



# Director’s Report to the Board of Forestry

715 P Street

Sacramento, California

April 9 & 10, 2024



## Resource Management

### Forest Practice Program

#### **Watershed Protection Program**

- Staff has completed 41 out of the 50 monitoring samples (82%) for the 1038(d) Exemption for drought mortality and unmerchantable sawlogs on Substantially Damaged Timberland.
- Staff selected sites at Jackson Demonstration State Forest for the new “Redwood Resiliency” study. The study will evaluate the linkages between forest harvest, fuel moisture, and drought resiliency in the Caspar Creek watersheds.
- Staff gave a tour of the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest post-fire watershed research to Dr. Lee MacDonald – Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Scientist at Colorado State University.
- Staff is initiating protocol development for monitoring sampling of Timber Harvesting Plans and Non-Industrial Timber Management Plans, which will broaden the scope of previous monitoring efforts (i.e., FORPRIEM; Modified Completion Report).

#### **Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)**

- LTO training courses are continuing at Shasta College, and there is a possibility of an LTO training, to be open to the public, at the University of California at Berkeley.
- A contract for online credit/debit card payment of new license and renewal fees is moving forward.
- Staff is corresponding with a graduate student in the College of Natural Resources at California Polytechnic State University at Humboldt on a census and survey of California Licensed Timber Operators to determine the size, scale, and capabilities of the workforce.
- The following tables summarize LTO and Enforcement activities since the last report:

Table 1: Forest Practice Civil Penalty Collection

Case Status	# of Cases	Amount Collected	Total Amount Due
Adjudicated	27	\$139,250	\$400,800
Default	69	\$343,450	\$1,165,626
Paid per CPO	21	\$174,000	\$174,000
Settled	110	\$876,455	\$942,255
<b>Totals</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>\$1,533,155</b>	<b>\$2,682,681</b>

Forest Practice Enforcement Program penalty collection from January 1, 2016, to present. Adjudicated are cases that were decided by hearing. The difference in Amount Collected and Total Amount Due indicates respondent is making payments



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or a judgement is needed. Penalties collected are deposited in the State's General Fund per (PRC§4601.1(d)).

Table 2: LTO License Status

Table 3: Civil Penalties Case Status

Status	#	Status	# of Cases
New Applications Rec'd	57	Under Review	3
Renewal Applications Rec'd	54	Developed for Signature	5
New Licenses Issued	58	CPO Signed, Mailed, Served	19
Licenses Renewed	67	Hearing(s) to be Scheduled	2
Incomplete Applications Rec'd	16	Settlement Mitigation	6
Applications Returned	7	Payments	23
Refunds Issued	4	Probation	2
Insurance Certificates Rec'd	82	Judgement Needed/Granted	38
		Default/Final Order	13
<b>Total Active Licenses</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>

### Forest Practice Administration

- Staff are working with the Redding Review Team, CAL FIRE Butte Unit Forest Practice staff and Butte County representatives on another round of hazard tree removal and fuel reduction in the town of Paradise. The tree removal and fuel reduction are primarily focused on ingress-egress issues to clear fuels that may hamper access in future incidents. Butte County is also planning something similar, hazard tree removal and fuel reduction, for certain designated county roads.

### Forest Practice Review Teams

- The Santa Rosa Review Team is now fully staffed.
- The Redding Review Team has one vacant Forester position and one vacant Administrative Support position.

### Resource Protection and Improvement Program

#### Urban and Community Forestry

- Urban and Community Forestry grant guidelines funded by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are posted on CAL FIRE's website. A solicitation for proposals will have opened by mid-April 2024. Approximately \$30.8 million will be available to award.
- Webinars and office hours for IRA grants are scheduled during the month of April 2024 to provide technical assistance to applicants.
- Final revisions of Green Schoolyards grant applications for public and nonprofit childcare facilities receiving government funding are underway and grant agreements are expected to be finalized during the month of April 2024. There are 24 applications selected for awards totaling approximately \$28 million.



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### **Forest Entomology and Pathology Program**

- The California Forest Pest Conditions Report for 2023 is complete and available online at:  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1169482.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1169482.pdf).
- The Zones of Infestation for sudden oak death disease, invasive shot hole borer complexes, and gold spotted oak borer need to be updated due to extensions of their ranges. The Entomology and Pathology Program will be bringing updates to the Board for approval soon.
- Mediterranean oak borer appears to have expanded into Mendocino County for the first time. Samples are still being analyzed for confirmation.
- The invasive shot hole borer complex infestation in San Jose has led to a group effort to train personnel, survey, monitor, manage and control for the pests.

