

**APPENDIX E: Prescribed Fire****Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

The following Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addresses the careful and expanded use of prescribed fire to meet ecological and other management objectives within the State of California. This agreement is between the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, and conservation and community fire protection groups and state agencies who share a common goal of increasing the use of prescribed fire in California for the purpose of restoring resilience and protecting communities in California's rural landscapes. The MOU was publicly announced during a ceremony on February 2, 2016.

By adopting this MOU as an Appendix into the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan, the Board expresses its approval and support for the goals identified within this document. In his veto message of Assembly Bill 2465 (Chesbro, 2014), Governor Brown directed CAL FIRE to build upon their existing work to develop recommended actions for enhancing prescribed burns. This MOU is the first step in developing these recommended actions.

In part, the veto language contained the following statements:

*“As part of the State's Strategic Fire Plan, CAL FIRE recognizes prescribed fire as an important tool for land managers to use to improve their lands and to address the poor health of many of our forests. Rather than creating an independent template as required by this bill, I am directing CAL FIRE to build further on their existing work and develop an Appendix to the State Fire Plan on prescribed fires for consideration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE will work in collaboration with the Air Resources Board, local air districts, academics, non-governmental organizations, local governments, and tribes on recommended actions for enhancing the practice of prescribed burns.”*

With the adoption of this MOU as an appendix to the Strategic Fire Plan, the Board and Department are taking the initial steps to meet the intent of the Governor's veto message. The Board recognizes the importance of this issue, and fully intends to continue its support of prescribed fire as a management tool. It is anticipated that this Strategic Fire Plan will receive a comprehensive update within the next two years, as identified in the Timeline of the 2010 Plan. As part of this update, prescribed fire activities will likely be incorporated throughout this new document, and play a more prominent role in the future of addressing fire issues in California. Until the updated Strategic Fire Plan is completed, this Appendix will serve as a commitment from the Board to support the goals and objectives identified in this MOU.