Local and Regional Forest Management Priorities Survey

Why are we conducting this survey?

The State of California has developed a series of statewide plans for the management of forests and other lands, including the goals laid out in the California Forest Carbon Plan, Draft Natural and Working Lands Implementation Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, and California Water Plan, among others. Achieving these goals will require an increase in the pace and scale of management activities throughout the State. The State relies on organizations operating at local and regional scales to implement land management. This survey will allow the State to gain a better understanding of where land management organizations are located, the management practices they prioritize, and their capacity to scale-up their current efforts to help meet State goals.

What is included in this survey?

We are seeking information on current and planned management activities, management activity costs, current and potential implementation capacity, management priorities, and goals for future management.

Who is the intended audience?

We hope to receive responses from tribes, resource conservation districts, local governments, fire safe councils, collaboratives, watershed councils, and other organizations that currently work on, or want to work on, implementation of forest management, fire-related vegetation management, and natural lands restoration in California, at scales ranging from an individual neighborhood to a regional landscape. This survey defines “implementing organizations” are those employing staff, volunteers, and/or contractors to manage vegetation. Only one person per organization should complete this survey. We are not using this survey to collect information on State or Federal government activities and State or Federal government employees should not respond to this survey unless doing so as a representative of a collaborative or other organization operating at a local or regional scale.

How is this different from other recent surveys?

Several other surveys and assessments have recently been conducted in California, including the Forest and/or Fire Capacity and Needs Assessment, barriers to prescribed fire implementation, and a survey of impediments and opportunities in forest management conducted by the Forest Management and Restoration Working Group of the Forest Management Task Force in late 2018. We thank you for your participation in these other efforts, which have produced valuable insights into forest management needs. This survey will build on those efforts to focus on why organizations are managing forests (e.g., defend infrastructure, restore habitat, etc.), the costs of implementing management, and goals for future management activity. This information is needed in order to see how local priorities align with State goals and design more effective policy and implementation programs to meet those goals. Requests for survey responses is one way that the State keeps up to date with the public and helps inform future State decisions and programs.

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1. Please select the option below that best describes your organization:
- o Tribal government
- o County government
- o Municipal government
- o Fire department/district
- o Fire Safe Council
- o Resource Conservation District
- o Watershed council
- o Land trust
- o Community group (not incorporated)
- o Firewise ® USA site
- o Other nonprofit
- o Collaborative group
- o Network
- o Business
- o Other: _____

2. Provide the approximate percentage of your organization's forest and other vegetation management work that occurs in each county (by acreage, to the nearest 5-10% if possible):

County	% of Acreage	County	% of Acreage	County	% of Acreage	County	% of Acreage
Alameda		Kings		Placer		Sierra	
Alpine		Lake		Plumas		Siskiyou	
Amador		Lassen		Riverside		Solano	
Butte		Los Angeles		Sacramento		Sonoma	
Calaveras		Madera		San Benito		Stanislaus	
Colusa		Marin		San Bernardino		Sutter	
Contra Costa		Mariposa		San Diego		Tehama	
Del Norte		Mendocino		San Francisco		Trinity	
El Dorado		Merced		San Joaquin		Tulare	
Fresno		Modoc		San Luis Obispo		Tuolumne	
Glenn		Mono		San Mateo		Ventura	
Humboldt		Monterey		Santa Barbara		Yolo	
Imperial		Napa		Santa Clara		Yuba	
Inyo		Nevada		Santa Cruz			
Kern		Orange		Shasta			

3. Provide the approximate percentage of your organization's forest and other vegetation management work that occurs among the following list of ecosystem types (by acreage, to the nearest 5-10% if possible):

Ecosystem Type	Percent of Organization's Vegetation Management Work
Conifer forest (any areas where tree cover is 10% or greater)	
Oak woodland or savannah (tree cover is 10% or greater)	
Shrubland (e.g., chaparral, coastal sage scrub)	
Grassland (tree or shrub cover is less than 10%)	
Desert or shrub-steppe (e.g., big sagebrush, creosote bush).	
Wetlands/Riparian Areas	
Juniper woodland	

4. Thinking about the forest landscape as a spectrum ranging from near the built environment to far from the built environment, select the option that best describes the environment where your organization does its forest and/or other vegetation management. Choose only one.

Near the built environment **Immediately surrounding buildings and other built infrastructure**	<-- **Predominantly wildland urban interface (WUI) or intermix**	--> **An approximately equal mixture of WUI and landscapes/upper watershed areas**	*Far from the built environment* **Predominantly landscapes/upper watershed areas**

5. Please allocate a total of 100 points among the following objectives that best describe your organization's goals and priorities for the forest and/or vegetation management practices. Examples: (a) 90 pts for protect homes + 10 points for protect carbon, or (b) 50 points for restore ecosystems + 30 for water + 20 protect from climate change.

