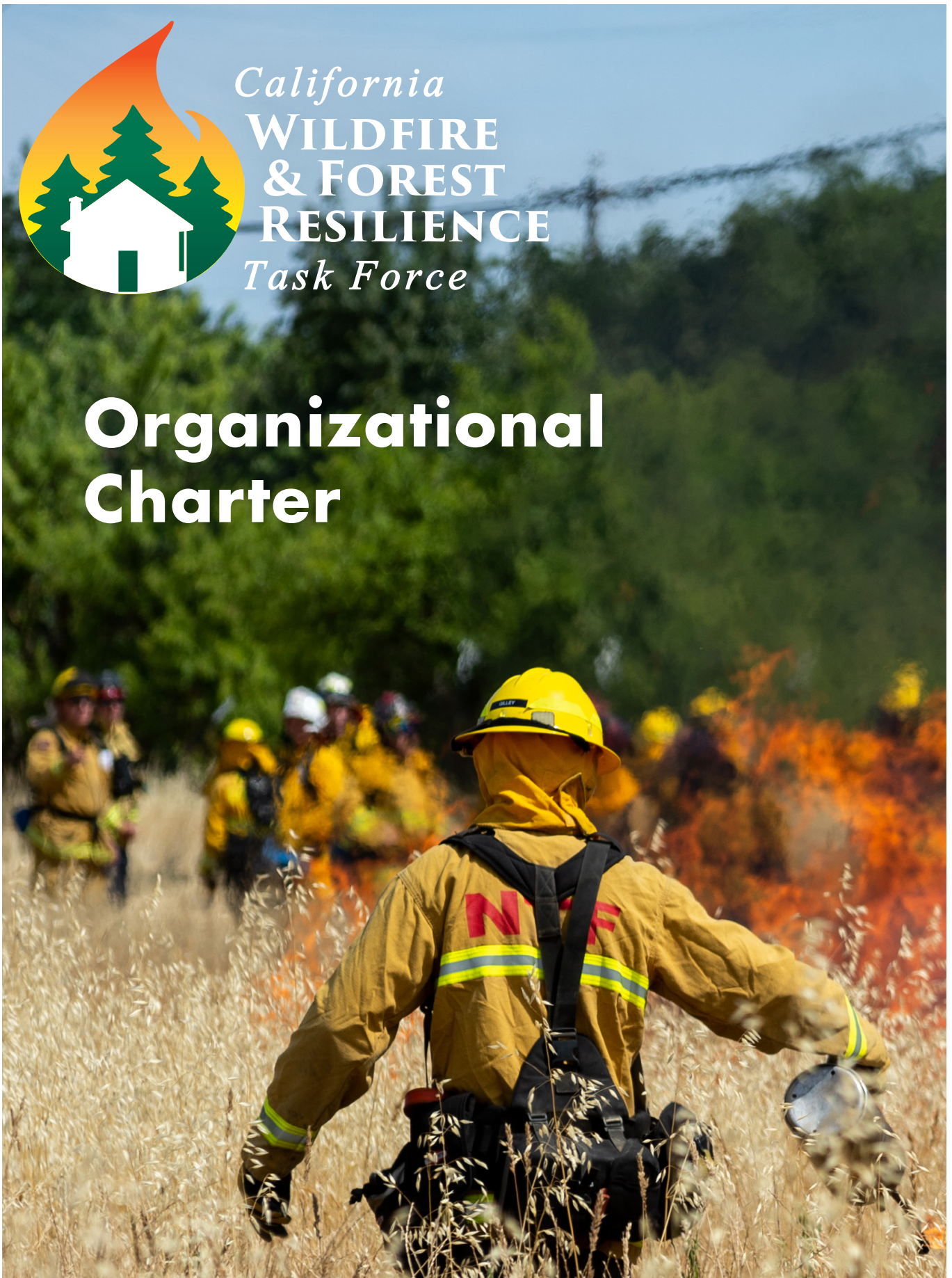




California
**WILDFIRE
& FOREST
RESILIENCE**
Task Force

Organizational Charter





Organizational Charter

April 2021

BACKGROUND

The California Forest Management Task Force (Task Force) was established in 2018 to introduce a more holistic, integrated approach toward effective forest management. The Task Force's purpose is to develop and implement a framework for establishing healthy and resilient forests and communities that can withstand and adapt to wildfire, drought, and a changing climate.

