**Open Call for Applications to California’s “Joint Forestry Committee”**

**Serving as the Joint California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Forestry and**

**CAL FIRE’s Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee**

*The mission of the 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.*

Membership in the Joint Forestry Committee provides a connection to important aspects of California forest issues that result in meaningful impact on forest-related programs and actions on the ground. The Joint Forestry Committee –

* Provides support to California’s Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and advice to the CARCD board;
* Serves as California’s Statewide Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee as required by the US Forest Service, with the responsibility to advise CAL FIRE on forest health and forest landowner stewardship programs and on project recommendations for the Federal Forest Legacy conservation program; and
* Provides feedback to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The committee is made up of a cross section of forest management professionals, conservation practitioners and land trusts, agency staff, tribal interests and RCDs and provides an excellent networking opportunity for its members. While forest stewardship and fuels management are central to the mission, the committee benefits from having diverse perspectives and encourages applicants with expertise in natural resource issues beyond being a practicing forester. We are especially interested in recruiting representatives from the environmental, tribal and regional RCD communities.

Committee terms are for three years and members are appointed by the CARCD President. The committee meets by video or teleconference quarterly, with up to three in-person meetings annually (often one day of field tour, one day of meeting). Special video or teleconference committee meetings are scheduled as needed. Travel expenses have historically been reimbursed, though that could change in the future.

More specifically, from the Charter of the Joint Forestry Committee:

**Responsibilities:** As authorized by the CARCD Board of Directors, the State Forester and 16 USC 2113(b)(2), the 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 Natural Resource Conservation Service concerning forest landowner financial assistance programs.
* Consult, collaborate and coordinate with other USDA committees, 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.

More information about the committee’s work and membership can be found on its webpage.

Applications are currently being accepted through October 26, 2021, and can be emailed to forestry-committee@carcd.org. Please consider joining the committee and contributing to the important work we do.