



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE NATIONAL FORESTRY
CORPORATION MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE



AND

THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The National Forestry Corporation Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Chile "CONAF" and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection of the State of California of the United States of America "CAL FIRE," hereinafter referred to individually as a "Participant" and collectively as the "Participants," declare as follows:

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE is founded in emergency response and resource protection and exists to protect lives, property, and natural resources of California from fire, to respond to emergencies of all types, and to protect timberlands, wildlands, urban forests, and the State's critical watersheds;

WHEREAS, CONAF, under the Ministry of Agriculture, serves to conserve forest resources and wildlife, preventing and fighting forest fires, and monitoring forest and environmental legislation and the protection of vegetation resources, as well as the conservation of biological diversity through the National System of Protected Wilderness Areas, for the benefit of society;

WHEREAS, the Participants share common geographic and climatological characteristics, and recognize that climate change presents worldwide challenges and risks to the environment and economies, impacting human health, increasing extreme weather events and wildfires, and threatening natural resources of the affected Participants;

WHEREAS, this Memorandum of Understanding will provide a broad framework for cooperation and support between the Participants in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience to climate change and wildfires and build on a solid foundation that enhances initiatives in wildfire management and prevention, and fire and resource assessment;

WHEREAS, cooperation between the Participants plays a fundamental role in implementing solidarity between the people and advancing partnership across public and private sectors;

WHEREAS, both Participants, due to their history and experience involving wildfire and other natural disasters influenced by climate change, share a common interest in enhancing wildfire management and prevention initiatives and collaborate to protect the welfare of their populations and environment;

WHEREAS, in the well-established spirit of friendship and cooperation, the Participants intend to cooperate to effectively reduce the occurrence and risk of wildfires and respond to threats created by wildfire to the public health, safety, and welfare of their respective states;

WHEREAS, collaboration and mutual exchanges of wildfire management and prevention best practices, technologies, and research ensure that linkages are established to increase capacity further, enhance protection, and reduce the loss of life.

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

SECTION I Objective

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a flexible framework between the Participants to permit them to develop mutually beneficial partnerships in emergency response and wildfire management and prevention. In doing so, the Participants share the following common objectives:

- a) Improving capacity to enhance wildfire response and recovery efforts in coordination with the relevant authorities of each territory, in accordance with applicable domestic laws.
- b) Enhancing and promoting wildfire prevention and wildland-urban interface awareness to values at-risk and at-risk populations, according to available economic and technical resources.

SECTION II Areas of Cooperation

The Participants intend to expand cooperation on emergency response policies and practices through initiatives focused on, but not limited to, the following areas of collaboration:

- a) Improving efficiencies and capabilities within emergency management by sharing best practices, expertise, intelligence, technology, training, and research in disaster risk management.
- b) Identifying opportunities to share expertise and collaborate with respect to aviation firefighting and detection initiatives, including the use of aircraft during operational activity and personnel exchanges for professional development purposes.
- c) Providing the opportunity for training and exercises of mutual interest in disaster risk management to develop expeditious communication and coordinated strategies during emergencies and disasters.
- d) Encouraging the development of future collaborations in disaster risk management.
- e) Enhancing and promoting safety, public education, and preparedness awareness to at-risk populations by sharing best practices, technologies, collaborations, and training opportunities.

- f) Sharing best practices, communication strategies, research and technologies, and training opportunities in California and Chile that enhance and promote wildfire prevention and wildland-urban interface awareness to at-risk populations, according to available economic and technical resources.
- g) Enhancing and promoting community wildfire preparedness and mitigation by sharing best practices, technologies, collaborations, and training opportunities.
- h) Sharing advances in training material and opportunities, technical expertise, geographic information systems and technology, communication strategies, scenarios, and simulations in all phases of wildfire protection and management, including projects in the area of community risk and hazard assessment, and exchange programs, including the preparation of community- level wildfire prevention plans. Sharing best practices, expertise, and technical assistance to improve the capacity in all areas of wildfire suppression.
- i) CAL FIRE will provide opportunities for CONAF personnel to observe and gain experience by shadowing members of CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams (IMTs), including Command Staff, General Staff, or Unit Leaders. The specific details of each exchange—such as timing, location, duration, lodging, and equipment—will be coordinated by consent of both parties prior to initiating travel. CAL FIRE may provide, at no cost, any necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to CONAF personnel for the duration of their assignment, to be returned upon completion.
- j) Sharing and exploring innovations in fuel management methods, including prescribed burning, pre-fire management, data collection and analysis, tools and equipment, best practices, technology, and policy developments to mitigate and lessen effects of increased wildfires due to climate change, developing activities with the objective to enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate impacts and improving the coordination of resources.