The Task Force grew out of the state's Tree Mortality Task Force, which was established during California's recent drought in response to the massive die-off of trees across the state. It was specifically charged with implementing the California Forest Carbon Plan of 2018 and Executive Order B-52-18, but also drew upon other mandates and recommendations from state, federal, local, and tribal governments, and private and public organizations. To accomplish its goals, the Task Force convened more than two dozen interagency and stakeholder-led workgroups to develop a comprehensive action plan.

The Task Force issued the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan) on January 8, 2021. The Action Plan is a broadly supported strategy to reduce wildfire risk for vulnerable communities, improve the health of forests and wildlands and accelerate action to combat climate change. The plan calls for achieving these goals largely through regional strategies tailored to the environmental conditions, risks and priorities in each area.

The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan also builds on the Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands signed last summer by Governor Newsom and U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen by aligning the state's efforts with a broad range of federal, local, tribal, regional and private organizations.

To maintain this momentum and to advance and implement the Action Plan, the Task Force will now be renamed to reflect its purposes beyond forest management and overhauled to be more focused and effective in delivering on the key commitments identified in the Action Plan.

NAME, SCOPE AND PURPOSES

The purpose of the Task Force is to develop and implement an interagency framework for establishing healthy and resilient forests and communities that can withstand and adapt to wildfire, drought, and a changing climate.

To accomplish this purpose, the Task Force will focus on:

- » Facilitating and tracking progress on the nearly 100 deliverables in the Action Plan;
- » Coordinating state, federal, local, tribal, academic, and private forest management and community wildfire protection programs;
- » Integrating reporting and data management efforts among the key agencies and the private sector;
- » Maintaining strong working relationships among the key agencies and stakeholders; and
- » Providing a forum for stakeholder engagement, outreach, and education.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Task Force shall be composed of the following key elements:

Executive Committee:

The Task Force shall be led an Executive Committee, which shall meet quarterly or as necessary to assess progress on the Action Plan, resolve key issues as they arise, and update the Plan as necessary to achieve the purpose of the Task Force. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- » The California Secretary for Natural Resources (co-chair),
- » The Regional Director of the USFS (co-chair),
- » The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency,
- » The Director of the Office of Planning and Research (OPR),
- » The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE),
- » A representative from the board of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC),
- » A representative from the board of the Rural Counties Representatives of California (RCRC), and
- » A Native American leader from the Inter-tribal Indigenous Stewardship Project.

Working Groups:

The Task Force shall include several interagency and stakeholder-driven workgroups to accomplish key deliverables, align agency activities and identify and resolve issues. The initial focus of the workgroups will be to develop workplans to assist lead agencies in accomplishing the Action Plan deliverables for each focus area. The Director of the Task Force will work with the chair(s) of each group to establish deadlines for accomplishing key deliverables. Agencies within the Task Force

may participate in any Working Groups that they see as relevant to their mission and can staff these Working Groups at their discretion.

The Task Force shall initially include the following workgroups to oversee the key deliverables in the Action Plan, as shown in more detail in the table below:

- » Forest Management
- » Wildfire Adapted Communities
- » Regional Frameworks
- » Monitoring, Reporting, and Assessment
- » Communications

The Task Force will also establish ad hoc or interim workgroups as necessary to focus on key issues. It will also rely upon other existing interagency and/or stakeholder-driven workgroups to oversee implementation of the Action Plan. For example, these shall initially include the following groups:

- » Wood Utilization: Advisory Council of the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation
- » Regulatory Efficiency: AB 1492 Leadership Team
- » Urban Forestry: Urban Forestry Advisory Committee
- » Utility-Related Fire Risk: Utility Wildfire Mitigation Steering Committee
- » Sustainable Recreation: CALREC Vision

Science Advisory Panel:

The Task Force shall continue to include a Science Advisory Panel to support science-based decision making, translate scientific findings related to agency programs, and identify research gaps to inform future forest health projects.

