



CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE
& FOREST
RESILIENCE
TASK FORCE

**CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**

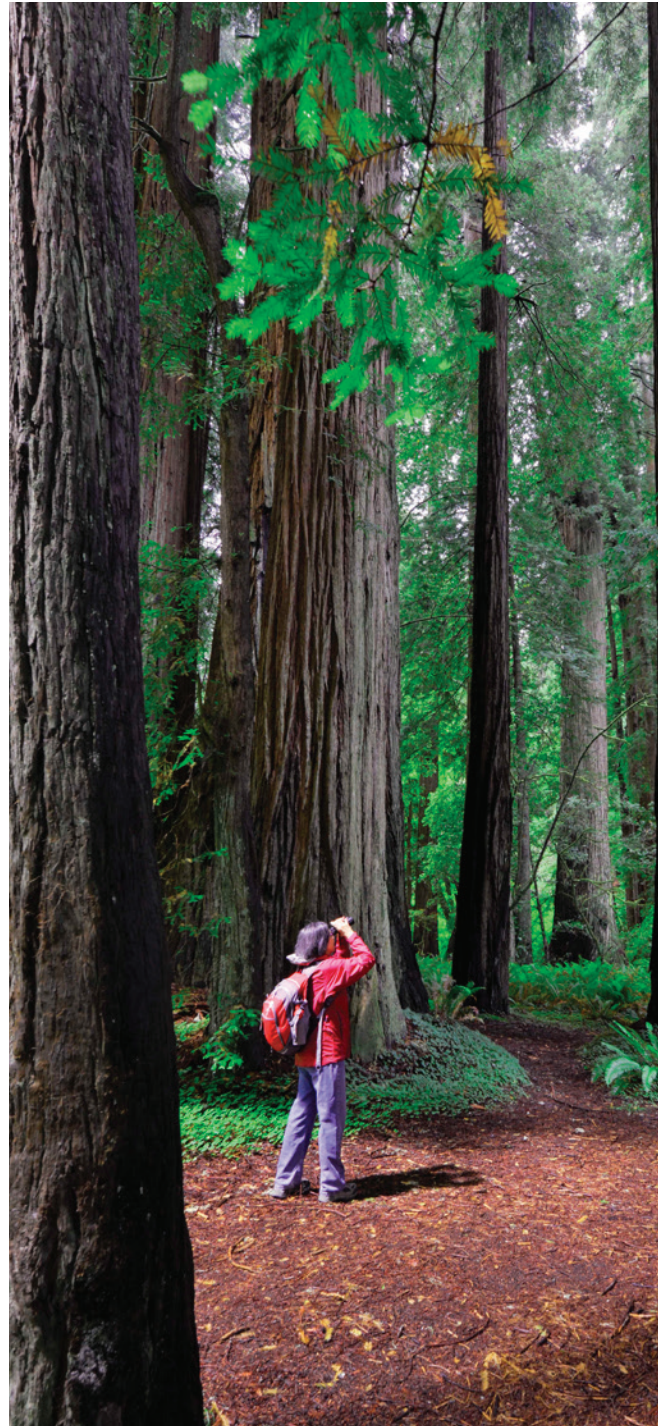


**PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE
DECEMBER 12, 2022**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

California is home to some of the most beautiful and celebrated landscapes on Earth. More than 100 Native American tribes have stewarded and protected California's lands and waters from time immemorial through the present day. Often, places valued as recreation sites today hold significant cultural and ecological importance for Indigenous peoples. Acknowledging California as the homeland of Native American tribes is just a small step to take in the spirit of truth and healing. This Joint Strategy attempts to elevate California Native governments, communities, peoples, and priorities into the collective thinking about sustainable outdoor recreation, inclusive access to the outdoors, and wildfire resilience. Realizing the privilege of those who recreate outside, this Joint Strategy hopes to contribute to further discussions of appropriate and respectful public access to valued and significant places.



Birdwatching at the Stout Memorial Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, CA. Credit: John Chao, Redwood National and State Parks

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Thank you to the more than 130 representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, tribal entities, nongovernmental organizations, business interests, community groups, and stakeholders who participated in public input sessions or otherwise contributed to this plan.

This strategic plan is located on the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force website at:

www.wildfiretaskforce.org/about/action-areas/sustainable-accessible-recreation



BACKGROUND



THE CHALLENGE

A STRATEGIC CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



The Mount Hough Trail System, near Quincy, CA, before and after the Dixie Fire in 2021. Credit: Ken Etzel

California has faced an unprecedented wildfire crisis during the past decade that has resulted in billions of dollars in damage to local economies and infrastructure, including outdoor recreation facilities and trail systems across California. Moreover, climate change has dramatically increased the length and intensity of California's fire seasons. The 2020 fire season broke records: Five of California's six largest fires in modern history burned at the same time. More than 4 million acres burned across the state, doubling the previous record. The following year, 2021, saw some of the most severe megafires in history, including the Dixie Fire, which became the largest single wildfire in state history and the first wildfire to burn across the width of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

In August 2020, the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service announced the historic Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands to improve the health of California's forests and rangelands and reduce wildfire risk across the state. The following January, the state released California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan), which detailed specific actions to address the wildfire crisis, and convened the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to implement the Action Plan.

CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan contains four goals and 99 specific actions to address the wildfire crisis across California. Goal 3 contains Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14, which address the relationship between forest health and sustainable outdoor recreation:

- **Key Action 3.13 – Update Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):** In 2021, CNRA, in coordination with State Parks, will update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP will provide a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.
- **Key Action 3.14 – Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:** In accordance with the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the USFS will coordinate the development of a joint strategy to improve access to sustainable recreation.

