

Fire Prevention, Fuels Reduction, and Post-Fire Recovery



San Benito Wildfire Resilience Program

Presentation Outline

- Goals of fire risk reduction projects
- San Benito Fire Safe Council 2010 CWPP Achievements
- Firewise Community Work
- Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association Work
- Planned and Potential Projects
- Post-Fire Recovery
- Partnerships in reducing wildfire risk on public and private lands



Goals of Fire Risk Reduction Projects

- Reduce flammable material near potential ignition sources (roads, campsites, etc.)
- Provide defensible space around highly valued resources and assets (homes, barns, communication towers, etc.)
- Improve wildfire suppression safety
- Ensure valuable fire can occur for cultural and ecological benefit without causing unwanted harm
- Improve rangeland conditions



2010 CWPP work that was done - primarily by the San Benito Fire Safe Council

Conducted 11 miles of roadside fuel reduction on San Juan Canyon Road

Planted Demonstration Firesafe Gardens at the Union/Hwy 25 Fire Station & Aromas Tri-County Fire Station

Implemented chipping programs for residents in Aromas and San Juan Canyon

Provided reflective address markers that improve visibility for emergency responders

Grants
850 hrs of CCC labor
\$242,000+ from PG&E, CAL FIRE, and MBARD



Work that was done beyond the 2010 CWPP

Firewise Communities

Formed:

- **Aromas:** Home hardening and defensible space work
- **Rancho Larios:** 3 years of fuels reduction work through Gabilan Fire Crews
- **San Juan Canyon:** Residential fuel reduction work days and development of a radio communication team

In Formation:

- Hidden Valley



Work that was done beyond the 2010 CWPP by the **Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association**

- Implemented **3 prescribed burns** on the Bitterwater, Nyland, and Stork Properties
- Written **7 burn plans** for land owners
- Offered **2 multi-day firefighter trainings** with nationally-recognized certificates awarded for successful completion
- Offered **4 community workshops including** pile burning and home hardening



CCPBA Prescribed Burns in San Benito County



Bitterwater Ranch, 2019



Stork / Wildfarmers Property, 2023



Nyland Property, 2023

CCPBA Workshops

Home Hardening

San Juan Canyon, 2021

Aromas Community, 2023



Pile Burning

Indian Canyon, 2021

Gabilan Ranch, 2023

CCPBA Fire Trainings



S219 : Firing Operations
Stork / Wildfarmers Property



S290 : Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior
Nyland Property & Gabilan Ranch

CCPBA Tribal “Good Fire” Apprenticeship



Esak Ordonez
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band



Chanel Keller & Jessie Nason
Esselen Tribal Band

Do you want to work with the CCPBA?

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CWPP Planned and Potential Projects



Ongoing community vegetation management, grazing projects, and new Firewise Communities



Fremont Peak Area Prescribed Burn

Post-Fire Recovery

- Emergency Support Organizations
- Disaster Recovery Funds from Local Groups
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Reduced Catastrophic Fire Risk
- Native Habitat Revitalization
- Improved Rangeland Conditions



San Benito Disaster Recovery Fund Ready to Help in a Crisis

In the event of a disaster in San Benito County, the Community Foundation has created a Disaster Recovery Fund to provide financial support to those affected in San Benito County.

Whether it be fire, flood, earthquake, or any other disaster, we'll be ready to stand together during a critical time of need and provide immediate relief and support.

Photo by Robert Eliason.



Partnerships in Reducing Wildfire Risk on Private & Public Lands

Public

- BLM
- National Park Service
- State Parks
- Hollister Fire
- CAL FIRE

Private

- The residents of San Benito County
- San Benito Fire Safe Council
- Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association (CCPBA)
- American Red Cross
- Firewise Communities
- Amah Mutsun Land Trust/Tribal Band
- Indian Canyon
- San Benito Agricultural Land Trust
- San Benito Resource Conservation District

Your Turn...

Questions & Answers

What are your concerns and questions for the next 10 years of wildfire protection?



For more information:

Website: www.rcdsanbenito.org/san-benito-wildfire-resilience-program

Email: SanBenitoWildfirePlan@gmail.com