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3.5. RESTORATION OF BENEFICIAL FIRE

GOAL 5: RESTORE BENEFICIAL FIRE AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE.

OBJECTIVE 5

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL FOSTER WILDFIRE RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION OF ECOSYSTEM-RESTORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING HAZARDOUS-FUEL REDUCTION, PRESCRIBED FIRE, AND MANAGED WILDFIRE WHERE APPROPRIATE.

The following Metrics and Priority Actions have been identified by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council to be accomplished over the next five years towards meeting the goal of restoring beneficial fire at the landscape scale. *Goal 2: Wildfire Preparedness* addresses resiliency at the community scale, where fuel-reduction projects around homes, neighborhoods, and communities are identified.

For more information on Humboldt County’s wildfire environment, including its fire regime and fire history, see Chapter 5.2, Wildfire Environment.

It is the intention of the collaborators of this CWPP that everything recommended in this Action Plan be implemented expeditiously over the next five years. That said, implementation is subject to the availability of funds and other resources, and the willingness and ability of community members and CWPP collaborators to take action.

A list of detailed Potential Action Steps for each of the following Priority Actions can be found in Appendix O.

3.5.1 METRIC: PRESCRIBED-FIRE EDUCATION

INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES RELATED TO THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.1-1 COORDINATE A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL EVENTS PROMOTING THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Public acceptance regarding using fire to prepare communities for wildfire is increasing. In the online survey used in this CWPP process, 59% of respondents strongly agreed, and another 30% agreed that “prescribed fire and/or controlled burning is an important tool in Humboldt County to reduce the risk of larger wildfires.”¹ More educational events, such as those put on by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and others, targeting both practitioners and the general public will advance this needed public acceptance for restoring the beneficial uses of fire in Humboldt County.</p> <p>Over the next five years, the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group will collaborate to develop a series of educational events and materials to increase public acceptance and understanding of prescribed fire as a tool for improving community fire safety, forest health, and ecological diversity.</p> <p>Outreach efforts will also target local media and decision makers to increase their understanding of the use of fire as a tool. This will help get the message out to the general public, especially in terms of public acceptance of some smoke in the air now to avoid catastrophic smoke conditions later. In this way, the media and decision makers will be informed about proactive practices that they can share later during wildfire events.</p> <p>The educational events in this action item could include workshops or field tours. An example would be offering classroom trainings on fire behavior and burn planning, followed by a live-fire training event in the field, in conjunction with the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association (HCPBA). These training opportunities would target various types of landowners and land managers.</p>

¹ For more information on the Open Humboldt Wildfire Preparedness Survey, see *Chapter 1* and *Appendix B*, or visit https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/131/Issue_5560/survey_responses.

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RESPONSIBLE PARTY	University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) with HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCPBA, Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), Firewise® Communities, watershed organizations, councils, and other community organizations, North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD), CAL FIRE, tribes, fire departments, Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association (HCFCA), California Forest Management Task Force (FMTF) Prescribed Fire Work Group.
DESIRED OUTCOME	COMPLETION OF A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.1-2 CREATE AND/OR DISSEMINATE MATERIALS PROMOTING THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.

DESCRIPTION	<p>There is a clear need for more public information regarding the beneficial uses of fire. Such information could be developed for the general public, media, decision makers, landowners, conservation organizations, urban and rural residents, and others.</p> <p>Partners need to be ready to talk about prescribed fire when burning is happening, during wildfire events, and/or when an escaped fire makes the news. Information will be developed in advance to be available to share when these events occur.</p> <p>There are many ways to disseminate this information. As described throughout this chapter, there are several private and public organizations interested in prescribed fire that could use these materials in their work. Handouts could be shared through utility or tax bills; videos could be shared on social media or local cable channels, etc. Some materials could be tailored to specific local communities, taking into consideration such differences as, for example, landowner education and receptivity regarding prescribed fire in the mid-Klamath area, where there is a solid history of local burning, versus Southern Humboldt, where little burning has taken place in decades.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	UCCE with HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	FSCs, Firewise® Communities, HCPBA, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, watershed organizations, councils, and other community organizations, NCUAQMD, CAL FIRE, local tribes, fire departments, HCFCA.
DESIRED OUTCOME	CREATION AND/OR DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS PROMOTING THE BENEFICIAL USES OF FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.1-3 CREATE A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE STEPS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING A SUCCESSFUL PRESCRIBED BURN IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

