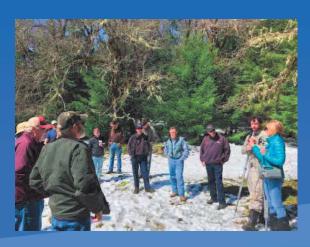
# **Introduction to Grant-Funded Fuels Reduction Project Options & Keys to Success**

**Yana Valachovic**, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor

October 2022







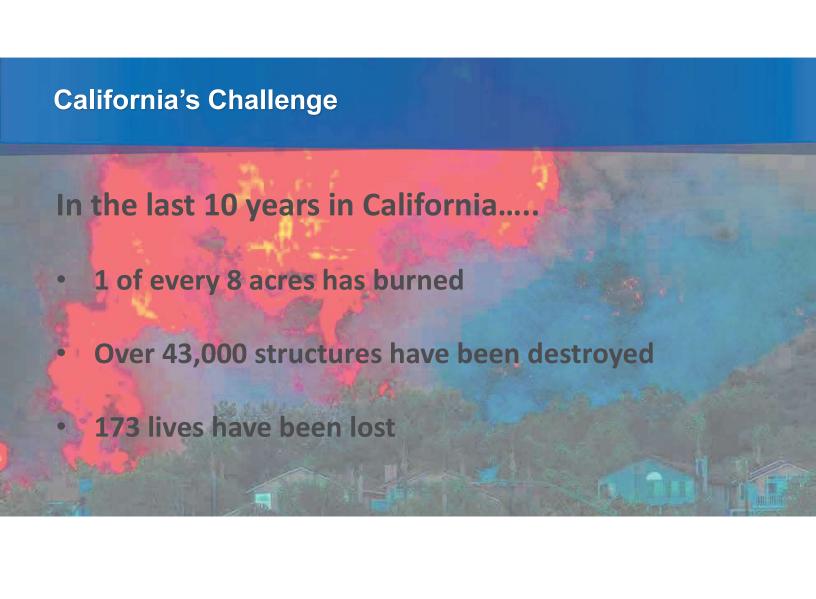
### What is the most important action you can take to help prepare of wildfire?



Image: Kelly Cornwall/U.S. Forest Service

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### **Outline**

- State strategy for accelerating the pace and scale of forest management
- Partnership strategies
- Project permitting
- Project maintenance
- What is your long-term goal?





### Wildfire Forest Resilience Task Force

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** James Gore Stacy Corless CSAC RCRC Jennifer Eberlien Richard Barhydt Jared Blumenfeld Sam Assefa Wade Crowfoot Don Hankins USFS (Co-chair) Indigenous Stewardship Network CalEPA PSW Research Station CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY PARTNERS STAFF RELATED WORKGROUPS Patrick Wright, Director (Gov Office) Kristen Merrill, Program Manager (CAL FIRE) · Joint Institute Advisory Council Board of Forestry & Fire Protection California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee Office of Emergency Services Department of Transportation AB 1492 Leadership Team Utility Wildfire Mitigation Steering Committee CA Wildfire Home Hardening Program Air Resources Board Department of Conservation PLANNING & INTEGRATION TEAM Department of Fish & Wildlife California FORESITE (AB 2551) USFS, CAL FIRE, CARB, DOC, CNRA Department of Insurance NWL Work Group Department of Parks & Recreation Labor & Workforce Development TASK FORCE WORKGROUPS & SUB-GROUPS Rivers and Mountains Conservancy San Diego River Conservancy SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Forest Management Private Land Manage Prescribed Fire John Battles, UC Berkeley (co-chair) Sierra Nevada Conservancy Steve Ostoja, USDA Climate Hub (co-chair) State Coastal Conservancy State Water Resources Board Reforestation Workforce Development California Tahoe Conservancy Wildlife Conservation Board State Lands Working Forests Fire-Adapted Communities FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS • Fire-safe Roadways Regional Frameworks 4 Regional Workgroups National Park Service Natural Resource Conservation Service U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Monitoring, Reporting & Assessment USDA Climate Hub Communications

