



# A VISION FOR NORTH COAST RESILIENCE

PRIORITIES FOR ENHANCING WATERSHED,  
FIRESHED, FOREST, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE  
IN THE NORTH COAST REGION



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This Plan represents a shared vision for watershed, forest, and community resilience in the North Coast region of California. Resilience includes the capacity of communities and ecosystems to recover from extreme events such as wildfire, flooding, and drought, as well as impacts from climate change, economic, and health disruptions. The Plan is guided by and aligned with the goals and objectives of Tribal, federal, state, regional, and local plans. It was created with input and guidance from hundreds of experts, partners, and community members, using the best available data and information, including Indigenous science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge, regional remote sensing, and local knowledge. The Plan includes a comprehensive list of Strategies that articulate a shared regional vision, and Solutions and Projects to implement this vision.

Development of this Plan was funded with California Climate Investments funding granted by the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation to the North Coast Resource Partnership as part of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.



# INTRODUCTION & PLAN PURPOSE

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This Plan is intended to guide capacity investments and the implementation of projects, actions, and initiatives focused on community and watershed resilience in the North Coast region of California. It was developed with funding from the California Department of Conservation's [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#). In addition to background regarding the North Coast region and the North Coast Resource Partnership, the Plan contains four core elements. The [Prioritization](#) section outlines the process by which NCRP applies a diversity of data and information to evaluate and refine the highest-priority projects and activities at the regional and local scales. The [Strategies](#) section contains the actions that NCRP and its regional partners have identified to achieve outcomes on the ground and in communities. The [Demonstration Projects](#) section describes projects that pilot measurable innovations to help the region expand the pace, scope, and scale of watershed, community, and forest resilience via a "test bed" approach. The [Plan Implementation](#) section describes how NCRP works with regional partners to implement the shared vision described in this Plan.

## **Expected outcomes of this Plan include:**

- A shared, adaptive vision of desired future conditions in the region.
- Increased capacity for NCRP partners to identify, prioritize, and plan for watershed, forest, and community resilience.
- Increased coordination of wildfire planning and watershed stewardship efforts across jurisdictional and ownership boundaries.
- Implementation and monitoring of a set of priority watershed and community resilience strategies, actions, and projects that contribute to the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of the North Coast region.
- A living library of resources for current and future projects.
- Short-term and long-term funding attracted to the strategies, actions, and projects in the Plan.
- Increased state, federal, and philanthropic funder understanding of the need for investment in the North Coast region.

## ABOUT THE RFFC PROGRAM

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The [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#) was developed to support regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire-adapted communities and landscapes by improving ecosystem health, community wildfire preparedness, and resilience to wildfires and other extreme events.

The Department of Conservation accomplishes these goals by providing block grants to regional and statewide entities to support the implementation of the program, and all elements of the program are consistent with [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) as well as the [California Forest Carbon Plan](#) and [Executive Order B-52-18](#). Broad and inclusive outreach and involvement in decision-making is a priority of the program.

Regional block grantees are expected to partner extensively across their region to identify priorities and develop projects in collaboration with Tribal, federal, state, and local governments as well as water agencies, Resource Conservation Districts, Fire Safe Councils, and other NGOs. The RFFC Program is funded by the [California Natural Resources Agency](#) and administered by the [California Department of Conservation](#).

