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California Finalizes Next Stage of Action Plan to Protect Communities from Wildfire and Bolster Landscape Resilience

What you need to know: Building on a transformational legislative package and more than $6 billion in wildfire resilience investments, the 5-year plan provides a roadmap to protect communities, restore landscapes and accelerate coordinated action statewide.

SACRAMENTO — Building on a historic legislative package signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom this year, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force today released the next stage of **California's Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan**. This five-year roadmap builds on the original action plan established in 2021, and aims to protect communities by hardening homes, strengthening preparedness, and preventing unwanted ignitions, while restoring landscapes through beneficial fire, post-fire recovery and chaparral conservation.

California faces a sustained wildfire crisis, with increasingly destructive fires threatening lives, homes, communities, and critical infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action across federal, state, local, tribal and private lands.

"California has transformed how we approach wildfire resilience, and this Action Plan builds on that foundation to meet the scale of the challenge before us," said **Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources and co-chair of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force**. "We implemented our initial Action Plan through thousands of wildfire safety projects, new partnerships, and historic investments. This new roadmap continues this work, while strategically directing resources into our most vulnerable communities and surrounding landscapes to reduce wildfire threats where risks are greatest."

Advancing a landmark legislative package

In 2026, the California State Legislature and Governor Newsom enacted a transformational legislative package that builds on five years of rapid progress. The legislative package will:

- **Speed up wildfire mitigation projects** by creating a durable, expedited review process for priority fuel reduction, forest restoration and community protection projects. SB 1370 (Stern, 2026)

- **Expand prescribed and cultural burning** by extending burn boss certifications, expanding training capacity, and codifying tools to support beneficial fire. AB 1699 (Rogers, 2026)
- **Advance wildfire technology** by establishing a CAL FIRE Fire Innovation Unit to coordinate research, procurement, and deployment of new technologies. SB 1079 (Stern, 2026)
- **Lower the cost of home hardening** by providing low-interest financing for home hardening and defensible space improvements. AB 1934 (Bennett, 2026), AB 1964 (Bennett, 2026), SB 894 (Allen, 2026)
- **Strengthen regional and county-level capacity** by supporting regional landscape-scale projects and establishing the California Wildfire Preparedness Program to strengthen local mitigation, preparedness, and recovery. AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris, 2026), SB 973 (Becker, 2026)
- **Improve electric infrastructure safety** by requiring utilities to account for active, inactive and abandoned transmission infrastructure in wildfire mitigation planning. SB 742 (Pérez, 2026)

The Action Plan connects this legislation to existing programs, investments, and regional priorities— providing Task Force partners a framework to turn new authorities into results on the ground.

Building on years of collective progress and collaboration

California's new legislation builds on the progress California has made since the Task Force released the nation's first comprehensive wildfire resilience action plan in 2021. Since then, Task Force partners have invested more than $6 billion in wildfire resilience and funded more than 2,200 wildfire safety projects across California. Through unprecedented investments and coordination, Task Force partners have:

- **Fast-tracked more than 540 wildfire projects,** with approvals in as little as 30 days, thanks to the Governor's March 2025 emergency proclamation on wildfire which has now been codified by SB 1370 (Stern, 2026).
- **Advanced regulations to protect structures and create defensible space** through the Board of Forestry's new Zone 0 regulations which aim to reduce ember exposure within five feet of homes in the highest-risk areas.
- **Scaled up landscape treatments** to more than 3.7 million activity acres treated by Task Force partners from 2021–2024.
- **Expanded prescribed and cultural fire** with treatments nearly doubling between 2021 and 2024.
- **Advanced tribal stewardship** through SB 310 (Dodd, 2024), supporting tribal sovereignty and cultural burning on ancestral territories.
- **Helped communities recover faster** through executive actions that streamlined rebuilding, debris removal and other recovery efforts following the 2025 Los Angeles fires.
- **Built local capacity** through the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program, which has awarded more than $150 million to communities.

- **Tracked progress** through the Interagency Treatment Dashboard, which brings wildfire resilience treatment data into one place to measure progress, inform planning and improve transparency.
- **Launched interagency strategies** for beneficial fire, sustainable recreation, reforestation and private landowner assistance to align the work of federal, state, local, and tribal organizations.

"CAL FIRE and our partners on the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force have made significant strides in transforming how California prepares for and responds to wildfire," **said CAL FIRE Director Joe Tyler.** "Looking ahead, this Action Plan provides an opportunity to continue that progress, strengthen our partnerships and keep advancing the people, technology and strategies needed to protect our communities and landscapes. Our focus remains on turning these investments into lasting results."

A framework for the next five years

The Action Plan provides a unified framework for Task Force partners to align policy, investments, and programs through 2031, and advances California's landmark 2020 Shared Stewardship Agreement with the federal government. The plan includes four connected parts and 119 corresponding key actions, based on best available science, risk information, and local knowledge.

- **Landscape Resilience:** To strengthen landscape resilience, the Plan prioritizes treatments on the state's highest-hazard landscapes to maximize investments, expand beneficial fire, address California's reforestation backlog, and introduce science-based approaches to conserve chaparral and other shrubland ecosystems.
- **Community Wildfire Preparedness:** To protect communities, the Plan advances a holistic approach that combines building-level mitigation with neighborhood and community preparedness, including home hardening and defensible space, stronger local preparedness programs, improved evacuation and smoke preparedness, ignition reduction, and strategic fuel treatments around communities and critical infrastructure.
- **Mobilizing Regional Action:** Wildfire risks vary across California and strategies must be tailored to local conditions. To accelerate regional implementation, the Plan strengthens regional planning, expands access to data and decision-support tools, aligns funding, streamlines environmental review and permitting, and improves monitoring and outcome-based reporting.
- **Cross-Cutting Initiatives:** To advance resilience across all landscapes and communities, the Plan supports tribal stewardship, sustains private landowner stewardship, expands workforce and career pathways, increases wood utilization, promotes sustainable recreation, and expands prescribed grazing.

Shared science and data connect these efforts, guiding investments with the best available research, risk information and local knowledge.

"We've built a strong foundation for more effectively and rapidly improving the resilience of our highest priority landscapes and communities," said **Patrick Wright, Director of the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force**. "This plan sets the stage for scaling up those efforts by aligning the efforts of our federal, state, local, tribal, and private partners, and by mobilizing regional action throughout the state."

Read California's Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan (2026-2031)