

SHOW PREP: Gavin Newsom's "Zone 0" Disaster: The Governor's Latest Wildfire "Solution" Is a Deadly Farce

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Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 12:00 AM PST

FYI:

Gavin Newsom's "Zone 0" Disaster: The Governor's Latest Wildfire "Solution" Is a Deadly Farce

By: William E. Simpson II
January 26, 2026

California Governor Gavin Newsom has just signed one of the most arrogant, ignorant, and outright dangerous executive orders in recent memory: the so-called "Zone 0" mandate.

Homeowners must now strip every last blade of grass, shrub, and low-hanging branch within five feet of their houses—turning backyards into barren dirt patches under threat of fines and forced compliance. Newsom sells it as wildfire protection. The reality? It's performative nonsense that will cost lives while doing almost nothing to stop real catastrophic fires.

Here's why this is lethal theater:

Wind-driven wildfires don't politely respect five-foot buffers. They hurl burning embers miles ahead of the flame front.

- The **Eagle Creek Fire** (Oregon, 2017) jumped the Columbia River—a mile-wide waterway—and kept burning.
- The **Klamathon Fire** (Northern California, 2018) crossed Interstate-5 *twice*—over 120 feet of bare concrete and asphalt shoulders—like it was nothing.
- In the **Almeda Fire** (Talent & Phoenix, Oregon, 2020), modern buildings (supermarkets, banks and homes) built to the latest fire codes, surrounded by 100–300 feet of parking lots and cleared space, were incinerated in minutes by ember storms.

"Defensible space" around individual homes is a cruel illusion in 70+ mph wind events. What actually works are **defensible landscapes**—vast areas of naturally reduced fuels that slow or stop fire spread before it reaches communities.



A family band of wild horses calmly graze wildfire fuels even as the deadly 2018 Klamathon Fire approached. Wild horses have evolved on the North American landscape over millions of years and over that period have been subjected to times of volcanic eruptions and thousands of wildfires. Unlike domestic horses, which usually panic in the face of wildfire, wild horses on the range will calmly graze, even as a wildfire is approaching, instinctively knowing what to do, and when to leave it. Photo: William E. Simpson II – July 9, 2018.



In July 2018, during the same Klamathon Fire, our pilot herd of ~200 privately-owned cultural-heritage horses proved exactly that. Living free on adjacent wilderness land at Wild Horse Ranch, these horses had been grazing the landscape for years. Their selective foraging created thousands of acres of low-fuel zones and massive natural firebreaks—precisely the areas where CALFIRE crews were finally able to contain the 38,000-acre wind-driven blaze. This wasn't theory. It was documented on the ground, in photos, field notes, and direct observation as I worked as the technical advisor to CALFIRE on the Camp Creek fire line.

Newsom's order ignores science, wastes taxpayer money, and creates a deadly false sense of security. Homeowners will spend time and money complying with "Zone 0" while the real threat—untreated wildlands loaded with brush and grass—continues to fuel monster fires. Meanwhile, a proven, cost-effective, humane alternative exists: strategically relocating and managing wild horse herds to maintain

large-scale fuel reductions in remote, fire-prone areas, and, locating various other herbivores in appropriate areas.

The **Natural Wildfire Abatement and Forest Protection Plan** isn't a concept—it's an empirically tested reality that saves human lives, protects wild horses from roundups, preserves ecosystems, and slashes the billions spent on reactive suppression and endless holding corrals.

Gavin Newsom isn't protecting Californians. He's showboating. And Californians will pay the price—again—in lives, homes, forests, and tax dollars.

See the documented evidence for yourself:

<https://www.ambest.com/video/video.aspx?s=1&rc=wildhorses323>

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WILDFIRE

Eagle Creek Fire Jumps Columbia River Gorge Overnight

   

By **Bryan M. Vance** (OPB), **Amelia Templeton** (OPB) and **Conrad Wilson** (OPB)
Portland, Oregon Sept. 4, 2017 6:09 p.m.



The Eagle Creek Fire swelled overnight Tuesday, burning more than 4,800 acres and threatening numerous structures along the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge.

UPDATED (10:55 a.m. PST): The Eagle Creek Fire jumped the Columbia River Gorge overnight, sparking a smaller fire on the Washington side of the river Tuesday morning according to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

Officials said that a spot fire known as the Archer Mountain Fire is burning about 25 acres near Archer Mountain on the Washington side. Another spot fire of nearly 100 acres is burning on the Oregon side near Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. The fire prompted officials to declare a state of emergency in east Multnomah County Tuesday morning.

It's time to stop the ego-driven mandates and start scaling solutions that actually work.

Tags:

#NewsomIsDangerous #ZoneZeroIsZeroHelp #WildHorseFireBrigade #RealWildfirePrevention
#Wildfires #WildfirePrevention

Gavin Newsom's 'Zone 0' Exec. Order shows how little this man knows (or cares) about actual wildfire mitigation and wildfire Prevention!

Defensible spaces are useless in wind-blown wildfires, that can ignite fuels and buildings from hundreds of feet away, as seen in MANY grass and brush wildfires. During the Eagle Creek Fire in Oregon (SEE IMAGE), that wildfire crossed a mile of the Columbia Gorge and the Columbia River! We need DEFENSIBLE LANDSCAPES that can be created and maintained COST-EFFECTIVELY using the 'right herbivore in the right area'.

The Natural Wildfire Abatement and Forest Protection Plan can help mitigate catastrophic wildfires!

In July 2018, the Klamathon Fire hit Hornbrook, CA. It crossed 4-lanes plus the shoulders of Interstate 5, TWICE! That's about 120-Feet of concrete!

During that fire, our herd of Cultural-Heritage horses created large-area landscapes of low fuels and large thousand-acre sized fire-breaks, which happen to be exactly where CALFIRE stopped the wind-blown 38,000-acre KLAMATHON FIRE!

Empirical data from the Alameda Fire (Phoenix & Talent Oregon) show the modern buildings with current fire-code upgrades surrounded by parking lots 100-300 feet wide, didn't keep those modern buildings within those parking lots safe, and they were INCINERATED! We need to end the bull-crap and the Go-along to Get-along mentality that perpetuates these ego and economically drive FAKE solutions!

Gavin Newsom is a DANGEROUS showboater whose ridiculous and poorly informed Executive Order will get MORE people killed, by creating a FALSE sense of security against Wild Fires!

More here: <https://www.ambest.com/video/video.aspx?s=1&rc=wildhorses323>

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William E. Simpson II is an ethologist living among and studying free-roaming native species American wild horses. William is the award-winning producer of the micro-documentary film '[Wild Horses](#)'. He is the author of a new [Study](#) about the behavioral ecology of wild horses, two published books and more than 500 published articles on subjects related to wild horses, wildlife, wildfire, and public land (forest) management. He has appeared on [NBC NEWS](#), [ABC NEWS](#), [CBS NEWS](#), theDoveTV and has been a guest on numerous talk radio shows including the [Lars Larson Show](#), the Bill Meyer Show, [NPR Jefferson Public Radio](#) and [NPR National Radio](#), [Global News](#), [The Guardian](#), and [AM BEST TV](#).

Check out William's Film Freeway account for films, studies, TV & radio interviews, and more [HERE: https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII](https://filmfreeway.com/WilliamESimpsonII)