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President's Message

Kicking Off 2019 with Forest Stewardship

Valdek Parik, FLC President



Happy New Year to all our Forest Landowners of California (FLC) members! I am pleased to hear of new and returning memberships through our 2019 renewal process. 2018 was a good year for FLC and 2019 is looking to be impressive. I hope our members are as enthusiastic about the New Year as I am.

I feel proud about my personal achievements in 2018. I completed 90% of my shaded fuel break project, a two-year effort. I also feel good about reaching some personal goals. I will share my latest story: The joke in my family was that Val went and bought himself two new knees for Christmas. I made that decision and November 19 became the date for double knee replacement surgery at Oregon Health Science University (OHSU). During the past three years I experimented with knee injections, physical therapy and knee braces. Imagine working in the woods all day wearing knee braces. By late summer of 2018 I was convinced that with my activity level, my annoying knee pains would not be resolved without surgery. My OHSU orthopedic surgeon tried to convince me to replace one knee at a time, but I was stubborn and too anxious to get it all over with. Following the operation, it was clear why the doctor suggested operating on one knee at a time. I lost some sleep and a few pounds dealing with post-operative recovery; I felt relief when at week four I was well on my way towards recovery. I am reminded physically, and by others, to slow down and be careful; but I feel much better than before. SUCCESS!

On January 28 I was ready to hike around on my forest property. Joined by our local NRCS technician, I hiked through numerous sites in planning the next mastication and tree pruning project. The trip was a success for me physically as well as progress towards forest stewardship. I am looking forward to this next planned phase

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President's Message

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of forest stewardship on my property. Certainly, many of FLC's members are also planning their forest stewardship activities for 2019. We all know that such work seems endless but rewarding. We also know that California needs forest landowners who have the passion to care for their forestlands. It helps to share your results regarding forest stewardship in your forest. Consider sharing your project results and concerns through an FLC newsletter interview or by hosting a field day tour. Contact any FLC board member so we can arrange an opportunity.

I also have good feelings concerning 2019 success for FLC. Our membership committee has been working on ways to increase membership. In the past six months 33 new members have joined us. We are grateful to all members and executive staff who have helped with this achievement. We also remain encouraged with the engagement of Central Coast Forest Association membership merging into FLC during 2019.

We have seen monetary relief for FLC. This is a positive indicator. Our major contributors committee continues to reach out to associate business partners and build alliances with new partners who believe in FLC's goals. Reaching out to major contributors is not an easy task. We are grateful to the committee members who are applying their skills towards this effort.

Our annual meeting committee is busy preparing the agenda for our event, scheduled on May 18-19, 2019, at the Gaia Hotel in Anderson, CA. We are anticipating great attendance as this location is of easy access from Interstate-5 in Northern California. More information will be included in our newsletter and broadcast emails.

We plan at least four field days to be scheduled from spring to fall. Unfortunately, last year's weather and wildland fires caused air quality and safety concerns leading to cancellation of some field day excursions. We keep our fingers crossed for better conditions in 2019. As always, we learn so much from landowner show-and-tell experiences while having a great time with fellow members. I was particularly impressed to see how siblings have stepped up to carry out forest stewardship activities within their family forest legacies. It was intriguing to see their shared knowledge and enthusiasm contribute to the success of their family forests. It's inspiring to see youth involvement in forest stewardship, knowing that this is also a challenge with many families for varying reasons. Perhaps we will see future interest from such youth becoming engaged with FLC at the board of directors' level. Time will tell as our organizational legacy continues.

I wish all the best for our members and their family forests during 2019.

Respectfully,

Val

Time to Renew Your Commitment

This is the time of year that we reach out to you for continued support through membership renewal. Membership dues statements were mailed in December, with reminders sent in early February. Remember to complete the back side of the statement regarding the membership directory. For questions, please contact Deidre Bryant, at the FLC office, (877) 326-3778 or info@forestlandowners.org. We look forward to your continued support of programs and services in 2019.

Legislative Update

By Brian White, KP Public Affairs

“School is back in session” is often a common statement made around the State Capitol when the Legislature returns from a long break. Such was the scene on January 7 when legislators returned to work after the November 2018 elections. Governor Newsom was also sworn in and took the oath in front of several constitutional officers, legislators and hundreds of staff to become the state’s 40th Governor. They all witnessed history being made with his immediate ascension to power. This is because it was the first time in a hundred years in California’s history where a Democrat Governor followed another Democrat Governor into power as he followed four-termed Governor Jerry Brown who was the longest serving governor.

