



**NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK &  
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

Brad Wagenknecht  
*Director, Ward One*

Ryan Gregory  
*Director, Ward Two*

Patricia Clarey  
*Director, Ward Three*

Nancy Lewis-Heliotis  
*Director, Ward Four*

Barry Christian  
*Director, Ward Five*

## AGENDA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

This is an in-person meeting.

You may also attend and provide comments via Zoom Conference Call.

**Please Note:** Remote participation for members of the public, whether by telephone, Zoom, or any other technology, is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom or other connection is disconnected or malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct or to continue a meeting without remote access.

### Instructions for Joining Zoom Meeting

**Join Zoom meeting online:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87630699287?pwd=oyrsMrVg6YI3jQlaSj2jDxsdWV29Xb.1>

**Or by phone:**

+1 408 638 0968

+1 669 900 6833

**Meeting ID: 876 3069 9287**

**Passcode: 265026**

Find your local number:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/87630699287/invitations?signature=2ePrNEbLsTmxTM1zEuCID2d9iFJ\\_2DxwJ2skTGEoEBs](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/87630699287/invitations?signature=2ePrNEbLsTmxTM1zEuCID2d9iFJ_2DxwJ2skTGEoEBs)

## General Information

Agenda items will generally be considered in the order indicated below, except for Set Matters, which will be considered at the time indicated. Agenda items may from time to time be taken out of order at the discretion of the President.

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services may be made to the Secretary's office no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting date by contacting [info@ncrposd.org](mailto:info@ncrposd.org).

Prior to action on any item, the Board President will ask for comments from any member of the audience. After receiving recognition from the President, give your name, address, and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President.

State law requires agency officers (Directors and Officers) to disclose, and then be disqualified from participation in, any proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, if the officer has received from any participant in the proceeding an amount exceeding \$250 within the prior 12 month period. State law also requires any participant in a proceeding to disclose on the record any such contributions to an agency officer.

All materials relating to an agenda item for an open session of a regular meeting of the Board of Directors which are provided to a majority or all of the members of the Board by Board members, staff or the public within 72 hours of but prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection, on and after at the time of such distribution, in the NCRPOSD Office at 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, California 94559, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for County holidays. Materials distributed to a majority or all of the members of the Board at the meeting will be available for public inspection at the public meeting if prepared by the members of the Board or County staff and after the public meeting if prepared by some other person. Availability of materials related to agenda items for public inspection does not include materials which are exempt from public disclosure under Government Code §§6253.5, 6254, 6254.3, 6254.7, 6254.15, 6254.16, or 6254.22.

*The Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District encourages a respectful dialogue that supports freedom of speech and values diversity of opinion. The Board, staff, and members of the public are expected to be civil and courteous, and to refrain from questioning the character or motives of others participating in the meeting. The District requests that speakers not use threatening, profane, or abusive language which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of a Board meeting. Members of the public may comment on any item on the agenda during Board consideration of the item. The Board President will invite public comment following the staff presentation and prior to final Board deliberations. Each speaker will be allotted time for comment as set by the Board President (generally 3 minutes).*

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. Public Comment

*In this time period, anyone may address the Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the President. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.*

### 3. Set Matters

None.

#### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of January 12, 2026.
- b. Presentation by John Wentworth of the of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation on California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience and Board direction to staff on same.
- c. Consideration and potential adoption of an updated Forest Management Plan for the Moore Creek Unit of Moore Creek Park, including the Phinney Addition.
- d. Presentation by District Counsel on the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act and distribution of required paperwork.
- e. Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for January 2026.
- f. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.
- g. Review of the District Projects Status Report.

#### 5. Announcements by Board and Staff

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will announce meetings, events, and other matters of interest. No action will be taken by the Board on any announcements.*

#### 6. Agenda Planning

*In this time period, members of the Board of Directors and staff will discuss matters for possible consideration at future meetings. Other than to determine whether and when such matters should be agendaized, no action will be taken by the Board on these items unless specifically noted otherwise.*

#### 7. Adjournment



Brad Wagenknecht  
Director, Ward One

Ryan Gregory  
Director, Ward Two

Patricia Clarey  
Director, Ward Three

Nancy Lewis-Heliotes  
Director, Ward Four

Barry Christian  
Director, Ward Five

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Monday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.

Napa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, 3rd floor, Napa, Calif.

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

*Directors present in chambers voted to appoint Director Heliotes as Board President pro tem until Director Wagenknecht's arrival.*

**Directors Present: Ryan Gregory, Nancy Heliotes, Barry Christian, Brad Wagenknecht (Arrived during Item 4-b)**

**Directors Excused: Patricia Clarey**

**Staff Present: Chris Cahill, Andrew Brooks, Jason Jordan, Sabrina Wolfson, Ryan Ayers**

### 2. Public Comment

**None.**

### 3. Set Matters

**None.**

### 4. Administrative Items

- a. Consideration and potential approval of minutes for Board of Directors regular meeting of December 8, 2025.

**Minutes for the December 8, 2025 regular meeting were approved as presented.**

**BC - RG - NH - BW - PC**

**Ab X**

- b. Presentation by the Napa County Resource Conservation District on the proposed countywide Weed Management Area and their collaborative forest health and restoration work on Open Space District properties and elsewhere (Ashley Kvitek and Ali Blodorn).

**Informational presentation by the Napa County Resource Conservation District; No action taken.**

- c. Consideration and potential approval of Agreement 26-01, the Napa Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding, and rescinding Agreement 22-03.

**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors authorized the General Manger to sign Agreement 26-01, the Napa Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding.**

**RG - NH - BC - BW - PC**  
**X**

d. Viewing of the CALREC informational video on the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's *Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience*.

**Informational presentation only; No action taken.**

e. Consideration and potential approval of revisions to the Purchasing Manual to increase General Manager purchasing authority to \$55,204.03 consistent with PRC Sec. 5549(b).

**Report presented by Chris Cahill. Directors approved revisions to the Purchasing Manual to increase General Manager purchasing authority to \$55,204.03 consistent with PRC Sec. 5549(b).**

**NH - BC - BW - RG - PC**  
**X**

f. Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for December 2025.

**Report presented by Chris Cahill; No action taken.**

g. Receipt of monthly report for Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.

**Report presented by Jason Jordan; No action taken.**

h. Review of the District Projects Status Report.

**Report presented by Andrew Brooks; No action taken.**

5. Announcements by Board and Staff

**None.**

6. Agenda Planning

- **Chris Cahill noted that representatives from the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force will present at an upcoming meeting.**
- **Chris Cahill noted that the updated Moore Creek Park Forest Management Plan will be presented at an upcoming meeting.**
- **Chris Cahill noted that Sabrina Wolfson will lead a Brown Act presentation during the February meeting.**

7. Adjournment

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Clarey, Board President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Ayers, District Secretary

Vote: BW = Brad Wagenknecht; RG = Ryan Gregory; PC = Patricia Clarey; NH = Nancy Heliotas; BC = Barry Christian  
The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations under vote: N = No; A = Abstain; X = Excused; Ab=Absent



## **STAFF REPORT**

**By:** Chris Cahill  
**Date:** February 9, 2026  
**Item:** **4.b**  
**Subject:** Presentation by John Wentworth of the of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation on *California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience* and Board direction to staff on same

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive presentation from the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation on *California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience*.
2. Direct staff to bring a resolution adopting the *Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience* at a future meeting.

### BACKGROUND

The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force) was created by the office of Governor Gavin Newsom to address the climatic and human-caused conditions that have brought the threat of devastating wildfire and its far-reaching effects to the doorstep of nearly everyone in our state. The Task Force is a collaborative effort to align the work of federal, state, local, public, private, and tribal organizations and to bring the best available science to landscape management and community protection efforts, along with tools and resources for tracking progress and documenting effectiveness.

The Task Force's *Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience* is a centerpiece plan, published in 2023, for transforming recreation infrastructure and programming into community defense against climate-driven wildfire. Staff of the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation have taken on the task of advocating for adoption of the *Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience* by local governments statewide.

Having heard and discussed the presentation, the Board may wish to consider directing staff to bring a resolution adopting the *Joint Strategy* at an upcoming meeting.



CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRE  
& FOREST  
RESILIENCE  
TASK FORCE

CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



PREPARED FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE  
AND FOREST RESILIENCE TASK FORCE  
DECEMBER 12, 2022



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

---

California is home to some of the most beautiful and celebrated landscapes on Earth. More than 100 Native American tribes have stewarded and protected California's lands and waters from time immemorial through the present day. Often, places valued as recreation sites today hold significant cultural and ecological importance for Indigenous peoples. Acknowledging California as the homeland of Native American tribes is just a small step to take in the spirit of truth and healing. This Joint Strategy attempts to elevate California Native governments, communities, peoples, and priorities into the collective thinking about sustainable outdoor recreation, inclusive access to the outdoors, and wildfire resilience. Realizing the privilege of those who recreate outside, this Joint Strategy hopes to contribute to further discussions of appropriate and respectful public access to valued and significant places.



Birdwatching at the Stout Memorial Grove in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, CA. Credit: John Chao, Redwood National and State Parks



# CONTENTS

Land Acknowledgement	2
<b>KEY PEOPLE</b>	4
- Executive Committee	5
- Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision	5
- Key Working Group	5
- Leadership Team	6
- MLTPA Support Team	6
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	7
- The Challenge	8
- California’s Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan	9
- The Key Working Group and The Joint Strategy	11
<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	12
<b>KEY ACTION 3.13</b>	13
<b>GOALS &amp; KEY ACTIONS</b>	14
Introduction	15
Guiding Principles	16 - 17
<b>GOAL 1: Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation</b>	18
- Overview	19
- Key Actions	20 - 22
<b>GOAL 2: Advance Inclusion and Access for All Throughout California</b>	23
- Overview	24
- Key Actions	25 - 26
<b>GOAL 3: Promote the Health &amp; Well-Being of All Californians Through Outdoor Recreation</b>	27
- Overview	28
- Key Actions	29 - 30
<b>GOAL 4: Support Economies That Enhance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation</b>	31
- Overview	32
- Key Actions	33 - 34
<b>POLICY &amp; CONTEXT</b>	35
- State & Federal Policies	36 - 37
- CALREC Vision: Outdoor Recreation Map and Statistics	38
- Supporting Documents & Policies	39 - 40
- Current Trends & Needs	41
- Outdoor Recreation Participation	41
- Outdoor Recreation & The Economy	42
- Outdoor Recreation & Attitudes Toward the Environment	43
<b>CASE STUDIES</b>	44
- Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship	45
- Fire Foundry	46 - 47
- LA County Parks & Recreation: Overnight Family Camping Program	48
<b>APPENDIX &amp; BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	49 - 53





ER  
RD

# KEY PEOPLE





## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### STATE:

**Wade Crowfoot, Co-Chair** – California Natural Resources Agency

**Joe Tyler** – CAL FIRE

**Yana Garcia** – CalEPA

**Sam Assefa** – Office of Planning and Research

### FEDERAL:

**Jennifer Eberlien, Co-Chair** – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

**Richard Barhydt** – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

### LOCAL:

**Ed Valenzuela** – California State Association of Counties

**Doug Teeter** – Rural Counties Representatives of California

### TRIBAL:

**Don Hankins** – Indigenous Stewardship Network

## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION/CALREC VISION Key Working Group

**Alexandra Stehl**, Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Recreation Services Division – CA State Parks

**Andrew Burrows**, Lead California Outdoor Recreation Planner – Bureau of Land Management

**Haley Caruso**, Co-Lead of Recreate Responsibly CA and REI Manager of Brand Engagement & Impact – Recreate Responsibly CA and REI

**Katherine Toy**, Deputy Secretary for Access – CA Natural Resources Agency

**Katy Parr**, El Dorado National Forest Public Services Staff Officer – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

**Kevin Wright**, Policy & Steering Committee Member – CA Landscape Stewardship Network

**Norma Edith García-Gonzalez**, Director – Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation

**Paul Michel**, Regional Policy Coordinator, West Coast Region – NOAA

**Ray Murray**, Chief of Partnerships – National Park Service





## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION/CALREC VISION Leadership Team

**Jim Bacon**, Director of Public Services, Co-Lead – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

**Angela Avery**, Executive Officer, Co-Lead – Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Nancy Parachini**, Deputy Director of Public Services – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

**Nora Campbell**, Strategic Planner – U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

**Matt Driscoll**, Eastern Sierra Area Representative – Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**John Wentworth**, President/CEO – Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation

**Rita Keil**, Co-Writer/Researcher – Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation

**Danna Stroud**, Strategist – Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development

**Bill Keene**, Lead Writer – Climate Equity Solutions Inc.

**Austin McInerney**, Facilitator – Consensus and Collaboration Program, College of Continuing Education, Sacramento State University

## SUSTAINABLE RECREATION/CALREC VISION MLTPA Support Team

**Trevor Van Winkle**, Digital Systems Manager

**Jennifer Crittenden**, Recorder

**Andrew Mulford**, GIS Manager

**Kiersten Puusemp**, Creative Director

**Kristy Williams**, Project Management Specialist

Thank you to the more than 130 representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, tribal entities, nongovernmental organizations, business interests, community groups, and stakeholders who participated in public input sessions or otherwise contributed to this plan.

This strategic plan is located on the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force website at:  
[www.wildfiretaskforce.org/about/action-areas/sustainable-accessible-recreation](http://www.wildfiretaskforce.org/about/action-areas/sustainable-accessible-recreation)



# BACKGROUND



# THE CHALLENGE

## A STRATEGIC CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE



The Mount Hough Trail System, near Quincy, CA, before and after the Dixie Fire in 2021. Credit: Ken Etzel

California has faced an unprecedented wildfire crisis during the past decade that has resulted in billions of dollars in damage to local economies and infrastructure, including outdoor recreation facilities and trail systems across California. Moreover, climate change has dramatically increased the length and intensity of California's fire seasons. The 2020 fire season broke records: Five of California's six largest fires in modern history burned at the same time. More than 4 million acres burned across the state, doubling the previous record. The following year, 2021, saw some of the most severe megafires in history, including the Dixie Fire, which became the largest single wildfire in state history and the first wildfire to burn across the width of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

In August 2020, the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service announced the historic Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands to improve the health of California's forests and rangelands and reduce wildfire risk across the state. The following January, the state released California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan), which detailed specific actions to address the wildfire crisis, and convened the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to implement the Action Plan.



# CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan contains four goals and 99 specific actions to address the wildfire crisis across California. Goal 3 contains Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14, which address the relationship between forest health and sustainable outdoor recreation:

- **Key Action 3.13 – Update Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):** In 2021, CNRA, in coordination with State Parks, will update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP will provide a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.
- **Key Action 3.14 – Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:** In accordance with the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the USFS will coordinate the development of a joint strategy to improve access to sustainable recreation.

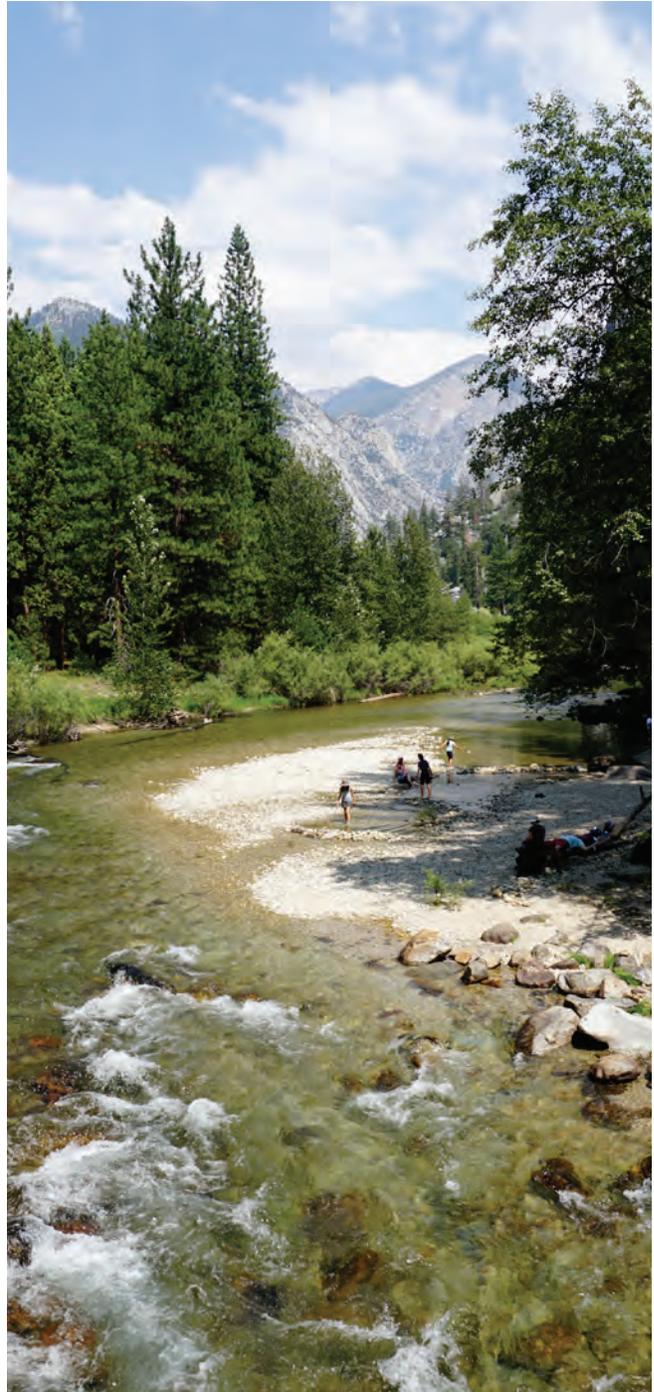
The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force assigned Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14 of the Action Plan to the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group (Key Working Group). Key Action 3.13 was completed by the Key Working Group through consultations with the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks). Please see additional discussion of Key Action 3.13 on page 13. Key Action 3.14 is the more immediate subject of this Joint Strategy document.



Firefighters and natural resource specialists apply a protective fire-shelter wrap to the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, CA, during the KNP Complex Fire in 2021. Credit: Elizabeth Wu, National Park Service

## THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED RECOGNIZING THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Climate change increases the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfires.
- California’s diverse landscapes and communities require regionally tailored strategies and actions.
- Resilience to catastrophic wildfires requires restoring the health of our forests and diverse landscapes across the state and strengthening wildfire preparation within our communities.
- Frequent, low-intensity fire can be a positive force in improving forest health and biodiversity and forested communities’ safety.
- Strengthening the linkages between the ecological health of forests and the economic and social health of rural communities is needed.
- Strong partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal entities and private organizations are needed to address the threat of wildfire.



Visitors enjoy California’s Kings Canyon National Park.  
Credit: National Park Service



## THE KEY WORKING GROUP AND THE JOINT STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

The Key Working Group developed the Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience (Joint Strategy) to provide a road map for improved access to sustainable outdoor recreation in an era when wildfires are having tremendous impacts on outdoor recreation opportunities throughout California. The Joint Strategy recognizes that our recreation system exists within a vast network of watersheds that stretches all the way from the headwaters in the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Our recreation system is affected by wildfires and natural disasters in profound ways both upstream and downstream from where people recreate. The Key Working Group consisted of staff from federal and state agencies, regional and local agencies, industry, and nongovernmental organizations. The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) convened the Key Working Group. The Consensus and Collaboration Program of the College of Continuing Education at Sacramento State University provided facilitation. Climate Equity Solutions Inc. contributed drafting and editing services, under contract to MLTPA.



Children record observations on a clipboard at California's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary as part of the Ocean Guardian program.  
Credit: Nick Zachar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Joint Strategy presents Goals and Key Actions that highlight the most important considerations for providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that meet the needs of all Californians, including our most underserved and underrepresented communities, in this era of risk from wildfires. The Key Working Group engaged with tribes, experts, and stakeholders who have been affected by wildfires, smoke, and natural disasters, or who are actively engaged in providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities. These groups and individuals verified that the Joint Strategy sets timely, essential, and implementable goals. Participants in the Key Working Group generously shared their time, perspective, and advice on topics through a series of facilitated virtual meetings from November 2021 through November 2022.

# IMPLEMENTATION

The Key Working Group will seek to create a structure to guide the implementation of the Joint Strategy under the general auspices of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force). The Key Working Group intends to provide regular progress reports to the Task Force and establish a program of accountability for implementing the Joint Strategy.

The Goals and Key Actions of the Joint Strategy also aim to fully integrate outdoor recreation considerations and opportunities into federal, state, local, and partner programs of work already underway. Some actions call on specific groups to act, while others present opportunities for ground-up integration of outdoor recreation into wildfire risk reduction and recovery efforts. Many of the actions are already underway at all levels of government and in local communities. The Joint Strategy was inspired by these ongoing efforts and hopes to inspire other communities and all levels of government to continue progress on such efforts. Sustained realization of the Goals and Key Actions will require time, resources, and capacity investments from the USFS, the state of California, and their partners.



Mandy Beatty cuts a section of trail in the Mount Hough Trail System near Quincy, CA, with her dog, Scout, by her side. Credit: Ken Etzel

As with other Task Force working group strategies, the Joint Strategy will be incorporated and integrated into the Task Force's Million-Acre Strategy, which serves as the Task Force's primary implementation program for the four Task Force goals. Funding needs to be secured to support the Key Working Group's continued efforts to oversee implementation of the Joint Strategy including facilitation of Key Working Group meetings, coordination with lead implementing agencies and entities, preparation of regular progress updates, participation in Task Force meetings, and general guidance of implementation activities. It is anticipated that full implementation of the Joint Strategy's Goals and Key Actions will create a sustainable outdoor recreation system in California that is resilient to wildfire and natural disasters and will lead to additional key actions needed to equitably provide the diverse and accessible recreational opportunities desired by all Californians.

# CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN KEY ACTION 3.13

Key Action 3.13 of California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan directs the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and State Parks to update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2021. The SCORP provides a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.

The SCORP is a five-year plan that establishes grant priorities to address unmet needs for public outdoor recreation land throughout California. By completing an update to the SCORP every five years, California maintains eligibility for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

Due to a variety of factors, the release of the 2021–2025 SCORP occurred in early 2022, as the Key Working Group convened to begin its work on the development of the Joint Strategy. As a result of this timing, representatives from the Key Working Group were able to meet with staff from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss opportunities to recommend priorities and help to inform the vision of the 2026–2030 SCORP update, set to begin in 2023. During these discussions, it was acknowledged that the next update to the SCORP might be enhanced to capture the broadened scope and landscapes of outdoor recreation in California.



Enjoying a meal while camping at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, CA. Credit: courtesy of California State Parks, 2019

It is anticipated that key actions from the Joint Strategy may be integrated into the SCORP update process and that the SCORP may become a more comprehensive framework for the next five years of outdoor recreation development, planning, and management in California.





# GOALS & KEY ACTIONS



# INTRODUCTION

Californians today recreate outside more than ever before, finding experiences of a lifetime in California’s protected lands and waters. Statewide demand for outdoor recreation opportunities exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in pressure to maximize or expand federal, state, and local park systems. This recent surge in outdoor recreation has led land managers and stewardship groups to renew their focus on natural resource protection and wildfire risk reduction, while providing needed recreation opportunities.



Mountain biking before and after the Dixie Fire in 2021, near Quincy, CA. Credit: Ken Etzel

The purpose of this Joint Strategy is to provide the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force with a road map for how to protect and improve sustainable outdoor recreation assets and access in the context of wildfire and natural disaster planning and response. The audience of this Joint Strategy includes the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the state of California, land managers, and the extended outdoor recreation community. This Joint Strategy emphasizes the fact that sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities must be high-quality and resilient to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population and changing climate.

The Joint Strategy satisfies Key Action 3.14 of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: “Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation.” The Joint Strategy contains Goals and Key Actions that will:

- 1.** Strengthen our sustainable outdoor recreation system, forest health, and resilience
- 2.** Advance inclusion and access for all Californians
- 3.** Promote the health and safety of all Californians
- 4.** Support the local economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation

The Key Working Group developed a set of guiding principles to serve as a foundation for the Joint Strategy and to guide agencies, organizations, and communities tasked with implementing the Goals and Key Actions.



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles provide a foundation for all of the Goals and Key Actions of the Joint Strategy, ensuring that the Joint Strategy is achieved broadly and equitably across California.



*Two backpackers and a ranger look at a map at Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park in Pilot Hill, CA. Credit: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management*

**Engage in Proactive Communication** – Communication is key to implementing the Joint Strategy effectively and comprehensively across California. Communication and engagement will occur at all levels, with a particular focus on ensuring that underserved and underrepresented communities, including multilingual communities, receive information and have opportunities to engage with implementation of the Joint Strategy in a timely manner and through channels that effectively reach their communities.

**Prioritize Community Recovery** – Implementation of the Joint Strategy will prioritize recovery for communities that have been impacted by wildfire. Multiple communities across California have been devastated by wildfire, and implementation of this Joint Strategy will support holistic recovery of the environmental, economic, and social elements of these communities.

**Utilize Cross-Sector Integration** – The intent of the Joint Strategy is to integrate efforts at all levels to address sustainable recreation and wildfire risk, including governmental organizations, the nonprofit and business sectors, and community organizations. Integrating the Key Actions in this plan with forest health and community-development work being done locally is the most effective way to achieve broad success.



**Emphasize Transparency** – Entities implementing Key Actions will be responsible for reporting on and communicating their work to the public and groups working on similar efforts across the state, using methods that ensure all interested parties are informed of their work.

**Engage in Partnerships and Collaboration** – Effective implementation of the Joint Strategy will require that Key Actions are implemented through ongoing and supported partnerships and collaborations between government, the nonprofit sector, business interests, and community-based organizations.

**Leverage Funds** – Adequate funding will be required to achieve full implementation of the Joint Strategy. Implementation will require significant commitments of resources and funding from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, nonprofits, and business entities. In addition, all funding will be leveraged to the maximum extent to ensure that implementation occurs at a high level across California.

**Engage with Tribes and Indigenous Communities** – During implementation, agencies and organizations will engage with tribes and Indigenous communities to inform work on all Key Actions. Implementing agencies and organizations will work with tribes to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into outdoor recreation and forest health projects where appropriate.

**Engage with Underserved and Underrepresented Communities** – Engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities is critical to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion in implementing the Joint Strategy. Agencies and organizations responsible for implementing Key Actions will conduct comprehensive outreach using community-specific outreach methods to ensure that affected communities are aware of, and have the opportunity to participate in and influence, the work being done under this Joint Strategy.

**Use the Best Available Science and Information** – Agencies and organizations responsible for implementation of the Joint Strategy are committed to using the best available science and information and sharing the results of their work within peer learning networks.

**Prioritize Equity and Inclusivity** – Ensuring equity and inclusion is paramount to all participants in this Joint Strategy. All agencies and organizations implementing Key Actions are committed to equity and inclusion and will engage locally and across the state to ensure that all peoples are considered during implementation of Key Actions.

