

## FRASC WILDFIRE PANEL QUESTIONS

**Climate Change:** Recent research indicates that climate change trends will result in an increase of fire activity and intensity due to changes in fuel conditions and fire weather. What types of fire and land management policies are appropriate for maintaining healthy forests and reducing fire risk to communities under these potentially evolving conditions?

**Fire regime:** There is disagreement about the functional role of high-intensity/high severity fire in Yellow Pine/Mixed Conifer ecosystems and whether the paradigm of frequent, low severity fire supporting stand structures of “open and park-like” stands (that is, few large trees, and mixed –cohorts of understory trees in varying degrees of abundance) is representative. In your view, what is the natural role of high severity fire in YP/MC, and given that, what are the implications on how we address managing these forests in terms of both fuels and forest structure.

**Treatment Effectiveness:** Current research is somewhat divided regarding the overall efficacy of fuel treatments to address fire risk in complicated landscapes. What are your views regarding treatment selection, area selection and pattern, stratification of fuel type and regions, and institutional capacity as factors to be considered in implementing a fuel treatment program? Are there situations where the focus should not be on the fire hazard, but on mitigating the impact of that fire, such as with climate change adaptation?

**Public Perception:** Is there room for changing broad public perception regarding living in fire prone environments? Are there caveats or constraints on manifesting risk reduction driven by a public relations problem? What other factors constrain the attempt to adequately mitigate wildfire risk in California?

**Chaparral:** Given the large and increasing population, and associated ignition sources, with their homes in close proximity to chaparral, and given chaparral’s sensitivity to high frequency of fire, how would you manage both people and the environment to maintain the health of both?

**Poll:** Rate the following mitigation programs in terms of overall effectiveness in reducing fire risk:

Fuel Management

Fire Suppression

Education/Prevention

Fire Engineering (e.g.,home ignition resistant building codes)

Land-Use Policy and Zoning