

## VII. Resource Management

### **Forester Guy Anderson**

Resource Management in MMU consists of administration and enforcement of Forest Practice Act, administration of California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), administration of Prop 40 fuel reduction fund, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for unit projects and general service forestry.

The Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules govern the harvest of timber from private lands in California. The Rules require a landowner who harvests timber for commercial purposes (i.e. you sell, barter or trade logs or milled lumber to another party) to submit an exemption notice or timber harvesting plan document with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Some of the notices or plans that are required may require the services of a Registered Professional Forester. Listed below are the most common documents required by the state and the conditions under which each is appropriate.

1. **Less than 3 acre Conversion Exemption** - For the harvesting of trees which is a single conversion to a non-timber growing use (orchard, house, pasture ect.) on parcels less than 3 acres. The conversion requires that 100% of the slash be removed; these strict slash removal requirements were designed to minimize fuels in and around residences.
2. **Emergency Notice of Operations** - This emergency allows for the harvest of dead and dying trees to capture fire salvage in addition to insect and disease killed trees.
3. **Fuel Hazard Reduction Emergency** - This emergency, adopted in 2004, allows for the immediate harvest of trees where high, very high or extreme fuel hazard conditions, the combination combustible fuel quantity, type, condition, configuration and terrain positioning, pose a significant fire threat on private timberlands. Cutting and removal of hazardous fuels, including trees, shrubs and other woody material, is needed to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of understory fuels and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, fire duration and intensity, fuel ignitability and to achieve a flame length under average severe fire weather conditions that is less than 4 feet in the treated areas.
4. **10% Dead & Dying Exemption** - This exemption allows for the immediate harvest of dead, dying or diseased trees of any size, fuel wood or split wood products, in amounts less than 10% of the average volume per acre.
5. **Fire Safe Exemption** - This exemption allows for the removal of ladder fuels and thinning of trees within 150 feet of a permitted structure. All slash be treated within 45 days. This activity is encouraged to further the intent of Public Resource Code (PRC) 4290.
6. **Modified Timber Harvest Plan** - This plan allows for the harvest of trees on an ownership 100 acres or less.

7. **Timber Harvest Plan (THP)** - A plan addressing the harvest of timber on more than 3 acres that is beyond the scope of a modified THP. An approved THP acts as the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
8. **Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP)** - A long-term timber harvesting plan with no termination date for a timberland owner with less than 2,500 acres.

There are several active THPs, NTMPs and exemptions in the unit. To achieve compliance of the Forest Practice act public education is the tool of choice and then enforcement action.

### **California Forest Improvement Project (CFIP)**

There were 3 CFIP projects funded this year: two fuel break maintenance projects and thinning and pruning project. The Unit encourages fuel reduction CFIP projects. There are 8 CFIP projects waiting funding. Most are fuel reduction projects, with one being a reforestation fire rehabilitation project.

### **PROPOSITION 40**

There are three Prop 40 funded projects in the unit: Stumpfield/Watts Shaded Fuel Break Phase II, Lushmeadows Shaded Fuel Break and Road 620 Shaded Fuel Break. Stumpfield/Watts Shaded Fuel Break Phase II and Road 620 are both currently active with completion in the spring of 2010. The Lushmeadows Shaded Fuel Break is currently in the environmental review process (CEQA).

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance**

The unit seeks 100% CEQA compliance on all projects. Some of units projects requiring CEQA documents included: Bark Beetle tree removal at Usona Fire Station, tree planting at Usona Fire Station and road repair at Mount Bullion Conservation Camp.

### **Service Forestry**

The Area Foresters are also required to provide forestry advice upon request to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for fuel management and fire safe activities that can be applied to residents. Many times service forestry calls are related to bark beetle activity in pine trees. Landowners are encouraged to immediately remove the bark beetle killed trees and treat the slash.