**Promote Wildfire and Natural Disaster Resiliency** – Resilience to wildfires and natural disasters is a primary purpose of this Joint Strategy. All Key Actions are focused on ensuring that California and its residents are prepared for wildfire and natural disaster events and have the resources to achieve long-term resiliency, especially in light of climate change.





# GOAL 1:

**Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**



# INTEGRATE FOREST HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

---

Our aim is to promote forest health and resiliency alongside sustainable outdoor recreation for all throughout California. We recognize that forest health and outdoor recreation mutually depend on one another and that our management of them needs to be integrated. This goal promotes public access and enjoyment of our forests and public lands and all the benefits that come with that while at the same time addressing the impacts and mitigating factors of outdoor recreation from catastrophic wildfires and climate effects. By ensuring healthy lands and waters, outdoor recreation users feel connected to nature in places and communities that are socially, economically, and environmentally rich and resilient.



*A hiker looks at smoke from the 2021 Caldor Fire in the distance. Credit: James Townsend*

## GOAL 1:

Integrate the provision of high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with forest health and resilience and wildfire and climate mitigation efforts so that all people can connect to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

## KEY ACTIONS

---

1. **Maintain Public Access as the Climate Changes:** Develop climate-smart best practices toolkits and resources to be used by land-management organizations for programs and projects associated with forest and wildland health, vegetation management, transportation, and visitor use that enhance public access to outdoor recreation on public lands and waters as the climate changes.
2. **Develop Educational Materials Targeted at Reducing the Human Causes of Ignition:** Create and distribute educational materials in multiple languages targeting human causes of ignition of wildfires.
3. **Develop Integrated Communications Systems:** Establish integrated and standardized communication systems to provide consistent information to the public about forest health projects, and wildfires and other natural disasters, across jurisdictional boundaries and among federal, state, regional, and local organizations. Partner with Destination Management Organizations (DMOs), chambers of commerce, fire safe councils, cultural groups, outdoor recreation and stewardship groups, and local media to communicate in multiple languages and with digital media about closures, restrictions, smoke, and alternative facilities.
4. **Incorporate Sustainable Outdoor Recreation into the State Department of Conservation's Regional Forest Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program:** Incorporate the Key Actions from California's Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation and Wildfire Resilience into the RFFC Program, Regional Forums, and Regional Priority Plans being developed by RFFC Program Regional Block Grantees.
5. **Add Public Education to Forest Health Projects:** Forest health projects on public lands under state and federal funding programs will include a component to educate the public about the project's purpose, techniques, and impact on outdoor recreation opportunities. Education efforts will serve to promote public safety, minimize impacts to recreation user groups, and develop public support for the value of forest health projects, including prescribed fire.



## GOAL 1: Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

6. **Strengthen Partnerships Between Resource Conservation Districts or Other Appropriate Partners and Land Managers:** Where feasible, recreation land managers will enter into partnerships with Resource Conservation Districts and other appropriate land-management partner entities or authorities to support work including design, permitting, and construction for outdoor recreation facilities and trails and fuel reduction around communities (including fencing, water sources, etc.).
7. **Implement Multi-Benefit Projects in or Adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface:** Implement projects in or adjacent to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas that have joint wildfire risk reduction and outdoor recreation benefits, such as trails and campgrounds that can be used during fires as personnel and equipment staging areas. Where appropriate, conduct thinning, prescribed burns, and vegetation clearing around outdoor recreation infrastructure to make it more resilient to wildfire and to create defensible space for fire suppression. Within these project areas, create demonstration and interpretive areas incorporating TEK practices where people can recreate and learn about the benefits of prescribed fire and vegetation management.
8. **Design and Build Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure That Is Resilient to Climate Change and Wildfire:** Consider nature-based solutions to address climate change and wildfire risk considerations when designing, constructing, maintaining, and renovating outdoor recreation facilities. Where appropriate, relocate facilities away from floodplains, landslide areas, avalanche paths, or high-risk fire areas. Install multilingual signage identifying emergency egress and shelter-in-place protocols, and, where needed, develop additional access and evacuation points. Design and harden roads, trails, bridges, and outdoor recreation infrastructure to be fire resistant and resilient to natural disasters. When available, cross-train fire crews in sustainable trail construction to help in recovery of trails post-fire.
9. **Establish Permanent Fuel Breaks Proximate to Recreation Trails:** Where feasible and appropriate, develop permanent fuel breaks that cut across jurisdictional boundaries along or adjacent to recreation trails and infrastructure to achieve multiple wildfire risk reduction and response benefits. Locate fuel breaks near trails to provide access for prescribed fires and fire suppression. In wilderness areas, consider non-permanent fuel breaks to protect resources.
10. **Use Data to Prioritize Wildfire Risk Reduction Treatments in Outdoor Recreation Areas:** Assess community and outdoor recreation asset vulnerability through the use of data developed by the Task Force, such as Planscape, and the Key Working Group (California Recreation Opportunities GIS Map) to develop priorities for treatment around outdoor recreation areas based on likelihood of ignition and vulnerability to the impact of wildfire. In particular, focus prioritization of treatments adjacent to campgrounds, trails, and trailheads.



**GOAL 1:** Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

11. **Create Wildfire Evacuation Plans for At-Risk Outdoor Recreation Areas:** In coordination with local government and using specific evacuation planning tools (e.g., Zonehaven and CAL FIRE’s Evacuation Guide), outdoor recreation providers including park agencies, private resorts, and other entities will create, regularly update, and implement and maintain evacuation plans that identify assets and areas most at risk, and safe evacuation routes and staging areas for shelter-in-place.
  
12. **Create California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Exemptions/Exclusions for Recreation Trails Located Within Treatment Areas:** Create Categorical Exclusion(s) under NEPA, and Categorical Exemption(s) under CEQA, for recreation trails located within treatment areas that have already undergone previous environmental review.



*John Rice, general manager of California’s Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort, looks out from a burnt lift shack at ski runs burned by the Caldor Fire in 2021. Credit: Katie Hunter, Sierra-at-Tahoe Resort*



*Leadership from the U.S. Forest Service, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and CAL FIRE discuss the effect of vegetation treatment on burn severity during the Caldor Fire in 2021. Credit: John Wentworth*



# GOAL 2:

**Advance Inclusion and Access  
For All Throughout California**



# ADVANCE INCLUSION AND ACCESS FOR ALL THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA

---

California and its partners must build upon and expand an inclusionary culture of sustainable outdoor recreation, promoting equitable access across California’s public lands and waters that reflects the diversity of all peoples and the legacy of our Native American history, culture, and use. Inspired by the California Natural Resources Agency’s Outdoors for All initiative, our work will strive to address long-standing environmental, social, and economic inequities in our society that have resulted in physical and societal barriers to outdoor recreation access for underserved and underrepresented residents. Improvements to outdoor recreation access, including planning, programming, and infrastructure, will be co-created with communities, forest health, and wildfire response partners and designed around community values to be resilient to increasingly frequent wildfires and natural disasters. Advancing equitable access will require a high level of engagement with underserved and underrepresented populations to prioritize and implement integrated outdoor recreation access and wildfire risk reduction, resiliency, and recovery actions that provide respite for these communities year-round and especially during times of disaster.



*Posing on a bridge along the Trillium Falls Trail in Redwood National and State Parks, CA. Credit: John Chao, Redwood National and State Parks*



## GOAL 2:

Plan for and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable access for all Californians.

### KEY ACTIONS

---

1. **Create Statewide School Programming:** Federal, state, and local agencies will engage and collaborate with the California Department of Education to develop place-based virtual and in-person programming that educates students about the value of outdoor recreation and natural resources, including topics such as Traditional Ecological Knowledge, responsible recreation, fire-prone landscapes, safety, and how to participate in stewardship projects.
2. **Create Interpretive, Historical, and Stewardship Educational Opportunities at Key Recreation Facilities:** Where feasible, create interpretive, historical, and stewardship education to educate the public at key outdoor recreation facilities across the state.
3. **Minimize Impact of Wildfire-Related Area and Facility Closures to Public Access and Recreational Use:** Target outdoor recreation site and area closures to the minimum area and time periods deemed appropriate to mitigate threats and minimize impact to the recreating public and commercial providers. Land managers should engage with relevant public and commercial recreation interests and DMOs on reopening plans, with a particular focus on addressing access concerns of underserved and underrepresented communities.
4. **Engage with Local Communities During Post-Fire Recovery Planning to Expedite the Resumption of Outdoor Recreation Access:** After fires, coordinate and engage with local communities on post-fire recovery plans, including activities aimed at expediting the return of public access. Within burned areas, prioritize forest health, hazard tree and vegetation removal near trails, slope stabilization around trails, and restoration of park and outdoor recreation facilities lost in wildfires. Where appropriate, utilize local workers, volunteers, conservation corps, or tribal capacity such as the Tiüvac'a'ai Tribal Conservation Corps to assist in post-fire restoration of outdoor recreation infrastructure and trails.
5. **Explore Creating an Online Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Resource:** Explore creating a one-stop online outdoor recreation resource for visitors to research local, regional, and state recreation opportunities based on interest and location. The online resource may contain information on how to prepare for visits to outdoor recreation areas, including information on responsible recreation, how to obtain permits, and what recreational uses are allowed. The resource may also serve as a multilingual communication tool to identify outdoor recreation facilities that are closed due to natural



disasters or emergencies. Where possible, coordinate with existing information platforms that provide similar services. Alternatively, agencies may maintain a multi-jurisdictional, centralized map of outdoor recreation assets (campgrounds, trailheads, etc.) and link out to existing agency platforms for additional information from the land-management agency.

6. **Conduct a Multi-Agency Social Science Survey to Gauge the Current Needs of Outdoor Recreation Users:** State and federal land-management agencies will develop a simple methodology and conduct a joint statewide survey to identify current and emerging use and demand, barriers to outdoor access, and the desired critical outdoor recreation needs and uses of our communities, with a particular emphasis on underserved and underrepresented communities. The survey will be shared broadly with California’s public-land managers and private outdoor recreation lands operators at all scales well in advance of survey implementation to encourage broad data collection across California’s lands and communities. The survey will be designed to be repeatable over time and at different geographic scales.
  
7. **Develop Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Across the State That Provides for a Diversity of Recreation Experiences:** Where a local community has identified a need for more outdoor recreation opportunities and uses, land-management agencies will look to collaborate and partner with the local community (counties, cities, towns, special districts) to plan for, fund, build, and maintain climate-resilient outdoor recreation infrastructure, facilities, and trail systems that will increase the diversity of recreation opportunities in that local community.



# GOAL 3:

**Promote The Health and Well-Being of All Californians Through Outdoor Recreation**



# PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL CALIFORNIANS THROUGH OUTDOOR RECREATION

---

California and its partners are committed to providing outdoor recreation opportunities that nurture the mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health and safety of all people while protecting our natural resources. Wildfires and other natural disasters can impede access to outdoor recreation at a time when people need it most for their well-being. To address this need for outdoor recreation opportunities before, during, and after natural disasters, we will communicate proactively with residents and visitors to promote the healthy enjoyment of outdoor recreation, inform people of where facilities are available, and apprise people of how to avoid smoke exposure and other risk factors. We will prioritize the development of resilient recreation opportunities that can function as alternative sites when other facilities are closed or inaccessible. The development of safe places to recreate is vitally important in ensuring safe access for all.



*Children play in the snow near California's Sierra-at-Tahoe. Credit: Brian Walker, Sierra-at-Tahoe*



### GOAL 3:

Provide health information, training, and alternative recreation opportunities that promote the health and well-being of all peoples, with consideration of people's needs before, during, and after wildfires and other natural disasters.

## KEY ACTIONS

---

1. **Improve Air Quality Advisory Communication:** Refine existing air quality communication tools, such as the California Smoke Spotter Application (app) and EPA AirNow, so that more users are aware of the tools, information is available in multiple languages, and users are advised of preventative measures to reduce their exposure. Focus the awareness campaign and information on those who are more likely to be exposed to air quality impacts including smoke, such as outdoor recreation workers.



*Smoke from the Woolsey Fire in 2018, seen from Topanga, CA. Credit: Peter Buschmann, U.S. Forest Service*

2. **Train First Responders, Community Planners, and Outdoor Recreation Staff in Mental Health First Aid and Utilize Medical Reserve Corps and Similar Volunteer Groups to Provide Psychological Support During Disasters:** Create a state program to train all first responders, community planners, and outdoor recreation field staff in mental health first aid to support communities during and after wildfires and other natural disasters. Share models and best practices for how to utilize medically trained volunteers to provide psychological support during and after disasters.
3. **Build Partnerships Between the Health and Outdoor Recreation Sectors:** Pursue the environmental elements of the Health in All Policies approaches of the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by creating and maintaining partnerships

between public health entities and the outdoor recreation sector. Partnerships will identify and seek to implement projects with co-benefits for health and outdoor recreation, such as prescriptions to spend time outdoors, smoke safety and extreme heat guidance, community-based planning of desirable park features and programs, or research to document the beneficial health impacts of local outdoor recreation projects. Partnerships will share best practices and lessons learned with public health and outdoor recreation professional forums.

4. **Increase Opportunities for Indoor Recreation:** Develop public, multi-use indoor recreation spaces that can offer recreation when smoke and wildfire affect the safety of outdoor recreation. These spaces can also be used as information hubs, libraries, cooling centers, Local Assistance Centers, shelters, or staging areas during emergencies.



*Kayaking in an indoor pool can serve as a recreation opportunity during wildfire smoke events. Credit: County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation*



# GOAL 4:

**Support Economies That Enhance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**



# SUPPORT ECONOMIES THAT ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION

Communities and their sustainable outdoor recreation economies enhance the physical, social, and economic vitality of California and, by nature of their dependence on public lands and waters, often play a critical role in ensuring that public lands and waters are maintained and resilient to climate change and wildfires. These communities are well positioned to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Direct recreation spending, jobs, and tourism revenue contribute prominently to these forest and gateway communities. As has been increasingly demonstrated during the past decade, climate change and massive wildfires are having a devastating impact on our communities and their recreation economies. While wildfire risk reduction is key, more should be done to ensure that our recreation-based communities can respond and recover after wildfires and other natural disasters to support community resilience, economic vitality, and local jobs.



*Downtown Mariposa, CA, in close proximity to Yosemite National Park. Credit: Sylvia Matzkowiak, courtesy of the Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau*

## GOAL 4:

Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.

## KEY ACTIONS

---

- 1. Build Sustainable Outdoor-Recreation-Based Economies:** Engage the regions of the state's Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), the Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Program, and other relevant programs to help communities transition to or enhance sustainable outdoor-recreation-based economies. Develop programs, projects, and stewardship opportunities to connect communities through recreation infrastructure and trail systems. Support the establishment of workforces for resource management, conservation, and outdoor recreation that support the economies of local connected communities.
- 2. Support Fundamental Community Infrastructure:** Support planning and implementation of the fundamental infrastructure and services needed for outdoor-recreation-based economies, such as resilient and affordable housing and multi-modal transportation systems. Planning efforts may include regional baseline economic assessments to describe the businesses, industries, and workforce involved in outdoor recreation activities, and identify the strengths and deficiencies of outdoor recreation economies for rural development.
- 3. Engage Communities Regarding Emergency Response and Land-Management Planning:** Engage chambers of commerce, fire safe councils, DMOs, counties, special districts, and cities and towns with land managers in emergency response planning and the creation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Engage with outdoor recreation groups to identify outdoor recreation assets and integrate them into emergency plans to increase the likelihood that these facilities will be protected and/or restored during a wildfire event. When possible, pre-plan roles and partnerships for communication and essential services for emergency responders (staging areas, food, lodging, etc.) that can be readily activated during disasters. Provide these plans to federal and state emergency responders during and post-fire.
- 4. Create Post-Fire Educational and Marketing Materials:** Create and distribute multilingual educational materials and destination guides to encourage residents and visitors to return to outdoor recreation when it is safe. These materials will advise recreationists on allowable and responsible recreation activities and locations during active wildfire restoration and recovery. In addition, the materials will provide interpretive information on fire-adaptive ecosystems to educate the public on the impacts of fire.



#### GOAL 4: Support Economies That Enhance Sustainable Recreation

5. **Provide Technical Assistance to Local Businesses:** To help navigate and access disaster assistance programs, provide technical assistance to local businesses following wildfire and other natural disasters in rural and low-income outdoor recreation economies.
6. **Conduct Post-Fire Economic Studies:** Conduct economic studies in communities that have experienced wildfire, including analyses of lost revenue and tourism-related income based on data gathered before, during, and after wildfire events.
7. **Develop Post-Fire Insurance Program for the Outdoor Recreation Economy:** Include outdoor-recreation-based businesses and events in the development and administration of post-wildfire insurance programs that are both attainable and affordable.
8. **Evaluate Existing Telecommunications Infrastructure and Perform Upgrades:** Conduct a review of existing telecommunications infrastructure on public lands and prioritize upgrades and/or replacements to ensure that communications in affected communities remain active and accessible during a wildfire.



UTVs compete at the King of Hammers event in California's Johnson Valley OHV Area. ATVing and recreational motorcycling generated \$8 billion in GDP nationally in 2021, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Credit: Bureau of Land Management



# POLICY & CONTEXT



# STATE & FEDERAL POLICIES



The Annual Pheasant Hunt at the Sacramento River Bend Outstanding Natural Area, CA, where youth and women can learn safe hunting techniques and traditional practices. Credit: Eric Coulter, Bureau of Land Management



Fisheries and recreation employees teach local third-graders to fish on Kids Fishing Day at Shasta Lake, CA. Credit: U.S. Forest Service

The following section describes the state and federal policies that authorized, inspired, and guided the creation of this Joint Strategy.

In 2018, the Governor’s California Forest Management Task Force, comprising key agencies, stakeholders, and partners, was established to introduce a more holistic, integrated approach toward effective forest management. The California Forest Management Task Force’s purpose was to develop a framework for establishing healthy and resilient forests that can withstand and adapt to wildfire, drought, and a changing climate.

In 2020, the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region entered into the Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California’s Forest and Rangelands (Shared Stewardship Agreement). The California Forest Management Task Force, since renamed the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), released the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Action Plan) in 2021 to serve as a road map for implementing the Shared Stewardship Agreement and for aligning the state’s efforts with other federal, regional, local, tribal, and private organizations. The reconstituted Task Force convened in the spring of 2021 to develop strategies to implement the Action Plan.



Also in 2020, the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) convened an advisory committee of governmental and nongovernmental organizations (including the state of California and the U.S. Forest Service) to develop objectives for sustainable outdoor recreation as part of the white paper CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California, which was published in January 2021. The map later in this section shows MLTPA’s analysis of outdoor recreation lands identified by land-management agency throughout the state.

In 2022, the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service named “Visitor Experiences and Public Access” as one of three strategic priorities. The Pacific Southwest Region aims to “[ensure] that all those who set foot on National Forest System lands feel welcomed and have broad opportunities to recreate in sustainable ways.”

Within both the Shared Stewardship Agreement and the Action Plan, there are action items that describe the need to integrate sustainable outdoor recreation and enhanced access to recreation resources into forest resilience and wildfire planning efforts across California. To address this need, the Task Force tapped the USFS, the state of California, and MLTPA to form the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Leadership Team. The Leadership Team subsequently convened and facilitated the Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group to begin work on these action items.

Consistent with Action 7 of the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the Key Working Group has worked under Goal 3 of the Action Plan (“Manage Forests to Achieve the State’s Economic and Environmental Goals”), specifically focusing on Key Actions 3.13 and 3.14. These Key Actions are as follows:

**Key Action 3.13** – Update Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP):  
In 2021, CNRA, in coordination with State Parks, will update the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP will provide a comprehensive framework and investment strategy, emphasizing equitable access to underserved communities and rural recreation-dependent communities.

**Key Action 3.14** – Develop Joint Strategy to Improve Access to Sustainable Recreation:  
In accordance with the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the USFS will coordinate the development of a joint strategy to improve access to sustainable recreation.



“Land-management agencies and their outdoor recreation partners work with the knowledge that increased resource impacts, uncertain public funding, and rising recreation demand are becoming ‘the new normal’ for California. With this in mind, collaboration by willing partners across jurisdictions to achieve the environmental, economic, and social benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation in California is essential.”

- CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California” MLTPA, 2020



Outdoor recreation lands in California per federal and state land-management and relevant state agencies. Credit: “CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California” MLTPA, 2020



# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

While not exhaustive, the following documents, along with brief summaries of each, were identified by the Leadership Team as foundational to the Joint Strategy.

**Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California’s Forest and Rangelands between the State of California and the USDA, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region (2020, page 7)** In Action 7 of the Shared Stewardship Agreement, the state and USFS commit to improving access to sustainable recreation by fostering opportunities that better serve California’s diverse populations.

**CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California (MLTPA, 2021)** The CALREC Vision white paper emphasizes the importance of developing a common vision for sustainable outdoor recreation among multi-jurisdictional partners through cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Local, state, and federal agencies have the opportunity to coordinate goals, resources, and messaging around sustainable outdoor recreation to reduce operational inefficiencies and benefit the public.



*Before and after photos of an outdoor amphitheater at California’s Big Basin Redwoods State Park, which burned during the CZU Complex Fire in 2020.  
Before photo credit: Allie Caulfield. After photo credit: Cal OES*

**Executive Department, State of California, Executive Order N-82-20 (2020, pages 2–3)** This executive order, signed in 2020, directs the California Natural Resources Agency and other relevant state agencies to develop methods to conserve 30% of state lands and waters by 2030 while expanding equitable outdoor access and recreation for all Californians. The order directs state agencies to engage with diverse recreation communities, establish the Biodiversity Collaborative, support efforts to conserve 30% of the state’s land and coastal waters by 2030, and expand equitable access and recreation for all Californians.

**U.S. Forest Service, USDA, Connecting People with America’s Great Outdoors: A Framework for Sustainable Recreation (2010)** The Framework outlines the opportunities and challenges in providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. The USFS sets goals of: (a) offering diverse outdoor recreation opportunities in partnership with local communities and providers, (b) protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and (c) strengthening sound and sustainable processes. The Framework provides guiding principles that connect people with natural and cultural heritage, promote a healthy lifestyle, embody sustainability in all programs, prioritize community engagement, recognize National Forests and Grasslands as part of a larger interconnected landscape that includes communities, and integrate recreation into the larger agency mission.

**Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful (2021)** This report responds to the 2021 Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, recommending steps that the United States should take in partnership to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30% of lands and waters by 2030. The report recommends conserving lands and waters for the benefit of all people and expanding access to sustainable outdoor recreation.



Enjoying redwood trees at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, CA. Credit: Allie Caulfield

## CURRENT TRENDS & NEEDS

Outdoor recreation connects people with nature while improving their overall health and quality of life. Following years of steady increases in the number of outdoor recreationists, COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns resulted in a surge of outdoor recreational use of public lands and waters. The increased demand for outdoor recreation benefits local economies that depend on recreation for jobs, economic output, sense of place, and quality of life. However, the increased number of outdoor recreationists necessitates more resources for user support, natural resource management, and wildfire risk reduction. The following section summarizes findings of recent studies that focus on trends in outdoor recreation and its social, economic, and environmental effects on communities.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION

Demand for outdoor recreation is at an all-time high. As of 2021, approximately half of all adults across the United States participate in outdoor recreation on at least a monthly basis. About 20% of participants may be new to outdoor recreation since the start of the pandemic (Taff et al., 2021). The number of outdoor recreationists is expected to hold steady in the near term, as people who tried outdoor recreation for the first time in 2020 have continued to participate in 2021 (Outdoor Foundation, 2022). In national surveys, nine in 10 people express support for outdoor recreation and local parks, agreeing that outdoor recreation access is a very important factor when choosing a place to live and that outdoor recreation is an important service provided by their local government (National Recreation and Park Association, 2022).



*Admiring wildflowers along California's Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.  
Credit: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management*

Wildfires can have a range of effects on participation in outdoor recreation activities, depending on the location and severity of the fire and smoke. Recreationists may avoid areas with active fires, instead choosing to visit nearby areas with lower wildfire and smoke impacts. However, some people may visit areas that have experienced recent low-severity fires or prescribed burns, perhaps out of habit or curiosity (Miller et al., 2022). Popular recreation areas can experience the return of near-typical demand for recreation soon after a wildfire (White et al., 2020). The cross-jurisdictional nature of wildfire, along with increasing demand for outdoor recreation, emphasizes the need for collaborative adaptation and management strategies such as those outlined in the Key Actions of this Joint Strategy.

# OUTDOOR RECREATION AND THE ECONOMY

Outdoor recreation provides significant benefits to California's economy. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation provided \$54.7 billion to California's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021, making California the state with the largest outdoor recreation economy in the nation. In addition, California ranked first in the nation for outdoor recreation jobs and compensation in 2021, with 517,238 jobs and \$28.3 billion in compensation (Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2022). Outdoor recreation in the USFS Pacific Southwest Region provided people with \$1.8 billion in well-being value (adapted from Rosenberger et al., 2017).



*The Woolsey Fire burns near the coast in 2018 in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, prompting smoke advisories in Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Credit: Peter Buschmann, U.S. Forest Service*

Outdoor recreation businesses and amenities have a positive effect on rural economies. Research shows that rural counties with outdoor recreation amenities have gained population, while those without recreation amenities have lost population (Headwaters Economics, 2019). Outdoor recreation often bolsters entire economies of rural places by attracting entrepreneurs, new businesses, health care professionals, construction workers, and retail employees (Headwaters Economics, 2018).

Despite the economic benefits of recreation across California, including the rapid rise in recreation use that has benefitted the state's overall economy, there are many communities affected by wildfires that have yet to recover economically to pre-fire recreation levels. While there is sparse data in California regarding the economic impact of wildfires on these communities, a 2019 study in Utah estimated that wildfires caused \$2.7 to \$4.5 million in regional economic loss from visitation per year at national parks in Utah. The losses were greatest in rural, tourism-dependent counties (Kim & Jakus, 2019). California gateway community economies may be similarly affected by wildfires. The need to quantify the economic impacts of wildfires on communities in California is identified as a Key Action in this Joint Strategy.



# OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT

Children and adults who spend more time outside feel more connected to nature and demonstrate greater pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors (DeVillie et al., 2021). More specifically, people who engage in nature-based outdoor recreation activities report greater recognition of the threat of climate change and greater support for climate policies (Knight & Hao, 2022). Thus, access to sustainable outdoor recreation, and to places and programs to connect with nature, are critical to promoting concern for environmental resilience in the face of climate change and other human-related environmental stressors. Outdoor recreation is a primary setting where people can foster a love of the environment and a desire to protect it.



*Planting seedlings on the beach at California's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Credit: Nick Zachar, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

However, outdoor recreation can pose wildfire risks. From 1992 to 2012, humans ignited the majority of wildfires in the state, creating more fires, extending the length of the typical fire season, and burning more acres than naturally occurring fires (Balch et al., 2017). While it is not known how many of these wildfires were recreation related, the need to create a system of sustainable recreation that mitigates the increasing risk of wildfires has never been more apparent.

# CASE STUDIES



# CASE STUDIES

## SIERRA BUTTES TRAIL STEWARDSHIP: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

The goal of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is to revitalize the communities of the Lost Sierra by building and maintaining a trail system that connects the communities to each other.

The economy of the Lost Sierra region was built over the last century around mining and logging operations in Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada counties. With those industries largely gone from the region, Greg Williams, executive director of Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, recognized the opportunity to create a resilient recreation and tourism economy by restoring and adding to historic mining and logging routes to form a sustainable trail system. In 2003, Williams founded Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of developing and maintaining trails, creating sustainable-wage local jobs, and providing community members and visitors with access to world-class sustainable outdoor recreation.

Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship's current focus is the Connected Communities Project, which includes the Lost Sierra Route proposal, a 600-mile multi-use trail network linking 15 mountain community downtowns with the surrounding public lands. This ambitious trail planning and construction effort is taking place across California's Plumas, Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Nevada counties, as well as Washoe County in Nevada. To date, the organization has succeeded in building 125 miles of new trails and maintaining an additional 1,600 miles of existing trails. Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship employed 72 people in 2021 and has contributed 102,993 trail volunteer hours in total, mostly on federal public land. Their success would not be possible without robust partnerships with the Tahoe, Plumas, Humboldt-Toiyabe, and Lassen national forests and all of the counties, cities, and citizen-led nongovernmental groups in the region.

On July 13, 2021, the Dixie Fire broke out, tearing through Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Tehama counties over 103 days. The fire grew to be the second largest wildfire in California history, at nearly 1 million acres. By the time it was contained, the Dixie Fire had destroyed the town of Greenville and burned two-thirds of the national forestland in the Lost Sierra.



Since the fire, Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship has seen its role in the region as providing the reason people will want to stay in, rebuild, and visit the communities of the Lost Sierra. The organization is back at work restoring and building trails and hosting festivals for residents and visitors. They realized that the trails they build may help reduce the risk of future catastrophic wildfire by serving as fire breaks and access points for vegetation management. Sustainable outdoor recreation will be the keystone in the recovery of these communities. Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship is leading the way.

Learn more about Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship at [sierratrails.org](https://sierratrails.org)

## FIRE FOUNDRY

---

The FIRE Foundry's mission is to recruit, train, and deploy a local firefighting and civic service workforce that increases diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the fire prevention and firefighting field in Marin County. Launched in 2022, the FIRE Foundry applies a learning-while-earning model that allows participants to explore career interests, learn from a tailored college curriculum, and apply emerging fire technologies while providing financial stability for its participants. FIRE Foundry crews train in firefighting, fire prevention, and vegetation management in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas of Marin County. Their work protects open spaces, parklands, recreation facilities, water supply and energy infrastructure, homes, and businesses.

The FIRE Foundry is a collaboration between community colleges, leading universities, community organizations, and Marin County Fire to tackle the fundamental challenges of developing a diverse workforce that will work to protect communities from catastrophic wildfire and conserve the environment. The FIRE Foundry collaborates with community partners to recruit young adults from underserved communities and backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in fire-related careers.

The FIRE Foundry offers sustainable wages and wraparound services to participants, including childcare, mental health and wellness support, food, housing, mentorship, peer-to-peer community engagement, and coaching. These wraparound services are incorporated to ensure that systemic barriers are not a factor in firefighting career paths and the upward economic mobility of FIRE Foundry participants, their families, and their communities. FIRE Foundry's ultimate goal is to provide new career pathways to fire and conservation service and dismantle barriers that perpetuate poverty in local communities.

The FIRE Foundry organization is comprised of three programs: an education program, a work experience program, and a support services program. Recruits are onboarded into FIRE Foundry based on whether they are entry-level participants (not currently EMT certified) or advanced-level participants (have already



completed EMT certification). For the work experience program, Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the primary employment partner for FIRE Foundry and employs roughly 180 corps members on vegetation management and clearance crews each year. CCNB crews are representative of the communities they are serving, and thus have greater insight into the community-specific fire prevention, education, and response needs. Of CCNB's FIRE Foundry recruits, 73% were unemployed on entry to their program, and 99% lived in low-income households. In addition, over 80% identify as races and ethnicities traditionally underrepresented in fire services in Marin County and California. If recruits meet the advanced-level qualification, they are eligible to apply for other work experience options such as Marin County dispatch, defensible space, and others. For the education program, the College of Marin (COM) is the primary partner for the FIRE Foundry and provides classes specifically catered to FIRE Foundry participants as they prepare for prerequisites for Fire Academy. COM not only caters its curriculum for the community served in the program, but also provides educational services such as counseling, tutoring, and other wraparound support for the participants to be successful.

With the opportunity of paid internships, different phases of recruits (entry level and advanced), and wraparound services, FIRE Foundry participants can navigate different phases of their career path into fire service. Each program within the Foundry is built as a year-long program. However, if individuals need more time to complete classes, transition to the next phase, or navigate other hurdles, they can apply for extensions to foster smoother transitions to their next steps.

All FIRE Foundry participants are supported through a financial aid application process to provide educational assistance, financial wellness workshops, and living wages during the program. Cohorts start in January and applications open in September. Positions will be filled on an as-need basis after January.

Learn more about FIRE Foundry by visiting [firefoundry.org](https://firefoundry.org)



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION: OVERNIGHT FAMILY CAMPING PROGRAM

In the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, more people than ever before looked to the outdoors as a safe place to relax, exercise, and spend time with family. There was a surge of interest in camping at a time when many state and federal campgrounds limited their capacity or shut down entirely to minimize staff and visitors' exposure to the virus or to mitigate wildfire risk.

In 2021, realizing that residents needed more access to camping, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department) launched a supervised Overnight Family Camping program. Initially run as a pilot, the program has proven to be immensely popular. In the summer of 2022, more than 16,000 participants spent nights under the stars at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, and Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The Department selected these locations to be geographically dispersed throughout Los Angeles County, making camping accessible close to home. In addition to camping access, the program offers family-friendly activities including fishing, night hikes, live animal ambassadors, kayaking, and biking. There are program staff available on site to help first-time campers learn basic camping skills. Recreation staff and security personnel interact with participants throughout the entire experience, ensuring the program is fun and safe.

The Overnight Camping Program provides an excellent opportunity for families to enjoy outdoor fun and learn new skills close to home.

To learn more about the program, please visit [parks.lacounty.gov](https://parks.lacounty.gov)



# APPENDIX & BIBLIOGRAPHY



# APPENDIX

## DEFINITIONS

---

**Multi-benefit project:** The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “multi-benefit project” from the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC): “A project or activity which, by virtue of integrated design and planning, provides direct benefits to multiple local, regional, state, and federal strategic objectives. Multi-benefit wildfire and forest resilience projects can impact social, economic, and ecological outcomes, including social and cultural well-being, protecting and restoring tribal resources and practices, enhancing water security, forest resilience, biodiversity, workforce development, outdoor recreation and access, and carbon sequestration” (State of California Department of Conservation, 2022).

**Sustainable outdoor recreation:** The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “sustainable outdoor recreation” from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Collaborative: “Outdoor recreational opportunities and activities that are practiced responsibly such that impacts are minimized, manageable, and mitigable over time, and meet the evolving needs of present and future generations.”

**Wildfire and forest resilience:** The Joint Strategy effort shares the definition of “wildfire and forest resilience” from the Department of Conservation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP): “Wildfire and forest resilience refers broadly to social and ecological resilience of landscapes, communities, and resources to wildfire and related disturbances and stresses exacerbated by climate change. Social and ecological dynamics are connected and inherent to forests and communities, including but not limited to biodiversity, water quality, cultural resources, recreation, and forest related economies” (State of California Department of Conservation, 2022).



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- Balch, J. K., Bradley, B. A., Abatzoglou, J. T., Nagy, R. C., Fusco, E. J., & Mahood, A. L. (2017, March 14). Human-started wildfires expand the fire niche across the United States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(11), 2946-2951. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1617394114>
- Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. (2022). 2021--California, Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://apps.bea.gov/data/special-topics/orsa/summary-sheets/ORSA%20-%20California.pdf>
- DeVille, N. V., Tomasso, L. P., Stoddard, O. P., Wilt, G. E., Horton, T. H., Wolf, K. L., Brymer, E., Kahn, Jr., P. H., & James, P. (2021, July 14). Time Spent in Nature Is Associated with Increased Pro-Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(14). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18147498>
- Executive Order N-82-20. (2020, October 7). <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/10.07.2020-EO-N-82-20-.pdf>
- Headwaters Economics. (2018, August). Economic Diversification and Outdoor Recreation in Bonner County. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/report-bonner-county-economic-diversification.pdf>
- Headwaters Economics. (2019, January). Recreation Counties Attracting New Residents and Higher Incomes. <https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/recreation-counties-attract-report.pdf>
- Kim, M.-K., & Jakus, P. M. (2019, June). Wildfire, national park visitation, and changes in regional economic activity. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 26, 34–42. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jort.2019.03.007>
- Knight, K. W., & Hao, F. (2022, March 17). Is Outdoor Recreation Associated with Greater Climate Change Concern in the United States? *Sustainability*, 14(6). <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14063520>
- Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation. (2021, January). CALREC Vision: Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration to Advance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation in California. [https://mltpa.org/images/downloads/025\\_34\\_CalRecVision\\_Final\\_2021\\_WEB.pdf](https://mltpa.org/images/downloads/025_34_CalRecVision_Final_2021_WEB.pdf)
- Miller, A. B., Winter, P. L., Sánchez, J. J., Peterson, D. L., & Smith, J. W. (2022, July). Climate Change and Recreation in the Western United States: Effects and Opportunities for Adaptation. *Journal of Forestry*, 120(4), 453-472. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jofore/fvab072>
- National Recreation and Park Association. (2022). 2022 Engagement with Parks Report. Retrieved October 25, 2022, from <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/257fe28053c6420786927fcffc2f9996/2022engagementreport.pdf>



- Outdoor Foundation. (2022, September 19). 2022 Outdoor Participation Trends Report. Retrieved October 25, 2022, from <https://ip0o6y1ji424m0641msgjlfy-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2022-Outdoor-Participation-Trends-Report-1.pdf>
- Rosenberger, R. S., White, E. M., Kline, J. D., & Cvitanovich, C. (2017, August). Recreation Economic Values for Estimating Outdoor Recreation Economic Benefits From the National Forest System. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr957.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr957.pdf)
- State of California Department of Conservation. (2022, July 22). 2022 Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Final Grant Guidelines. Retrieved December 12, 2022, from <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Documents/2022%20RFFC%20Guidelines%20Final.pdf>.
- State of California & USDA, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. (2020). Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands between the State of California and the USDA, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/8.12.20-CA-Shared-Stewardship-MOU.pdf>
- Taff, B. D., Rice, W. L., Lawhon, B., & Newman, P. (2021, December 17). Who Started, Stopped, and Continued Participating in Outdoor Recreation during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States? Results from a National Panel Study. *Land*, 10(12), 1396. <https://doi.org/10.3390/land10121396>
- U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, & Council on Environmental Quality. (2021). Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful. <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>
- U.S. Forest Service, USDA. (2010, June 25). Connecting People with America's Great Outdoors: A Framework for Sustainable Recreation. [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5346549.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5346549.pdf)
- White, E. M., Bergerson, T. R., & Hinman, E. T. (2020). Research note: Quick assessment of recreation use and experience in the immediate aftermath of wildfire in a desert river canyon. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 29. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jort.2019.100251>

---

## PHOTO CREDITS

- Cover (Bottom): Ken Etzel  
 Page 4: Sarinah Simons, National Park Service  
 Page 7: California State Parks  
 Page 14: Jerry Snyder, U.S. Forest Service  
 Page 18: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management  
 Page 23: David Berry  
 Page 27: Yen Chao  
 Page 31: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management  
 Page 35: Ted Weiss, U.S. Forest Service  
 Page 44: Mammoth Lakes Trail System  
 Page 49: CAL FIRE





**CALIFORNIA'S JOINT STRATEGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION & WILDFIRE RESILIENCE**

**DECEMBER 2022**



## **STAFF REPORT**

*By:* Chris Cahill  
*Date:* February 9, 2026  
*Item:* **4.c**  
*Subject:* Consideration and potential adoption of an updated Forest Management Plan for the Moore Creek Unit of Moore Creek Park, including the Phinney Addition.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. Find the proposed action categorically exempt under CEQA.
2. Adopt the updated Forest Management Plan for the Moore Creek Unit of Moore Creek Park as submitted.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

**Categorically Exempt.** The proposed Forest Management Plan amendment is exempt from the application of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines, Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District's Local CEQA Guidelines, Class 1, Sub 2 (Minor Alterations to Land - Mechanical or Chemical Control of Invasive Plants), Class 1, Sub 3 (Minor Alterations to Land - Routine Vegetation Management to Reduce Wildfire Hazard) and Class 1, Sub 4 (Minor Alterations to Land - Grazing, Prescribed Fire, and Vegetation Thinning to Reduce Wildfire Hazard). There are no unusual circumstances associated with either the proposed project or with its location which would cause it to have a significant effect on the environment.

### BACKGROUND

A Forest Management Plan is a comprehensive, site-specific document created in collaboration with a Registered Professional Forester that outlines long-term strategies for stewardship, forest health, and conservation. It acts as a roadmap to meet key management goals such as wildfire risk reduction, habitat enhancement, and invasives management, while adhering to best management practices and ecological standards as established by the California Forest Practice Rules.

The District, in collaboration with the Napa RCD, first adopted a Forest Management Plan for Moore Creek Park in 2024. With the acquisition of the 523-acre Phinney Addition on March 28, 2025 it became necessary to update that Plan in order to integrate Phinney into our now 2,100 acre open space park. The revised and updated Forest Management Plan before the Board for adoption today will guide our forest and fuels management practices at Moore Creek going forward. We are also very hopeful that the Plan will open up avenues for grant funding to pay for some of that important work.

Quoting from the introduction to the draft Plan:

This Forest Management Plan (FMP) was created collaboratively between the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (NOSD) and the Napa County Resource Conservation District (NRCD), and Dogwood Springs Forestry. Moore Creek Park is the most visited NOSD park and is split into the NOSD-owned Moore Creek Park Unit, which includes the recent Phinney acquisition and the City of Napa-owned and NOSD-managed Lake Hennessey Unit. Visitors to the Moore Creek Park Unit enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use while the Lake Hennessey Unit offers hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, and dog walking.

The FMP describes the current conditions of the Moore Creek Park (Property) including:

- Landcover (vegetation) types
- Watercourses
- Property infrastructure
- Habitat types
- Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plant species
- Potential Property hazards and threats

This FMP is intended to provide management guidance to achieve desired future conditions to ensure that:

- Property ecosystems are healthy and resilient.
- Recreation and aesthetic values enjoyed by visitors are preserved.
- Property infrastructure is hardened to reduce threats from wildfire.
- Water resources that drain into Lake Hennessey are protected from effects of high severity wildfire.

This FMP is intended to be a working document to inform and record NOSD's decisions and progress. Management activities implemented on the Property should be monitored to ensure that they are meeting management goals and adjusted as needed.

### Management Goals

Long-term goals for the Property are to:

1. Improve and maintain the health and resilience of the plant communities that provide ecological, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. Resilient plant communities will continue to function under changing climate conditions and be resistant to wildfire, pests, and other disturbances.
2. Maintain defensible space around Property infrastructure.
3. Protect and improve water quality by addressing erosion control points along roads and managing vegetation.
4. Expand and improve recreational opportunities for the public.

Specific, reasonably short-term management actions driven by the Moore Creek Park Forest Management Plan include the following. The RCD is currently working on Lake Hennessey watershed CAL FIRE Forest Health grant application to fund the work, for which District staff is extremely appreciative:

### State Coastal Conservancy Grant Treatment Units (+/- 101 acres)

- Pile and burn previously lopped material, focus on piling the largest material. Constructed piles should be approximately 4'x4'x4'.
- Piles should be constructed on resprouting vegetation, when possible, to reduce the need for additional maintenance.
- If feasible and safe, burning piles should be allowed to creep at the edges to consume material that is too small to be added to the piles.
- Cut, pile, and burn vegetation 4-8" dbh (diameter at breast height), primary target species Douglas-fir, constructed burn piles should be approximately 4'x4'x4'

**Previously Untreated Area (+/- 168 acres)**

- Thin vegetation less than 8" dbh, primary target species greater than 4" dbh will be Douglas-fir. Pile and burn all generated material. Constructed burn piles should be approximately 4'x4'x4'.

# Napa County Open Space District

## Moore Creek Park Unit

### Forest Management Plan

Version 2

October 31, 2025

Prepared By:

Alex Wilbanks

Napa County Resource Conservation District

and

John Nickerson

California Registered Professional Forester #2549

Dogwood Springs Forestry

# California Cooperative Forest Management Plan

(electronic)

(Version 7-5-2012)

Property Name: Moore Creek Park

Property Location Address: 2602 Chile Pope Valley Rd. St. Helena, CA 94574

Owner Name (s): Napa County Parks and Open Space District

Plan Authors:

Alex Wilbanks  
Napa County Resource Conservation District  
1303 Jefferson St Suite 500B  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 690-3116  
Signature: Alex Wilbanks

John Nickerson, RPF #2549  
Dogwood Springs Forestry  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 489-2443  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**This management plan outlines the conditions and capability of property resources, documents the landowner's objectives and decisions and identifies potential resource improvement projects. It is meant to be a flexible and educational document that considers a planning horizon of at least 5 years but may include objectives that require a much longer time period.**

This management plan template meets management plan requirements for grant agreements and other provisions available through CAL FIRE, NRCS, USFS, and the American Tree Farm Association. Signature Pages are provided to document acceptance of this management plan in meeting those requirements.

This management plan is a tool for and belongs to the landowner. Signatures are only required for that entity providing funding as requested by the landowner.



## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

This Forest Management Plan is provided as a guide to help you accomplish the objectives that you have for your forest. This Forest Management Plan will guide you in achieving the benefits of managing your forest and forest related resources. With this Forest Management Plan, you are eligible to participate in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), US Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program (USFS), the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs. This plan will need to be reviewed and approved by representatives for each of the programs that are providing funding.

**I have reviewed this plan and approve its content.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Landowner (s)** 23-JAN-26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

---

---

### USFS Forest Stewardship Program

I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the federal Forest Stewardship Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Plan Preparer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the federal Forest Stewardship Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewardship Forester \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Forest Stewardship Tracking Number: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

### NRCS Cost Share Programs including EQIP

I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the USDA-NRCS Programs and/or the Quality Criteria for forest activity plans in Section III of the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Technical Service Provider \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
RPF Number

I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the USDA-NRCS Programs and/or the Quality Criteria for forest activity plans in Section III of the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Conservationist \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

---

### ATFS Program

I certify that this Forest Management Plan meets the requirements of the American Forest Foundation's American Tree Farm System.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATFS Inspecting Forester \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

Certified Tree Farm Number: (e.g. AL 1234) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of ATFS Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

# CAL FIRE CFIP MANAGEMENT PLAN CERTIFICATION PAGE

**California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Certification:** I certify that I, or my supervised designee, personally inspected this California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) plan area, and that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards. I further certify that this plan is based upon the best available site and landowner information, and if followed, will not be detrimental to the productivity of the natural resources associated with this property.

Name (print or type): John Nickerson

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: January 21, 2026

Organization or Company: Dogwood Springs Forestry

Phone: (707) 489-2443

RPF#: 2549

**CAL FIRE Unit Certification:** I certify that I, or my supervised designee, personally inspected this California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) plan area, and that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards.

Name (print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Unit: Sonoma-Lake-Napa

Address: 1199 Big Tree Rd, St. Helena, CA 94574

**CAL FIRE STATE OR REGION CFIP COORDINATOR:** I certify that the plan fully complies with the CFIP and Professional Foresters Law, and meets Federal Forest Stewardship Management Plan Standards.

Name (print or type): \_\_\_\_\_

RPF#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. Property and Watershed Overview .....	4
3. Landowner & PROPERTY Information .....	5
4. Property history and legacy .....	7
5. Management goals & objectives .....	10
6. Property setting & conditions .....	11
6.1 Property Infrastructure .....	11
6.2 Access and Security .....	13
6.3 Recreation and Aesthetics .....	13
6.4 Livestock Management .....	13
6.5 Fire Management .....	15
6.6 Physiographic Setting .....	17
6.7 Biological Resources .....	19
7. Proposed Vegetation Management .....	27
7.1 Vegetation Types .....	27
7.2 Long Term Vegetation Maintenance .....	32
7.3 Watercourse Protections .....	32
8. Climate considerations of beneficial practices .....	33
8.1 Introduction to Forest Carbon .....	33
8.2 Managing for Increased Carbon Storage and Security .....	34
9. Constraints & proposed Alternatives .....	34
9.1 Operational Constraints .....	34
9.2 Proposed Alternatives .....	35
9.3 Economic Sustainability .....	35
10. Planned management activity .....	36
10.1 Management Activity Schedule and Tracking .....	36
10.2 CEQA and NEPA Information and List of Required Permits .....	38
10.3 List of Potential Funding Sources for Project Implementation .....	38
10.4 List of Additional Professional Assistance .....	40
11. References .....	40
12. Appendices .....	42
Appendix A: Property Infrastructure .....	42

Appendix B: Road Treatment Recommendations for Erosion Control Points.....43  
Appendix C: Fire History and Fuel Loading .....44  
Appendix D: Streams and Wetlands .....46  
Appendix E: Soils Report .....47  
Appendix F: Wildlife and Habitat Maps and Information .....67  
Appendix G: Weed Control .....71  
Appendix H: Burn Information.....71  
Appendix I: Vegetation Map and Reports.....72

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Forest Management Plan (FMP) was created collaboratively between the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (NOSD) and the Napa County Resource Conservation District (NRCD), and Dogwood Springs Forestry. Moore Creek Park is the most visited NOSD park and is split into the NOSD owned Moore Creek Park Unit, which includes the recent Phinney acquisition and the City of Napa owned and NOSD managed Lake Hennessey Unit. Visitors to the Moore Creek Park Unit enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use while the Lake Hennessey Unit offers hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, and dog walking.

The FMP describes the current conditions of the Moore Creek Park (Property) including:

- Landcover (vegetation) types
- Watercourses
- Property infrastructure
- Habitat types
- Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and plant species
- Potential Property hazards and threats

This FMP is intended to provide management guidance to achieve desired future conditions to ensure that:

- Property ecosystems are healthy and resilient.
- Recreation and aesthetic values enjoyed by visitors are preserved.
- Property infrastructure is hardened to reduce threats from wildfire.
- Water resources that drain into Lake Hennessey are protected from effects of high severity wildfire.

This FMP is intended to be a working document to inform and record the NCOSD's decisions and progress. Management activities implemented on the Property should be monitored to ensure that they are meeting management goals and adjusted as needed.

### Management Goals

The Long-term goals for the Property are to:

1. Improve and maintain the health and resilience of the plant communities that provide ecological, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. Resilient plant communities will continue to function under changing climate conditions and be resistant to wildfire, pests, and other disturbances.
2. Maintain defensible space around Property infrastructure.
3. Protect and improve water quality by addressing erosion control points along roads and managing vegetation.
4. Expand and improve recreational opportunities for the public.

### Notes about the FMP

The parcel shapefiles used to calculate the acres of the property have yielded incorrect results. The original Moore Creek Park parcels were calculated at 718 acres and the Phinney acquisition parcels were calculated at 569 acres in ArcGIS. The correct acreage of the Moore Creek Park parcels is 673 acres and was calculated by former NCOSD General Manager John Woodbiry using legal parcel descriptions. The correct acreage of the Phinney acquisition is 523 acres and has been referenced by multiple sources in reporting on the acquisition and matches the Napa County Parcel Report data. Calculated acreages have been corrected by reducing acreage calculations to a percent and calculating correct acres using the correct property acre numbers. Some maps and produced data (Soils Report) will continue to show incorrect numbers but all referenced numbers in the text body of this FMP have been corrected.

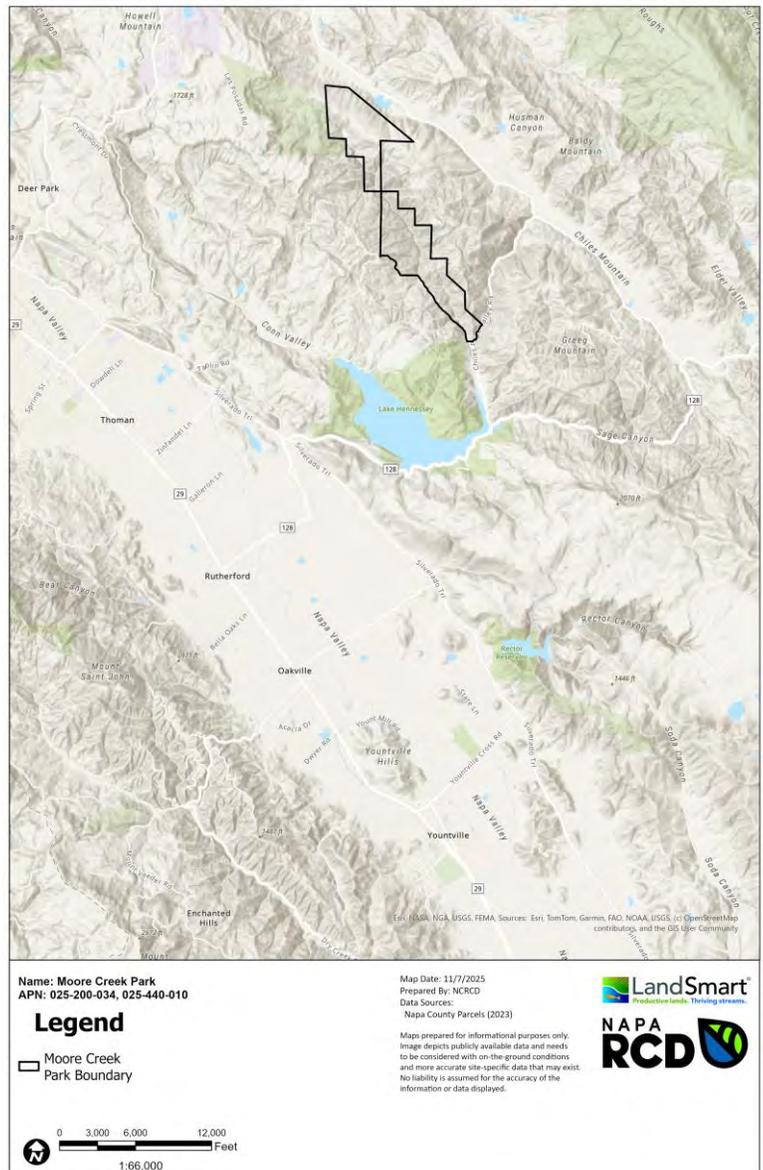
## 2. PROPERTY AND WATERSHED OVERVIEW

Moore Creek Park consists of the City of Napa owned Lake Hennessey Unit and the NCOSD owned Moore Creek Park Unit. The Moore Creek Park Unit Property is located in Napa County, California, approximately 6 miles east of the city of St. Helena and 7.5 miles north of the town of Yountville in the Napa River watershed. The Property is roughly 1,196 acres with 686 acres of forest dominated by oak savanna, blue oak-foothill pine, mixed oak woodlands, madrone, and Douglas fir forest.

Moore Creek Park is located in the Vaca Mountains. The Property is within the Moore Creek, Upper Maxwell Creek, and Chiles Creek Planning Watersheds, sub watersheds of the Napa River Watershed. The Napa River Watershed is defined by the Mayacamas Mountains to the west, Mt. St. Helena to the north, and the western side of the Vaca Mountains to the east which includes Atlas Peak, Mt. George, and Howell Mountain. The Napa River, fed by numerous tributaries, runs 55 miles down the center of the Napa Valley before draining into the San Pablo Bay. The Napa River Watershed is home to most of the Napa County residents and is the urban and agriculture center of the County.

Napa County has a Mediterranean climate which is defined by warm dry summers and cool wet winters. Summer temperatures average just over 90°F at the height of the summer and just over 40°F in the winter. At the extremes temperatures can reach over 100°F during the summer and below freezing in the winter with infrequent snow at high elevations during particularly cold winters. Average rainfall amounts decrease moving southeast through the county with the driest portion of the County being around American Canyon. From 1900-1960 the average rainfall amount in the area around Moore Creek Park was approximately 35 inches. However, over the last 10 years average rainfall has been 26.7 inches as the region has experienced both its driest and wettest years on record.

Most of the Property drains into Moore Creek, which runs from Las Posadas State Forest through the length of the Property before meeting with Chiles Creek. A small portion of the Property at the southeast end drains directly into Chiles creek which drains into Lake Hennessey, the City of Napa’s municipal water supply.



### 3. LANDOWNER & PROPERTY INFORMATION

Landowner			
Name	Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District		
Mailing Address	1195 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, Second Floor		
City, State & Zip Code	Napa, CA 94559	Phone (office)	707-299-1335
E-mail	info@ncrposd.org	Phone (cell)	

Landowner's Representative (if applicable)			
Name	Chris Cahill		
Mailing Address	1195 3 <sup>rd</sup> St, Second Floor		
City, State & Zip Code	Napa, CA 94559	Phone (office)	707-253-4847
E-mail	<a href="mailto:ccahill@ncrposd.org">ccahill@ncrposd.org</a>	Phone (cell)	

Lead Plan Preparer				
Name	Alex Wilbanks			
Preparer's Affiliation	Napa County Resource Conservation District			
Plan Sections Prepared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Some (specified below) Sections:			
E-mail	<a href="mailto:alex@naparcd.org">alex@naparcd.org</a>	Phone	707-690-3129	Fax

Other Contributing Plan Preparer(s)				
Name	John Nickerson RPF #2549			
Preparer's Affiliation	Dogwood Springs Forestry			
Plan Sections Prepared	Plan Sections Contributed to (List Sections):			
E-mail	<a href="mailto:jnickerson@dogwoodspringsforestry.com">jnickerson@dogwoodspringsforestry.com</a>	Phone	707-489-2443	Fax

Management Plan History	
<p><b>A previous Forest Management Plan was completed for the property on June 26, 2024. This plan was revised on October 31, 2025 to include the recently acquired 523 acres north of the previous Moore Creek Park boundaries.</b></p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> CFIP Forest Management Plan <input type="checkbox"/> EQIP Forest Management Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Management Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list)	

Date of Original Plan Completion	June 26, 2024
Revision Date(s)	October 31, 2025

Property Facts			
Legal Property Description (Township, Range, and Section)	R04W T08N Sec. 30, R05W T08N Sec. 10, 11, 14, 23, 24, 25		
Nearest City or Town	St. Helena		
County	Napa		
Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN)	025-030-010, 025-030-017, 025-060-005, 025-060-023, 025-060-025, 025-200-034, 025-440-010		
Tract and Farm Number (if suitable)			
GPS Coordinates	Latitude	38.51024	Longitude -122.3559
Total ownership acreage	1,196	Total forested acreage	686
Does landowner reside on the Property?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

Topography	
Elevation Range	300-1540ft
<i>Estimated percent of total acreage that is:</i>	
Simple topography (few ravines and changes of aspect)	Many ravines and changes in aspect including: SW, SE, NW, and NE
Flat (< 5% slopes)	0.7%
Gentle (5 - 35% slopes)	33.1%
Steep (> 35% slopes)	66.2%

Transportation System	
Vehicle Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent (80% accessible) <input type="checkbox"/> Good (at least 50%) <input type="checkbox"/> Fair (at least 25%) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poor (less than 10%)
Estimated paved road length	0.1 miles
Estimated improved road length (rock surfaced roads)	0.0 miles
Estimated unimproved road length (native surfaced roads)	6.1 miles

Watershed Information	
Water Board Region(s) <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml</a>	Region 2
CALWATER 2.2 planning watershed	Moore Creek, Chiles Creek

<a href="https://frap.fire.ca.gov/mapping/gis-data/">https://frap.fire.ca.gov/mapping/gis-data/</a>			
Acres within this watershed		1,196	
303d listing on watershed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	TMDL Factors (list)	Sediment

#### 4. PROPERTY HISTORY AND LEGACY

**Local Indigenous History and Presence – Written by Napa RCD staff, last edited Jan. 2024**

Moore Creek Park is in present-day Napa County, the ancestral homeland of the Coast/Lake Miwok, Wappo, Pomo, and Patwin Nations geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation, since time immemorial<sup>1</sup> ( <https://native-land.ca/> ). These Nations have been the stewards and caretakers of these lands in ways that have shaped and maintained the health of plants, animals, and ecosystems, while elevating the interconnectedness of humans and the natural world. The excerpts below are not specific to the Coast/Lake Miwok, Wappo, Pomo, or Patwin Nations but it is likely that all of these tribes engaged in the same or similar stewardship practices.

Author M. Kat Anderson gives a perspective on the active nature of Native American land management in her book *Tending the Wild*, excerpted below:

California Indians protected and tended favored plant species and habitats, harvested plant and animal products at carefully worked out frequencies and intensities, and practiced an array of horticultural techniques. Through coppicing, pruning, harrowing, sowing, weeding, burning, digging, thinning, and selective harvesting, they encouraged desired characteristics of individual plants, increased populations of useful plants, and altered the structures and compositions of plant communities. (Anderson, 2013).

As Anderson continues, many California plant species and plant communities evolved and have become dependent on indigenous stewardship methods:

“...the record in California reveals that land management systems have been in place here for at least twelve thousand years—ample time to affect the evolutionary course of plant species and plant communities...important features of major ecosystems may have developed as a result of human intervention, and many plant communities (coastal prairies, valley oak savannas, and montane meadows) had essentially become dependent on ongoing human activities of various kinds (Anderson, 2013).

Dry Creek Pomo/Wappo Cultural Bearer and Knowledge Keeper, Laura Fish Somersal shared the following:

“Although these are modern times, these plants still give us a living. They feed us. Help us along. Heal us when we are sick. And remind us we are still Indians, even in these times. That is why it is important to keep them”. (L. Fish-Somersal, personal communication, September 14, 1987).

Fire was the most significant, effective, and widely employed vegetation management tool of California Indian tribes. Fire scientists estimate that between 5.6 million and 13 million acres of California burned annually under both lightning and indigenous people’s fire regimes (Martin and Sapsis 1992). Deliberate burning increased the abundance of edible foods such as tubers, greens, fruits and seeds; enhanced

feed for wildlife; controlled the insects and disease that could damage foods, basketry materials, and cordage. Deliberate burning also minimized the potential for catastrophic fires and promoted growth through the recycling of nutrients and maintained specific plant communities (Timbrook et al., 1993).

Anthropologist Peter Nelson describes the disruption that settler-colonialism caused to indigenous peoples and to how the land was stewarded:

Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization of California disrupted... life for California Indians and the regimes of management that supported much of California's natural resources. Missionaries and settlers forcibly removed California Indians from their ancestral lands...

In the San Francisco Bay Area during the industrial period and as a result of the federal Relocation Act of 1956, many indigenous families moved to urban centers (Petaluma, Santa Rosa, San Francisco, East Bay) to find employment and receive vocational training with financial incentives to acculturate provided by the US government (FIGR, 2021). Federal policy included forcing indigenous children to attend Indian Boarding Schools, and at least 25% of indigenous children were removed from their parents and communities and placed into the child welfare system under the guise of protection (MacEachron, Ann E., et al., 1996). These systems and institutions were the next phase of attempted ethnocide with the intention to erase Indian culture and force assimilation.

Despite forced removal and labor, genocide, and continued cultural erasure locally and nationally, Native peoples continue to maintain their presence in, and stewardship of, their homelands (Nelson, 2017). Through the 1900s, some of the indigenous families stayed in Napa County and continued to use traditional skills such as fishing, traditional food-gathering, and basketry to make a living. Some indigenous families also worked as agricultural laborers.

Throughout California, many contemporary indigenous people and tribes, are currently working with US Park Services, State Parks, and other land management agencies to restore lands within their traditional territories, reincorporate indigenous stewardship methods into policies and management practices, and revitalize cultural traditions through cultural burning, basketry, and language (Nelson, 2017). In Napa County, there is no longer a land-based tribe, however, several federally recognized tribes acknowledge ancestral homelands within the County, including Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Middletown Rancheria, Dry Creek Rancheria, and Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Additionally, the Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley recognizes ancestral lands in Napa County. In the early 1980s, Laura Fish Somersal (Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo/Wappo Indians), worked with staff at Bothe State Park, in Napa County, overseeing the Native Plant Gardens that were installed to ensure accuracy of indigenous plants, correct Wappo translation of plant names to English, and to share cultural knowledge of plant usage.

This FMP suggests the implementation of management practices that would allow the NCOSD to meet their Property goals. These management practices are similar to those prescribed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Many NRCS conservation and agricultural practices are based in part or in whole on indigenous stewardship methods (Leonetti, 2010). When engaging with indigenous stewardship methods, it is important to engage in relationships with Tribal nations and communities in a manner that respects the rights of knowledge holders to control access to their knowledge, to grant or withhold permission, and to dictate the terms of its application. This collaboration and partnership can be successful when done with integrity, openness, and willingness to listen and learn. To share the

knowledge of Clint McKay, “Humans do not hold dominion over nature. In my tradition, we look at the land for what is in the best interest of every living thing in our natural environment. We have to live in harmony with nature, be part of it, keep in balance,” (Hood, 2022). Application of that knowledge should benefit Tribal nations and communities and our shared planet (Federal Memo, 2021).

**Timber History.** There is no known timber history on the Property. Access is poor but there are abandoned roads/skid trails and landings that suggest the presence of previous tractor logging operations, particularly at the northern intersection of the Yip Trip Trail and the Moore Creek Trail.

**Property History.** Moore Creek Park was purchased by the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District in 2008 with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy, Proposition 40, the County of Napa, and the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District. The Property was valued for its natural resources, its location along a major tributary (Moore Creek) feeding into Lake Hennessey, and its ability to connect a significant portion of the Napa Crest Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail. The Property was previously owned by the Delabriandais family whose long-time tenant, Don Juarez, grazed cattle on the Property before and after its sale until they were removed to prevent damage to trails from hoof impact. In 2025, the Napa County Open Space District in Partnership with the Napa County Land Trust and with funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy and Metropolitan Transportation Commission purchased three parcels totaling 523 acres from the Phinney family. The Phinney family had previously provided the Napa County Open Space district with an easement on these parcels for public access via Dan’s Wild Ride Trail. There is no history of development on the property, but 5 acres of chaparral was cleared for a vineyard that was never planted, and the vegetation is recovering. The purchase of this property was important to community stakeholders because it secures a corridor encompassing the entire length of Moore Creek from its headwaters to its outlet into Lake Hennessey that will be beneficial to wildlife and ensure future public access from Moore Creek Park to the Pacific Union College Forest in Angwin.

The table below provides a guide to outline past land use activities on the Property.

Land Use Activity	Area (acres)	Current	Past	Notes (include timeframe)
Timber Production	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Timber harvest may have occurred at a small scale in the past with tractor equipment, which suggests a timeframe of post World War II to the 1980s.
Firewood Production (identify personal or commercial)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no record of firewood use
Forested Open Space/Undeveloped		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Non-forested Open Space/Undeveloped		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Grazing/Rangeland		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown
Paved Areas and Buildings	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residences constructed in the 1960’s and parking lot improved

				in the 2000's after NCOSD purchased the Property
Pond/Reservoir ( <i>footprint</i> )		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District was established in 2006, when Napa County voters approved Measure I. The District is authorized to protect and preserve natural areas, resources, and wildlife habitat while providing outdoor recreation facilities and science and education programs for the public. The Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District plans to control and manage the Property for future public enjoyment.

<input type="checkbox"/> Include Property in landowner's will or trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift or sell forest to heirs prior to passing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Continued Public Access
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a legal business structure for the forest (Limited Liability Company, Family partnership, etc.)	

More information on succession planning can be found in the Spring 2011 edition of Forestland Steward ([https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/newsletters/Forestland\\_Steward\\_Newsletters34842.pdf](https://ucanr.edu/sites/forestry/newsletters/Forestland_Steward_Newsletters34842.pdf)).

## 5. MANAGEMENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Napa County Regional Parks and Open Space District's goals and objectives for the Property are to improve the health and resiliency of the forest to preserve park infrastructure and aesthetics for visitors and to preserve the wildlife habitat and ecosystem services that the park provides.

Production/Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Family legacy: pass on the Property to the next generation
<input type="checkbox"/> Timber production
<input type="checkbox"/> Other natural resource production (e.g., mushroom gathering, fire wood, biochar, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock management
<input type="checkbox"/> California Compliance Offset Program (note: generally, very capital intensive to participate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Public access
Quality of Life
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family legacy: pass on the Property to the next generation
<input type="checkbox"/> Address trespass concerns, particularly in regard to environmental degradation from trespass cannabis grows and/or off-highway vehicle effects on soil and water quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase and/or maintain aesthetics of the Property
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Forest Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire protection and fuel load reduction/promote fire resilient forest
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent and/or control insects and/or disease (list)
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase stocking (e.g., reforestation; list species)
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase species diversity (list preferred species)
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase growth/promote large diameter trees

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage forest roads to reduce movement of sediment into streams and other water bodies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce erosion of streambanks and gullies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase quality of wildlife habitat (list species and/or habitat characteristics)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maintain or enhance oak woodland, native grassland, or other plant communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage to increase tree cover and/or ground cover in riparian areas or along streams
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase quality of in-stream aquatic habitat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reduce/manage invasive weeds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage for climate resilient forests and long-term carbon storage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

## 6. PROPERTY SETTING & CONDITIONS

### [6.1 Property Infrastructure](#)

#### [6.1.1 Property Improvements](#)

A map of Property improvements can be found in Appendix A.

**Gates/Access:** There are three gates that restrict primary access to and within the park. The first gate is located at the entrance of the property along Pope Valley Rd, the second gate is located at the trailhead of the Moore Creek Trail to limit vehicle access, and the final gate is located at the beginning of the driveway to the caretaker’s house. The property can also be accessed from the northern trailhead of Dan’s Wild Ride located at the Pacific Union College Forest and hiking or biking south until one reaches the Moore Creek Park Property. Additional gate restricted access to the Property is provided by a shared driveway at 4591 Pope Valley Rd. This driveway extends to the Phinney acquisition and connects to Dan’s Wild Ride trail. There is also gate restricted access that can be provided by neighboring property owners with approval, that connects Rossi Rd. and Greenfield Rd. to the northern end of Moore Creek Trail.

**Residence:** The Property has two residences, the gate house, and the Property caretaker house. When the Property was under private ownership the gate house was occupied full time by a tenant and the Property caretaker house was used as a summer home.

**Fencing:** The Property has been fenced since grazing first began. The current condition of the fencing is unknown, and repairs may be needed. Fencing runs along the entire Property boundary with cross fencing running northeast to southwest just north of the caretaker residence.

**Water Access:** Moore Creek is a Class I fish bearing stream that runs through the Property. It is also one of the primary tributaries of Lake Hennessey, the municipal drinking water supply for the City of Napa. It had been historically used as a water source for livestock grazing on the Property.

**Water Infrastructure:** There are wells that serve both residences on the Property. There is also a pool located at the caretaker’s residence.

**Power:** Power lines enter the Property from the south and run from the entrance of the Property along the road north of the parking lot serving both residences on the Property.

### 6.1.2 Forest Road

The total length of roads on the Property has not been surveyed due to the many unknown spur roads that exist throughout the Property. Many of the spur roads may have been used during historic Property operations such as tractor logging. Excluding the spur roads there are two primary roads on the Property. The first is approximately 1.27 miles from the parking lot to just past the caretaker residence. The road continues to the back of the Property with multiple ford crossings, but it is unclear when this section of road was last used. Most of this road is native surface except for the rocked parking lot and paved entrance. The main road is currently in good condition but has small sections requiring improvements to prevent pooling and to improve drainage. The second road on the property connects Chiles Pope Valley Rd to the Phinney acquisition and extends 0.56 miles onto the property before splitting into two forks. The west fork is 0.59 miles and connects to Dan's Wild Ride and the east fork is 0.47 miles and abruptly ends south of an area that was cleared when the previous owners were considering planting a vineyard.

It is likely that forest health improvement projects occurring on the Property may uncover additional spur roads at which point the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District should consider whether a complete roads assessment is needed. A completed roads assessment should provide recommendations about whether roads should be reconstructed, decommissioned, or converted to trails. A map of forest roads can be found in Appendix B, some of the roads shown on the map were mapped using hillshade imagery but need to be verified.

#### **Road Challenges and Conditions**

Based on evidence of widespread erosion and concerns regarding adverse impacts to fish habitat, in 1990 the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) listed the Napa River as impaired by sedimentation. The primary impetus for listing was a concern regarding substantial decline since the 1940s in abundance and distribution of steelhead and salmon in the Napa River and its tributaries. Subsequently, the Water Board has identified "roads" as a significant source of sediment and they have developed a regulatory program for vineyard properties to require actions to reduce sediment delivery from roads and other sources.

Reports from Pacific Watershed Associates Inc. (PWA) and California Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) concerning road erosion surveys in the Napa River watershed estimate that 50% of the total road length within the Napa River landscape have potential to deliver sediments to the stream systems. Portions of the road network within the Property are at higher risk of erosion due to the lack of adequate drainage features.

Road storm-proofing may have an immediate benefit to the biological productivity of streams by helping to ensure that future storm runoff cleanses the streams of accumulated fine sediment, rather than depositing additional sediment. Investments into drainage features, such as rolling dips, waterbars, outloping roads, removing outside berms, and applying a rock surface can be highly effective in reducing erosion. Road storm-proofing practices slow runoff and give it a chance to infiltrate into the adjacent hillside as it had been doing before the road was constructed, thereby reducing its potential to erode the road surface as well as reducing annual maintenance costs.

**Erosion Control Points:** Erosion control points have not been assessed. In Appendix B a map of roads and trails includes crossings of streams and concentrated flows. This map can be used to determine where erosion control points are likely, but not all may be captured. Most erosion control points contain water bars to help divert water off the road surface to prevent erosion. These water bars as well as all of

the potential erosion control points should be monitored during the rainy season to ensure proper function.

Following a complete assessment of Property roads and erosion control points NCOSD will have the following options for their roads:

**Reconstruction:** Moore Creek Park currently has very little access via roads systems. Current trails are often too narrow for UTVs and ATVs causing an increase in the cost of forest management activities. Re-opening historic skid trails and road networks may offer increased access that could be important during emergencies or to decrease the cost of future management.

**Decommissioning (long-term winterization):** Active roads require regular inspection and maintenance. Decommissioning unused spur roads will prevent potential erosion and stream impacts and eliminate the need for continued and costly inspections and maintenance. Decommissioning focuses on removing fill from stream crossings to reestablish the original stream channel. Road lengths outside of the stream channel that continue to concentrate flows should be out sloped and inside ditches filled so that water flows perpendicularly over the road surface and spreads out down the slope. Some of the old spur roads on the Property may not require decommissioning.

**Road-to-Trail Conversion:** The other option available for the treatment of spur roads besides decommissioning will be road to trail conversions. Moore Creek Park has had ongoing trail construction to provide more access to the public throughout the park and some spur roads may offer opportunities for new trails or scenic vistas once discovered. To convert roads, the outside bank should be sloped or recontoured to decrease the surface from a drivable width to a trail width. Seeding of these recontoured slopes may be necessary.

## [6.2 Access and Security](#)

The Property boundaries are defined by perimeter fencing. There is a gate at the entrance with a park hours sign posted. There is additional signage with information about permitted public uses in the parking lot.

Since acquiring the Property there have been no major instances of trespassing, however, there have been a few instances of motorbike use on the trails that has ceased.

## [6.3 Recreation and Aesthetics](#)

The Lake Hennessey Unit can be accessed from the western parking lot at the end of Conn Valley Road and the eastern parking lot via Pope Valley Road. The Lake Hennessey Unit offers dog friendly trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. The Moore Creek Park Unit is not dog friendly and offers 15.93 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use. Trails that cross Moore Creek are difficult to access during the rainy season as creek flows rise. There is also a swimming hole at the end of Moore Creek Trail. There are currently 4.69 miles of proposed trail for the Moore Creek Park Unit that are planned or under construction as of the winter of 2025.

## [6.4 Livestock Management](#)

Livestock management in the form of cattle grazing took place on the Property prior to the acquisition by Napa County Park and Regional Open Space District. Given the terrain of the Property it is likely that a continuous grazing management system was used. During grazing operations, cattle had access to Moore Creek for water. Cattle were removed from the Property shortly after construction of Valentine

Vista Trail to prevent damaging impact. A grazing waiver<sup>1</sup> with the San Francisco Bay Water Board has been maintained since the Property was purchased despite grazing animals being removed.

Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District is interested in using small grazing animals for vegetation maintenance on the Property if it is financially feasible and achieves vegetation management goals. It is recommended that Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District speak with a contract grazer about water availability and access issues to understand if grazing small animals is feasible. If grazing animals are used on the Property the following should be considered:

- Public perception of animal welfare during fall and winter, and lambing or kidding season
- Animal impacts and related erosion
- How grazing season and intensity impacts vegetation composition

If possible, the contract grazer should have a sign that can be hung on fences explaining the use and care of the animals as well as contact information.

**Table 6.4-1: Livestock Management Related Conservation Practices**

Conservation Practice	NRCS Practice	Current Practice	Planned Implementation Date	Location
Establish and maintain permanent vegetative cover	Conservation Cover (327)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Monitor for Residual Dry Matter		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Management of grazing animals to improve available forage	Prescribed Grazing (528)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Favor perennial grasses and increase pasture production	Range Management/Prescribed Grazing (528)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Increase forage production by seeding into existing vegetation	Range Planting (550)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fencing to divide pastures for rotational grazing	Fencing (328); Access Control (472); Prescribed Grazing (528)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water\\_issues/programs/agriculture/grazing/napa\\_sonoma\\_grazing.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/agriculture/grazing/napa_sonoma_grazing.html)

Additional water for livestock	Water Development (516, 614)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Restore degraded areas	Pasture Planting (512); Range Planting (550)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Establishment of trees in grazed grassland or thin appropriate forested areas to facilitate the establishment of native grasses.	Silvopasture (381)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Conduct soil analysis for organic matter nutrient and organic matter status	Nutrient Management (590)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other:		<input type="checkbox"/>		

6.5 Fire Management

**Fire History.** The historical fire regime in Napa County prior to European settlement is speculative. However, through the analysis of charcoal deposits in lakebed sediments, and fossilized pollen analyses in other parts of the western US, paleo fire scientists suggest that changes in prehistoric fire frequency and fire adapted vegetation along the Pacific coast positively correlated with climatic changes throughout the Holocene epoch. Elevated fire frequencies and the transition to dominant pyrophytic plant communities followed a warmer, drier climate (Long et al. 1998, Long and Whitlock 1999, Mohr et al 2000, Stewart and Stephens 2006).

Native Americans also managed the landscape with fire and frequently burned areas near villages and to manage vegetation sources of food, and fiber materials (Lewis 1992, Keter 1995, Vale 2002, Whitlock and Knox 2002, Stewart and Stephens 2006). It is assumed that the majority of fires in coastal areas prior to European settlement were ignited by Native Americans, as the infrequent occurrence of lightning strikes in our region has likely not deviated greatly over the past millennium (Stephens and Libby 2006, Stewart and Stephens 2006).

European settlement of the area resulted in the deterrence of Native American fires, logging of forestlands, and intensive grazing of grasslands by cattle and sheep, all of which transformed the fire regime. European settlers also utilized fire to manage grazing lands, remove slash materials from logged forests, and to convert logged forest lands to grasslands. However, it appears that these fires were often larger, and more intense than previous Native American set fires.

By the 1920's, active fire suppression became paramount in forest management practices, resulting in the build-up of fuels in forested lands. When forest fires did occur, they were often larger and more severe due to these fuel loads. Fire records show that there were three times as many large fires in the 1950's than in previous decades (CDF-FRAP 2001, Stewart and Stephens 2006).

Between the 1950s and 1980s, regulations to manage logging practices along with more effective fire suppression techniques and equipment resulted in fewer acres being burned annually. However, since

the 1990's, the size and intensity of wildland fires has dramatically increased. This is likely related to drought conditions, fuel loading of dead and dying vegetation, increased encroachment of the built environment into the wildland, which is itself another type of fuel loading, and a changing climate.

**Property Fire History.** The De La Briandais Fire #2 and the De La Briandais Fire occurred on the Property in 1954 and 1961 respectively, and their overlap with the Property boundary is shown on the map included in appendix C. There were also other close fires between the 1950's and the 1980's ending with the Howell Mountain Fire in 1983. The most recent fire that closely approached the Property was the LNU Complex Fire in 2020, that burned over 300,000 acres between Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Colusa, Yolo, and Solano Counties. It was stopped just over half an acre from the south end of the Property at the ridge top east of Pope Valley Rd.

The lack of fire history on the Property, wild or prescribed, combined with the lack of vegetation management in some areas of the park has led to areas moderate and high fuel loading. A majority of these areas occur on northeast facing slopes in conifer and hardwood dominated forests and shrub communities.

There are few fire protection and management measures occurring on the Property due to the rural nature of the Property and limited access. Wildland fire engines would have access to the main road on the Property in the event of a fire and could draft from Moore Creek or the pool at the caretaker residence but, given that it is a dead end and only offers one way out the road would likely not be used for a direct attack during a wildfire.

#### 6.5.1 Prescribed Fire

There are many benefits to restoring a regular fire return interval to natural landscapes. More regular fire events consume fuels while they are at a moderate level, which results in flame length and fire line intensities that are moderate; allowing larger trees to survive unscathed. This reduction in fuel loading lowers the risk of catastrophic wildfire over the long term, and it has the added benefit of creating park-like conditions that are preferred for hiking and recreation. Fire is known to stimulate responses in forest foods; acorns flush from oaks and tanoaks in response to fire, and it is well known by mushroom hunters that morel mushrooms sprout in much higher abundance following fire.

To realize the benefits of moderate intensity or low severity fire, broadcast burning must be conducted in a safe and controlled manner. Prior to any burns, fuels reduction treatments are often necessary.

Currently the north facing slopes of the Property are overstocked and have a considerably high fuel load. Treatments are ongoing to reduce ladder fuels on this north facing slope, but material is being lopped and scattered. This treatment will reduce the fire risk over time it will only change the composition of the fuels in the park until the material has time to decompose, at which point the risk will be substantially reduced. An archeological survey of the Property and botanical surveys will need to be conducted before this material can be treated via pile and burning, which is the only feasible option given the slopes and current access.

Broadcast burning will be extremely challenging on the Property due to the lack of access both at the opposing ridges and at the bottom. Cal Fire should be consulted for any broadcast burning on the Property and it is likely that control lines would need to be established on neighboring properties to the west and the north. There is currently a road system at the top of the eastern ridge that could be used during broadcast burn operations. Burn units may be very large as a result of access and control points and Napa County Open Space District should consider the short-term impacts to the visual aesthetics and how it will be received by the public.

### 6.5.2 Defensible Space

Defensible space refers to the space immediately around permitted structures on your Property. Despite the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District being exempt from the Napa County Defensible Space Guidelines and County Ordinance Chapter 8.36, it is recommended that NOSD attempt to follow the guidelines and ordinance as closely as possible to harden structures on the property. General requirements for defensible space in Napa County, given in distance from the permitted structure, are as follows:

#### 0-30 feet:

- Remove all branches within 10' of chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Remove all dead or dying trees, branches, shrubs, or other vegetation adjacent to or overhanging buildings.
- Remove or separate live flammable ground cover and shrubs.
- Climbing vines must be removed from trees and structures.
- Spark arrestors requires on all chimneys

#### 30-100 feet:

- Mow dead or dying grass to a maximum 4" in height
- Live flammable ground cover may remain, but overhanging vegetation must be pruned to 6' minimum.
- Create horizontal and vertical spacing between vegetation.



Fuel reduction projects and conservation practices will be discussed in Section 7.3, Fuel Reduction.

### 6.6 Physiographic Setting

#### 6.6.1 Streams, Ponds, and Water Quality

There is one Class I stream on the Property, Moore Creek, and multiple seasonal Class II streams that drain into Moore Creek. Moore Creek merges with Chiles Creek just south of the Property before quickly meeting with Lake Hennessey. The Napa County Open Space District has not specifically requested any

management buffers for this. However, the City of Napa has recommended a 200-foot buffer around Moore Creek as well as two other intermittent streams on the Property, identified in the map in Appendix D, when pile and burning and using heavy equipment prevent delivery of total organic carbon to Lake Hennessey. Otherwise, the requirements that address the use of equipment and vegetation management restrictions outlined in the Forestry Practice Rules should be considered best practice.

**Water Resources.** Watercourses are classified into Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV streams. In general, Class I watercourses contain fish or provide domestic water supplies. Class II watercourses have fish present within 1,000 feet downstream or contain habitat for non-fish aquatic species. Class III watercourses have no aquatic life present but show evidence of being capable of transporting sediment. Class IV watercourses are man-made, such as agricultural ditches, canals, and conduits. Watercourse protections are discussed in section 7.3.

**Table 6.6.1-1: Watercourses Present on the Property**

<b>Watercourse Classification</b>	<b>Channel Length</b>	<b>Notes (e.g., species present, seasonality, etc.)</b>
Class I	22,233 ft	Perennial fish-bearing
Class II	18,547 ft	Presence of hydrophilic organisms
Class III	19,949 ft	Seasonal

### 6.6.2 Soils

A soils report of the Property was produced using the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey and can be found in Appendix E.

There are four soil types on the Property: Sobrante loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, Henneke gravelly loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes, Kidd loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes, and Bressa-Dibble complex 30 to 50% slopes. Sobrante loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes is the dominant soil type in the park and is the only soil type of the initial 673 acres of Moore Creek Park. Within the recently acquired 523 acres, approximately 365 acres are Henneke, gravelly loam 30 to 75 percent slopes and 158 acres are Kidd loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes with the remaining acres split between Sobrante loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes and Bressa-Dibble complex 30 to 50% slopes.

These soil types have been classified as highly susceptible to high severity fire damage. According to Web Soil Survey, “This rating represents the relative risk of creating a water repellent layer, volatilization of essential soil nutrients, destruction of soil biological activity, and vulnerability to water and wind erosion prior to reestablishing adequate watershed cover on the burned site. These ratings are directly related to burn severity (e.g. a low-moderate severity burn will not result in water repellent layer formation. This rating should be used in conjunction with the soil restoration potential depending upon whether seeding or natural regeneration will be utilized on the site.”

Sobrante loam 30 to 50 percent slopes and Bressa-Dibble complex 30 to 50% slopes have been classified as having high potential for soil restoration and Henneke gravelly loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes and Kidd loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes have been classified as having moderate potential for soil restoration. This is due to these soil types having features very favorable for recovery and generally favorable for recovery. Given the previously stated fire damage susceptibility ratings of these soil types, it is likely that

proposed vegetation management practices in the initial 673 acres of Moore Creek Park, including broadcast burning will cause minimal soil disturbance when implemented under appropriate conditions. Recovery of soil health and vegetation following management should occur with little or no intervention. The recently acquired 523 acres of Moore Creek Park should be monitored more carefully during and after vegetation management to ensure that there is no erosion and that vegetation recovers.

In the event of a high severity wildfire or other soil disturbing event areas dominated all soils should be monitored for erosion. In localized areas erosion control efforts may be necessary.

## 6.7 Biological Resources

### 6.7.1 Fish and Aquatic Resources

Moore Creek historically supported anadromous fish populations but the construction of Conn Dam in the 1940's has prevented fish from swimming upstream from the dam. Sacramento suckers and other fish species that reside in Lake Hennessey likely swim up and reside in Moore Creek when flows permit.

The current structure of the habitat of Moore Creek is heterogenous and includes deep slow-moving pools and quick moving riffles. Slopes tend to be very steep causing riparian buffers to be thin. Vegetation in the riparian buffer varies throughout the park with some areas having high amounts of native vegetation and other areas experiencing significant encroachment of Himalayan blackberry. Adjacent slopes are typically well vegetated and stable, but there are areas that show signs of historic landslides and erosion.

**Table 6.7.1-1: List of Aquatic Species Found in the Property's Vicinity**

Species	Listing Status
<b>Anadromous Fish</b>	
<b>Freshwater Fish</b>	
Southern Coastal Roach ( <i>Hesperoleucus venustus subditus</i> )	
Hardhead ( <i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i> )	CDFW species of special concern
Prickly Sculpin ( <i>Cottus asper</i> )	
Sacramento Pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus grandis</i> )	
Rainbow Trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> )	
<b>Sacramento Sucker (<i>Catostomus occidentalis</i>)</b>	
Tule Perch ( <i>Hysteroecarpus traskii</i> )	
Western Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra richardsoni</i> )	CDFW species of special concern
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<b>Western Pond Turtle (<i>Emys marmorata</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW species of special concern</b>
<b>Amphibians</b>	
<b>California Giant Salamander (<i>Dicamptodon ensatus</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW species of special concern</b>
<b>Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW species of special concern, California endangered</b>
Red-Bellied Newt ( <i>Taricha rivularis</i> )	CDFW species of special concern
<b>Mollusks</b>	

Western Ridged Mussel ( <i>Gonidea angulate</i> )	Candidate for federally threatened
---	------------------------------------

### 6.7.2 Upland Wildlife Resources

Forest dominated habitats on north facing slopes (montane hardwood, montane hardwood conifer, and blue-oak foothill pine) are significantly overstocked causing a reduction in habitat value for wildlife.

Grassland habitat and the herbaceous understory of woodlands are dominated by European annual grasses which offer less habitat structure for ground nesting birds and other wildlife compared to native grasslands dominated by bunch grasses. Despite this, vegetation on south facing slopes and in riparian areas offers good wildlife habitat.

The table below provides a list of upland wildlife species found within the Property's vicinity. Species identified in the CNDDDB 3 mile search are identified in bold.

**Table 6.7.2: List of Upland Wildlife Species Found in the Property's Vicinity**

Species	Listing Status
<b>Mammals</b>	
<b>pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW Species of Special Concern</b>
<b>Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW Species of Special Concern</b>
North American porcupine ( <i>Erethizon dorsatum</i> )	Not Listed
western red bat ( <i>Lasiurus frantzii</i> )	CDFW Species of Special Concern
<b>long-eared myotis (<i>Myotis evotis</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
<b>Yuma myotis (<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
<b>Birds</b>	
<b>tricolored blackbird (<i>Agelaius chrysaetos</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW Species of Special Concern</b>
golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )	CDFW Fully Protected
<b>great egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
<b>great blue heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	CDFW Species of Special Concern
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	Not Listed
black swift ( <i>Cypseloides niger</i> )	CDFW Species of Special Concern
white-tailed kite ( <i>Elanus leucurus</i> )	CDFW Fully Protected
prairie falcon ( <i>Falco mexicanus</i> )	Not Listed
<b>bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW Fully Protected</b>
<b>double-crested cormorant (<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )	CDFW Watch List
<b>purple martin (<i>Progne subis</i>)</b>	<b>CDFW Species of Special Concern</b>
<b>Insects</b>	
<b>obscure bumble bee (<i>Bombus caliginosus</i>)</b>	<b>Not Listed</b>
American bumble bee ( <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i> )	Not Listed

San Francisco Bay Area leaf-cutter bee ( <i>Trachusa gummifera</i> )	Not Listed
serpentine cypress long-horned beetle ( <i>Vandykea tuberculata</i> )	Not Listed

### 6.7.3 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was queried to identify any known locations of rare plants within a 3-mile radius of the Property (see Appendix F). If any of these species are identified on the Properties, flag and avoid during any type of project work. Do not drive any equipment over or place slash on any found individuals. Burn piles should be placed at least 20 feet away from the edge of identified individuals. A 7.5 minute nine quadrangle search was conducted for the Property and the results are listed in table 5-12. The rare, threatened, and endangered plant species listed occur over a large geographic area and are listed regardless of the general habitat suitable for these species.

A botanical report for the Phinney acquisition was completed in August 2024 by Jake Rugyt, and includes a comprehensive list of habitat types, plants, and special status plants that occur on the Phinney acquisition. For the full report see Appendix I: Vegetation Map and Reports.

**Table 6.7.3-1: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Species Found in the Property’s Vicinity**

*Species that have been identified in the CNDDDB within a 3 mile radius of the Property have been identified with an asterisk (\*). CE = California Endangered Species; CT = California Threatened Species; CR = California Rare Species, FE = Federally Endangered Species*

Species	Rare Plant Rank	Habitat
<b>Annual Herb</b>		
bent-flowered fiddleneck ( <i>Amsinckia liunaris</i> )	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, Coastal bluff scrub, Valley and foothill grassland
Brewer’s milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus breweri</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland (openings, often gravelly)
<b>Clara Hunt’s milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus claranus</i>)</b>	<b>1B.1</b>	<b>Chaparral (openings), Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland</b>
Jepson’s milk-vetch ( <i>Astragalus rattanii</i> var. <i>jepsonianus</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Brewer’s calandrinia ( <i>Calandrinia breweri</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Coastal scrub
pappose tarplant ( <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>parryi</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral, Coastal prairie, Marshes and swamps (coastal salt), Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic)
Brewer’s clarkia ( <i>Clarkia breweri</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub
Tracy’s clarkia ( <i>Clarkia gracilis</i> ssp. <i>tracyi</i> )	4.2	Chaparral (openings, serpentinite)

serpentine collomia ( <i>Collomia diversifolia</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
red-stemmed cryptantha ( <i>Cryptantha rostellata</i> )	4.2	Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
dwarf downingia ( <i>Downingia pusilla</i> )	2B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
bare monkeyflower ( <i>Erythranthe nudata</i> )	4.3	Chaparral (serpentine)
Hall's harmonia ( <i>Harmonia hallii</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
Nodding harmonia ( <i>Harmonia nutans</i> )	4.3	Chaparral (serpentine)
two-carpellate western flax ( <i>Hesperolinon bicarpellatum</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Brewer's western flax ( <i>Hesperolinon breweri</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral
<b>Sharsmith's western flax (<i>Hesperolinon sharsmithiae</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Cismontane woodland, Playas (alkaline), Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools</b>
Contra Costa goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia conjugens</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
<b>Colusa Layla (<i>Layla septentrionalis</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal prairie, Valley and foothill grassland</b>
bristly leptosiphon ( <i>Leptosiphon aureus</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
<b>Jepson's leptosiphon (<i>Leptosiphon jepsonii</i>)</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>Broadleafed upland forest, Cismontane woodland</b>
broad-lobbed leptosiphon ( <i>Leptosiphon latisectus</i> )	1B.2	Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools
Sebastopol meadowfoam ( <i>Limnanthes vinculans</i> )	4.3	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Mt. Diablo cottonweed ( <i>Micropus amphibolus</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
cotula nacerretia ( <i>Navarretia cotulifolia</i> )	3.2	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic), Vernal pools
Tehama navarretia ( <i>Navarretia heterandra</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Jepson's navarretia ( <i>Navarretia jepsonii</i> )	4.3	Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools
Baker's navarretia ( <i>Navarretia leucocephala ssp. bakeri</i> )	4.3	Vernal pools (volcanic ash)
few-flowered navarretia ( <i>Navarretia leucocephala ssp. pauciflora</i> )	1B.1	Meadows and seeps
Porter's navarretia ( <i>Navarretia paradoxinota</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral, Closed-cone coniferous forest

Marin County navarretia ( <i>Navarretia rosulata</i> )	1B.3	Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Keck's checkerbloom ( <i>Sidalcea keckii</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral (openings), Cismontane woodland
<b>green jewelflower (<i>Streptanthus hesperidis</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools</b>
<b>Napa bluecurls (<i>Trichostema ruygtii</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral, Cismontane woodland</b>
<b>Annual Herb (aquatic)</b>		
Lobb's aquatic buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus lobbii</i> )	4.2	Cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools
<b>Annual Herb (hemiparasitic)</b>		
Johnny-nip ( <i>Castilleja ambigua</i> var. <i>ambigua</i> )	4.2	Coastal bluff scrub, Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub, Marshes and swamps, Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools (margins)
Mead's owls-clover ( <i>Castilleja ambigua</i> var. <i>meadii</i> )	1B.1	Meadows and seeps, Vernal pools
serpentine bird's-beak ( <i>Cordylanthus tenuis</i> ssp. <i>brunneus</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Closed-cone coniferous forest
<b>Perennial Deciduous Shrub</b>		
<b>Napa false indigo (<i>Amorpha californica</i> var. <i>napensis</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Broadleafed upland forest (openings), Chaparral, Cismontane woodland</b>
Heller's bush-mallow ( <i>Malacothamnus helleri</i> )	3.3	Chaparral (sandstone), Riparian woodland (gravel)
<b>Perennial Evergreen Shrub</b>		
Rincon Ridge manzanita ( <i>Arctostaphylos stanfordiana</i> ssp. <i>decumbens</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral (rhyolitic), Cismontane woodland
Rincon Ridge ceanothus ( <i>ceanothus confusus</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Closed-cone coniferous forest
Calistoga ceanothus ( <i>ceanothus divergens</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral (rocky, serpentinite, volcanic)
Kern ceanothus ( <i>Ceanothus pinetorum</i> )	4.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest
<b>holly-leaved ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus purpureus</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral, Cismontane woodland</b>
<b>Sonoma ceanothus (<i>Ceanothus sonomensis</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral (sandy, serpentinite, volcanic)</b>
<b>Perennial Bulbiferous Herb</b>		
pink star-tulip ( <i>Calochortus uniflorus</i> )	4.2	Coastal prairie, Coastal scrub, Meadows and seeps, North Coast coniferous forest

St. Helena fawn lily ( <i>Erythronium helenae</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland
adobe-lily ( <i>Fritillaria pluriflora</i> )	1B.1	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland
Purdy's fritillary ( <i>Fritillaria purdyi</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest
Bolander's lily ( <i>Lilium bolanderi</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest
marsh zigadenus ( <i>Toxicoscordion fontanum</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps
dark-mouthed triteleia ( <i>Triteleia lugens</i> )	4.3	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest
<b>Perennial Herb</b>		
twig-like snapdragon ( <i>Antirrhinum virga</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest
Cleveland's milk-vetch ( <i>Asragalus clevelandii</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Riparian forest
serpentine reed grass ( <i>Calamagrostis ophitidis</i> )	4.3	Chaparral (openings, often north-facing slopes), Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Valley and foothill grassland
swamp larkspur ( <i>Delphinium uliginosum</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Valley and foothill grassland
streamside daisy ( <i>Erigeron biolettii</i> )	3	Broadleafed upland forest, Cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest
<b>Greene's narrow-leaved daisy (<i>Erigeron greenei</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Chaparral (serpentinite, volcanic)</b>
Jepson's coyote-thistle ( <i>Eryngium jepsonii</i> )	1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland, Vernal pools
Hoover's lomatium ( <i>Lomatium hooveri</i> )	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
Napa lomatium ( <i>Lomatium repostum</i> )	4.2	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
<b>Cobb Mountain lupine (<i>Lupinus sericatus</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest</b>
Sonoma beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon newberryi</i> var. <i>sonomensis</i> )	1B.3	Chaparral (rocky)
<b>marsh checkerbloom (<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp. <i>hydrophila</i>)</b>	<b>1B.2</b>	<b>Meadows and seeps, Riparian forest</b>

Three Peaks jewelflower ( <i>Streptanthus morrisonii</i> ssp. <i>elatus</i> )	1B.2	Chaparral (serpentinite)
<b>Perennial Herb (parasitic)</b>		
Howells broomrape ( <i>Aphyllon validum</i> ssp. <i>howellii</i> )	4.3	Chaparral (serpentine, volcanic)
<b>Perennial Rhizomatous Herb</b>		
Mt. Saint Helena morning-glory ( <i>Calystegia collina</i> ssp. <i>oxyphylla</i> )	4.2	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland
green monardella ( <i>Monardella viridis</i> )	4.3	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland
<b>Perennial Rhizomatous Herb (emergent)</b>		
Sanford's arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> )	1B.2	Marshes and swamps (shallow freshwater)

#### 6.7.4 Invasive Species, Pests, and Diseases

**Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*).** Himalayan blackberry (synonym: Armenian blackberry) is a vigorous, sprawling, vine-like evergreen shrub native to western Europe. It produces sweet, edible berry-like fruit and is both a valued cultivated plant as well as a rapidly spreading invasive weed. It is common in the Pacific Northwest and is expanding its range throughout the western United States. It easily spreads vegetatively and by seed. Himalayan blackberry can be easily distinguished from its California native cousin California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) by examining the canes (or stems) of the plant. Himalayan blackberry will have a deeply ribbed cane, with thick curved prickles. California blackberry will have a smooth cane, with much smaller straight prickles.

Himalayan blackberry rapidly displaces native plant species and produces thickets so dense that the lack of light severely limits understory plant growth. Native vegetation growing beneath Himalayan blackberry becomes highly suppressed from shading and crowding. The dense, prickly thickets also hinder control efforts and impede access for humans, wildlife, and livestock. When growing near waterways, the species may worsen streambank erosion since its relatively shallow roots do not stabilize soils as do other, more desirable native riparian vegetation.

Management of Himalayan blackberry requires frequent and persistent treatments. Chemical controls via foliar spray are the usual prescription for Himalayan blackberry, however Himalayan blackberry mostly grows near watercourses, and thus is not recommended. Himalayan blackberry readily re-sprouts following fire, and typically re-establishes vigorously post treatment – fire is thus not a recommended practice, although it can be used to dispose of vegetative clippings. Prescribed herbivory with goats and sheep can be an effective way to keep new growth of blackberry at bay, however they often will not eat the older canes readily. Additionally, the potential erosional and sanitation issues with herbivory near streams, herbivory may not be a viable management. Given the above limitations, removal of Himalayan blackberry should be limited to persistent mowing, tilling, and digging, with planting of trees or large shrubs to shade out blackberry re-growth. For more information on control see Appendix G under Weed Control or [UC Weed Control in Natural Areas](#).

**Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) or French broom (*Genista monspessulana*).** Scotch and French brooms are upright, woody shrubs that commonly grow to ten feet tall. They have sharply angled branches with simple (single) leaves on young branches and compound (multiple) leaves of three leaflets on older branches. They have yellow to white flowers that bloom between March and June.

Management for both broom species is similar, and prevention is the best method of control. These species are capable of establishing a hardy seed bed that can remain in the soil for decades and capitalizes on disturbance events like fire or logging, which is cause for concern. For more information on control see Appendix G under Weed Control or [UC Weed Control in Natural Areas](#).

**Sudden Oak Death.** Another new problem spreading into this area, dubbed Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), has all the appearances of a classic decline disorder and is exacerbated by stress factors. The death rate of tanoak, coast live oak and black oak trees has accelerated alarmingly in the affected areas reaching epidemic proportions and exacerbating fire danger. The infection was first detected in the tanoak trees in 1995. Tanoak trees are extremely resilient to most pathogens, which makes their susceptibility even more unusual. An inconsistent symptom of the pathogen is an oozing of liquid, usually on the trunk of the tree. The *Phytophthora* species enters through the bark and limbs and thrives in wet conditions. At least two insects and two additional fungus diseases are associated with this oak decline--the western oak bark beetle and the oak ambrosia beetle and *Armillaria* root disease and *Hypoxylon thourarsiarum*. These may be contributing stress factors leading to mortality or they may also be causal. Signals to watch for are sudden decline and death of tanoak, usually in isolated individual trees, and a brown or black resinous exudation on the lower trunk. Stands of tanoak which are extremely crowded from repetitive resprouting after logging, clearing, or fire are already stressed and may be more susceptible than more open, less dense or more mature stands. For more information related to Sudden Oak Death, visit [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

**Beetles/Insects.** In Napa County, insect attacks generally occur in scattered small areas. For Douglas-fir, build-up of insect populations to the point where damage is significant is generally associated with trees that have blown down, logging slash, and fire damage, all of which provide a favorable habitat for the insects. Bark beetles cause major damage to California forests, boring tunnels into inner bark and cambium to lay eggs; hatching larvae bore additional galleries as they mature, and the process repeats, sometimes several generations a year. Generally, beetles are specific to one particular species of tree, though some may infest several types, and severe infestations weaken and often kill the tree or whole stands of trees; two bark beetles that attack Douglas-fir are the Douglas-fir beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*), and the Douglas-fir engraver (*Scolytus unispinosus*). Older, stressed Douglas-fir are more successfully attacked by bark beetles. Bark beetle attack symptoms generally include the upper parts of beetle-infested trees fading first from a deep green to light green, then yellow, and finally to red. The top only may be killed or the entire tree. Other less noticeable initial signs of bark beetle attack can include boring dust from entry holes through the bark or pitch tubes exuding from entrance holes. Infested trees with living bark beetles should be cut down and removed, burned or debarked.

Some insects that attack redwood are the flat-headed borer (*Anthraxia aeneogaster*) and the round headed borers (*Callidium sempervirens*, *C. pallidum*, *Leptura oblitterata*, *Preonius Californicus*). The redwood bark beetle (*Phloesinus sequoiae*) attacks weakened redwood trees. Maintaining the vigor and health of a stand of forest, though well-timed thinning, with good management and sanitation practices are the best defenses.

**Management Implications.** Sanitation is important in maintaining good forest health. Management of slash and damaged trees, especially Douglas-fir, in logging operations and in thinning and release practices will lessen the incidence of many disease and insect vectors. Most diseases spread through wounds, fire scars or cut surfaces, and infected trees are much more prone to insect attack in a weakened or otherwise stressed condition. Entomology and pathology specialists with Cal Fire or the UC Cooperative Extension are usually available to help assess, diagnose, and plan treatment practices for suspected pest or disease problems. A great primary resource for disease identification is "Pests of the Native California Conifers" by David L. Wood, Published by the University of California Press.

### 6.7.5 Air Quality

Slash from hand thinning treatments may be piled and burned to keep surface fuel loading low but should be limited to areas where slopes do not exceed 35%. Alternatives to burning slash would be 1) lop and scatter slash, and 2) masticate or chip fuels where slopes provide adequate access for equipment. When lopping and scattering slash, woody debris should come into close contact with the ground to increase the rate of decomposition and generally should not exceed 18 inches above ground level. These options would eliminate smoke impacts on air quality.

To reduce emissions if using pile and burn slash treatments, “conservation pile burn” techniques may be used. This includes lighting the pile on the top and back of the pile relative to wind direction to control the spread of flames. By allowing the pile to burn from the top, rather than igniting at the bottom or middle of the pile, the heat column will consume most of the smoky emissions from the fire. To ensure complete combustion of the piled materials, move unburned edges into the center of the pile. Conservation burning is promoted by Sonoma Biochar Initiative and the Sonoma Ecology Center; however, there is no scientific literature on the effectiveness of this technique to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

When burning piles or broadcast burning, all measures required by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) must be followed. A burn permit is required year-round for any outdoor burning and must be renewed each year. A full list of requirements and restrictions for BAAQMD’s Open Outdoor Burning Program along with a Napa Community Firewise Foundation guide to pile burning can be found in Appendix H.

### 6.7.6 Archaeology and Cultural Resources

A cultural resources records check, and archaeological survey have not been conducted for the Property. There are multiple sites on the Property that could potentially be historic archaeological sites. These potential sites are old dumping grounds located throughout the Property. Any pre-historic archaeological sites on the Property would likely be located near the south end of the Property where topography is relatively flat and easily accessible. Moving north up Moore Creek the slopes rise quickly from the creek and the terrain becomes difficult to traverse, making it unlikely that use of the Property by indigenous communities would have been common.

## 7. PROPOSED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### 7.1 Vegetation Types

Vegetation was classified using a dataset produced for Napa County by a University of California Davis group in 2019, and the vegetation map can be found in Appendix I. Simplified vegetation classes were used when making treatment recommendations because use of California Native Plant Society (CNPS) vegetation alliances would have resulted in repeated treatment recommendations. Other vegetation datasets or classifications are referenced in this FMP and may provide conflicting results. In Appendix F, wildlife habitat/vegetation was mapped using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System data which is wildlife habitat relation data crosswalked with CNPS vegetation classifications. In Appendix I vegetation classifications made by botanist Jake Rugyt use CNPS vegetation alliances. The vegetation classifications below derived from the Napa County dataset are generally correct, but there may be some inconsistencies. It is likely that there is a significant amount of oak hardwood forest on the west side of the Property that has been classified as Douglas-fir forest. These oak hardwood forests have a

mature Douglas-fir component, and prior to recent treatments had significant young Douglas-fir encroachment.

**Table 7-1: Vegetation Types Found on the Property**

Vegetation Type	Acres	Percent of Property
Oak Woodlands	254.63	21.29%
Oak Hardwood Forest	181.19	15.15%
Douglas Fir Forest	196.38	16.42%
Chamise Chaparral	467.88	39.12%
Riparian Woodland	53.82	4.50%
Grassland	35.04	2.93%
Rock Outcrop	7.06	0.59%

#### 7.1.1 Oak Hardwood Forest and Douglas Fir Forest

**Composition.** Oak hardwood forests are primarily comprised of mixed oak species, California Bay Laurel, and Madrone. There is a minor component of mature Douglas-Fir throughout much of the oak hardwood forest, with most Douglas-fir dead or dying. The understory in many areas is encroached by young Douglas-fir or is dense with shrubs (primarily toyon).

Although Douglas-fir is interspersed throughout most of the north facing slopes, there is a Douglas-fir dominated stand at the north end of the Property. This stand has intermediate age Douglas fir in the overstory with an understory of young Douglas-fir that would serve as a ladder fuel in the event of a wildfire.



**Treatment Recommendation.** Thin all vegetation 4 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and under to reduce ladder fuel risk and reduce competition for resources. Pile burning is the preferred method of treatment for generated woody residue, but if it is not feasible material should be lopped and scattered.

Girdle all trees over 4 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) that are undesirable. This treatment will focus primarily on trees under 12 inches but may include some codominant trees. Target species will be Douglas-fir and hardwoods that are not adequately spaced, to reduce competition and provide retained trees with more canopy space to grow into. Girdling will create the desired live stand composition, halt the growth of undesirable trees whose increasing dbh or height may increase management challenges, and begin the process of decay for treated trees without contributing to the already high surface fuel loads. The increase in snags will pose a higher fire risk initially but will be more easily managed as the surface fuels decrease.

If NCOSD can complete the environmental and archaeological review necessary for pile burning, girdled trees can be felled and burned over time. However, if NCOSD is unable to pile and burn, girdled trees can be felled over time to manage surface fuel loads.



### 7.1.2 Chamise Chaparral

**Composition.** Pockets of chamise chaparral occur in patches throughout the Property. These patches are dominated by chamise with few manzanita, scrub oak, and coast live oak interspersed throughout. These chamise chaparral patches contribute to the heterogenous habitat structure of the Property and likely serve as important escape cover for wildlife.

**Treatment Recommendation.** Treatment of chamise chaparral risks vegetation type conversion from chaparral to European annual grasses. This is often desired in settings where fire intensity from burning chaparral poses a risk to humans but in a wildland setting would result in the loss of an important habitat type. If reducing fire intensity in these areas is desired, chamise should be thinned out and the resulting material should be treated and the area maintained. Lop and scatter treatments in this vegetation type are ineffective because resprouting will occur before scattered material decays causing an increase in fuel load. Treatment should not be prioritized in chamise chaparral and instead focused on surrounding vegetation where results will be more easily maintained. In the event of a wildfire high intensity fire will occur in chamise chaparral patches but fire intensity will decrease as fire spreads into other vegetation types that have been treated.

### 7.1.3 Oak Woodlands

**Composition.** Mixed oak woodlands on the south facing slopes of the Property, east of Moore Creek are located on moderate to steep slopes. There are many mature trees that are well spaced. The understory is dominated by grasses and forbs and a minor component of shrubs.

**Treatment Recommendations.** Oak woodlands on south facing slopes are healthy and would benefit from maintenance. The most cost-effective method of maintenance of these areas would be prescribed fire or the reintroduction of grazing animals. Challenges of implementing these maintenance practices are discussed in Section 6.4. If it is not feasible to introduce prescribed burning or grazing, hand treatments should be conducted periodically to prevent the buildup of fuels and potential encroachment of shrubs.

### 7.1.4 Riparian Forest

**Composition.** Riparian forests are thin due to the quickly rising slopes on each side of Moore Creek. The alders and other riparian trees are healthy but there is significant invasion of the understory by Himalayan Blackberry. Where the understory is not invaded by Himalayan Blackberry there are native sedges, forbs, and shrubs.

**Treatment Recommendations.** Invasive Himalayan Blackberry can be controlled using biological, mechanical, or chemical treatments. Biological treatment, the use of goats, may be unfeasible because of potential impacts to water quality in Moore Creek and subsequently Lake Hennessey. Chemical treatments would require the use of herbicides that are safe near water but may result in public backlash. If chemical treatment is desired, a licensed applicator should be used and NOSD should consider the need for public consultation. Mechanical treatment of blackberry is most feasible, and it should be cut back annually to try and contain spread and allow native riparian species to establish.



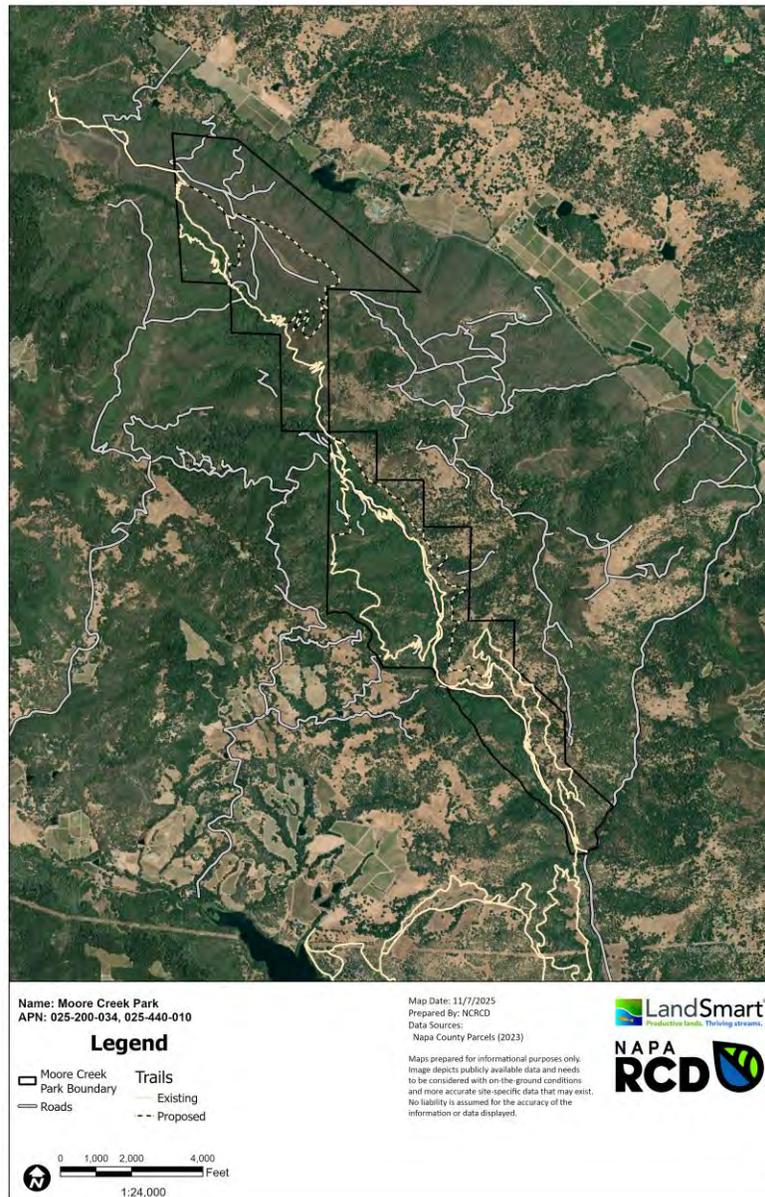
### 7.1.5 Grassland

**Composition.** Grasslands are dominated by European annual grasses and native wildflowers.

**Treatment Recommendations.** Grasslands would benefit from prescribed fire or prescribed grazing to reduce thatch levels and increase the rate of nutrient cycling.

## 7.2 Long Term Vegetation Maintenance

Moore Creek Park poses difficulties to management given its relative remoteness, steep terrain, and lack of access. It is important that the Napa Open Space District maintain good relations with neighboring landowners as ridge top access may increase management possibilities. Water could be pumped downhill for grazing animals used to manage vegetation or roads could be used as fire breaks for prescribed burning once all thinning has been completed. A map of area roads, the status of which are unknown, is included below.



## 7.3 Watercourse Protections

If equipment is used the following protection measures are required when working next to watercourses.

**Table 7.3-1: Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) Widths and Protective Measures**

<b>Procedures for Determining Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone Widths and Protective Measures</b>				
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or  2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or  2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species.  3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	No aquatic life present, Watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high water flow condition after completion of Timber Operations.	Man-made Watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.
<b>Water Class</b>	<b>Class I</b>	<b>Class II</b>	<b>Class III</b>	<b>Class IV</b>
<b>Slope Class (%)</b>	<b>Width Feet</b>	<b>Width Feet</b>	<b>Width Feet</b>	<b>Width Feet</b>
<b>&lt;30</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>30-50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>&gt;50</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

FPR 916.4, 936.4, 956.4

The table above does not include all requirements for the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone when conducting timber operations but does provide good general guidelines for using equipment and considering canopy retention around watercourses and protected hydrologic features.

When operations result in changes to the bed or bank of a stream or will alter the riparian canopy, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) notification may be required. A reasonable estimate of the extent of a riparian zone is the outer dripline of riparian trees whose roots could be directly utilizing stream water, but this varies by site and is subject to CDFW discretion.

## **8. CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS OF BENEFICIAL PRACTICES**

### 8.1 Introduction to Forest Carbon

Forests grow and store large quantities of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas and the most abundant driver of global climate change. Young, rapidly growing forest can sequester a remarkable amount of carbon dioxide, while older forests stores carbon over generations. The California Forest Carbon Plan (CFCP Draft, 2017) identifies forestland as the largest land-based carbon sink in the state, but recent trends and long-term evidence suggest that certain forests may become a source of overall net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if actions are not taken to manage forests in a way to enhance

their potential to sequester carbon. Climate change impacts California’s forests with more frequent and severe wildfires, pests, disease, increased temperatures, and changes water availability. These effects may decrease forest growth, and thus decrease rates of carbon sequestration, as well as result in forests lost to wide-spread tree mortality, increasing rates of GHG emissions.

Due to past forest management, particularly fire suppression, many forests are currently unhealthy, with unnaturally dense stands making them more susceptible to drought, disease, insect pests, and uncharacteristically large, severe wildfires (CFCP Draft 2017). These events result in massive amounts of dead trees that are no longer removing carbon from the atmosphere and will continue to emit greenhouse gasses for decades as they decay. The vegetation that replaces the trees that have died will not compensate for the carbon loss for decades.

In the face of climate change, as temperatures increase and extended droughts are likely to be more common, researchers found that forests actively managed for resilience were better able to sustain their current carbon sequestration rates under significantly hotter and drier conditions than unmanaged stands (CFCP Draft 2017). As a result, how forests are managed has a significant effect on the atmosphere. Forest stand treatments should be aimed at reducing current stocking of small-diameter, fire sensitive trees to fewer, larger diameter trees, creating forest more resistant to stand replacing disturbances, creating a resilient carbon storage pool.

## 8.2 Managing for Increased Carbon Storage and Security

Aboveground carbon increases exponentially as tree diameter increases (Mildrexler et al., 2020). This suggests that the best course of action at Moore Creek Park with carbon sequestration in mind would be to protect and encourage large tree growth. Currently the carbon stores of Douglas-fir and oak hardwood forests on the western slope are at highest risk of loss due to fire. These forests have a high level of young Douglas-fir encroachment and moderate to high surface fuel loads. In the event of a wildfire at Moore Creek Park young Douglas-fir would likely serve as a ladder fuel, lifting the fire into the canopy and causing high levels of large tree mortality and/or surface fuel loads could cause high mortality due to high fire intensity at the base of large trees. To prevent this ladder fuels should be cut and treated along with material contributing to high surface fuel loads. Following treatment current carbon stores would decrease, but reduced competition and increased growth among retained trees would result in more secure and greater amounts of carbon stored on the Property.

# 9. CONSTRAINTS & PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

## 9.1 Operational Constraints

The most significant constraint to achieving the Property goals that the Napa County and Open Space District has for Moore Creek Park is the cost. Most of the vegetation management completed on the Property thus far has been done so with grant funds secured and managed by the Napa County Resource Conservation District and with volunteer support. Work completed by the Napa County Open Space District on the Property has primarily been maintaining and constructing trails and managing defensible space around the residences. Continued work on the Property is contingent on the ability of NCOSD or its partners to obtain grant funds.

If future funding is obtained NCOSD will face the following additional constraints:

- Completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation
- Complying or implementing avoidance and mitigations measures if needed based on CEQA

- Hiring and managing vegetation management crews
- Registering and managing a prevailing wage project
- Access limitations at the park associated with wet weather and few roads

## 9.2 Proposed Alternatives

### 9.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

NCOSD could maintain their current management of the Property which primarily focuses on maintaining and expanding the existing trail network and protecting residences. This would result in increased fuel loads, reduced wildlife value, reduced aesthetic values, and increasing risk of high severity wildfire over time. Under this proposed alternative there is potential for public pushback related to inaction.

### 9.2.2 Alternative 2: Animal Production

Prior to and under NCOSD ownership there has been grazing on the Property. While production of cattle might not be of interest to the county they could sell a grazing lease for the Property annually. NCOSD would have to complete CEQA documentation for this alternative and reintroduction of cattle or other grazing animals could potentially reduce habitat and aesthetics and damage trails that NCOSD has invested in constructing. This alternative would experience significant public pushback if grazing operations reduced or impacted public access for hiking and mountain biking.

### 9.2.3 Alternative 3: Vineyard Development

A portion of the Phinney acquisition was previously cleared for a vineyard that was never established. NCOSD could consider vineyard establishment in this area, however high input costs of vineyard establishment and maintenance would likely yield small annual profits. This alternative is also in opposition to NCOSD's mission and goals for the property.

## 9.3 Economic Sustainability

Timber harvest on the Property is not feasible without significant improvements to access and the current stand would not yield enough timber to cover operations costs. Timber harvest would also negatively impact NCOSD's identified goals for the Property.





## 10.2 CEQA and NEPA Information and List of Required Permits

Forest management activities including conservation practices may impact special environmental and/or cultural values such as threatened or endangered species and archaeological sites. Environmental and cultural reviews by regulatory agencies are required when a ground practice is proposed, and a permit and/or government assistance becomes part of the project.

Most commercial biomass and timber removal activities need a CAL FIRE permit or other entity permit. Identify the need or current CAL FIRE THP, NTMP, and/or Categorical Exclusion for proposed timber management activities. All commercial treatments must comply with the California Forest Practice Act.

Other agency permits may be necessary for proposed management activities related to other types of conservation projects such as, but not limited to, water drafting, ponds, road maintenance, crossing replacements and upgrades, and dust control. Identify the required permits needed for any proposed treatments. Furthermore, discuss both proactive and required monitoring for regulatory compliance.

Any future projects funded by a CAL FIRE or NRCS cost-share program requires a CFIP Environmental Checklist (CEQA) or an NRCS CPA-52 (NEPA) Checklist to satisfy CEQA or NEPA, respectively. Along with this checklist a process of “discovery” or survey for unknown values along with a discussion of possible mitigations is required. Additionally, the checklist must be filled out by an RPF or Certified Planner. Archaeological values require an Archaeological Records Check from the California Historical Resources Information System (“CHRIS”), an entity Archaeologist review, and Native American notification for the practice area.

Before a ground disturbing project is initiated, it is suggested that a project notification to the following agencies:

- a) County Clerk
- b) California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- c) North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- d) Native American Heritage Commission
- e) Tribal contacts within Napa and Lake County

Projects affecting the bed, bank, or channel of a stream or other water body, notify the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Army Corps of Engineers. Projects may require a permit. Your local Resource Conservation District may also be available to assist with permit applications.

For harvesting activities removing commercial timber, a CAL FIRE permit is needed to comply with the California Forest Practice Act. For treatments recommended in this plan, identify needed or current CAL FIRE THP, NTMP, and/or Categorical Exclusions for the proposed timber management activities.

## 10.3 List of Potential Funding Sources for Project Implementation

### 10.3.1 California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP):

The purpose of the CFIP program is to encourage private and public investment in, and improved management of, California forestlands and resources. This focus is to ensure adequate high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system for the benefit of present and future generations.

### 10.3.2 Vegetation Management Program (VMP):

CAL FIRE's VMP is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and some mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire and/or mechanical treatments to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed. Landowners who choose to apply for participation in the Vegetation Management Program should contact their local Battalion Unit for more details.

### 10.3.3 Forest Health Grant Program

The Forest Health GGRF Grant Program is a new program and will use funds provided by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for California Climate Investments administered by CAL FIRE. Through the Forest Health GGRF Grant Program, CAL FIRE funds and implements projects to proactively restore forest health in order to reduce greenhouse gases, to protect upper watersheds where the state's water supply originates, to promote the long-term storage of carbon in forest trees and soils, minimize the loss of forest carbon from large, intense wildfires, and to further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32, Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et seq.) (AB 32).

Forest Health GGRF Grant projects must focus on large, landscape-scale forestlands composed of one or more landowners, which may cover multiple jurisdictions. Projects must be comprised of logical management units and greater consideration will be given to organizations with a proven record of success in achieving consensus-based solutions between stakeholder groups with different priorities and perspectives. Forest Health GGRF Grant projects may include reforestation, fuel reduction, pest management, conservation, and biomass utilization intended to increase forest health, increase carbon storage in forests, reduce wildfire emissions and protect upper watersheds, where much of the State's water supply originates. Projects that implement a mix of these activities, with multiple partners will be given priority.

### 10.3.4 Wildfire Prevention Grant Program

CAL FIRE will solicit and competitively award grants that reduce hazardous fuels and are designed to meet greenhouse gas emission objectives. Payments will be made to grantees via reimbursements. All projects shall be designed to meet greenhouse gas emission objectives. These objectives include increased carbon sequestration in trees retained on the project site, reduction of wildfire hazards to reduce wildfire emissions, utilization of biomass to offset use of fossil fuels, and utilization of solid wood materials to offset emissions resulting from removal of vegetation. Vegetation treatment forestry prescriptions will focus on treating understory trees and brush with a goal of reducing fire hazards, improving tree growth, stabilizing carbon in retained trees, and increasing forest resilience. All projects will include a scientific methodology to calculate and quantify the GHG emission reductions resulting from the project. Priority shall be given to projects which utilize biomass and other solid wood products; provide assurance of achieving and retaining GHG benefits, and projects which are included in a local fire plan or conservation plan; and projects that have a documented assessment of need for providing wildfire protection of human infrastructure and watershed values, while providing other co-benefits (reduced forest pest damage, airshed improvements in non-attainment air basins, invasive weed control, improvement to wildlife habitat, etc.)

More information about CAL FIRE’s grant programs can be found online at:  
<http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants>.

#### 10.4 List of Additional Professional Assistance

Provide a list of agencies and individuals that the landowner has or may consult for special sites, threatened and endangered species, desired species, livestock specialists, Native American cultural values, etc. additionally, list agencies and with current contact names and numbers the owner can contact for guidance and help. This list may include, but is not limited to:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 3: should be consulted on any work around streams that could have potential impacts and on any work in streams
- Cal Fire Sonoma Lake Napa Unit: local Battalion contact, Regional Forestry Assistance Specialist for CFIP, the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center, local Associate State Archaeologist
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District: can assist in navigating the necessary permits for pile and broadcast burning
- University of California Cooperative Extension: advisors can assist with questions related to forestry, fire, and grazing
- Napa County Resource Conservation District: provides assistance to landowners and land managers to help meet their land management goals, may also be able to provide financial assistance for projects or connect landowners and land managers with available programs

### 11. REFERENCES

Anderson, K. (2013). *Tending the Wild*. University of California Press.

Federal Memo. (2021, November). *Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making*. Washington D.C.: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Forest Carbon Action Team. 2017. California Forest Carbon Plan: Managing our Forest Landscapes in a Changing Climate. Draft for Public Review. Sacramento, California. 201pp.

Hood, C. (2022). *Wild Sonoma*. Heydey Books.

Leonetti, C. a. (2010). *Indigenous Stewardship Methods and NRCS Conservation Practices Guidebook*. Anchorage: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Martin R. E., and D. B. Sapsis 1992. Fires as agents of biodiversity. Berkeley: Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California.

MacEachron, Ann E., et al. “The Effectiveness of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.” *The Social Service Review (Chicago)*, vol. 70, no. 3, 1996, pp. 451–63, <https://doi.org/10.1086/604199>.

McKay, Clint. 2024. Napa RCD personal communication.

Mildrexler D. J., L.T. Berner, B.E. Law, R.A. Birdsey, W.R. Moomaw. 2020. Large trees dominate carbon storage in forests east of the cascade crest in the United States Pacific Northwest. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*. vol. 3, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2020.594274>

Nelson, P. (2017). *Indigenous Archaeology at Tolay Lake: Responsive Research and the Empowered Tribal Management of a Sacred Landscape*. Berkeley: University of California.

Timbrook, J.J.R. Johnson, and D.D. Earle. 1993. *Before the Wilderness: Environmental Management by Native Californians*.

Treuer, A. (2013). *Atlas of Indian Nations*. Washington D.C.: National Geographic.



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Chris Cahill and Barb Ruffino  
Date: February 9, 2026  
Item: **4.e**  
Subject: Receipt of report on staff reportable actions including expenditures, encumbrances, donations, and grants approved by District staff for January 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report, no action required.

### BACKGROUND

Section III.A.(7) of the District By-laws authorizes the General Manager to bind the district for supplies, materials, labor, and other valuable consideration, in accordance with board policy and the adopted District budget, up to \$55,204.03, provided that all such expenditures are subsequently reported to the Board of Directors. Section III.A.(8) of the By-laws authorizes the General Manager to apply for grants and receive donations, subject to reporting such actions to the Board of Directors.

Attached is a report showing all District expenditures for **January 2026**. All Cal-Card purchases are itemized in the financial report.

### Advocacy

### Agreements

- Agreement 26-01** Countywide Weed Management Area MOU (no cost).
- Agreement 26-02** With Johnson Trails for construction of Trail 2501 at Suscol Headwaters Park (not to exceed \$40,951).
- Agreement 26-03** With Johnson Trails for construction of Trail 2502 at Suscol Headwaters Park (not to exceed \$33,412).

### Grants and Donations

**Large Donations (≥ \$1,000)**

**Online Donations**

ReLeaf \$689

**Iron Ranger Donations**

Moore Creek Park \$379.50

Oat Hill Mine Trail \$204

**PARKS & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT -JANUARY 2026 EXPENSE REPORT**

**Gen Admin Dept - 85000-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/8/2026	Rents/Leases-Equipment	1/11/26-2/10/26 Printer Lease	Kyocera Document Solutions	\$ 62.06
1/21/2026	Health Insurance Premiums	2/26 Kaiser Premium	Kaiser Permanente	\$ 3,527.10
1/8/2026	Rents/Leases-Buildings/Land	Feb 2026 Rent-1443 Main St, #135	Knm Properties, Inc.	\$ 2,173.50

**Moore Creek Dept - 85010-00**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/2/2026	Rents/Leases-Equipment	12/25 Portable Toilets	Johnny On The Spot	\$ 228.77
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Putty knife, caulk, plunger, spackling	Central Valley Builders	\$ 48.22
1/15/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Guide bar	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 29.35
1/8/2026	Other Professional Services	1/26 Monthly Wastewater sampling	Heritage Systems, Inc	\$ 128.33

**Oat Hill Mine Trail - 85010-01**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/15/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Liquid nails, cold weld	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 17.86

**Camp Berryessa 85010-03**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/21/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #B010493-Camp Berryessa	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 122.00
1/8/2026	Waste Disposal Services	12/25 Garbage Service	Berryessa Garbage Service	\$ 126.10

**NRER - 85010-05**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/8/2026	Other Professional Services	12/25 Litter Abatement	Napa Valley Support	\$ 500.00

**State Park - 85010-08**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/2/2026	Vehicle Repair Supplies	Nuts, bolts, air flow sensor	Brown's Auto Parts	\$ 10.73
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Simpson strong bolt	Central Valley Builders	\$ 57.42
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Simpson strong bolt, washers, flag	Central Valley Builders	\$ 131.99
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Anchor bolts, washers	Central Valley Builders	\$ 36.81
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Quikrete Concrete mix	Central Valley Builders	\$ 80.32
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Return invoice-washers, Simpson strong bolts	Central Valley Builders	\$ (155.29)
1/8/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #A120761-Bothe	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 81.00
1/8/2026	Goods for Resale	Souvenir books-gift shop	Ingram Library Service	\$ 81.00
1/8/2026	Maintenance Supplies	LED bulb, Taskpro tool	Steves Hardware	\$ 21.62
1/8/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Drill bit- return invoice	Steves Hardware	\$ (27.05)
1/21/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #A111014-Bale Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 113.00
1/21/2026	Health Insurance Premium	2/26 Kaiser Premium	Kaiser Permanente	\$ 1,420.41
1/21/2026	Janitorial Supplies	Bleach, glass cleaner, hand soap	Little Joe Janitorial	\$ 193.41
1/21/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Keys	Steves Hardware	\$ 11.66
1/21/2026	Communications/Telephone	12/10/25-1/9/26 Internet	At&T	\$ 315.67
1/2/2026	Waste Disposal Services	12/25 Garbage Service	Upper Valley Disposal	\$ 2,604.39
1/2/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Chainsaw file, cable tie, oil	Central Valley Builders	\$ 97.25
1/8/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #A120759-Bale Mill	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 81.00
1/8/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Nuts & bolts	Steves Hardware	\$ 6.39
1/15/2026	Janitorial Supplies	Janitorial supplies	Little Joe Janitorial	\$ 202.11
1/21/2026	Other Professional Services	Lab Order #A111015-Bothe	Caltest Analytical Labs	\$ 58.00
1/2/2026	Rents/Leases-Equipment	Concrete Saw rental	Central Valley Builders	\$ 165.00
1/8/2026	Other Professional Services	2/1/26-4/30/26 Alarm Service-Bothe	Bay Alarm Company	\$ 308.73
1/8/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Hardware, Mice Bait refills	Silverado Ace Hardware	\$ 33.38
1/8/2026	Communications/Telephone	11/28/25-12/27/25 Phone	At&T	\$ 31.90

**Other Projects - 85010-90**

Date	Account Name	Description	Vendor Name	Amount
1/21/2026	Maintenance Supplies	Gasket, trimmer line	Napa Power Equipment	\$ 33.35
1/21/2026	GIS Services	Nov 25-Jan 26 GIS Mapping Services	Zachary W Stanley	\$ 3,156.25



## **STAFF REPORT**

By: Jason Jordan  
Date: February 9, 2026  
Item: **4.f**  
Subject: January 2026 State Park Report for Bothe- Napa Valley SP, Robert Louis Stevenson SP, and Bale Grist Mill SHP.

### PARK STATUS

**Bothe Napa Valley SP-** Campground has been slow this month.

**Bale Mill SHP-** Visitation has been light.

**Robert Louis Stevenson SP-** Light use in January.

### PARK UPDATES

- The one busy weekend this month was the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday weekend which was nearly full and strong day use numbers.
- Vine Trail Update:
  - Blowing the trail, trash collection and tree trimming is ongoing. Mowing has started due to spring-like conditions and grass growth.
  - Met with Twomey management to discuss maintenance activities in that section.
  - Cleared trees that came down across the trail.
- Interpretive Plan Draft: The committee submitted consolidated comments on the 85% draft in mid-January and are awaiting revised draft from the consultant.
- Kerry Brackett's Eco fitness hike was held on November January 10<sup>th</sup> as well as a First Day Hike on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Credit Card machine at the park entrance is in use during weekdays, with staff managing campground operations out of the visitor center.
- Volunteer Update:
  - Two members of Troop 1 (St Helena) Boy scouts, worked on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to improve ADA pathways in the Day Use Area.
  - Trail volunteers helped staff with improvements to Coyote Peak Trail and cleared the trail system of downed trees on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - A volunteer event was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> with our general volunteer list and Troop 1 Boy scouts to make improvements to the History Trail and Mill Pond Trail. There were 21

participants for this event, and Oddfellows of St Helena provided BBQ lunch for the volunteers.

- Staff cleared the Table Rock trail of downed trees in January. We are planning for a Palisades Trail workday in February.
- Environmental Education:
  - One Field Trip was scheduled at the Bale Mill in January but was cancelled.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike in January was held at Robert Louis Stevenson on December 17<sup>th</sup>, to the peak of Mount St Helena. This was promoted as an endurance hike that drew eight participants. They had good luck with weather and ideal visibility.
- A permit was issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal for the replacement of siding on the waterwheel side of the Bale Mill. Additional approvals for this project are underway.
- A meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> with Summit Engineering for review of replacement plans for the Bale Mill flume and to coordinate a gameplan for permit application to the State Fire Marshal.
- A permit application was submitted to the State Fire Marshal for replacing the failing roof on the Wright House at Bothe. A Project Evaluation Form (PEF) was submitted for same to CA State Parks as required by our management agreement.
- A grant was awarded by The State Parks Foundation to support the Arts in the Park- State Parks Week Event in June, in the amount of \$3,000.
- The park received delivery of the last new park benches for the Native American Plant Garden seating area. The benches were funded through the Crocker Grant received by NVSPA. All benches are installed and in place.
- A new picnic table funded by NVSPA was assembled and placed in honor of Bill Dyer, their Volunteer of the Year.
- The kickoff meeting for the Visitor Center landscape improvement project was held on January 29<sup>th</sup> with the contractor and architect. NOSD demo has been planned, and work is scheduled to start on February 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Projects Status Report

February 9, 2026

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa**

*An 8+ mile recreational trail. Phase 2-B--Pond 10 to Napa Pipe.*

The design for the public crossing of the SMART tracks has been completed, and SMART, NRCA and the PUC have verbally agreed to allow the railroad crossing. A biological survey for the Fagan Marsh area has been completed; based on the results, CDFW has indicated they do not want the trail alignment to follow the levee on the north side of Fagan Marsh; District staff is reviewing the feasibility of an alternative alignment. The Board President and General Manager met with CADFW staff on June 12, 2018 to discuss CDFW concerns. Senator Dodd organized a meeting in October with the City of American Canyon, County of Napa and the District in an attempt to move the project forward, and another meeting with District staff and CADFW staff on November 28, 2018. Staff has been working with BCDC to determine whether CDFW plans to impose user fees for people walking on the trail along the edge of the wetlands would be allowed under DFW's permit from BCDC. CDFW in April approved policy changes for the Napa-Sonoma marshes, including use of bicycles on designated trails. The District and the City of American Canyon have been developing new and improved signage for the Wetlands Edge trailhead. The commemorative plaque for former Director Myrna Abramowicz was vandalized in June or July of 2020; Director Christian has taken the lead in getting a replacement plaque and the finished product is now installed and turned out excellent. Rick and Chris inspected the segment north of Soscol Ferry Road in mid-June and noticed some damage to the stabilized quarry fines tread due to work by Napa San in their easement. Because the construction project requires excavation in and around a manhole in the middle of the trail, the Butler Bridge segment is currently closed to protect public safety. Post-construction work on rehabilitating the tread of the trail was completed shortly after Thanksgiving and it is once again open and useable. On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Napa StoryWalk had its grand opening in American Canyon, turnout was light, probably due to the 4:00PM on Friday afternoon timing, but those who attended had a wonderful time. In early February 2023 the County of Napa began the extended process of updating its Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (or ALUCP), a document that is relevant to the District because adopted policies could impact our ability to someday complete the Napa River Trail, which would run through the Airport Land Use Compatibility planning area. District staff inspected the entire trail from American Canyon to Fagan Marsh in late January and has had initial conversations with the County planners running the project. Chris, Ryan, and Jessica toured the Am Can Parks Foundation's

Napa River Eco Center project in late April and had fruitful conversations with ACCPF and Napa RCD staff about the facility and outdoor education generally. The Napa StoryWalk will be in residence in American Canyon at Wetlands Edge Park for the month of August. Staff inspected the segment between Suscol Ferry Road and Anselmo Court in August 2024 in response to a Vine Trail request for \$167k in planning funds and found the segment to be not only planned but constructed and in good, operable, ADA-compliant shape. King tides in December resulted in flooding and significant debris accumulation along parts of the trail. Rick Fessenden and super-volunteer Wayne Grout got the trail cleaned up along with some help from an anonymous local who had raked much of the debris into piles.

### **Berryessa Vista**

*Planning, stewardship and expansion of this 304 acre wilderness park.*

Volunteers working with the District have completed detailed GIS mapping showing all existing roads, creek crossings, vista points and potential campsites. The District sent a letter to all property owners in that area introducing the District, explaining the deed restriction prohibiting off road vehicles, and asking for their cooperation. Since then there has been less observed damage, although the problem is not resolved. Staff was planning on installing a gate to restrict OHV access, but this has proven infeasible. In 2014 the Land Trust acquired an 80 acre inholding between District and BLM land, based on a District Board action in November 2014 agreeing to acquire the property from the Land Trust at a later date when funding is available. District and Land Trust staff in April 2016 placed a camera on the property in an attempt to identify the off-road vehicle and motorcycle users who have been causing some damage to the property. Staff has been monitoring the cameras since spring 2016 and has noted a small decrease in illegal off road vehicle use; staff will continue to monitor the cameras. Staff is working on plans to create a formal boat-in backcountry camp at Berryessa Vista accessed from the BOR Capell Cove boat launch. Staff has been reviewing PG&E plans to grade and widen an access road to their high power lines that cross the property, to ensure the work does not cause future erosion nor increase vehicular trespass. The Bureau of Reclamation has completed environmental review and authorized the District to improve the trail leading from water's edge up into the District property and install directional signage. We had tremendous success at the volunteer trail building event in early February, building +/- 900 feet of new trail. Berryessa Vista burned in the August 2020 fires; once the ashes settle staff will need to assess damage and come up with a repair and restoration plan. Land Trust conservation easement monitoring which occurred in early 2023 indicated the property is in good shape. Staff has lifted the closure on the property we put in place after the LNU Fire. With lake levels being what they now are the property is only accessible by boat.

### **The Cove at Mt. Veeder**

*Conversion of a former Girl Scout camp into a park and trails.*

The Cove was severely burned in the October 2017 fires; since then staff has been working on cleanup. Staff hiked most of the property in early January and confirmed that fire damage is severe and extensive. Staff worked with a forester to develop a plan for salvage logging to (a) remove hazardous dead trees in the campground area and (b) repair/improve the access road into the site. Doug

McConnell (NBC's Open Road) segment on The Cove (and Suscol Headwaters), comparing the effects of the fires in each location and lessons learned, was aired on Sunday June 24, 2018. Salvage logging commenced in late May, 2018 and was completed during the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the logger completing his clean-up and erosion control operations. Road rebuilding is complete. A State Employment Development Department funded crew of 4 (using fire emergency job training funds) started work on April 2, 2019 and continued through the end of 2019 chipping of much of the remaining woody debris and cutting larger logs into rounds for eventual splitting for firewood. In July 2019 we worked with our salvage logging contractor on improvements to the gravel driveway to make it more useable to visitors in 2WD vehicles. Staff hiked the property extensively in February of 2019, trying among other things to relocate the old trails, but most have been destroyed by the 2017 fires and resulting erosion. The Mt Veeder Fire Safe Council secured a grant to fund fuel reduction work along the Mayacamas ridge on and near the Cove, and cleared downed and standing-dead trees along our ridgetop fire road. We have paused work on developing a new potable water system and septic system on the site while we reconsider our priorities in light of District finances, and the timeframe in which we think regular ongoing (as opposed to occasional special event-style) public camping will actually be desirable on the property once again. The Americorps team in January and February of 2021 constructed just under a half mile of new trail running up the ridge and towards Mount Veeder from the Cove bowl; it is much more gradual than the old trails (the old trail was 25-30%, new trail is about 9%). The Turkovich acquisition (Hirth/Turkovich to Land Trust) closed in August and the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Land Trust and the District was executed on August 30, 2023. We have three years to complete the purchase. Staff filed a General Plan Consistency Determination request with the Napa County Planning Director on November 29 regarding the Turkovich acquisition. While the District no longer needs to secure County land use approvals for our parks, we are still obligated to check in with the County on General Plan consistency. The County formally determined that the Turkovich acquisition was consistent with the General Plan on December 12, 2023. Trail planning work is now significantly underway at the Cove despite very challenging conditions (lots of brushy regrowth). Staff discovered a small slide on one of the roads in Turkovich which will need to be cleaned up to make it passable by vehicles. The property has otherwise handled the winter weather well. Turkovich acquisition closed as of 5/8/25 and marks a significant step in opening the Cove to the public. Thanks again to our partners at the Land Trust for making this acquisition possible. Our neighbor did significant slide clearing/road repairs on one of the Turkovich roads (which he uses via an easement to access his water supply) and it's much improved. Staff worked with PG&E to position underground power equipment in such a way as to not impact any future parking lots in Turkovich and came to an acceptable plan for locating the underground boxes. Staff met with the neighbors immediately east of Turkovich to discuss PG&E and vegetation management near the property line and scheduled a discussion with Firewise to discuss fire preparedness at Turkovich/The Cove. Staff met with Napa Firewise staff to discuss fire access at The Cove and to examine the federally-funded ridgetop fuel break along the top of Cove property. Turkovich neighbor Ian Leggat placed some erosion control measures on our access road and did a nice job. Staff discovered and pulled a patch of French Broom at the Cove.

## **EcoCamp Berryessa**

*Redevelopment and operation of former Boy Scout Camp with a 64 bed group/environmental education camp with 8 tent cabins, 2 covered group activity centers, a canoe/kayak dock, a central amphitheater and campfire ring, and a shower and composting toilet restroom facility.*

A grant for \$50,000 to help with construction was provided by the Mead Foundation, together with a \$1.7 million grant from the State Coastal Conservancy. Construction of Phase I, which includes beds for up to 64 campers was completed in June 2016. Tuleyome. The BOR, and Forest Trails Alliance have completed the adjacent North End Trail, running from +/- Camp Berryessa to the north end of the Lake, approximately 7 miles each way. In early October, 2017 Caltrans delivered (at no cost to the District) the disassembled and individually numbered pieces of a former Monticello Road stone arch bridge to EcoCamp Berryessa; some have been placed around the property to restrict vehicle access and add character. The EcoCamp has been closed to the public since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic. Camp Berryessa suffered some damage in the August 2020 fires; the camp itself mostly escaped damage, but the power line to the camp was destroyed as was our camp host's mobile home and belongings. Reclamation has begun work on the camp host site electrical rehabilitation and Sarah has been working to repair tent cabins, which are starting to show some signs of age in what is a tough environment. Napa County 4H successfully hosted their summer camp July 9 – 14, 2023 and campers reportedly thoroughly enjoyed the new location. This was one of the largest groups to utilize the facility for this duration and staff is evaluating infrastructure needs for groups this size at the camp. 4H summer camp will be relocating to Enchanted Hills for the 2024 season, keeping the Bay Area 4H camp tradition alive and located in Napa County. This is a great outcome and staff is very thankful to Lighthouse for the Blind for their help and support in making the move work. September 2024: Repair for failed electrical panel is contracted and should be completed this month. A couple slight water quality issues at Camp in June, resolved by staff without any impact to guests. Some evidence of uninvited guests in the camp, staff requested support from Bureau of Reclamation as well as Napa Sheriff's Office to keep extra eyes on the camp for visitors without reservations. December income: \$300. A Scouting troop used the camp (three adults and twelve children).

## **Mayacamas Preserve and Amy's Grove**

*Planning and permits for public use of the Mayacamas Preserve, of which Amy's Grove is part.*

The archaeological survey has been completed and did not find evidence of Native American activity. The botanical survey has been completed and submitted for review. Much of Amy's Grove burned in the October 2017 fires, but the damage appears to be limited. In Sept 2018 the Board approved placing a restrictive covenant over a portion of Amy's Grove, accepting the donation of an adjacent 7 acres of land, approving an option to acquire 164 acres north of Amy's Grove, and applying for a grant to help fund the purchase. Grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-2019. In late July 2019 we learned that we did not receive the Habitat Conservation Fund grant we had applied for to assist with the purchase of the 164 acres to the north. The purchase has been completed using District reserve funds. An application for \$400,000 from the Prop 68 per capita grant program has been submitted, the grant agreement has been signed by the District, and a \$400,000 check from the State finally arrived in mid-February. Several volunteer work parties have since made even further progress on tearing down

old buildings and salvaging the materials that can be reused. To clarify project boundaries, sometime in the new fiscal year we will be renaming the Chamberlain and Kateley acquisitions the Mayacamas Preserve; Amy's Grove will be a named part of the park. Rick reports that the water in Dry Creek has been running very high, which is a good reminder that without some sort of bridge Mayacamas and Amy's Grove will be seasonally inaccessible. We are scouting for bridge locations and beginning to think about permitting and costs if we went that route. Staff met with Ryan Gregory on-site in early April to get his experienced civil engineer's advice on parking lot logistics and the possibility of building a pedestrian bridge over Dry Creek. Neighboring property owners have been mowing the meadow portion of the Amy's Grove property with District permission to mitigate fire risks this summer and fall. The heavy rains of the winter of 2022/2023 evidenced significant drainage issues in the Kateley Finger staging area; it now appears that drainage improvements, potentially even engineered drainage improvements, will be necessary if we are ever to allow regular wintertime vehicular traffic in and out of that area. The local Napa Firewise council is conducting fuel reduction along Dry Creek Road abutting the Mayacamas and Amy's Grove properties and requested authorization from the District to do significant clearing 110 feet from the center line of the road. The District was not comfortable with the level of planned tree removal, so has agreed to a reduced project, which includes removing brush, trees that pose a hazard to the road, and trees <math>< 6''</math> dbh, and limbing up of trees >math>6''</math> dbh to reduce ladder fuels. Staff hosted the first public opening of the Mayacamas Preserve/Amy's Grove on September 16, and the event was a success. Francis and Beth Chamberlain sponsored two cameras to be placed on property for mountain lion tracking (via Audobon Canyon Ranch's program out of Sonoma County). Napa RCD continues to use Mayacamas as a base of operations for fish studies in Dry Creek. Staff hosted a volunteer day at Mayacamas in preparation for this year's guided hike. Data from the mountain lion tracking cameras was retrieved and we're eagerly awaiting the results. November's 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday hike in Mayacamas Preserve was canceled due to impassable crossing at Dry Creek due to high water level, which serves as a good reminder that we will ultimately want to construct some kind of bridge there.

## **Moore Creek Park**

*Improvements and operations at our 1,500 acre regional park in the Lake Hennessey watershed. Includes the Moore Creek unit on land owned by the District and the Lake Hennessey Unit on land owned by the City of Napa.*

The District's Moore Creek property (Moore Creek Unit) was expanded in 2012 through a lease agreement and operations plan with the City of Napa (Lake Hennessey Unit). The combined park opened on June 30, 2013. Many miles of trails have been constructed, fencing installed, emergency communications capacity set up, repairs made to the two houses on the property, and invasive French broom removal has been ongoing. Work was completed on the Conn Creek connector trail between the Moore Creek and Lake Hennessey units in June 2013. Lake Hennessey North Shore Trails formally opened with a ribbon cutting in October 2014. The Sam the Eagle Trail was completed in April 2015. The Gate House was re-roofed in November 2018 using the Moore Creek maintenance/repair reserve fund. Napa Marble and Granite installed (well, carved) new trail signage for the Shoreline and Sam the Eagle trails in early September 2017. Old Man's Beard Trail was completed in February 2018. The Whiskey Ridge and Conn Peak Trails (along with the Conn Peak Spur), nearly three miles of new singletrack all-in, was completed in 2019. To help ensure public safety in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff and

volunteers monitored both entrances to Moore Creek Park for most Fridays and weekends in March through July of 2020. The two tenants at Moore Creek Park had to evacuate for about two weeks as a result of the August 2020 fires, but were able to return just before Labor Day. They then had to evacuate again on September 28 due to the Glass Fire. Despite a number of additional autumn red flag days and closures, and a rare December red flag event, Moore Creek Park is unburned and in good shape. In March 2021 volunteers installed striping for the main parking lot (marked with pinned used fire hose segments) to make parking more efficient. Fuel management activities, focused on removing invasive broom and funded by a grant by the County Ag Commissioner are ongoing in the upper reaches of the park. The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing new no-parking zones at the end of Conn Valley Road in late July, 2022. The Dan's Wild Ride use permit modification was approved on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, against the objections of two neighbors (one of whom was a representative of CalFire's Las Posadas forest) who were concerned about the adequacy of our parking lots on busy weekend days. We have launched a social media campaign to alert visitors about the full parking lots and busy trails they can expect to experience at Moore Creek in a superbloom spring. Staff met with the Napa County DPW and their landscape architect to discuss tree planting in the area of the main parking lot to mitigate off-site tree removal resulting from a County bridge replacement project on Chiles Creek. The County would be responsible for watering the trees and would cover all costs. A native plant garden is being developed adjacent to the main parking lot in partnership with Napa County First 5 and with funding from First 5's climate initiative. Volunteers built a split-rail fence around the native plant garden at the March workday and it really adds a sense of place to the entrance. RTA hosted a ribbon-cutting event for donors and users for the recently-completed Washing Machine Trail on 8/3/24. Electrical panel at the Bussey house has been replaced by Buzz Electric, not only very expediently but also slightly under his quoted price. Both State Coastal Conservancy and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission awarded us grants and the Phinney acquisition will add 523 acres to Moore Creek Park. The Phinney acquisition is complete and Moore Creek Park is now 523 acres larger! Seismic monitoring equipment was installed along the road to the caretaker house on 7/7/25. Napa RCD is intending to resubmit its Forest Health Grant solicitation for work in Moore Creek Park (as well as in several other locations around the county). Ongoing fall maintenance work continues at Moore Creek and elsewhere: clearing trail drainage, working to improve sight lines, getting ready for winter. Redwood Trails Alliance (with help from Grasshopper Adventure Series) held a fundraising group ride on November 9<sup>th</sup> to raise money for the Pay the Piper trail in Moore Creek. Construction bid requests for approximately three miles of new trail in Moore Creek Park are live and we're awaiting bids for those trails with an aim towards constructing them this spring. Volunteers made good progress on Yip Trip trail at December's volunteer day; only a few hundred feet remain to complete the trail. Lots of winter maintenance in January: downed trees, slides (mud and rock, and debris. Volunteers and staff continue to make progress on Yip Trip and have completed approximately 500ft of trail and connected the two sides; two more workdays should have the trail totally completed. Bids for three trails on the Phinney Unit of Moore Creek have been awarded and should be completed this spring.

## **Napa River Ecological Reserve**

*Manage public access and improve habitat for this State-owned property*

The District has been maintaining the parking lot and front meadow since 2008, after assuming a responsibility that had previously been handled by the County. Staff recently discovered that the agreement between the District and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, authorizing this partnership, expired at the end of 2017. Staff has approached CDFW about renewing the agreement, and continues to wait patiently for a decision from CDFW. In a telling sign of what can happen in unmanaged public open spaces, someone attempted to fell a young oak tree with a shotgun and perhaps a dozen rifled slugs in late December 2021. We have retained a number of casings as evidence. We have removed the porta-potty from the parking lot, both to reduce management costs (on a property that we no longer have an agreement to manage) and to mitigate some of the ongoing trash issues that have been associated with it. In early August we hosted an in-service day for the Justin Siena High School teaching staff in partnership with Chip Bouril focusing on removing invasive oblong leaf spurge. Rick has been working with Chip Bouril on rehabbing the nature trail and plant signage at the reserve, as well as dealing with a fresh crop of graffiti. Staff has purchased and installed new metal native plant signs. A member of the public was concerned about cyanobacteria at NRER, staff confirmed with State Water Board that the site has tested negative several times and the water is free of harmful algae blooms.

## **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

*Various improvements to the historic Oat Hill Mine Road.*

The District opened 8 miles of the historic Oat Hill Mine Road as a non-motorized trail in 2007 with the assistance of 130+ volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor California. Cleanup of mercury contamination north of the opened section of trail, led by Tuleyome, was partly but not fully successful, delaying when the northern section of the road leading to Lake County can be completed. A 40 acre Randy Lee Johnson property along the route of the trail was donated in December 2014. Volunteers have over the years done extensive erosion control and vegetation clearing projects. The first 1.3 miles of the trail was bulldozed as a result of CalFire efforts to suppress the October 2017 wildfires, and this was extended further while fighting the 2020 Glass fire. Nearly all of the forest along the first 4 miles of the trail out of Calistoga burned in the Glass fire. Visitation at OHMT has been very high since mid-March of 2020. We staffed the trailhead on weekends in late March and early April, but have determined that the dispersed nature of the parking in Calistoga means that it handles the higher level of traffic well and we have since reduced monitoring to occasional check-ins. Repairs to the Aetna Springs trailhead kiosk as well as replacement of wayfinding signs that burned in the 2020 fires are now underway. John Woodbury (as a volunteer) and Rick have repaired the Aetna side kiosk and replaced the trail map, all of which were damaged in the 2020 fires. Tree mortality seems to be increasing as we near a year from last year's fire. The County and the District have been receiving calls from an adjacent property owner who would like to "improve" the trail to make it easier to drive to his property by Jeep. Replacement trail signs for the Holms-to-Aetna segment of the trail have been ordered to replace the ones lost to fire in 2020. Eagle Scouts installed new (and more accurately measured!) trail markers between Calistoga and Holm's Place. Staff brushed/scouted Palisades trail and inventoried projects for

fall trailwork on Palisades. Two rescues took place on OHMT/Palisades trail in late July. Significant slide in the bottom quarter mile of the trail took place on 2/4/25. Staff will be tending to it as soon as the rains subside somewhat. Staff hosted volunteer workdays on Palisades Trail and OHMT on 3/1 and 3/8 to address trail issues and ensure access. Staff continues to hold volunteer days to maintain OHMT and palisades trail. The Pickett fire burned in the vicinity of Oat Hill Mine Trail and the trail served as both firebreak and critical access for CalFire. We won't know the extent of the impacts until firefighting operations cease and staff can get in to assess. Staff inspected OHMT as soon as conditions would allow and found (mostly) good news, as reported elsewhere in this agenda. Staff inspected Oat Hill Mine Trail in late December and found it to be in good shape and weathering the storms without incident.

### **Old Howell Mountain Trail**

*Operations and Management of three miles of County public trail on a closed section of Old Howell Mountain Road*

The District assumed management responsibility for the trail as of 9/23/25 and staff has been meeting with neighbors, the County, and interested community members to resolve final details of parking, access, and maintenance of the trail. Jim Gamble hired Pina Vineyard Management to restore drainage along Old Howell Mountain Road and they've done a nice job clearing culvert inlets and restoring gate functionality on the North end of the road. Staff met with neighbors at the north end to discuss parking and other issues and has been making (as of yet unsuccessful) attempts to meet with City of St Helena officials to discuss additional details around opening Old Howell Mountain Trail to the public. The local volunteer "Friends of Old Howell" crew graveled/hardened the south slide bypass and it seems to be holding up to use and rains nicely. Culverts appear clear and the trail seems in good, clear shape.

### **Skyline Park**

*Permanent protection of Skyline Park and support for Skyline operations.*

Three past legislative efforts to authorize sale to the County failed due to unrelated disagreements between the state legislature and administration. Separately, the County in September 2009 approved a new park overlay zone and an updated Master Plan for Skyline Park. A fourth legislative effort by Assembly member Evans in 2010, sponsored by Napa County and supported by the District, was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, but the County and State General Services were unable to agree on the fair market value of the property, negotiations stalled, and the legislative authorization expired. SB 20 by Senator Dodd was approved in 2019, which again authorizes the State to sell Skyline Park to the District and/or county for the sole purpose of it continuing to be a public park. The Governor in late 2019 issued an Executive Order directing the State use surplus State Lands to develop affordable housing, and included 20 acres of Skyline Park as surplus land that could be used for this purpose, which complicates our efforts to purchase the park. In January 2019 the District sponsored the filming of a short feature for Doug McConnell's Open Road TV series to help build support for the purchase of Skyline. DGS in February 2021 assigned state staff to work on the appraisal of the property in anticipation of selling it; District staff is now in receipt of proposed appraisal instructions and has asked that they be revised to include a whole-park option. The District in 2019 obtained a TBID grant of

\$20,000 to assist Skyline Park upgrade their web site including an on-line reservation system, improve their park map and brochure, and install an automatic pay machine on the River to Ridge Trail; the work was completed in the fall of 2019. The bicycle skills course was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 11 and was fully executed in late February. The Redwood Trails Alliance has begun fundraising for the project and the plan is for them to construct the skills course as a voluntary cooperator at no cost to the District. The County of Napa Assistant CEO has taken lead on negotiating the Skyline purchase appraisal with the Department of General Services. Chris participated in an extensive site tour (interestingly including Camp Coombs and the Coombs Ranch Dam canyon) in late March with the appraiser and representatives from the Department of General Services, the State Hospital, and Skyline. The final appraisal is slated to be completed in June. In early May, +/-5 acres of the flat lower portion of Skyline Park was included in a list of potential affordable housing sites presented to the Board of Supervisors by the County's Planning Director. On July 11 the Planning Commission hosted a hearing on the Housing Element that featured much discussion of the Skyline (County staff prefers the term "Imola") public housing site. Ryan has been collaborating with a number of individuals and community organizations to develop a StoryWalk that will be hosted by Skyline Park and Wetlands Edge Park over the next several months. Opening day was at Skyline on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was attended by many well wishers and dignitaries. Surveyors have been on the property since the week before Thanksgiving and the County has contracted with a geologist to complete a mineral resources report in support of a potential State Lands Commission action to surplus the mineral rights to the County along with fee title. The State Phase 1 environmental analysis is complete and did not identify any serious issues. The pump track grand opening was held on December 16, with a great turn out of adult cyclists, kids, and dignitaries. Senator Dodd introduced SB 958 which deletes the specific exemption of Camp Coombs from the Skyline Park purchase authorization, which would make Camp Coombs eligible for purchase as part of Skyline Park. Governor Newsom signed SB958 and final work now begins to complete the purchase of Camp Coombs immediately following the purchase of Skyline Park. Construction work on the "jail trail" happened on River to Ridge in late September and left the side entrance to Skyline looking much nicer and more welcoming. Skyline Park Citizens Association signed a revised concessionaire's agreement and it's headed to Napa County Board of Supervisors for signature on 12/17/24. Board of Supervisors approved the PSA for skyline park on 12/17 and we're in the due diligence period. Final payment is scheduled for Spring 2025. County and Department of State Hospitals staff met and set a mid-March date for an operational overview of Lake Marie dam and other Skyline-related day to day operational issues related to park purchase. Escrow closed on 4/4/25 and Skyline Park is permanently protected as parkland! Camp Coombs to follow later this year. Many thanks to all involved. Staff worked with DSH fire department to remove homeless encampments along River to Ridge Trail and did brushing work to reduce fuel loads in the area. Surveyors marked the western boundary of Camp Coombs on 10/15 as things continue to proceed towards purchase. Staff and volunteers hosted a volunteer workday on Skyline's pump track to provide routine maintenance to the track surface. November 8<sup>th</sup> was the annual Ridge Trail Service Day (in partnership with Bay Area Ridge Trail and Skyline Park) and volunteers and staff made improvements to River to Ridge Trail where it's often wet in the winter and spring. A recent Napa Valley Register article provided updates about housing in Skyline Park as well as the potential purchase of Camp Coombs. County Flood Control is working on repairs to the gate valve mechanism at Lake Marie Dam.

## **Smittle Creek**

*Planning and permits to open this 411 acre holding for public use.*

The District completed purchase of this property in December 2015. A botanist was retained in early 2016 to do a reconnaissance level survey of plant resources as the first step in planning for the property; his report was received in January 2017; the report describes the property as one of the best locations in the County for native grasses. A group of 20+ people from Tuleyome were given a hiking tour of the property in December 2016, as a way to build interest in the property and build a pool of volunteers to help with restoration and improvement of the property. On March 4 2017, Tuleyome volunteers brushed the Iron Mountain trail (in the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, but accessed via Smittle Creek.) US Geological Survey in 2017 placed a seismic monitoring station on the property. The State Fish and Wildlife Game Warden for this area has been most helpful in patrolling the property looking for illegal poaching. A well-attended volunteer cleanup project was held in October of 2018, more than filling a 30 yard dumpster with debris. Our volunteer caretaker for this property has made repairs to the dirt roads and the perimeter fencing. Staff in January 2020 flagged a route for the proposed new trail access into the property from Reclamation's Smittle Creek Day Use Area parking lot, and a botanist has been retained to conduct a floristic survey this winter and spring. All of Smittle Creek burned in the August 2020 fires. The entry gate and fence the District shares with Reclamation was burned; a temporary fix has been made, but further work will be needed. Staff has had initial discussion with County Public Works about including access improvements at Smittle in a larger grant application aimed at funding work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road. It would apparently make the County's road grant application more attractive to funders and would of course mean new District money for opening the park (if the grants come through). If award of the grant seems likely we would potentially have most of our development costs funded, but would unfortunately need to slow progress on the property to mesh up with the more measured pace of Federal funded transportation projects. Federal DOT funding officials completed a site visit of the Smittle Creek parking area and potential trail improvements in late April, preliminary reports from County DPW indicate it went well and we may be on a path to funding. It appears that there has been some trespassing and poaching on the property during the 2022 deer season, we are in communication with CaDFW wardens about the situation. Rick has posted a new closed to the public sign on the front gate, replacing the one that was stolen during deer season. Rick and the Napa County Sheriff ran an armed trespasser (who purported to be hunting quail) off the property in early November. Great heads-up work by Rick in what was otherwise a fairly iffy situation. The Federal Highway Administration has approved Napa County Public Works' application for the California Federal Lands Access Program to fund work on Knoxville-Berryessa Road near Smittle Creek. Public Works' project includes funding for the Smittle Creek trail, the crossing of Knoxville-Berryessa Road from the existing BOR parking lot, and parking lot rehabilitation. We continue to see some trespassing and illegal camping on this property. Staff met with CalFire on-property in early March to discuss the use of Smittle for CalFire aviation night training exercises. CalFire/Napa County Fire has volunteered to do some grading and road improvement on the property in support of that use. Calfire has completed the grading on existing fire roads at Smittle in advance of training operations this month. Staff reports the work looks top-notch. There was a fire at Smittle Creek on 8/13/25. The fire burned approximately six acres of steep ground, about half of which on our property and half on Federal land. Damage was not significant; Bureau of Reclamation is going to tackle some minor fence repairs and Rick estimates that the burned area will revegetate quickly.

## Suscol Headwaters Park

*Improvements to Suscol Headwaters Preserve and opening the property as a public park.*

The purchase of the Preserve was completed in November, 2017. The one remaining improvement to satisfy funding requirements is the construction of a California red legged frog (CRLF) breeding pond and various habitat improvements focused on, but not exclusively in, the pond area. A reserve fund has been set aside to do the work, but the actual work has been delayed while design and construction details are worked out. Most of the property burned in the October 2017 firestorm; some trees were killed, and a perimeter grazing fence was destroyed, but otherwise damage was not catastrophic. We have installed No Trespassing signs adjacent to ranch roads descending off of Suscol Knob to further limit access to the lower portions of the preserve, where property lines are not necessarily well marked or fenced. The District hired local trail builder Kevin Smallman to help with trail corridor planning and spent May 10 and 11 of 2019 hiking and flagging the property. A Use Permit for Suscol Headwaters Park was approved by the County Planning Commission in February 2020 and the northern portion of the property is now officially open to the public via Skyline Park. We have been awarded the \$1.17M Prop 68 grant to fund the development and opening of Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters! Now the real work begins. We have signed a contract with Applied Civil Engineering for design and engineering services for the new Suscol Headwaters parking lot. We are hoping to have initial parking lot plans and a legal description of the parking lot and trail easement done in draft and ready for Napa San approval in April. RTA returned to Suscol Headwaters to finish work on Chance the Cowboy and to complete Perdida Connector. Staff submitted requests for bids for three additional trail segments, Chance West, Suscol Ridge South, and Amphitheater. RTA is building in Suscol and was awarded an additional bid for Chance West Trail. Two additional bids were awarded to Johnson Trails. Additional construction is complete on Amphitheater and Suscol Ridge South trails and RTA is wrapping up Chance West. On June 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff installed temporary directional signage to help users navigate the newly opened trails which are already proving to be very popular. Construction and planning work continues at Suscol with RTA slated to wrap up construction on Chance West Trail this month. Frog pond liner is slated to be installed by staff and volunteers this month. Frog pond liner is installed thanks to staff and volunteers and our partners at Skyline Park. Escrow is opened on the easement purchase, CEQA is launched for phase 2, another invoice went to OGALS and a slate of bids is queued and ready to send to potential contractors for this season's trail construction. Planning work for parking lot construction is underway and we expect to launch formal bid for that work around the new year in anticipation of summer 2025 parking lot construction. Staff received comments from Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife on Phase 2 CEQA and integrated those comments into a revised document whose comment period ends 12/7/24.

Trailbuilding work in phase 1 continues while staff and volunteers are keeping existing trails clear and in good shape. Escrow closed on the acquisition of the Napa San trailhead easement on December 2 and we are now the proud owners of .75 acres of sprayfield, or sprayfield easement. Staff removed several trees along North Kelly Road in December and a final Eucalyptus is slated for removal in January in anticipation of a summer 2025 parking lot build. Biosurveying is slated to begin in spring in advance of parking lot and trail construction in phase 2 this spring and summer. Preconstruction surveys are under contract and we're on track to get bid out for parking lot construction in advance of this summer's construction window. Staff and volunteers addressed cattle damage on recent trails and met with ranchers to mitigate future trail damage. Additional trail construction bids are out for this spring's builds. One trail construction contract was awarded, several others for summer construction are

imminently out to bid, and pre-construction surveys are underway in advance of parking lot and further trail construction in Suscol Headwaters. Staff has been busy maintaining existing trails and visitation at the park is high with the good weather. Existing trails have been string trimmed. Buckaroo trail construction is nearly complete (as of 5/7/25). Biosurveys are in progress, including the first round of bumblebee surveys. Bids for parking lot construction are still on track for build this summer. Buckaroo Trail is complete and open after hard work by both contractors and staff to complete it. Parking lot bid is in progress. Biologists found Crotch's bumblebee and have asked CDFW to cease surveys and proceed with a bumblebee avoidance plan so that trail and parking lot construction can commence in Phase 2. Final touches are being placed on parking lot bid and upcoming Phase 2 trails bids while we await approval from CDFW for Crotch's bumblebee avoidance plan. Still awaiting final approval from CDFW on bumblebee avoidance plan which will surely arrive shortly. Suscol headwaters continues to be heavily used and the parking lot bid is ready to launch save for final word from CDFW about our bumblebee avoidance plan. Staff is continuing to build trail in the Phase 1 area of Suscol and maintenance operations continue as well with support from our partners at Skyline Park. Fall building in Suscol continues and staff has tackled trail maintenance issues as they've started to appear. Bids for two additional trails in Suscol Headwaters are live as of 10/22 and two more are expected to go out shortly. Connection to the North Kelly Road parking lot should be complete this winter/spring in advance of next summer's parking lot construction. Bids were awarded to Johnson Trails for two more trails, commencing building in Phase 2 of Suscol Headwaters Park. Staff continues to chip away at builds in Phase 1 as well as tackling maintenance issues as they arise. Two more requests for trail construction bids are live in Suscol Headwaters Phase 2. District trailbuilding staff has almost completed Little Bend Trail in Phase 1. Formal bid for the parking lot is undergoing legal review prior to launch later in January for construction in summer 2026. Little Bend Trail in Phase 1 is complete and open to the public. Construction contracts were awarded to Johnson Trails for two additional trails in Phase 2 and will be constructed this spring. Parking lot construction is on track for this summer. Biosurveys in advance of trail construction is scheduled for February.

## **Vine Trail**

*A Class I bicycle/pedestrian path extending from Calistoga to the Vallejo Ferry Terminal sponsored by the Vine Trail Coalition, of which the District is a participating member.*

The District has an MOU with the Vine Trail Coalition to provide assistance as requested by the Coalition in receiving funds, preparing plans and environmental documents, and constructing and operating the trail. The District, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail and the Vine Trail Coalition prepared a joint Case Statement for the combined trail network for fundraising purposes. Over the years the District has submitted numerous letters of support for Vine Trail grant applications. The District continues to coordinate with the Vine Trail on plans to route the Vine Trail through Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. A joint Vine Trail/Ridge Trail dedication event was held at Bothe in 2014. In March 2015 the Vine Trail initiated discussions with district staff about the possibility of the District providing maintenance for the entire Vine Trail, but in the end the cities and the county decided that each entity will maintain the section within their jurisdiction, rather than paying into a common fund for common maintenance. Caltrans is proposing to replace the aging bridge over Mill Creek; since the construction as proposed could have significant adverse effects for both the Vine Trail and the Bale Mill, District and

Vine Trail staff meet with Caltrans and NVTA to discuss ways to mitigate the impacts. In Sept 2018 the Vine Trail Coalition requested the District accept an easement to facilitate the trail connection between Kennedy Park and Napa Pipe. Staff met with the Vine Trail and Syar in March 2019 to work out details related to the easement. A revised version of the easement, and an associated agreement allocating responsibilities is still being negotiated. At the request of the Vine Trail Coalition, staff is exploring with the County whether to take on the eventual maintenance of the section between Calistoga and St. Helena, with the costs to be paid 50/50 by the County and the Coalition. A similar agreement between the County, the City of Napa and the Vine Trail was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2021. Staff met with Philip Sales in early July to inspect the St Helena – Calistoga segment and recommence discussions about the District potentially taking over maintenance responsibility for that section. After much thought and research staff has reached a point where we believe we may be able to take over maintenance of the St Helena to Calistoga section without committing to potentially subsidizing the work out of District funds. Groundbreaking for the St Helena to Calistoga Vine Trail segment took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the State Park. Tony Norris and Jason Jordan represented the District. The NCRPOSD/Vine Trail/County of Napa Up Valley Vine Trail maintenance agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June and is now (finally) fully executed. Celebrations for the opening of the St. Helena to Calistoga segment are planned for the 8/17 weekend. Vine Trail St. Helena to Calistoga segment is opened and traffic through Bothe has been a steady stream both on weekends and weekdays. Staff is slated to begin maintenance on the St. Helena to Calistoga segment in January and final preparations are underway to complete punchlist and identify any last construction-related issues. Discussions about Vine Trail construction and ongoing maintenance continue as the last construction punch list items are debated. Winter rains exposed several design-related drainage issues and other challenges with the trail surface. Invoices for the first two quarters of maintenance have been issued and we're awaiting payment for Vine Trail maintenance.

### **Woodbury Properties**

*Acquire 480 acres next to Berryessa Estates from BLM at no fee through their Recreation and Public Purpose Act procedure. Manage Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral (2,500 acres) open space preserves.*

The District in 2009 applied to BLM for a no-fee transfer of this property to the District; while this transfer was supported by BLM staff, the formal approval was delayed because of property title issues between BLM and BOR. By the time these issues were resolved personnel and priorities had changed at BLM, and the transfer application is stalled. The District completed the donation to the District of a small, 0.2 acre property that provides critical access to the northeast corner of the property. Prescribed burns were attempted for Spanish Valley in 2019 and 2020, but both had to be cancelled due to a combination of permit delays and uncooperative weather. Shortly after the 2020 prescribed burn was cancelled, the LNU Fire burned the entire valley. The district in the spring of 2020 completed the donation of a conservation easement over Spanish Valley to the Land Trust. The current President for the Association reached out to District staff just before the LNU fire, indicating a willingness to restart discussions about an agreement between the two. However, the LNU fire put those discussions on hold, and staff efforts in February and March of 2021 to reach out to the Association have not been responded to. Field inspection completed on August 30<sup>th</sup>; Spanish Valley looks surprisingly good given burn intensity. We have discovered what looks to be an illegal small scale mining operation on one corner of the Crystal Flats property. Staff removed all of the mining material in early December.

Inexplicably, it had already been smashed by some unknown party, perhaps a claim jumper? District staff has been contacted by LBRID staff, who are concerned that a lack of rainfall this spring could leave Berryessa Estates without a source of drinking water. The General Manager has preliminarily ok'd the use District-owned properties to do hydrogeological assessments in hopes of finding alternate emergency water sources. Proposed exploratory work is focused on the Marina and adjacent to the Crystal Flats access drive. The GM has given Napa County permission to do additional exploratory drilling in hopes of finding reliable emergency water for the community of Berryessa Estates. We were contacted by a neighboring property owner who had concerns about a large Gray pine on our property in mid-May. Staff is getting bids to have it removed. In the last months we've additionally been contacted about two large oaks located on our property that neighbors have concerns about, we'll be up to inspect those as well. Staff is securing quotes for the removal of the trees, the large Gray pine will likely be expensive. We received a weed abatement notice from Napa County Fire for a small undeveloped residential property in Berryessa Estates, which served as a useful reminder to current staff that we owned such a property. The Fire Marshal retracted the abatement notice, which was issued pursuant to Napa County Code Sec 8.36.060, following a conversation about the District's *Save Lafayette Trees* exemption. District staff weed whipped the abated parcel in mid-November. Two large hazard trees adjacent neighboring properties were removed in May 2024. Staff is in discussions with the Land Trust's stewardship team about a prescribed burn for veg management/invasives control on the Woodbury properties for May/June 2026. Preparations continue for a prescribed burn in May/June 2026 in partnership with Land Trust of Napa County's stewardship team and CALFIRE.

## Completed Projects

### **Amy's Grove**

*Donation of 50 acres along Dry Creek and Wing Creek.*

The donation of approximately 50 acres of open space from the Chamberlain family to the District closed in December 2015.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Realignment**

In December of 2012 the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council approved the proposed realignment of the Ridge Trail through Napa County as requested by the District.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail Napa-Solano Ridge Trail Loop**

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council obtained a donated easement from the Tuteur family and constructed a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail adjacent to Skyline Park. In March 2018 the Ridge Trail Council transferred the easement to the District, and with the support of the Tuteur family revised the easement to facilitate an extension of the trail south onto the District's Suscol Headwaters Preserve.

### **Bay/River Trail - American Canyon to Napa Phase I**

*Phase One - Eucalyptus Drive to Green Island Road.*

Constructed approximately 5 miles of Class I bicycle and pedestrian path in the vicinity of American Canyon along the Napa River was completed in April 2012, in partnership with the City of American Canyon, Department of Fish and Game and Napa Vallejo Waste Management Authority. A formal opening ceremony was held June 2, 2012.

*Phase Two - Pond 10.*

DFW surfaced the existing levee with gravel and opened the gate to the public in spring 2015.

*Phase Three - Soscol Ferry Road to Napa Pipe*

Completed construction in spring of 2015 of 0.7 miles between Soscol Ferry Road and the Napa Pipe property in the Napa Valley Corporate Park.

### **Berryessa Peak Trail**

*Obtain right of way and construct trail to provide public access to extensive federal lands on Blue Ridge and to Berryessa Peak.*

Obtained donated trail easement from the Ahmann family to close gaps between existing public lands on Blue Ridge. A Negative Declaration and Use Permit hearing was approved December 16, 2009 by the County Planning Commission. An Operations and Management Plan was approved by the property owner and the District. BLM's biologist inspected the alignment on September 17, 2011. The trail was constructed over the course of two years using volunteer crews, and continues to be maintained by volunteers (mostly provided by Tuleyome and Yolo Hiker)

### **Berryessa Vista Acquisition**

Purchase of 224 acres from the Land Trust of Napa County for use as a public park completed in early 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

#### **Cedar Roughs/Smittle Creek**

Purchase of 443 acres of land that will provide public access to Cedar Roughs from the Smittle Creek Day Use Area closed in December 2015.

#### **Connolly Ranch**

Construction of patio, restrooms and cooking facilities completed in 2008 using State Prop 12 funds.

#### **The Cove at Mt Veeder**

The acquisition of 164 acres from the Girl Scouts was completed in December 2017.

#### **Historic ROW Analysis**

Staff has completed a comprehensive review of historic rights-of-way, and is now focusing attention on those that have greatest potential.

#### **Linda Falls Conservation Easement**

Conservation easement accepted in spring 2008 from Land Trust of Napa County to provide additional protection for this 39 acre property, which is owned by the land trust. The easement was revised and expanded in 2016 to cover the entire Linda Falls property owned by the Land Trust. This is a continuation of a long-term project for the district and land trust to hold easements over each other's properties to protect against unforeseen circumstances that could threaten the conservation values of the properties.

#### **Master Plan Development and Updates**

The Master Plan for 2008-2013 was approved in January 2009. It was updated in 2011 and again in 2019.

#### **Moore Creek Open Space Park**

Acquisition of 673 acres in the Moore Creek Watershed completed in December 2008. The City of Napa subsequently approved an agreement with the District to incorporate approximately 900 acres of City of Napa Lake Hennessey watershed lands into Moore Creek Park.

#### **Napa River Ecological Reserve Improvements & Restoration**

Parking area paved, and rock barrier installed to control vehicular access in 2007. Trash enclosure constructed and entry signs restored by volunteers in 2008. Deteriorated kiosk and interpretive panels removed in 2008. The District in July 2008 assumed the County's role in managing the preserve under the joint management agreement with DFG. A new maintenance contract with the non-profit organization Options 3 was started in January 2009. A multi-year project resulted in the removal of the bulk of the invasive teasel that had taken over the 5 acre meadow at the entrance to the Reserve, and the construction of a short native plant interpretive trail. In doing this work, several thousand students received a day of environmental education about native and invasive plants and riparian ecology.

#### **Napa River Flood Control Easement**

Conservation easement accepted by District in 2007 to facilitate Flood District project and grant funding.

### **Newell Preserve Improvements**

As part of the arrangement with the land trust on the District's purchase of Berryessa Vista, the land trust was willing to use some of the proceeds from the transaction to fund a well pump and distribution system at the Preserve, which is owned by the City of American Canyon. However, the first well drilled by the City of American Canyon came up dry. The City has dropped plans for digging any more test wells.

### **Oat Hill Mine Trail**

The Oat Hill Mine Trail was formally opened in May Of 2008, after a major volunteer work party doing signage installation, brush removal and erosion control. The District in 2008 applied to BLM for a non-fee transfer to the District of a 40 acre parcel at Maple Springs on the Oat Hill Mine Trail; BLM in April 2016 indicated they did not want to transfer this parcel, so the District's application has been dropped.

### **River to Ridge Trail**

Lot line adjustment to legalize River to Ridge Trail as constructed (it had encroached on private property in two locations). Animal silhouettes along the entryway fence illustrating the types of birds and mammals that can be found in the area were installed by an Eagle Scout candidate in 2008. A new information kiosk was installed at the entrance in December 2008 as part of a Boy Scout project. In 2011 volunteers made some drainage improvements.

### **Skyline Park Road and Trail Improvements**

Erosion control work on Lake Marie Road, and paving of campground loop road, completed in 2007 using State Prop 12 funds. The District and the Skyline Park Citizens Association have continued to cooperate on various trail maintenance projects.

### **Skyline Park Concessionaire Agreement Renewal**

District staff negotiated renewal of concessionaire agreement on behalf of the County in 2010, 2015 and 2020. The renewal involved changes to the fee schedule and amendments to and approval of sub agreements with three non-profit partner organizations.

### **Skyline Park Facility Improvements**

The proposals for a second greenhouse (from CNPS) and a covered equestrian arena (from Skyline Riders) were approved by the Department of General Services and by the County Board of Supervisors. The sponsors of these projects however ended up not pursuing either project.

### **State Parks**

#### **Operate Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and RLS State Park.**

The District, with assistance from the Napa Valley State Parks Association, took over management of the parks on April 1, 2012. Since then the District has obtained permits and done improvements to the pool, installed 7 yurts, instituted recycling in the campground and day use areas, pumped all septic system tanks annually, repaired the historic Wright House for use as a rental property, restored 5 cabins, constructed a new shower/toilet facility, and made a large dent in the backlog of deferred maintenance.

In 2014 the District started the process of extending the District's 5 year Operating Agreement and including RLS in the agreement, that new 20 year agreement was signed in April 2020.

#### **Suscol Headwaters Preserve Acquisition**

Acquisition of 709 acres of the former Kirkland Ranch in two phases was completed in November 2017.

#### **Trinchero/Putah Creek Open Space Acquisition**

The donation by the Trinchero family of 2,500 acres of open space (Spanish Valley, Crystal Flats and Stone Corral) was completed on December 29, 2010. A related granting of an access easement to the Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District was completed in mid-January 2011.

#### **Wild Lake Ranch**

The District participated in the development of a strategic plan for the property, together with other public lands in the area, that was led by the Land Trust of Napa County. The land trust has decided, at least for the near term, to manage the Wildlake-Duff property itself.

### **Deferred/Cancelled Projects**

#### **Milliken Reservoir Trails and Picnic Area Feasibility Study**

The feasibility study to *construct approximately 3 miles of Bay Area Ridge Trail plus additional feeder and loop trails, along with a staging and picnic area* within the City of Napa's Milliken Watershed was completed and accepted by the Board of Directors in 2009. The Napa City Council in November, 2009 approved city staff recommendation to hold off on considering the Milliken Reservoir trails project until the Lake Hennessey Unit of Moore Creek Park is completed.

#### **Montesol West**

The District had the opportunity to purchase 1,254 acres west of Highway 29 adjacent to Robert Louis Stevenson State Park. The area's conservation values were protected through an easement negotiated by the Trust for Public Land and now held by the Land Trust of Napa County. Purchase of fee title would permit the area to be used for public recreation. The District prepared and obtained a Habitat Conservation Program grant that, together with a Moore Foundation grant obtained by the Trust for Public Land, would fully fund the purchase. Public outreach to Middletown area residents in 2017 were positively received. Unfortunately, the option expired at the end of February without TPL exercising it, because we were unable to provide the type of liability insurance the seller wanted to protect his interest in carbon credits that they had sold to the State over timber located on the property.

#### **Rector Ridge/Stags Leap Ridge Trail**

*Construction of staging area and 6+ miles of Ridge Trail climbing east from Silverado Trail near Rector Creek.*

CEQA on this project was completed several years ago, the project concept was approved by the District Board, and was positively viewed by the Veterans Home administration. However, subsequent changes and controversies within the Department of Veterans Affairs undid the progress we had made. The area

in question also involves the Department of Fish and Wildlife, since they have an easement to allow hunters to use the area; the Department was initially supportive of the District pursuing a formal trail through the property, but personnel changes within their Department means their review also needs to be restarted. Finally, with the approval of the Go North alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, this segment of trail is no longer part of the officially proposed alignment for the Ridge Trail. For all these reasons, this project is deferred until other District priorities are under control.

### **Vallejo Lakes**

*Possible purchase of 1100 acres of surplus Vallejo Water District lands, of which 200 acres are located in Napa County, and Lake Curry which is entirely in Napa County.*

Discussions between the District, the Land Trust of Napa County, the County of Solano and the Solano Land Trust indicate a common desire to work together to purchase this property adjacent to Skyline Park. The City Council of the City of Vallejo officially authorized staff to pursue surplussing of the property, and hired an appraiser to prepare an estimate of the property's fair market value, but this was never released. The District GM, together with the County of Solano EO, in February 2012 each sent letters to the City of Vallejo formally expressing interest in the property and requesting notification per state law of any planned surplussing of the property. Sale of the property by the City has been delayed because of complications related to questions about how best to supply water to residents in Green Valley. Staff from the District and its partners met with the Vallejo City Manager in April 2014; the surplussing process has become more complicated and the City does not anticipate any action in the near future. Staff had a very interesting meeting with City of Vallejo water division staff and a tour of Lake Curry in late May. The Lake Curry property can only be described as a jewel, and the City of Vallejo would clearly like to divest it, but doesn't know how to do this. Solano County in 2015 investigated the feasibility of acquiring the lakes and managing their water supplies; as part of this investigation they expressed interest in partnering with the District to manage public recreational access, but no decisions were made. Further progress on this project depends on the City of Vallejo and Solano County; the District cannot do more until they decide what direction to head.