

RESPONSES TO THE CAMP-PARADISE WILDFIRE

THE RESPONSES RELATE TO

A / PARADISE URBAN AREA

B / FORESTED AREA

A / PARADISE

- Search and rescue conducted by police and firefighters
- Closed schools had pupils relocated to other cities
- Make sure combustable materials are not located too near buildings
- Increased use of fire resistant building materials
- Introduce better emergency notification procedures
- Introduce better emergency evacuation procedures
- New properties must be built to more stringent safety codes
- An initial housing shortage created problems of homelessness
- The crumbling infrastructure created problems for residents
- The most vulnerable in the local population did worst, so efforts must be made to cater for these (poorer, ethnic minorities) in the future
- The elderly and low income in the community must be helped to recover producing a more resilient community
- IT responses needed for schooling
- Counselling needed for children
- Clean up and debris clearance needed in the immediate aftermath
- Develop a better understanding of 'burnovers' which caused most of the damage in Paradise, adding to the speed of spread of the fire and cutting off evacuation routes
- Don't use so much wood in the rebuild as it caused most burnovers as blowing embers started fires ahead of the main firefront
- The California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to coordinate the financial response
- Investment needed to introduce news jobs to cut unemployment
- Temporary suspension of housing rents needed following the fire as many people lost jobs
- Widen roads in Paradise to facilitate future evacuations and prevent gridlock, giving better evacuation routes
- Engage with the community to build back better, stronger, safer and greener
- Educate residents on safer fire responses
- Remove burnt trees and replant
- Build a new CBD, Fire Station, Sewer System, Schools and Healthcare facilities
- Install a new Fibre Optic network
- Make many of the new systems underground to prevent fire damage in the future
- Use sustainable construction methods and introduce sustainable technologies such as Solar Panels

Now label each of the above points S for Short Term or L for Long Term. If in doubt create a new category of M for Medium Term

B / FORESTED AREA

- Replanting of trees; includes preparing the site, planting and reducing competition
- Later brush control beneath the trees is needed and pruning of the lower branches to reduce the fuel for fires
- Grazing by goats can be used to reduce shrub growth which provides fuel for fires, but this should not be done too soon or tree seedlings will be eaten and soil erosion may occur
- Reforestation must take place, eg the Concow Resilience Pilot Project
- It may be better to replace conifers and chaparral with oak savanna
- The long term aim should be to improve forest health, reduce fire fuel material, improve habitats for wildlife and increase biodiversity
- A variety of tree species and different ages of trees will aid animal biodiversity
- More diverse vegetation including oaks and pines may be more adaptable to frequent fires
- In the long term soils should be protected and soil erosion prevented
- Low density forest replacement of about 100 trees per acre is less likely to cause serious wildfires than the existing density of 400 trees per acre
- Open spaces should be left between stands of trees to help prevent the spread of wildfires
- Following new re-planting policies will increase carbon capture, lower the risk of severe fires, improve local water supply and create jobs
- Climate change; global warming and increased length and severity of droughts will mean that seed collection is more important as seedling and tree mortality will increase
- The fire season will increase in length making fire prevention methods more important
- Climate change will also make insect and disease damage more common and this will have to be prepared for and prevented where possible

Now label each of the above points S for Short Term or L for Long Term. If in doubt create a new category of M for Medium Term