# Taxation Issues associated with the Butte Fire

Larry Camp CA. RPF No. 1698 October 28, 2015



# DISCLAIMER

Today's discussion is educational, NOT legal or accounting advice, since the facts and circumstances of each taxpayer's individual situation need to be taken into consideration for an exact application of the tax law.

### Civics 101

- Legislation Congress writes and the President signs into law the Internal Revenue Code or IRC. (Title 26 of U.S. Codes)
- Administration The IRS interprets the Code through regulations, revenue rulings, private letter rulings, technical advice memoranda, et al.
- The Courts Cases may be brought by taxpayers in either Tax Court, District Court, or the Court of Claims.

Taxpayers may initiate court actions after audit or after they have exhausted all other means of issue resolution with the IRS.

## Ownership Purposes

Why do you own the property?

- Do you use the property primarily for personal use?
- Are you holding the property primarily for investment purposes?
- Are you in the trade or business of buying and selling timber?

### Ownership Purposes (cont.)

Your ownership purpose is important as it can affect the amount and type of tax you pay as well as the deductions you can take.

### **Keeping Records**

- Management information/plans including photos
- Accounting records
  - Shoebox, journal, journal with accounts
- Form T Timber (available at www.IRS.gov)

These are important because they help you to document your ownership activities and income and expenses.

# Forest

### Forest Activities Schedule

	Timber)		ttach to your	es Schedule tax return. arate instructions is a	it www.irs.gov/timb	OMB No. 1545-0007
	of the Treasury enue Service	For tax year ending		, 20		Attachment Sequence No. 117
	shown on return	<u> </u>			Ide	ntifying number
Part I	Acquisiti	ions				
1 N	ame of block	and title of account				
<b>2</b> Lo	ocation of pro	perty (by legal subdivisions or map	surveys)			
3a N	ame and addr	ress of seller or person from whom	property was	acquired		<b>b</b> Date acquired
<b>4</b> A	mount paid:	a In cash				
		r consideration				
6 Le	egal expenses					
7 C	ruising, survey	ring, and other acquisition expense	s	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2		
0.00 (0)		her basis of property. Add lines 4a			Cost or other	
9 A	llocation of to	al cost or other basis on books:	Unit	Number of units		
9 Al	llocation of tol	al cost or other basis on books:	Unit Acre		Cost or other	
9 Al	llocation of tot orested land orther unimprov	al cost or other basis on books:	Unit Acre Acre		Cost or other	
9 Al  a Fc b O c In  d M of ac 1.	llocation of tol orested land ther unimprov nproved land ( terchantable ti f merchantable cquisition date (611-3(e)). Det lade for purpo	al cost or other basis on books:	Unit Acre		Cost or other	
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Cat. No. 16717G

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Form T (Timber) (Rev. 12-2013)

### IRC Code Sections that May Affect You

- Casualty losses, thefts, condemnations - IRC § 165
- Involuntary Conversions IRC § 1033
- Reforestation IRC § 194
- Cost-share payments IRC § 126

### Casualty Losses -- Do you have one?

Regulation §1.165-7. Casualty losses. - (a) In general. - (1) Allowance of deduction. . . . any loss arising from fire, storm, ... or other casualty is allowable as a deduction under section 165(a) for the taxable year in which the loss is sustained. The manner of determining the amount of a casualty loss allowable as a deduction . . . is the same whether the loss has been incurred in a trade or business or in any transaction entered into for profit, or whether it has been a loss of property not connected with a trade or business and not incurred in any transaction entered into for profit.

# Concept of Basis

Basis is the accounting term for what did something cost.

Can be adjusted for depreciation, depletion, or additional capital expenditures.

Why is basis or adjusted cost important for Casualty Losses?

