



## March 4, 2026

### TASK FORCE UPDATES

**Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting Registration Closes March 5:** Join the Task Force and co-hosts Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association on March 19 in Tuolumne County for an in-depth discussion on the 2026 Action Plan and ongoing efforts across the Sierra Nevada focused on achieving, sustaining, and financing wildfire and landscape resilience. Participants will gain insight into regional coordination efforts, key investments into workforce and infrastructure, and innovative financing approaches that support long-term resilience outcomes. Tours showcasing local wildfire resilience efforts will take place on March 20 and include destinations in Yosemite National Park, Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and other locations in Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, and Mariposa counties.

- [In-person registration](#) closes March 5.
- [Virtual attendance](#) available.
- [Hotel registration](#) closes March 5.
- [Tour registration](#) will remain open until March 13.

**2026 Task Force Meetings:** [Upcoming meetings](#) include:

- March 19-20: Sierra Regional – Chicken Ranch Casino, Jamestown, Tuolumne County
- June 5: Sacramento
- October 1-2: North Coast Regional – Fortuna River Lodge, Humboldt County
- December 11: Sacramento

### STATE HIGHLIGHTS

**CAL FIRE Makes \$130 Million Available in Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Grants:**

- [CAL FIRE's Forest Health program](#) announced the availability of up to \$120 million for landscape-scale forest management and restoration efforts designed to improve ecosystem resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and deliver climate benefits such as increased carbon storage and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The solicitation includes \$55 million in GGRF and \$65 million in Climate Bond funding. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2026.
- CAL FIRE [announced](#) the availability of \$10 million in [Business and Workforce Development Grants](#) for projects that advance the business of healthy, resilient forests across California by encouraging private investment in clean technologies; employing innovative wood-processing solutions; and supporting the development of a skilled and resilient forest-sector workforce. The deadline to apply is May 20, 2026.

**California Air Resources Board Releases 2025 Natural and Working Lands**

**Carbon Inventory:** On February 11, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released [a state-of-the-science inventory of carbon stocks](#) and carbon stock change from all lands in California, as well as harvested wood products. This release represents the most comprehensive estimate ever done of California's carbon stocks in natural working lands, and also includes a supplemental



[report on the effects of wildfire and forest management on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon stock change](#). The inventory shows that even with catastrophic wildfires occurring more recently, the state's natural and working lands have absorbed more carbon than they released since 2001, helping counterbalance emissions from those fires. In most years, emissions from wildfire were lower than rates of uptake due to net primary production. However, in 2008, 2020, and 2021, wildfire emissions greatly exceeded net uptake by trees, shrubs, plants, and grasses.

### **CAL FIRE and Sierra Nevada Conservancy Post Draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Grant Guidelines for Review:**

The Climate Bond made available funding to “implement regional projects, including, but not limited to, landscape-scale projects developed by forest collaboratives, projects developed by regional entities, and projects that implement strategies developed by state conservancies.” Both CAL FIRE and SNC have posted draft guidelines for public review that will guide the distribution of these funds.

- CAL FIRE is [inviting public feedback](#) on draft guidelines for [Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Grants](#). This new grant opportunity will direct \$30 million in FY24/25 Climate Bond funding to collaborative land management partnerships and entities that have developed, planned, and are ready to implement portfolios of multi-benefit projects across a landscape. Comments are due April 13, 2026.
- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is [inviting public comment](#) on [draft Landscape Grant Program Guidelines](#) that will mobilize funds from the 2024 Climate Bond for regional projects, including landscape-scale projects developed by forest collaboratives. This directed grant program will provide substantial funding to collaborative groups working across multi-jurisdictional landscapes, advancing portfolios of restoration and resilience projects that address ecological and community priorities at a meaningful scale. Comments are due March 25, 2026.

