



# Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology

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## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRE

Global warming is changing fire behavior, creating longer fire seasons, and causing more frequent, large-scale, high-severity wildfires. The best available science justifies dramatic action now to change land management policies and practices in order to mitigate the effects of ongoing climate change.

Wildland fire has historically shaped many landscapes and is essential for the survival of many plants and animals; however, continued attempts to exclude wildland fire poses significant risks, costs, and impacts to firefighters, taxpayers, and the environment.

The problem of large-scale high-severity wildfires is more complex than dealing with fuel loads alone. The solution also requires addressing human-induced climate change, land management practices, and rural housing development policies.

Prescribed and wildland fires play a vital role in restoring and maintaining forest and grassland ecosystems. Reintroduction of prescribed fire and restoration of wildland fire is our best insurance against uncharacteristically severe wildfire.

Old-growth and mature forests are far superior at sequestering carbon and surviving high-intensity wildfires than younger forests and timber plantations. Land management policies should protect all remaining old forests from further human-caused disturbances, and restore fire resiliency to younger managed stands.