### The Potential Bad News

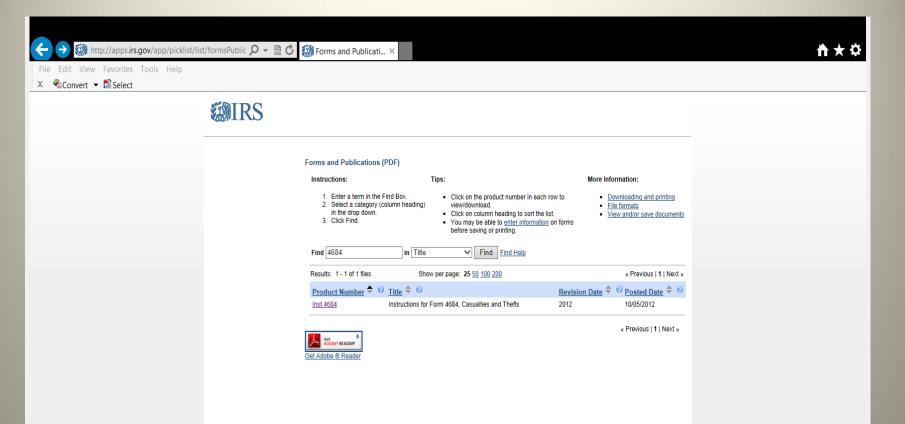
- Casualty losses are limited to the lower of the adjusted basis of the property or the decrease in fair market value caused by the casualty.
- Concept of Single Identifiable Property (SIP)
- Usually, insect attacks that kill trees are not considered to be a casualty loss.

### Casualty Losses cont.

- Personal Property Example
- Must subtract \$ 100 for each casualty event.
- Must subtract any salvage value or insurance proceeds or reimbursement.
- Finally subtract 10% of adjusted gross income for the year to determine the casualty loss.

## **Example of Personal Casualty loss**

<ul> <li>Cost of house</li> </ul>	\$ 150,000
Adj. Gross Income	\$ 50,000
• Fair Market Value Before the fire	\$ 200,000
<ul> <li>Fair Market Value After the fire</li> </ul>	\$ 0
<ul> <li>Change in Fair Market Value</li> </ul>	\$ 200,000
<ul> <li>Prelim. Loss limited to</li> </ul>	\$ 150,000
<ul> <li>Loss after subtracting \$ 100</li> </ul>	\$ 149,900
• Less 10% of Adj. Gross Income	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
<ul> <li>Casualty Loss Deduction</li> </ul>	\$ 144,900



Example of a search at <a href="www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a> for forms, publications, and other documents. Use *publ* for publications

### IRS Publication 547



**Publication 547** 

### Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts

For use in preparing 2014 Returns



Get forms and other information faster and easier at:

- IRS.gov/Cean (चेन्)
   IRS.gov/Norean (चेन्)

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### Reminders

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Publication 547, such as legislation enacted after it was published, go to www.irs.gov/pub547.

Photographs of missing children. The Internal Revenue Service is a proud partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Photographs of missing children selected by the Center may appear in this publication on pages that would otherwise be blank. You can help bring these children home by looking at the photographs and calling 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) if you recognize a child.

### Introduction

This publication explains the tax treatment of casualties, thefts, and losses on deposits. A casualty occurs when your property is damaged as a result of a disaster such as a storm, fire, car accident, or similar event. A theft occurs when someone steals your property. A loss on deposits occurs when your financial institution becomes insolvent or bankrupt.

This publication discusses the following top-

- Definitions of a casualty, theft, and loss on
- deposits. · How to figure the amount of your gain or
- · How to treat insurance and other reim-
- bursements you receive.
- The deduction limits.
- . When and how to report a casualty or theft.
- . The special rules for disaster area losses.

Dec 19, 2014

### Form **4684**

### **Casualties and Thefts**

► Information about Form 4684 and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form4684.

► Attach to your tax return.

► Use a separate Form 4684 for each casualty or theft.

