



Tree Mortality Task Force Monthly Update August 31, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- TMTF Leadership will host two regional workshops for County staff and local tree mortality task force participants focused on the collective tree mortality response experience. Through presentations and roundtable discussions, lessons learned will be shared on the topics of funding, tree removal projects, public outreach, market development, homeowner's insurance, reforestation, etc. Save the dates: October 19 in Clovis and October 20 in Lone.
- Carly Gibson, co-chair for the Mapping and Monitoring Working Group will no longer serve on the TMTF. She has been assigned to zoned district resource staff detail on the Stanislaus National Forest.

UPCOMING MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, September 11 from 1:00-3:00 P.M. Jodi Axelson, PhD, UC Cooperative Extension Specialist, will summarize her research on forest stand dynamics post beetle outbreak. Look for the meeting announcement and agenda to be posted Friday, September 8 on the TMTF website.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health and Resilience

(Pete Cafferata/ Stewart McMorrow)

- Work continues to finalize the Seed Zones and Reforestation Story Map. There are 15 slides with 4 map images. Main topics include drought information, the bark beetle epidemic/increased fire risk, TMTF information, seed zone information, and reforestation, and resources available to landowners. FHRWG participants provided input and final changes are being made by Emily Merriam and Heather Williams.
- Work has begun on a draft reforestation strategy outline that can be used by the California Climate Hub for generating a prospectus for hiring a postdoctoral researcher to lead the effort. This outline was developed by Dr. Steve Ostoja, Stewart, and others following the California Drought and Tree Mortality Symposium held on July 25th at McClellan. The FHRWG provided input, and further revisions were made to the outline on August 24.

Main topics covered in the draft reforestation outline are: (1) an overview of expected future conditions, (2) conceptual approaches/management principles, (3) general strategies to achieve desired outcomes, and (4) specific approaches and actions to undertake. The project will cover both reforestation and vegetation management concepts for future climatic conditions, and will complement the revised California Reforestation Manual that is largely completed. The goal is to use the FHRWG as an oversight committee for the project. Currently the vision is to include all



landowners for the project's audience. The updated version of the outline will be discussed at the September meeting with a goal of finalizing the outline.

- A draft white paper synthesis on the long-term outlook for the Sierra Nevada has been produced by the FHRWG utilizing information sources collected over the past several months. The draft will be circulated prior to the next FHRWG meeting in September.
- The Sierra Forest Science Coordination Group (SFSCG), a FHRWG sub-working group, is continuing to work on documenting ongoing research and monitoring projects in the high hazard counties. The contact list to query for information on existing studies related to tree mortality has been expanded to 64 people. Group members have developed an editable web map for capturing the data that can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet table from an ArcGIS web map. Beta testing is underway prior to distribution to the contact list.
- The working group was briefed on the recent California Drought and Tree Mortality Symposium. Steve Ostoja of the California Climate Hub stated that approximately 170 people attended the symposium on July 25 at McClellan. Eighty pages of notes have been produced, and approximately 100 ideas for next steps were recorded during the second day of the symposium. An AGU abstract is being generated, as are short Fact Sheets and a General Technical Report (GTR). The PowerPoint presentations from the symposium are posted at: <https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/content/california-drought-and-tree-mortality-symposium>

Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Jamie Sammut)

- The Insurance Subgroup will continue working with the FAIR Plan, CAL FIRE and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety to discuss the development of standardized insurance risk guidelines that could lead to a tiered evaluation approach for wildfire risk. The group is also working on an "aggregator" tool designed for those seeking insurance. Homeowners can use the tool by inputting their data for review by all interested carriers (admitted and non-admitted) to solicit quotes. This may help homeowners by ameliorating the short-term pain for those now forced to undertake the daunting task of finding a new insurance provider.
- The RWG completed a final review of the Guidelines for Tree Removal in High Hazard Zones. The guidelines are posted on the TMTF website <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/Final%20Tree%20Removal%20Guidelines%208-31-17.pdf>.

