

October 12, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES

Task Force Gathers in Humboldt County for the North Coast Regional Task Force Meeting: The Task Force's North Coast Regional Meeting, held October 1 at the Bear River Recreation Center in Loleta, brought together more than 350 participants from across the state. Hosted by the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, North Coast Resource Partnership, and Humboldt County RCD, the meeting focused on how North Coast communities, tribes, agencies, and private partners are working together to build wildfire and landscape resilience. Panel discussions demonstrated that resilience is increasingly being built through regional partnerships that combine Indigenous stewardship, local knowledge, state and federal resources, workforce development, and innovative financing and implementation models. View the [meeting recap](#).

CALIFORNIA BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

California fiscal year 2026 budget allocates \$448 million for wildfire resilience programs: [California's FY 2026-27 spending plan](#) was passed by the Legislature on September 1 in Assembly Bill 113 and signed by the Governor on September 18. The budget allocates \$329.5 million from Proposition 4 and \$118 million from GGRF. [Prop 4](#), passed by voters in 2025, is a \$10 billion general obligation bond funding climate resilience and natural resource management programs, including \$1.5 billion for wildfire and forest resilience. After the enactment of AB 113, approximately \$929.5 million of the \$1.5 billion total for wildfire resilience will have been appropriated, or roughly 61%.

FUND	\$M*	DEPARTMENT	PURPOSE
GGRF	118	CAL FIRE	Forest Health & Fire Prevention
Climate Bond	64	CAL FIRE	Wildfire Prevention
	39		Regional
	37		Forest Health
	20		Various & Reforestation
	15		Ignition Reduction
	5		Fire Training Center
	2		Ignition Detection Technology
	61	DOC	RFFC
	15		Biomass Utilization
	26	OES	Home Hardening
	33	Parks	Stewardship State-Owned Lands
	12	CCC	Training & Work Programs
TOTAL	447		

*Amounts shown include "Program Delivery" funds and are rounded to nearest million.



Governor Newsom Signs Landmark Package of Wildfire Bills: The 2026 legislative session resulted in a significant package of new laws designed to strengthen California's ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to wildfire. [Signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 29, 2026](#), these measures advance several Task Force priorities, including landscape-scale wildfire mitigation, beneficial fire, community and home hardening, regional coordination, innovation, financing, and more efficient implementation of wildfire resilience projects. Together, these measures provide new authorities and tools that can help California increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilience investments while strengthening the connection between statewide policy, regional planning, and community-level implementation.

- **AB 706 (Aguiar-Curry) Forest Organic Residue, Energy, and Safety Transformation and Wildfire Prevention Fund Act.** Establishes the Forest Organic Residue Energy and Safety Transformation (FOREST) and Wildfire Prevention Fund 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.
- **AB 1699 (Rogers) Good Fire Act:** Indefinitely extends the Prescribed Fire Liability Program, the pilot program for which is currently active only until January 1, 2028. Expands the use of prescribed fire and cultural burning as wildfire resilience and ecosystem management tools; extends burn bosses' certification from one year to three years, requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to explore ways to expand the pool of burn boss instructors, and codifies [Governor Newsom's 2025 executive order](#) to expand tools to safely deploy beneficial fire projects.
- **AB 1934 (Bennett) Home Hardening Certification Program:** Requires the OSFM to develop an implementation plan for a voluntary 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.
- **AB 1960 (Bennett) Wildfire Mitigation Validation:** Requires CAL FIRE, in consultation with the OSFM's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee, to establish a framework for validating wildfire mitigation activities undertaken by communities that achieve specified levels of home hardening and defensible space. Authorizes CAL FIRE to provide Wildfire Prevention Grant funds (beginning FY28/29) to recognized communities that partner with fire safe councils or other eligible organizations.
- **AB 1964 (Bennett) State Fire Marshal: home hardening.** Requires OSFM 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.
- **AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris): Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program:** Authorizes the Department of Conservation to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement the regional priority strategies that contribute to the achievement of the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Expands wildfire prevention grant eligibility to include shrublands and other non-forested landscapes



and expands eligible activities to include vegetation modification and ignition prevention.

