



## CAFWA's Strength is its Diversity, Expertise, and Knowledge

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) is an urban-rural coalition representing water interests, local governments, the conservation community, agriculture, and the forestry sector, created to promote the restoration and improvement of California's forested watersheds.

Healthy forests provide all Californians with an abundant source of clean water, clean air, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities. California's forests store and filter 60% of the state's water supply. They provide jobs for tens of thousands forest products workers. Healthy forests store massive amounts of carbon, assisting in the state's efforts to combat climate change. And they generate \$85.4 billion in recreation and economic activity. When our forests are unhealthy, all that depends on them is threatened.

California's forests are at risk. Static management practices—coupled with drier, hotter conditions—have created unhealthy, highly flammable forests. As a result, when fires inevitably occur, they are often large, destructive, and difficult to control. Fortunately, there are better ways to better manage our forests to reverse this trend and restore them to health. Ecologically-based thinning and controlled burns are proven, cost-effective strategies for reducing the risk of high-severity wildfire, and first steps towards establishing forests that are more resilient to wildfire and other disturbances.

CAFWA's unique partnership joins diverse constituencies to seek new solutions to promote proactive, science-based, and

ecologically sound forest management practices that will reduce the risk of uncharacteristic, destructive megafires.

Destructive megafires do not discriminate what or where they burn. The impacts on our water, energy, environment, and economy are felt throughout the state, and even the nation, when the natural wonders of our country such as Yosemite are threatened. It is time to take a serious look at current forest management policies, to increase efforts to reduce forest fuels, and to expand programs to improve forest health. We must work collaboratively to accelerate the pace and scale of forest management and restoration, and we must start now—each day of delay is another day of risk.

CAFWA's recommendations emphasize the importance of healthy forests by highlighting the multiple values that they provide:

- Increase funding and create new funding sources for forest management from federal, state, local, and private sources;
- Create policy and legislative reforms that will promote improvements to and expansion of ecologically sound forest restoration activities; and,
- Advance monitoring and research to improve the state of scientific knowledge to better direct future land management decisions.

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