



**CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of  
California's  
Licensed  
Foresters*

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# California Licensed Foresters Association

May 2019 - Newsletter

## President's Message

Harlan Tranmer, CLFA President

There is a lot of talk these days about barriers to forest land management for fuel treatment, particularly for private non-corporate landowners. Barriers are an issue for all land ownerships but government, NGO, non-profit, and corporate owners have incentive to manage and they prioritize management. For other private ownerships, the feeling is often that obtaining permits, seeking funding, and allowing oversight are a greater risk to their property and lifestyle than wildfire. While I disagree with that view unless the owner has the capacity and the will to manage effectively and responsibly on their own, there is merit to it.

For the owner, a streamlined permit and financial assistance are not just freebies. They are an audit of the owner's property and their management of it. It's invasive and time consuming. They may have to take time off of work to sign documents, obtain government records, or attend meetings or site visits. Online signing and database searches will eventually alleviate some of the burden but that shifts the time allowance to personal or family time. As foresters, we and the government decide which trees can be removed, what is done with the debris, and where tractors can go. The landowner has a lot of input on logistics but ultimately, they either agree to what we and the law will allow or they withdraw from the process.

I have never seen a forest improvement project become a debacle for a private non-corporate forest landowner. I'm sure it happens and I have seen problems but usually, when implemented, there is a net benefit for the landowner. That's easy to say from our perspective but for a mistrustful landowner, it may seem easier to say "no thanks", especially when they haven't seen a threatening fire during their tenure.

Compounding the problem is that financial assistance can be sporadic and application approval and reimbursement takes time. Consider a landowner who engages a forester under contract and racking up billable hours, signing agreements, having work done, and hoping that in the end, the program they are trying to utilize is still functioning. That is an immediate and tangible risk where wildfire may seem to be a remote possibility.

Of the 32 million acres of forest land in California, it is estimated that 7.6 million acres is non-corporate forest land, 61 percent (4.6 million acres) of that is family-owned parcels of 500 acres or less (California Forest Carbon Plan 2019). These 4.6 million acres of forest are scattered across the state. They are interwoven with the larger ownerships. They are close to urban areas and sometimes surround them. They are places that fire crews want to send resources to, even if it is to defend a single structure on 40 acres.

How do we get these skeptical landowners to engage? Continue to assure them that forest improvement projects are effective and beneficial. That is nothing new. At the same time, we must change the public perception of what the greatest risks are. Without that change, streamlining and funding will not be enough.

Drawing by April Zrelak





## Forest Practice—BOF

### Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry is now into the meat of its regular rulemaking for the year. In April, the Board of Forestry remained focused on the topics introduced to their work flow at the March meeting, which will likely be the case through approximately June. See the April meeting agenda for the full list of topics covered: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8446/3-final-april-2019-agenda.pdf>. See the May meeting agenda for upcoming Board business: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8545/may-2019-meeting-and-agenda.pdf>. Please see the following list for items of greatest interest to the RPF community:

#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. NTMP Amendments – Draft changes to NTMP rules were further discussed and may be ready to be brought to a vote in May. New rule text considered in April includes an NTO requirement to describe and map acres owned by each landowner to facilitate Yield Tax administration by the CDTFA.
2. Revision of Stocking Standards within 14 CCR 913 et. seq. – It was decided that the Board would continue to work with the William Main Research Group from UC Berkeley to revise the minimum point count standards, as well as to add a “performance-based” option for the allowance for RPF’s to propose alternative basal area standards on a case-by-case basis. The Board did not think they could accomplish revision of both the point count and basal area standards for inclusion in 2020 FPRs, so a wholesale revision of basal area standards will not be considered until at least 2020. A workshop will be held on May 2 to continue to solicit feedback and clarify these revisions. CLFA’s Regulatory Representative, Andrea Eggleton, will attend the workshop on CLFA’s behalf to provide general support for the approach and revisions. .

**Now is the time to develop the regulatory text that will likely be used for the next several decades to provide foresters with increased options for restocking methods in a changing economic and physical climate.**

If you are interested, concerned, or invested in this issue, please participate in the workshop on May 2 or get in touch with CLFA Board Member Chris Dow.

#### Summary of Proposed Point Count Stocking Standard changes

	FPR Site				
Districts	I	II	III	IV	V
Northern,	125	125	125	100	100
Coast	200	200	125	100	100
Coast, South- ern Subdis- trict	300	300	200	200	200

#### FOREST PRACTICE COMMITTEE

1. “Exemption Emergency Regulations, 2019” 14 CCR 1038 et. seq. – The Board will be undertaking a secondary review of the recently adopted revisions to 1038 Exemptions to address necessary clarifications. The Board has identified a number of issues already, which can be found in the following document: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/media/8489/fpc-2-1-april-2019-1038-issues-report.pdf>.
2. **Please contact CLFA Board Member Chris Dow if you have noted distinct problems with the structure or application of the current 1038 rule text so that we may bring these concerns to the Board now!**



## Forest Practice cont.

3. Discussion of Regulatory Amendments to 14 CCR § 1052.4 “Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction” – CLFA provided extensive commentary at the April Forest Practice Committee Meeting to assist in an overhaul of the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction. The goal is to adopt revisions to the rule structure and text to facilitate expanded use and effectiveness of the Notice to increase pace and scale of the implementation of fuelbreaks around communities and infrastructure at risk of catastrophic wildfire. A workshop will be held on April 30 in order to provide Board Committee Members, Board staff and stakeholders additional time to work through text revisions. CLFA will attend this workshop.

### RESOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

4. Review of Existing Board Regulations for Maintenance of Utility Right of Way – CAL FIRE has asked the Board to review existing regulations pertaining to the maintenance of utility rights of way. The Resource Protection Committee began this effort at the April meeting and will continue to review both BOF and CPUC regulations, as well as consider information from a CAL FIRE working group, utility companies, and the CPUC, over the next few months. They will also schedule a workshop to gather additional information, include more utilities as stakeholders, and identify regulations that need to be updated or simplified, as well as ensure that BOF regulations do not conflict with those of the CPUC. The Board recognizes that their rules are outdated with current CPUC policies and current electrical equipment, and they want to have consistency between each set of regulations. The Board has also identified the need to address the issue of “conversion” versus “maintenance” of rights of way.

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*The CLFA Board of Directors  
would like to thank the  
Sierra Pacific Foundation  
for their  
generous donation of  
\$500.00  
to the  
CLFA Scholarship Fundraising Event*



## Water & Wildlife

### Elicia Goldsworthy—Committee Chair

#### WATER QUALITY

##### **North Coast:** <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>

The Board last met on April 18 in Santa Rosa. The agenda included consideration of adoption of a Short-Term Renewal of Order No. R1-2014-0011, Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities on Non-Federal Lands in the North Coast Region. More information at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_info/board\\_meetings/04\\_2019/pdf/6/190417\\_Timber\\_Cat\\_Waiver\\_Renewal\\_EOSR.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/04_2019/pdf/6/190417_Timber_Cat_Waiver_Renewal_EOSR.pdf)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 19 & 20 at a location to be determined; the agenda is not yet available.

##### **Central Valley:** <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

The Board last met on April 4-5 in Fresno; no forestry items were on the agenda and the minutes are not yet available. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6-7 in Rancho Cordova; the agenda is not yet available.

##### **Lahontan:** <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan>

The Board was scheduled to meet on May 8-9, but that meeting was canceled. Then next meeting is scheduled for June 12-13 in Barstow; the agenda is not yet available.

##### **Central Coast:** <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

The Board last met March 21-22 in Watsonville; there were no forestry items on the agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15-17 in San Luis Obispo; there are no forestry items on the agenda.

#### WILDLIFE

##### **The Fish and Game Commission:** <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2019/index.aspx>

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met on April 17 in Santa Monica. The agenda included the following items: receipt of the 90-day report from CDFW for the petition to list four species of bumble bees (*Bombus* spp.) as endangered and consideration for authorization of take of upper Klamath-Trinity spring Chinook salmon (discussed below).

The next full FGC meeting is scheduled for June 12-13 in Redding; the agenda is not yet available. There is an FGC teleconference scheduled on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of discussing proposed changes to mammal hunting and fishing regulations; this teleconference is for listening purposes only.

##### **Northern California Summer Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)**

CDFW has completed their evaluation to determine if the Petition provides sufficient information and has recommended that the Commission accept the Petition for further consideration under CESA. The FGC has scheduled the candidacy hearing for the Jun. 12-13, at the Commission meeting in Redding. Additionally, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published their 90-day finding which determined that the petition to list NC summer steelhead DPS as federally endangered may be warranted. They will now commence a 12-month review process prior to making a final determination. Link to the Federal Register Notice:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/22/2019-07995/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-90-day-finding-on-a-petition-to-list-summer-run-steelhead-in>

*Background:* The FGC received a petition on September 28, 2018 from Friends of the Eel River to list northern California summer steelhead as endangered under CESA. On Oct 8, 2018 FGC staff transmitted the petition to DFW for review and a notice of receipt of petition was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on Oct 26, 2018. On Nov 5, 2018 CDFW requested a 30-day extension to the 90-day evaluation period. FGC staff recommended approval of CDFW's request in the December 13, 2018 meeting. CDFW completed their report in January 2019. Link to report: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=164972&inline>



## Water & Wildlife cont.

*Background:* The FGC received a petition on September 28, 2018 from Friends of the Eel River to list northern California summer steelhead as endangered under CESA. On Oct 8, 2018 FGC staff transmitted the petition to DFW for review and a notice of receipt of petition was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on Oct 26, 2018. On Nov 5, 2018 CDFW requested a 30-day extension to the 90-day evaluation period. FGC staff recommended approval of CDFW's request in the December 13, 2018 meeting. CDFW completed their report in January 2019. Link to report: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=164972&inline>

### **Upper Klamath-Trinity River (UKTR) Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)**

The FGC, in their April 17 meeting, discussed and considered authorizing take of upper Klamath-Trinity River spring Chinook salmon (also referred to as upper Klamath-Trinity spring Chinook salmon, or UKTSCS) under Section 2084 of the Fish and Game Code. More information at: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=166627&inline>

*Background:* The FGC received the petition from the Karuk Tribe and the Salmon River Restoration Council to list the UKTR spring run Chinook salmon as endangered under CESA on 7/23/2018. In its Oct 17 meeting, FGC staff recommended granting a 30-day extension to CDFW to evaluate the listing petition, thus changing CDFW's evaluation due date from Oct 31, 2018 to Nov 30, 2018. The FGC received CDFW's evaluation report at their Dec. 12-13 meeting. Link to report: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=165143%20&inline>

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## Legislation

Harlan Tranmer

Senate Bill 69 seeks to reduce ocean acidification, in part, by reducing erosion of acidic forest soils. CLFA testified at the Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing against Senate Bill 69 which would require the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to find that timber operations as proposed in a given plan will not result in a significant sediment discharge to a watercourse. While CLFA supports mitigating and preventing erosion, we believe that changes to the permit process should go through the Board of Forestry. Water boards are not equipped to take on the proposed additional responsibility of approving every plan. The bill would hamper the Governor's effort to reduce hazardous wildfire fuel loads. The bill is with the Senate Appropriations Committee having passed out of the natural Resources and Environmental Quality Committees.

CLFA sent a letter of support for Senate Bill 462, introduced by Senator Stern, Chair of The Natural Resources Committee. That bill would help create a program for junior college students to learn about prescribed fire.



