BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

Sacramento, CA

April 6, 2022

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS**:

# **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS**:

## **Present**:

* Keith Gilless, Chair
* Rich Wade
* Chris Chase
* Mike Jani
* Katie Delbar
* Elizabeth Forsburg Pardi
* J. Lopez

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

# **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

* Edith Hannigan, Executive Officer
* Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
* Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
* Jeff Slaton, Senior Board Counsel
* Deniele Cade, Staff Analyst, Licensing
* Andrew Lawhorn, Forestry Assistant II
* Jane Van Susteren, Environmental Scientist
* Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist
* Laura Alarcon Stalians, Administrative Manager
* Robert Roth, Board Counsel
* Claire McCoy, Wildfire Planning Specialist
* Sara Walter, Contracts Analyst
* Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation

# **DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT**:

* Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director, Resource Management
* Matt Damon, Deputy Chief, Land Use Planning
* Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
* Drew Coe, Manager, Watershed Protection Program

# **AGENCY STAFF PRESENT**:

# **Announcement of Action(s) Taken in Executive Session**

Jeff Slaton, Senior Board Counsel, reported that the Board discussed the three items on its agenda. No reportable actions were taken.

# Consent Calendar Items

* Approval of the March 2, 2022, minutes (with minor edits if requested by members of the Board).
* Review of Rulemaking Matrix.

**04-06-01** **Chair Gilless moved to approve the items on the Consent Calendar. Member Chase seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade aye**

**Jani aye**

**Delbar aye**

**Chase aye**

**Lopez aye**

**Forsburg-Pardi aye**

**Gilless aye**

**The motion passed.**

# MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

## **Report of the Chairman, Dr. Keith Gilless**

Chair Gilless thanked Board staff and CAL FIRE for running things smoothly in the virtual pandemic world.

The Chair is looking forward to adding two new Board members and is waiting to finalize committee assignments until those people are confirmed.

## Report of the Director, Deputy Director Matthew Reischman on behalf of Director Joe Tyler

# Resource Management

## Forest Practice Program

### Watershed Protection Program Update

* As of March 25, 2022, monitoring staff have completed seventy-seven percent (77%) of the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption sampling.
* Watershed Protection Program Manager Drew Coe presented post-fire watershed hazards talk at the Society of American Foresters Winter Meeting on March 18, 2022, will be presenting a Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT)-related talk at the annual CAL FIRE Incident Management Team (IMT) Conference on April 5, 2022.

### Prescribed Fire

* Governor Newsom, in coordination with the Prescribed Fire Working Group of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, released the California’s Strategic Plan for Beneficial Fire on March 29, 2022. This strategic plan will guide use of beneficial fire (Managed, Prescribed and Cultural Burning).

**Environmental Protection**

* The NEPA/CEQA equivalent memo from the Secretary of Natural Resources has been extended under SB 901 for another year certifying that fuel reduction projects that have NEPA completed will not need to have CEQA completed.

### Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC)

* Business and Workforce Development grants include $4 million in funding for nursery creation and cone collection initiatives. This solicitation is open until March 31, 2022. We expect to award all $4 million shortly thereafter.

### Demonstration State Forests

*Jackson*

* An additional community tour of the Caspar 500 Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) was added for April 6, 2022. The guest speaker will be Dr. Steve Sillett from Cal Poly Humboldt to discuss forest carbon.
* This last tour will conclude a total of five tours of the Caspar 500 THP to listen to community concerns and provide access to special guests from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, CAL FIRE Forest Practice, University of California Cooperative Extension, Board of Forestry, Jackson Advisory Group, Willits Redwood, Anderson Logging, and the Mendocino Coast Cyclists. CAL FIRE will be working with the purchaser, Willits Redwood, on potential changes to address community concerns prior to resuming operations.

*Mountain Home*

* Forest Manager Jim Kral and Program Manager Kevin Conway gave a presentation to staff from the Congressional Natural Resources Committee on March 3, 2022, to discuss management of old growth giant sequoia as part of the committee’s fact finding for the proposed Save Our Sequoias Act.

## Climate and Energy

### Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

* The March 24, 2022, meeting was again held virtually with the Reforestation Strategy presented in draft and an update given by the Joint Institute on various wood utilization efforts. Director Patrick Wright of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, CAL FIRE, CARB and Spatial Informatics Group also explained progress toward a Forest & Wildland Interagency Tracking System.
* The Task Force is planning the first in-person meeting for May 5, 2022, in Santa Rosa (10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). The agenda will focus on implementation of the Task Force goals at the regional level. There will be updates from northern region forest collaboratives and opportunities to interact with local organizations, county leaders, and tribal representatives. On May 6, 2022, there will be optional site visits to demonstration projects.

### Forest Health Program

* Forest Health grant solicitation closed on March 4, 2022, and submitted applications are currently being scored. Up to $120 million in Forest Health grant awards are scheduled to be announced at the end of April early May 2022.

### Wood Products & Bioenergy Program

* Assisted more than 50 companies and organizations that are preparing applications for $28 million in business and workforce development grants.

# Fire Protection

## Fire Protection Programs

### Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

* During the month of February 2022, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers made 24 arrests and issued 15 citations (non-4291).
* CAL FIRE Civil Cost Recovery has received $150,450.00 in recovered fire suppression costs for the month.

### 

### Fire Protection Operations

* CAL FIRE Incident Management Team Workshop (IMT) is scheduled for the week of April 4, 2022, in Pomona. This workshop serves as the annual training for the CAL FIRE IMTs. Presentations and meetings with internal and external leaders and stakeholders help to ensure the IMTs are prepared for All Hazard responses.

### Aviation Management Unit (AMU)/Tactical Air Operations (TAO)

* + AMU has worked with both Regions to meet early aircraft activation request for April 4, 2022, in the South and May 23, 2022, in the North. Recent weather conditions in the North will require additional assets to be available on an as need basis until May 23, 2022.

**Cooperative Fire Programs**

### *Conservation Camp Program*

* The current statewide strength of Type I Fire Crews is 42 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) crews staffed out of a total of 152 funded, and 19 California Conservation Corps (CCC) Crews staffed out of 22 total allocated year-round crews. There are an additional 5 CDCR Crews and 1 CCC Crew staffed but with a crew strength of less than 12, which makes them unavailable for statewide response. That leaves CAL FIRE with a total of 61 Type I Fire Crews available for statewide response out of 174 CDCR and CCC funded crews.

**Fire Crew Program**

* Units are in the process of hiring and training the 16 CAL FIRE Firefighter crews.

### State/Federal Programs

* State and Federal Programs is currently working with CAL OES to provide the Unit, Region, and Sacramento Duty Chiefs with current Fire Management Assistance Grant Training (FMAG) forms, processes, procedures, and expectations. CAL OES has been updating their receiving process of the FMAG request to ensure all deliverables are understood and captured early on to ensure the qualifying incidents are approved. It has been many years since this training has been held and with the number of new Duty Chiefs across the state, this training is pertinent and valuable. Additionally, with the assistance of our Intel Program, there will be additional training on how our Techno Sylva platform can aid the Duty Chiefs in preparing a proper and correct FMAG request.

### Training Program

* Regions and the Training Center are working on a plan to staff and support three additional Company Officer Academies and four additional Firefighter Academies at the Training Center. This is a heavy lift for the Units and the Training Center, with an additional demand on the Administration staff that support these classes – hiring, as well as Region and Sacramento staff.

# Office of the State Fire Marshal

**Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division**

* The first State Fire Marshal’s Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee, as mandated by AB 9, will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Pacific Standard Time. The Committee will provide a means of communication between the CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, state agencies, the fire service, and other stakeholders. The Committee will provide a forum for addressing wildfire preparedness and mitigation issues of statewide concern, share best practices, seek comments and specific input on programs and technical issues, and inform local agencies and the public of applicable new laws and regulations. Visit the [State Fire Marshal’s Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/) page for more information.
* California accomplished a new record with the recognition of the 500th Firewise USA® Community in California - Hollister Ranch in Santa Barbara County. While California has held the highest amount of Firewise Communities nationwide for quite some time, the state has now set a new record with 500 Firewise USA® recognized communities. Chiefs Daniel Berlant, Steve Hawks, Frank Bigelow, and Assistant State Fire Marshal Wendy Collins congratulated the Firewise community in person on March 18, 2022.

