

The pre-1946 CDF Building Collection

The ranger unit administrative system was established in 1920. In 1943 the "loose confederation of ranger units" was organized into six districts of "topographic and climatic consistency." These six districts continued until the end of the 1960s when a consolidation resulted in five "regions." In 1977, the California Division of Forestry was reorganized as the California Department of Forestry. In the mid-1980s the Agency name was changed to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Shortly thereafter the five regions were reduced to four. Two years ago the four regions were consolidated into two regions.

Rather than group the following records by the current north and south regions (Coast-Cascade Region and Sierra-South Region), the buildings have been arranged by the original six districts. The county assignments by district were:

District 1: North Coast

Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Colusa, Sonoma, Napa, Yolo, Solano, Marin

District 2: Northern District

Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Plumas

District 3: Sacramento

Sutter, Yuba, Nevada, Sierra, Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine, Mono

District 4: San Joaquin

Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Inyo

District 5: Central Coast

San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara

District 6: Southern District

Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, Imperial

Although this list contains all 58 counties in the State, the CDF has never provided "direct protection" to all of them. Two counties, Sutter and San Francisco, do not have designated SRA lands. All of the SRA lands in Sierra and Alpine Counties are protected by Federal Agencies. In 1945 there were six "contract counties" which maintained their own wildland fire department. The State reimbursed them for protecting the SRA land within their respective jurisdictions. The counties were Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern, San Mateo, and Marin. In the mid-1960s San Mateo opted to have CDF provide direct protection. Orange County was forced by Governor Brown to become a contract county in the late 1970s.

On the opposite page is a brief explanation of the National Register status codes that are used on the DPR 523A Form (Primary Record Form) in the DPR 523 section of this report. The complete outline is found in the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) booklet "Instructions For Recording Historical Resources" December, 1993.

A summary list of the CDF buildings that have been included in the DPR 523 section of this report is found on pages 40 to 49. As mentioned, the buildings and sites have been grouped by the six administrative districts of 1945. The Davis Nursery is separated from the District 1 listing because in 1945 it was under the supervision of the "Forest Manager" who was a member of the command staff in Sacramento.