

CARCD Forestry Committee Action Plan To Support RCD Forestry Programs June 5, 2019/Updated December 2019

The CARCD Forestry Committee (Committee) provides support & assistance to RCDs in the implementation or development of their individual forestry programs. In the fall of both 2018 & 2019, the Committee conducted an assessment of California RCDs to identify which RCDs either had, were in the process of or were interested in developing a forestry program to determine the focus of the Committee’s work. From the assessment, five top program components were identified:

1. Fuels reduction &/or forest stand improvement.
2. Fire Safe Council participation.
3. Connect landowners to Federal & State Managers.
4. Provide site specific management advice to landowners.
5. Tree mortality.

This Action Plan will guide the Committee in providing the most meaningful support & assistance to RCDs. The following actions, timelines & responsibilities will meet this purpose. If an action item does not have an entry in the “responsibility” column, no work will be done on the action; however, the action will remain in this plan until the Committee agrees to remove it. An annual report of accomplishments will be prepared for the Committee and the CARCD board of directors by December 31st.

A. Crosscutting Actions (applicable to all program components):

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
A.1 – Develop Committee webpage (webpage) with information to address the 5 top components & facilitate information sharing; identify priority/current info to be shown on webpage (eg, funding opportunities, current research, workshop or training opportunities, workshop & other templates, RCD contacts with active forestry programs).	Organize a working group:	DONE 12/19, new info uploaded regularly

A.2 – Provide email address on Committee webpage for questions, requests, concerns & contact with committee: forestry-committee@carcd.org		DONE 8/18
A.3 – Gain an understanding of the CARCD Forestry Project Manager’s role; insure complementary/synergistic responsibilities between the Project Manager & committee.	J.Shepard	DONE 11/18
A.4 – Become familiar with actions associated with California’s Executive Order B-52-18 (re: expedited/increased forest management)/State’s Forest Management Task Force; participate as appropriate & as requested. Provide feedback to Committee quarterly.	As assigned: FMTF: S.McMorrow; Reg’l Working Groups: S.Haze, J.Barrett, M.Egbert, J.Shepard, L.Tippin, S.Landrum, OTHERS?	Quarterly

1. Fuels reduction &/or forest stand& Improvement

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
1.1 – Develop template, identify & create 1-page success stories: issue, project, outcome & lessons learned; post on webpage & have available hard copy at appropriate RCD venues.	Template: S.Kirschner; Write success stories: As assigned	DONE 12/19; Stories: Qrtly
1.2 – Use CARCD/RCD member portal Forestry Forum to share information & ask questions (access provided to RCD Members only).	Drop due to lack of access to non-Member Districts	
1.3 – Organize & schedule workshops &/or webinars for RCD members; consider supporting vs. organizing to build capacity.	Committee discussion at mtg in conjunction with CARCD conference	Nov 2019
1.4 – Organize workshops/meetings targeting private landowners (UCCE, NorCal SAF); advertise through RCDs; eg, roads workshop model.	Committee discussion at mtg in conjunction with CARCD conference	Nov 2019
1.5 – Facilitate the utilization of RCDs in preparing applications for grant funds when landowners are not eligible to apply (eg, written guidance, how-to’s); RCDs can serve as fiscal agents.	Organize a working group to include J.Shepard	

1.6 – Connect RCDs with the regional representative of their local State conservancy (eg, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Coastal Conservancy) through white paper or link on web page.		
1.7 – Work with State & Federal Forest Health Specialists to define what broader support can be offered beyond the 10 proclaimed tree mortality counties.		
1.8 – Provide information to RCDs on how they can become a forestry Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist their local NRCS with conservation planning work; mentor interested RCD staff to complete their certification, as requested.	J.Shepard, J.Henshaw, C.Zimny, Steve Hill (NRCS)	DONE 8/19
1.9 – Consult with USFS Region 5 & NACD to identify options being used or in development to utilize processed wood chips.	S.Haze	Feb 2020
1.10 – Meet with CAL FIRE to determine whether RCDs can assist with the Wildfire Resiliency Program	L.Tippin/J.Shepard	DONE 5/19
1.11 – Work with CAL FIRE to develop a program or process for RCDs to collect conifer cones on private forest lands.	M.Mayeda	May/June 2020

2. Fire Safe Council (FSC) Participation

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
2.1 – Identify RCDs (& contact information) that lead or are involved with their local FSCs so that others can replicate their models; post on webpage.	S.Landrum	Nov 2019
2.2 – Create & post a white paper/instruction sheet on what a Fire Safe Council is, what the Firewise Community program is & how an RCD can get involved with either.	S.Landrum/S.Haze	Nov 2019
2.3 – Identify & post pertinent FSC materials (eg, partnership agreement template). Include CA FSC link on committee web page	J.Shepard	Feb 2020
2.4 – Identify & post on Committee webpage collaboration stories of how RCDs & FSCs have effectively worked together.	S.Landrum	Nov 2019
2.5 – Highlight FSC-RCD linkage & opportunities on Committee webpage.		

