

# SoCal ASLA WILDFIRE TASKFORCE



02.13.25  
FOR INTERNAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

CREATED BY: MELANIE BUFFA



# AGENDA

- Overview of Taskforce
- The Four Branches
  - Goals
  - Objectives
  - Needs
- Timeline
- Open Discussion



# What is the purpose of this committee?

To create a coalition of diverse expertise to inform public policy and be an educational resource on climate issues leading to/ resulting from catastrophic wildfires



# Organizational Structure

This committee would be proposed as part of the Climate Action Committee which is informed by the ExCom of the Southern California ASLA



To divide and conquer efficiently, there should be four “branches” of the committee focused on the following:

**ADVOCACY**

**RESEARCH**

**EDUCATION**

**VOLUNTEER**



# ADVOCACY

## GOAL

Making sure landscape architects have a seat at the table informing site design on rebuilds and wildfire prone areas

## Objectives:

- Join other focus groups such as AIA as a landscape architecture representative
- Communicate to representatives/ agencies about policy that should be implemented



# ADVOCACY

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Join other advocacy groups as a voice for landscape architecture
- Fast tracking of pre-approved plans while embedding sustainable practices and fire resiliency
- Tree protection measures (Altadena Green)
- Landslide protection
- Culture and Community protections
  - Avoid displacement and gentrification

## LONG TERM NEEDS

- Maintenance plans and fostering community stewardship
- Localized landscaping standards for fire hazard severity areas
- No build zones
- Plant species and partnerships with growers on resilient species and natives



# RESEARCH

## GOAL

Support wildfire-focused research projects studying what we can learn from the most recent fires to historically documenting what was lost, with the intent of compiling this research into webinars or educational material.

## Objectives:

- Partner with other groups/ organizations that have already started similar research
- Start/ support research projects focused on wildfire study
- Package findings and create educational material





# RESEARCH

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Lessons learned from what survived
- Tree Assessments (Altadena Green)
- Fire Resilient Species
- Building/Site Materials
  - Bulk Buy for Residents
- Cultural Identity
- Hazardous material / contamination especially at the Palisades Fire waterfront

## LONG TERM NEEDS

- Ongoing research on land stewardship techniques
- Pilot communities
- How can water be used efficiently
- Documenting and preserving historic landscapes in fire prone areas



# EDUCATION

## GOAL

Be a resource for those that want to learn about designing in fire prone areas.

## Objectives:

- Compile master list of resources
- Create educational pamphlets and materials for distribution to inform the municipalities, those affected by the fires, and interested members of the public
- Promote individuals or groups that are sharing their research/ expertise



# EDUCATION

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Rebuilding Sustainably - Workshops
- Tree Assessment (Altadena Green)
- Clearing Up Misinformation
- Do's and Don'ts for Rebuilds
- Menu Items for Fast Tracking

## LONG TERM NEEDS

- Providing webinars on Fire Resiliency and Defensible Space
- Programs and Certifications in Fire Wise Design
- Land management and maintenance guides



# VOLUNTEER

## GOAL

Provide opportunities for our membership to donate time or resources to help the impacted communities

## Objectives:

- Compile list of volunteer opportunities
- Provide to membership and strive to have volunteers be active in helping restore trails and in the rebuilding process
- Join lists of donated services by interested professionals



# VOLUNTEER

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

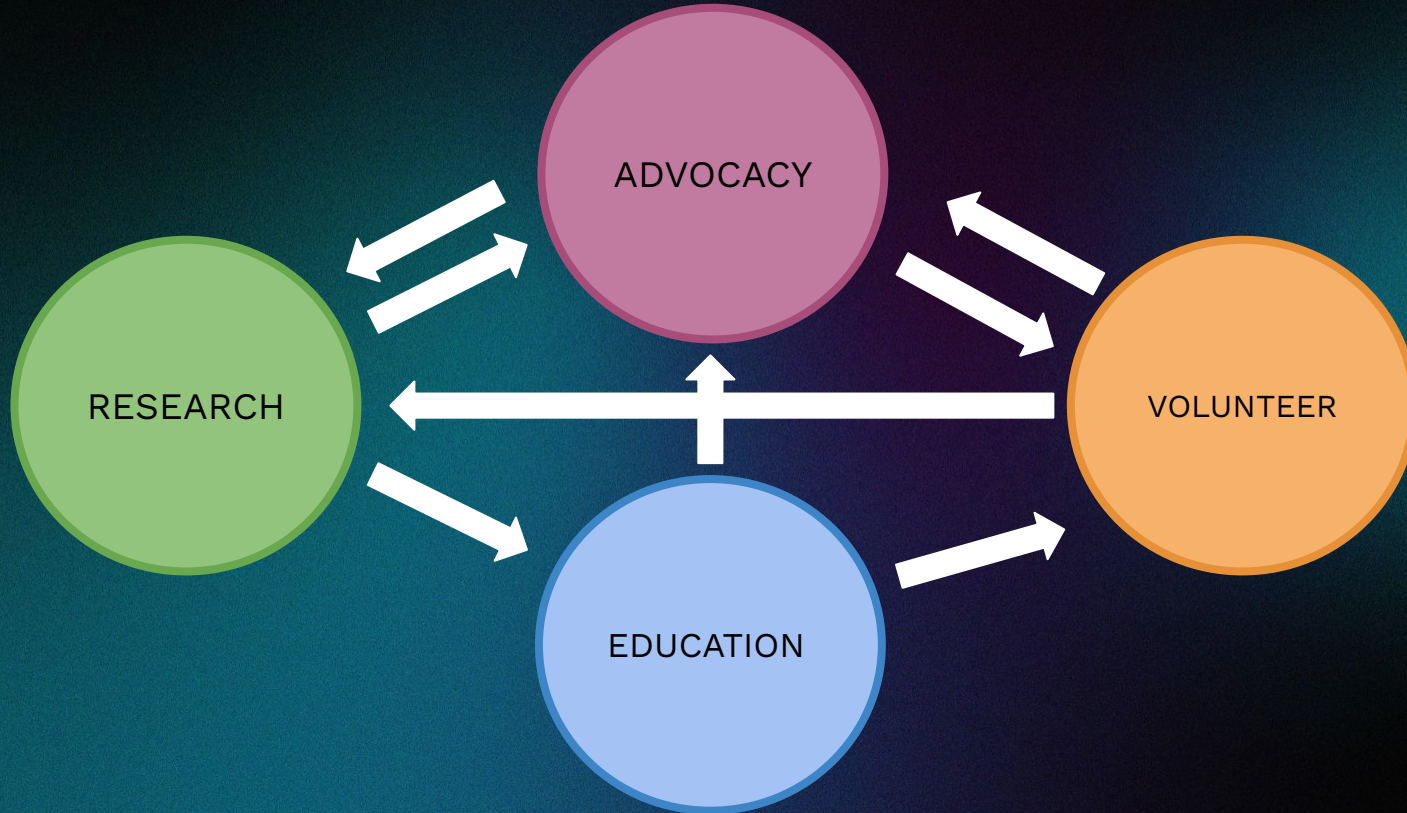
- Clean Ups / Clearing invasives that resprout
- Tree Assessments (Altadena Green)
- Advocate for the Homeowners
  - “Handholding”
- Resources and donations to those Impacted
- Pro-bono vision planning or services

## LONG TERM NEEDS

- Trail and Wildland maintenance
- Replanting natural areas
- Planting days for homeowners
- Fuel clearance enforcement



# COLLABORATION IS KEY



# Taskforce Proposed Timeline

1

## WILDFIRE TASKFORCE SUMMIT

A one hour zoom call where we present the goals of the committee and offer a sign up sheet for sign ups to the allocated action committees. People can also share resources in the chat and we can have 30 min for discussion.

2

## ACTIONABLE SUBCOMMITTEES

Based on sign-ups four groups will focus on the actionable items and set up deliverable dates. From there there should be check in meetings set up for the subcommittees at an agreed upon interval (ex: monthly, biweekly, etc.)

3

## MONTHLY CHECK IN MEETINGS

Once a month, the taskforce will bring the four branches together to report on the happenings within the committee

4

## ONGOING RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEERING

While there are immediate needs there are also continuous projects such as trail restoration, plant flammability research, etc. that will take time and can be tackled by a rotation of people over a long period of time.

# Q&A / Discussion



# Sign up for TaskForce Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcQmmNUPNMA2gf20jJ1ZFTInguMn0FqetIjG7MPSHgdo3ihg/viewform>

# Link to Resource Document:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hMRR7KMxwH6DlGdSm-fq1V9EUKMN7LY1T0fz\\_nfZ50g/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hMRR7KMxwH6DlGdSm-fq1V9EUKMN7LY1T0fz_nfZ50g/edit?usp=sharing)

# THANK YOU

Questions and Follow Ups:

General Taskforce and Volunteer Branch  
Lead: Melanie Buffa  
([mbuffaland@gmail.com](mailto:mbuffaland@gmail.com))

Climate Action Chair and Education and  
Research Branch Co-Lead: Alyssa Moffit  
([alyssa@terrabravaland.com](mailto:alyssa@terrabravaland.com))

