

Editorial: Focus on saving Sierra forests

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We Californians take for granted the great forests of the Sierra Nevada. It is where we ski and hike, and breathe fresh air, and it's the primary source of our water.

It's all at risk. Drought and bark beetle infestation are the proximate cause of death of more than 100 million trees in California since 2010. But the forests were weakened by climate change, combined with mismanagement that includes well-intentioned wildfire prevention efforts and logging in past decades of old-growth trees, which are most resistant to fire and disease.

At last, an infusion of state money for the Sierra forests, not to be taken for granted, and none too soon.

"There is an urgent need to reform policy and management to ensure that Californians continue to benefit from these forests for generations to come," a new Public Policy Institute of California report says.

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