

THE 2010 STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN
FOR CALIFORNIA



THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE
PROTECTION

THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND
FIRE PROTECTION

GOVERNOR

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

SECRETARY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

LESTER SNOW

**MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA
STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**STAN L. DIXON, CHAIR
PAM GIACOMINI, VICE CHAIR
LLOYD BRADSHAW
GARY NAKAMURA
DR. DOUGLAS PIIRTO
JAMES OSTROWSKI
BRUCE SAITO
THOMAS WALZ**

**DIRECTOR OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
AND FIRE PROTECTION**

DEL WALTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary_____	3
Background_____	5
Vision and Goals_____	8
Objectives_____	10
Glossary_____	17

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is a Governor-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department or CAL FIRE). Members are appointed on the basis of their professional and educational qualifications and their general knowledge or interest in watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife, range improvement, forest economics or land use policy. Of the Board's nine members, five are chosen from the general public, three are chosen from the forest products industry and one member is from the range-livestock industry.

The mission of the Board is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable forest and rangeland management and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the State. Its statutory responsibilities are to:

1. **Establish** and **administer** forest and rangeland policy for the State of California, and
2. **Protect** and **represent** the State's interest in all forestry and rangeland matters, and
3. Provide **direction** and **guidance** to the Director and the Department on fire protection and resource management, and
4. **Accomplish** a comprehensive regulatory program for forestry and fire protection, and
5. **Conduct** its duties to **inform and respond** to the people of the State of California.

In concert with the mission of the Board, the mission of CAL FIRE is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California.

The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the State, for determining the guiding policies of the Department, and for representing the State's interest in the management of federal land in California. Together, the Board and the Department work to carry out the mandates of the Governor and the Legislature to protect and enhance the State's unique forest, wildland and watershed resources.

To carry out these responsibilities, the Board engages in a strategic planning process which defines and communicates the Board's guiding values and priorities, directing resources to the most important issues. It also defines both the Board's and the Department's vision, and how performance is to be measured and reported. One element of this planning process is the development of the Strategic Fire Plan, which forms the basis for assessing California's complex and dynamic natural and

man-made environment, and identifies a variety of actions to minimize the negative effects of wildland fire.

Working closely with the Board and the Department, the Fire Plan Steering Committee developed the goals and objectives found in this Strategic Fire Plan. The concepts were provided to affected stakeholders, whose input is reflected in this final document.

With the adoption of the Strategic Fire Plan, CAL FIRE will develop work plans to achieve the identified goals. In addition, the objectives outlined for each goal will receive further refinement and development. Objectives may be modified, added or deleted depending upon a number of parameters, including funding, staffing and the effectiveness of the outcome of the individual objective.

Finally, to assure accountability, it will be necessary to conduct periodic evaluations. These evaluations will serve two purposes:

- Demonstrate what the Board and Department have been able to accomplish toward attainment of their goals
- Allow for the public to provide input on the direction of the Board and Department.

BACKGROUND

California's combination of vegetation, climate, topography and development patterns creates a recipe for large and damaging fires. Its forest and rangeland vegetation, which is varied across the state, grows in a Mediterranean climate with cool, moist winters and hot, dry summers. This historically fire-prone environment is being further impacted by climate change, growing population, and forest and rangeland conversions.

Climate Change and Emerging Science

Scientists have generally agreed that the Earth's climate is changing. Although the far reaching implications of these changes are still unknown, they may have impacted weather patterns resulting in longer fire seasons and a greater probability of intense fires in western forests. In addition, the cumulative effects of multiple years of drought along with overstocked vegetation conditions have increased fire hazards in many forests of California that prehistorically experienced frequent, low-severity fires. The reduced moisture content of drought-stressed vegetation increases flammability over a longer period of the year, resulting in an active burning period that starts earlier and lasts longer than historical patterns. Drought-stressed vegetation is more susceptible to insects and diseases, resulting in high mortality in trees and shrubs, leaving California wildlands with high levels of tinder-dry, dead woody material ready to ignite and burn with great intensity.

