



April 13, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES

Task Force Hosts Largest Regional Meeting to Date: Hosted by Mountain Counties Water Resources Association and Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Task Force's Sierra Nevada Regional Meeting at the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Tuolumne County was the largest meeting to date, with nearly 500 people registered for in-person attendance and over 350 participants joining online. During the meeting, panels of local leaders provided examples of how partners in the Central Sierra are working across land ownerships, utilizing innovative funding strategies, and developing the workforce and infrastructure needed to bring wildfire projects to scale. Recordings from the meeting are available on the Task Force's [meeting page](#).

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

- June 5: Sacramento
- October 1-2: North Coast Regional – Fortuna River Lodge, Humboldt County
- December 11: Sacramento

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

California Fast-Tracks 300 Projects Across Land Ownerships in 300 Days:

Following Governor Newsom's [emergency proclamation on wildfire](#), state agencies including the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), have coordinated efforts to reduce regulatory barriers and fast-track critical wildfire safety projects across the state, all while maintaining vital environmental safeguards. Through this streamlined process, projects are now being approved in as little as 30 days, saving a year or more of review time for more complex projects.

Streamlined processes have enabled the approval of over 350 projects across nearly 80,000 acres statewide. This effort has significantly accelerated implementation for a wide range of partners, including state and federal agencies, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, private landowners, and others. Approved projects include activities such as reducing hazardous fuels near communities, improving defensible space, enhancing evacuation routes, and supporting ecosystem restoration. Notable projects include:

- A 600+ acre fuels reduction project protecting communities in the Los Angeles area near the Palisades Fire footprint led by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.
- The 450-acre Prosper Ridge Community Wildfire Resilience Project in Humboldt County, incorporating cultural burning and prescribed fire for community protection.
- The nearly 3,000-acre Scott Valley/Callahan Fuels Reduction Project in rural Siskiyou County, focused on ecosystem restoration and community protection.
- A project in Tuolumne County providing defensible space assistance for seniors and at-risk residents.



Applications for project streamlining remain open through May 1, 2026, following the Governor's [extension of the emergency proclamation](#). Additional information, including a list of approved projects and application materials, is available on the [Task Force's Project Streamlining webpage](#).

California Earthquake Authority Publishes Natural Catastrophe Resiliency

Report: On April 7, the California Earthquake Authority (Authority), in its capacity as Administrator of the California Wildfire Fund, delivered their report, [Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Catastrophes](#) as required under [SB 254](#). The legislation required the Authority to evaluate policy options to reduce damages to life and property, accelerate post-disaster recovery, and equitably allocate the costs of natural catastrophes in California, including catastrophic wildfires. The report identifies three overarching Policy Pathways, each of which are supported by multiple strategies and actions.

1. **Commit to community wildfire risk reduction:** Focuses on greater state coordination, guidance, and resources for local governments; increased capacity at the community level, developing shared data and information to support local mitigation planning, and setting some new requirements that further support existing priorities related to electric utility safety, accountability, and reporting.
2. **Equitably allocate catastrophe burdens:** Addresses existing cost-sharing structures that are not fit-for-purpose to manage the extreme wildfires, including issues such as investor-owned utilities being burdened with inverse condemnation, disproportionate contributions to wildfire mitigation from residential ratepayers, access to property insurance, and delivery of post-disaster compensation payments.
3. **State roles for addressing catastrophe resiliency:** Focuses on financing strategies to respond to catastrophic events as well as new public and private financing strategies to facilitate wildfire mitigation, such as home and community hardening, defensible space, and vegetation management.

CNRA Launches Policy to Expand Tribal Stewardship for at Least 7.5 Million

Acres in California: On March 17, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) [launched](#) the state's first-ever [Tribal Stewardship Policy](#), establishing a statewide goal of expanding tribal stewardship over at least 7.5 million acres of lands and coastal waters in California. The Policy sets clear standards for all CNRA departments, conservancies, commissions, boards, and many other non-tribal partners to institutionalize meaningful and durable tribal-state partnerships and advance tribal stewardship through tribal access, collaboration, and ancestral land return. The Policy is supported by a companion toolkit containing training materials, templates, webinars, and technical resources designed for tribes, agency staff, and partners. The forthcoming 2026 California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan will support, build upon, and align with CNRA's Tribal Stewardship Policy.

