

Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program Assembly Bill 1492

Fiscal Year
2024-25

In Fulfillment of the Annual Reporting
Requirement of Public Resources Code
Section 4629.9





CONTENTS

BACKGROUND.....	4
Legislative Mandate.....	5
2024-2025 Program Dynamics in Focus.....	7
Disturbance: Wildfire and Vegetation Management.....	7
PROGRAM OVERVIEW.....	9
Timber Harvest Review.....	10
Additional Program Engagement.....	11
Reporting Requirements.....	12
PROGRAM REPORTING FISCAL YEAR 2024-25.....	13
Fund Status.....	13
Fund Financial Status Summary: Wood Products Assessment, Revenues and Expenditures.....	13
Staffing Levels.....	14
Restoration Grant Funding.....	14
Timber Harvest Document Review, Inspections, Approval, and Enforcement.....	15
Timber Harvest Plans (THPs).....	15
Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs).....	17
Emergency Notices and Exemptions.....	19
Timber Operator Licensing.....	21
Enforcement.....	21
Process Improvements, Efficiencies in Environmental Review and Permitting.....	22
OTHER FORESTRY-RELATED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PROGRAM STAFF.....	27
Monitoring and Evaluation.....	27
Monitoring and Research Related to Emergencies and Exemptions.....	27
Effectiveness Monitoring.....	29
Statewide Forest Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment.....	30
Wildfire Preparedness and Emergency Response.....	32
Utility Right-of-Way Vegetation Management.....	32
Watershed Emergency Response.....	33
Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force and Action Plan.....	34



APPENDIX	35
Departmental Staffing and Costs	35
Natural Resources Agency	35
CAL FIRE and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.....	35
Department of Fish and Wildlife.....	37
State and Regional Water Boards	39
Department of Conservation	40
Workload Analysis.....	43
Detail on Timber Harvest Activity for FY 2024-25.....	49
Number and Acreage Extent of Timber Harvesting Documents Processed	49
Average Time for Plan Review	49
Review of Timber Harvest Permits for Filing	50
THP Review Times	50
NTMP Review Times	51
Number of Field Inspections per CAL FIRE Inspector.....	52
Number of Active Plans and Acres under Active Plans.....	54
Overall Accounting of Program Fund Personnel Activities	56
Timber Harvest Numbers: County-by-County	57



BACKGROUND

The Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (Fund), established in 2012 under [Assembly Bill 1492](#) (Chapter 289, Statutes of 2012; AB 1492), places a one percent assessment on lumber and engineered wood products sold at the retail level to pay for agency staffing, permits, oversight, and environmental protection of California’s forested ecosystems (Figure 1). In FY 2024-25, the Fund supported nearly 206 agency staff at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Department of Conservation’s California Geological Survey (CGS); and the California Environmental Protection Agency’s (CalEPA) State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Water Boards).

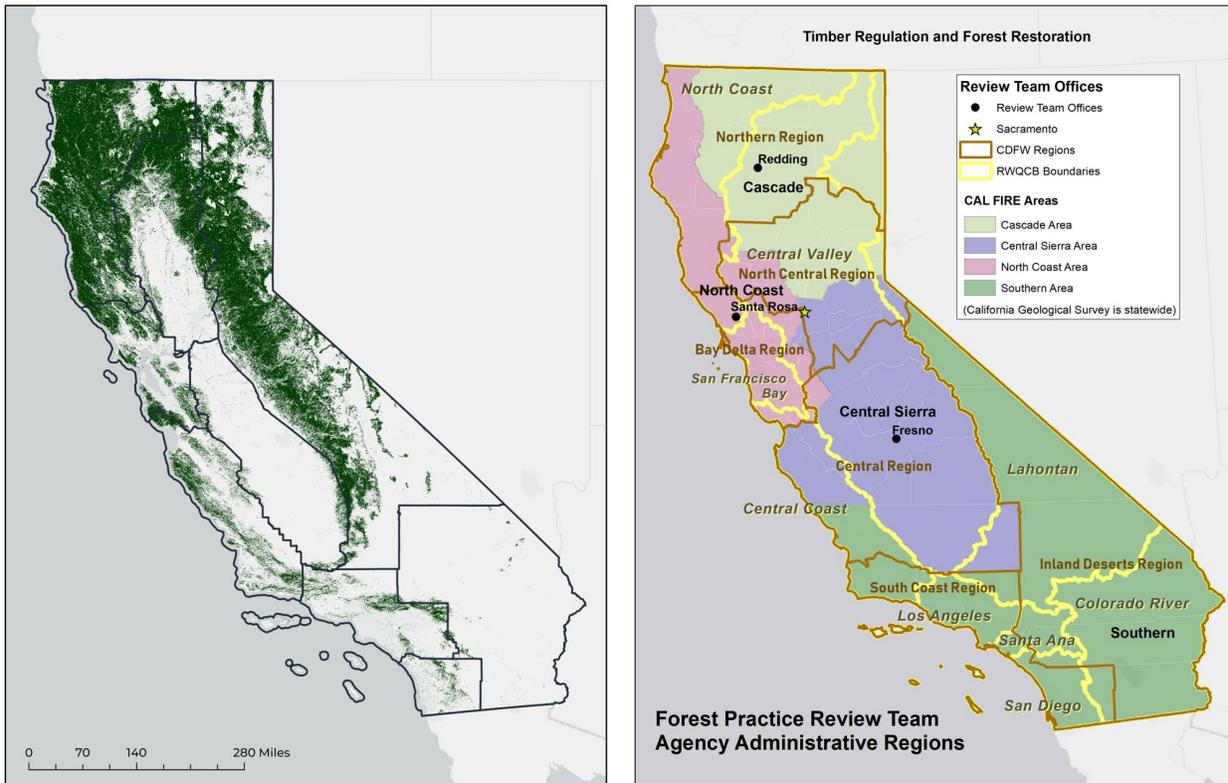


Figure 1 (left image): Statewide land cover map of California forest ecosystems (approximately 33 million acres) under the purview of the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program; (right image): Statewide map of Program offices and department jurisdictions (CAL FIRE, Water Boards, CGS, and CDFW) along with geographic reference to forest areas under Program.



Legislative Mandate

AB 1492 outlines the Legislature's intended goals (PRC § 4629.2):

- Promote and encourage sustainable forest practices consistent with state environmental laws, including, but not limited to, the Timberland Productivity Act of 1982, CEQA, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, and CESA.
- Ensure continued sustainable funding for the State's forest practice program to protect the state's forest resources.
- Support in-state production of timber within the State's environmental standards and promote and encourage retention of forests and forested landscapes.
- Create a funding source for the restoration of the state's forested lands and promote restoration of fisheries and wildlife habitat and improvement in water quality.
- Promote restoration and management of forested landscapes consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32).
- Promote transparency in regulatory costs and programs through the creation of performance measures and accountability for the State's forest practice regulatory program and simplify the collection and use of critical data to ensure consistency with other pertinent laws and regulations.
- Identify and implement efficiencies in the regulation of timber harvesting between State agencies.
- Modify current regulatory programs to incorporate, and provide incentives for, best practices and develop standards or strategies, where appropriate, to protect natural resources, including the development of plans that address road management and riparian function on an ownership-wide, watershed-wide, or district-wide scale.

Primary objectives of AB 1492 as they relate to the review team agencies are:

- 1) Administrative accountability, efficiency, and transparency (PRC§ 4629.1 & 4629.2(f-g)),
- 2) Timber Harvest document review, inspections, approval, and enforcement (PRC§ 4629.6(c)),
- 3) Monitoring and reporting (PRC§ 4629.2(f) & 4629.9(a)),
- 4) Establishing and evaluating ecological performance measures ((PRC§ 4629.1, 4629.3(f), 4629.9(a)), and
- 5) Providing forest restoration grants (PRC§ 4629.2 & 4629.6 (d-g)).

The Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program (Program; established under AB 1492) has been operating for approximately 13 years. The Program's annual operating budget ranges from \$69 million - \$230 million, enabling interagency staff to



work closely to build and maintain interagency cohesion, efficiency, and performance in the management of California’s forested ecosystems. Extensive collaboration occurs outside the Program’s core departments, including work with other state and federal agencies and partner organizations.

Program staff are actively engaged in core duties to conduct timber harvest review; fulfill policy and oversight functions including new regulation development and enforcement; ensure transparency and efficiencies through monitoring and online permit innovations; and support forest and watercourse restoration. Related to these legislatively mandated duties, highlighted duties listed below have emerged since the creation of the Program and absorbed significant staff time during this reporting period. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Emergency response to pre- and post-wildfire watershed hazard identification and community recovery, flood and winter storm events.
2. Oversight of Emergency Notice filings (permits to allow immediate salvage of timber after a loss due to fire, insect or other agent).
3. Oversight of Exemption filings (pre-mitigated, non-discretionary timber harvest permits that allow for operations to commence faster than a normal THP).
4. Implementation of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) to streamline environmental review of non-commercial vegetation management.
5. Execution of Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force) [Action Plan](#) items pertaining to:
 - a. Vegetation management permit synchronization and streamlining
 - b. Statewide monitoring and evaluation systems including vegetation treatment tracking systems, and CNRA’s remote sensing investments.
6. Review of annual utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans in coordination with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety).
7. Response to pending endangered species listings (e.g., California Spotted Owl).
8. Response to issues with illegal timberland conversion and other violation types.
9. Support and oversight of State-owned land vegetation management implementation.

Some of the above-listed items are episodic, aligned with disaster declarations, while others are long-term work areas Program staff are continually addressing. In all cases, Program staff have ramped up interagency and stakeholder outreach and coordination efforts in recent years, including extensive collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service.

Program staff are aware of the effects of climate change and wildfire on the timberlands and broader forested ecosystems. Considering these challenges staff:

- Increased “cutting the green tape” workload to address pre-fire emergency response needs across California forests (read more in next section),



- Responded to the shift in focus to post-fire salvage operations reflecting timber industry needs, while maintaining consistent THP permitting timelines,
- Made notable contributions to Key Actions outlined in the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Action Plan,
- Contributed to technological advances in statewide forest ecosystem assessment and monitoring,
- Met statutory obligations related to Emergency Notice and Exemption monitoring and reporting, and
- Followed through on grant-supported contracts issued for restoration projects in previous years.

2024-2025 Program Dynamics in Focus

Disturbance: Wildfire and Vegetation Management

Wildfire Events

The 2023 fire season was relatively minor due to the high amount of precipitation and snow the previous winter. The 2024 calendar year started with an extreme month-long heat wave drying the vegetation leading to significant fire activity in the FY 2024-25 fire season. The Park Fire in the summer of 2024 grew to approximately 430,000 acres very quickly due to very dry fuel conditions at the time. The latter part of 2024 saw a number of smaller to mid-sized fires in southern California in the San Bernadino and San Gabriel mountain ranges. These ranges are some of the most erosive lands in the world and are very prone to post-fire debris flows. In January 2025, California experienced extreme Santa Anna, or East Winds, that exceeded 90 miles per hour, sparking a number of fires in Southern California, two of which, the Palisades Fire and the Eaton Fire, became some of the deadliest fires in California and will be the costliest. Even though less than 40,000 acres burned, 31 people perished, 10 firefighters were injured, three civilians were injured, over 15,000 structures were destroyed and 2,000 structures damaged.

Declaration of a State of Emergency and Impacts on Program Workforce Activities

State of Emergency Declared

Since becoming Governor of California in 2018, many agencies, under the direction of Governor Newsom, [have taken significant action](#) to address the growing and evolving



forest health and wildfire threats facing California. Actions include promoting reduction of fuel loads and restoring California's forests and shrublands to natural fire regimes as well as expanding and enforcing necessary defensible space around homes and other critical infrastructure. These efforts reduce wildfire risks and fire severity, protecting life property and natural resources. The pace and scale of wildfire prevention and post-fire recovery and restoration work have [increased markedly](#) in recent years. And most wildfire prevention and post-fire recovery projects require years of ongoing, multi-agency coordination to support projects and facilitate cleanup, restoration, and recovery. As such, preventing and responding to wildfires across the state is no longer intermittent in nature, but instead an ongoing and integral part of the agencies' responsibilities. Addressing the wildfire crisis requires continued, sustained commitment and funding towards proactive implementation of projects to reduce wildfire risk and severity, limit ongoing threats to life safety and property damage, and support forest restoration efforts, both pre- and post-fire.

Given the ongoing and severe threat of catastrophic wildfire risk, the Newsom Administration moved to further expedite fuel reduction projects that protect public safety and communities. Following the Eaton and Palisades wildfires in January 2025, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency (SOE) in [March 2025](#). The SOE authorized the Secretaries of CNRA and CalEPA to determine [which projects](#) are eligible for suspension of certain State of California statutory and regulatory requirements to expedite critical fuels reduction projects. Individual projects can cover up to 3,000 acres and involve multiple treatment types including removing hazardous fuels and vegetation to create new or maintain existing strategic fuel breaks; to improve community defensible space; to reduce roadside ignitions and create safer ingress and egress routes; and to use cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction.

