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FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA **FamilyForestNews**

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By way of introduction,

My time serving on the board of Forest Landowners of California (FLC) began in May of 2010, and I have been a member of the association since 1996, if memory serves correctly. In reflection over the last 5 years I have seen significant contributions by a number of past and present FLC board members in moving the interests of the association forward. I've observed the FLC board ultimately finding and stabilizing the Executive Director position with the hiring of ARC (Association Resource Center), a firm out of Folsom California, with Deidre Bryant serving as our Executive Director. FLC successfully helped stave off some rather ominous regulations from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board dealing with sediment discharge and development of erosion control plans in timber harvesting under NTMPs. The long sought after goal of introducing favorable legislation to the benefit of our members was accomplished by the Board with the introduction of the Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP) in 2011. What was to follow over a two year period was an unending effort with an enormous amount of hours spent by a select group of board and FLC members to get the bill through the legislature. With vigilant monitoring and assistance in the formulation of the regulatory text, led by our immediate past President Larry Camp over the last year and a half, the Board of Forestry recently approved the WFMP regulatory package. This timber management planning and harvest permit option will be available to timberland owners up to 15,000 acres in size starting January 2016. FLC is still working with the Board of Forestry and other state agencies on the issue of small landowner permitting relief. We hope to gain traction on this issue at the administrative level, but legislative action remains an optional fallback position if necessary.



So how did I get here? In April of 2010 I had just finished up a four year board term with California License Foresters Association (CLFA) and a one year stint as president of that association. Within two days of my parting with the CLFA board, I got the call! FLC was looking for new board members and was having their next board meeting prior to the annual meeting in Redding, California that May. It is at this time each year that a portion of board member terms expire, newly elected board members come in and are ratified, and there is an election of newly appointed officers by your board.

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President's Message

Continued from page 1

For those of you that have no idea of who I am or do not know me well, I hope to change that over the next two years in my service as president to our association. By way of introduction, I am a Registered Professional Forester and have my own forestry consulting firm in Eureka, California. In 1985 I returned to California from a stretch with the U.S. Forest Service in Klamath Falls, Oregon and reentered the private forestry sector at that time. Since then I have seemingly found myself working as a consultant on everyone else's forested property but my own. Yes, I am a timberland owner. My wife Donna and I live and have raised two sons on our 40 acre redwood property two miles west of the towns of Scotia and Rio Dell in Humboldt County. When I entered Humboldt State in 1974, I knew then that I wanted to be a tree farmer. My aspirations (i.e., The Dream) while in and after college was to acquire 2500 acres of working forest lands by the time I was 55 years old. Well I'm a bit past 55 now. Circumstances did not allow the acquisition of 2500 acres, but as mentioned we do have a wonderful 40 acre parcel.

Unconsciously what I've presented above is more of a bio and I seemingly felt compelled that an introduction was in order. Getting back to the business at hand, in my service on the FLC board I never considered that I might have a specific agenda or platform. My service was to simply represent the interests of the membership and to further the cause of our assured rights as timberlands owners. However, I do have an interest in three areas where I feel your board can provide enhancement to the association. In addition to helping the board steer the course as set by the association's strategic plan (which by the way is currently being updated for the next five-year planning horizon) it is my hope that FLC can improve in the following three areas of, 1) more communication with its members, 2) provide additional 'added value' to being a member, and 3) increase the membership. The latter, an increase in membership, will ultimately ease the present financial burden of the association and our 'ask' for additional contributions beyond dues which have been gravely needed by your association to stay the course on our recent successes. I wish to thank all of you who willingly gave funds beyond the dues statement in recent years. Your contributions helped keep the annual dues rate in check during the recent economic crisis and allowed the association to remain on task.

In closing I wish to give some contact information. If you have questions, comments, or think your association can be doing better on your behalf, please contact me at the following email address; president@forestlandowners.org. Or feel free to give me a call at 707-442-9209 (my office) or 707-498-2302 (my cell). I am willing to give freely of my time with your queries, comments, and/or informational needs. The only way for our association to effectively move forward is through communication of your thoughts or needs by direct contact with me or another board member. I appreciate your time and look forward to serving as the association's president over the next two years.



