

APPENDIX C: FUEL TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Mendocino Unit is divided into 6 battalions. Each battalion is administered by a Battalion Chief. Each Battalion Chief was asked to identify assets that would be at risk during a large scale Incident due to the following factors:

- Fuel loading
- Topography
- Weather
- Structural Ignitability
- Emergency Response
- Access
- Signage
- Water Supply

The identified assets were then grouped geographically into target areas. These target areas were then prioritized. The final product is a detailed map and list of areas that will be used to focus fire prevention activities and fuel treatments.

Fuel Treatment Methods

Through experience CAL FIRE has determined that three treatment methods stand out as being the most effective, environmentally friendly.

Chipping - Areas in each Battalion are identified that have high vulnerability to catastrophic wildland fire loss. Home owners are united and educated through the establishment of a Fire Safe Councils and MEU's active Fire Prevention Program. Home owners are required to clear flammable brush and ladder fuels to meet the PRC 4291 requirement.



Prescribed Burning - Areas in each Battalion are identified that would have the most benefit of using controlled fires to create anchor points and a natural barrier of a larger event. Prescribed burning can also provided many benefits to the local wildlife and environment.



Shaded and Non-Shaded Fuel Break - We are using natural barriers and topography to determine areas in the County that can serve as a primary or secondary fire control line. These line use roads, rivers and topography to compartmentalize the target areas of each Battalion. MEU primarily uses mechanical operations to accomplish these fuel breaks.



BATTALION 1 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1) Blue Slide | 3) Lonardi |
| 2) Poonkinney | 4) Carley |

BLUE SLIDE



Cal Fire with the cooperation of a local landowner is in the planning stages to utilize this place of land for training in heavy equipment use. The intent is to provide training to the operators of heavy equipment while also installing control lines for future potential control burns. The purpose of the controls burns would be to re-introduce fire into the natural environment.

POONKINNEY



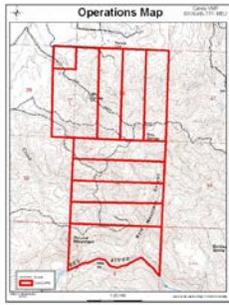
A chipping and brushing project along Poonkinney Road. The goal is to limb, clean, and fall vegetation along the road to provide a safety buffer the event of a fire.

LONARDI



Site of a potential training burn to provide Cal Fire staff valuable fire line training with live fire. The training would also double as grassland burn to remove older dead grasses and allow for new vigorous growth.

CARLEY

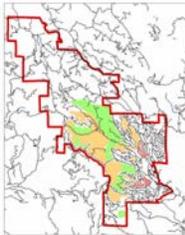


The prescribed burning conducted under this VMP project will be done to meet a specific objective and conducted under specific climatic conditions to ensure control and minimize air quality and biological impacts. These conditions will mimic air, soil, and vegetation moisture, and other conditions under which natural wildfires occur so as to maximize the positive effects of fire on vegetation. The primary goal of this prescribed burn is to reintroduce fire as a natural element of the ecosystem. A second goal is to improve wildlife habitat by inducing new shoots from sprouting species to increase forage production, with islands of unburned fuel left within burn units to provide shelter for small mammals. A third goal is to reduce overall fuel loading to decrease the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the future.

BATTALION 2 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1) Brooktrails | 2) Baxter Ranch |
|----------------|-----------------|

BROOKTRAILS



The Brooktrails Township Community Services District is a general law, multi-purpose community services special district formed in 1975. Brooktrails maintains a unique Golf Course filled with exquisite tall redwood trees, a 2,300-acre Greenbelt with an extensive hiking trail system, the Par Course, and the Ohl Grove Redwood Park. The District is currently looking at various thinning projects to reduce fire risks and increase forest succession.

BAXTER RANCH



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BATTALION 3 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1) Pieta | 2) Mill Creek |
| 3) Pine Mountain | |

PIETA



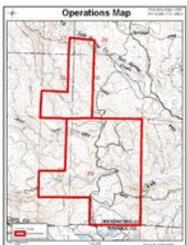
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MILL CREEK



The primary objectives of this VMP burn will be to reduce fuel loading and improve wildlife habitat on chamise and mixed-chaparral slopes. A helitorch and hand drip-torches will be used to create fuel breaks along ridge tops as well as mosaic burns on south and west-facing slopes.

PINE MOUNTAIN

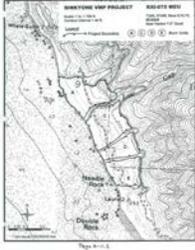


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BATTALION 4 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1) Sinkyone | 4) Shamrock |
| 2) Cahto Thinning | 5) White Rock |
| 3) Usal Redwood Forest | |

SINKYONE



Joint project of Cal Fire and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, located at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, in the far northwest corner of the Battalion. The primary objective is to return fire as a natural element in a marine terrace ecosystem. Benefits will include the control of exotic plant species, reduction of fuel loading, increased forage for Roosevelt Elk herd, and maintenance of native grassland plant species. In October 2010 the first of 3 consecutive burns took place with great success. A lack of VMP funding has postponed the project in the past, but the Department of Parks & Recreation still plans on moving forward to complete the project in the future.