Although there is ongoing research about just how much of California's forests are at risk of uncharacteristically severe fires due to climate change and past fire suppression, consensus has emerged among scientists that many chaparral shrubland ecosystems may have the opposite problem: That is, fires have been too frequent in many shrublands, especially those of southern California, which are then at risk of type conversion from native species to invasives that can pose a fire threat every fire season. There is also an emerging view among scientists that fire hazard mitigation (e.g., through vegetation treatments or prescribed fire) may be able to play a beneficial role in long-term forest carbon sequestration, emissions reductions, and climate change mitigation; however, the specifics of where and how this can achieve the greatest effect are still open questions. Similarly, more is being learned about both the positive and negative impacts of fire on air and water quality, habitat conditions, and nutrient cycling. As science moves forward on these issues, the management of California's fire-prone landscapes should also progress accordingly, although these issues are not directly addressed in the Fire Plan. Regardless, because fire ignores jurisdictional and land ownership boundaries, the best and most current science should guide coordinated planning across the administratively complex landscapes of California, eventually moving toward coexistence with this natural process through fire-resilient ecosystems and fire-resistant communities.

Population

At the same time as biophysical conditions have increased the threat of wildland fires in many locations, the exposure of people and homes to these threats has increased as well. This is a direct result of development patterns that are placing increasing numbers of homes and people in wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI) areas. The effect of this population growth in the WUI results in more complex and expensive emergency response efforts. Where once only natural resources were threatened by wildland fire in these areas, threats now extend to life and property.

Water is an irreplaceable commodity and is one of California's most economically valuable resources. The growing statewide population requires an increased use of water. Over 80 percent of the State's water originates in the forested watersheds. The quality of water supply from these watersheds is adversely affected from increased sedimentation and other pollutants due to the frequency and size of destructive wildland fires.

Forest and Rangeland

Much of the forest and rangelands of California are in public ownership. However, issues relating to forest and range health, air quality, wildlife habitat, and water quality exist regardless of ownership, requiring the need to forge new partnerships between federal, state and local governments.

Twenty five years ago these lands, especially those in private ownership, were primarily managed for their commodity outputs. Conversion was not much of an issue. At that time, in the case of the forest products industry, over one hundred sawmills and secondary wood manufacturing facilities existed in California. Today there are less than forty. There are also fewer logging firms and related support companies. Without a viable forest products industry, landowners are faced with increasing costs and diminishing economic incentive to continue managing their lands as working forests, and government agencies are left without the tools necessary to manage the wildland fuels problem on public lands.

The livestock industry in California maintains a significant economic and land use/management influence. In over 30 counties, cattle are in the top ten local agricultural industries in producing gross income. However, the livestock industry has faced significant economic challenges, including the breakup of ranches to development, international competition, changing tastes by consumers, increasing production costs, invasion of grazing land by non-native species, and animal disease.

For a variety of reasons, it is important that the forested landscape and rangelands remain available to continue to produce the commodity and non-commodity values that Californians need. At the same time, however, the economic incentive for private landowners and public land management agencies to continue to manage their lands to provide these values is rapidly disappearing.

Additionally, the explosion in population in California has produced an even greater impact on the state's forest and rangelands. The expanding population requires housing (lumber and land), water, fire protection, and recreation. Forest and rangelands are increasingly being converted and subdivided for this housing, resulting in a permanent loss of natural areas and reduced ability to meet the other demands of a growing population.

Fire Protection

State, local and federal agencies each have unique responsibilities for wildland fire protection. The delivery of wildland fire protection services in California relies on an integrated, multi-agency effort to maximize the use of firefighting resources. This integration is essential in order to avoid duplication of firefighting resources and to allow the closest available resource to respond to a fire, regardless of jurisdiction. This integration, typically referred to as "mutual aid", is authorized by statute and is guided by interagency agreements under which the state provides services to local and/or federal agencies, and vice versa.