Ask a Forester

Question:

My property lines are becoming overgrown and hard to find. Any suggestions?

Answer:

It is very important to maintain your property lines in an easily visible condition. First, clear all the brush and debris from your corner monuments. Using a herbicide on the brush immediately surrounding the corner can provide long-lasting control. Next, reblaze the property line with an axe and spray with a paint specifically intended for forestry use. Keep the blazes at eye height for easy visibility. The blazes must face the actual property line.

Maintaining your boundary lines every 10 years or so will help prevent your loggers trespassing on your neighbor and vice-versa.



Board of Forestry Updates

By Larry Camp, Legislative Committee Chair

Dr. Kim Rodrigues was appointed to the Board of Forestry in July. She served for numerous years as the U.C. Extension Forestry advisor in Humboldt County and is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF). She understands the issues facing non-industrial forest landowners and should provide a sympathetic ear at the Board.

Working Forest Management Plan (WFMP) Regulations Approved

In June, the Board of Forestry and Fire protection approved regulations for NTMP-like management plans for forest ownerships larger than 2,500 acres up to 14,999 acres. This can include plans for multiple owners whose lands may exceed the 2,500 acre limitation. Rules are to be effective in January 2016. **Contact your RPF** for more information.

Changes to the 10% Dead and Dying Exemption

In June, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection adopted emergency regulations allowing specified forest management activities, including the cutting or removal of trees that are dead or dying as a result of the drought conditions across California. This removed the old 10 percent volume limitation. The new rules were adopted under 14 CCR § 1038 (k) and became effective on **July 13, 2015.**

Areas to be treated that are larger than 20 acres cumulatively across an ownership require a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to prepare, sign, and submit a new exemption form* to CAL FIRE. Areas less than 20 acres do not require an RPF, but can be submitted by the timberland owner, timber owner, Licensed Timber Operator or an RPF on the new form*. More information at http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/New_Drought_Mortality_Exemption.pdf.

Expansion of Exemption for Fuel Management Around Homes

In May, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection adopted emergency regulations allowing specified forest management activities, including the cutting or removal of trees between **150' and 300' of an Approved and Legally Permitted Habitable Structure.** The previous exemption form requirements for "Removal of Fire Hazard Trees Within 150 Feet of a Structure Exemption," pursuant to 14 CCR § 1038(c), have been combined with the new language of 14 CCR § 1038(c)(6) into one new exemption form. The new language allows for the removal of trees between 150' and 300' of a Habitable Structure that complies with the California Building Code for the purpose of reducing flammable materials and maintaining a fuel break. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) **must prepare, sign, and submit the new form to CAL FIRE when trees will be removed between 150' and 300' of Habitable Structures.** More information at http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/New_Structure_Protection_Exemption.pdf.

Wildlife Update

In response to a petition filed in June, the California Fish and Game Commission anticipates receiving a report regarding listing the Humboldt marten as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act by the its October 2015 meeting. The Commission will likely make a determination regarding candidacy at its December meeting. More information at http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/Humboldt_Marten_2015.pdf.

The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) was listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) by the California Fish and Game Commission in June 2014. Given that gray wolves have been reestablished in southern Oregon, they may begin to become reestablished on public and private timberlands in northern California. For purposes of timber harvesting plan preparation, the gray wolf listing under CESA should be acknowledged in the harvest plan document. Furthermore, consultation with CDFW is recommended when presence of wolves is known or wolf den and/or rendezvous sites have been identified. Further information can be found on the CAL FIRE webpage at: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/Addressing_Gray_Wolf_in_THPs_050615.pdf.

Class II Watercourse Crossing Information Update

The document titled "Anadromous Salmonid Protections Rules: Revised Interpretive Questions and Answers for RPFs and Landowners" has been posted at the following: [calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/ASP_QA_doc_with_revised_language_06_16_14_\(final_revision\).pdf](http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/ASP_QA_doc_with_revised_language_06_16_14_(final_revision).pdf). **This revision of the document that was produced in April of 2010 reflects changes made by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection when they passed the "Class II-L Identification and Protection Amendments, 2013" rule package,** which went into effect January 1, 2014.



Have a
Question
About Your
Property?

There is a form on the FLC website you can use to submit a question. We are building a library of FAQs. Send us your question—it might help another landowner. Or send your question by traditional mail—we will send you a response.

Go to FLC's website—under the menu "Managing Your Forest," select "Ask a Forester."



Discovering Biochar: Part 2

By Denise Seghesio Levine

"Biochar probably won't save the world from climate change, nor is it going to be the key to increasing agricultural productivity everywhere. But used wisely, it is a tool that may help in both situations..

~Stephen Joseph, University of New South Wales, Australia

In our last issue, I wanted to introduce you to biochar, what it is and why we might care about it.

To recap, biochar is a carbon-rich product produced when woody biomass or other plant or manure sources are heated to the point of thermal decomposition, with little or no oxygen. It is different than ash, coal or charcoal.

Biochar has myriads of surface areas with the ability to retain moisture and nutrients, providing a matrix for microbial activity. Woody debris "biochar" can be used as a soil amendment, water purifier and is promising in many emerging applications.

Evidence shows that cultures around the world have utilized char to augment and improve their soil for thousands of years. Many cultures used controlled burns to stimulate new growth, while in other parts of the world, cooking char spread or dug into jungle landscapes increased fecundity.

Now innovative vineyard managers, horticulturists and gardeners are rediscovering biochar, and forest managers have one more tool to achieve their sustainability goals.

For forest owners, it is another option for disposing of woody biomass and offers some economic opportunities, too.

To catch up on the state of the art of biochar, I spoke to Dusty Moller, USDA. Dusty has been working on a variety of biochar projects for the last seven years.

I first heard Dusty extol the benefits and opportunities of biochar at a Restoring the West Conference in 2011 hosted by Utah State University. At that time, he was with the University of Nevada, Reno and using his background in Economics and Marketing to help build marketing opportunities for what everyone hoped would be a nascent biochar industry. His particular focus was pinyon-juniper. Recently Dusty relocated to University of Washington where he will be working with the Department of Energy on a Woody Biomass fuels program.

When I spoke to Dusty a couple of weeks ago, it was quickly apparent that Dusty is still bullish on biochar.

Dusty recently returned from Arcata, CA, where the Waste to Wisdom project, (<http://wastetowisdom.com>) hosted a demonstration. Waste to Wisdom (W2W) is a project funded by a \$5.88 million grant from the US Department of Energy. Collaborating with Humboldt State University and 15 regional partners, the project builds on existing research about converting low value wood and forest residues into valuable bio-based products. W2W has a number of goals, including developing tools to help determine the value of biochar as a soil amendment, to measure carbon sequestration, and to evaluate the impacts of char on forest soils.

While the Humboldt project is biomass and biochar on a grand scale, Dusty believes cottage industry biochar projects are not only feasible, but are proving profitable.

Dusty suggested I look at Biochar Supreme, www.biocharsupreme.com. Biochar Supreme was started by a woman in Washington who grows peonies and developed a special blend of inoculated biochar for her own use. Successful, she continued producing and selling biochar mixes for other applications. Dusty worked with her to develop labeling and content criteria, and is clearly eager and willing to help get new biochar entrepreneurs on their feet.

Research and observation show biochar added to soil can be very helpful in simultaneously developing better drainage and better water retention. The usual proportion is one part char to nine parts soil. The choice of feedstock, whether grasses, wood debris, or manures will determine the structure of the char, and that and size of particles will help determine application.

But researchers and adventurous gardeners are discovering that nothing is simple.



Many gardeners have experienced adding wood chips or fresh, immature compost or manures to a garden bed, only to see plants become yellowed and chlorotic. It is a predictable result, and it can be avoided.

While wood chips or fresh compost need nitrogen to complete decomposition, depleting it from the soil and depriving any plants of the nutrients absconded, biochar needs the micronutrients and microbial activity present in the soil to populate its matrixes.

Entrepreneurial companies like Biochar Supreme are beginning to develop “designer” inoculants to pretreat biochar so it is ready to use in garden and horticultural settings and for specific applications. Orchid growers need a different sized char, amended with different nutrients than cactus growers want. A gardener who wants better water retention in a carrot bed is looking for something different, too.

Charging or inoculating the char with anything from a fish emulsion dilution to designer enzymes can mitigate the time needed to populate the char, and offers commercial opportunities for those interested in finding a niche market and creating a special char for it.

Have you bought garden charcoal in the past? My husband came home with a bag of Black Gold Garden Charcoal from our local Orchard Supply Hardware the other day, after I read that the seeds I wanted to germinate had a higher germination rate if char was used. It was a four pound bag for \$5.00. And I don't think it contained designer enzymes.

In addition to horticultural uses and opportunities, Dusty also suggested that if we produced char to sell commercially, another market could be “rain gardens” for freeway work. These special areas are dug along freeways. This biochar would not need to be charged or inoculated since it acts as a reservoir below the growing area. Amounts of soil below the surface are replaced with areas of biochar, soil is replaced on top and landscaping is planted.

The result? Chemical runoff from roads and vehicles drain into these “rain gardens” and are filtered, returning water to the water table that is cleaned of toxins. Dusty thinks more and more highway plans could be incorporating biochar to good use and creating a larger market for industrious biochar producers.

Other uses are augmenting tree wells in urban settings where salt from ice remediation in winter is a problem. Urban foresters are successfully using biochar to buffer the salt content, removing and replacing the char once a year to keep these trees healthy. In some cities, pilot programs are pyrolyzing waste wood from construction sites and cabinet shops for these many uses.

Here on our property, we have been successful in having a biochar option for dispensing with our forest trimmings written into our EQIP grant and have collected and amassed the wood for the burn. We have the support of CalFire, NRCS, and other groups in the area who are interested in participating and learning from our pilot project. However, coordinating the actual burn has been problematic because of the unwillingness of the California Air Quality Control Board to assure us of a day we could coordinate all the participants without the possibility of an arbitrary “no burn” day.

When we asked the CARB official sitting behind his desk what we should do when we had so many agencies and so much equipment coordinated, his response was simply, “reschedule it!”

So our current plan B is to use a portable kiln and do the burn in smaller increments. No need for bulldozers and fire trucks.

Dusty passed on a link with everything you need to know about kilns . <http://www.fao.org/docrep/X5328e/x5328e09.htm> and also a YouTube video demo of two guys making biochar. Not too long and by the end of it, you grasp the concept <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AebWlpGu4I>.

Even if you have no interest in producing biochar for sale, or to augment your garden, consider producing biochar to spread back on your forest floor.

The Rocky Mountain Research team has produced a recent study and thesis concluding, “In-woods fast pyrolysis can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, provide a new income stream for forestry and rural communities, and generate biochar as a soil conditioner to mitigate potential nutrient losses from biomass removals..

Sounds good to me.

For more information on biochar, check the University website for a full list of their biochar presentations: <http://utahbiomassresources.org/htm/biochar/biochar-presentations>) and <http://sonomabiocharinitiative.or>. to get started.

Questions? If I don't know, I would love to find out! Send questions in and we'll try to find the answer for you.

Calendar of Events

These calendar activities are also located on FLC's interactive calendar on the website. Click on the Calendar menu for other details, such as registration information, etc.

2015

September 12

FLC Field Day – Plantation Tree Farm (Sonoma County, Ed Tunheim)

October 17

FLC Field Day – Cedar Woods Tree Farm (Nevada County, Larry Camp)

November – TBD

FLC Board of Directors Meeting, Granzella's Inn, Williams, CA

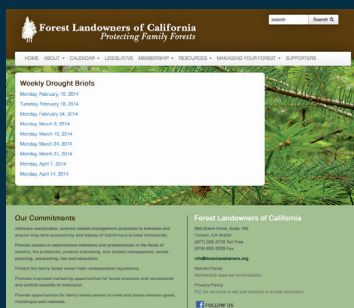


Forest Landowners of California
is a proud sponsor of the
California Tree Farm Committee.

FLC Website— News You Can Use

The website includes a new feature, “News You Can Use.” Currently, this feature contains a weekly update on the drought situation as prepared by a collaboration of state agencies. FLC started posting the updates beginning with the report on February 10; and subsequent reports are posted as received.

If there is information you would like to see in the new feature, “News You Can Use” or if there are other areas where the website could be expanded, please contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office – (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forest-landowners.org. We look forward to receiving your ideas and feedback.



How Does Drought Affect My Forest?

By Ron Berryman, RPF

With California's forests suffering under their fourth consecutive year of drought, the results are becoming apparent to all. The U.S. Forest Service has recently estimated (May 2015) 12,500,000 trees have succumbed to mortality with many more in advanced stages of drought-related stress on lands they manage.

Trees have adapted an amazing system of dealing with dry conditions. Some live oaks are capable of shedding many of their leaves during exceptionally dry conditions, allowing the tree to go into a self-induced form of “hibernation” to wait for more favorable conditions. Pines typically shed their older, less efficient needles to accomplish the same effect.

Most forest landowners are well aware of the problem with bark beetles and their onslaught during the current drought. Conifers are usually capable of expelling boring insects such as bark beetles by producing copious amounts of resin, which effectively drowns invading beetles. Dry conditions do not allow adequate resin production, which severely limits the trees ability to “pitch out” the invaders, resulting in the trees death. Many bark beetle species have an ability to create a mass attack by secreting a chemical pheromone that signals to members of their species their presence on a tree bole and their desire to mate and produce offspring. The resulting off spring from a successful mating creates a network of galleries chewed at the junction of the bark and cambium layer which is the growth factory of the tree. The galleries that are constructed in the bark/cambium interface are what actually kill the tree, not the adults that first initiate the attack.

So what should one do when confronted with the sad reality of an ongoing drought that has the potential to create havoc with one's forest? The first line of defense is to always keep your forest in good health by adequately spacing the healthiest of trees, but even that will not totally prevent insect outbreaks from occurring.

You must become educated on what types of insects are likely to attack your forest and be able to identify the very earliest signs of trouble. A visit with your forester will alert you to signs of impending problems. Signs of problems become apparent when you notice small blobs of pitch spaced on the tree boles. These mark the entry tunnels made by the initial attacking insects. The more of these “pitch tubes” you see, indicates the approximate number of beetles that have attacked the tree. It is during this time that the pheromones are attracting other beetles in an attempt to overwhelm the tree's ability to drown the invaders.

Next, the tree's foliage will begin to fade to a lighter green, changing over time to yellow, then to red as the needles die. This is the “point of no return” for that portion of the tree. If just a few branches are involved, the tree still has a chance to survive, but when the entire tree is involved, that tree is essentially dead.

To be proactive in stopping advancing bark beetle mortality, one must remove the infested trees during the initial attack phase when the beetles are still within the tree bole. Any harvesting in the later phases of tree death are just removing beetles that prey on the bark beetles, not really solving the main problem.

To summarize, review your timber stands frequently in the spring, summer and fall during especially dry conditions and concentrate on removing trees that show the earliest signs of insect attack.

Field Day Recap: What Wonderful Tales Were Told!

By Claire McAdams

"The Tale of 3 NTMPs" was a very educational and enjoyable field trip for the 20+ folks who attended on July 18 near Arcata. The Scanlon, Monroe, and Mace-Monroe NTMPs are on adjacent high site three to high site two properties, with canopy so lush that even in this drought, fog-drip and minimal rain have been sufficient to keep the logging roads watered.

The properties lie in one of the slot valleys along Humboldt Bay and were the site of some of the earliest timber activity in the region. Charll Stoneman, RPF, detailed the history of the valley and its changes in land use, from a few settlements to its present more populated neighborhood with "wildland-urban interface" issues. As he described how the old growth, cut in the 1880s, was harvested and transported laboriously to the bay for export by ship, and how technology improvements enabled logging of the hillsides, I learned more about the identical practices occurring on our family's land some 10 miles away.

Charll focused on the concept of canopy coverage to help us see the differences in how each property is managed and discussed the use of a gridded canopy sight scope called a densitometer for low-tech canopy coverage measurements. At the field tour property, the logger was just finishing jobs, so we were looking at freshly cut even-aged stands converting to uneven-age condition.

Charll described the history of Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) protocols and how they have shown that the properties still have no owls, a surprising situation on the North Coast. He uses a different approach to handling Northern Spotted Owls on each of the three adjacent properties. technical assistance through USFWS; compliance determination by CalFire; and habitat retention agreement with USFWS. He described each with clarity, unusual for this convoluted topic.

He told us how the properties' gradual shift from even-aged management to uneven-aged, group selection management has kept NSO food sources at a minimum, so that owls are not present. He made a strong case for a regulatory change that would allow those without owls throughout many years, to be allowed to cease surveying for NSOs.

After lunch, Charll showed us a brand-ne. "giant-sized" rocked rolling dip, which was installed to replace a culvert on a class two stream, and we were among the first to walk on some 600' of newly rocked road adjacent to the rolling dip. It was easy to see the care with which the properties are being managed.

We had a relaxing and delightful lunch at Barrett and Catherine Mace's beautiful and peaceful homestead, which was a nice counterpoint to the field tour forest stops. Their gazebo area restored us, as did the house and its 'duck pond.. A big thank you goes out to the Maces for their hospitality. Finally, congratulations to Charll for leading us on a fun and informative tour. He engaged the group, which had many questions, high interest, and the satisfaction of a day well spent.



We Appreciate the Generous Support from Our Contributors!

As of July 1, 2015

Sapphire (\$5,000+)

*This spot reserved just for you!

Diamond (\$2,00 to \$4,999)

*This spot reserved just for you!

Platinum (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Don & Judy Beaty
Frances Belden
Carol Michener
Parker Ten Mile Ranch
Red River Forests, LLC
Shasta Forest Timberlands, LLC

Gold (\$500 to \$999)

*This spot reserved just for you!

Silver (\$200 to \$499)

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Nan Deniston
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Craig Kincaid
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Charli & Donna Stoneman
Martha Vertrees
Charles Wagner
Lisa Weger & Craig Blencowe
Ted Westphal
Ted Wyman

Bronze (\$100 to \$199)

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Jo Barrington
Ron Berryman
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Donald Campbell
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Delmer Clements
Daniel & Cheryl Cohoon
Mary Coletti
Gloria Cottrell
Gilda L. Drinkwater
Paul Ebner
Carol Fall
Edward & Mary Filiberti
Ralph & Barbara Gaarde
Russell Greenlaw

Continued on page 9

New Members

**New members since last newsletter are shaded and for the period ending July 20, 2015.*
Please join us in welcoming the following new members to FLC!

Forest Landowner Members

Nevio & Mary Andreatta

Happy Hills Ranch
Sonoma County
Philip Mohrhardt Family Member

Pam Augspurger

20 Acres, Trinity County

Sorrel Barrington

Mendocino County
Jo Barrington Family Member

James Bate

Ferrari 289 Property, LLC
Santa Cruz County
Carolyn V. Johnson Family Member

Laurie Bate

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Siskiyou County
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Madera County
Ben Cavin Family Member

Andrew Cavin

Madera County
Ben Cavin Family Member

Brian Dowty

El Dorado, Humboldt Counties
Steven Dowty Family Member

Steven Dowty

25 Acres, El Dorado, Humboldt Counties

David C. Ericson

Diamond E Ranch
300 Acres, Siskiyou County

Fred & Jocelyn Euphrat

Bear Flat/Devil's Basin
416 Acres, Mendocino County/
318 Acres, Sonoma County

Patrick Frost

Fallfrost Enterprises
Trinity County
Carol Fall Family Member

Carolyn V. Johnson

Ferrari 289 Property, LLC
131 Acres, Santa Cruz County

Tom Lowry

Associate Member

Ethan Luckens

Humboldt County
Clarie McAdams Family Member

Annette Lundin

DFP Lands
Butte County
Marcia Gilmer Family Member

Philip Mohrhardt

Happy Hills Ranch
600 Acres, Sonoma County

Clare Velma Moore

Santa Cruz County
Cate & Eric Moore Family Member

Janet Murphy

Summit Lime Company
Ted Wyman Family Member

Leonard Page

Old Fosse Ranch
Yuba County
Steven Shigley Family Member

Arlyne Pollett

DFP Lands
Butte County
Marcia Gilmer Family Member

Dennis Posshen

Possehen Forestry
Associate Member

Anthony Sorace

Songwood Ranch
100 Acres, Mendocino County

FLC 2015 Annual Meeting Summary

By Claire McAdams

This year's FLC Annual Meeting was held in Auburn in glorious Spring weather, on April 30-May 1, 2015, at the Holiday Inn, Auburn. The theme of "Roads and Water- Making It Work" was woven through many highly useful sessions, from the technical session on the FSC certification system presented by Sara Billig of Humboldt Redwood Company/Mendocino Redwood Company, to a broad range of general sessions on how water impacts our forest property management. Pete Cafferata of Calfire spoke about how to achieve hydrological disconnection through the design of road surfaces and drainage. Stacy Stanish of Calfire described how to design watercourse crossings using best management practices. Dave Fowler of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board taught us about how to inventory, document, and monitor erosion control sites. One of the highlights was Dan Tomascheski, Vice President at Sierra Pacific Industries, who provided a short but humorous behind-the-scenes fire picture to help landowners reduce their fire liability. Another informative and inspirational speaker was Anthony Francois of the Pacific Legal Foundation, who spoke about the timely topic of types of water rights in California and how they are established and protected. "YG" George Gentry updated us on Board of Forestry activities. Brian White, FLC's legislative advocate, clued us in to the legislative world in Sacramento, where he monitors, advises us, and opens doors to legislative offices on behalf of FLC and its dedicated citizen advocates.

The Evening program began with a very visual presentation by David Carle on the historical development of water use in California, and brief snippets on fire history. The program then honored Forest Tilley for his many years serving the FLC board, as a member, and Past President. Forest gave a touching and very emotional response that was very complementary concerning FLC's mission and what this group has accomplished throughout the years.

The field tour of Blodgett Forest Research Station was led by Ariel Thomson of UC Berkeley, who described an overview of history of Blodgett Forest – its size, how acquired, and type of research projects that are taking place. Ariel provided field perspectives on managing high site mixed conifer forests under different stocking levels or stand densities. She demonstrated physical differences and growth of different stocking levels over the property. There was an extensive discussion on fuel treatment and different methods of fuel treatment and subsequent burning of fuels through timber stands and plantations. Also intriguing was a research trial, which tested how trees respond to different thinning spacing on a radial design. The different fuel treatment methods were one that incorporated fuel removal; one with just mulching without burning; one with mulching and burning (which scorched crowns and caused a small amount of mortality); and a non-treatment control. They measured how much underburning trees could handle without mortality. We enjoyed a picnic lunch at the research station office and research facilities, and enjoyed a day of walking and learning together.

*Note: You can download the PowerPoint presentations by going to this webpage.
<http://bit.ly/FLC2015AnnualMeetingPPTs>.*

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George Thompson
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Friends (up to \$99)

Robert & Julie Barrington
Dennis & June Bebensee
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