## 2019/2020 CLFA Board of Directors

Section Ten: Election of CLFA Board members allows that in cases of an uncontested election, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve the nominee(s) without requiring a vote of the members. Prior to Board approval of uncontested nominee(s), notification of the uncontested election shall be provided to the membership at the Annual Meeting and via mail.

The Board was unable to provide this information at the annual meeting held on May 9, 2019. The current members that will sit on the 2019/2020 CLFA Board of Directors:

- ◆ Chris Dow
- ◆ Paul Violett
- ◆ Elicia Goldsworthy
- ◆ Emil Mason

Non-contested serving an additional one year term:

- ◆ Tony Gomez
- ◆ Ariel Thomson
- ◆ Jason Wells
- ◆ Ricky Shurtz
- ◆ Harlan Tranmer

New Board members:

- ◆ Joe Starr
- ◆ Gwendolyn Ozard



## California Forestry Challenge

Diane Dealey Neill

The second ever Forestry Challenge Championship was held on April 25 to 27 at Camp Sylvester in Pinecrest, Tuolumne County. The event doubled in size from last year, with 62 students from 13 schools participating, and featured great weather and a beautiful forest for the field activities.

Kinland Forest near Twain Harte, owned by the Kinsinger family, was the site for the focus topic, an assessment of the 428-acre tract that has had a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan for 20 years. The original plan prescribed group selection on an 80-year rotation, but a bad economy, the Rim Fire, and the tree mortality epidemic resulted in poor market conditions that derailed the plan. Students collected current stand data, compared it to the 20-year projection from the original plan, and recommended either how to get back on track with group selection or recommended a new silvicultural prescription moving forward.

During the Challenge, teams also completed a rigorous field test to assess their technical forestry knowledge and data collecting skills. Prior to the start of the event, several school groups toured the Sierra Pacific Industries mill in Sonora.

The results below are out of a possible 250 points:

- ◆ First Place: Sacramento New Technology High School, 211.0 points
- ◆ Second Place: Foresthill High School (Placer County), 203.6 points
- ◆ Third Place: Charter Oak High School (LA County), 203.5 points
- ◆ Fourth Place: Granada Hills Charter High School (LA County), 201.5 points
- ◆ Fifth Place: J. W. North High School (Riverside County), 196.1 points

Other schools at the Championship were: California Academy of Mathematics and Science (Long Beach), Del Oro (Loomis), Folsom, Golden Sierra (Garden Valley), Hawthorne Mathematics and Science Academy (LA County), Ponderosa (El Dorado County), Trinity (Weaverville), and Vista del Lago (Folsom).

Thank you to the 25 volunteers who provided forestry expertise and support for the event, including the following foresters: Bob Broderick, Steve Cannon, Kevin Conway, Steve DeBenedet, Tom Francis, Mike Garcia, Dean Lofthus, John Nicoles, Michael Pickard, John Schmechel, and Rich Wade.

Link to slide show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hX3GFFRI9W4&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR33Y7ILERgR7-ejs8nynMjot5jsqHITOUKVh1UmLpZyr88O0iuuFN2p9M4>





## 2018/2019 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ May 17, 2019—Audit Committee @ Granzellas
- ◆ May 18, 2019—Board Meeting @ Granzellas
- ◆ June

### CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

- ◆ October 21—25, 2019—5-day Initial Archaeology Class, Gaia, Anderson - Pending
- ◆ 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!*

### *2018/2019 CLFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

#### **CLFA BOARD OFFICERS**

Harlan Tranmer, President  
Chris Dow, Vice President  
Jason Wells, Secretary-Treasurer

#### **COAST DISTRICT**

Elicia Goldsworthy  
Tony Gomez  
Harlan Tranmer  
Jason Wells

#### **NORTHERN DISTRICT**

Sara Taddo Jones  
Emil Mason  
Kieran O'Leary  
Ariel Thomson  
Alex Stone  
Paul Violett

#### **SOUTHERN DISTRICT**

Christopher Dow  
Ron Hutchinson  
Ricky Shurtz