**Wildfire Prevention Grants**

* The Wildfire Prevention Grants open solicitation for grant applications closed on February 9, 2022. The Department received 240 applications for nearly $241.5 million, with up to $120 million in available funding. Applications are currently in the review process. Visit the [CAL FIRE - Wildfire Prevention Grants](https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/fire-prevention-grants/) page for more information.

**Wildfire Preparedness**

* Defensible Space:
  + Delivery of a statewide defensible space curriculum has begun and is being taught this week in San Luis Obispo County. This is a major milestone in completing the curriculum development required by SB 190. Staff continues to move toward adapting this curriculum for local fire agencies and other qualified entities as defined by SB 63.
* Home Hardening:
  + Work continues with Cal OES to develop the foundation for the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program (Home Hardening) that encourages cost-effective structure hardening/retrofitting and facilitates vegetation management (D-Space and neighborhood/community fuel reduction/modification).

**Utility Wildfire Mitigation**

* In the process of assisting the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) in the review of the wildfire mitigation plans for the three large Investor-Owned Utilities (PG&E, SDG&E, SCE). The CAL FIRE review team consists of subject matters experts from across the department (Forest Practice, Fire Protection, Intel, Climate & Energy, and FRAP).

Fire Statistics

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Interval** | **Fires** | **Acres** |
| 2022 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)\* | 613 (+89) | 5,876 (-234) |
| 2021 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)\* | 697 | 2,259 |
| 5-Year Average (same interval) | 453 (-84) | 843 (+3,617) |

Federal acres reduced from previous reporting period.

**In the past week California faced 89 new wildfires, of which 84 were within CAL FIRE’s jurisdiction.**

\***These numbers are subject to change until the final fire season reports are completed and tabulated.**

(2021 stats include all wildfires dispatched to by CAL FIRE in SRA & LRA as reported in CAD and federal data based off NIFC Incident Management Situation Report and Department of Defense).

**Comments:**

* Chairman Comment:Meeting on the 19th is one that requested for board participation. Member Lopez volunteered to be a board liaison to that group. Will verify if that is the correct group.
* Chairman Gilless mentions the old SRA grants. What percent of the applications hit the standard for funding, in the sense of trying to get a feel for good proposals or were you able to fund most of the ones that were well prepared? Did they align up with the program? Also, do you know the levels of the qualified proposals?
* Response: Not aware of how the applications came in. Just know the total number of applications submitted. Historically the applications are very well written. Will follow up with the board on how they are selected for funding.
* Chairman Gilless stated that it is great to hear that there is a unified curriculum on defensible space inspection. Is that all being done electronically? Is that part of the curriculum that it is added electronically?
* Response:We do have an application revision that was done about a year ago. Will follow up with Chief Berland to see how effectively it is working.
* Research Protection: Where the privacy concerns as we are moving to put more of the departments data on public platforms for comment. What are the data considerations? Are there privacy data protocols in place?
* Response: Will follow up with Chief Durant on privacy protocols. We have an interest in the insurance realm.
* Member Chase asked about having or receiving or guidance to use manage wildfire help. How does that drive the strategy resource protection mandate, and does it required authorization or agreement by affected private landowners if the department makes the decision to manage a wildfire rather than to take it to full suppression?
* Response:Managed fire is a component of the prescribed strategic fire. By statue for us to actively let a fire burn on someone’s private ground we would enter into an agreement similar to RO 75 it is essentially an agreement that allows us to assume liability or share liability. But we would have to have an agreement where we could go out and put out fire on the ground in that capacity.
* Comment made that there would be a preexisting agreement with the landowner to enable a wildfire to be banded if the conditions are appropriate.
* Response: Don’t know if we have ever done that. Will follow up. But as far as letting fire to burn on private land without actively suppressing (unintelligible).
* Chairman Gilless stated that the board would be interested regarding the answer to that legal question in terms of its not explicate mandate for CAL Fire to provide equal protection (unintelligible) area.
* Deputy Director Reischman will follow up with our attorney regarding the legalities of letting fire burn on private property.
* Chairman Gilless would like to know is it statutory or regulated?
* Member Mike stated, “I would like to revisit your comments on Jackson State Forest”. If I was participating in one of those tours as a member of the board, you mentioned that your staff on some sort of initiative. Did not catch was it was. I am wondering how Director Porter’s request for board to review the management plan. How is the new element going to tie into the current management plan? And what about the people that are involved (unintelligible) Jackson (unintelligible) are hoping that it will happen out there?
* Monitorization Plan for the Jackson and a component of that is for the (unintelligible) to review the management plan as it is to make sure there is a public process in place. Looking at the funding and the public works that are out there that need to be completed. Going to a look at co-managing more effectively with the tribes. Also evaluating the harvesting and the science behind that. Also look at the Carbon research that is going on.

**No online public comment.**

## Report of the Executive Officer, Edith Hannigan

* Staffing Update
  + Anna Castro started Friday, April 1, 2022, as the Board’s new Executive Assistant.
  + A candidate has been selected for the Land Use Planning Program Manager position pending HR clearance.
* A Report on Pending Legislation was available in the meeting materials.
* Exemption & Emergency Monitoring Reporting “Beyond Zone 1: Monitoring of Fire Hazard Reduction Within 300 Feet of Residences Through Timber Harvest with the §1038(c)(6) Exemption”

**04-06-02 Member Wade moved to approve the report titled “Beyond Zone 1: Monitoring of Fire Hazard Reduction Within 300 Feet of Residences Through Timber Harvest with the §1038(c)(6) Exemption”. Member Chase seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call**

**Wade Aye**

**Jani Aye**

**Delbar Aye**

**Chase Aye**

**Lopez Aye**

**Forsburg-Pardi Aye**

**Gilless Aye**

**The motion passed.**

## Report of the Regulations Coordinator, Eric Hedge

* Eric Hedge introduced the rule text and the Final Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking titled “Substantially Damaged Consistency Amendments”. The proposed action is amendments to existing Forest Practice Rules to provide clear regulations regarding the applicability of the standards contained in the rules related to substantially damaged timberlands within the geographic region of the Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District. 14 CCR § 913.8.

### Public & Agency Comment: None

### Board Discussion: None

**04-06-03 Member Wade moved to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled Substantially Damaged Consistency Amendments. Member Delbar seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade Aye**

**Jani Aye**

**Delbar Aye**

**Chase Aye**

**Lopez Aye**

**Forsburg-Pardi Aye**

**Gilless Aye**

**The motion passed.**

**04-06-04 Member Wade moved to adopt the draft regulatory text for compliance rulemaking entitled Substantially Damaged Consistency Amendments and authorize staff to take all actions reasonably necessary to have the adopted regulations go into effect, including making appropriate non-substantive changes and any changes to facilitate OAL review and approval. Member Jani seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

**Wade Aye**

**Jani Aye**

**Delbar Aye**

**Chase Aye**

**Lopez Aye**

**Forsburg-Pardi Aye**

**Gilless Aye**

**The motion passed.**

## Forest Practice Committee, Rich Wade, Chair

* Discussion on disclosure of silvicultural methods on Notices of Intent – 14 CCR §§ 1032.7 and 1092.04 – Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
* Botanical Guidance Memo – Jane Van Susteren, Regulations Coordinator
* Update on Northern Spotted Owl issues in California – Jane Van Susteren, Regulations Coordinator
* Discussion of Site Preparation activities conducted pursuant to a Site Preparation Addendum – 14 CCR §§ 895.1, 915.4, 935.4, 955.4 - Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager

### Public & Agency Comment: No comments.

### Board Discussion: None

**04-06-05 Member Wade moved to authorize Board staff to submit the rulemaking entitled “Notice of Intent Amendments, 2022” for noticing of the 45-day Comment Period and take all appropriate actions consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act for this purpose, including preparation and submission of the Notice of Proposed Action and Initial Statement of Reasons. Member Delbar seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call**

