

California Air Resources Board Natural and Working Lands Scoping Plan Draft Alternative Scenarios

This document contains the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Natural and Working Lands (NWL) scoping plan draft alternative future scenarios. These scenarios are draft and subject to change. Details on the extent of climate action will be determined after public comment. Scenarios, once finalized, will be modeled to estimate the potential impact of the suite of actions associated with each scenario. Not listed is the business-as-usual scenario, which is a scenario where no change to management occurs in the face of future climate change. Though not listed in the table, the business-as-usual scenario will be modeled and assessed.

The table below includes five draft alternative scenarios. Each scenario has an overarching objective or focus. Within each scenario, each NWL type category has a description of the management strategies that will be utilized to meet the overarching objective.

<i>NWL Type Category</i>	<i>1 - Minimize disturbances, prioritize conservation, and maximize short-term carbon.</i>	<i>2 - Prioritize restoration and climate resilience</i>	<i>3 - Model mix of strategies from current commitments/plans</i>	<i>4 - Prioritize wildfire reduction, with additional complimentary policies</i>	<i>5 - Focused on resource utilization</i>
<i>Forests and Shrublands</i>	<p>Have the most possible carbon stocks statewide by 2045.</p> <p>No clearcuts, no fuels management, increase afforestation, no forest/shrubland land conversion, and maximum fire suppression.</p>	<p>Decrease fire severity and stabilize carbon stocks by 2045.</p> <p>Increase prescribed fire and thinning, increased heterogeneous harvesting and management, biomass available for advanced bioenergy and wood products. Decrease harvesting frequency.</p>	<p>1M acre strategy, 30x30 strategy, NWL Implementation Plan (where unavailable from other strategies). Align regional management with regional plans/reports, where feasible.</p>	<p>Decrease wildfire emissions, wildfire around communities, and fire sizes.</p> <p>Maximize fire suppression. Increase fuel breaks in lands around communities. Increase prescribed fire and thinning. Increased heterogeneous management.</p>	<p>Expand more sustainable harvesting; increase harvesting in ownerships with little commercial harvesting; increase biomass availability for bioenergy and wood products.</p>
<i>Agriculture</i>	<p>Maximize soil carbon stocks and perennial biomass carbon</p> <p>Maximize climate smart ag practices and nutrient cycling (e.g. via orchard recycling, mulching, or composting) at upper bounds of topography, water, and agronomic constraints for carbon. Only model land conversion away from ag resulting from SGMA.</p>	<p>Increase in climate smart practices focused on drought resilience.</p> <p>Increase ag practices and nutrient cycling that increase carbon with an emphasis on the co-benefit of increased drought resilience. Model low level of conversion from ag based on existing conversion rates and SGMA. Increase organic agriculture.</p>	<p>Moderate increases in climate smart practices focused on biodiversity. Increase nutrient cycling with a focus on woody biomass soil incorporation and composting for both carbon and agronomic benefits. Model low level of conversion from ag based on existing conversion rates and SGMA.</p>	<p>Moderate increases in climate smart practices above BAU. Little to no agricultural land loss. Increase organic agriculture.</p>	<p>Same as BAU</p>
<i>Settlements</i>	<p>Large increase in urban forests. Protect WUI communities from fire.</p> <p>Increase urban tree cover as much feasible. Establish defensible space where legally feasible.</p>	<p>Large increase in urban forests. Protect WUI communities from fire.</p> <p>Increase urban tree cover as much feasible. Establish defensible scientifically recommended defensible space.</p>	<p>Ensure maximum wildfire defensible space.</p> <p>Moderate increase in urban cover. Establish defensible space where legally feasible. (same as alt 1)</p>	<p>Ensure maximum wildfire defensible space.</p> <p>Moderate increase in urban cover. Establish defensible scientifically recommended defensible space. (same as alt 2)</p>	<p>Large increase in urban forests. Protect WUI communities from fire.</p> <p>Increase urban tree cover as much feasible. Establish defensible space where legally feasible. (same as alt 1)</p>

<i>Grasslands</i>	Conserve with no land use change.	Conserve and restore. Tree encroachment reduction.	Conservation consistent with 30x30 and increase practices in line with 1M acre strategy and implementation plan.	Conserve and restore. Wildfire risk reduction.	Moderate conservation and management.
<i>Wetlands</i>	Conserve wetland soil organic carbon and restore wetlands. Increase restoration of riparian, coastal, and delta wetlands.	Conserve wetland soil organic carbon and restore wetlands. Increase restoration of riparian, coastal, and delta wetlands. (same as alt 1)	Conserve wetland soil organic carbon and restore wetlands. Increase restoration of riparian, coastal, and delta wetlands. (same as alt 1)	Conserve wetland soil organic carbon and restore wetlands. Increase restoration of riparian, coastal, and delta wetlands. (same as alt 1)	Same as BAU
<i>Deserts/Other lands</i>	Minimize land conversion.	Consistent conservation with goals/targets from other sectors.	Consistent conservation with goals/targets from other sectors. (same as alt 2)	Consistent conservation with goals/targets from other sectors. (same as alt 2)	Same as BAU