SECTION III Coordination

The Participants will create an action plan to implement the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding. They will serve as the respective point of contact for communication and information exchange.

SECTION IV Specific Activities

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding for the key

sectors and initiatives identified in Section II may include:

- a) Exchange of relevant information, experiences, and good practices, namely by the sharing of relevant documents and training;
- b) Participation in specific joint projects and collaborative work days;
- c) Joint organization of conferences, events, and internships;

SECTION V **Points of Contact**

CAL FIRE and CONAF will serve as the point of contact for communication and information exchange, as well as any notice required to be submitted under this Memorandum of Understanding.

CAL FIRE Program Contact		CONAF CORPORACIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL	
Name	Brandon Grundhoefer	Name:	Rodrigo Illesca Rojas
Title:	Deputy Chief, State, Federal, and International Programs		Executive Director
Address:	715 P Street Sacramento, Ca 95814	Title:	Paseo Bulnes 285
Primary Phone:	916-862-2470	Address:	oficina 501, Santiago
Email:	brandon.grundhoefer@fire.ca.gov	Primary Phone:	226630217
		Email:	rodrigo.illesca@conaf.cl

SECTION VI **No Legal Obligations, Rights, or Remedies**

This Memorandum of Understanding is a voluntary initiative. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and creates no legally cognizable or enforceable rights or remedies, legal or equitable, in any form whatsoever. In addition, the commitments in this Memorandum of Understanding are not conditioned upon reciprocal actions by other Participants; each Participant retains full discretion over the implementation of its commitments in light of the Participant's

individual circumstances, laws, and policies; and each Participant is free to terminate the Memorandum.

SECTION VII **Availability of Personnel and Resources**

This Memorandum of Understanding does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by either Participant. All costs that may arise from activities covered by, mentioned in, or pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be assumed by the Participant that incurs them unless otherwise expressly stated in a future written arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. All activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel and other resources of each Participant.

The personnel designated by a Participant for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will work under the orders and responsibility of that Participant and any other organization or institution to which the personnel already belongs, at all times maintaining any preexisting employment relationship only with that Participant and organization or institution, and not with any other Participant.

SECTION VIII **Compliance with Applicable Laws**

This Memorandum of Understanding will be construed consistent with all applicable laws, and activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to, and will be undertaken in a manner consistent with, all otherwise-applicable laws.

SECTION IX **Interpretation and Application**

Any difference that may arise in relation to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the Participants, which will endeavor in good faith to resolve such differences.

SECTION X **Final Provisions**

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature for a five-year period unless renewed or extended by the Participants in the same manner that the Participants may otherwise modify this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time with the mutual consent of the Participants. Any modification will be made in writing, and the date on which such modification is to become effective will be specified.

Either of the Participants may, at any time, terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to the other Participant(s). A Participant that intends to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding will endeavor to provide notice of such termination to other Participants 30 days in advance.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will take effect after activities initiated under this Memorandum of Understanding conclude, unless a Participant expressly states otherwise. A Participant who intends to terminate a previously initiated activity will endeavor to reach an understanding with the other Participant concerning such termination.

Signed in _____ on _____, in two original copies in English and Spanish with both versions being equally valid.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION – CAL FIRE

Joe Tyler: Director / Fire Chief:

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Joe Tyler

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Date: 12/22/2025

THE NATIONAL FORESTRY CORPORATION MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE – CONAF

Rodrigo Illesca Rojas: Executive Director:

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Date: 12/23/2025