**Wade Aye**

**Jani Aye**

**Delbar Aye**

**Chase Aye**

**Lopez Aye**

**Forsburg-Pardi Aye**

**Gilless Aye**

**The motion passed.**

## Management Committee, Chris Chase, Chair

* Discussion of solutions to stakeholder issues surrounding Less Than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions pursuant to 14 CCR § 1104.1(a) – Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
* Update on Basal Area Stocking Standards and Uneven-Aged Working Group – George Gentry, California Forestry Association
* Update on State Demonstration Forests Management Plans Review Timelines (Informational item only) – Kevin Conway, State Forests Manager

## Resource Protection Committee, Dr. Keith Gilless, Interim Chair

* Discussion on Defensible Space Zone 0 Regulations within 14 CCR § 1299.01 et seq
* Land Use Planning Program Update – Matt Damon Deputy Chief, Land Use Planning
* Subdivision Review Program Update – Assistant Chief Carmel Barnhart
  + City of Auburn
  + Tulare County
  + Kern County
* Safety Element Review
  + City of Calabasas

### Public & Agency Comment: None

### Board Discussion: None

# Report of the Board’s Advisory Committees

## Report of the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, Liz Forsburg Pardi, Chair

* Discussed the development of priority research questions for the coming fiscal year. It will help focus projects and research needs but there is some concern that the selection of only 5 questions to prioritize for funding may limit the number of applications.
* Committee will also investigate the option of using a grant program next year, rather than contracts for funding EMC research proposals.
* There are two open seats on the EMC for representatives from the Monitoring Community. Seats have been vacant for almost a year. EMC will discuss recruitment at our next meeting and welcome suggestions for nominees to the committee from the Board.
* Next Meeting Tuesday, April 12.

# Report of the Range Management Advisory Committee, Kristina Wolf, Board staff

* The State Lands Grazing License and Land Management subcommittee has met five times in 2022, in collaboration with State DGS, and continues to progress toward production of the grazing license template, land management plan template, and guidance booklets for grazing agreements on State lands.
* The RMAC has begun more regular interfacing with its advised agencies, including the CalEPA, State Water Boards, and CNRA to better incorporate and strategically address synergistic priorities.
* The RMAC is reviewing its annual priorities for 2022 and will certify them at the May 12th meeting. Today may be the last convenient opportunity for the whole Board to provide input into that process. Member Delbar, who serves as the Board’s representative to RMAC, can communicate anything which develops between now and May 12th at that meeting.
  + **Strategic Plan:** D) RMAC shall solicit priorities from the Board and the Agencies annually, no later than October 15, for incorporation into each year’s projects and priorities. Priorities will relate to programs under the purview of, or under consideration by, the Board and the Agencies annually, no later than October 15, for incorporation into each year’s projects and priorities. Priorities will relate to programs under the purview of, or under consideration by, the Board and the Agencies and their relationship to rangelands and rangeland resources.
* RMAC next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12th at 9:30 a.m. and is planned to occur in person at the CNRA Headquarters (715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814).