[Program Staff Mobilized](#)

To address the SOE, skilled technical staff familiar with ecosystem and vegetation management as well as wildfire prevention and recovery were called to action. Interagency teams were rapidly mobilized, involving approximately 100 staff across multiple departments, including foresters, geological and geotechnical experts, biologists, fire experts, legal staff, and geospatial and policy experts. These staff include many of those working under the Program who are well situated, with an existing interagency review team structure, to directly engage to protect resources and public safety in forested ecosystems threatened by wildfires in California. During this period, and on an ongoing basis, these staff have had to put aside other critical work to focus on this emergency response. These staff have coordinated one-stop, streamlined permitting to "cut green tape" for high-priority wildfire-safety projects that are protective of communities, forests, and critical infrastructure. Through the fast-tracked process, projects are jointly reviewed by a multi-agency group under CNRA and CalEPA including CAL FIRE, CDFW, DOC/CGS, California Coastal Commission, and the Water



Boards, in as little as 30 days, saving a year or more of review for more complex projects using a one-stop application process. To ensure practitioners can increase the pace and scale of this work without compromising important environmental protections, the SOE provides a new Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan (EPP). The SOE requires practitioners to comply with best management practices and measures to minimize impacts on environmental resources while completing fuels reduction projects, to safeguard life, property, and infrastructure, water and air quality, tribal cultural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, and special-status species and their habitats.

This SOE has triggered a pronounced increase in workload in terms of volume and magnitude projects. Under the SOE, qualifying projects had to be “initiated” (i.e., submitted) in the 2025 calendar year. As of March 2026, more than 523 critical fuel reduction and beneficial fire projects had been submitted. Of these, 300 projects, covering nearly 54,000 acres, have been approved to date. Total acreage is expected to more than double once all qualifying projects have been approved. On December 31, 2025, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-38-25, extending the initiation date to May 1, 2026. Review agencies anticipate an additional 200 projects to be submitted by May 1st, increasing the associated total acreage on which vegetation treatment and prescribed fire activities will occur. The agencies’ review process of projects will extend through 2028. Most projects are expected to take two to five years of on-the-ground work to complete. Multi-agency staff teams will oversee the projects to ensure they are implemented in a way that safeguards natural resources, including water quality, biodiversity, ecosystems and special-status species, while achieving the goal of reducing wildfire risk and severity and protecting communities over the long-term.

The streamlined SOE process has been heavily used and although it has greatly increased the speed of project review and the pace and scale of approvals, it has not reduced existing workloads, which remain. Instead, it has required coordinated multi-agency review of hundreds of projects, often with complex assessments and long-term oversight needs.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Implementation of the Program began in January 2013, bringing various State natural resource management agencies together under the Program to efficiently and effectively regulate and permit timber harvesting activities occurring on state/local and private lands, while ensuring the protection of the state’s natural resources and broader forested ecosystems. Agencies directly involved in the Program include CNRA, BOF, CAL FIRE, CDFW, CGS, and Water Boards.

Retail revenues generated under the Fund create a consistent source of revenue to support costs of the agencies charged with the review, inspection, and issuance of



permits to conduct timber operations. Funds are also used to protect forest resources; restore the state's forested lands, including fisheries, wildlife habitat, and water quality; and support core staff work on subjects including permitting efficiencies, ecological oversight and monitoring, and forest ecosystem restoration through grant programs [PRC§ 4629.6(d)-(g)].

AB 1492 requires that monies be expended for purposes relating to:

- 1) the regulatory activities of responsible state and local agencies involved in the management of forested landscapes.
- 2) the costs of managing forest resource programs in the state.
- 3) grants for restoration in forested ecosystems.
- 4) certain grants for fire protection and suppression.

Timber Harvest Review

A major component of the Program is to provide consistent interagency oversight for commercial timber harvest on California's non-federal timberland. Commercial timber operations on non-federal forestlands in California are regulated under the [Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act](#) (Act) and implemented under the [California Forest Practice Rules](#) (Rules). The Act establishes the goal of ensuring a thriving and sustainable timber industry that supports California's ecological objectives, protection of soil, water quality, and conservation of wildlife habitat.

The Rules provide explicit instructions for permissible and prohibited actions that govern the conduct of timber operations in the field. The Rules cover major categories including silvicultural systems and regeneration methods; harvesting practices and erosion control; site preparation; watercourse protection; sensitive watershed designation; functional wildlife habitat and late successional forest protection; fire protection; hazard reduction and more. The Rules define the contents of a variety of permitting and related procedural mechanisms for the conduct of timber harvesting activities, including the Timber Harvest Plan, which is a formal environmental review document that must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester. The BOF is the rule-making authority, and CAL FIRE is the lead agency for approving timber harvesting plans and enforcement of the Forest Practice Rules. The Act and Rules and the interagency process used to review and approve THPs under them constitute a Certified Regulatory Program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The multi-agency "review team" is defined in the Act and Rules under Article 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) under section 1037.5 and includes CAL FIRE (lead agency), the Water Boards, CDFW, and CGS. The review team is tasked with reviewing plans and assisting in the evaluation of proposed timber operations and their



impacts on the environment. This includes a well-established coordinated process for the interdisciplinary review of timber harvesting projects including THPs, Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs), Sustained Yield Plans (SYPs), Program Timberland Environmental Impact Reports (PTEIRs), Working Forest Management Plans (WFMPs), and Emergency and Exemption Notices. In 1976, the Natural Resources Secretary certified that the plan review process under the Rules was the "functional equivalent" of an environmental impact report (EIR) under CEQA based on the number of provisions that require evaluation and protection of soil, water, plant, fish, cultural and wildlife resources.

Beyond participating in the review team process, CDFW also serves as a CEQA Responsible Agency for plans with the issuance of appropriate Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements (1600 Agreements) and Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) for species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Water Boards also have a statutory obligation to regulate all nonpoint source water pollution activities on both non-federal and federal lands under Federal and State clean water laws. Coordination among these agencies and departments is critical to meet each agency's respective mandates and reduce duplicative efforts.

The Program has enabled a transition towards more transparent, coordinated review and permitting related to timber harvesting activities. With a foundation of collaboration, the multi-agency review team provides early and consistent oversight to efficiently process timber harvesting proposals, with no permitting fees. Further, the Program has expanded measures to deliver program accountability and enhance stakeholder accessibility.

Additional Program Engagement

Beyond oversight of timber harvesting activities, Program staff engage in broader forest health and timber harvest initiatives integral to the Program's scope and operations.

These initiatives include:

- **Wildfire mitigation, public safety, science, and innovation:**
 - Collaboration between Program staff and partner agencies and stakeholders to address drought, tree mortality, and wildfire issues, workforce development needs, utility right-of-way mitigation work, wood product utilization, restoration, and reforestation initiatives, and the like. These efforts include work associated with the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force.
 - Review team staff collaborate with partner agencies to ensure complementary and consistent work. Partner agencies include the



Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety), California Office of Emergency Services, CalRecycle, Public Utilities Commission, Caltrans, Department of Water Resources, Coastal Commission, Office of Planning and Research, Air Resources Board, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

- CNRA is leading the development of an integrated statewide forest ecosystem monitoring effort to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of management (harvest, fuel reduction activities, other land uses) on forest ecosystem conditions, including water quality and supply, carbon, biodiversity, and related natural resource assets. This includes statewide coordinated acquisitions of remote sensing data to enhance and complement the data and assessments being conducted by partner organizations.

Reporting Requirements

AB 1492 established a requirement for CNRA, in consultation with CalEPA, to submit an annual report to the Legislature on the activities of all State departments, agencies, and boards relating to forest and timberland regulation (PRC§ 4629.9). Per the statute, that report shall, at minimum, include all the following:

- 1) A listing, by organization, of the proposed total costs associated with the review, approval, and inspection of timber harvest plans and associated permits.
- 2) The number of THPs and acreage covered by the plans, reviewed that year.
- 3) To the extent feasible, a listing of activities, personnel, and funding, by department, for the forest practice program for the most recent fiscal year and preceding 10 fiscal years.
- 4) The number of staff in each organization dedicated fully or partially to, a) review of THPs, and b) other forestry-related activities, by geographical location in the state.
- 5) The costs of other forestry-related activities undertaken.
- 6) A summary of any process improvements identified by the Administration as part of ongoing review of the timber harvest process, including data and technology improvement needs.
- 7) Workload analysis for the forest practice program in each organization.
- 8) To assess efficiencies in the program and the effectiveness of spending, a set of measures for, and a plan for collection of data on, the program, including but not limited to:
 - a. The number of THPs reviewed,
 - b. Average time for plan review,



- c. Number of field inspections per inspector,
- d. Number of acres under active plans,
- e. Number of violations,
- f. Evaluation of ecological performance.

A discussion of each is included in the following sections.

PROGRAM REPORTING FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

Fund Status

The following provides information on the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program operations covering Fiscal Year 2024-25 including budget condition, staffing information, and reporting on available and applicable Program activities and trends involving forest management and timber harvesting.

Fund Financial Status Summary: Wood Products Assessment, Revenues and Expenditures

In fiscal year 2024-25 the Program supported nearly 206 agency staff at CNRA, CAL FIRE, CDFW, Water Boards, BOF, and the CGS largely in technical and administrative capacities responsible for: conducting timber harvest project review; fulfilling policy and oversight functions including regulation development and enforcement; ensuring transparency and efficiencies through monitoring and online permit innovations; and supporting forest and watercourse restoration.

In fiscal year 2024-25, the Fund had \$237.5 million in available resources, of which approximately \$46.0 million came from annual forest product sales assessment revenues. At the end of fiscal year 2024-25, the Fund showed an ending balance of \$77.8 million (Table 1). Overall, the fund is in good condition, including that there are regular past year increased adjustments to revenues. The adjustments are made due to the timing of receiving the funds from the large retailers which are sometimes delayed and impact reporting.

Table 1. Fund Balance (millions of dollars), Fiscal Years 2017-18 to 2024-25.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total Resources	\$75.8	\$78.3	\$69.6	\$77.4	\$90.2	\$95.7	\$217.9	\$237.5
Expenditures	\$48.2	\$54.6	\$46.3	\$43.6	\$40.5	\$42.5	\$42.9	\$159.6
Ending Balance	\$27.6	\$23.7	\$23.3	\$33.7	\$49.7	\$156.8	\$175	\$77.8



Table 1. Trends in Fund condition. Total Resources represent the prior year fund balance carry-over plus forest product sales assessment revenue collected for a given Fiscal Year. Ending Balance is the total amount of available resources remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year. The difference between the Total Resources and Ending Balance represents the total spending in the given Fiscal Year. The difference between a given year’s total resources and the prior year’s ending balance is the given Fiscal Year’s lumber and forest product sales assessment revenue. Note: AB 107 – The Budget Act of 2024 appropriated \$120M in TRFRF funds to CAL FIRE for local assistance in the form of Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Grants. The funding offset a reduction of \$120M in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds for CAL FIRE for those purposes as part of the 2024-25 budget.

Staffing Levels

Since 2013, the Fund has provided consistent staffing levels for Program review team agencies to engage in timber harvest review functions and related forest health objectives (refer also to Appendix). Review team agencies regularly evaluate the adequacy of staffing levels supported by the Fund to ensure timely plan review and permitting, responsiveness to new legislative mandates, and to meet broader Program requirements such as monitoring, oversight, and restoration.

Given the scope and scale of forest and timberland management across the state, including response to emerging climate change impacts and increasing wildfire risk, new positions have been incrementally added since Program inception (Table 2). Nearly 206 staff positions (PY: person years) were authorized under the Program in FY 2024-25.

Table 2. Staffing Levels, Fiscal Years 2016-17 to 2024-25.

Department	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
CNRA	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
BOF	1	2	4	4	4	4	4	4.25	4.05
CAL FIRE	114	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
CDFW	44	44	44	44	43.6	43.7	43.7	44.0	41.25
Water Boards ^{1,2}	34.9	34.9	35.2	35.2	17.5	17.2	17.5	17.7	16.2
DOC	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
Total	211	223	219	227	210	210	210	211	206

Table 2. Interagency staff numbers as measured by PY (person years) between FY 2016-17 and 2024-25. Notes: 1) In past years, the Water Boards reported all positions assigned to Forest Activities Program work, beginning in FY 2020-21, the positions reported have been revised to reflect those specifically supported through the fund. Note also that the Water Boards lost one PY (TRFRF) due to budget cuts directed via Budget Letter 24-20.

Restoration Grant Funding



The State of California is a major purveyor of contract and grant funding to support research, innovation, and on-the-ground management action. As Fund condition allows, the Program, through its various departments and boards, administers restoration grant funding to enable reforestation, water quality improvement and forest management in high-risk forested areas of the State.

When Program funding is available for restoration work, funds are appropriated by the State budget process to: promote forest restoration; mitigate past damage from wildland fire and legacy forest management practices; improve fish habitat and remove fish migration barriers; improve sediment control measures to prevent water quality impairment; and more.

Given consistent and strong revenues in the reporting period, the Program may be prepared to provide new grant funding as laid out in PRC 4629.6 (d-i), upon appropriation by the Legislature.

Timber Harvest Document Review, Inspections, Approval, and Enforcement

To reference up-to-date maps of timber harvest activity across California discussed in this document, please refer to [CAL FIRE's Timber Harvest Viewer](#) (click on the “layer list” in the top right-hand corner of the webpage to enable viewing of harvest types of interest).

Timber Harvest Plans (THPs)

In FY 2024-25, there were 172 new THPs approved covering roughly 60,000 acres. THPs are valid for five to seven years, with harvest occurring during any given fiscal year in the covered period. Of these new THP acreages, approximately 42 percent of timber harvesting was proposed as uneven-aged management, also known as selection silviculture. Several large landowners employ even-aged management, including clearcut silviculture which averaged approximately 17 percent of approved THPs in the past reporting year. Alternative prescriptions are a wide range of silviculture from even aged to uneven-aged and anything in between which accounted for 14 percent of approved THP acres. Special prescriptions came in at 18 percent of the acreage which includes Variable Retention, Rehabilitation of Understocked Areas, and Fuel Break Management. The remaining 10 percent of the acreage included all other regeneration methods but also included non-harvest acres of protected areas.



In addition to THP usage, the timber industry is increasingly employing ministerial documentation mechanisms such as Exemption and Emergency Notices. These



ministerial notices do not receive multi-agency review that occurs for THPs or NTMPs prior to approval, however, unlike THPs, NTMPs and WFMPs, non-discretionary permits like exemptions have pre-determined operational parameters, and no allowance for landowner discretion is allowed in determining operational standards to follow. These “pre-mitigated” exemptions have been determined by the Legislature to be de minimis in their potential for environmental impacts. The rise in the use of these ministerial permits is due to the significant number of acres and volumes of timber experiencing mortality from drought, insects, and wildfire, and the expansion of Exemption types that are now available to treat pre-fire conditions (e.g., reducing hazardous fuel loads).

Despite the complexity involved in THP review and the increased use of Exemption and Emergency Notices, the average number of days for approval of a THP has remained relatively consistent over the past several years (Table 3). Accounting for agency review time, pre-harvest inspection (PHI) coordination, and time for project proponent response to questions, review days displayed in Table 3 have averaged 114 days from submittal to approval. This past fiscal year reports the lowest average approval time in the past decade. This is mainly due to review team offices fully staffed for the past few years. Hiring and retaining trained and experienced reviewers has had a beneficial result with plan approval timelines along with improved review quality. It is important to note that THPs and the review team process constitute a functional equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which typically requires significant time and can take several years to complete. The causes for delays in harvest plan review times include but are not limited to endangered species concerns; snow levels preventing PHIs; wildfire conditions; and plan submitter preparedness and responsiveness.

To help reduce timber harvesting document review delays, in September 2023, consistent with Assembly Bill 2889 [Caballero, Ch. 640, Stats. 2018], CAL FIRE developed a “Timber Harvesting Plan Filing Checklist” to assist Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) in their preparation and submission of a THP as required by the Act. Use of the checklist by RPFs is intended to result in greater first-time plan filing and reduced plan return rates. The checklist includes highlighted emphasis on common errors that can result in plan approval delays by CAL FIRE.

In addition to the checklist, another resource currently available to assist RPFs in their development of harvesting plans is the online California Timber Regulation and Environmental Evaluation System (CalTREES). RPFs can use CalTREES to view examples of plans that were filed and the reasons for which plans were returned not filed. Through consistent use of CalTREES, RPFs can maintain awareness of the common return issues and make corrections prior to plan submission. Additionally, with the added functionality to submit THPs online through CalTREES, initial return problems are more likely avoided through the automated error checking for key information when submitting online. CAL FIRE continually updates both the THP and the NTMP forms to keep up with regulatory changes and review team and public clarifications. These form revisions are intended to help RPF’s and the regulated public.



Table 3. Approved THP Review Days, Fiscal Years 2014-15 to 2024-25.

Corrections to previous years' numbers from past reports are from QA/QC of Forest Practice data.

Fiscal Year	Count	Acres	Minimum Days in Review	Maximum Days in Review	Average Days in Review
2014-15	253	125,444	33	335	112
2015-16	243	81,332	26	347	107
2016-17	215	81,674	37	308	119
2017-18	267	59,847	43	344	118
2018-19	237	83,933	43	308	103
2019-20	224	119,235	40	322	131
2020-21	208	92,742	67	333	118
2021-22	178	60,674	25	330	108
2022-23	171	54,075	32	339	136
2023-24	195	72,163	34	358	106
2024-25	170	59,284	56	212	100

Note: Individual Plans greater than one year in review have been removed to represent more accurate time frames. These outliers are generally due to weather delays with PHIs, review team awaiting RPF responses to recommendations, and responding to public comments. Substantial Deviations for THPs (in cases where significant changes to existing approved plans are requested) are not included in these figures. Review time spikes during some fiscal years are mostly attributed to controversial Plans with significant public comments which take longer to review.

Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs)

NTMPs do not expire like a THP; therefore, once approved active harvesting can be conducted in any fiscal year so long as a permittee files a Notice of Timber Operations (NTO) and the plan is in compliance with any required amendments. Selection silviculture (uneven-aged management) prescriptions make up nearly all of the harvesting for these plans. A total of 862 NTMPs have been approved since these timber harvesting plans became available with 856 of them still active. NTMPs represent far less acreage than THPs, accounting for approximately only 5 percent of approved plan acres annually. NTMPs average review times tend to be more variable than review times for THPs due to many factors including weather delays for inspections, RPF responses to review questions, and public comments. But the most significant difference is primarily due to the complexity in demonstrating long-term sustained growth and yield across the often-large size of NTMPs (maximum acreage of



2,500). Similar dynamics associated with THP review times apply to the NTMP review team process as it is a functional equivalent to an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The number of NTMPs and associated harvest acreage vary due to timber industry changes, wildfires, and widespread tree mortality due to droughts and pest infestations. Tables in the Appendix of this report provide further information about NTMP review times. A summary of approved NTMPs, associated acreage, and review days is included in Table 4.

Table 4. Approved NTMP Acreage and Review Days, Fiscal Years 2014-15 to 2024-25.

Corrections to previous years' numbers from past reports are from QA/QC of Forest Practice data

Fiscal Year	Count	Acres	Minimum Days in Review	Maximum Days in Review	Average Days in Review
2014-15	11	3,207	69	166	107
2015-16	11	5,410	72	291	159
2016-17	13	5,109	73	205	155
2017-18	13	3,869	77	193	121
2018-19	14	2,410	82	268	171
2019-20	13	4,172	67	189	122
2020-21	7	1,017	67	255	116
2021-22	8	2,389	54	343	204
2022-23	6	1,889	76	205	165
2023-24	6	964	58	172	103
2024-25	8	3,379	86	292	190

Note: Individual Plans greater than one year in review have been removed to represent more accurate time frames. These outliers are generally due to weather delays with PHIs, review team awaiting RPF responses to recommendations, and responding to public comments. Substantial Deviations for NTMPs are not included in these figures.



Emergency Notices and Exemptions

In certain situations, Notices of Emergency (Emergencies) and Notices of Exemption from Timber Harvesting Plan Requirements (Exemptions) allow landowners to utilize a *ministerial* harvest document to harvest timber rather than preparing a discretionary document such as a THP, NTMP, MTHP, or WFMP. Ministerial documents receive a rapid administrative review only for accuracy of the submittal prior to acceptance or return. Emergencies and Exemptions require compliance with the Forest Practice Rules and other agency regulations governing timber harvest, road construction, residual timber stocking standards, and protections for fish and wildlife species, and water quality. Emergency notices allow landowners to capture loss to their timberlands from fire, wind, insects or disease, whereas Exemption notices are “pre-mitigated” harvest documents that have strict parameters on use that must be adhered to when operating. Unlike THP’s, NTMP’s or WFMP’s, Emergency notices and exemptions cannot have alternative methods proposed as no discretionary review is performed to analyze alternative proposals.



Figure 2 The Dixie Fire ignited on July 13, 2021. Photo of post fire salvage logging.

The number of acres harvested under ministerial Exemptions and Emergencies fluctuates based on statewide fire activity, fuels reduction projects, drought, and tree mortality from insects and disease (Figure 3). Exemptions have greatly outnumbered Emergencies in the last five years. However, yearly Exemption totals have been trending downward since 2019, while Emergencies saw a spike in 2021, before decreasing in 2023 to below levels seen in 2019.

Given the expedited ministerial permitting process for Exemptions and Emergencies (timber operations may commence within five to 15 days depending upon the ministerial document type), CAL FIRE (on occasion with other Review Team agencies) conducts field review, inspection, and monitoring for a sampling of these timber operations to evaluate compliance and effectiveness of Forest Practice Rules implementation (in partial fulfillment of SB 901 reporting requirements). Results of ongoing monitoring activities are described in more detail later in this report.

With a changing climate, California is experiencing long-term trends of higher temperatures and low precipitation. Climate projections coalesce around these trends continuing, exacerbating the incidence and severity of drought, insects and disease, tree mortality, and wildfire. Therefore, it is expected that the use of Exemptions and Emergencies will remain high or increase in the coming years. If usage of these



ministerial permits grows, to help ensure compliance with State regulations, additional resources to ensure Review Team agency oversight may be needed in the future.

Emergency Notices

In general, changes in the number of Emergency Notices (Emergencies) accepted and acres harvested in any given fiscal year are correlated to the number of acres of timberland impacted by wildfire or seasons just before (Table 6). Emergencies were dominated by post-fire salvage projects in response to wildfire seasons.

Table 6. Emergency Notices Accepted in Fiscal Years 2020-21 through 2024-25.

2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres
449	85,321	376	106,653	229	65,646	98	16,965	175	55,406

The “Emergency Notice” count and acreages are directly related to the fire activity during the previous calendar year(s). Fiscal years with little fire activity in the previous years will have less count and acreages than previous years with heavier fire activity. The 2024 Park Fire, which largely burned in federal and private timberlands, has caused an uptick of submitted emergency notices in late 2024 and will continue into 2025 until the salvage recovery is complete.

Exemptions

The general pattern of Exemptions is variable from year to year (Table 7). The Structure Protection 0-150 Feet (§1038(c)(1)) and the 10 percent Dead, Dying, Diseased, Fuelwood, and Woody Debris (§1038(b)) Exemptions represent the majority of Exemptions accepted, accounting for over 50% of submitted Exemptions Landscape conditions and the status of the timber industry over the past several years have affected the type and volume of Exemptions, averaging nearly 2.4 million acres of the state’s timberlands in the past five fiscal years. Reported acres for Exemptions, however, can be highly misleading when including the 14 CCR 1038(b) “10 percent Dead, Dying, Diseased Exemption”, as this exemption frequently covers many thousands of acres, or even “ownership-wide” areas, even though many of these areas will not actually see any harvest activity. This can skew the data giving an impression of more activity on the landscape than is actually occurring.

Table 7. Exemptions Accepted in Fiscal Years 2020-21 to 2024-25.

2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-2024		2024-25	
Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres	Count	Acres
1,591	2,908,915	1,191	3,487,500	964	1,545,177	982	1,440,901	933	1,844,711



Timber Operator Licensing

Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) are individuals who have been licensed under the Forest Practice Act law and are authorized to conduct timber operations. LTOs must understand and comply with all laws relating to timber operations. As with licensing of Professional Foresters, though CAL FIRE's Timber Operator Licensing Program is not supported by the Fund, it is an integral component of timber harvesting in the state. The program is staffed with one program coordinator responsible for day-to-day program operations, an office technician, and a program manager. Additional administrative support is provided by other Forest Practice Programs during peak workload periods, like renewal season. The program continues to see a high demand for the training class that is required for new applicants.

- Shasta Community College in Redding has been meeting this demand by providing approximately 14 classes a year supported by the Department.
- One class is also offered at the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference each year.
- 390 students received certificates from LTO classes in FY 2024/2025.

There is currently a 1,300-student waiting list for the class and the maximum number of students for each class is 35. The demand stems from project proponents requiring a timber operator license for vegetation management and forest improvement projects, even when timber operations are not being conducted. In FY 2024/2025, the program issued 265 new licenses and processed 662 renewals.

The Timber Operator Licensing Program has made improvements in efficiencies to help meet demand for licensing. CAL FIRE's Information Technology Research Development and Innovations Group created an application for automating the training class certificate issuance process. Class certificates are automatically emailed to the student once the class roster is finalized. This reduces the turnaround time for students receiving their certificates and saves staff several hours of data entry and mail processing. The programs deployed an online credit and debit card payment system for LTO licensing fees, which provided payment options for the public and improved process efficiency.

Enforcement

Unpermitted timberland conversion continues to be a part of CAL FIRE's enforcement activities. Table 8 displays the number of violation records processed for the reporting period by harvest document type. The main enforcement actions taken by the Department are an administrative action through a notice of violation (NOV), and administrative civil penalties, primarily as a monetary penalty. Other enforcement actions taken are licensing action against timber operators or submitting an RPF complaint.



Enforcement actions are also taken by CDFW and the Water Boards against those landowners, RPFs or LTOs found to be out of compliance with relevant rules and regulations. Such enforcement actions are based on laws that these agencies enforce, such as the Fish and Game Code and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and related permit requirements.

Table 8. Number of Violations Processed by CAL FIRE, FY 2015-16 to 2024-25.

Harvest Document Type	Number of Violations									
	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
THPs	24	64	73	42	38	57	42	25	90	86
NTMPs	21	28	6	30	16	14	5	17	8	16
Emergency Notices	27	23	3	5	17	15	34	40	8	10
Exemption Notices	109	98	109	116	84	60	46	33	48	46
Violations Not Tied to a Harvest Document	180	259	254	96	154	125	157	104	97	74
Totals	361	472	445	289	309	271	284	220	251	233

Note: Figures represent violations that took place on an inspection during the reporting period. Additionally a single Plan/Notice may have multiple violations associated with it.

Process Improvements, Efficiencies in Environmental Review and Permitting

A key objective outlined in AB 1492 is to identify and implement efficiencies in the regulation of timber harvesting between state agencies. While Program staff continuously endeavor to improve Program efficiencies, activities included the following:

California Timber Regulation and Environmental Evaluation System (CalTREES)



A significant effort funded by the Program over the past several years has been to develop a single online application portal to enable more efficient permit submission, agency review, and to promote transparency associated with the environmental review that may be required for timber harvest permitting by multiple regulatory agencies.

The online timber harvest permitting system, [CalTREES](#), is one of the few online application systems in the state that facilitates a complete CEQA equivalent environmental review process. The goal of CalTREES is to improve efficiency for the



submission, review, and administration of timber harvesting documents. It enhances public access to timber harvesting permit information and supports analysis by automating the collection of program performance information, such as time to complete reviews of THPs and NTMPs. The CalTREES database and reports allow for efficient and consistent summarizing, including most of the Forest Practice harvesting statistics in this report.