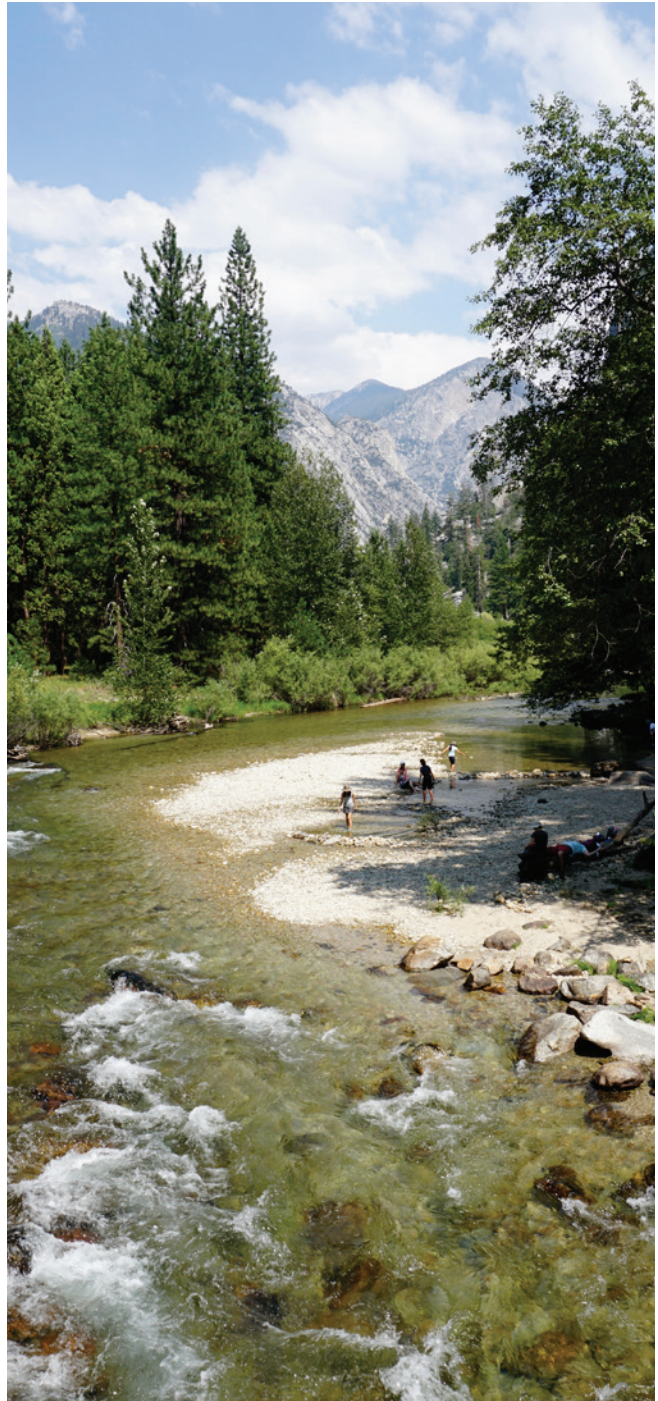
The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force assigned Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14 of the Action Plan to the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group (Key Working Group). Key Action 3.13 was completed by the Key Working Group through consultations with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Please see additional discussion of Key Action 3.13 on page 13. Key Action 3.14 is the more immediate subject of this Joint Strategy document.



Firefighters and natural resource specialists apply a protective fire-shelter wrap to the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, CA, during the KNP Complex Fire in 2021. Credit: Elizabeth Wu, National Park Service

THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED RECOGNIZING THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Climate change increases the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfires.
- California's diverse landscapes and communities require regionally tailored strategies and actions.
- Resilience to catastrophic wildfires requires restoring the health of our forests and diverse landscapes across the state and strengthening wildfire preparation within our communities.
- Frequent, low-intensity fire can be a positive force in improving forest health and biodiversity and forested communities' safety.
- Strengthening the linkages between the ecological health of forests and the economic and social health of rural communities is needed.
- Strong partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal entities and private organizations are needed to address the threat of wildfire.



Visitors enjoy California's Kings Canyon National Park.
Credit: National Park Service

THE KEY WORKING GROUP AND THE JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

The Key Working Group developed the Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience (Joint Strategy) to provide a road map for improved access to sustainable outdoor recreation in an era when wildfires are having tremendous impacts on outdoor recreation opportunities throughout California. The Joint Strategy recognizes that our recreation system exists within a vast network of watersheds that stretches all the way from the headwaters in the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Our recreation system is affected by wildfires and natural disasters in profound ways both upstream and downstream from where people recreate. The Key Working Group consisted of staff from federal and state agencies, regional and local agencies, industry, and nongovernmental organizations. The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) convened the Key Working Group. The Consensus and Collaboration Program of the College of Continuing Education at Sacramento State University provided facilitation. Climate Equity Solutions Inc. contributed drafting and editing services, under contract to MLTPA.



Children record observations on a clipboard at California's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary as part of the Ocean Guardian program.

Credit: Nick Zachar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Joint Strategy presents Goals and Key Actions that highlight the most important considerations for providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all Californians, including our most underserved and underrepresented communities, in this era of risk from wildfires. The Key Working Group engaged with tribes, experts, and stakeholders who have been affected by wildfires, smoke, and natural disasters, or who are actively engaged in providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities. These groups and individuals verified that the Joint Strategy sets timely, essential, and implementable goals. Participants in the Key Working Group generously shared their time, perspective, and advice on topics through a series of facilitated virtual meetings from November 2021 through November 2022.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Key Working Group will seek to create a structure to guide the implementation of the Joint Strategy under the general auspices of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force). The Key Working Group intends to provide regular progress reports to the Task Force and establish a program of accountability for implementing the Joint Strategy.

The Goals and Key Actions of the Joint Strategy also aim to fully integrate outdoor recreation considerations and opportunities into federal, state, local, and partner programs of work already underway. Some actions call on specific groups to act, while others present opportunities for ground-up integration of outdoor recreation into wildfire risk reduction and recovery efforts. Many of the actions are already underway at all levels of government and in local communities. The Joint Strategy was inspired by these ongoing efforts and hopes to inspire other communities and all levels of government to continue progress on such efforts. Sustained realization of the Goals and Key Actions will require time, resources, and capacity investments from the USFS, the state of California, and their partners.



Mandy Beatty cuts a section of trail in the Mount Hough Trail System near Quincy, CA, with her dog, Scout, by her side. Credit: Ken Etzel

As with other Task Force working group strategies, the Joint Strategy will be incorporated and integrated into the Task Force's Million-Acre Strategy, which serves as the Task Force's primary implementation program for the four Task Force goals. Funding needs to be secured to support the Key Working Group's continued efforts to oversee implementation of the Joint Strategy including facilitation of Key Working Group meetings, coordination with lead implementing agencies and entities, preparation of regular progress updates, participation in Task Force meetings, and general guidance of implementation activities. It is anticipated that full implementation of the Joint Strategy's Goals and Key Actions will create a sustainable outdoor recreation system in California that is resilient to wildfire and natural disasters and will lead to additional key actions needed to equitably provide the diverse and accessible recreational opportunities desired by all Californians.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN KEY ACTION 3.13

Key Action 3.13 of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan directs the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and State Parks to update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2021. The SCORP provides a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.

