

Wildfire Prevention: Local Perspectives

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Bio

- Former Mill Valley mayor, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority founding board member
- Former UCCE Wildfire Vegetation Mitigation Program Manager, County of Sonoma
- Strategic & technical advisor to DoD, insurance industry, utilities
- M.A. Security Studies, Naval Postgraduate School
- Thesis Research: Use of Visualization to Catalyze community Consensus Around Wildfire Vegetation Management

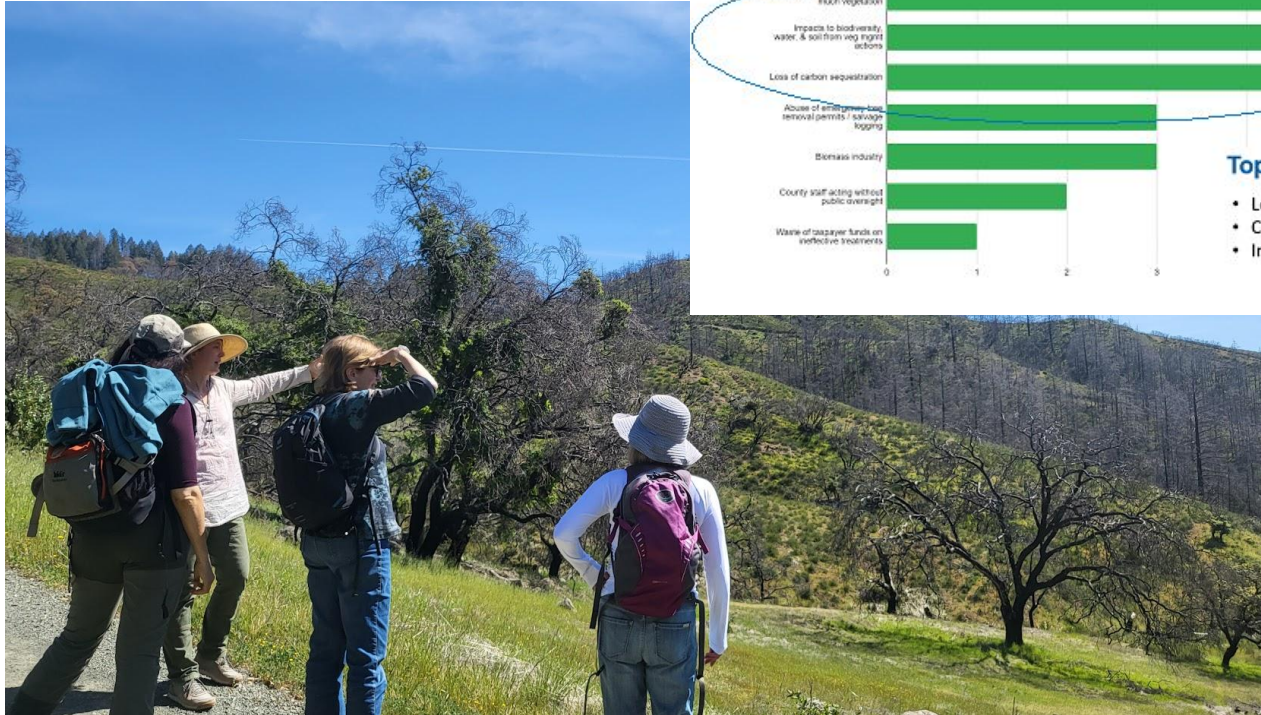
Local solutions supported by state & federal plans

- “...building California’s resilience to catastrophic wildfires means restoring the health of our forests and diverse landscapes across the state and strengthening wildfire preparation within our communities”
- “California’s diverse landscapes and communities require regionally tailored strategies and actions.”
- “...since landscapes at risk of wildfire cross multiple ownerships, we recognize the need for strong partnerships among federal, state, local and tribal entities and private organizations.”

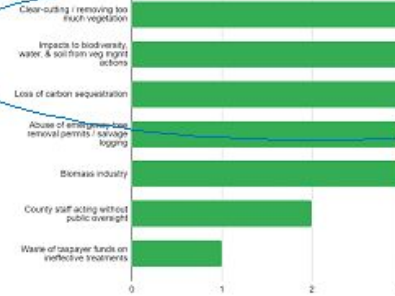
2023 Living With Fire Forest Conservation Conference



VM + NR Stakeholders Forum



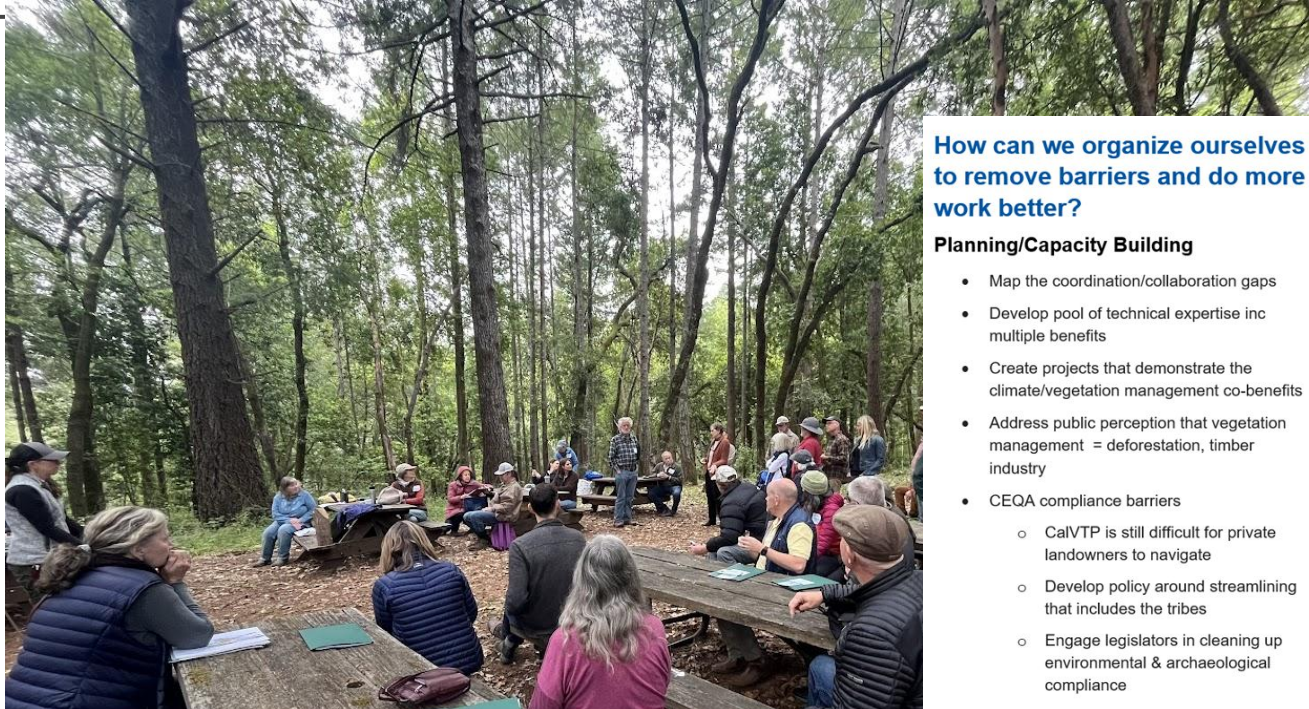
I (or my organization) am most worried about this happening in Sonoma County



Top 3 Concerns

- Loss of carbon sequestration
- Clear-cutting / removing too much vegetation
- Impacts to biodiversity, water, & soil from veg mgmt actions

Research: Using Technology to Build Community Consensus Around Wildfire Vegetation Management



How can we organize ourselves to remove barriers and do more work better?

Planning/Capacity Building

- Map the coordination/collaboration gaps
- Develop pool of technical expertise inc multiple benefits
- Create projects that demonstrate the climate/vegetation management co-benefits
- Address public perception that vegetation management = deforestation, timber industry
- CEQA compliance barriers
 - CalVTP is still difficult for private landowners to navigate
 - Develop policy around streamlining that includes the tribes
 - Engage legislators in cleaning up environmental & archaeological compliance

- Advocate for increase in CalFire archaeological staffing
- Engage other agencies to lead CalVTP besides CalFire

- Do work on the watershed level
- Develop youth crews to build the workforce pipeline

Funding

- Support work in under-resourced communities

Implementing

- Mix of carrots & sticks to incentivize non-participating landowners

Collaborating/Tracking/Monitoring

- Monitor of ongoing work towards goals and priorities
- Map collaboration groups and identify gaps throughout the county

Key Takeaways for Long-Term Resilience

1. Local knowledge is critical
2. Overcoming inaction > optimizing priorities
3. State agencies should support local solutions, not create barriers