Objective/Priority	**Prioritization Points**
Protect homes, businesses, and/or other built infrastructure from wildfire	
Restore ecosystems following damage from wildfire, invasive species, fire suppression, previous management, etc.	
Protect timber resources from wildfire	
Protect ecosystems from climate change	
Increase or protect carbon stored in ecosystems	
Increase or protect water quality and/or yield	
Limit air pollution emissions/exposure from wildfire (such as particulate matter)	
Increase or protect cultural resources (for example, culturally important plants)	
Increase or protect habitat for plant or animal species of management concern (sensitive species or fish and game species for recreational use)	
Provide timber harvest income	
Protect recreation sites	
Prevent conversion to other land use types	
Other (please describe):	

6. Please describe your organization's goals for its forest and/or vegetation management work.

7. Mark the column that best represents the approximate number of acres of each management practice your organization expects to implement PER YEAR over the next 2-3 years, where “implement” is defined as employing staff, volunteers, or contractors to conduct a practice.

Management Practice	Definition	1-25	26-50	50-100	100-250	251-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001-10,000	>10,000
Defensible space/hazard tree removal	Removal of hazardous or potentially flammable vegetation within 100 ft of structures or infrastructure. (100 ft on each side of a structure = 1 acre)									
Non-shaded fuelbreak (includes clearance along roadsides or utility right of way)	Removal of crown, ladder, and surface fuels in order to slow or stop the spread of wildland fire; vegetation is not retained. (20 ft clearance on each side of a road (40 ft total width) is about 5 acres per linear mile).									
Shaded fuelbreak /Understory clearing	Some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed to create a shaded fuelbreak or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum stocking standards within the operating area are met immediately after harvest.									
Cultural burning	Application of fire to the environment to predominantly to achieve cultural objectives.									
Prescribed burning	Prescribed burning for fire fuel reduction and ecological restoration.									

Management Practice	Definition	1-25	26-50	50-100	100-250	251-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001-10,000	>10,000
Prescribed grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals with the intent to achieve specific ecological, economic, and management objectives.									
Forest even-aged management	Even-aged management, including Clear Cut, Seed Tree, and Shelterwood methods, as defined in the California Forest Practices Rules.									
Forest uneven-aged management	Management of a specific forest with the goal of establishing a well-stocked stand of various age classes and permitting the periodic harvest of individual or small groups of trees to realize the yield and continually establish a new crop; includes Selection, Group Selection, and Transition methods as defined in the California Forest Practices Rules.									

Management Practice	Definition	1-25	26-50	50-100	100-250	251-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001-10,000	>10,000
Intermediate forest treatment (includes pest management)	Harvests conducted to modify or guide the development of an existing stand, but not to replace (regenerate) the stand with a new one, includes Commercial Thinning and Sanitation-Salvage (Pest Management) as defined in the California Forest Practice Rules.									
Less intensive forest management (includes carbon offsets projects, improved forest management easements)	A change in forest management practices to a less intensive harvest regime, from even-aged management to uneven-aged management (partial cut) or areas of no harvest (reserve areas).									
Land Protection	Protection of natural and working lands against conversion to development through the establishment of easements, acquisitions, fee title, or other activities. Includes the creation of wildlife corridors and habitat links.									
Reforestation/ forest area expansion	Establishing forest and restoring ecosystem health by planting native and climate-adapted trees to prevent conversion of forest ecosystems to shrub or grassland and advance carbon storage within the landscape.									

Management Practice	Definition	1-25	26-50	50-100	100-250	251-500	501-1,000	1,001-5,000	5,001-10,000	>10,000
Mountain meadow restoration	Restoration of meadows in mountain regions. This includes a land type change from shrubland, grassland, and savanna to meadow and woodland.									
Oak woodland restoration	Reestablishment of oak woodlands on grasslands and cultivated lands where oaks have been depleted due to land conversion, removal, or wildfire.									
Desert, grassland, shrubland, or chaparral restoration and management	A suite of management practices that balance restoration, protection, and fuel management of desert, grassland, chaparral and other non-forested lands.									
Wetland restoration	Restoration or creation of wetlands in coastal areas, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, or other low-lying areas.									
Other (Please describe)										

8. Enter the approximate cost per acre for your organization to conduct each of the management practices your organization expects to implement over the next 2-3 years. Please report net cost, with net revenue-generating activities entered as negative values. If possible, exclude costs related to planning (e.g., RPF time, plan writing), administration, and maintenance (e.g., roads, stream crossings).

Management Practice	Definition	Cost PER ACRE ($)
Defensible space/hazard tree removal	Removal of hazardous or potentially flammable vegetation within 100 ft of structures or infrastructure. (100 ft on each side of a structure = 1 acre)	
Non-shaded fuelbreak--mechanical (includes clearance along roadsides, utility right of way)	Mechanical removal of crown, ladder, and surface fuels to slow or stop a wildland fire; vegetation is not retained. (20 ft clearance on each side of a road (40 ft total width) is about 5 acres/mile).	
Non-shaded fuelbreak--hand (includes clearance along roadsides, utility right of way)	Hand removal of crown, ladder, and surface fuels to slow or stop a wildland fire; vegetation is not retained. (20 ft clearance on each side of a road (40 ft total width) is about 5 acres/mile).	
Shaded fuelbreak /Understory clearing--mechanical	Some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed by machine to create a shaded fuelbreak or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum stocking standards within the operating area are met immediately after harvest.	
Shaded fuelbreak /Understory clearing--hand	Some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed by hand to create a shaded fuelbreak or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum stocking standards within the operating area are met immediately after harvest.	
Cultural burning	Application of fire to the environment to predominantly to achieve cultural objectives.	

