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FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA **FamilyForestNews**

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Forest Landowners has been busy during the last several months planning for the upcoming year. This is my last message as President of FLC.

As was indicated in the 2015 Dues notice, the Board made the decision to renew our contract with Brian White, our legislative advocate from KP Public Affairs in January. Since then Brian has been tracking legislative committee appointments, looking at initial legislation going into the 'hopper' that could be of importance or detriment to our members, and making contact with key legislators. On February 12 Brian set up a full day of "meet and greet" with a number of legislators and/or key legislative staff of the newly reorganized Assembly and Senate Natural Resources Committees. Larry Camp, Eric and Kate Moore, and Charll Stoneman introduced ourselves, presented the goals of our organization, and to lay the foundation for future interactions as bills are considered this coming spring and summer. The names and other information about committee members are posted on the website under the legislative section. We have also met Michael Jarred, the new Committee consultant to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. He seemed very amenable to working with FLC to maintain small working forests within the state. I want to thank the members who have generously helped provide the funding to undertake this effort including several large donations that have helped us meet our financial commitment for the coming year.



We are nearly ready to initiate a significant campaign to recruit new members that should begin in the early summer.

Much of FLC's current efforts are focused at the regulatory level with final regulations for the Working Forest Management Plan (the NTMP for landowners of less than 15,000 acres approved in 2013 by AB 904) nearing completion at the Board of Forestry. The Board of Forestry has also approved the regulations for expansion of the exemption for timber harvesting from 150 to 300 feet near residential structures. The regulations will become effective in late June or early July of 2015. The Board of Forestry is examining the possibility of expanding the exemption for removal of low volumes of timber (currently 10 percent for dead and dying trees). Hopefully this can be completed in the next several months. The Board of Forestry continues to work on additional proposals to provide smaller landowners options for a

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President's Message

Continued from page 1

less costly timber harvest process. Proposals by the regional water boards continue to be problematic for forest landowners. Issues include potential regulation of stream buffers for shade and recent discussions about regulating water flows to maintain water quality. FLC intends to monitor developments in this area and emphasize the relationships between water yield and tree densities within our forested landscapes. Wildlife management issues dealing with endangered species including the northern spotted owl, fisher, Townsend's long-eared bat, and wolves all now need to be addressed in our forest management documents. As good land stewards, we need to be responsive to these threatened species in a cost effective way. FLC will continue to work with state and regional staff members the Department of Fish and Wildlife on these issues.

We had a very successful and interesting Annual Meeting in early May focused on fire and water, both timely topics in this fourth year of drought. Brian White provided an update on the legislative scene in Sacramento. The field day toured Blodgett Forest, one of U. C. Berkeley's research forests in the central Sierra Nevada. The tour included a discussion on recent fire studies that are a part of national research efforts on forest fuels management as well as past fuel reduction efforts and lessons from the King fire when extreme fire conditions and fire suppression policies threatened many long-term experiments on the property.

The wildfire situation does not look good for this coming year with nearly twice as many fires covering nearly three times as many acres as the average during the last five years. I would encourage landowners to invest any extra funds available for fuels management including slash disposal and the development of off channel water storage, ponds storage tanks etc. this year if possible.

It has been a great honor to serve the membership during the last two years. I look forward to Charll Stoneman's leadership through the next two years and hope that you will step forward to assist on special projects if requested. I intend to remain on the Board with a focus on the legislative and regulatory areas. I apologize if I have disappointed members by not completing all of the tasks identified in the two membership surveys that you have completed, but will work with the other Board members to see if we can cross some of those items off of the list before the next Annual Meeting.

Jerry

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President

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Spring Legislative Report

By Brian White, KP Public Affairs, FLC Legislative Advocate

Friday, May 1, marked a key deadline for bills to move out of their respective policy committees in order to get consideration in the fiscal committees. The next deadline will be May 29 where all bills must pass out of the fiscal committees to be considered for full votes on the Senate or Assembly Floors between June 1 – June 5. Various bills are still alive but there are others that have become two-year bills since they did not pass the policy committees.

In addition, there are some tax related bills on vegetation fuel management and emergency response that weren't subject to the policy committee deadline since they are tax-related measures. Those two bills include AB 1329 and AB 1203 and will receive policy hearings in the near future. Assemblyman Patterson would appreciate support from FLC on AB 1329. It would be good to get some input from FLC members on whether we should take a position on this bill or any of the other bills listed below.

On the state budget, the Governor will release a revised budget proposal next week and it will kick start the process of winding down the negotiations between the Administration and the Legislature on approving a state budget by June 15 for the 2015-16 fiscal year. As in the past, the Administration and Legislature has used the budget process to also pass various budget trailer bills that include policy provisions unrelated to the budget without much public input, if any. We'll be closely monitoring this and will let you know if there are any issues that may impact forest management.

As of May 4, 2015, the following key bills were in their respective Fiscal Committees and were still alive.

ALIVE

AB 590 (Dahle) would allow cap-and-trade revenues derived from the sale of allowances under AB 32 to be used for the purposes of maintaining the current level of biomass power generation in the state and revitalizing currently idle facilities in strategically located regions. This Biomass Alliance-sponsored bill has a lot of bipartisan support from various groups. However, since the funding will need to be authorized by the budget Legislature each year, it's unclear if this bill will move out of the Assembly Fiscal Committee if it's viewed as putting too much pressure on the use of AB 32 funds.

AB 429 (Dahle) would require any state agency that contracts for lumber or other solid wood products, excluding paper and other types of secondary manufactured goods, to give preference, if price, fitness, and quality are equal, to lumber and other solid wood products that are harvested pursuant to the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973. This California Forestry Association (CFA)-sponsored bill has bipartisan support but it remains unclear where the Department of Finance stands on the bill even with the amendments to try and address concerns about potentially violating interstate commerce.

AB 417 (Dahle) would expand the Board of Forestry's authority to adopt alternative stocking standards for post-harvest average residual basal area if they achieve suitable resource conservation.

AB 243 (Wood) would generally require all persons who cultivate marijuana for medical purposes except those cultivating for personal use, to obtain a permit from the regional water quality control board to cultivate marijuana from the county, city, city and county, or from a state agency to be designated by the Governor if the county, city, or city and county chooses not to be the responsible entity for these purposes.

SB 350 (de Leon) / AB 645 (Williams) would increase the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by requiring all retail energy sellers to procure at least 50% of their electricity from eligible renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to wind, solar and biomass by December 30, 2030. **(Note: SB 350 also includes a 50% petroleum reduction by 2030).**

AB 301 (Bigelow) would require the CalFire to notify an owner subject to a fire prevention fee that the owner may, when selling the habitable structure or structures, negotiate the apportionment of liability for payment of the fee between the parties as one of the terms of the sale.

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 Foretser."

Continued on page 6

Discovering Biochar

By Denise Seghesio Levine

Three gloriously golden autumns ago, Steven and I took a road trip. Our first stop was Logan, Utah where yellow aspen leaves flickering on the hillsides were picture perfect and the University of Utah was hosting the 2011 Restoring the West Conference. Stakeholders including federal and state foresters, educators, landowners, the USDA and others converged to find solutions for removing excessive fuel load in the ranges and woodlands, combatting beetle infestations, restoring forest and wetland habitats. And to somehow find ways to pay for it all.

A variety of strategies, treatments and products were displayed and discussed via poster boards, workshop sessions and daily networking. Uses for woody biomass ranged from power generation to hardwood laminates, custom wood projects to sawdust for animal bedding, pellets for wood stoves and discussions of Asian markets, too... We had heard of most of them. But there was also something “new” called biochar.

