



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

September 2021 - Newsletter

President's Message

Jason Wells, CLFA President

Before I start, I just want to say that my heart goes out to those who are affected by fires happening around the state right now. Dealing with the immediate confusion and terror of evacuations, constant worry about the progression of fires, and the loss of lives and property is an awful and traumatic experience. Post-fire cleanup and restoration, especially when the loss of communities is involved, is heartbreaking and is emotionally and mentally taxing; for many of us this is not our first go-around, and that trauma doesn't get easier the more times you do it. Many of you are on the fires right now, or will be following up in the coming weeks, and I hope you all are staying safe out there.

I had a conversation with a colleague the other day, and I asked him how he was doing. He was honest, and he told me he wasn't doing well. He was concerned about the Caldor Fire, and the Dixie Fire, he was concerned about the forests he had worked in, and he was concerned for his friends and colleagues who had spent their careers trying to sustainably manage the forests there for longer term single-tree rotations which were undoubtedly in jeopardy of being on an unplanned re-start. I appreciated how honest he was. I think it's important to share what we are really thinking from time to time, especially when we are all sharing similar thoughts and difficulties. The world isn't always as rose-colored as smoke filled sunsets. I spoke with another forester who lamented that he would never write another green tree harvest plan again in his career, he just wasn't sure how to process any of this, or even what it meant to be a forester in California these days. He was thinking of quitting altogether and moving out of state. I get it. It's hard to be a forester today. It's tough when you only have hard answers for landowners who are just trying to do the right thing, and it's tougher when the consequences of our current predicament can end up being the loss of whole communities.

These days it's easy to fall into a state of despair, and often times our initial reaction to overwhelming problems is to shut down. My message for you today is to let you know that there are many others in our small community of foresters who feel overwhelmed, overworked, and aren't sure how we can possibly make headway tackling this wildfire crisis; given bureaucracy, infrastructure constraints, a dwindling workforce, and climate change. The only thing I am certain of is that the path forward will not be simple, and solutions will not be one-size-fits-all. It's going to take a series of individual efforts to improve community-level conditions. If you are reading this, I believe the answer lies with you, but it's important to remember it took well over 100 years of bad policy and poor land management practices to put us in this situation, and it's going to take a while to course correct. Don't beat yourself up if the changes you hope to see aren't immediately apparent. Start locally, be persistent, and help to educate and mobilize those around you who aren't familiar with where to start. Support or start your neighborhood [COPE](#) group, help plan a local [CWPP](#), participate in your local [Prescribed Burn Association](#), and advocate all the way for responsible forest management that promotes forest and community resilience to wildfire.



It's been a long time comin',
It's been a long time gone.
But you know, the darkest hour,
Is always just before the dawn.
And it appears to be a long time,
Such a long time before the dawn.

*David Crosby
"Long Time Gone"*



Forest Practice—BOF

Katherine Benedict—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) met last on July 13-14, 2021 via webinar. The next Board meeting is currently scheduled for September 21-22, 2021 and will be held via webinar. August was a dark month for the BOF, and therefore no meeting was held in August.

The materials for the September 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 following is a summary of the items of greatest interest to the RPF community to likely be on the September agenda:

- Forest Practice Committee: The [draft of the Botanical Guidance Memo](#) and changes associated with written comments received. Comments were due by August 13th; **CLFA provided a comment letter, which is attached here for membership to read.**

Management Committee: The definition of Crop of Trees as it pertains to PRC § 4291, and the definitions of ‘Meadows’ and ‘Wet Areas’.



Legislation Jason Wells

New language in the Resources Budget trailer bill (SB 155) that will be amended on 9/7/21 continuously appropriates, beginning in the 2022–23 fiscal year through 2028–29 fiscal year, the sum of \$200,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to CalFire in each fiscal year for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects that improve forest health and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases caused by uncontrolled wildfires and for the completion of prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendations of the California Forest Carbon Plan.

