

# Future forest health needs fire to fight fire

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

California's strides toward cleaner air can quickly go up in smoke during one big wildfire.

The constant threat of wildfire calls for a radical shift in attitudes toward forest management, not just to save homes and lives but the state's overall air and water quality. That conclusion spurred the state's Little Hoover Commission to recommend a coordinated effort to rethink how California cares for its forests.

"We see what happens when you don't manage forests," said commissioner Janna Sidley, who chaired the independent oversight agency's subcommittee. Its report, "Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada," was released Monday.

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