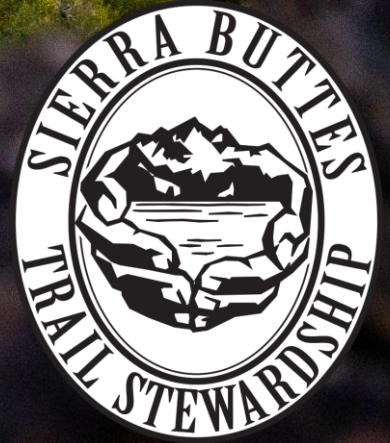


# Strengthening The Lost Sierra



# with TRAILS as the TOOL



# Since 2003



**228**

Miles Built



**3,083**

Miles Maintained



**10,096**

Volunteers



**140,739**

Volunteer Hours



**\$4,279,159**

Volunteer In-Kind Match





# Struggling Communities of the Lost Sierra

- 👉 Plumas and Sierra Counties were two of the richest counties in California during the Gold Rush and again during the Timber Boom
- 👉 Those industry jobs have disappeared over time as gold and trees were harvested from the area
- 👉 Plumas and Sierra are now among two of California's poorest counties in addition to being ravaged by wildfires
- 👉 From 2000 to 2020, the regional population shrank, jobs were lost and unemployment increased to a high of over 16%
- 👉 70% of Plumas and Sierra Counties is US Forest Service lands compared to the national average of 8% - the limited private property tax base results in lean revenue and diminishing opportunities for economic solvency





# Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Engine

Outdoor recreation is one of the most cost effective infrastructure investments available to rural communities, delivering strong economic returns while improving public health, forest resilience and quality of life.



## United States



**\$1.1 trillion** annually nationwide



**5 million+ jobs**

(Supports rural & urban communities)



On federal public lands alone:



**\$128.5 billion** (Annual economic output)



**900,000+ jobs**



**\$43.5 billion** (In wages)



Nearly **\$6 billion** (Federal tax revenue)



## California



**\$81.5 billion** annually

(Contributes to California's economy)



Over **700,000 jobs**

(Supports statewide)



**Highest ROI** land use, outperforming:



Federal timber



Hardrock mining



Livestock grazing



Delivers **sustained, repeat visitation** rather than boom and bust cycles



# A Bold Plan



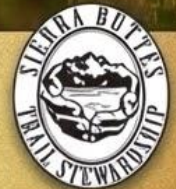
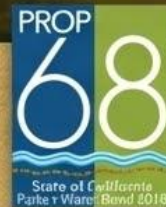
**BUILD** a new economic base for 15 iconic Northern Sierra communities



**CREATE** a world class network of shared-use recreational trails



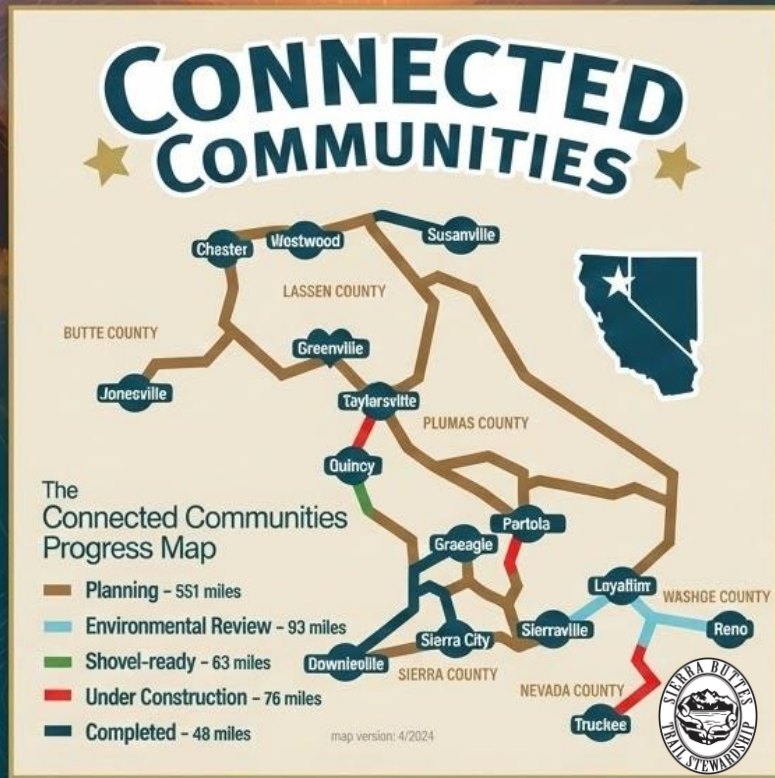
**REBUILD, RECOVER, RESILIENCE**





# Connected Communities

A sustainable legacy:  
the **Lost Sierra Route**



**Economic recovery, resilience and growth**



**New jobs and business opportunities**



**Community well-being and outdoor access**



# PROJECT SCOPE & REACH



**564** miles  
of trail



**15** Mountain  
Towns



**6**  
Counties

Nevada, Sierra, Plumas,  
Lassen, Butte and Washoe



**2**  
States

California and Nevada



**5** Federal Land  
Agencies:

Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe,  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National  
Forests and Bureau of Land  
Management



# Best Management Practices

## COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS



Public Outreach



Tribal Engagement



Public-Private Partnerships



Optimum Location Reviews

## PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION



Environmental Planning



Conservation and  
Restoration Practices



Maintenance and  
Construction Standards



Fire Hardened Trails

# So goes the land, So goes the people



THE LAND: FIRE & RESILIENCE



THE PEOPLE: COMMUNITY & STEWARDSHIP



Our future is intertwined with the health of our forests.  
Stewardship is the key.



# SETBACKS PAVE THE WAY FOR COMEBACKS

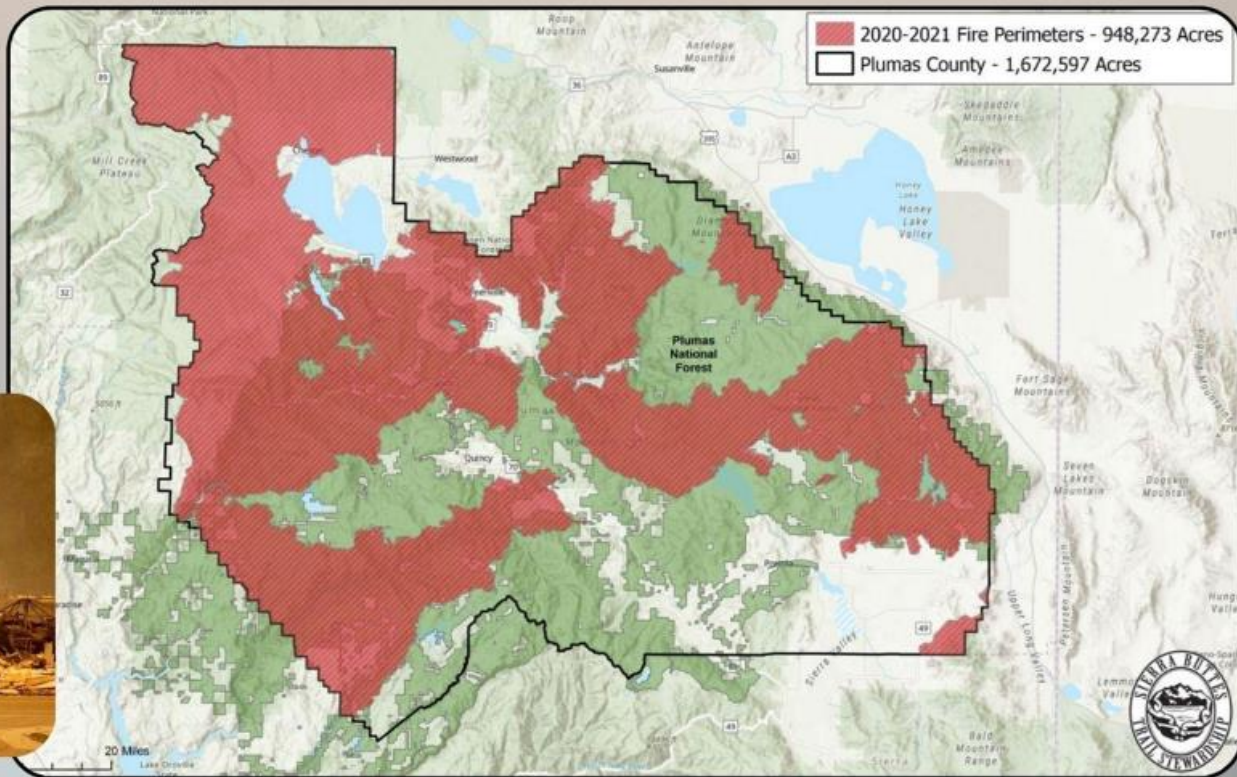
## THE DIXIE FIRE:

July 13 - Oct 25, 2021

963,309 acres

1,505 square miles

1,200 structures destroyed





**BREAKING NEWS**

**DIXIE FIRE GROWS TO "MEGA" STATUS AS WILDFIRES SCORCH WEST**

**CBS EVENING NEWS WITH NORAH O'DONNELL**





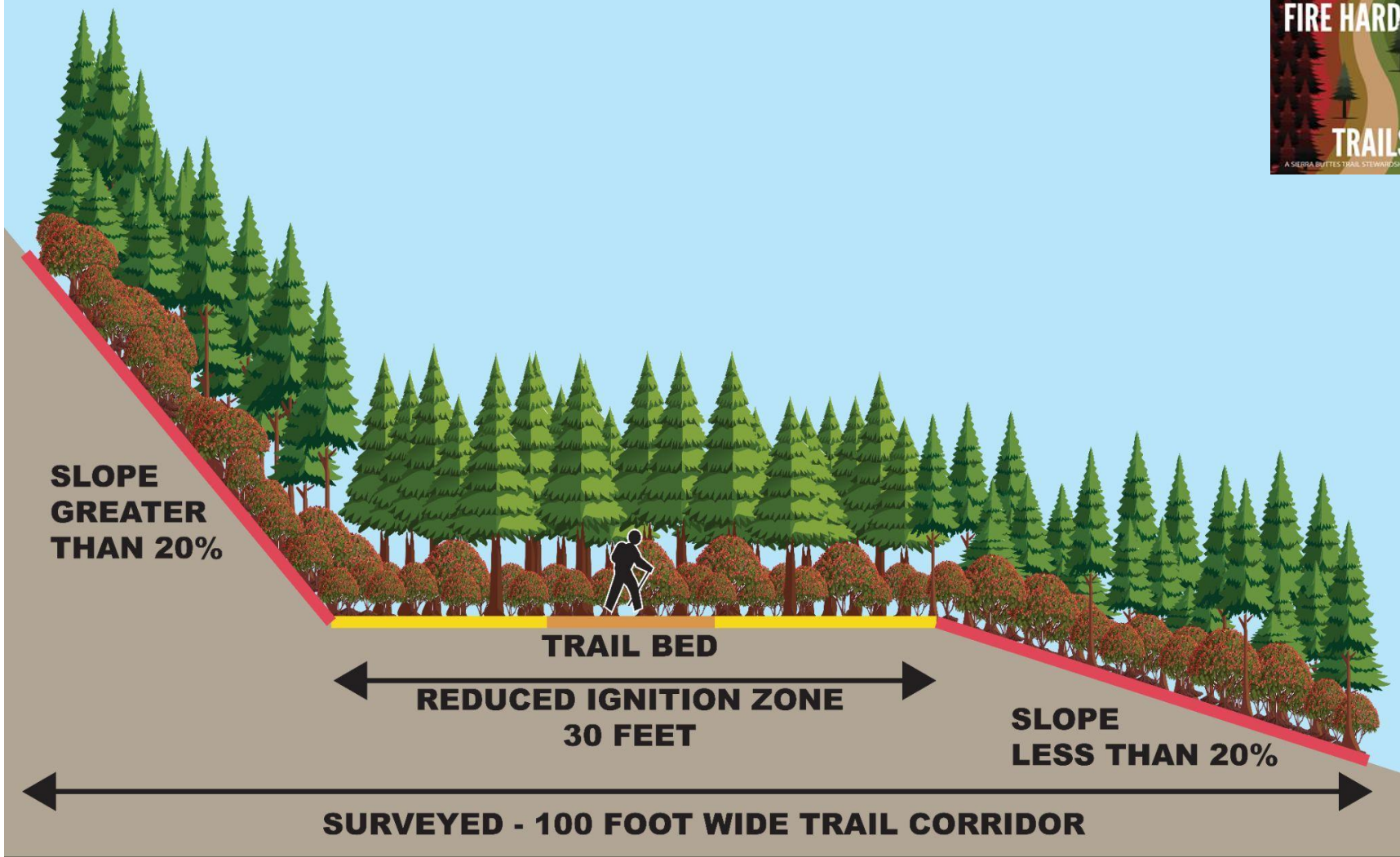
**The Fire-Hardened Trails Prescription maximizes the 100-foot wide trail corridor as a fuel break that is conducive for trails as a fireline.**