During the end of 2024 CalTREES became fully integrated in accepting online public comments, Emergency Notices, Exemptions, THPs, NTMPs, amendments, and Notices of Timber Operations. The beginning of 2025 CalTREES focused on the task of transitioning the platform from Resource Agency on premise IT servers to the Accela Cloud environment which was completed in October 2025. This was required as Accela no longer supports systems not in the Cloud starting December 2025. It also improved security, performance and the ability to stay up to date with platform versions. The support team accomplished this by the following:

- Oversaw technical planning and stakeholder coordination to ensure a smooth transition from a legacy on-premises system to a modern cloud-based platform.
- Generated and deployed user test case scenarios to properly assess the new Cloud system in a test environment.
- Maintained and supported a live production system used daily by forestry staff, government agencies, and industry partners to process harvesting documents.
- Provided frontline technical support, troubleshooting system issues, resolving user-reported problems, and minimizing downtime for critical operations.
- Collaborated and communicated with cross-functional teams.
- Acted as the subject matter expert (SME) and led readiness efforts for Cloud migration, including infrastructure assessments, system documentation, data validation, and environment testing.
- Communicated upcoming changes and impacts, helping internal and external stakeholders prepare for the end of support for the legacy in-house system.
- Supported integration with related systems, including GIS and document management platforms, ensuring continuity of service across departments during and after migration.
- Migrated from Oracle to SQL Server, requiring updates to scripts, reports, and data logic.
- Converted batches and rebuilt the All Citizen Access (ACA) public website.
- Transferred 761 GB of data attachments.
- Completed the entire final cutover in a 4-day migration window, performed over implementation weekend followed by a week of stabilization well ahead of critical end of life deadlines.



For the remainder of 2025 CalTREES focused on the backlog of system requests and reports put aside from the Cloud migration efforts. Moving forward in 2026 a major revision to the Completion and Stocking process is planned along with starting a project to provide an LTO licensing portal on the CalTREES website to improve renewals and new application submittals.

Additionally, the program continues to research the integration of a geospatial component and has posted links in the help section to the CAL FIRE GIS spatial data hub and connections to the CAL FIRE [Timber Harvest Viewer](#).

Timber Harvest Permit Process | Evaluating Effectiveness and Identifying Efficiencies

As noted, one of the primary goals of AB 1492 is to identify and implement efficiencies in the regulation of timber harvesting across state agencies. Permit synchronization is a term often used to describe this endeavor. In addition to AB 1492, the concept of permit synchronization has been outlined in AB 2889 (Chapter 640, Statutes of 2018) and more recently described in the 2020 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Key Action 1.35) and codified in Senate Bill 456 (Chapter 387, Statutes of 2021).

In summer 2024, CNRA contracted with the [NiVACK Group](#) to complete an independent Lean Six Sigma analysis to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of California's Timber Harvest Plan (THP) process and workflow. Throughout FY 2024-25 NiVACK conducted its analysis by consulting data provided by participating state agencies, a series of one-on-one interviews, online surveys, and listening sessions involving agency personnel, industry and small landowner representatives, non-governmental organizations, environmental justice groups, and tribal representatives.

At its conclusion, NiVACK will prepare a report that describes the process it used to evaluate program effectiveness, summarizes stakeholder input it obtained during the process, results of the evaluation, and present recommendations to improve program effectiveness. The NiVACK Group's report is expected to be completed in early 2026.

Timber Harvest Permitting Guidance Documents

CAL FIRE has developed and published the "[Timber Harvesting Plan Filing Checklist](#)" to assist RPFs in their preparation and submission of plans as required by the Forest Practice Act, Public Resources Code Section 4592.5. Use of this checklist by RPFs is intended to result in greater first-time plan filing and reduced plan return rates. The checklist includes highlighted emphasis on common errors that can result in a plan not being approved by the Review Team.

Response to Related Legislation, Rulemaking, and Permitting Efficiencies



Periodically, new legislation (e.g., [SB 901](#), Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018), Executive Orders and Emergency Proclamations necessitate significant Program staff time to respond to mandates set forth by the Legislature or Governor, where these impact forests and timberlands of the State.



Over the past several years, in response to SB 901 and Executive Orders, Program staff have maintained ongoing involvement in broader regulatory relief efforts to facilitate forest health, and wildfire fire mitigation and response activities action on the ground. This has included extensive engagement with the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. In FY 2021-22, Program agencies along with the Office of Emergency Services and CalRecycle revised the statewide Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for Phase II debris and hazard tree removal operations. The EPP serves to consolidate agency requirements for hazard tree removal operations conducted by the state or local agencies pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders and State of Emergency Proclamations.

California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Implementation

Though currently not a funded component under the Program, the [BOF’s CalVTP](#) was designed to facilitate noncommercial vegetation treatments on over 20 million acres within the State Responsibility Area for critical forest health and fuel reduction projects. Program staff engaged in coordination in FY 2021-22 which resulted in direct support to project proponents in development of and feedback on specific vegetation management plans including preparation of standard project requirements and mitigation measures, as well as follow up on program process and implementation.

In July 2021, the State Water Board adopted a statewide general order (permit) that complements the CalVTP. The State Water Board issued 25 permit Notices of Applicability in FY 2021-22 and 14 Notices in FY 2022-23 and completed six CalVTP site visits during FY 2022-23. The State Water Board and BOF are working together to streamline enrollment of vegetation treatment projects in the general order, lessening the regulatory burden on project proponents.

The [March 2025 Governor’s Emergency Proclamation](#) directed the BOF to take immediate steps to update the CalVTP and associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to increase efficiency and utilization, and to continue promoting rapid environmental review for large wildfire risk reduction projects. Originally developed in 2019 by BOF, in cooperation with CNRA and CalEPA departments, the CalVTP and associated PEIR have sped up actions to reduce wildfire risk and restore ecosystems



on state responsibility lands across the state. Vegetation treatment activities covered under CalVTP support ongoing forestry management and expedited vegetation management to reduce fire risk, restore ecosystems, and increase the state's wildfire resilience. These treatment activities must be implemented in a manner that protects the State's natural resources and prevents hazards.

The Water Boards' associated Vegetation Treatment General Order (VTGO) supports the CalVTP by providing a streamlined, statewide permit for waste discharges associated with the vegetation treatment activities within CalVTP's scope. In addition, the Coastal Commission supports the CalVTP by issuing Public Works Plans in the coastal zone that pre-authorize CalVTP projects.

Currently, CalVTP projects are pre-authorized on 350,000 acres of land in the coastal zone. To continue streamlined, zero-cost permitting of qualifying projects, the VTGO and the Coastal Commission's Public Works Plans will need to be updated consistent with the new CalVTP PEIR update. In addition, while CDFW does not have a dedicated permitting pathway for CalVTP projects, as trustee agency for biological resources, CDFW coordinates with CalVTP applicants and reviews PSAs (Project Specific Analyses) for consistency with the CalVTP. The DOC/CGS functions as a review agency for geologic hazards and coordinates with CalVTP applicants and reviews PSAs (Project Specific Analyses) for consistency with the CalVTP with regard to geologic hazards that may affect life, property, infrastructure, and the environment.

Expanding the Availability and Use of Emergency Notices and Exemptions

As directed by the Legislature, the BOF has greatly expanded the availability of Emergency Notices and Exemptions (e.g., forest fire prevention, drought mortality, post-fire recovery, etc.) for eligible commercial timber harvest activities, precluding more time-intensive preparation of a THP. This is meant to provide landowners with an expeditious pathway to conduct fuel reduction and forest health projects, while observing the operational provisions of the Rules. Review Team agencies continue to work closely with CAL FIRE to ensure natural resource protection through compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and provide permitting and technical assistance where necessary. These permit forms are available on the CAL FIRE [website](#).

Similarly, Review Team staff regularly provide the BOF with coordinated interagency comments on rule revisions or new policy and rule development, particularly concerning resource management issues, community fire hazard matters, and emerging industry needs. Further, CDFW staff consult on prospective threatened or endangered [species listings](#) that affect forested areas of the State. Review Team staff are continuously involved in complex negotiations with industry, private landowners, federal authorities, and others concerning development of innovative solutions such as species-specific



[Safe Harbor Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans](#) designed to enable forest management while safeguarding species of concern.

OTHER FORESTRY-RELATED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PROGRAM STAFF

Monitoring and Evaluation

Interagency staff are working to expand the Program's capabilities in field-based and remotely sensed monitoring and spatial analysis for advancing environmental monitoring and natural resources management. AB 1492 directs the Program to develop an ecological performance measures approach as an accountability measure for the multiple State programs that regulate forest and timberland ecosystems. Results of monitoring are used to inform decision makers in their work to adaptively manage forests and timberlands and to track efficacy of State-led forest management regulations, policies, and programs. This includes the evaluation of State and Federal programs to invest in forest health and resilience such as fuel reduction activities.

Program staff actively lead various levels of monitoring associated with management such as timber harvest and fuel reduction projects, including:

- 1) Ongoing work to track regulatory effectiveness of forest management projects on the ground; and
- 2) The establishment of a new monitoring effort to evaluate forested watershed conditions statewide using state-of-the-science remote sensing technologies.

Monitoring and Research Related to Emergencies and Exemptions

CAL FIRE's Watershed Protection Program, in conjunction with the other Review Team agencies, actively evaluates outcomes of harvesting operations that fall under Emergency and Exemption ministerial harvesting permits, and in early 2025, a move to include monitoring of discretionary harvest permits. In addition, regular compliance inspections are conducted by CAL FIRE foresters and Review Team agency staff during and after project implementation.

Exemption and Emergency Notice monitoring has been a priority of CAL FIRE since 2018 due to legislative priorities. Prompted by a reporting requirement imposed by the Legislature in consecutive statute changes enacted by Assembly Bill 1958 (Chapter 583, Statutes of 2016) and Assembly Bill 2029 (Chapter 563, Statutes of 2016), Senate Bill 92 (Chapter 26, Statutes of 2017), and Senate Bill 901 (Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018), CAL FIRE, in cooperation with the BOF and the other Review Team agencies initiated a long-term monitoring and annual reporting program for Exemption and Emergency Notices to meet the legislative mandate. Work was phased over time, with each year focusing on one or more non-discretionary Notice types for rigorous evaluation with additional agency staffing.



To date, CAL FIRE, along with the other Review Team agencies, have monitored or are in the process of monitoring five types of Exemption and Emergency Notices.

Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (14 CCR § 1038.3)

In 2022, CAL FIRE’s monitoring report focused on the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFP) type. Public review of this report concluded in early 2023. The FFP Notice serves as a rapid permitting tool for exempt commercial and non-commercial timber harvesting, with the goal of improving forest fire resiliency via “thinning from below,” or removing the smallest and most flammable trees, eliminating surface-to-tree crown fuel continuity, and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Monitoring was rapid and objective, with quantitative, binned quantitative, and qualitative measurements, across objectively located plots and locations on each FFP Notice, with sampling intensity based on the size of the FFP. Almost all FFP Notices reported harvest and removal of substantial volumes of timber (> 25 thousand board feet). FFP Notices rarely indicated exceptions to remove timber within a watercourse lake protection zone on a Class I or II fish bearing stream (WLPZ). A total of 48 percent of the sample reported being adjacent to a “Community at Risk” or permitted structures (i.e., residences), with 62 percent Non-Industrial FFP Notices being adjacent to these communities and structures, compared to only 28 percent of Industrial FFP Notices. However, only 23 percent of FFP Notices occurred in areas with housing density fitting the requirement of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and/or Intermix.

Water quality related outcomes on FFP Notices were generally positive for roads, road-watercourse crossings, and watercourse protection. Of the 66 road segments assessed in monitoring, 6 percent had a sediment discharge, found on four sampled FFP Notices. These four notices represent 9 percent of the total sampled notices. Sediment discharges were generally associated with lower standard roads that were poorly maintained, and all roads with a discharge had native surfacing (used underlying soils as the road surface). On non-industrial FFPs, 28 percent of assessed roads also doubled as residential access roads (i.e., driveways) as well. Additionally, temporary road construction or re-construction on FFP Notices was found on only 18 percent of the sample, similar to an internal review of 101 FFP Notices from a 22-month period where 17 percent of all FFP Notices planned temporary road work. None of the sampled temporary roads violated associated construction prohibitions, and none resulted in a sediment discharge.

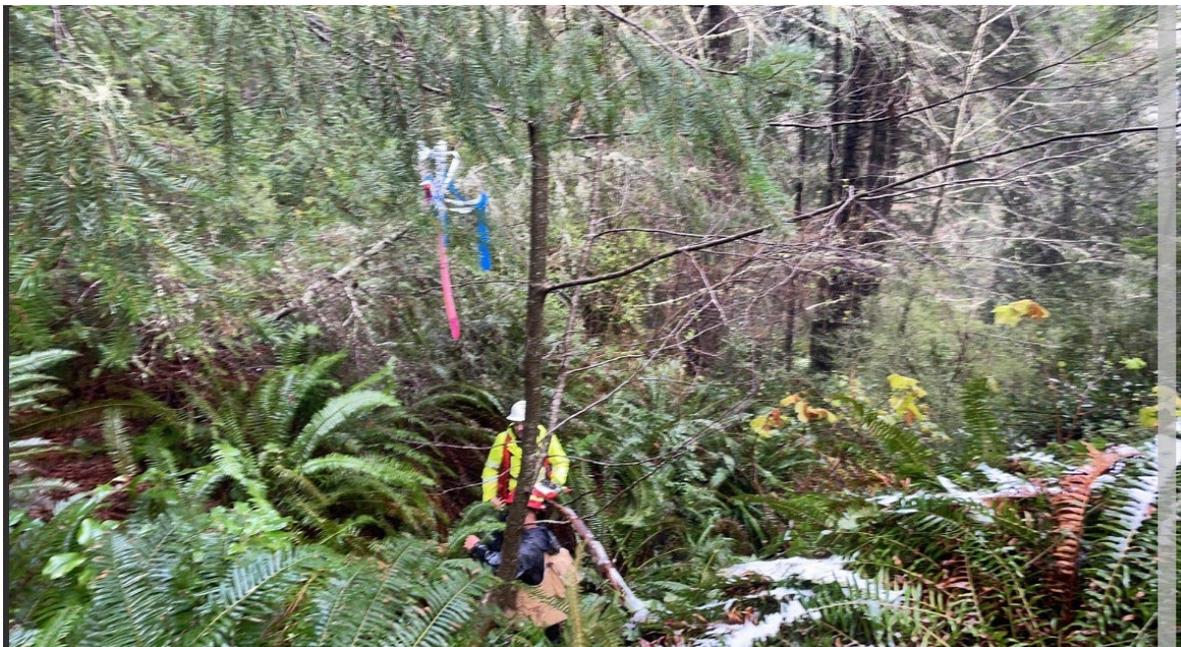
In 2024, the Forest Practice Science and Monitoring Program completed the remaining exemption for monitoring and reporting to meet the legislative requirement, the §1038(d) Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog Exemption field work. This exemption allows the harvest of dead, dying, or drought-stressed trees, as well as



non-merchantable sawlog-sized dead trees on substantially damaged timberlands. The final report is expected to be completed in early Spring 2026.

In 2025, the monitoring crew began the Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring effort (FORPRIEM 2), which evaluates outcomes on discretionary timber harvesting projects such as THPs and NTMPs. After meeting the legislative mandate for monitoring of emergency notices and exemptions, the monitoring team switched their focus to review of discretionary timber harvest documents, as these documents allow for more activities than within exempt activities, and have the potential for greater impacts. This monitoring effort will mimic the original FORPRIEM monitoring that was completed over a decade ago to determine if changes can be detected in the post-harvest environment.

The FORPRIEM II monitoring focuses on roads, watercourses, crossings, wet areas, and harvest units through rapid one-day assessments. Key objectives included determining sediment delivery and estimating volumes, assessing overhead canopy in watercourse areas, and documenting residual slash and fuels near roads, wet areas, and within watercourses.



Effectiveness Monitoring

CNRA and CalEPA see important connections between their AB 1492 responsibilities and the BOF's [Effectiveness Monitoring Committee](#) (EMC). The EMC was formed in 2014 to develop and implement a project-level monitoring program to address both



watershed and wildlife concerns and to provide a better feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies, and the public. Project-level, short-term effectiveness monitoring is necessary for assessing whether management practices are achieving the various resource goals and objectives set forth in the California Forest Practice Act and Rules and other natural resource protection codes and regulations.

The EMC updates its [Strategic Plan](#) every three years with the most recent version produced in 2022 and produces an Annual Report and Work Plan in the interim.

In FY 2024-25, the EMC awarded one project for \$448,510, of which \$198,726 was encumbered from FY 2021-22 funds. For a list of all EMC projects, see the [EMC website](#).

Statewide Forest Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment

Managing California's extensive forests and timberlands requires an enduring monitoring effort to enable the State to adaptively manage and effectively respond to unprecedented pressure and change. This is particularly important given the significant investment State and Federal partners are directing to forest restoration and fuel reduction projects, in addition to ongoing commercial timber harvest. Statewide forest ecosystem monitoring, called for under AB 1492 (see [AB 1492 Ecological Performance Measures White Paper](#)) necessitates regular assessment of forest resource conditions to enable more targeted and sustainable management through time. Monitoring forest resource conditions across California ecoregions can link the outcomes of on-the-ground projects to the efficacy of state funded programs, including those for restoration and regulatory compliance.

The Budget Act of 2021 ([SB 170](#)) provided CNRA critical remote sensing funding to implement targeted monitoring data collection and perform strategic assessments to support broad program administration and oversight. In partnership with federal, state, and tribal agencies, CNRA is undertaking the following cutting edge data collection and state-of-the-science assessment efforts:

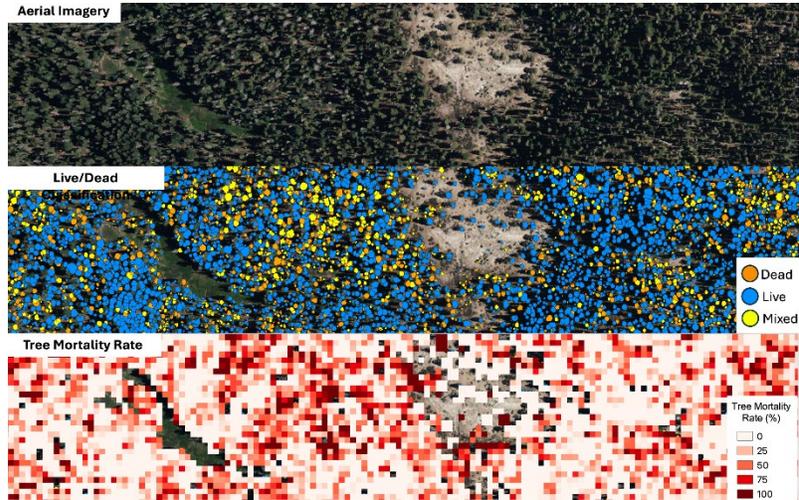
LiDAR Data Collection & Processing: In partnership with the US Geological Survey's 3D Elevation Program, NASA Ames, and other entities, [CNRA collected and processed over 40 million acres of new LiDAR](#) covering large swaths of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada, and filling data gaps up and down the state. Processed data products generated directly enhance our knowledge of forests and landforms in some of the most rugged and fire-prone portions of the state in support of wildfire incident response, strategic planning, and management efforts to improve natural resource conditions and protect public safety. Processed data include "research ready" user friendly data products that can be plugged into geospatial analysis workflows without the need for practitioners to have familiarity or expertise with "raw point cloud" LiDAR data (watch [this video](#) to learn more). Lastly, these LiDAR data have been directly



used by NASA Ames to support the Wildfire, Ecosystem Resilience, and Risk Assessment Initiative, discussed directly below.

Wildfire, Ecosystem Resilience & Risk Assessment Initiative (WERK):

To fulfill its legislative mandate to establish and evaluate ecological performance under the Program, CNRA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) are partnered with NASA Earth Exchange at Ames Research Center to develop remotely-



Individual Tree Detection and Use Cases

sensed data products and assessments tailored to California’s shrubland, grassland, and forest ecosystems which include change detection, high-resolution land cover, and individual tree mapping, [known as the WERK project](#). The WERK project will generate wall-to-wall maps of change detection and attribution, land cover classification, individual tree detection, and built structures. As a part of this project, assessments will be performed within and between the data products to support programmatic evaluation of management effectiveness, including management associated with the State’s multi-billion-dollar investments in fuel reduction and forest health treatments. These updatable monitoring data products will provide timely and essential information to help state and federal agencies decrease the negative impacts of catastrophic wildfire and changing climate conditions to protect public health and forested ecosystems.

Initial data deliverables are expected in Fall of 2026 (e.g., new statewide datasets for forest stand conditions). Using this data, the NASA team will move on to establishing spatial assessment workflows CNRA and CalEPA and partners may use to better understand stand change condition, fire severity, and fuel treatment effectiveness among other applications.

Leveraging an entire new science section, CARB plays a lead role in managing the science development and data refresh moving forward on behalf of CNRA. These publicly available data and assessments will be maintained and updated by CARB’s [Nature-Based Strategies section](#) to transform the WERK project into an enduring monitoring program and provide new and improved means for monitoring and assessing the progress of California’s multi-billion-dollar wildfire



and climate resilience programs. This data will strengthen the state's ability to monitor progress of state and federal forestry programs.

Post-Fire Emergency Data & Imagery Collections: CNRA and the California Geological Survey (CGS) are collecting and processing on-demand remotely sensed data and imagery to provide timely public safety information following a wildfire. Emergency managers can use the data to assess post-wildfire geologic and hydrologic hazards on state and federal responsibility areas. This work includes a contracting relationship with the federally recognized Yurok Tribe to perform data collection and processing.

Integrated Observatory for Redwood Forest Health: In partnership with UC Davis, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, CARB and CAL FIRE, CNRA [has installed the first-of-its-kind redwood forest observatory](#) consisting of two eddy covariance flux towers in the California redwood forest ecosystem. Instruments on these towers will provide near-real time understanding of how redwoods respond to climate change, wildfire, and management to help land managers protect this iconic forest ecosystem undergoing rapid change.

This body of work endeavors to quantify current conditions associated with forest structure, water supply, carbon, biodiversity, and various other vital services, assessing the impact of management, and evaluating risk to these ecosystem services (e.g., fire and climate variables), directly informing adaptive management and future investments.

Wildfire Preparedness and Emergency Response

Utility Right-of-Way Vegetation Management

While other programs, predominately led by CAL FIRE, address wildfire prevention and preparedness, Program staff regularly work with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and other agencies in relation to utility right-of-way vegetation management and wildfire hazard mitigation. Cumulatively, across the state, the power utilities are actively implementing their [Wildfire Mitigation Plans](#) to manage vegetation along tens of thousands of miles of utility infrastructure, much of this located in forested areas of the State.

The expertise and support of Program staff assist in the development permits, review Wildfire Mitigation Plans, and conduct field inspections where commercial species are involved. Program staff are critical to enabling the pace and scale of vegetation management required to mitigate risks to public safety from wildfire hazards associated with utilities, while protecting vital natural resources. In recognition of the long-term and increasingly intensive need for permits associated with utility right-of-way vegetation management, the Water Boards are developing a statewide permit that, if adopted,



would provide utility companies an efficient permit path for Wildfire Mitigation Plan activities while ensuring water quality protections.

The Water Boards are drafting a Utility Wildfire General Order and related environmental impact report, which would provide water quality certification and waste discharge requirements for electric utility wildfire mitigation and similar activities. Written comments on the revised General Order were accepted in spring 2025. Staff are proposing further revisions to clarify the scope of regulated access route activities; reduce vegetation management notification requirements; exclude culvert cleanouts, urban activities, and municipal sewer system discharges; and adjust certain compliance expectations. Updates and related documents are available on the Utility Wildfire General Order webpage. Final revisions and public outreach are underway, with the General Order anticipated to be proposed for consideration of Board adoption in spring 2026.

Watershed Emergency Response

When major wildfire incidents occur, whether from natural or human-caused starts, CAL FIRE's [Watershed Emergency Response Team](#) (WERT) partners with Program staff from CGS to rapidly evaluate the potential for debris flows and flooding following intense rainfall in an area affected by wildfire. Certain Program staff are deployed immediately after major fire incidents, and work with local authorities to identify communities or infrastructure at risk, and devise mitigation and safety measures where needed. Additionally, review team staff frequently and closely interface, post-fire, to provide regulatory and permitting support for landowners attempting post-fire salvage operations and hazard tree removal work.

Following the FY 2020 extreme wildfire season, 21 assessments were performed through the CAL FIRE WERT process and Cal OES mission tasks. In FY 2021-22, five WERTs were completed including the largest wildfire in state history (Dixie) and the first wildfires to extend across the crest of the Sierra Nevada (Dixie and Caldor). In FY 2022-23, 10 WERTs were completed, including the Mosquito fire which caused significant impacts to water supply systems. The FY 23/24 State budget authorized a new Burned Watershed Geohazard Assessment program within CGS and was funded by the General Fund. The 7 new staff serve as primary responders on WERT assignments, thus impacts to AB 1492 funded CGS staff has been reduced. Additionally, the annual variability of WERTs reflects the variable climatic conditions California has experienced over these years. The 2023 fire season was relatively minor due to the high amount of precipitation and snow the previous winter. 13 WERT assessments occurred during the 2024-25 fire season. The 2024 calendar year started with an extreme month-long heat wave drying the vegetation leading to significant fire activity in the FY 2024-25 fire season. The Park Fire in the summer of 2024 grew to approximately 430,000 acres very quickly due to the recently dried conditions. The latter part of 2024 saw a number of smaller to mid-sized fires in southern California in the San Bernadino and San Gabriel



mountain ranges. These ranges are some of the most erosive lands in the world and are very prone to post-fire debris flows. In January 2025, California experienced extreme Santa Anna, or East Winds that exceed 90 miles per hour, sparking a number of fires in Southern California, two of which, the Palisades Fire and the Eaton Fire, became some of the deadliest fires in California and will be the costliest. Even though less than 40,000 acres burned, 31 people perished, 10 firefighters were injured, three civilians were injured, over 15,000 structures were destroyed and 2,000 structures damaged.

Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force and Action Plan

The AB 1492 Leadership Team was identified as an interagency coordination group to assist the [California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](#) (Task Force) in implementing certain Key Actions outlined in the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) including:

- 1.35 Complete Permit Synchronization Workplan
- 1.36 Complete Timber Harvesting Plan Guidance Documents
- 1.37 Improve and expand the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration database CalTREES
- 1.38 Enhance the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) implementation
- 4.5 Develop Statewide Forest Ecosystem Monitoring System
- 4.8 Develop Consistent Reporting Tools

Program staff's contributions to each of these Key Actions was outlined earlier in this report.



APPENDIX

This Appendix is intended to supplement the Report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program for FY 2024-25. The contents herein provide additional data required by legislation.

Departmental Staffing and Costs

Natural Resources Agency

CNRA currently has three dedicated staff supporting the Program efforts (Table 1): The Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience, a Senior Environmental Scientist, and an Executive Assistant. The Deputy Secretary for Forest and Wildfire Resilience position ensures the effectiveness of the timber harvest review programs by coordinating activities among departments, interacting with stakeholders, providing leadership for the development of the Program and its role in California forest health and wildfire mitigation efforts. The Senior Environmental Scientist was added at CNRA in FY 2017-18 to provide direct support to the Deputy Secretary for Program operations and development of statewide forest monitoring and data initiatives.

Table 1. CNRA Program Expenditures (\$1,000) and Positions (PY), Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2024-25.

Budget Item	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2024-25
Authorized Expenditures	\$2,236	\$1,793	\$1,523	\$1,513	\$1,550	\$1,573	\$1,590
Actual Expenditures	\$765	\$520	\$530	\$501	\$641	\$677	\$906
Authorized Positions	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

*Estimated projection

CAL FIRE and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

There has been no significant increases in CAL FIRE Program or BOF staffing since FY 2017-18. Authorized expenditures for CAL FIRE and the BOF since FY 2016-17 are displayed in Table 2. One minor change that was absorbed by program budgets was to reclassify a Forest Practice GIS analyst to a much-needed intermediate GIS Supervisor to help the program operate more efficiently (Table 3).



Table 2. CAL FIRE and BOF Forest Practice Expenditures (\$1,000) and Staff for FY 2018-19 through 2024-25.

Budget Item	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Authorized Expenditures	\$41,935	\$20,444	\$18,907	26,290	24,417	24,533	23,505
Actual Expenditures	\$19,508	\$16,939	\$13,414	24,515	27,481	20,005	19,922
Authorized Positions—CAL FIRE	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
Authorized Positions—BOF	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

The BOF received its first position and funding in FY 2015-16 to support the Board’s Effectiveness Monitoring Committee and other Board functions. In FY 2016-17, the Board received an appropriation of \$450,000/year for two years to fund forest practice effectiveness monitoring projects under the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee. In FY 2018-19, this funding was made permanent and ongoing.

Table 3 provides details on CAL FIRE and BOF forest practice program expenditures and staff for FY 2024-25.

Table 3. All CAL FIRE and BOF Positions (PY) in Fiscal Years 2024-25.

CLASSIFICATION	CAL FIRE REGIONS/BRANCHES				
	Northern Region	Sacramento	Southern Region	Legal Office	Total
Senior State Archeologist	1	1	1		3
Attorney III				1	1
Forestry Assistant II	6	4			10
Forester I (non-supervisory)	25	2	3		33
Forester II (supervisory)	20	5	1		25
Forester III	3	3			6
Forestry and Fire Protection Administrator		1			1
Office Assistant (typing)	3.5		0.5		4
Office Tech (general)	8	1	0.5		9.5
Program Tech II	4				4
Research Data Analyst I (GIS)	2		0.5		2.5
Research Data Analyst (GIS)	3				3
Research Data Specialist (GIS)	2				2



Table 3. All CAL FIRE and BOF Positions (PY) in Fiscal Years 2024-25.

CLASSIFICATION	CAL FIRE REGIONS/BRANCHES				
	Northern Region	Sacramento	Southern Region	Legal Office	Total
Research Data Supervisor (GIS)	1				1
Research Data Manager- (GIS)	1				1
Staff Services Analyst (Analyst I)	3	2			5
Secretary	2				2
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)		4			4
Assoc. Gov't Program Analyst		1			2
Sr. Accounting Officer					1
Senior Programmer Analyst		2			2
Other			1		1
Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection)		2			2
Staff Services Manager, Board of Forestry		0.8			0.8
Assistant Executive Officer, Board of Forestry		0.2			0.2
Executive Assistant, Board of Forestry		1			1
Total	85.5	30	7.5	1	123

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tables 4 and 5 provide historic and reporting-year fiscal and staffing information for CDFW's Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program. In FY 2019-20, the addition of staff and funding provided through the SB 901 budgetary process in 2018 allowed CDFW to engage in expanded responsibilities related to fire resiliency and timber harvest monitoring.



Table 4. CDFW Appropriations, Expenditures (\$1,000) and Positions (PY) in Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2024-25.

	FY							
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Legislative Appropriations and Expenditures								
TRFRF Appropriation	\$11,354	\$9,837	\$11,331	\$9,787	\$10,728	\$10,960	\$11,043	\$11,142
TRFRF Expenditure	\$10,255	\$8,627	\$7,121	\$6,480	\$7,265	\$7,475	\$7,006	\$7,185
SB 901- General Fund Appropriation	N/A	N/A	\$1,483	\$809	\$928	\$948	\$951	\$894
SB 901 General Fund Expenditure	N/A	N/A	\$707	\$669	\$783	\$806	\$620	\$495
TCFRP Positions								
TCFRF Positions Authorized	44	44	44	43.6	43.7	43.7	44	44.75
TCFRF Positions Filled	41	38.9	31	42.1	40.2	41	38	37.75
SB 901- General Fund Positions Authorized	N/A	N/A	6	6	6	6	6	6
SB 901 General Fund Positions Filled	N/A	N/A	5	5	4.5	5	5	3.5

Table 5 provides details on the staffing of CDFW’s Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program by position classification for FYs 2024-25.

Table 5. CDFW Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program Positions (PY) Filled in Fiscal Year 2024-25

CLASSIFICATION	CDFW REGIONS AND BRANCHES								Total
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	HCPB	BDB	
Environmental Program Manager	1		.25				1		2.25
Environmental Scientist	8.5	2	1	1	1		2	2	17.5



Administrative Staff	2	1							3
Research Analyst I		1							1
Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor	3	1	0.5				1		5.5
Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist	5	3	1	1		1	2		12
FY 2024-25 Total	19.5	8	2.75	1	1	1	6	2	41.25

HCPB – Habitat Conservation Planning Branch, BDB – Biogeographic Data Branch, OGC – Office of General Counsel, Note: 3.5 PYs are funded through the General Fund in FY 2024-25.

State and Regional Water Boards

Table 6 provides historic and reporting-year fiscal and staffing information for the Water Boards’ Fund expenditures. Note that the table below differs from previous reports in that starting in FY 2020-21 the table only reflects expenditures and PY sourced from the Fund. The Water Boards lost one PY due to budget cuts as directed by Budget Letter 24-20. Total Fund expenditures in FY 2024-25 were \$4.341 million.

Table 6. Water Boards Timber Harvest Program Expenditures (\$1,000) and Positions (PY), Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2024-25*

Forest Program Budget	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appropriations	\$8,847	NA*	NA	\$3,573	\$4,370	\$4,329	\$4,557	\$4,341
Actual Expenditures	\$8,722	NA*	\$10,582	\$3,263	\$4,370	\$4,329	\$4,286	\$4,341
Authorized Positions	35.2	35.2	53.2	17.5	17.2	17.5	17.7	16.2

See Table 7 for breakdown of the Program Fund components of these budget numbers.

Table 7 provides reporting-year staffing information for the Water Boards’ Fund positions. The Water Boards’ staffing was reduced from FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25 due to budget cuts directed by Budget Letter 24-20.



Table 7. Water Boards Forest Activities Program Positions in FY 2024-25.

Class Title	R1	R5	R6	State Board	Total
Engineering Geologist	4.9	3.5	1		9.4
Env'l Prog Mgr I (Sup)	0.2				0.2
Env'l Scientist	1.6	1.2		1	3.8
Sr Engr Geologist	0.7				0.7
Sr Env'l Scientist (Sup)		1			1
Sr WRC Engineer		0.4	0.1		0.5
Supvg Engineering Geologist		0.2			0.2
Water Res Cont Engr	0.9				0.9
Grand Total	8.3	5.8	0.1	1	16.2

Department of Conservation

The California Geological Survey (CGS) is part of the Department of Conservation (DOC) and provides engineering geological technical review and support for AB 1492 related activities. These include timber harvest, vegetation management, and fuel reduction activities and associated permitting. CGS provides technical review and analysis of slope stability (landslides), public safety, and erosion control measures. Staff provide education, conduct monitoring and perform post-disaster risk assessments. CGS provides technical assistance and training to forest landowners and Review Team agencies regarding design and best management practices of forest engineering structures such as roads and watercourse crossings, as well as timber harvest practices to limit environmental and public safety impacts from forest management operations. Upon implementation of AB 1492, CGS was fully funded and allocated 15 positions (prior to AB 1492 funding was inadequate to support all of these positions). In FY 15/16 the TRFR multi-agency BCP allocated DOC/CGS additional funding to support 4 PY, bringing total allocations to 19 PY. However, additional position authority was not granted as part of the FY 15/16 multi-agency BCP. Thus, 4 of the 19 DOC/CGS TRFR staff remain without permanent AB 1492 authorized positions.

Table 8 provides historic and reporting-year fiscal and staffing information for the DOC/CGS's timber harvest programs.

Table 8. Department of Conservation Timber Harvest Program Expenditures (\$1,000) and Positions, Fiscal Years 2017-18 through 2024-25.



Budget Item	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Authorized Expenditures (TRFRF)	\$4,242	\$4,428	\$4,630	\$4,382	\$4,739	\$4,926	\$5,029	\$4,715
Total Expenditures*	\$3,953	\$3,988	\$4,473	\$3,824	\$4,699	\$4,197	\$4,461	\$4,447
Authorized Positions	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19

Table 9 provides details on the position classifications for DOC’s timber harvest program staff for the displayed fiscal years. Fund expenditures have been lower than allocated in some cases due to significant expenditures for post-wildfire emergency hazard analysis and geological technical assistance to State Demonstrations Forests which are funded by CAL FIRE and geologic hazards related mission tasks in forested lands funded through Cal OES.

During FY 24/25, the Governor issued a State of Emergency (SOE) Proclamation on March 1, 2025 leading to a new Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) and associated application process. To assist with the SOE effort, CGS diverted 8 of 13 Licensed Engineering Geologists half time from Timber Harvest Plan Review during the last two months of FY 24/25. Additionally, due to increasing staff and operational costs, CGS does not have adequate funding for the 19 TRFR allocated positions, thus some staff have been diverted to other long term non-TRFR funded activities. Therefore, without the post-fire emergency hazard analysis funded by CAL FIRE, there would not be full funding for the 19 TRFR staff.

Table 9. DOC Authorized Staff (PY), Fiscal Years 2021-22 to 2024-25.

CLASSIFICATION	REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF				
	Sacramento	Santa Rosa	Eureka	Redding	Total
Sup. Eng. Geologist	1				1
Sr. Eng. Geologist	2	1	1	1	5
Eng. Geologist	2	2	2	2	8
Research Program Specialist II (GIS)	1				1
Research Analyst II (GIS)	1				1
Assoc. Gov. Program Analyst	1				1
Office Technician	1				1
Graduate Student Assistant	1				1
Total*	10	3	3	3	19

* DOC/CGS authorized staff (PY) has remained constant since FY 15-16.

** In FY 15/16, funding was authorized for 4 of the 19 PY, but position authority was not granted.



A Forest Practice Act and Rules Review Team Work Flow Analysis is provided below in Table 11 outlining the essential components of the Timber Harvest review process and Review Team participation. In addition to CGS' participation in the core review functions shown in Table 11, staff conducted office-based reviews of 1,116 Exemption Notices and 214 Emergency Notices, along with conducting 29 Pre-consultation evaluations of proposed timber harvest activities. With the new availability of statewide LiDAR, ongoing stakeholder requests, and in response to the known lack of landslide and geomorphic map availability within forested regions, CGS staff renewed quadrangle-based landslide mapping in FY 24/25 with 8 new maps significantly underway.

CGS staff also contribute to the broader forestry community with outreach and education efforts. In FY24/25, staff participated in the following activities:

- Provided a field lecture/lab to College of the Redwoods Forest Operations students,
- Provided expertise to Cal Poly Humboldt students for their senior capstone via email communication and participating in their summer field camp,
- Served as a panelist for CLFA Forestry and Natural Resource Mentorship Program's RPF panel,
- Invited speaker for the CLFA 2025 Annual Meeting to present on Geologic Scoping with Remote Sensing and LiDAR,
- Filmed an 8-minute narrative video as part of a Forestry Professional Lecture Series for Cal Poly Humboldt's Masters of Forestry program; presented the video and participated in a Q&A session with the students,
- Presented at Forestry Institute for Teachers,
- Participated in and led AB 1492 related training for multi-agency Review Team staff,
- Continued research associated with an EMC project evaluating a THP Section V stream restoration project including leading an EMC field trip in San Vicente Redwoods,
- Provided lecture/field instruction for Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch NR 474 Forest Stewardship Practices course,
- Participated in an update to CGS' Note 50: Factors Affecting Landslides in Forested Terrain,
- Participated in CAL FIRE'S FPR Rule-based monitoring, analysis, and reporting (CAL FIRE Forestry Report 8),
- Participated in Board of Forestry rule making process,
- Initiated and provided oversight of a student assisted data migration project to modernize, georeference, and digitize past timber harvest related geologic reviews,



- Conducted a study of geomorphic sediment generation in Wages and Caspar Creek
- Collaborated with Sacramento State University’s GEOG155 - Data Acquisition and Management class providing real world GIS projects as part of the effort to georeference past timber harvest related geologic reviews,
- Presented at Professional Soil Scientist Association of CA meeting near Caspar Creek,
- Presented at American River College SOILS Bridge class near Caspar Creek,
- Member of Sonoma County Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) working group, monthly meetings,
- Member of CalFire’s CalTREES working group, quarterly meetings,
- Participated in the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds annual meeting,
- Participated in the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference and served as a member of the Board of Forestry’s Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.

