



How to Protect Your Trees from Fire, Insects, and Disease and Have a Healthy Forest

A must attend for everybody that has a few acres of forested land.

Learn how to protect and maintain your trees from fire. See different methods and tools used and the end results. Learn about insects and diseases that attach your forest. Learn about the history of Plateau. **LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS**

Date and time: **Saturday, June 6th – 9:30 Am to 4 PM**

Reservations deadline: May 27th, space limited; Lunch Provided

Meet at Shingletown Volunteer Fire Station – Hwy 44 and Alward (1½ miles each of Shingletown stores)

We will car pool and provide some vans to travel to nearby Plateau

Sponsored by: Forest Landowners of California, American Tree Farm System, University of California Extension Service, and Fire Safe Council

Reservations Required: Make checks payable to: Forest Landowners of Calif., mail to: 7490 Shasta Forest Drive, Shingletown, CA 96080 or RSVP Dennis Bebensee at 474-4838

Name _____

Number in party _____ x \$10 or \$20 = \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____

OUR SUMMERFIELD DAY SCHEDULE IS SET AS FOLLOWS

June 6, 2009 Dennis Bebensee Tree Farm in Shingletown

July 11, 2009 Hughes Tree Farm near Foresthill, Placer County

August 22, 2009 Jackson State Forest, Mendocino

CALIFORNIA TREE FARM COMMITTEE

Committee Secretary
Lois Kaufman
30133 Amidon Ranch Road
Oak Run, CA 96069

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



California Tree Farm News

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA TREE FARM COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

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Tree Farm Mission

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.



California Tree Farm News

Dedicated to providing useful information to Tree Farmers and family forest owners.

BARK BEETLES AND DROUGHT – 2009

*Donald R. Owen, Forest Entomologist
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Redding*

During the past 2 years (2007-2008), most of California's forests have experienced below normal precipitation. Not only were these years dry, but they were especially dry during the spring. Late winter and spring precipitation is important because it provides soil moisture that helps trees make it through California's dry summer months. Without adequate precipitation, trees do not have enough water for normal growth and may be severely drought stressed by the end of the summer. If drought lasts more than one year, tree defenses begin to weaken and bark beetles begin attacking and killing the most susceptible trees. As bark beetle numbers increase, tree mortality increases. By the end of 2008, there was clear evidence that bark beetle numbers were increasing.



The bad news is - 2009 is also shaping up to be drier than normal. The good news is - late winter precipitation has been closer to normal, which may

help to mitigate the effects of drought *somewhat*. The worst-case scenario would have been little or no precipitation in February and March. Fortunately, that did not happen. We are still in a drought, but it is not as bad as it could have been. So what can we expect in 2009?

Expect to see dying trees; just how many is difficult to predict. There typically is a 1-2 year lag between when drought starts and when we start seeing increased bark beetle activity. Aerial surveys in 2008 recorded a fairly normal amount of tree mortality. There was some significant mortality in certain areas, but overall mortality was not high. Tree mortality recorded in 2009 will be decidedly higher for a number of reasons:

- Some trees that were killed late last year were not recorded by aerial surveys. Beetle-killed white and red fir, in particular, do not begin to fade until late fall or the spring of the year following their death. Late-in-the-year pine mortality also does not show up until the following spring. Trees that fade this spring were actually killed in 2008.
- Bark beetle populations are up. Even if the drought had ended this winter, there would be enough beetles to kill trees this year.
- It takes time for trees to recover from drought stress. Again, even if the drought had ended, trees would still have weakened defenses. Trees that appear relatively healthy may be killed due to weakened defenses and high beetle numbers.
- Trees that are affected by other stressors (besides drought), will have an even a more difficult time recovering. Expect the highest levels of mortality in areas where multiple stressors are at work.

(Continued on page 3)



Forest Landowners of California Annual Meeting

The year's Forest Landowners of California annual meeting is being held in Ukiah, Ca from April 30 through May 2, 2009. The theme of this year's meeting is "The Two faces of Carbon: Forest Fires and Carbon Sequestration" There will be a tour of Mendocino County properties that were hit by recent fires and dialogue from experts on carbon sequestration and the budding markets for carbon. There will also be a tour of the California Tree Farmer of the Year property owned by Webb Harpe. Contact Darcy Brown, Executive Director at 530-389-2436 or email forestlandowners@gmail.com

Registration Form

Annual Meeting 2009
Thursday, April 30-Saturday, May 2

Please register us for the following:

Conference Registration	Number	Amount	Total
FLC Members	_____	\$85.00	_____
FLC Member Couples	_____	\$120.00	_____
Non-Member Indvl	_____	\$105.00	_____
Non-Member Couple	_____	\$180.00	_____
<i>The registration fee covers the Friday and Saturday seminars, Friday buffet lunch and continental breakfast expenses.</i>			
Thursday Field Trip (includes lunch)	_____	\$15.00	_____
Thursday Evening BBQ	_____	\$25.00	_____
Friday Banquet Dinner	_____		_____
Red Meat choice	_____	\$40.00	_____
Fish/Fowl/Veg. choice	_____	\$40.00	_____
		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	_____
			\$ _____

NOTE: LATE REGISTRATION (AFTER APRIL 15) PLEASE ADD 10% TO TOTAL:

Yes, we will bring a raffle or silent auction item. Specify item: _____

NAME: _____

PROPERTY/TREE FARM/RANCH/COMPANY NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAMES FOR TAGS: _____

PLEASE CLIP THIS FORM AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO FLC TO:

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA, P.O. BOX 391, AUBURN, CA 95604
QUESTIONS? CALL DARCY BROWN AT (530) 389-2436 OR E-MAIL HER AT:
FORESTLANDOWNERS@GMAIL.COM



Third Party Certification Assessments

The entire Tree Farm system is currently considered third party certified, but to maintain this status and fulfill our commitments to Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC), each of the four regions must undergo third-party certification assessments. State Tree Farm Programs will be third-party certified through four regional assessments, with three states visited per year in each region. Each state will have a certain number of Tree Farms visited as part of a field assessment, based on total number of Tree Farms in the state, and then stratified by acreage. The required sample from the year before a state is visited as part of the assessment will be reviewed by the assessor for process and completeness. 100% completion of the required sample each year is crucial to our success during these assessments.