- **SB 894 (Allen) California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program:** Establishes 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:** Codifies and expands the Wildfire County Coordinator Program within CAL FIRE and the California Fire Safe Council and mandates standardized county-level risk assessment tools.
- **SB 1079 (Stern) CAL FIRE Fire Innovation Unit:** Establishes a Fire Innovation Unit within the CAL FIRE to advance wildfire technology research, coordination, procurement, and deployment. The unit is intended to support technologies that improve community risk reduction and ecosystem- and landscape-scale resilience.
- **SB 1370 (Stern) Covered wildfire mitigation projects: consolidated and expedited review.** Establishes a permanent consolidated and expedited state environmental and permitting review process for covered wildfire mitigation projects, administered jointly by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency. The law builds on temporary executive actions that streamlined review for hundreds of priority wildfire prevention projects and is intended to expedite authorization procedures, while maintaining specified environmental protections and requirements.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

CAL FIRE highlights the outcomes of the state's \$10.3 billion investment in wildfire prevention and forest health: On September 24, CAL FIRE [published a report](#) that highlights the outcomes of the state's \$1.03 billion investment through Senate Bill 901, signed into law in 2018 to advance wildfire prevention and forest health efforts statewide. The investments funded more than 660 grants through various CAL FIRE programs, including Forest Health, Wildfire Prevention, Business & Workforce Development, and Forest Health Research. CAL FIRE's Fuels Reduction Crews also received funding and supported implementation of another 209 projects over the five-year period. Implemented in 56 of California's 58 counties, the projects had positive impacts, with individual projects contributing to community protection during wildfires, influencing wildfire behavior, strengthening a culture of preparedness, helping communities reduce risk and protect homes, improving the chances of success for residents and firefighters when wildfire strikes, and expanding hands-on training and continuing education in forestry and wildland fire. Other outcomes of these investments include protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat, reducing pollution, and creating jobs and economic opportunities statewide.

CAL FIRE announces \$10 million in grants to strengthen California's forest workforce and expand forest restoration efforts: On September 22, CAL FIRE [announced](#) the award of \$10 million to 17 [Business and Workforce Development](#) grants, supporting innovative solutions that advance forest health, wildfire resilience, and rural economic development. Together, these [17 projects](#) will train hundreds of workers, create new career pathways, expand the capacity to



conduct forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction, and strengthen markets for wood and biomass generated through forest management.

California is over halfway to 30x30 goal: On September 27, the California Natural Resources Agency published [a report](#) documenting the State's progress toward its goal of conserving 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30). According to the report, California is past the halfway mark to 30x30, having conserved more than 3.5 million acres of lands and coastal waters since 2022 - an area larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. More than 1 million acres of land were added to the 30x30 database in the past year, bringing the state to 27.1% of lands conserved and 21.9% of coastal waters conserved.

CAL FIRE Launches AwareCA App to Deliver Real-Time Wildfire and Emergency Alerts Across California: On October 5, CAL FIRE and local government emergency response agencies announced the availability of [AwareCA](#), a new statewide emergency information and notification mobile application designed to help Californians stay informed and better prepared for emergencies. AwareCA supports a wide range of emergencies and incidents across California, including wildfires, floods, earthquakes, severe weather situations, hazardous materials incidents, and other large-scale emergencies.

Board of Forestry is seeking input on what it should prioritize in its Regulatory Review process. The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board of Forestry) [is seeking input](#) from Californians on what it should prioritize as part of its [annual Regulatory Review process](#). Each year, the Board reviews its work plan and regulatory portfolio to identify opportunities to address implementation challenges, reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers, and ensure California's forestry, wildfire resilience, and resource protection regulations remain effective and responsive to changing conditions. Submissions are due by 5 p.m. on October 30, 2026.

FEDERAL HIGHLIGHTS

USFS and U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities announce the Forestry Analytics for Carbon Tracking (FACT) Data Platform: On October 5, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities [announced](#) the Beta launch of the [Forestry Analytics for Carbon Tracking \(FACT\) platform](#), a science-based digital platform that provides standardized U.S. forest sector carbon data at no cost to users. FACT compiles previously siloed public and private forest and harvested wood product carbon data into one free platform. FACT is being developed through a public-private effort led by the Endowment, the USFS, and the forest sector, with input from scientists, engineers, and practitioners.

PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Survey participation is requested in the “Community-Based Organizations and Tribal Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Capacity and Needs Assessment”: The Watershed Research and Training Center and University of Oregon's Ecosystem Workforce Program are requesting [participation in a survey](#) that will provide a better understanding of current capacity, needs, and future priorities of Tribes, community-based organizations, fire safe councils, volunteer fire departments, collaboratives, Prescribed Burn Associations, Resource Conservation Districts, Special Districts, Joint Powers Authorities, and others that participate in place-



based wildfire resilience activities in California. Activities include, but are not limited to, forest management, beneficial fire management, community and/or partnership development, planning, coordination, outreach, and implementation. The survey is supported by Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. Responses will help identify capacity gaps, strengths, and areas for strategic investment to advance California's Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan. The deadline for participation is November 20, 2026.

