



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message

Forest Practice

Legislation

Outreach

Wood for Salmon
Working Group

American Forest Founda-
tion—Biomass Incentive

Gil Murry Ski Race

2019 Archaeology
Refreshers & 5-day
Class

Calendar

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California Licensed Foresters Association

March 2019 - Newsletter

President's Message

Harlan Tranmer, CLFA President

Our annual Conference and Workshop is coming up with the pace and scale of forest management as the theme and you might think I should provide a primer for that event with this message. However, over the past 8 months I have already covered thinning from below and what the long term implications are and removing the handcuffs from professional foresters so we can practice forestry. Another way to put it is that we are being asked to run with shackles around our ankles. So, I went a different direction this month. The following message is inspired by a member of our ranks who contacted the CLFA Board and is hopefully reading this now.

We are running out of tree seedlings. Most trees grow from seed. Trees are required to produce seed but let's not get into which came first. Propagation of cuttings and tissue culture is also possible but in certain circumstances, many forestry professionals prefer seedlings derived from uncontrolled open pollination to insure diversity. Some foresters have the luxury of relying mainly on sprouts. Unevenaged managed forests of resprouting species are often planted, not to meet stocking requirements, but to occupy ground inadvertently opened by the mechanics of thinning before that ground is overtaken by other species.

Lately, drought, insects, and fire have bared millions of acres and we have fewer nurseries to provide seedlings to replant. Whatever the reason, there are vast areas that need planting and our standard silviculture aside, there will always be another situation/catastrophe right around the corner that needs planting.

The seedling effort begins with us. We are already looking up for tree heights, nests, broken tops, lean, canopy cover, crown health, everything. Those are individual tree situations that are essential to management. It's easy to think someone else is looking for cones. Our regeneration foresters and cone harvesters usually remind us to look. We need to put it on the calendar. We can store seed. Heavy viable cone crops can be sporadic with many years between them. When there's a good year we need to stock up so we don't have shortages like this.

If our restraints were loosened and we increased the pace and scale of forest treatments, maybe we wouldn't need as many seedlings and nursery budgets and staff wouldn't be pulled away to fight fire. Regardless, we are facing an unpredictable future and should stock pile supplies for whatever happens.





Forest Practice—BOF

Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_business/binder_materials/2019/0119m/full0119/full_9_b_revised_committee_priorities_combined.pdf

Forest Practice:

BOF Meeting January 22 & 23, 2019

Committee Priorities for 2019

Which items is CLFA most interested in?

Matt Dias stated potential priorities for March Meeting

Forest Practice Committee

Review 1038 exemptions (2nd shot)

NSO

Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction per CFA's letter (1052.4)

Use of feller bunchers within the WLPZ

Management Committee

Stocking standards

NTMP language – language will be available probably the day before committee meeting; possible to vote to approve new regulation at March full meeting; then would go to 45-day process (see notes below)

WFMP- will be approved on Friday of this week

Resource Protection Committee

Maybe cover the Utility Exemptions

Comments from - CFA, CDFW, FLC

California Forestry Association comment on 14 CCR 1052.4 Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction - The Forest Practice Committee will produce a problem statement and review the following issues.

Appropriate location – Currently the rule specifies areas of ingress, egress, likely ignition areas, and structure protection.

100 square feet is too high to be effective.

Crown closure requirements sometimes conflict and should be made more simple.

The public doesn't understand quadratic mean diameter. CFA recommends that the Board consider only requiring retention of the largest trees.

One Board committee member wants the focus to include surface fuel and flame length analysis in consultation with a fire behavior expert.

The Forest Practice Committee would like a field trip to Paradise to look at the fuel break thinning examples. One Board committee member felt that the fire destruction was largely driven by structures and not the condition of the forest.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife comment on botanical surveys:

There is a lack of consistency in how botanical issues are addressed in plans.

CDFW will produce recommendations in a report to the FPC expected in April.

Forest Landowners or California comments:

Candidate species for California ESA listing are currently treated as though they are listed.

This is an issue for small landowners who don't have the resources to conduct surveys.

The Board does not have direct authority on this issue. CDFW asserts that CESA requires candidate species to be treated as listed. FLC would like a 2084 regulation which would come in the form of a petition to the BOF by stakeholders. CDFW offered to advise on that proposal but is not able to be part of the process. A BOF and Fish and Game Commission workshop was suggested.