**California Releases Independent, Third-Party Evaluation of California’s Timber Harvest Plan Review Process:** On March 2, the California Natural Resource Agency released an [independent evaluation](#), conducted by Sacramento-based consultant NiVACK Group, of the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration program's performance and processes for conducting California Timber Harvest Plan (THP) reviews. The report found that while the THP process functions as designed, there are opportunities to improve transparency and bring clarity to the process and workflow. The report offers recommendations intended to yield a more effective, efficient and technologically improved experience for parties involved in the process, including small landowners, industrial timber operators, California Native American Tribes, the public and review team personnel. NiVACK will present an overview of the report and its recommendations at the [March 11 meeting of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection](#). On May 15, CNRA and CalEPA will host a [roundtable discussion](#) (in-person in Sacramento and virtual) to solicit feedback from interested parties regarding recommendations made in the report.



**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Awards Over \$3.6 Million of Climate Bond Funds for Local Wildfire Prevention:** On February 23, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) Board approved three grants, funded by Prop 4 (Climate Bond), to support efforts by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to reduce wildfire risk in the Los Angeles area. MRCA received \$2,065,500 to support reduction of flashy non-native fuel, support defensible space, and remove hazard trees; \$590,000 for workforce development, to train and deploy fire-ready crews for vegetation management and wildfire readiness and suppression; and \$344,500 for structure hardening and renovations for crew accommodations to support surges in staffing needs for Red Flag and fire events. In addition to the grants to MRCA, SMMC also granted \$649,322 to Ventura County Fire Protection District in January for targeted fuel reduction, including fuel breaks, prescribed grazing, and roadside clearing.

**Wildlife Conservation Board Awards Grant to Support Biodiversity Enhancement and Cultural Burning on Pepperwood Preserve.** On February 26, the Wildlife Conservation Board [awarded](#) a \$1.75 million grant to [Pepperwood Foundation](#), in cooperation with Conservation Corps North Bay, to restore 893 acres of oak woodland and grasslands in Sonoma County. The project reduces fuel loads, enhances biodiversity, restores native grasslands and oak woodlands, and brings back cultural burning as part of land stewardship. An additional \$58 million was awarded to projects advancing wildlife crossings, salmon recovery, and public access.

**California State Parks Acquires 153-Acre NoraBella property from Sempervirens Fund, Permanently Expanding Big Basin Redwoods State Park.** On February 27, State Parks and Sempervirens Fund [announced](#) the permanent addition of the 153-acre NoraBella property to expand Big Basin Redwoods State Park in Boulder Creek. The \$2.415 million acquisition is the first for Big Basin since 2011. Permanent protection of NoraBella as part of Big Basin will help ensure the long-term health of the Boulder Creek watershed and the San Lorenzo River system it supports.

**CAL FIRE Launches Forest Health Education Campaign:** On February 17, CAL FIRE [launched a new 2026 forest health media and education campaign](#). The campaign is aimed at helping Californians better understand the role healthy forests play in mitigating the growing wildfire threat and highlights the actions we can take together to reduce risk and protect lives, communities, and natural resources. A key focus of the campaign is highlighting proactive forest management, including beneficial fire as well as the important role individuals play at home and in their communities to prepare for wildfire through home hardening and by creating and maintaining defensible space. To support wildfire resilience messaging and public awareness, the campaign includes [a new toolkit](#) that contains easily customizable graphics and copy for use on social media, banners, and billboards.

## FEDERAL UPDATES

**U.S. Department of Interior Launches U.S. Wildland Fire Service:** In January 2026, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) established the new [U.S. Wildland Fire Service](#) which consolidates wildland fire management across the Bureau of



Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Office of Aviation Services, Office of Wildland Fire, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to streamline wildfire prevention, response, and recovery efforts across public lands administered by DOI. The U.S. Wildland Fire Service works to reduce wildfire risk through proactive fuels management; create fire-resilient landscapes; advance wildland fire science and technology; promote fire-adapted communities; and respond to wildfires in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and Tribal, state and local partners.

