



OCTOBER 2022

TASK FORCE
HIGHLIGHTS

Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting: Nearly 500 gathered in Grass Valley on September 27 for the regional meeting of the Task Force. The [agenda](#) focused on the Sierra Nevada Region and the Task Force's efforts to develop a Regional Framework, translating statewide strategies to regional decision making and priority setting. The presentations were recorded, available on the [Task Force website](#), and summarized here:

- **Forest Resilience in the Sierra Nevada:** The Task Force's interagency science team reviewed their efforts to develop a comprehensive set of metrics and a [Sierra Regional Resource Kit](#) aimed at helping forest collaboratives measure and map wildfire resilience, biodiversity, carbon storage, watershed health, and other key priorities. Google.org unveiled the [Planscape](#) tool, developed to work with the Regional Resource Kits to help resource managers with prioritizing projects and treatments.
- **From Data to Decision-Making:** Forest Service leaders and their partners shared their efforts in using decision support tools for planning and prioritizing projects with their partners and communities. These landscape level land managers also gave us special insight to the opportunities and challenges specific to their national forests.
- **Resources For Resilience:** Task Force partners USFS and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy described how they are actively working to align funding to high priority landscapes. A description of SNC's pilot project is below.
- **Recreation Strategy Update:** Finally, state, federal, local, and tribal leaders of [CALREC Vision](#) outlined their strategic plan to promote equitable, accessible, and climate and fire-resilient outdoor recreation facilities throughout the state.

Sierra Nevada Regional Resource Kit & Profile: Developed by the Task Force's interagency science team, the [Regional Resource Kits](#) (RRK) are sets of tools and data created to accelerate the work by regional partners and collaboratives to reduce wildfire hazard and improve the conditions of forested and shrub landscapes. Each RRK will include: 1) a common framework for planning and prioritizing treatments; 2) core database of management-relevant metrics; and 3) assessments of current resource conditions. The first RRK developed is focused on the [Sierra Nevada](#), with the release of other regional kits timed to coincide with Task Force Regional Meetings.

CNRA announces tool to Improve Wildfire Resilience with Support from Google.org: The CNRA and the US Forest Service, along with support from Google.org, Google's philanthropic arm, has developed [Planscape](#) – a new wildfire resilience planning tool that uses state and federal resilience data to create user-friendly models that will be easily accessible to land planners. The new, open-source tool will permit everyone to evaluate fire risks and remedies.



Overview of Tools To Inform Land Management Decisions: The Task Force's Science Advisory Panel, in collaboration with USFS Region 5 and Pacific Southwest Research Station, curated a list of 24 available tools for land management decision-making in California, and created [a guide](#) to help managers determine which tool or tools would best meet their needs.

SNC to Pilot Wildfire Resilience Landscape Investment Strategy: SNC's [Landscape Grant Pilot Program](#) seeks to align funding from multiple agencies to provide large landscape grants that support strategic portfolios of projects across large landscapes over a 5- to 10-year timeframe.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

30 x 30 Partnership Kick Off: On September 28, CNRA kicked off collaboration and community engagement around the [30 x 30 initiative](#), which commits California to the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030. The Task Force is committed to aligning wildlife and forest resilience efforts with the state's biodiversity and climate goals. [Goal 3 of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) outlines how the Task Force will seek to integrate forest management into state climate and biodiversity strategies.

California State Legislature Invests \$150 Million for Green Schools: The state budget now includes \$150 million to be spent over the next 3 years to [create green schoolyards and schoolyard forests](#) at K-12 schools across the state. The funds will be administered by [CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry](#) program.

CAL FIRE Workforce & Development Grant Awards: [CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy](#) Team [announced the award](#) of \$6.4 million in new grants aimed at increasing California's capacity to establish healthy, resilient forests through workforce and business development.

CAL FIRE Research, Development & Innovation Team's Work in Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF): Our state forests provide living laboratories where scientists can study the effects of various forest management techniques. The [Research, Development & Innovation Team was recently in JDSF](#) to help determine a viable scale for implementing cameras that can be used for early detection and observations of fires.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

Expert Roundtable on Wildfire and Forest Resilience at UN Climate Week: Recognizing the need to bring together interdisciplinary, international coalitions to advance wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response, Prime Minister Trudeau and Governor Newsom committed their respective governments by [hosting a roundtable](#) on wildfire and forest resilience within their broader Climate Action and Nature Protection Partnership which they announced in June.

Biden-Harris Administration Invests More Than \$37 Million to Improve Recreational Sites and Cabins on National Forests and Grasslands The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service announced [more than \\$37 million in investments to improve vital recreation infrastructure](#) located on national forests and grasslands. These investments are made possible by President



Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which devotes unprecedented resources to rural infrastructure improvements, including repairs on national forest lands.

Sequoia National Forest Progresses on Giant Sequoia Emergency Response:

The Sequoia National Forest continues to make great [progress toward achieving the Giant Sequoia Emergency Response goals](#). To date, 1,213 Giant Sequoias have been protected in 6 groves covering 404 acres, and that number is growing daily.

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Impacts of Mosquito Fire on Actively Managed Blodgett Forest: Previous management history makes an acute difference in the resiliency of forests to wildfire. Active management, including prescribed fire and group selection silviculture, significantly altered the behavior of the Mosquito Fire at [UC Berkeley's Blodgett Forest](#).

