

MAY 2025

TASK FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Task Force Meeting Updates:

- **Spring Regional Meeting Recap Available:** A full-capacity audience of over 400 people came together in Marin County (with over 300 joining online) for the Task Force's Spring 2025 Regional Meeting. Hosted by Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and Fire Safe Marin, the agenda and activities focused on critical issues related to community wildfire risk reduction and landscape management in Marin County along with lessons from the Los Angeles fires. [Recordings of the sessions](#) are available on the Task Force's website.
- **June 6 Meeting in Sacramento:** The agenda will highlight how regional partners are working to implement multi-benefit, multi-jurisdictional work and how funding agencies are preparing to deliver Prop 4 funding. 9 a.m. to 1p.m., in-person in the CNRA Auditorium (no registration required) or via [Zoom](#) (registration required).
- **September 4-5 Regional Meeting in the Inland Empire:** The meeting will be hosted by the Inland Empire Community Foundation and Inland Empire RCD. More information will be announced soon.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

May Revision Budget Proposes Extending Cap-and-Trade and Shifting \$1.5 Billion from GGRF for Wildfire Prevention and Protection: The [May Revision of the Governor's budget](#) proposes an extension of the Cap-and-Trade program that is best captured in a renaming of the program to the Cap-and-Invest program and enshrined in clear guiding principles that enable a stable and predictable price on carbon pollution to drive deeper investments in carbon reduction and clean technologies.

The [May Revision proposes to shift \\$1.54 billion from the General Fund to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund \(GGRF\)](#) to support CAL FIRE's fire prevention, fire control, and resource management activities on an ongoing basis. This proposal aligns with the polluter-pays principle in which carbon emitters will fund the state's world-class forestry and fire protection programs in the face of wildfires that have become increasingly destructive because of climate change. The proposal also includes a General Fund backstop to protect CAL FIRE's operations in the event Cap-and-Invest auction proceeds fall below projected revenues. To address the projected budget shortfall, the May Revision includes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget, including a reversion of \$31.5 million General Fund appropriated for the acquisition of property for a new CAL FIRE training center. CAL FIRE is exploring more cost-effective alternatives that will meet the same training capacity goals as the new additional training center project through a combination of expanding and upgrading existing training facilities and utilizing newly identified long-term lease opportunities to minimize delays in training output.

CNRA and CalEPA Launch Process to Fast-track Projects as Part of Governor's Emergency Proclamation on Wildfire: Governor Newsom issued an [Emergency Proclamation](#) on March 1, 2025, to confront the severe ongoing risk of catastrophic wildfires that threatens public safety across California. The



Proclamation authorizes the Secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to determine which projects are eligible for suspension of certain State of California statutory and regulatory requirements to expedite critical fuels reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public resources and the environment. The Task Force has established a [website](#) on behalf of CNRA and CalEPA that includes eligibility criteria, requirements for environmental protections, FAQs, support resources, and a link to the [application to request a determination of eligibility](#) for suspension of relevant State of California statutory and regulatory requirements. The new streamlined process allows practitioners to move faster without compromising important environmental protections. A new [Statewide Fuels Reduction Environmental Protection Plan \(EPP\)](#) has been developed to enable critical wildfire safety projects to proceed expeditiously while protecting public health and the environment. The Secretaries also hosted [a virtual briefing](#) on the Proclamation and the process.

Governor Newsom Signs Legislation Allowing for \$170 Million in Accelerated Funding for Forest and Vegetation Management Across California: On April 14, Governor Newsom [signed](#) Assembly Bill 100, which allocates over \$170 million in accelerated funding to conservancies for forest and vegetation management across California. The bill also allocates [\\$10 million to the Karuk Tribe](#) to construct a first-of-its-kind Regional Fire Resiliency Center in northeastern Humboldt County. Funding to conservancies includes:

- \$30,904,000 to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- \$23,524,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy
- \$31,349,000 to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- \$30,904,000 to the State Coastal Conservancy
- \$30,904,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- \$23,524,000 to the San Diego River Conservancy

In addition, Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) to ensure that the wildfire safety projects funded under AB 100 benefit from streamlining under a [previous emergency proclamation issued in March](#).

