



LandSmart
Productive lands. Thriving streams.

LandSmart Forest Management Plans

Sonoma Resource Conservation District

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What is the Sonoma RCDD?

- ▶ A non-regulatory, local, special district
- ▶ Created in 1940's to assist landowners with educational, technical, and financial resources for soil and water conservation projects.
- ▶ The RCDD identifies and solicits funding sources for priority conservation programs and projects
- ▶ Almost exclusively grant and fee-for-service funded. We apply for grants to implement projects with landowners.

What is LandSmart?

LandSmart is a program of your local RCDs!

- ▶ Conservation Planning
- ▶ On-the-Ground Projects



FOCUS: LandSmart Forest Management



Provides a comprehensive forest conservation plan based on the landowner's goals and what is best for natural resources on sites, acts as a CEQA level document for forestry management and guides forestry management implementation.

How does a LandSmart Forest Management Plan work?

- ▶ Puts on paper your specific goals of your property.
- ▶ Identifies current property conditions
- ▶ Provides specific recommendations on how to manage your vegetation, forests, streams, and roads.
- ▶ Connects you with incentive programs like CFIP and EQIP, as well as grant funds the RCD may have or is able to apply for.
- ▶ Currently have funding to complete 85% plans. Required 15% landowner cost share.



Elements of a LandSmart Forest Management Plan

- ▶ Property history
- ▶ Family legacy
- ▶ Property infrastructure (roads, dwellings, fencing, etc.)
- ▶ Forest composition and structure (i.e. forest types)
- ▶ Access and security
- ▶ Recreational opportunities
- ▶ Invasive species, forest insects and disease
- ▶ Soils
- ▶ Water resources
- ▶ Wildlife and aquatic species (including endangered)
- ▶ Management Constraints (steepness, no merchantable timber, etc.) and alternatives.
- ▶ Fire Management

Benefits of a LandSmart Forest Management Plan?

- ▶ Accepted by CAL Fire and NRCS—makes property eligible for CFIP and/or EQIP implementation funding
- ▶ Includes checklists for each resource with management practices and corresponding NRCS practice codes for ease of reference for landowner and natural resource professionals providing technical assistance in the future.
- ▶ Additional robust section on carbon beneficial forestry practices
- ▶ Current and future vegetation carbon stocks are calculated with and without carbon beneficial treatment practices recommended
- ▶ Promotes the recommendations of the CA Forest Carbon Action Plan and identifies projects that may be folded into larger, landscape level Forest Health Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant project.
 - ▶ A way to have pre-developed forestry projects for grant programs funded by the State's carbon cap-and-trade program and/or potentially enter carbon offset markets.
- ▶ Creates a relationship with the RCD, which houses experts in different natural resource specialties outside of forestry and having a RCD staff person analyze your site may also lead to other future projects, such as coho and steelhead habitat restoration, water conservation, and agricultural sustainability.

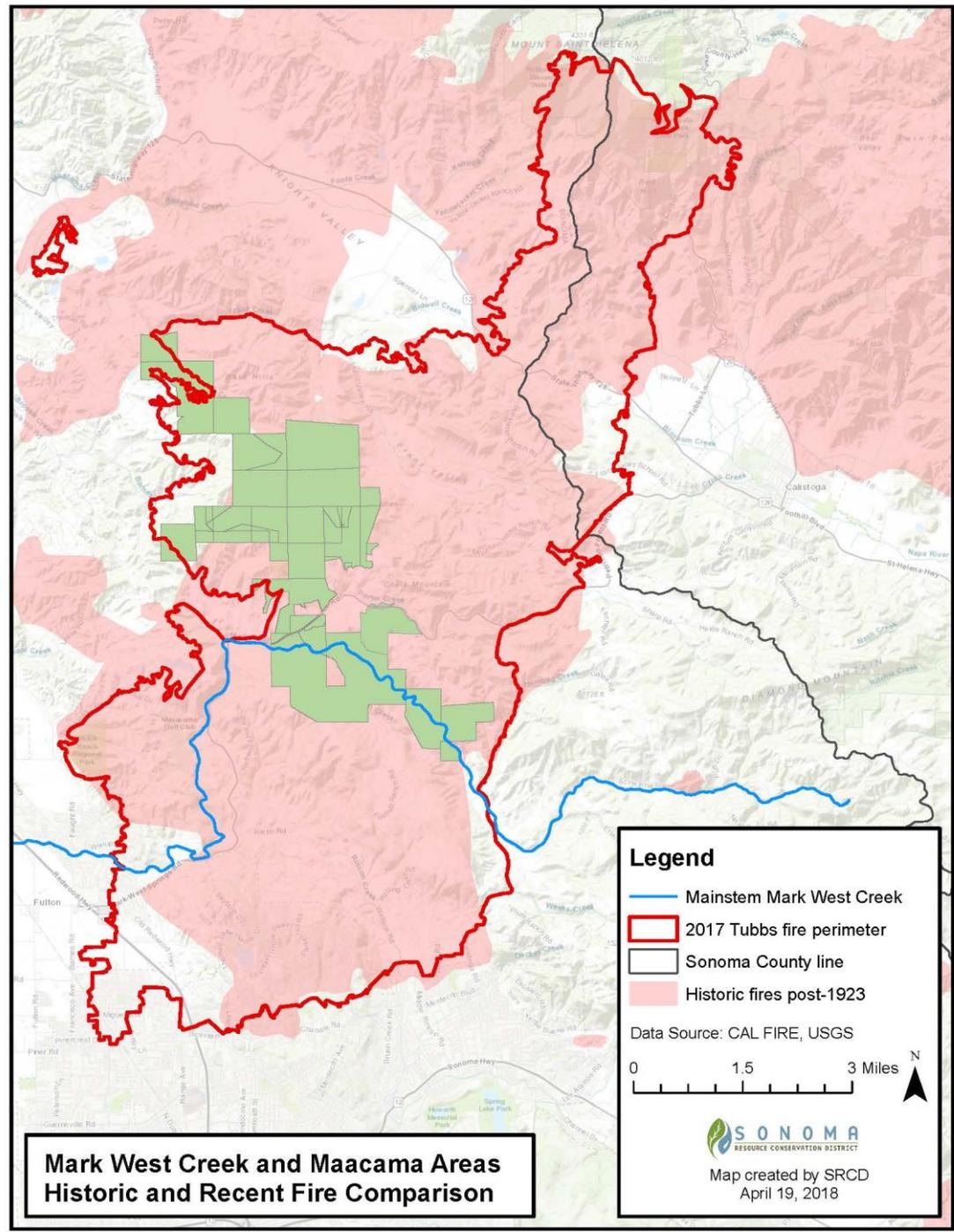
What are carbon beneficial practices?

- ▶ Hazardous fuels reduction (reduce fuels so that less carbon is lost during a potential fire).
- ▶ Pest management (thin forests to reduce competition and to increase tree and forest health and resiliency)
- ▶ Reforestation
- ▶ Forest conservation (preservation easements to avoid forest land conversion)
- ▶ Biomass utilization (use biomass removed either for energy or wood products. Wood products lock up carbon in buildings as opposed to rotting in forest. Energy production offsets fossil fuel energy production.)

Work with your neighbors!

- ▶ Multiple LandSmart Forest Management Plans in a community can identify projects throughout the watershed and may be implemented together for more impactful landscape management.





**Mark West Creek and Maacama Areas
Historic and Recent Fire Comparison**

Questions?





Erosion from
raindrops



Erosion from
concentrated flow





Burned culverts



Wood chips, invasive removal, and native species revegetation for erosion control