Fighting the Goldspotted Oak Borer Instructional Video: Oak Grove, a small San Diego backcountry community, is a success story in stopping an invasive, tree-killing pest from attacking California's beautiful native oaks. The Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) is a deadly invasive pest that is threatening California's oak trees. UC wildlife biologist Dr. Tom Scoot and arborist Bret Hutchinson produced [a video](#) summarizing proven techniques for identifying and treating GSOB.

PRESS BOX

How to Save A Forest By Burning it, [New York Times, September 7, 2022.](#)

Empowering private landowners to prevent wildfires. [Stanford News, September 26, 2022.](#)

Clearing California's landscapes is critical to stopping megablazes. Why is it taking so long? [The Guardian, September 28, 2022](#)

Every burned town is tragic. But Newsom needs to lead with science, not sentiment. [Los Angeles Times, September 29, 2022 \(\\$\).](#)

A walk in the ashes of the Tubbs Fire. [The Press Democrat, October 3, 2022.](#)

Wildfires are getting worse. Can scientists save California's forests from going up in smoke? [Los Angeles Times, October 4, 2022 \(\\$\)](#)

Two groups want to put focus on carbon credits from urban forests. [Capitol Public Radio, October 4, 2022](#)

LEGISLATION WATCH

The 2022 session of the California Legislature adjourned on **August 31, 2022**. Below is an update on what was chaptered and what was vetoed:

- **SB 926 (Dodd) Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program:** Prescribed Fire Claims Fund. [CHAPTERED – Ch. 606, Stats. 2022:](#) Requires CAL FIRE to establish the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program, pursuant to SB 170 (Skinner), and to establish a Prescribed Fire Claims Fund, to be administered by CAL FIRE, CIGA, or another third-party administrator.



- **AB 522 (Fong) Forestry:** Forest Fire Prevention Exemption. CHAPTERED – Ch. 491, Stats. 2022: Amends the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption in PRC 4584 to extend the sunset date to January 1, 2026.
- **AB 2251 (Calderon) Urban forestry:** Statewide strategic plan. CHAPTERED – Ch. 186, Stats. 2022: Requires CAL FIRE to develop a statewide strategic plan by 2025 to increase tree canopy coverage in urban areas by 10 percent by 2035.
- **AB 1717 (Aguar-Curry) Public works:** Definition. VETOED. Expands the definition of public works to include fuels reduction work as part of wildfire mitigation projects done under contract and thus require the payment of prevailing wage for such projects.

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Life of a Forest Resilience Project Infographic: Forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction projects are complex, involving many steps and moving parts that determine whether a project will succeed and how long it will take. [This infographic](#) from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy takes a peek under the hood of forest restoration projects to lay out each of the steps necessary to get a project on the ground and through completion.

Informing Silvicultural Strategies for a Climate-Resilient species: Initial Insights from an Incense-Cedar Spacing Trial: Cox, et al., 2022: [Canadian Science Publishing, Canadian Journal of Forest Research](#)

Fire return intervals explain different vegetation cover responses to wildfire restoration in two Sierra Nevada basins: Crompton et al., 2022: [Science Direct, Forest Ecology and Management, October, 2022](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

CA State Parks' Wildfire Resiliency and Prevention Grant Round: The [Wildfire Resiliency and Prevention grant round](#) will support activities in state parks to help create a wildfire resilient state park system. We will invest in model programs that focus on wildfire resilience, risk reduction, mitigation, or preparedness. Application deadline: Nov. 4, 2022

CA Fire Safe Council's County Coordinator Grant Opportunity: The [County Coordinator Grant Opportunity](#) will support administrative costs associated educating, encouraging, and developing county-wide collaboration and coordination among various wildfire mitigation groups. Application deadline: Nov. 15, 2022

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Task Force Meetings: Dates and locations for 2023 Task Force meetings are available on the [Task Force website](#). Please note that the November 2022 meeting date has changed! The hybrid meeting is now scheduled for Monday, November 21 from 1-3:30 p.m. in the CA Natural Resources Building in Sacramento. [Sign up](#) for online participation.

National Forest Products Week & National Bioenergy Day: This year's, Congressionally designated "National Forest Products Week" is October 16-22. The week's activities will recognize the role and impact of forests and wood as integral components to the nation's environment, society, and economy. Activities include:



- October 18 and 20: [Field trips](#) to California's only [panelized kit home manufacturing facility](#) and mill site and store of [Far West Forest Products](#), a member of the [Urban Wood Network](#).
- October 19: [National Bioenergy Day Field Trips](#) of the Forest BioMAT Plant under construction in North Fork, Madera County.
- USDA Forest Service release of RFP for the [Wood Innovations Grants Program as well as Community Wood Grant Program](#).

Annual CARCD Conference: California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is hosting their [annual conference](#) November 30-December 2, 2022 in Folsom, California focusing on "Partnerships for California's Conservation Communities."

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Webinar Series: The Office of the State Fire Marshal - Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation (CWPM) program is hosting [a series of monthly webinars](#) on fire safety topics. The webinars will be an interactive platform to hear from and ask questions of staff from CWPM program staff of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Webinars on the CA Vegetation Treatment Program: The Cal Poly Fuels Management Training Program is providing [three upcoming webinar trainings](#) on the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP).