Western Region

PricewaterhouseCoopers will be the audit firm. Shawn Ellsworth as lead auditor for the region

- Year 1 = Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota

BARK BEETLES (Continued from page 1)

Trees will remain at risk to mortality through the 2009 growing season and potentially longer if the drought continues. When the drought does end, there will be a lag time before beetle activity dies down. For this reason, there is likely to be increased tree mortality in 2010, even if precipitation during the upcoming water season (fall 2009 – spring 2010) is above normal.

Is there anything that can be done to mitigate the impacts of drought? For individual, high value trees, supplemental watering and application of pesticide sprays to prevent bark beetle attack are viable options. But for trees in forest stands and plantations, these treatments are not practical. Reducing competition among trees through stocking control (thinning) is the best way to protect a stand of trees from the effects of drought. There is, however, an important caveat to this recommendation – *thinning is best done during non-drought years*. This allows the trees to adjust to and take advantage of the added space *before* drought stress hits. Thinning during drought can actually create additional stress on residual trees. It may also create conditions that allow the buildup of bark beetle

- Field audits - Week of June 1
- Year 2 = Idaho, Montana, Washington
- Year 3 = California, Oregon

The assessment process has begun for 2009. Preliminary meetings have taken place between the PWC and the Tree Farm Committees in the Southern, Western, and North Central regions. The PWC representatives worked closely with each state committee during the preliminary meetings to select the Tree Farms for the field visit. Members of ATFS staff were present at each meeting and will be working closely with the state committees as the assessments proceed. State Committees have taken the lead on the field visit scheduling by contacting each Tree Farmer selected for a visit, gathering landowner documentation for assessment packets, and serving as a contact for landowners and inspectors. ATFS support staff have assisted the committees in sending out notification letters from the state chairs to each of the landowners selected to participate in the field visit. Staff will be sending out an additional letter to all landowners in each state participating in the

populations in the thinned area, potentially exposing residual trees to beetle attack. If you must thin during drought, it is best to do it in the late summer and fall.

A common recommendation that is often heard during periods of drought is to cut down and remove beetle-killed trees before the beetles have the chance to fly to adjacent live trees and kill them. This is a good recommendation in theory, but one that typically fails in practice. With few exceptions, the reason the recommendation fails is because it is very difficult to identify and remove beetle-infested trees before the beetles fly. By the time the foliage of a dying tree begins to fade, beetles already have begun to leave the tree or may be mostly gone. By the time a tree's foliage turns "red," the bark beetles are gone.

A series of publications from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection called **Tree Notes** provides additional information on bark beetles, other forest pests, and how to identify dead and dying trees. The publications can be accessed at the web address: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/treenotes.htm>



assessment this year explaining the purpose and benefits of the assessment.

Tree Farmers selected to participate in the field visit portion of the assessment have been asked to provide the assessors with a packet of documentation on their Tree Farm including their Management plan & any amendments (required), Property Map (required), Timber sale contract (if possible), and Herbicide / Burn contractor contracts / receipts (if possible). All documentation is intended to show landowner conformance to the AFF Standards of Sustainability.

The assessors are looking for trends across each state and region, and selected Tree Farmers will serve as representatives of the American Tree Farm System

and how the program is operating in each state/region. We have already learned a great deal from the few meetings we have had between the states and the assessors, and ATFS staff will be consolidating our learnings into a guidance document. The guidance document will be available on the Leaders' Only section on the website and through e-mail. A summary of state auditing procedures for inspections and monitoring inspections will also be collected and available on the leaders' only section of the website. Staff is confident in our selection of PWC and NSF as our assessment firms, as both groups have gathered talented teams that are knowledgeable about the Tree Farm system and have experience working with small private landowners; for example, Joann Cox, our lead auditor, was a Tree Farm inspector in both North Carolina and Texas.

TREE FARMER QUIZ

1. _____ *How many _____*
T23N R10E, MDB&M? _____
2. _____ *List the common names of (4) native evergreen _____*

3. _____ *At what p _____*
nutrients through litter fall? _____
4. _____ *If (4) rods equal (1) chain, how many rods equal (1) mile _____*
5. _____ *Tree Farm is endorsed by the world's _____*

6. _____ *List the common names of (2) native Cypress's _____*

7. _____ *A circle c _____*
circular plot contained 4,356 square feet? _____

ANSWERS: (1) 20 acres, (2) Canyon Live Oak, Coast Live Oak, Sadler Oak, Interior Live Oak, Huckleberry Oak, Monterey Cypress, Tecate cypress, Baker cypress, Gowen cypress, (7) Area divided by 3.14 = $\pi \times \text{radius squared}$, $4,356 \div 3.14 = \sqrt{1387.26} = 37.2$
Scrub Oak, (3) Crown closure (4) 320 rods, (5) (PEFC) Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (6)