# CaliforniaRCDs_Logo.max-452x452.pngCARCD Forestry Committee Report – July 10, 2018

**Monthly CARCD/FSCC Forestry Committee Call:** The call was attended by Susie Kirschner, Laurie Tippin, Pete Johnson, Jerry Reioux, Sheryl Landrum, Steve Haze, Lara Buluç, Sandra Lupien, Jeannie Giuffre, Mark Egbert, Mary Mayeda and Paul Mason. Major discussion items included:

*Presentation by US Forest Service*: Danny Cluck with the US Forest Service presented a tool they have been developing to prioritize treatment of forestland based on perceived threat of bark beetle and fire. This tool, once made publicly available, will serve as a large scale planning tool for prioritizing treatment areas. The product was developed by using existing GIS data including, Region 5 Existing Vegetation, stand density index, vegetation burn severity, land ownership, and percent slope – just to name a few. Results found that the highest priority group consisted of major pine types and the second priority group consisted of white fir dominated stands – both of which have higher risk of insects, disease, and fire. Besides taking into account the stand type, the tool also looks at access as a major factor in treatment planning. If there are no access roads or the area has particularly steep terrain, these would not be a prioritized treatment area. The tool should be available soon for organizations to use in fuel treatment planning.

*Natural Resources Conservation Service funding: $*3 million dollars will be made available through NRCS funding for a forestry assistance solicitation. Proposals are due August 8th and require a 50/50 match. CARCD is working to apply for funding.

*CARCD Annual Conference:* The Committee discussed possible ways to share forestry efforts with attendees including hosting a fireside chat and having members of the committee discuss particular forestry topics during breakout sessions. In addition, the committee is planning a forestry tour November 13th and the Forestry Committee Meeting on November 14th. The committee is still working out the logistics of these activities and whether or not the forestry tour can be opened up to all conference attendees or only members of the committee.

*Reforestation Needs Assessment*: Mark Egbert, District Manager with the Eldorado County and Georgetown Divide RCDs, discussed their district’s reforestation nursery programs and its challenges. The RCD partners with the USFS to act as an intermediary between the USFS and private landowners to provide seedlings, since USFS cannot sell directly to private landowners. The program struggles to meet the demand for seedlings and is working on a reforestation assessment to inventory needs in advance. The Eldorado RCD plans to present this information at the CARCD Annual Conference.

*CARCD Forestry Action Plan*: The CARCD Forestry Committee has assimilated actions & ideas to be developed into an Action Plan for how the committee can assist RCD’s with their existing forestry programs or the development of a completely new program in their region. Laurie Tippin, CARCD Forestry Committee Chair, has requested that committee members review and provide any additional input by September 1st. Input from RCD members will be solicited at the annual conference.

The next Forestry Committee call is scheduled for August 14th 2018.