



Tree Mortality Task Force Monthly Update June 30, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- TMTF leadership have initiated a “pulse check” on the TMTF process to ensure its structure, function, and objectives continue to be relevant and valuable and to continue a high level of stakeholder engagement. A set of questions was sent to the County representatives and the TMTF Working Group leaders to get a sense of how priorities might be changing within the counties and working groups and how the Task Force can best respond to support these entities. Those who have yet to submitted responses are encouraged to do so by email to CALFIRETreeTaskForce@fire.ca.gov.
- The Resource Allocation Working Group has posted a draft list of grants for projects related to tree mortality including reforestation, forest and watershed health, disaster relief, aid to seniors, community impacts, fire prevention, etc.:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFResources/AvailableGrants6.26.2017.xlsb.pdf>
- The Mapping and Monitoring Working Group has posted the process for local designation of Tier 2 High Hazard Zones. These designations use local evaluation of watershed conditions based on established criteria and requires approval of the Local CAL FIRE Unit Chief and USFS Forest Supervisor.
http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/Tier2HHZ_CommsPlan_20170626v1.pdf

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- 102,000,000 dead trees since 2010

UPCOMING MEETINGS and WORKSHOPS

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, July 10 from 1:00-3:00 P.M. Look for the meeting announcement and agenda to be posted Friday, July 7 on the TMTF website. If TMTF members have not already reactivated their webinar account, it can be done here:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6818673419564165123>.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee Grant Workshops continue to be held through July 19. CALFIRE is offering these free workshops to answer questions about the grant process, invoicing, CEQA and other aspects of the SRA Fire prevention fee grants:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/2017%20SRA%20Workshop.pdf>



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- July 19-20, Black Oak Casino, Tuolumne: 2017 Weed Committee Annual Tour combined with the Insect & Disease Committee
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/Weed%20Tour%20Registration%20Flyer%202017.pdf>
 - July 25, Sacramento: Science and Management Symposium sponsored by USDA-Climate Hub, USFS, SNC, and CAL FIRE – “Lessons learned from extreme drought and tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada” http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/Save-the-Date_Drought%20Workshop_FINAL_20170606_v2.pdf

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health and Resilience

(Pete Cafferata/ Stewart McMorrow)

- While minor changes were proposed to the TMTF co-leaders for the FHRWG white paper titled “Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration,” the decision was made to keep the April 5th version as the final document.
http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/TMTF_Comprehensive_Sierra_Ecological_Restoration_FINAL_4-5-17.pdf
- The tree mortality seed zone map has been modified to reflect the changes requested by CAL FIRE Executive staff, and resubmitted for their review. This map is being used as part of the Reforestation Story Map being produced by Heather Williams, CAL FIRE Communications, and Emily Meriam, CAL FIRE-FRAP. A draft of this product was shown at the June FHRWG meeting; the goal is to finish it for the July TMTF meeting.
- Preliminary work on the new FHRWG white paper addressing the long-term outlook for the Sierra Nevada continues. Dr. Jodi Axelson’s PowerPoint presentation on stand dynamics and regeneration after disturbance and the 10 papers cited in the presentation are now posted on the TMTF website. CAL FIRE FRAP staff have been assigned to the project and will begin researching selected topics listed in the paper outline. Also, presentations from the July 25th drought and mortality science and management symposium at McClellan are expected to be helpful for producing this white paper. The goal is to have a draft completed by the end of August 2017.
- The Sierra Forest Science Coordination sub-working group had its second conference call on June 26th. This group has been formed to (1) identify existing interests/needs for science and management information related to tree mortality, (2) identify ongoing research and monitoring projects that address these interests, and (3) determine where gaps exist, funneling existing funding to appropriate projects. The list of people to contact to document existing studies related to tree mortality was finalized, as was the spreadsheet questionnaire to be sent to these researchers to enter detailed information about their existing projects.
- Work continues on the FHRWG reforestation effort for non-federal forestlands in California impacted by beetle mortality and fire. Stewart McMorrow met with Dr. Steve Ostoja, Director,



USDA California Climate Hub, on May 23rd to further develop the reforestation strategy. The California Climate Hub staff is generating a prospectus for hiring a postdoctoral researcher to lead the effort, cost and timing estimates, and a proposed strategy outline. The prospectus is expected to be available by July. Funding is anticipated to come from funds in the LA Moran Reforestation Center budget.

