



CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH GRANT | AGREEMENT 8GG23617

SLO Monterey Pine Restoration

Cambria Forest Health Project Briefing

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee • Cambria Community Services District

Presented by **Dan Turner** (SLO County Fire Safe Council), **Spencer Gordon** (USLTRCD), & **Steve Auten** (Auten Resource Consulting)

September 2, 2026

Welcome & Introductions

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on the SLO Monterey Pine Restoration project, a multi-partner forest health effort spanning the Cambria Monterey Pine Forest, including treatment areas within the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.



Dan Turner

**Executive Director, San Luis Obispo County
Fire Safe Council, Inc.**

Grantee & project administrator for the CAL
FIRE Forest Health Grant



Spencer Gordon

**Forestry Project Manager, Upper Salinas Las
Tablas RCD**

Will walk through the Fiscalini treatment plan,
permitting, and site protections



Steve Auten

**Registered Professional Forester,
Auten Resource Consulting**

Registered Professional Forester will show a
fly over of the region and discuss
connectivity of treatments

Agenda

1

Cambria Forest Health Grant

Quick project overview & partners

2

Grant Area & Fiscalini Ranch

Where the work happens, including FRP

3

Permitting & Protections

Environmental compliance and site safeguards

4

Treatments & Timeline

Activities, specifications, and schedule

5

Before / After & Flyover

Visual look at completed and planned work

6

Questions & Discussion

Open floor for the Committee

Quick Overview: The Forest Health Grant

CAL FIRE Grant Agreement 8GG23617 funds a multi-partner project to improve forest health in the rare, ~3,000-acre Cambria Monterey Pine Forest (CMPF) — one of only a few native Monterey pine stands left on Earth.

- Fuel reduction across the forest to lower wildfire risk to the community
- Reforestation — planting Monterey pine where natural regeneration is lacking
- Improved tree health, growth, site occupancy, and disease resiliency



\$6.68M

Total CAL FIRE grant funding



1,042 ac

Unique treatment footprint



3,000 ac

Cambria Monterey Pine Forest



Mar 2030

Project performance period ends



GRANT AREA

Forest Health Grant Area Map

Four treatment ownerships along the Cambria coast: Pico Creek (Hearst Ranch), Covell Ranch, Cambria Pines Ecological Reserve, and Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.

-  SLO Monterey Pine Restoration FHG Area
-  Hearst Ranch CalVTP (San Simeon Point)
-  CA State Parks Management Areas
-  Rancho Marino Reserve CalVTP



PROJECT PARTNERS

A Multi-Partner Collaboration



SLO County Fire Safe Council

Grantee & project administrator



CAL FIRE

Forest Health Grant Program funder



CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Cambria Pines Reserve
landowner & match funding



Hearst Ranch

Landowner



Cambria CSD

Managing agency, Fiscalini Ranch
Preserve



**Friends of Fiscalini Ranch
Preserve**

Site oversight & volunteer support



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD

Technical & implementation support



Covell Ranch

Landowner

Fiscalini's Role in the Project

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is one of four project areas under the FSC Forest Health Grant, managed by Cambria CSD with support from Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve.

