



Joint California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Forestry and Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Charter

History: The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Board of Directors has sponsored a forestry committee for several decades to provide expertise, advice and support to private landowners and partners. Formerly known as the CARCD Forestry Committee, its name is updated to the Joint CARCD Forestry and Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee since it now also serves as the lead for the California State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC). The FSCC was established by the federal Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 (16 USC 2113), which amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, and requires states to form a committee to ensure a coordinated and cooperative federal, state and local forest program for the management and enhancement of forest lands, among other purposes. At the request of the State Forester, this unique partnership between CARCD and CAL FIRE was established in January 1998 to reduce duplicative efforts and gain efficiencies.

Mission: The mission of the Joint CARCD Forestry and Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (Joint Forestry Committee) is to provide expertise, advice and support to conserve, restore and sustain the health, diversity and productivity of California’s forested landscapes.

Role: The Joint Forestry Committee serves as an advisory body to the CARCD Board of Directors and California’s Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to address statewide forestry issues and opportunities. Additionally, as delegated by CAL FIRE (January 1998), the Joint Forestry Committee serves as the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee where its focus is on California’s Forest Stewardship and Legacy programs.

Responsibilities: As authorized by the CARCD Board of Directors, the State Forester and 16 USC 2113(b)(2), the Joint Forestry Committee’s primary responsibilities are to:

- Provide:
 - Recommendations and assistance to the CARCD Board of Directors concerning priority forestry issues and geographies for focused program delivery and to encourage landscape stewardship;
 - Recommendations and assistance to the State Forester concerning the development and updating of the Statewide assessment and strategy regarding forest resource conditions (Forest Action Plan);
 - Recommendations to the State Forester concerning those forest lands that should be given priority for inclusion in the State’s Forest Legacy program;

- Recommendations to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture through the State Forester concerning the assignment of priorities and the coordination of responsibilities by the various Federal and State forest management agencies that take into consideration the mandates of each such agency; and,
- Recommendations and assistance to the NRCS concerning forest landowner financial assistance programs.
- Consult, collaborate and coordinate with other USDA or State committees or organizations that address State and private forestry issues.
- Serve as a network for communication regarding important forestry topics among RCDs, forestry agencies, organizations, communities and others.
- Build the strength of RCDs in forestry and, to the extent possible, provide necessary support.
- Increase forest landowner and public awareness of emerging issues affecting California's forested landscapes.
- Assist with development and update of strategic and action plans for CAL FIRE's Forestry Assistance Programs.
- Develop a 5-year strategic plan and biennial action plan.

Membership: The Joint Forestry Committee is open to voluntary participation by all interested parties, including RCD staff and board members, partners, agencies, tribes, farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, forestry consultants, natural resource specialists and independent citizens. Broad participation is welcomed and encouraged; however, to the extent possible, the committee shall actively solicit members to maintain a diversity of perspectives and be composed of appointed representatives from:

- NRCS
- Farm Service Agency
- US Forest Service
- CAL FIRE
- University of California Cooperative Extension Service
- RCDs and other local governments
- Consulting foresters
- Environmental organizations
- Forest products industry
- Private forest landowners
- Land trust organizations
- Conservation organizations
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- NRCS' State Technical Committee
- Others as deemed appropriate by the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, CARCD President or CAL FIRE State Forester

RCD representation may include an appointed member from each CARCD Regional RCD and up to three RCD members at-large.

An agency or organization may place restrictions on its representative to the Committee (e.g., agency representative to the committee compared to a private independent member of the committee, nominations, voting).

Joint Forestry Committee membership shall be solicited by the CARCD Board of Directors and the committee through a general web page announcement, announcement to the Regional RCD Chairs, Listserv announcement, written or oral invitation and other appropriate methods. Recommendations of Joint Forestry Committee members shall be made by the CARCD Board of Directors and committee Chair/Vice Chair. The CARCD President shall make committee member appointments. Applications can be submitted on an ongoing basis.

Joint Forestry Committee members may identify an alternate to serve on their behalf. Identified alternates must be reported (name and affiliation) to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval. Approved alternate members will be added to the committee roster and identified as an alternate.

Members must maintain good standing (consistent attendance, strong participation) and have a keen knowledge of national, regional and local forestry issues. Efforts will be made to reflect a diversity of natural resource management perspectives. If at any time the CARCD President determines a committee member is not fulfilling their duties, the membership can be revoked. Otherwise, resignation from the committee should occur through written notice by the member to the Executive Committee.

Structure: Joint Forestry Committee members shall serve on a voluntary basis, except for the Executive Secretary, assist the committee in meeting its responsibilities, participate in committee functions and contribute to the committee in a meaningful way.

The Joint Forestry Committee shall be led by a Chair and Vice Chair. One of these positions shall be filled by an individual from a CARCD Member District. The remaining position shall be filled by a representative from any of the membership categories. The Executive Committee shall include the Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Secretary.

The duties of the Chair are to:

- Provide leadership to the Committee,
- Represent the Committee, as needed,
- Facilitate productive conversations and Committee progress,
- Make subcommittee assignments,
- Provide written or oral Committee reports to the CARCD Board of Directors and State Forester,
- Manage the Executive Secretary position, including annual service evaluation.

The duties of the Vice Chair are to:

- Act as Chair, when needed,
- Lead development of the committee's 5-year strategic plan and biennial action plan.

The Executive Secretary is responsible for administrative duties of the Joint Forestry Committee as detailed in the duty statement for the position. The Executive Secretary may receive a stipend as compensation for performing the position's assigned duties in an accurate and timely manner. CARCD will provide additional staff support wherever possible.

Chair/Vice Chair Selection – Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair shall be made and voted on by committee members with a recommendation of names for these two positions forwarded to the CARCD

Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will review the recommendations and forward to the President for position appointments at the first regular board meeting in the appropriate calendar year.

Executive Secretary Selection – Solicitation for Executive Secretary shall be made in the same manner as committee membership.

Subcommittees – The Executive Committee may appoint subcommittees to make recommendations with respect to specific issues.

Voting – All appointed committee members shall be eligible to serve as voting members of the Committee, unless restrictions placed on a member’s participation prohibit their eligibility as voting members.

Terms: Committee member, Executive Secretary and officer appointments shall be for a 3-year term with the initial members serving staggered terms and will be made at the first board meeting in the appropriate calendar year. The President may reappoint members, Executive Secretary or officers for consecutive terms.

Meetings: The Joint Forestry Committee meets in-person at least once annually at the CARCD annual conference. Two additional in-person meetings may be scheduled to conduct other specific business to meet its responsibilities. The Committee also holds quarterly teleconference calls and others as needed. All meeting notes will be posted on the CARCD Forestry Committee webpage: [Forestry Committee – California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#).

Termination of Joint Committee: Either the CARCD President or CAL FIRE State Forester may terminate their partnership to have CARCD serve as the lead for the FSCC upon presentation of a written 60-days notice given to the other party.

Approved:



DON BUTZ
CARCD President

05/13/2020
Date