

[http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_committees/resource\\_protection\\_committee/current\\_projects/vegetation\\_treatment\\_program\\_environmental\\_impact\\_report\\_\(vtpeir\)/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/resource_protection_committee/current_projects/vegetation_treatment_program_environmental_impact_report_(vtpeir)/)

## **State of California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

# **Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (VTPEIR)**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has completed the Draft Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (VTPEIR). The Draft VTPEIR is being provided for public review and comment from December 3, 2012 to February 25, 2013. If you wish to submit written comments please send them to [VegetationTreatment@fire.ca.gov](mailto:VegetationTreatment@fire.ca.gov)

The purpose of an EIR is to provide the public with information about whether a specific project (or in this case a Program of projects) might cause a significant effect to the environment. Describing the environmental consequences of a program across a landscape of the scale being proposed is neither an easy task nor is it possible to describe in a few pages. The authors have strived to balance completeness with brevity so as not to overwhelm the reader with a product so imposing that few will bother to review the document. Nonetheless, this Programmatic EIR is over 1,000 pages not counting the appendices.

Because of the challenge to reviewing a document of this size, we provide the following guide to using the document.

A "quick" summary of the proposed program, the alternatives to the program and the environmental consequences of both the program and the alternatives can be gained by reviewing the Executive Summary. If the reader is interested in the purpose and need for the program as well as the regulatory framework under which the program would operate you should read Chapter 1. Most readers will want to review Chapters 2 and 3, which provide a detailed description of the program and detailed descriptions of the alternatives. Chapter 4 describes the 38,000,000 acres of mostly private land that might be treated across the 100,000,000 acres of the State of California. Generally all non-federal forest, range and grasslands might be treated.

Chapters 5 and 6 are the analytical portion of the document. Chapter 5 describes the environmental consequences that result directly from the implementation of the Cal-Fire Vegetation Treatment Program. Chapter 5 is the longest chapter and is broken into seventeen subchapters, generally one subchapter per resource area such as air quality, water quality, noise, etc. Subchapters for Chapters 4 and 5 have identical sections for each resource area addressed in the EIR.

Readers interested in the cumulative effects of treatment programs being implemented by all land managers should definitely review Chapter 6.

Chapter 7 describes how the program would be monitored. Chapter 7 is particularly important for readers wishing to understand how the project proponents would ensure that the mitigation measures described in chapter 5 are tracked through time. Chapter 8 describes the environmental checklist that will be filled out before a project could be approved and implemented. Chapter 9 describes how public concerns were incorporated into program and alternative design. Chapter 10 provides a list of those who worked on preparation of the VTPEIR.

If you need further information on the Draft VTPEIR the Contact Person is:

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## **About The Board**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is a government-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, for determining the guidance policies of the Department and for representing the state's interest in federal forestland in California. Together, the Board and the Department work to carry out the California Legislature's mandate to protect and enhance the state's unique forest and wildland resources.

The Board is charged with protecting the forest resources of all the wildland areas of California that are not under federal jurisdiction. These resources include; major commercial and non-commercial stands of timber, areas reserved for parks and recreation, the woodland, brush-range watersheds, and all such lands in private and state ownership that contribute to California's forest resource wealth.