

September 17, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES

Registration is Open for North Coast Regional Task Force Meeting and Field

Tours: The North Coast Regional Meeting will be held on October 1 at the Bear River Recreation Center and adjacent Tish-Non Community Center. [Field tours](#) will be held on October 2.

The meeting is hosted by the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, North Coast Resource Partnership, Humboldt County RCD, Inner Coast Collaborative, and Northern Sacramento Valley Coalition. Remote attendance is available via [Zoom](#). [The agenda](#) will highlight Northern Region successes, partnerships, and challenges; how North Coast practitioners are using beneficial fire to build community and ecological resilience; and stories of innovation and success in mass timber, workforce development, and forest products manufacturing.

Information on hotel room blocks and [opportunities for sponsorship](#) and [resource fair tabling](#) is available on the [meeting webpage](#).

Other events happening in the region that week include:

- Forest WRX Alliance is hosting the [Forest Bioeconomy Symposium: From Fire Risk to Circular Stewardship](#) with field visits on September 29 and a plenary program and working sessions at the Tish-Non Community Center on September 30. Deadline for registration is September 14.
- [Apple Harvest Festival](#) is a Fortuna-wide celebration on October 3.
- [Redwood Coast Music Festival](#), Eureka, October 1-4.
- Other Humboldt County [events](#) the week of the Task Force meeting.

Upcoming Task Force Meetings:

- **December 2026:** The date of December 2026 meeting in Sacramento has changed! The meeting will be held on December 18, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **March 2027:** Save-the-date for the Central Coast Regional Meeting, March 25-26 at UC Santa Barbara's Corwin Pavilion in Goleta, California.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Forestry Approves First-in-the-Nation Zone 0 Defensible Space

Regulations: On [August 19, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection \(BOF\)](#) approved the final draft of [Zone 0 defensible space regulations](#), marking another critical step in the state's ongoing effort to better protect homes and communities from wildfire. The new regulation adds to California's growing list of wildfire resilience efforts and focuses on practical wildfire safety actions for the first five feet around homes and structures in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones within Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). The new regulation was informed by extensive public input and reflects a practical approach that empowers homeowners and local governments to act. The approved policy includes a phased-in implementation approach that prioritizes education and outreach over a 5-year period. While Zone 0 requirements will apply to new construction upon adoption of the regulation, existing homes and structures can implement actions in phases over time:



- **PHASE 1** (Homeowners must address within the first 3 years): Removing combustible items such as firewood, dead leaves and branches, mulch, and wood chips within 5 feet of structures. Cleaning gutters, removing dead and dying vegetation, and trimming trees according to regulations.
- **PHASE 2** (Implemented within 5 years): Local jurisdictions will assign a timeline, within 5 years of the effective date of the regulations, for the creation of an under-eave safety zone and replacing combustible fences and gates.

Zone 0 does not require the removal of all vegetation. Well-maintained plants, grass, and certain ground covers may remain when properly managed. Trees may also remain when properly maintained. More information can be found on [BOF's Zone Zero Regulatory Advisory Committee page](#).

Governor Newsom Signs Legislation to Strengthen Wildfire Recovery: Governor Newsom [signed legislation](#) to strengthen California's long-term wildfire recovery system, building on the state's work with survivors of the Eaton and Palisades fires and creating new tools for wildfire survivors statewide. The package establishes the nation's first science-backed standards for testing, remediating and restoring lead and asbestos contamination from wildfire smoke and requires insurers to cover qualifying testing, remediation and restoration costs, including cleanup to pre-loss conditions and continued Additional Living Expense coverage until homes are safe to occupy. The legislation also permanently establishes disaster-related mortgage protections, including extending the mortgage forbearance period available to Los Angeles fire survivors from 12 to 24 months and providing borrowers options to defer missed payments until the end of their loans, subject to applicable requirements.

CAL FIRE Opens Solicitations for Forest Legacy Grants:

- **Program Capacity and Project Development Grants:** The [Forest Legacy Program Capacity and Project Development Grant Solicitation](#) is available for eligible applicants to prepare and develop potential working forest conservation easement or fee title acquisition projects. This solicitation aims to increase organizational capacity and support the development of high-quality forest conservation projects. This grant solicitation does not fund acquisitions; instead, it supports the preparation and development of potential projects for future acquisition. Applications are due September 30, 2026.
- **Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program:** CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program is accepting applications for the USDA Forest Service's [Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program](#), which provides up to \$600,000 for communities, Tribes and eligible nonprofits to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access, recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply and other community benefits. Applications are due October 13, 2026.

