## Regional Priority Ranking

Thank you for your time in ranking these regional priorities as assembled by Contra Costa RCD and Alameda County RCD staff and expressed by Stakeholders in Contra Costa and Alameda County since June 2021. This short ranking survey should take ~5 minutes and will help identify regional priorities as they relate to wildfire prevention and mitigation in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

For more information on this project, please visit our project website at <a href="https://alameda-and-contra-costa-county-regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.hub.arcgis.com/">https://alameda-and-contra-costa-county-regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.hub.arcgis.com/</a> or email us at <a href="mailto:regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.org">regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.org</a>. or <a href="mailto:regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.org">regional-priority-plan-ccrcd.org</a>.

All regional priority topics will be included within the final planning document in the order ranked by stakeholders in Alameda and Contra Costa county. These priorities will be used to communicate to state agencies what the highest priorities and needs are in Contra Costa and Alameda County with regard to protection of natural resources from wildfire. For more information, please visit the project website listed above for a recording of the meeting where these regional priorities were covered in depth.

Please note that some regional priority expressed examples could fit within other regional priorities (i.e. education of post-fire do's and don'ts could fit under "Post-fire recovery planning and preparation" and "Fire education and outreach"). In these cases, the project team chose the regional priority that it fit under best. We recognize that it could fit elsewhere, but aimed to reduce confusion and duplicative projects.

For explanations of each Regional Priority, please see the recording of our April 6th meeting here.

https://youtu.be/1uMaGTH-Kxo?t=523

Larry Nagel

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Broadening prescribed burning capacity

This regional priority refers to an expressed need to increase prescribed burning capacity amongst agencies, government, and private citizens with many stakeholders expressing the desire to see more prescribed burning as a management tool, but lacking knowledge, staff, or training how to implement it. Other stakeholders expressed a need to work with the regulatory community to determine a path forward for safe and effective prescribed burning.

For further explanation, this section was discussed at this time stamp at our April 6th meeting. Broadening Prescribed Burning Capacity:10:32 (<a href="https://youtu.be/1uMaGTH-Kxo?t=632">https://youtu.be/1uMaGTH-Kxo?t=632</a>)

	Develop a Prescribed Burn Association for private and public landowners	Facilitating prescribed burning trainings (Fire Training Exchange, Burn Boss education, cultural burns, etc.)	Work with regulators to reduce regulatory burden
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# Regional Priority Ranking

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Fire education and outreach

This regional priority refers to an expressed need of stakeholders to educate the public and themselves on available resources to achieve fuel and fire reduction. Stakeholders also expressed a need to establish or become educated on a variety of best management practices relating to a number of different elements regarding wildland fire prevention and reduction.

For further explanation, this section was discussed at this time stamp at our April 6th meeting. Fire Education & Outreach: 11:34 (https://youtu.be/1uMaGTH-Kxo?t=694)

	Develop and educate on best management practices (fuel management, invasive species management, biodiversity/species protection)	"Office Hours" for private landowners on permitting, governmental assistance programs, other resources	Establish technical assistance capacity to meet with landowners for pre-fire work	Promote MatchGraze.com and other resources to landowners	Establish resource advisors within ICS	Est Aç equi rar aç
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Page 5 of 9



**Back** 

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# Regional Priority Ranking

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Fuel reduction project support

This regional priority refers to the need for support to achieve fuel reduction related including increasing the number and size of projects across the region, developing markets and facilities to handle treatment waste (biomass), etc.

For further explanation, this section was discussed at this time stamp at our April 6th meeting. Fuel Reduction Project Support: 12:35 (https://youtu.be/1uMaGTH-Kxo?t=755)

	Increased number and size of shaded fuel breaks	Wood product facilities and market for removed/burned vegetation	Infrastructure support for grazing management	Invasive plant removal from creeks and other sensitive areas	Develop water supplies along containment lines via rainfall recover	Maintai greenbelts/agı buffers around wildfire bu
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Page 6 of 9

**Back** 

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## Wildfire Regional Priority Plan - Priority Ranking Now Open!

**Bill Hansell** <br/> <br/> bhansell@kensingtonfire.org> Draft

Sat, May 7, 2022 at 11:34 AM

From: **Ben Weise** <<u>bweise@ccrcd.org</u>> Date: Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 8:59 AM

Subject: Wildfire Regional Priority Plan - Priority Ranking Now Open!

To: Wildfire RPP <regionalpriorityplan@ccrcd.org>, Regional Priority Plan <regionalpriorityplan@acrcd.org> Cc: Courtney Coon <courtney.coon@acrcd.org>, Jennifer Trevis <jennifer.trevis@acrcd.org>, Ben Weise

<bweise@ccrcd.org>

Good afternoon Regional Priority Plan Stakeholders,

Thank you for your time and comments reviewing our Draft Regional Priority list. We've attached the Final Regional Priority List for your reference.

Please use this Google Form to rank our regional priorities. It should take 5-10 minutes. The form will be open from **April 27th through May 18th**. Please only take this survey once per individual, but please feel free to share within your networks and with your colleagues. With increased participation, this regional priority ranking becomes a better representation of the wildfire needs of the region.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email us at either <a href="regionalpriorityplan@ccrcd.org">regionalpriorityplan@ccrcd.org</a> or <a href="regionalpriorityplan@acrcd.org">regionalpriorityplan@acrcd.org</a>.

Thank you for your time and participation in this important wildfire mitigation endeavor!

#### Regional Priority Plan Development Team



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# **Final Regional Priority List**

Alameda/Contra Costa County Regional Priority Plan

April 26, 2022

# Regional Priority List and Examples \*List is not in order of priority\*

## • Equipment and personnel capacity building

- Identify needs and invest in infrastructure and mechanical capacity for field work (e.g., equipment for pre-fire work)
- Sharing and training of best practices, crews/volunteers, and equipment for fuel reduction and treatment before, during, and after wildfire conditions
- Development of long-term partnerships, interagency and organization coordination, with regular meetings and shared regional grant writing capacity for promotion of existing resources
- Permitting assistance: CEQA compliance, permit and regulation streamlining, and/or obtaining a programmatic permit for vegetation management, e.g., Santa Cruz County Forest Health and Fire Resilience Public Works Plan (RCDSCC's PWP).
- o Utilize California Conservation Corps for wildfire reduction fieldwork
- o Identify and develop on-call service list for biological consulting, CEQA Compliance, etc.
- Build local human capital [paid and volunteer], e.g.,
  - Help fuel crews to consider natural resource benefits when prioritizing projects
  - Develop multi-site projects that broadly reduce wildfire risk and protect natural resources that could be accomplished by volunteer groups (i.e. Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts, Venture Scouts, etc.)
  - Training and/or contracting with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for preand post-fire field work
- Develop personnel or contract with grazing management firms to write and implement grazing management plans with ranchers and public agencies for uniform fuel standards across rangelands

#### Fundraising capacity building

- Increase capacity for agencies, special districts, and nonprofits to seek and apply for grants for both training, wildfire related projects, and capacity building
- Continue advocacy for wildfire related grant funding from local, state, and federal sources

## Broadening prescribed burning capacity

- Explore development of Prescribed Burn Association
- Prescribed burn training
  - Development of a local Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) program to train and educate individuals interested in prescribed burning on public and private lands
  - Training or finding locally available burn bosses
  - Increasing tribal capacity to participate in planning efforts, burns, etc.
- Reducing regulatory burden on using prescribed fire at state and local levels

#### Fire education and outreach

Develop and educate on best management practices for:

- Local fuel management (forest and grasslands)
- invasive weed fuel management including techniques, treatment, and disposal
- PPE for biodiversity/species protection
- Vegetative waste
- Fire wise landscaping for enhanced habitat
- Sponsor a series of webinars for private landowners on:
  - Government assistance programs e.g., EQIP
  - Permitting
  - Available resources
  - Fire safety laws and compliance
  - Evacuation of people and livestock
- Establish / invest in a consulting program to meet with landowners for wildfire reduction and natural resource management on their properties
- Develop Demonstration Project: water tank/guzzler installation
- o Promote MatchGraze.com in Alameda and Contra Costa
- Establish a resource advisor within Fire Incident Command System and develop appropriate training
- o Establish Emergency Ag Pass for ranchers, agency staff

### • Fuel reduction project support

- Increase number and size of shaded fuel breaks and open spaces managed to reduce wildfire spread throughout Contra Costa and Alameda Counties
- o Identify wood product facilities and market for removed or burned vegetation
- o Infrastructure support for grazing management
- Invasive plant removal in creeks
- Develop water supplies along containment lines via rainfall recovery (co-benefit: water available to wildlife and livestock)
- o Maintain greenbelts / agricultural buffers around WUI areas as wildfire buffers

#### • Long-term planning and management

- Work with Bay Area Air Quality Management District to develop reasonable air quality standards for prescribed burning
- Work with local agencies regarding watershed related concerns
- Facilitate cultural burns in appropriate areas

#### Resource Sharing

- Develop list of resources (between fire districts, organizations, and private landowners)
   that could be shared through formal Mutual Aid Agreements
- Share and train with other agencies regarding the assessment and mapping of vegetation across Alameda and Contra Costa for regional planning that has been accomplished
- o Map locations of all projects completed, planned and needed across the region
- Facilitate neighbor-to-neighbor sharing of resources to promote greater fuel reduction and "dissolve boundary approaches"

#### Post-fire damage assessment, restoration, recovery planning and preparation needs

- Prepare for wildfire recovery by increasing local supply of native plants and trees: establish native nurseries and seed banks.
- Educate landowners on appropriate post-fire restoration strategies and provide direction on where to find reliable resources and information

- Expand capacity to perform post-fire landscape damage assessment, management and treatment
  - Reduce fuel loading as feasible over time
  - Increase locally available consulting staff if needed
- o Identify strategies for habitat and cover re-establishment, identify forage needs of wildlife and develop planting plan, post-fire soil stability for riparian protection and erosion control, source water protection, human and health hazard abatement, etc.