

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – AUGUST 13, 2019

Monthly CARCD Forestry Committee Call: The call was attended August 13th by Laurie Tippin, Susie Kirschner, Stewart McMorrow, Pete Johnson, Jerry Reioux, Paul Mason, John Henshaw, Karen Buhr, Sheryl Landrum, Mark Egbert, Jerry Jensen, Lauren Miller, Steve Jones, Jeannine Giuffre, Mary Mayeda, Phil Noia and Mark Andre. Major discussion items included:

CARCD Forestry Committee

CARCD News and Views: Karen Buhr, CARCD Executive Director, provided updates on CARCD's work with forestry programs and legislative updates. They are in the last part of the legislative cycle with one bill focusing on workforce development for fire and forestry including funding for community colleges, Fire Safe Councils, and RCD's. CARCD is also working on SB 253 which would create a counterpart of NRCS' EQIP program at CDFA and offer funding for a number of practices authorized but not typically funded by the EQIP program. This bill would also provide funding through RCD's or UCCE to provide technical assistance.

Karen also discussed the CARCD Annual Conference. They will host an interactive panel this year on how to acknowledge and engage the entire community when discussing natural resource issues. They will offer the Soil Health Terrace and Day of Training, this time led mostly by District Managers.

New CARCD Members/Resigned Members: The newest addition to the committee is Laura Moser who is on a USFS detail through Oct. There were also several resignations this year including, Sandra Lupien, Mike De Lasaux and Elizabeth Betancourt.

CA Forest Stewardship Education Initiative: The Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a product of the Forest Management Task Force's Landowner Education and Outreach Working Group. Aimed at developing a more forestry literate landowner, as well as alleviating some of the pressure on the state's technical experts, the workshops will teach forest health principles and forest management skills. The program is funded by CAL FIRE CCI funds and managed through UC Cooperative Extension. A position announcement has been listed by UCCE for a Forest Stewardship Education Coordinator to run the program. Landowner education workshops are being planned. More info [HERE](#).

CA Forest Management Task Force: The CA Dept of Conservation, under its Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Block Grant Program, has announced the following awardees:

- Selected Regional Administrators
 - North Coast Resource Partners
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - Coastal Conservancy
 - Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
 - Inland Empire RCD/RCD of Greater San Diego County
- Selected Statewide Support Administrators
 - California Fire Safe Council
 - Watershed Research Center
- These groups will be developing regional priority plans, demonstration projects, developing a pipeline of future projects, bringing in and contracting with local organizations (including RCDs), and working with the FMTF's Regional Prioritization Groups to align priorities, avoid duplication, and identify projects.

- The RFFCP is not intended as implementation funding, meant to be support for project planning, preparation, and capacity building.
- Allison Jolley at the Watershed Research Center will be sending out a needs assessment survey for forest management practitioners/orgs.
- CA Fire Safe Council is hiring 3 regional coordinators (Sierra/Cascade; SoCal; Coastal)

RCPP Status: Jenn Shepard was not able to attend this call, an update will be provided in September.

Both Committees

Reforestation Updates: There are currently several orders with RCD's including in Butte for reforestation efforts after the Camp Fire. Mark Egbert is planning to send a reforestation brochure to all RCD's to place orders for projects. CAL FIRE is looking for good cone crops and has found some options in Rancho Cuyamaca and in Mexico. They are currently growing about 30,000 seedlings. For those interested in helping to identify cone crops that aren't familiar with what to look for, there are many videos on YouTube available to provide more information.

Future Outlook/CARCD Responsibility for FSCC: CAL FIRE has initiated discussions with CARCD through its forestry committee on transferring responsibility for the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to CARCD. As a result, the **FSCC will no longer hold joint monthly teleconference calls with the CARCD forestry committee** & will rely upon conducting its necessary business during 2-3 in-person meetings per year.

Joint Committee Meeting and Field Tour: The Annual Conference will take place on November 13th and 14th. The committee has planned for the joint meeting on November 14th and the tour on November 15th. The tour will showcase forestry programs from Western Shasta RCD. One Tree Planted will also be coming this year to talk about their reforestation programs. Wednesday night (13th) there will be a sponsor mixer, it was discussed that this could be a good option for the committee to sponsor a table and engage with RCD staff.

Agency and NGO Reports: CAL FIRE reported on the Legacy Program. They will not be soliciting the committee to review applications this year as there are no new applications.

The Pacific Forest Trust is working on a Climate Adaptation Grant to study species migration to better understand how to perform reforestation efforts in the face of climate change. This project will be in partnership with UC Davis.

The Sierra Foothills Conservancy has recently purchased 312 acres from a developer for public open space. They also received a \$700,000 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to manage for pine bark beetle and overstocking on an easement property.

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee

Committee Meeting in Angwin: There will be a committee meeting in Napa the September 10-11. Housing will be provided at Pacific Union College (PUC) and topics will include fire mitigation work, PG&E fuels reduction, celebration of the conservation easement for Phase 1 at PUC and more. The first day will be a field trip and the second day a meeting. More information will be sent out to committee members.

FSCC Charter Update: Stewart will email the final draft Charter to the committee. Please provide comments by August 27th

CFIP: The program received \$8 million from Prop 68 funding. It is proposed that \$2 million block grant will be made available to RCD's & other organizations for technical & financial assistance; \$3 million for backlog applications & \$3 million for new applications.

The next CARCD Forestry Committee call is scheduled for September 10th at 8am. FSCC business will not be a part of this call.