

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE 2

Issue 32: Senate Subcommittee 2 Wildfire Prevention & Resilience Early Action Plan

Subcommittee 2 Proposal. The Subcommittee proposes \$566 million in early action (current year, 2020-21) to address wildfire prevention and resilience issues. Overall, the proposal includes:

- \$266.5 million Resilient Wildlands
- \$139 million Wildfire Fuel Breaks
- \$ 53 million Community Hardening
- \$10.5 million Science-Based Management
- \$13 million Forestry Sector Economic Stimulus
- \$32 million Cooling Centers, Clean Air/Hydration Shelters
- \$17 million Forest Health and Watershed Protection and Restoration
- \$35 million Fire Crews

The figure below provides a breakdown of the Subcommittee’s Wildfire Early Action Plan and shows the Governor’s wildfire proposal (with separate columns for the Governor’s plan for 2020-21 and 2021-22) for comparison.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION & RESILIENCE EARLY ACTION

(In Millions)

Category	Agency/Dept	Purpose	Governor's Early Action Plan	Govr's Budget Year Proposal	SEN. Sub 2 Early Action Plan (All GF)	Senate Sub. 2 Early Action (E/A) Plan Details
Resilient Wildlands	CalFire	Forest Health	\$5	\$20	96	
			\$65	\$80	0	
	CalFire	Forest Improvement Program for Small Landowners	\$0	\$40	20	
			\$10	\$0	0	
	CalFire	Forest Legacy & Reforestation Nursery	\$8	\$17	8	
	CalFire	Urban Forestry	\$10	\$13	10	
	CalFire	Tribal Engagement	\$1	\$19	1	
	Parks, CDFW & SLC	Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$19	\$123	49	Governor's Plan: DFW (E/A \$9m); Parks (E/A: \$10); Sub. 2 E/A Plan: Parks — \$22m DFW — \$27m DFW — Of the \$27m, specify \$16m as follows: \$2m - Equipment \$4.8m - 12 PY for 2-year limited-term to help expedite environmental review and permitting.

						<p>\$3.5m - Hire contractors to work on DFW land.</p> <p>\$5.5 - Temp help (seasonal crews) Extend encumbrance periods for both DFW & Parks for 18 months (for this as well as other categories).</p> <p>Add BBL/TBL to expedite contracting and procurement similar to provision in 2014 Executive Order for droughts — Address review timelines and delays with DGS procurement and contracting processes — "To ensure that equipment and services necessary to wildfire prevention be procured quickly, the provisions of Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to state contracts, including but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements are suspended. Approval by the Dept. Of Finance is required prior to execution of any contract entered into pursuant to these directives."</p>
	Sierra Nevada Conservancy		\$20	\$50	25	
	Tahoe Conservancy		\$1	\$11	3	
	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		\$0	\$0	12	
	San Diego River Conservancy		\$0	\$0	12	
	San Gabriel & Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy		\$0	\$0	18.5	<p>\$4.5m for River Wilderness Park Phase 1 improvements including restoration/enhancements of site inclusive of native plants, bioswales, and permeable paving.</p> <p>\$2m for San Gabriel Mountains River Ranger Pilot Program partnership with US Forestry Service, Nature4All, council for Watershed Health (\$2m total, \$500,000 annually for 4-year limited term).</p>
	State Coastal Conservancy		\$0	\$0	12	
Wildfire Fuel Breaks	CalFire	CalFire Unit Fire Prevention Projects	\$10	\$40	30	
	CalFire	Fire Prevention Grants	\$50	\$80	30	
	CalFire	Prescribed Fire & Hand Crews	\$15	\$0	25	
			\$0	\$35	0	
	CA Conservation Corps	Forestry Corps	\$0	\$15	15	
\$0			\$5	0		

