

# **DON CASTRO - SITE 994**

## **FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION**

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

This site is within a two acre eucalyptus grove on a steep slope below homes and adjacent to the lake in Don Castro Regional Park, located in Alameda County. Access is along the single track Whispering Creek Trail from the south entrance near the park office.

### **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOALS:**

Develop and maintain a shaded fuel break with mature eucalyptus overstory, and minimize ladder and surface fuel accumulations.

### **FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:**

Reduce ladder and surface fuels, including the twelve year accumulation of raked eucalyptus litter, to help slow the spread and lessen the intensity of fire spreading up slope into residential areas or into the tree canopy which could cause ember dissemination.

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

- Minimize the potential for activity-related soil erosion to cause unacceptable stream sedimentation or to increase the potential for invasive species establishment.
- Conduct treatment activities in a fashion that maintains or expands riparian vegetation.
- Maintain or improve foreground visual quality as viewed from adjacent trails, roads and developed recreation areas.
- Apply herbicides according to the District's Integrated Pest Management pest control recommendation.
- Conduct all initial work during the period from August 1 to March 14 to avoid disturbance to nesting birds, as recommended by the District's biologist.
- Revegetate disturbed areas with native grass seed mix, if necessary, as specified by the District's vegetation manager.
- Retain up to three logs per acre to provide wildlife habitat and to help stabilize the bank above the lake.

### **FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:**

#### Initial Treatment

Hand crews will remove surface fuels and ladder fuels up to approximately 8 feet from the forest floor. Work includes pruning low hanging branches and brush, raking up accumulated dead and down materials, and removing understory eucalyptus, pines, bays, and oaks ranging up to approximately 6" dbh (diameter at breast height). Give priority to retention of healthy, larger diameter trees. Retain duff and up to 1" of forest litter to reduce soil displacement and invasive plant establishment. All trees to be removed will be cut to a stump height not to exceed four inches measured from the uphill side. Conduct all operations to avoid unnecessary and unacceptable damage to boles, roots, and crowns of residual trees and vegetation. Maintain sufficient health of the retained trees by pruning no more than the lower one-third of the crown. Crews will cut, rake, and pile target fuels/vegetation down to the foot of the slope above Whispering Creek Trail. Per the District's Integrated Pest Management pest control recommendation, eucalyptus stumps will be

treated by a certified applicator with Garlon-4 Ultra within one hour of cutting to prevent re-sprouting. No heavy equipment will be permitted on this site due to a very steep and limited access. Pack mules and/or 4-wheel drive mule-type utility vehicles will haul all material to the designated drop-off area for subsequent winter pile burning or for green waste recycling. Larger trees will be retained on the site to serve as a shaded fuelbreak to inhibit the growth of invasive brush or other vegetation in the future. Erosion control measures such as wattles will be installed as needed. Initial treatment will last approximately six weeks and is expected to be completed in 2010.

**Follow-up/Maintenance**

YEAR	FUELS TREATMENT
01	Initial Treatment.
02	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide.
03	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide.
05	Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 1.
08	Thin trees to maintain or increase spacing to approximately 10 foot spacing between residual trees; retain healthy, larger diameter trees. Treat cut stumps to prevent re-sprouting. Remove eucalyptus seedlings, cut eucalyptus sprouts, and treat with herbicide.
09	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide. Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 5.
10	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide.
13	Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 9.
17	Thin trees to achieve 15 to 25 foot spacing between residual trees; retain healthy, larger diameter trees. Treat cut stumps to prevent re-sprouting. Reduce/remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 13. Remove eucalyptus seedlings, cut eucalyptus sprouts, and treat with herbicide.
18	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide.
19	Remove eucalyptus seedlings and treat eucalyptus resprouts with herbicide.
21	Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 17.
25	Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 21.
29	Reduce and remove ladder and surface fuels that have accumulated since year 25.

**MONITORING:**

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

**PRESCRIPTION PREPARED BY:**

Brand Gallup  
Fire Captain, EBRPD

  
Signature

8/25/10  
Date

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL:**

This prescription meets the District's standards for fuels management, natural resource protection and achievement of Best Management Practices:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief, EBRED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewardship Manager, EBRPD

JOHN R. SWANSON  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

09.03.2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NEAL FUJITA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

9/1/10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Don Castro - Site 994 Fuels Management Prescription Map

