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Comments: MOST OF fire budget should be for before fires not after fires. ,,, Last year fire management alone consumed 56 percent of the USDA Forest Service's national budget. As fire suppression costs continue to grow as a percentage of the USDA Forest Service's budget, funding is shrinking for non-fire programs that protect watersheds and restore forests, making them more resilient to wildfire and drought. California received record-breaking rains in the winter of 2016-2017, historic levels of tree die-off. The Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF), with support from the Governor's office and comprised of more than 80 local, state and federal agencies and private utility companies, continues to remove hazardous dead trees. To date, the TMTF members have collectively felled or removed over 1 million dead trees; this includes over 480,000 dead trees felled or removed by the USDA Forest Service. first focusing on public safety by removing dead and dying trees in high hazard areas. To further improve forest health, the USDA Forest Service And CAL FIRE have increased their pace and scale of prescribed fire. The USDA Forest Service has treated over 55,000 acres and CAL FIRE has completed over 33,000 acres in fuel treatment projects. By combining tree removal with prescribed fire, crews will be able to decrease overly dense stands of trees, reduce greenhouse gases, and protect communities across the state. Smoke from wildland fire is a significant source of air pollution emanating from National Forest lands. It can pose potential risks to health, visibility, safety, and general nuisance problems. Forest managers, fire managers, and air resource specialists must address these issues when and where appropriate to minimize smoke impacts to public health and welfare. National Forest lands contain ecosystems that have substantially departed from natural fire rules. . Decades of aggressive wildfire suppression and other land use practices have given rise to ecosystems with unnaturally heavy fuel accumulations and the proliferation of invasive exotic species both of which have more recently contributed to unnaturally large and severe wildfires. Large wildfires produce more smoke and air pollution annually than prescribed fires. Nationally, the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems to effectively lessen the likelihood of large wildfires should be a high priority.