



Prescribed Burn Planning

June 17, 2021



Outline

- Prescribed Burning Overview
- WHY
- WHERE
- WHEN
- HOW
- WHO
- Next Steps



Prescribed Burning

Goals:

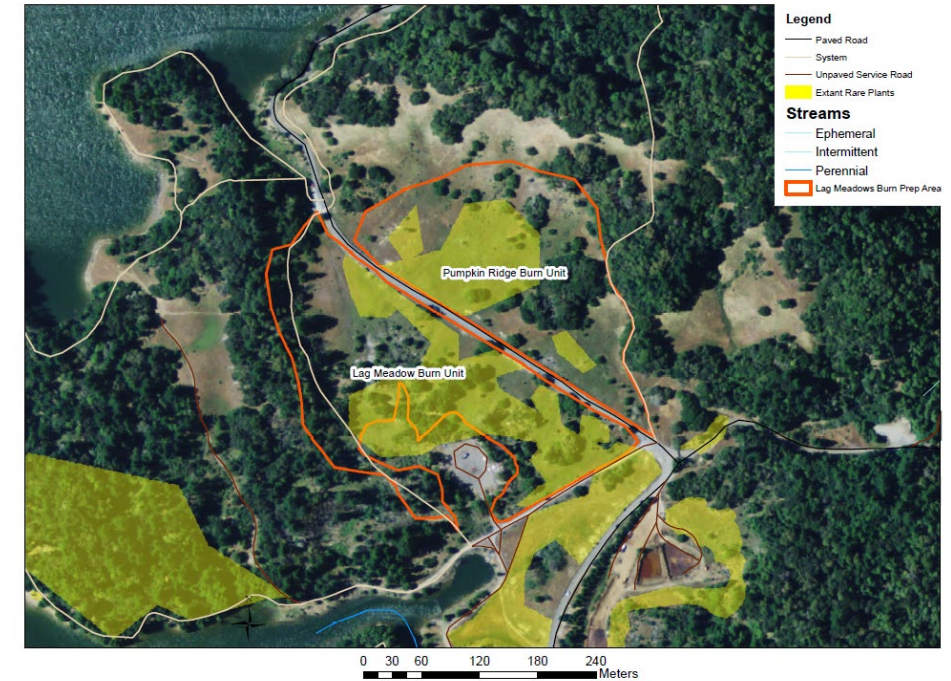
Reduces fuels on the watershed to minimize the spread of uncontrolled wildfire and enhance native plants.

Planning:

Working with consultant on Prescribed Burn Planning Report in coordination with Marin County Fire.

Treatment:

Prescribed burning modifies vegetation, reduces fuel loads and can benefit native plants.



History of Prescribed Burning in Marin

- Marin Water regularly implemented prescribed burning on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed prior to 1995
- After adoption of 1995 Vegetation Management Plan limited burning was carried out in select locations
- Marin Water uses Pile Burning as a tool for disposing of vegetation debris generated by fuel reduction work
- NPS has a long history of using prescribed fire to manage fuels in Point Reyes
- In 2020 Audubon Canyon Ranch carried out a prescribed burn adjacent to Marin Water's Watershed lands
- Marin County Fire uses prescribed burning in select locations on Marin County Parks and Open Space Lands

