



March 17, 2026
Jamestown, California



2026 CONVENING REPORT

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ABOUT CWI

ACCELERATING SOLUTIONS TO THIS ERA'S CLIMATE & WILDFIRE CHALLENGES

The [Climate & Wildfire Institute](#) (CWI) is a nonprofit organization that accelerates solutions to climate and wildfire challenges. We accomplish this by leveraging a consortium of partners, translating their expertise into shared insights and coordinated action. We operate at the intersections of research, policy, and practice, facilitating collaboration and innovation across sectors to advance climate and wildfire resilience within the Western United States.

CWI SIGNATURE CONVENINGS

CWI's Signature Convenings unite fire experts, Tribal leaders, policymakers, researchers, and industry partners to accelerate solutions to today's most urgent wildfire and climate challenges. Rooted in five years of trusted event design, facilitation, and cross-sector collaboration, CWI hosts an annual gathering of 70+ leaders from across California and the West, each event intentionally building on prior convenings to advance shared priorities and actionable outcomes. These events strengthen the wildfire field by fostering alignment, surfacing opportunities, and helping the community move from discussion to coordinated action.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CWI thanks the following contributors who provided planning and technical logistics, collective impact expertise, and photography services in support of this convening.

Mikel Robinson, Founder, Full Scope Management, Inc.

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Zac Zavala, Founder, Moonshot Photos

2025 SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors—[Google](#), [Pacific Gas & Electric \(PG&E\)](#), [Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative \(WFFRC\)](#), [Fire Aside](#), [Milliman](#), [BurnBot](#), [Liberty Utilities](#), [Tahoe Conservancy](#), [Yosemite Rivers Alliance](#), and [Vibrant Planet](#)—for your generous support of this year's convening. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in making this event a success.



fire aside



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CWI hosted its 2026 Signature Convening, [Bridging Commons & Coalitions: From Innovation to Action](#), in Jamestown, California, alongside the [California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Spring Regional Meeting](#). Our goal was to advance cross-sector collaboration on wildfire resilience, building on momentum from prior convenings and deepening a focus on collective action to accelerate progress. Designed as an interactive event focused on priority issues, the convening was organized around three thematic workshop tracks: 1) Wildfire Risk to Communities, Insurance, and the Built Environment; 2) Landscape-Scale Fire Management, Climate, and Co-Benefits; and 3) Advanced Analytics, AI, and Decision Credibility. Through bookended panels, structured workshop sessions, and open networking time, the convening created space for participants to identify shared challenges, test ideas, and generate collaborative pathways forward.

The convening brought together 75 leaders from government, industry, academia, and community-based organizations representing a wide range of functions in wildfire management. Discussions highlighted that while significant progress has been made in data availability, technical innovation, and coalition building, these advances are not yet consistently translating into outcomes on the ground. Participants worked to identify common “sticking points” (from insurance constraints and workforce gaps to data usability and governance) and to explore how coalitions, data commons, and cross-sector partnerships can help break persistent barriers.

Across all sessions, a clear theme emerged: the challenge is far from purely technical; it is also operational and social. While data, tools, and models continue to improve, their impact is limited by barriers related to trust, access, incentives, and widespread adoption.

Participants emphasized the need to better align systems—linking data infrastructure, insurance and finance, land management, and community behavior—to enable more coordinated and scalable action. Some of the challenges discussed, particularly those related to landscape prioritization and funding, are longstanding and require a shift from continued dialogue to implementation and accountability. The Climate and Wildfire Institute recognizes the urgency of this shift and is currently developing collaborative ways to further define shared agendas and accelerate implementation.

Taken together, the discussions underscore the need for intentional alignment across the systems that shape wildfire outcomes. A coordinated system that links data infrastructure, insurance and finance incentives, multi-benefit land management policies, workforce capacity, and community engagement is essential to move beyond incremental progress, strengthen accountability, and foster a culture of shared responsibility. This level of alignment is necessary to unlock policy solutions and implementation breakthroughs at scale, with CWI positioned to serve as a system-level convener and backbone facilitator driving shared goals and action across sectors.

CONVENING SUMMARY

SESSION ONE: OPENING PANEL

The opening panel, “Framing Coalitions: Aligning around Purpose, Practice, and Partnership,” highlighted the growing role of coalitions as essential vehicles for advancing wildfire resilience across California. Speakers emphasized that no single entity—government, nonprofit, private sector, or community group—can address wildfire risk on its own. Through this lens, unspoken but understood tensions created by territoriality, competition, and constrained resources were briefly referenced as counterproductive. Instead, coalitions are emerging as critical “how” mechanisms for aligning diverse actors around shared goals, whether through statewide coordination (e.g., the Wildfire Solutions Coalition), community-rooted economic and workforce initiatives (e.g., The Watershed Center), or cross-sector innovation partnerships in technology and data (e.g., Google and Watch Duty).

