

TRABUCO ROSE PRESERVE DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared for
The Orange County Transportation Authority

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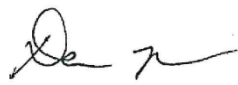
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**TRABUCO ROSE PRESERVE
DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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Acronym List

- ASA - Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment
- BTU/lb – British Thermal Unit per pound
- CAL FIRE – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CAL/OSHA - Division of Occupational Safety and Health
- CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- COAST - County of Orange Area Safety Taskforce
- EMP - Environmental Mitigation Program
- FHSZ - Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- FRAP - Forest Resource Assessment Program
- FTSP – Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan
- GPS - Global Positioning System
- IAP - Incident Action Plans
- IC – Incident Commander
- ICP - Incident Command Post
- ICS - Incident Command System
- IRC - Irvine Ranch Conservancy
- M2 – Renewed Measure M
- NCCP/HCP - Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan
- OC Go – Rebranded Measure M2
- OC Parks – Orange County Parks
- OCFA - Orange County Fire Authority
- OCTA - Orange County Transportation Authority
- PCA - Priority Conservation Areas
- PRC - Public Resources Code
- RA - Resource Advisor
- SCE - Southern California Edison
- SEMS - State Emergency Management System
- USACE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USFS - U.S. Forest Service
- USFWS - United States Fish and Wildlife Service

TRABUCO ROSE PRESERVE DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2006, Orange County voters approved the renewal of Measure M (M2), effectively extending the half-cent sales tax to provide funding for transportation projects and programs in the County. In 2017, Measure M2 was rebranded as OC Go. As part of M2 OC Go, a portion of the freeway program revenues was set aside for the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP). The EMP allocates funds three ways: to purchase conservation properties, to restore habitat, and to manage those lands in exchange for streamlined project approvals for 13 freeway improvement projects included in the OC Go Measure.

The M2 OC Go freeway projects have the potential to impact protected habitats and biological resources including plants and wildlife. State and federal laws require that impacts to these resources be reduced (mitigated). To do this, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as well as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (collectively referred to as Wildlife Agencies) and developed a Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (Conservation Plan). Conservation properties (Preserves) that possess habitat and important wildlife species that are similar to those affected by the construction of the M2 OC Go freeway projects have been purchased from willing sellers and are included in the Conservation Plan. These Preserves will remain in a natural state and will remain protected in perpetuity from development.

The purpose and scope of this fire management plan for the 398-acre OCTA Trabuco Rose Preserve (formerly known as Ferber Ranch Preserve) is to provide a blueprint for protecting the natural environment of the Preserve to the greatest extent possible against wildfire and damage from wildfire suppression activities. Simultaneously, OCTA aims to provide safety to neighboring vulnerable assets. This Preserve was selected for purchase by OCTA in large part because it contains very high-quality natural resources. Consequently, preserving those resources is a responsibility and top priority. This Plan has been approved by both the Wildlife Agencies as well as the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

Trabuco Rose Preserve (Preserve) was identified as a Priority Conservation Area (prior to the development of the Conservation Plan) because it supports identified species covered by the Conservation Plan and associated natural communities; and contains a diversity of high-quality habitat types, including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, coast live oak woodland, riparian forest, cliff and rock habitat, and grassland. Its location supports local and regional biological connectivity between lands owned by Orange County Parks, Cleveland National Forest, and other conserved open space. Two structures are close enough to the boundary of the Preserve to warrant modifications to the vegetation within the Preserve for structure protection.

The Preserve is located on the southwestern flank of the Santa Ana Mountains and consists of predominantly rolling terrain. Temperatures in interior valleys of Southern California, such as in the Preserve, often exceed 40 degrees Celsius¹ (104 degrees Fahrenheit). Santa Ana winds are common in the fall. The Preserve has not burned in several decades, although several large fires have spread nearby. Fuel types known as mature shrub and grass-shrub fuel types dominate the Preserve and surrounding wildlands. Fire roads are concentrated on the northern third of the Preserve and connect to adjacent properties at several locations. Most of the fire road segments are for four-wheel-drive access.

In critical fire weather, fires burn with extreme behavior, high rates of spread, and long-range spotting. This property is at the end of an historical fire corridor, but most fires have been held just short of the area. Fire behavior modeling predicts that once a fire is ignited, fire will generally spread quite fast throughout the Preserve. The southeast corner and a short stretch on the northern and northwestern border of the Preserve are predicted to burn with flame lengths longer than 20 feet, which is likely to confound the best fire suppression efforts. Most of the vegetation on the Preserve is expected to produce surface fires during a wildfire, with some torching in areas of high chaparral which would produce and distribute embers ahead of the wildfire. There is no significant difference in burning characteristics between a fire of the same windspeed that burns with northeast wind or an uphill wind. However, these strong northeasterly winds, commonly called 'Santa Ana winds', often blow faster than winds from the west.

The Fire Management Program recommends continued removal of nonnative annual grasses from the existing access roads. Within the roadbed width, overhanging tree branches will need to be limbed up to a height of 15 feet to allow emergency response vehicles to pass underneath. In addition, there are two existing structures adjacent to the Preserve that require fuel maintenance zones to be maintained within the Trabuco Rose Preserve (Appendix A). OCTA, in coordination with OCFA, has established guidelines and boundaries for the vegetation management around these two existing structures and this information was included in the 2017 Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan (RMP). The OCFA's goal for providing defensible space for these properties is to maintain slope stability through the selective thinning of existing vegetation within a maintenance zone that extends 100 feet from habitable structures.

Responsibilities of both OCTA and OCFA during a wildfire are detailed in this plan. The draft Fire Management Plan recommended that a Resource Advisor (RA) position be established to communicate the location of sensitive resources that, if possible, should be avoided to the Wildland Resource Planner (WRP) during and following fire agency response to an active fire incident. The OCTA staff has already completed the required training (National Park Service Wildland Fire Resource Advisor training) to be certified as an RA and is ready to provide this service during an incident. Post-fire actions are guided by a CAL FIRE Fire Suppression Repair Plan (see Section V-C and Appendix B) to ensure suppression repair actions are effective. Fire prevention is supported by OCFA patrols, camera placement as part of the ALERTCalifornia Consortium, and monitoring by the OCTA. Appendices offer further

¹ Fire in California Bioregions, In: Fire in California's Ecosystems, Sugihara et al. 2006.

specifications on vegetation management standards and post-wildfire suppression repair standards.

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF PLAN

The M2 Conservation Plan requires a fire management plan be created for each Preserve in consultation with the local fire department and/or the OCFA. In addition, the development of a fire management plan is specified as an Adaptive Management Objective with a Strategy/Management Action in the Conservation Plan and must also be approved by the Wildlife Agencies.

The purpose and scope of this fire management plan is to provide a blueprint for protecting the natural environment of the Preserve to the greatest extent possible against wildfire and damage from wildfire suppression activities, while at the same time providing safety to neighboring vulnerable assets at risk. This Preserve was selected for purchase by the OCTA in large part because it contains very high-quality natural resources. Consequently, preserving those resources is a top priority for OCTA. The goals of the plan are that it be easy to implement, be followed by county and state officials, reinforce funding requests, and cultivate strong partnerships.

II. REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

A. Purchase History

OCTA purchased the Trabuco Rose Preserve in May of 2011, subsequent to the 2006 passage of Measure M2, which provided revenue for the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) intended in part to offset the impacts from the freeway projects that were also funded by the measure. This Preserve is one of seven Preserves that were identified as Priority Conservation Areas and selected for purchase because of their high environmental value.

This Preserve contains a diversity of high-quality habitat types, including California sagebrush scrub, chaparral, coast live oak woodland, riparian forest, cliff and rock habitat, and grassland and the species within them. It is bounded on the west by lands owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and is near the Cleveland National Forest to the north and other conserved open space lands that are part of the Orange County Central and Coastal Subregions Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) Reserve to the west, and Orange County Southern Subregion HCP to the south. Private residential neighborhoods border the Preserve to its northwest and southwest.

B. Land Management Objectives Related to Wildland Fire

The county-wide OCTA Conservation Plan, finalized in 2016, encompasses all seven Preserves purchased subsequent to the 2006 passage of measure M2. An individual RMP was also prepared for each Preserve. This Preserve fire management plan aligns with the existing framework of policies and guidelines directing management and protection of the Preserve's natural resources contained within the NCCP/HCP and RMP.

This plan addresses all stages of the fire cycle: ignition prevention, pre-fire vegetation management, suppression, and post-fire responses. Because of the high values at risk and their vulnerability to fire, it is important for the plans to be supported by evidence-based data and promote best management practices regarding ecosystem resiliency, ignition prevention, and urban interface protection. Any management actions recommended and accepted by OCTA should be reflected in the RMP updates. This fire management plan will be incorporated as part of the RMP and is to be re-evaluated every five years and updated as conditions change and as appropriate.

C. Regulatory Context

The agency responsible for fire response and control within the Preserve is the OCFA. Because of its inclusion in the Conservation Plan and existing natural resources, regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over portions of the Preserve include the CDFW, and USFWS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the State Water Resources Control Board. There is an existing access easement on Trabuco Oaks Drive granted to three groups: the

Trabuco Canyon Company, LLC; two adjacent property owners to the north; and emergency access for the Hamilton Trails neighborhood located northwest of the property.²

Documents that have been considered as complementing the fire management plan for the Preserve include: the fire management plan for the Nature Reserve of Orange County and its Strategic Implementation Guide, OCFA Strategic Unit Fire Plan, Orange County Ignition Reduction Strategy, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Orange County, and the OCTA Trabuco Rose RMP (titled Ferber Ranch Preserve RMP when written). The Orange County CWPP describes possible activities and programs that can bolster wildland fire safety for both communities and natural resources throughout the portions of the County where there is a risk of wildfire; new activities and programs that affect the OCTA Preserves should be referenced in the CWPP as it is updated so that funding and implementation can be facilitated. This may be particularly useful when unforeseen circumstances occur, and funding should be expedited.

The Trabuco Rose Preserve falls within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan (FTSP) (County of Orange 1991). The Preserve is also within a State Responsibility Area³.

² Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Section 1, pg. 9.

³ State Responsibility Areas (SRA) are areas of the state where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. The Orange County Fire Authority provides these services under contract by CAL FIRE. <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer/>

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

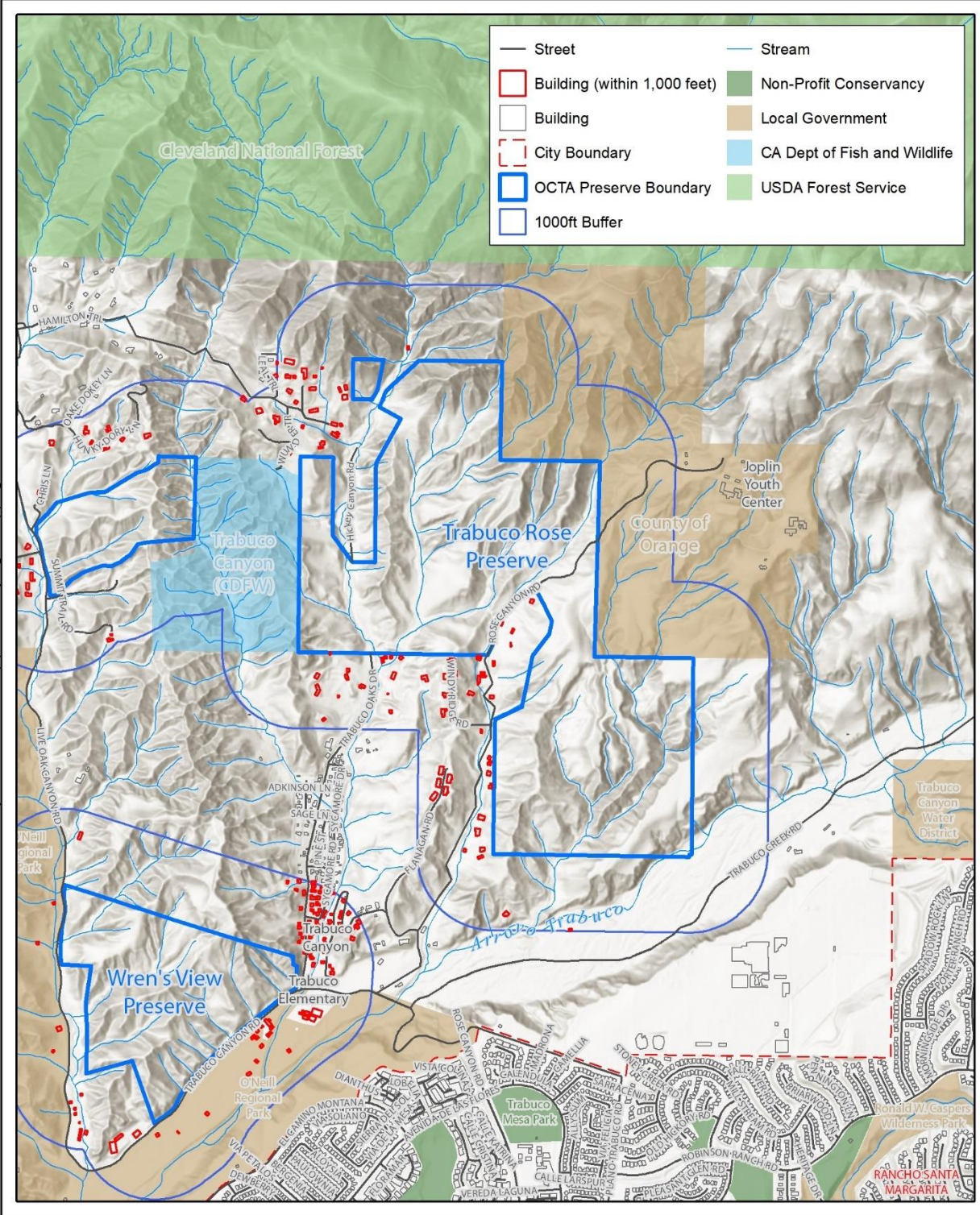
A. Land Ownership

The 398-acre⁴ Trabuco Rose Preserve is located in a patchwork of largely publicly owned lands in eastern Orange County, in the cismontane foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains, southeast of Irvine Lake. Specifically, the property is located northwest of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita in Trabuco Canyon and is accessed from Trabuco Oaks Road and Rose Canyon Road. Trabuco Oaks Road becomes Hickey Canyon Road near the OCTA property line. Surrounding land uses include CDFW's Hafen property, Cleveland National Forest, O'Neill Regional Park, the Joplin Youth Center, and areas of low density, rural residential development. The Joplin Youth Center is maintained predominately as open space where public access is prohibited, and several other adjacent parcels are currently undeveloped. The Trabuco Canyon Water District owns adjacent parcels, which include a water tank used as part of its operations and accessed from Rose Canyon Road.

A network of roads occurs within the Preserve, including Rose Canyon Road, Hickey Canyon Road, and other unnamed dirt access roads. In addition, several dirt trails exist throughout the Preserve. Hickey Canyon Road is used for limited vehicular access to the adjacent properties at the back of the canyon. This road also serves as a secondary emergency access route for residents in the adjacent Hamilton Trails community. Rose Canyon Road is used by the County of Orange to access the Joplin Youth Center.

⁴ While the RMP notes the acreage as 396, multiple tables contained within the RMP, based on GIS analysis, indicate the acreage as 398.63. See 2017 Ferber RMP, Chapter 2.

Data obtained from GreenInfo Network, CAL FIRE, and OCTA with ESRI terrain layer as a basement. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 10/21/2021.



Structures and Public Ownership Map
Trabuco Rose Preserve



Figure 1. Land ownership, structures within 1000 feet, and easements adjacent to Trabuco Rose.

