

OVERVIEW OF THE CA FOREST CARBON PLAN

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Forest Climate Action Team

- Established to develop a Forest Carbon Plan, as called for by the 2014 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update.
- Led by CAL FIRE, Cal/EPA, and Natural Resources Agency.
- State and federal natural resources and land management agencies.
- Local government representation.
- <http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/>

Context: Forest Challenges of Today

- 33 million acres of forestland, almost 1/3 of state.
- Urban areas are home to 95% of the population.
- Drought, warming temperatures, insects and diseases are significantly affecting urban and wildland forests.
- Over 100 million trees died in drought/insect mortality event between 2010 and 2016, primarily in the Sierra.
- Forests with too many trees per acre to be healthy and resilient.
- Removal of fire as an important ecosystem process.
- Peak fire season now starts earlier and ends later.
- Area, intensity, and cost of forest fires has increased substantially.

Process for Plan Development

- Multiple public scoping workshops across the state in early 2015.
- Released Concept Paper for public comment in March 2016 and held multiple public workshops.
- Released full draft of Forest Carbon Plan in January 2017 and held a public workshop.
- Had a team of scientists review the January 2017 draft.
- Working to complete the final draft and release to the public this fall.

Goals of the Forest Carbon Plan

- **Secure CA forests as a healthy, resilient net sink of carbon, while providing a wide range of ecosystem, social, and economic benefits.**
- Significantly increase pace and scale of treatments to increase forest health and resilience on private and public lands.
- Treatments include fuels reduction, prescribed fire, thinning, tree planting, and sustainable timber management.
- Restore forest meadows to increase their carbon and water storage functions.

Goals of the Forest Carbon Plan, cont.

- Prevent forestland conversions.
- Innovate opportunities for wood products and biomass utilization to support sustainable forest management.
- Protect and enhance the carbon sequestration potential and related co-benefits of urban forests.

Implementation

- **Wildland Forests:** Implement through collaborative, regional processes working at the watershed or landscape level.
- **Urban Forests:** Implement through state and local government programs and nonprofit organizations.