Dry Western forests depend on regular low-heat fires to remove debris like dropped branches and overcrowding trees. Incorporating regular prescribed fire into forest management reduces the risk of severe fire.

**Fire is critical for resilient landscapes**

- Dry Western forests depend on regular low-heat fires to remove debris like dropped branches and overcrowding trees.
- Low-heat fires prevent fuel build-up, create spacing for sunlight and snowpack, and open seeds of fire-dependent species.
- Mature trees are adapted to survive and benefit from low-burning fires.

**Indigenous fire management & cultural burning practices**

- Indigenous communities have practiced cultural burning for thousands of years. Promoting indigenous burning and management sovereignty is an important aspect of fire ecology and restoration today.
- Fire as a management tool improves native food sources and hunting space, cultivates specific plant species, prevents fuel build-up, maintains travel routes, communication, ceremonies, and fireproofed important areas.
- The displacement of native tribes and settler-imposed fire suppression policies disrupted and largely prevented indigenous land management. The scars of native land dispossession persist today, and the reintroduction of fire and indigenous land management contributes to forest resilience.

**Why have there been so many catastrophic fires lately?**

- Fire suppression removes fire from the ecosystem, interrupting this ecological maintenance process and increasing the volume and density of fuels across Western forests.
- Fire suppression has left forests vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
The effects of fire suppression and resulting overcrowding of trees and fuel in the North Fork of the Feather River from 1890-1993.

The benefits of regular low-moderate fires are unique to each forested region. Reach out to learn about the benefits for a specific forest at connect@blueforest.org

Active management solutions

- Building resilience after fire suppression requires prescribed fire and specific treatments such as thinning that mimic the effects of beneficial fire. 
- Restoration treatments remove and reduce understory fuels while protecting mature trees. 
- Such activities change and thin the vegetation structure to prevent future fires from burning too hot or growing too large.

Benefits of fire regime restoration

- The structure of restored forests promotes fire resilience, biodiversity, greater snowpack storage, and habitat for native species.
- Reduced fire risk protects nearby communities and infrastructure, and public health.
- Thinning greatly reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Blue Forest