Wildfire Prevention and Resilience Package. Appropriates \$988 million (\$758 million General Fund and \$230 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)) in 2021-22:

- a. \$541 million for Resilient Forests and Landscapes, including:
 - i. \$159 million to CalFire for forest health.
 - ii. **\$40 million to CalFire for the California Forest Improvement Program** (for small landowners).
 - iii. \$10 million to CalFire for the California Forest Legacy Program.
 - iv. \$9 million to CalFire for the restoration nursery.
 - v. \$20 million to CalFire for urban forestry.
 - vi. \$19 million to CalFire for tribal engagement.
 - vii. \$105 million to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) for stewardship of state-owned lands.
 - viii. \$40 million to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for stewardship of state-owned lands.
 - ix. For wildfire prevention and resilience purposes on state conservancy lands
- b. \$282 million for wildfire fuel breaks, including:
 - i. \$40 million to CalFire for unit fire prevention projects.
 - ii. \$120 million to CalFire for fire prevention grants.

In other news, SB 332(Dodd) Prescribed Burn Liability, passed the legislature and has been sent on to the governor for signing. This bill creates liability protections from the state for the costs of fire suppression on fires originating from prescribed burns utilizing burn plans approved by burn bosses who are trained through the recently adopted Cal Burn Boss program. The bill was supported by CLFA.

SB 709 was enrolled by the legislature on September 3rd. An urgency clause was added to allow for it to go into immediate effect on signature by the Governor. This bill would allow for a timber harvesting plan that is approved by the department from January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2015, inclusive, to be extended for an additional 2 years if certain conditions are met.



Water/Wildlife/Botany

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

State Water Resource Control Board

Drought Information and Updates

In response to Gov. Newsom's [Drought Emergency](#) declaration for 41 counties 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.

[Emergency Regulation](#) for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed was approved by the Office of Administrative Law(8/19). The following day the Water Board [announced curtailment orders](#) to 4500 right holders.

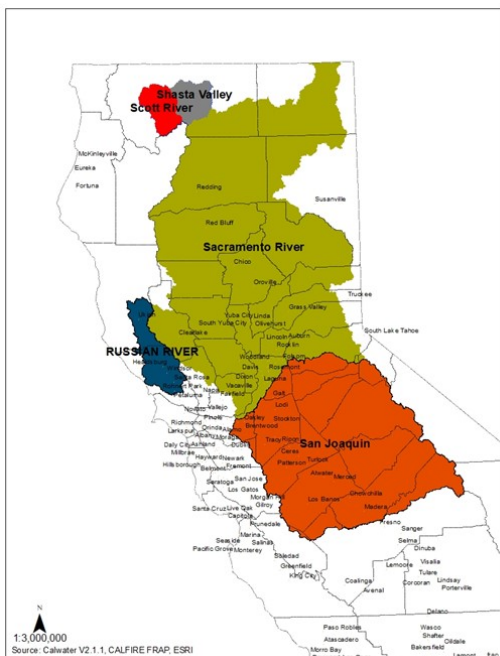
Exemptions under the minimum human health and safety needs includes:

- Item(3) *Water supplies necessary to prevent tree die-off that would contribute to fire risk to residences, and for maintenance of ponds or other water sources for fire fighting, in addition to water supplies identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or another appropriate authority as regionally necessary for fire preparedness.*
- *Item (4) Water supplies identified by the California Air Resources Board, a local air quality management district, or other appropriate public agency with air quality expertise, as necessary to address critical air quality impacts to protect public health.*

State Water Boards approved [Emergency Regulation](#) for Scott and Shasta Rivers.

Exemptions under § 875.2 include :

- Item (3) *Water supplies necessary to prevent tree die-off that would contribute to fire risk to residences, and for maintenance of ponds or other water sources for fire fighting, in addition to water supplies identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or another appropriate authority as regionally necessary for fire preparedness or post-fire recovery and reforestation efforts. - CLFA sent a letter of support for this provision.*
- Item (4) *Water supplies identified by the California Air Resources Board, a local air quality management district, or other appropriate public agency with air quality expertise, as necessary to address critical air quality impacts to protect public health.*





Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

The Board last met on August 17th Via Teleconference. The Division of Water Rights presented a proposed Resolution to adopt an Emergency Regulation that provides curtailment authority in the Klamath River Watershed and establishes minimum instream flow requirements and information order authority in the Scott River and Shasta River Watersheds. [Agenda](#)

Region 1-North Coast

The Board last met on June 17th via teleconference. A presentation by NOAA Fisheries Scientists was made on the Central California Coast Coho Salmon and watershed restoration activities. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for October 7th via teleconference. No agenda is available.

