



## NOVEMBER 2022

**NOVEMBER  
IS NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE  
MONTH**
**USFS Highlights Benefits from Knowledge of Tribal and Indigenous Fire Traditions:**

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the [U.S. Forest Service is highlighting](#) tribal traditional knowledge of wildfire and cultural burning, what the agency stands to learn from North America's first stewards, and how that knowledge can mitigate wildfire threats to communities while also creating conditions for healthier forests.

**CAL FIRE is Building Leadership, Trust and Capacity through Cultural Burning Workshops:**

[CAL FIRE is actively engaged with tribes](#) to better understand how cultural burning is different from prescribed burning and then applying lessons learned. By building relationships with tribal practitioners, CAL FIRE staff are gaining new insights into fire management and finding new ways to support tribal fire management practices.

**TASK FORCE  
HIGHLIGHTS**
**California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership Aims to Address Key Reforestation Challenges:**

The Task Force's Reforestation Work Group, led by American Forests in partnership with CAL FIRE and USFS Region 5, is launching the [California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership \(RPP\)](#) to address challenges related to post-burn reforestation opportunities on public and private lands in California. The RPP will regularly convene stakeholders to address challenges to California's reforestation pipeline; the first meeting was held November 4 in Sacramento.

**NCRP Requests Input on its "Vision for North Coast Resilience":**

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) has released a draft plan entitled "[A Vision for North Coast Resilience: Priorities for Enhancing Watershed, Forest and Community Resilience in the North Coast Region.](#)" The draft was informed by hundreds of partners and technical experts in the North Coast Region and beyond and aligns with and is guided by the objectives of the Task Force, as well as an array of Tribal, state and federal priorities for community and landscape resilience. [NCRP is requesting input and comments through 11/21.](#) The final plan will be considered for approval at NCRP's Leadership Council on 12/9.

**Task Force Adds Capacity:**

The Task Force Team will be made stronger in December with the addition of Forest Schafer its new State Coordinator. Forest is currently the Director of the Natural Resources Division for the California Tahoe Conservancy and has worked in natural resources protection for 19 years. He is a Registered Professional Forester and served as the incident commander of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team for seven years.



## STATE HIGHLIGHTS

**LiDAR Data Collection for Northern California and Sierra Nevada:** The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in partnership with the US Geologic Survey's [3DEP Program](#) and other entities, have now collected nearly 31.5 million acres of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) covering large swaths of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada. These data fill substantial gaps in LiDAR coverage to improve the state's ability to manage natural resources and protect public safety.

**CAL FIRE Summarizes this Year's Fire Season:** In this [recent video discussion between Secretary Crowfoot and Chief Tyler](#) they discuss how CAL FIRE has not only responded this year's wildfires, but has worked to mitigate fire behavior with proactive forest health and fire prevention work.

**California Enforces Nation's First Wildfire Safety Regulation to Help Drive Down Cost of Insurance:** California's Insurance [Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced](#) that his office will enforce a new insurance pricing [regulation](#) that recognizes and rewards wildfire safety and mitigation efforts made by homeowners and businesses. The regulation is the first in the nation requiring insurance companies to provide discounts to consumers under the Safer from Wildfires framework created by the California Department of Insurance in partnership with state emergency preparedness agencies.

**Wildfire Prevention Grants Program Hosts Webinar on Upcoming Grant Solicitation:** The [Office of the State Fire Marshal - Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation program](#) recently hosted a webinar featuring the upcoming solicitation from the [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#). This was the first in a monthly webinar series. [View Here](#).

**CAL FIRE Adds a New Demonstration State Forest:** [CAL FIRE added a new Demonstration State Forest](#) (DSF) and more than 1,200 acres to its demonstration state forest system. A 120-acre property in San Bernardino County will be referred to as the Sawmill Demonstration State Forest, taking its name from a historic sawmill. Another 1,151 acres was preserved in the American River headwaters in Placer County, completing the second of a three-phase project that will create a 2,618-acre DSF spanning the Upper American and Bear River watersheds.

**CAL FIRE Communications Tools and Platforms:** CAL FIRE is continuing to produce new tools and promote new platforms that help the public understand the work that the Department is doing to protect communities and steward healthy forests and ecosystems, while being transparent about the Department's progress. These include: publishing monthly [CAL FIRE Community](#) and [Jackson Demonstration State Forest](#) e-newsletters; building a library of ArcGIS story maps illustrating "[Success Stories](#)", and maintaining the [Fuel Reduction Project Viewer](#).

**'Inimim Forest Restoration Exemplifies Regional Implementation of Wildfire and Forest Resilience:** [The 'Inimim Forest Restoration Project](#) is a portion of the landscape-level South Yuba Rim Project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, CAL FIRE, and the Bureau of Land Management. The 'Inimim Forest is named after the indigenous Nisenan word for "ponderosa pine," and



the risk reduction and restoration treatments taking place within its boundaries are being informed by local knowledge and values.

## FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **The Caldor Fire: One Year Later Video Series:**

After months of research and collaboration, the Eldorado National Forest released [a four-part series](#) examining the Caldor Fire. This series reviews the suppression efforts that took place, the fire behavior challenging firefighters, the road to rehabilitation and restoration.

**Synthesis Report: Wildfire Crisis Roundtables:** In spring of 2022, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), together with the USFS, hosted a series of virtual ten roundtables for employees and partners of the agency to gather input on the USFS's *Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy* and associated *Implementation Plan*. [NFF has published a report](#) synthesizing key themes and opportunities for action that emerged from the roundtables. The NFF will host a [webinar](#) November 14, 2022.

**Statement By Forest Service Chief Randy Moore on Oregon Prescribed Fire Incident:** USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore sent a [message](#) to employees on an issue that occurred in the Pacific Northwest Region where a USFS Burn Boss was arrested while leading a prescribed fire that crossed over onto private lands.

**Thinning and Prescribed Treatments in Virtual Reality:** Penn State University and the USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station have created a virtual reality field tour to help users visualize what different types of thinning and prescribed fire treatments look like in an immersive way. The [21-minute tour](#) uses ultra-high resolution 360-degree imagery and visits twelve locations in the Stanislaus National Forest.

**DOI Hiring 200+ Wildland Firefighters and Support Positions:** The Department of the Interior's need to build a year-round, firefighting and fuels management workforce has increased tremendously over the past decade. To meet that demand, DOI agencies including Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service [are actively recruiting](#) those interested in careers in wildland fire management.

### **National Forests Are Taking Advantage of the Season to Get to Work on Wildfire Resilience and Forest Restoration Projects:**

- **Los Padres National Forest** is implementing [a strategic community fuelbreak](#) improvement project on the Monterey Ranger District with grant funding from the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration program.
- **Sequoia National Forest** announced the [McNally Ecological Reforestation Project](#) for burned areas within the 2002 McNally Fire footprint, Kern River Ranger District. The project is a partnership with American Forest and CAL FIRE designed to reforest areas where natural regeneration has not occurred.



- **Mendocino National Forest** can begin work on the [North Shore Restoration Project](#) to allow reforestation on over 2,600 acres in the Upper Lake Ranger District affected by the 2018 Ranch Fire. The project will include partnerships with Clear Lake Environmental Research Center and the Tribal Eco-Restoration Alliance as well as research by USFS-PSW and UC Davis.

## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

**Eastern Sierra Projects:** Two collaborative efforts will not only help build resiliency of town of Mammoth Lakes and the area's forests but also sustain the recreation economy that Mammoth provides in the Eastern Sierra.

- **Mammoth Lakes “Donut” Project:** The Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project, known locally as the “[Mammoth Donut](#),” is wrapping up its two-year preplanning phase and implementation will soon begin under this multi-year wildfire and forest resiliency project. The Inyo National Forest is now [inviting public input](#) on this project.
- **Mammoth Lakes Basin Trails Ribbon Cutting:** On October 5, Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes officially opened several new trails in the [Mammoth Lakes Basin](#). These new trails are a result of the community engagement effort from the Lakes Basin Special Study, an effort that began in 2012 led by the [Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation](#) with grant funding from SNC.

## PRESS BOX

**A new study shows just how awful California’s wildfire smoke is for the climate.** [SF Chronicle, October 17, 2022.](#)(\$)

**In California, unhealthy pollution from wildfire smoke has become dangerously common.** [KPBS, October 17, 2022.](#)

**Bay Area experiment captures data on California’s most dangerous wildfires.** [SF Chronicle, October 26, 2022.](#) (\$)

**The New World: Envisioning Life After Climate Change.** [New York Times, October 26, 2022.](#)(\$)

**Is it a climate emergency? Scientists say yes.** [Western Farm Press, October 27, 2022.](#)



## SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**Mega-disturbances cause rapid decline of mature conifer forest habitat in California.** Steel, et al., 2022: [Ecological Applications, e2763](#)

**Up in smoke: California's greenhouse gas reductions could be wiped out by 2020 Wildfires.** Jerrett et al., 2022: [Environmental Pollution, Vol. 310](#)

**Rangewide climatic sensitivities and non-timber values of tall Sequoia sempervirens forests.** Sillett et al., 2022: [Forest Ecology and Management, Vol. 526](#)

**Mass fire behavior created by extensive tree mortality and high tree density not predicted by operational fire behavior models in the southern Sierra Nevada.** Stephens et al., 2022: [Forest Ecology & Management, Vol. 518](#)

**Webinar Recording:** Prescribed Burning in Soquel Demonstration State Forest: How good fire can improve forest health and community safety. [Fuels Management Training Program, Cal Poly-Swanton Pacific Ranch](#)

**Webinar Recording:** Wildland Firefighter Health Series: Current Knowledge for Body, Mind, and Well-Being. [Northern Rockies Fire Science Network](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Grant Resources:** The [Task Force's web site hosts](#) a page of web sources that are valuable repositories of funding opportunities.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Fire, Forests, and the Future: Advancing Rural Communities in California:** [UC Davis Institute of the Environment](#) will present a panel on Wednesday, Nov. 16, focused on how rural economies can build sustainable communities, create wildfire resiliency, and ensure ecosystem and watershed health.

**Public Health Impact of Prescribed Fire:** CAL FIRE's Forest Health Research Program will host a webinar examining the [public health burden from PM2.5 exposure](#) of various prescribed fire regimes. The webinar will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

**California Forest Pest Council 2022 Annual Meeting:** This year's agenda will focus on, "[The Dynamics of California Forest Pests: from Hand Lens to Landscape](#)." November 16-17, 2022. The meeting will be both virtual and in-person at UC Davis.

**Upcoming Task Force Meetings:** Dates and locations for [2023 Task Force meetings](#) are available on the Task Force website.