B. Natural Resources/Physical Environment

i. Topography and Elevation: The Preserve is located on the southwestern flank of the Santa Ana Mountains and consists of predominantly rolling terrain. Biological surveys were conducted on the Preserve in spring/summer 2012 to establish baseline biological conditions and assess special-status species, including Covered Species, and their associated natural communities (BonTerra Consulting 2013). The majority of the information below was obtained from that report.

The overall landscape is arid and sloping, vegetated with a mosaic of shrubland, oak woodlands, and grassland (see Figure 3). According to surveys conducted in 2013 and described in the RMP, California Sagebrush Scrub represents the main habitat type (~149 acres). Coast live oak woodland (~93 acres) is the next most dominant type; scrub oak chaparral, mixed scrub chaparral, grassland, and coast prickly pear scrub are also found on the Preserve (see Table 3).

The Trabuco Rose Preserve is an important component in managing the larger ecological functions of the area and provides habitat connectivity to other key protected wildlands. Habitat is discussed further, in the context of special status species, under subsection vi and vii, below.

Trabuco Rose Preserve	Acres	Percent
East	45.74	12%
North	6.26	2%
Northeast	13.31	3%
Northwest	48.21	12%
South	64.68	16%
Southeast	71.11	18%
Southwest	64.45	16%
West	83.68	21%
Total Acres	397.44	

Table 1. Summary of aspect of Trabuco Rose Preserve.

Trabuco Canyon is a prominent east-west drainage in the Santa Ana Mountains. The community of Trabuco Oaks lies along Trabuco Creek (500 ft. elevation) and in nearby tributaries. The canyon is bounded by Santiago Peak (5,689) to the northeast, the highest peak in the Santa Ana range. Trabuco Creek narrows tightly three miles east at the National Forest Boundary; Holy Jim is along Trabuco Creek, about 3.25 miles east and upstream of the Trabuco Rose Preserve. Elevations range from 1,100 to 1,650 feet above mean sea level (msl). The site consists of several north-to-northeast-trending ridges that are bisected by similarly trending valleys. Slope steepness ranges from 0-100+ percent, although the vast majority of the landscape ranges from moderate-to-steep slope (9-100%), with local small cliffs (Pacific Soils Engineering 2005).

Trabuco Rose Preserve	Acres	Percent
Level (0-0.5)	0.11	0.03%
Nearly level (0.5 - 2)	0.52	0.1%
Very gentle slope (2 - 5)	6.71	2%
Gentle slope (5 - 9)	14.29	4%
Moderate slope (9 - 15)	32.48	8%
Strong slope (15 - 30)	147.15	37%
Very strong slope (30 - 45)	121.84	31%
Extreme slope (45 - 70)	63.53	16%
Steep slope (70 - 100)	9.87	2%
Very steep slope (> 100)	0.92	0.2%
Total Acres	397.44	

Table 2. Summary of slope steepness of Trabuco Rose Preserve.

ii. Climate and Weather: Weather conditions significantly impact both the potential for ignition, the fire's rate of spread, intensity, and direction of fire growth. The most important weather variables used to predict fire behavior are wind, temperature, and humidity.

Wind direction and velocity profoundly affect fire behavior, but wind is considered the most variable and unpredictable weather element. Wind increases the flammability of fuels both by removing moisture through evaporation and by angling the flames so that they heat fuels in the fire's path. The direction and velocity of surface winds can also control the direction and rate of the fire's spread. Aloft winds, defined as those that blow at least 20 feet above the ground, carry embers and firebrands downwind. Embers and firebrands carried downwind can ignite spot fires that precede the primary fire front. Gusty winds cause a fire to burn erratically and make it more difficult to contain.

Santa Ana winds create the most severe fire danger and typically blow from the northeast to the southwest. Northeasterly winds are especially conducive for the spread of embers because these winds are often particularly strong and often coincide with times of low humidity.

However, winds from the west are also likely to cause a significant risk of wildfire, especially if followed by a Santa Ana wind event. Another scenario is a fire driven by a westerly wind that follows a Santa Ana event or episode. Because the northeast wind is normally associated with low humidity and high temperatures, it dries the fuels. At the end of this Santa Ana wind condition, fog can move quickly shoreward, pushed by a brisk, high-speed westerly wind. Under these conditions, the fuels would still be dry from the previous weather conditions and burn at a high rate.

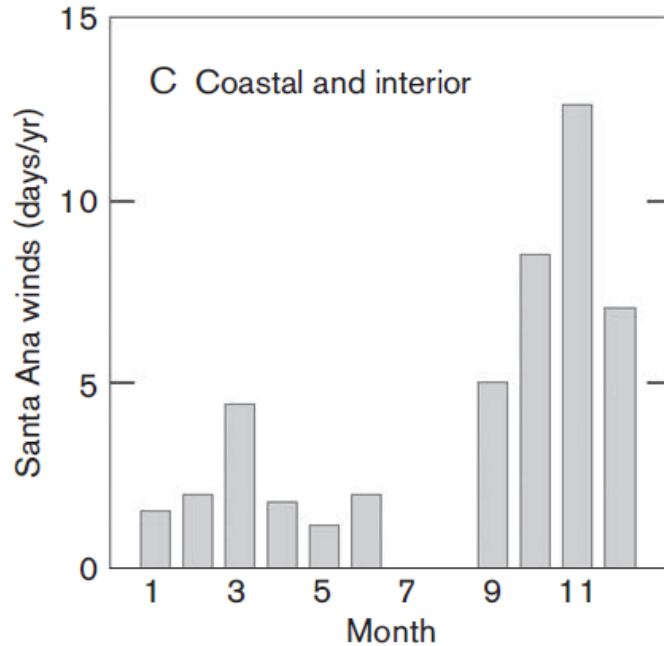


Figure 2. Average number days per month in which Santa Ana winds occur.⁵

The Preserve's location in proximity to the coast influences its weather conditions. It has the warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters characteristic of the coastal area. There are 37 days annually when the high temperature is over 90 degrees F; August is the hottest month, with 22 days per month exceeding 90 degrees F. The area averages about 12 inches of precipitation a year, primarily in the fall and winter. Most of the measurable rainfall generally occurs during the winter months (mid-October to mid-April). According to the RMP for the Preserve, "Rainfall patterns are subject to extreme variations from year to year and longer-term wet and dry cycles." Moreover, "[i]n Southern California, precipitation is characterized by brief, intense storms generally between November and March. It is not unusual for much of the annual precipitation to fall during a few storms over a close span of time."⁶ Santa Ana winds are more frequent in the late fall, after months of high temperatures and lack of rain. Thus, while fires can occur year-round, the time of highest fire danger comprises the dry months from May to October.

⁵ From *Fire in California's Ecosystems*, 2006, Sughiara, Van Wagtenonk, Shaffer Kaufman and Thode.

⁶ Bonterra Consulting. Baseline Biological Surveys Technical Report for the South County Properties. Appendix B pg. 6, Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan. 2017. OCTA, with support from ICF.

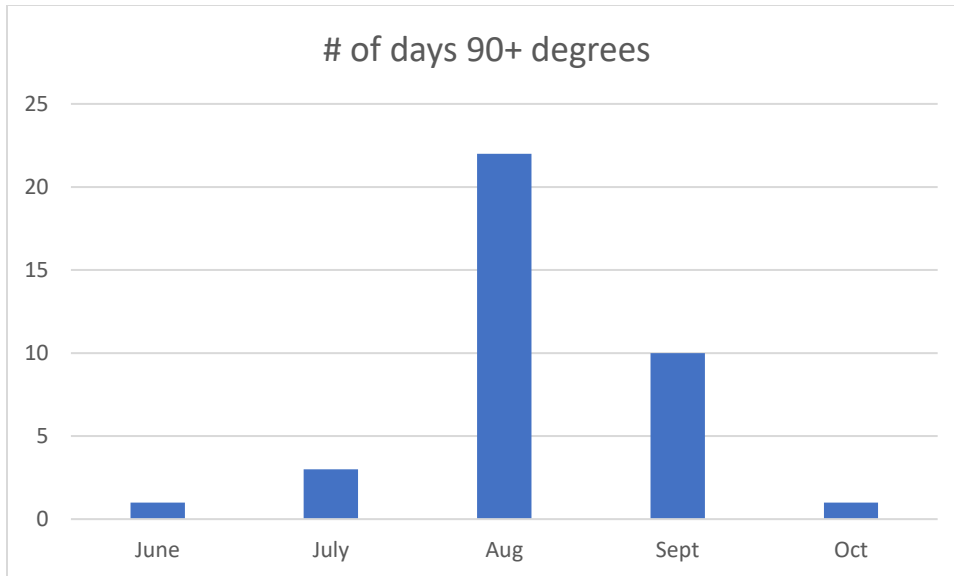


Figure 3. Number days per month in which the maximum temperature exceeds 90 degrees F.⁷

Weather following a wildfire also affects recovery of the site's vegetation and habitat. Drought conditions hamper native plant re-establishment, while abundant rain promotes surface soil erosion. Both the timing and amount of rain and heat are important factors in recovery; while temperatures are more constant year to year, rainfall varies widely from year to year.

iii. Hydrology: The Preserve is located on the southwestern flank of the Santa Ana Mountains, within the San Juan Creek Watershed. The site generally drains from higher elevations in the north to lower elevations in the south. Three ephemeral blue-line streams traverse the Preserve, including Hickey Canyon Creek and Rose Canyon Creek, which run generally north to south. There is a third drainage, which is an unnamed stream near the Hickey Canyon Road and Hickey Spur intersection near the southwest entrance to the Preserve. All onsite drainages are tributaries to Trabuco Creek, which crosses the southeastern corner of the Preserve. All four of these drainages are identified in the FTSP as "Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan Area Streambeds." The site is located within the San Juan Creek Watershed. Note that head cutting and channel incision was observed in the unnamed stream near the Hickey Canyon Road and Hickey Spur intersection near the southwest entrance to the Preserve. Vegetation within these streams includes arroyo willow thickets, coast live oak woodland, mulefat thickets, and white alder groves. Based on results of boring studies conducted by Pacific Soils Engineering in 1987, groundwater was not encountered except at the base of the alluvium within canyon bottoms. It is anticipated that groundwater, if present, would be found at or slightly above adjacent canyon bottoms. Within the bedrock, groundwater is anticipated as perched seeps within the more permeable units or trapped along the faults, which transect the site (Pacific Soils Engineering 2005).

⁷ <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/trabuco-canyon/92679/november-weather/2178646?year=2021>

iv. Soils: The dominant soil type on the Preserve is Callaguas clay loam (50 to 75 percent slopes, eroded). Other soil types mapped on the Preserve are Cieneba sandy loam (30 to 75 percent slopes, eroded), Soper loam (30 to 50 percent slopes), rock outcrop-Cieneba complex (30 to 75 percent slopes), and Myford sandy loam (2 to 9, 9 to 15, and 15 to 30 percent slopes).

The site is underlain by sedimentary bedrock units, which are Cretaceous, and Tertiary-aged marine and non-marine deposits. Surficial materials that overlay the bedrock consist of topsoil; colluviums; landslide deposits; recent alluvium; Quaternary terrace deposits; and artificial fill associated with the creation of various roads, detention basins, and other earthworks. Topsoil and colluviums are a result of weathering of the bedrock units. These deposits are anticipated to be generally less than five feet thick except at the base of the hills where the colluviums coalesce with the alluvium and may be 15 feet thick or greater. They typically consist of loosely consolidated, coarse-to-fine grained sands, gravelly sands, and cobbly sands with silt and clay as a result of the weathering process. The Quaternary terrace deposits are found capping many of the ridgelines throughout the Preserve. These deposits were shed off the Santa Ana Mountains from an ancestral Trabuco Canyon outflow, which had a more westerly path than the current canyon bottom. These deposits consist of mixed sand and gravel and are locally over 65 feet thick. Alluvium exists in the active stream and canyon bottoms because of recent deposition. These deposits consist of clayey-to-silty sand deposits deposited by recent stream activity. These deposits are generally five to 15 feet thick, with the potential to be deeper in portions of the site. Artificial fill consists of local deposits placed for the construction of access roads, detention basins, and other small pad areas. These deposits are anticipated to be loosely consolidated and probably less than 10 feet thick (Pacific Soils Engineering 2005).

v. Vegetation Types, Protected Species: Twenty-eight vegetation types and other habitat types occur on the Preserve, including scrub, riparian, chaparral, woodland, grassland, cliff and rock habitat, and disturbed areas.

Special-status plant species documented at the Preserve in 2012 include intermediate mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*), ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *ocellatum*), chaparral nolina/chaparral beargrass (*Nolina cismontana*), chaparral rein orchid (*Piperia cooperi*), Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*), and Coulter's matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*).

Vegetation Types and Other Areas	Acreage
California Sagebrush Scrub	149.57
Coast Live Oak Woodland	93.23
Scrub Oak Chaparral	44.66
Laurel Sumac – Lemonade Berry Chaparral with California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub	32.94
Needle Grass Grassland	17.15
Chamise – Laurel Sumac – Lemonade Berry Chaparral with California Sagebrush Scrub	13.36
Chamise Chaparral	11.90
Disturbed (Bare Ground)	7.79
Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands	7.37
Coast Prickly Pear Scrub	6.50
Needle Grass Grassland/Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stands	3.94
Cliff/Rock	2.16
Arroyo Willow Thickets	1.87
Orchard	1.51
Semi-Natural Woodland Stand	1.42
Mulefat Thickets	0.71
Developed	0.61
Eucalyptus Grove	0.53
White Alder Groves	0.45
Giant Wild Rye Grassland	0.38
Scale Broom Scrub	0.30
California Sagebrush Scrub/Needle Grass Grassland	0.28

Table 3. Summary of Vegetation Types and other Areas from 2012 Surveys (from 2017 Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan).