The SCORP is a five-year plan that establishes grant priorities to address unmet needs for public outdoor recreation land throughout California. By completing an update to the SCORP every five years, California maintains eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

Due to a variety of factors, the release of the 2021–2025 SCORP occurred in early 2022, as the Key Working Group convened to begin its work on the development of the Joint Strategy. As a result of this timing, representatives from the Key Working Group were able to meet with staff from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss opportunities to recommend priorities and help to inform the vision of the 2026–2030 SCORP update, set to begin in 2023. During these discussions, it was acknowledged that the next update to the SCORP might be enhanced to capture the broadened scope and landscapes of outdoor recreation in California.



Enjoying a meal while camping at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, CA. Credit: courtesy of California State Parks, 2019

It is anticipated that key actions from the Joint Strategy may be integrated into the SCORP update process and that the SCORP may become a more comprehensive framework for the next five years of outdoor recreation development, planning, and management in California.



GOALS & KEY ACTIONS



INTRODUCTION

Californians today recreate outside more than ever before, finding experiences of a lifetime in California's protected lands and waters. Statewide demand for outdoor recreation opportunities exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in pressure to maximize or expand federal, state, and local park systems. This recent surge in outdoor recreation has led land managers and stewardship groups to renew their focus on natural resource protection and wildfire risk reduction, while providing needed recreation opportunities.



Mountain biking before and after the Dixie Fire in 2021, near Quincy, CA. Credit: Ken Etzel

The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to provide the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force with a road map for how to protect and improve sustainable outdoor recreation assets and access in the context of wildfire and natural disaster planning and response. The audience of this Joint Strategy includes the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the state of California, land managers, and the extended outdoor recreation community. This Joint Strategy emphasizes the fact that sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities must be high-quality and resilient to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population and changing climate.

The Joint Strategy satisfies Key Action 3.14 of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: "Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation." The Joint Strategy contains Goals and Key Actions that will:

- 1.** Strengthen our sustainable outdoor recreation system, forest health, and resilience
- 2.** Advance inclusion and access for all Californians
- 3.** Promote the health and safety of all Californians
- 4.** Support the local economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation

The Key Working Group developed a set of guiding principles to serve as a foundation for the Joint Strategy and to guide agencies, organizations, and communities tasked with implementing the Goals and Key Actions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles provide a foundation for all of the Goals and Key Actions of the Joint Strategy, ensuring that the Joint Strategy is achieved broadly and equitably across California.



Two backpackers and a ranger look at a map at Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park in Pilot Hill, CA. Credit: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

Engage in Proactive Communication – Communication is key to implementing the Joint Strategy effectively and comprehensively across California. Communication and engagement will occur at all levels, with a particular focus on ensuring that underserved and underrepresented communities, including multilingual communities, receive information and have opportunities to engage with implementation of the Joint Strategy in a timely manner and through channels that effectively reach their communities.

Prioritize Community Recovery – Implementation of the Joint Strategy will prioritize recovery for communities that have been impacted by wildfire. Multiple communities across California have been devastated by wildfire, and implementation of this Joint Strategy will support holistic recovery of the environmental, economic, and social elements of these communities.

Utilize Cross-Sector Integration – The intent of the Joint Strategy is to integrate efforts at all levels to address sustainable recreation and wildfire risk, including governmental organizations, the nonprofit and business sectors, and community organizations. Integrating the Key Actions in this plan with forest health and community-development work being done locally is the most effective way to achieve broad success.

Emphasize Transparency – Entities implementing Key Actions will be responsible for reporting on and communicating their work to the public and groups working on similar efforts across the state, using methods that ensure all interested parties are informed of their work.

Engage in Partnerships and Collaboration – Effective implementation of the Joint Strategy will require that Key Actions are implemented through ongoing and supported partnerships and collaborations between government, the nonprofit sector, business interests, and community-based organizations.

Leverage Funds – Adequate funding will be required to achieve full implementation of the Joint Strategy. Implementation will require significant commitments of resources and funding from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, nonprofits, and business entities. In addition, all funding will be leveraged to the maximum extent to ensure that implementation occurs at a high level across California.

Engage with Tribes and Indigenous Communities – During implementation, agencies and organizations will engage with tribes and Indigenous communities to inform work on all Key Actions. Implementing agencies and organizations will work with tribes to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into outdoor recreation and forest health projects where appropriate.

Engage with Underserved and Underrepresented Communities – Engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities is critical to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion in implementing the Joint Strategy. Agencies and organizations responsible for implementing Key Actions will conduct comprehensive outreach using community-specific outreach methods to ensure that affected communities are aware of, and have the opportunity to participate in and influence, the work being done under this Joint Strategy.

Use the Best Available Science and Information – Agencies and organizations responsible for implementation of the Joint Strategy are committed to using the best available science and information and sharing the results of their work within peer learning networks.

Prioritize Equity and Inclusivity – Ensuring equity and inclusion is paramount to all participants in this Joint Strategy. All agencies and organizations implementing Key Actions are committed to equity and inclusion and will engage locally and across the state to ensure that all peoples are considered during implementation of Key Actions.

Promote Wildfire and Natural Disaster Resiliency – Resilience to wildfires and natural disasters is a primary purpose of this Joint Strategy. All Key Actions are focused on ensuring that California and its residents are prepared for wildfire and natural disaster events and have the resources to achieve long-term resiliency, especially in light of climate change.





GOAL 1:

**Integrate Forest Health and
Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**



INTEGRATE FOREST HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

Our aim is to promote forest health and resiliency alongside sustainable outdoor recreation for all throughout California. We recognize that forest health and outdoor recreation mutually depend on one another and that our management of them needs to be integrated. This goal promotes public access and enjoyment of our forests and public lands and all the benefits that come with that while at the same time addressing the impacts and mitigating factors of outdoor recreation from catastrophic wildfires and climate effects. By ensuring healthy lands and waters, outdoor recreation users feel connected to nature in places and communities that are socially, economically, and environmentally rich and resilient.



