HUCKLEBERRY BOTANIC REGIONAL PRESERVE – HP003
FUELS MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:
This site consists of 1.1 acres of Northern Maritime Chaparral with hemlock, broom and poison oak. There are 2 small focused sites of Pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*). The upper slope of this RTA is bordered by the Hills Tennis Club. The terrain is steep and access is limited to a foot trail near the intersection of Skyline, Pinehurst and Shepherd Canyon Road.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT GOALS:
Oak-bay woodland, Pallid manzanita, scattered northern coastal scrub.

FUELS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:
1. Improve fire protection capability adjacent to neighborhood.
2. Reduce fuel volume so that the potential for flame lengths will be less than 8 feet.
3. Reduce 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.

- 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. 31st and April 1st. 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 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 water courses (streams, drainages, springs, wetlands) and to prevent sloughing of slopes during rainfall events.

FUELS TREATMENT PRESCRIPTION:

Initial Treatment

This RTA contains Pallid Manzanita and all plants will be flagged prior to work and protected. Future maintenance may include the removal of dead material from Pallid Manzanita for fuel reduction and general health of plant, as referenced in the District's current Pallid Manzanita Management Plan. Managing the overstory with minor soil disturbance and the removal of invasive plants may expose fresh germination sites. Care should be taken to seek and flag any new seedlings that might occur yearly, prior to work.

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. All retained trees will be limbed up to 8 feet from the forest floor to reduce total fuel volume.

The few Monterey Pine and Eucalyptus that exists within this RTA will be removed using hand labor. Logs may be retained, not to exceed 3 on the site, and in various stages of decay. Retained logs will be no less than 20" inches in diameter throughout length of the log. The logs must be limbed, topped, and positioned so that they are substantially in contact with the forest floor to promote wildlife habitat and long term soil productivity. The rest of the material may be placed into piles for burning or hauled off-site.

Reduce non-manzanita shrub volume and dead material according to performance standards for Northern Maritime Chaparral by cutting brush and removing off-site, or placing in piles for burning. Herbaceous, native plants will remain. Work includes:

- Removal of broom, coyote brush, hemlock, blackberry and other invasive plants that create a fuel 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.

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/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.
21-25	Use weed eating/mowing/herbicides to maintain grass and low shrub fuel loads.
25-30	Repeat initial treatment as needed. Use weed eating/mowing/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

Signature

8/30/2012

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:

JOHN R. SWANSON

Fire Chief, EBRPD

Signature

08.30.2012

Date

NEAL FUJITA

Stewardship Manager, EBRPD

Signature

8/30/12

Date

HP003