Tahoe Conservancy Highlights Forest Health Projects at 30th Annual Lake

Tahoe Summit: During its 30th annual summit, the Tahoe Conservancy provided [updates on its ongoing forestry projects](#) that are reducing hazardous fuels,



improving forest health, and strengthening wildfire resilience across the Lake Tahoe Basin. This work spans more than 1,300 Conservancy and Forest Service open space lots in communities around the Basin, with additional support from the Washoe Tribal Conservation Corps at Lyons Ranch. The Conservancy is also preparing additional North Shore properties for future fuel reduction and forest health treatments.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

BLM Approves Projects to Improve Forest Health and Reduce Wildfire Risk in the Fall River Valley: On July 24, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Applegate Field Office [approved two forest resilience projects](#) in the Fall River Valley in Shasta County, aimed at improving forest health, reducing wildfire risk, and strengthening community preparedness. Work on both projects is expected to begin in fall 2026. The Day Fire Pre-Commercial Thinning Project builds on recovery efforts following the 2014 Day Fire, which burned more than 13,000 acres of primarily private timberland and a portion of BLM-managed public land. The Cassel–Fall River Road Woodland Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project expands upon fuels reduction work conducted from 2020 – 2026 and will continue removing hazardous vegetation on roughly 1,400 acres of BLM-managed public land near Fall River Mills, using hand crews, mechanical equipment, and prescribed fire.

USDA Files Proposed Rule to Rescind Roadless Area Conservation Rule: On August 18, the U.S. Department of Agriculture [announced](#) that the U.S. Forest Service filed a proposed rule to rescind in its entirety the national 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The rescission removes national designation of roadless areas and sends decisions about roadless areas, which includes more than 44 million acres of the 193-million-acre National Forest System, to the local national forest managers. The agency will seek public comment on the proposal and on a draft of the environmental impact statement filed in the Federal Register.

U.S. Forest Service Consolidates National Fire and Aviation Authorities Under its Deputy Chief for Fire and Aviation Management: On August 11, the U.S. Forest Service [announced](#) it is consolidating all fire and aviation authorities under the agency's Deputy Chief of Fire and Aviation Management, Safety, and Employee Wellbeing. Under the delegation, all fire and aviation authorities outlined in Forest Service Manual 1230 (Delegations of Authority) and 5100 (Fire Management) are reassigned to the deputy chief, except where a specific delegation restricts the exercise of certain powers reserved to the chief. Specifically, the deputy chief is authorized to oversee wildfire response, preparedness and aviation management programs; authorize critical fire-related expenditures, resource allocations, communications and emergency response and emergency declarations across the agency.

U.S. Forest Service Rebuilds Mendocino NF Fire Lookout Tower: The U.S. Forest Service [rebuilt the historic High Glade Lookout](#) in Mendocino National Forest, restoring an important tool for detecting wildfires in a remote area. The Ranch Fire destroyed the original 35-foot lookout in 2018. Today, a new lookout combines on-site fire detection with cameras, radios and emergency communications. Lookout staff monitor conditions, scan for smoke and quickly



report potential fires, working alongside dispatchers, firefighters, aerial patrols, cameras and community members. The rebuilt lookout strengthens early detection and response while demonstrating how California and its federal partners can combine proven wildfire tools with modern technology to protect forests and communities.

U.S. Forest Service and National Forest Foundation Launch the First National Forests and Grasslands Passport: On August 27, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation [announced](#) the launch of the [National Forests and Grasslands Passport](#), a free digital experience designed to inspire visitors to discover more of America's national forests and grasslands while earning commemorative digital badges along the way. Available through the OuterSpatial mobile app, the National Forests and Grasslands Passport transforms every visit into a rewarding experience, allowing visitors to check in and earn exclusive digital badges for each national forest and national grassland they explore.

PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Community Led Beneficial Fire Continues to Grow in California: The Watershed Research and Training Center [recently added 2025 data](#) to its [Community-Based Beneficial Fire Data Project](#) which compiles and analyzes data from beneficial fire burning activities across the state of California. The project is demonstrating how California is strengthening its partnerships and expanding workforce development capacity for cultural and prescribed fire. 2025 was an active year for the community-based beneficial fire movement. Across California, Tribal cultural fire practitioners, Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs), nonprofit organizations, Resource Conservation Districts, agencies, and private landowners are continuing to build the relationships, skills, and policies needed to return good fire to the landscape. In 2024 and 2025, nearly 9,500 people participated in training events focused on prescribed fire, cultural burning, ecological restoration, and land stewardship. During the same period, community partners completed more than 1,280 prescribed and cultural burns, treating over 9,100 acres while engaging nearly 16,000 participants.

American Forests Launches Free Tool to Assess Wildfire and Climate Risks: On September 15, American Forests [announced](#) the launch of the [Forest Innovation Platform](#), a free, open-source tool that turns more than 40 forest and climate datasets into customizable assessments for private, state, Tribal, federal and nonprofit land managers. The platform allows users to assess current and projected climate, wildfire, hydrological and ecological risks for specific areas without specialized expertise or months of manual analysis, helping inform forest management plans and adaptation strategies. The tool builds on research developed by the U.S. Forest Service and was developed with input from hundreds of scientists, federal agency partners, nonprofits and practitioners.

SBC Conducts Survey to Help Inform the Task Force's Workforce and Career Development Strategy: Sierra Business Council (SBC) is conducting a [survey on wildfire resilience workforce training](#) to help identify gaps in current training opportunities and inform a future Task Force strategy to scale the wildfire resilience workforce. SBC is seeking survey respondents who provide workforce



training and education related to wildfire resilience and/or employ or contract individuals to implement wildfire resilience projects. SBC will use the results of the survey to better understand existing training programs, identify unmet training needs, and improve training opportunities. The findings will help the Task Force identify the workforce training needed to support implementation of the 2026-2031 Action Plan and may also inform other state and regional workforce investments, policy decisions, and program design. The deadline to complete the survey is September 30.

Indigenous Stewardship Network Holds First Annual Convening:

From August 19-21, the [Indigenous Stewardship Network](#) (ISN) held their first in-person convening at the CNRA building this with over 100 people in attendance. The convening focused on Indigenous stewardship and cultural fire across California. While ISN has held virtual convenings prior to 2026, this year the CNRA building in Sacramento was chosen to connect the Indigenous Stewardship network to spaces where environmental funding and policy decisions are discussed and made. Convening topics covered [SB310 agreements](#), funding opportunities with the Department of Conservation [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#) (DOC RFFC), the CNRA [Tribal Stewardship Toolkit](#), intergenerational learning and workforce development for cultural fire. The convening received support from the DOC RFFC program, the Resource Legacy Fund, and the Karuk Tribe.

Intertribal Timber Council Launches Resource to Help Tribes Access Forestry and Wildfire Funding:

The Intertribal Timber Council has launched [Braided Canopy](#), a new resource hub connecting tribal forestry and wildland fire professionals with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding, tools and other resources. The site provides tribes with information to help navigate federal funding opportunities and advance tribal forest management, wildfire resilience and stewardship.

LEGISLATION WATCH

The 2026 Legislative Session has ended; this will be the last report until the new session begins in December 2026. Bills identified below as [CHAPTERED] have been signed into law; those identified as [ENROLLED] have passed out of both houses of the Legislature and are on the Governor's desk for his signature, veto, or "pocket signature" (Governor does not take action and the bill automatically becomes law within 30 days).

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. [CHAPTERED] 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. 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, to transmit copies of those guidelines to the fiscal committees and to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature, to hold a noticed public meeting on those guidelines, and to submit those guidelines to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, except as provided.



AB 442 (Hadwick) Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973: working forest management plans: harvest area. [ENROLLED] Would increase the maximum acreage for nonindustrial tree farmers and nonindustrial management plans to 4,000 acres and for working forest landowners and working forest management plans to 15,000 acres.