NSO has been State listed for approximately 2 years and there have been no changes to regulations or to mitigations. They would like to see the process move forward cooperatively to create guidelines, conduct experimental research such as extirpation of the barred owl, or consider a safe harbor agreement. The Forest Practice Committee has already made this a top priority.



Forest Practice cont.

New Rules approved in 2019 Rulebook – PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ANY EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING THAT HAS OCCURRED AFTER 1/1/2019 WILL NOT BE REFLECTED WITHIN THE 2019 RULEBOOK (EVEN WHEN IT IS PRINTED), AND THE EMERGENCY REGULATIONS DO TAKE PRECEDENT OVER THE RULEBOOK

- TRA #2 – addition of some new Cumulative Impact Analysis requirements, including Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Exemption Amendments – requires notification to Cal Fire of actual date of commencement, among other minor changes
- Conversion exemption amendments – requires notification to Cal Fire of actual date of commencement; for <3 ac conversion, if all or a portion of the contiguous land ownership has been subject to prior, unpermitted Timberland conversion, a conversion exemption shall not be accepted unless the Director determines that it would be consistent with the purposes of the Act; slash treatment responsibility can no longer be transferred from the LTO to the landowner

Emergency Rule making per SB 901 –

1038 exemptions – will be ready for use on 2/20/19. Main take-aways:

The Board was directed to make these changes by SB 901; they were supposed to result in “consolidation and streamlining” but in my opinion, this was leading to slapping more regulations to all exemptions in the name of simplification, and would have ultimately reduced the applicability and use of exemptions. Most of this is a result of legislative mandate.

CLFA worked hard to understand which items were required by legislation and provide comment on the discretionary items, resulting in

To understand what you need to do for each exemption, you need to reference sections 1038 (summary of types of exemptions and unique provisions), 1038.1 (additional requirements or restrictions that apply to multiple exemptions), and 1038.2 (mapping requirements)

There will be a second opportunity for the Board to make changes before these regulations become permanent, so CLFA will want to be involved there

Rule package includes a new Small Timberland Owner Exemption, which can be applied on up to 60 acres on the Coast and 100 acres in the Sierra

Forest Fire Prevention Exemption

Upper diameter limit was increased from 26” at stump to 30” at stump (and up to 36” for temporary road construction)

Limited temporary road construction is allowed

Expanded to state-wide use

Working Forest Management Plan

Allows multiple landowners to submit a joint WFMP

Reduces maximum number of acres in a plan to 10,000 from 15,000

Requires the harvest area to be within a single CALWATER 2.2 Hydrologic Area (there are 10 Hydrologic Regions for the whole state, which are then divided into HUs and then HAs (major tributaries)) – I believe this will limit applicability to real ownerships

Removes requirement for an Erosion Control Implementation Plan and instead requires the WFMP to comply with the applicable FPR road rules and regulatory requirements of the applicable RWQCB; clarifies erosion control mitigations required in the Working Forest Harvest Notice



Forest Practice cont.

Current Regular Rulemaking in process

Amendments to the Registration of Professional Foresters Rules (submitted to OAL Feb 15)

Response to CRM issue and appeal

Important for RPFs- adopts a new section 1611.5 entitled “Professional Standards and Responsibilities”, which is very detailed regarding agency relationships (acting as an agent), fiduciary responsibilities, and conflicts of interest between licensees and clients

Dan Stapleton notes that this is really not enforceable regulatory language by the PFEC, it is being provided in the regulation for informational purposes

It has always been within another PFEC memo on the BOF website

OAL may even kick it back

However, if it is in the rules, it would be difficult to say that PFEC does not have the ability to enforce, so it is recommended that CLFA write a comment letter to request that either a clarification is added to explicitly state that PFEC will not enforce the referenced code sections or to simply remove the language

Clarifies that all disciplinary rules and procedures apply to certified specialists, not just RPFs

Clarifies the process of creating additional certified specialties by public agency or professional society

PFEC meeting on Tues Feb 26 will include an update on the draft plead and the biannual renewal issue (possible action item)