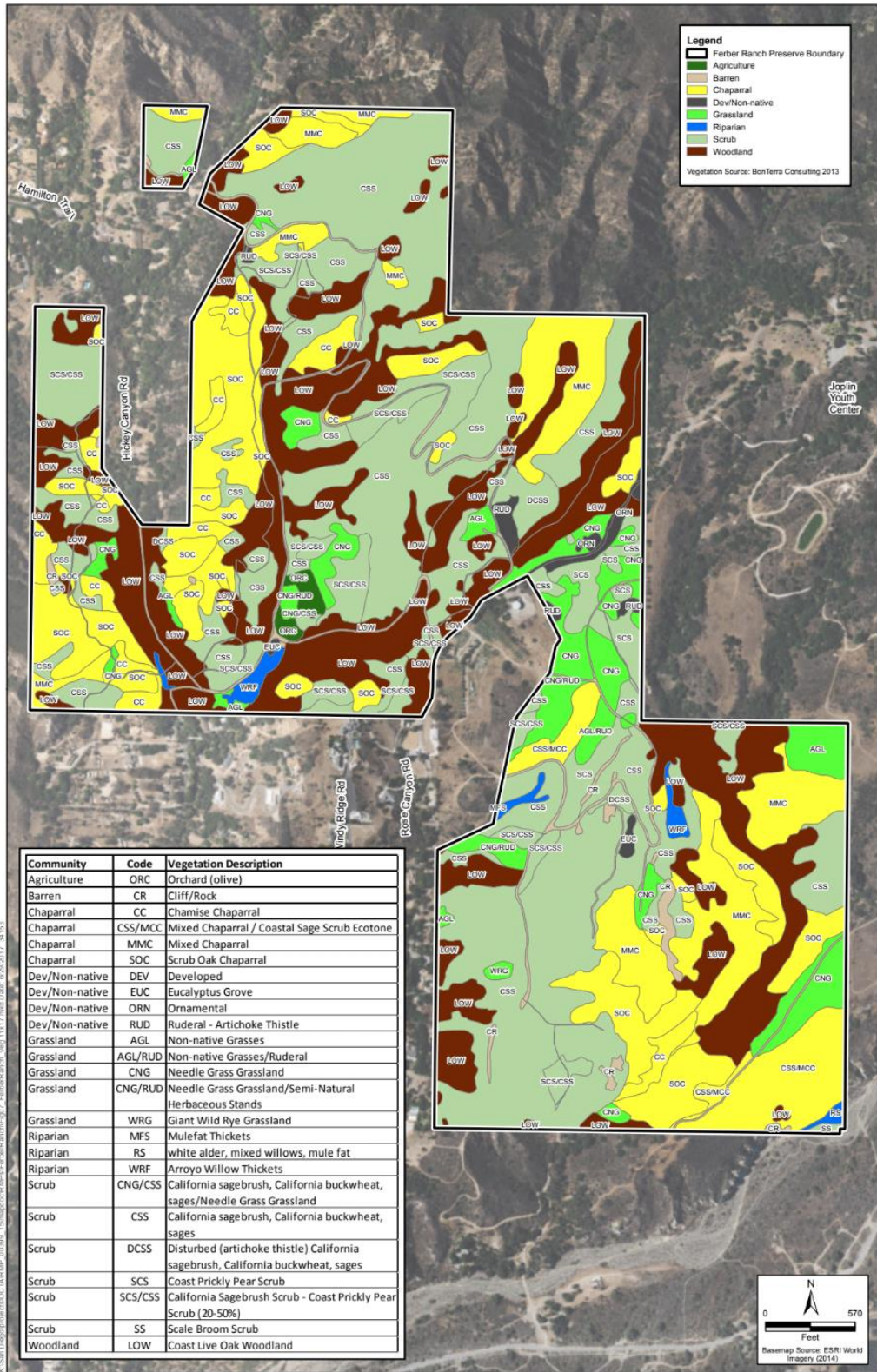


Figure 7
Vegetation Communities
Ferber Ranch Resource Management Plan

Figure 4. Vegetation Communities (from Resource Management Plan).

vi. Wildlife Types, Protected Species: The Preserve provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species that are characteristic of scrub habitats, riparian, chaparral, woodland, grassland, cliff and rock habitat, and wetlands. All the Preserve falls within an area designated by the USFWS as Critical Habitat for the arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus* [*Bufo microscaphus californicus*]) and the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

The Preserve contributes to regional biological connectivity and wildlife movement due to its continuity with surrounding open space and park areas such as the adjacent CDFW Hafén property, Cleveland National Forest, O'Neill Regional Park, the Trabuco Creek corridor, and Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP Reserve areas, as well as other, nearby open space parcels acquired by OCTA as part of the NCCP/HCP Preserve design. The Preserve serves as an important piece of the regional link among open space areas in southern and central Orange County, and Trabuco Creek open space areas.

The Preserve contains numerous ridgelines and canyons that provide a variety of travel routes for local wildlife movement. Trails and access roads on site may also be used for wildlife movement. Movement on site is expected to occur via these features, as well as between the Preserve and contiguous offsite habitat. Baseline studies and ongoing Preserve management have documented mule deer, mountain lion, bobcats, and coyote moving across the Preserve.

BonTerra Consulting performed focused surveys for OCTA NCCP/HCP covered species in 2012. Special-status wildlife species documented at the Preserve include orangethroat whiptail, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), coastal California gnatcatcher, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Yuma bat (*Myotis yumanensis*), and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Focused surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher were performed on site by Dudek & Associates in 2005, 2006, and 2008. Subsequently, focused surveys for the OCTA covered species will continue to follow the schedule included within the RMP.

vii. Historical Influences: According to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the area was inhabited by the Kumeyaay, Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño Native Americans, who would burn the brushlands along the coast and in the mountains (USFS 2018). Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived in 1542, but the land did not undergo significant change until the establishment of the California missions by Junipero Serra in 1769 and the advent of a ranching culture. Trabuco Canyon was named in 1769 during a Spanish expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá. In 1846, the area became "Rancho Trabuco" under a Mexican land grant. In the early 1900s, Trabuco Canyon was the site of a failed tin mine. Over this time, the landscape was altered by overgrazing, the invasion of exotic plant species, vegetation clearing, and widespread fire (USFS 2013).

A review of historic aerial photographs of the property shows that, in general, vegetation communities have not been significantly altered since 1946. Evidence of grazing is visible at

that time. However, suburban development has continued to expand in the general region. Low density development along Rose Canyon Road is present in aerial photographs as early as 1946, though development along Trabuco Oaks Drive has occurred since 1953.

An old structure, built between 1946 and 1953, was observed near the center of the property, with an adjacent planting of ornamental gum trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.). A can/bottle scatter (see photograph) was observed near the canyon in the southern portion of the property. In addition, a radio antenna is present adjacent to a dirt road in the northern portion of the property.

Historically, open pit clay or sand mining occurred in the southern portion of the Preserve. An Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment was conducted by LSA Associates in 2014, which estimated that the site was developed between 1946 and 1953. This site was determined to be ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This site is described as an abandoned clay mine with concrete foundations, a water tank, sluiceways, shallow holding bins, and flat slabs. Other abandoned facilities and structures occur throughout the Preserve, including old concrete building foundations, trailers, corrals, and casual (unfenced) equestrian arenas.

A small network of roads and dirt trails occurs within the Preserve, including Rose Canyon Road, Hickey Canyon Road, and unnamed dirt access roads. Hickey Canyon Road is used for Preserve management as well as limited vehicular access to the adjacent properties at the back of the canyon. Rose Canyon Road is used by the County of Orange to access the Joplin Youth Center.

Recent encroachment activities documented on the Preserve include trespassing by equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers; cutting unauthorized trails; use of firearms; dumping of manure and debris; fuel maintenance activities in the southwest portion of the site; vegetation cutting; and cutting or otherwise damaging existing fences and gates.

viii. Cultural Resources: An Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment (ASA) was conducted by LSA Associates, Inc. on the Preserve in winter 2014. The assessment included a records search, Native American coordination, field survey, and report, all of which were completed between September and December 2014. There are cultural resources within this Preserve in various locations. The results of these surveys are sensitive, and not to be distributed to the public.

ix. Fire History: The lack of fire is a contributing factor to the high-quality habitat that exists on the site today. The oldest fire in the vicinity was an unnamed fire of 2,225 acres that burned the entirety of Trabuco Rose Preserve in 1919. The Nelson Fire burned 12.5 acres in the westernmost tip of the Preserve in 1970, as part of a 3,586-acre fire. The most recent fire that burned a portion of the Preserve was the 1980 Indian Fire, which burned 96.0 acres the southern quarter of Trabuco Rose, as part of its 28,940-acre footprint.

While not large, at 2 acres, the 2018 Live Oak fire shows the potential for roadside ignitions in the Preserve vicinity, as it was located just east of Live Oak Canyon Road. The very small

2017 Rose Fire (0.2 acres) was also a roadside ignition. These fires, though small, are reflective of a wider trend, as a large preponderance of all wildfires begin with roadside ignitions (Syphard and Keeley, 2015 and Sturtevant and Cleland 2007). Two reports published by the Hills For Everyone⁸ indicate that between 1915 – 2018, 14 fires (nine percent) were caused by roadside-types of ignitions in the Chino Hills area⁹. These reports found nearly all areas with the highest wildfire frequency were along freeway and roadway corridors and at the entrance to Chino Hills State Park. These observations indicate that a potential for ignitions is concentrated near vehicular access, not only at roads, but also near park entrances.

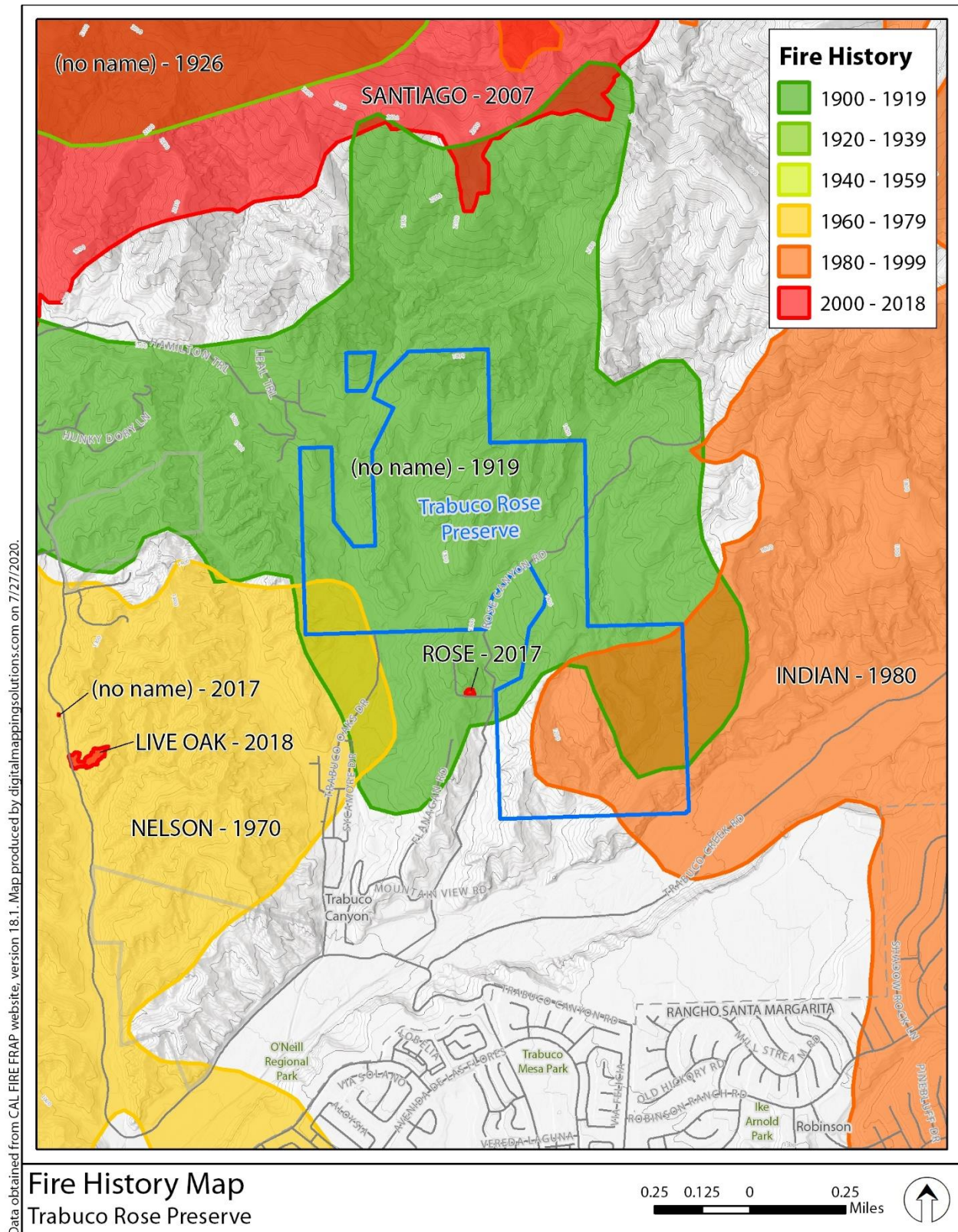
While the cause of all the major recorded fires are “Unknown/Unidentified” or “Miscellaneous” (Table 4), general patterns of ignition in the region reveal several areas of concern. Potential sources of future ignition include unauthorized use of the site, which can lead to ignition sources such as engine activity from vehicles, smoking, and arson. Accidental ignitions occurring at nearby residences are also a concern.

FIRE NAME	YEAR	ACRES	CAUSE
(no name)	1919	2,225	Unknown/Unidentified
(no name)	1926	9,935	Unknown/Unidentified
NELSON	1970	3,586	Miscellaneous
INDIAN	1980	28,940	Miscellaneous
LIVE OAK	1994	160	Miscellaneous
SANTIAGO	2007	28,430	Miscellaneous
ROSE	2017	0.2	Miscellaneous
(no name)	2017	0.003	Unknown/Unidentified
LIVE OAK	2018	2	Unknown/Unidentified

Table 4. List of nearby significant wildfires since 1914; from CAL FIRE Forest Resource Assessment Program (FRAP).

⁸ <https://www.fhbp.org/resources/studies-reports/fire-water-quality-study/> and <https://www.fhbp.org/resources/studies-reports/updated-fire-study/>

⁹ These figures were arrived by combining automobile and road flares causes.



Data obtained from CAL FIRE FRAP website, version 18.1. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 7/27/2020.

Figure 5. Fire history in the Trabuco Rose Preserve region.

x. Recreational Resources: The Trabuco Rose Preserve is intended to be open to the public for docent-led passive recreational opportunities. The 2017 RMP identifies a 2.1-mile network of trails within the Preserve approved for docent-led passive recreational use based on an evaluation of biological resources as well as coordination with the Wildlife and Regulatory Agencies. According to the 2017 RMP, the Preserve Manager will implement a public access program that allows for access during limited, designated docent-led hiking and horseback riding days. The current configuration of approved trails does not connect to other regional trails due to constraints from surrounding land ownership and limits to staging and parking areas. OCTA recognizes that opportunities to connect to regional trails and planning for regional trail networks will evolve and change over time. Therefore, OCTA, and the subsequent Preserve Manager, will participate in regional trails planning efforts to evaluate possible trail connections and anticipate how (and if) future trail connections can be made.

xi. Structures and Built Values at Risk: No currently occupied structures are present on the property. However, a few abandoned mining facilities and other structures occur throughout the Preserve, including old concrete building foundations. Moreover, according to the 2016 Rhode Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Pre-Fire Plans commissioned by the OCFA, the surrounding area is an inter-mix of community and open space at the foot of a historical fire corridor that is the result of a combination of topography aligned with wind direction, poor emergency vehicle access, and abundant flammable vegetation. The area has a history of structural loss in past fires. There is 100 feet of defensible space around most structures, and heavy brush in most areas. There are recreational users on many area trails. Holy Jim Canyon (several canyons to the east) may be non-defendable under extreme fire conditions and lacks safety zones. Figure 1 indicates the structures within a 1000-foot buffer surrounding the Preserve. Two habitable structures are located within 100 feet of the Preserve boundary.

xii. Access: Main access to the Preserve runs through Live Oak Canyon Road east from Santiago Canyon Road (Cook's Corner) and through Trabuco Canyon Road north from Plano Trabuco Road in Rancho Santa Margarita. Holy Jim is 6 miles /45 minutes up (dirt-paved) Trabuco Creek Road from Trabuco Canyon Rd. All secondary canyon streets intersect Live Oak or Trabuco Canyon Roads.

Beyond the major routes to the Preserve boundaries, a network of roads occurs, including Rose Canyon Road, Hickey Canyon Road, and multiple unnamed dirt access roads. In addition, several dirt trails exist throughout the Preserve. Hickey Canyon Road is used for limited vehicular access to the adjacent properties at the back of the canyon. Rose Canyon Road is used by private homeowners as well as the County of Orange to access the Joplin Youth Center (currently not open).

IV. ANALYSIS OF HAZARDS, RISK

This section identifies the primary risks for fire on the Preserve and the existing patterns or trends for fire in the vicinity. There is a low likelihood of ignition on the Preserve itself because of a lack of an ignition source. There is a greater risk of an ignition outside the Preserve. In addition, fires nearby are likely to burn in the same pattern and could easily travel to and within the Preserve because of continuous wildland vegetation, in part due to the lack of recent fires on the Preserve. These considerations combine to result in a moderate to high risk of a fire ignited outside the Preserve traveling onto and burning resources within the Preserve.