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### **Four Goals**

- GOAL 1: INCREASE THE PACE AND SCALE OF FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS
- GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF COMMUNITIES
- GOAL 3: MANAGE FORESTS TO ACHIEVE THE STATE'S ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS
- GOAL 4: DRIVE INNOVATION AND MEASURE PROGRESS





### **Enhancement of Regional Capacity**

- State-wide mandates balanced with local priorities
- Recognize regional diversity and strategies



# **Regional Approach**

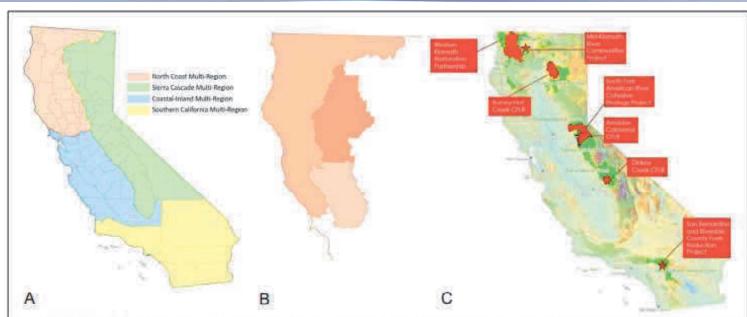


Figure 2. (A) Boundaries of the four multi-regions; (B) boundaries of the three regions delineated within the North Coast multi-region; (C) examples of existing projects, partnerships, and initiatives at the local/collaborative scale

### North Coast Resource Partnership- RFFC Program



Funded by Cap-and-Trade revenues through California Climate Investments,

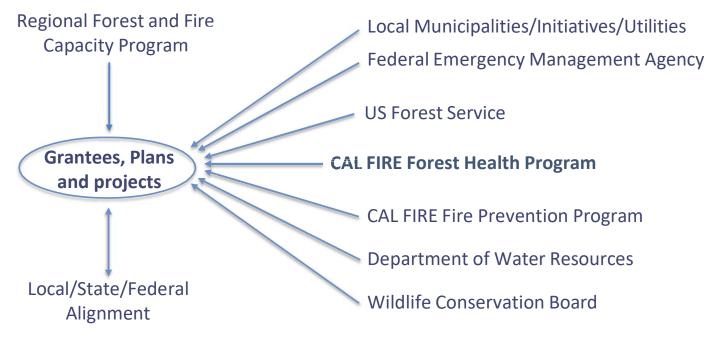
- •Promote and support collaborative planning and implementation of wildfire resiliency and forest health protection, management, and restoration efforts at the landscape or watershed level
- •Coordinate and integrate the management of wildfire resiliency and forest health protection, management, and restoration efforts at the regional scale
- •Identify, prioritize, and implement forestry and wildfire protection projects that meet regional and statewide public safety, ecosystem, and public resource goals, and that are consistent with the **Forest Carbon Plan**.



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### **RFFC Grantees Serving Multiple Agencies**





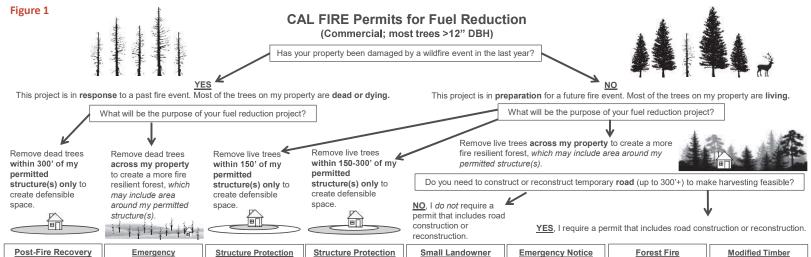
California Department of Conservation | conservation.ca.gov

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# **Alignment of Resources**

- Federal and State
- Metrics of progress
- Coordinate reforestation
- Bolster training and workforce development





#### Post-Fire Recovery Exemption [1038(g)]

Primary Benefits: Remove burned trees around a permitted

- structure.
  Reduce remaining ladder & surface fuel loads around a
- permitted structure RPF and CAL not required in some cases

Primary Limitations : Harvest area limited to

- 300 ft around a permitted structure.
- May harvest dead & dying trees only (no healthy trees).
- No heavy equipment in

#### Emergency Notice [1052]

Primary Benefits:

- Inexpensive harvest permit No acreage limit on
- harvest area. Reforestation not
- required. May harvest dead &
- dying trees of any size. Road construction allowed
- Harvest allowed in WLPZ
- In Lieu allowable

Primary Limitations:

- RPF, CAL required Must complete operations w/in 1 year.

### Structure Protection

Exemption [1038(c)]
Primary Benefits:

Remove dead & dying

- and/or healthy trees around a permitted
- structure. Create defensible space around a permitted structure (per BOF Tech. Rule Ad. 4
- standards.)
  Compatible with Structure Protection 150-300 ft Exemption.

Primary Limitations

- Must treat all slash within 45 days. No timber operations in
- WI P7

#### Structure Protection 0-150 ft 150-300 ft Exemption [1038(c)]

rimary Benefits : Remove dead & dying around a permitted

structure Compatible with Structure Protection 0-150 ft Exemption.

Primary Limitations :

- X RPF required X Single tree sel
- Single tree selection only. Must treat all slash
- within 45 days, piles burned by April 1.
- X No timber operations in WLPZ.

landscape. Primary Limitations : X Limited to small

ownerships (up to 60 or 100 acres)
Must exceed stocking

Exemption [1038(f)]

Primary Benefits :

✓ Less expensive than THP

Create fuel breaks

anywhere within a densely wooded

- standards (i.e., leave more trees than NTMP)
- May only harvest trees up to 26" to 32" stump diameter (varies by species.)
- No timber operations in WLPZ
- RPF, CAL required.

#### **Emergency Notice** for Fuel Hazard Reduction [1052.4]

mary Benefits

- Harvest living trees up to 26" to 30" stump diameter (varies by
- species.) Create fuel breaks along roads, ridges, &
- vulnerable infrastructure. May harvest dead &

dying trees of any size.

- Primary Limitations X Must reduce slash depth to 9 inches above
- the ground. RPF, CAL required

#### Forest Fire Prevention Exemption [1038.3] Primary Benefits:

- Harvest trees up to 30' stump diameter within a 300-acre area.
- Construct or reconstruct up to 300 ft to 600 ft temporary road

Primary Limitations : X Must map and treat all

- sediment sources.
- Must treat slash to 18'
- Must remove sub-
- merchantable trees
- No operations in WLPZ. RPF, CAL required.

#### Harvest Plan for Fuel **Hazard Reduction** [1051.3-7]

- Primary Benefits : ✓ Harvest entire forest stands (up to 2.500
- acres)
  Reduce ladder and
- surface fuels.
- Construct or reconstruction roads.
  Valid for 5 years (with possible 2-year extension)
  Primary Limitations

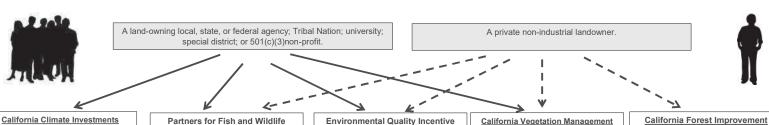
- Not for steep slopes Commercial thinning, rehabilitation, and fuel break/defensible silviculture only. RPF, CAA required.

#### Figure 3

### Non-Merchantable Fuels Reduction Projects

(Grant or Financial Assistance; most trees <12" DBH or non-commercial species)

What type of land management entity do you represent?



#### California Climate Investments (CCI) Grants

Goals by Type of Grants: ✓ Fire Prevention Projects:

- - Hazardous fuel reduction Fire prevention education
- Fire prevention planning
- Forest health improvement projects.

