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**WILDLAND FIRE:  
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

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## AREAS OF CONSENSUS

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- Past fire suppression practices have altered vegetation patterns and increased fuel loads on western forests
- As the changing climate drives higher temperatures and longer droughts, stressed forests are increasingly vulnerable to wildfire events
- Smoke from uncontrolled wildfires poses a risk to affected (and often particularly vulnerable) communities
- Hardening can protect people and structures, especially at the wildland-urban interface





## AREAS OF CONTROVERSY

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- **Future Forest Management:**
  - Vegetation removal (commercial thinning)
  - Prescribed burning (including cultural burning)
  - Managed wildfire (in backcountry)
  - Salvage logging and replanting (post-fire)
  - Ecological health (need more fire, not less)
- **Future WUI Management:**
  - Home hardening
  - Post-fire rebuilding

## MOVING FORWARD: WE NEED A CULTURE SHIFT

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- **One Size Does Not Fit All**
    - Structure hardening and vegetation clearing in WUI
    - Prescribed/cultural burning in adjacent forests
    - Managed wildfire in backcountry
    - Post-fire management for ecological resilience
  - **Optimize Community Protection and Ecological Health**
    - Spend money wisely to harden homes, protect communities from inevitable smoke impacts, and remove excess fuels
    - Integrate the emerging science on wildfire into management
  - **Modest Regulatory Reforms**
    - Streamline environmental review for **prescribed/cultural burning**
    - Incentivize cooperation from local regulators (e.g., air districts)
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