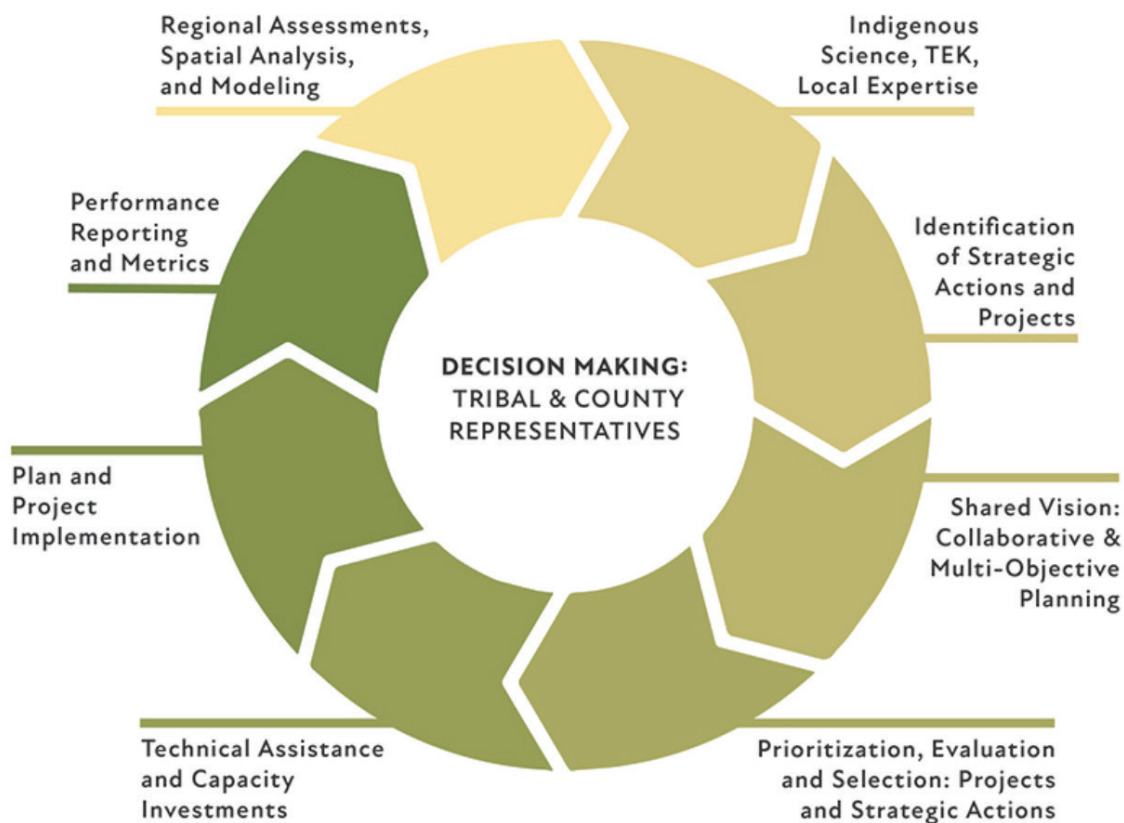


## HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

The Plan was developed with funding from the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. It was developed by North Coast Resource Partnership staff and consultants under the direction and guidance of the NCRP Leadership Council, and in close collaboration with an array of partners, including the North Coast region's Tribes, Tribal organizations, counties, local and regional agencies, NGOs, RCDs, watershed groups, private landowners, and other organizations. The Plan has been refined and improved via multiple rounds of review by the NCRP RFFC Ad Hoc Committee, Tribal partners and consultants under the guidance of the NCRP Tribal Engagement Director, NCRP's

Technical Forest Advisors, and the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee, as well as regional partners who have together contributed thousands of hours to developing this shared regional vision. In all, more than 500 people have provided input, comments, and review of the Plan, via workshops, meetings, the NCRP website and a formal, broadly advertised public review process. Because this Plan is adaptive in nature, NCRP will respond to new input and update it regularly.

Plan development followed the process outlined in the [NCRP Adaptive Planning and Prioritization Framework](#) and is described below.



# HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

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## **REGIONAL ASSESSMENT, SPATIAL ANALYSIS, AND MODELING:**

Regional Assessments were conducted to determine which communities are most at risk from wildfire, the locations of important community resources and assets, potential strategic fuel break locations, and where mechanical treatment of hazardous fuels is likely to be most feasible. These assessments build upon, and are integrated with, an array of data and analyses related to watershed and community health and climate change conducted by NCRP since 2005.