The maximization of resources and use of the closest available resource concept has evolved into the need for state resources to be prepared to provide reciprocal response capabilities to local and federal government missions. In order to provide this reciprocal capability, state resources need to be trained and equipped to provide all-risk response, including emergency medical services and structural firefighting.

Recognizing that each agency has its primary mission and responsibility, disasters in California, including wildland fires, do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. The cooperative mutual aid system allows for resource surge capacity to meet the immediate emergency response needs of California.

Despite California's highly effective wildland fire protection system, some fires will continue to escape control efforts. Under extreme weather conditions, such as high wind or hot dry weather, or when resource availability is limited due to significant fire activity, a small percentage of wildland fires will become large and damaging. As a result, efforts must be taken to create homes and communities that can withstand such fires; develop policies and procedures to promote public and firefighter safety; and educate the public that wildland fire is a natural part of California's landscape.

Individual landowners, homeowners and communities share wildland fire protection responsibilities with federal, state, and local fire protection agencies. Homeowners have a primary responsibility to create and maintain defensible space. Homeowners and landowners in a community must work together to plan for and implement fire protection measures, such as education programs and fuel treatments. The appropriate mix of fire prevention activities and suppression resources should result in an efficient use of funding levels and reduced asset loss.

VISION

A natural environment that is more resilient and man-made assets which are more resistant to the occurrence and effects of wildland fire through local, state, federal and private partnerships.

GOALS

Through government and community collaboration, the following goals will enhance the protection of lives, property and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improve environmental resilience to wildland fire. Community protection includes promoting the safety of the public and emergency responders as well as protection of property and other improvements. Each Goal listed here is meant to build upon the previous one (i.e. Goal 3 builds upon the accomplishments in Goals 1 and 2). Although full attainment of a goal is ultimately dependent upon the success of previous goals, any of the goals can be worked on at any given time based on available funding and other opportunities.

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and the associated values and assets at risk. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
4. Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.
5. Develop a method for integration of fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional goals within local, state and federal responsibility areas.
6. Determine the level of fire suppression resources for adequate protection of the values and assets at risk identified during the planning processes.
7. Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery including watershed protection, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

The Strategic Fire Plan frames the program of work for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) over the life of the Plan. Program priorities, budget requests and allocations, and measures of success are dynamic and will change as conditions require, yet all are founded upon the goals and objectives framed within.

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and CAL FIRE will remain diligent in attempting to secure the appropriate level of resources through direct funding requests, grant opportunities or agreements with collaborative partners. The goals and objectives will be prioritized to make the most effective use of existing staff and funding. CAL FIRE will, however, maximize the ability to meet the stated goals and objectives with the level of resources available.

A compilation of benchmarks that articulate indicators of performance that moves the Department to realize each goal shall be developed and used to provide feedback to the Board on a periodic basis. The next comprehensive update to the Strategic Fire Plan will take place in 2018, unless the Board or CAL FIRE determines there is a specific need for an earlier update.

OBJECTIVES

For each of the identified goals, this Fire Plan lays out a number of objectives to be accomplished. The identified objectives are not meant to be all-inclusive. There may be additional objectives that the Board, CAL FIRE or other cooperative partners identify and could utilize in reaching the primary goals.

- 1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and the associated values and assets at risk. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.**
 - a) Identify and provide appropriate automated tools to facilitate the collection, analysis and consistent presentation of datasets.
 - b) Update and maintain consistent, detailed vegetation and fuels maps across all ownerships in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
 - c) Provide regular updates to the Department's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps.
 - d) Develop and validate weather and climatology information for use in predicting fire behavior.
 - e) Update fire history information and re-evaluate existing fire prediction models to get composite fire threat across all ownerships.
 - f) Update existing data for values and assets at risk utilizing GIS data layers and other mapping solutions, including fire behavior-specific effects.
 - g) Use science-based approaches to evaluate, understand and protect against the negative impacts of new and emerging threats such as climate change, insect and disease outbreaks or land use changes on forest health and public safety, including the build up of hazardous fuel conditions and resulting fire behavior
 - h) Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.

2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.

- a) Assist the appropriate governmental bodies in the development of a comprehensive set of wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI) protection policies for inclusion in each county general plan or other appropriate local land use planning documents.
- b) Engage in the development, review and adoption of local land use plans to ensure compliance with fire safe regulations and current building standards.
- c) Promote the consolidation and broad availability of project-level land use planning, project implementation and wildland fire occurrence data developed throughout each county for use by all cooperating agencies.

3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.

- a) Establish a working group, consisting of Board members and Departmental staff, to develop minimum standard elements for inclusion in Unit Fire Plans.
- b) Coordinate Unit Fire Plans with community wildfire protection plans to encourage and support one consistent approach. Develop county or regional fire plans by bringing together community-based groups, such as fire safe councils and affected fire and land management agencies.
- c) Create and support venues in which individual community members can be actively involved in local fire safe councils, citizen emergency response teams, FIREWISE and other community-based efforts to develop readiness plans and to educate landowners to mitigate the risks and effects of catastrophic wildland fire.
- d) Collaborate with federal and local governments, other state agencies, fire service and other organizations, to develop and implement emergency response plans.
- e) Ensure planning efforts are consistent with the National Fire Plan, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as local hazard mitigation plans, and other relevant statewide strategic planning documents.
- f) Maximize available resources to strengthen planning efforts through the development of public/private partnerships.
- g) Develop fire risk mitigation treatment decision support tools to assist in project design, implementation and validation.

4. Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

- a) Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities.
- b) Facilitate activities with individuals and organizations, as appropriate, to assist individual property owners to comply with fire safe regulations.
- c) Improve regulatory effectiveness, compliance monitoring and reporting pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) §4290 and §4291.
- d) Utilize CAL FIRE staffing as available, as well as public and private organizations, to increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations.
- e) Promote the consolidation of Fire Safe Regulations contained in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 with CCR, Titles 19 and 24, to achieve uniform application of building standards.
- f) Continue to evaluate new, ignition-resistant construction technologies and materials, and promote the strengthening of California building standards.
- g) Seek out incentives to promote the retrofit of existing structures to meet ignition-resistant building codes.
- h) Actively enforce and seek updates as necessary to fire prevention codes and statutes, including those regulating utilities, railroads, small engines and other categories of equipment use that contribute to fire ignition.
- i) Actively investigate all wildland fire causes, and for those resulting from negligent acts, pursue appropriate civil and/or criminal actions, including cost recovery.
- j) Analyze trends in fire cause and focus prevention and education efforts to modify behavior and effect change.

5. Develop a method for integration of fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional goals within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

- a) Increase support of landowner-initiated hazardous fuel reduction using all available authorities.
- b) Work to remove regulatory barriers that limit hazardous fuel reduction activities.
- c) Promote and enhance programmatic documents that assist and streamline regulatory processes.
- d) Assist collaborative partners by educating, improving grant capacity and other means that provide tools to achieve fuels reduction work on the landscape.
- e) Promote forest and rangeland health and hazardous fuels reduction. Improve utilization of all forest products, including small logs, urban green waste and biomass.
- f) Increase public education and awareness in support of ecologically sensitive and economically efficient vegetation management activities, including prescribed fire, forest thinning and other fuels treatment projects.
- g) Promote the development of multi-agency/landowner fuels reduction policies and activities at the watershed and fireshed level.
- h) Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities.

6. Determine the level of fire suppression resources for adequate protection of the values and assets at risk identified during the planning processes.

