



DECEMBER 2022

STATE
HIGHLIGHTS

Governor Reflects on a Year of Progress and Resilience: In November, Governor Newsom and state and local officials [announced an end to peak wildfire season in California](#). [CAL FIRE Director Joe Tyler highlighted](#) favorable weather conditions, strategic investments in firefighting equipment, aerial resources, and fuels reduction and forest management projects, coupled with the hard work of firefighters and the diligence of local communities resulted in an 85% reduction in acres burned and a 78% reduction in structures destroyed from 2021.

CAL FIRE Funds Workforce and Business Development Projects: [CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Team](#) awarded \$14 million to 10 projects intended to increase California's capacity to establish healthy, resilient forests through workforce and business development. Grants awarded include a \$3 million grant to [Sierra Pacific Industries](#) to begin immediate construction on a new nursery that will be capable of producing 25 million seedlings per year.

CARB Releases Final Scoping Plan: The California Air Resources Board has released the [2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality](#) (2022 Scoping Plan), which will be presented at the Board Meeting on December 15, 2022. The 2022 Scoping Plan lays out a path to achieve targets for carbon neutrality and reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 85 percent below 1990 levels no later than 2045.

UCANR Publishes Report on California's Small Forest Landowners: A [new report](#), recently released by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) provides important lessons about forest landowners, their goals, the actions they have taken to date, and the obstacles they face in effectively managing their land. The report is a compilation of information gathered from forest landowners participating in the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative, an educational effort launched by UCANR and funded by CAL FIRE.

CNRA, USFS and Google.org Release Planscape Newsletter: [Planscape](#), a new planning tool that brings together the best available science to maximize landscape resilience, was officially announced at the September Task Force meeting by CA Natural Resources Agency, U.S. Forest Service and Google.org. Since that time, the Planscape Team continues to work with Task Force interagency team to build a decision support tool to help regional partnerships plan and prioritize projects. Follow progress by [signing up](#) for the [Planscape Newsletter](#).



FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Pacific Southwest Research (PSW) Station Briefs:

- [**Beneath the Surface: The Hydrology of Hidden Forest Systems:**](#) PSW hydrologists are looking at underlying bedrock in the King's River Experimental Watershed to better understand the relationship between drought and water use in trees.
- [**How Demographics and Funding Impact Wildfire Resilience:**](#) Research from PSW scientists have found that homeowners' willingness to pay to reduce wildfire risk in WUI areas is impacted by demographics and funding, with important implications for targeting financial incentives.
- [**Timing of Fire Study:**](#) Wildland firefighters from the Stanislaus National Forest and PSW researchers conducted a 21-acre prescribed burn on the Tuolumne Experimental Forest, a part of a Timing of Fire Study allowing researchers to compare how seasonal conditions affect the outcomes of prescribed fire.
- [**Growing Wildland Communities and Reducing Wildfire Threat:**](#) A recent article from USFS Pacific Southwest Region addresses the threat to homes in the wildland urban interface.
- [**Protecting the North Yuba Landscape with Thousands of Acres Thinned and Restored:**](#) The North Yuba Forest Partnership is a collaboration between USFS and eight regional partners with a common goal of ecological restoration and protecting local communities from catastrophic wildfire.

PRESS BOX

CAL FIRE funding will help plant 30,000 trees in SF freeway dead zones. [Landscape Architecture Magazine, November 30, 2022](#)

How forest thinning waste could fund California wildfire prevention. [CalMatters, November 30, 2022](#)

Forests After a Fire: How Long Does It Take to Recover? [Daily Californian, November 28, 2022](#)

Giga Fire Project Aims to Map all of California's Wildfire Fuels. [KCRA, November 26, 2022](#)

California's Native American Tribes are using Cultural Burns to Prevent Wildfires. [KCRA, November 18, 2022](#)

Insurers Finding New Ways to Combat Wildfire Risks, Triple I Report Finds. [Insurance Information Institute, November 17, 2022](#)

BURNED: A California Newsroom Investigation. [CapRadio, November 14, 2022.](#)

The arrest that shocked the firefighting world -- and threatens a vital practice. [The Guardian, November 13, 2022](#)



SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Wildfires: Burning Through State Budgets. [Findings](#) from a Pew Charitable Trusts study reveal the impact of wildfire spending on state fiscal policy. [Key findings and recommendations](#) for policymakers, will be highlighted on a [December 15 webinar](#).

The outsized role of California's largest wildfires in changing forest burn patterns and coarsening ecosystem scale. Cova et al., 2022: [Forest Ecology and Management](#), Vol. 528.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CAL FIRE Grants Solicitation Period Opens Soon: CAL FIRE's [Forest Health](#) and [Wildfire Prevention](#) and [Forest Health](#) grant programs will open their grant solicitation period on December 14 and 15 respectively. Funding available under the programs include:

- Forest Health: up to \$120 million
- Forest Health – Post-fire recovery and regeneration: up to \$50 million
- Forest Health – Tribal Wildfire Resilience: up to \$19 million
- Wildfire Prevention – Up to \$120 million

USFS Announces \$20.5 Million in Grants to Protect Water, Increase Wood Processing Capacity: The USDA Forest Service announced [\\$20.5 million in grants](#) to help states or federally recognized tribes establish temporary bridge programs to protect water resources during forest-related operations and to assist wood processing facility owners to establish, reopen, retrofit, or expand.

LOOKING AHEAD

CalVTP & PWP in Practice: Covell Ranch Forest Health Fuels Reduction: CalPoly San Luis Obispo's Fuels and Vegetation Education team is hosting a [webinar](#) exploring the planning and permitting pathways of a highly successful project in California's coastal zone.

Upcoming Task Force Meetings: The Southern California Regional Meeting of the Task Force will be held February 2-3 in Calabasas. Look for more information coming soon. Dates and locations for [2023 Task Force meetings](#) are available on the Task Force website.