Besides his ability to sign or veto bills, Governor Newsom will have two key duties – signing a state budget and appointing numerous staff and officials to carry out his objectives. During the next four years, Governor Newsom will have the opportunity to appoint more than 3,000 people to various government agencies such as Cal Fire, Board of Forestry, State Water Board, Fish and Wildlife and many others impacting landowners. He has already appointed key staff to help carry out ambitious budget and policy goals to tackle issues such as health care, housing, homelessness and early childhood education. This, combined with the PG&E bankruptcy and ongoing wildfire threats facing the state, is sure to shape the priorities and actions of both Newsom and the State Legislature. Governor Newsom already issued an executive order in January asking Cal Fire to issue a report within 45 days outlining ideas to address wildfires. That report is complete and is pending review in the Governor’s Office.

Meanwhile, legislators and staffers will be working earnestly during the next seven months to push ideas important to them and their constituents. February 22 was the official deadline for legislators to introduce bills during the 2019 legislative session. At last count, there were approximately 2,600 bills introduced with about 1,800 coming from the Assembly and another 800 coming from the Senate. They touch on a range of topics but issues like wildfires, utility infrastructure, insurance, privacy, cannabis, climate change and health care seem to be dominating the docket for now.

Several Capitol observers have noted that in the last ten years it’s the most bills that have been introduced in the first year of a two-year session. But hundreds of them are so-called “spot” bills, which have little to no substance to them and are introduced for various reasons, ranging from innocuous to nefarious. They will be amended with more details during the next 30 days or risk being left on the sidelines for committee review. Full policy committee hearings will start to take shape in late March and mid-April before bills can head to fiscal committees for further consideration. We’ll be reviewing them and will compile a legislative update seeking positions from FLC for the most important bills.

One final note – when dealing with legislation, it’s hard not to consider the politics at play. Democrats currently hold a two-thirds supermajority vote in the 80-member Assembly and in the 40-member Senate. Given these dynamics, some legislative Democrats will want to flex their muscles after taking a back seat to Governor Brown for the last eight years. Ultimately, a two-thirds supermajority in both houses means it will be harder to stop negative legislation impacting landowners, agricultural interests and other business groups. It could also have a significant impact on whether Democrats are able to pass new or increased taxes without any pushback from Republicans.

Time will only tell where these bills end up and it’s still early in the process. But I regress back to famous legislative quotes, and there’s a famous one by Otto von Bismarck who said, “If you like laws and sausages, you should never watch either one being made.” Well, folks should get ready because it could get a bit messy!

Small Landowner Exemption Now in Effect

The small landowner exemption created under SB 901 is now in effect. Landowners should contact a Registered Professional Forester for more information to see if they are eligible to use the provision.

We Appreciate the Generous Support of Our Contributors!

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This space reserved for you!

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This space reserved for you!

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Steven & Valerie Dowty
Gilda Drinkwater
Jennie Dusheck
Bonnie Elliot
Terrence Finn
Ed Fountain

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Who Is Brian White?

By Denise Seghesio Levine and Terri Belcourt

Some of you know Brian White, but some of our newer members may not have met him yet. We chose Brian for this month's spotlight because of the work he does for Forest Landowners of California in Sacramento.

We (Terri and Denise) contacted Brian and asked if we could spend time with him at his KP Public Affairs office located at Capitol Mall in Sacramento and get an idea of what he does. Brian graciously said yes and hosted us to a morning in the life of a lobbyist!

The morning of our grand adventure we arrived separately in downtown Sacramento. The hardest part for Terri and me was figuring out where we were. Country mice in the big city. After we took advantage of the miracle of cell phones, we discovered we were in two different garages, sallied forth and finally saw each other waving from different blocks...it got easier from there. We found Brian's office together and enjoyed a floor to ceiling panorama of Sacramento as we waited in a spacious conference room. Brian joined us and the enjoyable part of our day began.

Brian told us about growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, and eventually going to school in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science. After graduation in 1993, Brian came back to California and began working for the California Chamber of Commerce. While every town has a local Chamber of Commerce, few realize the California Chamber is the largest state chamber in the country and one of the biggest advocacy groups in the country, representing more than 20,000 small, medium and large-sized businesses. From large behemoths like Google to small Mom and Pop stores, the Chamber provides advocacy before the California Legislature and state regulatory agencies.

