

AACT Natural & Working Lands Hub

Regional Resilience Strategy | Executive Summary

The AACT Natural & Working Lands Hub

The Hub is a regional collaboration among Alpine Watershed Group, Amador Resource Conservation District, Calaveras County Resource Conservation District, and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District. The Hub serves as a coordinating mechanism to align regional priorities, strengthen collaborative systems, and support locally-led implementation for resilient natural and working lands across the Central Sierra.

Natural & Working Lands Definition

Central Sierra natural and working lands are the forests, grasslands, shrublands, croplands, and watersheds, on both private and public lands, that sustain the livelihoods, communities, and ecological systems of the AACT region. Their resilience depends on the agricultural producers, land managers, and landowners who steward them, and the programs and services that support that stewardship.

Purpose & Approach

The Strategy is a common framework to guide cross-jurisdiction collaboration and locally-led implementation by Hub members on Central Sierra natural and working lands. The Strategy's priorities and targets are guided by the region's landholders, producers, Tribes, and communities, landscape data assessments, and demonstrates how place-based, science backed locally-led resilience delivers on statewide goals. It aligns priorities, establishes consistent metrics, and strengthens collective capacity, while maintaining local autonomy for place-based implementation. The Strategy supports, but does not replace, district and watershed group plans.

Five Resilience Outcomes

The Strategy addresses five interconnected outcomes:

Wildfire Resilience — Reducing risk and improving recovery capacity

Forest Health Resilience — Maintaining ecological integrity and function

Water Resources Resilience — Sustaining clean water, reliable supply, and healthy hydrologic function

Working Lands Resilience — Supporting viable, adaptive working lands and agricultural operations

Landscape Resilience — Managing across boundaries for ecosystem connectivity and integrated stewardship

Resilience Framework

Progress toward each outcome is built through five interconnected pillars:

Ecological Health — Functioning landscapes that support communities, wildlife, and working lands

Working Lands Viability — Economically stable and adaptable agricultural and rangeland operations

Community Safety & Well-Being — Protection of people, property, and local economies from environmental hazards

Organizational Programs & Services — Technical assistance, outreach, and coordination that translate goals into action

Reduced Barriers — Strategic partnerships and resource development to address systemic challenges

Strategy Development

The Strategy is being developed through three interconnected processes:

Hub Shared Values — Collaborative development of guiding principles for regional coordination

Community & Tribal Engagement — Listening sessions, interviews, and outreach to ensure community and Tribal perspectives and needs are integrated into the Strategy

Landscape Data & Analysis — Regional assessment of landscape conditions, environmental stressors, and drivers of vulnerability to ground the Strategy in place-based, science-backed information

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