

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Proposals - April Early Action
(In Millions)

Category	Agency/Dept	Purpose	April Budget Action
Resilient Wildlands	CAL FIRE	Forest Health	\$90
			\$65
	CAL FIRE	Forest Improvement Program for Small Landowners	\$0
			\$10
	CAL FIRE	Forest Legacy & Reforestation Nursery	\$8
	CAL FIRE	Urban Forestry	\$10
	CAL FIRE	Tribal Engagement	\$1
	Parks & Recreation	Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$15
	Fish & Wildlife	Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$15
	State Lands Commission	Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$0
	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Project Implementation in High Risk Regions	\$20
			\$0
	Tahoe Conservancy	Stewardship of State-Owned Land	\$1
			\$0
Wildfire Fuel Breaks	CAL FIRE	CalFire Unit Fire Prevention Projects	\$10
	CAL FIRE	Fire Prevention Grants	\$50
			\$73
	CAL FIRE	Prescribed Fire & Hand Crews	\$15
	California Conservation Corps	Forestry Corps	\$0
		\$0	
Department of Conservation	Regional Forest & Fire Capacity	\$50	
Community Hardening	Cal OES & CAL FIRE	Home Hardening	\$25
	CAL FIRE	Defensible Space Inspectors	\$2
	CAL FIRE & University of California	Land Use Planning and Public Education Outreach	\$0
Science-Based Management	CAL FIRE	Ecological Monitoring, Research & Adaptive Management	\$3
	CNRA	Remote Sensing	\$0
	CARB & Waterboards	Permit Efficiencies	\$0
Forestry Sector Economic Stimulus	IBank	Climate Catalyst Fund	\$16
	CAL FIRE & Workforce Development Board	Workforce Development	\$6
	OPR	Market Development	\$3
TOTAL - All Funds			\$536
Total - General Fund			\$411
Total - Cap & Trade (GGRF)			\$125



March 9, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Skinner, Chair, Budget Committee
 Senator Wieckowski, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation
 State Capitol, Room 5019
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Ting, Chair, Budget Committee
 Assembly Member Bloom, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources and Transportation
 State Capitol, Room 6026
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Appropriating FY 20-21 Wildfire Resilience Funding at Earliest Opportunity

Dear Governor Newsom, Senators Wieckowski and Skinner, and Assembly Members Bloom and Ting:

We write to urge that the Governor, Senate and Assembly act quickly on a supplemental appropriation for Wildfire and Forest Resilience in the current fiscal year. There is broad support and urgency for immediate funding of projects that will reduce fire risk.

We have previously conveyed our support for the Administration's early action proposal. We also appreciate the Senate's proposal to make even greater FY 20-21 investments across a diversified portfolio. Regardless of how the Administration, Senate, and Assembly resolve a final agreement we urge you to keep one principle foremost:

Early Action Needs to be Early!

There are shovel-ready wildfire, community protection, and landscape resilience projects that are simply waiting for funding to implement; yet these critical projects will never get started unless the pace at the Capitol picks up. The sooner an agreement is reached and funds are allocated in the current fiscal year, the more likely these projects can be completed prior to the upcoming fire season.

There is broad agreement on the urgent need for investments. Please make an appropriation for the current year at the earliest opportunity. Delay comes at a cost – act now where you can, and then continue the conversation for further FY 21-22 action.

Yours with urgency,

Paul Mason
Vice President, Policy
Pacific Forest Trust

Nick Jensen
Conservation Director
California Native Plant Society

Rich Gordon
President and CEO
California Forestry Association

Steve Frisch
Executive Director
Sierra Business Council

Billy Gatlin
Executive Director
California Cattlemen's Association

Micah Weinberg
Executive Director
CA FWD

Pamela Flick
California Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Will Harling
Executive Director
Mid-Klamath Watershed Center

Jay Ziegler
Director, External Affairs and Policy
California Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Cindy Blain
Executive Director
CA ReLeaf

Noelle Cremers
Director, Environmental and
Regulatory Affairs
Wine Institute

Nick Goulette
Executive Director
Watershed Research & Training Center

Chris Morrill
Executive Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Laurie Oberholtzer
Executive Director
Sierra County Land Trust

Jeff Darlington
Executive Director
Placer County Land Trust

Matt Lyon
Board Chair
California Outdoor Recreation Partnership

Sarah Cardona
Deputy Director
Greenbelt Alliance

Shelton Douthit
Executive Director
Feather River Land Trust

Susan Britting, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Sierra Forest Legacy