Future Rulemaking

NTMP – goal to have effective 1/1/2020

Final plead language is expected to be presented at the March BOF meeting

New requirements

Mapping Requirements – Most of it came from the Road Rules adoptions and consistency with the WFMP mapping standards; Board considers lack of reference to the Road Rules an omission in the NTMP mapping rules

Expected that final language will simply be consistent with existing Road Rules requirements and drop the additional requirements that came from the WFMP

“Designated Agent” – Board is proposing this to deal with a handful of water board compliance issues on the Coast. Seems like overburdensome rulemaking when the issue could be handled on a case-by-case basis by regulatory agencies. If it has to stay, FLOC would like it to only apply in the case that an NTMP has multiple landowners that are separate entities (not married, etc)

Overlapping Exemption Issue

Received comment that CLFA Board wants overlapping exemptions to either be explicitly allowed or not

Not likely that it will be explicitly allowed

Next BOF Meeting March 5 & 6 in Sacramento, no February meeting



Legislation

Jason Wells—Committee Chair

CLFA met this month with Brian White, our Government Affairs Specialist, to discuss upcoming bills in the legislature. February 22 was the last day for new bills to be introduced. CLFA is currently tracking 32 bills in the Assembly and Senate which range in topics from grant funding and CEQA exemptions aiding victims of the Carr, Klamathon, and Camp fires, to creating programs designed to increase the feasibility of biomass production. There are a number of bills aimed at increasing the role of the State Fire Marshall, with respect to home defense and hardening in the Wildland Urban Interface, and general plan updates, that we are currently watching; as they may eventually relate to fuels treatments that extend into the wildland.

Overall this year seems relaxed when compared with last year's legislative blitzkrieg that ended in the late announcement and passage of SB-901, the largest single legislative act effecting California forestry in a generation. With that said, there is still a good amount of moving and shaking happening in Sacramento this year; we will be sure to update the membership as more information becomes available.

Outreach

Tony Gomez—Committee Chair

The Board of Directors would like to welcome its newest members into the ranks of CLFA. We hope that all future and current foresters continue with their support, as new recruitment into CLFA remains important. These new members are the future of forestry, and CLFA. The Board would like to recognize all of its membership who provides potential new members with the information necessary to join the association!

- ⇒ Madeline Green - RPF No. 3069
- ⇒ Joseph King Jr. - RPF No. 3071
- ⇒ James 'Christian' Eggleton - RPF No. 3073
- ⇒ Jerrold Sharp - RPF No. 3075
- ⇒ Jacob Harrower - RPF No. 3070
- ⇒ Ivy Kostick - RPF No. 3072
- ⇒ Robin Bellows - RPF No. 3074
- ⇒ Timothy Montgomery - RPF No. 3076

We would also like to welcome our newest members to CLFA:

- ⇒ Oren Nardi – Student
- ⇒ Ryder Bricker- Associate
- ⇒ Derek Weatherbee – Associate
- ⇒ Andrew Fullerton – Associate
- ⇒ Cody Kidd – Associate
- ⇒ Cody Hagedon - Associate

The Board would also like to recognize opportunities for CLFA membership to interact with students and future forestry professionals. Forestry Challenge is a great way to interact, a great way to promote the profession, a rewarding way to give back to the local community, and is right around the corner. Information regarding the California Forestry Challenge, as well as locations and dates of events, can be found at www.forestrychallenge.org.

If there is an event that promotes the profession, whether through high school participation, or through the associated colleges with forestry programs, located within the area you work in, information regarding these events is welcomed by CLFA for publication in our newsletter. Please email clfa@volcano.net with information.



The Wood for Salmon Working Group (WFSWG)

The WFSWG is an informal group of California state, county, federal agency staff, representatives from environmental non-profits, and private landowners and consultants, was formed in 2009 to develop a clear understanding of the regulatory permitting process for salmon habitat restoration projects involving large wood placement, and to identify potential mechanisms to simplify the process and incentivize implementation of more projects. The group has identified ways to better incorporate restoration activities into timber harvests, including using THPs as the primary permitting mechanism, along with ways to deliver restoration grant funding to such restoration activities. The WFSWG has developed a reference document for RPFs and agency personnel providing guidance on placing large wood in fish-bearing stream using a low-cost approach denoted as accelerated wood recruitment. The reference and weblink for the document are:

