

FamilyForestNews

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President's Message

Claire McAdams, FLC Past President

At the time of this writing, there was ash on the windshield of my rig from the Monument Fire about 50 miles to the east of our place. The Dixie Fire and others were raging, and the not-yet-done forest fuel reduction across the state is still the elephant in the room. The benign days of summer just aren't that, anymore. So we look ahead for the paths that will bring us closer to 'wildfire resiliency.'

If you look to the left margin of this page, you will notice the list of newly elected FLC officers and Board of Director members. This is my last President's letter as Don Beaty assumes the FLC President position, and I shift to Past President. I will continue my efforts to launch the California Forest Conservation Foundation (CFCF). The CFCF Board and I would appreciate your input about the specific needs you each have, that if met, would allow you to best improve your land. Please take a few moments to answer our short questionnaire so that CFCF can best tailor its work to your needs. You can either fill this out directly on page 5 at the end of my article (and then mail it the FLC office at 950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150, Folsom, CA 95630), or use the online survey link provided. We will share the results with you as soon as they are available.

My view from the President's chair is this: I am so grateful for those of you who seek solutions and who have shared your experience in accessing grant funds; in developing helpful relationships with state regulatory staffs; in advocating at the legislature for what small forest landowners need; in sharing your ground truths via letters and delightful videos of your own forest management efforts, and so much more.

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- Interact with members about their dues renewals
- Point of contact for members with questions about FLC events, etc.

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- Addresses questions about receivables and payables
- Prepares financial statements

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2021 Key Legislation Update – As of October 10, 2021

By Brian White, KP Public Affairs

This year marked the first year of California's 2021-22 legislative session, which ended on September 10. While nearly 2,200 bills were introduced earlier in the year, more than half of them were shelved making them two-year bills and eligible for consideration in 2022. At the same time, the legislative session coincided with a yearlong recall vote of Governor Newsom who ultimately beat the recall just days after the Legislature concluded its end-of-session.

Ultimately, the recall failed by a margin of nearly 24 percentage points (62% against and 38% in support) despite more than a million disgruntled voters who signed the recall petition as they sought to remove Newsom from office. Why does that matter? Because voters sent a fairly clear signal that Newsom will likely win another term when he is up for re-election in November 2022, assuming there are no significant negative events or stories impacting the Governor's standing. This will also dictate how aggressive the Governor pushes certain issues next year since there were several that impacted the 2021 legislative process and voter's opinions, including mandatory COVID restrictions, prolonged wildfires, delayed welfare payments, school closures and the ongoing drought. These events ultimately impacted the bills that were sent to the Governor for his signature or veto as several stakeholder groups scrambled to get their last-minute position letters into his office. In the end, the Governor acted on more than 800 bills where he signed 92% of them into law and only vetoed 66 bills, most of which were signed after the recall vote.

Of those bills enacted, several address climate change, forestry and wildfire-related issues. This was not particularly surprising given the backdrop of record wildfire outbreaks, heat waves and the ongoing drought. This includes legislation FLC actively supported, including bills to extend the 300-foot THP defensible space exemption for four years (AB 431 - Patterson); a bill providing liability protection for fire suppression costs associated with prescribed burns (SB 332 – Dodd); and legislation providing two, two-year extensions for a THP approved between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2015 (SB 709 – Dahle). Several other bills FLC monitored were enacted to address home hardening and defensible space that will provide Cal Fire and the State Fire Marshall additional authority to address building codes and minimize threats in extreme and high fire severity zones. Also of note is a recently released report from the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) that provides recommendations on how to improve defensible space. The LAO report is linked here - defensible-space-093021[69478].pdf, and a final list of key 2021 bills FLC tracked is at the end of this article.

However, most of the attention this year focused on the 2021-22 budget process since California was flush with a record \$50 billion budget surplus. Legislators were more focused on pushing bill ideas through the budget process but there were no significant forestry policy bills enacted through the budget. The key budget actions on forestry primarily complemented separate policy bills by providing significant new funding of nearly \$1.5 billion for forestry and wildfire programs, including a total of \$50 million for the CFIP program; a six-year \$200 million continuous appropriation from the cap-and-trade program to fund wildfire prevention; and a new prescribed fire insurance fund to help cover the costs of prescribed burns. These budget actions complimented the \$536 million approved earlier in the year as an early action item for wildfire prevention, natural resources and forest resiliency.