2.6 – Clarify & document FSC service areas within each County. Insufficient info to accomplish.	S.Kirsehner	
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3. Connect Landowners to Federal & State Managers

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
3.1 – Update & reformat the template of cost-share programs available to landowners in California (last updated in the 90’s); include personnel contact list for program implementation, include a link to existing Federal/State landowner assistance websites.		
3.2 – Provide on the Committee webpage links to USFS (including pest mgt), NRCS & CAL FIRE landowner assistance websites.	L.Tippin	DONE 11/19
3.3 – Work with State & Federal agencies to sponsor an exhibit at the CARCD annual conference where applicable info would be available as well as the opportunity to talk with an agency manager.		Nov 2019
3.4 – Committee member to attend State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) (NRCS sponsored) meetings to bring awareness of cost-share issues/solutions & other issues on behalf of private landowners. This should be FSCC responsibility	L.Tippin – discuss w/ C.Zimny	June 2019
3.5 – To be knowledgeable of key Federal/State legislation with benefit to private forest landowners, include a regular information share & discussion on related legislation during conference calls & meetings; where appropriate, identify ways to support specific legislation.	K.Buhr/J.Shepard (CARCD)	Quarterly

4. Provide site specific management advice to landowners

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
4.1 – Develop a printable brochure to post on the Committee website to include regulations, cost-share programs, available assistance, management planning & other important items. This seems to be the same as 3.1		
4.2 – Assist RCDs in developing their local list of technical experts available in each county.		
4.3 – Request CAL FIRE, NRCS & USFS to review & update the common template for the CA Cooperative Forest Management Plan; the new update should include carbon calculators to address carbon sequestration; provide input on draft document.	Interested Committee Mbrs; draft out for review as of 2/14/19	DONE 5/19
4.4 – Identify & post on the Committee webpage organizations relevant to landowner objectives (e.g., California tree farm program, California Christmas Tree Association, California Licensed Foresters Association, etc) for use by RCDs when consulting with landowners; consider including links to these organizations.	Organize a working group to identify organizations; CARCD to post	
4.5 – Create & post on the Committee webpage a directory of forestry services provided by relevant RCDs for use by those RCDs that may be looking for expertise; include LAFCO requirements as part of the directory (eg, working across Special District boundaries).	Organize a working group to identify organizations; CARCD to post	
4.6 – Upon request, assist RCDs with recruiting forestry expertise: improve outreach via webpage, encourage use of platforms such as Indeed.com/Craig’s List & leveraging existing committee member networks/partnerships.	Assignments will be made as requested	Ongoing

5. Tree mortality

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
5.1 – Provide links to the State’s FMTF (Forest Management Task Force) & other websites, including those RCD websites that have local tree mortality information.	L.Tippin	DONE 11/19
5.2 – Organize & schedule workshops, as needed, for RCDs in areas of new tree mortality on getting appropriate agencies & organizations together, State regulations, conducting community outreach, etc.	J.Shepard/S.Haze	Dec 2019
5.3 – Synthesize/summarize/post lessons learned from counties that have responded to best prepare for future events.	J.Shepard/S.Haze	Dec 2019
5.4 – Encourage & assist RCDs in establishing Cooperative Agreements with the NRCS to fund personnel with forestry expertise (ie, Registered Professional Forester).		
5.5 – Discuss the establishment of a Statewide or regional level Community Recovery/Burned Area Emergency Rehab (BAER) team(s) or something similar to conduct mortality & resource analysis & recommendations for private forest landowners impacted by catastrophic damage.	Committee	Nov 2019
5.6 – Support RCDs in capacity building, as requested & appropriate.	Assignments will be made as requested; Available: S. Landrum, J.Shepard, S.Haze	Ongoing
5.7 – Become familiar with content & deliverables of CARCDs RCPP with NRCS & other forestry-related grants; determine whether support or assistance is needed.	J.Shepard/S.Haze	Ongoing

Highlighted – action not accomplished in CY19.