

MOVING FORWARD

Adaptive Management

For any strategic plan to be successful, the vision must allow for changing conditions. Adaptive management is an information-based process which promotes flexible decision making. As results of management decisions or other actions are known, adaptive management allows course corrections to achieve the desired outcome. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and allows for the adjustment of policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management also recognizes the importance of natural variability in contributing to ecological resilience and productivity. It is not a 'trial and error' process, but rather emphasizes learning while doing. Adaptive management does not represent an end in itself, but rather a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. Its true measure is in how well it helps meet environmental, social and economic goals, increases scientific knowledge, and fosters understanding among stakeholders.

This Plan is designed to be flexible and allow for changing internal and external conditions. Priority objectives will be reevaluated and their relational importance may change from one evaluation period to the next.

Goals and Objectives

The foundation of this dynamic Plan is built upon seven goals and their associated objectives. Collectively, these goals and objectives provide a framework to address the protection of lives, property and natural resources from wildland fire and improve environmental resilience to wildland fire.

Priorities

Concurrent with the development of the Plan, the Board and the Department have identified the top priorities for each goal. During the first two years of this Plan, each CAL FIRE Unit will revise its individual Unit fire plan to identify its priorities for the implementation of the goals and objectives identified herein. Throughout the remaining life of this Plan, the priorities will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary.

Measurement Criteria

A compilation of benchmarks that measure each goal will be developed by the Department in concert with the Board and used to provide feedback to Board committees and to the full Board on an annual basis, or more frequently as necessary. Measurement criteria can be found for the highest priority objectives for each goal in Appendix A, "Priority Objectives for 2010-2012."

Timelines

CAL FIRE will report to the Board annually on its accomplishments of the goals and objectives of this Plan. The next comprehensive update to the Plan will take place in 2018.

The Plan and its associated goals and objectives frame the program of work for the Department over the life of the Plan. Program priorities, funding levels and measures of success are dynamic and subject to change.

The 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, to the extent feasible, will maximize the ability to meet the stated goals and objectives with the level of resources available.