

LAKE CHABOT – LC010

FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:

This site is a 4.8 acre area of oak-bay woodland and open grassland located in the southeast section of Lake Chabot Park along the Ten Hills Trail adjacent to homes on Hillsborough Drive in Castro Valley.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOAL:

Oak-Bay woodlands with minimal understory vegetation. (from the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan).

FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1. Create space between trees and thin the understory to reduce the intensity of wildland fires and create a fuel break.
2. Reduce ladder fuels and the potential for crown fires and ember dissemination.

FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Initial Treatment

- Surface and ladder fuels will be removed up to approximately 8 feet from the forest floor, including brush under the tree canopies, and live tree branches. Retention of larger logs, 2-3 per acre, in various ranges of decay may be left to promote wildlife habitat and long term soil productivity. Retained logs left will be no less than 12 inches in diameter throughout length of the log and must rest on soil.

Work includes:

- Thinning out brush such as poison oak, coyote brush, and blackberry.
- Removal of low-hanging tree limbs.
- Removal of some small oak or bay trees in dense areas to allow wider spacing between residual trees and improved forest health.
- Herbicide applications, which will not be required during the initial treatment, but may be necessary during annual maintenance to treat re-sprouts.
- Chipping onsite to a depth not to exceed 4 inches.
- Animal grazing and weed-eating/mowing to reduce grass.
- Removal of dead and dying trees or trees structurally unsound. Though not necessarily posing a significant fuels problem, risk trees 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/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
05	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
06-09	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.

10	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
11-14	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
15	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
16-19	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
20	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
21-24	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
25	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.
26-29	Use weed eating/mowing/grazing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
30	Repeat initial treatment and maintenance as needed. Use animal grazing to maintain fuel load, including grasses and low shrubs.

RESOURCE OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

General

- Avoid bird nests at all times during treatment. If treatment will occur during nesting season, February 1 – August 31, Stewardship will conduct a pre-work nesting survey within 15 days of start of work and flag any identified nests. Work conducted from September 1 to January 31 does not require a prework nesting survey.
- Identify and flag dusky-footed woodrat nests during pretreatment assessments and/or surveys. Any identified nests will have a buffer zone and will be avoided during treatment, as described by the current protocol developed by Stewardship.
- Remove target tree species in a manner that retains native oak and bay trees.
- Conduct all operations to avoid unacceptable damage to boles, roots, and crowns of residual trees and vegetation.
- Throughout fuel treatment area where steep slopes exist with specific soil types and/or near water ways where there will be erosion concerns:
 - Install erosion control measures if needed in areas where duff has been removed.
 - If more than one acre of disturbance will occur during the treatment, a SWPPP is required.
- Trees will be removed from the site or chipped and left onsite. If left onsite, the wood chips generated would be left at a depth of four to six inches, with an aerial cover of no more than 20 percent of the project site, and no more than 10 percent of the site if left on roadways and landings.
- Stewardship will conduct a record review of cultural resources via the GIS Cultural Resources Atlas and/or the Cultural Services Coordinator prior to treatment. Any cultural resources will be flagged for avoidance.

Alameda Striped Racer (whipsnake) considerations

The following restrictions apply when working in Alameda whipsnake habitat, defined as core scrub (PCE1), adjacent woodland or annual grassland (PCE2), and rock outcrops and small mammal burrows within or adjacent to PCE1 or PCE2 (PCE3). *Treatments in unsuitable habitat (e.g. eucalyptus forest) are exempt from these conditions.*

- *Work Windows.* Treatment activities involving heavy equipment and/or significant ground disturbance within any areas determined to be suitable AWS habitat would not occur between November 1 and March 31. Between April 1 – October 31, heavy equipment may be used with proper BMPs in place. Treatments involving hand crews, light mechanical equipment, or prescribed burning can be implemented throughout the year with proper BMPs in place. Work with chain saws is permitted without conditions at all times.
- *Biomonitoring.* A Designated Biologist would be onsite during implementation of activities that may result in take of State- and federally listed species, including mowing, weed eating, and heavy equipment use. Biomonitoring is required for all work *EXCEPT for light work with hand crews between November 1 – March 31.* If at any time a Covered Species is found within the Project Area, the Designated Biologist has the authority to stop work in the immediate vicinity until the Covered Species leaves the Project Area on its own, or be relocated by the Designated Biologist to a suitable location outside of the Project Area.
- *Heavy Equipment.* Where heavy equipment is used in a manner that will impact core scrub whipsnake habitat (PCE1), a Designated Biologist must be present. See Directional Workplan bullet.
- *Directional Workplan.* In lieu of exclusion fencing, a directional workplan may be submitted for agency review and approval. In the case of an approved Directional Workplan, a Designated Biologist shall be present for all work involving heavy equipment. When earthmoving equipment is used, the Designated Biologist shall walk in front of equipment, where feasible and if it can be done in a safe manner. If a directional work plan is not approved, exclusion fencing will be required to protect core scrub habitat. Where fencing is feasible to install and within areas already proposed for temporary impacts, fencing would be installed around areas within or adjacent to AWS core scrub habitat where heavy equipment is operated, including landing areas, access roads, and staging areas.
- *Coverboards.* For all work overseen by a Designated Biologist, coverboards shall be installed in key areas, determined by the Designated Biologist or Permittee prior to initialing vegetation clearing activities for each area. The coverboards shall be placed to provide refuge for the Covered Species fleeing the area, including areas where a directional treatment methodology is used. Coverboards shall be inspected at the end of each work day and use by wildlife shall be recorded.
- *Rock Outcroppings.* Rock outcroppings and native shrubs surrounding outcroppings will be separated from the treatment area by orange construction fencing or other appropriate means.
- *Skid Trails.* Skid trails would be sited a minimum of 10 feet away from Alameda whipsnake core scrub habitat (PCE1) and rock outcrops (PCE3).
- *Wood Chips and Landings.* Wood chips and landings would not be placed within 50 feet of rock outcrops.
- *Ground Burrows.* Where possible during any treatment, ground burrows, holes, and tunnels shall be avoided. Spoils and burn piles shall be placed away from such features.
- *Shrublands.* When working in shrublands retain roughly 30% to 50% of shrub cover in islands through mosaic thinning or patch retention thinning. Islands are to be approximately 50' diameter, spaced 50 feet apart and should be natural in appearance and include specimens of variable age classes.

When conducting pile burning in Alameda whipsnake habitat the following restrictions apply:

- Pile burning would not occur within suitable Alameda whipsnake habitat during the hibernation season (November 1- March 31). Pile burning in unsuitable habitat is permitted year round.

- Check for burrows before building piles. Avoid placing piles on large rodent burrows.
- Light the pile from one end (generally the uphill side on slopes) to allow Alameda whipsnakes to escape, rather than lighting the whole pile at once.
- Limit material in the pile to 4-inch diameter or less to limit heat penetration into the ground and provide short escape distance.

MONITORING:

Resource monitoring results will be documented by Stewardship staff in the post-work survey data sheet.

PRESCRIPTION PREPARED BY:

 <hr/> Fire Representative, EBRPD	 <hr/> Signature	 <hr/> 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:

 <hr/> Fire Chief, EBRPD	 <hr/> Signature	 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Chief of Stewardship, EBRPD	 <hr/> Signature	 <hr/> Date

N
1 inch = 147 feet

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT WHA-LC010

RTA
EBRPD

