



FOSTERING FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS AND FORESTERS: THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CCC AND CAL FIRE



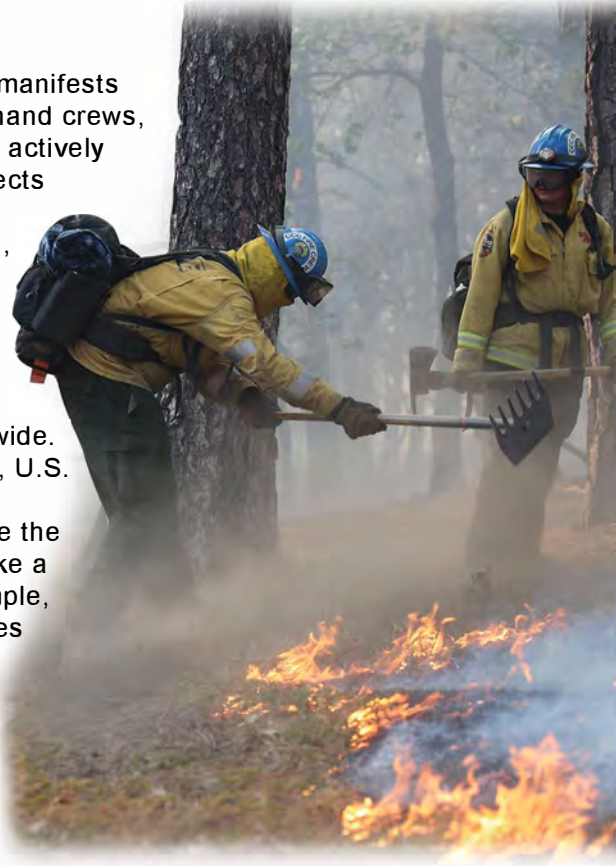
In the vast expanse of California, where the threat of wildfires looms large, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CAL FIRE are making strides towards safeguarding communities, reducing the buildup of flammable fuels on the landscape, and nurturing future firefighting talent.

THE PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

Collaboration between CCC and CAL FIRE manifests through 32 year-round wildland firefighting hand crews, operating tirelessly to mitigate fire risks and actively combat wildfires. These crews work on projects coordinated by CAL FIRE but occasionally spearheaded by CCC, target fuels reduction, and embodying a shared commitment to safeguarding California's landscapes. In addition to their firefighting capacity, the CCC also operates a Forestry Corps Program involving approximately 165 positions operating across 11 centers statewide. The Forestry Corps partners with CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, county agencies, Firesafe Councils, and other organizations to improve the health of California's forests and to undertake a variety of fuels reduction projects. For example, in 2023, the Forest Corps treated 2,982 acres while spending 118,464 hours completing forest health projects.

The partnership between CAL FIRE and the CCC is not merely transactional; it's a symbiotic relationship. CAL FIRE gains invaluable support during peak fire seasons, bolstering its capacity to contain wildfires and execute critical projects.

Meanwhile, CCC Corpsmembers, predominantly young adults and veterans transitioning into civilian life, find themselves immersed in hands-on training alongside seasoned CAL FIRE professionals. This immersive experience not only improves their firefighting acumen but also paves the path towards fulfilling careers in fire services, igniting a passion for environmental stewardship and community resilience.



FUELING FUTURE FIREFIGHTING AND FORESTRY

Beyond immediate fire mitigation, CCC's involvement in fuels reduction projects serves as a springboard for Corpsmembers venturing into the firefighting arena. Equipped with newfound expertise and hands-on training, CCC alumni commonly transition into roles within CAL FIRE and beyond, becoming an important part of California's quest for wildfire resilience. In 2023 alone, over 120 Corpsmembers found employment with CAL FIRE, underscoring the tangible impact of this collaborative endeavor in shaping the firefighting landscape of tomorrow.

As the CCC-CAL FIRE connection continues to flourish, its ripple effects extend far beyond fire lines. For the young adults enrolling in CCC, it's a gateway to transformative opportunities, offering scholarships, education, and career pathways previously uncharted. Meanwhile, for California's landscapes, this partnership aids in the reduction of wildfire risk and the safeguarding of communities, while paving the way for a greener, safer future.

