



# FROM Los Angeles TO DC A PHOTO JOURNEY OF THE 2025 LA FIRES

Presentation by  
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# WHITE BIRD VFD - IDAHO TASKFORCE #4





# HOME HARDENING

Homeowner responsibility



# CHALLENGES

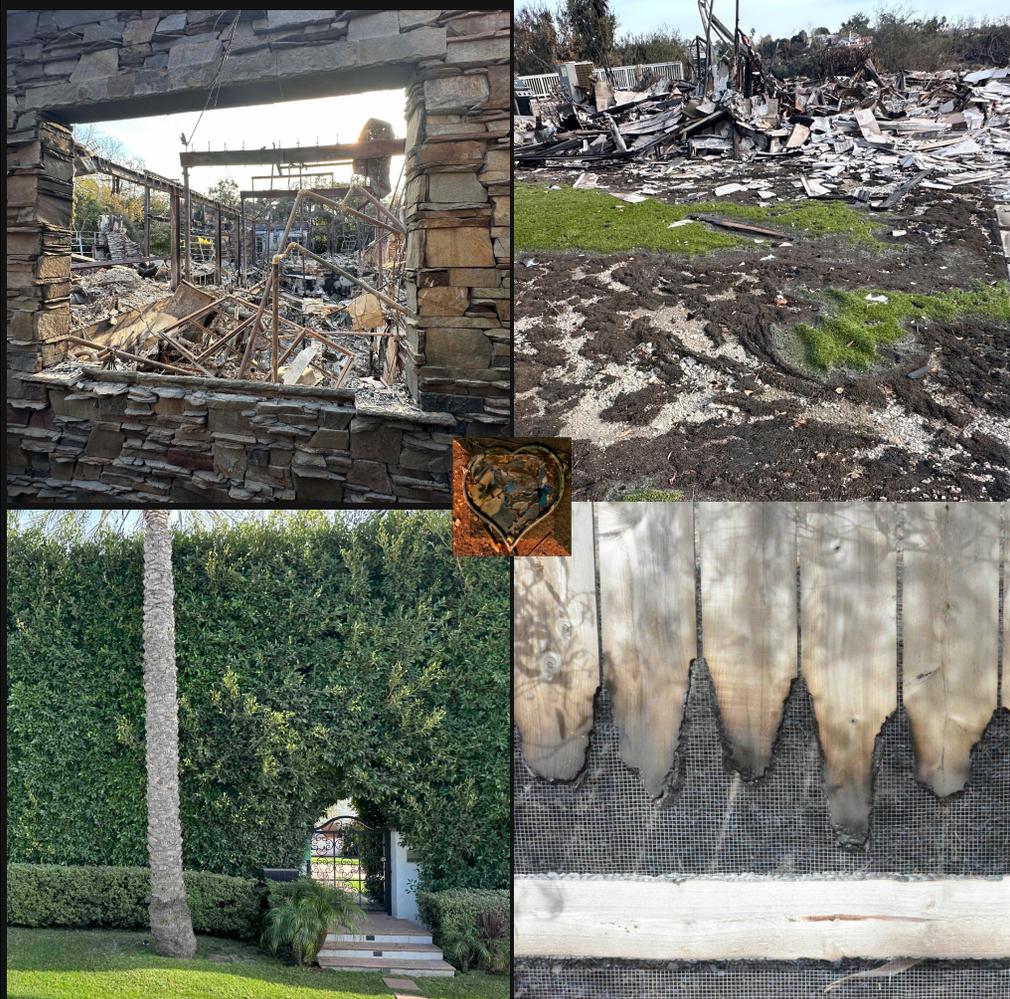
- **Cost and financial burden:** significant expense particularly low-income or marginalized populations
- **Voluntary vs. Regulatory requirements:** Permitting for renovations costly and time consuming
- **Yearly ongoing maintenance:** defensible space, costs and labor

# OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ **Proven effectiveness:** roofing material, siding, double pane windows
- ✓ **Economic resilience:** reduce potential future losses
- ✓ **Technological innovation:** Improved building materials and designs
- ✓ **Federal/State Tax relief and low interest loans:** Increase incentives for homeowners

## DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Homeowner responsibility



## CHALLENGES

- Ongoing maintenance: defensible space, costs and labor
- Interconnected burnable homes and fences: with highly flammable landscape vegetation
- Aesthetic and cultural resistance: Tall trees and shrubs offer a sense of privacy and seclusion

## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Enhanced Property Value and Insurability
- ✓ Financial Assistance and Grants
- ✓ Modern "Fire-Scaping" Design
- ✓ Community Building

## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS



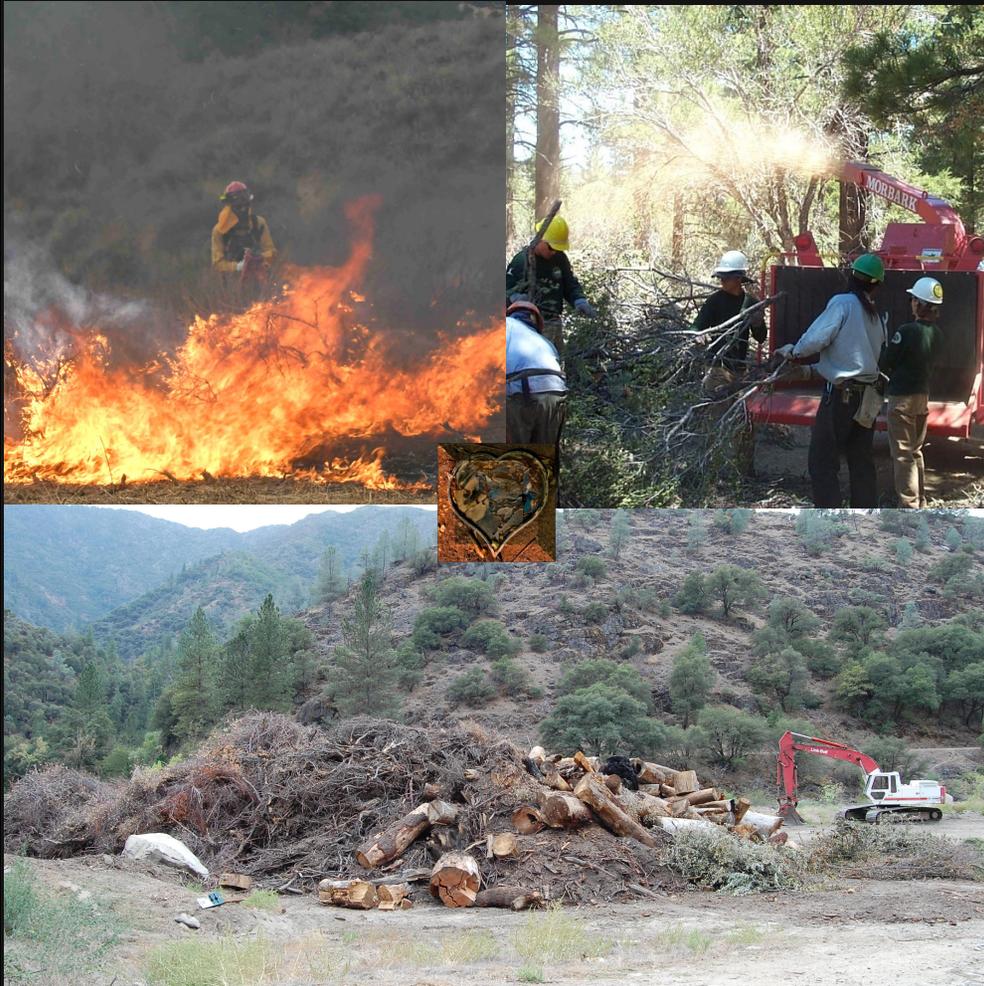
## CHALLENGES

- **Infrastructure gaps:** access, egress, water, powerlines
- **Insurance inconsistency:** lack of measure and reward to lower premiums; dropped coverage
- **Overhead power lines:** broken poles and downed power lines limiting escape
- **Ingress and Egress:** narrow driveways, dense overstory trees, unsafe for residents and responders
- **Communication:** Notices and Evacuation orders

## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Develop and implement area **specific building codes for developers** building in the WUI (home hardening materials), minimum road widths and turn arounds
- ✓ HOAs and CCRs that have **strong fire safe community standards**

## WATERSHED & WUI TREATMENTS



## CHALLENGES

- **Cost of treating the Threat / Defense Zone:** discretionary funding vs emergency funding
- **Lack of Workforce Labor sustainability and long-term commitment:** DOGE cuts, retirements = loss of institutional knowledge
- **Social and Aesthetic Resistance:** Aversion to smoke impacts and burned/treated landscapes
- **Operational Risks:** fear of fire and escapes

## OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ **Risk and Hazard Reduction:** Reduced fire behavior; fuel type changes
- ✓ **Landscape Resilience:** Rotational burning and thinning reduces fuel loading before next event
- ✓ **Federal Funding and Support:** promote 5-year funding cycles
- ✓ **Interagency Collaboration:** "It takes a village" identify and breakdown silos: local, state, fed, tribal
- ✓ **Technological Advancement:** Fire Intelligence Center
- ✓ **Legislation:** FOFA

- ✓ Current trajectory contributing INCREASING THE "FIRE DEFICIT" due to additional vegetation growth every year.
- ✓ Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) community development continues to EXPAND INTO HIGH FIRE HAZARD landscapes.
- ✓ Contemporary suppression strategies are INSUFFICIENT FOR SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES.
- ✓ Federal funding is primarily ALLOCATED TOWARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE becoming more costly and less effective
- ✓ Congress can EQUALIZE FUNDING, POLICY and INCENTIVES to support home hardening, maintaining defensible space, community planning, prevention, and active forest and brush management.
- ✓ Redirect the national wildfire strategy from a pattern of destruction and rebuilding toward ONE OF LIVING WITH FIRE.