



CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of  
California's  
Licensed  
Foresters*

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# California Licensed Foresters Association

October 2020 - Newsletter

## President's Message

Ariel Roughton, CLFA President

The last few months have been difficult and exhausting for all of those working and living in California's forested landscapes. While we work to protect and restore our communities and forests we have also seen the issues we know and deal with everyday come to the forefront of public discussion. We know these record breaking fires are the result of many compounding factors. Topography, slopes, climate, and fuel all influence fire behavior which in turn affect wildfire intensity and severity. There is undeniable evidence that over the last 100 years there have been significant changes in both fuel loads and climate impacting fire behavior, but there is also undeniable evidence of solutions that work. Though it can be difficult at times, as California faces these challenges it is important that we highlight one of these solutions by bringing attention to the success stories of forest management.

Southern California Edison (SCE), like many other landowners in the Sierra, has spent decades managing their forestlands to be resilient. This began with the efforts of foresters like John Mount, who committed to the process of introducing and utilizing prescribed fire as a land management tool. This management strategy continues to the current day, combining prescribed fire and timber management, in partnership with local agencies and community groups, who are committed to active management for forest health.

On September 4th, when the Creek Fire began just north of SCE property on the Sierra National Forest, it quickly became clear that the work of SCE and others would be put to the test. The fire began in an all too familiar forest type with overstocked fuel loads common to beetle attacked and insufficiently managed stands. As the fire gained steam moving uphill towards SCE, it encountered a very different forest structure, a freshly treated fuel break. This particular stand, around 150 acres, had recently been treated to protect SCE property from just this type of situation. Beetle killed snags were felled and piled with the piles 'pilecast', a combination of pile and broadcast burning which allows fire to creep around and further reduce surface fuel. These efforts may not have stopped the fire outright, but what they did do was modify fire behavior and buy time. The scale and intensity of treatment allowed suppression operations to be safely conducted in this area and it was here that the fire flanked east and west, giving resources time to prepare the community of Shaver Lake. This is a win.

It was not just the management actions of SCE that proved successful during the Creek Fire. Vegetation and fuels management projects undertaken by the local fire safe council, private landowners, Cal Fire, and USFS all contributed to the Creek Fire being less destructive than it could have been. While much of the untreated land has been left black due to the residual snags and heavy fuels, there are many areas of treated land where the standing green trees remain as a testament to proactive forest management.

As Ryan Stewart, SCE forester puts it, "This isn't just a win for us [SCE], it's a win for all of us. Everything we've been talking about for the last 10-15 years. It works! Everyone working on fuel breaks. Fire safe councils. CLFA workshops. This is all paying off. We're learning and taking action. Active management is super important. Don't sit around and talk about it, go do it!"

We know that forests and soils are critical resources whose long term sustainability is at significant risk from high severity wildfire. We cannot reduce negative impacts on forests and communities or slow climate change while we continue to lose forest land to wildfire, insects, and disease, but it is important that we know there is a strategy that is proven to work; forest and fuels management.



## President's Message cont.

This isn't meant to gloss over the damage that this fire and others have caused in our state nor the uphill climb we have ahead of us, but rather to emphasize the work that was done to mitigate some of this damage. To consider not only how bad, the fire was, but how bad it could have been. And perhaps most of all to consider how much less impactful the next fire can be with the work of those in the forestry community.



Above: Post fire image demonstrating the change in fire behavior on managed Southern California Edison lands on the left.  
Below: Area on Southern California Edison with mixed severity fire behavior.





## Forest Practice—BOF

### Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on September 22-23, 2020 via teleconference. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for November 3-4, 2020 and will be held via teleconference; October is a dark month for the Board. The agenda for the November meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the September meeting is available at: <https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The following is a summary of items of greatest interest to the RPF community from the September Board of Forestry Meeting:

#### Joint Committee Meeting

#### Management Committee Business

1. [Conversion Exemption Revisions 14 CCR 1104](#) – goal is for rule package to be in place for January 1, 2022
  - The September workshop was cancelled in light of the wildfire situation and the potential impact on the ability of stakeholders to participate. A workshop will be scheduled prior to the November BOF Meeting to work through many issues raised by public comment.
  - Many comments were presented from the public with concern over a perceived lack of CAL FIRE oversight of utility clearance projects, unnecessary trees being removed, lack of communication from the utility companies to residential landowners, etc.

#### Forest Practice Committee Business

1. Forest Botany – [BOF Staff Report](#) and [Draft Problem Statement](#)
  - There was not sufficient time in the meeting to address the topic.
    - Board Staff is looking for input from Members of the Board on the draft problem statement with the goal of determining what or is not an issue that needs to be addressed by the Board.
  - The draft problem statement is just a start based on what has been presented in the various meetings covering the topic up to this point. It is critical to adequately frame the problem in order to identify appropriate solutions.
  - This item is being closely monitored by CLFA.

#### Full Board Meeting

1. Consent Calendar Items – [Rulemaking Matrix](#), [Licensing Vital Statistics](#), [Legislative Report](#) – approved
2. Chairman’s Report, Dr. Keith Gillless
3. CAL FIRE [Director’s Report](#) – Partially given by Deputy Chief Director Craig Tolmie on behalf of Director Thom Porter, completed by Director Porter
  - 26 fatalities associated with 2020 Lightning Fire Event, 5,500 structures destroyed to date (as of Sept 23)
  - Between CA, WA, and OR – 7 million acres have burned in the same period; 3.5 million acres just in CA to date
    - 5 of the top 20 largest wildfires in CA history have occurred in 2020 to date
  - Chief Porter worked to educate President Trump during his recent visit to CA on land ownership patterns in CA, namely that 57% of the state land mass is under federal land management
  - New solicitations for FY 2021 CCI grants are not currently authorized in the budget, but they are anticipating a junior budget bill that will provide the authorization within the near future
4. Executive Officer’s Report – Matt Dias, Executive Officer of the Board
  - Mr. Dias reported on various staffing changes at the Board
  - Reviewed the [Draft BOF Research Plan Outline and ranked priority topic areas](#)



## Forest Practice—BOF cont.

### 5. Public Hearing – [Tethered Operation Amendments, 2020](#)

- CLFA provided written and verbal comment to the Board regarding comment letters and comments made by some of the agencies that raised several concerns which are already addressed within other portions of the existing regulation. CLFA’s comment served to remind Board Members of examples of existing requirements which were recommended as new rules for consideration by CGS specifically, as well as urge them to consider the revisions to include Tethered Operations as standard operations within the context of the entire regulation.
- Motion to adopt the regulatory text: Motion carries unanimously. The rule package will now go to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review.
- **MEMBER ALERT – Impacts of the passage of these rules (pending OAL review):**
  - ⇒ This resulted in changes to both the Tractor and Cable Operations sections of the rules, so keep in mind that in 2021 you may need to adjust rule reference boilerplate in your plans or plans you are reviewing even if Tethered Operations are not proposed.
  - ⇒ The major effect of this rule package is that Tethered Operations may be utilized under Emergency Notices starting January 1, 2021 (pending approval by OAL). After the fire season we have had this year, this is a welcome help for next year’s salvage operations.

### 6. Presentation: [California Forest Ecosystems Assessment and Planning Tool](#)

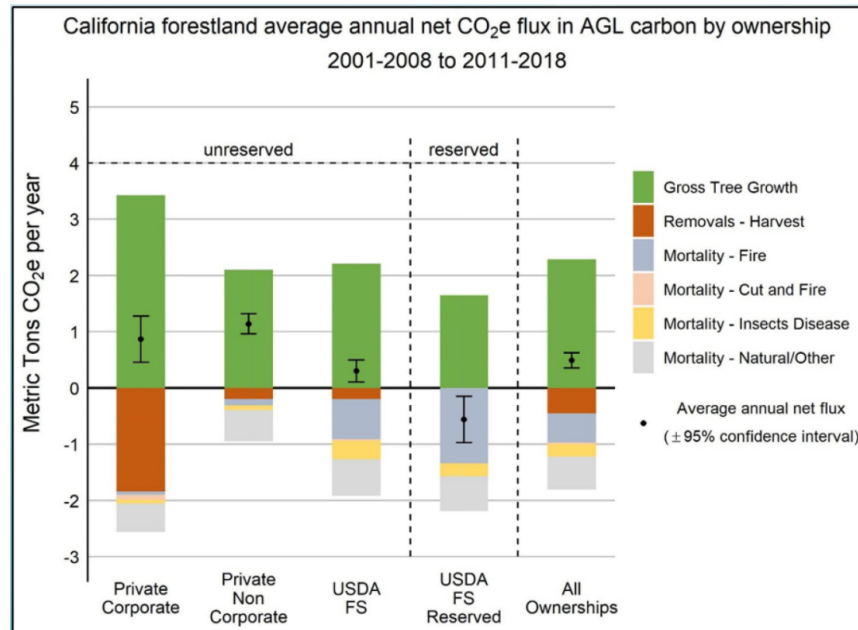
- The CA Natural Resources Agency is working on a forest management monitoring tool which has a goal of complete “spatially explicit quantification of natural resource assets” to “develop scenarios of priority management locations that integrate established priorities (local, state, federal), to inform future policy making and investment decisions on management and restoration.”
- This is an item that CLFA will continue to monitor over time

### 7. Executive Summary: Forest Carbon and Harvested Wood Products Carbon Accounting Update 2018 [Report and Presentation](#)

- Very interesting report and data
- CA Forests are still sequestering carbon and exceeding State goals for sequestration, but at lower rates than found in the previous FIA measurement period. This is due to increasing tree mortality and lower growth rates per tree.
- Reserved USFS lands (wilderness areas and other areas which are not available for management by designation) have experienced carbon losses which exceed growth due to tree mortality
- Private lands on the North Coast are showing net gains in standing live carbon stocks
- Sierra Cascades has both high levels of growth and mortality, and also represent the highest proportion of the State’s forest carbon stocks overall.
- The Southern Coastal Mountains and Deserts region continues to be the only region where tree mortality is exceeding tree growth
- Southern Forest District is showing net loss or near zero flux on National Forest Lands
- Mendocino and Humboldt counties have the highest net carbon sequestration rates for all forest pools by County
- Notable counties estimated in 2018 to have a net loss of forest carbon based on all pools are Monterey, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Tuolumne.



## Forest Practice Cont.



Nice work, foresters! This slide shows annual gains and losses in aboveground forest carbon stocks on a per acre-basis (the presenter accidentally omitted the label but confirmed it is per-acre in the presentation). Private Corporate lands show the highest gross tree growth and not surprisingly, the largest amount of carbon sequestered in wood products (“Removals – Harvest”). The Private Non-Corporate growth and harvest are similar to that of the USFS managed lands (“USDA FS”), though a difference between them is the lower mortality on Private Non-Corporate lands compared to the USDA FS. Both of these less-intensively managed ownership categories also show higher growth and lower mortality than the USDA FS Reserved lands. The Reserved lands do not receive management and are actually showing more mortality than growth overall. The Reserved lands also have the highest mortality from fire. It would be interesting to see these data normalized for site quality, as one might expect that not all of these differences can be attributed to management alone but also varying proportions of site qualities within these ownership categories. For example, it is likely that Private Corporate ownerships are made up of a higher proportion of high site acres than the Forest Service Reserve lands, which are made up of many high elevation, granite wilderness areas.



## Legislation Committee Report

At the end of September, the deadline for Governor Newsome to sign bills passed. The governor signed a number of bills, mostly related to local emergency preparedness and insurance claims. The following bills may be of some note to our membership.

The governor signed AB 3074, which affects landowners in very high fire risk areas by establishing a 5 foot non-combustible zone as part of PRC§4291 regulations concerning 100 foot home defensible space. The bill also increases the intensity to which management between 5 and 30 feet from the home should be required. A violation of these requirements will be a crime, which will require additional local programs to enforce. The governor noted in his signing letter that this costly unfunded mandate that will detract from other fire prevention and mitigation funding, he stated that the mandate was worth funding, and he urged the legislature to amend this provision next year to ensure the statute doesn't create new significant costs.

AB 3012 and SB 872 were signed. Both dealt with expanding consumer protections related to wildfire insurance. The Governor asked the insurance commissioner to start discussions with the legislature, insurers, and consumer groups, to address the pressure that mounting wildfire losses place on the ability to offer insurance products, and the question of how to pay for those risks.

The governor vetoed AB 3164, which would have required Cal Fire to create a fire risk model that was accurate to the scale of individual parcels, citing that the results would be too granular, take up considerable resources to implement, and that the bill as drafted did not provide adequate flexibility for Cal Fire to determine the extent of the model.

SB 182 was a bill meant to improve standards and increase regulations around local planning and high severity fire areas. The bill would have required significant effort be put into county and local government emergency planning, and would have prohibited new residential permits in high hazard areas unless done in accordance with specific wildfire risk reduction standards. The bill does not appear to have been signed by the Governor, which would amount to a pocket veto.



## Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

### WATER QUALITY

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

The Board last met on August 20th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board\\_info/board\\_meetings/08\\_2020/pdf/August%202020,%202020%20Agenda\\_200813.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/08_2020/pdf/August%202020,%202020%20Agenda_200813.pdf)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 15 & 16th in Santa Rosa; the agenda is not yet available:

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

The Board last met on August 13 & 14th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_info/meetings/2020/2008aq.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/2020/2008aq.pdf)

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15 & 16th in Redding; the agenda is not yet available.

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

The Board last met August 10 and 25th in a closed session via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agendas:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board\\_info/agenda/2020/aug/081020\\_agenda.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/aug/081020_agenda.pdf)

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board\\_info/agenda/2020/august\\_2020\\_agenda\\_announcement.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/august_2020_agenda_announcement.pdf)

The next scheduled meetings are on September 1st, 8th, 15th, 16th, 22th, and 29th in closed sessions via teleconference. Agendas: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board\\_info/agenda/2020\\_schedule.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020_schedule.html)

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

The Board last met on July 16th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2020/jul/index.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/jul/index.html)

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10-11 Location and format to be determined; the agenda is not yet available.