Mapping and Monitoring

(Mark Rosenberg)

- MMWG staff continue to update tree mortality project information monthly, based on information submitted by cooperating agencies.
- The MMWG continues to provide support to FRWG and POWG in developing a web-based Story Map application and are also putting the Temporary Wood Storage and Processing sites data on the TMTF web map viewer.



Utilization – Bioenergy

(Angie Lottes)

- BioMAT Interconnection policy track (Order 10): Two members of the Bioenergy Working Group submitted to the CPUC analysis of Rule 21 and the CAISO tariff that affects the cost of interconnection upgrades to BioMAT developers. The CPUC has not made a decision about how to interpret the two policies.
- BioMAT Interconnection policy track (Order 10): The CPUC released a Proposed Decision to partially implement AB 1923 (Wood, 2016). The change allows forest BioMAT projects to have up to a 5 MW nameplate capacity as long as only 3 MW are exported to the grid. The other half of the bill, which allows existing transmission-level interconnections to be used in delivering power purchased through the BioMAT tariff, also needs to be implemented by the CPUC before at least 3 additional projects totaling 15 MW will be able to enter in the BioMAT program queue. There are no time estimates for this work to be completed.
- BioRAM fuel availability (Orders 9 and 13): Several BioRAM facilities have expressed concern about securing enough HHZ material to meet minimum consumption requirements included in BioRAM contracts with Investor Owned Utilities. Three acute issues have been identified that may immediately move more material to the facilities, and some long-term solutions have also been proposed. The Bioenergy Working Group is documenting these and collecting information to support the need for changes.
- Little Hoover Commission held a 2-hour discussion-based Forest Management Advisory Meeting and Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 23. Discussion focused on the way that bioenergy works, its place in supporting forest health and air quality goals, problems with ensuring fuel supply for power plants, and the need to value benefits of forest bioenergy beyond renewable energy credits.

Utilization – Market Development

(Evan Johnson/Bob Kingman)

- The Market Development Working Group hosted the first in a series of conference calls with county representatives to determine how the group can best support local efforts to utilize tree mortality woody biomass. Representatives from most of the counties in the TMTF affected area participated. The next conference call is scheduled for September 13. Information distilled from these calls will help focus efforts of the workgroup to more effectively serve local communities.

Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The POWG is continuing its efforts to develop messaging for urban residents, and is reviewing the latest version of talking points related to continued tree mortality despite the end to the drought.
- Work with the Forest Health and Resilience Working Group continues relating to outreach on reforestation and seed zones. The group anticipates sharing a draft of the Seed Zones and Reforestation Story Map at the September Task Force meeting.



Resource Allocation

(John Melvin)

- The RAWG reviewed the list of potential funding sources that was drafted in June and brainstormed ways to better organize it for ease of use. Working group members responded that this 13-page list of potential grant sources is extremely useful, but could be more so if application due dates, eligible entities, and keywords are added.
- The Working Group reviewed the allocation of the portable tree mortality equipment and discussed how that equipment is being used. There is the potential to loan equipment to other entities when not in use by CAL FIRE. If so desired, the requesting entity should engage the CAL FIRE unit representative at local tree mortality meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne, Nevada, Siskiyou.
- **County Tree Mortality Task Forces:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne.

EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION AND TRAINING

CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Equipment Allocation:											
County Name (CAL FIRE Unit)	Delivered	Kern (KRN)	Tulare (TUU)	Fresno (FKU)	Madera (MMU)	Mariposa (MMU)	Tuolumne (TCU)	Calaveras (TCU)	Amador (AEU)	El Dorado (AEU)	Placer (NEU)
Burner Modules:											
Air Curtain Incinerators	10		2	3	2	1		2			
1 Track Loader	6		1	1	1			1		1	1
1 Wheel Loader	4		1	1	1			1			
Single Resources:											
Masticator	2			1	1						
Track Chipper	12	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tow Chipper	6		1	1		1	1	1	1		
Sawmill	4		1	1	1			1			

TREE MORTALITY RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for Stakeholders www.treetaskforce.org

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org

California's Tree Mortality Viewer

egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/

United States Forest Service-California Tree Mortality Information

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality>