

Supplement: 2013

## Annual Report of Unit Accomplishments

The Riverside Unit Strategic Fire Plan sets forth a vision to identify and evaluate Wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resources at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. In 2012, the Riverside Unit made great strides in fostering inter-agency relations, collaboration, and abiding by the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Fire Plan for California

In 2012, the Riverside Battalions were successful in providing 4291 Public Resource Code inspections, fire prevention and fuel reduction education to communities. The Battalions collectively completed 11,213 LE-100 inspections, with 1,638 Violations. The engine companies completed 2,123 Fire Prevention public contacts with a total of 558 Prevention hours.

As part of the collaborative California Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA) process, the 2012 review identified that a Direct Protection (DPA) adjustment was necessary to re-align the DPA to the mission of each agency. The mission of the Federal agencies is to manage and protect national forest and public lands and to protect lands under cooperative agreement with other wild land fire agencies. The mission of CAL FIRE is to protect the state, private and federal lands under the cooperative agreement and, where appropriate, provide local government fire protection services. As a result of this review, CAL FIRE Riverside Unit assumed DPA for 25,690 acres in the San Jacinto mountain area. This additional acreage was assumed in the Riverside Unit without additional budget/staffing increase. The re-alignment of the DPA will not impact the level of response to Wildland fires. The response to Wildland fires will continue to be immediate, decisive and aggressive.

Resource Management continues to make progress in fuel reduction in the Riverside Unit, utilizing the Healthy Forest Treatment 1 and 2 grant funded programs. Additionally, the Forest Care program, which is funded through a cooperative grant of the USDA Forest Service, successfully completed, 240 single tree removals covering 201 acres. The Riverside Unit conducted a number of Vegetation Management burns totaling 280 acres in cooperation with Federal, State and Local land managers.

CO-OP: is a joint program with the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) in which county grant funds are used to perform abatement work (PRC 4291) within 100 feet of structures in the mountain communities. The program spent \$221,315, treated 81.4 acres, and produced 343.1 tons of biomass, while servicing 101 landowners.

Time and Material: is a fuel reduction program based on the lowest cost bidder's rates for their equipment and labor. This program allows for a broader type of fuel reduction that single tree removal does not. It covers fuel brake re-habilitation, log and slash pile removal, protection of evacuation routes, brush removal, and proper clearing of shelter-in-place areas. This program spent \$168,922, treated 80 acres, and produced 299.75 tons of biomass that was safely disposed of. There were 20 projects completed, helping 12 landowners.

The new Department resource, Cal Mapper, has been instrumental in collecting data, tracking, fiscal reporting, emergency response, planning, and assessment, for fuel reduction projects in the Riverside Unit. In the Riverside Unit a total of 17 projects with 39 treatments areas are either active, in maintenance, or completed.

The CAL FIRE Riverside Unit is collaboratively working with communities and stakeholders to stop the movement of the Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) through firewood transportation. The gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) has been detected in recently-killed California black oak trees in the Riverside County mountain community of Idyllwild. This new detection of GSOB represents the first long-distance movement of the borer from its known area of infestation in San Diego County, 40 miles to the south. It is believed to have made the jump from San Diego to Idyllwild through the movement of infested firewood. The Riverside Unit is actively engaged in the education of various local mountain community volunteer groups, Fire Safe Councils and the MAST (Mountain Area Safety Taskforce) members to help in the identification of affected trees.