AB 706 (Aguiar-Curry) Forest Organic Residue, Energy, and Safety Transformation and Wildfire Prevention Fund Act. [ENROLLED] Would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, make moneys from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund or from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund available to the state board to establish the Forest Organic Residue Energy and Safety Transformation (FOREST) program in order to maintain and expand biomass power generation in the state, to revitalize idle facilities for biomass power generation, and to support biomass power generation facilities by creating additional capacity for power generation or feedstock utilization in strategically located regions of the state. Would make a facility's solid fuel biomass electrical generation eligible for reimbursement at an incentive rate determined by the state board if, among other things, the facility uses solid fuel biomass or forest biomass waste, as defined, to generate electricity and the electricity is sold to specified retail sellers. Would require, among other things, that no less than 60% of the feedstock used by a facility originate from Tier 1 and Tier 2 high hazard zones.

AB 1666 (Rogers) Forest management: biomass innovation parks. [ENROLLED] 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. Would require the Agency in coordination with the Department of Food and Agriculture (department) and CAL FIRE, on or before September 30, 2027, to identify one or more biomass innovation parks and develop guidelines and facilitate a planning process for the purposes of identifying the parks and guidelines for purposes of soliciting proposals from an eligible applicant.

AB 1699 (Rogers) Good Fire Act: Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program: burn bosses: California Environmental Quality Act. [ENROLLED] 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. The bill would also expand program eligibility by changing the entities who may receive coverage for losses from prescribed fires and cultural burning from nonpublic entities to individuals and entities other than the department or the federal government.

AB 1891 (Connolly) Forestry: Beneficial Fire Capacity Program. [ENROLLED] Would require CAL FIRE, on an annual basis, to use not less than 10% of the GGRF continuous appropriation 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.



AB 1934 (Bennett) State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program implementation plan. [ENROLLED] Would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop an implementation plan for a home hardening certification program that identifies an appropriate combination of home hardening products, techniques, and defensible space measures to reduce the risk of home loss during a wildfire. The bill would also establish specified requirements for the development and implementation of the certification program.

AB 1960 (Bennett) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program: wildfire mitigation validation. [ENROLLED] Would require CAL FIRE, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee, to establish wildfire mitigation requirements and minimum thresholds for recognizing communities that achieve specified levels of home hardening and defensible space. Beginning in fiscal year 2028–29, the bill would authorize CAL FIRE to provide Wildfire Prevention Grant funds to recognized communities that partner with fire safe councils or other eligible organizations and prioritize disadvantaged communities.

AB 1964 (Bennett) State Fire Marshal: home hardening. [ENROLLED] Would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop statewide home hardening standards and compile a report estimating the number of homes in moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones that meet those standards and the number that require additional home hardening. The report would provide this information by responsibility area and county to help identify home hardening needs across the state.

AB 2494 (Rogers) State forests: forest management. [ENROLLED] 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. [ENROLLED] 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 the director, in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, before the issuance of these grants, establish guidelines for funding the grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as specified. The bill would also extend the authorization for the department to award advance payments of grants awarded pursuant to the program indefinitely.



SB 894 (Allen) Wildfire resiliency: financial assistance. [ENROLLED] Would establish the California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program to provide, upon appropriation, financial assistance for projects and activities that reduce wildfire-related risks and losses, including home hardening and defensible space improvements.

SB 973 (Becker) Wildfire County Coordinator Program. [ENROLLED] 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) maintain oversight authority for the Wildfire County Coordinator Program, as provided, and (5) 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. This bill would provide in code for the Wildfire County Coordinator Program to support county-level coordination of and capacity for wildfire mitigation, prevention, preparedness, and recovery activities.

SB 1079 (Stern) Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: Fire Innovation Unit. [ENROLLED] 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 for technologies that, among other things, improve ecosystem and landscape scale resilience. The bill would require the unit to consist of the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development, the Innovation, Outreach and Coordination Program, and the Rapid Acquisition and Deployment Program, as provided. The bill 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.

SB 1370 (Stern) Covered wildfire mitigation projects: consolidated and expedited review. [ENROLLED] Would establish a consolidated and expedited state review process for covered wildfire mitigation projects. The bill would require state-level environmental and resource permits, approvals, consultations, and reviews for covered projects to be consolidated into a single coordinated review administered jointly by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency. The bill would establish a coordinated project review process and expedited authorization procedures, while maintaining specified environmental protections and requirements.