**TRAIL AS A FUEL BREAK (PRE-FIRE)**



**TRAIL AS A FIRELINE (DURING FIRE)**





**Minimum spacing of  
20 feet between branch  
tips of surrounding trees  
on slopes greater than 20%**



**SLOPE  
GREATER  
THAN 20%**

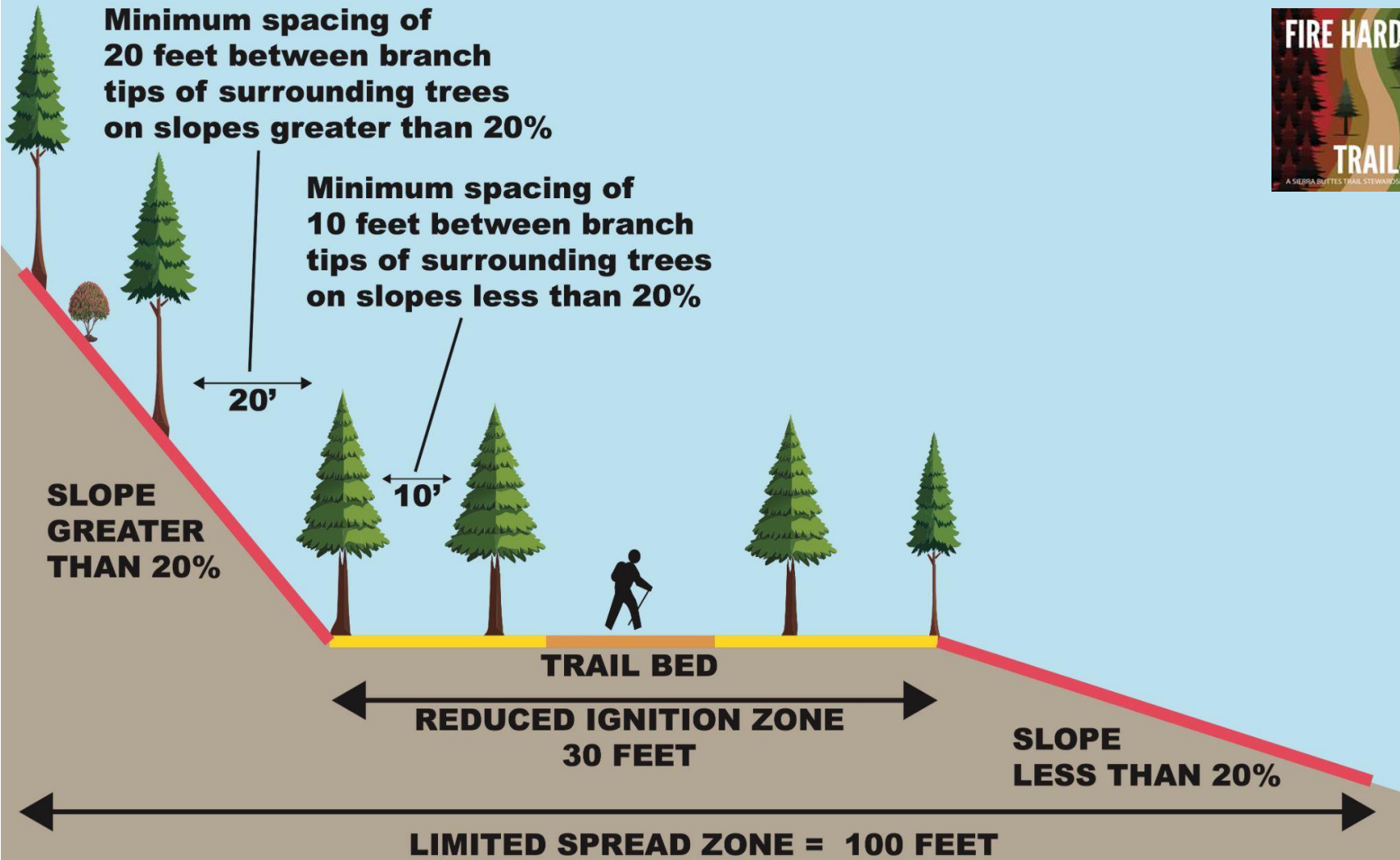


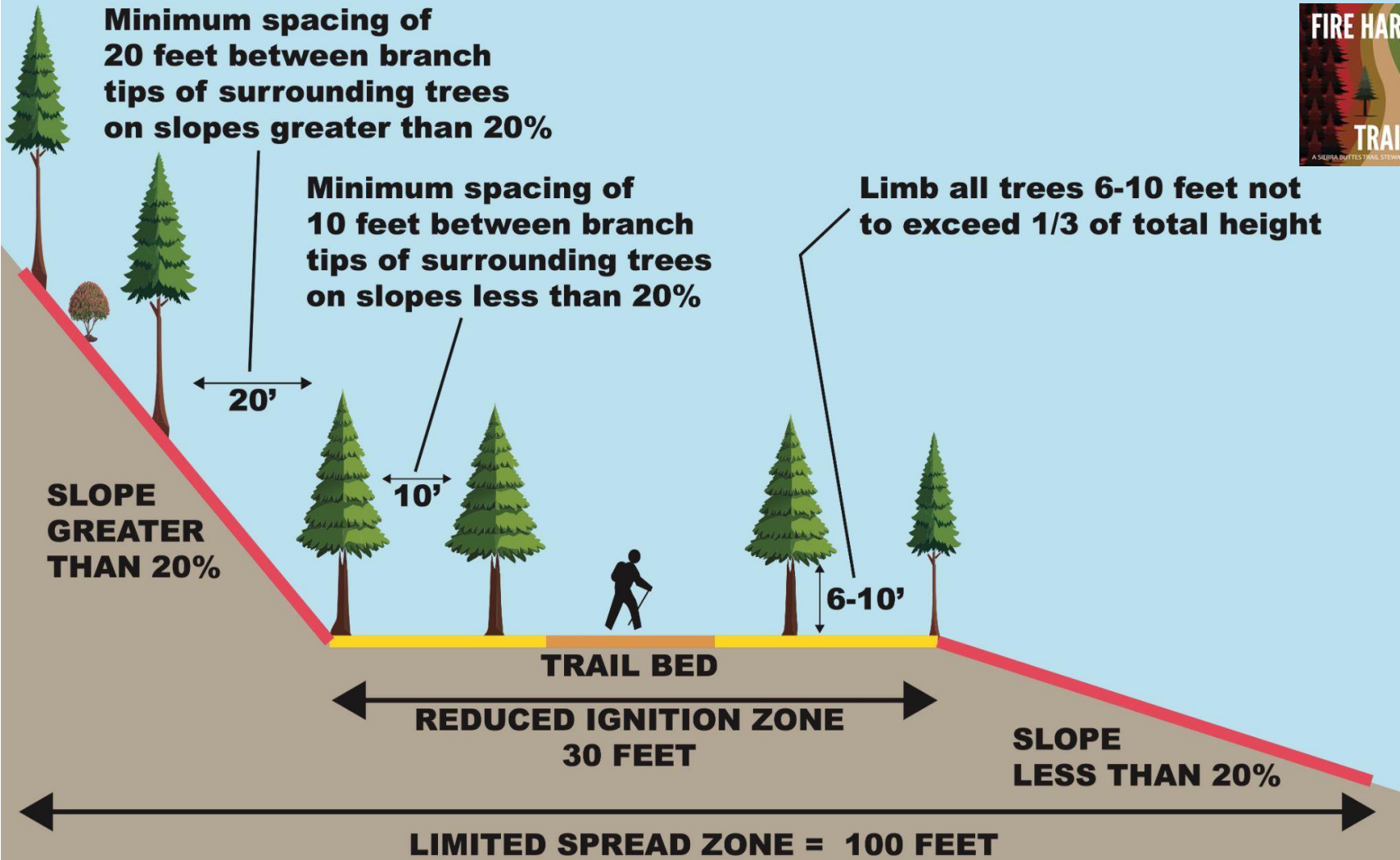
**TRAIL BED**

**REDUCED IGNITION ZONE  
30 FEET**

**SLOPE  
LESS THAN 20%**

**LIMITED SPREAD ZONE = 100 FEET**





**Minimum spacing of 20 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes greater than 20%**

**Minimum spacing of 10 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes less than 20%**

**Limb all trees 6-10 feet not to exceed 1/3 of total height**

**SLOPE GREATER THAN 20%**

**SLOPE LESS THAN 20%**

**TRAIL BED**

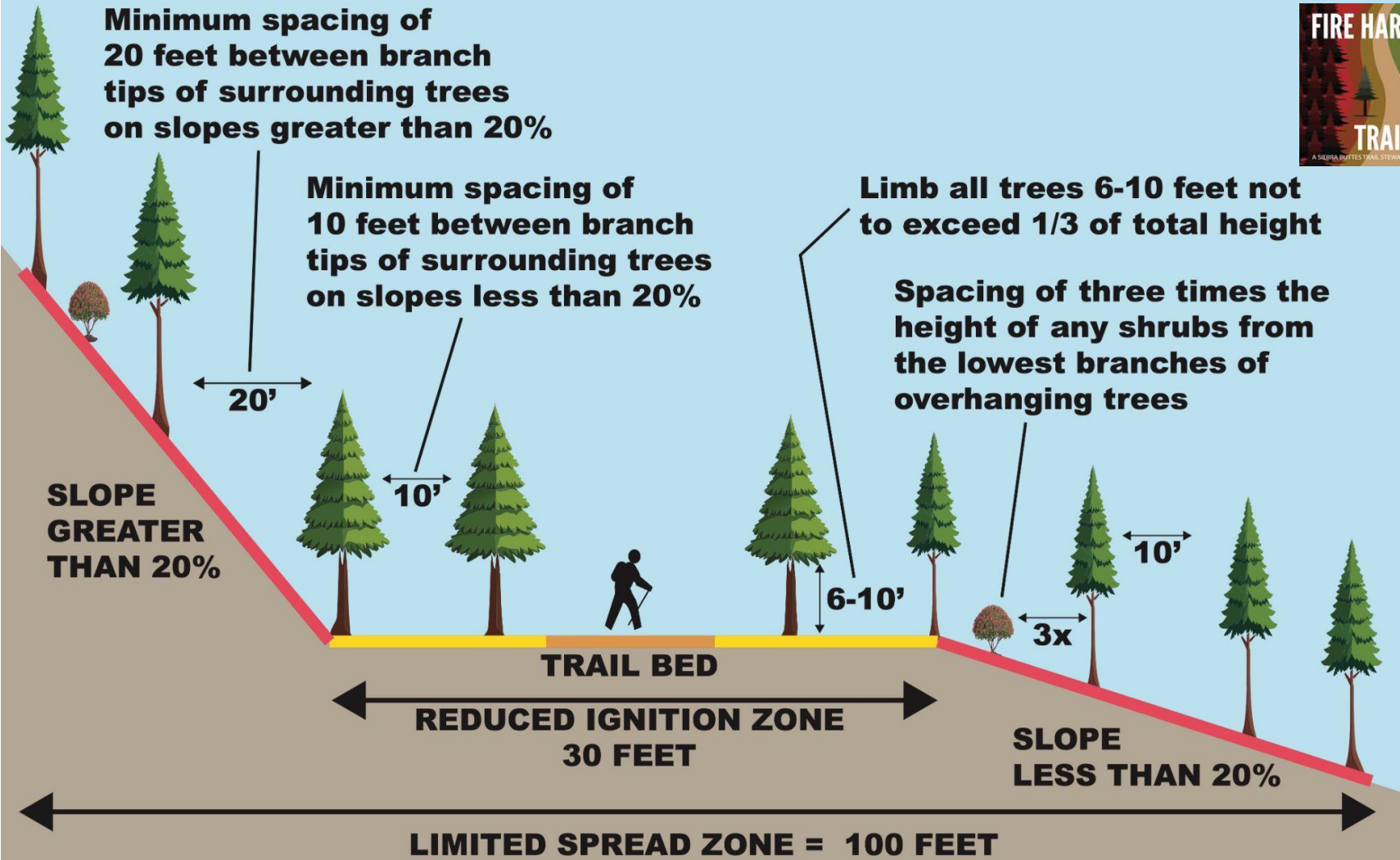
**REDUCED IGNITION ZONE  
30 FEET**

**LIMITED SPREAD ZONE = 100 FEET**

**20'**

**10'**

**6-10'**



**Minimum spacing of 20 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes greater than 20%**

**Minimum spacing of 10 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes less than 20%**

**Limb all trees 6-10 feet not to exceed 1/3 of total height**

**Spacing of three times the height of any shrubs from the lowest branches of overhanging trees**

**SLOPE GREATER THAN 20%**

**SLOPE LESS THAN 20%**

20'

10'

6-10'

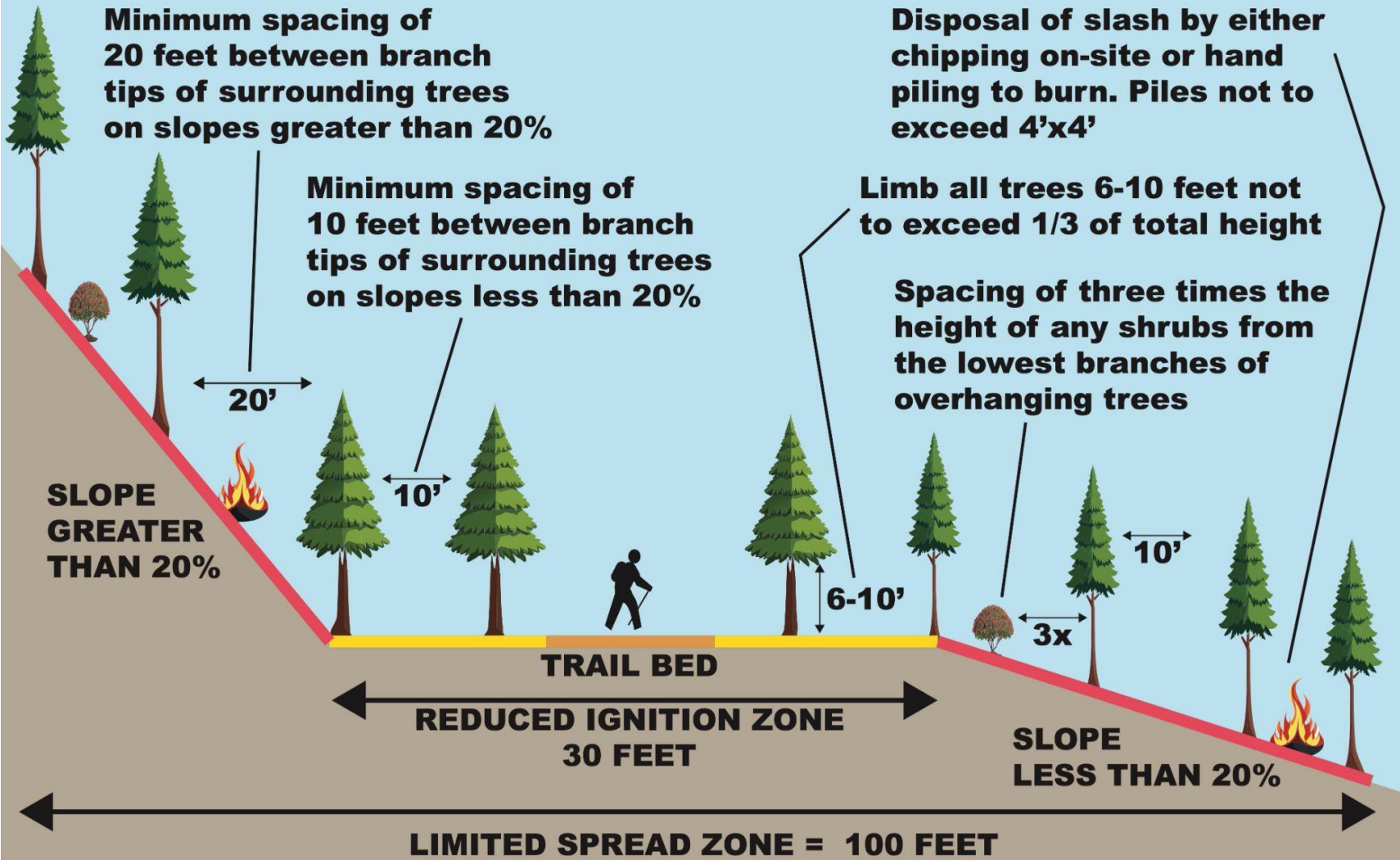
10'

