

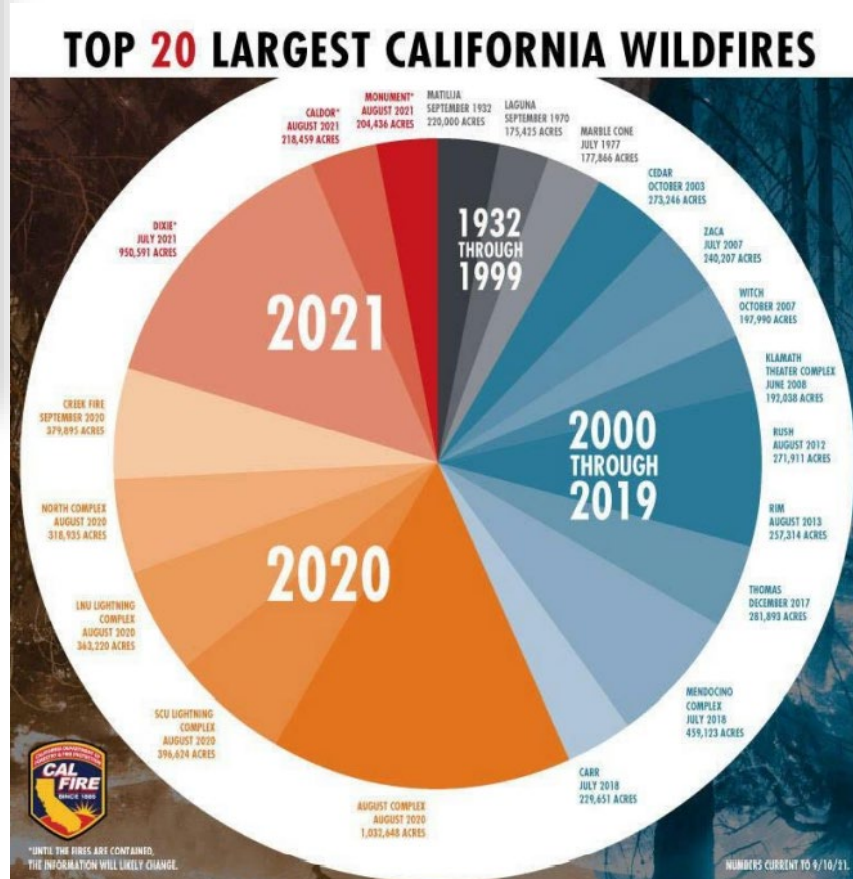
2020 CA-STATE CERTIFIED PRESCRIBED FIRE BURN BOSS UPDATE

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What drove fire policy?



BACKGROUND

- SB 1260 Jackson (June 2018) Protect California communities from catastrophic wildfire by making various changes related to local fire planning, prescribed fire requirements (Burn Boss), and broader fire prevention efforts.
- Collaboration from local ranchers, fire practitioners, and Cal Fire
- Curriculum Development Committee



TARGET AUDIENCE

- Persons seeking certification as prescribed-fire burn bosses in accordance with SB 1260 (Jackson, Chapter 624, Statutes of 2018).
- Burn Boss: Burn boss means either of the following: a. A person certified pursuant to Section 4477 to conduct prescribed burning operations and to enter into contracts related to prescribed burning operations.



Beneficial Fire

- Beneficial fire is used by practitioners to restore habitats, maintain cultural practices, and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.
- Prescribed Fire, Cultural Burning

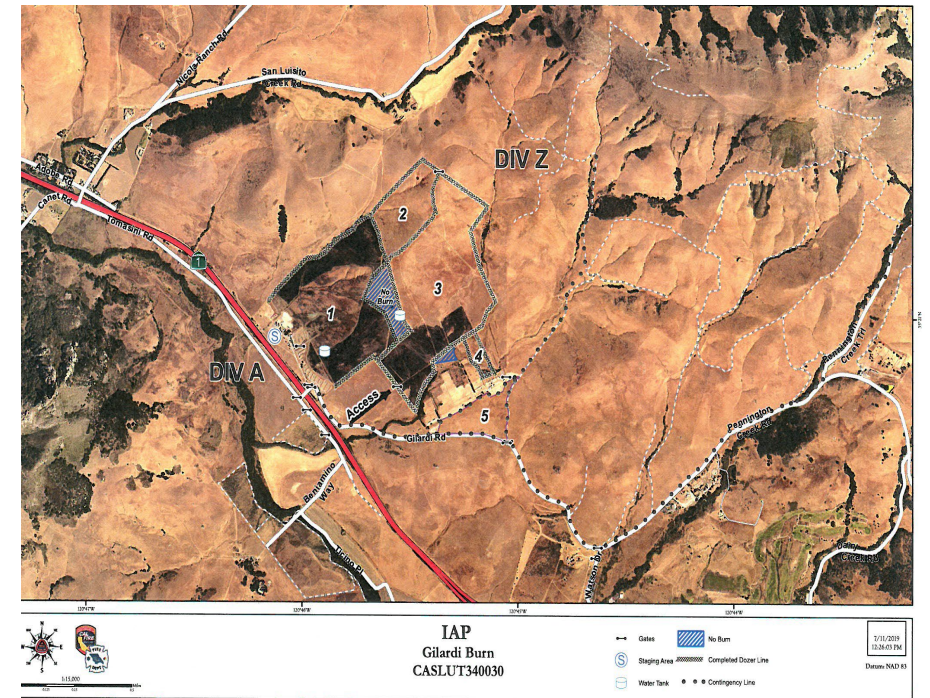


Goals

- Prescribed Fire: The intentional application of fire to land for wildland management including the prevention of high intensity wildland fires, watershed management, range improvement, vegetation management, forest improvement, wildlife habitat improvement, restoring ecological integrity and resilience, community wildfire protection, carbon resilience, enhancement of culturally important resources, and maintenance of air quality.
- Prescribed fires undertaken for any of these reasons are considered “public purpose” burns pursuant to state law. (PRC § 4491(a).) Prescribed fires are typically conducted in compliance with a written prescribed fire plan that outlines the conditions necessary for the burn to be “within prescription.”