- a) Maintain an aggressive wildland fire initial attack policy that places a priority on protecting lives, property and natural resources. At the same time consider suppression strategies that incorporate values and assets at risk, as well as cost factors wherever possible.
- b) Develop criteria for determining suppression resource allocation based on elements such as identified values and assets at risk, ignition density, vegetation type and condition, as well as local weather and topography.
- c) Initiate studies and analyses to identify appropriate staffing levels and equipment needs commensurate with the current and projected emergency response environment.
- d) Seek to increase the number of CAL FIRE hand crews for use in fighting wildland fires and other emergency response activities.
- e) Initiate and maintain cooperative fire protection agreements with local, state and federal partners that value the importance of an integrated, cooperative, regional fire protection system and deliver efficient and cost effective emergency response capabilities beneficial to all stakeholders.
- f) Develop policies and strategies to minimize injuries or loss of life to the public and emergency responders during emergency response activities throughout the state.
- g) Ensure all firefighters are provided the appropriate training, equipment and facilities necessary to successfully and safely meet the increasingly complicated and challenging fire and emergency response environment.
- h) Continue to evaluate and implement new technologies to improve firefighter safety, situational awareness and emergency response effectiveness.
- i) Provide for succession planning and employee development at all levels within CAL FIRE to maintain emergency response leadership capabilities, administrative management skills and pre-fire planning expertise.
- j) Effectively engage and train employees across all disciplines to address both planning and emergency response utilizing a “total force” approach.

7. Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery including watershed protection, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration.

- a) Encourage rapid post-fire assessment, as appropriate, and project implementation to minimize flooding, protect water quality, limit sediment flows and reduce other risks on all land ownerships impacted by wildland fire.
- b) Work with landowners, land management agencies and other stakeholders across the state to design burned area rehabilitation actions that encourage salvage and reforestation activities, create resilient and sustainable landscapes, and restore functioning ecosystems.
- c) Effectively utilize available resources, including CAL FIRE hand crews, to accomplish restoration and protection activities.
- d) Assess the effects of pre- and post-fire treatments to refine best management practices.
- e) Assist landowners and local government in the evaluation of the need to retain and utilize features (e.g. roads, firelines, water sources) developed during a fire suppression effort, taking into consideration those identified in previous planning efforts.
- f) Aid landowners in recently burned areas in developing and implementing vegetation treatment plans to manage the re-growth of fuels to maintain reduced hazardous conditions.
- g) Promote the maintenance of a native species seed bank and seedling production capacity to provide the availability of appropriate tree species for reforestation within all of the state's diverse seed zones.
- h) Use after-action reports to evaluate and implement new technologies and practices to improve future firefighting efforts.

GLOSSARY

Climate Change – Any long-term significant change in the “average weather” that a given region experiences. Average weather may include average temperature, precipitation and wind patterns.

(<http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/assessment2010/definitions.html>)

Communities at Risk – Originally defined by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 as, “Wildland Urban Interface Communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire. CAL FIRE expanded on this definition for California including all communities (regardless of distance from federal lands) for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire event. California uses the following three factors to determine at risk communities; 1) high fuel hazard, 2) probability of a fire and 3) proximity of intermingled wildland fuels and urban environments that are in the vicinity of fire threats.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – A community based collaborative plan developed by local stakeholders that identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments to protect communities and infrastructure from wildfire. The Plans are agreed to by stakeholders, applicable local government, local fire departments, State forestry, and Federal land management agencies.

Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements – Agreements established between federal, state, tribal and local government entities to provide long term fire and emergency service protection.

Defensible Space –The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires.

(http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=8)

Fire Hazard – A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.

(<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Fire Prevention – Activities such as public education, community outreach, building code enforcement, engineering (construction standards), and reduction of fuel hazards that is intended to reduce the incidence of unwanted human-caused wildfires and the risks they pose to life, property or resources.

(<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Fire Resilient – The ability of a vegetation type, ecosystem, or community to respond positively to or recover quickly from the effects of a wildfire burning within, across or adjacent to them.