In the end, FLC fared very well in the 2021 legislative session with the enactment of the defensible space exemption, limited liability relief for prescribed burns and funding for CFIP. Looking forward to 2022, forest management and wildfire issues aren't going away, and there are still some policy areas that need to be addressed to help streamline the permitting process. Several two-year bills are still eligible to be taken up but it remains to be seen if there will be any real movement from the Democrat-dominated committees despite continued concerns about excessive fuel loads and the need for better forest management. The ongoing challenges of affordable housing, energy reliability and response to COVID vaccine mandates will likely dominate the legislative agenda at least for the short term so it remains to be seen what actions legislators will promote on forestry in an election year.

Governor Newsom and several legislators will turn their attention to preparing for the 2022

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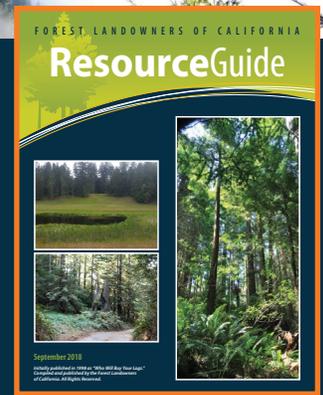
2021 Key Legislation Update

Continued from page 2

elections since the Governor is up for reelection as well as all 80 members of the Assembly and several senators. An independent redistricting commission is also in the process of releasing new legislative maps at the end of the year that will determine new district boundaries and have an impact on who runs in the future. The Governor is also preparing for a new budget cycle where he will release a proposed 2022-23 budget in January. Early indications from the LAO and the Department of Finance suggest the state will likely witness a sizeable budget surplus again as tax revenues from high wage earners continues to keep the General Fund stable. Meanwhile, the Governor and legislators are also preparing to move into new office space in November at the newly built Capitol Annex, which is located across the street from the State Capitol as it undergoes a three-year renovation. As the Legislature prepares to reconvene for the start of a new session on January 3, 2022, its first action will be a scramble to pass 2021 bills from their house of origin by January 31. Rest assured, FLC will be actively watching these bills and any new ones that get introduced by the end of February deadline.

Bill No.	Author	Description	Status	Position
AB 267	Valladares	Deletes the sunset date for the CEQA exemptions for prescribed fire, thinning or fuel reduction projects that have been reviewed under NEPA and undertaken on federal lands.	Held In Senate Natura Resources & Water 2-Year Bill	Support
AB 322	Salas	Requires the CEC to consider, in the state's investment planning process for EPIC funding, bioenergy projects for biomass conversion.	Signed Chapter 229	Support
AB 642	Friedman	Incorporates provisions for cultural burning practices, and expands the areas where enhanced fire safety building standards apply	Signed Chapter 375	Watch
AB 431	Patterson	Extends the sunset for the 150-300 defensible space exemption until January 1, 2026.	Signed Chapter 230	Support
AB 792	Flora	Requires prescribed fires initiated at CalFIRE's request, with the consent of the landowner, to be CalFIRE's responsibility regardless of whether you are a nonprofit, public agency or private landowner.	Held in Assembly Fiscal Committee DEAD	Support
AB 926	Mathis	Adds roadside vegetation management and projects to the eligible list of activities for a local assistance grant program.	Held in Assembly Fiscal DEAD	Support
SB 332	Dodd	Provides that a certified burn boss and a private landowner are not liable fire suppression costs because of a prescribed burn unless it was conducted in a grossly negligent manner.	Signed Chapter 600	Support
SB 396	Dahle	Revises the requirements for the "fire toolbox" and requires the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) to develop standardized content related to procedures which allows utilities to traverse and clear vegetation from private lands in order to maintain operation of electrical transmission or distribution lines.	Assembly Floor 2-Year Bill	Watch

Continued on page 4



What Is the Resource Guide?

In 2014 Forest Landowners of California (FLC) published the Resource Guide. FLC is committed to publishing the Resource Guide every other year in even years. The fourth edition will be printed and distributed to members in the fall 2022 .

The original publication called, "Who Will Buy Your Logs?" was published in 1998. The Resource Guide is compilation of mills and log buyers — personal contacts are made prior to each printing to ensure that the publication is as current as possible. If you know of changes or updates, please send the updates to staff at the FLC office (see below for contact information).

Associate members of FLC receive a complimentary listing in the Resource Guide. Associate members are individuals who provide a service or product to forest or timber landowners — consulting foresters, CPAs, appraisers, attorneys, etc. If you know a professional service provider who should be listed in this Resource Guide, please send the information to staff at the FLC office (see below). We strive to continue expanding the Resource Guide with resources that benefit the forest land owners.

Send your updates, inquiries or additions to Deidre Bryant:
 Email: deidreb@forestlandowners.org
 Call: (877) 326-3778
 Fax: (916) 294-0415
 Mail: Forest Landowners of California, 950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150 Folsom, CA 95630

We Appreciate the Generous Support of Our Contributors!

