



Tree Mortality Task Force Forest Health and Resiliency Working Group Meeting March 9, 2016 – Minutes

Members present (in person or by phone): Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Chris Keithley, Chris Anthony, Chuck Henderson, Claire Jahns, David Pegos, George (YG) Gentry, Larry Camp, Liz Forsburg, Margarita Gordus, Neil Fischer, Paul Mason, Rich Wade, Sherry Hazelhurst, Staci Heaton, Glenn Barley, Tom Smith

The meeting convened at 1:00 pm in the Large Conference Room, Rm. 1506-12, Cal Fire, Sacramento, CA

- 1) There were no minutes to approve from the previous meeting. We will do a better job of providing minutes in the future.
- 2) The work plan objectives for the group were reviewed in order to give the group a better idea of our work and goals.
 - Objective 1: Evaluate resource impacts associated with the removal of trees. The group discussed whether this objective runs counter to the CEQA provisions of the Governor's proclamation and that we have no budget to do the work. It has been suggested that we drop this objective. **No consensus was reached and no clear task identified.**
 - Objectives 2 & 3: Monitoring and evaluating forest health. The objectives overlap with the mapping and monitoring group and we should allow them to map the impacts of tree removal. The USFS will be conducting two flights this year of the highly impacted parts of the state. Greg Asner's group at Stanford may be able to bring in more information through their work. We have no funding to do this work. **We may be able to use existing monitoring data from the FIA plots from the USFS supplemented with other sources (Greg Asner's). We may be able to use a subset of indicators that FRAP is developing for the Forest and Range Assessment Report.**
 - Objective 4: Provide guidelines on how to achieve long-term forest health and resilience. As a short term project the group should work on a compilation of resources available now. Any such resources need to be linked to the tree mortality website. There is a landowner guidance document in an initial draft phase that lists existing regulations and rules related to forest health. The group must also look at long-term practices that will benefit over-all forest health and avoid having these conditions occur again in the future. **YG, Paul and Tom will work on a draft set of guidelines to achieve long-term forest health and resilience.**
 - Objective 5: Work cooperatively with landowners and agencies to implement forest health and resilience guidelines at a landscape level across ownership boundaries. There is good neighbor authority already in place and some examples of landscape level projects in operation (Dinky Creek Watershed, the El Dorado Project along highway 50). We need to see if there are common threads in these landscape scale collaborative projects that we can



- bring to the larger group. **Look at landscape level guidance (FCAT?). Sherry and Rich will present information on existing landscape level forest health projects at a future meeting.**
- 3) The group reviewed the Tier 1 and Tier 2 High Hazard Zones prepared for the Mapping and Monitoring Group. Tier 1 HHZ's are in close proximity and an immediate hazard to communities, roads, utility lines and other infrastructure. Tier 2 is defined by HUC 12 watersheds and are watersheds exhibiting mortality above background levels, reduced fire interval and Tier 1. Other layers that may need to be evaluated are invasive species, cumulative water deficit, the national risk map and its parameters.
 - 4) Steps for the next or future meetings:
 - An overview of existing landscape monitoring projects (Sherry Hazelhurst and Rich Wade)
 - A progress report on evaluating Greg Asner's data and the USFS mapping (Chris Keithley)
 - Landowner guidance document – an overview of format and information sources (YG Gentry, Paul Mason, Tom Smith)
 - Review of long-term monitoring for forest health – options for increasing FIA plot density or increasing plot re-measurement cycles (Sherry Hazelhurst) and review of indicators being developed by FRAP (Chris Keithley)
 - Discussion items for future meetings: Reforestation for over-all long-term forest health (Glenn Barley and Tom Smith) and the "Bigger Picture for Long-Term Forest Health" (Group)

The meeting came to a close at 3pm.