TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE

In Response to the State of Emergency Proclamation

Incident Action Plan

2016

Updated December 14, 2015

TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE

The Tree Mortality Task Force is comprised of state and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and various stakeholders that will coordinate emergency protective actions, and monitor ongoing conditions to address the tree mortality resulting from four years of unprecedented drought and the resulting bark beetle infestations across large regions of the State.

Management Objectives:

- Provide for public health and safety of persons and property in identified high hazard zones.
- Ensure efforts associated with implementation of the directives contained in the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation remain coordinated.
- Ensure continuous communication among state, federal, and local governments, as well as with other non-governmental organizations assigned to the task force.
- Provide consistent and coordinated messaging between task force member agencies and the public.
- Manage projects and programs in a financially responsible and efficient manner.

TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE

Working Group Objectives:

- Identify existing efforts to mitigate tree mortality in high hazard zones.
- Identify an organizational structure and plan of action.
- Establish working groups, as appropriate, to address various aspects identified in the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Facilitate the information flow between state, federal, and local governments, utilities, and other non-governmental organizations on efforts towards meeting the items addressed in the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Ensure project activities and resources are coordinated.
- Identify potential funding sources.
- Coordinate with other state-level initiatives, such as the Forest Climate Action Team and Bioenergy Working Group.
- Identify and evaluate the availability of wood products markets, and determine whether expanded wood products markets can be developed.
- Develop and maintain a website for the dissemination of information.

TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	FOREST HEALTH AND RESILIENCE GROUP

GROUP LEADER(S)			
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Group Objectives

1. Evaluate resource impacts associated with the removal of trees.
2. Monitor forest health and resilience as a result of tree removal efforts.
3. Evaluate and monitor overall forest health.
4. Provide guidelines for how to achieve long-term forest health and resilience.
5. Work cooperatively with landowners and agencies to implement forest health and resilience guidelines at a landscape level across ownership boundaries.
6. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 2 and 19 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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Chris Anthony	December 14, 2015

TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	MAPPING & MONITORING GROUP

GROUP LEADER(S)

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TBD	NPS		
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Group Objectives

1. Identify areas of the state that represent high hazard zones for wildfire and falling trees associated with elevated tree mortality and a corresponding threat to public safety, community assets and related infrastructure.
2. Work with CAL FIRE Units, USFS, and other stakeholders to validate, refine and finalize high hazard zones at the local level.
3. Provide a web viewer and other GIS tools as needed to support tracking tree mortality and tree removal projects. Coordinate the tracking of treatment projects through CAL MAPPER for CAL FIRE and other data entry systems used by agency partners. Explore the use of web-based data entry tools for local entities.
4. Gather geospatial data from Caltrans and DGS where wood chips can by utilized as mulch at state facilities as well as on highway and road corridors.
5. Coordinate with the Regulations Group to map storage/utilization locations for woody biomass.
6. Address monitoring needs to update information on changes in the extent of tree mortality.
7. Provide maps and other needed updates at regular Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 1, 5 and 19 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	PRESCRIBED FIRE GROUP

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TBD	BLM		
TBD	NPS		

Group Objectives

1. Work with appropriate federal, state and local agencies, as well other stakeholders, to expand the practice of prescribed burns and increase the number of allowable burn days on a temporary basis to burn tree waste removed from high hazard zones.
2. Review pertinent federal and state law that regulates control burns and burn days to identify efficiencies and develop streamlined processes. Coordinate with the Regulations Group as needed.
3. Conduct public meetings as appropriate on regulations and guidelines developed pursuant to the Directives in the Proclamation.
4. Coordinate public education messaging efforts with the Public Outreach Group on the ecological and other management benefits associated with prescribed fire.
5. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 7, 15 and 17 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Suspension of regulations are specific to high hazard zones.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	PUBLIC OUTREACH

GROUP LEADER(S)

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Group Objectives

1. Provide for coordinated communications and public information program for the public, elected officials and involved entities.
2. Utilize social media (website, twitter, facebook, etc.) for information dispersal.
3. Distribute and post Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions, etc.
4. Use existing public education materials and deveop new public education materials based on needs of incident.
5. Assist local groups with messaging and communications to ensure a consistent message at the local level.
6. Act as clearinghouse for information.
7. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

Prepared By (Planning Section Chief)	**Date Prepared**
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TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	REGULATIONS GROUP

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TBD	Department of Insurance		

Group Objectives

1. Support local-level identification of community storage locations for removed trees by:
   a. Providing resources to assist local entities with regulations, agreements and policies associated with storage facilities.
   b. Developing guidelines to limit liability related to the use of storage facilities.
   c. Identifying applicable safety regulations associated with the use of such storage sites.
2. Encourage local entities to consider storage locations that can also act as utilization sites for various wood products and bioenergy production as appropriate.
3. Coordinate with the Resource Allocation Group and Bioenergy Group on distribution and location of portable equipment across high hazard zones.
4. Develop emergency guidelines setting forth the relevant criteria to remove dead and dying trees and incidental vegetation in high hazard zones (CAL FIRE).
5. Conduct public meetings as appropriate on regulations and guidelines developed pursuant to the Directives in the Proclamation.
6. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 2, 3, 7, 15 and 17 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Suspension of regulations are specific to high hazard zones.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	RESOURCE ALLOCATION

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Group Objectives

1. Coordinate efforts with local entities to remove dead or dying trees in high hazard zones that threaten power lines, roads and other evacuation corridors, critical community infrastructure, and other existing structures.
2. Work with impacted counties to distribute portable equipment based on local and regional priorities.
3. Encourage isolated communities to use portable equipment to remove and process wood waste locally.
4. Provide local government assistance as appropriate under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act (Cal OES).
5. Request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program to obtain federal assistance for removal of dead and dying trees adjacent to highways (Caltrans).
6. Develop and maintain an inter-agency funding matrix displaying all potential sources of funding and landowner assistance programs.
7. Engage impacted local communities with funding fairs.
8. Appropriately pursue, manage, utilize and distribute future funding sources consistent with the Directives within the Proclamation.
9. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 2, 4, 6, 16 and 18 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.
- Approval by the Department of Finance is required prior to execution of any contract entered into pursuant to the State of Emergency Proclamation Directives.

Prepared By (Planning Section Chief)	**Date Prepared**
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TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	UTILIZATION- BIOENERGY GROUP

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Group Objectives

1. Extend contracts on existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high hazard zones (CPUC).
2. Ensure contracts for new forest bioenergy facilities that receive feedstock from high hazard zones can be executed within six months (CPUC).
3. Initiate targeted renewable auction mechanism and consideration of adjustments to the BioMat Program (CPUC).
4. No later than six months after the BioMat program begins, evaluate the need for revisions to the program to facilitate contracts for forest bioenergy facilities (CPUC).
5. Prioritize facilitation of interconnection agreements for forest bioenergy facilities in high hazard zones (CPUC).
6. Prioritize grant funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge for woody biomass-to-energy technology, consistent with direction from CPUC (CEC).
7. Work with bioenergy facilities that accept forest biomass from high hazard zones to identify potential funds to offset higher feedstock costs (CAL FIRE, CEC).
8. Work with land managers to estimate biomass feedstock availability, storage locations, and volumes that may be available for use as bioenergy feedstock at existing and new facilities.
9. Identify and develop new energy technologies for biomass (e.g. biofuels, etc).
10. Create and expand markets for bioenergy by-products (e.g. biochar, heat, etc).
11. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directives 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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Group Objectives

1. Work with affected counties and existing wood product markets to determine the feasibility for expanded wood product markets in California.
2. Provide for highest and best use of wood products.
3. Identify and develop new technologies for biomass products (laminated wood products, etc.)
4. Identify rules or regulations which may block the development of a utilization market.
5. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

Special Instructions

- Work assignments are consistent with Directive 14 of the State of Emergency Proclamation.
- Work with other federal, state, local, private and non-governmental entities as needed.

