute. The below tables provide actual expenditures for FYs 11/12 through FY 15/16.015-16.

	FY 2011-12	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Beginning Fund Balance	\$0	\$38,914	\$48,668	\$59,749	\$66,529
Prior Year Adjustments ⁵	\$0	-\$14,175	\$7,438	\$11,039	\$3,721
Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$0	\$24,739	\$56,105	\$70,788	\$70,250
Revenue					
Total Revenue	\$88,914	\$74,981	\$68,906	\$81,292	\$78,728
Expenditures					
CAL FIRE	\$50,000	\$42,322	\$57,037	\$74,494	\$77,429
California Conservation Corps	\$0	\$1,488	\$1,484	\$1,770	\$6,724
Board of Equalization	\$0	\$6,524	\$6,437	\$9,227	\$8,914
Statewide Assessments ⁶	\$0	\$718	\$305	\$60	\$165
Expenditure Totals	\$50,000	\$51,052	\$65,263	\$85,551	\$93,232
Fund Balance					
Fund Balance ⁷	\$38,914	\$48,668	\$59,749	\$66,529	\$55,746

NOTE: All figures in table are reported in thousands.

Effectiveness of the Board's Grant Program

The Board has not yet been allocated funds for a grant program. The Board has taken the necessary administrative steps towards developing a transparent process for a SRA grant program in preparation of potential funding in the future. During 2015 and 2016 the Board engaged in rulemaking under the Administrative Procedures Act to develop regulations, known as "SRA Fire Prevention Grant Program". The goal of the regulatory

⁵ Adjustments- Consists of prior year expenditure and revenue adjustments and refunds to reverted appropriations for past year actuals.

⁶ Charges for the Financial Information System for California (FISCAL) and the State Controller's Office information technology project costs.

⁷ Numbers may not add or match to other financial statements or other report charts due to rounding of budget details or other factors.

action was to provide the public with process that could be utilized should funding be allocated. The effective date of the regulations occurred on October 1, 2016. A copy of the Board adopted regulations can be found on the [Board's website](#).

An SRA grant program has been funded and implemented by the Department. The following is an overall summary of the grant requests submitted and those funded utilizing the \$10 million SRA Fund authorized in the FY 16/17 Governor's Budget. Based on the budget authority, \$5 million in SRA grant funding to be directed specifically at tree mortality related projects and the remaining \$5 million in SRA Funds were to be utilized statewide for fuels reduction/fire prevention projects. The following table provides fiscal information on the Department SRA Grant Program for FY 16/17, while Appendix 2 provides more detailed information on SRA grants.

Type of SRA Grant Requested	# SRA Grants Awarded	Funding Awarded (Million Dollars)
Tree Mortality	32	\$ 5,721,730.00
Fuels Reduction/Fire Prevention	45	\$ 4,029,311.03
TOTAL	77	\$ 9,751,041.03

Defensible Space

There are two metrics that are required to report upon in regards to the Defensible Space Inspections that are conducted by CAL FIRE. Those metrics include the number of defensible space inspections and the degree of compliance with defensible space inspections. Given the data collection on the inspections were conducted on an annual basis, the Board is able to report on a more extended period of time than what is required by law. The table below provides data on the on-the-ground inspections conducted by CAL FIRE employees between FY 12/13 and 14/15. In addition, the Board is also able to report on the number of citations issued during those inspections, which provides a measure of compliance in regards to homeowners complying with defensible space standards.

Defensible Space Inspection Conducted by CAL FIRE for Fiscal Years 12/13 - 15/16

STATEWIDE INSPECTIONS			
Prevention Activities	Totals FY 2012/13	Totals FY 2013/14	Totals FY 2014/15
Citations Issued	890	2,539	631
Inspections	149,672	203,340	207,295

The SRA fee has allowed CAL FIRE to increase staffing specifically dedicated to the job of conducting defensible space inspections and has increased the number of properties

inspected since the implementation of the fee. The use of specialized, trained inspectors has improved the quality of interactions with the public, resulting in increased compliance.

Another means of increasing compliance with defensible space standards is through maintenance of a public education and outreach program. CAL FIRE employees spend many thousands of hours in public settings each year with the ultimate goal of educating the public on wildfire and resource management and protection issues. These public outreach efforts are conducted at county and state fairs, academic institutions, parades, public workshops and gatherings and other special events. In addition, the public outreach extends to public service announcements during radio and television broadcast and well as media outreach. Given the relative low number of citations issued, the education outreach has been seemingly effective and maintaining this level of public outreach will likely result in attaining higher level of compliance. This continued outreach is of particular importance as the population within the state increases resulting in additional home density within the wildland urban interface.

Recommendations to the Legislature

- Currently, the required reporting standards under PRC § 4214(f) state that the annual report provided by the Board shall “include an evaluation of the benefits received by counties based on the number of habitable structures in state responsibility areas within their jurisdictions.” As mentioned within the body of this report, the Board is reliant upon the Department for the data as it pertains to SRA fee expenditures. The Department operates under the structure of Administrative Units. This includes day to day operations as well as fiscal accounting. In order for the Department to recast the SRA fee expenditures on a County by County basis would be very problematic for the Department and ultimately the Board in meeting this reporting standard. This standard of reporting introduces a significant time commitment, would be extraordinarily expensive and could inadvertently introduce error in reporting due to the lengthy and intricate process of reorganizing complex fiscal data. Therefore, in order to maintain efficiency in reporting and congruity with statute, the Board recommends that consideration of revising PRC §4214(f) to read that the report provided by the Board shall “include an evaluation of the ~~benefits received by counties~~ expenditures within each departmental administrative unit or contract county based on the number of habitable structures in state responsibility areas within their jurisdictions.”
- Public commentary the Board has received indicates there is considerable public interest in increasing the funding for grant programs to expend these funds directly in the State Responsibility Area. The number of grant applications received exceeds the amount of money appropriated for the grant program thus far and indicates an unmet need for funding for direct fire prevention projects in SRA communities. The Board recommends the Legislature increase the funding to the grant programs under this fee to provide a direct benefit to the fee payers through local fire prevention projects.
- Currently, the required metric to report upon under PRC § 4214(f) in regards to grant programs is “the effectiveness of the board's grant programs.” As previously addressed, the Board’s grant program, although established in

regulation, is not currently funded. Therefore, the Board has decided to report on the Department's grant program as a surrogate until the Board's grant program is funded. In order to make statute congruent with reportable metrics, the Board recommends consideration of revising PRC § 4214(f) to read "the effectiveness of the board's and/or department's grant programs".

- For the purpose of efficiency, the Board recommends that beginning in 2017 and every year thereafter, the Department provide to the Legislature a report pursuant to PRC § 4214(f). The fee program is managed by the Department, and therefore a reporting standard that applies to the Department will streamline Board and Department operations. The Department has taken it upon itself to produce an annual report for the purposes of public transparency and plans to produce reports on a semi-annual basis from this year forward. It is these reports that the Board utilizes to gather data that is provided in the required annual report under PRC § 4214(f). The Board respectfully requests that a provision that would allow for the Board to review the Department's report be considered so that the Board may ensure that substantive public comment that the Board has received within any given year is addressed within the report. Therefore, in order to maintain efficiency in reporting, the Board recommends that consideration of revising PRC § 4214(f) to read "By January 31, 2015, and annually thereafter, the board department, with board approval, shall submit to the Legislature a written report on the status and uses of the fund pursuant to this chapter.....4214(f) to read that the report provided by the Board shall "include an evaluation of the ~~benefits received by counties~~ expenditures within each departmental administrative unit or contract county based on the number of habitable structures in state responsibility areas within their jurisdictions."

APPENDIX A

2017 Standing Committee Priorities

Forest Practice Committee (FPC)

The mission of the FPC is to evaluate and promote an effective regulatory system to assure the continuous growing and harvesting of commercial forests and to protect soil, air, fish and wildland, and water resources.

January 25, 2017

COMPLETED OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN 2016:

The Forest Practice Committee and the Management Committee became a joint committee in May of 2016. This action was necessary due to unfilled Board staff positions. 2016 Priorities for each committee were addressed by the joint Forest Practice/Management committee. It is anticipated that the Management and Forest Practice Committees will resume as separate standing committees sometime during the mid to latter half of 2017 as Board staffing needs are achieved.

1. Permanent Rule Making for Drought Mortality Amendments (14CCR 1038(k))

***Status:** Emergency Regulations were set to expire on April 12, 2016. The Forest Practice Committee developed a draft regulatory proposal that was forwarded to the Full Board for consideration and subsequently noticed for public comment. The Full Board adopted the draft regulatory proposal. The regulations will become effective on January 1, 2017.*

2. Oak Woodland Management

***Status:** After abandoning a draft policy in regards to Oak Woodland Management (in 2014) in response to concerns brought forth by the Department, the committee developed a special silvicultural prescription (new rule) addressing oak woodland management. This regulatory proposal was made available to the public via a 45-Day notice and was eventually adopted by the Board. The rule became effective on January 1, 2017.*

3. Regulatory amendments for Cumulative Effects, including 14 CCR § 912.7 and Technical Rule Addendum #2.

***Status:** The Forest Practice Committee was successful in working through significant portions of both 14 CCR § 912.7 and Technical Rule Addendum #2. The goal is to bring these regulations, as they pertain to cumulative impacts assessments, up to contemporary standards. This matter remains as a Forest Practice Committee Priority 1 to demonstrate the goal of finalizing these revisions and any necessary rulemaking. Additionally, the committee will continue tracking AB 1492 working groups involved in evaluating state-wide forest practices relative to ecological performance and cumulative impacts assessment.*

PRIORITY 1 FOR 2017:

1. **14 CCR § 1035.1, 1035.2, 1035.3, 1035.4. LTO's have reported that they have been cited by state regulatory agencies with responsibility and liability for violations, errors, or other wrongful actions taken to comply with a Timber Harvest Plan or other timber management document, where the LTO was following the direction of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in taking the action.**

Objective: This issue was introduced to the FPC in June of 2014. The issue was remanded to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC) for further investigation, with the direction to the PFEC to report back to the FPC with potential findings or options for solutions to the issue. The FPC received a report back, along with recommendation from the PFEC in late 2015. The Board, at the recommendation of the FPC, did provide a letter to the Director in March of 2015 and continues to discuss the matter. The FPC expects to make a recommendation to the Full Board in early 2017 on what if any additional actions should be taken.

2. **Regulatory amendments for Cumulative Effects, including 14 CCR § 912.7 and Technical Rule Addendum #2.**

Objective/Status: Review of current status of the Forest Practice cumulative impacts assessment process including potential updates (revisions) to Technical Rule Addendum No. 2. Additionally, the FPC will be tracking and requesting updates from the Resources Agency on the progress of AB1492 Working Groups on the issue of Cumulative Effects. The following are targets of the AB 1492 Working Groups that the FPC will be tracking:

- Working Group Charters Completed (June 2015)
 - Working Group Draft Work Plans Completed (Updated Periodically)
 - Background paper on approaches to ecological performance measures completed (First Quarter 2017)
 - Public Scoping Workshop on Ecological Performance Measures (First Quarter 2017)
 - Public Workshop on First Draft of Ecological Performance Measures (Late 2017)
 - Public Workshop on Second Draft of Ecological Performance Measures and Proposed Implementation Plan and Adaptive Management Approach (Mid-2018)
 - Completed Ecological Performance Measures, Implementation Plan, and Adaptive Management Approach (Early 2018)
 - Complete planning Watershed Pilot Project (end of 2017 or (preferably) earlier)
3. **Assembly Bills 1958 and 2029 Oak Woodland Management and Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemptions (14 CCR 1038) and related required Reporting on Exemption and Emergency Notices.**

Objective /Status: AB 1958 was chaptered by the administration in 2016 amending PRC 4584. These amendments authorize the Board to develop an exemption under 14 CCR § 1038 for California black and Oregon white oak woodland management. The Forest Practice Committee has begun work on developing a draft regulatory proposal for the Full Board to review and potential move through the rulemaking process during the first half of 2017. Additionally, AB 1958 requires the Board and CAL FIRE to work cooperatively on evaluating and report to the legislature by December 31, 2017 on the

use and effectiveness of the available exemptions and emergency notices that are currently available under Board rules and regulations.

Objective /Status: *AB 2029 was chaptered by the administration in 2016 amending PRC 4584. These amendments authorize the Board to revise an existing exemption under 14 CCR § 1038 for Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Projects. The Forest Practice Committee has begun work on developing a draft regulatory proposal for the Full Board to review and potential move through the rulemaking process during the first half of 2017. Additionally, AB 2029 requires the Board and CAL FIRE to work cooperatively on evaluating and report to the legislature by December 31, 2017 on the use and effectiveness of the available exemptions and emergency notices that are currently available under Board rules and regulations*

4. **Review of Required Post Harvest Stocking Standards (14 § CCR 913; 14 CCR § 1071) pursuant Assembly Bills (AB) 2082 (2014) and 417 (2015) affecting Public Resource Code (PRC) 4561**

Objective/Status: *The request has been made to investigate the current stocking standards as they relate to various regeneration methods and forest health, including fuel hazard reduction, within certain forest types. Recent legislative mandates (AB 2082, 2014 and AB 417, 2015) were chaptered by the Administration which provides the Board the authority to review required minimum stocking standards pursuant to PRC 4561. No progress to date.*

5. **Watercourse and Lake Protection Rule Review (14 CCR § 916), including:**

- a. 14 CCR § 916.9(s) [936.9(s), 956.9(s)] [in part], No timber operations are allowed in a WLPZ, or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection, under exemption notices except for... *Should be considered in the context of 14 CCR § 1104.1(a)(2)(F), which allows conversion activities in the WLPZ where specifically approved by local permit. Defer to the county in these situations? Restriction of timber operations in the WLPZ affects timber operations conducted in compliance with defensible space regulations. There appears to be a conflict between this subdivision and PRC § 4291 and 14 CCR § 1299.*
- b. Should mechanical feller-bunchers be classified as "heavy equipment" in WLPZs?
- c. Mapping of Class III Watercourse crossings. Language in 14 CCR §§1034(x)(7) and 916.4 [936.4,956.4] need to be considered and potentially reconciled for purposes of consistency.
- d. Review the necessity and utility of assessing and mapping standards of 14 CCR § 916.4 for spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous salmonids.

Objective/Status: *No progress to date.*

6. Review of Forest Practice Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Rules

Objective/Status: FPC recommended publication of a 45 Day Notice of Rulemaking for the "Activity Center Definition" rule proposal in 2013. The Board subsequently authorized the publication of the 45 Day Notice, but postponed publication of the Notice in anticipation of the Fish and Game Commission's pending adoption of findings in regards to a petition filed requesting state listing of NSO. The Commission accepted the petition and has determined that state listing for the NSO is warranted.

The FPC will continue review of the NSO rule consistency issues in 2017 once the Commission has adopted a findings and necessary regulations in regards to state listing.

PRIORITY 2 FOR 2017:

7. 14 CCR § 1054.8 – Order of the Board

Objective/Status: The Department has requested that the Board consider amending this rule section for purposes of obtaining consistency with PRC § 4582.7(d) and 14 CCR § 1037.6. Additionally, the Department has requested that the Board take into consideration the lack of consistency between PRC § 4582.7(d) and 14 CCR § 1037.6 with current CEQA Guidelines and case law as they pertain to re-circulation of a Plan with substantial new information. No progress to date.

8. Review the regulatory history, implementation, and future of 14 CCR § 916.11; Monitoring for Adaptive Management in Watersheds with Coho Salmon

Objective/Status: The rule requires the Board to develop a monitoring and adaptive management program for timber harvesting operations in watersheds with coho salmon. Multiple purposes for this program are stated within the Rule. The Board has since established a new science-based multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) for the purpose of reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board's Forest Practice Rules relative to forestry and environmental protection, including the protection of watershed resources critical to listed species such as coho salmon. The FPC will review the history and requirements of 14 CCR § 916.11 to ensure the mission and activities of the EMC adequately address the purposes stated for this Rule and if any additional specific Board action is necessary.

9. 14 CCR § 913.4(d) - Variable Retention silviculture

Objective/Status: Several questions have been raised regarding implementation of this Special Prescription: (1) should the Variable Retention regulation specify a minimum re-entry period for designated retention areas?; (2) Should the current regulation require a minimum stand age necessary for harvest to occur in order to demonstrate maximum sustained production (MSP) as is required for even-age silvicultures under 14 CCR § 913.11(c)?; and (3) is the minimum stocking requirements of CCR § 913.4 (d)(3)(H) relative to aggregate versus dispersed retention clear enough for consistent application and enforcement? No progress to date.

PRIORITY 3 FOR 2017:

10. 14 CCR § 913.2 (b) – Transition silviculture

Objective/Status: *It has been reported that the Department does not allow use of the Transition silviculture method in timber stands which were most previously harvested utilizing the Selection method. This 'policy' is not consistent with 14CCR § 913.2(b) or (b)(2). THP was returned on this issue without being evaluated through PHI to support the determination. No progress to date.*

11. 14 CCR § 1034. Contents of Plan

- a. *(r) How the requirements of 14 CCR § 1032.7(f) are to be met. The reference to 1032.7(f) is obsolete, since it refers to the past requirement that the RPF distribute and publish a copy of the NOI.*
- b. *(x)(7), [On a plan map, show the location of all watercourse crossings of classified watercourses except temporary crossings of Class III watercourses without flowing water during timber operations at that crossing. The Board should consider revising 1034 to make Class III watercourse crossing a required mapped feature within a Plan.*
- c. *Board should consider amending 14 CCR § 1034 when it adopts or amends any rule that adds elements considered a required portion of a harvesting plan. This ensures a central location where the RPF could be assured of finding what is considered essential information in a harvesting document. Board may want to consider a rule package that consolidates all required plan contents under 14 CCR §§ 1034, 1051, 1090.5, and 1092.09.*

Objective/Status: *No progress to date.*

12. 14 CCR § 1032.7(d) and 14 CCR § 1092.04(d) [in part], A Notice of Intent shall include the following information: (4) the acres proposed to be harvested. (5) The regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used.

- a. *(4) Board should amend this paragraph to include all acres where timber operations will occur, not just the area where timber will be harvested. In doing so, the Board should consider the current definition of logging area and the lack of a definition of plan area.*
- b. *(5) Requires stating the regeneration methods and intermediate treatments to be used. This paragraph may not capture all possible treatments that may occur, e.g., special prescriptions and other types of associated timber harvesting, such as road right-of-way or timberland conversion.*

- c. *Item was initially addressed by Management Committee in 2010 in form of rule proposal to amend NTMP NTO requirements. Item was remanded back to Management Committee following publication of 45-day Notice of Rulemaking in December 2010 and initial hearing in February 2011. No further action was subsequently taken.*

Objective/Status: *No progress to date.*

13. Regulatory amendments to 14 CCR § 1032.10 - Notice of Timber Operations.

- a. The THP submitter shall provide notice by letter to all other landowners within 1,000 feet downstream of the THP boundary whose ownership adjoins or includes a Class I, II, or IV watercourse(s) which receives surface drainage from the proposed timber operations. The notice shall
- b. Consider requiring the inclusion the number of acres proposed for harvest along with the required legal description on a submitted NOP. (BOE request)
- c. Consider requiring the mapped location of each ownership, if multiple ownerships are being harvested, under the same NOP. This applies to all Plans and exemptions as well. (BOE request)
- d. The Department has requested the following items be potentially addressed in regards to Notice of Timber Operations. No progress to date.
 - i. *Overland flow or channel flow?*
 - ii. *Publication may need to be given in a newspaper of general circulation. CAL FIRE assumes this requires notification as defined in Government Code §§ 6000-6027.*
 - iii. *A tie should be made with the requirement to provide protection to domestic water supplies, as required per 14 CCR § 916.10 [936.10, 956.10].*
 - iv. *Require more current notification in which the post-marked date is no more than one year prior to submittal of the plan.*
 - v. *Does a plan have to be returned where the RPF requests an exemption from one of the noticing requirements and CAL FIRE does not accept the request. The rule requires at least ten days passing after notification before submission of the plan.*
 - vi. *The 4th sentence should be changed to use the proper verb, "affect," in place of "effect."*

Objective/Status: *No progress to date.*

Management Committee

The mission of the Management Committee is to evaluate and promote long-term, landscape level planning approaches to support natural resource management on California's non-federal forest and rangelands.

January 25, 2016

COMPLETED OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED IN 2016:

The Forest Practice Committee and the Management Committee became a joint committee in May of 2016. This action was necessary due to unfilled Board staff positions. 2016 Priorities for each committee were addressed by the joint Forest Practice/Management committee. It is anticipated that the Management and Forest Practice Committees will resume as separate standing committees sometime during the mid to latter half of 2017 as Board staffing needs are achieved.

1. Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP)

Status: *As direction of the Board, the Management Committee further reviewed and revised the draft regulatory proposal for the Working Forest Management Plan based upon receipt of public comment during an initial 45-Day public comment period. The WFMP draft regulatory proposal was substantially completed and provided to the Full Board for consideration. The Full Board authorized a second 45-Day public comment period. The Board is currently awaiting staff to prepare a draft Final Statement of Reasons for consideration. The Board anticipates that regulations will likely become effective for the WFMP on January 1, 2018.*

2. Timberland Conversion:

Status: *The Management Committee decided to approach the issue of timberland conversion in a modest manner, by addressing individual issues that the regulated public and Department have experienced. In 2015, the Management Committee heard the issue of the limitation experienced by a landowner, Ms. Rassmusen, from Plumas County. As a result, the Management Committee did develop and draft regulatory proposal that was forwarded to the Board and authorized for 45 Day notice in August of 2015. That notice was published in July of 2016. Subsequently, the Board adopted the regulatory proposal. The regulations will become effective on January 1, 2017. Additional issues pertaining to timberland conversion will likely be addressed by the Management Committee in 2017 and beyond.*

3. Regulatory Revisions for Electronic Plan Submission

Status: *The Administration has allotted significant funding for development of an digital THP, NTMP, MTHP and Exemption submission system. The overarching goal of this effort is to attain a new level of efficiency and transparency for Plan preparation,*

submission and review. The Natural Resources Agency and the Department requested that the Board consider revising current regulatory standards to allow for, or require, electronic Plan submission to support the development of the new technological platform that is currently being explored. The Management Committee reviewed the request and determined that no action, particularly as it applies to regulatory development, is required to allow development of the electronic submission process. Current Board rules do not limit or exclude the use of digital submission of Plans and therefore further action to support the state in developing the digital platform is not currently required.

4. Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF):

Objective: Continue to review the management of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) pursuant to Board Policy 0351.10.

Status: The Board approved the Research Plan for JDSF in early 2015. In addition, the Management Committee reviewed the recent implementation of the Option "a" that was recently approved for JDSF as well as reviewed the updated Recreation Plan. The Management Committee accepted the request of JDSF staff to continue management under the current iteration of the Management Plan, but has forwarded the Research and Recreation Plans to be considered as appendix to the JDSF Management Plan for purposes of providing the public the most updated information in regards to those subject matters within 2016 iteration of the JDSF Management Plan. The Board has authorized staff to prepare an addendum to the Program EIR for the JDSF Management Plan to fully incorporate the Research and Recreation Plans into the JDSF Management Plan. This will be completed in early 2017.

PRIORITY 1 FOR 2017:

1. Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) for Carbon Sequestration and Fuel Reduction Program

Objective: AB 862, chaptered by the Administration in 2014, directs the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop regulations, guidelines or publications to facilitate a grant program that allots funding for the development of PTEIRs that promote carbon sequestration and fuel hazard reduction on state or private lands. The grant program is to be administered by CAL FIRE.

2. Small Landowner Options for Harvesting

Objective: Find effective methods to facilitate small landowner harvest. Such approaches include 1) An NTMP approach for landowners of 320 acres or less that cannot utilize a regular NTMP and 2) Woodlots owners of less than 40 acres seeking minimal harvesting.

Status: The Management Committee has intermittently discussed over the course of 2014 and 2015. Additional attention will be provided to this issue in 2017 if time permits.

3. Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan

Objective:

Continue to review the management of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest pursuant to Board Policy 0351.10.

Status: *Management Plan and Initial Study is currently being worked upon by CAL FIRE staff and will be submitted to the Management Committee for review during 2017. The Board took action in December 2015 to allow for development of a new Draft Initial Study and New Draft Management Plan for the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest for submittal to the Board by June 2017 for review. The Board also acknowledged the need to continue management of Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest under the current Management Plan. This action was commensurate with Board Policy 0351.10 and in response to the significant change on the state forest as a result of the Valley Fire.*

4. Issues pertaining to conversion of Timberland

- **Regulatory amendments to 14 CCR § 1100(g)(2) - Definition of Timberland Conversion**
- **Regulatory amendments to 14 CCR § 895.1 – “Crop of Trees, Available for, and Capable of”**
- **Increased and widespread use of 14 CCR § 1104.1 – 3 acre or less conversions**

Objective (bullet point 1): *Existing Board regulations are currently inconsistent with PRC § 4621 as it applies to conversion of timberland. Current Board regulations address proposed conversions in Timber Production Zone (TPZ) where an immediate re-zone out of TPZ has been approved. State law does not recognize zoning as a controlling factor in the conversion of timberland. The Department has requested that the Board bring the current definition of conversion into conformance with State law to recognize all timberland conversions regardless of zoning status.*

Objective (bullet point 2): *The Department has made the request to address the definition of “crop of trees” to aid the Department in identification of timberland. The Management Committee has received briefings from Board staff and the Department on potential options to address this issue.*

Objective (bullet point 3): *CDFW, Environmental Protection Information Center, and Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch submitted comments that expressed concern over the widespread use of the 3 acre or less conversion, particularly as it relates to marijuana cultivation. CDFW contends that impacts ranging from fragmentation, acutely impaired stream habitat, and potential “take” of listed species are a result from over use of these existing Board regulations.*

PRIORITY 2 FOR 2017:

5. Research Plan (PRC § 4789.6)

Objective: *The Board, assisted by the director, shall biennially determine state needs for forest management research and recommend the conduct of needed projects to the Governor and the Legislature.*

Status: *During review of Demonstration State Forest Management Plans the Committee has requested improvements in the documentation and distribution of forest management, wildlife, fisheries, botanical and watershed research conducted on each forest or by the Department. The Committee intends to continue to work with each state forest and the Department to better document and catalog results of these research efforts and seek improvements in the distribution of research reports through either the Department or Board website(s).*

6. Maximum Sustained Production (MSP) 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)].

Objective: *Review performance of existing MSP rule over previous 15 years. Based on results of review, the Board may consider forming a technical working group to consider changes to existing MSP rule to provide more concrete standards for the MSP demonstration per 14 CCR § 913.11(a) [933.11(a), 953.11(a)]. Consider implications for assuring AB 32 targets.*

Status: *Committee reviewed February of 2011 and found no further action necessary. The Department has resubmitted the issue in 2015, which may indicate that further investigation into this issue is necessary.*

7. Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Review:

Objective: *Ongoing review of issues with the regulatory standards associated with the NTMP, including the Department Draft NTMP Growth and Yield Guidelines document posted on the Department website. This guidance document is currently in use by Department plan review personnel.*

PRIORITY 3 FOR 2017:

8. Site Index for major Young-Growth Forest Woodland Species in Northern California: Discussion of update to 14 CCR § 1060 Site Classification.

Objective/Status: *FPC completed initial review of topic in April-June of 2010 and deferred additional review until completion of the Road Rules. MGMT Committee will continue review of the issue when sufficient committee time is available.*

9. Development of pilot programs for SERM/ Option v projects

Objective/Status: Department has formed a Technical Advisory Committee (VTAC) to develop and provide advice on pilot programs to implement option (v) projects under the Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rules (ASP).

10. Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council

Objective: Board approved Department effort to acquire lands in the Stewardship Council planning units of "Pit River," "Battle Creek," "Cow Creek," "Burney Gardens," "Lake Spaulding," "Bear River," "North Fork Mokelumne River," and "Lyons Reservoir" that would be suitable for inclusion in the Department's Demonstration State Forest Program.. Board must approve management plans for these acquisitions when final.

Status: The Stewardship Council Board has recommended lands for CAL FIRE at the North Fork Mokelumne River, Pit River, Battle Creek, and Cow Creek planning units. The Stewardship Council Board is expected to make an additional recommendation for lands to CAL FIRE at Lake Spaulding in the second quarter of 2016, work on this transaction would begin in early 2017. This would complete the anticipated fee recommendations for CAL FIRE.

The North Fork Mokelumne River final Land Conservation and Conveyance Plan (conservation easement and agreements) was approved by the Stewardship Council Board in November 2014. The Department of General Services is currently reviewing the LCCP and associated documents. It is anticipated that final documents will be brought back to the committee for discussion in 2016.

Work on the draft conservation easement and documents for the Cow Creek project resumed in January 2016. The Battle Creek and Pit River draft conservation easement and agreements will be developed starting in the second quarter of 2016 and may be available for review in late 2016 or early 2017

Conservation easement holders for each of the properties have been recommended by the Stewardship Council Board and includes: Shasta Land Trust (Cow Creek, Pit River), Western Shasta RCD (Battle Creek), and Mother Lode Land Trust (North Fork Mokelumne River).

11. Progeny Sites

These sites are usually planted over a long period of time 3-10 year period to get various age classes and seed sources. Some of the land may sit fallow for a number of years and not meet a 5 year stocking requirement. Exempt up to 40 acres from meeting the required stocking standard if the property owner designates that area for a progeny plantation.

Resource Protection Committee (RPC)

The mission of the RPC is to evaluate and promote an effective fire protection system implemented by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and improve forest and rangeland health in California.

JANUARY 25, 2017

COMPLETED OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED 2016

1. Vegetation Treatment Plan EIR (VTP EIR)

***Objective:** Review public comment received during the April 1-May 31, 2016 CEQA comment period. Direct work team to make updates and develop responses as necessary.*

Status: Revisions and responses in progress.

2. SRA Fee Grant Program

***Objective:** Develop a grant program to comply with ABX1 29, which directs the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to utilize money from the SRA fee to provide local assistance grants for fire prevention activities to benefit owners of habitable structures in the SRA.*

Status: Rulemaking complete.

3. Utility Notice of Operations

***Objective:** Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) are required to disclose known overhead power lines within the plan area when filing a Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. This information is not usually forwarded to the Utility responsible for the maintenance of those power lines. If the utilities were made aware of impending operations in close proximity to their power lines, they would be able to perform work necessary to ensure public safety.*

Status: Rulemaking complete.

4. Cal Poly 1273.09 Dead End Roads Study

***Objective:** Cal Poly conducted a study to evaluate the Board's dead end road regulation in 14 CCR 1273.09. Study results will be used to inform future rulemaking updates to 14 CCR 1270 et seq.*

Status: Final report produced June 2016.

ANNUAL ONGOING ITEMS

1. Safety Element Review (all counties with SRA; cities with VHFHSZ)

***Objective:** Review General Plan Safety Elements of all counties with SRA and cities with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.*

Status: Review of safety elements ongoing.

2. Title 14 § 1270.03 Certification

Objective: Review and certify local county ordinances submitted for certification under 14 CCR §1270.03.

Status: Ongoing as counties submit ordinances.

3. Forest Pest Council

Objective: Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach (for professionals and lay people) in areas known to be impacted by sudden oak death (SOD) as well as bordering counties. There is a need for increased research for effective management strategies for homeowners and landowners; however, funding appears doubtful. Funding for all SOD-related activities continues to diminish.

Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach in areas known to be impacted by goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) as well as nearby communities and counties. Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach in areas known to be impacted by polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borers. Possibly explore a ZOI with Cal Fire and regionally affected contacts/partners for invasive shot hole borers.

The “Phytophthoras in Native Habitats Working Group” will be joining the COMTF website as a partner. The working group has a Nursery BMP Committee, a Restoration Committee, and a Diagnostics Committee. The working group is focused on educating the native plant nursery industry about BMPs as well as working through issues/problems specifically related to native plant trade as there have been numerous instance of Phytophthoras and other pathogens being moved into native landscapes/restoration areas from stock provided by native plant nurseries over the past year. As SOD was introduced to the native landscape via nurseries, the COMTF is interested in supporting the efforts of the working group.

The CFPC is working on developing a traveling insect/disease training to the various regions of the state to offer locally focused forest health training sessions to professionals, tribes, and other interested parties. Such trainings will not happen before 2017.

Ongoing effort to offer relative, practical information on the drought, tree die-off, pathogens, and diseases to professionals and lay people.

Ongoing effort to further advance the CA Firewood Task Force ‘Buy It Where You Burn It’ message as well as the risks associated with spread of invasives through the long-distance movement of firewood.

Status: Ongoing review in 2017.

2017 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1:

4. AB 1504

Objective: In 2010, the Legislature passed AB 1504, requiring the Board to examine the Forest Practice Rules to ensure they meet or exceed the state’s greenhouse gas reduction requirements for the forestry sector, consistent with the scoping plan adopted

by the State Air Resources Board pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).

Status: The Board has contracted with UC Berkeley and CAL FIRE FRAP to provide this analysis of the Forest Practice Rules and will review the findings when available. A revised agreement has been signed with the USFS Southwest Region 5 to compile summaries of carbon stocks and flux for California forests since 2001, write the inventory-related portions of the first AB 1504 Forest Carbon Report, development procedures to automate this compilation for future updates, and to compile summaries and write the inventory-related portions of the second AB 1504 Forest Carbon Report. A senior environmental scientist has been hired by FRAP to assist with these efforts. Action by Board to be determined based on results of the review.

RPC requests regular updates on the development of this analysis and report to 1) determine committee assignment as necessary, 2) review consistency with the most recent forestry carbon targets in the AB 32 update and Forest Carbon Plan, and 3) provide input and direction as necessary.

5. **California Fire Plan**

Objective: *Update California Fire Plan for 2018.*

Status: 2018 update workgroup formed. Prescribed fire MOU incorporated into 2010 Plan in spring 2016.