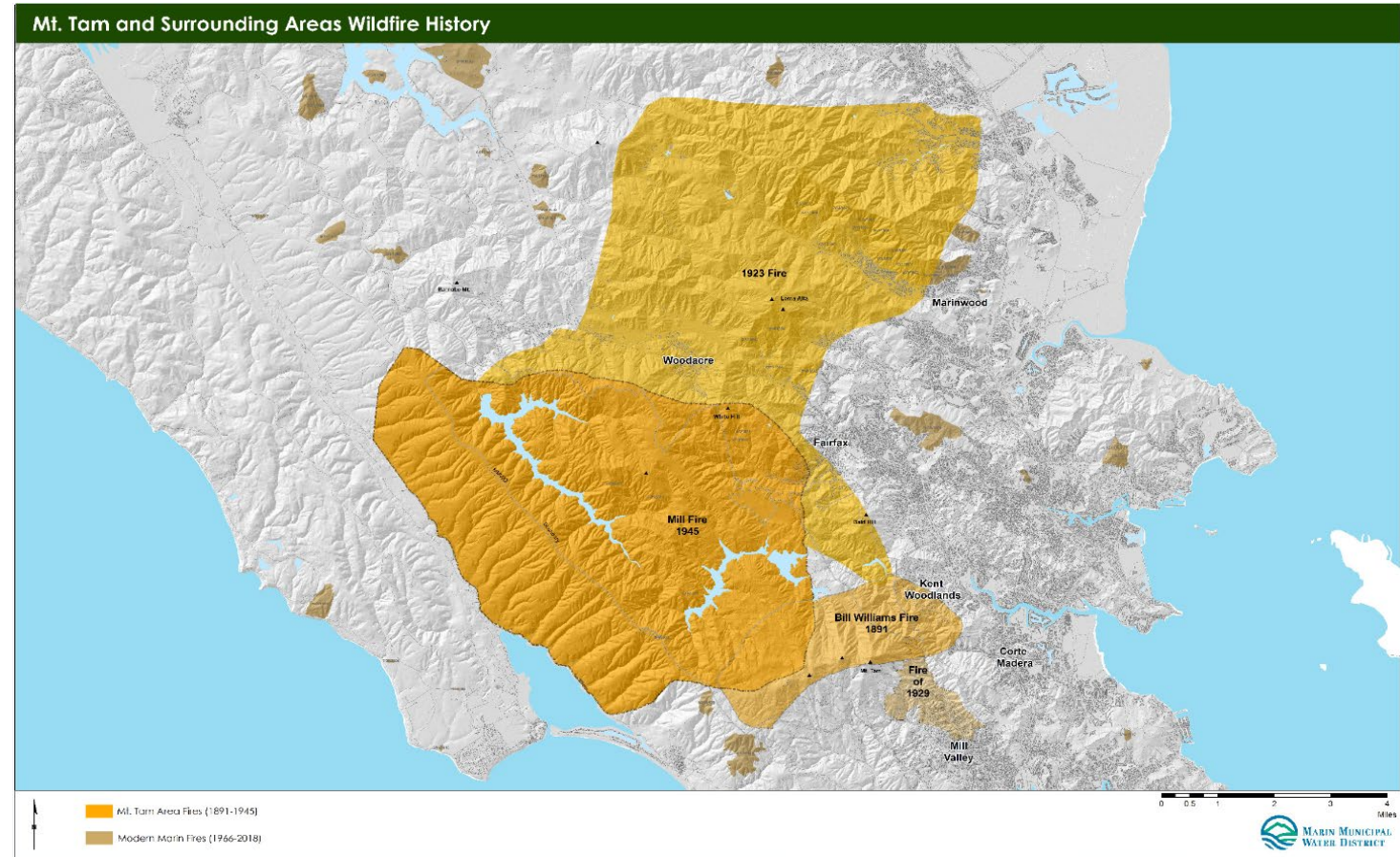
WHAT

Lighting a fire in a specified location after careful planning and under controlled conditions to achieve clearly articulated management goals



WHY

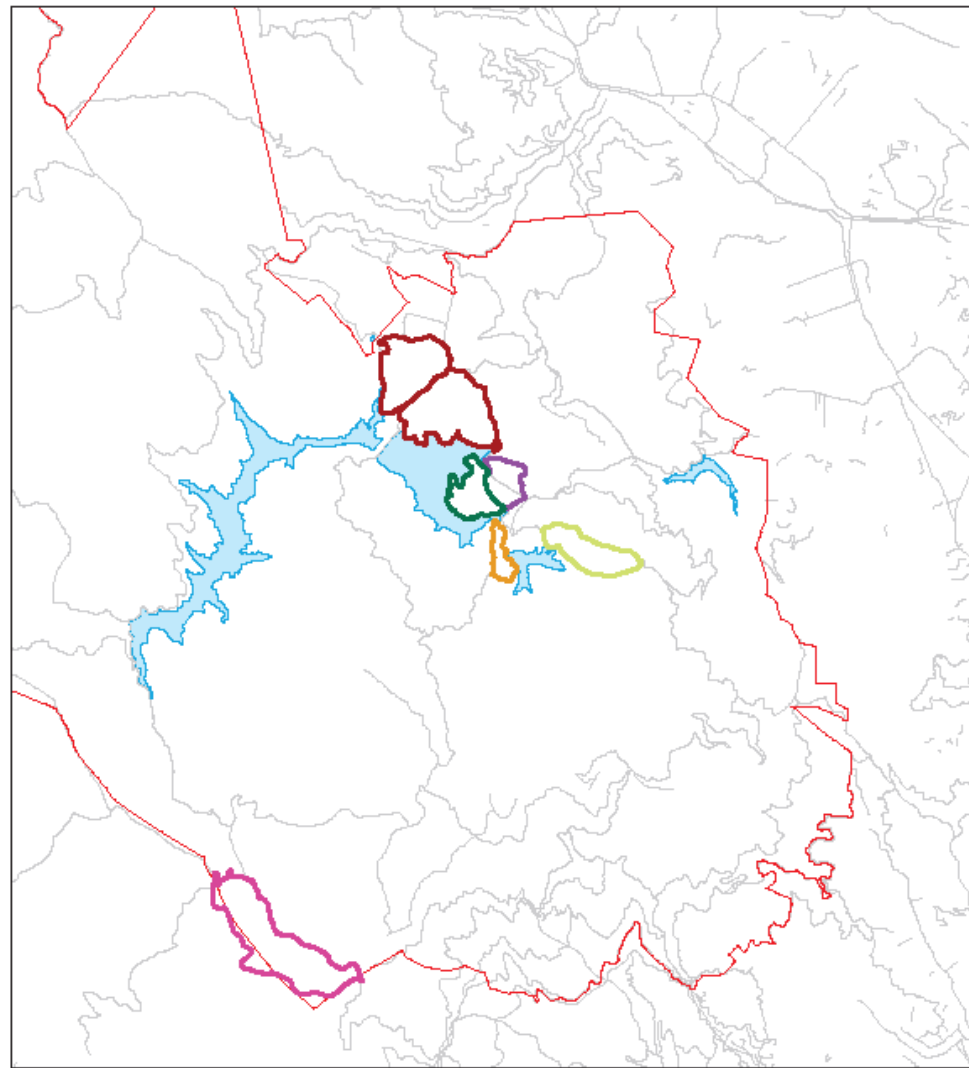
- Marin County has a fire-adapted ecosystem
- Historically native people managed the land using fire
- Fire is a tool to increase resiliency to wildfire



Where

- While most ecosystems would benefit from fire, not all locations are suitable for prescribed fire
- Selecting locations where we have high confidence that a burn can be implemented without an escape with available resources
- Selecting locations that meet management objectives
- Considering a variety of Burn Units with different vegetation types

Where



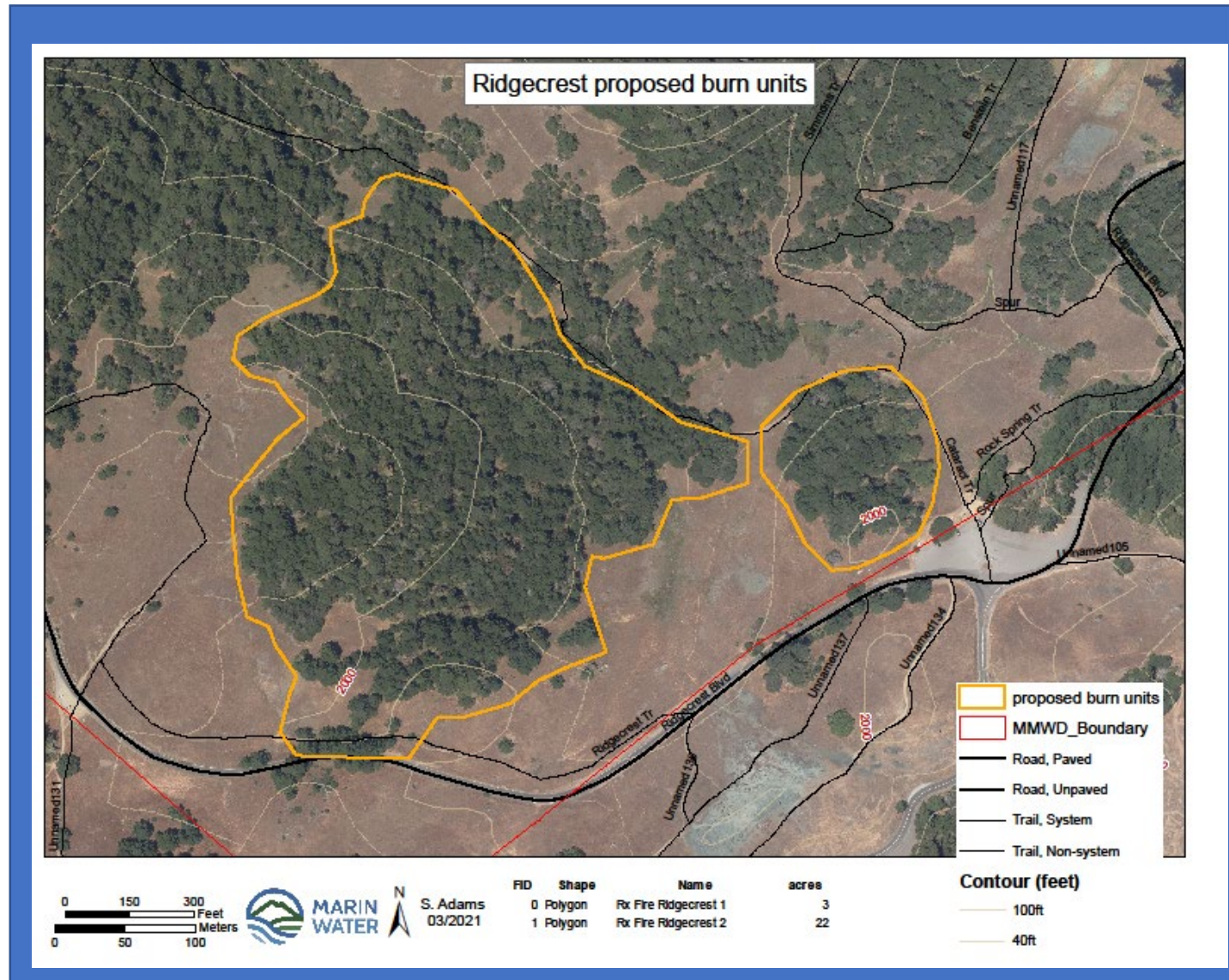
Pine point Lake Lag north Knobs 1 n 2 Lakes
Lag Meadows Pilot Knob ridgecrest MMWD_Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 Miles
0 0.5 1 Kilometers