PRESS BOX

New California law sets first-in-nation standards for smoke damage in homes. [CalMatters, September 15, 2026.](#)

With support from loggers and (some) environmentalists, Congress unites on major wildfire bill. [Los Angeles Times, September 10, 2026.](#) \$



California water agencies may get a new defense in lawsuits over hydrants running dry in wildfires. [Los Angeles Times, September 8, 2026.](#) \$

California could be first in the nation to create smoke-damage standards. [CalMatters, September 5, 2026.](#)

Federal officials want to repeal the 'roadless rule.' What could that mean for California? [CapRadio, September 4, 2026.](#)

Legislative Session Wrap-Up: Wildfire Resilience Funding. [Wildfire Solutions Coalition, September 3, 2026.](#)

US Forest Service closing 23 research facilities as part of reorganization under Trump. [Associated Press, September 3, 2026.](#)

PG&E says it will scale back planned work after California wildfire reforms fail. [San Francisco Chronicle, September 2, 2026.](#) \$

Wildfire prevention bills advance as bigger California deal burns out. [Politico Pro, September 2, 2026.](#) \$

How a wildfire deal flamed out. [Politico, September 1, 2026.](#)

Coverage for smoke damage, money for protecting homes passed to help wildfire victims. [Los Angeles Times, September 1, 2026.](#) \$

Forest Service chief faces scrutiny over logging ties as Trump plans to scrap protections. [The Guardian, September 1, 2026.](#)

California Dems hand Newsom rare defeat on wildfires. [Politico, August 31, 2026.](#)

California's new fire-safe landscaping rules are strongest in the country. [Los Angeles Times, August 27, 2026.](#)

Federal wildfire crews are stretched thin. California is stepping in to help. [CalMatters, August 25, 2026.](#)

Fire and Forest Management 5 Years After Caldor. [CapRadio, Insight, August 25, 2026.](#)

The Trump administration upended how the West fights wildfires. California is bracing, too. [CalMatters, August 24, 2026.](#)

CAL FIRE creates free app to help track fires. [KNX News, August 21, 2026.](#)

Wildfire liability for dummies (and smarties). [Politico, August 20, 2026.](#)

State approves 'Zone Zero' fire-safe landscaping rules, reshaping yards for millions of Californians. [Los Angeles Times, August 19, 2026.](#) \$



'Hellscape': Inside the harrowing rescue of caged California condors during Timber Fire. [San Francisco Chronicle, August 12, 2026.](#) \$

Newsom makes last-minute push to help California utilities facing wildfire bills. [CalMatters, August 12, 2026.](#)

California can prevent wildfires without abandoning safety, environmental protections. [CalMatters, August 12, 2026.](#)

California senators want to curb placing bets on wildfires. [USA Today, August 11, 2026.](#)

What can you do to protect your home against California wildfires? [Sacramento Bee, August 10, 2026.](#)

Giant sequoias evolved with fire – new study shows it can still save them. [Nevada Today, August 3, 2026.](#)

Wildfire's risky business. [Politico, July 27, 2026.](#)

LATEST IN SCIENCE **Strategic fuel break assessment for Southern California national forests: process description and data.** [Weise, Heys, and Clervi. USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station. 103 p. 280 \(2026\).](#)

Characterizing windows of opportunity for prescribed pile and broadcast burning in Northern California. [Worsnop, et al. Fire Ecology \(2026\).](#)

Long-term forest understory recovery and tradeoffs in response to prescribed fire return interval. [Kerns, et al. Fire Ecology \(2026\).](#)

Lessons learned from community-scale use of temporary refuge areas during the Camp Fire. [Link and Maranghides. International Journal of Wildland Fire. 35, WF25312. August 20, 2026.](#)

Treatments mediate wildfire impacts to old-growth giant sequoia. [Nagelson et al. Forest Ecology and Management 614. August 15, 2026.](#)

Explaining building damage from wildfires in California. Bar, Li, and Banerjee. [Science Advances, 12.30. July 24, 2026.](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

California Fire Foundation's Southern, Central, and Coastal California Fire Prevention and Preparedness Grant Opportunity: [This opportunity](#) supports equitable, innovative, and collaborative approaches to wildfire preparedness for communities located in Southern California Edison's service area. Applications are due September 14.