DESCRIPTION	<p>There is a growing interest in applying prescribed fire on private lands, along with valid concerns about how to actually do it. UCCE, HCFSC, HCPBA, and their partners will create a resource guide for people who want to burn. Materials could include information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agency requirements, regulations, and permits, including the importance of compliance and how to obtain burn permits prior to burning, from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) ○ CAL FIRE ○ US Forest Service, or ○ Bureau of Land Management. ○ How to develop burn plans and smoke management plans. ○ How to burn safely. ○ The benefits of using prescribed fire as a tool. ○ Where to access resources.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A list of contractors that can provide prescribed fire-related services, including burn planning, burn bossing, etc. ○ Suggestions for working with media to talk about prescribed fire, (<i>see 3.5.1-2 above</i>). ○ California liability myths vs. reality. ○ Health effects of smoke and how to minimize them for burners, neighbors, and the general public. Share information from agencies regarding smoke effects of wildfire vs. prescribed fire, and how they release different kinds of smoke and under different conditions. This could be shared with neighbors and other concerned community members. ○ Local groups and resources such as the HCPBA, Indigenous Peoples Burning Network, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council, and UCCE.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	UCCE with HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCPBA, NCUAQMD, CAL FIRE, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, watershed organizations, councils, and other community organizations, local tribes, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, HCFCA.
DESIRED OUTCOME	RESOURCE GUIDE FOR HOW TO IMPLEMENT A SUCCESSFUL PRESCRIBED BURN IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

The following lists of Potential Projects are those supported by this CWPP as having a positive benefit towards meeting this Metric, Objective, and Goal. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and its collaborators support and encourage implementation of the potential projects listed throughout this Action Plan.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Database for tracking prescribed-fire projects (*see work of FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group*).
- Documenting mini-burns (e.g. under 1 acre) and how to use those as examples and inspiration for other landowners.
- Identify areas that have not had any prescribed fire in a long time and research why.
- Stay abreast of statewide efforts to address liability and insurance issues, including with the FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group.
- Introduce concept of Fire-Dependent Communities.
- Encourage the public to use ncuaqmd.org, call 1-866 BURN DAY, or listen to local radio stations for burn-day status information.
- Research regarding if public perception of wildfire and prescribed fire has changed since the 2017 and 2018 wind-driven wildfires.

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3.5.2. METRIC: SHARED VISION FOR WILDLAND FIRE

SUPPORT AND INCREASE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO CREATE A SHARED VISION FOR MANAGING FIRE ON THE LANDSCAPE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.2-1 INVITE PRESENTERS TO FSC MEETINGS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES REGARDING SUCCESSES, FAILURES, AND CHALLENGES OF COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO MANAGE FIRE AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE.	
DESCRIPTION	The HCFSC and its partners would benefit from learning in more detail about efforts locally, regionally, and beyond to manage fire on the landscape. Recent publications show the value of learning from failures as well as successes, as in the <i>Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network's Fantastic Failures</i> ² series. Speakers would be invited to provide a short presentation and background materials on their experiences using prescribed fire and managed wildfire, to facilitate discussions about how to apply these experiences in Humboldt County.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCFSC members and staff, tribes, UCCE, CAL FIRE, Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Redwood National Park (RNP), State Parks, HCPBA, FSCs, prescribed-fire practitioners, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP), Fire Adapted Communities' Learning Network (FAC Net).
DESIRED OUTCOME	PRESENTATION SERIES AT HCFSC MEETINGS ON THE SUCCESSES, FAILURES, AND CHALLENGES OF MANAGING FIRE ON THE LANDSCAPE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.2-2 SUPPORT AND DEVELOP UNIFIED MESSAGING FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE AND MANAGED WILDFIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Clear messaging about beneficial fire is lacking from the highest levels of some public agencies, both federal and state. Communication teams can be lagging many years behind the scientific and local-community consensus regarding the need for putting more prescribed fire and managed fire on the landscape.</p> <p>This action would support and advocate for coordinated messaging that aligns with the current understanding of the beneficial role of fire in local ecosystems.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Northern California Prescribed Fire Council (NCPFC), Public Information Officers (PIOs) and other communication staff from state and federal fire agencies, UCCE, WGRP, Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources (Karuk DNR), FMTF Prescribed Fire and Technical Education, Outreach, & Workforce Development Committees, Western Regional Strategy Committee, FAC Net, and Fire Learning Network (FLN).
DESIRED OUTCOME	PROVIDE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PARTNERS EDUCATED RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS A UNIFIED MESSAGE FOR THE NEED FOR BENEFICIAL FIRE ON THE LANDSCAPE.

² Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network. Fantastic Failures. [Web log series]. Retrieved from <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/blog-type/fantastic-failure>

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PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.2-3 SUPPORT STATE AND NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS REGARDING INCREASING PRESCRIBED FIRE AND MANAGED WILDFIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>There has been noticeable recent legislative effort and interest regarding prescribed fire and how to make it easier to implement in California. In 2018, there were several bills addressing this issue, including topics such as mandated training, and better support and capacity building for prescribed fire.</p> <p>The FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group is tasked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the opportunities for prescribed fire projects through coordinating staff and equipment availability, accelerate prescribed fire projects that are permit-ready, identify weather conditions suitable for prescribed fire, and institute a real-time air-quality and smoke-monitoring program for prescribed and wildland fires. ○ Develop a publicly available online clearinghouse for permitting of prescribed fire projects on all non-federal lands, which shall include an automated system for prescribed fire project permit submission and approval. <p>Additionally, the Little Hoover Commission Report,³ Tree Mortality Task Force,⁴ and the Fire MOU⁵ (see Metric 3.5.7 below) are other statewide efforts tackling these issues.</p> <p>This action would include reaching out to state representatives and lending the HCFSC's support to any statewide or regional collaboratives or policy groups forwarding positive policy changes regarding beneficial fire.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	NCPFC, County Board of Supervisors, WKRP, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, Fire Learning Network, legislative partners, Pacific Forest Trust and other conservation organizations, FAC Net, UCCE.
DESIRED OUTCOME	HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY EFFORTS TOWARDS USING BENEFICIAL FIRE.

³ Little Hoover Commission. (2018). Report #242: Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada. Retrieved from <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/report/fire-mountain-rethinking-forest-management-sierra-nevada>

⁴ State of California. Tree Mortality Task Force. Retrieved from <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/index>

⁵ Sierra Forest Legacy. [California] Fire MOU Partnership. Retrieved from https://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/CF_ManagingFire/FireMOU.php

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3.5.3. METRIC: COLLABORATION TOWARDS LANDSCAPE-SCALE FUEL BREAKS

COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOP LANDSCAPE-SCALE FUEL BREAKS TO FACILITATE THE INCREASED USE OF FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.3-1 ORGANIZE REGIONAL MEETINGS TO BRING TOGETHER STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS, IDENTIFY, AND COORDINATE POTENTIAL LANDSCAPE-SCALE FUEL BREAKS TO FACILITATE THE INCREASED USE OF FIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Identifying a network of strategic fuel breaks around communities will facilitate landscape-scale fuel-reduction efforts. Such a network would compartmentalize the landscape into manageable units to enable more effective use of prescribed fire and/or managed wildfire, reducing the risk of spread. Clear lines for stopping fire’s spread would also facilitate public buy-in for using fire as a tool around communities. Additionally, it would be valuable for pre-fire attack plans and overall fire-protection efforts. That said, the reality of implementing and maintaining a system of identified fuel breaks requires significant effort and resources, which should not be understated.</p> <p>Natural or existing fuel breaks such as roads, rivers, and ridges, even power-line corridors, are fundamental components of landscape-scale fuel breaks. Therefore, <i>Cal Trans, County Roads, and PG&E</i> would need to be active partners, along with federal and state-agency land managers. The fuel breaks around communities as identified in <i>Metric 3.2.6, Community Fuel Reduction</i> would also be an important component.</p> <p>The <i>Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKR)</i> and <i>Trinity Collaborative</i> are both excellent nearby models for how to approach such an effort in Humboldt County. These models could be explored for setting up similar collaboratives in Southern, Eastern, and Northern Humboldt. Participants would be able to share their own projects and work together to identify potential projects, especially those that cross ownerships.</p> <p>This action could include conducting a series of workshops using the Open Standards process to reach agreement on landscape-scale treatments throughout the county (engaging local, county, state, and federal agencies, tribes, industry, FSCs, and community organizations). It could also include specifically engaging Humboldt County fire-management agencies in this process to plan at the county level where managed wildfire would be appropriate, and where fuels and prescribed-fire work is needed.</p> <p>Finally, it would involve researching where strategic fuel breaks have been previously identified and/or implemented and creating a map showing this at the county scale.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group with Local Fire Safe Councils
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, CAL FIRE, UCCE, Cal Trans, County Roads, PG&E, tribes, private land managers and timber industry, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, watershed organizations and other community groups, NCPFC, NCUAQMD, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Water Quality, FMTF.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE OR MORE REGIONAL COOPERATIVES AROUND THE COUNTY, WITH INITIAL IDENTIFICATION OF ONE TO THREE LANDSCAPE-SCALE FUEL BREAKS.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Explore the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKR) model for how to manage fire on 1.2 million acres as a collaborative model for the rest of the county. If desired, seek funding to implement Open Standards planning in other regions of Humboldt County to improve collaborative efforts to manage fire at the landscape scale across diverse ownerships. See WKR Plan (2014): <https://www.wkrp.network/publications>
- Do a review, assessment, and synthesis of the WKR model and share this with other rural communities.