## **INDIGENOUS SCIENCE, TEK, AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:**

- Throughout the multi-year planning process, the NCRP Leadership Council (elected or appointed representatives of North Coast Tribes and counties) provided information and recommendations to reflect the priorities of their communities and inform the Plan at all stages, and have reviewed multiple iterations of the draft Plan through the lens of their local communities.
- The NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (appointed representatives of North Coast Tribes and counties) participated in Plan review via interviews, meetings with the NCRP staff team, and participation on the RFFC Ad Hoc committee.
- The Leadership Council convened a RFFC Ad Hoc committee specific to this Plan, composed of Leadership Council and Technical Peer Review Committee members. The RFFC Ad Hoc met eleven times during the planning period to provide content, review, and guidance to the NCRP staff team, and individual members were interviewed regarding priorities for wildfire, watershed, forest, and community resilience.
- Led by NCRP's Director of Tribal Engagement, Tribal consultants provided content and reviewed multiple drafts of the Plan. Additional Tribal review from North Coast Tribes or Tribal representatives has included interviews with North Coast Tribes impacted by fire, utilizing traditional fire, and addressing post-fire concerns. A series of meetings in 2021 and 2022 focused on topics including:
  - Orientation, Capacity, Year-round Solutions
  - Fire Resilient Forests, Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration, Reintroduction of Tribal Strategies
  - Biomass, Climate Action, Intentional Prescriptions of Pace and Scale (Alignment with Tribes)
  - Community Health & Safety, Community Infrastructure
  - Identifying Capacity-Building Needs: trainings, infrastructure, equipment & navigating agency programs for Tribal co-management, protection of cultural and subsistence resources

## HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

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- Local and regional subject matter experts from a variety of entities across an array of disciplines provided content and reviewed multiple drafts of the Plan. These included registered professional foresters, as well as experts in Indigenous Science and TEK, spatial analysis, remote sensing, community safety, fire response, habitat restoration, policy, markets and regulatory processes, and others. The list of entities that provided content development for the Plan is included in the Acknowledgments section.
- Data from the Regional Assessments has been and will continue to be refined via community meetings and workshops, including the assessment of Tribal and rural fire department capacity needs, community workshops regarding potential fuel break locations, and workshops to gather feedback from the community on the overall NCRP Adaptive Planning and Prioritization Framework.

### IDENTIFICATION & ONGOING TRACKING OF STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND PROJECTS:

- The information, priorities, and recommendations identified during the above-described process of regional assessments and local refinements were categorized into a set of Strategies, which describe the desired Outcomes for the North Coast region, supported by a list of Solutions, Actions, and Projects to be carried out during Plan implementation. A formal RFP resulted in a set of 13 partner-led Demonstration Projects designed to test concepts, methods, and innovative techniques that can be scaled up and applied across the region. Results from these Demonstration Projects have been quantitatively documented by project sponsors and have informed key Plan sections.
- The NCRP Project Tracker was created to document the North Coast region projects and strategic actions at a variety of stages, including conceptual, implementation-ready, in need of technical assistance or funding, funded, implemented, maintenance and monitoring.

### SHARED VISION: COLLABORATIVE AND MULTI-OBJECTIVE PLANNING

- Results from the previous steps culminated in the development of the current Plan, which is intended to guide investments and priorities for building capacity and resilience in the North Coast region and achieving five interrelated Outcomes: Capacity, Fire Resilient Forests, Community Health and Safety, Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration, and Climate Action. These Outcomes and the actions to achieve them are described in the Strategies section.
- The Prioritization section describes how the NCRP and regional partners collaborate to plan and prioritize action.
- The Demonstration Projects section describes the results of the RFFC-funded demonstration projects.
- The Plan Implementation section describes how NCRP and regional partners will work together to implement the Plan.
- The Plan is presented in this digital format so that it is accessible and flexible. It has been and will continue to be regularly updated with new data and new learning, and will be updated and adapted as the shared regional vision matures.



## ABOUT THE NORTH COAST REGION

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The North Coast region comprises 19,000 square miles, or 12% of California's landscape. The region aligns with the hydrologic boundary of Region 1 of the State Water Resources Control Board, and includes the Tribal lands of 34 federally recognized Tribes and all or part of seven counties. The North Coast region is a rural source region for water and biological diversity, and sequesters substantial amounts of the carbon found in California's forests. The region is severely economically challenged, with over 50% of the population living under the poverty line. [The North Coast Region Story Map](#) provides additional detail about the North Coast region.



