

AUGUST 31, 2021

# Wildfire Prevention and Forest Resiliency

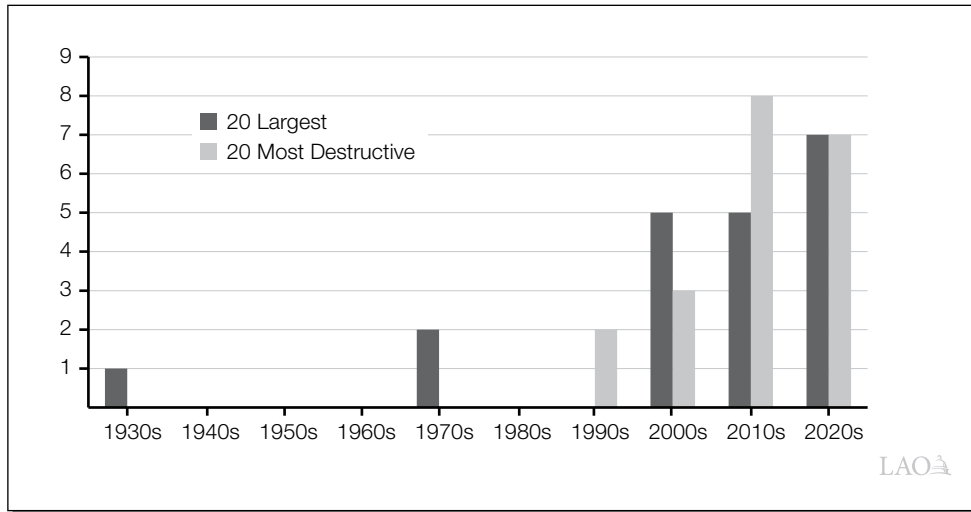
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LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

## Most of the Largest and Most Destructive Wildfires Have Occurred in Recent Decades

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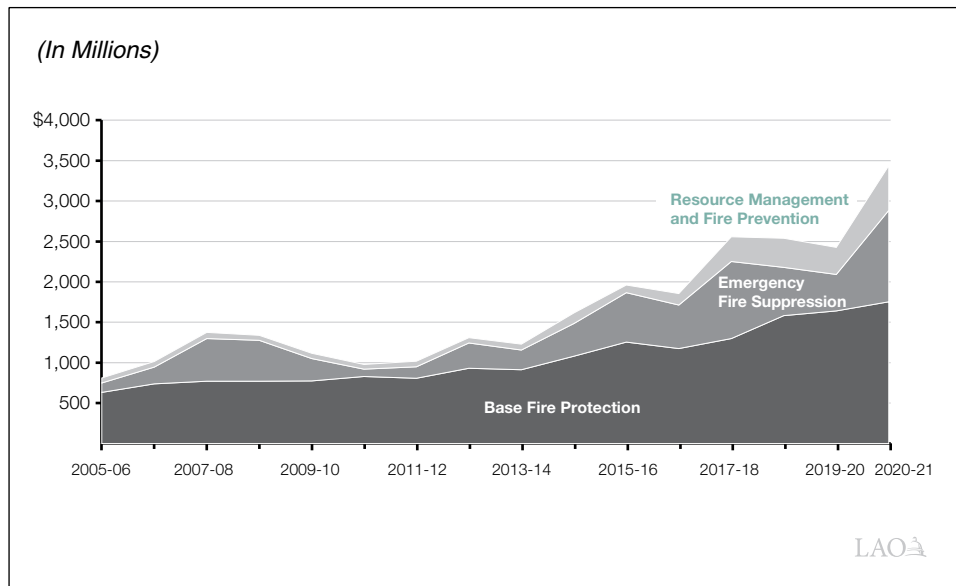
# Large and Damaging Wildfires Have Occurred Across the State Since 2000



LAOA



## State Spending on CalFire Has Grown



- Total spending on California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) fire protection, resource management, and fire prevention has grown from \$800 million in 2005-06 to \$3.4 billion in 2020-21.
- CalFire's base fire protection budget has grown steadily over this period. Emergency fire suppression spending varies from year to year based on the severity of the wildfire season.
- Spending on resource management and fire prevention makes up a much smaller share of department spending but has increased in recent years with the addition of spending from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF).



## Early Action Package Provided Funding for Wildfire Resilience

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***Provided Additional \$536 Million for Various Wildfire Resilience Programs.*** In April 2021, the Governor signed Chapter 14 (SB 85, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), which amended the *2020-21 Budget Act*.

***Most Funding Provided From General Fund.*** Of the total, \$411 million was from the General Fund, and \$125 million was from GGRF. This brought 2020-21 GGRF spending on forest health and prescribed fire activities to \$200 million, consistent with requirements in Chapter 626 of 2018 (SB 901, Dodd).

***Early Action Intended to Provide Immediate Funding in Advance of Fire Season.*** The early action package was intended to enable departments to start work immediately on projects rather than waiting until the passage of the 2021-22 budget.



## Most of the Early Action Package Has Been Committed by Departments

*As of August 13, 2021 (In Millions)*

Program	Department	Appropriated	Committed	Percent Committed	Fund Source
<b>Resilient Forests and Landscapes</b>		<b>\$283</b>	<b>\$262</b>	<b>92%</b>	
Forest Health Program	CalFire	\$155	\$155	100%	GF/GGRF
Project implementation in high-risk areas	SNC	20	20	100	GF
Stewardship of state-owned land	CDFW	15	15	100	GF
Stewardship of state-owned land	Parks	15	15	100	GF
Project implementation	RMC	12	9	71	GF
Project implementation	SCC	12	12	100	GF
Project implementation	SDRC	12	9	78	GF
Project implementation	SMMC	12	12	98	GF
Forest Improvement Program	CalFire	10	8	80	GGRF
Urban forestry	CalFire	10	—	—	GF
Forest Legacy Program	CalFire	6	6	100	GF
Reforestation nursery	CalFire	2	—	—	GF
Stewardship of state-owned land	TC	1	1	100	GF
Tribal engagement	CalFire	1	—	—	GF
<b>Wildfire Fuel Breaks</b>		<b>\$198</b>	<b>\$193</b>	<b>97%</b>	
Fire prevention grants	CalFire	\$123	\$123	100%	GF/GGRF
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program	DOC	50	45	90	GF
Prescribed fire and hand crews	CalFire	15	15	100	GF
CalFire unit fire prevention projects	CalFire	10	10	100	GF
<b>Community Hardening</b>		<b>\$27</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>19%</b>	
Home hardening	CalOES, CalFire	\$25	\$3	12%	GF
Defensible space inspectors	CalFire	2	2	100	GF
<b>Forest Sector Economic Stimulus</b>		<b>\$25</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	
Climate Catalyst Fund	IBank	\$16	—	—	GF
Workforce development	CalFire, CWDB	6	—	—	GF
Market development	OPR	3	—	—	GF
<b>Science-Based Management</b>		<b>\$3</b>	<b>\$3</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Monitoring, research, and management	CalFire	\$3	\$3	100%	GF
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$536</b>	<b>\$463</b>	<b>86%</b>	

CalFire = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; GF = General Fund; GGRF = Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund; SNC = Sierra Nevada Conservancy; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Parks = Department of Parks and Recreation; RMC = San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers & Mountains Conservancy; SCC = State Coastal Conservancy; SDRC = San Diego River Conservancy; SMMC = Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; TC = Tahoe Conservancy; DOC = Department of Conservation; CalOES = California Office of Emergency Services; IBank = California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank; CWDB = California Workforce Development Board; and OPR = Office of Planning and Research.



## 2021-22 Budget Provides Additional Funding for Wildfire Resilience

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***Budget Provides Up to \$758 Million From the General Fund in 2021-22.*** This includes:

- \$258 million for a wildfire prevention and forest resilience package. At the time this document was prepared, this funding had not yet been allocated to departments or programs.
- Budget bill language authorizing the Department of Finance to provide up to an additional \$500 million if it determines that additional funding is needed in 2021–22.

***Budget Provides Additional Funding From GGRF in 2021-22.*** The budget appropriates \$75 million from the GGRF in 2021-22 for wildfire resilience activities. The Governor’s proposed budget included an additional \$125 million GGRF in 2021-22, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 626. This funding is anticipated to be considered as part of an upcoming cap-and-trade expenditure plan.