### Public & Agency Comment: None

### Board Discussion: None

**PRESENTATIONS**

**2021 California Forest Pest Conditions Report - Tom Smith, CAL FIRE**

* Member Jani-During the 77, 78 we lost a ton of Madrone trees, and I am seeing it again is that a pathogen or just drought response?
* Tom Smith responded that it is a primarily drought response. Though there are some pathogens. Tom stated he would be more than willing to come and check the area, just to make sure, if it’s something out of the ordinary. I’m seeing the Madrona’s going, Oaks going and cedars dying, and it seems to be drought related.
* Member Chase asked, we have seen a mortality rate increase in just these few months, are you seeing that? Can you give us a peek as to where you think we are headed? I have noticed hillsides looking remarkably different in the last few months.
* Tom statedthat what he noticed is with the pine oak beetle it never stopped they continued right through the winter just as active as during the summer months. Also, with the western pine bark beetle that in the southern part of the range used to have about 2 ½ generations per year up to about two and three quarters per generations per year. Which is purely temperature driven. Things are not slowing down.
* Chairman Gilless following up on Member Chase’s questions. Is the warming trend we’ve seen sufficient in the scientific community you’re a part of this you’re thinking that the winter mortality that defines the limits of activity and successful reproductive are you seeing those limits seem to be shifting? Are you anticipating it’s a permanent shift? What is the consensus of it being 3 to 4 degrees higher?
* Tom statedthat he does not have a consensus at this point. Things just slowed down during the winter months they did not stop. We are seeing with some species of bark beetles. Mountain pine beetles it’s moved a lot further north in Canada than it had ever been before.
* Member Lopez-What is the replacement vegetation?
* Tom stated it varies from area to area. In southern California when we had the bark beetle epidemic 2000’s some of those areas have turned into Chapparal. Had a number of cedar come in. There are shifts happening. We may be getting oak woodlands moving up a little higher in elevation. Depends on the weather and how much regeneration we had.
* We are getting a lot of regeneration if it can survive the drought conditions.
* Member Lopez concerned about basic plans. Some areas in southern California thousands of trees are being removed.
* Thousands of trees have been removed and thousands have died but that is a pest to attack older trees. So, we are getting a lot of younger regeneration if it can survive the drought conditions. But then eventually it will get big enough to be attacked. So those areas might be caught in a cycle of attack.
* We are seeing a lot of invasive plants coming in.
* Chairman Gilless stated as to the oaks the board several years ago spent some time in San Diego and you mentioned that there was some working going on trying to hit the golden (unintelligible) during the emergency period. And we particularly did a tour of some of the park areas down there and at the time we were projecting to the part of the board’s messaging it was sort of a local thing but the use of chemicals might be an effective control. Is that’s what playing out and how much is being used of going after these emergent periods where they are vulnerable?
* Tom stated,still a lot of research happening as chemical use for control, things like old spot oak, it’s hard to get the chemicals to them because they are under the bark. Most of the spraying is done when they do emerge and they feed on the leaves. I haven’t heard of any really good successes with that. Bio control research is being done on its native range over in Arizona. Fairly rare and it’s really kept control by some nature predators, parasites alike. We have some in California, but they are not doing the job. They moved about the same time the beetles moved here. We also have our own native ones, but they are just not doing it.
* Comment from Chairman Gilless regarding the high mortality from the riparian corridors. How is the situation playing out and what are those riparian corridors look like at this point?
* Response was a lot of those are coming back in willows but when the willows get to a certain size they are attacked again. They are coming back in a lot of the evasive plant called the way they should be. They are in very bad. Some of those have some rare and endangered bird species.
* Member Wade asked if there has been any increase in funding to the larger community for the folks that are working on these things? Or is it pretty much status quo in terms of (unintelligible) funding?
* Response was that can be said it’s been status quo. In some cases, a little lower. We are doing better than most program areas.

**Public Comment:**

* George Gentry, California Forestry Association, stated, my members are reporting similar situation, I have asked them to record this. At least try to do some focal points so that we can have some documentation of it. The initial photos that are coming to me are very reminiscent of the beginning of the southern Sierra Epidemic they are similar. Board’s primary issue should be what do we do with the material? How can we treat these stands?
* Chairman Gilless stated, the way they are collecting this information, are they being collected in a way which allows any extrapolation of the experience in the sense that are they collected in a way that Tom and his people could expand on that in advance of doing their aerial inspection?
* Statement from Gentry-Working on a way to record information for Tom at least to be able to record some sort of time series that is reliable that Tom can use.
* Mr. Dwight would like to make a comment as a father/concerned citizen. If Tom could validate in watching the climate science is this a signal a clear signal that some of the positive feedback thar are forecast with climate change is this a clear indication of that occurring? And if it is as a citizen of California and the world and thinking about our children it strikes me that while we talk about the symptoms need to treat the problem. The disease. From a policy perspective again I see it in all these venues what do we do with the materials? Because the material is not magically going to disappear, and the investors are not going to come. My opinion the state needs to make a significant investment on its own. State needs to make a significate investment in the infrastructure to dispose of this material. In ways to create deep carbon negative outcomes and they are first, and bioelectricity is not the flavor of the month. I encourage the board to advocate for that sort of public expenditure. Cut out the red tape. If this is a crisis, we need to treat it like a crisis and start taking action. There are billions of dollars in excess revenue right now in the budget. We continue to spend on a high-speed train that we would be better source taking 3 or 4 billion dollars in building some sort of bio-energy plant up and down the valley. As a citizen I feel it’s time to stop talking and put some money down and make things happen. And show the business community that you can make a win here. Maybe three or four big plants. There is much more room for more than that.
* Chairman Gilless thanked Mr. Dwight for being a useful voice in the workings of the Joint Institute Wood products Innovation.