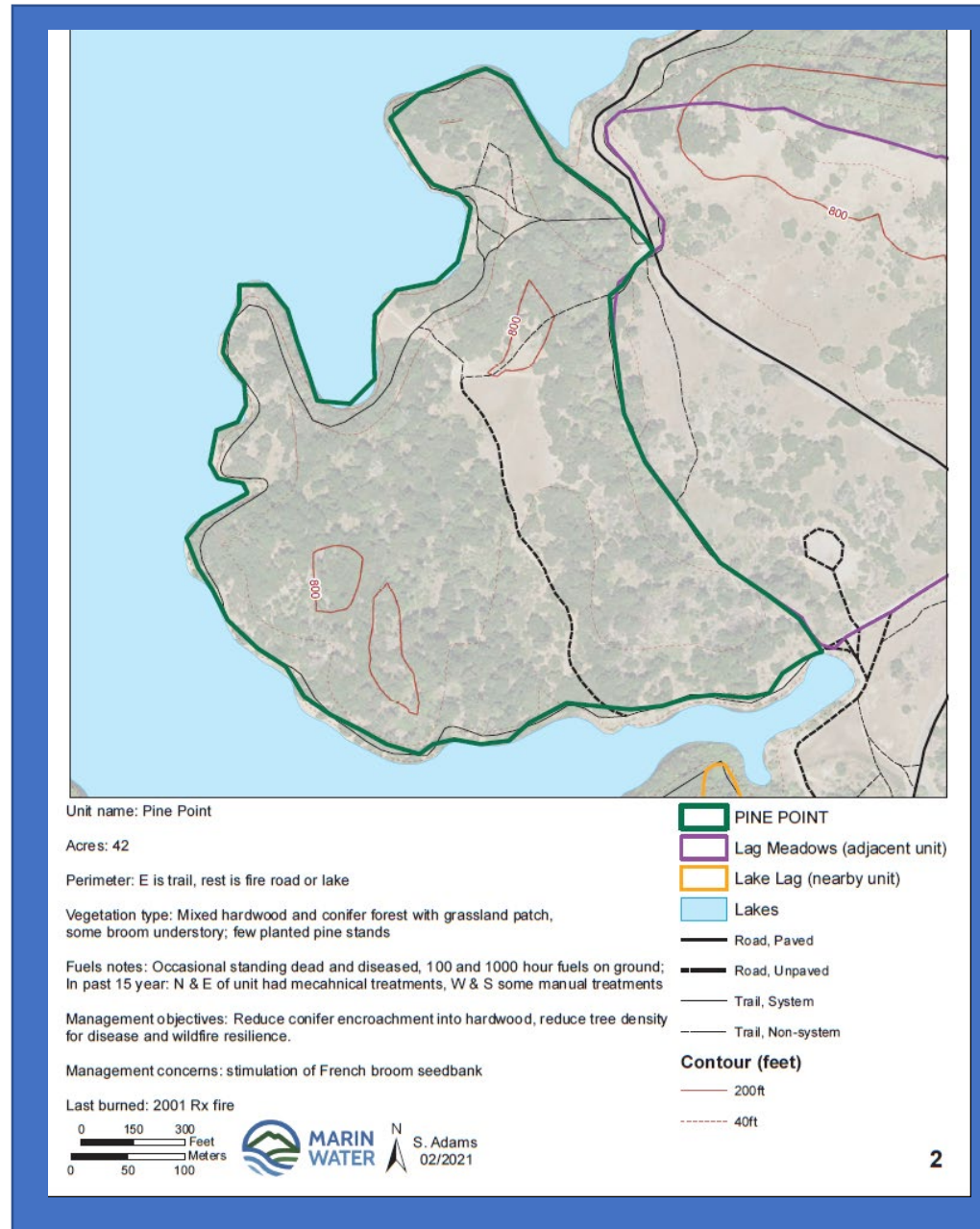
MARIN WATER

N
S. Adams
02/2021

Ridgecrest Burn Unit



Pine Point Burn Unit



WHEN

- Planning for multiple burns to provide operational flexibility
- Air Quality Control Board Permits will be required and will influence when we can carry out this type of management action
- May/June is a potential implementation target, but the environmental conditions will dictate. Sometimes an entire year or more will go by before the right window of opportunity comes along
- Historically most prescribed burning was done in fall, but with climate change this has become increasingly unlikely due to resources availability and on the ground conditions

HOW

Planning

- Working with experienced consultant to identify prescribed burning units (completed in March 2021)
- Evaluating ecological benefits and env. compliance work schedule
- Coordinating with Marin County Fire to discuss their capacity to conduct burning on Watershed lands (initial site visits completed in March 2021)
- Continuing work with consultant and County Fire to develop site specific Burn Plans
- Develop Bay Area Air Quality Control Permits

HOW

Public Outreach

- Present prescribed burning planning process at stakeholder meetings to raise awareness around the process
- Develop community allies to talk to their neighbors and community at large about the benefits of prescribed fire
- Field site visits with Bay Area Air Quality Control Board
- Document pre and post site conditions and evaluate long-term fuel and ecological conditions

HOW

Public Outreach

- Engaging and listening to neighbors and other stakeholders is key part of this process
- Environmental groups generally support the use of prescribed fire when it's done to support appropriate ecosystem processes
- Watershed staff is experienced in timely & clear communication with watershed visitors.

HOW

Implementation

- Staff and contractors conduct site prep to remove hazardous trees and establish control boundary
- Coordinate with Marin County Fire to confirm resource availability and other possible collaborators such as contractors
- Wait Patiently
 - Monitor weather conditions
 - Bay Area Air Quality Management District approval

Next Steps

- Development of site specific Burn Plans in April /May
- Submit Bay Area Air Quality Permit Application in May
- Public Outreach
- Monitor weather conditions
- Complete vegetation management site prep
- Coordinate resources to support implementation



**A BIT OF A FIRE
ISN'T ALWAYS
A BAD THING**



PRESCRIBED BURNS PROMOTE A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM