



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Weekly Update

April 29, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- A meeting was held with Cal OES and Caltrans to discuss moving forward with information being developed which could potentially be used for a FEMA declaration request. The group also agreed on a methodology for developing the numbers that would be needed as well as the elements of a report that would support any request.

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, May 9th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health & Resilience (Chris Keithley/Tom Smith)

- Pursuing possible collaboration with UC Extension to update sections of an existing Forest Stewardship Series for wildfire (FSS #15) and pests (#16). The updated stewardship documents address forest health and could be widely distributed.
- Continued discussion with United States Forest Service (USFS) and Stanford (Greg Asner) to have his research team conduct a flight late summer or early fall over the South Sierra. The estimated cost is \$250,000. USFS has proposed a 50/50 cost share with CAL FIRE.

Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- The United States Forest Service (USFS) had to postpone the aerial survey flight scheduled for last week due to poor weather conditions. The flight is being rescheduled for week of May 2nd which will cover the low elevation forestland along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range (below snow line), weather permitting. We anticipate having results to share with the Task Force in two to four weeks post-flight.
- The mapping and monitoring working group provided hazard tree metric estimates from the USFS Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) program for Tier 1 and Tier 2 hazard



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zones for possible use by Cal OES to develop a request to FEMA for a Presidential declaration.

Regulations **(Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)**

- The Regulations Guidance Public Meeting was held on April 25, 2016 in Mariposa County at the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chambers. The meeting was attended by 15 to 20 people with several participating via phone. The group had a few questions about log removal and storage. The group had a great discussion on various Task Force issues.
- The regulations working group is working on a flyer for affected homeowners. A few suggestions were made to include different pictures, website information, and an email address for those seeking additional information.
- The regulations working group is working on storage site utilization. There are still a number of counties without storage sites. The ongoing question for the storage sites is who can utilize them. A new site for Calaveras County is located in Wallace, which is believed to be established by PG&E for the Butte Fire.
- The regulations working group is working on CEQA issues surrounding state agencies involved in the tree removal efforts and tribal consultations for cultural resources. Caltrans was recently asked by the USFS to mark the cultural areas where tree removal will occur. There was a request to resend the information from the CA Native American Heritage Commission on Protecting Native American Sites during Drought, Wildfire and Flood Emergencies.
- The regulations working group continues to work on insurance issues surrounding dead tree removal prior to obtaining coverage, cancelation due to dead trees, and variation in underwriting policy. If the insurance companies use fire line it will be more difficult to get insurance in the affected area. Contact has been made with the Insurance Commissioner.

Prescribed Fire **(Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)**

- The Fire MOU Partnership has scheduled their next in-person meeting for June 1-2 at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. RSVP's for the meeting can be sent to either Nick Goulette or Craig Thomas.
- Two new research papers were published: 1) Need to change smoke policy to better protect forest ecosystems and public health Schweizer and Cisneros 2016, and 2) Incorporating Anthropogenic Influences into Fire Probability Models: Effects



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of Human Activity and Climate Change on Fire Activity in California. Mann et al. 2016. Both papers (see attached) add significant information to the discussion regarding emissions trade-offs from increased burning and factoring (versus omitting) the effects of human activity in future wildfire projections.

Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- CPUC has requested an estimate of the volume of trees that will be cut over the next 5 - 10 years. The working group is outlining processes to compile biomass volume estimates (in bone dry ton) for Tier 1 and 2 High Hazard Zones. Initial estimates are expected to be available for all of the High Hazard Zones by the end of this month.

Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is leading an effort to film and edit a public outreach video on the urgency of the tree mortality issue. They conducted on camera interviews last week, including Chief Pimlott, and will be continuing to work on the piece in collaboration with the rest of the public outreach working group.

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- **29,000,000 dead trees**

APPROVED CALIFORNIA DISASTER ACT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- **Approved CDAA Applications:** Tuolumne County, Mariposa County, Tuolumne Utilities District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Columbia Public Cemetery District
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Placer County, Madera County

TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the availability of grant funds through the Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Strategic Investments Partnership. This program is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NFWF, and will award approximately \$1.9 million dollars over the next year to fuels management projects that will improve forest health and resilience. Project types are described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) posted at www.nfwf.org/pswfuels. Proposal submissions are due **Tuesday, May 17, 2016**.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne
- **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:	#Delivered										
County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): >>>----->	V	Kern (KRN)	Tulare (TUU)	Fresno (FKU)	Madera (MMU)	Mariposa (MMU)	Tuolumne (TCU)	Calaveras (TCU)	Amador (AEU)	Eldorado (AEU)	Placer (NEU)
Burner Module A (2):											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Wheel Loader				1	1						
Burner Module B (2):											
2 Fire Box (burners)	4		2				2				
1 Track Loader	2		1				1				
1 Wheel Loader			1				1				
Single Resources:											
Masticator (2)				1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	6	1	2	2	1	1	2		1		
Tow Chipper (6)	6		1	1		1	2		1		
Sawmill (5)	1		1	1	1		1		1		
Total # of New Equipment Units	27	1	8	10	8	2	9	0	3	0	0

- **Equipment Delivery/Deployment**
All fire boxes, tow chippers, and track loaders ordered have been delivered.
- **Equipment Training**
A small sawmill training is being held on May 5th for the Tulare Ranger District.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, May 9th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Fire MOU Partnership next in-person meeting is scheduled for June 1st – 2nd at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest.



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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/