

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – SEPT. 10, 2019

Monthly CARCD Forestry Committee Call: The call was attended by Laurie Tippin, Karen Buhr, Stewart McMorrow, Pete Johnson, Sheryl Landrum, Steve Jones, Jeannine Giuffre, Laura Moser & Steve Haze. Major discussion items included:

CARCD News and Views: Karen Buhr, CARCD Executive Director, provided updates on CARCD's work on the November conference and legislative updates.

- Karen identified that a panel presentation on the Carr Fire is being developed & she asked for our input on topics that should be covered during the panel. A focus on diversity, equity & inclusion will occur throughout this year's conference, from panels to presentations to sponsors.
- CARCD is also working with others on legislation regarding home hardening & defensible space. 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, was held in the Assembly appropriations process due to redundancy with other proposed bills & a lack of funding source identification. Though this bill isn't moving forward this year, CARCD & others will be revamping the bill for the next legislation round to address concerns raised during the appropriations process. Other pieces of forestry legislation not moving forward this year will most likely be included in this new proposal.

CA Forest Improvement Program (CFIP – CAL FIRE): Stewart McMorrow provided an update & estimated timeline for availability of a competitive block grant program, valued at \$2 million from Proposition 68, to be made available to RCDs & NGOs. This competitive grant will not be available until Jan 2020 or so due to the administrative process for CFIP grant guideline approval, which must be completed first. Block grants will be awarded in a minimum increment of \$500,000 to a maximum increment of \$1 million to deliver financial & technical assistance to landowners wishing to utilize the CFIP program. Cost sharing from the grant recipient will be required. 25% advance payment will be authorized. Guideline approval for the CFIP block grant will follow the State's administrative requirements.

CARCD Representation at Conference Mixer (11/13): The committee is participating in the 2-hour sponsor mixer Wed. afternoon/evening. 11/13. The committee brainstormed ideas on what the main message should be & agreed that we'd **focus on the committee's ability to provide support to RCDs to better position themselves to be leaders in forest management**, whether that's by providing support to develop their capacity at a local (eg, establishing a local Fire Safe Council) or higher level (eg, effectively engaging on regional or statewide issues). **Think about what written material should be provided at the mixer that attendees might find useful to build forestry program capacity.**

We're looking for 3 more volunteers to work a 1-hour shift at the mixer. Currently Phil Noia, Steve Haze & Sheryl Landrum have volunteered. Let Laurie know if you're available.

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. Two guest speakers have been invited to present to the joint committee: One Tree Planted on their global & statewide work & Susie Kocher from UC Extension to talk about the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative.

Please provide me input on additional topics for meeting presentation & discussion.

The November 15th tour will showcase Western Shasta RCDs China Gulch Fuels Reduction project, one of the State's 38 high priority projects to address vulnerably communities/wildfire hazard.

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. However, 2 projects from the FY20 competition have made it onto the national list for submission to Congress for this coming fiscal year.

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC): On Sept. 10th, a field tour of Pacific Union College's forest parcel, a past year's USFS Forest Legacy funded project that recently established & closed on a conservation easement, will be featured along with multi-party fuel reduction work around the community of Angwin, CA. A business meeting is scheduled for Sept 11th.

The next CARCD Forestry Committee call is scheduled for October 8th at 8am.