### **Forest Biometrics Program**

- The program is supporting planning efforts for the upcoming 2024 forest inventory sampling season on the Shasta-Trinity Demonstration State Forests (DSF).
- The program is developing a comparison of results from the 2006 and 2017 forest inventories on Sequel DSF.

### **Demonstration State Forests (DSF) Program**

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Annual meeting was held on March 13 and 14, 2024, at the Tenaya Lodge on the Sierra National Forest near Yosemite National Park, both of whom are partners in the coalition. Rich Walker (Fire and Resources Assessment Program), Jim Kral (Mountain Home Forest Manager), and Kevin Conway (State Forest Program Manager) were in attendance representing CAL FIRE's interest in giant sequoia conservation. The group reviewed and celebrated their 2023 accomplishments (annual report available here: <https://giantsequoias.org/>) and developed their 2024 annual workplan.
- Summer job offers are being made to 18 prospective Forestry Aides across the program to assist with field work and develop our future workforce.

### ***Boggs Mountain***

- Crews from the Konocti Conservation Camp have continued to work on a 100-foot fuel reduction zone along the Wildland Urban Interface borders to create defensible space.
- Another large wind event has toppled additional trees across the forest. Roads and trails have been cleared of most storm debris and are open to the public.
- The main parking area has been cleaned of all storm debris by the Unit Heavy Fire Equipment Operators and the gates were opened to public vehicle use with the onset of dry weather. Public use is average for this time of year.



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### **Jackson**

- Amy Wynn has been appointed by the Director as Chairperson of the Jackson Advisory Group (JAG). Amy has been a valued member of the JAG since 2012 and is replacing long-time Chairperson George Hollister.
- Contractors began lop and scatter work for the Fire Fuels Mitigation project. They are expanding their crews and focusing on the burn units to ensure the slash dries sufficiently before burning next fall. Mastication work has paused due to wet weather. Researchers took a tour of the work on January 23, 2024.
- Environmental Scientist Caitlin Grace accompanied Ph.D. student Madeline Greene from Ohio around JDSF so she could sample Monterey pine that were planted in 1964. Madeline took root and needle samples and will compare these to other planted Monterey pine samples from California and beyond. Understanding the core microbiome of Monterey pine will better inform restoration and forestry efforts.
- State Forest Biologist Robert Douglas and Roads, Recreation, & Restoration Program Manager Erik Wahl are working on a plan for habitat restoration in pygmy forest (aka Mendocino Cypress Woodland) using prescribed fire in consultation with staff from State Parks and Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Surveys for the 2024 season began in March during the break in wet weather. Annual notification to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been made that JDSF and its collaborators are resuming NSO banding in 2024.
- Danny Hofstadter, PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, continues barred owl surveys and removals on multiple landowners in Mendocino County. A total of 100 barred owls have been lethally removed on the Greater JDSF area (JDSF plus Mendocino Woodlands & Big River State Parks) since the project started in the fall of 2021. A total of 43 barred owls have been removed in the Greater JDSF area during the past 13 months.

### **LaTour, Big Bend, Miller, and Noble**

- The high temperature recorded at the LaTour weather station in March was 55.1°F the low was 16 °F. Snow levels at the weather station reported a maximum snow depth of over 87.8 inches on March 12, 2024.
- Staff has begun development of a Cal VTP document to cover forest health and wildfire resilience projects on the Miller Demonstration State Forest.

### **Mountain Home**

- Forest Manager Jim Kral attended the Reforestation Pipeline meeting hosted by American Forests at Granzella's in Williams on March 6, 2024. Mountain Home hosted a Cone Camp in 2023 and has been made available for future trainings.





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- The March snow survey at the Enterprise Mill Snow Course on February 26, 2024, showed measurable snow at only 6 of the 8 stations with an average of 17 inches of snow with 6 inches of water content.