3x

**TRAIL BED**

**REDUCED IGNITION ZONE  
30 FEET**

**LIMITED SPREAD ZONE = 100 FEET**



**Minimum spacing of 20 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes greater than 20%**

**Minimum spacing of 10 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes less than 20%**

**Disposal of slash by either chipping on-site or hand piling to burn. Piles not to exceed 4'x4'**

**Limb all trees 6-10 feet not to exceed 1/3 of total height**

**Spacing of three times the height of any shrubs from the lowest branches of overhanging trees**

**SLOPE GREATER THAN 20%**

**SLOPE LESS THAN 20%**

**TRAIL BED**

**REDUCED IGNITION ZONE  
30 FEET**

**LIMITED SPREAD ZONE = 100 FEET**

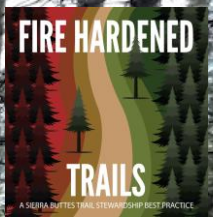
20'

10'

6-10'

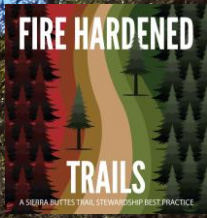
3x

10'



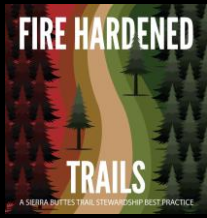


**FIRE HARDENED**  
**TRAILS**  
A SIBIRA BUTTES TRAIL SYSTEMSHIP BEST PRACTICE





**FIRE HARDENED**  
**TRAILS**  
A SIBIRA BUTTES TRAIL STewardSHIP BEST PRACTICE



## FIRE HARDENED TRAIL PRESCRIPTION

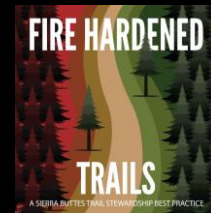
Reduced Ignition Zone - Within 15 feet of both sides of centerline of the trail:

- Remove all dead standing or downed trees and all brush.
- Remove all trees less than 6 inch DBH.

Limited Spread Zone - From 15 to 50 feet of both sides of the centerline of the trail:

- Thin 40 percent of trees less than 6 inch DBH and reduce brush components by 50 percent.
- Remove all dead standing trees less than 12" DBH.
- Leave trees will have a minimum spacing of 10 feet between branch tips of surrounding trees on slopes less than 20% and will have 20 feet of spacing on slopes greater than 20%.
- Limb all trees to a height of 8 feet, not to exceed  $\frac{1}{3}$  the total height of the tree.
- Maintain a spacing of three times the height of any shrubs between the shrubs and the lowest branches of overhanging trees.
- Disposal of slash will be accomplished either through chipping on site or hand piling not to exceed 4'x4' piles to be burned by the US Forest Service.

## POST FIRE RECOVERY



- Retain all live conifer trees greater than or equal to 16” diameter at breast height (dbh).
- Retain all live hardwood trees greater than or equal to 6” diameter dbh.
  - Live trees greater than these limits would only be removed/mitigated if they qualify as a hazard under the Region 5 FHP Hazard tree guidelines.
- Any dead, dying, or fire injured tree of sufficient probability of mortality and capable of striking the trail system should be removed according to the following:
  - All dead trees less than 14” diameter
  - Dead trees greater than 14" dbh should be felled if they pose a striking hazard to the trail
  - Fire-injured trees that have crown scorch could be removed to manage the development of future hazard trees or fuel profiles.
- Maintain shrub fuels according to the Reduced Ignition and Limited Spread zone prescriptions as the shrubs regrow
- Pile and burn or chip slash or biomass debris.
- **Develop trailside reforestation in a clustered or micro-sited arrangement to serve as a founders grove.**
- Thin or prune re-sprouting hardwoods to expedite the development of larger stems and individuals.

# Thank You!

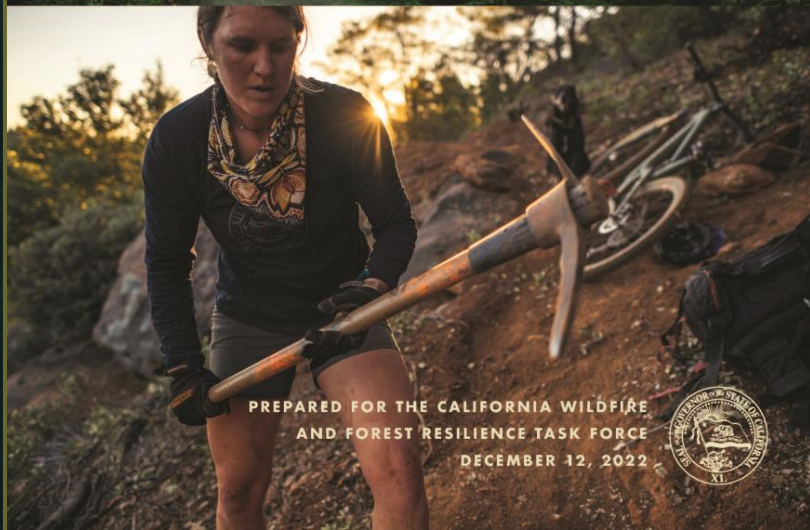


**Greg Williams**

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship  
[willie@sierratrails.org](mailto:willie@sierratrails.org)



**CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**



PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022



**John Wentworth**

**MLTPA Foundation  
CEO / Board President**

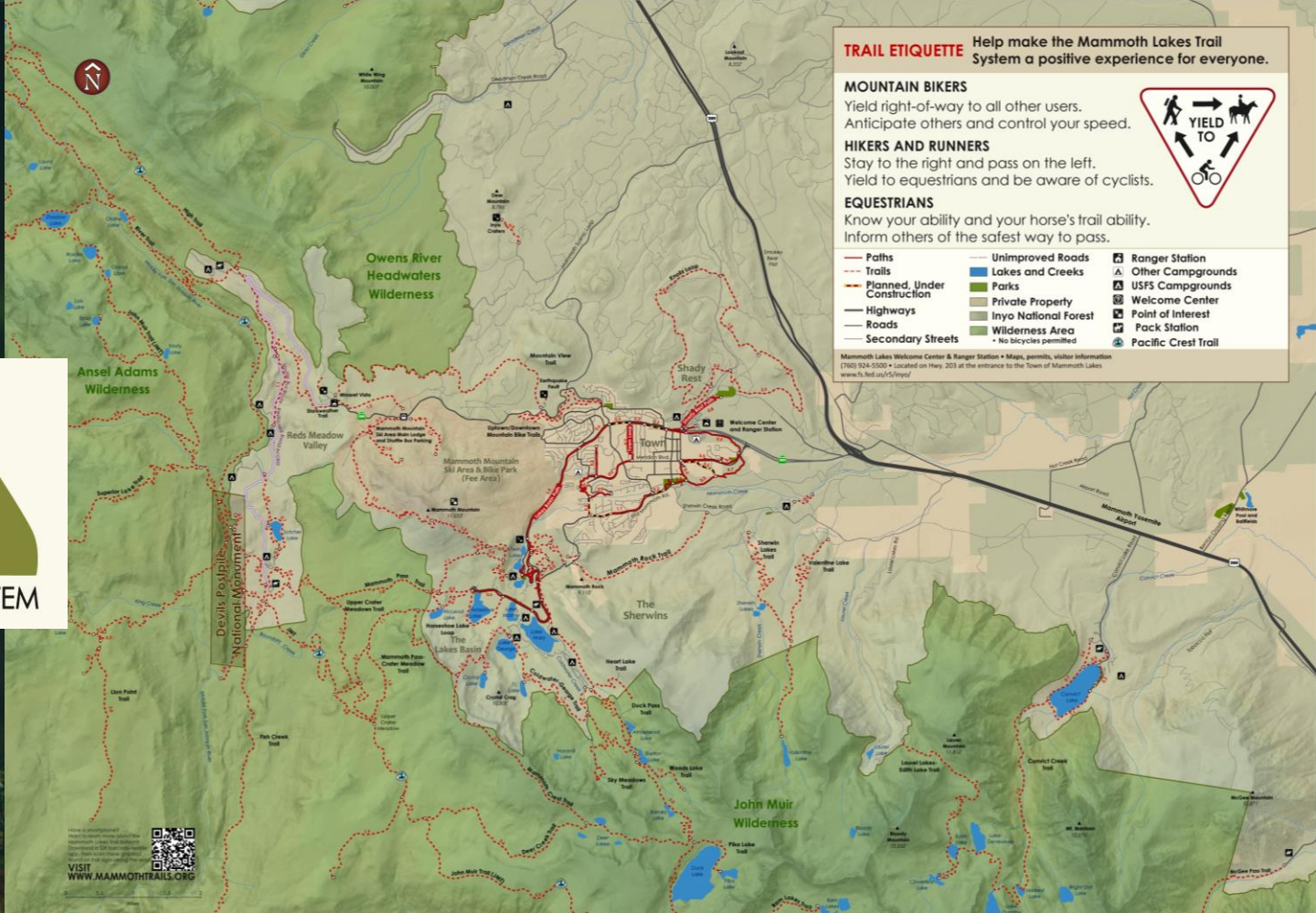






MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM

VISIT  
WWW.MAMMOTHTRAILS.ORG



**TRAIL ETIQUETTE** Help make the Mammoth Lakes Trail System a positive experience for everyone.

- MOUNTAIN BIKERS**  
Yield right-of-way to all other users.  
Anticipate others and control your speed.
- HIKERS AND RUNNERS**  
Stay to the right and pass on the left.  
Yield to equestrians and be aware of cyclists.
- EQUESTRIANS**  
Know your ability and your horse's trail ability.  
Inform others of the safest way to pass.



- Paths
- Trails
- Planned, Under Construction
- Highways
- Roads
- Secondary Streets
- Unimproved Roads
- Lakes and Creeks
- Parks
- Private Property
- Inyo National Forest
- Wilderness Area  
• No bicycles permitted
- Ranger Station
- Other Campgrounds
- USFS Campgrounds
- Welcome Center
- Point of Interest
- Pack Station
- Pacific Crest Trail

Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center & Ranger Station • Maps, permits, visitor information (760) 924-5500 • Located on Hwy. 203 at the entrance to the Town of Mammoth Lakes [www.fs.fed.us/INW/](http://www.fs.fed.us/INW/)

# CALREC Vision



**Cross-Jurisdictional  
Collaboration  
To Advance Sustainable  
Outdoor Recreation  
In California**



# CALREC Vision



**Cross-Jurisdictional  
Collaboration  
To Advance Sustainable  
Outdoor Recreation  
In California**



## MOVING COLLABORATION FORWARD

Land-management agencies and their outdoor recreation partners work with the knowledge that increased resource impacts, uncertain public funding, and rising recreation demand are becoming “the new normal” for California. With this in mind, collaboration by willing partners across jurisdictions to achieve the environmental, economic, and social benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation in California is essential. To do so, state leadership, capacity building, and a focus on the state’s regions will be critical to success.



# CALREC Vision



**Cross-Jurisdictional  
Collaboration  
To Advance Sustainable  
Outdoor Recreation  
In California**



## CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN



**A Comprehensive Strategy  
of the Governor's  
Forest Management  
Task Force**

January 2021

# CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE & FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

## CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN



A Comprehensive Strategy  
of the Governor's  
Forest Management  
Task Force

January 2021

## **GOAL 3:** MANAGE FORESTS TO ACHIEVE THE STATE'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

**3.14 Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:** In accordance with the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the USFS will coordinate the development of a joint strategy to improve access to sustainable recreation.



**SUSTAINABLE  
RECREATION  
CALREC Vision  
KEY WORKING GROUP**



**Angela Avery Co-Lead**

**Executive Officer**  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**SIERRA NEVADA  
CONSERVANCY**



**Jim Bacon Co-Lead**

**Director of Public Services**  
Pacific Southwest Region





**SUSTAINABLE  
RECREATION  
CALREC Vision  
KEY WORKING GROUP**



- Bureau of Land Management
- CA Landscape Stewardship Network
- CA Natural Resources Agency
- CA State Parks
- L.A. County Parks and Recreation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- Recreate Responsibly CA Coalition
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- U.S. Forest Service



V6 Draft – Incorporating Feedback from KWG Meeting #11

#### STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION IN CALIFORNIA

To protect our natural resources and recreational assets, California's existing outdoor recreational infrastructure needs to be retrofitted and new facilities designed such that resiliency and adaptation to climate change are core functions, while still providing a positive user experience that connects outdoor recreational users with the natural world. Through education and awareness, recreational users will become stewards who contribute to and protect the natural resources located across California's public lands and waters. Wildfire prevention and response, as well as forest health efforts, must anticipate the safety, hazards, infrastructure, and programming needs of our outdoor recreation communities, recognize our communities' strengths, and where possible enlist their support to improve conditions on the ground. By ensuring healthy lands and waters, outdoor recreation users feel connected to nature in places and communities that are socially, economically, and environmentally rich and resilient.

Goal 1: California and its federal partners will promote wildfire resilience and healthy ecosystems by developing and maintaining a sustainable outdoor recreation system that connects outdoor recreation users to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

#### Key Actions

##### Communication & Visitor Management

- 1.1 **Maintain Public Access as the Climate Changes:** Develop climate-smart best practices for programs that enhance public access to recreation on public lands and waters. Best practices may include implementing resilience measures such as forest thinning and vegetation management, communicating in real time with visitors about current conditions, and transitioning to adaptive management. Recreation sites may require increased capacity to anticipate and respond to shifting seasonal recreation patterns. Land managers will monitor use, mitigate over-use in high use areas, and provide transportation alternatives to reduce congestion.
- 1.2 **Develop Educational Materials Targeted at All Human Causes of Ignition:** Create and distribute educational materials in multiple languages targeted at all human causes of ignition, which may include fireworks, smoking, shooting, campfires, debris burning, motorized vehicles, and dragging chains. Provide information on how to report wildfire incidents to authorities.
- 1.3 **Provide Communications Staffing and Information During Wildfires:** Provide staffing and information during wildfires to help guide visitor use patterns and bolster visitor safety. Partner with Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), chambers of commerce, outdoor recreation and stewardship groups, and local media to communicate in multiple languages with residents and visitors regarding closures, restrictions, and open facilities.

**11 Meetings** - Key Working Group discussions and review sessions

**100+ Documents** - Reviewed research, post-fire reports, planning documents, and existing recreation and wildfire policy

**25+ Wildfire Stakeholders Participants** - Gathered input from stakeholders of communities impacted by wildfire; five listening sessions,

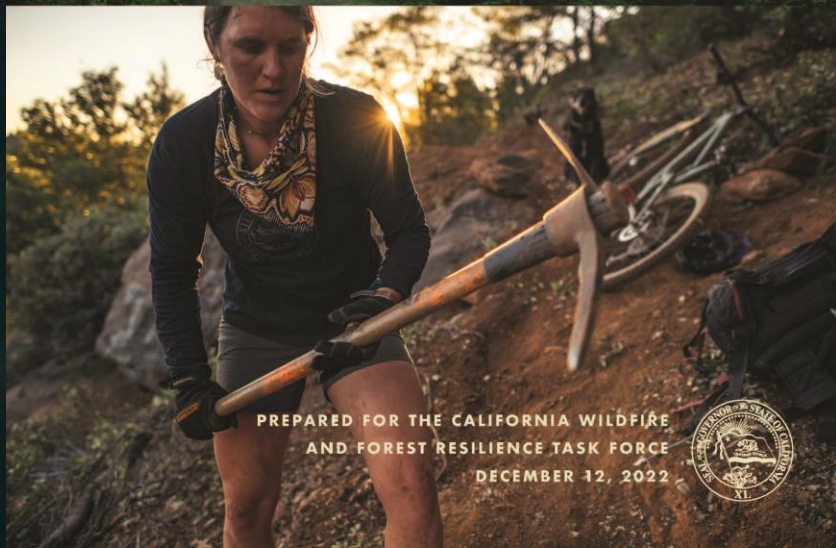
**80+ Recreation Stakeholders** - Collected feedback from recreation stakeholders including tribes; four listening sessions, August 2022

**30+ Survey Responses** - Garnered additional feedback via survey and email; August 2022

**Key Working Group and Leadership Team** - Reviewed all inputs + incorporated recommendations into final Goals and Key Actions



CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022



Greg Williams + CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot

Presentation to Wildfire Taskforce  
September 29, 2022





CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
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DECEMBER 12, 2022



A graphic for the "Regional Forester 2022 Honor Awards" announcement. It features the Forest Service logo (a shield with "U S" and a tree) and the Department of Agriculture logo. The text reads "REGIONAL FORESTER 2022 Honor Awards STRONGER TOGETHER WINNERS &amp; NOMINEES ANNOUNCEMENT". To the right is a white outline of a person holding a glowing award. The background is a dark green with a subtle pattern of trees.



Partnership of the Year for 2022





**CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**



**PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE**

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**



**OUTDOOR RECREATION  
IN CALIFORNIA...**



\*Source: 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), California Department of Parks and Recreation



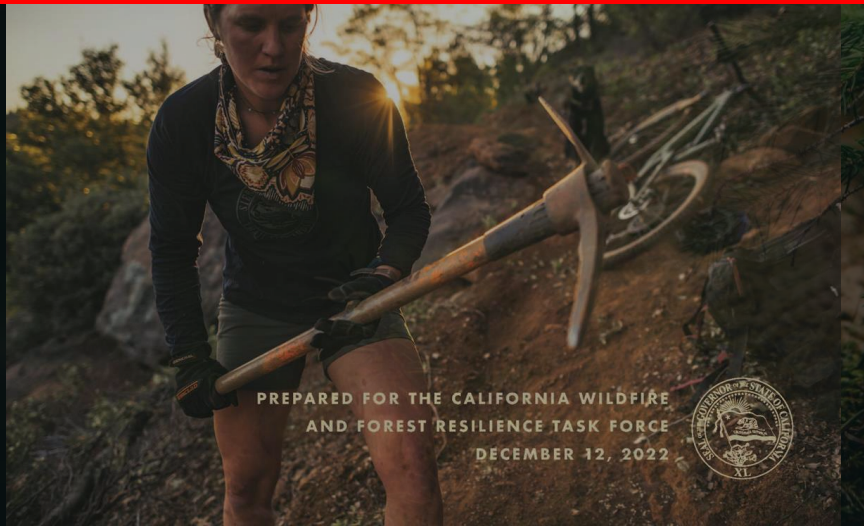
OUTDOOR RECREATION  
IN CALIFORNIA...



100M  
ACRES

# THE CHALLENGE

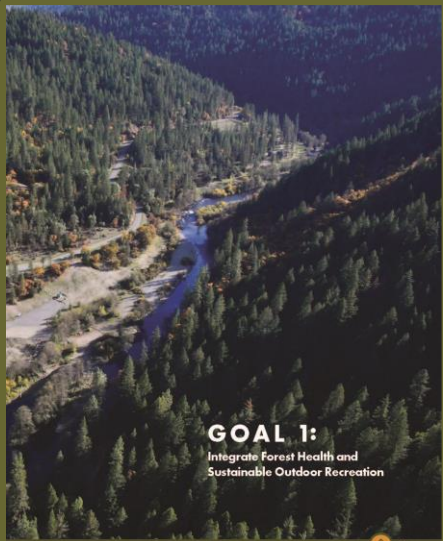
## A STRATEGIC CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE




PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022

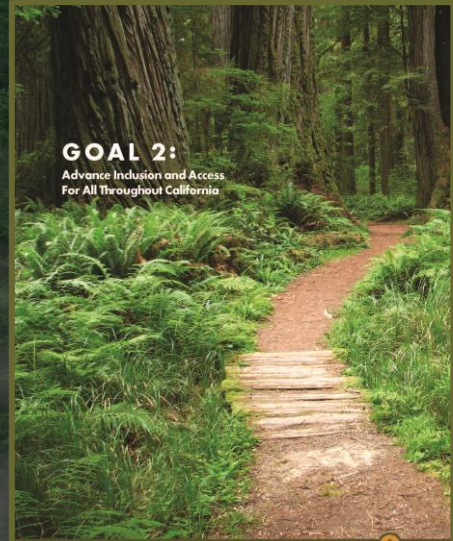


\*Source: 2015 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), California Department of Parks and Recreation




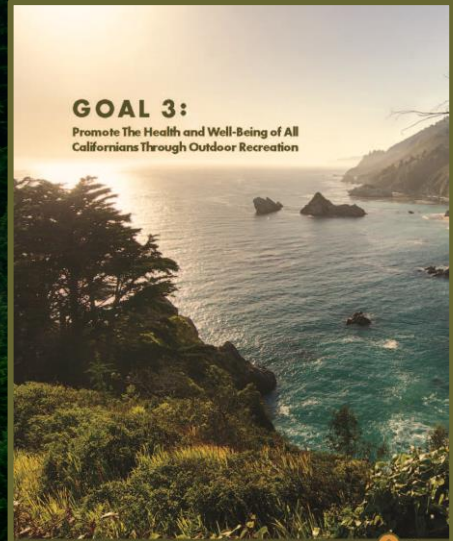
**GOAL 1:**  
Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE  16




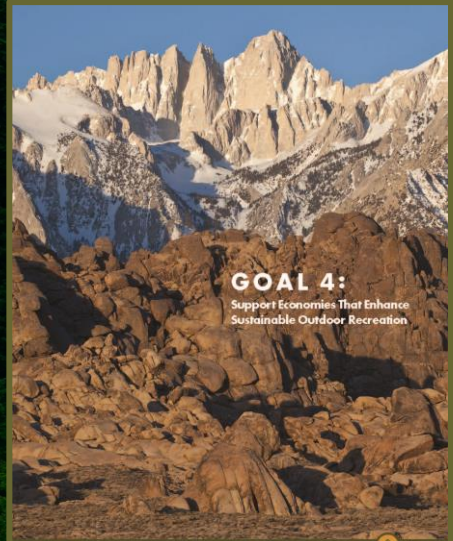
**GOAL 2:**  
Advance Inclusion and Access For All Throughout California

CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE  23




**GOAL 3:**  
Promote The Health and Well-Being of All Californians Through Outdoor Recreation

CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE  27



**GOAL 4:**  
Support Economies That Enhance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE  31

# INTEGRATE FOREST HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION



Goal #1



## 12 Key Actions

“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.”

# ADVANCE INCLUSION AND ACCESS FOR ALL THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA



Goal #2



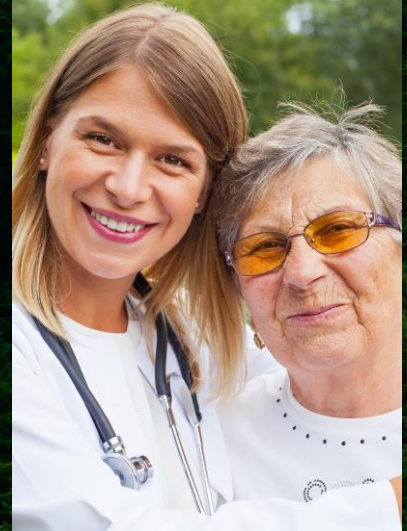
## 7 Key Actions

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

# Promote The Health and Well-Being of All Californians Through Outdoor Recreation



Goal #3



## 4 Key Actions

“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.”

# SUPPORT ECONOMIES THAT ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

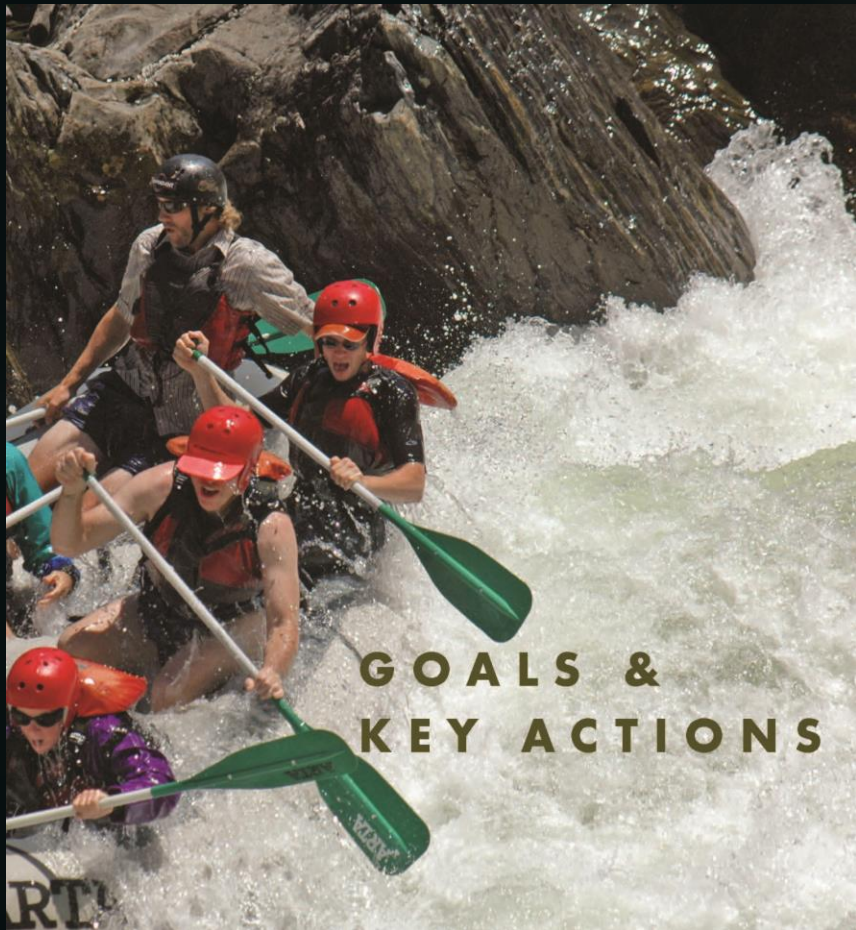


Goal #4



## 8 Key Actions

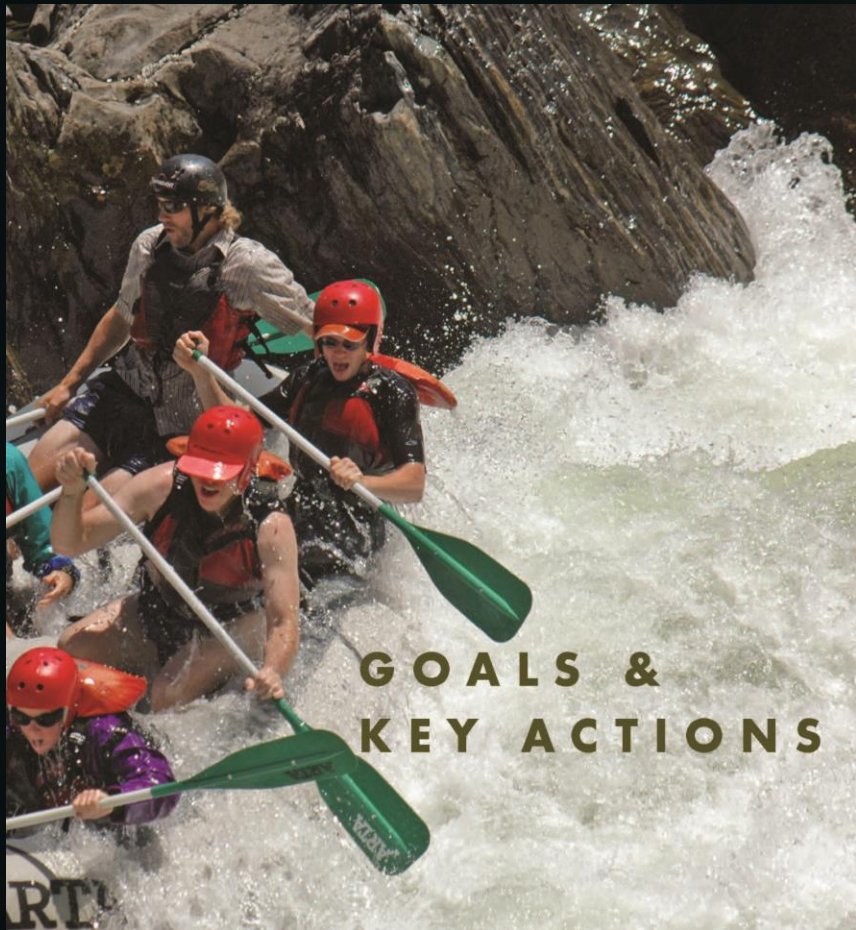
“Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.”



# GOALS & KEY ACTIONS

# IMPLEMENTATION

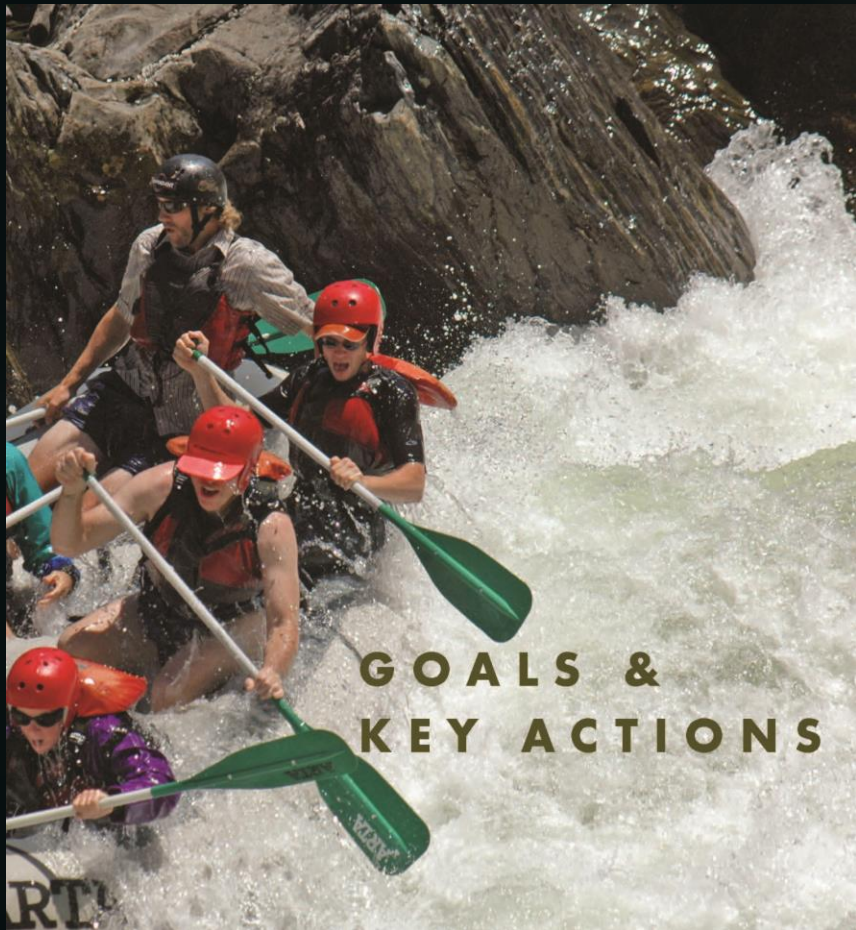




# GOALS & KEY ACTIONS

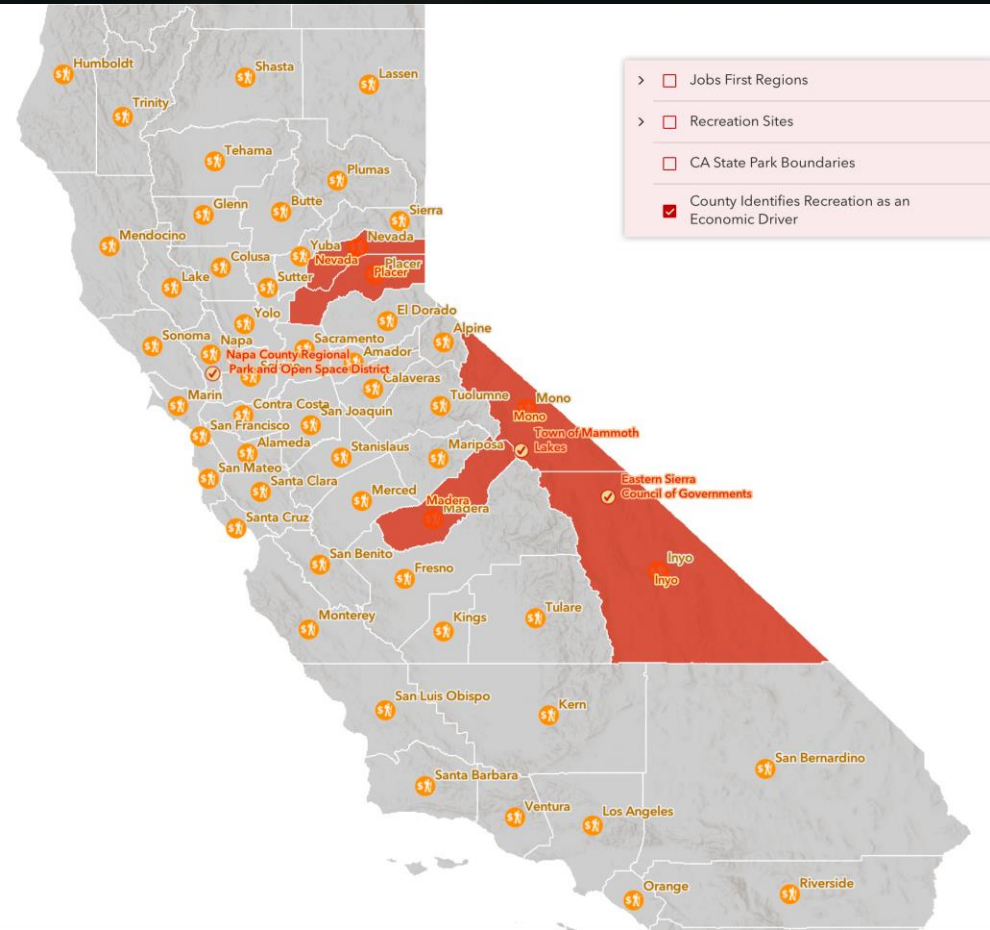
# IMPLEMENTATION



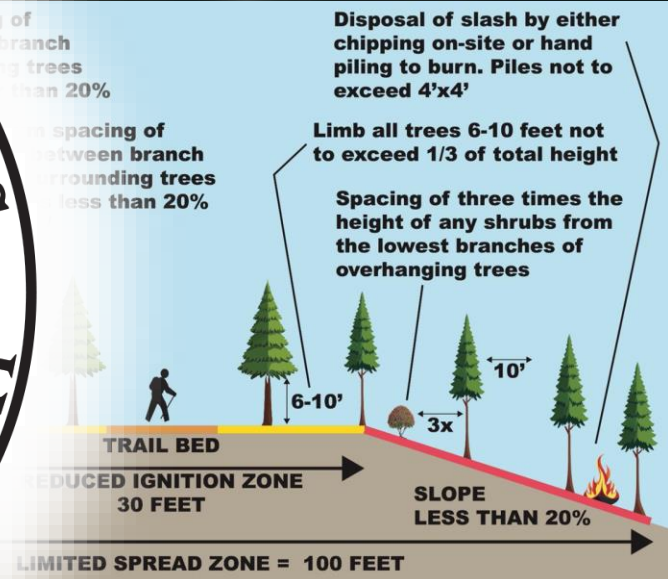
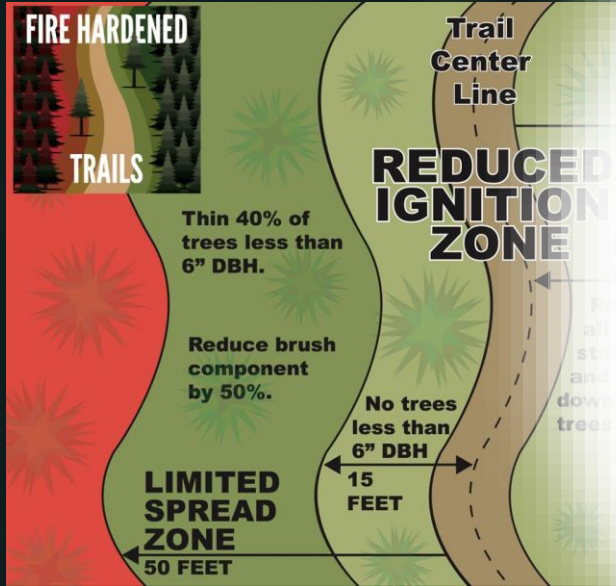


## GOALS & KEY ACTIONS

# IMPLEMENTATION



# IMPLEMENTATION





CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022



TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Town Council Adoption of California Joint Strategy for Sustainable Recreation & Wildlife Resilience

Meeting Date: January 15, 2025

Prepared by: Rob Patterson, Town Manager

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Town Council review and adopt "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience," as published by The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force in March of 2023, as a guiding document in the Town's effort for resource protection, community investment, and public safety.

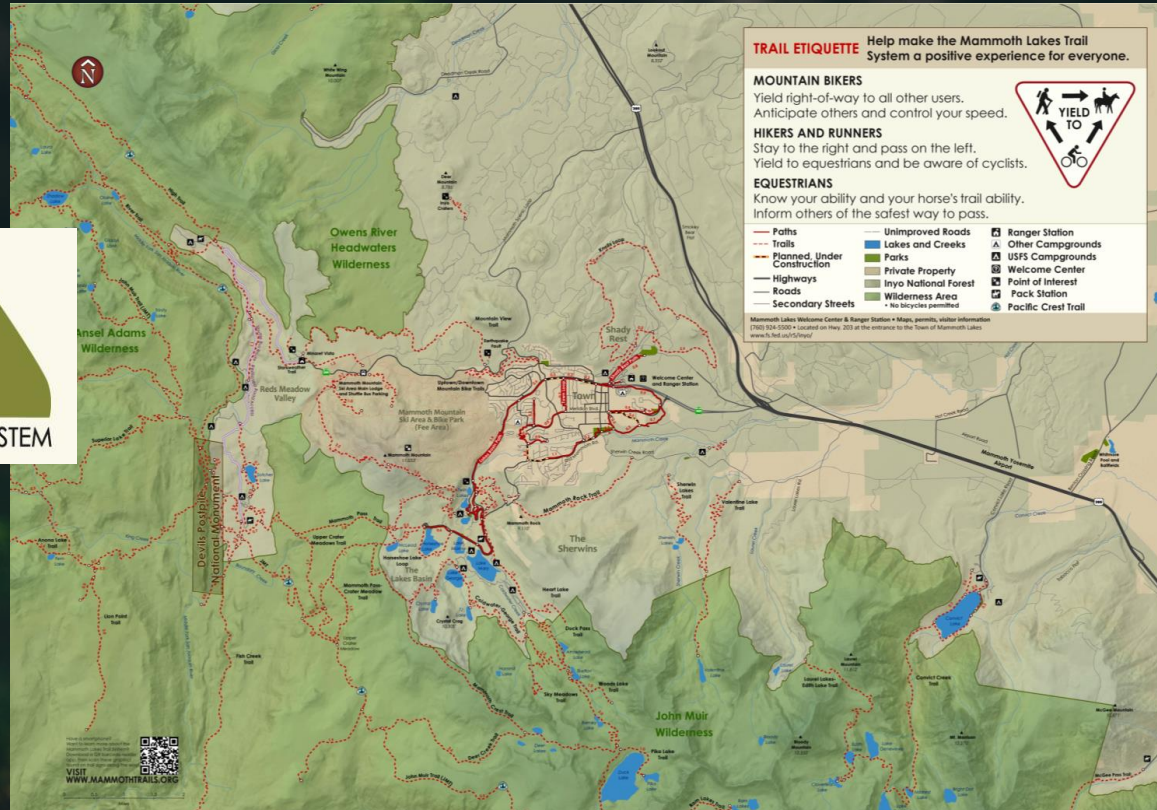
**BACKGROUND:**

The Town of Mammoth Lakes, like many communities and regions in rural California, has an economic model centered around recreation, tourism and the natural environment, most of which is managed by the federal government. These vital natural resources are under pressure from both overutilization and the threat of catastrophic wildfires. The principal economic driver in our Eastern Sierra region is our recreation-based tourism economy and without the natural resources for these activities, the Town loses the ability to sustain itself financially. To rebuild from a natural disaster like a wildfire would take many years and require dependence on outside resources to recover. In light of the current and anticipated wildfire risk environment in California, the recovery may not even be economically feasible. The goal of adopting "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience" is to engage on a state and federal level with programs that can provide funding to mitigate our exposure to these catastrophic events before they happen. A part of our success has been to leverage programs that are complementary to our own stated goals. This force multiplier, using state and federal initiatives that align with our own goals, allows us to achieve more than we could on our own, with our own funding sources. Adopting this plan should enhance our eligibility to receive state-level and federal funding for programs that will be generated from the recent passing of Proposition 4 and the reauthorization of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provide funding for wildfire prevention, recreation infrastructure and programming, and the protection of communities and natural lands from climate risks. By adopting this plan, the Town would become the first in the state to recognize this strategy, and the implementation of its key actions that will address our unique concerns.

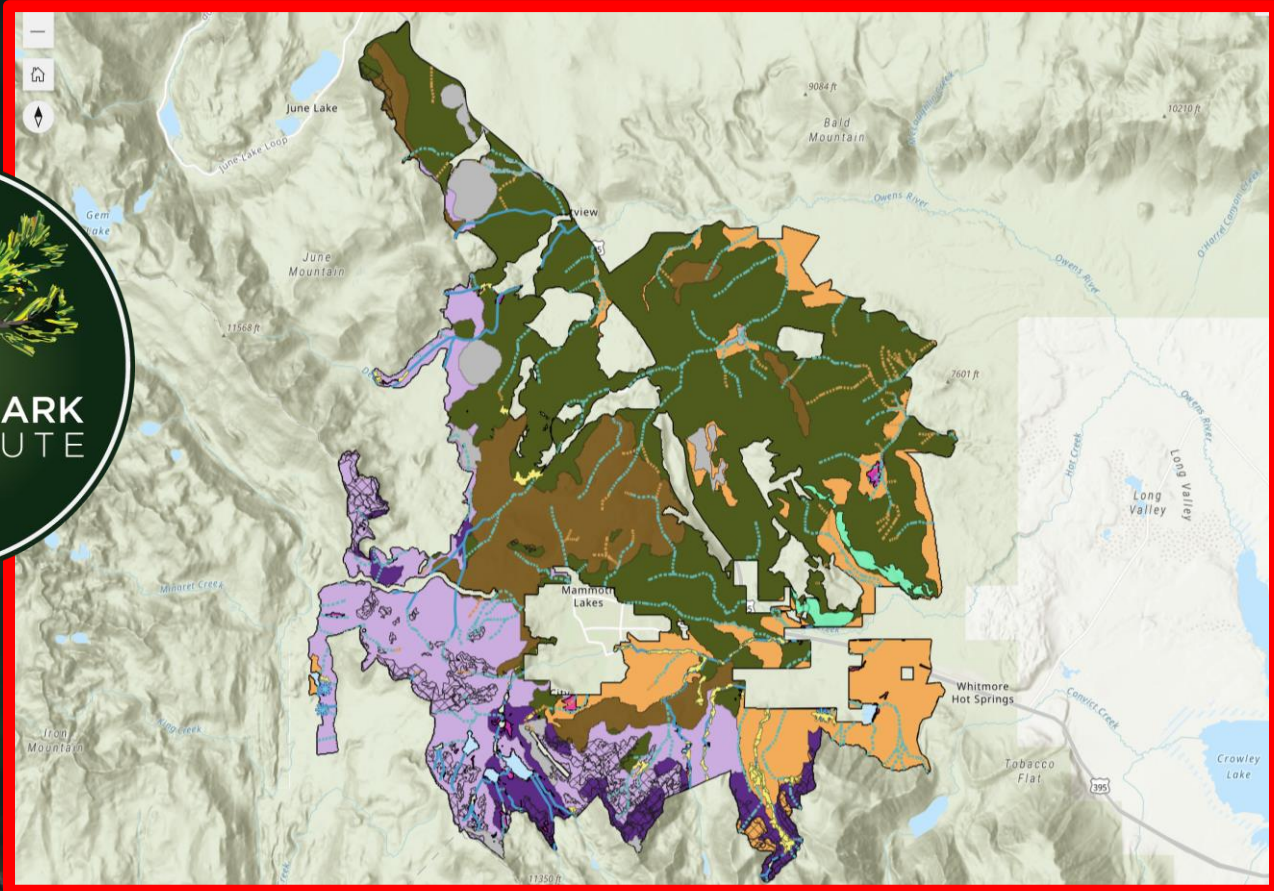
**ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:**

The joint strategy consists of four goals with a number of specific key actions to address the effects of climate change and the threat of wildfire on sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and programs that drive economic activity. The Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group, which developed the joint strategy, was awarded Partnership of the Year from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region in recognition of their efforts. The joint strategy

# IMPLEMENTATION



# IMPLEMENTATION



Multi Use Paved Paths  
Soft Surface Trails



- Multi Use Paved Path with Fuel Break Treatment
- Fuel Break - Along Private/Federal Property line
- Multi Use Paved Paths
- Soft Surface Trails





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# STAND UP FOR CALIFORNIA ADOPT THE JOINT STRATEGY

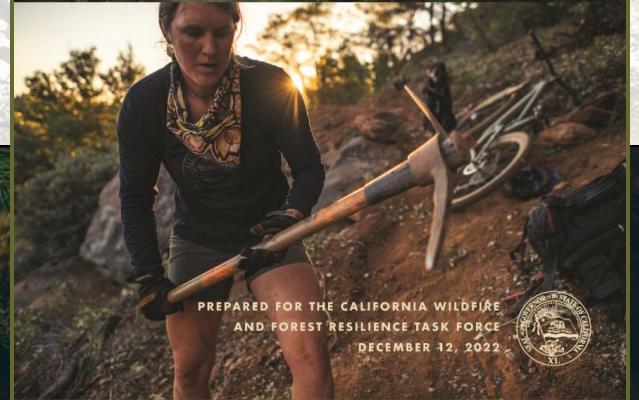
With wildfire risk rising and federal priorities shifting, there's a bold strategy available that transforms recreation infrastructure into community defense.

 WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO

GET SUPPORT



CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022





**County Leadership  
Funding Opportunities  
A Seat at the Table**



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## TOOLKIT FOR ADOPTING THE JOINT STRATEGY

Everything your community needs to adopt California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience.



**DRAFT  
AGENDA TEXT**

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#)



**JOINT STRATEGY  
GOALS & KEY ACTIONS**

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#)



**CALREC DATA  
MAP**

[VIEW MAP](#)





# Thank You



CSAC Legislative Conference  
May 6, 2026



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# Find Us at Table #8!