Mapping and Monitoring

(Mark Rosenberg/Carly Gibson)

- USDA Forest Service completed a preliminary lower elevation Aerial Detection Survey of the 10 Sierra Nevada priority counties earlier this month. USFS is currently processing resulting data. MMWG will update HHZ maps after the data have been released.
- The process for local designation of Tier 2 HHZ was completed. The directions, application, and all supporting documents are posted to the TMTF website under the Mapping and Monitoring Working Group: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/workinggroups>.
- MMWG staff have validated the locations of temporary wood storage and processing sites established to support task force work and have created a map and contact sheet for these facilities that will soon be posted to the TMTF website.
- MMWG staff continue to update tree mortality project information to the secure and public viewers on a monthly basis.
- A number of products have been developed to support FRWG and the Public Outreach group on reforestation efforts. These include maps of tree seed zones that experienced mortality as well as a web based 'story map' application detailing the tree mortality problem and explaining the role of tree seed zones in the effort to restock forestlands.

Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Jamie Sammut)

- CAL FIRE is developing a pilot to model how fuel reduction around homes and communities (both defensible space and community fuel breaks) might affect fire behavior and ultimately help mitigate wildfire risk to structures. This pilot study will provide recommendations on how a wildfire risk model might include fuel treatments as variables in hazard rating for home insurance purposes.
- Bioenergy facilities, as electricity power plants, are regulated entities under Cap and Trade. The Air Resources Board collects fees from regulated entities based on the annual number of metric tons of GHG emitted. The implementing regulations for Cap and Trade provide for certain exemptions to this requirement, including for forest-derived waste harvested for forest fire fuel reduction or forest stand improvement projects. The regulation requires documentation be provided to verify that the forest-derived waste meets the exemption requirements. Bioenergy facilities want to know the verification requirements when the forest-derived waste is from High Hazard Zones. The CalEPA and ARB are researching the issue and will update the RWG next month.



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- The RWG will do a final review of the Guidelines for Tree Removal in High Hazard Zones. Once finalized the guidelines will be reposted to the TMTF website.

Utilization – Bioenergy

(Angie Lottes)

- BioMAT Interconnection (Order 10): PG&E system protection engineers have worked with three forest biomass BioMAT power plant projects to reduce estimated interconnection upgrade costs by millions of dollars in total. PG&E is working to memorialize these changes so that future category 3 projects will also benefit from the newly identified cost savings strategies.
- BioMAT Interconnection (Order 10): Following completion of the “technical track” of interconnection meeting work, we will be holding an interconnection policy meeting on Friday, July 14. The purpose of the meeting is to review ways to adapt the BioMAT program to enable a number of forest biomass projects to be responsible for lower interconnection upgrade costs.
- BioRAM (Order 9): Two facilities with BioRAM contracts from a different utility than previously contracted are working through an unexpected difference in interpretations and are not yet delivering power to the grid under the BioRAM contract, but are making progress and expect to resolve the minor issue.
- Publicly Owned Utility biomass contracts (Order 9): POUs are negotiating with a short list of existing biomass facilities to release a Letter of Intent to execute a contract for 29 MW of biomass power.

Utilization – Market Development

(Evan Johnson/Bob Kingman)

- The Working Group reviewed both the recommendations provided by the Beck Group and ideas floated by the Working Group’ members. From this they developed a set of draft actions which they then prioritized and identified partners for implementation.

Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The Public Outreach Working Group 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.
- With the Regulations-Insurance Subgroup, POWG is developing possible outreach strategies related to homeowner’s insurance cancelations and non-renewals due to tree mortality fire risk.

Resource Allocation

(Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- The Resource Allocation Working Group has posted a draft “database” of grants made by non-profit and corporate foundations and state/federal agencies with giving interests that match those related to the tree mortality. The list is quite extensive and over the next few weeks will be



edited to ensure relevancy and ease-of-use. Users should submit any additional sources of funding to CALFIREtreetaskforce@fire.ca.gov for inclusion into this database:
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFResources/AvailableGrants6.26.2017.xlsb.pdf>

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 Module A (2):											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	2	1					
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Wheel Loader	2			1	1						
Burner Module B (2):											
2 Fire Box (burners)	4		2					2			
1 Track Loader	2		1					1			
1 Wheel Loader	2		1					1			
Single Resources:											
Masticator (2)	2			1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	10	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		
Tow Chipper (6)	6		1	1		1	1	1	1		
Sawmill (5)	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>