

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan is a strikingly different fire plan than those developed in the past. This Plan recognizes that fire will occur in California and works to answer the question of “how do we utilize and live with that risk of wildfire?”

We believe the vision, goals and objectives lead us to that answer. These, in combination and through implementation, will create a state that is more resistant and resilient to the damaging effects of catastrophic wildfire while recognizing fire’s beneficial aspects.

This is the first statewide fire plan developed in concert between the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Board consulted a group of outside experts to complete a needs assessment and subsequently formed the Fire Plan Steering Committee. This Committee worked for over a year preparing this document.

The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan builds upon the concept first developed in the 1996 California Fire Plan, which led to collaborative efforts in fire prevention. You will see an incredible amount of planning and collaboration in the goals and objectives. We believe that these efforts will lead to communities doing the best work for fuels reduction and fire safety. For a summary of the review of the 1996 California Fire Plan, see Appendix B.

This is the first time a fire plan has ever been released for public review and comment during development. Significant changes were included as a result of the excellent input from many stakeholders. The process does not stop with release of this document. The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan is a living document. The CAL FIRE priorities identified in Appendix A, for example, will evolve over time as statewide initiatives and availability of funds and staffing levels change.

The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan is written so that each goal builds upon the previous one. Over time, each supporting objective will have measurement criteria to evaluate accomplishments and related effectiveness. Measurement criteria for these can be found in Appendix A.

As you read the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan, please start with the chapter “Setting the Stage,” which lays out the current scenario in California and our diverse landscapes. This forms the basis for the vision, goals and policies that are the foundation for this Plan.

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 as Summarized

The central goals that are critical to reducing and preventing the impacts of fire revolve around both suppression efforts and fire prevention efforts. Major components are:

- Improved availability and use of information on hazard and risk assessment
- Land use planning: including general plans, new development, and existing developments
- Shared vision among communities and the multiple fire protection jurisdictions, including county-based plans and community-based plans such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
- Establishing fire resistance in assets at risk, such as homes and neighborhoods
- Shared vision among multiple fire protection jurisdictions and agencies
- Levels of fire suppression and related services
- Post fire recovery

Policies Supporting the Objectives

The central policies that are critical to reducing and preventing the impacts of fire revolve around both suppression efforts and fire prevention efforts. Major policy components are:

- Land use planning that ensures increased fire safety for new development
- Creation of defensible space for survivability of established homes and neighborhoods
- Improving fire resistance of homes and other constructed assets
- Fuel hazard reduction that creates resilient landscapes and protects the wildland and natural resource values
- Adequate and appropriate levels of wildland fire suppression and related services
- Commitment by individuals and communities to wildfire prevention and protection through local fire planning



Collaborators viewing Fuelbreak in Fresno County.