

HUCKLEBERRY BOTANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE – HP001 FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:

This site consists of 1.7 acres of Eucalyptus forest/Plantation with occasional Bay trees. The RTA is adjacent to the Huckleberry staging area on Skyline Boulevard and a service road runs parallel on the northwest side. The Eucalyptus forest plantation is a moderately dense stand with on average 18 inch dbh. Though no Pallid Manzanita has been found in this RTA, there is potential after initial treatment that it will be found or become established. During Follow-up/Maintenance care will be taken to locate and flag any seedlings that may germinate.

CURRENT CONDITION:



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOALS:

Oak-bay woodland, thinned Eucalyptus below ridgeline.

FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve fire protection capability adjacent to neighborhood.
2. Reduce fuel volume and potential for flame lengths of greater than 8 feet.
3. Reduce surface and ladder fuels and the potential for crown fires and ember dissemination.

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

- Conduct all initial treatment during the period from July 31st to Jan. 31st to avoid disturbance to nesting raptors and song birds, as recommended by the District's Stewardship staff. If work is proposed during nesting season, Stewardship will conduct a pre-work nesting survey within 15-days of performance of work and flag a buffer around identified nest sites. Some areas within the RTA may have prohibited entry until after nesting season based on the results of the Stewardship surveys.
- Conduct surveys and treatment activities in a manner that will minimize potential adverse effects to Alameda whipsnakes. At rocky outcrops, or within grasslands, work may occur between Oct. 31st and April 1st. If work occurs outside this window, a biological monitor must be present for all activities on site.
- Conduct surveys in oak and bay habitat to identify and avoid Dusky-Footed Woodrat nests. Any nest identified will be protected by a buffer described in the protocol developed by Stewardship.
- Install erosion control measures if needed in areas where vegetation has been removed or disturbed to protect riparian habitat and prevent sloughing of slopes during rainfall events.
- To reduce the spread of *P. cinnamomi* no treatment activities, except for pile burning, will be conducted during the wet season (October 15 to May 15) within RTAs containing pallid manzanitas. Pile burning will not occur within 100 feet of any area infected with *P. cinnamomi* during the wet season (October 15 to May 15).
- Goat grazing is prohibited in this RTA if pallid manzanita is discovered.

FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Initial Treatment

Mechanical treatments such as mastication can be used on this site where access, staging of equipment and slope allow. Thin eucalyptus stand to achieve up to 20 foot spacing between residual trees, selecting for removal of trees that may crowd native oaks or bays, unhealthy trees or those with multiple stems. Preference will be given to retaining larger diameter trees. Larger eucalyptus logs down or to be felled, may be retained, 2 -3 per acre, and in various stages of decay. Retained logs will be no less than 18 inches in diameter throughout length of the log and must rest on soil to promote wildlife habitat and long term soil productivity. Remove ladder fuels, including low hanging limbs of all tree species up to one third of the tree height. Reduce surface fuels and heavy accumulations of eucalyptus stringy bark that have collected near the base of trees or are hanging down to ground level. Emphasize surface fuel reduction in follow-up treatments, mechanical treatment can be used for tree removal where suitable. All methods including, pile burning, weedeating are suitable for surface fuel reduction.

All material will be removed, chipped or masticated onsite to a depth not to exceed an average of 3 inches over the entire site. The maximum allowable chip depth in any given location shall not exceed 6 inches. Material may also be piled and burned. Apply herbicides during initial treatment and as necessary during annual maintenance to treat re-sprouts.

Though not necessarily posing a significant fuels management problem, hazardous trees, including pines and eucalyptus, along Skyline Road, District trails, and developed park areas should be assessed by park staff and treated appropriately through the District's hazardous tree program.

Follow-up/Maintenance (Note: if initial treatment is spread over more than one year, adjust the maintenance schedule as needed to accommodate.)

YEAR	FUELS TREATMENT
01	Initial Treatment.
02-04	Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
05	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
06-09	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
10	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
11-14	Use weed eating/mowing /herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
15	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
16-19	Use weed eating/mowing /herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
20	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
21-24	Use weed eating/mowing /herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
25	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
26-30	Use weed eating/mowing /herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.

MONITORING:

Staff from the District's Fire Department, Stewardship, and Operations will evaluate the success and efficacy of the initial and follow-up fuels treatments. Monitoring results will be documented.

PRESCRIPTION PREPARED BY:

Aileen Theile
Fire Captain, EBRPD

Aileen Theile
Signature

1/28/13
Date

REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

This prescription meets the District's standards for fuels management, natural resource protection and achievement of Best Management Practices according to the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and is consistent with the mitigation measures contained in the EIR:

Brad Gallop *Acting* 1/28/13
Fire Chief, EBRPD *Chief* *Assoc. Chief*

[Signature]
Signature

1/30/13
Date

Matthew Graul 1/29/13
Stewardship Manager, EBRPD *acting Chief of Stewardship*

MATTHEW GRAUL
Signature

1/29/13
Date



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1/28/2013