Staff and Core Team:

The Task Force Director and a small interagency team shall provide staff support for the Executive Committee. They will be assisted by key staff coordinators at CNRA, CALFIRE, CARB, the State Water Board, OPR, and the USFS, and a higher-level group who will coordinate the involvement of staff from their respective agencies, provide a key point of interagency communication, review the progress of the Work Groups, and resolve issues before they are presented to the Executive Committee.

Interagency Team:

A broader group of roughly 20 state and federal agencies should continue as members and will actively participate in the workgroups but meet only quarterly or as necessary for implementation updates and information sharing.

California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

Executive Committee

1. CA Natural Resources Agency (Co-chair) Wade Crowfoot, Secretary
2. USFS Region 5 (Co-chair) Jennifer Eberlien, Regional Forester
3. CalEPA Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary
4. Office of Planning and Research Sam Assefa, Director
5. CAL FIRE Thom Porter, Director
6. CSAC James Gore, President
7. RCRC Stacy Corless, Chair
8. Inter-tribal Indigenous Stewardship Project Don Hankins, Co-chair

STAFF

- Director Patrick Wright, Governor's Office
Program Manager Kristen Merrill, CAL FIRE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Core Team of Lead Agencies	Executive	Senior Staff
CNRA	Jessica Morse	Loretta Moreno
CAL FIRE	Matthew Reischman	Angela Lottes
CalEPA/CARB/State Water Board	Kristen Peer	Alan Talhelm/Clint Snyder
OPR	Nuin-Tara Key	Clay Kerchof
USFS	Liz Berger	Diana Craig
CSAC	Catherine Freeman	
RCRC	Staci Heaton	
Other State Agencies		Lead/Key Contact
Board of Forestry		Matt Dias
Dept of Conservation (DOC)		Keali'i Bright
Dept of Emergency Services (Cal OES)		Jennifer Hogan
Dept of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)		Isabel Baer
Dept of Parks and Recreation		Jay Chamberlin
Dept of Transportation (Caltrans)		Lisa Worthington
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		Rorie Skei
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		Angela Avery
State Water Resources Control Board		Clint Snyder
Tahoe Conservancy		Jane Freeman
Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)		Rebecca Fris

CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, continued

Other Federal Agencies	Lead/Key Contact
Bureau of Land Management	Genivieve Rasmussen
National Park Service	Robin Wills
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	Chris Zimny
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Michael Senn

WORKGROUPS, SUB-GROUPS & PANELS

Forest Management	Angela Lottes, CAL FIRE
(Actions 1.1 – 1.40)	TBD, USFS
• Private Land Management	Stew McMorrow, CAL FIRE
(Actions 1.9 - 1.16)	Chris Zimny, NRCS
• Prescribed Fire	Len Nielson, CAL FIRE
(Actions 1.18 - 1.27)	Lance Noxon, USFS
• Reforestation	Stew McMorrow, CAL FIRE
(Actions 1.33 - 1.34)	Joe Sherlock, USFS
• Workforce Development	Tim Robards, CAL FIRE
(Actions 1.26, 3.11)	Becky Roe, California Community Colleges
Fire-Adapted Communities	Steve Hawks, CAL FIRE
(Actions 2.1 – 2.32)	Erik de Kok, OPR
• Fire-safe Roadways	Lisa Worthington, Caltrans
Regional Frameworks	Keali'i Bright, DOC
(Actions 1.28 – 1.30)	Michelle Barry, USFS
• 4 Regional Work Groups	
Monitoring, Reporting and Assessment	Chris Keithley, CAL FIRE
(Actions 4.3 – 4.7)	Carlos Ramirez, USFS
.....	Alan Talhelm, CARB
Science Advisory Panel	John Battles, UC Berkeley
(Actions 4.1 – 4.10)	Steve Ostoja, USDA Climate Hub
Communications/Public Outreach	Christine McMorrow, CAL FIRE
.....	Staci Heaton, RCRC
.....	Jonathan Groveman, USFS