Workload Analysis

The tables below (Tables 11-14) quantify the workload faced by the Review Team agencies. Prior to the implementation of AB 1492, information was presented on a calendar year basis; however, AB 1492 instead required that the information be presented on a fiscal year basis (July 1-June 30). The tables provide a detailed look at workload for all the Review team agencies for the reporting period. Note that not all agencies face the same tasks. Table 11 captures responsibilities under the Forest Practice Act and Rules. Tables 12 and 13 capture

and Water Boards responsibilities under timber-harvesting-related laws that they administer, such as Fish and Game Code § 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements and Waste Discharge Requirements, respectively.

Table 11. Review Team Work under Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules

Summary of Work	FY 2024-25			
	CAL FIRE	CDFW	CGS	Water Boards
Number Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs)¹				
First Review ³	364	311	348	364
Pre-harvest Inspection ⁴	205	108	115	126
Second Review	263	171	211	263
Approved ²	213	-	-	-
Number of Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans (NTMPs)¹				
First Review ³	23	23	23	23



Summary of Work	FY 2024-25			
	CAL FIRE	CDFW	CGS	Water Boards
Pre-harvest Inspection ⁴	10	9	9	9
Second Review	16	11	11	16
Approved ²	13	-	-	7
Compliance/Enforcement				
Compliance Inspections (Non-PHI)	2,169	16	7	335
Violations Processed ⁵	233	5	-	7
Administrative Civil Penalties Initiated	17	-	-	0
Total Active Administrative Civil Penalties	96	-	-	1

¹Includes Substantial Deviations for THPs and NTMPs which go through the same discretionary permit review process and includes Plans still under review from the previous fiscal year.

²CAL FIRE as the lead agency is eventually responsible for the approval of all Plans.

³First Review figures reflect filed, returned, and resubmitted Plans.

⁴For Plans with multiple PHIs each inspection was counted.

⁵For violations that took place on an inspection during the reporting period, multiple violations can exist on a Plan / Notice.

Note: Agency THP / NTMP numbers are generated from CalTREES workflow tasks as completed by the review team during the course of Plan review, except for the Water Boards which were reported from agency tracking.

CDFW supports timber operations by providing expertise on biological resources and dedicated staff time to administer Fish and Game Code for timber harvesting projects. CDFW work during FY 2024-25 is reported in Table 12. Table 13 covers all Water Boards related Program activities.



Table 12. Department of Fish and Wildlife, FYs 2024-25

Action	FY 2024-25					
	Department of Fish and Wildlife Region*					2024- 25 Total
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R6	
§ 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements Issued	82	9	11	1	0	103
Encroachments under issued § 1600 Agreements	970	56	79	9	0	1114
§ 1600 Amendments Issued	32	21	1	1	0	55
§ 1600 Inspections Conducted	20	0	0	0	0	20
Exemptions Reviewed for Sensitive Resources	286	242	0	40	9	577
New Master Agreements for Timber Operation Under Review (MATO)	1	0	0	0	0	1
§ 1600 Sub-Notifications Under a MATO	37	2	0	0	0	39
Habitat Conservation Plans/NCCPs/Safe Harbor Agreements Under Review	1	0	0	0	0	1
Species Consultations Conducted	69	4	2	10	0	85
Consultations Required Under the FPRs	2	1	0	0	0	3
CA Endangered Species Act Status Reviews Conducted	2	0	0	0	0	2
FLAR and Other Grant Proposals Reviewed	1	0	0	0	0	1
Forest Conservation Easements Reviewed	1	0	0	0	0	1

No reportable activities occurred in CDFW's Region 5 in FY 2024-25.

Table 13. Water Boards Forestry Program Activities, FY 2043-25 by Region

Activity	FY 2024-25			
	R1	R5	R6	Total
Waivers or WDR's Under Development or Renewal	2	0	1	34
Plans Enrolled in Waste Discharge Requirements OR Waivers of Waste	139	48	8	195



Discharge Requirements (THPs, NTMPs, WFMPs)				
Emergency Notices and Exemptions enrolled in Waivers or WDRs	388	754	21	1163
Federal Timber Projects Reviewed	39	163	2	204
Federal Timber Projects Enrolled	8	19	2	29

To help better understand the trends by Fiscal year for the Review Team workloads Table 14 provides details of the Region Review tasks for the last 10 years. In the past 5 fiscal years, THP and NTMP submittals have remained fairly stable averaging about 190 submittals for THPs and 8 for NTMPs each year. During that period the average acre per approved THP being 367 acres per Plan and NTMPs at 283 acres per Plan. Annual changes in regulation can add to the complexity of Plan review and staff are continuously reviewing regulation changes for Plan compliance. Not all CAL FIRE staff hired through the Forest Practice Program are dedicated to the review of Timber Harvesting documents. Other staff fulfill the administrative support and the broader ecological monitoring goals of the program.

Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund Program Report



Table 14. CAL FIRE Workload History from Fiscal Year 2015-16 through Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Corrections to previous years' numbers from past reports are from QA/QC of Forest Practice data.

Workload Measure	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
THPs Filed ¹	240	234	262	284	228	205	189	178	192	196
THPs Returned ¹	129	73	79	84	88	85	76	79	82	95
THPs Recirculated ¹	12	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	0	1
THP PHIs Conducted ^{1,6}	206	223	253	234	239	197	175	163	183	184
THPs Approved ¹	216	220	267	244	234	210	183	174	198	172
THP Acres Approved ²	93,533	91,179	105,523	100,888	122,648	92,809	62,314	56,414	72,889	59,474
NTMPs Filed ¹	11	16	15	15	11	10	7	10	5	8
NTMPs Returned ¹	6	7	8	4	11	5	6	6	6	6
NTMPs Recirculated ¹	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMP PHIs Conducted ^{1,6}	11	13	14	11	13	11	5	9	6	7
NTMPs Approved ¹	8	14	14	14	13	8	9	6	8	8
NTMP Acres Approved ²	1,542	6,500	4,448	2,410	4,295	1,555	2,482	1,889	1,742	3,379
NTOs Submitted	105	139	174	106	85	99	80	107	98	72
NTOs Returned	*	*	*	4	19	18	14	12	4	1
Sub Dev Filed ³	30	72	92	36	41	25	20	21	23	44
Sub Dev Returned ³	*	*	*	2	3	3	11	5	4	19
Sub Dev PHI Conducted ^{3,6}	*	*	*	11	22	11	8	12	14	20
Sub Dev Approved ³	*	*	*	42	38	26	16	21	24	40
SYPs Approved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WFMPs Approved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PTHPs Submitted	0	0	0	1	4	3	5	6	4	2
Plans Withdrawn / Canceled	8	8	9	4	4	18	13	20	6	17
Exemption Notices Submitted	1,914	2,510	2,021	2,028	2,292	1,672	1,256	1,009	1,022	990
Exemption Notices Returned	*	*	*	148	182	219	124	143	91	76
Emergency Notices Submitted	501	83	194	305	158	466	399	239	127	179
Emergency Notices Returned	*	*	*	49	34	157	114	116	29	10
Minor Deviations Submitted ⁴	2,633	2,729	4,149	3,087	2,792	2,633	2,344	2,066	2,341	2,173

Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund Program Report



Workload Measure	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Inspections ⁵	2,950	3,967	3,473	2,705	3,090	2,950	3,045	2,746	2,843	2,169
Violations Processed ⁴	271	472	445	289	309	271	284	220	251	233
Administrative Civil Penalties Initiated	9	65	82	29	43	55	19	26	20	17
Total Active Administrative Civil Penalties	45	79	99	89	85	98	112	109	111	96

* CAL FIRE Data prior to CalTREES - incomplete and thus not reported.

¹Includes Plans submitted in the prior fiscal year.

²Reported acres are from documentation of record; actual acres harvested may differ.

³Sub Dev = Substantial Deviation (Major Amendment) for both THPs and NTMPs

⁴Includes all harvest document types, where violations took place on an inspection during the reporting period, Plans / Notices can have multiple NOVs.

⁵Inspections other than preharvest inspections.

⁶For Plans with multiple PHIs only one is counted.



Detail on Timber Harvest Activity for FY 2024-25

Below are brief summaries of timber harvesting statistics generated from CalTREES.

Number and Acreage Extent of Timber Harvesting Documents Processed

Table 14 displays the number of timber harvest documents filed, submitted, returned, and approved along with the acreage covered by them for the displayed fiscal years. As stated previously, emergency notices typically follow stochastic events, primarily fire incidents, and the number of notices and acreages associated with the notices are connected to the amount of fire activity that occurred in the year previous. Exemption notices can also follow stochastic events, such as drought mortality and the number of exemptions that were submitted to address the issue between 2015 to 2020. However, the majority of the acreages associated with exemptions are primarily submitted by large landowners to capture small amounts of dead, dying or diseased trees, using the 14 CCR 1038(b) Exemption to conduct those timber operations.

Average Time for Plan Review

For context and understanding of the trends that the plan review time data show, it is important to emphasize that many factors determine how long it takes to review a THP or NTMP, from the time of submission to approval. These factors include¹:

- Availability of review team staff.
- Time of year the plan is submitted, with associated weather and potential wildfire constraints (e.g., CAL FIRE Forest Practice staff are out of the office responding to wildland fires; winter weather conditions prohibit access for field review).
- Quality and completeness of the information originally submitted.
- Number of questions generated by review team on the plan submitted, and/or the number of changes required of the RPF.
- Promptness of the submitter's response to questions or requests for changes.
- Size and complexity of the plan.
- Wildlife, water, traffic safety, and other issues raised by the public.

Some factors are under the control of the review team agencies, some in control of the submitter, and some are subject to the seasonality of California's weather in snow country when access is limited. Another major factor that can delay plan reviews is when a new wildlife species comes under candidacy or listing under the State or Federal Endangered Species Acts after a plan is already under review.

Some other factors determined by CAL FIRE include, but are not limited to, the large number of public comments on sensitive harvest plan projects, controversial conversion

¹ For a more detailed discussion of these factors, see the [Redding Pilot Project June 2014 Supplemental Report](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/forestry/Redding_Pilot_Project_Draft_Supplemental_Report_8-7-14.pdf) (http://resources.ca.gov/docs/forestry/Redding_Pilot_Project_Draft_Supplemental_Report_8-7-14.pdf)



THPs that require Environmental Impact Reports approved by a local government and lack of timely response by project proponents to Review Team questions.

Review of Timber Harvest Permits for Filing

The first step in the review of a submitted harvest plan is the determination by the review team whether it is accurate, complete, and in proper order to file the plan with CAL FIRE and then to initiate the next phases of review. This includes specified required elements or precursor steps, such as notifying adjacent property owners. If these elements or steps have not been addressed, the plan is returned to the submitter for correction. Concerns have arisen at times over the rate of Plan returns. CalTREES is designed to check for common filing errors and identify issues when submitting Plans online, thus reducing plan returns. The “Timber Harvesting Plan Filing Checklist” is also available on the CAL FIRE Forest Practice website for plan writers as guidance to help reduce returns with submitted harvest Plans. Forms are regularly revised to keep up with current regulation and to continue to make improvements.

THP Review Times

Table 15 provides THP and NTMP approval numbers, area in acres, and review days for FY 2024-25 by the three regional CAL FIRE review team offices where harvest plans are filed. Per the Forest Practice Act and Rules, the estimated minimum review period for THPs requiring a field inspection as part of the review process is approximately 75 calendar days, without allowable extensions. The times provided in Table 15 include delays that are beyond the review team’s control, such as those due to weather (e.g., snow prohibits access for inspection purposes), delays in RPF response to questions from the Review Team, delays due to public comment, and delays due to sensitive species evaluations, etc. With some exceptions, the regulatory timelines provide for extensions to allow for additional review necessary due to extended field evaluation, the submission of additional information or substantial public comments.



Table 15. Approved Plan Review Statistics, by CAL FIRE Review Team Office FY 2024-25

Review ¹ Team Office	Plan Type	Count	Acres	Minimum Days in Review	Maximum Days in Review	Average Days in Review
Santa Rosa	THP	126	21,926	42	310	85
	NTMP	6	1,502	67	229	153
Redding	THP	35	22,561	44	225	112
	NTMP	2	1,877	104	354	229
Fresno	THP	9	6,879	82	102	89
	NTMP	0	0	0	0	0

¹Santa Rosa (Coast District) = Region 1
 Redding (Northern District) = Region 2
 Fresno (Southern District) = Region 3 & 4

Note: The times provided in Table 16 include delays that are beyond the review team’s control, such as those due to weather (e.g. snow prohibits access), delays in RPF response to questions from the review team, delays due to public comment, staff responding to emergency incidents, and delays due to sensitive species evaluations, etc. Individual Plan outliers greater than one year in review have been removed to represent more accurate time frames. Substantial Deviations are not included.



Figure 3 Map of CAL FIRE Forest Practice Districts and Region offices.

NTMP Review Times

For NTMPs, the review times are longer and more variable than THPs for a number of reasons. NTMPs are non-expiring timber management plans, often addressing an entire forest ownership of up to 2,500 acres. They are typically much larger and more complex than standard THPs, and take longer to review, especially since these are lifetime, non-expiring plans. Because of these characteristics, NTMPs generally have a longer regulatory review time than THPs.



Number of Field Inspections per CAL FIRE Inspector

Table 16 reports the types and number of field inspections conducted by CAL FIRE, including the number of each inspection type made per inspector on an average basis. While the numbers correlate well with the numbers of harvest documents submitted by type (e.g., THPs, NTMPs, Exemptions) the numbers here are further reflective of the discussion above regarding shifts in THP activity and the variability of use of Exemptions and Emergencies as new regulations are implemented and conditions change in the forested areas of the state (e.g., drought, wildfire, recovery).

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



Table 16. Number of Field Inspections made by CAL FIRE, FY 2015-16 through 2024-25.