Across the examples shared, successful coalitions were guided by a clear “north star,” which helped maintain focus, reduce competition, and reinforce that wildfire resilience is not a zero-sum effort. At the same time, effective collaboration requires intentional design: institutionalizing relationships, committing to ongoing listening, and building trust across sectors and scales. Ultimately, panelists reinforced that durable progress depends not just on new solutions but on strengthening the systems, relationships, and workforce needed to deliver them. Speakers included:

Marissa Christiansen (Moderator), Executive Director, Climate & Wildfire Institute

Dan Porter, Associate Director, Forest Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy

John Mills, CEO & Co-Founder, Watch Duty

Allison Jolley, Senior Director of Stewardship Economy, Policy, and Strategy, Watershed Research and Training Center

Brian Juhyuk Lee, Sustainability Lead, Google.org

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Coalitions as the ‘how,’ not the ‘why’: Effective collaboratives are directed by a clear, shared purpose (“north star”) and serve as mechanisms to align action, not ends in themselves. Don't create coalitions to solve problems that don't exist.
- Innovation must be matched with adoption: While technology and AI hold promise, impact depends on building operational readiness, practitioner fluency, and iterative, real-world deployment.
- Community-rooted solutions are essential: Local knowledge, mutual aid, and community-driven efforts remain foundational, highlighting the importance of “humans helping humans” alongside technological advancement.



CONVENING SUMMARY

SESSION TWO: WILDFIRE COMMONS FIRESIDE CHAT

The Wildfire Commons Fireside Chat explored how a “commons” approach to data and expert networks can unlock more effective, coordinated wildfire solutions. Panelists described commons as shared spaces (both technical and social) where experts, practitioners, and institutions come together to align on data standards, governance, and use. Rather than siloed datasets, the commons model emphasizes interoperability, transparency, and agreed-upon rules of engagement to ensure data is both usable and trustworthy. This approach is particularly critical as decision-making depends on integrating datasets (e.g., satellite, insurance, vegetation, and treatment data) that often vary in format, quality, and accessibility.

In practice, this alignment enables more targeted and timely action on the ground. For example, enabling land managers to prioritize fuel treatments in areas where vegetation risk, community exposure, and insurability pressures intersect, or enabling insurers and public agencies to coordinate around shared risk data to incentivize mitigation in high-risk communities. By improving how data is shared and applied, the commons model helps translate complex information into coordinated decisions that directly support wildfire resilience.

A central theme was that technological advancements alone are insufficient. Value comes from pairing data infrastructure with intentional collaboration and co-development of the products to solve real problems on the ground. Efforts like the [WUI Data Commons](#) and [Wildfire Science and Technology Commons](#) aim to bridge cross-sector needs, enabling data sharing through flexible, maintained governance and trust. Ultimately, the success and sustainability of a wildfire commons depend on usability and sustained maintenance: when data systems are accessible, relevant, and deliver clear value to users, they drive ongoing participation, better questions, and more informed decision-making. Speakers included:

David Saah (Moderator), Board Member, Climate & Wildfire Institute
İlkay Altıntaş, Chief Data Science Officer, San Diego Supercomputer Center
Siew Gee Lim, FCAS, MAAA, Milliman

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Shared governance and standards unlock data integration: A commons approach aligns stakeholders around data structures that enable interoperability across systems.
- Usability and access drive impact: Reducing friction through clear licensing, accessible platforms, and practitioner-focused design is essential for application and adoption.
- Technology must be paired with collaboration: AI and advanced tools can accelerate insights, but meaningful progress depends on co-development, transparency, and ongoing engagement with end users.

CONVENING SUMMARY

SESSION THREE: WORKSHOP BREAKOUTS

STRUCTURE AND OVERVIEW:

The 2026 Convening workshop sessions following the Opening Panel and Fireside Chat were designed to move beyond information sharing into participatory problem-solving. Across two 75-minute sessions, participants engaged in a mix of small table breakouts and full-room synthesis discussions. The format intentionally brought together diverse perspectives (practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders) to surface shared challenges and explore where collaborative approaches could unlock progress.

Participants joined one of three themed workshop tracks:

- [Workshop Track One: Wildfire Risk to Communities, Insurance, and the Built Environment](#)
- [Workshop Track Two: Landscape-Scale Fire Management, Climate, and Co-Benefits](#)
- [Workshop Track Three: Advanced Analytics, AI, and Decision Credibility](#)

Participants remained in the same group for two consecutive 75-minute working sessions.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS:

Workshop Session 1 focused on problem identification, surfacing common “sticking points” that hinder progress from data, or concept, to action. Participants explored where efforts stall, whether due to gaps in coordination, data accessibility, policy constraints, or misaligned incentives, and examined the role that collaboratives and coalitions can play in surpassing these barriers. Discussions highlighted recurring themes, tensions, and emerging areas of consensus, helping clarify where collective focus is most needed.

Workshop Session 2 shifted toward outputs and action planning, and challenged participants to translate identified challenges into potential pathways forward. Through varying degrees of structured exercises, including creating “if/then” statements, groups generated hypotheses about what it would take to drive solutions and identified key assumptions underlying their ideas. The session emphasized near-term priorities, encouraging participants to distinguish what is both urgent and actionable, while reinforcing the importance of shared ownership in moving ideas toward implementation.

While the sessions were not intended to fully resolve the sector’s most complex challenges in a single day, they served as a catalyst for more coordinated thinking and action. By grounding discussions in shared problem identification and actionable next steps, the workshops helped illuminate priority areas for collaboration to carry forward beyond the day’s discussions.



CONVENING SUMMARY

WORKSHOP TRACK ONE: WILDFIRE RISK TO COMMUNITIES, INSURANCE, AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

This track focused on a central framing question:

What will it take for wildfire risk and mitigation data to drive community-level resilience? This can include pathways to influence insurance, individual homeowner behaviors, or local/municipal collective action. How do we do this together?

Discussions revealed that while significant progress has been made in data availability, modeling, and individual home hardening strategies, these efforts are not yet translating into consistent, large-scale outcomes. A key tension emerged between parcel-level action and the need for community-scale impact. **Participants widely agreed that isolated mitigation is insufficient and that resilience must be achieved at scale across neighborhoods and communities to influence outcomes such as insurability, risk reduction, and behavior change.**

While participants emphasized the importance of aligning financial signals (e.g., premiums, availability, valuation) with risk reduction, California's regulatory environment and market dynamics complicate this relationship, as constraints on rate-setting, limited use of forward-looking risk models, and insurer withdrawal from high-risk areas weaken the connection between mitigation actions and financial outcomes. At the same time, gaps in data standardization, community-scale metrics, and social science insights limit the ability to clearly demonstrate the value of mitigation and a range of effective property owner incentives. This session reinforced that progress will depend on aligning technical, financial, and social systems, and that coordinated action that considers community- or region-specific needs and attributes is required to move from data to durable community resilience.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Prioritize community-scale mitigation and metrics: Shift focus from individual home hardening to neighborhood-level thresholds (e.g., 30–70% adoption).
- Advance insurance innovation and regulatory alignment: Support emerging models (e.g., forward-looking catastrophe modeling and reinsurance integration) and explore pathways to greater flexibility in insurance requirements that recognize mitigation.
- Invest in social science and behavior change strategies: Deepen understanding of effective incentives for homeowners and communities. Deploy targeted, trusted, and locally grounded communication and incentivizing approaches.
- Improve data integration and usability for decision-making: Standardize and translate existing data and data commons into actionable insights for insurers, communities, and policymakers, particularly at the community level.



CONVENING SUMMARY

WORKSHOP TRACK TWO: LANDSCAPE-SCALE FIRE MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE, AND CO-BENEFITS

This track focused on a central framing question:

When setting landscape-scale wildfire priorities, how can we ensure that investment is meaningfully directed toward the climate and ecological co-benefits of major watersheds and carbon sinks? What is the role of coalitions and collaboratives in bringing these priorities together?

Participants explored how limited funding and capacity for landscape-scale forest management can be better prioritized to maximize climate and ecological co-benefits, particularly in critical watersheds and carbon-rich landscapes. Participants identified a persistent mismatch between stated goals, often articulated through state and federal agency directives and policy frameworks (e.g., resilience, carbon, water, community benefit), and how decisions are actually made. Funding structures, policy constraints, and agency incentives often drive fragmented or suboptimal outcomes. While there is broad recognition that fuels treatments can deliver compounding benefits, these co-benefits are not consistently measured, valued, or used to guide investment decisions. This is due in part to the absence of clear, shared benchmarks across state and federal agencies, uneven investment in measurement and monitoring, and limited translation of emerging science into decision-making frameworks.