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This space reserved for you.

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This space reserved for you.

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Carol Michener

Gold (\$500 to \$999)

Larry & Connie Camp
John Mills

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Gilda Drinkwater
Steven & Valerie Dowty
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Carol Fall
Ed Fountain
Ralph & Barbara Gaarde
Dorothy Goodyear
Russell Greenlaw
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Donna Hall

Legislative and Regulatory Update

Continued from page 3

SB 709	Dahle	Authorizes up to two 2-year extensions for a timber harvest plan approved between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2015, if specified conditions are met. Urgency clause added requires 2/3 vote.	Signed Chapter 734	Support
SB 45	Portantino	Enacts a \$5.5 billion bond to finance projects for wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparedness and flood protection.	Senate Floor 2-Year Bill	Watch
SB 63	Stern	Requires the state to identify high and moderate fire hazard severity zones, and expand appropriate building standards to those zones	Signed Chapter 382	Watch
SB 12	McGuire	Requires cities or counties that contain very high fire risk areas to amend their land use element and prohibits a city or county with a very high fire risk area from entering into a development agreement without meeting specified fire risk standards.	Failed Assembly Housing 2-Year Bill	Concerns

Note: Click on bill numbers to get latest versions or go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by the bill number.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

But I am alarmed by the dire financial situation of FLC, so much so, that the future of FLC is in doubt. You as members need to know this.

I hope that FLC can keep its 'seat at the table' in the California legislative discussions of the forestry and fire issues. Our needs as non-industrial small forest landowners are being heard more than in past, but there are particular messages that need to be emphasized going forward. Again and again. As you heard at the annual meeting, the pandemic has wreaked havoc on FLC's financial health, which is so dire that our FLC's future is threatened, including our legislative advocacy work. The Board has taken a number of actions to address the shortfall (PLEASE SEE PAGE 7) but we still will need your help as well to return to financial health.

Your support of FLC now is a fine example of the steadying influence that 'taking the long view' provides, and no one takes the long view better than forest landowners.

My hope is that we each can channel the anxious energies that we feel from the fires, and the resurgence of the pandemic, into actions that can make us all safer in the future. And I urge you to make increasing your financial support of FLC one of those actions.

With warmest regards,



Claire McAdams, FLC Past President

What Support Do Small/Non-industrial Forest Landowners Need to Protect and Improve Their Forests Survey

You can complete this survey by filling out this page and mailing it to the FLC office; or you can click on the link below and complete the survey online. Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Online Survey - <https://bit.ly/flcSupportSurvey>

As small forest landowners, we know very well that fuel reduction and defensible space activities would best benefit our forests and the structures on them. The hurdle is, as ever, cost – how we, and others across the state, can pay for this expensive and repetitively needed work.

If the money were there, what tasks would you do to make your forests safer from wildfire? If you are aware of approximate cost, how much would each of those tasks cost (note cost estimate, if known)?

- a. Mechanical thinning (with masticator, slash buster, etc.), either pre-commercial or commercial
Answer: _____
- b. Mechanical fuel reduction (shaded/non-shaded fuel breaks; roadside brush clearance; etc.)
Answer: _____
- c. Hand thinning/fuel reduction (precommercial thinning; commercial thinning; brush removal, etc.)
Answer: _____
- d. Herbicide application following fuel reduction/thinning/harvest
Answer: _____
- e. Grazing
Answer: _____
- f. Prescribed burning
Answer: _____
- g. Post-fire harvest and reforestation
Answer: _____
- h. Other (list here) _____

Do you need upfront funding for the Registered Professional Forester work to plan, and apply for landowner grants, and get permissions that would allow you to do the tasks?

- Yes No

Do you need upfront funding for the tasks themselves?

- Yes – I need 100% of cost to be funded upfront, at market rate
- Yes – I need upfront partial cost, at state-capped rate
- No – I need partial cost, at state-capped rate, but reimbursement is OK (this is what CFIP program now does)
- No – I need 100% of cost to be funded, but reimbursement is okay. (Cal Fire reimbursement can take several weeks to months)

The End: Thanks for Participating in this Survey!

Availability for Affordable Liability Insurance for Your Woodlands:

A Benefit of Forest Landowners of California Membership

Did you know that, as an FLC member, you are eligible for low-cost woodland owners' liability insurance? FLC, along with sister organizations of forest landowners in other states of the U.S., is an affiliate of the National Woodland Owners Association (NWOA). The NWOA has long offered a "pooled" woodland liability insurance to its affiliates. Any size acreage is eligible. A simple one-page application form, and your annual payment, is all that is needed to protect your woodlands from the unexpected. Find more information, and how to apply, at the NWOA website (<https://woodlandowners.com/>), or in any quarterly issue of the very useful NWOA magazine, *National Woodlands*.

Connect with Other Forest Landowners on Facebook and Instagram!

A great place to read interesting articles, network with fellow forestland owners around the world!

Share information and stay current with FLC activities!

Check us out and “Like” our page!

Share with friends and family!

Help us build this new FLC resource!

Go to www.forestlandowners.org – on the home page click on the Facebook and Instagram images.



How You Can Make a Difference

Have you been wondering how you could make a difference? Join a dynamic group of individuals by serving on a committee. There are four committees you could join: Annual Meeting, Communications, Legislative and Membership.

Contact Deidre Bryant at (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org with your interest.

Resources for Fire Resilience and Emergency (Post-Fire) Financial Support for Your Forestland

The Land Management Funding and Cost-Share Resources chart (at the end of this article) touches on ongoing funding sources.

Permission to reprint of the resources chart on page 9 was provided by *Forestland Steward*. It appeared in their summer 2021 publication.

Please support *Forestland Steward* by signing up to receive the publication. Use this link below to sign-up for their newsletter: <https://bit.ly/ForestlandStewardSignup>

Keep in mind that, over time, each of the listed programs varies in funds available.

At present, the Federal USDA EQIP program is well-funded; landowners (not their RPFs) must obtain a FSA Farm Number, which is simple, free and made easier by the help of your local FSA (Farm Service Agency) staff, who are used to working directly with landowners. With your Farm Number in hand, you or your forester can apply for EQIP funds. FSA staff are very helpful.

Currently, the CFIP program of Cal Fire is extremely well-funded, following the legislature’s approval of the Governor’s \$1 billion package to mitigate catastrophic wildfire risk by funding fuel reduction projects across the state. For CFIP support, your forester will need to do the application, following discussion with you, and probably a site visit. These upfront costs to the landowner can be partially reimbursed after the project. Cal Fire is well aware of the hurdle this places on small forest landowners, but we are not aware of any agency efforts to change this rule, in order to provide upfront cost share. That said, if you adhere to Cal Fire’s list of covered activities, and provide supporting documentation showing completion of the funded activities, and complete your project and report that by the deadline, Cal Fire does reimburse a substantial portion of your project.

In coming months, be watching your local Fire Safe Council for local funding opportunities for events they sponsor, such as neighborhood forest fuel chipping/grinding days, or home hardening support.

You will need to contact them quickly, as funding is less than overall need, and their services are often first-come-first-served.

These programs can really stretch your forest management dollars, and are worth your time to pursue.

In addition to programs listed in the chart at the end, here are other programs you might consider. They include:

Immediate Post-Fire Assistance for Individual/Family Residents

The 2021 Wildfire Resource Guide has been issued by Congressman Jared Huffman’s office “to help those affected by the recent wildfires access resources available to aid in recovery. The Guide includes information on how to prepare for evacuation, where to find local resources, how to replace lost or destroyed federal documents, and more” (Huffman, in Mad River Union, Sept. 1, 2021, page 8).

Huffman requested that the United States president declare California’s wildfire locations as federal disaster areas. Once an area has been declared a “major disaster area” by the United States president, it becomes eligible for more types of federal assistance for individuals as well as local governments, including funds for both emergency and permanent work.

As of August 24, Governor Newsom activated the State Operations Center to its highest level and proclaimed a state of emergency in counties impacted by the Caldor Fire, McFarland and Monument fires, Antelope and River fires, Dixie, Fly and Tamarack fires and the Lava Fire and Beckwourth Complex Fire. The Governor signed an executive order to support impacted communities and bolster wildfire response and recovery efforts. Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance by registering online at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-3362 or 1-800-462-7585 TTY.

Congressman Huffman also invites “constituents who need assistance or more information about these resources to contact Huffman’s district offices for individual support.”

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Announcement About Updated Membership Dues Structure

Forest Landowners of California (FLC) was founded in 1975 to provide advocacy and education to non-industrial private timberland owners in California. FLC's work is supported by dues-paying members and generous contributions by members. For example, beginning in 2015 FLC implemented a voluntary assessment program to specifically support the direct expense of the legislative advocate. Through the voluntary assessments made by many members – no matter what level – FLC has been able to maintain the services of the legislative advocate. Membership dues, proceeds from the Annual Meeting and other program fees directly support our shared staff resources. In recent years, FLC has used its nominal reserves to maintain operational expenses and shared staff services.

We recognize that many individuals and businesses have been dramatically impacted by the pandemic. Forest Landowners of California (FLC) has been equally impacted. FLC no longer has the reserves to offset any shortfall in revenue.

FLC applied for the California Small Business COVID Relief Grant. The grant program uses a sliding scale funding program based annual revenue. FLC received notification at the end of September that FLC was awarded a \$5,000 grant. This one-time grant, while extremely helpful, does not address the long-term revenue needs to support FLC's operational expenses.

During the FLC Board of Directors meeting in September, the overall fiscal health of the organization was addressed. The discussion included what areas in which FLC could trim expenses while at the same time consider additional revenue sources.

FLC has maintained the same dues structure for more than 11 years. The Board was thoughtful and strategic in its discussions that led to approving a dues increase for all member categories. Also, one area to trim expenses is printed publications. FLC produces four printed newsletters per year, a membership directory every year and a resource guide every other year. It was agreed by the Board to publish all publications electronically. If members want to continue receiving printed publications, the fee is \$15 per year per member.

When you receive your dues renewal statement in late November this year, there will be a place for you to opt-in for printed publications, which includes the \$15 per member fee.

In the last five years, FLC has observed the percentage of members renewing to be between 85% and 90%. This rate of renewal tells us that the work volunteers, staff and the legislative advocate accomplish remains vital to landowners and service providers. In order for FLC to

continue providing this vital level of programs and services for members, it is necessary to increase the dues. In addition, the modest dues increase will not only allow FLC to meet expenses but restore our financial reserves, which have been depleted by two years of COVID related restrictions on our organizational activities.

Please review the update dues rate charts to the right/left/bottom (note: cite location when article is published in the newsletter).

We look forward to your continued support as we step in to 2022 with the hope that some activities will return to more traditional ways of gathering and networking.

Landowner Acreage Tier	2022 Dues Rates
1-50	\$100.00
51-100	\$150.00
101-300	\$250.00
301-500	\$400.00
501-750	\$500.00
751-1,000	\$625.00
1,001+	\$725.00
Family (per person)	\$35.00
Associate	2022 Dues Rates
Service Providers (per company)	\$150.00

New Members

Please join us in welcoming new members joining in August.

Landowner Members

Cameron Johnson
(Sonoma County)

Kristina Rizga
(Sonoma County)

Jeff & Kathleen Yee
(Santa Cruz County)

Ask a Forester Fall 2021

Q) I have noticed some white extrusions on Black Oaks (picture attached). What could be causing that?

A) Your picture is very similar to bark beetle activity on conifers, which produces very visible pitch extrusions. Most bark beetles are host specific, meaning that individual species of beetles will only attack specific species of trees. Interestingly, each bark beetle makes a specific pattern beneath the bark between the phloem and the cambium layer that helps to identify the beetle.

A Google search revealed a publication by the Pacific Southwest Research Station entitled "A Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of California Oaks" (tech report PSW-GTR-197, July, 2006).



Contributors

Continued from page 4

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Gay Toroni
Larry Tunzi
Steven VanderHorst
Scott & Nora Vermilyea
Susan Walsh
Kay White
John & Laura Williams
John & Linda Wilson
Richard Wortley

Friends (Up to \$99)

Benton Cavin
Stephen Grether
Zachary Jones
Dustin & Danielle Lindler
Kelli Mathia

Resources for Fire Resilience and Emergency (Post-Fire) Financial Support for Your Forestland

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USDA Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

This program is to reward non-industrial forest landowners who have a high level of stewardship in place, having already treated the kinds of issues usually supported through EQIP. It pays less than EQIP. CSP contracts last five (5) years, with a potential five-year renewal. A unique feature is that one's entire property must be included in the application. The recipient must continue to improve resource conditions, by adding enhancements, for example, by creating snags for wildlife, doing prescribed burning, or applying precision pesticide to practice 'adaptive management.' NRCS provides free technical assistance to agricultural producers. To participate in CSP and receive financial assistance, producers must control or own the land and be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements, and have current farm records with USDA Farm Service Agency. To learn more, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill>.

Multi-Entity Community/Landscape/Watershed-Scale Project Support

Cal Fire's preferred means of assisting landowners is the at landscape or watershed level. While the CFIP aids individual landowners, for landscape/watershed/community scale projects, individual landowners must collaborate with other landowners and/or governmental bodies (Fire Departments, various districts, etc.) and/or NGOs (Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, etc.) in order to access funds.

Cal Fire's Forest Health Program grants, for example, require a minimum of 800-1,000 acres of project area, and are evaluated for their potential impacts ("multi-benefits") at landscape or watershed scale. CEQA compliance requirements for projects make the planning and application process expensive and lengthy due to the need for professional (RPF) labor. For more information, see the Cal Fire Forest Health Regional Analysts for Northern Region (Redding) at 530-224-1665 CNRGrants@fire.ca.gov, Southern Region (Riverside) at 951-320-6165

SouthernRegionGrants@fire.ca.gov, or the Grants Management Unit at CALFIRE. Grants@fire.ca.gov.

If you are interested in participating in programs such as the Cal Fire Forest Health, a suggested first step is to contact your local Fire Safe Council, or, on the North Coast, the North Coast Regional Partnership, to access your local Wildfire Protection Plan and its priorities, and to learn about potential partnering entities. Best of luck in your search for resources to improve your forest and make it more resilient to forest fire.

Compiled by Claire McAdams

Onsite SLASH GRINDING BRUSH REMOVAL



Fast! Cal Fire Exemption Operations CLEAN UP PRE-COMMERCIAL THINNING Homesite DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Using mobile tracked 240hp
horizontal grinder, fed by excavator

MaxMix LLC
maxmixcompost@gmail.com
Ethan Luckens and Claire McAdams, Co-Owners
295 McAdams Road, McKinleyville, CA 95519

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707.559.8250
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Land Management Funding & Cost-Share Resources

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>FUNDING AGENCY</u>	<u>ELIGIBILITY</u>	<u>PROGRAM DETAILS</u>	<u>COST SHARE (%)</u>
<u>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</u>	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	All landowners	Farm Bill funding for technical and financial assistance for implementation of conservation practices	Up to 75% (average ~50%)
<u>California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)</u>	CAL FIRE	Landowners must own 20 – 5,000 acres of forestland (supports 10% or more tree cover, including oaks)	Technical and financial assistance for forest improvement practices	Up to 75% of project costs; A 90% cost-share rate may apply under certain circumstances
<u>My Sierra Woods*</u>	American Forest Foundation (AFF)	Must be in Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, or Placer Counties	Fuels reduction and reforestation	Financial assistance is designed to complement existing resources (e.g. CFIP/EQIP)
<u>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</u>	USDA	All landowners; Long-term contracts (10 – 15 years)	Financial support for planting trees or creating wildlife habitat on environmentally sensitive lands	Offers annual rental payments for the land and up to 50% of the landowner's costs
<u>CRP Forest Management Incentives (FMI)</u>	USDA	All landowners EXCEPT those in the last 2 years of their CRP contract	CRP funds specifically allocated to forestlands. Incentivizes fuels reduction and thinning practices	Up to 75% (average ~50%)
<u>The Partners For Fish And Wildlife Program</u>	USFWS	All private landowners interested in restoring wildlife habitat on their land	Priority goes to projects that provide habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species	1:1 match (can include in-kind services); up to 25K
<u>Community Grants</u>	Fire Safe Council	Dependent on funding	Many communities apply for funding as a group, usually through their local Fire Safe Council	n/a

*Due to high demand, AFF is not accepting Community Assistance Program (CAP) applications until 2022.

Contact the appropriate local agency office for more information on the listed programs.

Help Spread the Word

The FLC Membership Committee has been working on ideas to help promote the benefits of being a member of Forest Landowners of California (FLC). One of their efforts is promotional flyers that could be used to market FLC to neighboring forest landowners or to post on the bulletin boards of local community centers or grocery stores.

There are two versions available. You may click on the links below to view each flyer. If you would like some color flyers sent to you, contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office, (877) 326-3778 or deidreb@forestlandowners.org.

Got Forest Flyer #1:
<http://bit.ly/FLC-Got-Forest-1>

Got Forest Flyer #2:
<http://bit.ly/FLC-Got-Forest-2>



Why We Commit Our Time and Resources

By Don Beaty, FLC Board President, and Jim Chapin, FLC Board Director

There are a number of reasons people volunteer their time and resources to professional nonprofit organizations. Most often it is the feeling of giving back to an organization that has provided vital resources, networking and solutions to like-minded groups. The Forest Landowners of California is no different. As Board members we volunteer because we have experiences or expertise that will prove to help the organization overall, whether that is planning educational programs, writing content for the newsletter, etc. We also believe we can effect change that benefits small non-industrial landowners that support our efforts to sustainably manage our forests. All of us enjoy volunteering and contributing to the overall successes of the organization – and having a voice around the table is important.

Here is our ask of you. If you – or someone you know who is a small forest landowner – would like to contribute to the overall success or has an expertise that FLC could benefit from, we invite you to join the Board of Directors. We are looking for least two more Board members.

FLC Board of Directors meets four times a year. In this pandemic, we have been meeting by Zoom. We are hopeful that 2022 health and safety protocols will allow us to meet in person once again. The meetings by Zoom are on Saturday mornings for about three hours, more or less. In person, our meetings are on Saturdays for about five hours, which includes 30-45 minutes for lunch.

If you are interested or have more questions, you can contact FLC Board President, Don Beaty, at president@forestlandowners.org; or contact Deidre Bryant at our FLC office, deidreb@forestlandowners.org.

We hope you will give serious consideration to joining the FLC Board of Directors. Should you decide to volunteer, we would be most pleased to have you join us.

Impact of the Wallbridge Fire on the Euphrat Family Forest

March 14, 2021 – Oakmont Sunday Symposium

Fred Euphrat, PhD

Fred Euphrat has always loved the outdoors. Forests cover one-third to one-half of earth's dry land so how that land is used and managed is critical. As Fred puts it: "I became a forester because the people who control the bulldozers shape the land for the next 10,000 years." Fred has a PhD in forest hydrology. Managing forests to mitigate wildfires and control water is his passion. His radio show in which he shared his inspiring insights on conservation and the environment was nationally acclaimed.



Photos: <https://bit.ly/BearFlatSalvage>

You can watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gG5NdIM843s>

On May 8, 2021, Fred hosted a small group of people on his property (Bear Flat) to view the salvage project due to the Walbridge Fire. Click or type the URL link below the photo above to view the Bear Flat photo gallery taken by an FLC Board member who was in attendance during the tour.



2021 Virtual Annual Meeting July 31

Summary of FLC's Virtual Annual Meeting of 2021

FLC's 2021 Annual Meeting was held remotely on July 31 and transmitted to the attendees via Zoom. The meeting was hosted by FLC President, Claire McAdams, and included a morning workshop on Current Practices in Prescribed Fire in California, a lunch time virtual field day video by Val Parik, and Brian White's afternoon update on forestry related bills in the current legislative session. The meeting concluded with an FLC business meeting and election of officers. The prescribed fire workshop was recorded on video and was sent to all registered attendees.

The annual meeting also included a virtual silent auction – thanks to the generous contribution of 10 items, which raised a total of \$1,650. The meeting was attended by 25 people. We suspect that summer schedule conflicts, numerous wildfires, Zoom fatigue and virus fatigue contributed to lower attendance than hoped. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the annual meeting! What did you like or dislike? What subjects would you like to see covered in future meetings?

The prescribed fire workshop was structured to provide forest landowners with sufficient information to increase their comfort level for considering using prescribed fire on their own forests. Given the significant costs and physical difficulty of both manual and mechanized thinning to reduce forest fuels, prescribed fire offers forest landowners another tool to manage their forests and reduce fuel loads. The Annual Meeting program included:

- *Lenya Quinn Davidson*, Area Fire Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, presented the history of prescribed fire, how prescribed burn associations were developed in the mid-west by individual landowners to work together to implement prescribed fire on their properties. This business model has been adapted in California and has seen rapid acceptance. She also covered liability issues.
- *Lyndsey Lascheck*, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, presented her experience in setting up prescribed burn associations in Siskiyou County, presented case studies of actual prescribed burns and demonstrated significant field support from agencies, local fire departments and volunteers.

- *Ariel Thompson*, Blodgett Demonstration Forest Manager, presented their long term fire surrogate studies, which studied forest tracts which were subjected to prescribed fire, and other comparison stands with varying forest practices which were not burned. Ariel noted that burning soon after initial mastication resulted in somewhat hotter burns because the masticated fuel was still present. She also noted that repeated burns in the same test stands became easier with cooler burns and less damage to larger trees.
- *Scott Steinbring*, an insured and certified burn boss, spoke of his experiences as a burn boss and presented several case studies of successful burns which were quite close to homes, and other burns that were safely done at night following periods of high daytime temperatures and low humidity
- *Laura Dyberg*, Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council, spoke of her experiences in organizing fire safe council membership and how bringing agencies, communities and local forest landowners together improve overall community fire safety.
- *Panel Discussion*. The presenters fielded questions from attendees and provided additional discussion on their views of how prescribed fire can best be used as a forest management tool. There was consensus that prescribed fire can be done safely, that liability can be managed, that it is a critically important tool for forest management. California's program of nearly complete fire suppression is not successful. There is a critical need to return fire in general and controlled fire specifically to California forests to help improve overall forest health and sustainability.

The Annual Meeting concluded with the Annual General Business Meeting, which included an update from Brian White, KP Public Affairs, FLC's Legislative Advocate. President Claire McAdams provided an update on FLC's fiscal position along with other activities of the organization. She briefly reviewed the nonprofit application status of the California Forest Conservation Foundation (CFCF) and facilitated the members approving new Board members.

Member

**Forest Landowners
of California**

Protecting Family Forests

www.forestlandowners.org



FLC Member Signs for Your Property

The Membership Committee continues to look at ways to promote FLC. In May, the committee identified something new – FLC member signs for your property. The signs are 26" wide by 22" tall, and they are made of corrugated sustainable plastic. Posting this sign on your property provides greater awareness to the public of the forest stewardship practiced by FLC members. The cost per sign is \$15; and if you purchase six or more, there is a discount. To purchase signs, contact Deidre Bryant at the FLC office, deidreb@forestlandowners.org, or (877) 326-3778.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

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UCCE Forest Stewardship Workshops

Register for a California Forest
Stewardship Workshop

More information:
[http://ucanr.edu/
forestryworkshops](http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops)

Registration fee all
workshops is \$60.

Questions, contact Kim Ingram,
kcingram@ucanr.edu.

Our Walbridge Fire Experience

Alina and Harry Haigler

It was 4:32am, August 17, 2020. The predicted "dry lightning" storm woke us up, and we watched with a mixture of awe, fascination and apprehension as countless bolts of lightning shot around us on our hill. The smell of lightning-created ozone was strong but there was no rain. The NOAA radio was turned on and we texted neighbors on surrounding hilltops to find out what they were seeing. Everyone expressed the same sentiment... "this is not going to end well."

That series of lightning events sparked 376 known fires in the wine country region of Northern California. Many merged and became known as the LNU Lightening Complex fire, the fourth largest wildfire in the recorded history of California. Our property, which is located in the remote rugged forested hills of western Sonoma County, was threatened by the southern edge of the Walbridge segment of the wildfire complex. Cal Fire was so over-whelmed by all the scattered wildfires that this edge of the fire burned for four (4) days before they could attack it. Fortunately for us, heroic efforts by Cal Fire and locals stopped the fire less than a mile from our property. Not all of our neighbors were as fortunate.

Were we prepared for the Walbridge fire? We bought our home and property in 2006 and moved in full time in 2016 after retiring from jobs in Southern California. We were in love with our redwood trees but our careers as nurse practitioner and research scientist did not prepare us to be good stewards for our forest. Fortunately we met FLC members Fred Euphrat, John Williams, Larry Camp and others who kindly shared their extensive knowledge with us. They directed us to forestry conferences, Fire Safe Sonoma and Fire Forward where we learned current best practice methods for forest health and fire prevention. We soon owned four chainsaws and were busy creating defensible space around our house. Our progress was greatly advanced by obtaining a \$70K CFIP grant from Cal Fire that allowed us to hire crews to thin the small trees in our overgrown forest and create shaded fuel breaks in 35 acres around our house. Other projects included house-hardening activities outlined by Cal Fire and setting up a rain catchment system that provided 15,000 gallons of water for fire fighting. Thousands of hours of hard work made us better prepared for the Walbridge threat. Fortunately, our work was not directly tested by fire. But there was nothing like seeing flames on the ridge adjacent to our home to motivate additional action.

We were delighted that Cal Fire was very involved in pro-active work after the LNU Lightening Complex was contained. Cal Fire battalion chief Marshal Turberville met with us and 30 neighbors to review the fire and outline ways to prepare for the next one. He also toured the local hills with long-time residents who know the location of old logging roads that could be used for deploying fire fighting equipment and creating fire lines. From this additional information he developed a "pre-attack plan" that will be used when fire returns.

In addition to the expected aspects of the wildfire, there also were unanticipated positive outcomes. It brought together the neighbors in our watershed, some who had never met before. Some west Sonoma hill people want to be left alone and fend for themselves. Our shared experience last August made it clear that our fates are sometimes interconnected. A desire to help each other grew from this realization. For example, current local efforts are directed toward creating a web of General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) radios that allow us to be in touch with each other directly or through repeaters in future emergencies. There recently was a neighborhood barbeque where we shared information and showcased our new fire fighting capabilities such as pickup trucks and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) equipped with water tanks and fire pumps. Several neighbors discussed how they reduced their fuel loads by pile burns. Prescribed burns have been scheduled.

Every resident should be familiar with the clear and readily available descriptions of the basic actions needed to prepare for the next wildfire. From our experience last year, we are certain that our first responders will bring their remarkable expertise when needed. It also is very important that our government institutions provide them with the financial support they need. On behalf of everyone who lives in a forest, we encourage you to vote "yes" on proposals to fund them adequately.



*Forest Landowners of California
is a proud sponsor of the
California Tree Farm Committee.*