The new service was created following [Executive Order 14308, Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response](#), which directs federal agencies to streamline and modernize wildland fire management nationwide and the [DOI Secretary's Order 3443, Elevating and Unifying DOI's Wildland Fire Management Program](#), which directs the establishment of U.S. Wildland Fire Service within the Interior Department. The service will provide wildland fire management on over 500 million acres of public and Tribal lands across the nation, employ 5,780 federal wildland fire personnel annually and supports approximately 900 tribal wildland fire personnel.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Awards \$14.7 million to the Tule River Tribe for Biochar Project:** The EPA has awarded a \$14.7 million grant to a biochar project that will enable the [Tule River Tribe of California to tap into carbon credit revenue](#). Under the project, the Tule River Economic Development Corp. (TREDC) will utilize the EPA grant to construct a biochar production plant in California's Central Valley that will also have the capacity to generate renewable electricity. According to TREDC estimates, the plant will be able to process up to 31,500 tons of woody residue annually, producing approximately 4,500 tons of biochar and roughly 4,000 megawatt-hours of renewable power each year. Its operations are also projected to be able to remove up to 10,600 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually and provide jobs for tribal citizens.

**New Interactive Map Shows Potential Recreation Displacement by Wildfire in Southern California National Forests:** The U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station released a [new interactive online map](#) that identifies where the greatest risk of long-term recreation displacement due to wildfire lies and is intended to provide land managers with spatial information on the potential for recreation destinations to be closed or disrupted due to wildfire.

**Forest Service Proposes Streamlined Objection Process to Accelerate Project Delivery:** On February 5, the U.S. Forest Service announced proposed revisions to the regulations governing the pre-decisional administrative review. Officially known as 36 CFR Part 218, the regulations are more commonly referred to as the "objection process." The proposed rule would consolidate and streamline processes for the Forest Service to implement forest land and resource management plans, including vegetation management, recreation and infrastructure improvements, wildlife habitat work, energy and special use proposals, and Healthy Forests Restoration Act projects. Key elements of the proposed rule include:

- Cutting the overall objection timeline by more than 50% with shorter comment and objection periods.



- Eliminating review period extensions.
- Lowering objection page limits and including more focused content requirements.
- Expanding use of modern technology for submitting comments and objections and distributing responses.

**U.S. Forest Service Announces \$182 Million to Support Counties, Schools and Wildfire Preparedness:** On February 20, the U.S. Forest Service [announced](#) it is issuing \$182 million in retroactive Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments for 2024, delivering critical funding to eligible states and counties with National Forest System lands. These payments help sustain public schools, maintain local roads, strengthen wildfire preparedness, and support other essential services in rural communities. These funds will enhance wildfire readiness at the local level by supporting Firewise Communities programs, reimbursing counties for emergency services on national forests, and supporting the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans — making communities safer and improving coordination with Forest Service wildfire response efforts.

## PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

### **Task Force Partner Videos Depict How Collaboration Has Helped Ensure the Success of Wildfire Resilience Projects:**

- [Prescribed Burning 101 on McCloud Soda Springs](#), Pacific Forest Trust
- [Protecting California's Redwoods from Wildfires and Drought](#), CAL FIRE
- [Every Cone Counts](#), UC Davis College of Biological Sciences
- [Forest Power: Woodchips to Electricity](#), U.S. Forest Service
- [Post-wildfire restoration in the 2018 Camp Fire](#), U.S. Forest Service

## LEGISLATION WATCH

**AB 35 (Alvarez) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.** Would exempt the adoption of regulations needed to effectuate or implement programs of the Clean Air Bond Act from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, as provided. Would require a state entity that receives funding to administer a competitive grant program established using the Administrative Procedure Act exemption to do certain things, including develop draft project solicitation and evaluation guidelines and to submit those guidelines to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, except as provided. Would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to post an electronic form of the guidelines submitted by a state entity and the subsequent verifications on the Natural Resources Agency's internet website.

**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 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 300 (Lackey) Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.** Would require the State Fire Marshall to classify and review lands within state responsibility areas as fire hazard severity zones and identify and review areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones at least once every 8 years.

**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 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.

**AB 763 (Ward) Timber harvesting: streambed agreement: waste discharge requirements.** Would require a regional water quality control board that has adopted general waste discharge requirements for timber harvesting, the regional board to approve, deny, or otherwise act on a request for coverage for timber harvesting operations performed consistent with an approved timber harvesting plan subject to those general waste discharge requirements.

**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 1227 (Ellis) CA Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects.** Would exempt a wildfire prevention project from the CEQA requirement that: a mitigated negative declaration be prepared if a project may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment.

**AB 1699 (Rogers) Good Fire Act: Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: burn bosses: California Environmental Quality Act.** Would establish the Good Fire Act, which would indefinitely extend the Prescribed Fire Liability Program, the pilot program for which is currently active only until January 1, 2028.

**AB 1891 (Connolly) Forestry: Beneficial Fire Capacity Program.** Would establish in CAL FIRE the Beneficial Fire Capacity Program to expand training, organizational capacity, and support for community-led beneficial fire programs, including those developed by California Native American tribes, nongovernmental organizations, universities and colleges, resources conservation districts, volunteer fire districts, and other local or special districts, and would require the program to provide competitive grants for beneficial fire implementation, capacity building, research, innovation, and training.

**AB 2102 (DeMaio) Wildfire: Vegetation management: fuel reduction activities.** 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, and post this assessment on the department's and local entity's internet website. Would also require all public lands, on or before January 1, 2028, to have 200-foot firebreaks on all borders with private property.

**AB 2184 (Wilson) Cap-and-Invest Program: nature-based climate solutions: funding.** Would annually appropriate up to \$300,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the annual Budget Act each fiscal year from the 2027–2028 to the 2045–46 fiscal year, inclusive, to achieve nature-based climate solutions, including \$150,000,000 to be allocated to the Natural Resources Agency to fund nature-based climate solutions, not less than \$50,000,000 to be allocated to the Department of Food and Agriculture to fund nature-based climate solutions in croplands and grasslands, and the remaining amount to be allocated for nature-based climate solutions at the discretion of the Legislature.



**AB 2410 (Ellis) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects: California Environmental Quality Act: California Coastal Act.** Would, on or before January 31, 2028, require the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to each report to the Legislature information on the implementation of Governor's March 1, 2025 proclamation of emergency, suspending applicable state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction projects.

**AB 2494 (Rogers) State forests: forest management.** Would redefine "management" for purposes of state forests as the handling of forest vegetation and soils within state forests for biodiversity conservation and fire resilience, while maximizing the promotion of durable onsite carbon storage and sequestration, climate resiliency goals, equitable forest access, wildlife and recreation opportunities, and compatible research efforts. "Management" is currently defined for purposes of the state forests as a means of handling forest crop and forest soil to achieve maximum sustained production of high-quality forest products while giving consideration to values relating to, among other values, recreation, watershed, and wildlife.

**AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris) Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants.** Would authorize the Director of the Department of Conservation to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement the regional priority strategies. Would require, on or before July 1, 2027, the director in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to establish guidelines for funding these grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Would rename the Forest Health Program administered by the department as the Ecosystem Health 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.

**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 899 (Grove) Fire prevention: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force: wildfire smoke.** Would require the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, on or before July 1, 2028, and in cooperation with the Office of Environmental



Health Hazard Assessment and the State Department of Public Health, to assess the health costs and impacts of high-severity wildfire smoke using existing wildfire smoke and health data. And would require the Task Force, in developing this assessment, to, among other things, develop a model to determine the approximate health benefits of achieving the goals identified in the action plan and make recommendations on how the action plan can increase its health benefits.

**SB 983 (Becker) Wildfire County Coordinator Program.** Would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to (1) establish recommended standards for wildfire risk modeling and analysis tools, (2) develop guidance and tools related to wildfire risk assessments, (3) support the development, updating, or procurement of county-level wildfire risk assessments, and (4) develop guidance and templates for the creation or revision of county-level wildfire resilience prioritization and implementation plans, and accompanying guidance for integrating these plans with related wildfire resilience programs, as provided.

**SB 1079 (Stern) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Fire Innovation Unit.** Would establish the Fire Innovation Unit within CAL FIRE, under the direction of a Deputy Director of Wildfire Innovation, to serve as the department's innovation arm and the state's principal hub for wildfire technology research, coordination, procurement, and deployment. Would authorize the unit to establish and administer a grant program to fund early-stage, mature, or dual-use technology projects that enhance wildfire readiness, mitigation, or response. Would also authorize the unit to (1) administer or monitor pilot, prototype, or demonstration projects to evaluate, mature, and validate wildfire-related technologies, (2) collaborate with public and private educational and research institutions on wildfire technology and innovation, (3) establish testbeds to test or evaluate emerging technologies, and (4) provide technical assistance to local, state, federal, and international fire agencies to facilitate deployment of wildfire-related technologies.

**SB 1404 (Stern) Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: implementation strategy.** Would require the Task Force's implementation strategy include quantified risk-based planning and outcomes-based performance metrics, to support local and community fire risk reduction and adaptation programs and projects.

## PRESS BOX

**Invest in people and community resilience will follow.** [Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, February 26, 2026.](#)

**How wildfires can be leveraged to increase forest resilience.** [UCANR Green Blog, February 19, 2026.](#)

**State bill would mandate insurance for homeowners who reduce wildfire risks.** [Los Angeles Times, February 19, 2026.](#) \$

**Can a simple spray protect grapes from wildfire smoke?** [UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, February 19, 2026.](#)



**Rising simultaneous fire weather threatens international firefighting efforts.** [The Nature Conservancy Newsroom, February 18, 2026.](#)

**CAL FIRE launches new forest health education campaign.** [Action News Now, February 17, 2026.](#)

**Lake Tahoe Community College Fire Academy Reaccredited by State Fire Training.** [Tahoe Daily Tribune, February 13, 2026.](#)

**Post-wildfire restoration in the 2018 Camp Fire area on the Plumas National Forest.** [U.S. Forest Service Featured Stories, February 11, 2026.](#)

**Forest power: woodchips to electricity.** [U.S. Forest Service Featured Stories, January 29, 2026.](#)

**LATEST IN SCIENCE** **Perspectives: The pace and scale challenge: Leveraging wildfire footprints to increase forest resilience to future high-severity fire.** [Wilson, et al., Forest Ecology and Management, Vol. 603, March 1, 2026, 123443.](#)

**Increasing synchronicity of global extreme fire weather.** [Yin, et al., Science Advances, Vol. 12, No. 8, February 18, 2026.](#)

**Patterns of tree damage and fuels around powerlines in Northern California.** [Ziegler et al., Volume 395, December 2025, 127951.](#)

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Climate Smart Communities Initiative:** The [Climate Smart Communities Initiative Climate Resilience Project Grants](#) fund project teams consisting of a local or regional government entity and a community-based organization to advance community-based climate resilience in communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. [Applications are due March 12, 2026.](#)

**NFWF's Healthy American Forests Initiative:** [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#), through an agreement from the USFS will support watershed restoration and vegetation management projects on National Forest System lands to achieve a healthy forest ecosystem. [Full proposals are due March 17, 2026.](#)

**CAL FIRE Forest Health:** Up to \$120 million is available from [CAL FIRE Forest Health](#) for landscape-scale forest management and restoration efforts designed to improve ecosystem resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and deliver climate benefits such as increased carbon storage and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. [The deadline to apply is March 30, 2026.](#)

**Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Grants:** [This USFS Program](#) is seeking proposals that support crucial links between resilient, healthy forests, strong rural economies, and jobs in the forestry sector. This funding will spark innovation, create new markets for wood products and wood energy, and expand processing capacity. [Application period closes April 22, 2026.](#)



**CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grants:** \$10 million is available to strengthen California's forest-sector businesses and workforce while promoting healthy, resilient forests statewide. [These grants](#) support a variety of projects that enhance industry operations, develop workforce skills, and foster innovation in the forest sector. [Applications are due by May 20, 2026.](#)

