

Editors for this issue

This issue would not have been possible without the amazing team of guest editors from our Timberland Conservation and Wildfire Resiliency Program who volunteered their time and expertise for this issue.

CRISTIN WALTERS is an Environmental Scientist for CDFW's Timberland Conservation and Wildfire Resiliency Program at headquarters. Her work at CDFW focuses on statewide coordination and policy and legislative analysis for forest management and wildfire related issues. Prior to joining CDFW, Cristin worked as the herbarium collections manager for the University of Georgia and as a plant ecologist in the Rocky Mountains and throughout the Sierra Nevada. Much of her work in the Sierra Nevada was focused on understanding the effects of wildfire, post-fire logging, and restoration treatments on forest ecosystems. Cristin has a MS in plant biology from Wake Forest University and a BS in Biology from Towson University.

JULIE COOMBES is an Environmental Scientist with the Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program out of the Bay Delta Region 3 Santa Rosa office. Originally hailing from Massachusetts, Julie moved across the country to attend Humboldt State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation in 2008. While earning her degree, she worked as a research assistant for a Western Pond Turtle seasonal migration and habitat study using radio telemetry, and assisted in researching the foraging distance and pollen requirements of a solitary native bee species of northern California. Upon graduation, Julie spent two years working as a fisheries technician for the Fortuna and Fort Bragg CDFW offices as part of the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project program after which she worked as a Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission fisheries technician for the Central Valley Salmon Aging Program at the CDFW Marine Region 7 Santa Rosa office. In 2012, she was promoted to Environmental Scientist with the Ocean Salmon Project in which she managed the commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries in the San Francisco Bay Area. Julie joined the Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program in 2013, and she works in Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Napa and Sonoma counties conducting complex analyses of the effects of timber harvest activities on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, project impact assessments, and sensitive species and listed species consultations.

JEANETTE GRIFFIN is the Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) for the Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program at headquarters. Jeanette joined the Timber team as their Fire Resiliency specialist in March 2020 after spending 5 years with the Bay Delta Region's HabCon program Delta Unit where she was responsible for issuing Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements, CESA Incidental Take Permits, and conducting CEQA review for many projects throughout the Delta. However, Jeanette's tenure with CDFW goes back to 1999, when she first served as a Scientific Aide for the Game Bird Heritage program. Jeanette graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in

Wildlife Management with a Conservation Biology concentration, and a minor in Botany. After college she moved to central Oregon for an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Oregon Department of Transportation study on mule deer migration corridors. While in Oregon, she also worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducting Northern spotted owl surveys, protecting aspen groves, and mapping illegal ATV use on public lands. Jeanette has also worked on projects dealing with California spotted owl, Sudden Oak Death, Chronic Wasting Disease, wildlife and botanical surveys on timberlands, and CESA-listed species throughout northern CA.

VIRGINIA O'ROURKE is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) in CDFW's Northern Region Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program, based out of Fort Bragg, where she serves as a lead technical representative in preparing and negotiating landscape scale conservation projects, including Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Programmatic Agreements. Virginia coordinates the review of Timber Harvesting Plans, Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans, Working Forest Management Plans, and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements in analyzing the potential impacts to trustee resources and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Fish and Game Code, and California Forest Practice Rules. Virginia conducts scientific studies to assess implementation and effectiveness of Department recommendations and the Forest Practice Rules, and currently serves as the CDFW Lead for the Coastal Barred Owl Study, the South Fork Caspar Fish and Habitat Evaluation Long Term Study, and the TMAP Microclimate Study. Originally from the southeast, she has lived and worked in the western U.S. since 1998 and in Mendocino County since 2006. Virginia received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia in 1991, concentrating in Ecology, and a master's degree in Ecological Agriculture from New College in 2008. Prior to joining CDFW in 2015, Virginia gained a wide variety of experience working with both aquatic and terrestrial species as a Water Quality Program Manager, Natural Resources Specialist, and a Biologist serving various government, tribal, university, private, and non-profit agencies. Virginia's areas of emphasis include soil health, forest conservation, and water management.

ROBYNN SWAN is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) with the Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program working on vegetation management and fuel reduction projects within the Bay Area (Region 3). She obtained a B.S in Biology with a Concentration in Marine Science from San Francisco State University. Her work experience varies from teaching outdoor marine science education aboard a research vessel in the San Francisco Bay Estuary to conducting anadromous fish and habitat surveys in the coastal creeks of Mendocino County. Robynn started with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2008 as a scientific aid in Stockton surveying and collecting data on the native fish of the San Joaquin Delta.

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ANDREW YARUSSO is an Environmental Scientist the Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program. He reviews Timber Harvesting Plans for consistency with the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Endangered Species Act as well as issues Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements and provide consultations to evaluate and reduce potential impacts to aquatic, terrestrial, and botanical resources. Andrew joined the Department as a Scientific Aide in 2009 and advanced to his current position in 2012. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology, minor in Chemistry, from Oregon State University. His emphasis in cellular biology quickly landed him employment in medical research, but he realized a desire to work in nature by joining the Arizona Game and Fish Department in 2002 and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2004. Since then, he have been involved in multiple projects acquiring almost 13 years of experience in wildlife biology and resource management.

SANDI JACKS is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) for the North Central Region's Timberland Conservation and Wildfire Resiliency Program. After graduating from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and German, she began her biology career in the late 1990s as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service. Over the past 20 plus years, she has worked with our Department and Caltrans and has experience from owl surveys; fisheries projects; wildlife husbandry, handling, and disease surveillance; to experience in document writing and review; permit writing; providing the biology for Fish and Game Code violations, and working with multiple stakeholders of the environment.

KELSEY VELLA is a Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) in the Timberland Conservation and Wildfire Resiliency Program in our Region 2 (Rancho Cordova) office. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University in 2013. While working towards her degree, Kelsey interned at various organizations including Redwood National Park, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Blodgett Forest Research Station. After college, she went to work as an Environmental Scientist at the California Department of Water Resources, managing grant agreements in the Financial Assistance Branch. She then transferred to CDFW's Region 2 Habitat Conservation Program where she worked for two years before joining the Timberland Conservation Program.

SHELBY THOMAS is an Environmental Scientist in the Timberland Conservation and Wildfire Resiliency Program based out of the North Central Region, Rancho Cordova office. She received her bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Archaeology from the University of Oregon and is currently working to complete the Environmental Policy and Management Masters Program at American Public University. She began her career at CDFW in 2017 in the Conserved Lands Program underneath the larger Wildlife Management Program, where she focused predominantly on utilizing adaptive management techniques for fire risk management and trail camera trapping to observe and record baseline wildlife populations on thousands of acres of CDFW's Unstaffed Lands. Currently, she performs timber harvest plan review in various counties throughout the North Central Region.