OMB No. 1545-0177 2014

Form 4684 (2014)

1	usiness or for income-producing purposes.)  Description of properties (show type, location, and date ac the same casualty or theft.	quired	for each prope	erty). Use	e a separa	te line f	or each prop	perty lost or	damaged
	Property A								
	Property B								
	Property C								
	Property D								
	Ргорепу и					Prope	rtine		
		-	A	-	В	гторс	C		D
•	Control that bearing of control to	2	A		ь		C	_	U
	Cost or other basis of each property	2		-				_	
3	Insurance or other reimbursement (whether or not you	3							
	filed a claim) (see instructions)	3		_		$\vdash$			
	Note: If line 2 is more than line 3, skip line 4.	198							
4	Gain from casualty or theft. If line 3 is more than line 2, enter the difference here and skip lines 5 through 9 for that column. See instructions if line 3 includes insurance								
	or other reimbursement you did not claim, or you received payment for your loss in a later tax year	4							
5	Fair market value before casualty or theft	5							
6	Fair market value after casualty or theft	6							
7	Subtract line 6 from line 5	7							
8	Enter the smaller of line 2 or line 7	8							
9	Subtract line 3 from line 8. If zero or less, enter -0	9							
0	Casualty or theft loss. Add the amounts on line 9 in column	ns A thr	ough D	20 De 1		e se s		10	
1	Enter the smaller of line 10 or \$100				B 18 14			11	
12	Subtract line 11 from line 10	10.0						12	
	Caution: Use only one Form 4684 for lines 13 through 18.								
3	Add the amounts on line 12 of all Forms 4684	- V: V						13	
4	Add the amounts on line 4 of all Forms 4684.							14	
15	If line 14 is more than line 13, enter the difference here a complete the rest of this section (see instructions).	nd on 9	Schedule D. De	o not	)			15	
	• If line 14 is less than line 13, enter -0- here and go to line	16.			}			011110	
	• If line 14 is equal to line 13, enter -0- here. Do not comp	lete the	rest of this se	ction.	J				
6	If line 14 is less than line 13, enter the difference						0.0.0	16	
7	Enter 10% of your adjusted gross income from Form 1040 instructions	line 38	, or Form 104	ONR, line	e 37. Esta	tes and	trusts, see	17	
8	Subtract line 17 from line 16. If zero or less, enter -0 Also Form 1040NR, Schedule A, line 6. Estates and trusts, enter return							18	

	TION B—Business and Income-Producing P									
art	Casualty or Theft Gain or Loss (Use a s	separa	te Part I for	each	casualty	or the	ft.)			
	Description of properties (show type, location, and date ac									
	from the same casualty or theft. See instructions if claimi	ing a los	s due to a Po	onzi-ty	pe investme	ent sch	eme and Se	ction C	is not con	nplete
	Property A									
	Property B									
	Property C									
	Property D									
						Prope	rties			
			A		В		С		D	8
20	Cost or adjusted basis of each property	20								
11	Insurance or other reimbursement (whether or not you									
	filed a claim). See the instructions for line 3	21								
	Note: If line 20 is more than line 21, skip line 22.	133								
2	Gain from casualty or theft. If line 21 is more than line 20, enter									
	the difference here and on line 29 or line 34, column (c), except	100 HH								
	as provided in the instructions for line 33. Also, skip lines 23	100								
	through 27 for that column. See the instructions for line 4 if line	238								
	21 includes insurance or other reimbursement you did not claim, or you received payment for your loss in a later tax year	22								
	Fair market value before casualty or theft	23		-				1		+
		23		-						+
	Fair market value after casualty or theft	25		-	_			+		+
	Subtract line 24 from line 23	-		-		-		-		+
	Enter the smaller of line 20 or line 25	26		_		-		-		-
	Note: If the property was totally destroyed by casualty or									
	iost from theft, enter on line 26 the amount from line 20.	03596								
	Subtract line 21 from line 26. If zero or less, enter -0-	27								-
28	Casualty or theft loss. Add the amounts on line 27. Enter t	he total						28		
				ne 29				6.4		_
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Attachment Sequence No. 26

