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Task Force Releases Draft Five-Year Action Plan to Accelerate Work Protecting Californians from Wildfire

California's bold new plan to protect communities, restore landscapes, and strengthen wildfire resilience across the state.

What you need to know: During today's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force meeting, The Task Force announced the release of the draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan (2026-2031).

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force today released the draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan (2026-2031)—a statewide strategy to accelerate action to confront California's wildfire challenges and strengthen long-term resilience for communities and natural landscapes. The Plan is grounded in the latest wildfire science and builds on California's progress to protect communities and landscapes from wildfire, prioritizing actions that will make the greatest impact on-the-ground.

"The impacts of wildfire extend far beyond forests and landscapes — threatening our homes, public health, infrastructure, watersheds, and entire communities," **said California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot.** "This action plan builds on years of nation-leading progress to chart a clear path forward that is grounded in science, driven by partnerships, and empowers regional leadership to make California more resilient to wildfire."

Leveraging the Latest Science for a Cutting-Edge Wildfire Plan

During today's meeting, The Task Force's Science Advisory Panel released [A Science-Based Synthesis to Safeguard People, Communities, and Ecosystems from Wildfire in California](#). The key findings of the Synthesis provide a strong science-based framework for the Action Plan, including the importance of home hardening and defensible space, strategically placed fuel breaks, and thinning and prescribed fire across the state's landscapes and wildfire-prone communities. The plan was also informed by 2025 carbon modeling from CAL FIRE, American Forests, and the USDA Forest Service. Additionally, during today's meeting, American Forests released the new [California at a Crossroads](#):

[Interactive Data Hub](#) based on their initial report, showing that climate-smart forestry could protect 40% of California's forests from fire-driven deforestation.

"Science insists that we test our assumptions, and that testing tells us which strategies actually work," **said John Battles, U.C. Berkeley Professor of Forest Ecology and Science Advisory Panel Co-Chair.** "The Science Synthesis sorts through the research and gives the Action Plan a robust evidence base for developing effective strategies to tame the wildfire crisis."

A Strategic Plan to Protect Landscapes and Communities from Wildfire Through Local Action

Science, data, and shared technology sit at the center of the Plan, connecting three linked efforts: landscape resilience, community wildfire preparedness, and a framework for mobilizing regional action.



The Landscape Resilience section introduces a bold new 10-year strategy focused on California's highest-risk landscapes to ensure the state takes the most critical and cost-effective steps to increase wildfire resilience. Prioritizing treatment in these areas will help maximize wildfire risk reduction and improve ecological health with targeted actions to:

- Expand beneficial fire through streamlined permitting and the launch of a Beneficial Fire Training Network.
- Reduce the state's reforestation backlog and expand the work of Emergency Forest Restoration Teams (EFRTs).
- Accelerate workforce and wood utilization programs.

- Expand support for tribal stewardship and cultural burning.

The Community Wildfire Preparedness section takes a holistic approach to reduce wildfire impacts in and around communities. It combines investments in home hardening, defensible space, evacuation planning, and preparedness programs with prioritized actions to:

- Adopt regulations for a five-foot ember-resistant area around homes and businesses, also known as Zone Zero.
- Accelerate development of a statewide network of fuel breaks.
- Expand partnerships with utilities and Caltrans to reduce unwanted ignitions.
- Expand smoke notification and preparedness programs.
- Establish new data standards and wildfire metrics to guide structure and community protection actions.

Mobilizing Regional Action provides guidance to empower collaboratives and partnerships across California to implement locally tailored wildfire solutions in alignment with statewide goals with specific actions to facilitate:

- Launching an updated statewide network of Regional Priority Plans, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and five-year interagency project pipelines of coordinated work.
- Making a permanent streamlined permitting process to accelerate projects.
- Expanding interagency and private partnerships, particularly with the USFS through Good Neighbor Authority.
- Expanding the Task Force interagency project tracking system and related dashboards.
- Expanding use of regional large-scale grants that provide multi-year funding for coordinated project portfolios.

“California has made major progress over the past several years through an unprecedented level of funding, commitment to a science-based approach, and a collaborative effort among the key agencies and land managers,” **said Task Force Director Patrick Wright**. “This plan builds on that progress by providing a framework to work faster and smarter across larger landscapes and communities, and to sustain that work over time.”

Read the Draft Plan and Share Your Input

The Task Force encourages members of the public, tribes, local governments, community organizations, and partners across California to review the draft Plan and provide feedback during the partner review period, which closes August 7, 2026. The Task Force will release a final version of the plan in fall 2026.

Learn more, read the draft Plan and share your feedback [here](#).

Building on California's Nation-Leading Wildfire Resilience Efforts

The Action Plan builds on, and continues to expand, the record-level wildfire resilience investments that have become a hallmark of the Newsom Administration. In January 2021, the Task Force launched the nation's first interagency wildfire resilience plan and identified 99 key actions to protect the state's diverse and invaluable communities and landscapes. California has moved quickly to achieve these goals, with 100 percent of the 99 key actions outlined in the plan either underway or completed. With the 2021 Action Plan serving as a roadmap, California has increased spending on wildfire resilience to make a real impact on-the-ground protecting communities and landscapes: Since 2021, Task Force partners have:

- Surged wildfire resilience investments to more than \$6 billion;
- Doubled down on community protection, leading the nation with 1,500 local Firewise USA® communities;
- Funded more than 2,000 wildfire resilience projects;
- Increased wildfire resilience treatments to over 700,000 acres annually;
- Nearly doubled prescribed fire statewide with roughly 200,000 acres treated annually;
- Improved data sharing and public transparency through a first-of-its-kind Interagency Treatment Dashboard, and
- Supported tribal stewardship and cultural fire through the Governor signed SB 310.

[Learn more about California's wildfire resilience accomplishments.](#)