Brian's first job was selling memberships for the Chamber to various businesses, which was an excellent opportunity for him to use his people skills and communication talents. Brian learned how to build rapport, explain the benefits of advocacy and reach agreements. But recognizing talent, and knowing Brian had a background in political science and policy, the Chamber offered Brian an opportunity to join its public policy unit as a legislative assistant. From there, Brian became versed in environmental, water and other natural resources writing articles for the Chamber. Brian was not only good at it, he enjoyed it. As he expanded his areas of expertise, he was called upon to testify at legislative hearings and Brian was on the road to becoming a "junior" lobbyist and eventually a full-fledged advocate for the Chamber where he not only interacted with state officials, legislators and staff but also a vast network of business representatives. Little did he know his Chamber experience would launch the beginning of a successful lobbying and public policy career where he has spent more than 20 years in the business.

After eight years with the Chamber, Brian left his position in 2001 as Director of Environmental and Educational Affairs and went to work for the California Building Industry Association where he delved deep into the housing industry learning about issues such as CEQA, zoning and the interconnection between water and land use. But when former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected in 2003 to replace former Governor Gray Davis due to a recall, Brian was tapped by then Governor Schwarzenegger for his expertise and appointed the Assistant Director of Legislation for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf in 2005, it was a wakeup call for California. California had similar concerns about flood protection and levee weaknesses here, giving Brian an opportunity to leverage his knowledge about development while expanding his experience about emergency preparedness and response, including the numerous issues associated with natural disasters. As a result, Brian was successful in helping negotiate a bill with legislative leaders to place a measure on the 2006 ballot where voters approved billions of dollars in new funding to upgrade levees throughout the Central Valley.



Continued on page 5

Who is Brian White?

Continued from page 4

In 2007, Brian left the public sector and returned to the private sector again, this time for the California Forestry Association as Vice President of Legislative Affairs. Getting more involved in forestry and bringing the benefit of his experience with water and other natural resource issues, Brian enjoyed bringing colleagues and urban lawmakers up to Northern California and the forested areas from Redding to Humboldt where they learned about sustainable forest management, biomass, wildfires and several other natural resource issues.

Leaving that position in 2008, Brian branched out and went to work for British Petroleum (BP America) as their Director of California Government Affairs. This was an interesting time with the economy experiencing one of the worst recessions ever and the company experienced one of the worst disasters in modern history – the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf Spill. Although it was a tough time for the company dealing with the unfortunate impacts to the Gulf Coast communities, Brian considers his time at BP one of his best but also most challenging jobs. He learned a lot about the industry, the company's energy outlook, and its efforts to promote renewable energy. But he learned even more about crisis management, proactive communication strategies and the need for community engagement, which are all key strategies for companies involved in risky industries.



Left to Right: Terri Belcourt, Brian White and Denise Levine

Recognizing the company was likely headed for restructuring and divestment in California, Brian moved on in 2011 to work for SunEdison, a solar company that was based in Maryland. During this time, both utility scale and rooftop solar companies were making inroads with California policymakers as they sought expansion of solar energy with new incentives for customers and mandates requiring utilities to increase renewable power. SunEdison tapped Brian as its Director of West Coast Government Affairs where he helped move their headquarters from Maryland to the San Francisco Bay Area. Brian got out his rolodex, made some calls to help facilitate the move and even secured a ribbon cutting ceremony with former Governor Jerry Brown. Brian covered four states on the West Coast monitoring legislation and looking for opportunities for SunEdison to grow its business. After his stint with SunEdison, Brian used his relationships in many fields in Sacramento and parlayed it into more opportunities to collaborate with various industries across his many areas of experience.

In 2012, Brian decided to optimize his skills as a consultant and opened his own office where he got his first taste of what's known as "contract lobbying." A colleague referred several clients to Brian and his business began. His past work as Vice President of Legislative Affairs for the California Forestry Association made him a knowledgeable and effective advocate for his work with Forest Landowners of California and the California Licensed Foresters Association.

Soon he was invited to merge his business with KP Public Affairs with their focus on three areas, legislative consulting, regulatory consulting and public relations. With 12 lobbyists, KP is one of the largest lobbyist firms in California....blending policy + expertise + networking.

Now 20 years into his career, Brian currently represents a variety of clients, from the Mosquito and Vector Control Association, to the California Housing Alliance, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (the biggest public energy provider in the US), various private energy companies, to the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, which represents cargo ships that operate from Long Beach to Oregon, AND Forest

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2019 FLC/CTFS Annual Meeting

May 17-18



This year's theme is "The Resilient Forest." The registration brochure was mailed to members and is available on the website.

The Annual Meeting Committee has an information-packed program planned. The education program on Friday, May 17 will be held at the Gaia Hotel and Spa. The Field Day program will be held on Saturday, May 18 – leaving from the Gaia Hotel and Spa.

Gaia Hotel and Spa

4125 Riverside Place
Anderson, CA 96007
(530) 365-7077

The group rate is based on availability: \$109 single/double and includes breakfast. Make your reservation by **April 25, 2019.**

Contributors

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Ralph & Barbara Gaarde
Alicia Galliani
Russell Greenlaw
Walton & Barbara Haines
Donna Hall
Gard Hellenthal
Tim Holliday
Jerry Jensen
Craig Kincaid
Heide Kingsbury
Ken Kirtley
John & Claudia Lima
Tom & Jan Linville
Daniel & Marian Lucero
Elizabeth Marshall Maybee
Carol Michener
John & Cynthia Miles
Phil Noia
David Olson
L. Robert Prather
Stephanie Rico
Steve & Liz Schlafer
Francis Schutz
Greg & Vicki Shandel
Frank Teiche
Jeff & Patti Tienken
Gay Toroni
Larry Tunzi
Steven Vanderhorst
Susan Walsh
Kay White
John & Laura Williams
John & Linda Wilson
Richard Wortley

Friends (Up to \$99)

James Able
Dennis & June Bebensee
Ron & Sharon Harston
Ron & Nancy Knaus
Dustin & Danielle Lindler
Kelli Mathia
Fred Nelson
Dennis Possehn
Richard & Kathleen Schoenheide
Anthony Sorace

Who is Brian White?

Continued from page 5

Landowners of California and California Licensed Forestry Association. Brian noted how times have changed... When he started working in forestry, the subject was how many trees, how big...now it is wildfire, wildfire, wildfire.

It takes a catastrophe to change things...to wake up.

So, we asked...but what do you DO?

Brian explained that beginning each January, about 30 or 40 bills are submitted each day and that number increases until the end of February (bill introduction deadline this year was February 22). A total that can reach a staggering 2,500 bills. So every morning Brian receives an "Introduced Bill Report. . ."

When Brian receives his report, he reads and sorts through the bills, relegating each bill that pertains to his clients to their own list of notices. Representing clients who are builders, energy providers, foresters, members of the maritime industry, he uses a triage process that can be like dealing out a deck of cards. At the end of the week, Brian compiles a Bill Status Report for each client, summarizing new bills and progress on existing bills. Since we visited on a Friday, we received a copy of the Forest Landowners Report. That week's status report covered 11 Assembly and Senate bills covering topics from AB 38, which calls for stricter building codes in high fire areas to AB 257, a plan to create a five-year woody biomass collection and disposal pilot program. Other bills focused on creating a wildfire insurance program funded by public utilities (AB 235), and SB 68, which is designed to channel hazardous wood waste to approved landfills capable of dealing with it. Check our legislative update to see all the areas being addressed that concern Forest Landowners.

We learned some bills are called "spot bills," the equivalent of place holders. Brian discerns whether bills are imminent or longer range, a main priority or an idea to flesh out. The friendly relationships Brian has developed during his 20 years in Sacramento in all the different natural resource fields help him determine the immediacy of the bills and priorities of the legislators. This is where networking comes in. Heads up!

Several days a week, Brian is on multiple conference calls strategizing amongst his peers on various bills, and then treks down to the Capital where he takes to the halls. Shadowing Brian was an upbeat experience as a variety of lawmakers, aides and staff greeted him, clearly friendly peers. We stopped in a couple of offices, including Michael Jarred who is a policy consultant for the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Jarred is the point person for the Assembly on forestry-related issues where he is responsible for analyzing all bills pertaining to forestry, wildfires and other natural resource areas. Brian told us there are times when it just pays "to be in the building" because you never know who you're going to meet. As luck would have, we had the opportunity to have an unscheduled meeting with Assemblymember James Gallagher whose district covers the unfortunate Camp Fire area of Paradise. Assemblymember Gallagher told us about a recent tour he took with more than 15 legislators where he showed them the destruction and challenges facing the area and the need for policy changes to avoid future fires. He welcomed FLC's assistance with any ideas on how to improve the state's forest management policy. We appreciated not only meeting these folks, but were encouraged by their interest in our concerns. Everyone clearly had the wildfires, public safety and all the challenges needing to be dealt with in the next year. There was interest, and a sense of urgency.

We asked Brian what was coming up... Governor Newsom has a big wish list, but while his priorities when running for office were education, environment and health care, wildfires and the PG&E bankruptcy have moved to the top of the list.

For Forest Landowners, there is much to be hopeful about. Finally attention is being paid to our overstocked forests and the deferred maintenance of our woodlands that have been so catastrophically impacted by past policies and regulations. Grants for small landowners, and hopefully a streamlining of regulations to help get the job done at an affordable cost are on the table. Biomass projects, grants for fuel load and defensible space are all crucial. This is such an important time to have Brian, his expertise and his positive and effective relationships working for Forest Landowners of California to address our concerns and advocate for us. Stay tuned for progress.

My Sierra Woods

By Lois Kaufman, California Tree Farm System

Building on previous efforts across the West, early in 2018 the American Forest Foundation (AFF) brought together partners to engage nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners across a four-county area (Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Yuba) to increase forest restoration on NIPF lands. The program, My Sierra Woods (MSW), marketed services to 1,100 priority landowners in Cal Fire High Hazard Zone (HHZ) Tier 1 or 2 areas. More than 90 of them, who collectively own nearly 8,400 acres, have responded and asked to meet with a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or connect with a local peer landowner network. Through an initial round of meetings, AFF and its partners have found both landowners with overstocked forests interested in fuels reduction and landowners with a need to reforest properties that were severely damaged by fire or other disturbance in the past.

Based on this strong initial response, and based on past experience in engaging family landowners in more than 20 landscapes across the country, AFF proposed to use Forest Health Grants funds to expand MSW's program to include five additional counties (Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer). Through the MSW program, AFF will connect with approximately 10,000 NIPF landowners, and provide approximately 720 of them with technical and/or financial assistance, empowering these family forest owners to conduct forest restoration, fuels reduction or reforestation greater than 42,000 acres. The result will be increased carbon sequestration, a reduction in wildfire risk, maintenance of clean drinking water for downstream communities, and the production of renewable energy via BioRAM bioenergy facilities, among other benefits.

AFF will achieve this by implementing activities designed to overcome two primary barriers to NIPF engagement: 1) most landowners have little or no management experience managing their lands and no idea where to start, and 2) the cost of forest restoration, fuels reduction or reforestation is prohibitive for most landowners.

To address these barriers, MSW will engage the following activities across the program area:

- 1) Marketing services to no fewer than 10,000 target NIPF landowners;
- 2) Coordinating follow-up with responding landowners by:
 - a) Facilitating peer-to-peer landowner events and visits
 - b) Contracting with local RPFs to work with interested landowners planning 100% CEQA-compliant fuels reduction projects or reforestation projects;
- 3) For fuels-reduction: facilitating the sale of the byproducts of projects as a means of offsetting the cost of activities; through partnership with forest product companies. Such byproducts include:
 - a) As appropriate, merchantable material such as saw logs and post/poles
 - b) Biomass for BioRAM facilities. We will extend the reach BioRam sourcing, and support more fuels-reduction projects, through a Forest Biomass Transportation incentive;
- 4) For reforestation: landowners will be provided with technical assistance in the form of an RPF to plan and implement CFIP or EQIP eligible reforestation projects as program funding is available.

Discrete campaigns will be initiated to market services to landowners. The target population marketing will be NIPF landowners across the program area who own at least 10 acres of a Tier 1 or Tier 2 HHZ, and who are within a hundred-mile radius of a BioRAM facility. After analyzing parcel data, at least 10,000 landowners have been identified. GIS analysis is used to identify a subset whose properties have lost their forested condition as a result of past fire events, or who have severely under stocked stands. These landowners will receive messaging regarding reforestation opportunities. Each outreach effort will use high-quality mailers and ads on a variety of social media platforms. MSW's program website (mysierrawoods.org) will support its marketing efforts. Based on previous experience in California and in other projects across the country, our models suggest that approximately 3,000, or roughly 30%, of targeted landowners will respond to our marketing.

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Ask a Forester

Question:

With the onslaught of recent fires, is there any rules of thumb I can use to assess how risk-prone my property is?

Answer:

One rule of thumb used by many is that flame height will be approximately three times the height of the woody fuels. This works in many types of fire behavior EXCEPT during a wind-driven fire when flame heights can greatly exceed this rule.

To make a property fire-safe one should concentrate first on the woody ground fuels such as pine needles, grasses and brush. Thin the trees in the treatment area to a spacing that avoids crown overlap. Prune the remaining trees to a height that EXCEEDS the above rule of thumb.

Cal Fire has some excellent brochures that deal with other topics of concern when doing fire-safe work.

How You Can Make a Difference

Have you been wondering how you could make a difference? We have several opportunities. There are a few seats open to serve as a Director on the FLC Board of Directors. Join a dynamic group of individuals to serve the members in legislative advocacy, program planning and organizational governance. There are four committees you could join: Annual Meeting, Communications, Legislative and Membership.

Contact Deidre Bryant at

(877) 326-3778 or

deidreb@forestlandowners.org

with your interest.

Connect with Other Forest Landowners on Facebook and Instagram!

A great place to read interesting articles, network with fellow forestland owners around the world!

Share information and stay current with FLC activities!

Check us out and “Like” our page!

Share with friends and family!

Help us build this new FLC resource!

Go to www.forestlandowners.org – on the home page click on the Facebook and Instagram images.



Photo Gallery of FLC Events

View the photo galleries of FLC events. From the home page, scroll down to the photo gallery listing – click on each individual link of the Annual Meeting and Field Days. Enjoy!

My Sierra Woods *Continued from page 7*

The MSW Project Manager, Chantz Joyce, based in Palo Cedro, CA, will acknowledge landowner responses, record and track landowner engagement and coordinate with project partners to provide landowners with services they requested. Offers made to landowners will include the opportunity to connect with a network of peer landowners or a complimentary property visit by an RPF contracted by AFF.

Peer Network: The peer network will be managed by the California Tree Farm System. Members will host field days, organize workshops, and/or conduct one-on-one visits with interested landowners. From past experience the peer landowners offer a more relaxed and informal information sharing experience and help to expand our network. We anticipate that approximately 1,000 private landowners will connect with the peer network program.

Technical Assistance Provided by Registered Professional Foresters (RPF): AFF will contract with RPFs in order to service interested landowners. RPFs will receive a fee from AFF for an in-person, initial consultation to determine landowner objectives and see if the property is appropriate for fuels reduction, biomass utilization, or reforestation. At least two foresters will be contracted specifically to work with landowners in need of reforestation and access to CFIP and EQIP cost-share programs as funding is available. RPFs for fuels reduction projects, the RPF will determine the appropriate CEQA permit, arrange for the sale of forest products as appropriate, and secure the services of contractors to perform that work. For reforestation projects we will target private lands that have burned catastrophically in the past and have not yet returned to a forested condition. The RPF will assist the landowner in preparing CFIP- or EQIP-eligible projects and applying for funding to complete the work. After initial consultation, the RPF will be compensated through a formal client relationship with the landowner.



Once landowners have worked with an RPF to develop a CEQA-compliant fuel treatment, MSW will strive to reduce the cost of treatment, in order to stretch Forest Health dollars as far as possible. We will maintain an open dialogue with logging contractors, primary wood-manufacturing facilities and others to maximize the extent to which the cost of fuels reduction is offset by the sale of material.

Most byproducts of fuels reduction, however, will be non-merchantable. Nevertheless, they must be removed to confer various forest-restoration benefits. The current forest biomass market does not compensate landowners for the cost of delivering such material unless the landowner is located within an economic haul distance (typically less than 30 miles one way) of the end user. AFF will address this challenge through the Forest Biomass Transportation Incentive program (FBTI). The FBTI offers cost share reimbursements for fuels-reduction projects based on the amount of material delivered to one of five BioRAM plants located within the nine-county program area, and the distance between the property and the BioRAM facility. By providing reimbursement for fuels reduction projects, the FBTI will narrow the gap between the overall cost of fuels-reduction project and the amount of the project covered by the sale of merchantable material. Landowners will be eligible for FBTI reimbursements for fuels-reduction and restoration projects only; only if those activities are conducted within designated Tier 1 or Tier 2 HHZs; and only if activities are CEQA-compliant and overseen by an RPF. To apply for the FBTI program, first go to the MSW website, <https://mysierrawoods.org>, download and carefully read the FBTI instructions. This form will cover program eligibility, detailed application instructions, step-by-step program overview, and an outline of FBTI deliverables necessary for accepted projects.

Cost share reimbursement for fuels reduction projects are based on bone-dry tons (BDT) provided to the nearest BioRam facility and the project’s distance from that facility in miles. The FBTI is aimed at NIPF landowners, who are defined by the state of California as owning less than 15,000 acres and not being engaged primarily in the manufacture of forest products (PRC 4597.1(i)). However, to accomplish landscape-scale treatments, the FTBI may occasionally be used for projects on larger properties (>15,000 acres). Such properties would be eligible for no more than 20% of total FTBI funding, and only in cases where fuels reduction complements similar activities on NIPF ownerships.

Chantz Joyce has accepted the position of California Conservation Manager for AFF and will be heading up the My Sierra Woods program. Contact Chantz via email cjoyce@forestfoundation.org or call (530) 524-9563.

A Walk in the Woods at Night

By Tim Cookenboo

There's nothing quite like standing in the woods, at night, with an owl hooting at you. The first time, it's startling; after that it can still be unsettling, but amazing. Whether you're out just for the experience or conducting an owl survey, it's very rewarding. You may not be aware, but with training you can help conduct your own Northern Spotted Owl Surveys.

If your California property is in the Klamath, Cascade or Coast Ranges, before logging, chances are you'll need two years of owl surveys submitted to Cal Fire to review for Take Avoidance. With the fluctuations in the timber market lately, it pays to be prepared. At \$4,000-\$8,000 per season (or more depending on the size of your project and complications that can arise from owls on the landscape), if you're hiring a biologist or qualified forester to conduct your surveys, always remaining current on surveys can be costly. There is, however, an alternative. Any able-bodied landowner with good vision and hearing can conduct the surveys themselves. In addition to being cost effective, it certainly gives you a different perspective on your property, and it can be fun. To begin, you'll need to review the USF&WS NSO protocols, have good vision and normal hearing, and either be trained in survey techniques as attested by a letter of reference, or have at least one season's experience working with other biologists successful in NSO surveys. You'll also need to be able to walk the terrain during nighttime conditions. The suggested but necessary equipment is minimal, consisting of a digital caller, call recordings, a flashlight and binoculars. I would also suggest carrying a recording device and having either your forester or biologist on speed dial. When you do get a responding owl, the last two recommendations will become all too apparent if you are new to conducting wildlife surveys. Having your biologist or forester establish the calling stations will be necessary. It may also be necessary to consult with Cal Fire, and/or CDFW, on the placement of your station locations. Plan on walking the route between stations during the day to familiarize yourself with the terrain, since moving around at night can be challenging. This would also be a good opportunity to check on any known activity centers. A full daytime follow-up will also be required if any owls are detected.

You'll need to have six complete visits between March 15 and August 30 (on the coast), with three occurring before June 30, including one outing in each of April, May and June. There is some flexibility due to adverse weather or other unavoidable operating conditions. If you do experience adverse conditions, the causes should be documented, explaining the causes of the modified survey period, and submitted along with your surveys. Poor weather is described in the protocols as any rainfall, or wind greater than 10 mph. If these events occur, then your survey should be canceled for the night. Cal Fire will have the final say on whether or not your surveys are complete or not. Plan on conducting a complete visit on each outing and calling at each station for at least 10 minutes. If you are in an area where barred owls are present, then you will need to call for an additional five minutes or more. It's always a good idea to vary the order as you visit the stations, and the times of your visits, so as not to be predictable. The hours of calling should be between apparent sunset and sunrise, with additional daytime calling, under certain circumstances.



While stumbling around at all hours of the night and early morning may not be for everyone, the more time spent on your property the better. Have a fun and happy hooting!

New Members

Please join us in welcoming new members (since December 2018).

James Bengard (Siskiyou County)

Richard Dorn (Humboldt County)

Martin Grether (El Dorado County; Stephan Grether Family Member)

Stephan Grether (El Dorado County)

L. Robert Prather (Lake County)

Martin Rau (Humboldt County)

Suzanne Rico (El Dorado County; Stephanie Rico Family Member)

Lisa Weger (Mendocino County)

Special Note:

Our sincerest apologies for overlooking a new member from 2018 – Robert Vogt (Humboldt County).

CFIP Not Accepting New Applications

The California Forest Improvement Program is currently not accepting new applications at this time because they will be transitioning over to an online application process once new funds become available later this year. When new funds become available they will provide instructions on how to apply using the new process. The new process is called WebGrants; there is no fixed rollout date at this time. CFIP applications that have been submitted, but not approved and funded, will continue to be reviewed by Cal Fire.

Forest landowners with current applications in process should contact their project RPF for further information on the status of their application. To ensure that you are not impacted by this transition, e.g., paying for completing the application twice, forest landowners who are contemplating, or in process of preparing, a new CFIP application this year should immediately contact the RPF preparing your plan to discuss how this transition will affect your project. For further information on this matter you should contact your local Cal Fire Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS). A list of FAS by county follows.

For information on the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) contact a Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) in your county. To report an emergency, call 911.

County	FAS	Phone Number	Address
Alameda	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Alpine	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Amador	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Butte	Dave Derby	(530) 872-6334	6640 Steiffer Road, Magalia, CA 95954
Calaveras	Zsolt Katay	(209) 754-2707	785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249
Colusa	Dawn Pederson	(530) 528-5199	604 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, CA 96060
Contra Costa	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Del Norte	James Robbins	(916) 224-8761	118 Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna, CA 95540
El Dorado	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Fresno	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Glenn	Brook Darley	(530) 224-2438	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Humboldt	James Robbins	(916) 224-8761	118 Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna, CA 95540
Imperial	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Inyo	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Kern	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Kings	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Lake	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Lassen	Ivan Houser	(530) 257-8503	697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA, 96130
Los Angeles	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Madera	Zsolt Katay	(209) 754-2707	785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249
Marin	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Mariposa	Zsolt Katay	(209) 754-2707	785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249
Mendocino	James Robbins	(916) 224-8761	118 Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna, CA 95540
Merced	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Modoc	Don Schroeder	(530) 294-5110	697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA, 96130
Mono	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Monterey	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Napa	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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CFIP Not Accepting New Applications

Continued from page 11

County	FAS	Phone Number	Address
Nevada	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Orange	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Placer	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Plumas	Al Klem	(530) 283-1792	171 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971
Riverside	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Sacramento	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
San Benito	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
San Bernardino	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
San Diego	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
San Francisco	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
San Joaquin	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
San Luis Obispo	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
San Mateo	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Santa Barbara	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Santa Clara	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Santa Cruz	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Shasta	Brook Darley	(530) 224-2438	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Sierra	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Siskiyou	Dale Meese	(530) 224-2480	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Solano	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Sonoma	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Stanislaus	Topher Henderson	(559) 977-3560	15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037
Sutter	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Tahoe Basin	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Tehama	Brook Darley	(530) 224-2438	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Trinity East	Brook Darley	(530) 224-2438	6105 Airport Road, Redding, CA 96002
Trinity West	James Robbins	(916) 224-8761	118 Fortuna Blvd, Fortuna, CA 95540
Tulare	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Tuolumne	Zsolt Katay	(209) 754-2707	785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249
Ventura	Guy Anderson	(559) 243-4109	1234 E Shaw Ave, Fresno, CA 93710
Yolo	Meghan Reeves	(707) 888-7331	135 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Yuba	Mary Huggins	(916) 718-6258	3141 Highway 50, Suite B, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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Forest Landowners OF CALIFORNIA

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FLC Website— News You Can Use

The website includes a page titled, “News You Could Use.” It features current drought updates, other water saving resources and the California Forest Pest Conditions Report for the last three years, which includes the latest 2015 report.

If there is information you would like to see on this page 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@forestlandowners.org. We look forward to adding content that is valuable to our forest landowner members.



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.

May 16, 2019

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
(in conjunction with Annual Meeting)
Gaia Hotel and Spa (Andersen, CA)

May 17-18, 2019

FLC/CTFC Annual Meeting
Gaia Hotel and Spa (Andersen, CA)

July 26, 2019

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
Granzella’s Inn (Williams, CA)

November 1, 2019

FLC Board of Directors Meeting
Granzella’s Inn (Williams, CA)



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