



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Heidi Hall and Supervisor Hardy Bullock

SUBJECT: Resolution Adopting California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience

RECOMMENDATION: Accept the Resolution.

FUNDING: None

RECOMMENDATION:
Resolution Adopting "California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience" as a non-mandatory, guiding document.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County, like many communities and regions in rural California, has an economic model that relies on recreation, tourism, and the natural environment. These vital natural resources and the infrastructure that supports them are under pressure from both overutilization and the looming threat of catastrophic wildfires.

The County has proactively addressed these challenges through the development and adoption of two cornerstone documents: the **Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan** and the **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**. These two strategic plans provide a strong foundation for aligning local goals with broader statewide initiatives and reflect Nevada County's commitment to integrating public safety, sustainable recreation, economic development, and land stewardship.

While great progress is being made toward wildfire and landscape resilience through state investments, local governments face the daunting challenge of planning for community well-being and for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery while working with numerous local, state, and federal agencies and jurisdictions and considering impacts on both residents and visitors. Given the current and anticipated

wildfire risk in California, recovery from catastrophic fire might not be feasible without taking a new planning approach that better aligns risk mitigation for both wildfire and outdoor recreation.

“California’s Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience” (herein referred to as the “Strategy”) provides a playbook for that new planning approach. The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force published the Strategy in March 2023. It includes four goals and a number of key actions intended to help guide local agency actions in aligning landscape resilience efforts for wildfire and recreation management. By adopting this Strategy, Nevada County joins other local governments and special districts in recognizing the value of our public lands and the important role they play for our communities, constituents, and visitors.

This action aligns with and reinforces the County’s own recreation and wildfire strategies, positioning Nevada County to participate in and benefit from a coordinated, statewide effort. Adoption of this plan could also enhance eligibility for state funding through Proposition 4 and federal support through the reauthorization of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provide funding for wildfire prevention, recreation infrastructure and programming, and the protection of communities and natural lands from climate risks.

The Joint Strategy consists of four goals with a number of specific key actions to address the effects of climate change and the threat of wildfire on sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and programs that drive economic activity. The Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group, which developed the Strategy for the state’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, was awarded Partnership of the Year from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region in recognition of their efforts. The Strategy is intended to integrate and augment existing efforts at the federal, state, and local level.

The four stated goals are as follows:

#1 Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Integrate the provision of high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with forest health and resilience and wildfire and climate mitigation efforts so that all people can connect to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

#2 Advance Inclusion and Access for All Throughout California

Plan for and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable access for all Californians.

#3 Promote the Health and Wellbeing of All Californians through Outdoor Recreation

Provide health information, training, and alternative recreation opportunities that promote the health and well-being of all peoples, with consideration of people’s needs before, during, and after wildfires and other natural disasters.

#4 Support Economies that Enhance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.

The attached Strategy includes a number of key actions under each of these stated goals. While some of these goals may not have a direct tie to all County functions, the complete program is a comprehensive effort to address these impacts across the

state. As these strategies are implemented by other municipalities, there will be opportunities to combine efforts across jurisdictions where our areas of interest intersect. Staff will look to integrate these strategies into existing destination management planning, capital improvement projects, and interagency coordination efforts, building on the frameworks already established in the County's Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The financial implications of this adoption are primarily positive, as it may increase the County's competitiveness for state and federal grants focused on wildfire resilience and recreation infrastructure. While there may be future costs associated with voluntary implementation, there are no direct costs tied to adoption of the Joint Strategy.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Heidi Hall
District 1

Supervisor Hardy Bullock
District 5