Fire Resistant – The condition of an asset that resists ignition and damage from wildfire. Structures are built using ignition resistant materials such as stucco, tile roofs, and boxed eaves with the likelihood that they will withstand most wildland fires or at least reduce damage caused by them.

Fire Risk – The chance of fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents; a causative agent or a number related to the potential number of firebrands (embers) to which a given area will be exposed during the day.
(<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Fire Safe Building Standards – Various laws and codes that apply accepted fire safety practices (as determined by scientific research panels and associations, with replicated results) into construction of assets. Examples of laws and codes include; California Fire Code Chapter 49, California Building Code Chapter 7A, Public Resource Code Section 4290 and Fire Safe Regulations, Section 1270.

Fire Safe Councils (FSC) – A group of concerned citizens organized to educate groups on fire safe programs, projects and planning. The Councils work closely with the local fire agencies to develop and implement priorities.
(<http://www.firesafecouncil.org>)

Fireshed – A contiguous area displaying similar fire history and problem fire characteristics (i.e., intensity, resistance to control) and requiring similar suppression response strategies.

Fire Suppression Resources – State, federal, tribal, local and private, equipment and resources, gathered to extinguish and mitigate wildland fires.

FIREWISE – A national program designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire before a fire starts. The Firewise program is community driven.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones – Areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones, then define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires.

Fuel Treatment – The manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of igniting and to reduce fire intensity (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

Fuels Reduction Projects -The modification of vegetation in order to reduce potential fire threat. These projects often result in improved wildlife habitat capability, timber growth, and/or forage production.

Forest and Rangeland Health- An expression of the prevalent ecological conditions on a landscape as compared to benchmark conditions yielding maximum benefit to multiple resource values - ecological, economic, and social/political.

GIS – Geographic Information Systems is a configuration of computer hardware and software that stores, displays, and analyzes geographic data spatially or through attribute features.

Hand Crews – A number of individuals organized, trained and supervised principally for fire suppression or fuel reduction projects.

Ignition Density – The number of fire ignitions that occur in a specific unit of area, over a specified period of time; often used as a measure of initial attack workload.

Initial Attack -A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.
(<http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)

Land Use Planning –A comprehensive assessment leading to a set of decisions that guide use of land within an identified area.

Mutual Aid –An agreement in which two or more parties agree to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party of the agreement to prevent and combat any type of disaster or emergency.

Native Species Seed Bank – A storage area for seed that is collected from a species which is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question.

Prescribed Fire – A planned fire ignition designed to meet specific management objectives.

Reforestation –The establishment of forests on land that had recent (less than 10 years) tree cover. (<http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/assessment2010/definitions.html>)

Salvage – the harvesting of dead, dying and damaged trees to recover their economic values that would otherwise be lost to deterioration..

Situational Awareness –The application of the human senses to current and predicted weather, fire or other emergency conditions to plan and execute actions that provide for the safety of all personnel and equipment engaged in emergency;

includes development of alternative strategies of fire suppression and net effect of each.

Total Force – Bringing to bear the application of the totality of the CAL FIRE employee team who provide all functional service aspects of the department that enable us to effectively mitigate emergencies and protect resources in areas protected by CAL FIRE.

Unit Fire Plan – Plans developed by individual CAL FIRE Units to address wildfire protection areas, initial attack success, assets and infrastructure at risk, pre-fire management strategies, and accountability within their geographical boundaries.

Values and Assets at Risk– Accepted principals or standards, and any constructed or landscape attribute that has value and contributes to community or individual well-being and quality of life. Examples include property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, commercial standing timber, ecosystem health and production of water.

Wildland –Those unincorporated areas covered wholly or in part by trees, brush, grass, or other flammable vegetation.

Wildland Fire –Fire that occurs in the wildland as the result of an unplanned ignition.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) –The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. (<http://www.nwccg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary>)