CARB Publishes Annual Report on California Climate Investments as Governor Newsom and California Legislature Seek Extension of Cap-and-Trade Program: California Air Resources Board (CARB) published its [annual report](#) on [California Climate Investments](#) using Cap-and-Trade proceeds. According to the report, nearly \$33 billion has been raised from Cap-and-Trade to fund climate solutions in communities across the state; of this amount, \$12.8 billion worth of projects have been implemented under 117 programs administered by 27 agencies. Along with the report, CARB released a general [fact sheet](#) documenting cumulative project achievements through November 2024 including \$1.5 billion invested in wildfire prevention, forest health and prescribed burning activities along with 1.6 million acres of land conserved or restored. Just prior to the report's publication, Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore McGuire and Assembly Speaker Rivas [announced](#) they will seek an extension of the Cap-and-Trade Program during this legislative year. The program is currently set to expire in 2030 and requires extension by the Legislature. As the Governor noted in [his proposed budget](#), extending the



program this year can provide the market with greater certainty, attract stable investment, further California's climate leadership and set the state on a clear path to achieve its 2045 carbon-neutrality goal.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

Senator Padilla and Western Senators Introduce Bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act to Reduce Wildfire Risk: On April 11, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Wildfire Caucus and Senators, John Curtis (R-Utah), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) [introduced the Fix Our Forests Act](#). This bipartisan legislation aims to combat catastrophic wildfires, restore forest ecosystems, and make federal forest management more efficient and responsive. The bill reflects months of bipartisan negotiations to find consensus on how to best accelerate and improve forest management practices, streamline environmental reviews, and strengthen partnerships between federal agencies, states, tribes, and private stakeholders. [Key provisions specific to California](#) include:

- **Establishing a Wildfire Intelligence Center** to serve as a national hub for wildfire intelligence, prediction, coordination, and response. This joint office would be comprised of the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, and Commerce and is modeled after the National Weather Service. The center would modernize and unify wildfire management by leveraging real-time data, science, and interagency collaboration to better prepare for wildfires, assist with decision-support during a crisis, inform recovery, and streamline federal wildfire response.
- **Establishing an interagency program to coordinate federal wildfire risk reduction efforts across 10 federal agencies** through research, development of fire-resistant construction standards, hazard mitigation, and public-private partnerships. The program would provide a uniform application for multiple wildfire-related grants, streamline technical assistance, and mandate coordination with non-federal stakeholders.
- **Increasing the use of prescribed fire on both federal and non-federal lands** by prioritizing large, cross-boundary projects near wildland-urban interfaces, Tribal lands, high-risk fire zones, or critical habitats. It also strengthens the prescribed fire workforce by streamlining supervisory certification requirements and enhancing interoperability between federal and non-federal practitioners.
- **Allowing electric utilities with permits or easements on National Forest System or BLM land to cut and remove vegetation near power lines** without requiring a separate timber sale (if done in compliance with applicable plans and environmental laws). If the vegetation is sold, proceeds must be returned to the federal government.
- **Streamlining land management projects by authorizing emergency authorities** to increase the pace and scale of wildfire risk reduction projects on federal land. It includes appropriate guardrails to avoid abuse of these authorities and prohibits using emergency authorities for projects not aimed primarily at reducing wildfire risk or protecting communities. This would increase the acreage limit of streamlined projects for wildfire resilience projects, fuel breaks, and insect and disease projects from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.



USDA Announces \$23 Million in Grants to Support Transporting Hazardous Fuels:

On May 6, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced \$23 million in grants to support transporting hazardous fuels – such as dead or downed trees – from national forests to processing facilities. Through the USDA Forest Service's Hazardous Fuels Transportation Program, these grants will reduce the hazardous fuels that pose wildfire threats to communities, critical infrastructure and recreation areas.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief Schultz Announces Acting Regional Forester for Pacific Southwest (PSW) Region:

Chief Schultz [announced](#) Jason Kuiken will serve as acting regional forester for the PSW Region, effective March 31, 2025. Kuiken will temporarily succeed Regional Forester Jennifer Eberlien as she retires after almost 33 years of service. Kuiken has served as Forest Supervisor on the Stanislaus National Forest since 2017.