Region 2- San Francisco Bay

The Board last met on July 14th via teleconference. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th via teleconference. No agenda is available at this time.

Region 3-Central Coast

The Board last met on August 13th 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 October 14th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 5-Central Valley

The Board last met on August 13th via teleconference for the Strategic Planning Workshop. Minutes are not yet available, but the agenda is. [Agenda](#). The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

Region 6-Lahontan

The Board last met on June 16th 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 September 15th Via teleconference; the agenda is not yet available.

WILDLIFE

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

[CDFW And NOAA Fisheries Revive Voluntary Drought Initiative To Protect Salmon, Steelhead And Sturgeon](#)

California Fish and Game Commission

The Commission last met on August 18th via teleconference. The Commission voted to extend special regulations to Chinook salmon in anadromous waters of the Klamath River Basin downstream of Iron Gate and Lewiston dams. [Agenda](#).

Petitions to list the following species were received:

[Southern California Steelhead](#) - Range extends from south of San Luis Obispo to the Mexican Border.

Lime Ridge [eriastrum](#) - A flower endemic to an area south of Concord in Contra Costa County.



Water/Wildlife/Botany cont.

California Endangered Species Act Changes:

- **Clara Hunt's Milk Vetch: Uplisting to Endangered Ratified**
- **Northern California Summer Steelhead: Ratification deferred until future meeting**
- **Upper Klamath-Trinity River Spring Chinook: Ratification deferred until future meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 13th in Sacramento; the agenda is not yet available.

US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Franklin Bumble Bee has been listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The Bee has not been seen in years and is found at elevations between 540 feet to more than 7,800 feet, located in a roughly 13,000-square-mile area in southwest Oregon and northern California in the Klamath Mountain Region. The petition for listing was originally submitted in 2010. Reasons for listing include disease, small population size, and impacts from pesticides. This rule goes into effect September 23, 2021. [Federal Register](#).



Forestry Challenge

Diane Dealey Neill

Fall Event Planning: We are moving forward with our full schedule of four fall events. The El Dorado event cannot happen at its normal location due to fire damage at Leoni Meadows, but we have located a new facility near Foresthill that will work just fine. School participation is being impacted by the lack of certainty about whether schools can attend due to their district's COVID restrictions. We are offering one day participation, a daily commute option, and tent camping to enable participation. Many districts won't be making a final decision until just before the event, so it's going to be a rough ride.

Volunteer at the Forestry Challenge: We are still in need of volunteers at all events. Even if there's a chance you will have to cancel at the last minute due to a fire or other emergency, we encourage you to sign up. Be advised that our COVID policy will require all volunteers to arrive with a negative test taken within 72 hours of departure for the event and masking indoors. To sign up and view our full COVID policy, go to the [volunteer sign up form](#) on the website.

Scholarship Awards: We are pleased to announce three Forestry Challenge alums who are winners of the both the Redwood Empire and Los Angeles Hardwood Lumberman's Club Scholarships. Maddie Washburn is a junior at Oregon State, Autumn Pecarovich is a sophomore at Humboldt State, and Nishita Dashpute is a freshman at UC Berkeley. We congratulate these outstanding students and wish them the best of luck as they pursue their forestry studies.

Good News, Bad News Department: On a personal note, I completed a 225 mile trek on the John Muir Trail this summer, starting at Horseshoe Meadows south of Mt. Whitney and finishing at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley. A [video journal](#) of my adventure is on my YouTube page. In the bad news category, the Caldor Fire destroyed my cabin near Echo Summit. Many of you have heard about my "favorite place on Earth", and the loss of most or all of the trees is as difficult as the loss of the structure.





2021 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

2021

- ◆ September 21, 2021—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ October 19, 2021—6:00 pm to 8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ November 19, 2021—11:00 am to 4:00 pm—Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ **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

- ◆ October 4-8, 2021—5-day Archaeology Class, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson—Class is full!
- ◆ November 10 & 11, 2021—Archaeology Refresher Classes, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson
- ◆ November 20, 2021—Fall Conference, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

2022

- ◆ March 4 & 5, 2022—Spring Conference, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson

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