Across discussions, several systemic barriers emerged: both public and private funding levels remain far below what is needed; data and science on co-benefits are incomplete or inconsistently applied; and accountability mechanisms do not adequately track outcomes at meaningful scales. Participants also highlighted tensions between wildfire response and long-term mitigation, as well as challenges related to trust, equity, and cross-boundary coordination. While no single solution emerged, there was strong alignment around the need to shift from fragmented, compliance-driven processes toward more integrated, outcome-oriented approaches that prioritize the highest-impact landscapes and enable more effective collaboration.



Attendees observe the opening panel as distinguished speakers set the stage for subsequent workshop discussions.

CONVENING SUMMARY

WORKSHOP TRACK TWO: LANDSCAPE-SCALE FIRE MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE, AND CO-BENEFITS

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Develop and apply co-benefit–driven prioritization frameworks: Taking equity into consideration, concentrate investments toward landscapes (e.g., key watersheds, carbon sinks) where wildfire mitigation delivers the greatest combined measurable climate, ecological, and community benefits. Data and advanced modeling, when engaged with experts on the ground to address assumptions, can identify these priority areas.
- Increase funding scale and diversify financing mechanisms: Move beyond incremental, grant-driven approaches toward larger, coordinated investments (e.g., block grants) using innovative pooled financing schemes (e.g., through Joint Powers Authorities) and market-based solutions (public-private investment partnerships) that match the scale of the problem. The state and private philanthropy cannot sustainably offset recent declines in federal funding in the long term. This must also include building out diverse biomass markets
- Improve accountability and monitoring: Track long-term outcomes (not just acres treated) to ensure investments deliver their stated, multi-benefit impacts and build confidence among funders and communities.
- Enable cross-boundary collaboration and inclusive governance: Support structures that bring agencies, Tribes, communities, and landowners together early to build trust and align priorities across jurisdictions. Cut unnecessary red tape holding back collaborative solutions.



Attendees engage in dialogue and brainstorming sessions during workshop the workshop track two sessions.

CONVENING SUMMARY

WORKSHOP TRACK THREE: ADVANCED ANALYTICS, AI, AND DECISION CREDIBILITY

This track focused on a central framing question:

What will it take to define the long-term role of AI and advanced analytics in wildfire management to drive effective decision-making? How can coalitions, collaboratives, and data commons support?

This workshop track examined the expanding role of advanced analytics and AI in wildfire management, focusing on when these tools meaningfully influence decisions, and when they fall short. Participants noted that while the volume and sophistication of data and models are rapidly increasing, their real-world impact is uneven. A key challenge is bridging the gap between technical capability and practical utility: tools are often developed without clear end users in mind, limiting adoption and trust. At the same time, wildfire decision-making frequently relies on incomplete information from fragmented sources, underscoring the need to better integrate rapidly generated data-driven insights (potentially through the use of AI) with practitioner experience and place-based knowledge.

Trust, transparency, training, and governance emerged as central themes. Participants highlighted concerns around the proliferation of models, legal liability, and a persistent mismatch between modeled fuel conditions and risk profiles and the realities observed by practitioners, land managers, and Tribal land stewards on the ground. These gaps, particularly where local and Indigenous knowledge contradicts model outputs, can erode confidence and hinder adoption. There was strong agreement that AI should be treated as a decision-support tool, not a replacement for human judgment, and that its value depends on co-development, iterative validation with end users, and clear communication of assumptions and limitations.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Design for end users and co-produce solutions: Identify specific users and decision contexts upfront, and engage practitioners throughout development to ensure tools are relevant, accurate, usable, and adopted.
- Prioritize transparency, governance, and trust: Establish clear standards for data provenance, model explainability, and legal frameworks to support responsible use and reduce barriers to adoption.
- Bridge the gap between analytics and application: Invest in translation, training, and iterative validation to integrate AI insights with practitioner expertise and enable decision-making at the speed of relevance.



CONVENING SUMMARY

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND CONVENING INSIGHTS

While each track surfaced distinct challenges, a consistent pattern emerged: the primary barrier is not a lack of data, tools, or technical solutions—it is the difficulty of translating them into coordinated, sustained action. Across sessions, participants pointed to fragmentation, misaligned incentives, and limited implementation capacity as the core constraints. Many of the tensions discussed – particularly around landscape prioritization, funding scale, cross-boundary coordination, and who bears the responsibility of investing among local, state, Tribal, federal, and private actors – are not new. Even with major ongoing changes in the federal system at the forefront, these tensions reflect persistent sticking points that have shaped and impeded wildfire resilience efforts for decades. The opportunity ahead is to move beyond reiterating these challenges toward more deliberate, coordinated action to address them. For example, updating state-wide metrics focused on desired outcomes, and developing regional accountability mechanisms (similar, or building on [RFFC's RPPs](#)) to track progress and guide adaptive management informed by on-the-ground realities.

A central insight was the importance of the human dimension. Behavior change, trust, and collective action repeatedly surfaced as the limiting factors, whether at the homeowner, community, agency, or industry level. Technical solutions are necessary but insufficient without buy-in and adoption at scale. Participants emphasized the need for deeper investment in social science, localized and trusted communication, and co-developed approaches that reflect and adapt to how people actually make decisions. Coalitions and collaboratives serve as critical infrastructure for enabling this shift, connecting data, policy, finance, and on-the-ground action.

At the same time, scale and alignment remain key challenges. Community- and landscape-level approaches are essential, yet systems for prioritization, funding, and accountability are not consistently designed to support them. While data is abundant, gaps in standardization, governance, and usability limit its impact. Similarly, financial and policy structures do not yet reliably incentivize risk reduction or long-term resilience. These challenges are deeply interconnected: progress in one area depends on movement in others, from how data informs decisions, to how investments are structured, to how communities and institutions act on shared priorities in complementary ways.



CWI Executive Director Marissa Christiansen guides multiple workshop session activities and discussions.

CONVENING SUMMARY

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND CONVENING INSIGHTS

Taken together, the discussions point to the need for more intentional alignment across the systems shaping wildfire outcomes: linking data infrastructure, insurance and finance, land management policy, workforce capacity, and community engagement. Incremental progress within individual domains will continue to fall short without stronger coordination across these areas. Participants underscored that resilience at scale requires better tools and clearer accountability, with shared priorities and sustained collaboration across sectors and geographies.

- **Human behavior is a primary constraint:** Progress depends on trust, incentives, and social adoption (not just technical solutions) requiring greater investment in social science and behavior change strategies. We know good data does not automatically trigger good decisions. We need to know what does.
- **Collective action is essential to scale impact:** Community- and landscape-level outcomes require coordinated approaches, with coalitions playing a key role in aligning stakeholders and driving implementation.
- **Data must be usable to be valuable:** The challenge is less about data availability and more about access, standardization, and relevance for decision-makers.
- **Incentives are not aligned with resilience:** Financial, regulatory, and policy systems often lag behind the need to reward risk reduction and long-term investment.
- **Capacity and workforce gaps limit execution:** There is a growing disconnect between planning, innovation, and the ability to implement at scale on the ground.



Attendees engage in workshop discussions, brainstorming ideas and designing solutions for each workshop track.

CONVENING SUMMARY

CLOSING PANEL: FROM ALIGNMENT TO ACTION

The final session reinforced a central theme of the convening: alignment is improving across sectors, but translating that alignment into measurable outcomes remains the core challenge. Panelists reflected that while the field has made significant progress in data, analytics, and understanding of risk, this has not yet translated into consistent, large-scale impact on the ground. Across landscape management, insurance, and advanced analytics, participants pointed to a shared gap between what is known and what is implemented—particularly in how data is accessed, trusted, and used by different actors in the system.

A key emphasis was the need to shift from outputs to outcomes. Whether in acres treated, models developed, or tools deployed, success must ultimately be measured by reduced risk, increased resilience, and community-level impact.

This requires clearer definitions of acceptable risk, stronger feedback loops between practitioners and decision-makers, and more intentional integration of social science and behavior change strategies.

Panelists also highlighted the importance of expanding participation and ensuring that solutions are co developed and broadly owned. Speakers included:

Lara Kueppers (Moderator) Board Member, Climate & Wildfire Institute
Kim Seipp, Managing Director of Programs, Blue Forest
Crystal Raymond, Deputy Director, Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative
Nuin-Tara Key, COO, California Forward (CA FWD)



Attendees engage in workshop exercises and networking opportunities throughout the convening.



CONVENING SUMMARY

CLOSING PANEL: FROM ALIGNMENT TO ACTION

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS:

- **Shift from outputs to outcomes:** Prioritize measurable impact (e.g., reduced risk, resilient communities, effective treatments) over activity-based metrics like acres treated or tools developed. Streamlined, outcome-focused reporting can reduce reporting and bureaucratic burdens on implementers while improving the flow of actionable information to public and private funders and state and federal decision-makers.
- **Close the gap between data and use:** Prioritize access, validation, and user-centered design to ensure data and analytics are trusted by practitioners and land stewards and support actionable, cross-sector decision-making.
- **Center behavior change and public engagement:** Invest in communication, social science, and trusted messengers to drive adoption at the community level.
- **Create pathways for innovation within institutions:** Use pilots, incubators, and proof-of-concept efforts to de-risk new approaches, particularly in public agencies. Leverage NGOs and community-based partners to lead early-stage innovation, with clear pathways to translate successful pilots into public agency adoption and scale.
- **Broaden coalitions and participation:** Engage missing stakeholders and strengthen cross-sector partnerships to move from alignment to coordinated action. For example, in modeling transparency, Tribal entities and federal employees were underrepresented during this convening.



Speakers share their final thoughts and engage in an audience Q&A session during the closing panel.

CWI'S 2026 CONVENING ACTION PLAN

CWI's role as a nimble coordinating force and successful network connector positions it as a systems-level convener and collective impact backbone, continuing to translate science to policy to action. This updated plan for 2026-2027 builds on the success of existing and emerging workstreams, leveraging a broad consortium of partners to advance solutions to seemingly intractable challenges.








The color key below illustrates how the convening's key takeaways and recommended actions connect to CWI's current and evolving work. As these efforts continue to develop, we welcome opportunities to collaborate, align complementary initiatives, and elevate partner-led work that advances shared resilience goals.

LEGEND FOR CWI PILLARS:







- Convening & Coordination
- Data & Demonstration
- Policy Intelligence & Public Affairs

NEAR-TERM CONVENING ACTIONS	CWI PROJECTS & CAPACITIES	STATUS	CWI PILLARS
Center Behavior Change & Public Engagement	Topanga Fire Resilient Community Compact with Rock Rose Risk, Burn Bot, Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Council, LA County Fire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and elevate emerging models for collective action for reduced risk and insurance premiums. 	IN PROGRESS	
Create Pathways for Innovation within Institutions	Case study synthesis (e.g., Marin, Tahoe, Lahaina) that documents mitigations and informs insurers, agencies, community engagement actions, and public policy strategies.	IN PROGRESS	
	Nevada County Community Resilience Goals with PG&E, Rock Rose Risk, Planet Labs, and local agencies.	IN PROGRESS	
Close the Gap Between Data & Use	Support Task Force 2026 Action Plan Item: Chaparral Strategy, Convening, and State of the Science Assessment.	IN PROGRESS	

CWI'S 2026 CONVENING ACTION PLAN

NEAR-TERM CONVENING ACTIONS	CWI PROJECTS & CAPACITIES	STATUS	CWI PILLARS
Close the Gap Between Data & Use	Act as a neutral data validator and synthesizer, supporting both local decision-making and state-level planning.	ONGOING	
Create Pathways for Innovation within Institutions	Support documentation and scaling of community pilot projects and highlight opportunities to integrate with state planning tools.	ONGOING	
	Collaborate with universities, local entities, and insurers to demonstrate cost savings from mitigation investments.	ONGOING	
Create Pathways for Innovation within Institutions	Ensure equity and Tribal inclusion in CWI-led pilots through targeted engagement and co-design practices.	ONGOING	
Shift from Outputs to Outcomes	Advance outcome-oriented measurement by supporting development of shared metrics that prioritize outcomes (e.g., risk reduction, resilience, community benefit) over output-based measures.	ONGOING	
Broaden Coalitions & Participation	Continue hosting issue-specific workshops and convenings that are hands-on, problem-focused, and co-designed with wildfire community partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted convening on April 14th, 2026 in Napa, CA on Common Ground: Prescribed Fire, Vineyards, And Community Resilience. 	ONGOING	
	Advance innovative facilitation approaches: explore and apply facilitation methods that accelerate progress on policy and implementation challenges, including the use of diverse engagement formats and mediums to improve collaboration and decision-making outcomes.	ONGOING	

CWI'S 2026 CONVENING ACTION PLAN

NEAR-TERM CONVENING ACTIONS	CWI PROJECTS & CAPACITIES	STATUS	CWI PILLARS
Broaden Coalitions & Participation	Use a collective impact framework to define issue-specific problems for each annual convening, advised by an external advisory committee.	ONGOING	
Close the Gap Between Data & Use Broaden Coalitions & Participation	Elevate Tribal voices in policy , advance policy that recognize Tribal stewardship and cultural fire as mechanisms of wildfire and forest resilience through The Stewardship Project, and pilot projects where data sovereignty is critical (e.g., beneficial fire, cultural smoke).	ONGOING	
	Partner with the Wildfire Science & Technology Commons, universities, and working groups to scale shared priorities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support storytelling and policy translation, turning modeled data into actionable public narratives. 	ONGOING	
	Create a community of practice and network database to link silos across disciplines.	ONGOING	
	Remain nimble and responsive to the highest emerging needs for coordination and employ collective action framework to support wildfire resilience priorities.	ONGOING	
	Convene and share expert insights on policy change mechanisms for emerging national approaches to wildfire data and technology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published Phase 1 Research and blog series with Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC). 	ONGOING	

