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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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## **Tree Mortality Task Force Forest Health and Resilience Working Group Agenda/Minutes**

April 7, 2016

Members Present (in person or on the conference call line): Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Brian Nowicki, Chris Keithley, Chuck Henderson, Craig Thomas, Darla Guenzler, David Pegos, Jeffrey Smyly, John Amodio, Larry Camp, Liz Forsburg, Margarita Gordus, Paul Mason, Staci Heaton, Tom Smith, Vance Russell, Liz Berger, Tara Ursell

The work group objectives were reviewed.

- Group Objective 1: Evaluate resource impacts associated with the removal of trees. A consensus was reached that work group objective #1 should be struck. The group felt that there was no practical way for the working group to address this objective.
- Group Objectives 2 and 3: Monitor forest health and resilience as a result of tree removal efforts and evaluate and monitor overall forest health.  
Monitoring: The group discussed the proposal for the Carnegie Airborne Observatory (Greg Asner's group at Stamford) to fly the south Sierra in a September/October timeframe. This would be a year from the last time they flew and would show change over time. The digital imagery would complement the USFS aerial survey detection by providing information on water content and stress to forest trees. It was discussed that this would be good to do on an annual basis.  
Indicators: There was a brief review of the indicators being developed by Cal Fire as part of the update to the Forest and Range Assessment report. The idea would be to identify a subset of indicators that could be used by the TMTF to report trends related to forest health.  
Field Surveys: Discussion covered the potential for field surveys to be increased by the USFS this summer as part of the FIA plot system.
- Group Objective 4: Provide guidelines for how to achieve long-term forest health and resilience. A draft landowner document was drafted by YG, Paul and Tom. Discussion on the draft centered on: characteristics of a healthy resilient forest (desired conditions), goals and strategies. An overarching issue was raised regarding the intended audience for the guidance document. Review comments from the work group members are due back by April 14th. Tom will attempt to synthesize all of the comments into a new draft for the group to consider.

Steps for the next meeting:

- Objective 5: Work cooperatively with landowners and agencies to implement forest health and resilience guidelines at a landscape level across ownership boundaries: There will be an overview of existing landscape level collaborative projects (Sherry Hazelhurst, Rich Wade)
- Monitoring update: provide an update on Greg Asner's proposal to fly the Southern Sierra (Chris K.)



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- Landowner Guidance Document: Discuss the review comments and updated document (TG and Tom)
- Long-term monitoring for forest health: Review FIA and related field survey options (Sherry H.) and review indicators being developed (Chris K.)

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th, 2016 2:30 – 4:00pm, Large Conference Room, Cal Fire Headquarters, 15th Floor Resources Building, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento. Conference Call Number 916-324-6897