



## WHITE PAPER

DATE: January 15, 2026

TO: FIRESCOPE Board of Directors

FROM: FIRESCOPE Operations Team, Task Force & Wildland Fire Preplan Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Wildland Fire Preplan Program Support

APPROVAL: The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors approved this document on January 15, 2026

### SUMMARY

The FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Subcommittee requests that the California Office of Emergency Services be the designated host agency to implement and sustain the FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Map Program. Key considerations include securing legislative funding to support staff; linking positions to grant funding so an agency can expand capacity and manage the program; or direct allocation of funds from the Governor to OES. Once funded, the host agency will be encouraged to contract out program components as needed to expedite development and provide ongoing support.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **HOST AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND COLLABORATION**

We recommend that California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) be identified, assigned, and funded to run the program in collaboration with FIRESCOPE. The initial responsibilities will include translating the estimated effort hours outlined in the FIRESCOPE Preplan White Paper into projected dollar amounts, based on agency staffing and operational cost structures or bids from suitable vendors.

[Approved 2021 WLPP White Paper](#)

Updated WLPP White Paper that shows estimated effort hours:

[Updated WLPP White Paper with effort hours](#)

To ensure accuracy and alignment with program objectives, the host agency should work directly with the FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Subcommittee. This collaboration will help clarify task requirements and provide insight into the intent of the program where details may not be fully covered in the White Paper.



FISCAL IMPACTS/COST ANALYSIS

The selected host agency should be aware of the following financial and operational expectations:

- **Initial Ramp-Up Costs:** There will be a need for upfront investment to stand up the program. These initial efforts should focus on creating a program structure that can be effectively transitioned and maintained by the host agency.
- **Ongoing Maintenance and Modifications:** Long-term support and evolution of the program are best managed by in-house personnel. This will ensure consistency, institutional knowledge, and operational efficiency.
- **Decreasing Long-Term Costs:** It is anticipated that the ongoing cost of program maintenance will decrease as the workflows, tools, and relationships mature, and as technology evolves.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Subcommittee proposes that, if approved, the GIS Subcommittee will oversee the program’s implementation in collaboration with the designated host agency. The summarized implementation steps below would be refined collaboratively with the host agency, which would be responsible for managing both internal personnel and contracted resources.

FINDINGS

Firefighters responding to wildland fire incidents have always had a need for information to make safe, effective and efficient decisions. There is a need for current technology solutions that can be used to create and maintain a system for producing, storing, and delivering wildland fire preplan map documents at a statewide level. The challenge is knowing where to access this information at one location with standard mapping information that is familiar by all.

CONCLUSION

The FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Subcommittee is asking Cal OES to be assigned as the host agency to implement and maintain the FIRESCOPE Wildland Preplan Map Program, emphasizing the need for stable legislative or executive funding that allows the agency to build appropriate staffing capacity. Once funded, the host agency would collaborate closely with FIRESCOPE to refine program requirements, convert estimated effort hours into cost projections, and contract out components as needed. The agency must plan for initial start-up investments, ongoing in-house maintenance to ensure consistency and long-term program integrity, and the expectation that costs will decline over time as processes, tools, and interagency coordination mature.