The SNC Approves Nearly \$8.7 Million in Wildfire Resilience Grants: On March 6, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) [announced](#) that its Governing Board awarded \$8,649,243 in wildfire and forest resilience grants to 10 different projects in the Sierra-Cascade that will help protect natural landscapes and



nearby communities from major disturbances, such as wildfire. The funded projects span across Sierra-Cascade counties, funding fuel reduction, shaded fuel breaks, and forest thinning on hundreds of acres to protect communities and improve wildfire response. Key projects include Round Mountain in Nevada County, Sly Park and Eldorado National Forest in El Dorado County, and strategic fuel breaks in Amador, Calaveras, Tehama, Shasta, Tuolumne, and Fresno counties, protecting towns and vital evacuation routes. These projects support California's [Nature-Based Solutions wildfire risk reduction targets](#) by building resilient forest landscapes, reducing wildfire risk, and advancing the state's long-term climate and community protection targets.

CAL FIRE Finishes Statewide Assessment to Identify and Support At-Risk

Neighborhoods: On March 24, CAL FIRE's Office of the State Fire Marshall [announced](#) the completion of the first five-year cycle of the Subdivision Review Program, which identifies communities at higher wildfire risk due to limited evacuation options. Since the program began, CAL FIRE has completed 2,430 in-person fire safety surveys statewide. In 2025 alone, 202 surveys were conducted in partnership with 30 local jurisdictions, demonstrating strong coordination to enhance wildfire preparedness.

Board of Forestry Announces 2026-27 Investments to Advance Forestry Science and Stewardship:

On March 24, the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's [Effectiveness Monitoring Committee](#) (EMC) announced the opening of the committee's annual [EMC Grant Program](#), inviting research proposals to help shape the future of forestry and natural resource management across California. The grant program furthers scientific research that evaluates the effectiveness of the California Forest Practice Rules and related natural resource protection regulations on forestlands and rangelands throughout the state. Eligible projects include effectiveness monitoring studies that test one or more Forest Practice Rules or related regulations and align with key EMC research themes such as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, sediment delivery, wildfire hazard reduction, forest resilience, and climate change. The deadline to submit an Initial Concept Proposal is Monday, May 18, 2026.

CAL FIRE Invites Public Input on Statewide Urban Forest Canopy Plan:

CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program is [soliciting public comments](#) on "[Greening the Golden State: Urban Forest Canopy Plan for California](#)." The Plan provides a comprehensive roadmap to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas by 10% by 2035 (as required by AB 2251). The deadline to submit comments is April 30, 2026.

CAL FIRE's Reforestation Services Program Publishes 2025 Annual Report:

The program's [annual report](#) and [at-a-glance](#) companion highlight notable changes, challenges, and successes from the 2025 as well as outline 2026 goals and initiatives. The Reforestation Services Program serves all California forestlands by providing resources to protect and restore disturbed and degraded forests, maximizing their values, enhancing ecosystem functions, and increasing resiliency from climatic impacts.



FEDERAL UPDATES

USFS Announces Reorganization with New Headquarters in Salt Lake City, UT and State Office in Placerville, CA: On March 31, the U.S. Forest Service [announced](#) it will move its headquarters to Salt Lake City, Utah, and begin a [restructuring of the agency](#). The Forest Service will also transition to a [state offices model](#), supported by shared operational service centers and a unified national research enterprise.

For California, the state office will be located in Placerville. Nationwide, 15 state directors will replace the previous 9 regional foresters and oversee forest supervisors, operational priorities, and relationships with states, tribes, and partners. Each state office will include a small leadership team responsible for legislative affairs, communications, and intergovernmental coordination. The Forest Service's current facilities in Vallejo, CA will be repurposed as a national training center.

Additionally, the Forest Service will shift many functions currently housed in regional offices to a network of operational service centers to be established in Placerville, CA; Albuquerque, NM; Athens, GA; Fort Collins, CO; Madison, WI; and Missoula, MT. The Forest Service will also reorganize the various research stations into one in Fort Collins, CO. In California, six of the eight Forest Service research facilities will be shut down with facilities in Placerville and Riverside remaining open.

USDA Announces \$61.25 Million for California Projects from the Timber Production and Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program: On March 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced \\$115.2 million in loans](#) through the [Timber Production and Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program](#) to support projects in eight states that will help sawmills and other wood processing facilities establish, reopen, expand, or improve their operations. \$61.24 million was allocated to three companies in California:

- Blue Mountain Electric Company, LLC (\$25M) to support the construction and operation of a 3MW gasification plant in Wilseyville in Calaveras County, which plans to convert forestry biomass waste into synthetic natural gas.
- Alpenglow Timber, LLC (\$18.5M) to establish a new sawmill in the North Tahoe/Truckee area, which is expected to create new jobs in a community with a 4.7% unemployment rate.
- Sierra Forest Products Holdings, Inc. (\$17.75M) to expand and modernize operations, improve efficiency, and increase timber processing capacity.

PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Releases 2025 Progress Report, Showing Accelerating Restoration Efforts: On April 3, the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition (GSLC) released its [2025 Progress Report](#), showcasing significant advances in protecting the world's remaining giant sequoia groves from shifting climates, catastrophic wildfire and emerging threats such as bark beetles. GSLC partners have conducted restoration activities in 44 of the world's 94 sequoia groves since 2022, reducing the risk of extreme wildfires and improving overall forest health. In 2025, Coalition members conducted forest resilience treatments on 4,508 acres across 25 groves, advancing the momentum of this collaborative effort. Since its formation following the



devastating 2020 and 2021 fire seasons—when the Castle Fire, KNP Complex Fire and Windy Fire killed thousands of ancient sequoias—the Coalition has treated a total of 23,251 acres across 44 groves (out of 94) and planted more than 682,000 native trees. In addition to the progress report, a team of scientists commissioned by GSLC has also released a [“State of the Giant Sequoias”](#) report.

SNC and Partners Wrap Up Community and Watershed Resilience Program With New Biomass Facility Opening in Tuolumne County: On March 12, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) [announced](#) the completion of the federally funded Community and Watershed Resilience Program with the opening of the Tuolumne BioEnergy facility in Sonora, which, alongside the Tuolumne Biomass facility, utilizes forest-restoration material to create jobs and produce wood products while reducing wildfire fuels. The program, funded through a \$70.4 million National Disaster Resilience Competition grant following the 2013 Rim Fire, included forest- and watershed-health projects on 14,000 acres, creation of two community resilience centers, and strategic fuel breaks to protect communities and landscapes. By converting excess biomass into usable products and supporting large-scale fuels reduction, these facilities enhance forest resilience, lower wildfire risk, and provide long-term economic and ecological benefits to Tuolumne County.

The Watershed Research and Training Center Awards \$1 Million to Local Prescribed Burn Associations: With funding support from the California Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, the Watershed Research and Training Center has concluded a pilot project that [awarded over \\$1 million to nine Prescribed Burn Associations](#) (PBAs) across California. PBAs are community-led and cooperative partnerships that bring together diverse fire practitioners to plan and implement prescribed fire strategically and opportunistically across their local areas.

Researchers Release a Guide for Cities to Mitigate Wildfire Damage: An interdisciplinary team of researchers from Cal Poly’s Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Institute [recently launched](#) a new guidebook to improve wildfire mitigation work in urban areas. It provides step-by-step guidance to construct a policy driven scorecard focused on strengthening mitigation plans and actions. The two-year effort to develop the tool, called the [Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard™ \(PIRS™\)](#) for Wildfire, was done in partnership with Texas A&M with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and is available to all community planners, emergency managers, and other administrators at no cost.

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 of lands within state responsibility areas as fire hazard severity zones, and identification and review of 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) Wildfire safety: fuels reduction projects. Would, on or before January 31, 2026, require the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency to each report to the Legislature information on the implementation of the March 1, 2025, proclamation of a state of emergency that suspends applicable state statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction project.

AB 1666 (Rogers) Forest management: biomass innovation parks. Would enact the Biomass Innovation Parks Act, which would establish the Biomass Innovation Park Grants and Financing Program, to be administered by the Natural Resources Agency.

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 the 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 wildfire resilience, while supporting durable onsite carbon storage and sequestration, climate mitigation and resiliency goals, equitable forest access, wildlife and fish habitat, 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.

AB 2791 (Committee on Natural Resources) Public resources. The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 authorizes the State Board of Forestry and



Fire Protection to provide the Forest Resilience Exemption for the harvesting of certain trees for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, duration and intensity, fuel ignitability, or ignition of tree crowns. The act requires certain conditions to be met to qualify for the exemption, including that all trees harvested are marked by, or under the supervision of, a registered professional forester before felling operations begin. This bill would remove the above-described condition to qualify for the exemption.

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 wildfire smoke using existing wildfire smoke and health data. 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 973 (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.

SB 1079 (Stern) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Fire Innovation Unit. Would establish the Fire Innovation Unit within the 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 1297 (Allen) Regional Wildfire Mitigation Collaboratives. Would authorize regional entities to form regional wildfire mitigation collaboratives, consisting of specified local government entities, special districts, and tribal governments, and would further authorize these collaboratives to take the form of a joint powers authority. Would authorize the collaboratives to develop wildfire mitigation plans to implement projects across the region that mitigate against the risk of wildfire, including projects related to, among other things, structure hardening and retrofitting.