WFSWG (Wood for Salmon Working Group). 2018. Accelerated Wood Recruitment and Timber Operations: Process Guidance from the California Timber Harvest Review Team Agencies and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 13 p.

https://www.conservationgateway.org/Documents/CA%20Salmon-WFSWG_SectionV_GuidanceDocument_Final-a.pdf

American Forest Foundation – Biomass Incentive

In California, increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration faces many key challenges. Through the My Sierra Woods (MSW) program in northern California, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) seeks to address these barriers by launching the Forest Biomass Transportation Incentive (FBTI) – a financial incentive that will reimburse private landowners for a portion of their out-of-pocket expense in conducting needed fuels reduction work.

Reimbursements are based on bone-dry tons removed and the haul distance to the nearest Biofuel Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) facility. Eligibility is restricted to (1) only those projects occurring in designated Tier 1 or Tier 2 High Hazard Zones (as defined by CAL FIRE) and (2) projects conducted between 31-100 miles of a BioRAM facility and within Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, or Placer counties.

Over the next four years, MSW has a goal to fund more than 700 projects across more than 42,000 acres, using wood-products markets to offset project costs, in part, by providing landowners with reimbursements for fuels-reduction activities and facilitating reforestation on properties in need.

Funded by a California Climate Investments grant, totaling 9M dollars, the MSW project is available now, and will conclude by March 31, 2022.

MSW is a partnership between local organizations and the American Forest Foundation, pooling resources together to help California landowners thrive. Our goal is to increase land resiliency to fires and improve water quality across the state. For more information about the partnership, visit: mysierrawoods.org

To learn more about how this program can benefit your current and future fuels reduction projects, contact Chantz Joyce, RPF #2753, California Conservation Manager American Forest Foundation, (530) 524-9563, cjoyce@forestfoundation.org.



2018 Forestry Challenge Update

There are three items of interest in March:

Three students and the principal from Anderson New Technology High School will be joining us at the CLFA Workshop on Friday, March 8. The team of students, made up of two sophomores and one junior, received the highest presentation score at the 2018 Shasta Forestry Challenge. They will talk about why they attended, what they got out of it, and share a little about that event's focus topic.

Volunteer foresters are needed for the Forestry Challenge Championship event on April 25 to 27 at Camp Sylvester in Pinecrest. We anticipate having 20 teams from 14 schools from all parts of the state, including Weaverville, Folsom, and Riverside. These are the top teams from around the state, and will be fun to work with. To sign up, go to the Forestry Challenge website and click on this link at the bottom of the Home Page: <http://forestrychallenge.org/championships-volunteer-registration/>

Pre-registration is now for four Forestry Challenge events in the fall of 2019:

- ⇒ Shasta - September 25 to 28 - Mountain Meadows Camp east of Redding
- ⇒ Santa Cruz - October 9 to 12 - Redwood Glen near Loma Mar
- ⇒ El Dorado - October 23 to 26 - Leoni Meadows Camp south of Placerville
- ⇒ San Bernardino - November 6 to 9 - Green Valley Lake Christian Camp near Lake Arrowhead

If you know any high school teachers who might be interested in participating, please pass this information along to them. Teachers can now complete pre-registration for any fall event in less than 5 minutes with our easy online form. The link to the form is front and center on the Home page of the Forestry Challenge website. Forms submitted before May 31 qualify their group for a registration fee discount. Schools can attend any event that is best for location, school schedule, and student interest.



2018/2019 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ March 7, 2019—Board Meeting @ Gaia in Anderson
- ◆ April 16, 2019—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 17, 2019—Audit Committee @ Granzellas
- ◆ May 18, 2019—Board Meeting @ Granzellas

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

- ◆ March 8 & 9, 2019—Annual Workshop, Annual Conference, & Business Meeting, Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ March 27 & 28, 2019—Archaeology Refresher—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ March 30, 2019—Gil Murry Ski Race—Mt. Shasta
- ◆ October 21—25, 2019—5-day Initial Archaeology Class, Gaia, Anderson - **18 SPOTS REMAINING**
- ◆ November 6 & 7, 2019—Archaeology Refresher—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ November 15, 2018—Fall Workshop—Gaia, Anderson

Brochures and registration for all workshops & conferences will be accessible on the CLFA website!

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