

May 2
2019

FIRE MOU

Bay Area Prescribed Fire Council Spring Meeting



To advance the use of fire for ecological benefit and improved fire management

5-year effort to increase fire use in California for ecological and other benefits

Started in 2015

MEMBERSHIP –GROWING!

Inclusive, broad membership

Includes Federal, State agencies, NGOs,
Universities, Utilities
Covers spectrum of management
objectives

- Air quality
- Natural resource management
- Watershed services
- Utility reliability
- Education

Current Fire MOU Partnership Members 2018

Original Signatories:

USDA Forest Service, Region 5
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Sierra Nevada Conservancy, State of California
USDI Park Service, Pacific Region
Sierra Forest Legacy
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Sierra Club
Center for Biological Diversity
Northern California Prescribed Fire Council
Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council

Additional Signatories:

Pacific Forest Trust
Audubon Canyon Ranch
Pepperwood Preserve
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, California
California State Parks and Recreation
Center for Fire Research and Outreach UCB
Center for Forestry UCB
Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
Terra Fuego Resource Foundation
California Forestry Association
Southern California Forestry Council
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks
El Dorado Air Quality Management District
Butte County Air Quality Management District
American Rivers
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
California Indian Water Commission
Yuba Watershed Institute



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Sierra Forest Legacy
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
State of California Sierra Nevada Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
USDI, National Park Service Pacific Region
The Wilderness Society
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Pacific Forest Trust
Audubon Canyon Ranch
Pepperwood Preserve
Center for Fire Research and Outreach, UC Berkeley
Center for Forestry, UC Berkeley

USDI, Bureau of Land Management
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California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks
El Dorado Air Quality Management District
Butte County Air Quality Management District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
American Rivers
Placer County Air Pollution Control District
California Indian Water Commission
Yuba Watershed Institute
Defenders of Wildlife
Sagehen Creek Field Station, UC Berkeley

California Native Plant Society
California Tahoe Conservancy
The Fire Restoration Group
Save the Redwoods League

4 Work Groups

Sharing the work load

Steering Committee

Equal # of government and NGO members

- Identify Approaches and activities
- Establish meeting schedule
- Create action plan

Outreach Work Group

NGO + Fed membership + Media Team

- Conduct targeted outreach to regulatory agencies, health entities, NGOs
- Broaden public support through joint action
- Outreach to impacted communities
- Establish dialogue with concerned entities (e.g., health folks)
- Increase partners
- Develop agreed-upon definitions, terms, messages

4 Work Groups

Sharing the work load

Policy Work Group

NGO, State, Federal Membership

- ID policy conflict with MOU purpose
- ID proposed policies that would conflict w/ other existing policies, regulations, etc.
- Evaluate and make recommendations regarding possible joint/individual responses
- Identify positive policy/frameworks
- Hone understanding of key barriers/bottlenecks
- ID and implement actions to align policies with MOU
- ('policy' includes funding-related policies)

Capacity Work Group

NGO State, Federal Membership

- ID resources needed to and how to secure them
- Inventory and identify opportunities for novel and/or expanded training and resource sharing
- Identify what to model that is replicable, How work across agencies, leverage respective resources and authorities, resource-sharing mechanisms and Partnership tools
- ID agency constraints on use of fire (variability within agency and perception of risk/liability, access to information)
- ID promising opportunities for increased fire use

Action Plan 2018

Ambitious goals and activities

Continuing efforts in 2019

Improve Liability Protection	Expand legal framework and insurance options, seek legis relief for burn boss training, certify and liability coverage, support CAL FIRE expanded burn boss training
Air Quality	Examine fee structure, establish natural background for smoke
Increase Support for Tribal Burning	Advocate for goals beyond fuels, certification of Tribal fire crews, TEK prescriptions in burn program
Health Alert Notification	Establish tool for notifying down-wind communities
Capacity Building for Cooperative Burning	Implement CalTREX, Use cooperative burns as training opportunities

Burn Day Availability

Develop annual burn day availability records for each air basin – 1998-2016

Burn Day Utilization

Factors Outside Our Control

Examine how weather and fuel moistures impact burn day utilization

Factors Potentially with Our Ability to Change

Training scheduled, annual leave policy, staffing levels for complex burns, logistical support for larger scale burns, define targets based on fire regime + veg type, project coordination between jurisdictions, track # of burns w/ existing NEPA/CEQA and account current backlog of incomplete burns

Action Plan 2018

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Continuing efforts in 2019

PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCILS AS MEMBERS

Should the Bay Area Prescribed
Fire Council join?

Current membership includes:

- Northern California Prescribed Fire Council
- Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council
- Central Coast Prescribed Fire Council

