



Evolving National and State Fire Policies: Meeting Today's Needs and Opportunities

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Federal policy developments

- ▶ USFS “life first” focus
 - ▶ Not ostensibly about increasing beneficial fire, but...
- ▶ Spatial fire management planning and qualitative risk assessment
 - ▶ Potentially game-changing in Forest Plans
 - ▶ Collaboration and public engagement will be key
- ▶ The all-lands focus
 - ▶ Programs and authorities
 - ▶ Will it endure? How will it evolve?

Federal policy developments cont.

- ▶ The “exceptional events” rule
 - ▶ Applicable, but complicated and expensive
- ▶ The 2018 Farm Bill
 - ▶ Help make EQIP work for Rx fire in CA?
 - ▶ State Rx Fire Teams?
 - ▶ Other priorities in the forestry title?
- ▶ Current call for EPA regulatory reforms
 - ▶ Due by May 15th!

State policy developments

- ▶ Tree mortality emergency and improving partnerships
 - ▶ Burn day availability (air quality... and now fuels availability)
- ▶ MOU partnership
 - ▶ Cooperative training – CalTREX
 - ▶ Air quality monitoring and smoke management – new investments
 - ▶ Increasing dialogue and cooperation opening doors
- ▶ New internal Rx Fire Working Group at CAL FIRE
 - ▶ Training and quals, priorities, policy interpretation and direction
- ▶ New direction for exploring cooperation on permitted (non-VMP) burns

State policy development cont.

- ▶ New Assembly Bills
 - ▶ AB 771 (“committee” bill) – “Public purpose” definition
 - ▶ AB 1712 (Quirk) – Chesbro’s 2465 re-introduced – uniform burn plan template and website upgrade
- ▶ Other ideas/issues circulating
 - ▶ Indemnification from civil cost recovery when qualified (certified burner?) and for public purpose?
 - ▶ Creation of a state-backed insurance pool for private burners?
 - ▶ Rx fire funding in May budget revise/trailer bill
 - ▶ What’s missing!?