

Inner Coast Collaborative Regional Priority Plan Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Who is leading the development of the Regional Priority Plan?

A: The Inner Coast Collaborative is leading the development of the Regional Priority Plan. The Collaborative is represented by Lead Partners in each of the six counties that make up the Inner Coast Region, including: Colusa, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and Clear Lake Environmental Research Center (CLERC).

Q: How does this plan relate to other wildfire or safety plans in my area? Why do we need a regional plan if local plans already exist?

A: The Regional Priority Plan builds on the work that has already been done locally. It uses existing plans—such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) and Hazard Mitigation Plans—as a starting point. This helps avoid duplication and ensures the Regional Priority Plan reflects local priorities.

Local plans like CWPPs focus on wildfire resilience within specific counties or communities. The Regional Priority Plan brings multiple counties, communities, and agencies together to coordinate forest health and wildfire resilience efforts across the region.

The regional approach seeks to:

- Compile existing plans and assess landscape conditions to identify shared regional needs and opportunities
- Provide a regional framework for collaboration, supporting cross-boundary project development and implementation
- Improve coordination and data sharing across jurisdictions, agencies, and partners
- Provide a regional lens to complement community-driven planning efforts
- Strengthen regional competitiveness for local, state, and federal funding

Together, local plans and the Regional Priority Plan work hand in hand—local plans guide county and community-level action, while the Regional Priority Plan helps coordinate and amplify that work at a regional scale.

Q: Who decides whether a project will be included in the Regional Priority Plan?

A: Project inclusion criteria will be developed by the Inner Coast Collaborative in collaboration with partners and communities across the Inner Coast Region. Project inclusion criteria will be informed by:

- Information needed to intake and track projects in the online platform over time

- Information that helps to assess the multiple benefits of projects to ecosystems and communities
- Information that supports coordination and collaboration at both a local and regional scale

Q: How will projects be evaluated? Will they be ranked?

A: A method for project evaluation will be developed by the Inner Coast Collaborative in collaboration with partners and communities across the Inner Coast Region. The goal is not to rank projects; instead, we seek to develop a method for evaluating the potential multiple benefits of projects to ecosystems and communities. This may include benefits related to: healthy and resilient habitats, resilient and fire-wise communities, air quality, water quality and security, biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, and economic opportunities.

Q: How will projects included in the Regional Priority Plan be funded?

A: There are multiple pathways for funding projects included in the Regional Priority Plan. First, having a project included in the Regional Priority Plan may increase its competitiveness for funding through local, state, and federal grant programs. Second, many funding agencies are increasingly moving towards regional funding models to support an increased pace and scale of forest health and wildfire resilience projects; block grants may be awarded to the Inner Coast Collaboratives or other partners within the Inner Coast Region to support the implementation of Regional Priority Plan projects. Third, the Inner Coast Collaborative will seek to identify other public and private funding opportunities and financing mechanisms to support the implementation of Regional Priority Plan projects.

Q: How will you ensure the Regional Priority Plan reflects the needs of my community?

A: Community input is central to the Regional Priority Plan development process. Lead Partners in each county will work directly with communities in their counties to gather input on local priorities, challenges, and opportunities, ensuring that community needs are reflected in the regional plan.

Q: Why should I participate or submit a project in this process?

A: Your input helps ensure that locally identified projects and on-the-ground knowledge inform regional forest health and wildfire resilience strategies. Community input ensures local conditions and needs are captured and helps define which projects are included and how their benefits are evaluated, such as the multiple benefits to ecosystems and communities.

Including a project in the Regional Priority Plan also supports coordination across organizations and communities and can improve access to funding opportunities, including block grants and competitive grants. The Regional Priority Plan is designed to be transparent and inclusive, giving partners and community members a meaningful role in guiding regional action.

Q: How will the plan be kept up to date so it doesn't just collect dust on the shelf?

A: To ensure the Regional Priority Plan is kept up to date and actionable, we are:

- Developing an online platform to track progress on project implementation along with an ongoing maintenance plan. We will regularly add new projects and keep track of in progress/completed projects through the online platform.
- Working closely with the Department of Conservation to support the development and maintenance of the Plan. The Department of Conservation has invested in Regional Priority Plans state-wide through

the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. Learn more about the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program here: [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#)

- Identifying additional financing and funding mechanisms beyond the Department of Conservation that can support ongoing updates and improvements to the Regional Priority Plan as well as the implementation of projects included in the Plan.