### **Soquel**

- The Winter Storm Damage Road Repairs contract was extended by one year to allow the contractor to complete all the work items in the original contract. Some of the remaining items need drier conditions to be completed and the contractor was not able to complete in time last fall before the start of wet weather. Beginning May 1, 2024, all roads, all trails, and all areas within SDSF will be closed all day, Monday through Friday to provide for public and worker safety during operations on the Sulphur Timber Harvesting Plan and Forest Health Grant Project. You may still visit and recreate during weekends after May 1, 2024. Updates to this closure will be posted on the website and publicly distributed.



*Figure 1. Pile burning for forest resilience at Soquel.*

- Pile burning was completed the week of March 4, 2024, on 84 acres covered in areas of Longridge and Tractor Roads under a contract funded through the Forest Health Grant. The contractor will return to the forest in April 2024 to complete the piling portion and then the burning in December 2024.
- Herpetology research continued with egg mass count surveys of Foothill Yellow-legged frogs in Soquel Creek. In other herpetology news, an article on disease in California giant salamanders was published with a case history including a site studied in SDSF: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iippaw.2024.100908>.
- Total participants involved in the mushroom program for the 2023-24 season were 820, including the mushroom education workshops under a Special Use Permit (SUP) held by "ForageSF" with eight total workshops held since December 2023.
- A California Film Commission permit was issued to TL Productions for a Duluth Trading Company commercial filmed at the forest March 12-13, 2024. Administrative fees collected totaled \$750 deposited to the Forest Resources Improvement Fund.



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### **Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Program**

#### **Prescribed Fire Program**

- Currently there are 80 approved reservations in the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund covering 12,934 acres.
- The next Cultural Burning Seminar is scheduled for May 29-30, 2024, at the Blue Lake Rancheria. Register here: <https://www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov/events/cultural-burning-seminar/>.
- Staff participated in and presented at statewide California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) Prescribed Fire Smoke Impacts Trainings in March 2024.
- Staff facilitated a vendor-led Terra Torch safety and awareness training in the Amador-El Dorado Unit.

#### **Vegetation Management Program**

- The program posted three Final Mitigated Negative Declaration documents to the State Clearinghouse in the month of March 2024 for fuels reduction projects.

#### **Environmental Protection Program**

- Staff participated in a pre-consultation meeting with Hearst Forests regarding their newly acquired lands and their current Programmatic Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR).

#### **Tribal Affairs Program**

- CAL FIRE's newly appointed Deputy Director of Tribal Affairs, Helen Lopez, started on March 25, 2024.

#### **Cultural Resources Program**

- The Native American Contact List was updated on February 28, 2024, and is posted on the CAL FIRE webpage. The next update is scheduled for July 2024.
- The next Initial Certified Archaeological Surveyor class has been rescheduled from April 15-19, 2024, to April 29 - May 3, 2024. Another class is scheduled for October 7-11, 2024. Both classes are full as is the Spring 2025 class.
- Archaeological Recertification classes are scheduled for April 23 - 24 and November 6 - 7, 2024 (Anderson, CA).
- The program filled the Senior Environmental Scientist – Cultural Resource Specialist (CCI) position in Sacramento, who started on March 1, 2024. The remaining vacancy is anticipated to be filled in early April 2024.

### **Wildfire Resilience Program**

#### **Reforestation Services Program**

- The second round of seed sowing is slated to occur April 15 - 24, 2024, bringing the total 2024 production year output to just shy of 300,000 seedlings.
- 2025 production year seedling requests will begin to be taken starting April 1, 2024 via the [interest form](#) on the program website.
- 24 students representing a variety of affiliations (including 6 CAL FIRE staff) will comprise the first cohort of an inaugural cone collection climbing training to be



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held at Boggs Demonstration State Forest May 6 - 9, 2024. It will be followed by field work at various forested locations across the state. This follows a select group of Department staff being invited to a climber training program overseen by the United States Forest Service from March 11 - 15, 2024, on the Los Padres National Forest.

### **California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)**

- Another CFIP solicitation closed on March 1, 2024. Applications are under review.
- CFIP continues to fund individual projects, with ongoing application selection occurring every 2 months.

### **Forest Stewardship**

- A solicitation for Wildfire Resilience Block Grants closed on February 26, 2024. 18 applications were received, with over \$33 million in requests for funding. \$9.8 million in grants will be awarded to the top four grant requests. These results will be announced soon.

### **Forest Legacy Program (FLP)**

- The program is currently accepting applications for Forest Legacy grants. The pre-application period is open from March 18 to April 16, 2024. Successful pre-applicants will be invited to submit full applications between May 7 and June 7, 2024. Approximately \$10 million in funding will be made available.

### **Climite and Energy Program**

#### **Wood Products & Bioenergy**

- The business and workforce development grant solicitation closed on March 8, 2024. The solicitation resulted in a record number of applications. See the table below with application summary data.

Project Type	# of Applications Received	Total \$ Requested	Total Grant \$ available	Subscription Rate
Business Development	53	\$ 52,048,081	\$ 20,000,000	353%
Workforce Development	17	\$ 18,514,302		
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$ 70,562,383</b>		

- Staff spoke to youth about careers in forestry at the Future Farmers of America Conference in Sacramento on March 22, 2024.
- Together with representatives from the California Air Resources Control Board (CARB) and the California Department of Conservation (DOC), presented wildfire risk reduction investment opportunities to the Department of Insurance: California Organized Investment Network Board meeting in Sacramento on March 12, 2024.



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- Staff presented to the 2024 California Envirothon on March 5, 2024, in partnership with grantee, Arbor Energy, to discuss the role of forest bioenergy under the competition topic “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.”
- The Program hosted a CAL FIRE table at the 2024 “Educating for Careers Conference” in Sacramento on March 4, 2024.
- Staff presented Wood Products Grants and the 2024 Quarter 1 Solicitation at the California Licensed Foresters Association Annual meeting in Anderson on March 1, 2024.
- Staff participated in a workforce development panel at the Sierra to California All-lands Enhancement meeting on February 29, 2024.
- Staff attended the California Forestry Association’s Forestry Solutions and Innovation Conference in Sacramento on February 26 - 27, 2024, hosting a CAL FIRE table to discuss CAL FIRE grant programs.

### **Forest Health**

- The Forest Health and Post-Fire Reforestation & Regeneration grant solicitation closed on January 15, 2024. 66 applications total were received – 56 standard Forest Health and 10 Post-Fire. The total requested was over \$387 million. The application review and award decision meeting were held on March 21, 2024. Award announcements are anticipated to occur during the first week of April 2024.
- Staff attended the United States Forest Service Wildfire Crisis Strategy Trinity Landscape meeting in Weaverville on February 15, 2024.

### **Climate Change**

- Staff is working with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and partner agencies to revise California’s Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, per AB 1757 (2022).
- Staff are engaging with the California Department of Public Health on a topical synthesis report on public health impacts of climate change for California’s 5th Climate Assessment.

### **Tribal Wildfire Resilience**

- Staff continue to move awarded proposals toward grant agreements.
- Staff are working with CAL FIRE’s Tribal Liaison, Legal, and CNRA on sovereign immunity topics for grant agreements.
- Tentatively, the next grant solicitation is planned to open in late spring.

### **Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force**

- Maximum capacity has been reached and registration is now closed for the [Task Force’s Southern CA Regional Meeting](#) on April 4, 2024 in Escondido. The agenda will focus on cultural fire, utilities and infrastructure, and regional planning and optimization.
- The March 2024 edition of the [Governor’s Monthly Update](#) is available.





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### **Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)**

#### **Forest Health Research Grants**

- The Forest Health Research grant program was open in January 2024, and received 85 concept proposals requesting a total of \$42 million. Review of concept proposals by an interagency technical review panel is now complete and successful applicants have been invited back to submit a full proposal. We intend to award approximately 11 awards for scientific research projects addressing wildfire and forest management for \$4.5 million. FRAP expects to make awards in May 2024.

#### **Wildfire Science**

- FRAP is amending agreements with San Jose State and Chico State Universities to expand research and monitoring related to prescribed fire effects. FRAP expects to have amendments executed before the fiscal year closes.

#### **Forest and Rangeland Assessment**

- Several draft assessment chapters are nearing completion and FRAP is beginning to work with Communications on the format for the publication. It is anticipated that complete drafts for all chapters will be ready within the next two months.
- FRAP science staff (Jamie Lydersen) presented material from the draft Climate Change chapter at a recent scientific webinar hosted by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).

#### **Adaptive Management Experiments (AMEX)**

- The Coastal AMEX project is moving forward with a new research site at Jackson Demonstration State Forest. The harvest prescription and experimental design are currently under development.