Some of the fuel types are not easily ignitable – specifically vegetation in woodlands, riparian vegetation, and even coastal sage scrub – compared to annual grass or pine or eucalyptus litter. However, non-native grasslands and scrub with grass intermixed with it are prone to ignitions, especially when they are near roads or human activity. The lack of public access limits unsafe human behaviors (i.e., illegal campfires, fireworks, etc.) which would be the likely prime source of fire ignition within the Preserve. Based on fire history, fuel types, road characteristics, and access or human activities on the site, the anticipated probability of wildfire ignition within the Preserve itself is low. The limited access and site use minimize the risk of human-caused wildfires.

Adjacent risk of ignition comes from activities associated with residential land use including the use of vehicles, construction, use of mechanical mowers, barbecues, and generators. Use of a generator was the source of the 2020 Silverado Fire that burned 13,390 acres and destroyed 14 homes/structures. Because Southern California Edison (SCE) is increasingly shutting off power during high fire hazard conditions for public safety, the risk of wildfire ignition from generator use may become more common in the future.

Structures at the end of Hamilton Trail, adjacent to Preserve lands, could start a fire that would burn into the Preserve with a westerly or northerly wind.

Human activity associated with the community at the southern boundary of the Preserve's southwest quadrant could similarly cause fires. Fortunately, conditions most likely to cause large fires would be with Santa Ana winds, from the north or northeast. A fire ignited in the community to the south would primarily be pushed away from the Preserve with this wind direction. Yet, an ignition at a residence at the end of Windy Ridge Road would likely spread into the southeastern portion of the Preserve under Santa Ana winds conditions.

Except for the Joplin Youth Center (which is approximately 1,500 feet from the Preserve, no human activity is near the northern and eastern boundaries of the Preserve, which helps to limit the chance of ignition from these directions.

Adjacent fuel types are a factor in determining the potential for spread to the Preserve. The fuel types on adjacent properties vary between low-fuel volumes and discontinuous fuels south of the Preserve (which would limit spread to the Preserve), to highly flammable fuel

conditions and undisturbed vegetation on public lands to the east and north, which would either propel or allow continuous spread of fire to the Preserve. Figure 6 portrays the fuels within 1000 feet outside the Preserve boundary. Flammable residential buildings and yards could also propel fire into the Preserve. Vegetation management zones are in place on all existing adjacent properties where habitable structures are within 100 feet of the Preserve. For two parcels, the vegetation management zones extend into the Preserve through approved agreements recognized by the OCTA NCCP/HCP and RMP. The properties are located at the end of Trabuco Oaks Dr and the end of Windy Ridge Rd. These vegetation management zones help limit the risk of spread of fire to and from the structures adjoining the Preserve. Unimproved parcels without vegetation management zones can facilitate the spread of fire onto the Preserve, because of the continuity of fuels, which are often high in volume. However, the chance of a fire burning from these unimproved locations is low because of the lack of the most common cause of fires – human activity – in those areas.

A. Description of Fuel Types Present on the Preserve

The risk of a fire affecting the Trabuco Rose Preserve is influenced not only by the fuels it supports, but also by the fuels present on the surrounding landscape. The level of hazard will vary due to season or climate. While there is risk of fire year-round, the risk is at its lowest in the spring when foliar moisture is highest.

The spatial distribution of each fuel type is shown in Figure 6, which identifies unique fuel types. Fire predictions on the Preserve indicate that much of the southeast corner of the Preserve as well as adjoining areas to the Preserve would burn with extreme fire behavior (greater than 20-foot flame lengths). This is primarily due to the presence of sagebrush/chaparral and mixed chaparral fuel types. Sagebrush is the main fuel type throughout the Preserve. While flame lengths are predicted to be shorter than eight feet for this habitat type, it would be prudent to expect both shrub-dominated vegetation types to exhibit extreme fire behavior, except for where cactus is present in significant quantities. Cactus moderates fire behavior because of its high moisture content. See Figures 7a and 7b for a map of predicted flame lengths on the Preserve, based on FlamMap fire behavior modeling software.

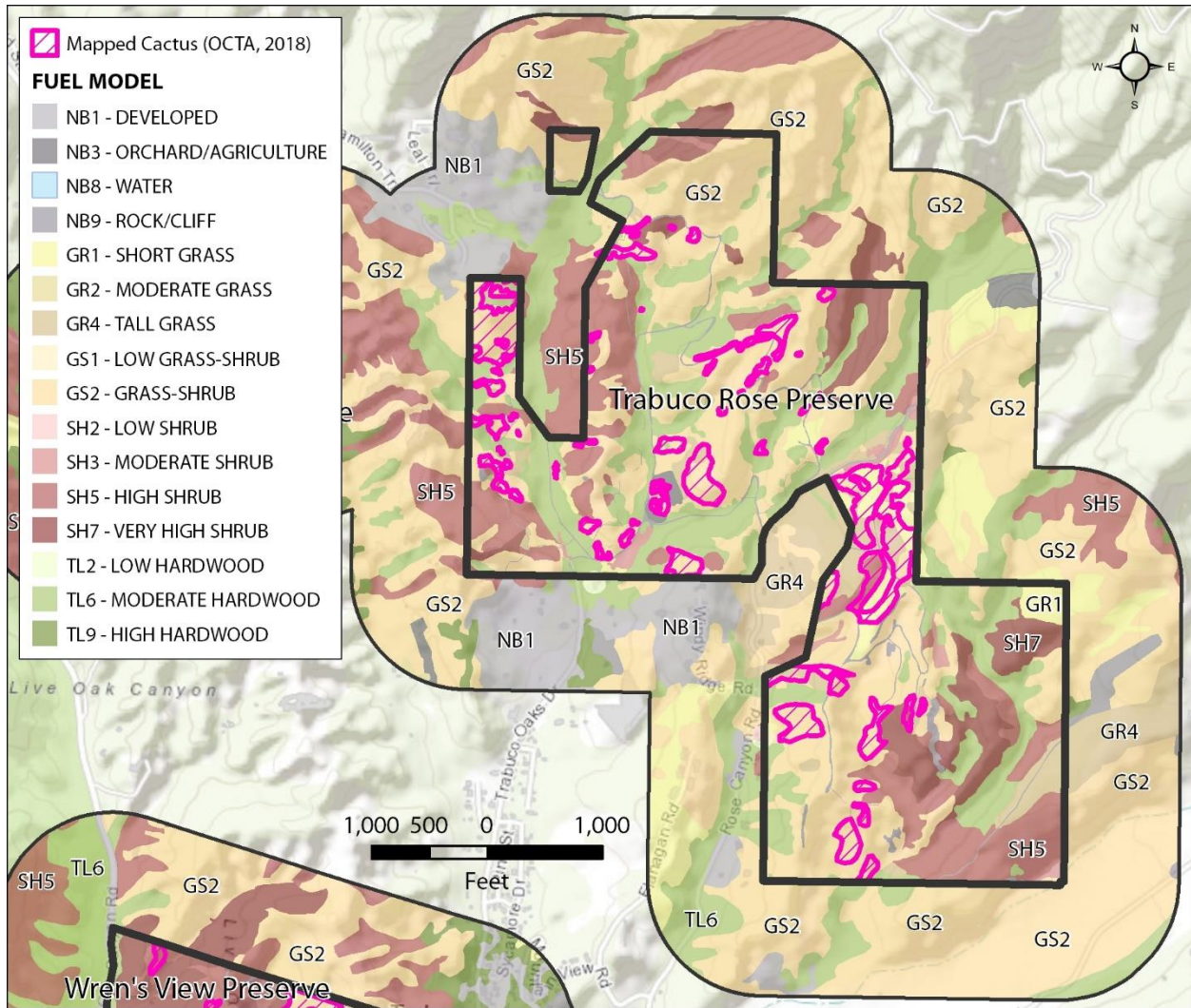


Figure 6. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing fuel model classification based on vegetation.

Fuel Model Name and Code	Vegetation Map Code	Acres	Percent
NB93 – Orchard/Agriculture	ORC	1.51	0.4%
NB99 – Rock/Cliff	DIST/RUD/RK/BARREN	10.59	3%
GR101 – Short Grass	AG, INV	7.05	2%
GR101 – Short Grass with Cactus	AG, INV, SCS with cactus	6.82	2%
GR104 – Tall Grass	PG, RG	16.51	4%
GR104 – Tall Grass with Cactus	PG with cactus	4.96	1%
GS121 – Low Grass-Shrub	CSS	0.35	0.1%
GS122 – Grass-Shrub	CC, CSS, CSS/NG, SBS	139.76	35%
GS122 – Grass-Shrub with Cactus	CC, CSS, CSS/NG with cactus	21.95	6%
SH142 – Low Shrub	SOC	0.08	0.02%
SH143 – Moderate Shrub	INV/W, RIP, WR	4.44	1%
SH143 – Moderate Shrub with Cactus	INV/W with cactus	0.01	0.003%
SH145 – Grass-Shrub	CSS/CHAP, SOC	56.45	14%
SH145 – Grass-Shrub with Cactus	CSS/CHAP, MCH, SOC with cactus	1.57	0.4%
SH147 – Very High Shrub	SC/CHAP	31.16	8%
SH147 – Very High Shrub with Cactus	SC/CHAP with cactus	0.31	0.1%
TL182 – Low Hardwood	CLO	0.18	0.05%
TL186 – Moderate Hardwood	CLO, INV/E	92.39	23%
TL186 – Moderate Hardwood with Cactus	CLO	1.19	0.3%
Total Acres		397.21	

Table 5. Trabuco Rose Preserve acres by fuel model and vegetation type.

In general, the fuel model assignments were based on the mapped vegetation types and associated expected surface vegetation (that would presumably carry a fire). All shrub vegetation types were assigned a shrub fuel model, tree vegetation types were assigned a tree fuel model, except for some oak woodland which was assigned a grass fuel model (because the understory of grass carries the fire), and grass vegetation types were assigned a grass fuel model.

Areas with cactus are assigned a distinct fuel model descriptor. In those areas, the fuel volume, size class distribution and other fuel characteristics are the same as the original fuel model, but the foliar moisture is elevated. This reflects the succulent nature of cactus as it is intermingled with grass and shrub. This was an important consideration during development of the fire management plan as cactus acts as a natural fire deterrent. In other words, the heat of a fire will be absorbed by the cactus and not be propelled by it.

Fuel Model Name and Code	Fuel Model Description
NB93 – Orchard/Agriculture	Agriculture
NB99 – Rock/Cliff	Barren
GR101 – Short Grass	Short, sparse dry climate grass is short, naturally or heavy grazing, predicted rate of fire spread and flame length low
GR101 – Short Grass with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
GR104 – Tall Grass	Moderate load, dry climate grass, continuous, dry climate grass, fuelbed depth about 2 feet
GR104 – Tall Grass with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
GS121 – Low Grass Shrub	Low load, dry climate grass-shrub shrub about 1 foot high, grass load low, spread rate moderate and flame length low
GS122 – Grass Shrub	Moderate grass load, dry climate grass-shrub shrub 1-3 feet high, grass load moderate, spread rate high and flame length moderate
GS122 – Grass-Shrub with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
SH142 – Low Shrub	Low load dry climate shrub, woody shrubs and shrub litter, fuelbed depth about 1 foot, may be some grass, spread rate and flame low
SH143 – Moderate Shrub	Moderate shrub load, humid climate woody shrubs and shrub litter, low to moderate load, possible pine overstory, fuelbed depth 2-3 feet, spread rate low and flame low
SH143 – Moderate Shrub with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
SH145 – High Shrub	Heavy shrub load, dry climate, fuelbed depth 4-6 feet, spread rate very high and flame high
SH145 – High Shrub with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
SH147 – Very High Shrub	Very heavy shrub load dry climate shrub, woody shrubs and shrub litter, fuelbed depth about 4-6 feet spread rate high and flame very high
SH147 – Very High Shrub with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures
TL182 – Low Hardwood	Low load broadleaf litter, broadleaf, hardwood litter, spread rate and flame low
TL186 – Moderate Hardwood	Moderate load broadleaf litter, spread rate and flame moderate
TL186 – Moderate Hardwood with Cactus	Same as above but assigned higher fuel moistures

Table 6. Description of Fuel Models.

B. Predicted Fire Behavior on the Preserve

Regionally, fire behavior is expected to be extreme. In critical weather, fires are expected to burn with extremely long flame lengths, high spread rates, and cast embers far ahead of the fire front (also known as long range spotting). In the Trabuco Rose area, Santa Ana wind-driven fires have moved westward from Interstate 15 up and over the Main Divide and into this area in 8 hours. Some areas are wind sheltered deep in the drainage, or subject to erratic winds/roll vortices off ridgelines. There is no recent history of fire running the entire canyon under Santa Ana winds, but this scenario is more likely during return of westerly winds following Santa Ana winds if a fire is burning at the western mouth of the canyon when the winds start to blow from the west. There is a high chance of and potential for plume

dominated/fuel driven fire behavior when heavy fuels are burning (Rhode, 2016).

A fine-scale analysis of potential fire behavior across the Preserve is useful to determine the possible effects of wildfire, and potential for spread and containment of a wildland fire. For this purpose, a worst-case scenario was used to reflect conditions during an event of high impact.

For this analysis, FlamMap was used to predict fire behavior. FlamMap assumes the entire area is on fire under the same weather and fuel moisture conditions. Because environmental conditions remain constant in the modeling environment in FlamMap, the software will not simulate temporal variations in fire behavior caused by weather and diurnal fluctuations as another popular fire behavior prediction software (i.e., FARSITE). Nor will FlamMap display spatial variations caused by backing or flanking fire behavior. These limitations need to be considered when viewing FlamMap output in an absolute rather than relative sense. Nevertheless, outputs from FlamMap are well-suited for landscape level comparisons of fuel treatment effectiveness because fuel is the only variable that changes. Outputs and comparisons can be used to identify combinations of hazardous fuels and topography, aiding in prioritizing fuel treatments (USFS, 2018).

To provide a worst-case scenario, two weather conditions or scenarios were used to predict fire behavior on the Preserves. Both scenarios use the same wind speed and fuel moisture settings; only the direction of the wind is different. The first scenario is meant to emulate a Santa Ana wind event and used winds blowing from the northeast at 20 miles per hour (mph). The second scenario assumes the wind is aligned with the slope such that the wind is blowing uphill in every location. This wind direction represents a 'worst-case' scenario because the fuels are pre-heated as the fire travels upslope with the wind. Foliar moisture and dead woody fuel moistures were set to the following:

- 1hr fuel moisture: 3%
- 10hr fuel moisture: 4%
- 100hr fuel moisture: 5%
- Live herbaceous fuel moisture: 70%
- Live woody fuel moisture: 70%
- Live foliar moisture in fuel types with cactus: Starting point of 200%

These fuel moistures indicate a very dry landscape and are often used for 'worst-case' scenarios. These inputs are consistent with the inputs used statewide by CAL FIRE for the creation of the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones¹⁰, with the exception that areas with cactus are assigned a high foliar moisture content to acknowledge the succulent nature of the fuel complex. The assessment of hazards is required by law and must judge the relative hazards throughout the state. Thus, the values used here were considered a reasonable representation of fire behavior during a typical wildfire of concern.

¹⁰ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/5tepuutt/full-14-a-presentation-cal-fire-vhfsz-remodeling-effort.pdf>

A full weather and fuel moisture analysis is not warranted; instead, weather as an environmental input was used to reflect the worst-case conditions that remain constant across the landscape for planning purposes.

Using the above inputs of fuel characteristics, topography, weather, and fuel moisture, the following maps describe the resulting fire behavior in terms of three outputs: flame length, rate of spread, and crown fire activity (or potential).

i. Flame Length

Flame length is often correlated to the ability to control a fire. A flame length of four feet is the limit of what can be attacked with hand crews, and eight feet is usually treated as a cut-off point for strategic firefighting decisions on whether to attack the fire directly, or instead attempt control through indirect methods¹¹. Attacking the fire directly involves efforts to slow the flaming front at its head – where it is advancing fastest. Indirect attack is a method of suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire's active edge.

