

Programs available to assist with dead tree removal

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The High Sierra Chapter of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) held an evening dinner meeting on April 21, at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Fresno. Chapter chairman Patrick Emmert opened a brief business meeting with committee reports before dinner.

The after dinner speaker was foothill resident Guy Anderson, Cal Fire Forester II, who is the Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) for the Southern Region of California. Anderson spoke on the basics of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and other Cal Fire programs to assist with the dead tree situation.

Anderson went over the key concepts of the very complex CFIP program. In order to benefit from the CFIP, the landowner must have a minimum property size of 20 to 5000 acres that has at least 10 percent forest tree cover. It must be zoned to allow forest management.

"CFIP is a state-funded program aimed at improving the economic value and environmental quality of non-federal lands. The program has 75 percent cost share and could go as high as 90 percent on some projects," said Anderson.



Guy Anderson briefs listeners on the basics of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and other Cal Fire programs.
CATCHPOLE PHOTO

The kinds of projects that can be funded include: management plans, tree planting, tree thinning, pruning, erosion control and stream restoration, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, and fuel reduction. Projects must have the supervision of a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) paid by the landowner.

Those eligible for CFIP include individuals, groups, associations, taxing public entities, and corporate

landowners. The initial requirements of the landowner are to retain services of an RPF. You must have money available up front to pay for the projects until the reimbursement arrives. "This isn't a way to have someone come in and clean up your property for you; you arrange to get the work done," said Anderson.

Anderson then went over the very complex application packet and process. He emphasized that the landowner

must be accurate and precise in filling out the forms. Those interested in applying for CFIP assistance, or needing instructions and forms, should go to the Cal Fire website: http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip.

The presentation generated some good discussion among the foresters, many of whom are working with CFIP projects at the present time.