#### **FIA Management Scenarios**

- FRAP is conducting a project with American Forests to evaluate the effects of different management scenarios on carbon storage compared to Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Nadia Tase provided an update of the project at the March 2024 Board of Forestry meeting. FRAP anticipates completion of the final report for the project by June 2024.

#### **Visiting Scholars Exchange**

- As part of a long-term research agreement with University of California at Berkeley, FRAP hosted the first supported visiting scholars exchange with William Nikolakis and Russell Meyers Ross from British Columbia. William is a faculty member in the Forestry Department at the University of British Columbia working on Tribal Forest Stewardship, and Russell is Indigenous to the Tsilhqot'in Nation and from the community of Yunesit'in in central British Columbia with extensive experience in cultural burning and forest stewardship. The pair met with program and Executive for a day of exchange



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followed by a field tour with Unit Staff in El Dorado County to look over VMP projects designed to foster forest health and resilience, protect communities, and restore wildfire damaged areas from the Caldor Fire.

## **Fire Protection**

### **Fire Protection Program**

#### **Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery**

- Through February 2024, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers have made 16 arrests and issued 34 citations.
- In Fiscal Year 23/24, \$94.7 million has been collected by Civil Cost Recovery.

#### **Fire Protection Operations**

- CAL FIRE Incident Management Team annual training scheduled for April 9 – 11, 2024

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

- Conducted first Functional Check Flight as the owner and operator of the C-130 in the National Airspace System. Air Tanker T-118 will be utilized for flight crew initial and recurrent training in preparation of onboarding the first tactical C-130 in Quarter 4 of 2024.
- Making positive advancements with installation of a Retardant Delivery System into the first C-130H Air Tanker.
- Completed initial Helicopter Night Fire Suppression training and flight exercises for Boggs Mountain, Columbia, and Howard Forest Helitack Bases.
- Aviation Staff would like to recognize mechanic, Douglas "Bud" Ehrk as this year's recipient of the Walt Darran International Award for Merits in Aerial Firefighting that was awarded at the Aerial Firefighting Event held March 6 - 8, 2024, in Sacramento. This distinguished award signifies Bud's decades of unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and effectiveness of the CAL FIRE's world-renowned aviation program.

#### **Mobile Equipment Program**

- Received three fire engines from Boise Mobile Equipment
- Complete initial testing and first installation of Roll-Tek safety seats to be placed into fire engines.
- Three new Fire Dozers were delivered.
- Conducting research and development on clean-cab filtration technology

## **Cooperative Fire Protection**

#### **Local Government Program**

- On March 20, 2024, the Local Government Program hosted a Statewide Local Government Workshop. These workshops are intended for the rank of Battalion Chief or higher, focusing on individuals who manage Cooperative Fire Protection



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agreements. Each year the topics change, with this year focusing on the agreement methodology. This includes agreement reviews, agreement costings, staffing factors, staffing levels, ideas for rightsizing agreements, and the mutual benefits of Cooperative Fire agreements.

### **State/Federal Programs**

- The State, Federal, & International Program continues to partner with local, state, federal, and international cooperators. Over the last six months, the international component of the program is growing exponentially. The program currently has six International Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) including British Columbia Wildfire Services, Chile La Corporación Nacional Forestal, New South Wales Rural Fire Service, Portugal The Agencia Para A Gestao Integrada De Fogos Rurais, Benemerito Cuerpo de Bomberos de Costa Rica, and California Natural Resources Agency/Commonwealth of Australia Climate Change Agreement. The program is currently in conversation with China, Germany, South Korea, and the Australian state of Tasmania.

### **Hand Crew Program**

- The CAL FIRE Hand Crew Program continues to review, develop, and expand policy and procedure related to the different crew types within the CAL FIRE partnerships. This includes the CAL FIRE Firefighter 1 Hand Crews and partnerships with California Department of Corrections (CDCR), California Conservation Corps (CCC), and California Military Department (CMD). This includes working through the current budget challenges to meet the fuel reduction goals and fire protection requirements identified for 2024.
- CAL FIRE is in the process of transitioning from base staffing into spring transition staffing period hiring seasonal firefighters upstaffing the 38 FF1 Hand crews we are allocated. The Hand Crew Program has been assisting the CAL FIRE Regions in crew preparations prior to increased fire activity. This includes supporting Camp and Fire Center reviews which include administrative inspections, regulatory documentation verification, vehicles inspections, and ensuring supervisors meet their annual requirements.