CAHTO



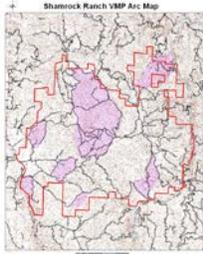
Tree-thinning project immediately surrounding the tribal residences. The primary objective is to make a more productive forest through thinning, and a secondary benefit is the reduction of forest fire fuels, providing additional defensible space. More funding is needed to complete this project.

USAL REDWOOD FOREST



Located in the Usal Redwood Forest is an aggressive shaded fuel break with a planned understory burn. This project is funded by federal grants and the work is completed by private contractors. A shaded fuel break is a forest management strategy used for mitigating the threat of wildfire in areas where natural fire regimes have been suppressed, leading to a dangerous buildup of combustible vegetation. Constructing a shaded fuel break is the process of selectively thinning and removing more flammable understory vegetation while leaving the majority of larger, more fire tolerant tree species in place.

SHAMROCK



The prescribed burning conducted under this VMP project will be done to meet a specific objective and conducted under specific climatic conditions to ensure control and minimize air quality and biological impacts. These conditions will mimic air, soil, and vegetation moisture, and other conditions under which natural wildfires occur so as to maximize the positive effects of fire on vegetation. The primary goal of this prescribed burn is to reintroduce fire as a natural element of the ecosystem. A second goal is to improve wildlife habitat by inducing new shoots from sprouting species to increase forage production, with islands of unburned fuel left within burn units to provide shelter for small mammals. A third goal is to reduce overall fuel loading to decrease the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the future.

WHITE ROCK



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BATTALION 5 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1) Lambert Ridge | 2) Venturi |
|------------------|------------|

LAMBERT RIDGE



Cal Fire in cooperation with a local landowner is looking into a possible fuel break along Lambert Ridge. A shaded fuel break is a forest management strategy used for mitigating the threat of wildfire in areas where natural fire regimes have been suppressed, leading to a dangerous buildup of combustible vegetation. Constructing a shaded fuel break is the process of selectively thinning and removing more flammable understory vegetation while leaving the majority of larger, more fire tolerant tree species in place.

VENTURI



The prescribed burning conducted under this VMP project will be done to meet a specific objective and conducted under specific climatic conditions to ensure control and minimize air quality and biological impacts. These conditions will mimic air, soil, and vegetation moisture, and other conditions under which natural wildfires occur so as to maximize the positive effects of fire on vegetation. The primary goal of this prescribed burn is to reintroduce fire as a natural element of the ecosystem. A second goal is to improve wildlife habitat by inducing new shoots from sprouting species to increase forage production, with islands of unburned fuel left within burn units to provide shelter for small mammals. A third goal is to reduce overall fuel loading to decrease the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the future.

BATTALION 6 TARGET AREAS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Gorse | 3) State Park Hazard Trees |
| 2) SOD Removal | |

GORSE



Gorse (*ulex europaeus*) removal/reduction in the Caspar area along Highway 1. This was a previously identified 3-year project for the eradication of this extremely invasive shrub that poses a significant access hazard and a serious fire danger due to its density and fuel loading. It is also a threat to the biodiversity of wildland areas. Removal is a difficult challenge due to Gorse's sharp thorns which can easily pierce gloves.

SOD REMOVAL



This is a potential on-going project may continue as more hazard trees are identified and the SOD spores migrate to different areas. Outbreaks are evaluated and monitored back local landowners and CAL FIRE personnel.

STATE PARKS HAZARD TREE REMOVAL



Cooperatively working with DPR to remove hazard trees in multiple State Parks and Public Use areas. Some of the tree removal has been to eliminate non-native species such as Eucalyptus. A small portion in MacKerricker was devoted to treatment for Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.

APPENDIX D: LOCAL FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

The Mendocino County Fire Safe Council encourages road associations, homeowner groups, subdivisions, towns, and any housing clusters to create their own local Fire Safe Councils. These groups need not have a formal or legal structure; they need only the desire to make themselves fire safe and to educate and encourage their neighbors to do the same. The MCFSC is available to – and does -- assist local Councils in these ways:

- Leading or participating in local educational events
- Providing educational materials for local distribution
- Connecting local Councils with Fire Safe service providers and vendors, other Councils, and anyone else who can assist their efforts
- Seeking grant funding for vegetation reduction or address signage projects
- Providing financial services such as holding trust funds or administering grant monies
- Generally assisting with administrative, business, financial, and legal functions, leaving local groups free to do on-the-ground projects and education

Local Fire Safe Councils already functioning or currently being organized include:

- Brooktrails, Sylvandale & Spring Creek Fire Safe Councils (BS&SCFSC)
- Deerwood
- Rancho Navarro Safety Committee
- Island Cove Estates
- Ridgewood Park
- McNab Ranch Fire Safe Council
- Black Bart Trail
- Upper Parducci Road
- Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council (PMFSC)
- Greenfield Ranch
- Robinson Creek Fire Safe Council
- Oak Knoll Road
- Shafer Ranch Road
- Willowbrook/Sherwood Forest Hills
- Caspar

Other Local Fire Safe Councils are being formed, and their names and work will be included in future versions of this Plan. The MCFSC and fire personnel in Mendocino County are very grateful to these dedicated groups who are performing an enormous amount of work toward making their Wildland-Urban Interface communities more “fire safe.”

APPENDIX E: COMMUNITY WILDLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Please see:

<http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf66.pdf>

The CWPP was last updated in 2005 and is currently undergoing a re-write.

APPENDICES F-Z

Reserved for future use, if needed.