

# **BOF Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Meeting Notes**

*September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*California Natural Resources Building, CAL FIRE Conference Room  
Sacramento, California*

## **1. Participants (16):**

- Members: Sue Husari (Co-chair), Loretta Moreno (Co-chair), Sal Chinnici, Matt House, Mandy Culpepper, Dr. Matt O'Connor, Justin LaNier, Bill Short, Clarence Hostler, and Cliff Harvey
- Staff—Matt Dias, Brandi Goss, Dave Fowler, and Stacy Stanish
- Webinar: Drew Coe, Jim Rivers

## **2. Report by the Co-Chairs:**

- a) Loretta Moreno, new member and co-chair of the EMC, introduced herself and provided a short background of her current and past work. She is the Senior Environmental Scientist with the California Natural Resources Agency and was initially hired to address Ecological Performance Measures and AB 1492. She is also on the Forest Management Task Force and is interested broadly in adaptive management and landscape scale assessments of forested landscapes in California.
- b) Mr. Matt Dias provided the update for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Board is still trying to fill a public seat. Mr. Dias discussed the coming September Board meeting in Fresno and the associated field trip looking at VMP projects and particularly those related to prescribed fire.
- c) Co-Chair Moreno updated the group on the following: 1) Cal Trees is currently accepting exemptions and emergencies online with a goal to accept THPs by the end of the year; 2) Spatial components in Cal Trees are under development; 3) CNRA is recognizing the need to monitor all forested landscapes in California and broadly track change on the landscape in addition to AB1492 efforts for timberlands; 4) a proposal is currently under consideration which would bring together data sets to a centralized location for easier use and more comprehensive monitoring and assessments of forested landscapes (this would also include a four-pronged approach to assessment: quantify ecosystem services and risks, track forest treatments across the state, monitor ecosystem impacts from activities, optimize treatments to determine where to target management).

## **3. Consideration of Initial Concept Proposals:**

### ***EMC-2019-001***

This proposal addresses issues related to salvage harvesting practices and black-backed woodpecker populations. Positive aspects include: 1) the amount of collaboration for the proposal; 2) under represented subject in terms of critical questions addressed by EMC projects so far; 3) good methods for addressing the proposed questions; 4) potentially applicable to a large geographic area. Some questions and suggestions by the Committee include: 1) provide a more clear link to the Forest Practice Rules; 2) more clearly outline the sampling design and intensity and how this will help address key questions; 3) clarify the size of the fires being studied and how the 10km distance to green stands was determined; 4) clarify the geographic applicability and scope of this study. The Committee concluded that they would like to request a full proposal.

### ***EMC-2019-002***

This proposal addresses the issue of treatment longevity and maintenance needs for various types of fuel reduction in Plumas County. Positive aspects include: 1) treatment longevity and maintenance requirements for fire resilient landscapes are currently big concepts of concern; 2) fire concepts are an under represented group in terms of critical questions addressed by EMC projects so far. Some questions and suggestions by the Committee include: 1) specifically which rules, emergencies, or exemptions are being explored?; 2) clarify how the treatments relate to variables that control fire such as the amount and arrangement of fuels that affect fire behavior and reduce fire hazard and flammability; 3) more clearly outline the methods; 4) what performance metrics will be used to identify “functional” and “not functional” treatments as a threshold for maintenance needs; 5) recommend expanding analysis to include fuel treatment effectiveness data from other geographic areas and vegetation types such as from the experimental state forests. The Committee concluded that they would like to request a full proposal.

### ***EMC-2019-003***

This proposal addresses the hydrological implications of fuel treatments in the Sierra Nevada. Positive aspects include: 1) research in this area is needed. Some questions and suggestions by the Committee include: 1) make the connection to the Forest Practice Rules more clear; 2) identify any matching funds for the project; 3) clarify the geographic scope of the project – is it solely on federal lands? If so, how will it relate to the Forest Practice Rules; 4) elaborate on the methods that will be used. The Committee concluded that they would like to request a full proposal.

### ***EMC-2019-004***

This proposal addresses the applicability of the 2cfs rule for water drafting on timber harvest projects and drafting’s effects on salmonids. Positive aspects include: 1) research in this area is needed. Some questions and suggestions by the Committee include: 1) clarify the geographic scope of the project; 2) consider collaborating with the National Marine Fisheries Service and consulting the NMFS Drafting and Water Diversion Guidance. The Committee concluded that they would like to request a full proposal.

### ***EMC-2019-005***

This proposal addresses the efficacy of accelerated wood recruitment techniques that are currently used. Positive aspects include: 1) the THP is in place already and wood recruitment has been approved; 2) research on the effectiveness and/or deleterious effects of this practice is needed; 3) compares new methods to standard methods in an attempt to find a more efficient approach for monitoring hydrological changes. Some questions and suggestions by the Committee include: 1) more clearly link the management issue to the California Forest Practice Rules; 2) clearly identify a “baseline” for calibrating the experimental method; 3) identify what the deliverables will be. The Committee concluded that they would like to request a full proposal.

## **4. Initial Discussion of Charter and Annual Report Revisions:**

Co-chair Husari discussed updates to the Annual Report – specifically, that it will need to be considered at the next meeting so that it can be included in the Board’s Annual Report. She also discussed some minor changes to the Charter, including considering removal of the term limits members.

## **5. Discussion of EMC Website and ADA Compliance:**

Mr. Dias discussed the ADA requirements that Board staff is currently working toward meeting with relation to the Board's website (including the EMC webpage). He indicated that non-critical documents on the EMC's web page will need to be removed. Approved/Supported projects will be made compliant and maintained.

## **6. Public Forum:**

No public comment received.

## **7. Location and Future EMC Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Ukiah, CA. This meeting will cover review of the full project proposals and revisions to the Annual Report and Charter.

## **8. Announcements:**

Cliff Harvey:

- [California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Annual Two-Day Event](#)

Mandy Culpepper:

- [Symposium on Climate Change and Ecology of the Sierra Nevada, UC Merced](#)
- [TWS/AFS Joint Annual Conference](#)
- [Prescribed Fire on Private Lands Workshop](#)
- [Northern Spotted Owl Stakeholder Forum](#)

Cliff Harvey:

- [California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Annual Two-Day Event](#)

Loretta Moreno:

- [American Geophysical Union Conference: Quantifying Ecological Impacts of Forest Ecosystem Management and Policy](#)