### **Safety/EMS Program**

#### *Safety Program*

- \$500,000 has been recently distributed to Units to implement Preliminary Exposure Reduction kits on all fire engines for use after structure fires.
- The Safety Program provided subject matter expertise in avoiding changes to the requirements for wildland Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and fire shelters during a National Fire Protection Association 1950 Committee meeting in Texas. This change had it passed would have required replacement of all wildland PPE and fire shelters at a cost of approximately \$35 million to CAL FIRE.
- The Southern Deputy Chief of Safety attended training related to the destructive testing of lithium-ion batteries in San Diego. The training included numerous



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fires, out of state, and federal agencies. The intent is to include these lessons in the 2024 Annual Focus on Safety.

- The Safety Program completed and participated in several bill analyses covering a variety of topics in proposed legislation related to respiratory protection and PPE requirements.

### *EMS Program*

- Working our Legislation program, EMS has completed a bill analysis regarding a requirement to have naloxone at all worksites in California.
- The CALePCR/CAL FIRS integration to reduce reporting redundancy is on track for a May to June implementation.
- Staff met in BDU and RRU to continue the background work necessary to transition to CALePCR with Advanced Life Support (ALS) in these Units.
- Department of Technology (CDT) has reached out regarding the pending Image Trend CALePCR contract enhancements. This contract was submitted in May 2023 and is welcome news.

### **Statewide Training Program**

- The Annual Training Needs Assessment has been finalized with the next step to develop the 2025 Training Calendar.

### **Academy Training Program**

- The lone Master Plan Study will be completed in mid-April 2024.
- The Additional Training Center Study has been completed and is under review by the Department and Department of Finance.
- The Regular Basic Course student count is at 30 of the original record setting 32.
- Rifle Transition training of all Law Enforcement personnel is on track to be completed on May 15, 2024.
- Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Academy started on March 18, 2024, with a full class of 20 students.

## **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

### **Wildfire Risk Reduction**

- Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee:
  - Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee is meeting again on April 16, 2024 where the Committee will receive presentations from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) on the CARCD Post Fire Handbook, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) presenting on the conflagration data as well as the Lahaina Report on surviving homes, and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Group 2 on the Fire Adapted Communities Roadmap and Dashboard Baseline Assessment document.
  - For information on this monthly meeting, visit our website at: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/committees/california-wildfire-mitigation-program>





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### Wildfire Preparedness

- Defensible Space:
  - The new version of the inspection application was released to the field.
  - Qualified Entity training (Public Resource Code 4291.6) is scheduled for several nonprofit entities around the state.
- Burn Permits:
  - The website and application are updated and running. These updates address user friendliness and minor app upgrades.
- Home Hardening:
  - Collaboration with California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) is ongoing for the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP). The Lake County project, administered by North Coast Opportunities, has secured a contractor and is in the process of starting work on their first home! Home hardening and defensible space treatments will be applied on and around the structure. The goal is to utilize cost-effective retrofit strategies to reduce wildfire vulnerability.
- Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:
  - Utility wildfire mitigation plan review is underway, with final decisions expected in October 2024.

### Wildfire Planning and Statistics

- Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
  - The State Responsibility Area (SRA) regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law on January 31, 2024, and became effective April 1, 2024
- Pre-Fire Planning:
  - Annual fire perimeters have been submitted by Units & Contract Counties and will be aggregated by the Fire and Resource Assessment Program.
  - 5-year State Responsibility Area (SRA) review will begin Spring 2024, to be concluded by June 2025. Memo sent to Units & Contract Counties on March 13, 2024.
  - Ongoing Unit Annual Fire Plan updates are due May 10, 2024.
  - Completed Review of the Western States Forest Manager (WSFM) WUI Grant and federal Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG). California has submitted two WSFM grants from Placer County, and 70 CWDG across the state, totaling a \$170 million plus ask.
  - In the final stages of implementing the new Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting (FTER) process which will replace success stories.
- Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting:
  - Prescribed (Rx) Burn Data – Completed Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) of 2023 Rx Burn perimeters using new reports built to ensure Geographical Information System (GIS) polygons match the reported acres.