NIST Updates Critical Wildfire Evacuation and Sheltering Guidance:

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has just updated its [guidance](#) on preparing for wildfires based on the latest research and community feedback. Last updated in 2023, key guidance in the 2025 version of [Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Evacuation and Sheltering Considerations: Assessment, Planning, and Execution \(ESCAPE\)](#), include: 1) Create 'Temporary Fire Refuge Areas' in advance; 2) Plan ahead for "no-notice" evacuations; 3) Create 'decision zones' for evacuations. NIST has also created a [new interactive online course](#) that walks users through the core ideas of ESCAPE in a way that's easier to learn from than the full 150-page report.

PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Progress Report Highlights Significant Advances

in Emergency Wildfire Recovery, Research and Restoration: Officials from the State of California, USFS, National Park Service, Tule River Indian Tribe of California, Save the Redwoods League and other members of the [Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition](#) (GSLC) recently [announced](#) significant progress in their work to protect the largest trees on Earth from extreme wildfires. In its [2024 progress report](#), the GSLC confirms coalition partners have, since 2022, conducted restoration activities in more than half of the world's sequoia groves and planted more than 617,000 native trees.

Table Mountain Rancheria Celebrates Achievement as the State's 1,000th

Firewise Community During Wildfire Preparedness Week: Table Mountain Rancheria, located in Fresno County, has been [announced](#) as the 1,000th [Firewise USA®](#) community in the state during this year's [Wildfire Preparedness Week](#) celebration. This recognition by the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) highlights the commitment the community has taken to ensure that wildfire risk is reduced and that residents are prepared. [Governor Newsom declared](#) May 4-10 as "Wildfire Preparedness Week" with the theme, "Building a Fire-Ready Future: Strengthening Our Defenses, Together," to emphasize the importance of both collaborative efforts and individual responsibility in reducing and managing wildfire risk. CAL FIRE's [readyforwildfire.org](#) website hosts an array of preparedness resources.



CAL FIRE and USFS Develop the California Urban Tree Canopy Viewer to Help Visualize Urban Tree Canopy Data: The [interactive mapping tool](#) displays 2022 high-resolution (60cm) urban tree canopy for all 2020 Census designated urban areas in California, as well as canopy-related change between 2018 and 2022. It provides insights into the extent of changes to California's urban tree canopy and will help inform communities about where and how to maximize the benefits of urban trees. Data and more information are available on CAL FIRE's new [Urban and Community Forestry Hub](#).

The Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Publishes a Handbook to Help Wood Product and Bioenergy Businesses Navigate CEQA: The Joint Institute developed the [CEQA Handbook for Bioenergy and Wood Products Businesses](#) to help guide project developers, land use staff, local government leaders, and other interested parties through the CEQA process. The [insights and strategies](#) outlined in this handbook are especially relevant to bioenergy and wood products businesses using forest biomass. They may also be beneficial for bioenergy projects using wood from other sectors and for forest fuel reduction projects.

North Coast Resource Partnership Solicits Forest Resilience Implementation Projects in Support of their Regional Portfolio of Projects: In response to the Task Force and Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program encouragement of the development of regional portfolios of projects, the [North Coast Resource Partnership](#) (NCRP) is compiling a list of landscape scale, multi-benefit projects focused on wildfire resilience and forest health. The NCRP expects this project list to amplify the need for funding in the North Coast region, with most of the funding allocated to partners for implementation projects. NCRP is encouraging NCRP partners to complete a [survey](#) to be included in the project list.

LEGISLATION WATCH

Legislative deadlines in May will result in a reduction in the volume of bills impacting Task Force initiatives.

AB 1 (Connolly) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk. Would require the department, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to consider whether or not to update its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs. As part of this consideration, the bill would require the department to consult with specified agencies to identify additional building hardening measures to consider, as well as to develop and implement a public participation process during the evaluation.

AB 66 (Tangipa) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: egress route projects: fire safety. Would, until January 1, 2032, exempt from CEQA egress route projects undertaken by a public agency to improve emergency access to and evacuation from a subdivision without a secondary egress route if the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has recommended the creation of a secondary access to the subdivision and certain conditions are met. The bill would require the lead agency to hold a noticed public meeting to hear and respond to public comments before determining that a project is exempt.



AB 252 (Bains) Wildfire protection: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: staffing. This bill would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to reach full staffing levels, as defined, on or before January 1, 2028, and to maintain full staffing levels throughout the calendar year at all fire stations and facilities under its jurisdiction. The bill would require the department to implement staffing requirements on a schedule, as specified. The bill would require the department to report annually to the Legislature on, among other things, progress toward implementation of year-round staffing requirements.

AB 261 (Quirk-Silva) Fire safety: fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal. Would, as applied to both state responsibility areas and lands that are not state responsibility areas, authorize the State Fire Marshal, in periods between the State Fire Marshal's review of areas of the state for recommendations regarding an area's fire hazard severity zone, to confer with entities, including, but not limited to, public agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, project applicants, and members of the public, on actions that may impact the degree of fire hazard in an area or the area's recommended fire hazard severity zone designation. The bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal to provide a written response to an entity on actions that may impact the degree of fire hazard and would require this written response to be posted on the State Fire Marshal's internet website.

AB 270 (Petrie-Norris) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: autonomous firefighting activities. Would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a pilot project to assess whether a firefighting helicopter equipped with autonomous aerial suppression technology can be transitioned into operational use in the State of California. The bill would also require the department to invite local, state, tribal, and federal fire agencies to participate in those familiarization and training activities. The bill would require the department to convene, within 60 days of completion of the pilot project, or January 1, 2029, whichever comes first, leading fire professionals in California to assess the performance of the pilot project and, if the pilot project meets its objectives, determine how to incorporate autonomous aerial suppression technology into existing state wildfire mitigation efforts. The bill would require an operator of autonomous aerial suppression technology that is part of the pilot project and that is required to submit reports to local or federal agencies about autonomous aerial suppression technology to also provide those reports to the department and the Legislature.

AB 275 (Petrie-Norris) Office of Emergency Services: wildfire aerial response program. Would require the Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to establish, on or before December 31, 2026, a working group to evaluate and develop recommendations for implementing a wildfire aerial response program to provide year-round, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, rapid aerial suppression capabilities. It would require the working group to report its findings and implementation recommendations to the Assembly Committee on Emergency Management and the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization on or before December 31, 2027,



AB 300 (Lackey) Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal. Would require the State Fire Marshall, at least once every 5 years, to review areas in the state identified as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones, and to review lands within state responsibility areas classified as fire hazard severity zones.

AB 307 (Petrie-Norris) Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: fire camera mapping system. This bill would require, of the \$25,000,000 made available to CAL FIRE from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, \$10,000,000 be allocated for purposes of the ALERTCalifornia fire camera mapping system.

AB 404 (Sanchez) California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects. Would extend indefinitely an existing law (currently expiring January 1, 2028), that exempts from the requirements of CEQA prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects, or related activities, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 meeting certain requirements. Existing law requires a lead agency, if it determines that a project qualifies for the above exemption to file a notice of exemption with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and with the county clerk in the county in which the project will be located. By extending the requirements on the lead agency, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

AB 442 (Hadwick) Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973: working forest management plans: harvest area. Would delete the requirement under the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 that the harvest area of a working forest management plan be contained within a single hydrological area.

AB 513 (Gonzalez, Jeff) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan. Would require the State Air Resources Board to include greenhouse gas emissions from wildlands and forest fires in the scoping plan.

AB 623 (Dixon) Fire Prevention projects: California Environmental Quality Act: coastal development permits: exemptions. Would exempt a fuel modification project to maintain defensible space of 500 feet from each side and from the front and rear of a building or structure and a fuel reduction project to prevent and contain the spread of wildfires from the requirements of CEQA.

AB 687 (Patterson) Forestry: timber operations: maintenance of timberlands for fuels reduction. Would authorize up to 35 projects per year that are exclusively for noncommercial wildfire fuels reduction in timberland, less than 1,000 acres in size, and paid for in part or in whole with public funds, to prepare a timber harvesting plan to comply with CEQA.

AB 706 (Aguiar-Curry) Forest Organic Residue, Energy, and Safety Transformation and Wildfire Prevention Fund Act. Would establish the Forest and



Wildfire Prevention Fund in the State Treasury, and would continuously appropriate the fund to the Natural Resources Agency to reduce organic fuel sources that increase fire risk by providing funding for the fire fuel reduction procurement program, which the bill would also establish, to support sufficient procurement, transport, and beneficial use of forest biomass waste that reduces fuel for wildfires, as specified. The bill would require the fire fuel reduction program to grant funding priority to BioRAM, as defined, and BioMAT, as defined, fleets, in operation on or before January 1, 2031.

AB 758 (DeMaio) Wildfire: vegetation management. Would on or before January 1, 2028, and every 2 years thereafter, require CAL FIRE or a local entity to conduct an assessment, as provided, of all undeveloped public lands for which it is primarily responsible for preventing and suppressing fires to ensure that the public land is not a severe fire hazard.

AB 763 (Ward) Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements. Existing law provides that an entity submitting a timber harvesting plan is deemed to have given notice to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) of a lake or stream alteration and specifies that DFW is not required to issue an agreement fewer than 60 days from the date the notification is complete. This bill would require DFW issue an agreement within 5 working days of the approval of a timber harvesting plan by CAL FIRE.

AB 846 (Connolly)/SB 375 (Grove) Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities. Would authorize a local agency to submit to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife a wildfire preparedness plan to conduct wildfire preparedness activities on land designated as a fire hazard severity zone, as defined, that minimizes impacts to wildlife and habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species and require DFW to notify the local agency within 90 days of receipt of the wildfire preparedness plan if an incidental take permit or other permit is needed, or if there are other considerations, exemptions, or streamlined pathways that the wildfire preparedness activities qualify.

AB 900 (Papan) Environmental protection: 30x30 goals: land conservation: science-based management and stewardship. Would require CNRA, on or before July 1, 2026, to update the Pathways to 30x30 Report, and for the update to include, among other things, recommendations to increase science-based management and stewardship of 30x30 lands, including innovative ways to reduce barriers and increase federal, state, and local support for science-based management and stewardship.

AB 1227 (Ellis) CA Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects. Would, on or before January 31, 2026, require CalEPA and CNRA to each report to the Legislature information on the implementation of the on March 1, 2025, proclamation of a state of emergency that suspends applicable state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments and offices within these agencies for expediting critical fuels reduction projects



AB 1455 (Bryan) California Environmental Quality Act: certified regulatory program: State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection: ember-resistant zone.

Would require the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt regulations to implement defensible space requirements for an ember-resistant zone required within 5 feet of a structure in a state responsibility area and a very high fire hazard severity zone.

AB 1456 (Bryan) CA Environmental Quality Act: California Vegetation Treatment Program.

Would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the Board of Forestry to update the CalVTP Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) to expand the area that is treatable landscape under the FPEIR to portions of the state suitable for vegetation treatment consistent with the FPEIR, regardless of fire suppression responsibility designation, and recognize cultural burning conducted pursuant to a specified law as a covered treatment activity. The bill would authorize a public agency to partner with a federally recognized California Native American tribe to conduct a project under the FPEIR in the agency's jurisdiction.

ABX1 13 (Gonzalez) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: scoping plan.

Would require the CARB to include greenhouse gas emissions from wildlands and forest fires in the scoping plan.

SB 88 (Caballero) Air resources: carbon emissions: biomass. Would require CARB, on or before January 1, 2027, to finalize the standardized system and historic baseline of GHG emissions from California's natural fire regime reflecting conditions before modern fire suppression. The bill would require CARB, on or before January 1, 2028, to adopt a method of quantification of the lifecycle emissions from alternative uses of forest and agricultural biomass residues. Would require CARB, on or before January 1, 2028, to assess the suitability of developing a carbon credit or offset protocol for beneficial carbon removal products, including, but not limited to, biochar that are generated from agricultural biomass resources or forest biomass resources for inclusion in the state board's compliance offset program.

SB 223 (Alvarado-Gil) The Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act.

Would require CA Dept. of Public Health in consultation with CAL FIRE and the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated wildfire smoke and health data platform on or before July 1, 2028, that, among other things, would integrate wildfire smoke and health data from multiple databases. The purpose for the data platform would include providing adequate information to understand the negative health impacts on California's population caused by wildfire smoke and evaluating the effectiveness of investments in forest health and wildfire mitigation on health outcomes in California. This bill is a reprint of SB 945 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024).

SB 326 (Becker) Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act.

Would require the deputy director of CAL FIRE's office of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation, on or before January 1, 2027, and every 3 years thereafter, to prepare a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework sufficient to quantitatively evaluate wildfire risk mitigation actions,



as provided. The bill would require the framework to allow for geospatial evaluation and comparison of wildfire risk mitigation actions sufficient to direct coordinated mitigation efforts and long-term collaborative mitigation planning. The bill would require the be submitted to the Legislature, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, and the Public Utilities Commission for review and consideration.

SB 429 (Cortese) Wildfire Safety and Risk Mitigation Program. Would establish the Wildfire Safety and Risk Mitigation Program to fund the development, demonstration, and deployment of a public wildfire catastrophe model, as defined, and to provide grant funding to one or more universities for eligible projects with specified criteria for the purpose of creating a research and educational center responsible for developing, demonstrating, and deploying a public wildfire catastrophe model that provides significant wildfire safety benefits to California communities and assists alignment of federal, state, and local wildfire risk reduction efforts.

SB 581 (McGuire) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: employment: firefighters. Would require the Department of Human Resources, the State Personnel Board, and any other relevant state agency to transition the Firefighter I classification within CAL FIRE to a permanent firefighter employment classification.

SB 629 (Durazo) Wildfires: fire hazard severity zones: defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification enforcement. Would require the factors on which the State Fire Marshal bases the identification of fire severity zones include areas within the perimeter of a wildfire that burned 1,000 or more acres, destroyed more than 10 structures, or resulted in a fatality, and to include areas at risk for an urban conflagration that accounts for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extends the ember cast outside of wildland areas.

PRESS BOX

Deadly Palisades Fire may have grown from this Jan. 1 blaze. [San Francisco Chronicle, May 20, 2025.](#)

Trump wants to let chain saws loose in California national forests. Here's how it could go. [San Francisco Chronicle, May 18, 2025.](#)

Southern California Edison's Wildfire Mitigation Plan Leverages Grid Innovations to Advance Community Safety. [Edison International, May 16, 2025.](#)

Newsom to propose extending a landmark California climate law. [Politico, May 14, 2025.](#)

Community Resilience Series Ep. 1: California Wildfire Policy with Former CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director Chris Anthony. [Life with Fire Podcast, May 13, 2025.](#)

Scientists just found a way to break through climate apathy. [The Grist, May 5, 2025.](#)



Tahoe Donner Association signs landmark wildfire insurance policy tied to forest management. [Sierra Sun, May 2, 2025.](#)

Good Fire and Strong Sovereignty: Cultural Burning as a Path to Indigenous-Led Forest Stewardship. [Medium, May 1, 2025.](#)

Welcome to the first fire-resistant neighborhood. Now what about the rest of California? [CalMatters, April 30, 2025.](#)

Is there common ground for Gavin Newsom, Donald Trump on forestry? Timber! [The Sacramento Bee, April 24, 2025.](#)

‘Crazy’: Forest Service cuts ignite fear, fury over wildfire risks. [Politico, April 23, 2025.](#)

California will try to extend cap-and-trade despite Trump’s threats. [The Sacramento Bee, April 16, 2025.](#)

Trump administration seeks to narrow Endangered Species Act by redefining ‘harm.’ [Los Angeles Times, April 16, 2025.](#)

New signs of wildlife returning to the Eaton Fire burn zone show resilience of Mother Nature. [ABC Eyewitness News, April 16, 2025.](#)

Exploring the immense value of forest waste utilization via biomass energy in CA, w/ Matt Dias, Calforests. [Biomass Magazine Podcast Series, March 5, 2025.](#)

LATEST IN SCIENCE **Evidence for strong bottom-up controls on fire severity during extreme events.** Povak, et al. [Fire Ecology](#). May 1, 2025

Community engagement in fire preparedness: It’s how that matters. A primer for community wildfire practitioners. Davis et al. [Oregon State University Extension Service](#). May 2025.

Going slow to go fast: landscape designs to achieve multiple benefits. Manley et al. [Frontiers in Environmental Science](#). April 28, 2025.

The role of fuel treatments during incident management. Greiner, et al. [Fire Ecology](#). April 23, 2025.

Unpacking the taxonomy of wildland fire collaboratives in the United States West: Impact of response diversity on social-ecological resilience. Srinivasan, J. [Environmental Management](#). April 21, 2025.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CNRA’s Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program: The [EEM Grant Program](#) seeks projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified public transportation facilities. Technical assistance workshops will be held in May 2025.



WCB Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program: [This program](#) funds projects that provide climate adaptation and resilience on California's natural and working lands. [Rolling application.](#)

The Headwaters Economics Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire: This [technical assistance program](#) provides support for communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land-use planning, compelling communication, and applied research. [Rolling application.](#)

Wetlands and Mountain Meadows Restoration: [This program](#) provides funding for projects that restore or enhance wetlands and watershed ecosystems and provide co-benefits, consistent with the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and Pathways to 30x30. [Rolling Application.](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

Task Force 2025 Meeting Dates: The Task Force [2025 meeting dates](#) include.

- June 6: Sacramento, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- September 4-5: Regional Meeting – Inland Empire
- December 12: Sacramento, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

May 29 & June 13, 2025: California Licensed Foresters Association's Botany Brown Bag Field Trips: [CLFA](#) is sponsoring [two field trips](#) – one each in the Klamath Interior and North Coast –addressing botany, scoping and related issues.

June 17, 2025: California Forest Pest Council 2025 Insect and Disease Tour: This [free tour](#) will begin at Calaveras Big Trees State Park to look at and discuss Giant sequoia issues and will include a trip to the Bear Lake Area to observe and discuss red fir decline and white bark pine issues.

June 18-19, 2025: California Forest Pest Council's 2025 Annual Weed Tour: The [two-day tour](#) will embark from Jackson, CA and will include a discussion of Amador/Calaveras Fire Safe Council projects, herbicide application trials, vegetation treatments, laws and regulations.

June 10 – October 2025: UCANR Forest Stewardship Workshop Series: This [workshop series](#) will help landowners develop plans to improve and protect their forestlands in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner. The workshops will address management objectives and planning, forest restoration, fuels reduction, project development, permitting, and cost-share opportunities. Participants will connect with other landowners and learn how to collect information to develop their own management plans.

July 24-25, 2025: SCALE – Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement Project: SCALE members will [convene](#) with representatives from agencies and collaborative groups at the North Tahoe Event Center to continue to share information and provide a voice for community-based collaboratives in landscape-scale restoration work.

August 14-15, 2025. 30x30 Partnership 2025 Summit: Celebrating the halfway point to 30x30 and how to focus to achieve that goal. The themes of sustain,



strengthen, and succeed will be the launching point for engaging presentations, rich discussion, and time with colleagues to connect and learn about how 30x30 is being made real across California. [Registration opens](#) in June.

November 18-20, 2025: CARCD 80th Annual Conference: Save the date for this year's conference to be held at the DoubleTree Hilton in Sacramento. CARCD is also [soliciting proposals](#), with preference given to aimed specifically at RCDs and those that are interactive and engaging.

