**EXERCISE 1: PRIORITIZATION CHARACTERISTICS**

**Example Characteristics**

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| **Characteristics** | **Near-Term** | **Long-Term** |
| Connectivity |  |  |
| Ecological Benefits |  |  |
| Community Risk Reduction Benefits |  |  |
| Funding Availability |  |  |
| Implementation Readiness |  |  |
| Reduction of fire risk |  |  |
| Permitting Status |  |  |
| Public Support |  |  |

Connectivity: can be spatial connectivity to other projects/valued resources or it can be thematic connections, i.e. eucalyptus treatments spread across watersheds. Projects that clearly demonstrate connectivity would be prioritized for near-term implementation.

Ecological Benefits: projects that use restoration methods to improve ecological benefits for plants, wildlife, soil, water and air and consider climate adaptation and resilience. Projects that provide more benefit for ecosystem health – through larger project size, number of restoration objectives or targeting sensitive resources – would be prioritized for near-term implementation.

Community Risk Reduction Benefits: projects emphasizing public health and safety, which can be manifested in elements, like strategic fuels treatments (benefitting targeted communities) or post-fire timber harvesting to reduce impacts to recreational users. Projects that benefit a larger number of communities, WUI areas or important infrastructure would be prioritized for near-term implementation.

Funding Availability: investment in project work and/or planning would increase the ranking of the project under this criterion. Total financial investment or similar metrics may be used to calculate the rank of a project.

Implementation Readiness: Projects that are more advanced in their planning phase, have a clear timeline, and are prepared to begin execution in the near term would rank higher. These could include projects with completed feasibility studies, stakeholder buy-in, and detailed action plans that ensure swift implementation.

Reduction of fire risk: projects that reduce wildfire risk to communities or ecosystems in identified areas, primarily from the San Benito County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Projects in identified risk areas would be prioritized for near-term implementation.

Permitting Status: Projects that have an appropriate level of permitting completed or have a clear and achievable permitting pathway would be prioritized for near-term implementation.

Public Support: Projects that have demonstrated strong backing from the community or key partners, through public meetings, surveys, or letters of support, would be prioritized for near-term implementation.