A hiker looks at smoke from the 2021 Caldor Fire in the distance. Credit: James Townsend

GOAL 1:

Integrate the provision of high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with forest health and resilience and wildfire and climate mitigation efforts so that all people can connect to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

KEY ACTIONS

1. **Maintain Public Access as the Climate Changes:** Develop climate-smart best practices toolkits and resources to be used by land-management organizations for programs and projects associated with forest and wildland health, vegetation management, transportation, and visitor use that enhance public access to outdoor recreation on public lands and waters as the climate changes.
2. **Develop Educational Materials Targeted at Reducing the Human Causes of Ignition:** Create and distribute educational materials in multiple languages targeting human causes of ignition of wildfires.
3. **Develop Integrated Communications Systems:** Establish integrated and standardized communication systems to provide consistent information to the public about forest health projects, and wildfires and other natural disasters, across jurisdictional boundaries and among federal, state, regional, and local organizations. Partner with Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), chambers of commerce, fire safe councils, cultural groups, outdoor recreation and stewardship groups, and local media to communicate in multiple languages and with digital media about closures, restrictions, smoke, and alternative facilities.
4. **Incorporate Sustainable Outdoor Recreation into the State Department of Conservation's Regional Forest Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program:** Incorporate the Key Actions from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience into the RFFC Program, Regional Forums, and Regional Priority Plans being developed by RFFC Program Regional Block Grantees.
5. **Add Public Education to Forest Health Projects:** Forest health projects on public lands under state and federal funding programs will include a component to educate the public about the project's purpose, techniques, and impact on outdoor recreation opportunities. Education efforts will serve to promote public safety, minimize impacts to recreation user groups, and develop public support for the value of forest health projects, including prescribed fire.



GOAL 1: Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

6. **Strengthen Partnerships Between Resource Conservation Districts or Other Appropriate Partners and Land Managers:** Where feasible, recreation land managers will enter into partnerships with Resource Conservation Districts and other appropriate land-management partner entities or authorities to support work including design, permitting, and construction for outdoor recreation facilities and trails and fuel reduction around communities (including fencing, water sources, etc.).
7. **Implement Multi-Benefit Projects in or Adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface:** Implement projects in or adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas that have joint wildfire risk reduction and outdoor recreation benefits, such as trails and campgrounds that can be used during fires as personnel and equipment staging areas. Where appropriate, conduct thinning, prescribed burns, and vegetation clearing around outdoor recreation infrastructure to make it more resilient to wildfire and to create defensible space for fire suppression. Within these project areas, create demonstration and interpretive areas incorporating TEK practices where people can recreate and learn about the benefits of prescribed fire and vegetation management.
8. **Design and Build Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure That Is Resilient to Climate Change and Wildfire:** Consider nature-based solutions to address climate change and wildfire risk considerations when designing, constructing, maintaining, and renovating outdoor recreation facilities. Where appropriate, relocate facilities away from floodplains, landslide areas, avalanche paths, or high-risk fire areas. Install multilingual signage identifying emergency egress and shelter-in-place protocols, and, where needed, develop additional access and evacuation points. Design and harden roads, trails, bridges, and outdoor recreation infrastructure to be fire resistant and resilient to natural disasters. When available, cross-train fire crews in sustainable trail construction to help in recovery of trails post-fire.
9. **Establish Permanent Fuel Breaks Proximate to Recreation Trails:** Where feasible and appropriate, develop permanent fuel breaks that cut across jurisdictional boundaries along or adjacent to recreation trails and infrastructure to achieve multiple wildfire risk reduction and response benefits. Locate fuel breaks near trails to provide access for prescribed fires and fire suppression. In wilderness areas, consider non-permanent fuel breaks to protect resources.
10. **Use Data to Prioritize Wildfire Risk Reduction Treatments in Outdoor Recreation Areas:** Assess community and outdoor recreation asset vulnerability through the use of data developed by the Task Force, such as Planscape, and the Key Working Group (California Recreation Opportunities GIS Map) to develop priorities for treatment around outdoor recreation areas based on likelihood of ignition and vulnerability to the impact of wildfire. In particular, focus prioritization of treatments adjacent to campgrounds, trails, and trailheads.



GOAL 1: Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

11. **Create Wildfire Evacuation Plans for At-Risk Outdoor Recreation Areas:** In coordination with local government and using specific evacuation planning tools (e.g., Zonehaven and CAL FIRE's Evacuation Guide), outdoor recreation providers including park agencies, private resorts, and other entities will create, regularly update, and implement and maintain evacuation plans that identify assets and areas most at risk, and safe evacuation routes and staging areas for shelter-in-place.
12. **Create California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Exemptions/Exclusions for Recreation Trails Located Within Treatment Areas:** Create Categorical Exclusion(s) under NEPA, and Categorical Exemption(s) under CEQA, for recreation trails located within treatment areas that have already undergone previous environmental review.



John Rice, general manager of California's Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort, looks out from a burnt lift shack at ski runs burned by the Caldor Fire in 2021.

Credit: Katie Hunter, Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort



Leadership from the U.S. Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and CAL FIRE discuss the effect of vegetation treatment on burn severity during the Caldor Fire in 2021. Credit: John Wentworth

A photograph of a forest path. The path is made of dirt and wooden planks, winding through a dense forest. Large, moss-covered tree trunks are visible on the left, and lush green ferns and undergrowth line the path. The lighting is soft, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

GOAL 2:

**Advance Inclusion and Access
For All Throughout California**



ADVANCE INCLUSION AND ACCESS FOR ALL THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

California and its partners must build upon and expand an inclusionary culture of sustainable outdoor recreation, promoting equitable access across California's public lands and waters that reflects the diversity of all peoples and the legacy of our Native American history, culture, and use. Inspired by the California Natural Resources Agency's Outdoors for All initiative, our work will strive to address long-standing environmental, social, and economic inequities in our society that have resulted in physical and societal barriers to outdoor recreation access for underserved and underrepresented residents. Improvements to outdoor recreation access, including planning, programming, and infrastructure, will be co-created with communities, forest health, and wildfire response partners and designed around community values to be resilient to increasingly frequent wildfires and natural disasters. Advancing equitable access will require a high level of engagement with underserved and underrepresented populations to prioritize and implement integrated outdoor recreation access and wildfire risk reduction, resiliency, and recovery actions that provide respite for these communities year-round and especially during times of disaster.



Posing on a bridge along the Trillium Falls Trail in Redwood National and State Parks, CA. Credit: John Chao, Redwood National and State Parks

GOAL 2:

Plan for and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable access for all Californians.

