

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025-2026 SIMULATION SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO 2

Introduced by Senator McGuire
(Co-Sponsored by Senator Padilla, Allen, Grayson, and Stern)

October 1, 2025

This bill aims to address the approach of forest management to the forestry region in the State of California aimed at mitigating wildfires and promoting new forest management regulations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 2, as introduced, McGuire. Forest Management.

Existing law provides regulations on timber harvesting on non-federal lands to protect forest and wildland resources. This law includes rules and standards that have improved environmental safeguards, and the establishment of the Board of Forestry.

This bill, beginning January 1, 2026, shall introduce new forest management regulations to the forestry ecosystems in the State of California, and shall enforce California’s Wildlife and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Aimed to reduce the overcrowding, help mitigate wildfires, improve management of forest ecosystems, and reduce sprawl in the California’s forest ecosystems by using the practices of prescribed/cultural burning, forest thinning of select trees, and the removal of dry/dead vegetation of the California’s forest ecosystems.

Local agencies, and CAL Fire shall enforce the acts of this bill and oversee forest management throughout forestry regions of the State of California. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for specified reasons.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. In order to proceed with “prescribed burnings” or “cultural burnings” conditions must be met under SB 310 Prescribed fire: Civil liability: Cultural burns, Sections 1 through 4.

SEC. 2. If approved by CAL Fire, the practice of removing select trees and other vegetations from a dense setting through “forest thinning” can be done in order to improve health and promote growth of the remaining trees, mitigate wildfire risks, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve forest health.

SEC. 3. Vegetation is deemed to be considered “dry vegetation”, or “dead vegetation” shall be removed from Californian forest ecosystems. In order for vegetation to be considered dry or dead vegetation it has to fall under the criteria listed as follows:

(a) “Dry Vegetation” refers to plant material both dead or alive that contains low amounts of moisture and that has become brittle and flammable due to drought or seasonal dryness.

(1) The agencies that will enforce this act shall need consultation of an environmental specialist regarding the selected vegetation before the removal of such vegetation.

(2) The agencies that will enforce this act shall not remove living drought deciduous vegetation at any time unless the plant is deemed brittle and flammable.

(b) “Dead vegetation” refers to dead plant material that is no longer alive and that has entered its process of decomposition or that has dried out.

(1) Forms of “dead vegetation” include plant litter, deadwood, dry grass and bushes, and fallen timber

SEC. 4. Agencies that will enforce this bill shall enforce the goals listed under the California Wildlife and Forest Resilience Action Plan to further support the efforts of management to California’s forest ecosystems:

(a) The goals of the California Wildlife and Forest Resilience Action Plan goes as follows:

(1) Goal 1: Increase the Pace and Scale of Forest Health Projects

(2) Goal 2: Strengthen Protection of Communities

(3) Goal 3: Manage Forest to Achieve the State’s Economic and Environmental Goals

(4) Goal 4: Drive Innovation and Measure Progress

(b) The Goals are explained in further detail in the California Wildlife and Forest Resilience Action Plan