Flame lengths are often highly correlated with natural resource impacts. Flame length is the result of one other fire prediction output: fireline intensity times a constant. Fireline intensity is the result of two fuel model inputs (heat yield or the BTU/lb of fuel and the weight of available fuel) along with one other fire prediction output (rate of spread). Flame length, reported in feet, is the numerical characteristic that encompasses the flaming front of a fire and its interaction with wind and the fire's radiation and convection heat transfer to adjacent fuel (Andrews, 2018).

The locations next to the property boundary that have long flame lengths are in the southeastern portion of the property and a short length of the boundary on the northern border. The northwestern boundary near the end of Hamilton Trail straddles a large area of chaparral that is predicted to burn with long flame lengths in both wind scenarios. Very small, isolated areas within 200 feet of structures are predicted to burn with flame lengths longer than eight feet. The areas that burned with flame lengths greater than 20 feet were the same in both scenarios. Those areas with long flame lengths are covered with Coastal Sage Shrub (CSS)/chaparral, Mixed Chaparral, and Scrub Oak Chaparral (SOC) with cactus.

Areas of cactus are expected to burn with low flame lengths, less than eight feet, even though the fuel type was similar to coastal sage scrub without cactus. The cactus burned with shorter flame lengths than comparable vegetation types without cactus. Small areas of cactus that are predicted to burn under an Uphill Scenario with long flame lengths are found in the southeastern portion of the Preserve and in the central portion of the preserve where the property width is narrow. This is of concern as the cactus provides essential habitat for sensitive species including the Cactus wren. When cactus burns intensely, it will

¹¹ Andrews, Patricia L. and Rothermel, Richard C. 1981. Charts for Interpreting Wildland Fire Behavior. Gen. Tech. Rep INT-131. Ogden, UT. September 1982. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station 8440. 21 p.

most likely not survive. It takes many years for cactus to grow back to the size needed to provide habitat for Cactus wren. Cactus located within CSS and grass are not predicted to burn with great intensity (flame lengths longer than four feet).

The most significant difference between the two scenarios is that the Uphill Scenario resulted in more area burning with 8-12 feet flame lengths, especially in the northern portion of the Preserve, in grass-shrub fuel types which are assigned to coastal scrub and coastal sage scrub vegetation types.

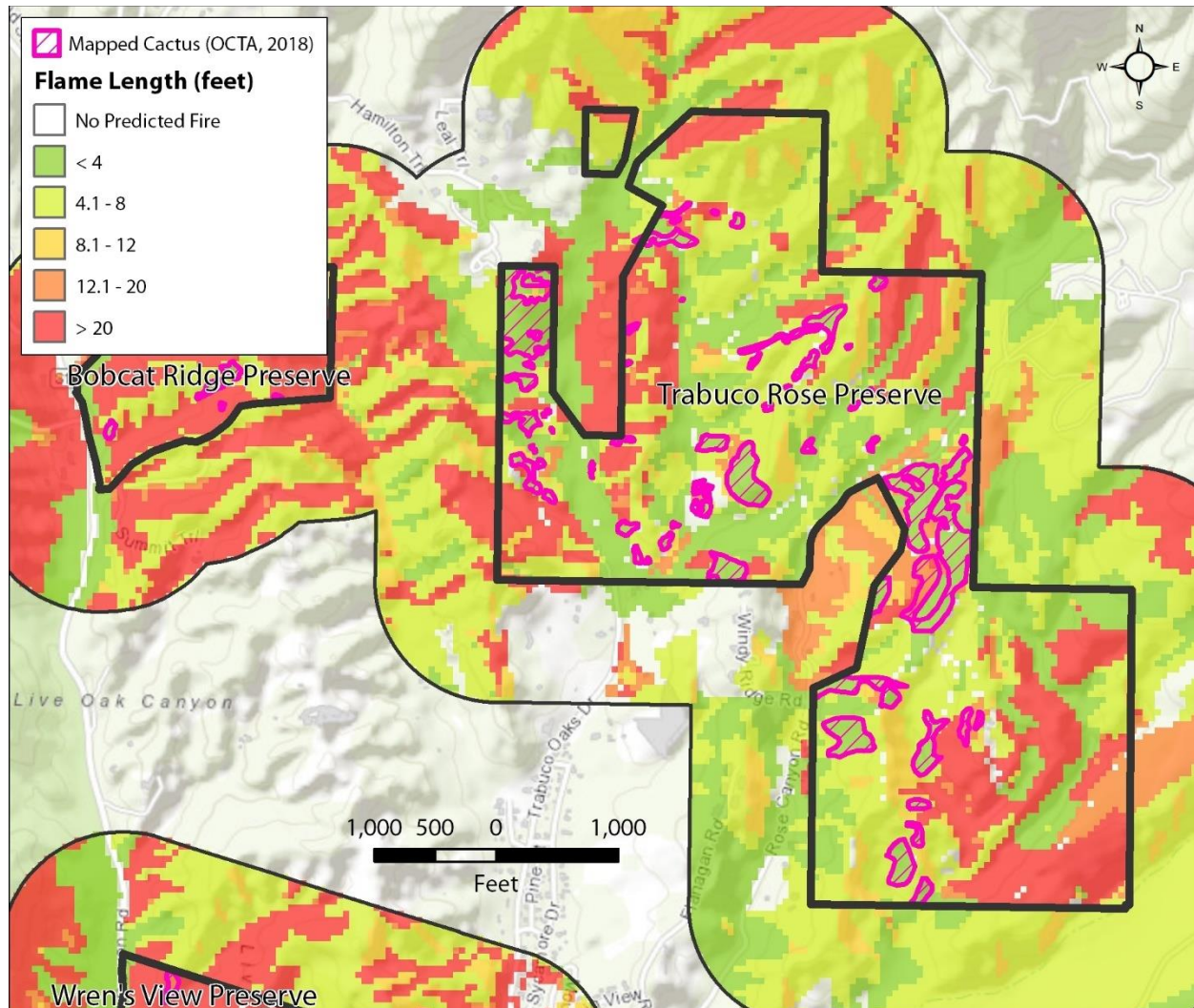


Figure 7a. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing predicted flame length for results from the Northeast Wind scenario.

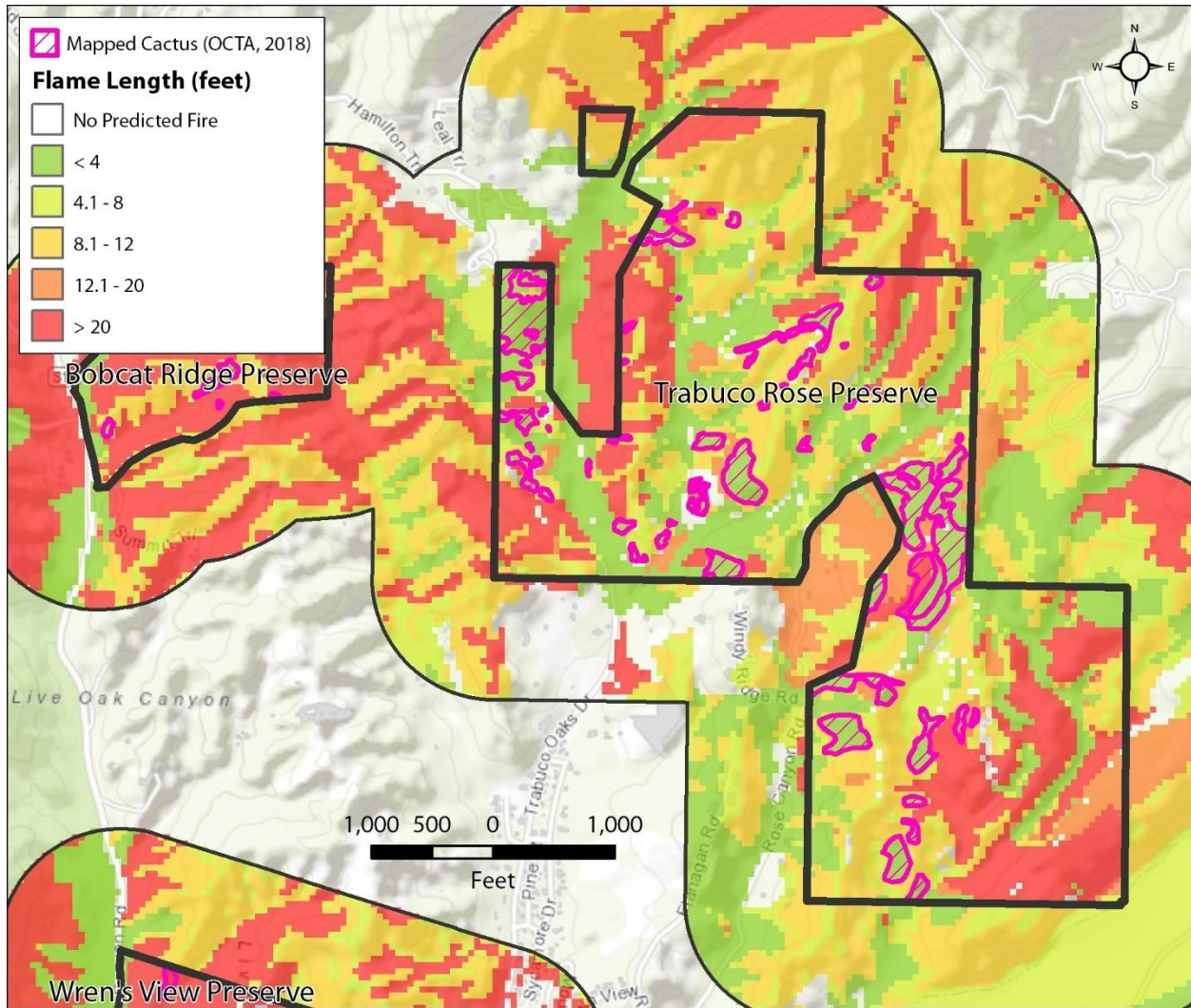


Figure 7b. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing predicted flame length for results from the Uphill Wind scenario.

Flame Length	Acres
No Predicted Fire	23.74
Less than 4 feet	121.36
4.1-8 feet	142.59
8.1-12 feet	20.12
12.10-20 feet	4.14
Greater than 20 feet	86.69

Scenario I. Northeast Wind (see Figure 7a).

Flame Length	Acres
No Predicted Fire	23.94
Less than 4 feet	115.09
4.1-8 feet	136.44
8.1-12 feet	27.35
12.10-20 feet	3.02
Greater than 20 feet	92.78

Scenario II. Uphill Wind (see Figure 7b).

Table 7. Of the total area of the Preserve, the acreage predicted to burn with the various flame length categories. Because FlamMap assumes the entire area is on fire, the total acreage will always be the size of the Preserve as reflected in GIS mapping, 398.6 acres.¹²

¹² As noted above, the text of the RMP denotes the acreage as 396; however, GIS-based tables contained in the same RMP, as well as other GIS analyses, indicate an acreage of 398.6. See Chapter 2 of the 2017 Ferber Ranch RMP.

ii. Rate of Spread

Rate of spread, or the rate at which a fire moves across a specific fuel bed, is a much more complicated parameter to determine. Factors that influence rate of spread include energy released from the fuel wind and slope factor, density of the fuel bed, heat of pre-ignition (i.e., amount of heat required to ignite one pound of fuel), a heat source, and a heat sink along with other propagating ratios and coefficients (Andrews, 2018).

This measurement is the forward rate of spread at the head of a surface fire. The metric of rate of spread is of concern when considering fire containment, response times, and evacuation. A slow-moving fire (for example, slower than 1/8th mile per hour, or 11 feet/minute) might be easily contained whereas fast-moving fire (a fire moving faster than one mile per hour, or 88 feet/minute) challenges containment and has the potential to move into high value sensitive areas before containment can occur. While a fast rate of spread does not necessarily result in a problematic fire, a fast-moving fire coupled with high flame lengths cannot be suppressed with a hand-crew.

There is very little difference in the rate of spread between the northeast wind scenario and the Uphill Wind scenario, with slightly larger areas of extreme rates of spread in Uphill Wind conditions. Fire spread rates are high in all locations that are not Hardwoods (Coast Live Oak [CLO], CLO/Invasive/Eucalyptus). Either the spread was very high (in CSS and Chaparral) or very low, (in Hardwoods) with little areas of moderate fire spread. Areas of cactus moderate high spread rates, with most areas of cactus spreading with rates slower than five feet/minute. This model identified locations (roads) where fires would not spread.

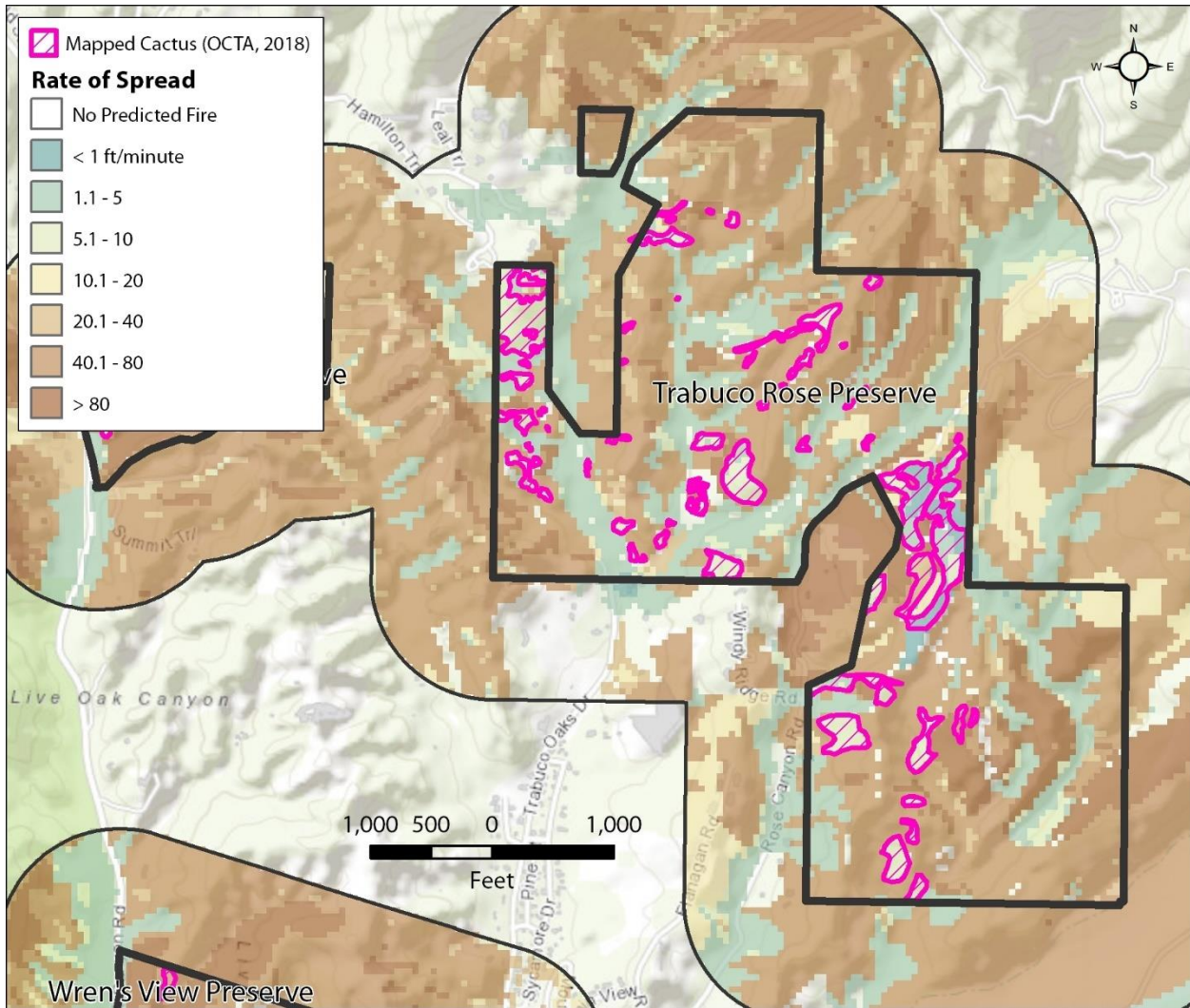


Figure 8a. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing predicted rate of spread for results from the northeast wind scenario.

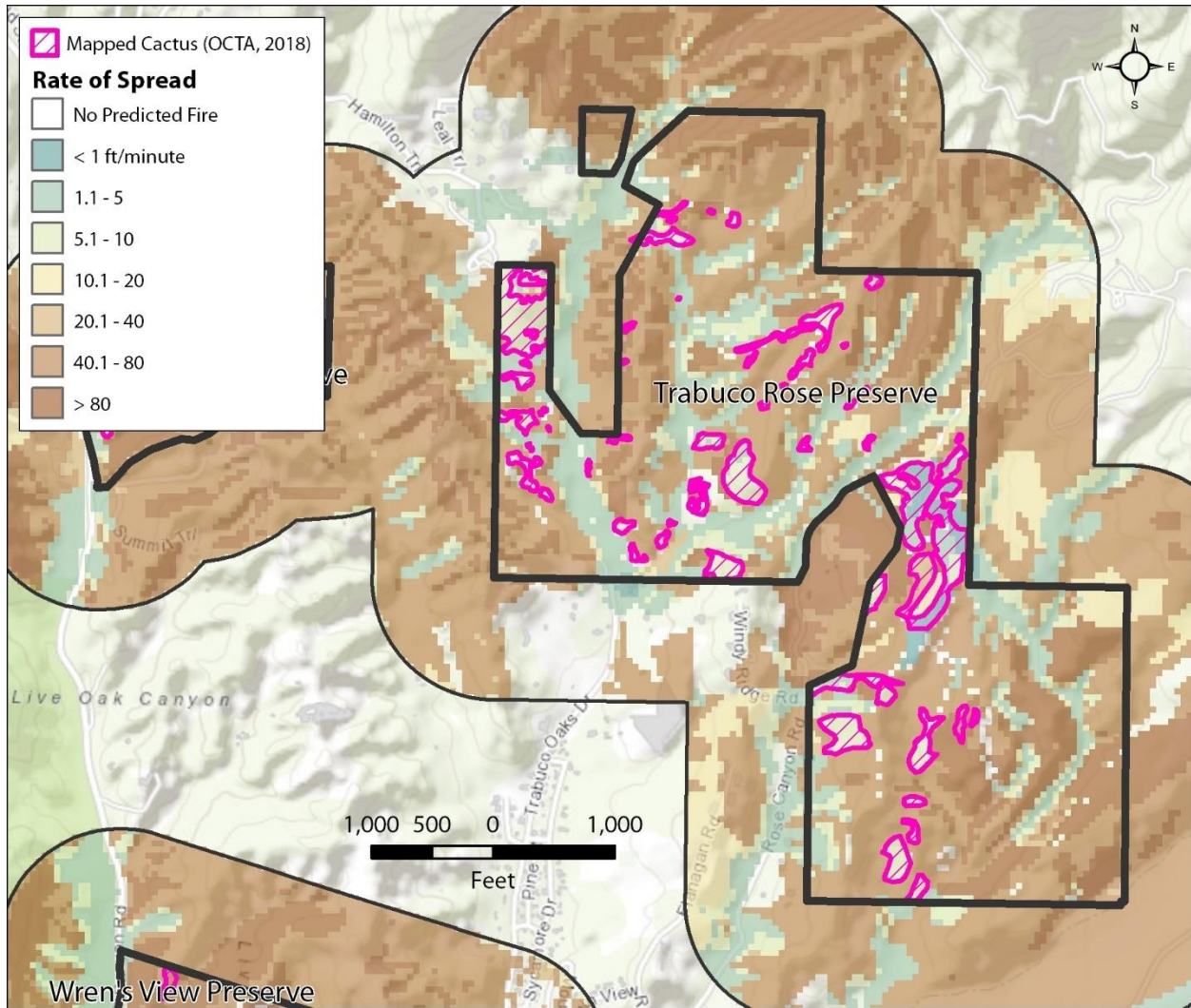


Figure 8b. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing predicted rate of spread for results from the Uphill Wind scenario.

Rate of Spread	Acres
No Predicted Fire	19.47
Less than 1 ft/minute	7.41
1.1 – 5	107.92
5.1 – 10	2.49
10.1 – 20	9.68
20.1 – 40	11.87
40.1 – 80	182.98
Greater than 80 ft/minute	56.81

Scenario I. Northeast Wind (see Figure 8a).

Rate of Spread	Acres
No Predicted Fire	19.36
Less than 1 ft/minute	4.82
1.1 – 5	102.05
5.1 – 10	3.59
10.1 – 20	10.69
20.1 – 40	6.48
40.1 – 80	163.03
Greater than 80 ft/minute	88.61

Scenario II. Uphill Wind (see Figure 8b).

Table 8. Area burned by the various categories of fire spread rate.

iii. Crown Fire Activity

The description of crown fire activity includes four possible model outputs: surface fire, torching fire, crown fire, or no predicted fire. Surface fires are limited to fire burning in grass, short shrubs, and the understory of a treed environment, or locations with tall shrubs. The transition from a surface fire to the crowns of trees is known as torching, or 'passive crown fire.' Crown fire indicates locations where fire is expected to spread into and possibly consume the canopy of trees or shrubs. Fire spread from tree crown to tree crown is considered 'active crown fire,' and is based on rate of fire spread, the density of the tree crown, and wind speed.

Modeling how a surface fire makes the transition to some form of crown fire is based on the fireline intensity, canopy base height, and foliar moisture content.

It is important to keep in mind that crown fires and torching can occur only where there are trees and tall shrubs. Short shrub stands can burn intensely and still not torch.

When a fire burns through trees or tall shrub crowns, countless embers are produced and are distributed, sometimes at long distances. These embers can start new fires called "spot fires," which can each grow and confound the finest fire suppression forces. "Spotting potential" or "crowning potential" describes the propensity of vegetation to create and disperse embers that have the potential to start countless new fires well in advance of the main fire. In terms of ecological effects, prediction of torching or crown fire is highly correlated with fire severity and greater environmental impact.

No crown fires were predicted. Surface fires are predicted to burn in almost all locations. Areas of high chaparral were tall enough for the model to consider the vegetation short trees, and those areas torched. The two largest areas of torching are located at the end of Hamilton Trail, and on the southeastern corner of the Preserve. A small portion of cactus located in the narrow portion of the property that joins the northwest and southeast portions of the Preserve is predicted to torch in both wind scenarios. Another area where torching is predicted is on the southwestern portion of the property where it adjoins private property along Arroyo Trabuco. Areas of hardwoods are not predicted to torch.

There is no appreciable difference predicted for crown fire activity between the two wind scenarios.

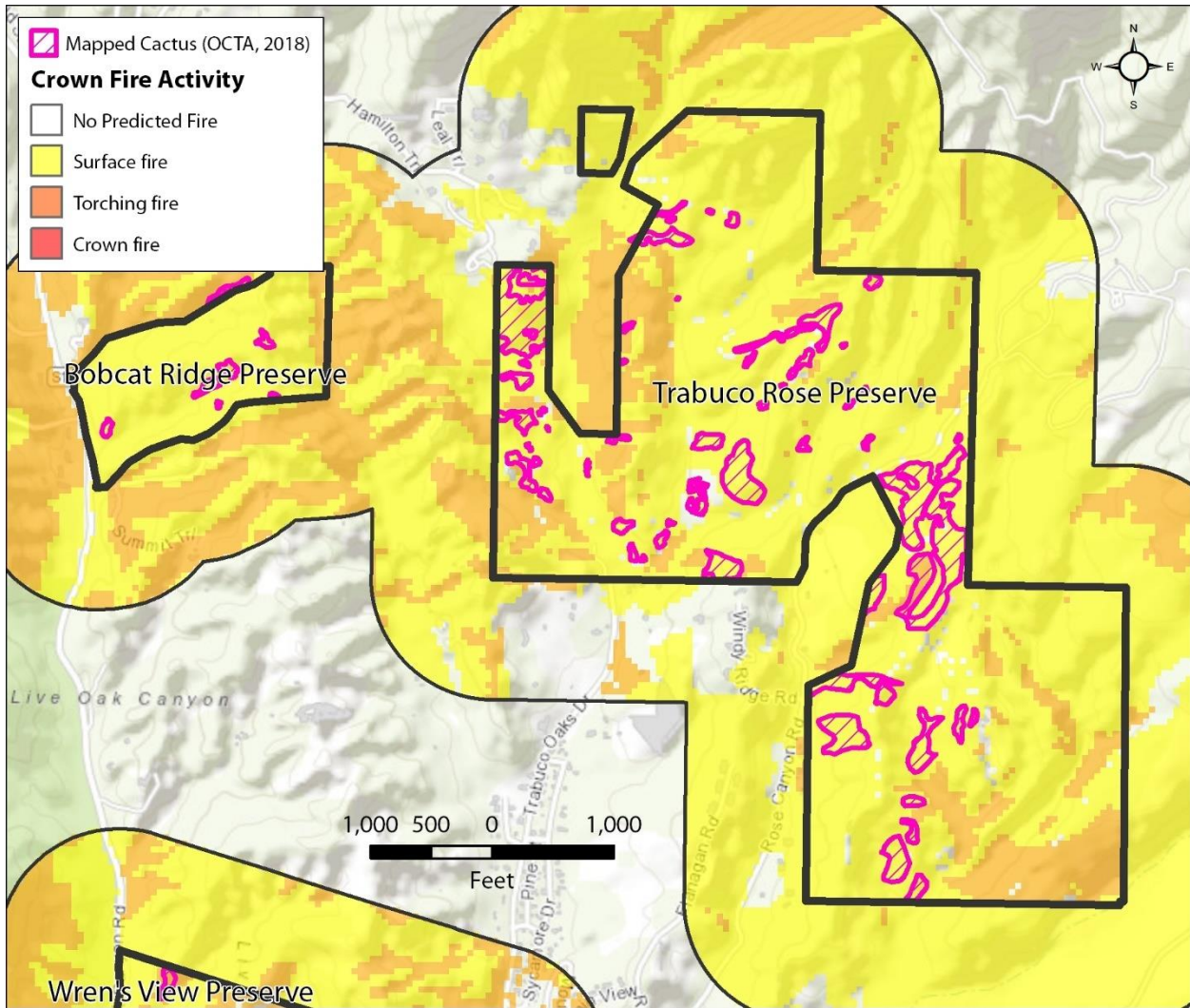


Figure 9a. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing crown fire activity for results from the Northeast Wind scenario.

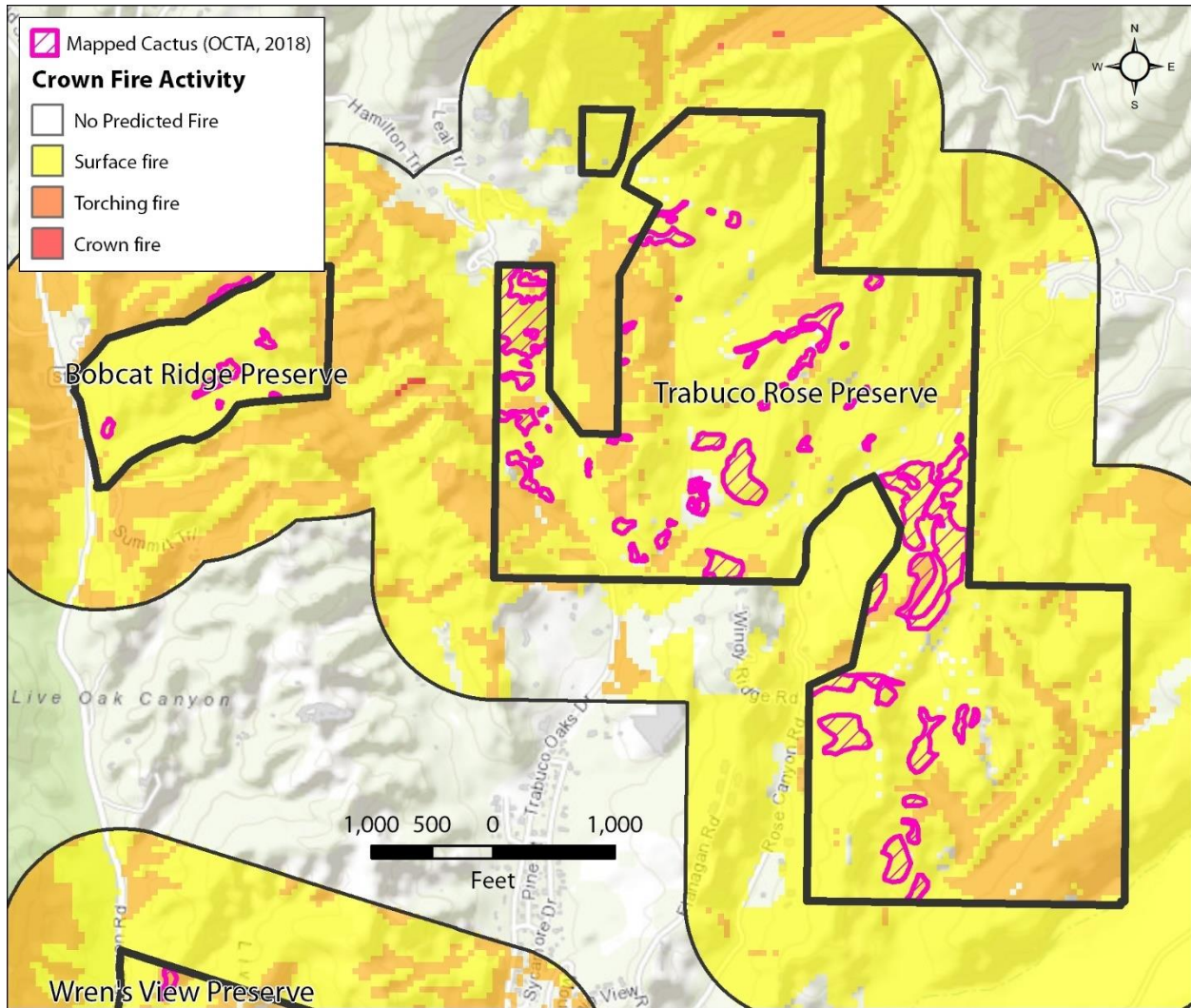


Figure 9b. Trabuco Rose Preserve map showing crown fire activity for results from the Uphill Wind scenario.

Crown Fire Activity	Acres
No Predicted Fire	9.54
Surface Fire	328.48
Torching Fire	60.62
Crown Fire	0.00

Scenario I. Northeast Wind (see Figure 9a).

Crown Fire Activity	Acres
No Predicted Fire	9.56
Surface Fire	322.45
Torching Fire	66.62
Crown Fire	0.00

Scenario II. Uphill Wind (see Figure 9b).