KEY ACTIONS

1. **Create Statewide School Programming:** Federal, state, and local agencies will engage and collaborate with the California Department of Education to develop place-based virtual and in-person programming that educates students about the value of outdoor recreation and natural resources, including topics such as Traditional Ecological Knowledge, responsible recreation, fire-prone landscapes, safety, and how to participate in stewardship projects.
2. **Create Interpretive, Historical, and Stewardship Educational Opportunities at Key Recreation Facilities:** Where feasible, create interpretive, historical, and stewardship education to educate the public at key outdoor recreation facilities across the state.
3. **Minimize Impact of Wildfire-Related Area and Facility Closures to Public Access and Recreational Use:** Target outdoor recreation site and area closures to the minimum area and time periods deemed appropriate to mitigate threats and minimize impact to the recreating public and commercial providers. Land managers should engage with relevant public and commercial recreation interests and DMOs on reopening plans, with a particular focus on addressing access concerns of underserved and underrepresented communities.
4. **Engage with Local Communities During Post-Fire Recovery Planning to Expedite the Resumption of Outdoor Recreation Access:** After fires, coordinate and engage with local communities on post-fire recovery plans, including activities aimed at expediting the return of public access. Within burned areas, prioritize forest health, hazard tree and vegetation removal near trails, slope stabilization around trails, and restoration of park and outdoor recreation facilities lost in wildfires. Where appropriate, utilize local workers, volunteers, conservation corps, or tribal capacity such as the Tiüvac'a'ai Tribal Conservation Corps to assist in post-fire restoration of outdoor recreation infrastructure and trails.
5. **Explore Creating an Online Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Resource:** Explore creating a one-stop online outdoor recreation resource for visitors to research local, regional, and state recreation opportunities based on interest and location. The online resource may contain information on how to prepare for visits to outdoor recreation areas, including information on responsible recreation, how to obtain permits, and what recreational uses are allowed. The resource may also serve as a multilingual communication tool to identify outdoor recreation facilities that are closed due to natural



GOAL 2: Advance Inclusion and Access For All Throughout California

disasters or emergencies. Where possible, coordinate with existing information platforms that provide similar services. Alternatively, agencies may maintain a multi-jurisdictional, centralized map of outdoor recreation assets (campgrounds, trailheads, etc.) and link out to existing agency platforms for additional information from the land-management agency.

6. **Conduct a Multi-Agency Social Science Survey to Gauge the Current Needs of Outdoor Recreation Users:** State and federal land-management agencies will develop a simple methodology and conduct a joint statewide survey to identify current and emerging use and demand, barriers to outdoor access, and the desired critical outdoor recreation needs and uses of our communities, with a particular emphasis on underserved and underrepresented communities. The survey will be shared broadly with California's public-land managers and private outdoor recreation lands operators at all scales well in advance of survey implementation to encourage broad data collection across California's lands and communities. The survey will be designed to be repeatable over time and at different geographic scales.
7. **Develop Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Across the State That Provides for a Diversity of Recreation Experiences:** Where a local community has identified a need for more outdoor recreation opportunities and uses, land-management agencies will look to collaborate and partner with the local community (counties, cities, towns, special districts) to plan for, fund, build, and maintain climate-resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure, facilities, and trail systems that will increase the diversity of recreation opportunities in that local community.



GOAL 3:

Promote The Health and Well-Being of All Californians Through Outdoor Recreation



PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL CALIFORNIANS THROUGH OUTDOOR RECREATION

California and its partners are committed to providing outdoor recreation opportunities that nurture the mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health and safety of all people while protecting our natural resources. Wildfires and other natural disasters can impede access to outdoor recreation at a time when people need it most for their well-being. To address this need for outdoor recreation opportunities before, during, and after natural disasters, we will communicate proactively with residents and visitors to promote the healthy enjoyment of outdoor recreation, inform people of where facilities are available, and apprise people of how to avoid smoke exposure and other risk factors. We will prioritize the development of resilient recreation opportunities that can function as alternative sites when other facilities are closed or inaccessible. The development of safe places to recreate is vitally important in ensuring safe access for all.



Children play in the snow near California's Sierra-at-Tahoe. Credit: Brian Walker, Sierra-at-Tahoe

GOAL 3:

Provide health information, training, and alternative recreation opportunities that promote the health and well-being of all peoples, with consideration of people's needs before, during, and after wildfires and other natural disasters.

KEY ACTIONS

1. **Improve Air Quality Advisory Communication:** Refine existing air quality communication tools, such as the California Smoke Spotter Application (app) and EPA AirNow, so that more users are aware of the tools, information is available in multiple languages, and users are advised of preventative measures to reduce their exposure. Focus the awareness campaign and information on those who are more likely to be exposed to air quality impacts including smoke, such as outdoor recreation workers.



Smoke from the Woolsey Fire in 2018, seen from Topanga, CA. Credit: Peter Buschmann, U.S. Forest Service

2. **Train First Responders, Community Planners, and Outdoor Recreation Staff in Mental Health First Aid and Utilize Medical Reserve Corps and Similar Volunteer Groups to Provide Psychological Support During Disasters:** Create a state program to train all first responders, community planners, and outdoor recreation field staff in mental health first aid to support communities during and after wildfires and other natural disasters. Share models and best practices for how to utilize medically trained volunteers to provide psychological support during and after disasters.
3. **Build Partnerships Between the Health and Outdoor Recreation Sectors:** Pursue the environmental elements of the Health in All Policies approaches of the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by creating and maintaining partnerships

between public health entities and the outdoor recreation sector. Partnerships will identify and seek to implement projects with co-benefits for health and outdoor recreation, such as prescriptions to spend time outdoors, smoke safety and extreme heat guidance, community-based planning of desirable park features and programs, or research to document the beneficial health impacts of local outdoor recreation projects. Partnerships will share best practices and lessons learned with public health and outdoor recreation professional forums.

4. **Increase Opportunities for Indoor Recreation:** Develop public, multi-use indoor recreation spaces that can offer recreation when smoke and wildfire affect the safety of outdoor recreation. These spaces can also be used as information hubs, libraries, cooling centers, Local Assistance Centers, shelters, or staging areas during emergencies.



Kayaking in an indoor pool can serve as a recreation opportunity during wildfire smoke events. Credit: County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation



GOAL 4:

**Support Economies That Enhance
Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**

SUPPORT ECONOMIES THAT ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

Communities and their sustainable outdoor recreation economies enhance the physical, social, and economic vitality of California and, by nature of their dependence on public lands and waters, often play a critical role in ensuring that public lands and waters are maintained and resilient to climate change and wildfires. These communities are well positioned to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Direct recreation spending, jobs, and tourism revenue contribute prominently to these forest and gateway communities. As has been increasingly demonstrated during the past decade, climate change and massive wildfires are having a devastating impact on our communities and their recreation economies. While wildfire risk reduction is key, more should be done to ensure that our recreation-based communities can respond and recover after wildfires and other natural disasters to support community resilience, economic vitality, and local jobs.



Downtown Mariposa, CA, in close proximity to Yosemite National Park. Credit: Sylvia Matzkowiak, courtesy of the Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

GOAL 4:

Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.

