

# **LEONA CANYON – LE005**

## **FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION**

### **SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:**

This site occupies 4.6 acres of Coastal scrub (xeric), California annual grassland, Non-native coniferous forest, and oak-bay woodland/forest behind homes adjacent to Skyline Boulevard. Access is limited off of Richmond Road/trail and terrain is steep. The non-native coniferous trees mentioned in the plan are largely on private, adjacent land.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOALS:**

Perennial grasses, scattered coastal scrub, oak-bay woodland.

### **FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:**

1. Improve fire protection capability adjacent to private land.
2. Reduce ladder fuels and the potential for crown fires and ember dissemination.
3. Reduce potential for flame lengths of greater than 8 feet.
4. Create grassy openings in shrub patches to reduce fire intensity.

### **RESOURCE OBJECTIVES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Conduct all initial treatment during the period from July 31<sup>st</sup> to Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 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 reasonable 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.
- Within potential and occupied Alameda Whipsnake habitat, as determined by pre-assessment surveys, conduct treatment activities in a manner that will minimize adverse effects to Alameda Whipsnakes and their habitat. Within brushlands or brushland/grassland habitats, work may occur between Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. If work occurs outside this window, a biological monitor must be present for all activities on site. Some areas within the RTA may have prohibited entry based on the results of the Stewardship assessments.
- Conduct surveys in oak and bay habitat to identify and avoid Dusky-Footed Woodrat nests. Any nest identified will be protected by a reasonable buffer described in the protocol developed by Stewardship.
- Retain roughly 30% to 50% of shrub cover in islands through mosaic thinning or patch retention thinning. "Islands" are to be approximately 50' diameter and spaced 50 feet apart. Islands should be natural in appearance and include specimens of variable age classes.
- Install erosion control measures if needed in areas where vegetation has been removed or disturbed to protect water courses (streams, drainages, springs, wetlands) and to prevent sloughing of slopes during rainfall events.

## **FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

### Initial Treatment

- With the exception of selected oaks and bays retained for recruitment, all oaks/bays less than 6 dbh will be removed to increase spacing and health of forested area.
- Any non-native conifers remaining within the RTA on park property will be removed.
- Reduce shrub volume and dead material according to performance standards by cutting brush and removing off-site, or placing in piles for burning. Herbaceous, native plants will remain. Work includes:
  - Removal of broom and other invasives that create a fuels issue.
  - Herbicide applications during initial treatment and as necessary during annual maintenance to treat re-sprouts.
  - Material may be piled and burned or hauled off-site.
- In Grassland areas use techniques including weed eating, goat grazing, or mowing annually after grasses have cured or dried, reducing the height of the stubble to 6" - 8".

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

**MONITORING:**

Staff from the District's Fire Department, Planning/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

8/20/2012  
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:

*[Signature]*  
Fire Chief, EBRPD

NEAL FUJITA  
Stewardship Manager, EBRPD

*[Signature]* 8/20/2012

JOHN R. SWANSON  
Signature

08.22.2012  
Date

*[Signature]*  
Signature

8/21/12  
Date



