

CARCD FORESTRY COMMITTEE REPORT – FEBRUARY 11, 2020

MEETING NOTES

Monthly CARCD Forestry Committee Call: Participants included Laurie Tippin, Pete Johnson, Stewart McMorrow, Jenn Shepard, Sheryl Landrum, Mary Mayeda, Jerry Reiou, Dale Meese, Frank Stewart Chris Anthony, Paul Mason, Karen Buhr, Jeannine Giuffre, Steve Jones, and Jerry Jensen.

CARCD News & Views: Karen provided a legislative update on several bills related to forestry that are being tracked:

- AB 1516 (Friedman) would improve California's fire prevention policies with a focus on defensible space requirements (increased fuel reductions between 5 & 30' of a structure & creation of an ember-resistant zone within 5' of the structure). AB 1516 will not only make defensible space a priority, but will also clarify that counties can loan funds to RCDs to conduct fire prevention work and add RCDs to the list of eligible groups that CAL FIRE can partner with to conduct defensible space work.
- SB 190 (Dodd) would assist in wildfire prevention and response by investing in defensible space and provide increased education to the public on the importance of defensible space.

CARCD will be drafting changes to Division 9 of the Public Resources Code (RCD delegation of authority from the State) to increase clarity of work (eg, addressing forestry & climate change, seek permanent baseline funding for RCDs, eliminate the defunct RCD commission). CARCD and Pacific Policy Group will be working with a legislator to introduce the changes as new legislation this month.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity initiative/efforts occurring to improve awareness & importance of including all voices in RCD work.

Mark Your Calendars! The 2020 75th anniversary of CARCD annual conference will be held at the Santa Barbara Hilton November 17-20, 2020.

RCPD Update: Several counties have written conservation/forest mgt plans (~20 have been completed); EQIP contracts will be awarded in the next batching submission scheduled for spring/early summer; NRCS is providing RCPD training 2/13 for this grant & its participants.

Committee Web Page Update: Found [HERE](#), more resources are being added to the committee web page, including success story template, links to other Agency forestry programs, member biographies & other helpful information. Check it out!

UC Extension Forest Stewardship Workshops for Landowners: FMTF Subworking group, Landowner Working Group, has implemented a recommendation to provide forest landowners information & instruction on assessing resource conditions & writing a forest management plan for their property. RCD & other practitioners have also attended. Mary has presented at the Berkeley & another workshops. It's a positive workshop to improve landowner knowledge of how to manage their forest land. If interested in sponsoring a workshop, contact Mary, Jenn, Laurie or Susie Kocher at UCANR.

Proposal to Change Monthly Committee Calls to Quarterly: Laurie proposed our monthly conference calls be changed to quarterly. Others on the call voiced their support & identified that interim calls should occur when

there's specific work or action needed that doesn't coincide with a quarterly call. Be watching for a Google survey email from Laurie – please respond in a timely manner when you receive it.

Member Reports:

CAL FIRE – Stewart McMorrow:

- Chris Anthony, Wildfire Resilience Chief, was introduced to the committee; Chris has over 27 yrs of experience with CAL FIRE. As Chief, he is now responsible for CFIP, stewardship, legacy, reforestation/nursery, other forestry assistance programs.
 - Chris' comments: He's excited to be in his new position. As part of the Wildfire Resilience program, public outreach is an important component. Christine McMorrow has been hired to work with the media & public on CAL FIRE's forestry assistance programs. Chris attended Berkeley's landowner workshop & thought it was an excellent workshop.
- Wildfire Resilience & Forestry Assistance block grant RFP: [CAL FIRE 's forest stewardship web page](#) includes the draft guidelines & scheduled workshops; \$8.2 million of Prop 68 funds have been allocated to CAL FIRE for ecological forest restoration. \$6 million to CFIP. The remaining \$2.2 million is slated for competitive block grants to Counties, RCDs & NGOs to offer financial & technical assistance to small private forest landowners. Projects 5-500 acres in size. No cost share requirement. Advances allowed in certain circumstances. 30day public comment period on the grant guidelines through 3/15/2020. March 31 – April 30 for actual proposals to be submitted.
 - Is dead tree removal allowed? Stewart needs to think further on this since it's hazard tree removal & not forest management.
 - 3 grants will most likely be offered, minimum \$750,000. Want public input; 12% overhead allowed.
 - Pilot opportunity. Additional funds can be added.
 - Committee work group/subcommittee to provide committee comments: Laurie, Mary (plus perhaps others from the North Coast region), Pete, Sheryl & Gordon Long. Stewart will take comments past the commenting period if he knows they're forthcoming.
- Dale Meese – CFIP program will make quarterly allocations of the \$6m, 1.5 m per quarter. All projects are ranked. Many projects exist so there's no problem with expending the \$\$\$\$. Non-selected projects will be rolled into the next quarter for further consideration.
- Stewart offered RCDs to pick up hard copies of Forestland Steward for their offices or events. Contact him if you're interested.

Pacific Forest Trust – Paul Mason: PFT is contracted with CAL FIRE to write the Forest Legacy AON update.

Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee – Pete Johnson:

- Draft Joint committee charter will be emailed to both committees for comment soon. Several issues need further discussion among committee members. Once committees concur on the charter, CAL FIRE & CARCD leadership need to concur & approve.
- FSCC meeting to be held in April in Auburn. The actual date to be announced soon, Either 4/9-10 or 16-17. Since the joint charter, which will combine the committees into one, is a major topic of discussion, members of both committees should make an effort to attend.

Unless notified otherwise, the next CARCD Forestry Committee call is scheduled for March 11th at 8am.