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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Prescribed Fire Working Group Meeting Minutes May 9, 2016

Agenda Rx Fire Working Group

1. Roll Call (Craig Thomas led call) Attendees included: Lindsay VanLaningham (CFA), Chris Zimny (NRCS), Alan Abbs (CAPCOA) Karen Magliano and John Damassa from (CARB), JB Garcia (CA DF&W), Nic Enstice (SNC), Brian Norwicki (CBD) and Rob Griffith (USFS)

2) Agenda Review and new items from participants (All)

None

3) Review notes from prior call and progress updates (All)

Alan—Curtain burner(s) about to go to Forest Service TM areas; Rob stated that Sierra NF owns one, in addition.

Alan also mentioned Mendocino NF upcoming curtain burner demo (demonstration date?)

Rob—Piling and burning of slash very challenging on Sierra NF. How to deal with piles in high hazard areas (danger to workers and continuing deadfall)

Nic-mentioned recent research by Phil VanMantegm et al. (2016). Does prescribed fire promote resistance to drought in low elevation forests in the Sierra Nevada

4) Update on Fire MOU Partnership work (Craig/All)

-Mentioned again the June 1-2 Fire MOU Partnership meeting in Dunlap, CA Hume Lake

Hume Lake Ranger District

-Participation in Wildfire Awareness Week at McClellan Park; Capitol Public Radio

Interview on Insight with Beth Ruyak (Jim Branham and Craig Thomas)

<http://www.caprudio.org/news/insight/2016/05/04/insight-050416c/>

-Discussed planning for 6 collaborative projects in CA. Narrowing down project areas

Potential for cross jurisdictional collaborative work (and training opportunities) this is on-going.

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-Report out on assessment of burn day availability and burn day utilization. Lee Tarnay, CARB staff and Forest Service are refining information on burn windows, utility of those windows and Forest Service use of available days. Key purpose is to ID patterns for longer burn windows and to staff up to the full potential of utilization to increase fire use. Burn days are ID since 1998, fuel moisture/weather/not completed. Rob mentioned the challenges of digging into the past for reasons why certain available days were not used is proving very challenging. Intention is to record this information in the future. In other words, was the reason weather, training periods in the spring, vacation policy, staffing, holidays, or other reasons that impact fire manager's ability to use available days.

This will give the MOU Partners better focus on possible reforms to achieve increased fire use outcomes in CA.

-Finally, the discussions are proceeding with Dr. Lee Tarnay and other key atmospheric scientists characterizing emissions burdens and trade-offs from an active fire program versus unplanned wildfire events and their impacts to public health. This work will support our outreach and education efforts of the Fire MOU Partners in discussions with a variety of stakeholders.

5) Work on a Memo for TMTF leaders and participants remains a work in progress.

6) Next Steps:

- ✓ Summarize Fire MOU Partners meeting notes and Work Group plans for last half of 2016 (Craig/Rob/Nick)
- ✓ Complete work on Burn Day Availability and Utilization with all available information and build reporting structure for future reporting (Rob/Craig and others)
- ✓ Complete Memo to TMTF leaders (Nick/Craig)
- ✓ Finalize 6 areas in CA for collaborative landscape fire work by September 2016. (Nick/Craig/All interested parties)

Call Adjourned 11:30