SEC	CTION C-Theft Loss Deduction for Ponzi-Type Investment Scheme	Using the	Procedures	in Revenue
	cedure 2009-20 (Complete this section in lieu of Appendix A in Revenue	e Procedure	2009-20. Se	e instructions.)
Par				
40		40		
41	Subsequent investments (see instructions)	41		
42	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
30	(see instructions).	42		
	Add lines 40, 41, and 42	43		
44		44		
45	Subtract line 44 from line 43. This is your total qualified investment	45		
46	Enter .95 (95%) if you have no potential third-party recovery. Enter .75 (75%) if you	46		
47	have potential third-party recovery  Multiply line 46 by line 45	46		
48	Actual recovery	48		
49	Potential insurance/Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) recovery	49		
50		50	Stempen I Steel of	
		50		
51	line 28 of Section B. Part I. Do not complete lines 19-27 for this loss. Then complete	Design 1		
	Section B. Part II.	51		
Par		01		
	n claiming a theft loss deduction pursuant to Revenue Procedure 2009-20 from a specified	d fraudulent ar	rangement cond	fucted by the following
	ividual or entity.			
Na	me of individual or entity			
Tax	payer identification number (if known)			
Ad	dress			
• I h	ave written documentation to support the amounts reported in Part I of this Section C.			
• I ar	n a qualified investor as defined in section 4.03 of Revenue Procedure 2009-20.			
	have determined the amount of my theft loss deduction using .95 on line 46 above, I declar potential third-party recovery, as that term is defined in section 4.10 of Revenue Procedu		not pursued and	I do not intend to purs
lag	gree to comply with the conditions and agreements set forth in Revenue Procedure 2009-2	20 and this Sec	ction C.	
If I	have already filed a return or amended return that does not satisfy the conditions in sectio ustments or actions that are necessary to comply with those conditions. The tax year(s) fo			

### 2014



### **Casualties and Thefts**

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

### General Instructions

### **Future Developments**

For the latest information about developments related to Form 4684 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/ form4684.

### Purpose of Form

Use Form 4684 to report gains and losses from casualties and thefts. Attach Form 4684 to your tax return.

### Losses You Can Deduct

You can deduct losses of property from fire, storm, shipwreck, or other casualty, or theft (for example, larceny, embezzlement, robbery, and Ponzi-type investment schemes). See Pub. 547, Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts, for more examples.

If your property is covered by insurance, you must file a timely insurance claim for reimbursement of your loss, Otherwise, you cannot deduct the loss as a casualty or theft loss. However, the part of the loss that is not covered by insurance is still deductible.

Related expenses. The related expenses you have due to a casualty or theft, such as expenses for the treatment of personal injuries or for the rental of a car, are not deductible as casualty or theft losses.

Costs for protection against future casualties are not deductible but should be capitalized as permanent improvements. An example would be the cost of a levee to stop flooding.

### Losses You Cannot Deduct

- · Money or property misplaced or lost may not be deducted as a theft loss.
- Breakage of china, glassware, furniture.
- and similar items under normal conditions. Progressive damage to property
- (buildings, clothes, trees, etc.) caused by termites, moths, other insects, or disease.
- A decline in market value of stock, caused. by disclosure of accounting or other illegal misconduct by the officers or directors of the corporation that issues the stock, that was acquired on the open market for investment. You may be able to deduct it as a capital loss on Schedule D (Form 1040) if the stock is sold or exchanged or becomes completely worthless. See chapter 4 of Pub. 550, Investment Income and Expenses.

Note. Victims of fraudulent investment schemes can claim a theft loss deduction if certain conditions apply. See Losses From Ponzi-Type Investment Schemes, later, for

### Gain on Reimbursement

If the amount you receive in insurance or other reimbursement is more than the cost or other basis of the property, you have a gain. If you have a gain, you may have to pay tax on it, or you may be able to postpone the

Do not report the gain on damaged, destroyed, or stolen property if you receive property that is similar or related to it in service or use. Your basis in the new property is the same as your basis in the old property.

Any tangible replacement property held for use in a trade or business is treated as similar or related in service or use to property held for use in a trade or business or for investment if:

- The property you are replacing was
- damaged or destroyed in a disaster, and The area in which the property was damaged or destroyed was declared by the President of the United States to warrant federal assistance because of that disaster.

Generally, you must recognize the gain if you receive unlike property or money as reimbursement. But you generally can choose to postpone all or part of the gain if, within 2 years of the end of the first tax year in which any part of the gain is realized, you purchase:

- Property similar or related in service or use to the damaged, destroyed, or stolen property, or
- · A controlling interest (at least 80%) in a corporation owning such property.

The replacement period is 5 years, instead of 2 years, if the property was located in the Midwestern disaster areas (as defined in Pub. 4492-B, Information for Affected Taxpayers in the Midwestern Disaster Areas) (For details, see Replacement Period under Figuring a Gain in Pub. 547.)

To postpone all of the gain, the cost of the replacement property must be equal to or more than the reimbursement you received for your property. If the cost of the replacement property is less than the reimbursement received, you must recognize the gain to the extent the reimbursement exceeds the cost of the replacement property

If the replacement property or stock is acquired from a related person, gain generally cannot be postponed by:

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

- · Corporations (other than S corporations), · Partnerships in which more than 50% of
- the capital or profits interest is owned by corporations (other than S corporations), or All other taxpavers, unless the aggregate realized gains on the involuntarily converted
- property are \$100,000 or less for the tax year. This rule applies to partnerships and S corporations at both the entity and partner or shareholder level.

For details on how to postpone the gain. see Postponement of Gain under Figuring a Gain in Pub. 547.

If your main home was located in a disaster area and that home or any of its contents were damaged or destroyed due to the disaster, special rules apply. See Gains Realized on Homes in Disaster Areas, later,

### When To Deduct a Loss

Deduct the part of your casualty or theft loss that is not reimbursable in the tax year the casualty occurred or the theft was discovered. However, a disaster loss and a loss from deposits in insolvent or bankrupt financial institutions may be treated differently, See Disaster Losses and Special Treatment for Losses on Deposits in Insolvent or Bankrupt Financial Institutions,

If you are not sure whether part of your casualty or theft loss will be reimbursed, do not deduct that part until the tax year when you become reasonably certain that it will not

If you are reimbursed for a loss you deducted in an earlier year, include the reimbursement in your income in the year you received it, but only to the extent the deduction reduced your tax in an earlier year.

See Lessee's loss in Pub. 547 for special rules on when to deduct losses from casualties and thefts to leased property.

### Disaster Losses

A disaster loss is a loss that occurred in an area determined by the President of the United States to warrant federal disaster assistance. It includes a major disaster or emergency declaration. A list of areas warranting public or individual assistance (or both) is available at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website at www.fema.gov.

If you have a casualty loss from a disaster that occurred in an area warranting public or individual assistance (or both), you can elect to deduct the loss in the tax year immediately before the tax year in which the disaster

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### Casualty Losses cont.

 Death of trees and seedlings from drought generally not qualified as a casualty loss.

### How to calculate a Casualty Loss

- For smaller tracts, where all the timber is damaged, multiply the Adjusted Depletion rate of the timber times the lost timber volume. Larger SIP's use the change in Fair Market Value FMV before and after the casualty. Both approaches are subject to the adjusted basis limitation!
- Field Directive on Timber Casualty Losses -- April 2004.

### Example

- Land and Timber Purchased 1980 100 acres @ \$ 300 acre Total Cost \$ 30,000
- Allocate Land \$ 20/acre -- Total land value \$ 2,000
- Allocate Improvements such as Roads \$5/acre -- Total Improvement value \$ 500
- Merch. Timber PP & DF @ 5Mbf/ac
   \$ 55/Mbf Total Timber value \$ 27,500

- Allocate Premerchantable timber \$ 0/acre
- Allocate Reproduction \$ 0/acre
- Assume 3% growth for 35 years for example Total Harvest Volume is 10 Mbf/ac

### Change in Fair Market Value

- 2015 FMV Before fire value
   10 Mbf @ \$ 250/Mbf x 100 acres = \$ 250,000
- 2015 FMV After fire value
   10 Mbf @ \$ 110/Mbf x 100 acres = \$ 110,000

Tentative Loss Based on Difference in Fair Market Value Before and After Fire

Before Value less After Value \$ 140,000.

Loss is limited by the Lower of Adjusted Basis or Difference in Fair Market Value = \$27,500

with no loss for any reproduction or premerchantable timber.

### Assuming Salvage of Timber

Sale of Delivered Logs IRC § 631(a)

Harvest 1,000 Mbf at \$ 110/Mbf stumpage Net sale Income = \$ 110,000 Potential Capital Gain \$ 110,000 – Timber Basis \$ 27,500 = \$ 82,500

Potential Capital Gains marginal rate = 15% versus Potential Ordinary income marginal rate = 25% Potential Tax
 Difference = \$8,250

- FMV January 1, 2015 \$ 230/Mbf
- FMV October 1, 2015 \$ 150/Mbf
- Ordinary Income Loss
   10 Mbf @\$ 80/Mbf x 100 acres
   = \$ 80,000

Process is slightly different if selling stumpage with the mill responsible for harvesting.

### Involuntary Conversion IRC § 1033

- Purpose: to permit a taxpayer to avoid paying gain on property that is disposed of involuntarily.
- An involuntary conversion occurs when property is destroyed, stolen, or condemned for public use. Destruction is often synonymous with a casualty such as a fire or wind storm but it need not be sudden.

### Involuntary Conversion cont.

- Allows for reinvestment of income generally within a 2 year time period.
- Replacement property must be similar in nature
  - Reforestation on timberland owned by the taxpayer
  - Buying additional land for replanting
  - Acquisition of standing timber
  - Acquisition of timberlands

### Reforestation

- IRC § 194(3) defines reforestation costs to include site preparation costs, seedling costs and labor and tool expense.
- Treas. Reg. 1.611-3(a) and Revenue Ruling 75-467 reforestation costs are to be capitalized.
  - However, beginning in the fall 2004, IRC § 194(b) generally permits a deduction of up to \$ 10,000 for reforestation expenses per Qualified Timber Property (QTP).

### Reforestation cont.

- Additional reforestation expenditures generally amortizable over 7 years (84 months) under IRC § 194(a)
- What is a QTP? Property ≥ 1 acre used for growing production of timber products under IRC § 194(c)(1) &Treas. Reg. § 1.194-3(a).
- Does not include ornamental trees including Christmas trees.
- Must make a timely election.

### Reforestation cont.

- Cost share payments are not includable for purposes of IRC § 194 unless included in gross income. IRC § 194(c)(3)(B)
- Must keep data to track the location and costs of each plantation.

### Cost Share Payments

- Treatment of Cost Share payments under programs like CFIP, EQIP, WHIP are generally includable as gross income under provisions of IRC § 126 and Treas. Reg. § 16A.126-1.
- A portion of the income can be excluded under the provisions of Treas. Reg. § 16A.126-1 and 2.

### Other Things to Remember

- When you do have a timber sale, you are allowed to deduct the direct timber sale expenses from the proceeds.
- The tax laws and regulations change remember to stay current.

### References & Resources

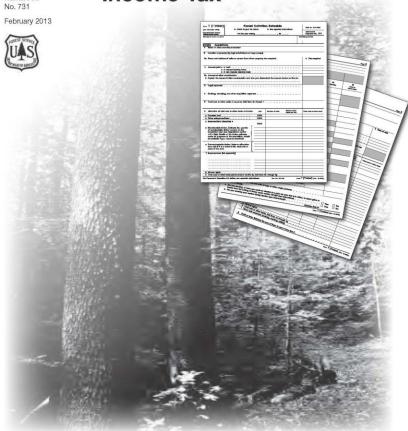
- www.irs.gov
- www.timbertax.org a good nongovernment site sponsored by USFS, Univ. Georgia, American Tree Farm System
- www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop USDA Forest Service tax publications
- Cooperative Extension Services

Agricultural Handbook 731 Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal Income Tax (February 2013) Available from www.timbertax.org





Forest Landowners' Guide to the Federal **Income Tax** 



- Field Directive on Timber Casualty Losses
- April 16, 2004 from Bobby E. Scott /s/ Bobby E. Scott Industry Director Natural Resources and Construction
- Exhibit A Timber Casualty Losses Audit
   Guideline
   Exhibit B Issue Paper on the Valuation of a
   Single Identifiable Property

# Questions?