CAL FIRE Forest Legacy Program Capacity and Project Development Grant: [The program](#) funds project development and preparation of funding applications for potential future Forest Legacy Program projects, including due diligence



items and related organizational and staff resources. Applications are due September 30.

USFS Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program: [The program supports](#) the establishment of community forests, protecting forestland from conversion to non-forest uses and providing community benefits, including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Applications are due October 13.

The US Endowment for Forests and Communities: [Roots and Reach Program](#) provides modest support for undergraduate forestry and natural resources clubs to fund student-led forestry projects, career awareness, and creative storytelling. Applications are due October 22.

Current Contracting and Procurement Opportunities: The National Forest Foundation lists opportunities on their [website](#).

WCB Forest Conservation Program: The California Wildlife Conservation Board issues [grants](#) to advance 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.

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.

Wood Energy Management Assistance Team: USFS in partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities to support direct, expert technical assistance to wood products manufacturers through the [Wood Manufacturing Assistance Team](#) (WMAT). The WMAT supports 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, and identification of new markets or expansion opportunities. Rolling application.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

- October 1-2, 2026: North Coast Regional – Bear River Recreation Center, Loleta, Humboldt County
- December 18, 2026: Sacramento
- March 25-26, 2027: Central Coast Regional – UC Santa Barbara, Corwin Pavilion

September 17-December 10: Yale Forest Forum 2026 Speaker Series: This series of webinars titled, "[Unlocking Forest Sector Innovation: The Practice and Potential Pathways to Scaling Up](#)," will explore the practice and pathways to



scaling up forest sector innovation in the face of increasing global forest uses and demand for wood and non-wood forest products.

September 23-24: SCALE Annual Conference: The Sierra to California All-Lands Enhancement Project [conference](#) brings together 15+ collaboratives and more than 80 natural resource professionals from across California, all working to advance landscape-scale restoration, community enhancement, and resilience.

September 23-25: RCRC 2026 Annual Meeting: With Keynote Speaker, Temple Grandin, [this year's program](#) will feature experts discussing a wide range of topics from strategies for improving and maintaining healthy rural communities, to discussion about building tribal and county relations, and so much more.

September 29-30: Forest Bioeconomy Symposium: The [Forest Bioeconomy Symposium: From Fire Risk to Circular Stewardship](#) is a working gathering built for action — bringing together state agency leaders, elected officials, tribal economic development leaders, philanthropic funders, investors, manufacturers, and university partners to advance a shared vision: a thriving, circular forest stewardship economy in the Redwood Region. Each session is designed to move ideas toward real outcomes — new partnerships, investment, and concrete next steps across the work of building wildfire-resilient communities and economies.

September 29: 30x30 Partnership 2026 Summit: With fewer than four years remaining to achieve California's 30x30 goal, the [Summit](#) will bring together more than 500 leaders in conservation and stewardship to share lessons learned, strengthen partnerships, elevate innovative solutions, and chart the path forward for biodiversity, climate resilience, and equitable access to nature.

October 15-16: North Coast Resource Partnership Strategy Session: Participate in this [strategy session](#) to support the update of NCRP's [Vision for North Coast Resilience](#) – an actionable priority plan for regional resilience.

October 20-22: The Understory Conference: Presented by the California Reforestation Pipeline Partnership the Understory Conference consists of two days of community learning and exchange to advance critical conversations about landscape management after fire. 'The Understory' will explore the complexity of managing forest landscapes after fire, inspiring and challenging your thinking through panel and keynote presentations, and group input and discussion. There will also be optional field tour on October 20.

October 20-22: Resilient California Summit: The [Summit](#) aims to create meaningful opportunities for participants to connect, learn from one another, exchange ideas, and strengthen collaboration across California. Participants will explore key insights from California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment, imagine the best possible future that remains within reach, and catalyze the actions needed to turn that vision into reality.



November 17-18: California Forest Pest Council 2026 Annual Meeting: [Annual meeting](#) on the pests of California forests to be held at UC Davis.

November 17-19: CA Association of Resource Conservation District's 81st Annual Conference: CARCD [annual conference](#) to celebrate their collective impact, share innovative strategies, and strengthen the RCD network.

January 26-28, 2027: 48th Annual Forest Vegetation Management Conference: [Save the date](#) for this forum for the exchange of techniques, methodology, and research of professionals in the forest vegetation management field.