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3.5.4. METRIC: PRIVATE LANDS PRESCRIBED FIRE

TREAT 5,000 STRATEGIC ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PRIVATE LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.4-1 SUPPORT HUMBOLDT COUNTY PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION, PRESCRIBED FIRE TRAINING EXCHANGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BURNING NETWORK, AND OTHER COOPERATIVE-BURNING MODELS.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>There are several training opportunities now offered for landowners and members of the general public wanting to learn more about prescribed fire and how to use it. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association (HCPBA), a group of local landowners and others interested in working together to apply prescribed fire on the ground. ○ Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) offering intensive, hands-on trainings that incorporate prescribed-fire outreach, implementation, and skill-building. ○ Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN) working to revitalize the implementation of cultural burns in native communities through the cultivation of an intertribal support system in which traditional ecological knowledge is shared and rights are protected.⁶ <p>The <i>Work Group</i> will support these existing organizations and models to get more people trained in using prescribed fire, in an effort to treat more private lands in Humboldt County.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group with UCCE
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCPBA, TREX, IPBN, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, local tribes, watershed councils and other community organizations, NCUAQMD, CAL FIRE, HCFCA, NCPFC, California Conservation Corps (CCC).
DESIRED OUTCOME	TREATMENT OF 5,000 ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PRIVATE LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.4-2 BUILD CAPACITY FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE ON PRIVATE LANDS.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>As stated in <i>Metric 3.5.1</i>, there is a growing interest in training in prescribed fire. Working with the groups identified in the <i>Priority Action 3.5.4-1</i>, UCCE, HCFSC and their partners will collaborate to ensure that regular prescribed-fire trainings are held throughout Humboldt County. The <i>Work Group</i> will support UCCE to identify the specific training needs for various sectors of the prescribed-fire community, including volunteer fire departments, landowners, conservation organizations, agencies, and others. There is a specific need and request for prescribed-fire trainings in Southern Humboldt.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	UCCE with HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCPBA, TREX, IPBN, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, tribes, watershed councils and other community organizations, NCUAQMD, CAL FIRE, HCFCA and Humboldt County Fire Instructors Association, NCPFC, timber industry.
DESIRED OUTCOME	20 TRAINING DAYS AND 150 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PRESCRIBED-FIRE TRAINING ANNUALLY.

⁶ For more information on IPBN in Humboldt County, see <http://conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/Pages/PERFACT-Report-Aug-2018.aspx>

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3.5.5. METRIC: PUBLIC LANDS PRESCRIBED FIRE

TREAT 6,000 STRATEGIC ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PUBLIC LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.5-1 FACILITATE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF PUBLIC LAND PRESCRIBED BURNING.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>The HCFSC will work with the media to build public acceptance and support of prescribed burning on public lands. This will include sharing the complexity of the steps that agencies must take and the requirements that must be met before public-land managers are allowed to burn, to help the public understand an agency’s level of preparedness and investment of time and resources. Public acceptance will help with engaging public-land managers to do more collaborative burning. Public land managers are also benefitting from TREX events that allow multi-agency participants to implement public lands burns. Points to emphasize with the media and the public include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) complexities and requirements that agencies must observe before burning. ○ Projects on tribal lands through Yurok and Klamath TREX events. ○ Success stories from public-lands prescribed burns. <p>The HCFSC will also strive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help public agencies with public engagement prior to burns. ○ Work directly with Public Information Officers to support their educational efforts.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Public Information Officers, SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, CAL FIRE, National Wildlife Refuge, NCUAQMD, IPBN, tribes, WKRP, fire departments, HCFCA, UCCE, NCPFC, CCC, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group.
DESIRED OUTCOME	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRESCRIBED-FIRE USE ON PUBLIC LANDS IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.5-2 ENGAGE AND SUPPORT PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS IN USING PRESCRIBED FIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>In addition to the need for public support for using prescribed fire on public lands, public-land managers face a myriad of challenges to burning. These include but are not limited to NEPA, liability, budgets, risk aversion, tight burn windows, and agency culture and attitude. There are several concrete ways HCFSC can support public-land managers in using prescribed fire, including getting funding for projects that have local buy-in, finding attorneys to talk to them about the real vs. perceived risk of burn bosses, and providing funds and incentives for acres treated. There is a need to inspire individuals to take this risk and get fire on the ground in Humboldt County and beyond.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, CAL FIRE, National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NCUAQMD, tribes, fire departments, UCCE, HCFCA, NCPFC, CCC, Public Information Officers, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, WKRP.
DESIRED OUTCOME	TREATMENT OF 6,000 ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PUBLIC LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

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POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Put up signage in areas where prescribed fire has been used, explaining what was done and why, such as in state or federal park lands. Encourage agencies to do this, perhaps including language such as “supported by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council” or “Here’s another example of a successful prescribed-fire project in Humboldt County. For more information on prescribed fire and fuel-hazard reduction, visit the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council webpage....”
- Encourage public lands managers to engage multiple organizations in burn implementation and planning to increase public acceptance and ownership.

3.5.6. METRIC: TRIBAL PRESCRIBED AND CULTURAL FIRE USE

TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN 25% OF STRATEGIC BURNS EVERY YEAR.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.6-1 SUPPORT TRIBAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN PRESCRIBED FIRE AND RESTORING CULTURAL BURNING PRACTICES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Prescribed fire has been used for generations by local tribes as a sophisticated land-management tool. They are now leading efforts to bring fire back to the landscape locally, nationally, and even internationally. Projects of the Karuk, Yurok, and Hoopa tribes, as well as the Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) and the Indigenous Peoples Burning Network (IPBN), are resulting in the active use of prescribed fire in their indigenous territories and as a model beyond those areas.</p> <p>Prescribed-fire activities are occurring on lands identified for treatment by means of a tribal equivalent to a CWPP, which is up to each tribe to define. For example, the Karuk are using their <i>Eco-Cultural Resources Management Plan</i>⁷ as a guide for burning in the Orleans/Somes Bar area, and in and adjacent to the Katimiin Cultural Management Area.</p> <p>Participants in the Yurok-Hoopa-Karuk landscape completed a <i>Healthy Country Plan</i> in 2017. The plan outlines their priorities for revitalizing fire culture over the next three to five years. It is an All-Lands plan (regardless of ownership) with its own objectives, acres, and activities identified.</p> <p>All burners need to be cognizant that tribes are not subject to local and state laws; being a sovereign nation means only federal law applies. This distinction needs to be clearly established to ensure that burns outside tribal lands maintain regulatory compliance. It is crucial to support collaboration and communication among all burners and tribal entities to build and strengthen local burn programs.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group with Local Tribes
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	IPBN, CFMC, WKRP, UCCE, HCPBA, TREX, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, watershed councils and other community organizations, NCUAQMD, CAL FIRE, HCFA, SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, National Wildlife Refuge, CCC.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ACTIVE TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN PRESCRIBED-FIRE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

⁷ Karuk Tribe, Department of Natural Resources. (2010). Draft Eco-Cultural Resources Management Plan. [PDF]. Retrieved from http://www.karuk.us/images/docs/dnr/ECRMP_6-15-10_doc.pdf

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3.5.7. METRIC: MANAGED WILDFIRE

