

Stakeholder Survey – Key Findings

Spring 2021



**Center for Ecosystem
Climate Solutions**

*CECS is supported by California Strategic Growth Council's
Climate Change Research Program with funds from California
Climate Investments—Cap-and-Trade Dollars at Work.*



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Goals & Methods

- Center For Ecosystem Climate Solutions (CECS): Developing science and technology products to support land management in California
- Goal of Stakeholder Survey: Making sure that research is relevant
 - How do stakeholders in California perceive the challenges facing the state's wildlands?
 - What do stakeholders believe is needed for efficient management?
- Web-based survey administered August – October 2020
 - Target participants: professionals working at or affiliated with any agency, organization, or group focused on natural resources management or conservation in California
 - 216 useable responses



Summary of Key Findings

1. Professionals surveyed generally agree about the value of wildlands to California, particularly their aesthetic, ecological, and recreational benefits, and the need to balance perspectives of many users in management decision-making.
2. These professionals predict that risks to wildlands will likely increase, but they report that the current system has very little capacity to manage those risks.
3. Financial and human capital are the greatest barriers to efficient work in wildlands, but competing regulations and priorities are also a challenge. Professionals also express a significant need for spatial, fire risk, and management history data.
4. Vegetation management, especially through prescribed burning, is widely recognized as an efficient strategy for mitigating the risks of fire, more so than any other management approach.



Incorporating Results into CECS Research

Need: High-quality spatial, fire, and management history data

CECS Response: New and refined statewide datasets for disturbance, management history, wildfire spread, surface fuels, and ecosystem service recovery.

Need: Ability to negotiate and reconcile priorities

CECS Response: Streamlined, transparent, and open-source products, including ecosystem service valuation and tools using a multi-benefit framework for restoration.

Need: Ability to apply management efficiently for maximum benefit

CECS Response: Tools to identify where strategies like vegetation management will net the greatest benefit in fire risk reduction and ecosystem service protection.



Next Steps

- CECS researchers are incorporating survey results into research and further ongoing stakeholder engagement efforts
 - Happening Summer-Fall 2021: Feedback sessions on main CECS deliverable – a web-based decision support tool for land management
- Peer reviewed publications on survey results and full report of findings are in progress and will be made public once available
- We welcome discussion and feedback – please contact Jaquelyn Lugg, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, at jlugg@ucmerced.edu
- More information about CECS is also available online at:
<https://california-ecosystem-climate.solutions>