Objectives of Burn Boss course

- Collaboration with local and state stakeholders
- Develop burn plans
- Identifying and mitigating risk
- Certification process and training
- Fire Weather
- Fire modeling
- Smoke management



Supporting legislation

Senate Bill 332 (Dodd 2021)

No person shall be liable for any fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable pursuant to Section 13009 or 13009.1 of the Health and Safety Code resulting from a prescribed burn if all of the following conditions are met:

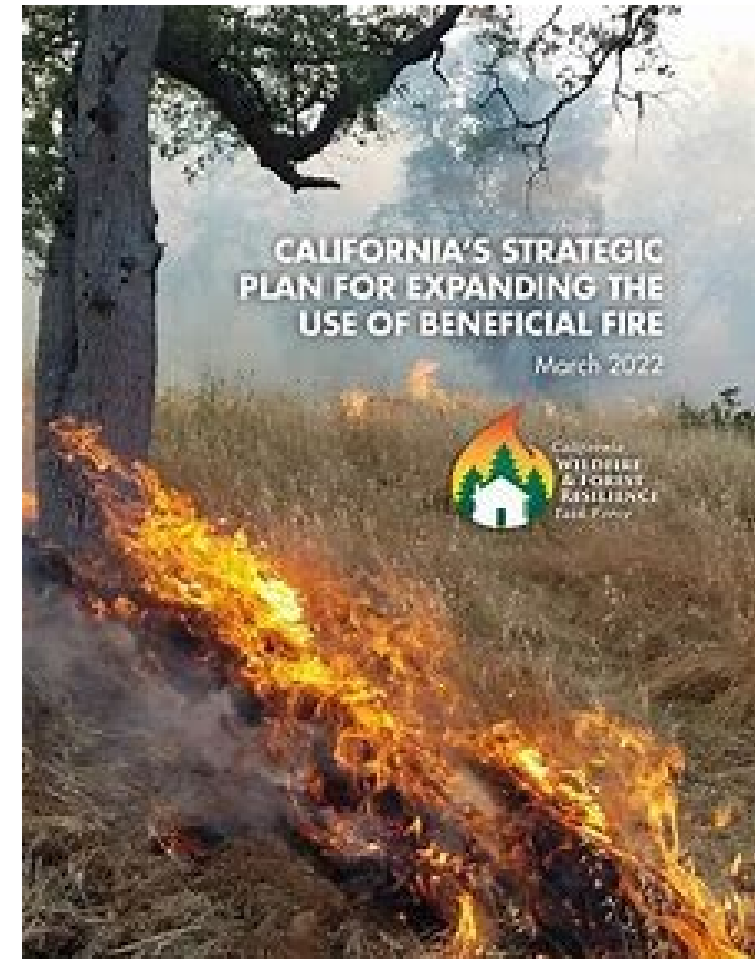
- (1) The purpose of the burn is for wildland fire hazard reduction, ecological maintenance and restoration, cultural burning, silviculture, or agriculture.
- (2) A person certified as a burn boss pursuant to Section 4477 of the Public Resources Code reviewed and approved a written prescription for the burn that includes adequate risk mitigation measures.
- (3) The burn is conducted in compliance with the written prescription.

Supporting legislation

- **SB-926 Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: Prescribed Fire Claims Fund (Dodd 2022)**
 - This legislation authorizes California Insurance Guarantee Association (CIGA) to administer the claims, covering certain losses arising from prescribed fires and cultural burning until January 1, 2028. This claims fund is intended to both encourage greater types of beneficial fire use.
 - The Fund will accept up to 200 reservations, but if the advisory group determines that additional reservations are necessary then additional applicants will be allowed. (Coverage- up to \$2 million per event)

Supporting legislation

- Strategic Plan sets a target of expanding beneficial fire to 500,000 acres annually by 2025, a shared goal between state, federal, tribal, and local entities including statewide cattlemen. The state invested \$1.5 billion in wildfire resilience in 2021 alone, including significant support for prescribed fire and cultural burning. Final goal will be to treat 1 million acres



Update to Burn Boss Classes

- 6 classes have been held with 147 students
- Certified Burn Bosses: 49



Challenges and Successes

- Great network of practitioners collaborating on burning and working on taskbooks for certification.
- Public outreach and education- UC's now working with practitioners to conduct fire research on landscape
- Students/Scope
 - Academia
 - Research
 - Ranchers



Challenges and Successes

- Continuous Funding-curriculum rewrite
- Outreach and Education on beneficial Fire
- Evaluation of the right audience and is the program successful?
- Smoke Taint and Vineyard Exposure
 - Fire prone community safety



Questions

