

A Joint Strategy for California

Led by the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience" is a bold, action-ready Joint Strategy that transforms recreation infrastructure and programming into community defense against climate-driven wildfire.

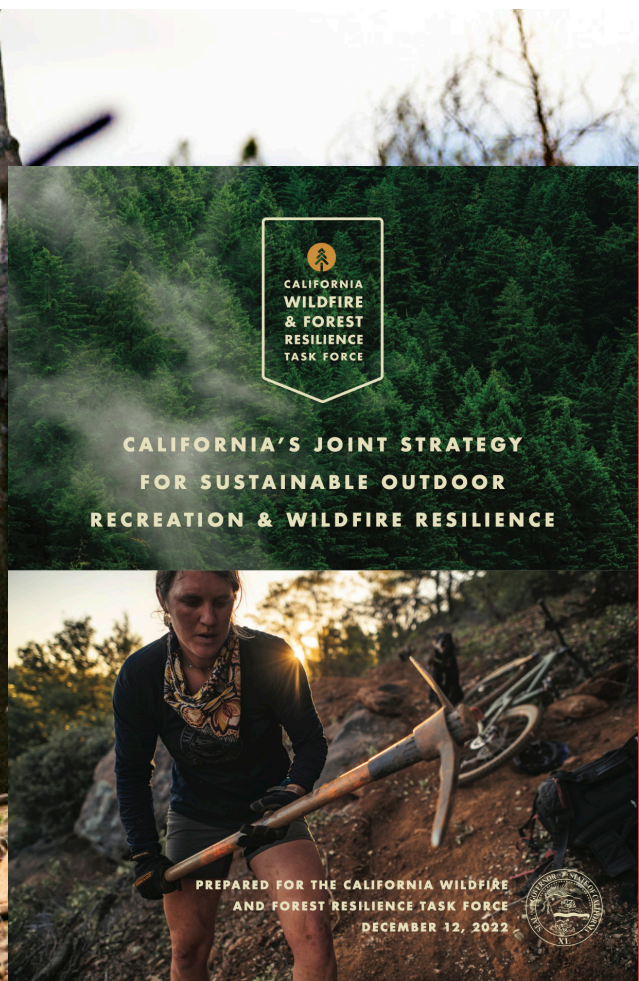
The wildfire threat is **REAL.**

Recreation can help.

ACT NOW

Climate change is reshaping familiar terrain, wildfire risk is rising, and federal policies now prioritize natural resource extractions over all else. California's ecosystems, our outdoor recreation infrastructure, economy, and way of life are all at risk.

This matters to you.



CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE.

California's climate is shifting fast: hotter, longer dry periods are priming landscapes for extreme fire, while the Sierra Nevada snowpack — critical for the state's water supply — continues to shrink. With fire risk now a year-round reality, warming temperatures and prolonged drought magnify the effects of unprepared communities and poor land management practices, creating conditions where even a single spark can devastate entire communities.

The Reality of Wildfire

Extreme wildfire events are multiplying, with iconic destinations under threat, public access compromised, and communities exposed all over the country.

- **Historic loss at the Grand Canyon**

The Dragon Bravo Fire destroyed approximately 70 structures, including the Grand Canyon Lodge and visitor center, and forced the North Rim to stay closed for the remainder of the 2025 season.

- **First-ever closure at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**

This National Park shut down completely for the first time in its 90+ year history due to the South Rim Fire, with campgrounds and visitor facilities destroyed.

The "it can't happen here" mindset is a dangerous illusion. California's recreation assets — from urban parks to remote wilderness trails — face the same risks. In 2025, wildfires tore through Los Angeles neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades and Altadena, proving that "it can't happen here" now means that it can happen anywhere.

While these disasters are not unique to California, Californians have a unique opportunity to respond.



Federal Timber Priorities and U.S. Forest Service Regional Closures

In March 2025, a presidential executive order called for a **25% increase in timber yields and streamlined permitting**. The following month, the Secretary of Agriculture issued an Emergency Situation Determination over **112 million acres** of National Forest System land, removing many environmental review requirements to accelerate logging projects. The Secretary has also proposed eliminating all regional offices of the U.S. Forest Service, including Region 5 which serves California, and replacing it with a single "hub" in Salt Lake City that will serve all of the forests in the western United States.

The results...

- ❑ **Unprecedented timber targets of up to 4 billion board feet harvested annually by fiscal year 2028**
- ❑ **One-size-fits-all mandates from Washington replacing California-specific collaboration and expertise.**
- ❑ **A potentially empty seat at California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force, with no regional U.S. Forest Service representation.**

Without regional oversight and representation, California communities cannot depend on federal stability to protect recreation infrastructure and values.



credit: Ken Etzel

Our Landscape Defines Us

From Yosemite's granite cliffs to Big Sur's rugged coast, California's landscapes define who we are. But did you know that over 50% of California's landmass is managed by the federal government? The health of these federally managed places determines the health of our communities and economies. Wildfire, underfunding, and poor management threaten not only our iconic scenery but also the recreation infrastructure that keeps these lands accessible.

Outdoor Recreation in California is Being Dismantled

California has no dedicated statewide recreation infrastructure. We have always relied on the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other federal agencies to manage recreation programs and infrastructure on their lands. While recent efforts to sell public lands have stalled, the future is uncertain. Communities must act now to preserve trails, public access, and their outdoor recreation economies.



"CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California", 2020.

Outdoor recreation in CA generates

\$81.5 BILLION

(Outdoor Industry Association, 2023).

and supports

545,000 DIRECT JOBS

California Values are at Risk

California's identity is rooted in stewardship, innovation, and equitable access to the outdoors. Conservation goals such as 30x30, nature-based climate solutions, and inclusive recreation are essential to our way of life. These values are at risk when federal priorities emphasize resource extraction over sustainable outdoor recreation.

50% of CA's landmass is managed by the federal government

Recreation Infrastructure is Economic Infrastructure

Outdoor recreation is a cornerstone of California's economy.

California Jobs First is a statewide economic framework that calls for building regional economies rooted in local strengths. In many communities, outdoor recreation is that strength. Investing in trails, campgrounds, and public access creates job opportunities, attracts visitors, and keeps small businesses thriving.

THE COST OF INACTION IS TOO HIGH

Wildfire risk is rising, recreation assets are being lost, and federal priorities no longer align with California's needs. Our local economies, public safety, and cultural identities depend on recreation infrastructure and access for all - yet these are all being compromised just when they are needed most.

Failing to act means risking our economy, our safety, and our way of life.



Our Solution...

A JOINT STRATEGY FOR CALIFORNIA



"California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience," the Joint Strategy, is a collaborative, action-ready framework — **not a mandate** — that any community can adopt. This is California's playbook, born from a collaborative partnership of California's recreation and wildfire resilience leaders and published by the state's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force in March 2023.

It proves that **wildfire safety and recreation access are not competing priorities**, but shared goals that can strengthen communities, economies, and landscapes. By adopting it in your community, you are joining Californians with shared principles, values, and practices.

It can work for you.

It's ready for your community to

ADOPT IT NOW.



credit: Bob Wick



credit: Ken Etzel

Four Strategic Goals

THE STRATEGY

These four goals from the Joint Strategy are the next steps for the **CALREC Vision** (calrecvision.org), turning statewide aspirations for sustainable outdoor recreation into actionable strategies communities can adopt today.

Healthy Forests + Sustainable Recreation

Integrate the provision of high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with forest health and resilience and wildfire and climate mitigation efforts so that all people can connect to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

Key Actions from this goal include recreation infrastructure designed to serve multiple purposes — from trails that act as fuel breaks to climate-ready access points and sites that support fire crews.

Access for All

Plan for and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable access for all Californians.

Key Actions from this goal point to an inclusive recreation culture across all public lands, where environmental, social, and economic inequities are addressed. Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities help shape projects, incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) — centuries-old practices for stewarding land and water — into recreation and forest health planning.

Healthy Californians

Provide health information, training, and alternative recreation opportunities that promote the health and well-being of all peoples, with consideration of people's needs before, during, and after wildfires and other natural disasters.

Key Actions from this goal highlight the need for year-round respite during disasters, clean-air recreation options, and evacuation-ready corridors that keep people safe when emergencies strike.

California Jobs First

Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.

Key Actions from this underscore that local economies strengthened through sustainable tourism, forest health investments, and recreation projects create job opportunities.



UNLOCK FUNDING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Adopting the Joint Strategy positions your community for competitive funding from multiple state and federal programs:

- **Proposition 4** - \$10 billion state climate bond with dedicated funding for wildfire prevention, forest health, and parks. Strong fit for projects combining recreation and resilience.
- **Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC)** - Funds multi-benefit projects that integrate forest health, wildfire resilience, and outdoor recreation.
- **CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants** - Supports recreation projects that also include fuel reduction or other forest restoration components.
- **State Parks Recreation Grants** - Prioritizes projects that strengthen wildfire resilience while improving public access.
- **Federal Infrastructure Funds** - Available for recreation infrastructure that doubles as evacuation routes or emergency access.

**Even as Federal priorities shift,
having shared standards across all of
California's jurisdictions is critical.**





credit: James Townsend

To be a Californian **ACT LIKE A CALIFORNIAN**

Use your recreation infrastructure to harden your community. Trails become fuel breaks. Campgrounds become staging areas. Recreation corridors become evacuation routes. This is smart planning that serves multiple purposes.

We're stronger together. When communities across California adopt the Joint Strategy, we create a unified defense against federal chaos and climate threats.

This isn't an unfunded mandate; it's an opportunity.

- Access funding for wildfire and recreation projects
- Protect your recreation assets from wildfire
- Create proactive solutions for your community

It's time we hardened our communities against threats from outside and stand up for what makes California special.

We are Californians.

**We're prepared, forward-thinking,
and ready to protect what matters.**



credit: Courtney J. Rowe

**WE'RE DOING
THE WORK SO WE
CAN ALL CONNECT.**

**PLAY.
BELONG.
CELEBRATE.
GATHER.
RACE.**

Through the CALREC Vision, a program sponsored by the MLTPA Foundation, we are investing and advocating for the recreation assets that drive California's outdoor economy and define our way of life. While state and federal agencies stall, we're building grassroots momentum and implementing real solutions.

The Mammoth Lakes Trail & Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) leads the implementation of California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience throughout California.

Contact: info@mltpa.org | (760) 934-3154
We're available to support your community as you work to adopt the Joint Strategy.

SCAN HERE



- ✓ Access the Adopt It Now! Toolkit
- ✓ Read the full Joint Strategy document
- ✓ Sign up for the CALREC Vision
- ✓ Support Our Work



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credit: Ken Etzel