KEY ACTIONS

1. **Build Sustainable Outdoor-Recreation-Based Economies:** Engage the regions of the state's Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), the Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program, and other relevant programs to help communities transition to or enhance sustainable outdoor-recreation-based economies. Develop programs, projects, and stewardship opportunities to connect communities through recreation infrastructure and trail systems. Support the establishment of workforces for resource management, conservation, and outdoor recreation that support the economies of local connected communities.
2. **Support Fundamental Community Infrastructure:** Support planning and implementation of the fundamental infrastructure and services needed for outdoor-recreation-based economies, such as resilient and affordable housing and multi-modal transportation systems. Planning efforts may include regional baseline economic assessments to describe the businesses, industries, and workforce involved in outdoor recreation activities, and identify the strengths and deficiencies of outdoor recreation economies for rural development.
3. **Engage Communities Regarding Emergency Response and Land-Management Planning:** Engage chambers of commerce, fire safe councils, DMOs, counties, special districts, and cities and towns with land managers in emergency response planning and the creation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Engage with outdoor recreation groups to identify outdoor recreation assets and integrate them into emergency plans to increase the likelihood that these facilities will be protected and/or restored during a wildfire event. When possible, pre-plan roles and partnerships for communication and essential services for emergency responders (staging areas, food, lodging, etc.) that can be readily activated during disasters. Provide these plans to federal and state emergency responders during and post-fire.
4. **Create Post-Fire Educational and Marketing Materials:** Create and distribute multilingual educational materials and destination guides to encourage residents and visitors to return to outdoor recreation when it is safe. These materials will advise recreationists on allowable and responsible recreation activities and locations during active wildfire restoration and recovery. In addition, the materials will provide interpretive information on fire-adaptive ecosystems to educate the public on the impacts of fire.



GOAL 4: Support Economies That Enhance Sustainable Recreation

5. **Provide Technical Assistance to Local Businesses:** To help navigate and access disaster assistance programs, provide technical assistance to local businesses following wildfire and other natural disasters in rural and low-income outdoor recreation economies.
6. **Conduct Post-Fire Economic Studies:** Conduct economic studies in communities that have experienced wildfire, including analyses of lost revenue and tourism-related income based on data gathered before, during, and after wildfire events.
7. **Develop Post-Fire Insurance Program for the Outdoor Recreation Economy:** Include outdoor-recreation-based businesses and events in the development and administration of post-wildfire insurance programs that are both attainable and affordable.
8. **Evaluate Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure and Perform Upgrades:** Conduct a review of existing telecommunications infrastructure on public lands and prioritize upgrades and/or replacements to ensure that communications in affected communities remain active and accessible during a wildfire.



UTVs compete at the King of Hammers event in California's Johnson Valley OHV Area. ATVing and recreational motorcycling generated \$8 billion in GDP nationally in 2021, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Credit: Bureau of Land Management



POLICY & CONTEXT

STATE & FEDERAL POLICIES



The Annual Pheasant Hunt at the Sacramento River Bend Outstanding Natural Area, CA, where youth and women can learn safe hunting techniques and traditional practices. Credit: Eric Coulter, Bureau of Land Management



Fisheries and recreation employees teach local third-graders to fish on Kids Fishing Day at Shasta Lake, CA. Credit: U.S. Forest Service

The following section describes the state and federal policies that authorized, inspired, and guided the creation of this Joint Strategy.

In 2018, the Governor's California Forest Management Task Force, comprising key agencies, stakeholders, and partners, was established to introduce a more holistic, integrated approach toward effective forest management. The California Forest Management Task Force's purpose was to develop a framework for establishing healthy and resilient forests that can withstand and adapt to wildfire, drought, and a changing climate.

In 2020, the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region entered into the Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands (Shared Stewardship Agreement). The California Forest Management Task Force, since renamed the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), released the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan) in 2021 to serve as a road map for implementing the Shared Stewardship Agreement and for aligning the state's efforts with other federal, regional, local, tribal, and private organizations. The reconstituted Task Force convened in the spring of 2021 to develop strategies to implement the Action Plan.

Also in 2020, the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) convened an advisory committee of governmental and nongovernmental organizations (including the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service) to develop objectives for sustainable outdoor recreation as part of the white paper CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California, which was published in January 2021. The map later in this section shows MLTPA's analysis of outdoor recreation lands identified by land-management agency throughout the state.

In 2022, the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service named "Visitor Experiences and Public Access" as one of three strategic priorities. The Pacific Southwest Region aims to "[ensure] that all those who set foot on National Forest System lands feel welcomed and have broad opportunities to recreate in sustainable ways."

Within both the Shared Stewardship Agreement and the Action Plan, there are action items that describe the need to integrate sustainable outdoor recreation and enhanced access to recreation resources into forest resilience and wildfire planning efforts across California. To address this need, the Task Force tapped the USFS, the state of California, and MLTPA to form the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Leadership Team. The Leadership Team subsequently convened and facilitated the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group to begin work on these action items.

Consistent with Action 7 of the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the Key Working Group has worked under Goal 3 of the Action Plan ("Manage Forests to Achieve the State's Economic and Environmental Goals"), specifically focusing on Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14. These Key Actions are as follows:

Key Action 3.13 – Update Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): In 2021, CNRA, in coordination with State Parks, will update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP will provide a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.

Key Action 3.14 – Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation: In accordance with the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the USFS will coordinate the development of a joint strategy to improve access to sustainable recreation.



“Land-management agencies and their outdoor recreation partners work with the knowledge that increased resource impacts, uncertain public funding, and rising recreation demand are becoming ‘the new normal’ for California. With this in mind, collaboration by willing partners across jurisdictions to achieve the environmental, economic, and social benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation in California is essential.”

- CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California” MLTPA, 2020



Outdoor recreation lands in California per federal and state land-management and relevant state agencies. Credit: “CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California” MLTPA, 2020

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

While not exhaustive, the following documents, along with brief summaries of each, were identified by the Leadership Team as foundational to the Joint Strategy.

Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California’s Forest and Rangelands between the State of California and the USDA, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (2020, page 7) In Action 7 of the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the state and USFS commit to improving access to sustainable recreation by fostering opportunities that better serve California’s diverse populations.

CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California (MLTPA, 2021) The CALREC Vision white paper emphasizes the importance of developing a common vision for sustainable outdoor recreation among multi-jurisdictional partners through cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Local, state, and federal agencies have the opportunity to coordinate goals, resources, and messaging around sustainable outdoor recreation to reduce operational inefficiencies and benefit the public.



Before and after photos of an outdoor amphitheater at California’s Big Basin Redwoods State Park, which burned during the CZU Complex Fire in 2020.

