

2022 SAF WINTER MEETING

Proactive Approaches for Restoring Fire Resilient Forests in California

Virtual Meeting

March 18th, 9am-4pm

Punctuated by the release of the Venado Declaration, the need for active management in California's forests is widely recognized and agreed upon – more so than any other time in recent history. As each summer brings news of devastation of our rural communities and forestlands, we as a community of interest grow more and more concerned about the state of our forested land, and more and more anxious to see the work that desperately needs to be done, get done.

During the 2021 Cal SAF Summer Meeting at Shaver Lake, we saw how good forest management protected forest resources and saved towns and critical infrastructure. We heard from land managers, government officials, and regulators about how this community worked together to make forest management happen in their own back yard. Inspired by the good work done at Shaver Lake, this year's winter meeting will focus on expanding that type of work statewide – fueled by the active and knowledgeable members of Cal SAF.

The 2022 Winter Meeting will explore what we, as a community of interest, can do to advocate for forest management to help prevent the continued and unsustainable loss of our forestlands (and the resources these lands provide) to megafires in California. The meeting will feature presentations by subject matter experts and forestry leaders during the first half of the day. In the afternoon, Cal SAF members will work in small group breakout sessions to identify the resources needed to assist our membership in advocating for proactive, tangible, and actionable forest management efforts at local, state and regional levels.

These breakout sessions, led by experienced moderators, will focus on the following areas:

- Engaging with regional forestry leadership
- Identifying & working with key decision makers at the state level and beyond
- Encouraging community support for forest management
- Getting work done on Federal Land

The needs identified during these breakout sessions will guide activities and efforts undertaken by Cal SAF's Executive Committee in the coming year to support our members, including the creation of policy statements, media outreach, and education and outreach materials for our members.

Cal SAF is excited to welcome Keynote speaker Thom Porter, immediate-past-Chief of CALFIRE, who will share his insights into ways an organization like Cal SAF can effectively engage at both the state and local levels to promote active forest management in their communities.

AGENDA BELOW

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Welcome & Introductions (9:00am-9:15am)

Rachelle Hedges, California SAF Chair

Rachelle will share updates from the previous days Executive Committee Meeting, introduce incoming Cal SAF leadership, and thank and recognize outgoing leaders. She will provide a short introduction to the planned agenda for the day, and a vision for the upcoming year at Cal SAF.

Keynote Address (9:15am – 10:00am)

Effective Engagement from the Forestry Community

Thom Porter, Immediate Past CALFIRE Chief

Chief Porter will provide his perspective on effective engagement from the forestry community – highlighting successes he saw from forestry-focused organizations during his tenure as CALFIRE Chief. What made some groups more effective than others in advocating for forest management, and what did Chief Porter wish he saw more of from the forestry community.

Setting the Stage: Why Forest Management Cannot Wait (10:00am – 12:00pm)

Delayed Forest Management is Impacting More than Just Trees.

Megafires, Soils & Post-Fire Watershed Hazards (10:00am-10:20am)

Drew Coe, Watershed Protection Program Manager, CAL FIRE

Wildfire Impacts on Water Supply (10:20am-10:40am)

Gabrielle Boisramé, Assistant Research Professor, Desert Research Institute

The Impacts of Megafires on Old-Forest Species (10:40am-11:00am)

Gavin Jones, Research Ecologist, USFS

Forest Management Works

The Impacts of Well-Placed Forest Management Activities on the Protection of our Resources (11:00am-11:50am)

Mark Finney, USFS

Dr. Finney will present his research on the particularly the effect of various forest management activities on wildfire behavior at stand and landscape levels.

Lunch & Presentation of Awards (12:00pm-1:00pm) – Please return at 12:30pm with your lunch for the presentation of awards.

Taking Action in our Communities (1:00pm – 2:00pm)

Implementing Active Forest Management Across Jurisdictions and Interests

Mark Egbert, El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts

Multijurisdictional forest management in El Dorado County, highlighting the work done on the Chili Bar to Georgetown project and the Fire Adapted 50 project north of Placerville.

Community Forestry – Making it Happen at the Local Level

Juli Stewart and Kristin Telles, Central Sierra Resiliency Fund

Learning from the Central Sierra Resiliency Fund – how a community, both foresters and non foresters, is coming together to raise and administer funds, and to empower their community to lead revitalization efforts after the 2020 Creek Fire.

A Message from SAF National Leadership (2:00pm-2:30pm)

A representative from SAF National will join our meeting to provide an update of the activities at the National Level, and field questions from Cal SAF members.

Breakout Sessions (2:30pm-3:30pm)

- Engaging with regional forestry leadership – Jim McDougald, Division Chief, CALFIRE
 - Identifying what our members need to help them better engage with CALFIRE leadership at the regional level to get more support for forest management work and prescribed burning in their communities.
- Identifying & working with key decision makers at the state level and beyond – Rich Gordon, Immediate Past President/CEO of the California Forestry Association
 - Identifying what our members need to help them better advocate for active forest management to state-level representatives, including local assembly and senate members, state-agency leaders, and other key players at more local or regional levels.
- Encouraging community support for forest and fuels management – Dennis Rein, Moraga Orinda Fire District
 - Identifying what our members need to work effectively at the community level to educate and advocate for science-based forest management, with discussions surrounding different ways to conduct outreach to one's community.
- Getting work done on Federal Land – Ryan Tompkins, UCANR Forester & Natural Resource Advisor for Plumas, Sierra and Lassen Counties | Former Plumas NF Silviculturalist
 - Identifying what our members need to advocate for work on Federal lands that may surround their communities, with discussions about effective ways to get work done with the USFS.

Meeting Conclusion and Planning for the Future (3:30pm – 4:00pm)

Rachelle Hedges, California SAF Chair