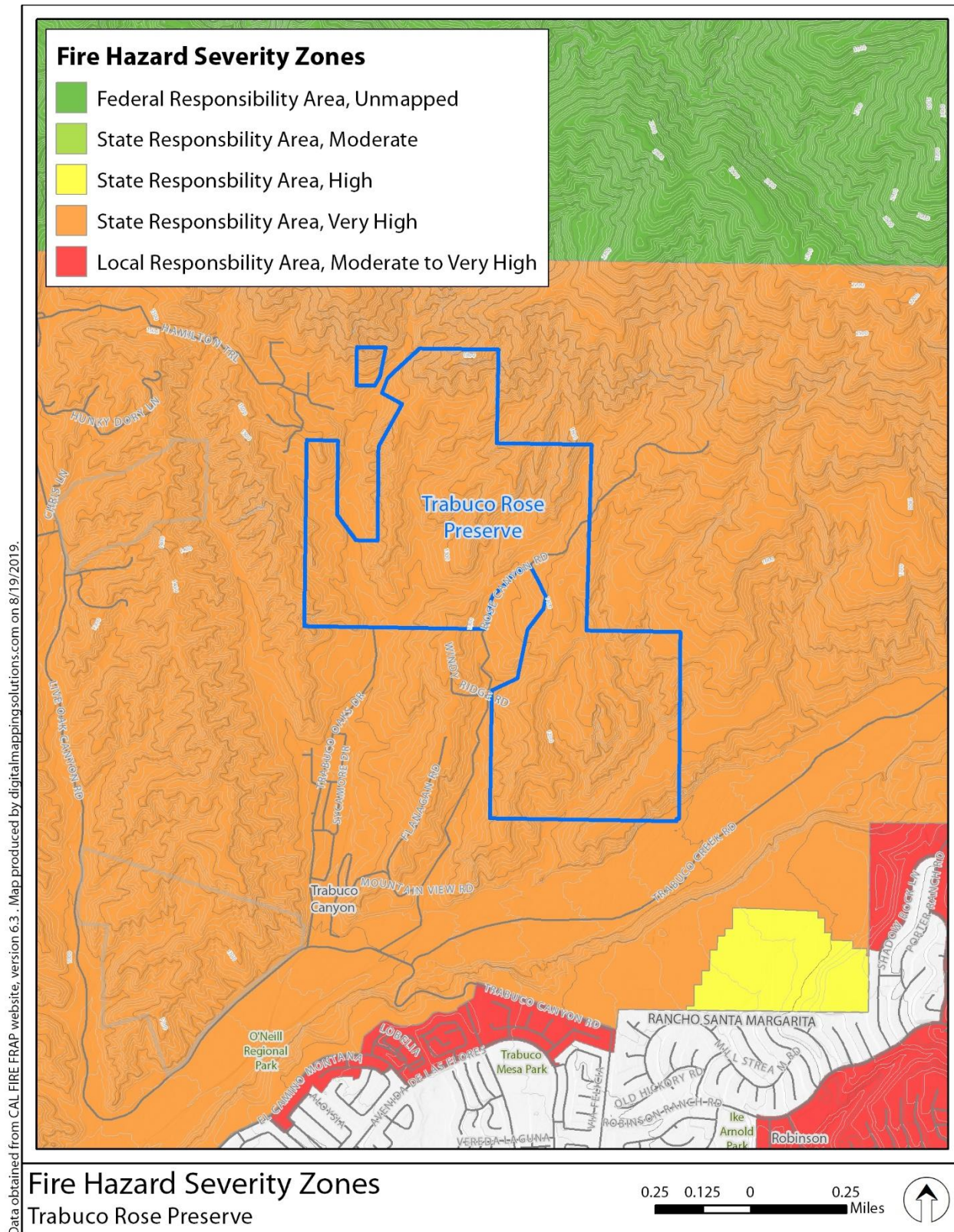
Table 9. Area burned by the various categories of fire spread rate.

C. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Ratings

Public Resources Code 4201 – 4204 and Government Code 51175-89 direct CAL FIRE to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. Fire hazard is a measure of how a fire will behave, based on a site's physical conditions. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires. The hazard is ranked in three categories: moderate, high, and very high.

Mapping is also categorized by who is responsible for fire suppression. For example, where the Federal government is fiscally responsible for fire suppression, the area is categorized as a Federal Responsibility Area. The Preserve lies within a State Responsibility Area, where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires.

The entirety of the Preserve is mapped as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This rating is based on a number of inputs, including the steep slopes and large areas covered with mature chaparral that are present on the Preserve.



Data obtained from CAL FIRE FRAP website, version 6.3. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 8/19/2019.

Figure 10. Fire Hazard Severity Zone of Trabuco Rose.

V. FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The 2016 M2 Conservation Plan (section 7.2.5.9) recognizes the need for pre-fire activities, such as brush management. Fire protection is provided through a comprehensive fire management program that is broken down into the four categories addressed below: wildfire pre-fire/ignition prevention; wildfire response; wildfire suppression repair; and wildfire recovery.

This section defines and describes the roles and responsibilities of the OCTA and OCFA and other collaborating agencies such as Orange County Sheriff, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and others that may be part of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Group.

OCTA benefits from relationships with other agencies. The non-physical support of each department, in terms of cooperating partnerships, financial support, and other resources through the WUI Group and mostly with OCTA's relationship with the OCFA Wildland Resource Planner. The Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) is another cooperating partner that helps regionally to oversee and train FireWatch volunteers that patrol high-risk wildlands in order to prevent ignitions.

Two locations have cameras with views of the Preserve as part of the ALERTCalifornia network.¹³ ALERTCalifornia is a consortium of the University of California, San Diego and numerous other partners providing fire cameras and tools to help firefighters and first responders. The ALERTCalifornia network is used to help:

1. Discover, locate, and confirm fire ignition.
2. Quickly scale fire resources up or down.
3. Monitor fire behavior during containment.
4. Help evacuations through enhanced situational awareness.
5. Observe contained fires for flare-ups.

The cameras are placed near the top of Santiago Peak and north of Bell Canyon. Both locations have multiple cameras, aimed at different angles. All cameras rotate, to enable a greater area of coverage that includes views of the Preserve.

Camera Name	County	Region	ISP	Sponsor
Santiago Peak Cal OES S	Riverside	RRU	HPWREN/UCSD	CAL FIRE
Santiago Peak CalOES N	Riverside	RRU	HPWREN/UCSD	CAL FIRE
Santiago Peak 1	Riverside	RRU	Geolinks	SCE
Santiago Peak 2	Riverside	RRU	Geolinks	SCE
Bell Canyon South	Orange	ORC	HPWREN/UCSD	SCE
Bell Canyon North	Orange	ORC	HPWREN/UCSD	SCE

¹³ <https://alertcalifornia.org/about/>

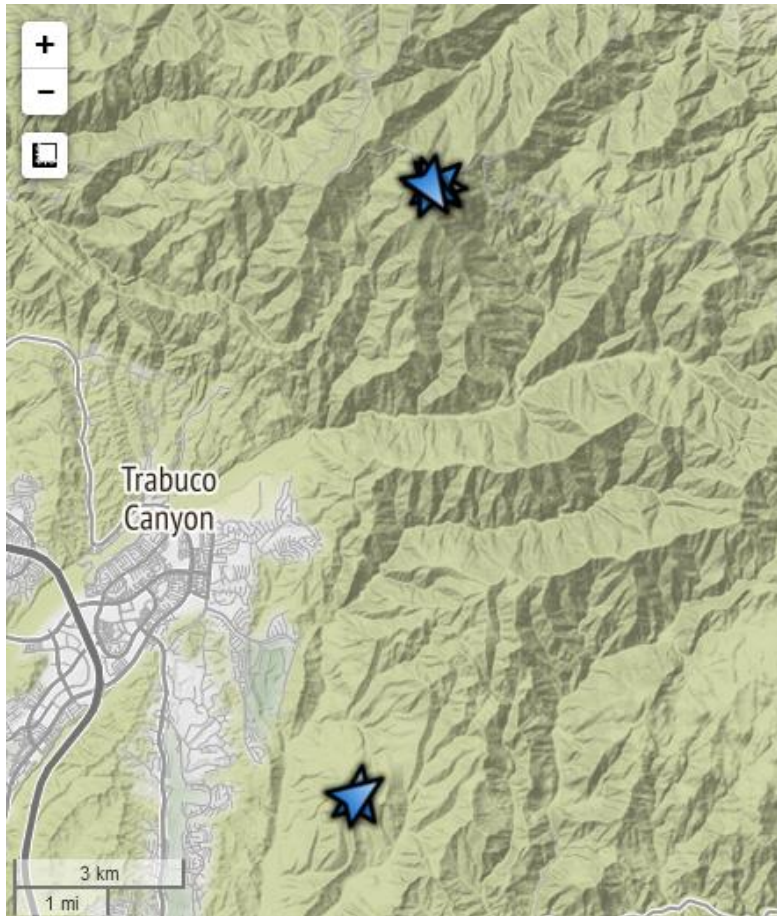


Figure 11. Locations of nearby ALERTWildfire cameras. The location at the top of the map (Santiago Peak) hosts the four cameras. The location on the bottom of the map hosts cameras named Bell Canyon South and Bell Canyon North.

A. Pre-fire/Ignition Prevention

Pre-fire response includes both planning and physical fire prevention activities, such as offering public messages regarding ignition prevention and training. Responsibilities for pre-fire activities overlaps between OCTA and OCFA.

i. Orange County Transportation Authority Responsibilities

The M2 Conservation Plan (section 7.2.5.9) states, “Preserve Managers will have the responsibility for brush management on lands they manage. Preserve management for fire will include the following elements, which will be incorporated into the RMPs:

- In consultation with local fire department and OCFA, prepare site-specific fire management plans as part of the preparation of RMPs for the Preserve. Include local fire department contacts and guidelines for pre-fire prevention activities, fire suppression, and post-fire restoration.

- Conduct pre-fire management, as appropriate, such as the limited removal of combustible, non-native plants. Because the Preserve is within the jurisdiction of OCFA, OFCA [will work with OCTA to perform pre-fire vegetation management and does not hold OCFA responsible for the pre-fire vegetation management].¹⁴
- Establish fuel management zones. If necessary, exceptions to avoid impacts on sensitive species and habitats will be identified by the Preserve Managers, with concurrence sought from the local fire authority.
- Coordinate with surrounding landowners to ensure that adequate setbacks are established that allow fuel management zones to be established outside of the Preserve (up to 100 feet from structures and 30 feet from roads) for new structures and facilities. For new structures or facilities constructed within the Preserve, ensure that a fuel management zone is established around these structures/facilities and include these areas as impacts against the caps allowed under the Plan.
- When available, establish fuel management zones that take advantage of existing roads and disturbed or developed habitats, thus avoiding sensitive habitats. Where feasible, provide approximately 15 feet of horizontal clearance to enable fire authority vehicle access to major access roads within the Preserve.
- Clear vegetation outside of the avian breeding season (as described in Section 7.3.1, “Species and Habitat Management,” above), unless a preconstruction nesting survey determines that no nesting birds will be affected by clearing activities. If clearing must occur at a time or in a manner that may affect nesting birds, the Preserve Manager will consult with the Wildlife Agencies to review any issues prior to the initiation of activities.
- Avoid impacts on narrow endemic plant populations during fire road maintenance operations and the clearing of fuel management zones. However, if high fuel load levels develop in a given year, mowing/trimming may have to occur to meet fire management requirements.
- If clearing must occur at a time or in a manner that may adversely affect sensitive resources, the Preserve Manager will consult with the Wildlife Agencies and fire agency to minimize impacts prior to project initiation.
- Work with the local fire department to ensure that wildfire suppression activities are conducted in ways that sustain long-term ecosystem health and reduce impacts on sensitive species.
- Conduct emergency post-fire erosion control where necessary. Repair and restore fences, trails, culverts, and landscaped contours to pre-fire conditions. Monitor post-fire recovery closely and immediately remediate new problems associated with erosion, sedimentation, invasion by nonnative species, etc.
- Plan all post-fire actions, such as restoration, invasive species removal, erosion control, or trail stabilization, in consultation with the Wildlife Agencies prior to project initiation.”

The RMPs address invasive plant and wildlife species, as well as insect pests that affect trees and other native vegetation in the Preserves. These fungal and insect pests can weaken and

¹⁴ The bracketed text does not appear in the M2 Conservation plan; rather, it is an updated agreement between the OCTA and OCFA, developed as a result of this FMP. The zones were delineated with OCFA.

kill native trees. The dead, sick, or weakened trees create an additional hazard in the form of increased volumes of dry fuel that are distributed from the ground to the tree crown. This hazard may justify pre-fire action to prevent ignitions and unnaturally high fire intensity and fire spread rates.

The RMPs commit the OCTA Preserve Manager to monitor and address potential infestations of invasive insects and other pathogens that can threaten native habitat. In addition, the OCTA Preserve Manager will stay current on the latest information and science of invasive insects or other pathogens (e.g., invasive shot hole borer and goldspotted oak borer) and monitor for signs of infestations as part of general stewardship monitoring. If an infestation is identified, the Preserve Manager will coordinate with the OCTA NCCP/HCP Administrator and Wildlife Agencies on appropriate control actions.

The RMP for the Trabuco Rose (then Ferber Ranch) Preserve also specifies duties regarding pre-fire management: "Prior to implementation of the FMP, the Preserve Manager will maintain fuel modification zones in the Preserve approved by OCFA, conduct regular maintenance of weeds along existing fire roads, and maintain existing roads in a condition that will provide safe access for firefighters."¹⁵ As previously mentioned and included in the Ferber Ranch RMP, OCTA maintains two vegetation management zones depicted in Appendix A as directed by OCFA.

- Zone A (20022 Trabuco Oaks Drive) includes a 100-foot buffer that is maintained as follows: removal of dead plant material and the cutting of annual grasses to four inches. When vegetation other than grass grows back into this area, thinning at 25% needs to occur 40 feet from property line.
- Zone B (1 Windy Ridge) includes a 100-foot buffer that is maintained as follows: removal of dead plant material and the thinning of plants by 25% within 30 feet from the property line.

The boundaries of each vegetation management zone have been staked with clearly visible markers to ensure that vegetation management is restricted to the appropriate locations.

OCTA conducts community outreach with wildfire prevention messages, including the impact of flying embers and the limited, but essential, need for vegetation management and access. This is done at OCTA wilderness preserve hikes, and participation in cooperating agency events. OCTA participates in the County of Orange Area Safety Taskforce (COAST) and Orange County Ignition Prevention Working Group, a subset group of COAST Closure of the Preserve to the public is an effective method of preventing wildfire as human activities are closely correlated to wildfire ignition.

OCTA has the responsibility to ensure that access to the site is provided and maintained by ensuring the roadbed of the portion of all fire roads inside the Preserve are passable and the vegetation is cleared on the roadway.

¹⁵ Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Section 1, pg. 15.

The M2 Conservation Plan establishes a Strategy/Management Action that “The FMP will include maps of cactus patches and strategies to minimize direct impacts to cactus patches during fire suppression efforts, if feasible.” This mapping was completed in 2019 and the cactus patches are included in the Environmentally Sensitive Lands map that were developed as areas to avoid (to the greatest extent feasible) for OCFA.

OCTA has the responsibility to meet with OCFA representatives to inform them of the conditions on the Preserve (because the entire Preserve is considered sensitive habitat), and express preferences for suppression strategies, as required by the M2 Conservation Plan. While the Incident Commander (IC) has complete authority for suppression decisions, the entire Preserve contains high-quality habitat, and no locations are mapped as suitable for placement of a dozer line during response to a fire incident. Current access within the Preserve is adequate for fire containment. This is consistent with supporting fire suppression “to reduce the threat of cactus patches being irreparably harmed by frequent and/or intense fires (priority 1).” The OCTA developed a map of environmentally sensitive areas [Environmentally Sensitive Lands map (Appendix D)] which informs the OCFA of rare and sensitive plants and habitat types to try to avoid. This map is an important component to inform the decision-making process during a wildfire.

ii. Orange County Fire Authority Responsibilities

The OCFA pre-fire/ignition prevention responsibilities are spearheaded by the OCFA Wildland Pre-Fire Management staff, including the Wildland Resource Planner. The responsibilities of the OCFA Wildland Pre-Fire Management include conducting vegetation management as approved by OCTA, coordinating with regulatory agencies such as the Wildlife Agencies, and enforcing compliance with vegetation management requirements for adjacent landowners. According to OCFA Vegetation Management Guidelines, all landowners are required to maintain vegetation management zones within 100 feet of dwellings and other habitable structures.¹⁶ See Appendix A for the specific OCFA recommended fuel management requirements for both defensible space and vegetation thinning for two zones on this Preserve. OCFA will ensure that any vegetation management needed for any new adjacent structures be conducted on the adjoining parcel where the structure is proposed and shall not extend onto the OCTA Preserve per Section 7.2.5.9 of the Conservation Plan. Vegetation management is prohibited under future conservation easements except as otherwise allowed under the RMP and FMP.

