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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.

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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey key players in prescribed fire to identify educational needs, invite tribal participation. ➤ Review existing educational opportunities and offerings. ➤ Identify top three topics for a workshop series, and a topic for the first workshop. ➤ Identify partners to help host workshops. ➤ Identify and confirm presenters and materials for distribution. ➤ Identify location and date, checking scheduling conflicts. ➤ Create a poster/notice to announce the first event. ➤ Share with HCFSC members and partners. ➤ Write and distribute a public service announcement (PSA) to local media. ➤ Share event in all relevant networks, including email lists, social media, traditional media, meeting announcements, etc. ➤ Find partners to provide food and beverages. ➤ Create evaluation form and print to share at event. ➤ Call local media and other key participants to ensure their involvement. ➤ Hold event. ➤ Document event with photos and videos. ➤ Collect and analyze evaluation forms for next event. ➤ Send thank you notes to presenters and other collaborators. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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>

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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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find and review existing literature about the beneficial uses of fire. ➤ Brainstorm a list of key points to include in local materials. ➤ Brainstorm a list of different audiences to target with materials. ➤ Decide on an audience to address and key topics to include. ➤ Find funding and other resources to implement. ➤ Draft text and find local graphics. ➤ Share with HCFSC and partners for review and input. ➤ Finalize text and graphics. ➤ Design materials and print. ➤ Share with target audience, HCFSC, and partners. ➤ Identify key points for an information kit for media, elected officials, and decision makers. ➤ Draft information kit text, find local graphics. ➤ Share with HCFSC and partners for review and input. ➤ Finalize information kit text and graphics, design. ➤ Share information kit with media, elected officials, decision makers, HCFSC, and partners. ➤ Develop generic public service announcement (PSA) for use during prescribed burns. ➤ Monitor and collect media stories. ➤ Evaluate success of outreach efforts for designing future materials, potentially for different audiences. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share materials, articles, and success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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. ○ A list of contractors that can provide prescribed fire-related services, including burn planning, burn bossing, etc.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find and review existing materials. ➤ Brainstorm a list of key points to include in local resource guide. ➤ Draft an outline for the resource guide. ➤ Identify who will write each section. ➤ Find funding and other resources to implement. ➤ Draft text, find local graphics. ➤ Share with HCFSC and partners for review and input. ➤ Finalize text and graphics. ➤ Design materials and print. ➤ Share with target audience, HCFSC, and partners. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share materials on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in Metric 3.4.1. ➤ Monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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).
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm a list of potential invitees and topics, e.g. the Weaverville prescribed fire. ➤ Discuss potential presenters and action items at next HCFSC quarterly meeting. ➤ Prioritize invitees and topics. ➤ Coordinate with HCFSC chair and staff about possible dates for presentations. ➤ Contact potential presenters with an invitation to speak. ➤ Support presentation with any needed supplies, materials, etc. ➤ Promote presentation in local networks. ➤ Have presentation at quarterly meeting. ➤ Review presentation and identify next speaker(s). ➤ Share results on social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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

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

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	Education, Outreach, & Workforce Development Committees, Western Regional Strategy Committee, FAC Net, and Fire Learning Network (FLN).
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	➤ Identify areas where communications are being generated at the state and federal level, including the FMTF Prescribed Fire and Technical Education, Outreach, & Workforce Development Work Groups and the Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) for Cohesive Strategy Implementation. Contact WRSC leadership and the FMTF Committees to discuss.
	➤ Review existing messaging in both traditional and social media regarding prescribed fire, managed fire, and the beneficial role of fire and share with Work Group and HCFSC members and partners.
	➤ Use media opportunities to share examples of local success stories regarding the beneficial uses of fire with agency partners at all levels of government.
	➤ Participate in FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group.
	➤ Share materials, messaging, and success stories with state and federal agency partners in the county.
	➤ Share results with HCFSC at quarterly meetings as materials are developed.
	➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i> .
	➤ Continually monitor results.
	➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	PROVIDE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PARTNERS EDUCATED RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS A UNIFIED MESSAGE FOR THE NEED FOR BENEFICIAL FIRE ON THE LANDSCAPE.

