

## RESOLUTION 2025-06

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY OPPOSING THE LOCAL IMPACTS TO FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION THAT WILL RESULT FROM FEDERAL FUNDING AND STAFFING CUTS TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS

**WHEREAS;** Nevada County is a rural county of 100,000 residents located in the foothills and High Sierra regions of the Sierra Nevada in California;

**WHEREAS;** Wildfires in California have grown in size, duration, and destructiveness because increasing impacts of periods of extreme rain and extreme droughts have caused accumulation of fuels in our forests, the majority of which are owned and managed by the federal government. Several of the most costly fires have occurred in areas that, like Nevada County's population centers, are located in the wildland urban interface;

**WHEREAS;** proactively maintaining the health of our National Forests through fuel reduction projects is essential to mitigate the risk of catastrophic fire in our adjacent communities;

**WHEREAS;** Recent actions to reduce federal staffing levels will have a catastrophic impact on our federally owned public lands and adjacent communities. An estimated 10% or more of staff positions in Tahoe National Forest have been eliminated and contracts between the US Forest Service and third-party contractors to complete fire mitigation projects have also been cancelled or paused, significantly reducing fire mitigation efforts on US Forest Service lands. These layoffs and frozen positions include emergency response teams and wildfire mitigation—both of which are vital to keeping people safe on our public lands and in our adjacent communities;

**WHEREAS;** Local fuel reduction efforts and fuel reduction on adjacent federal lands work in tandem to protect both our communities and public lands. Without continued, broad landscape-scale mitigation on federal lands, our local investments will not provide effective mitigation;

**WHEREAS;** A reduction in funding for public lands will result in:

- Fewer personnel to monitor for wildfires;
- Fewer personnel trained and ready to respond to wildfires;
- Fewer personnel to ensure campground fires are appropriately extinguished;
- Fewer personnel to gather the on-the-ground data that informs wildfire modeling;
- Fewer personnel to mount a prompt response to a wildfire that breaks out;
- Fewer resources to complete fuels reduction projects on public lands

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

The City Council of the City of Grass Valley opposes the significant, catastrophic impacts to forest health and wildfire mitigation that may result from federal funding and staffing cuts to the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Army Corps of Engineers. The City Council implores our Federal representatives to support the restoration of Federal funding and staffing to these agencies.

**ADOPTED** as a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grass Valley at a regular meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Member  
NOES: Council Member

ABSENT: Council Member  
ABSTAINING: Council Member

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Hilary Hodge, Chair

ATTEST:

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Taylor Whittingslow, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Colantuono, City Attorney