  Forest fuel reduction

  Prescribed burning

  - Pest management Reforestation Biomass utilization

  - Conservation easements and/or
  - land acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program

#### Considerations

- Often prefer projects with multiple landowners or stakeholders
- X Project proponent must develop permits

https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/

BOF = Board of Forestry CAA = Confidential Archaeological Addendum CAL =Confidential Archaeological Letter DBH = Diameter at breast height (4.5' from the ground) NRCS = Natural Resource Conservation Service NEPA = National Environmental Protection Act

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Oak woodland restoration
- Any non-state and non-federal landowner
- Implement wildlife habitat improvements on working landscapes (e.g., forests, farms, ranches, etc.)
- Promote private landowner stewardship Improve water resources (e.g., off-site
- watering, riparian planting, aquatic habitat restoration).
  Plant native grasses and forbs
- ✓ USFWS manages NEPA review

Smaller funding pot (<\$25,000/project)

https://www.fws.gov/partners/

RPF = Registered Professional Forester USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service WLPZ = Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone **Environmental Quality Incentive** Program (EQIP)
Resource Conservation Service

- Fuel reduction, fuel breaks
- Forest management plan Forest stand improvement. Conduct prescribed burning Enhance wildlife habitat
- Brush management
- Fencing
  Reforestation & site preparation.
  NRCS manages NEPA review

- An individual with a lease or other agreement can use these funds for permitted BLM or USFS grazing nprovements
- Not for a university or special district

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/

#### California Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

#### Goals:

- Conduct prescribed burns
  Remove surface and ladder fuels
  mechanically, chemically, by hand, or with herbivory across a densely wooded landscape
  Create fuel breaks in strategic locations

- Ecological restoration Includes streamlined, programmatic permit

#### Considerations

- Does not fund pre-commercial thinning
- projects Requires an RPF
- Easier to permit if in brush, grass, or oak woodland fuel types

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-andprograms/calvtp/

### Program (CFIP)

#### Goals:

- Develop a Forest Management Plan
   Remove surface and ladder fuels across a densely wooded landscape
- Erosion control on existing roads and streams
  Reforestation and site preparation.
- Forest stand improvement (pre-commercial thinning, pruning, herbicide application, etc.)
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Includes streamlined, programmatic permit

### Considerations:

For ownerships in 20 to 5000-acre range Requires an RPF

https://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/california-forestimprovement-program-cfip/

## Permitting considerations - 30 % of project costs?

### **More Difficult**

- < 100 feet from a</li> watercourse
- Involve helicopters
- Road construction
- Unstable slopes
- Cultural resources
- Sensitive species present
- · Within the coastal zone
- Close to park
- Remove trees > 48 inches

### **Easier to permit**

- Away from sensitive areas
- · Remove small diameter trees
- · Do not require road upgrades
- Out of the breeding season
- Involve fewer landowners
- Do not mix ownership types (private and federal)
- Are post-emergency (fire, drought, or pest outbreak)

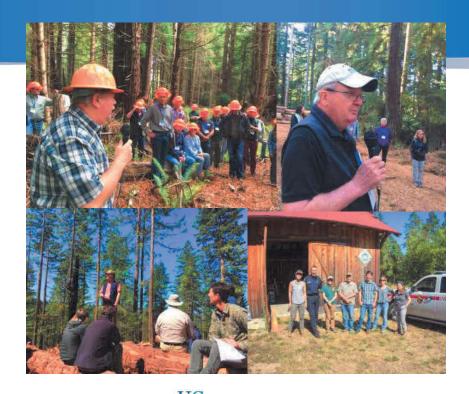






## Tips for success

- Work with a consulting forester
- Permitting feasibility is essential
- Build a budget to include permitting from the start
- Start small and scale up





## **Maintenance and future work**

- Plan for future entries
  - Who does the next entry?
  - What equipment will be used?
- Sprouting species grow back quickly



# Vision for Fire Adaptation

What are your goals?

Measures of success?

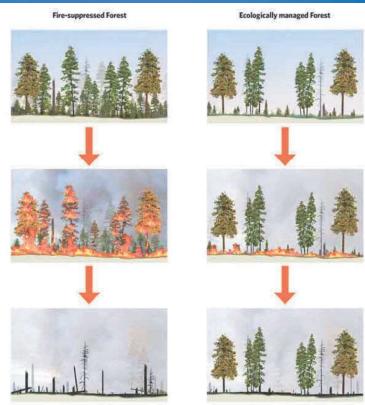
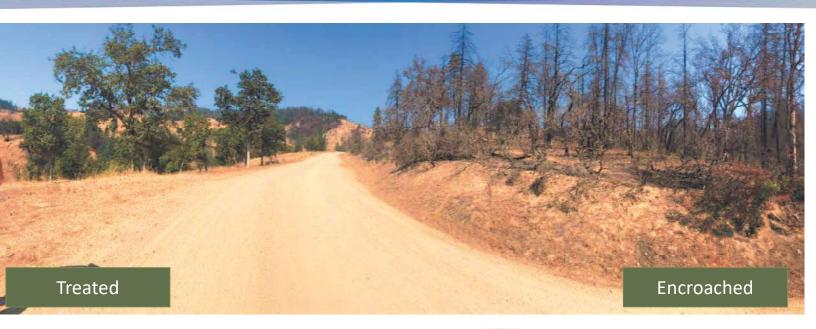


Image courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

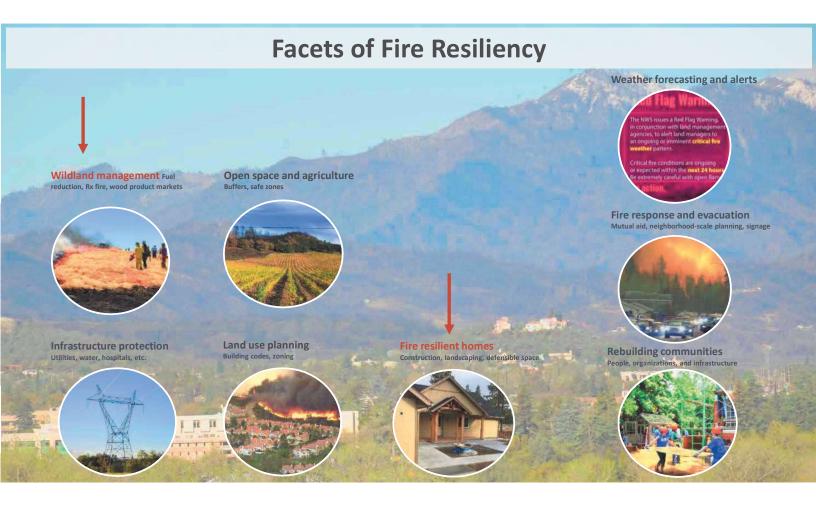
## August fire impacts on an oak restoration treatment

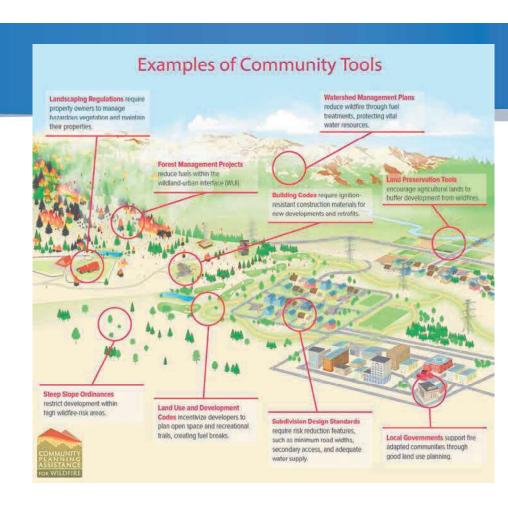


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AFTERMATH OF THE BOOTLEG FIRE Ecological Forest Restoration in Action: Aerial photography shows how different treatments moderated the impact of Oregon's 2021 Bootleg Wildfire. © Steve Rondeau, Klamath Tribe







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