Management Practice	Definition	Cost PER ACRE ($)
Prescribed burning	Prescribed burning for fire fuel reduction and ecological restoration.	
Prescribed grazing	Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals with the intent to achieve specific ecological, economic, and management objectives.	
Intermediate forest treatment (includes pest management)	Harvests conducted to modify or guide the development of an existing stand, but not to replace (regenerate) the stand with a new one, includes Commercial Thinning and Sanitation-Salvage (Pest Management) as defined in the California Forest Practice Rules.	
Less intensive forest management (includes carbon offsets projects, improved forest management easements)	A change in forest management practices to a less intensive harvest regime, from even-aged management to uneven-aged management (partial cut) or areas of no harvest (reserve areas).	
Land protection	Protection of natural and working lands against conversion to development through the establishment of easements, acquisitions, fee title, or other activities. Includes the creation of wildlife corridors and habitat links.	
Reforestation/ forest area expansion	Establishing forest and restoring ecosystem health by planting native and climate-adapted trees to prevent conversion of forest ecosystems to shrub or grassland and advance carbon storage within the landscape.	
Mountain meadow restoration	Restoration of meadows in mountain regions. This includes a land type change from shrubland, grassland, and savanna to meadow and woodland.	

Management Practice	Definition	Cost PER ACRE ($)
Oak woodland restoration	Reestablishment of oak woodlands on grasslands and cultivated lands where oaks have been depleted due to land conversion, removal, or wildfire.	
Desert, grassland, shrubland, or chaparral restoration and management	A suite of management practices that balance restoration, protection, and fuel management of desert, grassland, chaparral and other non-forested lands.	
Wetland restoration	Restoration or creation of wetlands in coastal areas, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, or other low-lying areas.	
Other (Please describe)		

9. When the implementation of practices listed in the preceding question will generate woody residues (including small diameter trees, limbs and tops from merchantable trees, and shrubs), what approximate percentage (by weight) of those residues will have the following fates? Leave blank if not applicable.

Fate	**Proportion of Woody Residues**
Left on site to decompose (including lop and scatter, mastication, etc.)	
Burned on site (open burning, including pile burning and broadcast burning)	
Used to generate energy at an offsite biomass energy facility (for combustion or gasification)	
Used to create durable wood products (plywood, OSB, etc.)	
Used to create short-lived wood products (pulp, paper, heating pellets, etc)	
Used to create biochar or similar products	
Chipped for use in landscaping, agriculture, or similar composting	
Used to produce liquid fuel (ethanol, hydrogen, bio-diesel, etc)	
Disposed of in a landfill	
Other:	

10. ***If funding availability was not a barrier to implementation***, mark the column that best represents the number of acres of each management practice your organization would be able to implement PER YEAR over the next 2-3 years to meet organizational or regional plans or priorities. “Implement” is defined as employing staff, volunteers, or contractors to conduct a practice.

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Other (Please describe)										

11. Enter the approximate number of acres of each management practice your organization would like to implement PER YEAR to meet organizational or regional plans or priorities in the period of time 5-10 years from now (between 2025 to 2030), where "implement" is defined as employing staff, volunteers, or contractors to conduct a practice.

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Other (Please describe)										

12. Indicated the approximate number of acres PER YEAR your organization expects to implement under each of the following environmental review documents over the next 2-3 years:

Environmental Review Documents	**1-25**	**26-50**	**50-100**	**100-250**	**251-500**	**501-1,000**	**1,001-5,000**	**5,001-10,000**	**>10,000**
Timber Harvest Plan									
Other Forest Practice Plan (Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan, Working Forest Management Plan)									
Forest Practice Exemption									
California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP)									
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption									
CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration									
National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion									
Other NEPA document (Environmental Assessment (EA), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS))									

13. Has your organization received or applied for funding, cost-share, or technical assistance from a state, federal, or local public agency over the last 2-3 years (mark one)?

- o Received technical assistance.
  If yes, which program(s):_____
- o Received funding.
  If yes, which program(s):_____
- o Applied for funding, but have not received funding.
  If yes, which program(s):_____
- o Have not for applied funding, cost-share, or technical assistance.

14. **Optional** Question: In regard to the programs reference in the previous question, do you have any comments on the effectiveness of these programs?

15. Please provide the following information about your organization, collaborative, or tribe.

o Your organization, collaborative, or tribe's name _____

o Your name _____

o Your position title _____

o Your phone number_____

o Your email address _____

o Your organization's office ZIP code; if you're filling this out for a collaborative, please list the ZIP code for the community in which your collaborative most regularly meets. _____

o May we contact you with follow-up questions about your responses? (Yes or No)

16. Do we have your permission to share your survey answers with members of the academic community that may be interested in using these data for forest policy research purposes?

◯ Yes

◯ No