Corrections to previous years' numbers from past reports are from QA/QC of Forest Practice data

Harvest Document Type	Number/Average Number per Inspector									
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Timber Harvesting Plans	2,315/4	1,969/3	1,590/22	1,522/21	1,410/24	1,063/17	1,056/20	844/17	1,143/20	1,125/19
Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans	318/6	331/6	340/5	381/5	218/6	179/5	155/4	212/7	221/6	194/5
Working Forest Management Plans	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1/1	0/0	1/1	0/0	4/2	6/3
Program Timber Harvesting Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3/1	5/3	6/2	6/2	14/5	12/4
Emergency Notices	519/7	417/6	371/6	382/14	417/14	375/10	646/20	623/17	660/20	240/7
Exemption Notices	1,508/26	1,238/23	1,274/17	1,938/26	1,185/24	1,132/26	1,101/24	1,007/23	755/18	553/12
Illegal Non-Permitted Activities	63/1	79/2	62/1	93/1	63/3	55/3	79/4	53/2	45/2	39/2
Totals	4,536/80	3,946/73	3,625/50	4,453/69	3,297/73	2,809/64	3,044/75	2,745/68	2,842/73	2,169/52



As demonstrated in Table 16, there has been significant variability in the numbers and types of inspections conducted. The variability in the number of inspections conducted is due to many variables, including periods of increased drought and fire activity that increases the number of submitted harvest documents. CAL FIRE inspectors' workload is largely dependent on economic health of the forest products industry. When log prices are high enough for landowners to make a reasonable profit, the number of harvest documents and ground activities increases. Likewise, economic downturns can lead to less harvest documents and less on the ground activity, hence less inspections.

Number of Active Plans and Acres under Active Plans

Table 17 shows statistics on "active plans," which includes all approved plans that are available for operation in a given year. Plans that are available to be operated on are considered "active" regardless of whether any harvest activity actually occurs. Because AB 1492 increased the lifespan of THPs, this number may trend upward since any given THP now can be operated over a longer period (up to seven years instead of five).

The number of acres under Exemptions (maximum of one-year operating life) are particularly large because landowners can place their entire property under an Exemption for removal of relatively small volumes (less than 10 percent of the average volume per acre) of dead and dying trees [14 CCR § 1038(b)] when compared to a THP or NTMP. This is compounded by overlapping fiscal years when reporting "active" plans.

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



¹An Active Plan is an approved plan that does not have an approved Final Completion Report or has not reached the statutory expiration date. ²Acres reported are

Table 17. Number of Active¹ Plans and Acres², FY 2017-18 to 2024-25.

Corrections to previous years' numbers from past reports are from QA/QC of Forest Practice data.

Harvest Document Type	FY 2017-18		FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20		FY 2020-21		FY 2021-22		FY 2022-23		FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25	
	Count	Acres														
THPs	1,222	626,702	1,359	663,233	1,381	690,166	1,118	519,741	1,120	525,348	1,113	454,919	1,119	460,435	1,122	460,850
NTMPs ³	808	332,656	820	333,471	827	333,584	796	315,120	841	334,924	846	335,471	848	332,957	856	333,611
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations ³	288	44,364	119	2,449	140	9,801	108	13,280	60	10,037	93	10,824	142	17,983	75	6,653
Emergency Notices ⁴	268	29,414	492	57,788	441	62,085	432	83,465	806	190,063	618	185,784	430	132,037	331	92,387
Exemptions ⁵	4,439	6,369,652	3,958	6,370,809	4,148	5,456,965	3,724	5,648,989	2,777	5,648,989	2,167	5,365,008	1,973	3,342,270	1,946	363,8697
Totals	7,025	7,402,788	6,748	7,427,750	6,937	6,552,601	6,178	6,580,595	5,604	6,709,361	4,837	6,352,006	4,512	4,285,682	4,330	4,532,199

from the documentation of record.

³NTMPs alone are not operational but represent total operation areas. NTMP notices of timber operation (NTOs) better reflect operational activity on NTMPs; however, submitted NTO acres often reflect total potential acres that are being operated on, not necessarily the actual number of acres timber operations and are valid for only one year and can be resubmitted during multiple years. Note NTO acres are also acres already reported under the NTMP.

⁴Valid for up to one year except for some Emergency Notices filed in 2021-2022 for fire damage which could have been extended an additional year with CAL FIRE approval.

⁵Valid for up to one year, acres do not necessarily reflect harvest areas as many Exemptions are submitted for an entire property and often only portions of the potential are actually harvested.

Note: The CAL FIRE Region offices have been entering the expired date differently for several years for older data years. The implication is that a Plan may have appeared to be active longer in the Redding and Fresno Office than in the Santa Rosa office in the past.



Overall Accounting of Program Fund Personnel Activities

CAL FIRE tracks the activity for CAL FIRE Program Fund-funded staff using a Personnel Activity Report, or PAR. Staff complete and file the PAR information monthly. The consistent top two activity areas for CAL FIRE have been the “Review and Processing of Harvest Documents” and “Forest Practice Inspections.” It is also apparent that the “Emergency Response” percentages are directly related to the fire activity during the fiscal year.

Table 18. CAL FIRE Program Fund Staff Activity Accounting, FY 2016-17 to FY 2024-25.

Activity	Percent of Total Staff Time									
	FY 2016 -17	FY 2017 -18	FY 2018 -19	FY 2019 -20	FY 2020 -21	FY 2021 -22	FY 2022 -23	FY 2023 - 24	FY 2024- 25	
Review and Processing of Harvest Documents	21.0	21.3	21.6	22.5	18.9	18.3	16.3	16.92	17.4	
Forest Practice Inspections	22.6	19.5	21.3	26.1	19.9	25.0	21.4	19.48	18.0	
Emergency Response	10.3	8.7	8.9	3.8	14.6	8.5	5.7	3.17	6.6	
Participating in Mandated Training	7.8	11.0	10.7	7.5	8.0	6.9	8.7	13.07	10.0	
Other Duties as Required	6.6	9.2	6.0	7.0	6.6	6.5	8.8	10.17	7.7	
Supervising and Managing the Forest Practice Program	8.6	8.6	8.9	7.3	6.5	6.7	7.7	9.50	8.7	
Processing and Managing Data Related to Forest Practice	9.7	8.9	8.7	8.9	9.6	9.4	9.5	11.15	13.1	
Other Forestry-Related Duties	8.4	7.5	7.8	11.0	11.8	14.3	15.0	8.50	9.4	
Forest Practice Law Enforcement	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.55	2.2	
Official Response and Public Records Act Requests	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.04	1.3	
Program or Project Monitoring	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.9	0.7	1.9	1.50	3.4	
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Related	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.33	0.6	
Ecological Performance	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.63	1.6	
Litigation	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	.01	0.0	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	



Timber Harvest Numbers: County-by-County

Table 19. Accepted Exemptions by County for FY 2024-25.

(Notes: county sub totals are above the itemized exemption list for that county, and only includes Exemptions submitted in reporting FY)

County	Approved	Acres
ALPINE	2	8
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	0
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	8
AMADOR	10	7,707
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	2	177
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	2	1
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	1	0
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	4	7,526
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	4
BUTTE	43	54,713
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	813
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	19	855
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	2	2
Post Fire Recovery v2020	14	76
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	3	52,962
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	4
CALAVERAS	7	18,675
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	14,176
Christmas Trees	1	4,495
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	2	4
DEL NORTE	18	96
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	1	44
Forest Resilience Exemption	1	29

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



Less than 3 Acre Conversion	3	7
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	12	14
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	2
EL DORADO	28	9,916
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	7	8,127
Christmas Trees	3	1,639
Forest Fire Prevention	1	17
Forest Resilience Exemption	1	63
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	7	16
Post Fire Recovery v2020	1	29
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	2	15
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	4	7
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	2	4
FRESNO	17	4,503
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	1
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	14	4,492
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	4
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	6
HUMBOLDT	146	419,199
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	31	416,569
Forest Fire Prevention	6	357
Forest Resilience Exemption	12	893
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	18	38
Oak Woodland Management	18	1,066
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	4	4
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	44	239
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	13	34
INYO	1	182
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	182

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



KERN	14	32,031
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	5	86
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	9	31,945
LAKE	4	4,037
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	3	4,015
Forest Fire Prevention	1	22
LASSEN	14	13,931
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	10	12,064
Christmas Trees	1	110
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	351
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	2	1,406
MADERA	2	71
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	1	1
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	70
MARIPOSA	7	65
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	35
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	20
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	2	10
MENDOCINO	21	2,393
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	2	855
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	245
Forest Fire Prevention	1	99
Forest Resilience Exemption	5	927
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	6	13
Oak Woodland Management	2	245
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	4	10
MODOC	4	43,640
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	43,640
MONO	25	8,140

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	1	240
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	24	7,900
NAPA	2	814
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	2	814
NEVADA	127	61,676
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	13	30,996
Christmas Trees	2	24,138
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	6	44
Forest Fire Prevention	5	254
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	24	40
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	5	6,093
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	69	104
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	3	8
PLACER	36	51,694
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	12	50,350
Christmas Trees	2	821
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	2	157
Forest Fire Prevention	2	138
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	3	7
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	4	205
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	11	15
PLUMAS	50	7,194
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	39
Christmas Trees	1	5,694
Forest Fire Prevention	7	1,144
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	16	15
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	3	283
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	18	18
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	1

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



SAN BERNARDINO	48	30,687
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	2	1
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	46	30,686
SAN MATEO	3	418
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	2	417
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	1
SANTA CLARA	1	1
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	1
SANTA CRUZ	43	705
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	598
Forest Resilience Exemption	2	36
Post Fire Recovery	4	4
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	32	61
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	6
SHASTA	38	360,119
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	25	211,498
Christmas Trees	6	148,332
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	230
Forest Resilience Exemption	1	40
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	3	7
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	5
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	7
SIERRA	18	95,357
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	7	43,235
Christmas Trees	4	50,030
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	4	1,843
Forest Resilience Exemption	1	246
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	2	3
SISKIYOU	105	63,854

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	28	33,766
Christmas Trees	4	24,249
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	20	4,398
Forest Fire Prevention v2019	7	1,212
Forest Resilience Exemption	4	127
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	5	8
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	1
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	35	91
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	3
SONOMA	8	6,236
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	4	6,165
Forest Fire Prevention	1	18
Post Fire Recovery	1	5
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	2	49
TEHAMA	10	507,969
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	2	130,535
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	1	111
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	1	3
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	2	377,308
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	1	7
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	3	6
TRINITY	37	2,712
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	5	381
Drought Mortality and Unmerchantable Sawlog	2	1,297
Forest Resilience Exemption	6	226
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	5	8
Oak Woodland Management	11	780
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	8	20
TULARE	8	6,974

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	3	1,110
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	5	5,864
TUOLUMNE	26	15,208
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	15	10,871
Christmas Trees	1	4,319
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	6	10
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	3	7
Structure Protection (150 to 300 feet)	1	2
YUBA	10	13,787
10 Percent Dead, Dying Diseased, Fuelwood, or Woody Debris	3	13,757
Less than 3 Acre Conversion	1	3
Public / Private Utility Right-of-Way	1	20
Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet)	5	8
Grand Total	933	1,844,711

Table 20. Approved THPs with Silviculture Categories by County for FY 2024-25.

Note: “No Harvest” Silviculture acres are not included.

County	Approved THP Count	Evenaged	Unevenaged	Timberland Conversion	Intermediate	Special Prescriptions	Alternative Prescriptions
CALAVERAS	4	2,421	251	2	230	1,501	0
DEL NORTE	14	1,356	205	12	0	16	0
EL DORADO	4	259	95	2	88	2,015	0
HUMBOLDT	61	4,384	4,186	51	1,476	3,587	0
HUMBOLDT & DEL NORTE	1	172	36	0	0	0	0
LASSEN	4	89	2,737	121	0	539	1,714
MENDOCINO	38	270	8,332	13	0	4,405	0
MODOC	3	0	1,220	5	0	194	1,351

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



NAPA	2	0	0	9	53	0	0
NEVADA	2	0	114	11	0	0	0
PLACER	2	0	74	0	0	0	0
SANTA CRUZ	8	0	2,721	0	0	49	0
SHASTA	9	255	8,763	30	789	162	3,666
SIERRA	2	264	35	0	536	561	0
SISKIYOU	5	0	0	3	804	0	1,210
SONOMA	1	0	0	4	27	0	0
TEHAMA	1	64	413	0	0	285	0
TRINITY	9	1,043	642	84	0	68	935
TUOLUMNE	1	315	13	1	0	95	0
YUBA	1	0	48	0	0	0	0
Total	172	10,893	29,883	348	4,003	13,477	8,876

Table 21. Approved and Available NTMPs by County During FY 2024-25.

County	NTMP Count	Acres
AMADOR	4	921
BUTTE	6	1,801
CALAVERAS	15	6,441
DEL NORTE	2	70
EL DORADO	18	5,507
FRESNO	3	2,080
GLENN	1	1,160
HUMBOLDT	253	108,813
LAKE	12	6,436

**Assembly Bill 1492 Timber Regulation and
Forest Restoration Fund Program Report**



LASSEN	9	4,311
MADERA	5	1,018
MARIPOSA	6	4,094
MENDOCINO	271	88,392
MODOC	1	713
NAPA	4	4,117
NEVADA	11	2,858
PLACER	3	1,702
PLUMAS	9	6,610
SAN MATEO	5	1,719
SANTA CLARA	4	3,495
SANTA CRUZ	37	6,841
SHASTA	33	13,087
SIERRA	8	3,751
SISKIYOU	28	15,374
SONOMA	56	24,451
TEHAMA	4	1,519
TRINITY	25	8,478
TUOLUMNE	18	5,908
YUBA	5	1,944
Total	856	333,611