



Prescribed burn training in south San Benito County. Photo by Devii Rao

SBALT NEWS

Prescribed burn planned for the Trust for Public Land's Nyland property

By Lynn Overtree

SBALT Executive Director

This fall or winter, the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association (CCPBA)'s goal is to reintroduce beneficial fire to a small area on the Trust for Public Land's Nyland Property in San Juan Bautista, weather and other conditions permitting. The Nyland Property is managed by the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT). This burn is designed to promote community safety by reducing wildfire fuel, support training local organizations on how to use prescribed fire as a tool for land stewardship, collaborate with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) Native Stewardship Corps, and promote fire ecology that benefits native plant, pollinator, and wildlife diversity in the Central Coast region.

Preparing for a prescribed burn involves many steps. First, the site had to be identified by consensus of all the parties involved; environmental impacts were assessed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); a specialist wrote a burn plan that includes the "prescription" for the conditions required to conduct the burn, and public agencies must approve the burn. Once fully approved, there will be site preparations that include cleaning out dead wood where it could carry unwanted fire and creating small fuel breaks to contain the edges of the burn area. CCPBA received a CAL FIRE grant that covers most of these costs.

Prior work has already been conducted at this site by CCPBA, San Benito Fire Safe Council, SBALT, and the AMLT to prepare the property for a possible prescribed burn. In June 2022, 24 volunteers collected seed

San Benito Agricultural



from native plants on the site that could be used for a future post-burn restoration seeding. In August 2022, volunteers worked to remove invasive weed species, such as poison hemlock from the site.

The Trust for Public Land, SBALT, and the CCPBA understand that local residents may have concerns about smoke or the risk of escaped fire from prescribed burns. If you have questions about the prescribed burn planned for the Nyland Property please contact: Alex Michel, Prescribed Burn Organizer, Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, alex.ccpba@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays from your local land trust! Learn more at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



Jared Childress, Program Manager for CCPBA, demonstrating how to collect native seed at the June Ranch Day at Nyland Property.