

# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuing Education Seminar for Ranchers, 12/8/2021

## Update on the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association



Devii Rao, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor

- In August 2020 UCCE and RCDMC received CAL FIRE grant to Develop the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)
- In just over 1 year we created the PBA and have become very active
- Currently have 485 people on mailing list



# Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association

Serving San Benito, Monterey, & Santa Cruz Counties

## Who we are:

- Ranchers
- Tribal members
- Vineyard owners
- Rural landowners
- Public land management agencies
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) homeowners
- Students and academics
- Community members



## Objectives:

- Reduce fire fuels
- Achieve cultural burning goals
- Make communities more fire safe
- Improve livestock forage
- Reduce weeds
- Enhance native plant and wildlife habitat

## What we do:

- Prescribed burning skills trainings
- Home hardening & defensible space workshops
- Hands-on prescribed burns
- Site visits and planning for potential prescribed burns
- Organize volunteers
- Share tools and equipment



## Contacts:

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The Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association is led by UC Cooperative Extension San Benito County and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, and was developed in 2021 through a CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Grant.

# Prescribed Burn Coordinator Jared Childress with burn trailer

- Jared is the prescribed burn expert!



# Home Hardening and Defensible Space Workshops

- Type vegetation to plant and how far it should be from the home
- Fire-safe vents
- Clearing vegetation from roofs and gutters



## Defensible Space Work Party

- Clearing leaves and other vegetation from ground
- Limbing trees
- Making burn piles



# Pile Burn Workshops



# Fire Lighter Trainings

- Required prior to participating in a prescribed burn (unless you already have experience)
- Learn how to use prescribed burning tools like drip torches, fire hoses, water pumps, fire shelters
- Learn a variety of other skills needed to participate in a burn





# First Prescribed Burn – Watsonville Slough Farm, July 8, 2021

- Grassland burn
- Primary goal was training
- Secondary goal to improve coastal prairie habitat



# Training People to Safely Conduct Prescribed Burns

- PBA members using drip torch putting down fire at the edge of the burn unit





Photo by Joe Santiago

# Second Prescribed Burn – Santa Lucia Preserve, November 7, 2021



- Goals – 1) training and 2) kill coyote brush that is invading coastal prairie grassland
- Research plots to see how chain sawing, masticating, and crushing coyote brush before burning influences how well the burn can kill the plant
- Analyzing results now

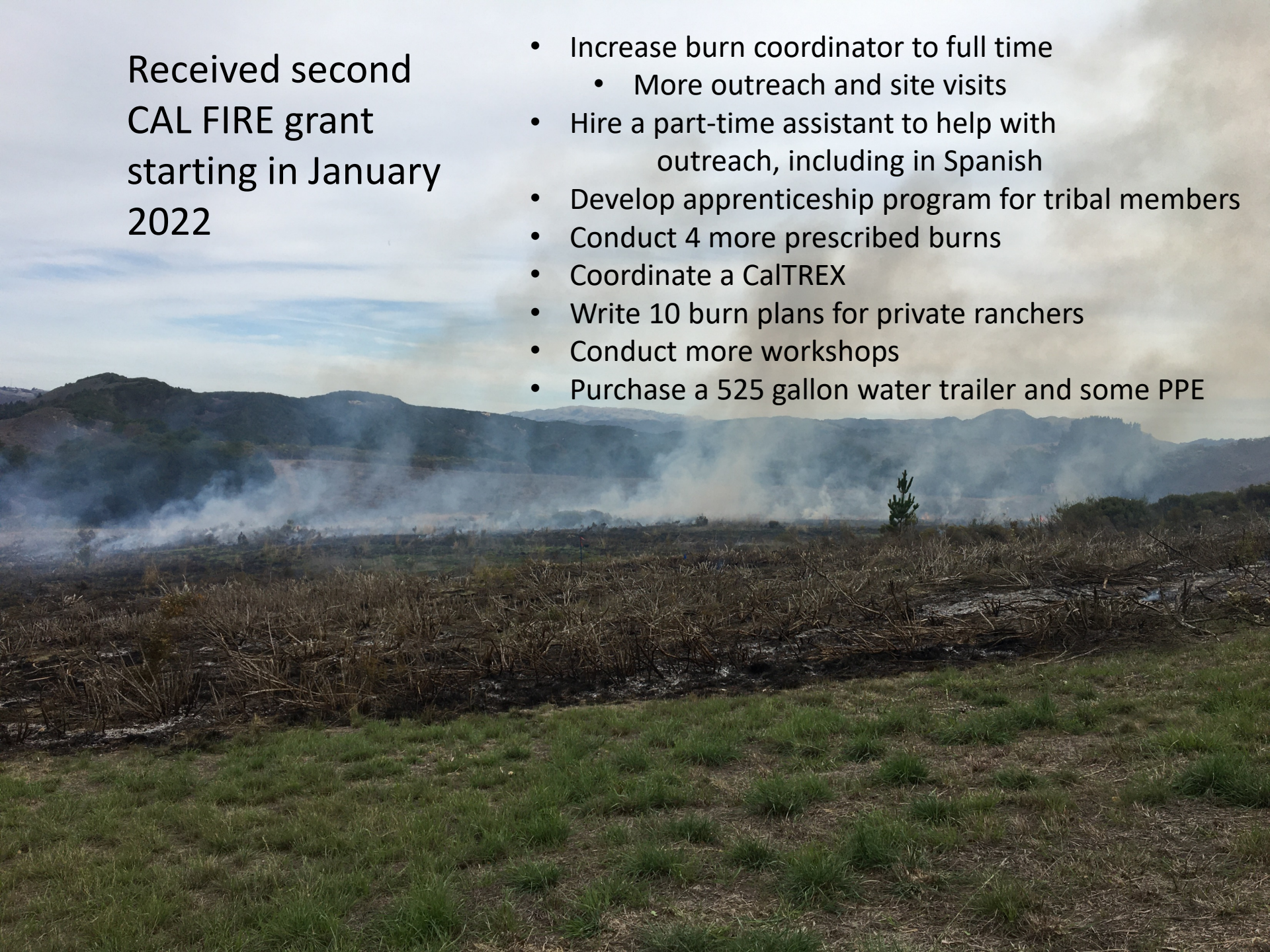


Researchers, legislators, and reporters have attended our burns.



Received second  
CAL FIRE grant  
starting in January  
2022

- Increase burn coordinator to full time
  - More outreach and site visits
- Hire a part-time assistant to help with outreach, including in Spanish
- Develop apprenticeship program for tribal members
- Conduct 4 more prescribed burns
- Coordinate a CalTRES
- Write 10 burn plans for private ranchers
- Conduct more workshops
- Purchase a 525 gallon water trailer and some PPE



# Thank You

To be added to PBA email list, contact Jared Childress - [childress.ember@gmail.com](mailto:childress.ember@gmail.com)

