



Date: September 4th, 2025

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20-acre Prescribed Burn to Reduce Fuel Loading and Promote Biodiversity at John Muir Land Trust's Fernandez Ranch

The John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) and Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) are partnering to burn 20 acres of grassland at Fernandez Ranch near Martinez, California. At 1,185 acres, the property has gone through significant changes over the last two hundred years. Bringing a practice of good fire back to the landscape will work to honor past stewardship principles. The prescribed burn, tentatively scheduled for the morning of October 6th, 2025, will reduce fine fuel loading, promote nutrient cycling, and encourage native plant germination at the property.

Some light smoke may be visible in nearby areas during the prescribed burn. If you or someone in your household is sensitive to smoke, we recommend keeping windows and doors closed and limiting outdoor activity during the operation.

JMLT and CCRCD also welcome local fire practitioners to participate in or observe the prescribed burn. Please contact James Wilson, the Stewardship Director at JMLT, by Monday, September 15th if you would like to provide support for or observe the burn.

For more information about the planned prescribed burn at Fernandez Ranch, please contact James Wilson at james@jmlt.org or Zoë Fung at wildfire@ccrcd.org.

JMLT and CCRCD wish to thank our funder, Coalitions and Collaboratives (COCO), for the Action, Implementation, and Mitigation Grants Program that makes this project possible.



Fernandez Ranch Prescribed Burn Project



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Maxar