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- CalMAPPER upgrade – Approved statement of work for new CalMAPPER desktop version and mobile application build with Technosylva. We have a projected timeline for completion of the first phase of the build at the end of 2024.
- Detailed Fuel Reduction Reporting – final report was run on March 11, 2024. Locked acres are at 44,544.1 as of February 12, 2024.
- CalStats:
  - Ongoing reconciliation of incomplete incident reports in CALFIRS for 2023. Will start the Redbook once all reports are completed and large fire list is final.
  - All 2023 National Association of State Foresters (NASF) fire occurrence data has been successfully uploaded into the federal depository.
  - Collaborating with the EMS Program to build an ImageTrend “Test Site” so that we can reconstruct the system bridging CALePCR (Electronic Patient Care Reporting) and CAL FIRE Incident Reporting System (CALFIRS) to achieve a more seamless integration between the two systems. This is to streamline the process of incident reporting for field users.

### **Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance**

- Land Use Planning:
  - Ongoing work with local jurisdictions on Safety Elements and support Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) requirements.
- Subdivision review.
  - Staff very engaged with training support for numerous classes presentations statewide.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA:
  - Currently at 799 communities in good standing.
  - Staff continue to provide communities assistance throughout the state with the application process.
- Land Use Planning for Wildfires class:
  - Recent classes in Santa Rosa and Morgan Hill.
  - Upcoming classes in April 2024 in Tahoe City and Redding.
- State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations
  - Statewide working group continuing to meet and develop introductory training.
  - Ongoing support to Units.
- Wildfire Prevention Grants Program (Burke):
  - Fiscal Year 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants are in the local unit review process.

## **Communications**

### **Statistics**



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Interval	Fires	Acres
2024 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal) *	274 (+23)	161 (+6)
2023 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & Federal)	330	130
5-Year Average (same interval) *	664	2,325

**\*These numbers are subject to change until the final fire season reports are completed and tabulated.**

(2024 stats include all wildfires dispatched to by CAL FIRE in SRA & LRA as reported in CAD, SRA wildfires within Contract Counties and federal data based off NIFC Incident Management Situation Report and Department of Defense).

- CAL FIRE All Incident Activity
- 2024 All Incidents (YTD) – 145,352 Total Incidents

### **Education and Safety Messaging**

- The statewide Defensible Space and Home Hardening education campaign will begin April 8, 2024. This campaign consists of billboard ads, e-blasts and radio public service announcements.
- Debris burning safety and burn permit reminders will continue.

### **Program and Project Messaging**

- Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Block Grant awards will be announced this month representing nearly \$162 million for forest management activities.
- Five Points with the Chief podcast for April 2024 featured two episodes with women from across the department. Two previous episodes were released in March 2024 as part of women’s history month.

### **Traditional and non-Traditional Media**

- The VLOG (Video Blog) [Airborne Firefighters](#) continues to access CAL FIRE facilities to feature in the series. Operations at Hemet Ryan are featured in the latest video.
- May 6 – 9, 2024, CAL FIRE will host four news conferences for Wildfire Preparedness Week in which we will highlight our partnerships and capabilities for wildfire prevention and initial attack.

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

- Nothing significant to report

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices  
Accepted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through March 28, 2024

Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(b) (03/2019)	10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris v2019	Cascade (Redding)	32	399,786	38	392,840
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	15	12,731	14	6,641
		Riverside (South)	1	240	1	250
		Sierra (Fresno)	10	1,799	10	52,866
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>414,556</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>452,597</b>
1038(a)&(b)	10% Dead, Dying or Diseased Fuelwood or Split Products	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038.6 (03/2019)	Butte Post Fire Recovery	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(a) (03/2019)	Christmas Trees	Cascade (Redding)	4	108,366		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	14	2	2,519
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,519</b>
1038(k)	Drought Mortality	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog v2019	Cascade (Redding)	10	2,432	7	1,545
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			2	33
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,578</b>
1038(j)	Forest Fire Prevention PILOT Project	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(i)	Forest Fire Prevention Project	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices  
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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038.3 (03/2019)	Forest Fire Prevention v2019	Cascade (Redding)	2	311	5	365
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	9	1,069	7	362
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>727</b>
1104.1(a)	Less than 3 Acre Conversion	Cascade (Redding)	6	13	12	18
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	9	22	7	18
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	3	4	6
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>42</b>
1038(l)	Oak Woodland Management (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(e) (03/2019)	Oak Woodland Management v2019	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	3	60	5	247
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>247</b>
1038(m)	Post Fire Recovery (effective 01/01/2018)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038.5 (03/2019)	Post Fire Recovery v2019	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Post Fire Recovery v2020	Cascade (Redding)	3	7		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)	1	5		
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1104.1(b)&(c)	Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	Cascade (Redding)	5	930	2	101
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	7	98	8	149
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			3	725
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>975</b>

California Forest Practice Rules - Exemptions and Emergency Notices  
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Rule	Type of Exemption	Admin Area	2023		2024	
			Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres
1038(f) (03/2019)	Small Timberland Owner	Cascade (Redding)	1	40		
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(c)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(c) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)	13	143	21	83
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	21	75	18	38
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	4
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>125</b>
1038(c)(6)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) Includes exemptions previously submitted with both 0-150ft and 150-300ft options	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(c)(6) (03/2019)	Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet) v2019	Cascade (Redding)			4	28
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	4	36	2	12
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	5
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>45</b>
1038(d)	Substantially Damaged Unmerchantable Sawlog	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
1038(g)	Woody Debris and Slash Removal	Cascade (Redding)				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)				
		Riverside (South)				
		Sierra (Fresno)				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>All Exemptions</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>528,180</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>458,855</b>

Type of 1052 Emergency Notice		2023		2024						
		Admin Area	Number of Plans	Acres	Number of Plans	Acres				
Notice of Emergency Timber Operations		Cascade (Redding)	18	4,209	6	23				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)	7	235	2	18				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)	4	637	1	30				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>71</b>				
<u>Emergency Conditions</u> More than one condition can be selected per Notice of Emergency Timber Operations - acreage may be reflected multiple times  *Others may include multiple emergency conditions		Drought		Cascade (Redding)	2	593	1	9		
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	1	93				
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	2	191				
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>		
				Fire		Cascade (Redding)	17	3,869	5	14
						Coast (Santa Rosa)	3	134	2	18
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	1	53	1	30
						<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>61</b>
				Insects		Cascade (Redding)	1	253	1	9
						Coast (Santa Rosa)				
						Riverside (South)				
						Sierra (Fresno)	2	191		
						<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
				*Others		Cascade (Redding)	20	4,890	10	59
				Coast (Santa Rosa)	10	243	5	57		
				Riverside (South)						
				Sierra (Fresno)	4	467	1	30		
				<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>145</b>		
Fuel Hazard Reduction (RM65)		Cascade (Redding)	1	62	1	33				
		Coast (Santa Rosa)			1	33				
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)			1	56				
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>122</b>				
Fuel Hazard Reduction		Cascade (Redding)								
		Coast (Santa Rosa)								
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
Sudden Oak Death Disease		Cascade (Redding)								
		Coast (Santa Rosa)								
		Riverside (South)								
		Sierra (Fresno)								
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				

**CALENDAR YEAR 2024  
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH March 28, 2024**

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans submitted to the Department during a calendar year. The numbers are the cumulative totals for the calendar year as of the specific date

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
THPs Received	33	37	7	13	0	0	0	0	40	50
THPs Returned	13	16	4	6	0	0	0	0	17	22
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	16	35	2	9	0	0	0	2	18	46
THPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THPs Approved	13	32	9	13	0	0	1	5	23	50
THP Approved Acres	3,136	7,846	4,922	10,063	0	0	572	2,493	8,630	20,402

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
NTMPs Received	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
NTMPs Returned	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
NTMP Approved Acres	77	833	0	0	0	0	105	0	182	833
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTOs Received	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3

Year Comparison	Coast (Santa Rosa)		Cascade (Redding)		Riverside (South)		Sierra (Fresno)		Totals	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
WFMPs Received	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Returned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs with NON-Concurrence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Approved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Approved Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



**CALENDAR YEAR 2024  
TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH March 28, 2024**

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans submitted to the Department during a calendar year. The numbers are the cumulative totals for the calendar year as of the specific date



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Acres represent those reported on the Notice as accepted by the Department and may not reflect actual operations on the ground.

Data Source: CalTREES