Cc: Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon



January 26, 2021

Senator Skinner, Chair, Budget Committee
 Senator Wieckowski, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources, Environmental Protection,
 Energy and Transportation
 State Capitol, Room 5019
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Ting, Chair, Budget Committee
 Assembly Member Bloom, Chair, Budget Sub-Committee on Resources and Transportation
 State Capitol, Room 6026
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Appropriating FY 20-21 Wildfire Resilience Funding at Earliest Opportunity

Dear Senators Wieckowski and Skinner, and Assembly Members Bloom and Ting:

We write to urge that the Senate and Assembly include the Governor's proposed \$323 million early action appropriation for Wildfire and Forest Resilience in the earliest budget action.

The 2020 fire season was yet another wake-up call that California is unprepared for modern fire behavior. We saw record-breaking acreage burned; devastating natural areas, wiping out trees that have stood for more than 100 years, and destroying homes, businesses, and communities, and most tragically, resulting in the loss of life. The extreme smoke blanketed our state, keeping us inside for months, harming public health and undermining our climate progress. We must do more – and quickly – if we are to have a hope of avoiding a repeat of the past few fire seasons.

There are shovel-ready wildfire, community protection, and landscape resilience projects critical to addressing this current threat. However, these projects sit idle, simply waiting for funding to implement them. The sooner we can allocate fiscal year 2020-21 funding, the more likely these projects can be completed prior to the upcoming fire season. And we continue planning future actions and building momentum to achieve even more in the coming years.

There is broad agreement on the urgent need for these investments. Please appropriate the initial \$323 million for wildfire resilience at the earliest opportunity. Delay benefits no one.

Earnestly,

Pacific Forest Trust
California Cattlemen's Association
Defenders of Wildlife
Wine Institute
California Native Plant Society
Sierra Forest Legacy
Sierra Business Council
California Association of Wine Grape Growers
Natural Resources Defense Council
Napa Valley Grapegrowers
Napa Valley Vintners
California Wilderness Coalition
The Nature Conservancy

Coalition for Clean Air
US Green Building Council, Los Angeles
California State Parks Foundation
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
Bear Yuba Land Trust
Truckee Donner Land Trust
Placer Land Trust
Joel Joyce, Senior Management Analyst,
Placer County
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Feather River Land Trust

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Speaker Anthony Rendon
President pro Tempore Toni Atkins



Carbon Cycle Institute

December 16, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor, State of California
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Budget Request for \$1.5 Billion for FY 2021-22 for Wildfire Resilience

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to request that you include \$1.5 billion in your proposed 2021-22 state budget for landscape health, wildfire risk reduction, and other critical community wildfire preparedness activities. State support for these activities must be stable, sustainable, and represent an increased and ongoing level of state support so we can build the structure and workforce necessary to carry out these fire prevention activities. This funding is essential to continue and build upon the ongoing critical partnerships with local partners, federal, local, and state agencies, tribes, and other parties to prepare for and prevent worsening fire events.

Extensive fire suppression and exclusion, development in high fire hazard severity zones, and the spread of non-native vegetation from human activities has left California's landscapes prone to large, intense fires. Given the degraded condition of many of our fire-prone landscapes, the scale of the problem currently facing our state, and that climate change is exacerbating this problem, we need to

significantly increase, accelerate, and sustain efforts to prepare for and reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, in addition to ongoing fire suppression activities.

If designed and implemented well, these investments can also provide benefits to wildlife, water quality and security, and climate mitigation and resilience. Ensuring that landscape restoration projects are designed to advance these compatible goals will be critical to meeting the state's commitments to protect and enhance natural and working lands and the biodiversity that depend on healthy ecosystems. You set forth important conservation goals in your October Executive Order (N-82-20) to protect 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030 as essential to ensuring climate resiliency, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity protection, and to develop a Climate Smart Strategy for the state's natural and working lands. The scale of landscape restoration necessary to address California's fire challenge presents an enormous opportunity to advance our biodiversity and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Therefore, we urge that you propose \$1.5 billion, as detailed below, in your proposed 2021-22 state budget for a variety of fire prevention and preparedness actions across the landscape, at community scale, and to make individual structures less flammable.

- \$600 million for landscape-scale strategies for returning to a more natural, fire-resilient condition with investments in established programs for fuel reduction, forest thinning, and protection against loss of intact forests. This would include funding to CAL FIRE for the Forest Health grant program, Forest Legacy Program, Fire and Resource Assessment Program, and California Forest Improvement Program. It is important that a portion of this funding include work in oak woodlands to prevent the devastating fires California has seen in agricultural areas in recent years and to support vital biodiversity values. Additionally, we urge a sizable investment in the expansion of the use of prescribed fire to support partners and increase capacity, including funding for a collaborative tribal burning program that respects tribal sovereignty. After generations of suppressing cultural burning, it is long past time to partner with and learn from the tribes' life experience and knowledge.
- \$900 million for fire prevention efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire to homes, commercial structures, and communities, increase workforce capacity for risk reduction activities in both the built environment and the forest, planning and actions to make communities in fire-prone regions more resilient, and mitigations to safeguard vulnerable populations. This would include investments in CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention grant program, California and Local Conservation Corps, California Community Colleges, and Department of Conservation for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, as well as funding for hardening of structures, defensible spaces, emergency shelters and alert systems. It would also include funding for community resilience including community infrastructure, risk reduction buffers, and protections for human health such as air filters and power backup. These measures are especially important for non-forested, high risk areas, where prescribed fire and other landscape intervention may not be viable options.

As part of this request, we believe that there should be a discussion with the Legislature about how to improve coordination of the many fire prevention programs created or expanded in recent years, which span across multiple agencies and departments, to improve efficiencies and avoid redundancies. Finally, we continue to urge you to support a statewide bond proposal to finance vital

climate preparedness efforts, including fire preparedness and landscape conservation and restoration activities, to help ensure a more resilient California.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep California safe and thriving.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hunt
California River Restoration Science
American Rivers

Kirk Wilbur
Vice President Government Affairs
California Cattlemen's Association

Micah Weinberg
Executive Director
California Forward

Nick Jensen
Lead Conservation Scientists
California Native Plant Society

Chris Morrill
Executive Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Torri Estrada
Executive Director
Carbon Cycle Institute

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Tracy Katelman
Owner
ForEverGreen Forestry

Laurie Wayburn
President
Pacific Forest Trust

Matt Baker
Policy Director
Planning and Conservation League

Adam Livingston
Director of Planning and Policy
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Steve Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council

Sue Britting
Executive Director
Sierra Forest Legacy

Jenny Hatch
Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Melinda Booth
Executive Director
South Yuba River Citizens League

Craig Thomas
Director
The Fire Restoration Group

Nick Goulette
Executive Director
Watershed Research and Training Center

Tim Schmelzer
Vice President, California State Relations
Wine Institute

cc: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Thom Porter, Director, CAL FIRE

Senator Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Speaker
Senator Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee



November 18, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor, State of California
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Additional Urgent Funding for Wildfire Resilience

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to request that, upon the return of the Legislature in January, you seek a supplemental appropriation for landscape health, wildfire risk reduction, and other critical community wildfire preparedness activities for the current fiscal year. A \$500 million appropriation in January would provide the state with critical funding to act immediately to reduce risk of wildfire in California. This immediate infusion of funds would be additional to what your administration would request for the next fiscal year (2021-22), and would provide money sooner to local and state agencies, tribes and other parties currently working to prepare for and prevent worsening fire events.

Over the last four years of fires, California has seen more than 134 direct fatalities, and more than 44 thousand structures, including many homes, destroyed or damaged. Fire behavior in our forests and other natural landscapes is having undesirable effects and we are losing important wildlife and watershed values. Further, the extreme fire behavior is causing long periods of unhealthy air affecting millions of people and causing serious health impacts, including elevated mortality. The

“new normal” of California’s fire season is a source of persistent stress, disruption, and deteriorated quality of life for Californians.

We appreciate the investment and efforts made by your administration this year in fighting the disastrous wildfires amid a pandemic. This has been one of the most difficult years faced by our state. Unfortunately, during the 2020 legislative session, the pandemic and associated recession contributed to the appropriation of insufficient funding for proactive forest health and wildfire risk reduction activities. In particular, CAL FIRE did not receive an allocation to make grants through programs for forest health or fire prevention activities. Given the condition of our fire-prone landscapes, the scale of the problem currently facing our state, and that climate change is exacerbating this problem, we need to significantly increase our efforts to prepare for and reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, in addition to fire suppression.

An effective approach to reducing fire impacts requires a three-pronged approach. First, we must counter the effects of past fire suppression and return our forests and landscapes to a more natural, fire-resilient condition. For fire-adapted forests an important goal is to increase the safe and beneficial use of fire. Second, we must make individual structures less vulnerable to wildfire through home retrofits and defensible space and improve land use planning. Third, we must support community-scale actions for emergency planning and notification, community resilience, and coordination of local efforts. This approach allows us to apply proven solutions across California’s varied habitats and conditions. Not every wildfire or habitat is the same, which is why we emphasize a mix of solutions to meet the needs of both forests and non-forested communities for both fuel-driven and wind-driven wildfire.

