

Subject **Fwd: GCRCD Board of Directors Meeting - 6/3/21**
From Sheila Barry <sbarry@ucanr.edu>
To Stephanie Moreno <smoreno@gcrcd.org>
Date 2021-06-02 03:53 PM



- Prescribed Fire Monitoring_SB.docx(~19 KB)

Hi Stephanie,

Attached is project information for monitoring the prescribed fire impacts in the Mt Hamilton Range. Funding is needed in order to have the expertise of SJSU fire lab. As described in the project information, SJSU requires funding to support students who will be trained while conducting the project.

We hope the RCD would be interested in supporting this project. Please let me know if you need more information.

Thank you

Sheila Barry
Bay Area Natural Resources/ Livestock Advisor
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephanie Moreno <smoreno@gcrcd.org>
Subject: GCRCD Board of Directors Meeting - 6/3/21
Date: May 31, 2021 at 4:51:48 PM PDT
To: Stephanie Moreno <smoreno@gcrcd.org>

The Board of Directors agenda for June 3, 2021 has been posted to our [website](#). Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Thank you! Stephanie

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Sincerely,

Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)
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Prescribed Fire Monitoring Project

Dr. Kate Wilkin, Assistant Professor of Fire Ecology at San José State University
Kate.Wilkin@sjsu.edu / <https://fireecology.wixsite.com/katewilkin>

Sheila Barry, University of California Cooperative Extension, Santa Clara County
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A vegetation management burn is being planned for Fall 2021 on approximately 1000 acres of a private ranch and Henry Coe State Park along Pine Ridge. Both landowners want to demonstrate that public and private interests working together can successfully conduct a prescribed fire that reduces fire fuel loads while maintaining or enhancing other resource values including wildlife habitat and forage.

We propose to examine cost-effective methods to monitor prescribed fire efficacy of fuel reduction in our region while training underrepresented students in ecology and management. Historically prescribed fire monitoring was very costly and field intensive, however with advent of better technology we propose to use a combination new remotely sense imagery products and field monitoring to detect change. These methods would be incorporated into field monitoring into San José State University (SJSU)'s Biol 111: Fire Ecology class. We will focus on the following questions:

- Does prescribed fires decrease fuel loads and their continuity e.g. surface fuels, ladder fuels, and canopy cover on grazed and ungrazed land?
- Was there an impact to mature trees' potential survival in future wildfires, including ponderosa pine and oaks? Did the trees' canopy base height increase and did the ladder fuels decrease?
- Does prescribed fire alter plant composition in ways that alter fire season, forage quality or ecology e.g. does it change when vegetation is green?

We will do the following to evaluate the questions:

1. Pre-fire vegetation monitoring biomass clippings to estimate grass fuel load and percent bare ground. This is field work is needed to understand how fire behavior and effects vegetation responses because remote products do not estimate this type of fuel well.
2. Pre/Post photo-points to demonstrate change in vegetation structure e.g. looking into riparian areas, near ponds, and on forest margins. (N=10 per unit)
3. Remotely detect changes in vegetation structure (such as canopy cover, canopy base height, surface fuels, ladder fuels, and canopy base height) from publicly available data from California Forest Observatory.
4. Remotely detect changes in vegetation greenness timing and identify species related to greenness.
5. Students on prescribed fire to monitor fire behavior and related to effects.

We require \$50,000 to fund a Biology Graduate student research salary, field equipment, and local travel to establish this monitoring program as described. A portion of the project could be completed for a portion of the funds. Student salaries at SJSU are especially important for students to be able to participate in research and professional training; if salaries are not available, students are generally not available to

participate in research. More than a third of our students are the first in their families to attend college and about half are eligible for Pell grants. More than 40 percent of incoming freshmen and 35 percent of incoming transfer students identify as an underrepresented minority. We are proud of our designation as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

Once the monitoring is established and we streamline protocols, the monitoring may be able to primarily be completed by SJSU's Biol 111: Fire Ecology class.