6. **Decision-Making Information Support Systems**

Objective: *Review information support systems developed by CAL FIRE FRAP, such as Fire Hazard Severity Zone inputs, WUI discussion, CAL MAPPER, and other systems for discussion and possible updating.*

Status: Presentation by department later in the year.

7. **Fire Safe Development Workgroup**

Objective: Develop a workgroup to revise the Title 14 SRA Fire Safe Regulations on a triennial basis to coincide with the California Fire Code updates. Ensure consistent, technically sound, and appropriate regulations and guidelines are established for governing fire safe development in State Responsibility Area and other locations determined to be within the statutory responsibility of CAL FIRE and the Board.

Status: Workgroup Vision/Scope approved by RPC January 2017; workgroup members identified and contacted; first meeting set for February 23, 2017.

PRIORITY 2:

8. **Blue Book Staffing Review**

Objective: *To provide basic fire protection for CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA), which includes significant portions of Board designated State Responsibility Areas (SRA), the Board, working cooperatively with the Department, has developed a Strategic Fire Plan (Fire Plan; see Priority 1, Item 5 above). The Strategic Fire Plan, amongst other items, provides policy level guidance to the Department to produce Administrative Unit Plans, which provide information on existing fire protection engine companies, stations, equipment and related staffing standards. The Department periodically*

synthesizes the data from Administrative Unit Plans on fire suppression and prevention assets into a Blue Book Report for purposes of providing information to the Legislature on Departmental staffing. .

“PRC 4130 states: The board shall classify all lands within state responsibility areas into types of land based on cover, beneficial use of water from watersheds, probable damage from erosion, and fire risks and hazards, and shall determine the intensity of protection to be given to each such type of land. A plan for adequate statewide fire protection of state responsibility areas shall be prepared by the board in which all land of each type shall be assigned the same intensity of protection, and the estimated cost of such intensity of protection shall be determined.”

Status: The existing Blue Book Report may not reflect the most current fire protection assets of the Department. When updated, the Board will review the Report to assure consistency with the Board approved Strategic Fire Plan

9. Safety Element Review Assessment

Objective: Develop a regulation codifying the review of General Plan Safety Elements by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and, to a certain extent, the pre-review and consultation stages by the CAL FIRE land use planning program.

Status: Rulemaking to occur in 2017.

10. Role of Grazing in Fire Hazard Reduction

Objective: Examine barriers to using grazing as fire hazard reduction tool.

Status: Primarily led by the Range Management Advisory Committee; status reports to RPC as necessary.

PRIORITY 3:

11. Technical Rule Addendum No. 4, Minimum Distances Require by Law, Fire Safe THP Vegetation Treatment

Objective: The Department has request that the Board amend the diagram in technical rule addendum No. 4 to accurately portray the vegetation treatments as required by PRC § 4291(b) and 14 CCR § 1299(a)(2).

Status: Committee requests staff investigate utility of Section 100 regulatory process to accomplish this item and move forward on a regulatory process.

Topic/Item	Type	Substantially Completed 2016	Annual Ongoing	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
VTP EIR	Programmatic Environmental Impact Report	X				
SRA Fee	Rulemaking	X				
Utility Notice of Operations	Rulemaking	X				

1273.09 Dead End Road Study	Research Project/Report	X				
Safety Element Review	Board Process		X			
Topic/Item	Type	Substantially Completed 2016	Annual Ongoing	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Title 14 § 1270.03 Certification	Board Process		X			
Forest Pest Council	Policy		X			
AB 1504	Research Project/Report			X		
California Fire Plan	Policy			X		
Decision Making Support Systems	Research Project/Report			X		
Fire Safe Development Workgroup	Rulemaking			X		
Blue Book Staffing Review	Policy				X	
Safety Element Review Assessment	Rulemaking				X	
Role of Grazing in Fire Hazard Reduction	Policy				X	
Technical Rule Addendum No. 4 Revision	Rulemaking					X

APPENDIX B

CAL-FIRE SRA Grant Program Data – FY 16/17

CAL FIRE SRA GRANT PROGRAM DATA- FY16/17				
CAL FIRE Tracking #	Grantee	County	Unit	Amount
16-AEU-0003	Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council (ALT FSIC)	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 200,000.00
16-AEU-1001	El Dorado Irrigation District	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 200,000.00
16-AEU-1091	El Dorado Fire Safe Council	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 200,000.00
16-BDU-1053	Big Bear Fire Authority	San Bernardino	BDU	\$ 41,000.00
16-BTU-0118	Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Butte	BTU	\$ 197,814.00
16-CZU-1059	Fire Safe San Mateo County	San Mateo	CZU	\$ 102,434.00
16-FKU-1018	Fresno County Public Works and Planning & The Office of Emergency Services	Fresno	FKU	\$ 200,000.00
16-FKU-1023	Fresno County Public Works and Planning & The Office of Emergency Services	Fresno	FKU	\$ 200,000.00
16-FKU-2012	Fresno County Public Works and Planning & The Office of Emergency Services	Fresno	FKU	\$ 200,000.00
16-FKU-2013	Fresno County Public Works and Planning & The Office of Emergency Services	Fresno	FKU	\$ 200,000.00
16-FKU-2017	Fresno County Public Works and Planning & The Office of Emergency Services	Fresno	FKU	\$ 200,000.00
16-KRN-0053	Kern County Fire Department	Kern	KRN	\$ 199,360.00
16-LAC-1115	Catalina Island Conservancy	Los Angeles	LAC	\$ 175,000.00
16-LAC-2028	County of Los Angeles Fire Department	Los Angeles	LAC	\$ 200,000.00
16-MMU-0036	The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Mariposa	MMU	\$ 199,775.00
16-MMU-0083	Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D Council	Madera	MMU	\$ 199,161.00
16-MMU-0121	Foundation for Resource Conservation, Inc.	Madera	MMU	\$ 129,391.00
16-MMU-1041	Mariposa County Resource Conservation District	Mariposa	MMU	\$ 199,536.00
16-MMU-2004	Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation Development Council	Mariposa	MMU	\$ 180,789.00
16-MVU-0120	Ramona West End Fire Safe Council	San Diego	MVU	\$ 65,099.00
16-NEU-0087	Placer County Resource Conservation District	Placer	NEU	\$ 199,449.00
16-NEU-0090	Placer County Resource Conservation District	Placer	NEU	\$ 199,360.00
16-NEU-0091	Placer County Resource Conservation District	Placer	NEU	\$ 199,360.00
16-NEU-1070	Northstar Fire Department	Placer	NEU	\$ 123,440.00
16-TCU-0020	Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council	Calaveras	TCU	\$ 199,192.00
16-TCU-0030	County of Tuolumne	Tuolumne	TCU	\$ 200,000.00

16-TCU-0032	County of Tuolumne	Tuolumne	TCU	\$ 200,000.00
16-TCU-0033	County of Tuolumne	Tuolumne	TCU	\$ 200,000.00
16-TCU-0047	Utica Water and Power Authority	Calaveras	TCU	\$ 111,990.00
16-TCU-0081	Utica Water and Power Authority	Calaveras	TCU	\$ 199,580.00
16-TCU-0128	County of Tuolumne	Tuolumne	TCU	\$ 200,000.00
16-TCU-1049	Calaveras Healthy Forests Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS)	Calaveras	TCU	\$ 200,000.00
16-AEU-0004	Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safety and Improvement Council (ALT FSIC)	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 110,000.00
16-AEU-1089	El Dorado County Fire Safe Council	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 133,001.00
16-AEU-1109	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 15,680.00
16-AEU-1110	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	El Dorado	AEU	\$ 11,200.00
16-BDU-1042	Big Bear Fire Authority	San Bernardino	BDU	\$ 96,000.00
16-BDU-2021	Wheeler Crest Fire Protection District	Mono	BDU	\$ 43,144.00
16-BDU-2025	Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council	San Bernardino	BDU	\$ 60,797.00
16-BDU-2027	Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council	San Bernardino	BDU	\$ 107,967.00
16-BEU-0050	County of Monterey, RMA - Public Works & Facilities	Monterey	BEU	\$ 200,000.00
16-BEU-1039	Fire Safe Council For Monterey County	Monterey	BEU	\$ 49,096.00
16-BTU-0100	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Butte	BTU	\$ 199,904.00
16-BTU-0108	County of Butte-Public Works Department	Butte	BTU	\$ 55,370.00
16-BTU-0114	Butte County Fire Safe Council	Butte	BTU	\$ 32,400.00
16-BTU-0117	Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council	Butte	BTU	\$ 96,910.00
16-BTU-1088	Butte County Fire Department	Butte	BTU	\$ 15,000.00
16-CZU-1117	Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	Santa Cruz	CZU	\$ 199,937.00
16-HUU-0072	County of Humboldt	Humboldt	HUU	\$ 75,961.00
16-HUU-1081	YMCA of The East Bay	Humboldt	HUU	\$ 10,000.00
16-HUU-1082	Mattole Restoration Council	Humboldt	HUU	\$ 57,439.00
16-KRN-0055	Kern County Fire Department	Kern	KRN	\$ 99,912.03
16-LMU-1071	Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.	Lassen	LMU	\$ 198,313.00
16-LMU-1077	Plumas County Fire Safe Council	Plumas	LMU	\$ 186,745.00
16-LNU-0070	Fire Safe Sonoma, Inc	Sonoma	LNU	\$ 41,876.00
16-LNU-0110	Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council	Sonoma	LNU	\$ 22,500.00
16-LNU-0111	Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council	Sonoma	LNU	\$ 22,500.00
16-LNU-0112	Sea Ranch Fire Safe Council	Sonoma	LNU	\$ 41,189.00
16-LNU-0123	Muniz Ranches Property Owners Association	Sonoma	LNU	\$ 54,000.00
16-LNU-1063	Winters Fire Department	Yolo	LNU	\$ 25,500.00

16-LNU-1094	Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department	Napa	LNU	\$ 117,000.00
16-LNU-1098	Dry Creek-Lokoya Volunteer Fire Department	Napa	LNU	\$ 35,000.00
16-LNU-1119	Napa County Fire Department	Napa	LNU	\$ 67,200.00
16-MEU-0068	Brooktrails Fire Department	Mendocino	MEU	\$ 93,900.00
16-MRN-1076	Bolinas Community Public Utility District	Marin	MRN	\$ 150,000.00
16-MVU-0101	Urban Corps of San Diego County	San Diego	MVU	\$ 53,612.00
16-MVU-0125	Greater Valley Center Fire Safe Council	San Diego	MVU	\$ 74,000.00
16-MVU-2036	Fire Safe Council of San Diego County	San Diego	MVU	\$ 107,425.00
16-SBC-2037	Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council	Santa Barbara	SBC	\$ 46,156.00
16-SCU-0026	East Bay Regional Park District	Alameda	SCU	\$ 200,000.00
16-SHU-1006	Trinity County Resource Conservation District	Trinity	SHU	\$ 95,028.00
16-SHU-1105	The Watershed Research and Training Center	Trinity	SHU	\$ 88,110.00
16-SKU-1107	Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County	Siskiyou	SKU	\$ 33,021.00
16-SLU-2029	San Luis Obispo County Community Fire Safe Council	San Luis Obispo	SLU	\$ 116,424.00
16-SLU-2031	San Luis Obispo County Community Fire Safe Council	San Luis Obispo	SLU	\$ 152,152.00
16-TGU-2024	Resource Conservation District of Tehama County	Tehama	TGU	\$ 139,390.00
16-VNC-0009	Resource Conservation Partners, Inc.	Ventura	VNC	\$ 198,552.00
Total				\$ 9,751,041.03