Before photo credit: Allie Caulfield. After photo credit: Cal OES

Executive Department, State of California, Executive Order N-82-20 (2020, pages 2–3) This executive order, signed in 2020, directs the California Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies to develop methods to conserve 30% of state lands and waters by 2030 while expanding equitable outdoor access and recreation for all Californians. The order directs state agencies to engage with diverse recreation communities, establish the Biodiversity Collaborative, support efforts to conserve 30% of the state’s land and coastal waters by 2030, and expand equitable access and recreation for all Californians.

U.S. Forest Service, USDA, Connecting People with America’s Great Outdoors: A Framework for Sustainable Recreation (2010) The Framework outlines the opportunities and challenges in providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. The USFS sets goals of: (a) offering diverse outdoor recreation opportunities in partnership with local communities and providers, (b) protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and (c) strengthening sound and sustainable processes. The Framework provides guiding principles that connect people with natural and cultural heritage, promote a healthy lifestyle, embody sustainability in all programs, prioritize community engagement, recognize National Forests and Grasslands as part of a larger interconnected landscape that includes communities, and integrate recreation into the larger agency mission.

Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful (2021) This report responds to the 2021 Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, recommending steps that the United States should take in partnership to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030. The report recommends conserving lands and waters for the benefit of all people and expanding access to sustainable outdoor recreation.



Enjoying redwood trees at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, CA. Credit: Allie Caulfield

CURRENT TRENDS & NEEDS

Outdoor recreation connects people with nature while improving their overall health and quality of life. Following years of steady increases in the number of outdoor recreationists, COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns resulted in a surge of outdoor recreational use of public lands and waters. The increased demand for outdoor recreation benefits local economies that depend on recreation for jobs, economic output, sense of place, and quality of life. However, the increased number of outdoor recreationists necessitates more resources for user support, natural resource management, and wildfire risk reduction. The following section summarizes findings of recent studies that focus on trends in outdoor recreation and its social, economic, and environmental effects on communities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Demand for outdoor recreation is at an all-time high. As of 2021, approximately half of all adults across the United States participate in outdoor recreation on at least a monthly basis. About 20% of participants may be new to outdoor recreation since the start of the pandemic (Taff et al., 2021). The number of outdoor recreationists is expected to hold steady in the near term, as people who tried outdoor recreation for the first time in 2020 have continued to participate in 2021 (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). In national surveys, nine in 10 people express support for outdoor recreation and local parks, agreeing that outdoor recreation access is a very important factor when choosing a place to live and that outdoor recreation is an important service provided by their local government (National Recreation and Park Association, 2022).



Admiring wildflowers along California's Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Credit: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

Wildfires can have a range of effects on participation in outdoor recreation activities, depending on the location and severity of the fire and smoke. Recreationists may avoid areas with active fires, instead choosing to visit nearby areas with lower wildfire and smoke impacts. However, some people may visit areas that have experienced recent low-severity fires or prescribed burns, perhaps out of habit or curiosity (Miller et al., 2022). Popular recreation areas can experience the return of near-typical demand for recreation soon after a wildfire (White et al., 2020). The cross-jurisdictional nature of wildfire, along with increasing demand for outdoor recreation, emphasizes the need for collaborative adaptation and management strategies such as those outlined in the Key Actions of this Joint Strategy.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND THE ECONOMY

Outdoor recreation provides significant benefits to California's economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation provided \$54.7 billion to California's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, making California the state with the largest outdoor recreation economy in the nation. In addition, California ranked first in the nation for outdoor recreation jobs and compensation in 2021, with 517,238 jobs and \$28.3 billion in compensation (Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022). Outdoor recreation in the USFS Pacific Southwest Region provided people with \$1.8 billion in well-being value (adapted from Rosenberger et al., 2017).



The Woolsey Fire burns near the coast in 2018 in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, prompting smoke advisories in Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Credit: Peter Buschmann, U.S. Forest Service

Outdoor recreation businesses and amenities have a positive effect on rural economies. Research shows that rural counties with outdoor recreation amenities have gained population, while those without recreation amenities have lost population (Headwaters Economics, 2019). Outdoor recreation often bolsters entire economies of rural places by attracting entrepreneurs, new businesses, health care professionals, construction workers, and retail employees (Headwaters Economics, 2018).

Despite the economic benefits of recreation across California, including the rapid rise in recreation use that has benefitted the state's overall economy, there are many communities affected by wildfires that have yet to recover economically to pre-fire recreation levels. While there is sparse data in California regarding the economic impact of wildfires on these communities, a 2019 study in Utah estimated that wildfires caused \$2.7 to \$4.5 million in regional economic loss from visitation per year at national parks in Utah. The losses were greatest in rural, tourism-dependent counties (Kim & Jakus, 2019). California gateway community economies may be similarly affected by wildfires. The need to quantify the economic impacts of wildfires on communities in California is identified as a Key Action in this Joint Strategy.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT

Children and adults who spend more time outside feel more connected to nature and demonstrate greater pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors (DeVillie et al., 2021). More specifically, people who engage in nature-based outdoor recreation activities report greater recognition of the threat of climate change and greater support for climate policies (Knight & Hao, 2022). Thus, access to sustainable outdoor recreation, and to places and programs to connect with nature, are critical to promoting concern for environmental resilience in the face of climate change and other human-related environmental stressors. Outdoor recreation is a primary setting where people can foster a love of the environment and a desire to protect it.



Planting seedlings on the beach at California's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Credit: Nick Zachar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

However, outdoor recreation can pose wildfire risks. From 1992 to 2012, humans ignited the majority of wildfires in the state, creating more fires, extending the length of the typical fire season, and burning more acres than naturally occurring fires (Balch et al., 2017). While it is not known how many of these wildfires were recreation related, the need to create a system of sustainable recreation that mitigates the increasing risk of wildfires has never been more apparent.

CASE STUDIES



CASE STUDIES

SIERRA BUTTES TRAIL STEWARDSHIP: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The goal of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is to revitalize the communities of the Lost Sierra by building and maintaining a trail system that connects the communities to each other.

The economy of the Lost Sierra region was built over the last century around mining and logging operations in Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada counties. With those industries largely gone from the region, Greg Williams, executive director of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, recognized the opportunity to create a resilient recreation and tourism economy by restoring and adding to historic mining and logging routes to form a sustainable trail system. In 2003, Williams founded Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of developing and maintaining trails, creating sustainable-wage local jobs, and providing community members and visitors with access to world-class sustainable outdoor recreation.

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's current focus is the Connected Communities Project, which includes the Lost Sierra Route proposal, a 600-mile multi-use trail network linking 15 mountain community downtowns with the surrounding public lands. This ambitious trail planning and construction effort is taking place across California's Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada counties, as well as Washoe County in Nevada. To date, the organization has succeeded in building 125 miles of new trails and maintaining an additional 1,600 miles of existing trails. Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship employed 72 people in 2021 and has contributed 102,993 trail volunteer hours in total, mostly on federal public land. Their success would not be possible without robust partnerships with the Tahoe, Plumas, Humboldt-Toiyabe, and Lassen national forests and all of the counties, cities, and citizen-led nongovernmental groups in the region.

On July 13, 2021, the Dixie Fire broke out, tearing through Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Tehama counties over 103 days. The fire grew to be the second largest wildfire in California history, at nearly 1 million acres. By the time it was contained, the Dixie Fire had destroyed the town of Greenville and burned two-thirds of the national forestland in the Lost Sierra.



Since the fire, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship has seen its role in the region as providing the reason people will want to stay in, rebuild, and visit the communities of the Lost Sierra. The organization is back at work restoring and building trails and hosting festivals for residents and visitors. They realized that the trails they build may help reduce the risk of future catastrophic wildfire by serving as fire breaks and access points for vegetation management. Sustainable outdoor recreation will be the keystone in the recovery of these communities. Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is leading the way.

Learn more about Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship at sierratrails.org

FIRE FOUNDRY

The FIRE Foundry's mission is to recruit, train, and deploy a local firefighting and civic service workforce that increases diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the fire prevention and firefighting field in Marin County. Launched in 2022, the FIRE Foundry applies a learning-while-earning model that allows participants to explore career interests, learn from a tailored college curriculum, and apply emerging fire technologies while providing financial stability for its participants. FIRE Foundry crews train in firefighting, fire prevention, and vegetation management in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas of Marin County. Their work protects open spaces, parklands, recreation facilities, water supply and energy infrastructure, homes, and businesses.

The FIRE Foundry is a collaboration between community colleges, leading universities, community organizations, and Marin County Fire to tackle the fundamental challenges of developing a diverse workforce that will work to protect communities from catastrophic wildfire and conserve the environment. The FIRE Foundry collaborates with community partners to recruit young adults from underserved communities and backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in fire-related careers.

The FIRE Foundry offers sustainable wages and wraparound services to participants, including childcare, mental health and wellness support, food, housing, mentorship, peer-to-peer community engagement, and coaching. These wraparound services are incorporated to ensure that systemic barriers are not a factor in firefighting career paths and the upward economic mobility of FIRE Foundry participants, their families, and their communities. FIRE Foundry's ultimate goal is to provide new career pathways to fire and conservation service and dismantle barriers that perpetuate poverty in local communities.

The FIRE Foundry organization is comprised of three programs: an education program, a work experience program, and a support services program. Recruits are onboarded into FIRE Foundry based on whether they are entry-level participants (not currently EMT certified) or advanced-level participants (have already

completed EMT certification). For the work experience program, Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the primary employment partner for FIRE Foundry and employs roughly 180 corps members on vegetation management and clearance crews each year. CCNB crews are representative of the communities they are serving, and thus have greater insight into the community-specific fire prevention, education, and response needs. Of CCNB's FIRE Foundry recruits, 73% were unemployed on entry to their program, and 99% lived in low-income households. In addition, over 80% identify as races and ethnicities traditionally underrepresented in fire services in Marin County and California. If recruits meet the advanced-level qualification, they are eligible to apply for other work experience options such as Marin County dispatch, defensible space, and others. For the education program, the College of Marin (COM) is the primary partner for the FIRE Foundry and provides classes specifically catered to FIRE Foundry participants as they prepare for prerequisites for Fire Academy. COM not only caters its curriculum for the community served in the program, but also provides educational services such as counseling, tutoring, and other wraparound support for the participants to be successful.

With the opportunity of paid internships, different phases of recruits (entry level and advanced), and wraparound services, FIRE Foundry participants can navigate different phases of their career path into fire service. Each program within the Foundry is built as a year-long program. However, if individuals need more time to complete classes, transition to the next phase, or navigate other hurdles, they can apply for extensions to foster smoother transitions to their next steps.

All FIRE Foundry participants are supported through a financial aid application process to provide educational assistance, financial wellness workshops, and living wages during the program. Cohorts start in January and applications open in September. Positions will be filled on an as-needed basis after January.

Learn more about FIRE Foundry by visiting firefoundry.org



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION: OVERNIGHT FAMILY CAMPING PROGRAM

In the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people than ever before looked to the outdoors as a safe place to relax, exercise, and spend time with family. There was a surge of interest in camping at a time when many state and federal campgrounds limited their capacity or shut down entirely to minimize staff and visitors' exposure to the virus or to mitigate wildfire risk.

In 2021, realizing that residents needed more access to camping, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) launched a supervised Overnight Family Camping program. Initially run as a pilot, the program has proven to be immensely popular. In the summer of 2022, more than 16,000 participants spent nights under the stars at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, and Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The Department selected these locations to be geographically dispersed throughout Los Angeles County, making camping accessible close to home. In addition to camping access, the program offers family-friendly activities including fishing, night hikes, live animal ambassadors, kayaking, and biking. There are program staff available on site to help first-time campers learn basic camping skills. Recreation staff and security personnel interact with participants throughout the entire experience, ensuring the program is fun and safe.

The Overnight Camping Program provides an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy outdoor fun and learn new skills close to home.

To learn more about the program, please visit parks.lacounty.gov



APPENDIX & BIBLIOGRAPHY



APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

Multi-benefit project: The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “multi-benefit project” from the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC): “A project or activity which, by virtue of integrated design and planning, provides direct benefits to multiple local, regional, state, and federal strategic objectives. Multi-benefit wildfire and forest resilience projects can impact social, economic, and ecological outcomes, including social and cultural well-being, protecting and restoring tribal resources and practices, enhancing water security, forest resilience, biodiversity, workforce development, outdoor recreation and access, and carbon sequestration” (State of California Department of Conservation, 2022).

Sustainable outdoor recreation: The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “sustainable outdoor recreation” from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Collaborative: “Outdoor recreational opportunities and activities that are practiced responsibly such that impacts are minimized, manageable, and mitigable over time, and meet the evolving needs of present and future generations.”

Wildfire and forest resilience: The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “wildfire and forest resilience” from the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP): “Wildfire and forest resilience refers broadly to social and ecological resilience of landscapes, communities, and resources to wildfire and related disturbances and stresses exacerbated by climate change. Social and ecological dynamics are connected and inherent to forests and communities, including but not limited to biodiversity, water quality, cultural resources, recreation, and forest related economies” (State of California Department of Conservation, 2022).



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**CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**

DECEMBER 2022