INCREASE NUMBER OF JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES AND PRIVATE LANDOWNERS WHO AGREE TO USE MANAGED WILDFIRE AS A FIRE-MANAGEMENT TACTIC.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.7-1 FACILITATE CONVERSATIONS TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR UTILIZING MANAGED WILDFIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Building on the collaborative processes identified in <i>Metric 3.5.3</i>, discussions can continue regarding where and when to use managed wildfire as a tool.</p> <p>“Our results suggest that, under certain conditions, wildfires could be more extensively used to achieve ecological and management objectives in northwestern California.”⁸</p> <p>The <i>Memorandum of Understanding for the Purpose of Increasing the Use of Fire to Meet Ecological and Other Management Objectives</i> (a.k.a. the “Fire MOU”⁹) between CAL FIRE, federal land managers, conservation organizations, and others “documents the cooperation between the parties to increase the use of fire to meet ecological and other management objectives.”¹⁰ This MOU provides political support and a shared vision and commitment for identifying opportunities for beneficial fire, including utilizing managed wildfire.</p> <p>Some of the points to address in these discussions would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying options for using fire in pre-fire attack plans. ○ Hosting local workshops with neighboring public to ask where, and under what conditions, they would be comfortable letting a fire burn in order to create the social license to burn. ○ Identifying the number of potential acres allowed to burn in a given area for fire to perform its natural dynamics on the landscape. ○ Defining the line for which side to manage wildfire versus suppress it (<i>see WKR</i>P). ○ Identifying the restrictions to utilizing managed wildfire in Humboldt County. ○ Understanding the NEPA process to be able to allow fire to burn, as BLM is currently doing. This has been an approximately five-year effort. ○ Exploring managing wildfire as part of the SRNF Forest Plan update. ○ Evaluating the experience of SRNF Orleans Ranger District and the 2017 Orleans Complex Fire managing wildfire at Blue Creek. ○ Developing guidelines, restrictions, and influences regarding when and where to accept managed wildfire. ○ A wildfire management amendment to federal forest plans so agencies can publicly use this tool. ○ Ensuring the planning work (e.g. NEPA, decision-support strategy) is completed and all relevant management plans are amended over the next five years to allow for managed wildfire implementation. ○ The need for clear communication about burns and wildfire status in the initial stages of a fire, to allow cooperators to get in front of a situation, instead of responding to rumors on social media.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	CAL FIRE, SRNF, BLM, RNP, NCUAQMD, NCPFC, fire departments, FSCs and Firewise® Communities, watershed councils, conservation organizations, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), UCCE, FMTF.

⁸ Miller, J.D., Skinner, C.N., Safford, H.D., Knapp, E.E., & Ramirez, C.M. (2012). Trends and causes of severity, size, and number of fires in northwestern California, USA. *Ecological Applications* 22(1): 184-203.

⁹ Sierra Forest Legacy. (2018). [California] Fire MOU Partnership. Retrieved from https://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/CF_ManagingFire/FireMOU.php

¹⁰ Memorandum of Understanding between U.S. Forest Service and various entities. (2015). [PDF]. Retrieved from Sierra Forest Legacy website <https://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/Resources/Community/PrescribedFire/FireMOUSigned.pdf>

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DESIRED OUTCOME	COLLABORATIVELY IDENTIFIED AREAS WHERE MANAGING WILDFIRE FOR RESOURCE OBJECTIVES WILL BE CONSIDERED.
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PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.7-2 SUPPORT FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES' UNDERSTANDING OF WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES.	
DESCRIPTION	Based on the opportunities identified above and the <i>Fire MOU</i> , local fire departments in Humboldt County would review guidelines that include how to manage wildland fires under specific conditions. This will provide an opportunity to educate volunteer fire departments in using this as a pre-fire tactic in coordination with state and federal fire agencies.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group with Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA)
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, BLM, RNP.
DESIRED OUTCOME	INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AS AN OPTION IN STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES.

3.5.8. METRIC: POST-FIRE RECOVERY

CREATE A SHARED VISION FOR WILDLAND POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.8-1 FACILITATE A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE TRADEOFFS OF POST-FIRE LAND-MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>How to restore and manage landscapes following fire can be controversial. Salvage logging remains a contentious issue throughout the Pacific Northwest. Replanting burned areas with seedlings that require intensive management and the exclusion of fire continues the same destructive cycle that this action plan is addressing. This is especially true on private lands where replanting is mandated to meet stocking requirements.</p> <p>Private landowners can access state and federal funding sources to assist in post-fire recovery, such as the <i>California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)</i>, and funds available through the <i>Natural Resource Conservation Service</i>.</p> <p>This discussion is needed throughout the county to facilitate appropriate, ecologically-based post-fire restoration and recovery.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Restoration of Beneficial Fire Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, CAL FIRE, UCCE, WKRP, tribes, private land managers and timber industry, consulting foresters, fire departments, FSCs, Firewise® Communities, watershed organizations and other community groups, NCPFC, state and federal regulatory agencies including Fish and Wildlife and Water Quality.
DESIRED OUTCOME	AGREEMENT ON A SHARED VISION FOR POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLANDS.