



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Leilani Clark, Communications Manager

leilani@landpaths.org | (707) 544-7284 ext. 108

LandPaths awarded a competitive \$100,000 grant from PG&E for program that will expand fire knowledge, understanding, and land stewardship locally

SANTA ROSA – LandPaths’ [Good Fire Program](#) was recently selected as one of only five recipients statewide of PG&E’s Nature Positive Innovation Grant program. The competitive program funds innovative programs that focus on stewardship of land, air, and water resources in PG&E service areas.

The \$100,000 grant will support workforce development in forestry and fire management at LandPaths and community involvement and engagement in prescribed burning and patch burns. LandPaths will extend these training opportunities to youth (ages 16-20) from underserved communities through its Young Stewards Program. The goal is to bring “good fire” back to LandPaths’ preserves and to involve community members to the maximum extent possible.

"California is at a crossroads. We know we need to be doing a large amount of fire fuel reduction statewide, but we lack the trained workforce to meet that challenge." says Lee Hackeling, executive director of operations at LandPaths "By supporting our new fire program, PG&E is helping us build a climate resilience work and volunteer force that is skilled in fuel reduction, prescribed burning, and forestry. The trainings will be held in English and Spanish to increase language access."

In addition, the grant will provide funds to grow LandPaths’ partnership with resilience workers, former farmworkers, from [North Bay Jobs with Justice](#), who are paid a livable wage to work on burn unit preparation and forest thinning. And the funds will enable LandPaths to grow capacity for organizing smaller “patch burns” across a matrix of habitat types at our preserves in Sonoma County. Patch burns provide a way for everyone, from children to elders, to access the land and begin building a relationship through fire.

To schedule interviews with Jeanne Wirka, Community Stewardship Manager at LandPaths, or other LandPaths staff, contact Leilani Clark at leilani@landpaths.org or (707) 544-7284 x 108.

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