	DOC	Regional Forest & Fire Capacity	\$25	\$60	39	Of the \$39m, specify \$16m for demonstration projects in upper watersheds with an emphasis on water supply and quality — Combo of special treatment strategies as well as monitoring systems to capture the benefit. Make available broadly to watersheds that serve as "significant sources." This will bring projects in North Coast, Southern Sierra, San Bernardino National Forest, and Central Coast. Add BBL: "Of the funds provided in this section, \$16 million shall be available for upper watershed restoration demonstration projects within watersheds that are a significant source of water supply for the state and have an emphasis on achievement of water supply or water quality benefits. Funding made available by this section shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2023."
Community Hardening	CalOES & CalFire	Home Hardening (Senate Plan: Prehazard mitigation grants for early warning/evacuation systems, fire and disaster response planning, infrastructure, structural hardening, microgrids)	\$25	\$0	49	
	CalFire	Defensible Space Inspectors	\$0	\$6	1	
	CalFire/UC	Land Use Planning and Public Education Outreach	\$0	\$7	3	
Science-Based Mgmt.	CalFire	Ecological Monitoring, Research & Adaptive Management	\$3	\$17	6.5	
	NRA	Remote Sensing	\$0	\$15	3	
	ARB	Permit Efficiencies	\$0	\$4	1	
Forestry Sector Econ Stimulus	Ibank	Climate Catalyst Fund	\$47	\$2	5	
	CalFire/Workforce Development Board	Workforce Development (Senate: Career development for fire prevention, management, emergency response, restoration, etc.)	\$6	\$18	8	
	OPR	Market Development	\$3	\$0	0	
	OPR	Cooling centers, clean air/ hydration centers, emergency shelters, backup solar - GF	\$0	\$0	32	
	WCB	Forest health and watershed protection and restoration	\$0	\$0	17	

	CalFire	Increase Fire Crews	\$0	\$0	35	The Senate proposal is related to the Governor's BCP for "CalFire Emergency Response & Preparedness: CalFire/Conservation Corps Fire Crews," which adds CalFire and CCC fire crews. The Senate proposes to begin adding the 16 CalFire fire fighter hand crews in 2020-21. (\$35m in 2020-21 and \$137.3m 2021-22, \$116.3m in 2022-23 and ongoing).
		TOTAL	\$323	\$677	\$566	

Blue = GOV - GF
 Green = GOV - Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Staff Comments. A few notes about the Subcommittee’s proposed Wildfire Early Action Plan:

- **Stewardship of State-Owned Land.** The Subcommittee’s proposal includes \$22 million for Parks and \$27 million for DFW. Both of these departments own land throughout the state. Parks owns 1.5 million acres, 94 percent of which is managed for natural resource values. DFW owns one million acres of land throughout the state, of which 900,000 acre are in high- and extremely high fire risk zones. Vegetation management on DFW lands provides an economic opportunity throughout the state to hire local entities to do the work through contracting and individuals for seasonal crews. The Senate proposal includes a total of \$27 million for DFW and specifies \$16 million of which to be appropriated as follows:
 - \$2 million for equipment.
 - \$4.8 million for 12 personnel years (PYs) for a two-year limited-term to help expedite environmental review and permitting (\$200,000 annually for each PY).
 - \$3.5 million to hire contractors to work on DFW land.
 - \$5.5 million for to hire a seasonal crews (temp help).
 - Extends the encumbrance periods for DFW and Parks for 18 months.
 - Adds language to expedite contracting and procurement similar to a provision in the Executive Order for droughts in 2014, which addresses review timelines and delays with DGS procurement and contracting processes.
- **Conservancies.** The Subcommittee’s proposal includes \$82.5 million funding for conservancies. This will help ensure that a variety of natural lands throughout the state will benefit from wildland resilience funding.
- **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program.** The Subcommittee’s proposal includes \$39 million, of which \$16 million is for demonstration projects in upper watersheds with an emphasis on water supply and quality. This would include a combination of special treatment strategies as well as monitoring systems to capture the benefit. Most of the demonstration projects have been more in the wildland-urban interface or focused on vegetation treatment, so this proposal adds a new dimension to the RFFC program. This funding would specifically go towards projects that focus on the water benefit. This may also help encourage water agencies partners that want to help but simply do not know how. Among other places, this funding could benefit projects in the North Coast, Southern Sierra, San Bernardino National Forest, and Central Coast regions.