

I. INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is responsible for the protection of resources over a vast portion of the state. Among the most fragile and vulnerable types of resources is cultural heritage resources. These consist of places where events occurred in the past and where material traces of these events can be found including archaeological and historical sites, structures, objects, and artifacts. Unlike renewable resources such as timber or wildlife, heritage resources are irreplaceable, and when damaged or destroyed, are lost forever. Agencies of the State of California have been directed to preserve and protect the heritage resources under their jurisdiction for the benefit and inspiration of the people of California. For CDF, the implementation of this directive is the responsibility of the Department's Archaeology Program.

The CDF Archaeology Program is just one small component of the Department, but one that has played an increasingly important role in CDF operations over the years. In 2005, CDF will be observing its 100-year anniversary as a state government agency. This event serves as an appropriate occasion to review and reflect on the accomplishments that have been achieved. The history of the inception and development of the CDF Archaeology Program and its impact on the larger organization is the subject of this study.

A variety of factors have motivated the preparation of this account. The history of this program is an interesting story that deserves to be recounted. Included in this study are many events that have been important in shaping public policy towards the preservation of heritage resources. Another consideration in the preparation of this history is simply the loss of the information. CDF has no systematic procedures for the preservation of internal historic documents related to the history of the program. If the events described here are not formally recorded in some way, this information might well be lost and forgotten. State government agencies formerly purged their files after twenty years, making them an unreliable repository of historic documents (Hata 1992). This study represents an attempt to preserve this information for those segments of California's public that may wish review the events that led to the creation of this program and the highlights of its record.

The purpose of the CDF Archaeology Program is to identify and manage archaeological, historical, and other cultural resources located within project areas under CDF jurisdiction, and to develop methods to protect these resources from project-related impacts. This is accomplished through assistance to landowners, implementation of regulations and policies requiring archaeological surveys of project areas, evaluation of potential impacts, and the implementation of protection measures. The program provides cultural resource surveys, technical assistance, project review, and archaeological training to CDF staff, Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs), and other resource professionals working in the private sector. One component of this study is to describe the policies and procedures employed by CDF to protect cultural resources and the events that brought them into existence.

In any discipline such as archaeology or forestry, a complex system of terminology or jargon has developed that can often be confusing to the outsider. What do all these terms and acronyms mean? What is the difference between archaeological, historical, cultural, or heritage resources?

Should they be considered "resources" or "properties"? In the various legislative and regulatory documents that relate to this study, these terms are often used inconsistently, or at best, interchangeably. Within this study the terms are used as they are found within the particular context that is being discussed. For example, the Forest Practice Rules use "archaeological and historical resources," so that term is adhered to in discussions of those regulations. The title of the "CDF Archaeology Program" has been retained over the years even though the activities of the program extend to include a range of cultural resources that would not be traditionally considered part of "archaeology." In addition to these considerations, it also seems as though we have lost our ability to communicate without a hefty quota of abbreviations and acronyms. While these can serve as helpful shortcuts for the writer, they can be meaningless to the uninitiated reader. For anyone who happens to be perplexed, a Table of Abbreviations and Acronyms has been included in this study.

The following presentation includes an overview of events leading up to the establishment of the CDF Archaeology Program including a brief history of CDF, federal legislation for the protection of cultural resources, and early state involvement in archaeology. The development of the environmental and cultural resource protection laws and regulations that mandate this program are briefly described. The early history of the CDF Archaeology Program is recounted with emphasis on important events and controversial issues that were encountered. Subsequent chapters discuss the various components of the program including the archaeological training provided, survey procedures employed, the project review process, recipients of the Golden Trowel Award, protection of cultural resources during fire suppression, and public outreach efforts. Partnerships with other agencies and organizations are discussed such as the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), federal agencies, and Native American consultation efforts. The major accomplishments of the program are summarized including publications, a comprehensive management plan for historic buildings and archaeological sites under the administration or control of CDF, the inventory of CDF properties, major excavations, and the documentation of private artifact collections. Individuals that have contributed to the success of this program are mentioned including the archaeology staff, contract personnel who provide archaeological services, and volunteers. This study closes with a selection of contributions by individuals who have made significant contributions to the CDF Archaeology Program presented in their own Voices.