**The USDA Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program:** [This program](#) provides loan guarantees to establish, reopen, expand, or improve sawmills and other wood-processing facilities. [Rolling application until funds depleted.](#)

**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.](#)

**Wood Energy Management Assistance Team:** The U.S. Forest Service has partnered with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities to support direct, expert technical assistance to wood products manufacturers, provided by industry expert consults, through the [Wood Manufacturing Assistance Team](#) (WMAT). The WMAT can support a wide range of services, including operational efficiency audits, identification of equipment or process improvements, development of long-term strategic investment plans, maintenance and safety program reviews, capital investment feasibility studies, identification of new markets or expansion opportunities. [Rolling application.](#)

**CA Wildlife Conservation Board Forest Conservation Program:** [This program](#) advances the protection, restoration, and improvement of upper watershed lands in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains, including forest lands, meadows, wetlands, chaparral, and riparian habitat, in order to protect and improve water supply and water quality, improve forest health, reduce wildfire danger, mitigate the effects of wildfires on water quality and supply, increase flood protection, or protect or restore riparian or aquatic resources. [Rolling application.](#)

**CA Wildlife Conservation Board Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program:** [This program](#) funds projects that provide climate adaptation and resilience on California's natural and working lands. [Rolling application.](#)

**CA Wildlife Conservation Board Oak Woodlands Conservation Program:** [This program](#) provides a mechanism to bring ranchers and conservationists together in a manner that allows both to achieve sustainable ranch and farming operations and healthy oak woodlands. [Rolling application.](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD

**March 3-4, Forestry Strategies and Innovations (FSI):** [Calforests' annual conference, FSI](#) brings together the state's forestry sector and key partners in an effort to engage in critical conversations surrounding the industry, to evaluate and improve best practices, to share important knowledge and



innovations, and to invite key stakeholders to further the work of forest management and wildfire protection.

**March 4-6, Adapting Together – Shaping the Future of Fire in the Northwest:** Oregon State University, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network and the Northwest Fire Science Consortium are hosting a [fire adaptation workshop](#) highlighting voices from Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana in Skamania Lodge, Washington.

**March 10, Wildfire Commons Webinar: Planscape:** The [webinar](#) will feature, Planscape - a decision support tool for wildfire resilience. Planscape is a free decision support tool built to maximize wildfire resilience by helping regional planners prioritize landscape treatments.

**March 11, Board of Forestry Meeting:** Agendas for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's March 2026 meetings are now [posted online and available for viewing](#)

**March 11-12, Startup Pathways Workshop:** Organized by the Forest Business Alliance, [this in-person workshop in Sacramento](#), will provide insights, tips, and real-world advice for wood products business startups.

**March 16-19, Annual California Land and Water Conservation Conference:** Sponsored by [CA Council of Land Trusts](#) this in-person convening will bring together land trusts, Tribal leaders, public agencies, funders, and policymakers committed to protecting, restoring, and stewarding California's lands and waters.

**April 17, North Coast Resource Partnership Quarterly Meeting:** The North Coast Resource Partnership will host its [next quarterly meeting](#) in the Eureka area and will include presentations from partners in the region, updates on NCRP projects and initiatives, and resource fair networking.

**April 21-22, Forest Innovation Summit:** The [Forest Innovation Summit](#) serves as an international platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences with the goal of stimulating a dialogue between major forestry sectors across the Atlantic, encouraging the exchange of both new and existing innovations.

**April 24, Grizzly Corps Host Site Applications:** [GrizzlyCorps](#) partners with local and state government agencies, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, and tribal organizations.

**May 15, California's Timber Harvest Plan Review Process:** CNRA and CalEPA will host a [roundtable discussion](#) to solicit feedback from interested parties regarding recommendations made in an independent evaluation of the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration program's performance and processes for conducting California Timber Harvest Plan (THP) reviews. report, priorities, and next steps for the Program.

