



HONEYDEW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
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To: Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

On behalf of the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company I would like to express our support for the Mattole Restoration Council's *Prosper Ridge Community Wildfire Resilience Project* application to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). We have agreed to be project partners in the application of prescribed fire necessary to complete project goals of:

- 1) Increasing safe ingress for Fire Personnel
- 2) Increasing safe egress for residents of the Prosper Ridge Community
- 3) Reducing hazardous fuels that have encroached into the area's coastal prairies
- 4) Decreasing the fuel loads around homes/ structures to decrease potential loss of property in a wildfire.
- 5) Increasing the health of the area's forests and its resiliency to wildfire
- 6) Providing necessary tools and equipment for Prescribed burning

The project area is identified as Very High Fire Hazard with our State fire agency, Cal FIRE, in part due to the proximity to public lands. Prosper Ridge is the last ridgeline before the King Range National Conservation Area. The number of visitors to the KRNCA has exploded over the past few years. Most visitors are mindful to use care with campfires but there is still great concern that an escaped campfire could begin a major wildfire.

Fuels reduction will improve the likelihood of a successful "initial attack" on a campfire escape and reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfire.

We are working with the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) to identify and implement fuels treatment and cultural / prescribed fire for the neighborhood of Prosper Ridge. We have partnered with MRC on previous fuels reduction projects.

Sincerely,

Peter Marshall
Chief, HVFC

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