## ABOUT THE NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

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The North Coast Resource Partnership, convened in 2005, actively collaborates with hundreds of Tribal, federal, state, regional, and local partners, and is led by appointees from the region's Tribes and counties. Its mission is to enhance the watersheds and communities of the North Coast region through collaborative, multi-objective planning and project implementation led by Tribes and counties. Since its inception, NCRP has successfully integrated Tribal, federal, state, regional, and local priorities to create a shared vision for the region, and utilized a multi-benefit, transparent and equitable approach to identify and seek funding for the highest-priority projects throughout this diverse region.

### **NCRP's focus is to:**

- Provide regional collaborative infrastructure to ensure cross-boundary collaboration at a variety of spatial scales.
- Engage in data development, data gathering, assessments, and convenings that integrate regional and local expertise and knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge and practice and TEK, resulting in multi-objective, actionable, prioritized regional plans and a shared vision for the region.
- In collaboration with partners, identify, refine, evaluate, and maintain a "pipeline" of priority projects and activities that achieve the mission of NCRP and its partner funding entities, and implement regional and local plans and priorities.
- Share information with funders and decision makers regarding essential investments, needs, and priorities in the North Coast region.
- Support partners in the region with technical assistance and capacity investments to enhance the pace, scope, and scale of project development and implementation.
- Advocate for, manage, and allocate grant funding that reflects the priorities and needs of North Coast communities and is in alignment with Tribal, federal, state, and philanthropic partner objectives.
- Report on progress for an array of performance metrics, for individual projects and at the scale of the entire region.
- Adaptively update and implement this regional resilience Plan for North Coast communities and watersheds

For more information on the North Coast Resource Partnership, see the [North Coast Resource Partnership Story Map](#)

## NCRP ADAPTIVE PLANNING & PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

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The North Coast Resource Partnership collaborates with an array of partners to enhance the communities and watersheds of the North Coast region. NCRP uses the best available science, data, and local expertise and information to guide Plan development as well as the prioritization of projects, activities, and investments in the region. NCRP has developed a rigorous and adaptive process that ensures fairness, equity, inclusion, and transparency in all activities, from planning through project implementation. This process helps to ensure that the highest priority projects and activities are implemented, and that all partners - including historically underserved and economically disadvantaged communities - are able to access the tools, funding, and support needed to build and maintain capacity to achieve regional goals for healthy landscapes and communities. The process is described in the [Adaptive Planning & Prioritization Story Map](#). The [Regional Assessments](#) were used in Plan development and will inform the prioritization of projects and actions. The Regional Assessments provide an objective, landscape-scale perspective on the biophysical and socio-economic processes and features that influence community, watershed, and forest resilience to wildfire, climate change, and extreme events. Additional spatial and remote sensing data, interactive regional maps, and map packages can be found at the [NCRP Data](#) link.



## STRATEGIES

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The Strategies section contains the Solutions and Actions that the North Coast Resource Partnership and its regional partners have identified to help move the region toward a set of desired Outcomes. These Outcomes include healthy and resilient forests and ecosystems and safe and resilient communities, adapted to a changing climate, all supported by the foundation of enhanced regional capacity. Building capacity – the ability of individuals, organizations, and communities in the region to achieve the desired Outcomes of resilient lands and communities – is foundational to all the proposed Solutions and Actions.



## STRATEGIES

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**Outcome - Capacity:** Local and regional capacity expanded and maintained to improve watershed and community resilience

