



New Mexico Prescribed Fire Strategic Plan: 2021 – 2023

The mission of the New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council is to promote the safe, responsible, and effective use of prescribed fire and facilitate the exchange of information, techniques, and experiences among practitioners of prescribed fire in New Mexico.

This simple strategic plan was created via an iterative and participatory process consisting of two online surveys distributed to the main Council email list. Recipients of the surveys also had the option of forwarding to their contacts. In the first step, respondents were asked to rank suggested focus areas or to suggest new focus areas for consideration. A 'focus area' was defined as a category of work for the Council to specifically address as part of the strategic plan. They were also asked to suggest potential specific action items under each focus area. A specific action item was defined as an actionable, measurable work product or accomplishment that the Council could achieve within the three-year timeframe of the plan. In the second survey step, respondents were asked to rank the action items suggested in the first survey. The top three action items thus selected were incorporated into the plan.

This plan is intended to provide cohesive direction to the Council's actions in the three-year timeframe of 2021 – 2023, as it reflects collective thought regarding top priorities at the time of writing.

1. Focus Area: Policy

- 1.1. Action: Engage with legislative process to support passage of the "Prescribed Fire Act" (this is the name of the legislation resulting from House Memorial 42 and the Working Group's final report; legislation is currently in draft stage).
- 1.2. Action: Engage counties and other local governments to understand, support passage of, and align with the goals of the "Prescribed Fire Act".
- 1.3. Action: Maintain regular communications with important state legislative committees, state agencies, the Governor's office, national groups (FLN, RVCC, National Association of Rx Fire Councils), and with NM's congressional offices.

2. Focus Area: Collaboration

- 2.1. Action: Partner with implementation capable partners (NGOs, agencies, etc.) to host burns for target audiences, such as private landowners, students, etc.
- 2.2. Action: Work with FACNM to link prescribed fire and building fire-adapted communities when practical.

- 2.3. Action: Develop a strategy to prioritize collaboration where it is mutually beneficial and communicate regularly with a broader group.

3. Focus Area: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

- 3.1. Action: Support practitioners that may not have an opportunity to engage otherwise through opportunities and scholarships. Develop and support mid/early career opportunities in wildland fire and prescribed fire.
- 3.2. Action: Actively engage a wide range of input and participation from different parts of New Mexico and create a welcoming environment for all.
- 3.3. Action: Look for opportunities to grow the next Council leaders by mentoring youth from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

4. Focus Area: Outreach and Communications

- 4.1. Action: Create and share a guide for private landowners interested in working with state and federal agencies to allow managed natural ignitions on their property.
- 4.2. Action: Deliver presentations to community groups and others about prescribed fire and fire science virtually or in person (as conditions allow).
- 4.3. Action: The Council will support alternative ways of knowing such as working with Tribal nations to apply traditional ecological knowledge.

5. Focus Area: Council Business Operations

- 5.1. Action: Establish a sustainable funding stream to cover Council expenses (such as Director's and Officer's insurance).
- 5.2. Action: Revise operations guide to set standards for fiscal management, roles and responsibilities, other Council business operations.
- 5.3. Action: Establish expectations and processes to guide meetings, emails, webinars and other information sharing that are sensitive to differences in communication styles, timing and capacity to respond in a timely fashion, proper transparency in business decisions, etc.
- 5.4. Action: Support hiring CRFP Coordinator to assist with award deliverables on the Council's behalf.