Therefore, we urge that you propose an additional \$500 million in emergency funding for this fiscal year to be expended as detailed below.

- \$150 million for landscape-scale strategies for returning to a more natural, fire-resilient condition with investments in established programs for fuel reduction, thinning, and protection against loss of intact forests. This would include funding to CAL FIRE for three programs: (1) the Forest Health grant program to address the legacy of fire suppression and past management, and restore structural complexity and resilience to forests and other impacted landscapes, including the Forest Legacy grant program that secures permanent commitments to climate-smart forest management; (2) the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) to improve monitoring and implementation of treatments that combine thinning and prescribed burning; and (3) the California Forest Improvement Program for grants to small landowners for forest health improvements. This would also include funding for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program for investments in watershed and forest health restoration.
- \$50 million to expand the use of prescribed fire to be much more proactive about burning under conditions of our choosing, rather than wildfires burning largely on the hottest, driest, and windiest days of the year. This funding should be distributed to the following programs: (1) CAL FIRE’s prescribed burning program for grants to support partners, including funding to qualified nonprofits to assist in the assessment of biodiversity considerations in accelerating project delivery; (2) the UC Fire Science Consortium for regional and local prescribed fire partnerships to increase cross-jurisdictional burning; (3) the UC Cooperative Extension for additional fire advisors to increase prescribed fire planning, technical support, and landowner education; and (4) \$10 million to the California Natural Resources Agency

for a collaborative tribal burning program that respects tribal sovereignty. After generations of suppressing indigenous cultural burning, it is long past time to partner with and learn from the tribes' life experience and knowledge.

- \$150 million for fire prevention efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire to homes and communities and to increase workforce capacity. Vital programs include CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention grant program to reduce the risk of wildfires to structures and communities through activities such as hazardous fuels reduction, public education, and wildfire prevention planning investments; the California and Local Conservation Corps, to increase the workforce for all forms of risk reduction activities; the California Community Colleges for workforce training in forest restoration; and the Department of Conservation for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, including to support a prescribed fire training center.
- \$150 million to make communities in fire-prone regions more resilient and to safeguard vulnerable populations. This would include investments from the California Office of Emergency Services' Prehazard Mitigation Grant Program for community protection efforts, including home hardening, defensible spaces, emergency shelters and alert systems. It would also include funding for community resilience and safeguarding vulnerable populations, including community infrastructure, risk reduction buffers, and urban greening and urban forestry to reduce heat islands.

In addition to the above requested action in January, we request that you include \$1.5 billion in your proposed 2021-22 state budget proposal. Funding should be included for a variety of fire prevention and preparedness actions across the landscape, at community scale, and to make individual structures less flammable. We also urge you to support a statewide bond proposal to finance vital fire prevention activities to help ensure a more resilient California. While this letter is specifically focused on an urgent \$500 million supplemental appropriation, we look forward to continuing discussions with your administration and the Legislature about the fiscal year 2021-22 state budget investments and improved intra-agency coordination.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep California safe and thriving.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sattler
Board Member
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Lisa Hunt
California River Restoration Science
American Rivers

Kirk Wilbur
Vice President Government Affairs
California Cattlemen's Association

Micah Weinberg
Executive Director
California Forward

Nick Jensen
Lead Conservation Scientists
California Native Plant Society

Catherine Freeman
Legislative Representative
California State Association of Counties

Chris Morrill
Executive Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Torri Estrada
Executive Director
Carbon Cycle Institute

Daniel O'Connell
Executive Director
Central Valley Partnership

Pamela Flick
California Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Laurie Wayburn
President
Pacific Forest Trust

Matt Baker
Policy Director
Planning and Conservation League

Cam Tredennick
Executive Director
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Steve Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council

Sue Britting
Executive Director
Sierra Forest Legacy

Jenny Hatch
Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Melinda Booth
Executive Director
South Yuba River Citizens League

Craig Thomas
Director
The Fire Restoration Group

Elizabeth Forsburg
Associate Director, Policy
The Nature Conservancy

Nick Goulette
Executive Director
Watershed Research and Training Center

cc: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Thom Porter, Director, CAL FIRE
Senator Toni Atkins, Senate President Pro Tempore
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Speaker