Planscape and partners launch a Funding Opportunity Report: Planscape, in collaboration with Blue Forest, the U.S. Forest Service, and The Freshwater Trust, has launched the [Funding Opportunity Report](#). The free tool generates standardized reports quantifying project outcomes in value metrics, including: Reduced Fire Risk - Avoided wildfire severity modeling; Water Availability - Quantified watershed impacts; Air Quality - Projected reductions in smoke emissions; Carbon Storage - Standardized retention estimates; Bioeconomy Support - Actionable biomass data. The report is designed to connect forest resilience projects to conservation finance by translating planning areas and treatment scenarios into a standardized Funding Opportunity Report built to meet the analytical and reporting needs of major conservation finance organizations.

PRESS BOX

Trump takes his battle with California off road. [Politico, October 6, 2026.](#)

New Analysis of Southern California Fires Delivers 266 Recommendations for Safer Communities. [Homeland Security Today, October 5, 2026.](#)

Why even resilient forests are struggling to regrow after wildfires. [KSL, October 4, 2026.](#)

'The Grid Unplugged' Clip: Devastating Doc Explores Failing Power Grids That Sparked California Wildfires. [Deadline, October 1, 2026.](#)

Engineering professor patents technology designed to prevent wildfires. [Fresno State Today, October 1, 2026.](#)

Engineers Develop an AI Tool to Trace Where Wildfire Started. [USC Viterbi, School of Engineering, September 30, 2026.](#)

U.S. Senate Unanimously Passes Padilla Bill to Help Prevent Catastrophic Wildfires, Increase Use of Prescribed Fire. [Sierra Sun Times, September 30, 2026.](#)

LATEST IN SCIENCE

Data Landscape and Interoperability Goals for Hazardous Fuels. [Van Glahn & Puerini, Environmental Policy Innovation Center, October 1, 2026.](#)

Post-fire Reforestation Opportunity Mapping Tool: Assessing Impacts on California's Private Forestlands from 2019 2021 Wildfires. [UC Agriculture & Natural Resources-Forest Stewardship and American Forests.](#)

Stabilizing Home Insurance and Enhancing Wildfire Resilience for Existing California Homes. [Buddhavarapu & Subin, Turner Center for Housing Innovation, Uc Berkeley, October 6, 2026.](#)



Advancing community wildfire adaptation: emerging directions for meaningful progress. [Edgeley, International Journal of Wildland Fire \(2026\) 35 \(9\): WF26231.](#)

Summer Heat Stress Downregulates Photochemistry in Coast Redwoods. JGR Biogeosciences, [Vol. 131, Issue9, September 2026, e2026JG010052.](#)

Vulnerability of Recreation, Infrastructure, and Ecosystem Services to Climate Change in Southern California. [USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, General Technical Report PSW-GTR-281, August 2026.](#)

Diverging wildfire regimes and doubling of burn area in western United States water supply watersheds. [Communications Earth and Environment \(2026\).](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

California Fire Foundation, Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention and Firefighter Safety Grant Program: The [Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention & Firefighter Safety Grant Program](#) will fund \$13.8 million to California-based fire departments, local firefighter associations, federally recognized tribes, and nonprofit organizations for projects that actively address disaster preparedness and/or prevention needs, which protect and enhance the public's safety or the safety of California's firefighters and other first responders. The application deadline is November 16, 2026.

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.

NCRP Technical Assistance: The North Coast Resource Partnership is offering a [Request for Proposals for Technical Assistance](#) to Tribes and economically disadvantaged communities to support building the capacity needed to plan, fund, and implement landscape scale projects that enhance forest health, as well as watershed and community resilience to wildfires. Due date is November 1, 2026.

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:

- December 18, 2026: Sacramento
- March 25-26, 2027: Central Coast Regional – UC Santa Barbara, Corwin Pavilion

Through 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.

October 15-16: North Coast Resource Partnership Strategy Session: Participate in this [strategy session](#) in the Ukiah area 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: The theme for CARCD's [annual conference](#) is "Conserving California: Local Solutions, Shared Future" to celebrate 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.