- **Solution - Data & Planning** - Develop, update, and share data, maps, and analytic tools to evaluate and prioritize investments in resilient ecosystems and communities.
- **Solution - NCRP Regional Role** - Sustain and enhance the NCRP backbone infrastructure to collaborate with Tribal, federal, state, and local partners to implement a shared regional vision for community and landscape resilience.
- **Solution - Technical Assistance** - Provide support and technical assistance to private landowners and local community and watershed groups for planning and implementing high-priority projects.
- **Solution - Year-Round Local Capacity** - Build and enhance the capacity in North Coast communities and organizations to implement high-priority actions to improve community and ecosystem resilience and to participate in and contribute to regional collaborative initiatives.
- **Solution - Tribal Capacity** - Fund and support Tribal evaluation of their own capacity needs and Tribally-determined assistance to address those needs.
- **Solution - Long-term Funding** - Advocate for ongoing, stable, and diverse funding that increases and sustains impact, capacity, and innovation.
- **Solution - Demonstration Projects** - Use demonstration projects to evaluate and test innovations that can be expanded to increase the pace, scope, and scale of ecosystem and community resilience projects and activities
- **Solution - Smart & Efficient Permitting** - Support regulatory efficiencies, streamlining, and rapid programmatic permitting to enhance the ability to implement identified high-priority landscape-level projects.
- **Solution - Professional Development** - Provide support, training, and peer mentoring for restoration professionals who can plan and implement community and ecosystem resilience projects.
- **Solution - Workforce Development** - Develop and expand education, training, and apprenticeship opportunities to build and sustain a local and regional trained workforce to grow the stewardship economy.
- **Solution - Private Workforce Support** - Support private and Tribal businesses to develop a strong stewardship economy to implement ecosystem and community resilience projects and activities.
- **Solution - Procurement Policy** - Advocate for the refinement of local, state, and federal procurement and cooperative agreement processes to enhance use of local resources for high-priority projects and activities.
- **Solution - Workforce Housing** - Support policies and actions that allow the needed workforce to find local affordable housing in communities where there is labor demand.

## STRATEGIES

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**Outcome - Fire Resilient Forests:** Resilient and healthy forests resulting from increased pace, scope, and scale of landscape-level treatments focused on hazardous fuel load reduction and beneficial fire, and the revitalization of local Indigenous knowledge and practice

- **Solution - Fuel Management** - Design and implement hazardous fuel management projects to improve forest ecosystem function and protect communities most at risk from wildfire.
- **Solution - Tribal Cultural Fire** - Support Tribal co-management of public lands and increased opportunity and capacity to use cultural fire and other Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- **Solution - Beneficial Fire Capacity** - Support increased capacity to conduct beneficial fire by increasing the opportunities for funding, training, and certification for practitioners.
- **Solution - Beneficial Fire Barriers** - Address policy, regulatory, legal, and cultural barriers that limit the use of beneficial fire for fuel management, forest and landscape restoration, and cultural purposes.
- **Solution - Forest Biomass Residuals** - Develop and implement a regional plan for forest biomass residuals from hazardous fuel reduction that supports ecological and economic resilience through community-scale and community-supported actions.
- **Solution - Timber Industry** - Support and economically viable timber industry that enhances and promotes healthy, fire resilient forests, biodiversity, and watersheds.

**Outcome - Community Health and Safety:**

Local communities safer from wildfires and other extreme events with a focus on equity and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations.

- **Solution - Fuel Breaks** - Develop effective, multi-benefit buffers and fuel breaks around vulnerable communities.
- **Solution - Community Emergency Planning** - Facilitate community-level emergency preparedness and evacuation planning.
- **Solution - Home Ignition Zone** - Protect at-risk homes and neighborhoods through support for home hardening and defensible space.
- **Solution - Community Infrastructure** - Harden and protect community infrastructure and reduce vulnerability to disruptions.
- **Solution - Fire Safe Roads** - Support planning, implementation, and maintenance to create fire-safe roads and reduce road-related ignitions.
- **Solution - Post-Fire Community Recovery** - Facilitate community-level post-fire recovery planning to increase resilience to wildfire and other extreme events.
- **Solution - Smoke** - Support efforts to reduce the negative health impacts of smoke.
- **Solution - Land Use Policies** - Prepare model wildfire mitigation policies and regulations for all counties in the region and support their adoption.

## STRATEGIES

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### **Outcome - Ecosystem Conservation and**

**Restoration:** North Coast ecosystems protected, restored, revitalized, and stewarded to enhance function and increase resilience.

- **Solution - Conservation Planning** - Develop and adaptively update a regional ecosystem conservation and restoration plan.
- **Solution - Land Acquisition & Protection** - Develop a regional land acquisition and protection strategy in support of the state's conservation, climate, adaptation.
- **Solution - Tribal Ecocultural Restoration** - Engage with Tribes as sovereign nations, support Tribal leadership in public agencies, and support Tribal ecocultural restoration, stewardship, and co-management of public lands.
- **Solution - Water** - Manage North Coast forests and natural landscapes to protect water supply and quality.
- **Solution - Post-Fire Ecosystem Restoration** - Develop and implement post-fire cleanup and restoration strategies to minimize disturbance to ecosystems while protecting water resources.
- **Solution - Nursery Supply Chain** - Develop and support new and existing nurseries to supply a diversity of native plants for high-priority restoration and reforestation projects.
- **Solution - Community Forests** - Support the acquisition and development of Community Forests in interested communities.
- **Solution - Recreation & Volunteerism** - Support community and visitor engagement with natural lands through volunteerism and sustainable outdoor recreation.



