



California Forestry Association

1215 K Street, Suite 1830

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 444-6592 fax (916) 444-0170

www.foresthealth.org cfa@foresthealth.org

MEDIA CONTACT: BOB MION

California Forestry and Economic Growth

California's forestry infrastructure has been in decline since 1990. Nearly 70 percent of the state's sawmills have gone out of business in that time. In 2009, cuts in the state's forestry infrastructure affected more than 1,000 jobs. The rural communities affected offer limited alternatives for family wage jobs.

Investments in forestry infrastructure create twice as many jobs as investments in road and bridge repairs. Investing in forestry could spur tremendous economic growth, address California's wildfire crisis, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and bring much-needed economic relief to rural counties.



Working Communities

Forestry creates more than \$2 billion in direct payroll and contributes an economic benefit of more than \$10 billion for California annually. Returning timber harvest to half of 1990 levels could create an additional 3,000 direct jobs and revitalize rural communities while providing carbon sequestration, wildfire threat mitigation and other benefits.

Community Safety

Wildfires have scorched more than 5 million California acres since 2000, caused more than \$2 billion in damage, claimed more than two dozen lives and devastated scores of communities. More than 1,000 California communities stand at high risk of severe wildfire. Investment in forestry can reduce wildfire severity by up to 60 percent, protect towns and improve firefighter safety.

Budget Relief

California taxpayers dole out more than \$1 billion annually to fight wildfire. They pay twice what they did five years ago to regulate forest management even though harvest activity is down 60 percent over that time. Forest management can reduce firefighting costs, while streamlining regulatory oversight can save taxpayers millions.

Education Services

California's rural schools have seen a roughly 90 percent decrease in funding from timber tax revenues in the past 20 years. Now, the federal Secure Rural Schools program designed to alleviate the impact of those losses is being phased out. Investing in forestry can help schools survive and communities fund essential services.

Clean Energy

California is poised to help create green jobs and clean energy, yet forest biofuels receive less than half the tax incentives of other renewable like wind and solar. California could generate five times more clean energy than it does today and reduce carbon emissions as well as its dependence on imported energy by encouraging increased use forest biofuels as a renewable source of energy.