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 <i>Metric 3.5.7 below</i>) 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

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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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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contact the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, WKRP, FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group, Pacific Forest Trust, and others to learn about current and ongoing legislative and policy efforts to promote the beneficial use of fire, and how HCFSC might support these efforts. ➤ Make a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors, asking them to add the promotion of beneficial fire to the county legislative platform. ➤ Review the <i>Fire MOU</i> and identify actions to support it both locally and statewide. ➤ Send letters to state representatives, lending the HCFSC's support to any statewide or regional policy efforts to support beneficial fire. ➤ Participate in FMTF Prescribed Fire Work Group. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Continually monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY EFFORTS TOWARDS USING BENEFICIAL FIRE.

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</i>, <i>County Roads</i>, and <i>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 (WKRP)</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>

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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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review processes, results, and challenges of WKRP, Trinity Collaborative, and other collaborative efforts. ➤ Identify budget needs and/or potential staff support. ➤ Contact participants in other collaborative efforts for feedback on their work and suggestions to incorporate in Humboldt County. ➤ Define the regions in the county. ➤ Identify potential collaborators in each region. ➤ Schedule initial meeting for each region and invite participants. ➤ Share meeting announcement with HCFSC, networks, social media, and local media. ➤ Hold first meeting in each region. ➤ Explore agency agreements for participation. ➤ Identify coordinator for each collaborative process. ➤ Identify resources needed to support each collaborative. ➤ Investigate funding options for landscape-level treatments. ➤ Participate in the collaborative. ➤ Initiate discussions to identify one to three landscape-scale fuel breaks in each region. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Continually monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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 (WKRP) 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 WKRP Plan (2014): <https://www.wkrp.network/publications>
- Do a review, assessment, and synthesis of the WKRP 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).
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify HCFSC role. ➤ Research and learn about other cooperative burning models, including PBA, TREX, IPBN. ➤ Contact HCPBA, TREX, IPBN, and others to see what types of support they need, in order to apply fire to the ground in Humboldt County. ➤ Provide support as needed and able. ➤ Work with above groups and CAL FIRE, NCUAQMD, and others to document how many acres of private land are treated locally with prescribed fire every year. ➤ Regularly share results of treated acres with HCFSC at quarterly meetings. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	TREATMENT OF 5,000 ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PRIVATE LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

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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PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.4-2 BUILD CAPACITY FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE ON PRIVATE LANDS.	
DESCRIPTION	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 Priority Action 3.5.4-1, UCCE, HCFSC and their partners will collaborate to ensure that regular prescribed-fire trainings are held throughout Humboldt County. The Work Group 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.
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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm about the specific training needs of various sectors. ➤ Contact others providing trainings (e.g. TREX, HCPBA, IBPN) to find out what trainings they are offering and how to participate in and/or support those trainings. ➤ Create an annual award for a dedicated trainee and use it as a local media opportunity to educate the public about the beneficial uses of fire. ➤ Explore establishing scholarship funds for TREX and other trainings. ➤ Outreach to wildland firefighters to participate in local trainings, emphasizing understanding around the basic differences between wildland firefighting and prescribed burning. ➤ Participate in CAL FIRE pre-season meetings to share local goals and objectives for prescribed fire every year. ➤ Help organize a training or series for Southern Humboldt. ➤ Help spread the word about upcoming trainings to networks, media, social media, websites, etc. ➤ Contact local media to do feature stories about these trainings, using the events as an opportunity to educate the public about the benefits of prescribed fire. ➤ Support the formation of an interagency prescribed-fire burn team to implement prescribed burns across ownerships in Humboldt County. ➤ Regularly share results of trainings with HCFSC at quarterly meetings. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	20 TRAINING DAYS AND 150 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PRESCRIBED-FIRE TRAINING ANNUALLY.

