



## **THE SITUATION**

California's forests are at major risk. Historic management practices and decades of effective fire suppression, combined 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 manage our forests 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 serve as the first steps towards establishing forests that are more resilient to wildfire and other disturbances.

## **WHO WE ARE**

The California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) is a nonpartisan, 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.

## **WHY WE'VE FORMED**

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, in rural and urban areas. It is time to take a serious look at current forest management policies, to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire, reduce forest fuels, and expand programs for forest health. We must work collaboratively to accelerate the pace and scale of forest management and the restoration of resilient forests, and we must start now—each day of delay is another day of risk.

## **STATE-LEVEL SOLUTIONS**

CAFWA's recommendations emphasize the importance of healthy forests by highlighting the multiple values that they provide. CAFWA's state-level recommendations include:

- A comprehensive, "all lands" approach to improving forest health covering large landscapes and all ownerships within California, including local, state, private and federal lands.
- Increasing the pace and scale of ecologically-based active forest management and prescribed fire.
- Supporting policies that increase the economic feasibility of forest restoration through biomass and new innovative wood products. CAFWA supports AB 2518 (Aguilar-Curry).
- Encouraging the use of watershed scale planning and project implementation.
- Encouraging the use of state funding and personnel to accelerate forest restoration on all lands in California, including federal lands (Good Neighbor Authority).
- Increasing funding and identifying new funding sources for forest restoration from federal, state, local, and private sources.

