

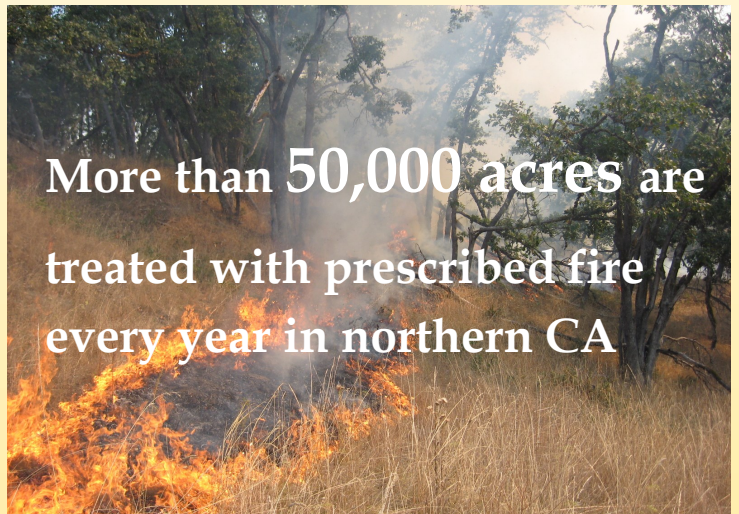


The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council is a venue for practitioners, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, tribes, coalitions, and interested individuals to work collaboratively to promote, protect, conserve, and expand the responsible use of prescribed fire in Northern California's fire-adapted landscapes.

The scale of the fire issues in California is daunting. Decades of fire exclusion across the fire-prone region, coupled with complications caused by large-scale human development in rural and suburban areas and the effects of global climate change, have left wildlands in California prone to large, severe wildfires and imperiled species dependent on the frequent fires and heterogenous landscapes of the past. Among fuels treatments, prescribed fire offers an inexpensive, landscape-scale treatment method that best mimics the positive effects of wildfires without many of the undesirable aspects of unplanned fire. These managed fires offer the best opportunity to erase the ever-increasing fire deficit and restore biodiversity in northern California, but there is a clear need for more targeted, strategic support of its use. Though the use of prescribed fire spans a broad spectrum of groups and individuals, there has never been a formal venue for the prescribed fire community to articulate issues and work together to find solutions in the region...until now.

The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council is a collective of prescribed fire practitioners, scientists, and advocates that

works to address impediments to prescribed fire and promote responsible, proactive fire use in the region. Through collaboration, public outreach, and other efforts, the Council aims to increase understanding and acceptability of prescribed fire in public and policy realms, while working together in the management realm to improve techniques, increase training opportunities, and ameliorate permitting and other regulatory hurdles.



With its diverse group of stakeholders and broad consensus on the issues, the Council is uniquely positioned to overcome obstacles and encourage landscape-level, collaborative action around prescribed fire.

HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

In 2009, a small group of fire scientists and managers joined forces and spearheaded the Northwestern California Prescribed Fire Council. The Council joined the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, which represents over 25 other state and regional councils across the country, all working on issues and impediments associated with the responsible, effective use of prescribed fire. At that time, the Council was focused only on the northwestern corner of the state. However, after the second meeting of the Council – where the audience included many participants from the northeastern and central parts of the state – Council participants agreed to expand the range of the organization and change the name to the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council.

The Northern California Prescribed Fire Council developed a set of by-laws, established a diverse Steering Committee (including representatives from federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, academia, and more), and selected a Council Coordinator, Chairperson, and Vice Chair to lead the organization.

The mission of the Council is to provide a venue for the prescribed fire community to work collaboratively to promote, protect, conserve, and expand the responsible use of Rx fire in northern California's fire-adapted landscapes. The Council holds two public meetings a year, inviting a wide range of prescribed fire experts to share new information about the art, ecology, science, and culture surrounding prescribed fire. Council meetings are planned in a different location each time; they have taken place in Redding, Arcata, Berkeley, Chico, Tahoe, and Hopland, and they have included field tours of burn units in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Redwood National Park, the East Bay Municipal Park District, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, Bidwell Park, the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, and high-value residential areas in North Lake Tahoe.

Early efforts of the Council were focused on fire science delivery and community building in this fire-contentious region. With biannual meetings since 2009 and substantial community building efforts accomplished, the Council now has the momentum and recognition it needs to concentrate on more concrete and lasting efforts. The Council's three sub-committees, which formed early in 2013, are now leading important efforts in policy, communications, and training.



For more information, contact Lenya Quinn-Davidson, Council Director, at nwcapfc@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.norcalrxfirecouncil.org