



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

November 2021 - Newsletter

President's Message Jason Wells, CLFA President

As I write this president's message, it's raining outside. Real, actual, rain. I'm having a hard time thinking about much else at the moment. Considering the historic drought we are still very much in, and the intensity and duration of this year's fire season, I think I'm echoing the consensus when I say how happy I am to see a bit of precipitation in the forecast. Unfortunately, as was generally predicted in models forecasting the effects of climate change, the first major rains in northern California came by way of an atmospheric river. Given the amount of recently burned acreage, I can only imagine the potential for surface erosion was less than ideal. Considering how much effort goes into mitigating the effects of erosion during permitted projects, it's disheartening to think about how much of these sediment savings are lost to catastrophic events like this. I think it's moments like this that it becomes important to stress that cumulative effects analysis includes the cost of inaction.

One issue that I'm very thankful we aren't dealing with right now is hazardous cleanup of a firestorm through South Lake Tahoe. In addition to at least a battalion's worth of firefighters on scene, it's becoming quite clear that preemptive vegetation management and defensible space work had a major impact when it came time to stop the Caldor Fire from making a run through town.

I think it's important to recognize the value of preemptive action utilizing the best available science to guide management decisions. We know fuels reduction treatments slow fires, empirical based evidence and models both support this theory. Now is not the time to question how much these treatments will cost without considering what the cost of inaction is. We know that the climate is changing more rapidly than at any other time in human history, and we know that the driving factor behind this is anthropogenic because empirical based evidence and models support this theory. Now is not the time to question how much reversing our impact on the atmosphere will cost without considering what the cost of inaction is.

Forest management is at the forefront of the discussion in the fight against the climate crisis. I sincerely empathize with those who oppose forest management due to concerns about the climate crisis. I very much want to support efforts to slow or reverse climate change, but foresters make complex management decisions which often weigh competing incongruent values. We professionals are in the difficult position of justifying the removal of forest material, at a net carbon loss to the atmosphere, in order to meet objectives based on society's needs and ultimately preserve the integrity of these forest lands. We need resilient forests that are judged more on their ability to tolerate disturbance from fire, insects,



flood, and timber harvest, which can continue to provide beneficial uses for society and wildlife while sequestering carbon at rates that these systems can handle. I fear that societies views on forests will shift from one focused primarily on the production of board feet to one that views them primarily on the production of tons per acre. Time and again it's been proven clear that the best way to manage forests for resiliency is to introduce complexity, forests are living and complex systems, focusing too much on a singular aspect of forests is never a good thing.



Forest Practice—BOF

Katherine Benedict—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) held a Supplemental Board of Forestry Meeting on October 13 via webinar. The next scheduled full Board meeting is on November 2-3, 2021. The materials for the November meeting are not yet posted as of the date of writing the newsletter but will be available at the following link prior to the meeting: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/>

The supplemental meeting covered an appeal report by the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, as well as several public comments about relevant Board issues.

The Board has released their [Annual Call for Regulatory Review](#), due to the Board by 5:00PM on November 16, 2021. The request is to acquire feedback regarding rule implementation and effectiveness, stating “To assure the timely dissemination and effective implementation of rule language, as well as to assist and improve subsequent any potential rulemaking efforts, the Board is requesting public comment, and a presentation by the Department, at the regularly scheduled Board and Board committee meetings in December addressing the following: 1. Areas where questions exist on interpretation of the regulatory standards, including potential solutions. 2. Issues encountered in achieving compliance with the regulatory standards, including potential solutions. 3. Suggested regulatory modifications which would either clarify existing rule language to better achieve the intended resource protection, or which would reduce regulatory inefficiencies and maintain the same or better level of protection.”

At the November meeting the Forest Practice Committee will be discussing the Class II-L determinization regulation, the draft Botanical Resources Guidance Memo, consistencies between Substantially Damaged Timberland Regulations and Special Harvesting Methods in the Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District, and the Permanent Rulemaking for Emergency Notice Fuel Treatment and RPF Responsibility. The Resource Protection Committee will be discussing Land Use Planning updates and Safety Element reviews. There will be no Management Committee meeting.



Legislation

Joe Starr

The following is a short summary of the main bills CLFA has been tracking that have been signed by the Governor over the past couple months:

- **SB 709** (Additional 2-year THP Extension) – This bill will allow for an additional 2-year extension of a THP that was initially approved between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015 (i.e. set to expire between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022); even those that expired earlier this year are available for the extension.
- **SB 332** (Certified Burn Boss Liability) – This bill will make it so a person conducting Burning Operations related to fuels management who has become a Certified Burn Boss through Cal Fire would not be held liable should their burning operations result in the need for fire suppression efforts.
- **AB 431** (Sunset date for Defensible Space Exemption) – This bill extends the sunset date for the 150-300 foot Defensible Space Exemption (1038c6) to January 1, 2026.

Several bills have been signed related to wildfire zoning, planning, budgeting, risk assessment, defensible space requirements etc. CLFA was not tracking all of these bills.

If you have questions or concerns about a bill either mentioned above or not mentioned above, please let us know.

And feel free to visit the following website to search and read Bill language for yourself:

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>



Water/Wildlife/Botany

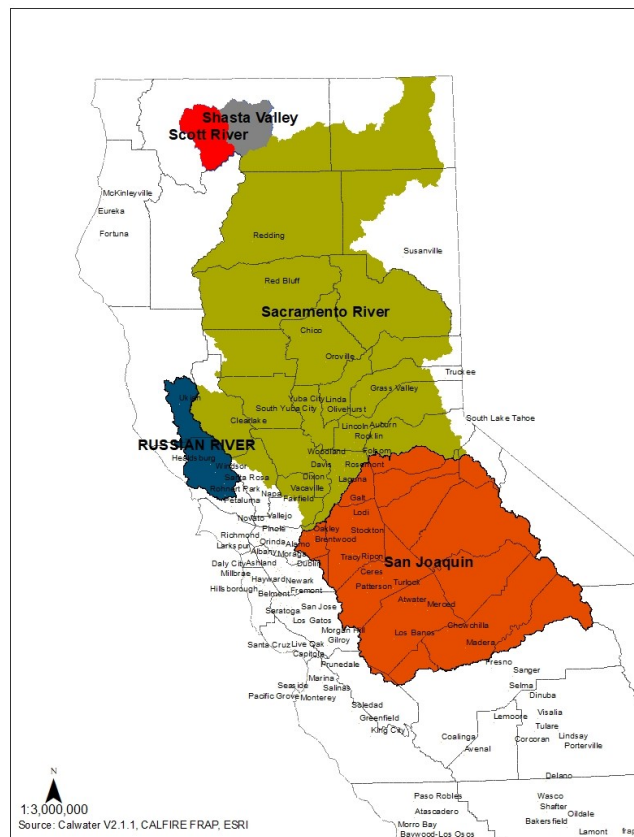
Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

State Water Resource Control Board

Drought Information and Updates

In response to Gov. Newsomes Statewide [Drought Emergency](#) declaration the state Water Control Board has begun the process of curtailing junior Water Rights from some of major watersheds. [Drought and Water Rights Frequently Asked Questions](#) can be found here.

- The Division of Water Rights is temporarily suspending all curtailments in the Lower Russian River Watershed, effective 12:00 am, Thursday, October 21, 2021, and all curtailments in the Upper Russian River Watershed, effective 12:00 pm, Saturday, October 23, 2021. Temporary curtailment suspensions are likely to last until at least November 1st.
- Shasta River- Some [curtailment orders](#) have been temporarily suspended this order will be suspended 10/31 unless 125 cfs minimal flow is recorded at the Yreka gauge





Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

The Board last met on October 19th Via Teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for November 2nd. No agenda is available.

[Region 1-North Coast](#)

The Board last met on October 7th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd via teleconference. No agenda is available.

[Region 2- San Francisco Bay](#)

The Board last met on October 12th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for November 10th via teleconference. No agenda is available at this time.