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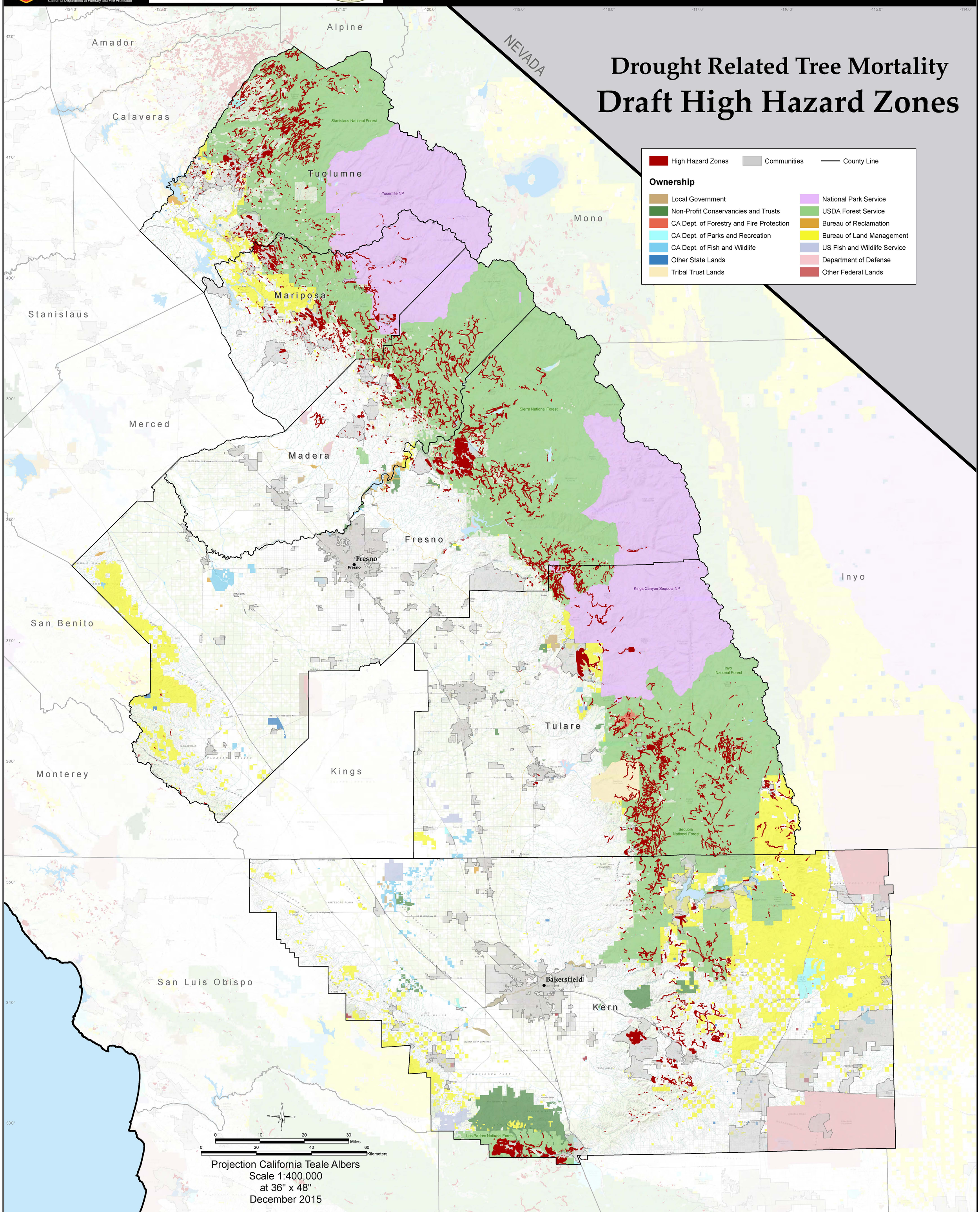
FRAP
Fire and Resource Assessment Program
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
Caring for the land and Serving the people
United States Department of Agriculture

SOUTH SIERRA REGION

Drought Related Tree Mortality
Draft High Hazard Zones



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Obtain FRAP maps, data, metadata and publications on the Internet at http://frap.cdf.ca.gov
For more information, contact CAL FIRE - FRAP, PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460, (916) 327-3939.

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Ken Pimlott, Director, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

MAPID: HighHazardZones_SouthSierraRegion

DATA SOURCES
Communities (FRAP, v13_1)
Ownership (FRAP, v15 _1)
High Hazard Zones (FRAP, Dec 2015), utilizing:
Aerial Detection Survey (USFS, Dec 2015)
various asset layers (FRAP, Dec 2015)