David Shearer, CEO/Co-founder of Full Circle Solutions in San Francisco, CA was the first speaker to make the case for the production and use of biochar. This was our introduction to biochar. Mark Coleman, Associate Professor of Forest Resources from the University of Idaho did a session on Biochar and Forest Ecology. Those sessions are available for streaming at this link: <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/rtw/2011/Breakout5/>

From Utah, we traveled to the National Lab in Idaho where we met engineers and discussed the available US patents for biomass gasification units. We had been attracted by a section of the Stimulus bill that offered unused federal patents for sale. We had a dream of small, user-friendly biomass gasification units that could run on the endless prunings and thinnings that plague a rural property, and be used for emergency or off-the-grid energy for home use. The gasification units with available patents turned out to be nuclear reactor size, (which we doubted would fly with the Napa County Planning Department or our local environmental activists), but we learned a lot, and at one point the discussion turned to the by-product of biomass gasification which was...biochar.

The following May, we traveled to Flagstaff, Arizona for the SmallWood 2012 Conference titled Forest Restoration for a New Economy. Also dedicated to helping public and private forest owners and managers find new markets for their timber, small wood, woody biomass and forest byproducts, and again biochar was one of the rising stars.

From never having heard of biochar to three conferences in a few short months...Clearly, interest in biochar was nascent, but growing.

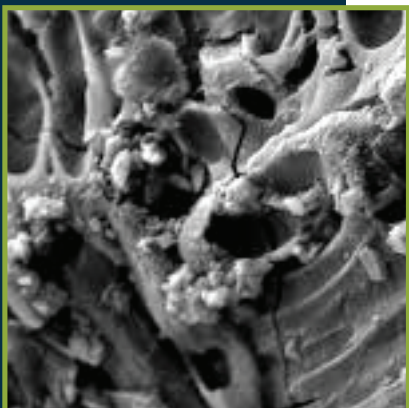
When we returned home we discovered that in addition to David Shearer at Full Circle Solutions in San Francisco, another of the first educational foundations dedicated to promoting biochar was Sonoma Biochar Initiative, right in our own backyard.

To people primarily concerned with climate change and reduction of greenhouse gases, like the founders and members of the Sonoma Biochar Initiative <http://sonomabiocharinitiative.org>, biochar represents a bold “new” way to purposefully sequester carbon. But there are many uses for agriculture and forestry, water purification and pollution mitigation that make the possibilities of biochar a promising new tool.

Biochar captures the carbon in the atmosphere utilized by plants and trees in the process of photosynthesis. At the end of the plant’s useful life, that biomass can be turned into pure carbon (biochar) through pyrolysis, and used as a soil amendment or water purifier.

The result? CO₂ that was previously in the atmosphere and has already been used by the plant can now be removed from the atmosphere, restored to pure carbon through the process of pyrolysis and sequestered in the soil, where it will remain for thousands of years.

“Biochar” is a word coined in the 1970s that combines biomass and charcoal. Interest in biochar was sparked and grew when satellite images showed areas of the Amazon that were clearly more fertile than other areas. When teams on the ground investigated, they discovered the fertile soils had the addition of pure carbon (biochar) that had been purposefully worked into the soil long ago. Throughout the years, this charcoal layer had provided a matrix for beneficial microorganisms, retaining nutrients, moisture, higher phosphorous and other micro nutrient levels than areas without the addition of the char.



But how does biochar relate to forestry and our own lands? What can be done with it, what products can be made and what markets could be developed? How can biochar be used on our own properties, and for what? Why should we care about biochar?

Universities and environmental groups around the country and around the world are asking that question. And the answers are varied and still being discovered. But there is enough research and experience now to demonstrate biochar can expand a forest owner or manager's palette of options in at least a few ways.

Producing biochar can reduce the cost of disposing small and unmarketable woody debris instead of chipping or hauling it away and can reduce (and almost eliminate) emissions from the smoke of open burn piles. Locally, Jack London State Park in Glen Ellen, California did a pilot program last season, burning piles from the top down and had the blessing of the California Air Quality Board (CARB). More collaborative pilot programs need to be executed, but indications that we have from CalFire in our counties, and the willingness of the NRCS to participate bodes well for more biochar opportunities for small and medium sized landowners with excesses of woody biomass.

On our property here in Napa, we have one of the first EQIP and CFIP grants for fuel load reduction in our watershed. As we looked at the cost of disposing the woody biomass and the options listed by the NRCS, Ray Gallian, from Sonoma Biochar assisted us in understanding how producing biochar could be a responsible alternative.

Ray explained that while we had all been taught that fires should be built from the bottom up, a biochar burn starts at the top and burns down. He explained that in a fire, it is not actually the wood that burns, but the gases emitted from the heated wood. And that although most of us believe that heat rises, heat actually radiates in all directions, and the heat causes the air to rise. As the gases burn, if the fire is coming from below, the wood burns too, and ash is the result. With biochar, as the small brush or small wood on top ignites, the heat causes the brush and wood to release gases, which are what actually burn. Smoke is unspent fuel.

Since the gases are burning above the wood, when the gases have been depleted, a layer of white ash will develop on top of the burnt fuel. Below, the wood that has released all its gases now stands a virtual carbon shell of its former self. This porous, pure carbon, waiting to become a matrix for microbial activity and moisture retention, is biochar.

On an open pile, kiln or pit, ash is a signal to add the next layer of wood or biomass. The new fuel starts the process again as it warms and emits gases, and the charcoal beneath is preserved in an oxygen free environment.

An interesting thing that happens with this method is that after the pile is burning and hot, the heat convection pulls the smoke (gases) back down into the pile and uses it as fuel. The result is a heat shimmer above the pile, but remarkably little smoke.

The remaining biochar will normally be about 10% of the original biomass pile.

After sharing information with our local NRCS, we were able to add the option of producing biochar as a means of disposing biomass and ending with a potentially commercial product into our grant.

There are a variety of methods for producing biochar, depending on whether you are transforming your garden prunings to a useful soil amendment, which can be done in handy, moveable open kilns or even old dutch ovens in your wood stove, or disposing of massive amounts of forest debris to generate electricity. Options in between can include open kilns for small batches of prunings or grapevines, open trench methods for long poles and a variety of other methods, small and large, landowners can try.

In the three years since we first heard about biochar, many universities have begun studying the effects of different feedstocks for biochar. Research and pilot projects are also ongoing everywhere from University of California Davis to The Biochar Demonstration Forest in Mendocino (<http://www.rffi.org/Newsletters/2012Biochar.html>) to a large collaborative project with Humboldt State University that was recently awarded \$5.8 million <http://now.humboldt.edu/news/hsu-receives-58-million-federal-grant-for-innovative-biomass-research1/>.

In our next edition we will explore why biochar needs to be "charged" and what studies and pilot projects are revealing.

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

July 18

FLC Field Day – A Tale of 3 NTMPs (Eureka, CA)

July 24

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

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 20

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

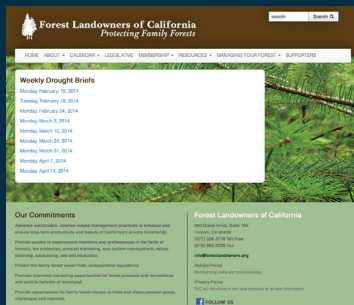


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is a proud sponsor of the
California Tree Farm Committee.

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.



Spring Legislative Report

Continued from page 3

AB 203 (Obernolte) would extend the time when the fire prevention fee is due and payable from 30 to 60 days from the date of assessment by the State Board of Equalization, and would allow the petition for redetermination to be filed within 60 days after service of the notice of determination.

AB 1202 (Mayes) would require CalFire to reduce the amount of the fire prevention fee to be charged on a habitable structure by an amount equal to the amount paid by the owner of the structure to a local fire district for fire prevention services during the year in which the fee is due, if the owner of the structure provides the board with written documentation of the amount paid to the local fire district for those services.

