

## *special edition*

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*Dear Friends,*

*As you probably know by now Governor Deukmejian has appointed me your director as of March 15, 1989. As I look forward to leading CDF to the 1990s I'd like to take a moment to express some heartfelt feelings about CDF and the people who make it what it is.*

*First, I want to thank you all for the ongoing support I have received as chief deputy director. I am very much aware that a leader is only as good as the staff that supports him and CDF simply has the best. From the firefighters to the foresters, the clericals to the computer programmers, this diverse collection of dedicated individuals has no equal. Some of your work is visible and evokes recognition, but most of you work quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes taking care of the "people's" business. I want you to know that I recognize your continuing contribution and I appreciate it.*

*As chief deputy director I have worked closely with personnel, accounting and other support services. Your jobs are often difficult, and at times thankless. I'd like to express my special appreciation to to all of you in Sacramento and in the field for your help and support.*

*As fire season looms ahead, my main concern, as always, is for the safety and well being of the troops in the field. The job of firefighting gets more difficult and more dangerous every year as our wildlands become more crowded. Remember, you are more important than any piece of property. I know you'll give your best shot at preventing losses, but remember the loss of a life is the worst of all.*

*Of course, a big thank you to former Director Jerry Partain who had the faith in me to appoint me as his chief deputy and who continued to support my application for the director's position. Jerry, I learned a lot from you and I promise to dedicate myself to continuing the high standards you set for CDF.*

*I will work hard to see that you all have what you need to do your job safely and efficiently. Although it's been 37 years since I started with this department as a seasonal firefighter, I still remember what it's like to ride on the back of an engine. I know the difficulties you face out there and your needs will always be foremost in my mind.*

*We also face continuing challenges in Resource Management, from pests and drought, to timber harvest controversy. Some problems, such as drought, are out of our control, and sometimes our efforts are misunderstood. However, we have a staff of the finest foresters in the country. I'm proud of the work you've done and I'm confident of your continued success.*

*The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is a large firefighting machine which is continually being fine tuned. Local governments have long recognized our superior abilities and have turned to us for contract protection. I remain committed to our current Schedule "A" Program and I'm receptive to further opportunities. I have worked in Schedule "A" numerous times in my career and recognize its value to CDF and the taxpayers of California.*

*As a final thought, I would like to express to you that my professional life has been spent as part of the CDF family. I can't imagine working anywhere else. You are my family, and Blanche and I have enjoyed that relationship for almost four decades. I look forward to getting out and meeting with you soon, and often. Let's all vow to make CDF an even stronger family that works together and stays together.*