**Outcome - Climate Action:** Nature-based solutions applied to reduce and avoid emissions, sequester and store carbon, and adapt and build resilience to climate change and extreme events.

- **Solution - Emissions Reduction** - Develop and implement a regional plan for emissions reduction consistent with the state's emission reduction targets and mandates.
- **Solution - Carbon Sequestration & Storage** - Develop and implement a regional plan for carbon sequestration and storage consistent with the state's climate policies and plans.
- **Solution - Adaptation** - Develop and implement a regional plan for climate adaptation and resilience to extreme events consistent with the state's climate policies and plans.

## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

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- Siskiyou County Collaborative Prescribed Burn Association - Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
- Fire School Pilot Program at Lake Sonoma and Dry Creek - Circuit Rider Community Services
- Forest Fuel Hazard Reduction and Oak Woodland Restoration - Humboldt Redwood Co, LLC
- Tenmile Creek Watershed Forest Health Pilot Project - Eel River Recovery Project
- Prosper Ridge Prairie Restoration - Mattole Restoration Council
- North Coast All Hand All Lands Prescribed Fire Team - Watershed Research and Training Center
- Vegetation Management Using Native Plants and TEK - Dry Creek Rancheria
- Use of Portable Field Kilns to Process Biomass into Biochar - Sonoma Ecology Center
- Siskiyou County Multi-Benefit Biochar - Scott River Watershed Council
- Burning Across Boundaries: An Inter-Tribal Collaboration - Karuk Tribe
- Redwood Region Greenhouse Gas Calculator Toolkit - Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
- California Resource & Habitat Zone Development - Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council
- NCRP Strategic Fire Planning and Modeling - Mid Klamath Watershed Council and Pepperwood Preserve

For more information on the Demonstration Projects, see the [Demonstration Projects Story Maps](#)





## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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The North Coast Resource Partnership develops data, assessments, and plans with the intention of implementing projects and actions on the ground and in communities. Since 2005, NCRP has managed funding investments from a diversity of agency and philanthropic partners totaling over \$95 million. During that time, the NCRP ratio of planning-to-implementation investment is approximately 1:20.

Implementation of this Plan will begin immediately upon approval in December 2022. The Plan is adaptive in nature, and updates will be undertaken at least once per year, and more frequently as new information becomes available. A detailed implementation work plan (including funding targets, capacity and workforce needs, scopes of work with schedules and budgets) will be developed by NCRP upon Plan approval. The Plan will be implemented by an array of partners in the region: NCRP will take the lead on some initiatives and actions, whereas other partners will lead in other areas. NCRP will track progress and report on performance metrics for all Plan projects and actions via the NCRP Project Tracker and other tools.

Workshops will be held in NCRP sub-regions to gather local expert input on Plan implementation. Focused workshops on specific topics (i.e., workforce development, forest biomass residuals, etc.) will be held to bring together regional partners and subject area experts to prioritize immediate and long-term actions and develop detailed scopes of work. Other mechanisms for developing detailed scopes of work for implementation include assessments, interviews, polls, meetings, and targeted initiatives focused on a particular thematic or geographic area.

NCRP typically coordinates large block grants from funding partners, providing the regional collaborative infrastructure and administrative functions to synchronize the priorities of North Coast region Tribes, agencies, businesses, and other organizations with the priorities and objectives of federal, state, and philanthropic funding partners. NCRP will continue to develop sub-regional portfolios of projects and activities intended to achieve the goals shared by Tribal, federal, state, regional, and local partners.

## IDENTIFICATION & DOCUMENTATION OF NORTH COAST REGION PROJECTS & ACTIONS

The planning process has identified more than 300 priority actions and 2,200 projects to date. Projects and actions in the North Coast region are identified by a variety of Tribes, counties, NGOs, RCDs, cities, local agencies, private companies, private landowners, and landowner groups. In collaboration with these groups, NCRP's role is to:

- Compile and document projects in the region, maintaining a project pipeline of implementation-ready projects.
- Support project sponsors with technical assistance and capacity investments to enhance project readiness and funding.
- Prioritize and evaluate projects using the best available science and data in a transparent, equitable selection process.
- Test new and innovative approaches by funding demonstration projects.
- Seek and provide funding for projects via grants awarded by state, federal, and philanthropic partners.
- Track performance for individual projects as well as the portfolio of projects for the North Coast region.

NCRP has developed a Project Tracker tool that documents North Coast region activities and projects. The Project Tracker platform includes information on project status, location, size, goals and objectives, impact, and performance metrics. This tool represents and facilitates the NCRP "project pipeline" and is augmented in partnership with the region's Tribes, RCDs, counties, NGOs, and others who design and implement projects in the region. Project Tracker includes NCRP funded projects, regional priority projects in various stages of development, and over 2,000 pending partner projects. NCRP Project Developers are working with local project sponsors to identify the current project status and technical assistance needs of these pending projects. Having a comprehensive portfolio of projects for the region allows NCRP and its partners to assess project development gaps in the region while also reporting on the collective project benefits and return on investment.

## EVALUATION & SELECTION OF PROJECTS & ACTIONS

Since its inception in 2005, the NCRP has used a formal, publicly accessible evaluation process to review, rank, prioritize, and fund projects and actions.

This process includes the following steps:

- NCRP Leadership Council approves the NCRP project solicitation, evaluation, and prioritization protocol - a protocol that emphasizes equity, transparency, and project effectiveness. This protocol is reviewed during public meetings and regularly updated based on input from the NCRP Leadership Council, Technical Peer Review Committee, staff team, agency partners, and project sponsors.
- NCRP issues RFPs that are aligned with the project solicitation, evaluation, and prioritization protocol.
- NCRP staff provide screening for eligibility per the protocol - including alignment with NCRP and funder goals, objectives, principles, and specific program requirements.
- For implementation projects the NCRP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) - comprised of appointees from North Coast Tribes and counties - ranks and scores submitted projects based on criteria approved by the NCRP Leadership Council. This process includes three steps, typically during a two day meeting: 1) individual scoring by each TPRC member using a consistent scoring sheet; 2) TPRC discussion of each individual member's scoring; 3) TPRC recommendation of a slate of projects for Leadership Council consideration and approval. The Leadership Council may approve the slate or make modifications, then direct staff to fund the projects or actions.
- After every round of RFPs and project selection, NCRP staff and TPRC debrief the process and propose improvements to the protocol, and the updated protocol is then provided to the Leadership Council for consideration.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & CAPACITY INVESTMENTS

A key element in increasing the pace, scope, and scale of activities that enhance resilience is the expansion of capacity in North Coast communities. Since its inception, NCRP has placed a strong emphasis on building capacity in the North Coast region by assessing capacity gaps, providing technical assistance to partners, attracting and disseminating funding, and amplifying the need for investment. Through a variety of mechanisms - including regional assessments, meetings, workshops, research, and RFPs - NCRP identifies technical assistance needs in the region and develops targeted strategies for addressing them. One example: NCRP retains a team of technical experts that are connected with project sponsors who have capacity gaps, and these experts provide peer-to-peer technical assistance and capacity enhancements for projects that meet the criteria established by NCRP and partner funding programs. Additionally, NCRP partners with other agencies and organizations to coordinate the provision of regional technical assistance.

This Plan articulates the needs and opportunities for enhancing capacity investments in the region based on objective regional assessments integrated with local knowledge and local expertise, as described in the [Adaptive Planning & Prioritization Framework](#). In addition to the need to increase capacity investments in local communities, a key recommendation in the plan is for continued investment in and expansion of the regional collaborative infrastructure of the NCRP as a foundation from which to support regional partners in implementing projects and strategies (See [Capacity - NCRP Regional Role Solution](#)).

NCRP will continue to expand its focus on capacity - as needs are identified in high-risk or vulnerable communities, funding support will be provided to invest in local capacity to implement projects and actions.