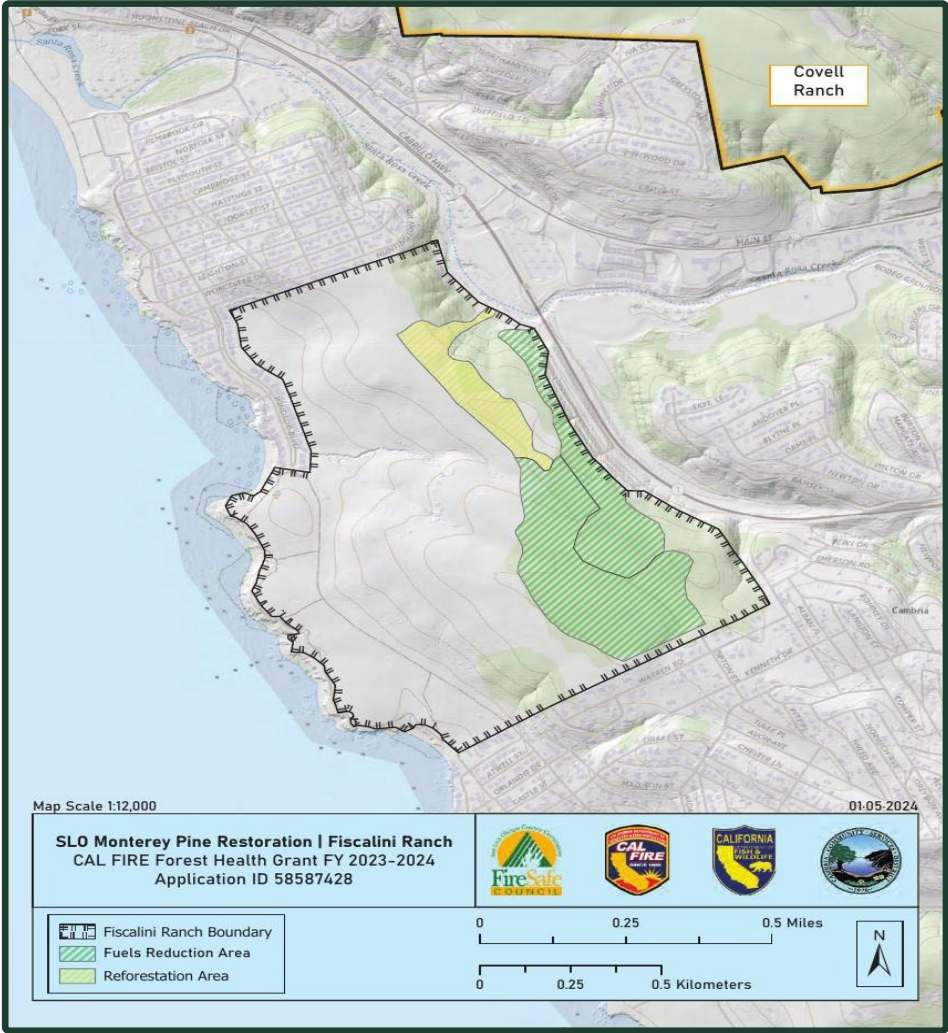
62 ac Fuels reduction (thinning + chipping)

15 ac Reforestation — Monterey pine planting

77 ac Total unique treatment footprint at FRP



The Preserve also hosts a monarch butterfly overwintering grove. Treatment prescriptions there include dedicated core- and shelter-zone protections (see Protections, next).



Permitting & Environmental Compliance

Formal CEQA environmental review is complete for every proposed treatment area:

	Fiscalini Ranch Preserve	Certified Final MEIR (11/16/2009) — Fiscalini Ranch Preserve
	Pico Creek (Hearst Ranch)	CalVTP PSA ID 2023-16 — Hearst Ranch and Governors Secretarial Suspension
	Covell Ranch	CalVTP PSA ID 2021-13 — Covell Ranch and Governors Secretarial Suspension
	Cambria Pines Reserve	CalVTP PSA ID 2022-36 — Cambria Reserves



Additional permitting: pile burning requires an approved Burn Authorization from the Air Pollution Control District (APCD). Supplemental compliance — resource surveys, watercourse buffers, minor use permits — continues throughout the project as needed.

General Protection Measures and Project Specifications



Habitat Retention

Retain 1–3 large snags, 1 stove-pipe snag, and 1–4 large logs ($\geq 12"$ DBH) per acre for wildlife.



Monarch Overwintering Grove

~2-ac core zone (no work during Oct–Feb clustering) plus a ~5-ac, 100-ft shelter-zone buffer.



Riparian & Sensitive Plants

Hydrophytic species — ferns, sedges, rushes, elderberry — are never removed. Cambria Morning Glory and Sanicula Hofmanii



Wildlife Nest Buffers

Woodrat nests receive a minimum 5–10 ft “no-cut” buffer; trees are not felled into it. Ops will occur outside of nesting bird season.



Trail & Road Corridors

Chips pulled back a minimum of 50 ft Chips will be broadcasted on identified roads



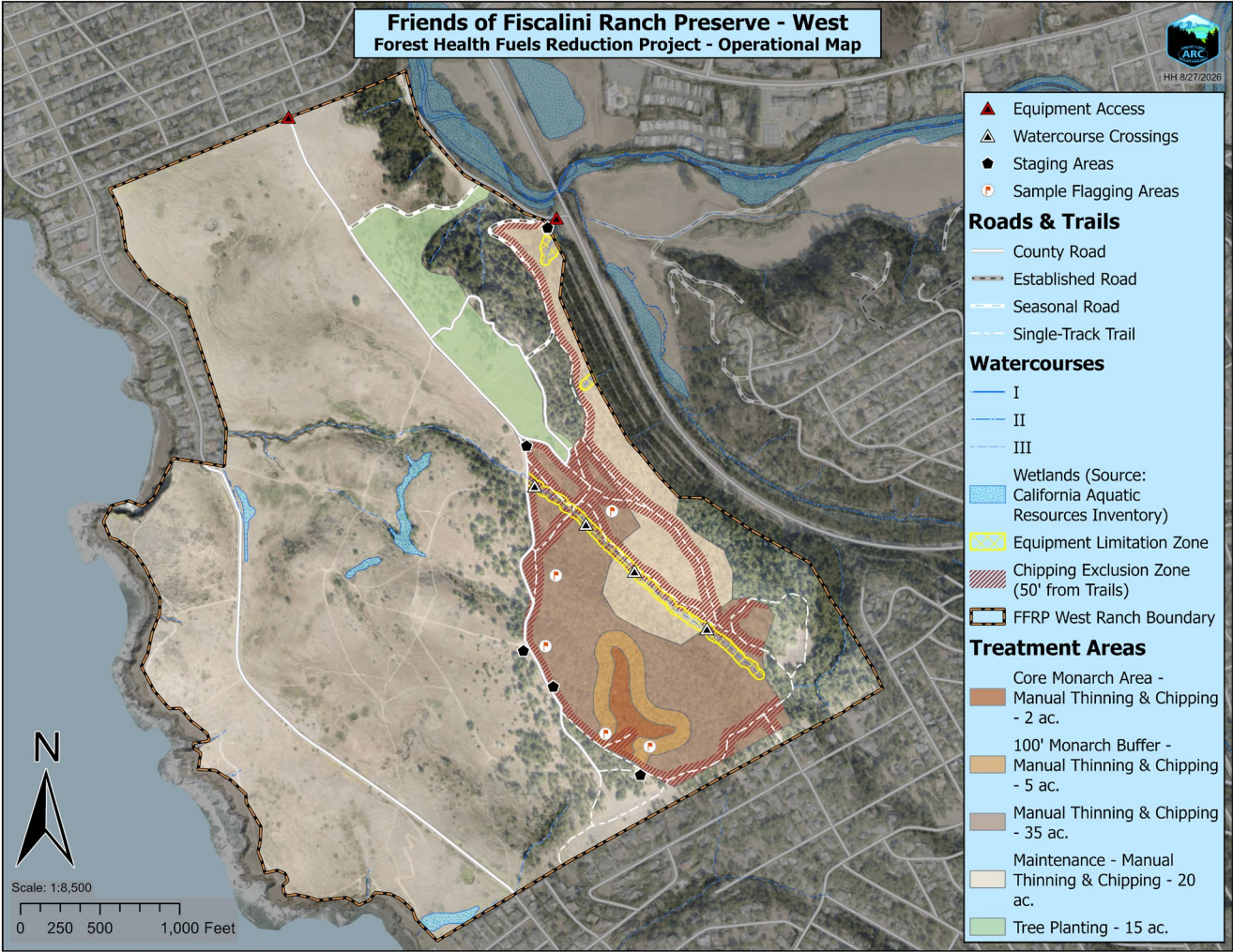
Retention Standards

Live healthy trees $\geq 6"$ DBH are retained unless diseased, dead, or hazardous. Targeting approximately 8' spacing between trees. Shrubs retained 20-30 ft apart. Retaining small trees for age class diversity.

*Cultural sites have been identified and marked to avoid impacts.

*Timeline: Project start date: September 1st. It will likely take up to 6 weeks to complete work (mid-October)

Fiscalini Operational Map







WRAPPING UP



Community Flyover

An aerial flyover of treatment areas surrounding the Cambria community.

WRAPPING UP



Questions & Discussion

Open floor for the Parks, Recreation & Open
Space Committee.

**San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council, Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District and Auten
Resource Consulting Forestry**

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Steve Auten, Registered Professional Forester • steveauten@arcforestry.com

Grant Agreement 8GG23617

Thank You

TREATMENTS

Treatment Activities & Specifications



Thinning (Manual)

Retain trees $\geq 6"$ DBH; target
~8 ft average overstory
spacing to reduce
competition.



Chipping

On-site chips kept to $\leq 6"$
depth (avg. ~3"); promotes
rapid decomposition.



Tree Planting

Locally sourced Monterey
pines will be planted in
areas where there is little
regeneration

Timeline: Project start date: September 1st. It will likely take up to 6 weeks to complete work (mid-October)

PROJECT PARTNERS

A Multi-Partner Collaboration



SLO County Fire Safe Council

Grantee & project administrator



CAL FIRE

Forest Health Grant Program funder



Salinan Tribe of Monterey and SLO Counties

Tribal project partner/monitor



Cambria CSD

Managing agency, Fiscalini Ranch Preserve



Friends of Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Site oversight & volunteer support



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD

Technical & implementation support