



**PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

**Proposal Type**

- Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

**Organization Name (Lead Applicant)**

The Watershed Research and Training Center

**Organization Type**

- Federally recognized Indian Tribe
- California State Indian Tribe
- Public agency
- Local or state agency/special district
- Resource Conservation District
- Non-profit organization
- Public utility
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name/Title**

Name: Erin Banwell

Title: Co-Director of Fire Management

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**Organization Address** (City, County, State, Zip Code):

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**Authorized Representative** (if different from the contact name)

Name: Nick Goulette

Title: Executive Director

Email: nick@thewatershedcenter.com

Phone Number (include area code): 530-526-4729

**Certification of Authority**

By signing below, the person executing the certificate on behalf of the proposer affirmatively represents that s/he has the requisite legal authority to do so on behalf of the proposer. Both the person executing this proposal on behalf of the proposer and proposer understand that the NCRP is relying on this representation in receiving and considering this proposal. The person signing below hereby acknowledges that s/he has read the entire Request for Proposals document and has complied with all requirements listed therein.

**Official Authorized to Sign for Proposal**

Nick Goulette, Executive Director

Signature



Date

March 13, 2020

## **ORGANIZATION STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

**Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team**

### **THE WATERSHED RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER (WRTC)**

The Watershed Research and Training Center (WRTC) has been leading complex natural resource planning, forest health and fire hazard reduction work for over 25 years. We work at the local, statewide, regional and national levels, with a consistent focus on bringing local innovations to scale through the development of coalitions, networks for learning and innovation, policy advocacy, and through providing direct technical assistance and capacity building for aspiring organizations and communities. WRTC has over 25 years of experience managing grant funded projects. We currently manage approximately 55 grants totaling over \$5.5 million. Our current-year operating budget is just over \$4 million and we have a \$400,000 line of credit and equivalent cash reserve that we can rely on to help start-up and float reimbursable grants and agreements through implementation.

Our sector-leading Trinity County focused Fuels and Forestry program runs an average annual operating budget of approximately \$1.7 million. Our seasonal fuel reduction crews (hand thinning, chipping, mastication and Rx fire) have run at or above \$600,000 in implementation funding annually over the last decade and have directly implemented over 10,000 acres of forest resilience treatments over the last 20 years. At the regional and state level, we are leaders in advancing prescribed fire training and capacity building, and in steering state policy and partnerships for prescribed fire. As long-time partners in The Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network and founding member and fiscal sponsor of the Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council, we have built the knowledge, skills, relationships and staffing to help other organizations, community leaders and fire practitioners develop and deploy cooperative training events (TRES) and develop their own community and landscape-oriented cooperative burning initiatives. Most recently, we were awarded a \$1.3 million block grant from the CA Dept. of Conservation through their Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC) partly for this purpose. As co-leads of the Governor's Forest Management Task Force, Prescribed Fire Workgroup, Capacity sub-group, we are providing further leadership for interagency and inter-organizational capacity development strategies. This all-hand/all lands burn team demonstration project is a direct result of the innovative ideas generated as a culmination of this work across the last decade, and WRTC is in the ideal position to lead this cooperative project in the North Coast Region.

***Key Staff:***

**Erin Banwell: Co-Director of Fire Management** – Erin obtained Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Humboldt State University in Forestry and Natural Resources, with emphases in Fire Ecology and Wildland Fire Management. She has a diverse mixture of work experience from a variety of natural resource jobs, including environmental planner, researcher, prescribed fire and fuels specialist, and ecologist in the academic, private, and governmental sectors. Erin is currently qualified as FFT1, ICT5, RXB3, FEMO, READ and REAF. She is working on ENGB, FIRB, and PSC3 with a strong ambition to become a RXB2. Erin has traveled all across the country, and to Portugal, attending over 15 of the The Nature Conservancy’s Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) events. She has a love and passion for training, learning, and increasing the use and scale of ecologically beneficial fire across the landscape. Erin participates as an Incident Management Team Member, trainer, and trainee at TREX events, and is a part of the TREX Coaches Network.

**Miller Bailey: Co-Director of Fire Management** – Miller attended College of the Redwoods and Humboldt State University, focusing on Forestry and Natural Resources, with an emphasis in Wildland Fire Management. Over the last seven years working for the State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources, Lone Peak Conservation Center (LPCC), Miller honed in his sound tactical decision making and leadership skills. For the last two years, he was the Crew Boss of the Dromedary Type II Initial Attack Handcrew. As Crew Boss, Miller was responsible for training and development of crew members, implementing fuels treatments on private land, and making operational decisions on wildland fires. He ran his crew with duty, respect, and integrity at all times, and puts firefighter and public safety above anything else. Miller is currently qualified as a CRWB, ENGB, ICT4, FAL1, and FEMO. He is actively working on RXB2 and TFLD. Miller has traveled all across the country, and to Portugal, attending 20 of the The Nature Conservancy’s Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) events. TREX events have given him the opportunity to work collaboratively, across boundaries, with a variety of agencies and organizations. Miller participates as an Incident Management Team Member, trainer, and trainee at TREX events, and is a part of the TREX Coaches Network.

**MID KLAMATH WATERSHED COUNCIL (MKWC)**

Since 2001, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) has been working to restore the threatened Klamath River in Northern California and the upslope habitats upon which the river depends. MKWC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization formed by a diverse group of participants in 2001. Our programs in the Middle Klamath subbasin include Watershed Education, Invasive Weed Management, Roads, Fire and Fuels, Fisheries, Wildlife, Foodsheds and Native Plants. We leverage state, federal, and private grant funding, combined with community volunteerism to accomplish high-value and low-cost restoration actions throughout the Middle Klamath subbasin.

MKWC, through the Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (OSBFSC), is facilitating collaborative strategic restoration planning and hazardous fuels reduction throughout our community. Our five-year strategic plan calls for the use of prescribed broadcast burning as a cost-efficient tool for reducing hazardous fuels on pre-treated private lands, and for maintaining these treated areas over time. Returning fire to public land is even more critical, since this comprises 95% of the property in this region. To that end MKWC is a key player in the collaborative Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRK) which seeks to return fire to the wider landscape. WKRK is a community-based partnership working towards building trust and a shared vision to create fire-adapted communities, and to use traditional ecological knowledge and western science to restore fire regimes and re-create resilient biodiverse forests.

***Key Staff:***

**Will Harling: Director, Fisheries/Fire and Fuels Co-director** – Will received a BS in Environmental Biology from Humboldt State University in 1999, with extensive work in fisheries biology, GIS, botany, and forest and fire ecology and management. Will is a federally qualified firefighter working on Single Resource Boss and CA state certified CARX burn boss qualifications. Previous job experience includes work with the US Forest Service, Karuk Tribe, Salmon River Restoration Council, and private consulting and contractual work. Will works closely with partner organizations, scientists, land managers, and landowners, to ensure MKWC plans and implements restoration projects that are supported by science, traditional knowledge and the community. His work as co-director of the Fire and Fuels and Fisheries Program allows him to stay connected with the realities of work on the ground, and he regularly contributes to regional fire and fisheries forums through presentations on lessons learned through work on the ground, and video documentaries on prescribed burning (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWriDpfZnXQ>). Will is a co-lead for the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, on the steering committee of the Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council, on the boards of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and the Salmon River Restoration Council, and is a member of the CA Forest Management Task Force, the Humboldt Prescribed Burn Association, the US Fire Learning Network, TREX Coaches Network, and Indigenous People's Burning Network. Recent publications include the [2014 Western Klamath Restoration Partnership Plan](#).

**Eric Darragh: Fire and Fuels Program Manager** - Eric is the new Fire and Fuels Program Manager for MKWC, bringing over 12 years of experience working for the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District as a Crew Supervisor, and most recently, the Fire and Fuels Specialist. He is also an Operations Section Chief for a Nevada Type 3 Incident Management Team, and is currently one Rx-410 course away from his RXB2 qualification. Eric's leadership and ability to plan and implement prescribed burns with interagency resources is unique and exceptional.

## **KARUK TRIBE**

The Mission of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources is to protect, enhance and restore the cultural/natural resources and ecological processes upon which Karuk people depend. Natural Resources staff ensure that the integrity of natural ecosystem processes and traditional values are incorporated into resource management strategies.

Prescribed burning is an ancestral cultural practice that has taken place for thousands of years to manage the landscape, to stimulate the production of resources for humans and for animals, to prevent catastrophic wildfires, and to provide for species abundance and diversity. The euro-american invasion has since disrupted cultural fire practices with (among other injustices) fire suppression policies. Currently, the Karuk Department of Natural Resources works to restore these cultural practices, and has identified the Wildland Fire Program to operate under cultural objectives to return the seasonal low intensity fires, which the ecology has evolved with since time immemorial.

### ***Key Staff:***

**Bill Tripp: Deputy Director of Eco-cultural Revitalization** - Bill Tripp is a Karuk tribal member and Deputy Director of Eco-Cultural Revitalization for the Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources. He is a specialist on forest management and was co-PD on the USDA-NIFA AFRI Food Security project. He is also the lead author on the Karuk Eco-cultural Resource Management Plan (ECRMP).

**Scot Steinbring: Fire Management Officer** - Scot is a specialist on forest management and has over 32 years of experience. He has worked for numerous federal and state organizations in fire suppression and fuels treatment. He is on a type 2 incident management team as a division, and a type 3 ICT for the Klamath River TREX. He is currently funded through FY 2022 through the Calfire grant program and will provide oversight, guidance, and program coordination functions for project implementation of the Somes Bar project and fire suppression resources.

## **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION (UCCE)**

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Californians by developing and delivering research-based information in agriculture and natural resources, and by supporting healthy families and communities. UCCE is involved in fire research and education, helping enhance understanding of fire's role in human and natural communities. We've developed a range of useful publications and online tools, addressing wildfire risk, fuels impacts of forest diseases, and other fire-related topics.

***Key Staff:***

**Lenya Quinn-Davidson: Area Fire Advisor** – Lenya is an Area Fire Advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension who specializes in fire and oak woodland ecology and management. Over the last decade, UC Area Fire Advisor, Lenya Quinn-Davidson has been leading the Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council, extending knowledge of burning on private lands, and proliferating a movement of private landowner groups around the state towards the development of local Prescribed Burn Associations. Lenya is also a core staff person for the FAC Learning Network, where she acts as a member liaison, develops quick guides and other materials, and supports the Community of Practice for Using Fire and the Watershed Management Community of Practice. Lenya also works with the Fire Learning Network to coordinate their prescribed fire training exchange (TRES) program.

**Links to Relevant Work:**

- [The Watershed Research and Training Center](#)
- [Mid Klamath Watershed Council](#)
- [Karuk Tribe](#)
- [University of California Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges \(TRES\)](#)
- [Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network](#)

**Hourly Rates:** Prime awardee and contractor rates average at \$50 per hour.

**References:**

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## NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team

Major Tasks	Task Description	NCRP Task Budget	Funding Match *	Total Task Budget	Scaled NCRP Budget **	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	In cooperation with the County of Humboldt sign a sub-grantee agreement for work to be completed on this project. Develop invoices with support documentation.	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	Spring 2020	7/1/21
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	Spring 2020	7/1/21
Develop and deploy organizational structure for pilot region	Plan and host pre-season regional mtgs w/ cooperators Aggregate database of burn opportunities, resources, needs and limiting factors Host after action review (AAR) to capture lessons and facilitate adaptive management	\$7,800	\$5,000	\$12,800	\$0	Spring 2020	7/1/21
Create a planning and agreements team and build legal and logistical framework for resource sharing	Convene team and develop strategy Develop and adopt new legal instruments Monitor utilization of new agreements	\$23,950	\$3,200	\$27,150	\$0	Summer 2020	7/1/21
Develop and pilot deployment of regional AHAL workforce	Prioritize pilot cooperative burn deployments Deploy on 3 to 5 cooperative burns Complete AARs, synthesize lessons learned, and adapt	\$78,100	\$106,000	\$184,100	\$0	Fall 2020	7/1/21
Purchase and deploy cooperative burning demonstration engine, equipment and supplies cache	Type VI Engine UTV and slip-ins Trailer and tools	\$37,000	\$28,000	\$65,000	\$0	Fall 2020	7/1/21
Indirect Costs		\$30,170		\$30,170			
<b>Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request</b>		<b>\$181,020</b>	<b>\$142,200</b>	<b>\$323,220</b>	<b>\$0</b>		

# NCRP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team

**\* List the sources and status of matching funds:**

In-kind from All Hands All Lands partners, burn site hosts, and participant wages, time and equipment. Fire Learning Network Grant. Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Grant. WRTC contributions.

**\*\* Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$0.**

Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional):

## **CONCEPT PROPOSAL**

### **Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team**

#### **1. Project Description [2000 characters max.]**

The purpose of this demonstration project is to create a North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team. This team will leverage the skill sets and capacity of federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental partners, to improve forest health and fire resiliency by increasing the use and scale of cooperative prescribed fire across a pilot area within the NCRP region.

Prescribed fire is vital for forest health restoration and maintenance, and community resilience to wildfire. An array of factors makes prescribed fire difficult to implement, including air quality, weather limitations, workforce capacity, technical expertise, training opportunities, and funding. For the last two decades, local agencies and organizations within the NCRP region have been working to increase the use and scale of prescribed fire in their communities. In order to achieve landscape-level management and develop community workforce capacity, resources need to be shared throughout the region.

Working together, partners will use a variety of mechanisms to align organizational goals, build trust across agencies and organizations, and combine resources and skill sets. There will be three major components to this demonstration project: (1) Build an organizational structure to identify prescribed fire planning and implementation opportunities and needs across a pilot area of the NCRP region; (2) Create a Planning and Agreements Team to start building key infrastructure needed to make interorganizational work possible; and (3) Develop and deploy a regionalized workforce with the ability to share personnel and equipment for increased workforce capacity, diversified training opportunities, and technical expertise utilization.

The expected benefits from this project are aligned with the NCRP RFFC objectives and broadly include; creating a model that can be replicated in different areas or scaled up to include more partners and/or a larger geographic region, increasing the scope and scale of landscape-level management in the North Coast, and enhancing workforce capacity and development throughout the NCRP region.

#### **2. Specific Project Goals/Objectives**

The goal of this demonstration project is to create an All Hands All Lands structure for interorganizational coordination of personnel, equipment, and project opportunities in a pilot area within the NCRP region in regards to prescribed fire planning and implementation.

## CONCEPT PROPOSAL

### Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team

#### Project Objectives:

1. Build and deploy an organizational structure, tools and processes to identify and prioritize prescribed fire planning and implementation opportunities and needs within a pilot area of the NCRP region. Pre-season meetings and post-season after action reviews will be incorporated into this structure.
2. Create a Planning and Agreements Team to start building key infrastructure needed to make interorganizational work possible. This team will identify, prioritize, and start work on agreements needed for cross-boundary work (i.e. Cooperative Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, Supplemental Project Agreements, etc.).
3. Develop and pilot deployment of a regionalized workforce with the ability to share personnel and equipment for increased workforce capacity, diversified training opportunities, and technical expertise utilization. Combining resources and skill sets across the region will open up more prescribed fire opportunities to accomplish high priority, strategic prescribed fire projects. Purchase and deploy a cooperative burning demonstration fire engine, equipment, and a supplies cache.

#### **3. Describe how the project or process addresses the NCRP Goals and Objectives and the intent of the NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant.**

The North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team will address NCRP and RFFC goals and objectives by developing an interorganizational structure to prioritize, develop, and implement projects that focus on forest health restoration and maintenance and strengthen community resiliency to wildfires. The project will also increase local and regional workforce capacity development and training opportunities. Providing personnel and equipment for cooperative prescribed fires not only increases the workforce capacity, but also provides unique training opportunities to develop a prescribed fire workforce with diverse experience.

#### **4. Describe how the project is scalable, replicable, measurable, innovative and results in outcomes that will increase the scope and scale of multi-benefit forest management in the North Coast.**

This project will create an organizational structure that can be replicated in different areas or scaled up to include more partners and/or a larger geographic region. There is a set of measurable objectives described in detail below (*see 8. List the estimated quantifiable, measurable benefits expected to result from the proposed project*). This project will increase the scope and scale of multi-benefit forest management in the North Coast by enabling interorganizational work across the region. Partners will align goals, leverage skill sets and resources, and take advantage of prescribed fire opportunities.

## CONCEPT PROPOSAL

### **Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team**

This project will build more capacity with a skilled workforce, and create an ease of transferring resources from one area to another. This project is innovative in that it is seeking to establish an entirely new business model for sharing resources across organizations and geographies, tackling challenging issues such as professional qualifications recognition, legal liabilities and risk sharing, optimizing the utilization of human and equipment resources, and aggregating the collective capacity to scale implementation in both specific landscapes and across the broader region.

#### **5. Describe the need for the project and how the project addresses forest health and climate change/extreme event resiliency.**

The “All Hands All Lands” concept leverages the capacity of federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental partners to increase the strategic implementation of prescribed fire across the region. The project will increase the number of landscapes and communities that have watershed-scale forest health and wildfire resilience plan implementation. Increasing the use of prescribed fire will, in turn, increase community resilience to wildfire. Partners can be more strategic with landscape-level projects that have access to agreements and shared resources. Projects will be more impactful with partners working together across land ownership boundaries and at larger geographic scales.

#### **6. Describe the location and size of the project and the communities served by this project.**

This demonstration project will focus on a pilot area within the NCRP region, including Tribal lands, and the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity and Siskiyou, however developing partnerships in Sonoma and Lake County may allow for an All Hands All Lands deployment across the entire NCRP.

#### **7. List and describe the partnerships involved in the project and local and/or political support.**

*The Watershed Research and Training Center (WTRC)* – The WTRC will facilitate collaborative planning, organizational capacity building, and partnership development to implement high-impact, sustainable projects and initiatives to enhance resilience. Demonstration of the “All Hands All Lands” concept emerged as a priority recommendation of the Forest Management Task Force’s Prescribed Fire Workgroup, where WTRC is an active member and Capacity Subgroup lead. To implement the All Hands All Lands partnership, WTRC is drawing upon our long-time North Coast Regional Collaborators; including the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, Karuk Tribe, and UC Cooperative Extension.

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### Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team

**Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC)** – Along with their long-time leadership in the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership, MKWC has been an early adopter and innovator in bringing prescribed fire into the hands of community-based organizations and partnerships for community wildfire protection and landscape resilience. They have up to 2,000 acres of potential prescribed project areas on local private lands, the ability to share a variety of personnel and equipment, and technical specialists for burn plan development and review, burn unit tracking, and support acquiring permits. They can also assist with agreement development support.

**Karuk Tribe** - The Karuk Tribe has been using fire as a tool since time immemorial. Over the last 15 years, they have been building their own capacity to plan and implement fire strategies that incorporate traditional knowledge, and have been leading national and statewide initiatives to empower tribal nations and peoples towards reclaiming co-ownership of fire management.

**University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)** - Over the last decade, UC Area Fire Advisor Lenya Quinn-Davidson has been leading the Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council, extending knowledge of burning on private lands, and proliferating a movement of private landowner groups around the state towards the development of local Prescribed Burn Associations. Her knowledge, networks and organizing skills will be essential assets to the North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team.

**Northern California Prescribed Fire Council (NCPFC)** - The NCPFC will serve as a venue for sharing all we learn through the demonstration with a larger region-wide audience, providing opportunities for expansion and diffusion of the model.

#### **8. List the estimated quantifiable, measurable benefits expected to result from the proposed project.**

- Host regional pre-season coordination meetings for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021
- Create a tracking system that identifies prescribed fire project needs, opportunities, and prioritization
- Develop a shared database that lists personnel, qualifications, and equipment to be requested and shared across boundaries
- Host an after action review (AAR) meeting to gather successes and lessons learned for adaptive management into the future
- Identify agreements that are necessary to increase the use and scale of cooperative prescribed fire
- Start work on 3-5 new strategic agreements to enable resource sharing
- Share personnel and equipment on 3-5 cooperative prescribed fire projects in the pilot project area
- Purchase and deploy a cooperative demonstration fire engine, equipment, and a supplies cache

## CONCEPT PROPOSAL

**Project Name: North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team**

### **9. List any scientific studies, plans, designs or reports completed for the project or process.**

A case study from New Mexico regarding an All Hands All Lands approach to increasing the implementation of prescribed fire was published in January of 2020. We utilized the challenges they encountered, successes, and lessons learned into the planning and development of the North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team project.

*Evans, Z., Piccarello, M., Hardigg, K., and Davis, E.J. 2020. Working Together to Increase the Pace and Scale of Prescribed Fire. A Case Study. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition. 12 pp.*

The Governor's Forest Management Task Force, Prescribed Fire Workgroup, Capacity subgroup, is in the process of presenting a set of recommendations to the larger FMTF leadership. While the paper is in-press and not for scholarly publication, it was workshopped and vetted by the state's top prescribed fire experts from across agencies and organizations, and its recommendation of the AHAL approach helps to justify this demonstration project.

*Goulette, N., Porter, D. and Herstlett, A. 2020. Needs and opportunities for growing and optimizing capacity for planning and implementing safe and effective prescribed fire across California.*

### **10. Describe the approach to data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned.**

Prescribed fire planning and implementation opportunities and needs throughout the pilot project area will be recorded during a pre-season planning meeting and logged in a geodatabase and associated spreadsheets. A shared database with cooperating partners' personnel, qualifications, and equipment will be created for ease of requesting resources. Quarterly project status updates will be provided. A post-season after action review (AAR) documenting lessons learned will be facilitated and results will be circulated within the project team and among cooperators. Along with the project-level AAR, we will also host AARs associated with each cooperative burn. We will track and report acres treated, resource management and ecological effects, costs, and qualitative information about the efficacy of the resource-sharing strategy. A final report documenting the outputs, outcomes and activities of the North Coast All Hands All Lands Prescribed Fire Team, including the role of all involved partners and cooperators, challenges that were encountered during the project, and lessons learned will be shared. Peer-networking strategies will be used across regions to ensure that innovations, best practices, and lessons learned are rapidly diffused and adopted.