California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

A Comprehensive Strategy of the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force

January 2021
• Comprehensive framework to strengthen wildfire resilience and forest health.

• Helps to implement recent legislation and Executive Orders.

• Advances almost 100 specific actions.

• Builds on recent Shared Stewardship Agreement with USFS as well as local and regional partnerships.

• Developed through collaborative process.
Governor’s Forest Management Taskforce

Established in 2018 to develop more integrated, wholistic strategy.

Chaired by State agencies, and includes:
- USFS, National Parks, BLM
- Resource Conservation Districts
- Fire Safe Councils
- Environmental Conservation Organizations
- Energy and Water Agencies
- Timber Companies
- Academia (UC, CSU)

24 Working Groups, inclusive process
Call to Action

1. **Climate change** increases frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfires.

2. California’s diverse landscapes and communities require **regionally tailored strategies** and actions.

3. Building wildfire resilience means restoring the health of landscapes **and** strengthening wildfire preparation within our communities.

4. **Low-intensity fire** can improve forest health, biodiversity and public safety.

5. Strengthen links between the **ecological health** of our lands and the **economic health** of rural communities.

6. Landscapes at risk of wildfire cross multiple ownerships and need **strong partnerships** among federal, state, local and tribal entities and private landowners.
Key Goals of Action Plan

1. Increase the Pace and Scale of Forest Health Projects
2. Strengthen Protection of Communities
3. Manage Forests to Achieve the State’s Economic and Environmental Goals
4. Drive Innovation and Measure Progress
Increase Pace and Scale of Forest Health Projects

- Meet joint one-million-acre target for treated areas by 2025
- Expand use of prescribed fire, particularly on state land
- Conserve working forests and increase assistance to small landowners through consolidated programs
- Jump start restoration of burned areas
- Mobilize regional action plans through block grants
- Improve and align forest management regulations through the CalVTP and online platform (CalTREES).
2. Strengthen Protection of Communities

- Build a large network of fuel breaks around vulnerable communities
- Expand defensible space programs and inspections to create wildfire adapted homes and neighborhoods.
- Expand home hardening programs particularly for low-income residents
- Create fire-safe roadways and evacuation routes
- Support community-wide efforts to become resilient to wildfires
Manage Forests to Achieve the State’s Economic and Environmental Goals

Integrate forest management into state climate and biodiversity programs

Jump start sustainable wood products market through Climate Catalyst Fund and pilot projects to secure long-term contracts

Sustain and expand outdoor recreation for all on forestlands

Sustain ongoing programs to protect and expand urban forests
Drive Innovation and Measure Progress

- Coordinate investments in technology linking forest health, fire and climate data to better shape management decisions
- Align state and federal forest carbon accounting systems to inform state’s climate change programs
- Develop applied research plan focused on effectiveness of management strategies, health impacts of smoke, and other key issues
- Establish interagency Forest Data Hub to coordinate monitoring and reporting among federal, state, and local agencies
Next Steps

Brief Regional Groups

Streamline Structure of Task Force to Focus on Results and Accountability