AGENDA

March 17, 2026
Jamestown, CA

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- 8:00 AM Breakfast & Sign-in
- 8:50 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks
- David Saah, Board Member, Climate & Wildfire Institute
 - Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director, Climate & Wildfire Institute
- 9:00 AM Framing Coalitions Panel
- Moderated by Marissa Christiansen, Executive Director, Climate & Wildfire Institute
- Dan Porter, Associate Director, Forest Strategy Lead, The Nature Conservancy
 - John Mills, CEO & Co-Founder, Watch Duty
 - Allison Jolley, Senior Director of Stewardship Economy, Policy, and Strategy, Watershed Research and Training Center
 - Brian Juhyuk Lee, Sustainability Lead, Google.org
- 10:00 AM Wildfire Commons Fireside Chat
- Moderated by David Saah, Board Member, Climate & Wildfire Institute
- Ilkay Altintas, Chief Data Science Officer, San Diego Supercomputer Center
 - Siew Gee Lim, FCAS, MAAA, Milliman
- 10:40 AM Morning Break
- 11:00 AM Solution Sessions – Round 1
- Interactive, issue-specific working sessions focused on moving from shared data to coordinated action.
- Wildfire risk to communities, insurance, and the built environment
 - Landscape-Scale Fire Management, Climate, and Co-Benefits
 - Advanced Analytics, AI, and Decision Credibility
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Solution Sessions – Round 2
- Interactive, issue-specific working sessions focused on moving from shared data to coordinated action.
- Wildfire risk to communities, insurance, and the built environment
 - Landscape-Scale Fire Management, Climate, and Co-Benefits
 - Advanced Analytics, AI, and Decision Credibility
- 2:45 PM Afternoon Break
- 3:15 PM Closing Panel: From Alignment to Action
- Moderated by Lara Kueppers, Board Member, Climate & Wildfire Institute
- Kim Seipp, Managing Director of Programs, Blue Forest
 - Crystal Raymond, Deputy Director, Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative
 - Nuin-Tara Key, COO, California Forward (CA FWD)
- 4:15 PM Closing Remarks
- 4:30 PM Networking Reception



APPENDIX II

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- 3pointx
- Blue Forest
- Burnbot
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- CA Forward
- CA Tahoe Conservancy
- CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force
- California State Office Of Energy Infrastructure Safety
- CAL FIRE
- California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)
- Carbon Plan
- SIG
- Chico State Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve
- CA Natural Resource Agency
- Planet
- Desert Research Institute
- Grassroots Wildland Firefighters
- Fire Aside
- Google.org
- JBIRD Consulting
- Liberty Utilities
- Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority
- Megafire Action
- Milliman
- NASA
- Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
- ORS Impact
- PG&E
- Planscape
- FullScope Consulting
- Princeton University
- Sierra-Sequoia Burn Cooperative
- Sonoma Land Trust
- Stanford University
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tuolumne FireSafe Council
- Tuolumne Resource Conservation District
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Merced
- UC San Diego
- Wildfire Science and Technology Commons (WSTC)
- US Department of Agriculture
- USDA Forest Service, PSW Research Station
- Verisk
- Vibrant Planet
- Vibrant Planet Data Commons
- Rural County Representatives of California
- Watch Duty
- Watershed Research and Training Center
- Western Fire and Forest Resilience Collaborative
- WUI Data Commons
- WUII
- Yosemite Rivers Alliance



APPENDIX III

CWI WILDFIRE DATA ACTION PLAN: 2025-2026

CWI’s unique role as a boundary organization enables it to connect data producers, end users, and policymakers, filling implementation gaps and supporting durable system change.

WORKSTREAM	ACTION	STATUS
Accelerate Insurance Innovation & Risk Model Integration	Host a 2025 Insurance Innovation Convening to bring together reinsurers, insurers, modelers, and local governments.	COMPLETE
	Compile a case study portfolio (e.g., Marin, Tahoe, Lahaina) that documents mitigations and informs insurer strategies.	IN PROGRESS
	Document and elevate emerging models, such as RockRose Risk, to demonstrate community-aligned insurance solutions.	IN PROGRESS
Deliver on California Task Force Key 2025 Deliverables	Support Task Force 2025 Deliverable 22: “Develop Wildfire Data Standards and Evaluate Existing Technologies.”	COMPLETE
	Act as a neutral data validator and synthesizer, supporting both local decision-making and state-level planning.	ONGOING
Scale Pilot Projects & Regional Demonstrations	Support documentation and scaling of community pilot projects and highlight opportunities to integrate with state planning tools.	ONGOING
	Collaborate with universities, local entities, and insurers to demonstrate cost savings from mitigation investments.	ONGOING
	Ensure equity and Tribal inclusion in CWI-led pilots through targeted engagement and co-design practices.	ONGOING

APPENDIX III (CONT'D) CWI 2025 CONVENING ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

WORKSTREAM	ACTION	STATUS
Support Cross-Sector Communications & Literacy	Partner with trusted messengers (e.g., HOAs, Tribal leaders, educators) to improve data literacy and risk awareness on projects and pilots.	COMPLETE
	Translate technical modeling outputs into community- and policymaker-friendly materials (Fire Smart Community Playbook).	COMPLETE
Strengthen Inclusion & Indigenous Data Governance	Support Indigenous-led air quality and cultural fire efforts, including through internship and research opportunities.	COMPLETE
	Build on 2024 recommendations to co-design data governance protocols that respect Tribal sovereignty and cultural knowledge.	COMPLETE
	Elevate Tribal voices in policy and pilot projects where data sovereignty is critical (e.g., beneficial fire, cultural smoke).	ONGOING
Strengthen Partnerships & Organizational Capacity	Partner with the Wildfire Science & Technology Commons, universities, and working groups to scale shared priorities.	COMPLETE
	Create a community of practice and network database to link silos across disciplines.	ONGOING
	Support storytelling and policy translation, turning modeled data into actionable public narratives (e.g., supporting undergraduate and graduate student practicums).	ONGOING
	Continue hosting issue-specific workshops and convenings that are hands-on, problem-focused, and co-designed with wildfire community partners.	ONGOING

APPENDIX IV

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & REFERENCES

The following resources and coalitions provided valuable insights that shaped the themes, panelist selection, and program design of CWI's 2026 Convening. While not all are directly cited in the main report, they reflect the broader context of knowledge and collaboration that informed our work.

This list is not exhaustive but offers a starting point for further exploration:

- [2025 Key Deliverables](#). CA Wildfire Task Force, 2025.
- [2023 CWI Convening Report](#). CWI, 2023.
- [2024 CWI Convening Report](#). CWI, 2024.
- [2025 CWI Convening Report](#). CWI, 2025.
- [Wildfire Science & Technology Commons](#). UCSD.
- [Western Fire & Forest Resilience Collaborative Resources](#). WFFRC, 2024.
- [WUI Data Commons Phase 2: Criteria for success and plan for Phase 3 pilot](#). Milliman, 2025.
- [An Open Data Statement](#). CWI, 2025.
- [New AI Collaboratives to take action on wildfires and food insecurity](#). Google.org, 2025.
- [Water and Wildfire: A Call to Philanthropy](#).
- [From Wildfire Risk to Resilience: The Investment Case for Action](#). World Economic Forum, 2026.
- [How Prop 4 Will Impact California's Climate and Natural Resources Investments](#). Public Policy Institute of California, 2025.
- [Regional Resource Kits](#). CA Wildfire Task Force.
- [Do California Insurers Reward Wildfire Resilience?](#) Insurance For Good, 2025.
- [Fire Smart Community Pilot Playbook](#).
- [Community-Based Approach to Wildfire Risk Mitigation](#). Blue Forest.
- [City Scale Wildfire Loss And Relative Fire Speed: A Framework For Meaningful Community-Scale Risk Reduction](#).
- [AB-1986 Residential property insurance: home hardening](#). California State Legislature, 2025.
- [AB-1971 Property tax: exclusion from reassessment: home hardening retrofitting improvements](#). California State Legislature, 2025.
- [AB-1934 State Fire Marshal: Home Hardening Certification Program Implementation Plan](#). California State Legislature, 2025.
- [When Collective Impact Has an Impact \(Executive Summary\)](#). ORS Impact.
- [Joining collective impact and community science: a framework for core collaborative community science](#). 2024.
- [Stronger Together: Collective Impact and Climate Action Programming](#). Collective Impact Forum, 2023.
- [What is Collective Impact? Video Series](#). Collective Impact Forum & FSG.
- [Panel on Collective Impact: What is it and Why Is Everyone Still Talking about It?](#) Aspen Institute, 2019.





CLIMATE & WILDFIRE INSTITUTE 2026 SIGNATURE CONVENING

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