AB 498 (Levine) declares it is the policy of the state to promote the protection of wildlife corridors, habitat strongholds, and habitat linkages in order to enhance the resiliency of wildlife and their habitats to climate change, protect biodiversity, and allow for migration and movement of species between habitat lands. Further states it is the policy of the state with regard to projects proposed in an area identified as a wildlife corridor, to encourage the project proponent to consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and, wherever feasible and practicable, and take steps to protect or restore the functioning of the wildlife corridor through various means.

As of May 4, 2015, it's unclear if the following tax-related bills will move but they will be granted policy hearings over the next couple of weeks:

UNCERTAIN

AB 1203 (Jones-Sawyer) would create a special purpose surcharge (about 3%) on each commercial and residential fire and multi-peril insurance policy issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2016. The surcharge would raise revenues (about \$300 million per year) to create a new Disaster Response Fund for the purposes of funding emergency activities of the Office of Emergency Services, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Military Department, and local public entities for disaster preparedness and response (i.e., floods, earthquakes, fires, hazmat spills). As a condition of creating the new Disaster Response Fund, the \$150 SRA fee would be repealed. The bill is sponsored by the CA Professional Firefighters Association but is facing significant opposition from the insurance industry. **(Note: requires a 2/3 vote of the Legislature as a tax but it's not subject to any bill deadlines).**

AB 1329 (Patterson) would provide a non-refundable tax credit in an amount equal to 25% of an individual landowner's fuel management activities, not to exceed \$2,500 or 50% of that person's tax liability. Due to the high cost of vegetation management, this bill is seeking to provide a financial incentive to encourage landowner's to create defensible space and ensure the fuels around their home are managed appropriately and reduce the risk of fire. However, because the bill provides a tax credit, it's unclear if this bill will move since it could face opposition from Department of Finance as an impact to the General Fund. On the flip side, uncontrollable wildfires that are the result of neglecting vegetation management will also impact the General Fund when public funding is needed to fight the fires. **(Note: as tax measure, the bill requires a 2/3 vote).**

As of May 4, 2015, these bills did not pass the policy committees and are now two-year bills:

TWO-YEAR BILLS

SB 198 (Morrell) would repeal imposition of the State Responsibility Area (SRA) prevention fee.

AB 1345 (Dahle) would require the CA Air Resources Board (CARB) and CalFire, beginning January 1, 2017, to estimate the annual greenhouse gas emissions associated with wildfires in California between the years 1990 and 2015, and require CARB board to develop, no later than January 1, 2017, an emissions baseline for wildfires by calculating the average of the annual greenhouse gas emissions associated with wildfires between the years 1990 and 2015, inclusive.

Maple Creek Ranch and Tree Farm

Details About Our EQIP Project

By Terri Hall Belcourt

When travelling up Maple Creek Ranch Road, a sharp left turn up a steep hill is the best way to reach the northern section of the ranch. Access was extremely difficult due to deep ruts carved in place by seasonal water runoff leaving debris and irregularities. Erosion was a big problem and debris ran down the hill into a holding pond. Every few years, attempts would be made to grade and smooth this path, but the situation predictably recurred. We needed a solution badly.

Conversations with our forester and the EQIP engineer led to a plan. A graveled road would be constructed with water control structures to limit erosion and improve water quality. At set intervals, rolling dips were fashioned to facilitate proper drainage. The steep surface was then finished with 2-inch crushed angular rock to stabilize the project.

Finishing touches included the removal of branches from nearby trees to improve the appearance and quality of the wood product and reduce safety hazards. Our logger provided mechanical support with his D-6 Dozer, and the finished work was completed with our trusty Kubota. EQIP compensated just less than 50% of the cost.



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Ted Wyman

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Hap Anderson
Jo Barrington
Ron Berryman
Bart Burstein
Don & David Bushnell
Larry & Connie Camp
Donald Campbell
Jim & Lana Chapin
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 May 30, 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

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

Rosemary Bate

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

Jeff Berryman

Berryman Family Forest
Siskiyou County
Ron Berryman Family Member

Aaron Cavin

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

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

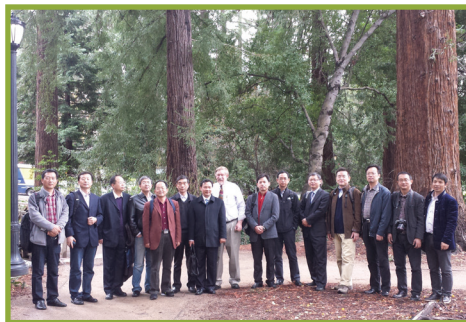
Forest Management Presentation to a Chinese Delegation

By Larry Camp, President

Sometimes we have to step back and look at the big picture rather than focus of our little corner of the world. In early December 2014, Deidre received a telephone call from Los Angeles seeking help in organizing a presentation for a group of fourteen Chinese forest researchers who were on a whirlwind tour in California. Knowing the importance of the Chinese export market particularly for the sale of white fir and Douglas fir, I worked with Bill Stewart of U.C. Extension to provide a 90-minute discussion about forestry on private lands within California a couple of weeks later. Although the language barrier created some impediments, the use of photos from the Parker Ten Mile Ranch in Mendocino County, the Gaarde property in the southern Sierras, and the Berryman property in Siskiyou County we were able to show a high level of care and management for nonindustrial private timberlands in the state. They were very surprised about the length of time and cost required to harvest timber on private land in the state.

Included are photos showing the group during a portion of Dr. Stewart's presentation and the group near the western end of the Berkeley campus. While not directly tied to the import sector of the forest products industry in China, I believe that this kind of involvement by FLC can open the door to further international communications about forest management on private lands, as well as provide links to people who may want to visit China in the future to see its many types of forest land. This type of tour has occurred before, but this was FLC's first opportunity to discuss small landowner forest management. We hope to continue the dialogue in the future.

If you have photos of your forest that you are willing to share, please forward them to Deidre at the FLC office.



Ask a Forester

Question:

Does continuous raking of pine needles and fir needles, and removal of flammable debris rob soils of nutrients? What is the right mix of fire prevention treatments and allowing forested land to function properly? What of the idea of the tilling of the debris into the soil?

Answer:

First of all, we assume that the raking is taking place to create a fire-safe environment either adjacent to a home site or along a road. Raking of pine needles and small debris may be more than needed to accomplish a fire-safe environment. Flame lengths in a dry condition are generally estimated to be about three times the height of the woody material. Needle litter and duff may only be 6 inches to a foot in depth whereas the brush can easily be 6-8 feet in height. The needle litter may support a flame length up to 3 feet but the brush can easily support flames of 18-24 feet.

A more efficient use of your time and energy would be to ensure the trees are properly spaced with crown separation to discourage crown fires. In addition, we would recommend the trees are well-pruned to at least 8 feet, and most importantly the woody brush species completely removed within that zone. Since decomposing needles and other woody material do add nutrients to the soil, there will be some loss of nutrients within the zone in question, but that would be offset by the fire-safe environment you have created.

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Bronze Contributors

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Ask a Forester

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We would think that the “right mix” of fire prevention treatments will be different for each forest due to the differences in rainfall, slope, aspect and fire history, to name but a few. Fire prevention treatments can be very expensive and once the treatment is completed, there is the semi-annual maintenance of removing or spraying for encroaching brush and removal of fallen limbs, etc. We would recommend a visit by your local fire protection agency (Cal-Fire, USFS) to see what suggestions they have.

As far as tilling debris into the soil, that is a cost-effective way to manage your fire-safe zones in some instances, but realize that you are also creating a perfect seedbed for conifer seedlings to become established. During a good seed fall year, you may find that you have a problem with far too many seedlings that need to be removed to keep the area fire-safe.



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