

**Initial Inquiry – Forestry Program Needs Assessment**  
**Summary of Responses – February 12, 2018**

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) utilizes standing committees to assist with policy implementation and issue identification to better build the network and impact of local RCDs. The CARCD Forestry Committee (Forestry Committee) is one of three standing committees whose mission it is to provide expertise, advice and support to conserve, restore and sustain the health, diversity and productivity of California's forested landscapes.

From September 2017 through January 2018, an initial inquiry survey of RCD District Managers was conducted to gather a baseline of information about interest in and current state of RCD forestry programs. Following is a summary of the responses from this initial survey.

- 32 out of 97 RCDs responded (33% response rate); 2 RCDs not interested.
- 36% of respondents have a forestry program focused on both wildland & urban forests.
- 53% of respondents have a forestry program focused on wildland forests.
- The top 5 program components practiced &/or interested in developing are:
  1. Fuel reduction &/or forest stand improvement project management &/or implementation – 83%/25 respondents.
  2. Fire Safe Council participation – 80%/24 respondents.
  3. Connect landowners to state & federal managers for program assistance – 77%/23 respondents.
  4. Provide site specific management advice to landowners – 63%/19 respondents.
  5. Address tree mortality – 60%/18 respondents.

These findings were presented to the joint CARCD Forestry & Forest Stewardship Coordinating committees on February 13, 2018. A proposal was made to:

- Conduct a brainstorming session at the March 2018 field meeting to identify and agree upon actions/ideas to address the top 5 program components that would support or assist RCDs with their current or developing forestry program,
- Develop a draft Action Plan for review (Committee & respondent RCDs (?),
- Assign responsibilities & timeframes for the final actions/ideas in the Action Plan, and
- Finalize Action Plan.