*The USFWS announced on August 31st the Coastal DPS of the Pacific Marten warrants listing under the ESA. The DPS is likely entirely comprised of the Humboldt Marten (*Martes caurina humboldtensis*) Subspecies which is listed as Endangered under CESA. The Pacific Marten listing was deemed appropriate due to habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of historic timber harvesting practices and catastrophic wildfires in the region. The Federal Register document for this species is unavailable as of the publication of the newsletter.*



## Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

### WILDLIFE

**The Fish and Game Commission:** <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2020/index.aspx>

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met on August 19 and 20th via Teleconference. The Commission discussed the potential act of listing the Western Joshua Tree (*Yucca Brevifolia*) as endangered or threatened under CESA. Minutes are not yet available. Agenda of meeting: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=181827&inline>

The next FGC meeting is scheduled for September 17th via teleconference. The agenda is not yet available:

### US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Coastal DPS of Pacific Marten(*Martes caurina*)-** *The USFWS announced on August 31st the Coastal DPS of the Pacific Marten warrants listing under the ESA. The DPS is likely entirely comprised of the Humboldt Marten(*Martes caurina humboldtensis*) Subspecies which is listed as Endangered under CESA. The Pacific Marten listing was deemed appropriate due to habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of historic timber harvesting practices and catastrophic wildfires in the region. The Federal Register document for this species is unavailable as of the publication of the newsletter.*

### Botany

**California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection-** The Board last met August 7th. A discussion of Amendments to the Staff Report on Botanical Resource and the Timber Harvest Process occurred. Minutes are not yet available. Agenda: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The Next BOF meeting is scheduled for September 22-24th location and format to be decided. The agenda is not yet available.



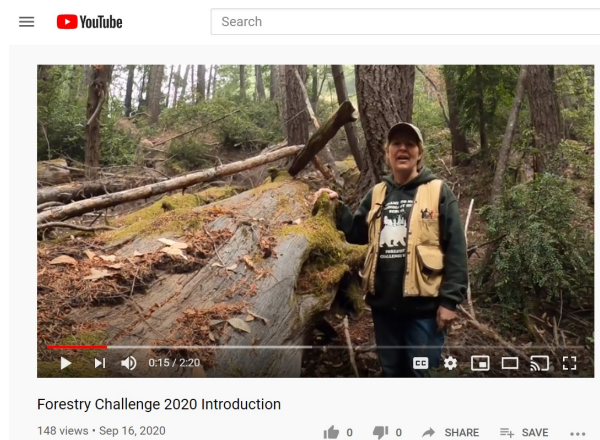


## Forestry Challenge Update

Diane Dealey Neill

Planning for the 2020 Virtual Forestry Challenge is in the final stages. We are pleased to report that the sessions are nearly at capacity, with 95 teams from 27 schools now registered for five sessions that have a capacity of 100 teams.

My staff and I have visited Usal Forest twice, the site of the focus topic, and plan to return one more time to shoot some final video. To preview Usal Forest and the focus topic, we created a short video during our first visit. Click on the image below to play:



During our second visit we looked at units where foresters from Jim Able Forestry are collecting data we will present to the students for analysis. Our GoPro cameras and drone footage should give students good visuals of the conditions of the stands they will analyze.

Study materials will be made available to students four weeks before their session begins. The first event opens on October 31, so our t-shirt color this year will be a rusty orange, which we thought was fitting considering the Halloween opening date and the general mood of 2020. If you'd like a t-shirt and/or want to join us as a (virtual) volunteer, please fill out a [volunteer form](#). (Right click on your mouse and scroll down to open hyper link for both the photo and volunteer form.)

Thank you to the many CLFA members who have signed up to be Ask a Foresters and presentation judges. Both in-person and virtual, we genuinely appreciate your support!



## 2020 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ October 20, 2020—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ November 21, 2020—TBD
- ◆ December—Dark
- ◆ January 23, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams, CA
- ◆ February 23, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ March 4, 2021—11:00 am—4:00 pm—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ April 20, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 21, 2021—6:00 pm—CLFA Audit
- ◆ May 22, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams, CA

### CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

- ◆ October 26-30, 2020—Initial 5-day Archaeology Class—Gaia, Anderson – ***Class is Full***
- ◆ November 11 & 12, 2020 Archaeology Refreshers—Gaia, Anderson—**these are the only refresher classes that will be offered in 2020—space is still available.**
- ◆ November 2020—two field days—date and location TBD
- ◆ March 5 & 6, 2021—Spring Workshop, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA

### 2021

- ◆ **Registrations are being accepted for the fall 2021 5-day archaeology class—spring class is full. The next fall class is 1/2 full as of today. If interested email Kathleen Burr @ admin@clfa.org - 2021 dates have not been selected for these two classes or the refreshers.**

### ***2020/2021 CLFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

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