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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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm issues and talking points. ➤ Contact agency staff working to implement prescribed fire on public lands in Humboldt County and ask how to support their efforts. ➤ Follow up on requests from agency partners. ➤ Hold a press conference and share the media information kit from <i>Metric 3.5.1</i>. Tie this to a newsworthy event such as a high-profile prescribed fire on public lands or a nearby wildfire. ➤ Use media kit to develop talking points to share on social media. ➤ Increase opportunities for local fire departments to partner with public-lands fire managers to increase local support for these efforts and maximize cross-training opportunities. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Continually monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRESCRIBED-FIRE USE ON PUBLIC LANDS IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

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PRIORITY ACTION 3.5.5-2 ENGAGE AND SUPPORT PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS IN USING PRESCRIBED FIRE.	
DESCRIPTION	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.
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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet with local public-land managers to identify their concerns about using prescribed fire and potential options for addressing those concerns. ➤ Build on outreach and public education of the previous action item to identify opportunities to bring land managers in front of supportive audiences. ➤ Share positive examples of public-lands prescribed fire with local agency partners. ➤ Organize public outreach events that highlight existing public-lands projects and give agency land managers more confidence and support for the good work they're doing. ➤ Continue to support and engage the efforts of the NCPFC, which fosters a supportive community of prescribed-fire practitioners and works on policy and training efforts that further expand prescribed-fire opportunities. ➤ Check in with public-lands management agencies regularly to find out what projects they are planning and how the HCFSC can further support and elevate their success. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues. ➤ Monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	TREATMENT OF 6,000 ACRES EVERY YEAR ON PUBLIC LANDS BY PRESCRIBED FIRE.

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.

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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, HCFCA, SRNF, BLM, RNP, State Parks, National Wildlife Refuge, CCC.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet with local tribal prescribed-fire practitioners to identify ways to incorporate their objectives into prescribed-fire activities throughout the county. ➤ Explore developing guidance documents to share with burners around the county regarding how to work with tribes and meet tribal objectives when burning. ➤ Meet with IPBN and CFMC to invite their participation in the HCFSC and identify ways the HCFSC can support their work. ➤ Disseminate the <i>Healthy Country Plan</i> to communities and organizations interested in prescribed burning to increase their understanding of cultural burning and its objectives and applications. ➤ Invite local tribes to participate in HCPBA burns. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Continually monitor results. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
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 style="padding-left: 40px;">“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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POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	➤ Continue with the collaborative process identified in <i>Metric 3.5.3</i> to identify a landscape network of fuel breaks to facilitate the use of managed wildfire.
	➤ Look for examples locally (e.g. Blue Creek in 2017) or regionally where fire was successfully used as a management tool.
	➤ Review the <i>Fire MOU</i> for supporting language and share with HCFSC members and partners.
	➤ Begin discussions regarding potential areas to treat using managed fire for resource objectives.
	➤ Initiate conversations with educate elected officials and other local leaders and decision makers to garner their support.
	➤ Share proposals with neighbors and other interested public.
	➤ Support agencies in designating areas for managing wildfire.
	➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting.
	➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i> .
	➤ Continually monitor results.
➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.	
DESIRED OUTCOME	COLLABORATIVELY IDENTIFIED AREAS WHERE MANAGING WILDFIRE FOR RESOURCE OBJECTIVES WILL BE CONSIDERED.

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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	➤ Identify HCFSC role, including helping to initiate the action.
	➤ Review CAL FIRE Standard Operating Guidelines and share with local agencies.
	➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting.
	➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i> .
	➤ Continually monitor results.
➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.	
DESIRED OUTCOME	INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AS AN OPTION IN STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES.

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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.
POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brainstorm a list of discussion points and potential collaborators. ➤ Schedule a time to discuss this at an HCFSC quarterly meeting. ➤ Invite collaborators to participate in HCFSC discussion. ➤ Have discussion(s) at HCFSC quarterly meeting(s). ➤ Use HCFSC discussions to identify next steps, including sharing this subject at the collaborative meetings described in <i>Metric 3.5.3</i> above. ➤ Organize field tours to areas where various post-fire treatments have been utilized, for example, the repeated prescribed burns after the 2013 Orleans Fire. ➤ Share results with HCFSC at next quarterly meeting. ➤ Share success stories on HCFSC website, social media, local media outlets, and other avenues, including those identified in <i>Metric 3.4.1</i>. ➤ Write up a summary for next CWPP Update.
DESIRED OUTCOME	AGREEMENT ON A SHARED VISION FOR POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLANDS.