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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Prescribed Fire Working Group Agenda/Minutes

March 14th, 2016

10:30 – 11:30 AM

Conf. Call – 857-232-0157, code: 367285

- Roll-call
 - o John DeMassa (and ARB smoke mgt/regulations team), Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Glenn Barley, Chris Anthony, Whitney Bray, Stacie Heaton, Alan Abbs, Craig Thomas, Nic Enstice, Rob Griffith, Jim Suerro
- Agenda review and new items from participants
- Review outcomes and next steps from prior call
 - o Revise working group's mtg/call schedule to reflect one monthly meeting.
 - o Continue pursuing final guidance for air curtain burners
 - o Reach out to fire scientists with guidance on most appropriate role in near and long-term for Rx fire in tree mortality areas
 - o Outline report for full TMTF on role of prescribed fire in near and long-term associated with tree mortality
 - o Outline goals for "Fire MOU" partnership that have emerged from TMTF Rx Fire Working Group conversations
 - o Provide Rx Fire Working Group with invitation to join Fire MOU partnership
- Update on air curtain burner permitting process/guidance
 - o Craig asked about whether there had been any further tradeoff conversations
 - o See additional memo reporting current guidance status from Alan Abbs
- Recap of current burn-day utilization analysis, USFS is proceeding with associated with ARB burn-day availability/utilization analysis (proposed, but not confirmed)
 - o Lee Tarnay and Darr Mims have drilled in on burn-day utilization. USFS is now digging in on utilization by ranger district to better understand limiting factors – staffing, permitting costs, likely to provide some anecdotal evidence.
 - o Also working on pile backlog – 6 counties first. Broader look at R5 backlog thereafter.
- Overview of "Fire MOU" partnership sign-on and engagement process
 - o Craig provided the WG with the documents and described the process
- Outline next steps and adjourn
 - o Group reaffirmed pushing programmatic/systemic prescribed fire issues onto Fire MOU Partnership workgroups.
 - o Group discussed potential for a science synthesis to inform best practices and implications of burning associated with areas of high-concentration tree mortality.



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Lenya Quinn-Davidson (UC Extension and CA Fire Science Consortium) agreed that the Fire Science Consortium could lead putting together a science synthesis on this topic in the next few months.

- Group once again discussed submitting a briefing paper to the TMTF leadership and participants synthesizing their work and the implications for prescribed fire as a tool associated with the TMTF and affected counties, land owners, and land managers. Nick agreed to lead this up.
- Next steps – move to monthly calls to continue checking in and reporting on progress associated with prior priorities and ongoing work of WG members and related efforts such as Fire MOU partnership.