

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

MAY 31, 2019 – MEETING NOTES

CARCD Forestry Committee In-Person Meeting: May 31st from 8:00am to 3:00pm in Lone, CA. Attendees included Laurie Tippin, Pete Johnson, Jerry Reioux, Susie Kirschner, Chris Zimny, Stewart McMorrow, Dale Meese, John Henshaw, Paul Mason, Steve Jones, Steve Haze, Jenn Shepard, Kate Campbell.

CARCD Forestry Committee

Amador Co. RCD: Though a representative from the RCD was unable to attend, Chris Zimny (NRCS) gave a brief update. The RCD was the recipient of a 2018 NACD/NRCS forestry assistance grant, which is being renewed for another year in 2019. The RCD is involved in CARCD's RCPP grant (see below) & has signed a joint working agreement with Calaveras & Tulare RCDs. The NRCS will hire a forester for this 3-county area.

CARCD Committee Action Plan: Committee members were previously asked to review the plan and contact Laurie with any action items they would be willing to take on. Laurie received several responses, but there are still many action items that need to be assigned. Of the committee members in attendance, several took on some of the tasks including research on biomass utilization, Fire Safe Council development information, and information gathering on how to become a Technical Service Provider. Additional members had submitted their responses prior to the meeting and have also been included in the final action plan. Laurie will be sending out the updated action plan and members are encouraged to sign up for remaining items on the list.

This item also led in to a side discussion of Burned Areas Emergency Response (BAER) team involvement and if RCD's should play a role in these groups post fire or offer other assistance in the aftermath of fire. It was discussed that these teams, both BAER and WERT (Watershed Emergency Response Team (state led)), often are highly life/property focused but don't necessarily cover reforestation efforts or watershed health. Committee members felt this gap could be a great role for RCD's to partner with the Office of Emergency Services and County Assessors Office (for parcel information) to send out information and host workshops focused on how to conserve your lands post fire event. More discussion on this type of action instead of standing up a private land BAER team is needed & will be reflected in the Action Plan

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Status(RCPP): Jenn Shepard presented on the RCPP program status. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has allotted \$10 million in funding for tree mortality in the Sierra's. Of this pot of funding, \$1 million has been made available to RCD's in ten counties to provide technical assistance to landowners. Meanwhile \$7.5 million will be made available for direct EQIP assistance. CARCD also found additional funding from CALFIRE, PG&E, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to further support these goals. Program deliverables include:

1. Develop EQIP Program Description for dead tree treatment
2. Enter into contracts with 10 RCD's to deliver technical assistance to landowners
3. CARCD to coordinate program and support development of RCD/NRCS partnerships
4. 185 Forest Management Plans developed and associated EQIP practices implemented

As for implementation, Jenn is in the process of finalizing agreements with RCD's so that work can move forward. At this point, 8 of the 10 contracts with RCD's have been signed which will allow for the hiring of new staff or funding support to existing staff. This funding will also allow for contracting with archaeological, biological, and other technical services to alleviate project bottlenecks. For this particular EQIP funding pool, there will be no minimum acreage and work **will** be allowed in defensible space areas.

NACD Forestry Resource Group Strategic Plan: A brief discussion followed on this topic. Committee members encouraged Laurie to provide feedback that California would like to continue receiving funding for staffing of technical staff to implement NRCS projects, as this has been a major help to multiple agencies. Any additional comments on this plan can be sent to Laurie.

Annual Conference Discussion, field trip, agenda, topics: The Annual CARCD Conference will take place November 12th-14th in Redding, CA. Each year the forestry committee holds a meeting and organizes a forestry tour in the region the conference will be hosted. Discussion items included:

- Potential locations for field trip: **McCloud** (conservation easement, fuel break), **McConnell Foundation** (Multi agency projects, showcase large CALFIRE grant), **Fall River RCD** (CCI Grant half on public, half on private lands), **project determined by Western Shasta RCD who is helping to host, Mill tour of processing facility.**
- Field Trip Dates: Not determined, Veteran's Day Holiday on Monday and day of training Tuesday make it difficult to schedule, will be discussed on future calls.
- Field Trip Invitees: Not yet determined if tour will be open to all conference attendees or committee member only. This is somewhat dependent on what topics & locations are included in the tour as large buses will not be able to easily travel dirt roads which would be required to see some projects. Laurie will contact Western Shasta & Tehama RCDs to gauge their interest & talk about potential topics/project visits.
- Committee Meeting Logistics: The meeting will be planned for half of a day. The FSCC committee agreed that most of the meeting could focus on covering CARCD items. Date for the meeting has not been determined.

Both Committees

SCALE Meeting Discussion: Several committee members attended the prior day's SCALE meeting in Jackson. Presentations that stuck out include discussion on the use of Good Neighbor Authority by the Department of Forestry in Oregon. Committee members then discussed the use of Good Neighbor Authority projects in California and it was determined that a GNA project can be initiated by any state agency including RCD's under the Department of Conservation.

Reforestation Update: The reforestation team is continuing to work on rebuilding the nursery. They are also seeking out good cone crops for the upcoming year. They currently have large speculative orders for restoration in the areas of the Carr and Camp Fires.

Support for the Forestry Center, State Fair: The State Fair will take place in mid July (12th-28th) in Sacramento, CA and the committee is looking for volunteers to staff the Forestry Center and provide helpful information to visitors. The last few years it has been staffed by local high school students so it would be great to have more professional forestry staff. There are two shifts per day and free admission for volunteering. Additional information about signing up will be sent shortly so members can sign up.

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Forest Legacy Program AON Update: Rich Walker provided a presentation on the 2017 FRAP (Forest and Rangeland Assessment) which also fulfills most requirements of the California Forest Action Plan. The FRAP now contains 84% of lands with the added urban forestry areas. The presentation then went into discussing the Forest Legacy program priority area determination. The state is responsible for determining "priority areas" for the program and Rich has developed maps that include various GIS layers to help prioritize. These include items such as scenic value, endangered species, soil productivity, recreation opportunity, and more. A list of these items will be sent out to committee members to rank based on their perceived relative importance.

Status of Forest Stewardship Committee: Due to issues relating to public meetings under CA's open meeting law, the FSCC decided it would be best to operate under one committee (CARCD). CAL FIRE proposed all monthly calls will be CARCD only and the two charters will be combined. FSCC members will still meet three times a year (agendized

meetings) to discuss specific programs. CARCD in-person meetings will most likely coincide with the FSCC meetings too. Another goal is to diversify membership to include more non-forestry voices on the committee including biologists, archaeologists, etc.

Forestland Steward Magazine: Kate would like to include a greater reflection of RCD work in this publication. She also suggested that a RCD Rep. be on the editorial committee for the magazine. Jenn Shepard may assist in this role.

Agency/Organization Reports: Pacific Forest Trust is hosting a celebration & tour on 6/14 for their Black Butte Working Forest conservation easement. Contact Paul if you're interested in attending.

The next Joint Forestry Committee Meeting call will be July 9th at 8am. June's call has been cancelled.