[Region 3-Central Coast](#)

The Board last met on October 14th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

[Region 5-Central Valley](#)

The Board last met on October 15th via teleconference, an overview of the Board's forest activities program occurred. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

[Region 6-Lahontan](#)

The Board last met on October 6th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the audio of the meeting is available on the Region's webpage. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for November 10th Via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

WILDLIFE

California Fish and Game Commission

The Commission last met on October 14th via teleconference. [Agenda](#).

- Cascade frog(Rana cascadae)- The one year status review report for the petition to list this species as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. *Staff will recommend that this item be continued at a future meeting.*
- Upper Klamath-Trinity river spring Chinook salmon- Consider ratifying findings on the decision to list upper Klamath-Trinity river spring Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) as threatened under CESA. *Staff will recommend that this item be continued to a future meeting.*
- Northern California summer steelhead -Consider ratifying findings on the decision to list northern California summer steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus) as endangered under CESA. *Staff will recommend that this item be continued to a future meeting.*
-

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15th via teleconference. The agenda is not yet available.



Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to designate approximately 1,413,305 acres of critical habitat in northwestern California and coastal Oregon for the coastal distinct population segment (DPS) of the Pacific marten, also known as the coastal marten. The proposed critical habitat area for the species includes approximately 1,271,828 acres of federal, 25,875 acres of state, 26,126 acres of Tribal and 89,475 acres of private land. A 60-day public comment period begins on Monday. Please let me know if you have questions.

https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=us-fish-and-wildlife-service-seeks-public-comment-on-coastal-marten-&_ID=37036

[News Releases - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

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www.fws.gov

*Tanya Sommer
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The CLFA Board of Directors wishes our members and their families a safe & wonderful holiday season!



***Just a quick reminder the CLFA Board of Directors is dark in December.
The next newsletter will be sent the first of January 2022!***



Forestry Challenge

Diane Dealey Neill

The completion of the Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge brings us to the halfway point in the event season. At this event students collected data on the camp property, three quarters of which was burned in the CZU Fire Complex. They assessed the post-fire condition of the stand and reported on anticipated harvest volumes if Redwood Glen decides to remove fire-killed trees under a Notice of Emergency Timber Operations. Three of the camp's Board and one employee judged the final presentations.

Notable at the event were a few RPFs new to the program.

John Williams is the recently retired owner of Environmental Resource Solutions, a consulting firm based in Sebastopol. John stayed for the entire event and helped with all aspects.

Zac Jackson is a former intern with Redwood Empire and now owns Dynamic Forestry Consulting in Santa Cruz. Zac helped with training, data collection, and Ask a Forester, and brought a young forester's enthusiasm and perspective to the students.

And, coming full circle, one of the Ask a Foresters was RPF Ryan Wimmer, a CalFire Forest Health grant manager who participated in the Forestry Challenge all four years of high school. It was great to have him there as an example of his college and career pathway that was influenced by the Forestry Challenge.

The El Dorado Forestry Challenge is October 27 to 30 and the final event, the San Bernardino Forestry Challenge, is November 10 to 13. Please email me at diandealeyneill@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering, or fill out a [volunteer registration form](#)



John Williams



Zac Jackson & a student



2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

2021

- ◆ November 19, 2021—11:00 am to 4:00 pm—Granzellas, Anderson, CA
- ◆ **December—Dark**

2022

- ◆ January 15, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams
- ◆ February 15, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ March 3, 2022—11:00 am to 4:00 pm—Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ March 3, 2022—5:00 pm to 8:00 pm—Legislative meeting—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ April 19, 2022—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 20, 2022—6:00 pm—7:00 pm—Audit
- ◆ May 21, 2022—9:00 am to 2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

2021

- ◆ November 10 & 11, 2021—Archaeology Refresher Classes, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

2022

- ◆ March 4 & 5, 2022—Spring Conference, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ March 28—April 1, 2022—5-day Initial Archaeology, Gaia Hotel & Spa—**Class is Full**
- ◆ May 4 & 5, 2022—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ October 3-7, 2022—5-day Initial Archaeology, Gaia Hotel & Spa—**22 spots remaining**
- ◆ November 9 & 10, 2022—Archaeology Refreshers, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

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