SB 1404 (Stern) Wildfire prevention: state responsibility areas: fire prevention fee. Would reinstate the fire prevention fee charged on each habitable structure within a state responsibility area, effective January 1, 2027, until its original repeal date of January 1, 2031.

PRESS BOX

How Cal Poly is exploring wildfires and their prevention. [Mustang News, April 8, 2026.](#)

The Forest Service — a force across rural America — “reorganizes” under Trump. [The New Yorker, April 7, 2026.](#)

Trump wants to remake the way we fight wildfires. [The Washington Post, April 4, 2026.](#)

U.S. Forest Service will shut down majority of CA research stations. [San Francisco Chronicle, April 3, 2026.](#) \$

Forest Service research stations face closures amid reorganization. [New York Times, April 3, 2026.](#) \$

California’s fire outlook: hot, dry and federally reorganized. [Politico, April 1, 2026.](#)

Trump plans to move forest service to Utah and shutter research sites. [Los Angeles Times, April 1, 2026.](#) \$

California Department of Insurance reports landmark study shows rebuilding Los Angeles to wildfire safety standards could slash future fire losses. [Sierra Sun Times, March 31, 2026.](#)

No snow. No water. Restrictions grow across West as drought fears rise. [USA Today, March 30, 2026.](#)

After ever-costlier California fires, new study could shape state’s response to era of ‘climate-fueled economic crisis’. [Mercury News, March 28, 2026.](#)

As historic March heatwave finally fades, a brief cooler/wetter interlude will occur across the U.S. West in early April before warmth & dryness likely return. [Weather West, March 28, 2026.](#)



Reducing fuels on steep slopes: How partnerships and technology advancements are moving critical forest restoration work forward. [Tahoe National Forest, March 24, 2026.](#)

Trump administration cuts California tree-monitoring program used in fire risk assessment. [San Francisco Chronicle, March 19, 2026.](#)

Placer County Board of Supervisors adopts statewide strategy to protect outdoor recreation and strengthen wildfire resilience. [Placer Sentinel, March 12, 2026.](#)

The fire that never starts: Reducing roadside ignitions. [U.S. Forest Service, Office of Communications, March 9, 2026.](#)

Legislators eye new prevention efforts in fire-scarred California: 'A tipping point.' [Los Angeles Times, March 4, 2026.](#)

LATEST IN SCIENCE **Configurations of fuel break networks influence landscape-level fire-risk in Southern California.** [Johnson et al., Ecological Informatics, Vol. 95, May 2026, 1003691.](#)

Performative planning creates a values mismatch between wildfire plans and community need. [Ulibarri et al., PNAS, April 6, 2026.](#)

Shorter recovery periods between smoke waves: A spatio-temporal analysis in California (2006–2020). [Jones-Ngo et al., GeoHealth, March 11, 2026.](#)

Probabilistic prediction of post-fire debris-flow runout and implications for prefire assessments of post-fire hazards. [Gorr et al., International Journal of Wildland Fire, Vol. 35, Issue 2, February 2026.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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.](#)

North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Technical Assistance for Grant Development: [NCRP](#) is soliciting a [Request for Proposals](#) for Technical Assistance to North Coast partners, including Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs, watershed groups, and others to support grant applications for on-the-ground projects that improve forest health and increase wildfire resilience in economically disadvantaged communities. [Proposals are due May 1, 2026.](#)

National Forest Foundation Collaborative Capacity Program for Forests & Communities: In 2026, [the program](#) will fund projects that prioritize shared decision-making and bring together multiple perspectives to co-create solutions for forest stewardship or increase Tribal co-stewardship of national forests and grasslands. [Applications are due May 4, 2026.](#)



CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grants: \$10 million 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

April 29, Board of Forestry (BOF) Regulations Program Manager Applications: BOF is hiring a [Regulations Program Manager](#) to serve as an expert on the implementation and interpretations of the Board's regulatory responsibilities regarding timber, watershed, contiguous rangeland resources, defensible space, and resource protection. Final filing date: 4/29/2026.

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.



June and July Dates, Cone Camp 2026: [Cone Camp](#) is a hybrid training course organized by American Forests in partnership with CAL FIRE, USFS, and the California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership. Attendees learn how to identify, survey, monitor, and collect from California's native conifers to support reforestation efforts.