Two webinar public comments:

* Larry Hanson- The biomass energy is a very dirty energy. Dirtier than coal. I implore for you to investigate that before you make it a viable solution. Need to look into other possibilities when trees die.
* Jennifer Norbo- Echoed Larry’s comments incineration is dirty energy and also added that biomass incinerators built along the I-5 Corridor, in the central valley are an injustice to the communities of color that populate that area. It is an environment injustice because they are subjected to the pollution by these incinerators. To put meaningful climate change and biomass incineration in the same category is ridiculous.

**Forest and harvested wood product carbon updates – Nadia Tase, Climate Change and Forest Inventory Specialist, CAL FIRE**

**Operational Resilience in Western US Frequent-Fire Forests: What is forest restoration and how do we manage it? – Ryan Tompkins, UC Cooperative Extension**

**Comments:**

* Larry Hanson-stated he likes the tree size resilience objective. Glad that it’s being discussed. He states that the total forest ecological system and biodiversity such as the forest floor and the canopies can contribute to climate resilience. If all forest are setting them up to log which seems to be the objective here, this would be a different object to prepare them or allowing them to have maximum ecological services to the people of the state. This is a way of looking at, allowing or creating forest resilience for ecological services that would be a priority over the logging services.
* Larry Camp, Forest Landowners. If you look at the other publications by Malcom Norris on the Stanislaus experimental forest you found largely similar results. Trees were much bigger. There were fewer trees per acre. I think the science supports what you have done here. The question is how do we manage that? From an agency perspective, forest service to a private landowner? Why can’t I grow a tree economically to be 48 to 60 inches in diameter. But I can certainly create open space, space creates resilience. Thank you Ryan for your presentation.

# CONCLUSION

## Public Forum

* Margaret Belska-When can we get an update on PRC 4290? When can we get a response to our January public comment feedback?
* Edith Hannigan, Executive Officer replied: Update will be given at the May meeting. All public comments are responded to when the final statement of reasons is prepared.
* Ms. Belska wants to remind everyone that there are still over 30 single family homes being unconstitutional blocking prices with the new PRC 4290. Yet there is no new information available for almost three months.
* Larry Hanson stated that the Pesticide report shows continuing widespread die offs and is and should be instructive with climate changing seen temperatures, the board needs to make changes to its fundamental policy. Thousands of acres of forest land are permitted to be logged using clear cut methods and thousand more acres will be permitted by CAL Fire and is extremely alarming due to the significant impacts to forest ability to deliver ecological services to the state. 1. What scientific basis do committee members have for justifying clearing thousands of acres of trees and vegetation in this critical time of increasing impact of climate change when know that carbon frustration from forest is a mitigating factor for reducing climate change impacts. 2. What role do clear cutting methods that include (unintelligible) tree and other trees and vegetation having promoting wind blowing catastrophic wildfires. Considering that those methods remove upper canopies that give shade allowing sun to dry the forest floor promoting flammable vegetation. And allowing wind to blow through increasing the intensity of fires. What independent science supports your answer? Should there not be an evaluation of this considering the serious consequences from continuing in this practice. 3. How have clear cutting methods impacted the water holding ability of forest releasing water slowly so that in an (unintelligible) climate our water and streams lay in the summer? 4. Have the cumulative impacts of clear cutting been evaluated for water security in this time of drought, exasperated by climate change impacts? Finally, is there any reason why there cannot be a serious dialog on these significant issues?

## Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Edith Hannigan

Executive Officer

Keith Gilless

Chair