The OCFA is trained per the National Wildfire Coordinating Group qualifications. These qualifications span firefighting techniques as well as incident management. OCFA hand crews also continue to be trained in the value of natural resources.

As part of pre-fire activities, the OCFA commissioned a set of WUI Pre-Fire Plans for portions of the wildland-urban interface in the County served by OCFA. These plans identify risks, hazards, and infrastructure that supports fire suppression, such as access

¹⁶ <https://www.ocfa.org/Uploads/SafetyPrograms/OCFA%20RSG%20-%20Vegetation%20Management%20Guidelines.pdf>

and water sources. The portion of the Trabuco Wildland Urban Interface Pre-Fire Plan that covers the Preserve appears in Figure 12. A potential choke point was identified in Trabuco Rose Preserve near the northwestern property boundary along Rose Canyon/Joplin Ranch Road adjacent to the Joplin Youth Center. An entrapment hazard is identified towards the south-central property boundary where the Hickey Spur crosses Rose Canyon Road. Erratic fire behavior is also predicted near where Rose Canyon Road accesses the property from the south.

The Plans also identified the following major access roads in the vicinity: Live Oak Canyon Rd which extends east from Santiago Canyon Rd (Cook's Corner), and Trabuco Canyon Rd which extends to the west from Plano Trabuco Rd in Rancho Santa Margarita. Holy Jim Canyon Road is six miles/45 minutes up (dirt-paved) Trabuco Creek Rd from Trabuco Canyon Rd. All secondary canyon streets intersect Live Oak or Trabuco Canyon Roads. No staging areas or temporary refuge areas are in the Preserve, though a safety zone is identified at the adjoining Joplin Youth Center to the east.

These Pre-Fire Plans identified several Safety Factors:

- Fire Fighter Safety is Level 1 (highest risk) due to no safety zones.
- Civilian Safety is Level 1 (highest risk) requiring mandatory evacuation.
- Air Safety is Level 1 (highest risk) due to restrictions from steep canyons.
- Hazardous Materials is Level 2 (moderate risk) due to hazards in barns.
- Entrapment is Level 1 (highest risk) due to canyon topography.

The plans also identify preferred tactics for containment and evacuation. Liaisons and important areas of avoidance are also identified.

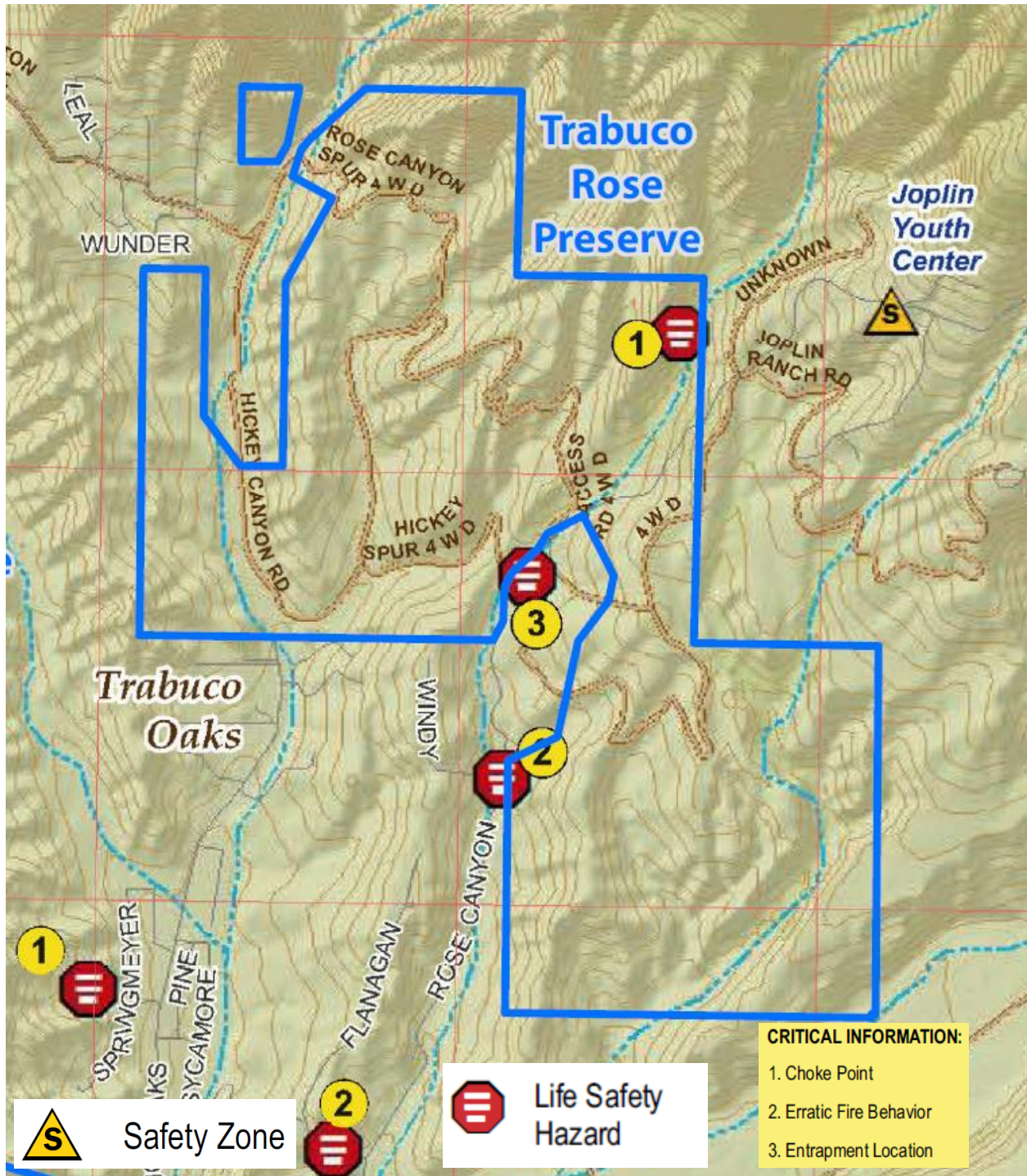


Figure 12. Brown lines indicating access roads, Safety Zones, and Life Safety Hazards in the Preserve.

B. Wildfire Response

Fire suppression is defined as all work involved in extinguishing a fire following its detection. The basic practices involve reconnaissance, hot-spotting, location, and construction of firelines, control, mop-up and patrol, and declaring the fire contained and controlled.

The primary objective of fire suppression on OCTA lands is to control wildfires to protect public safety while causing the least damage to OCTA Preserve resources. Natural resources will be taken into consideration where feasible. Line placement is determined on a number of factors, including time, fuels, topography, and available resources. The 2016 M2 Conservation Plan states, “The FMP will identify wildfire suppression activities and strategies, access points, fire hydrants, and potential staging areas. The FMP will emphasize a fire suppression strategy of controlling any smaller fires on site if possible. Larger fires coming from outside the Preserve and moving across the Preserve may require control tactics within the Preserve. In these instances, OCFA will establish defenses within and nearby any adjacent homes to protect life and property. The Preserve Manager, Conservation Plan Administrator, and OCFA should collaborate to define the least damaging suppression strategy within the FMP and delineate this preferred area(s) graphically.” Determining the least damaging suppression strategy includes weighing, for example, the impact of possible damage from soil disturbance from dozer lines with those of a possible larger fire size (and potential for facilitation of invasive plant species) due to the backfire.

i. Orange County Transportation Authority Responsibilities

Firefighting organizations operate under the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is part of the State Emergency Management System (SEMS). OCTA should have the Field Operations Guide to the Incident Command System (#ICS-420-1), available from the Office of Emergency Services.

When wildfire and suppression activities are expected to impact OCTA lands it is essential to establish liaisons to monitor, supply special management zone information, or direct these activities. Information obtained at the Incident Command Post (ICP) or from the Incident Action Plans (IAP) may be inaccurate because firefighters are unfamiliar with the area and ownership, or the information may not be transferred to new personnel at shift changes. A rapidly changing fire perimeter magnifies all communication problems. If an uncontained wildland fire is either threatening or on OCTA lands, the OCTA Preserve Manager will act as an RA and coordinate and communicate with the WRP to prevent unnecessary damage to Preserve resources.

The OCTA RA will be the individual responsible for overseeing management of the Preserve if and/when management of the Preserve responsibility is transferred to another entity. That individual will take the required training, and wear suitable personal protection gear, so that they will be able to go behind the fireline, escorted by fire personnel, if necessary. An OCTA Operations staff member should receive the same training and equipment, so that they will be able to reconcile technical considerations and OCTA land management goals with OCFA firefighters in an expedient manner. Once notified of a wildfire, the OCTA RA will

report to the WRP and advise that position of sensitive features and landowner preferences on outcomes. The OCTA RA will also request activities such as a truck-washing facility, that would reduce resource impact of the wildfire during suppression, mop-up and rehabilitation. The OCFA Incident Commander (IC) has complete authority for suppression strategy and outcomes and will take the landowner's preferences into advisement.

The role of OCTA staff depends on the nature of the wildland fire. All OCTA employees have the responsibility of gathering information about the wildfire because any employee may discover and receive a report of a wildfire. The employee should immediately call 911.

Upon arrival at the wildfire, OCTA will have several duties. In order of priority the duties are:

1. If necessary, OCTA staff would request OC Sheriff to assist with evacuations. This activity is necessary when unauthorized members of the public are at the fire scene.
2. Request an off-site truck-washing facility to be operated by the contracted entity. The most likely location of this facility would be the OCFA staging area.

Responsibilities and Requirements of the Resource Advisor: The RA will check in at the ICP and contact the WRP. The RA will attend all incident planning and briefing meetings and inform the WRP of OCTA's sensitive resources. This will be a question at a wildfire because it is the duty of the IC to inquire about any special management concerns of the affected landowners. The IC will rely on the WRP to work with the RA and relay any special management concerns. The RA will obtain and study the Incident Action Plans. The RA can offer alternative locations for control lines when sensitive resources are threatened. The RA must know the Preserve ownership, sensitive areas, and contents of the fire management plan. The RA must have official identification, mobile phone or radio, and a copy of the fire management plan, and a RA certification.

Emergency Evacuation: OCTA staff, contractors, or any other members of the public (if during a docent led event) that may be within the Preserve during an uncontained wildfire must either be evacuated from the Preserve or brought to a "safe area." Evacuation routes will depend on conditions, circumstances, and staffing. The evacuation order is a command decision under ICS, which is carried out by the Orange County Sheriff department. In the Trabuco Rose Preserve, the preferred evacuation route to vacate the Preserve is along Rose Canyon Road/Trabuco Oaks Drive. In no circumstance should members of the public be brought to the Preserve during a wildfire incident unless directed and carried out by the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The OCFA commissioned a WUI Pre-attack Plan that includes an evacuation plan; this section of the Pre-attack Plan appears as Appendix E.

ii. Orange County Fire Authority Responsibilities

The OCFA is responsible for providing fire protection for the Trabuco Rose Preserve. As shown in Table 11, the nearest fire station is OCFA Station #18, on Trabuco Canyon Rd., which is equipped with vehicles suitable for wildland fire response.

Station #18 consists of a full-time staffed engine and a reserve engine. Station#18 staffing also includes two trained hand crews. Reserve firefighters report to the station (with

maximum response time of 10 minutes) and respond on assigned fire vehicles. Reserve Firecrew members assigned to Station #18 in Trabuco Canyon receive training in wildland firefighting and special equipment operation.

Nearest Fire Station	Service Area	Fire Station Address	Route	Distance	Estimated Time
STATION #18	TRABUCO	30942 Trabuco Canyon Rd. Trabuco Canyon 92678	Via Trabuco Oaks Dr	1 mile	< 5 minutes
STATION #45	SANTA MARGARITA	30131 Aventura Rancho Santa Margarita 92688	Via Santa Margarita Pkwy	4.9 miles	10 - 15 minutes
STATION #42	PORTOLA HILLS	19150 Ridgeline Rd. Lake Forest 92679	Via Live Oak Canyon Rd	5.3 miles	10 - 15 minutes
STATION #31	MISSION VIEJO	22426 Olympiad Rd. Mission Viejo 92692	Via Santa Margarita Pkwy	6.9 miles	15 - 20 minutes
STATION #54	FOOTHILL RANCH	19811 Pauling Ave. Lake Forest 92610	Via Live Oak Canyon Rd	7.9 miles	15 - 20 minutes
STATION #19	LAKE FOREST	23022 El Toro Rd. Lake Forest 92630	Via County Hwy S18	11 miles	> 20 minutes

Table 11. Location of nearby fire stations and response times to the Preserve.

If a fire starts on USFS lands, USFS personnel would respond to that fire and the incident would be managed under Unified Command if it crosses onto private lands such as the Preserve. Unified Command is an application of the ICS when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction. Agencies work together at the ICP to establish a common set of objectives and strategies, and a single IAP. When the fire threatens or spreads to OCTA property, OCTA personnel will be notified and authorized to fulfill the RA's role. OCTA's RA would fulfill the same role and report to the same position within ICS, regardless of the type of command system and where the fire started.

The WUI Pre-attack Plan (Rhode, 2016) identifies all infrastructure that supports wildland fire response in and around the Preserve. There are several types of water sources available for fire response within the Preserve. There are several hydrants available for fire response near the Preserve at the bottom of Trabuco Canyon and in upper canyon areas along Hamilton Trail. The Pre-attack Plan inadvertently failed to identify an existing hydrant on Hickey Canyon Road, so this location should be conveyed to OCFA to make sure the next set of plans is updated with this information. Pump stations are located on Rose Canyon Rd near Trabuco Canyon Rd, steel water tanks/pumps on Live Canyon Rd at Hamilton Trail, and a pump station/reservoir at Rose Canyon Rd north off Windy Ridge Rd. No water sources are available in canyon wildland areas, however.

In the event of a fire, OCFA will commence suppression activities consistent with the primary goal of saving lives. OCFA will provide support to identify and protect natural and cultural resources to the best of their ability. Mapping indicating all Environmentally Sensitive Lands on the Preserve, as in Appendix D, was created with input from the OCTA RA and was developed to be used as a tool to aid in sensitive resource avoidance and minimization. The OCFA will notify OCTA of a wildfire. The OCFA Wildland Resource Planner will be a liaison between the landowner (OCTA) and the IC as needed. The Wildland Resource Planner will

also be responsible for coordination with neighboring landowners: the USFS, Orange County Parks, and private landowners.

EMERGENCY RESOURCE NEEDS - FIRST SIX HOURS (In addition to Initial Attack Resource)			
Fire ORC Dispatch: (714)573-6522 *COP Ordering Point: FS-CNF Dispatch (619)557-5262		Law Enforcement OCSD (714)288-6963 Ordering Point:	
Engines: The number range reflects the number of "minimum" to "preferred" resources.			Law Enforcement: 80-100 officers, OCSD to evacuation, traffic control, and security. CHP to traffic. County Parks to evacuate O'Neill Regional Park. IC-Lt., Capt. Traffic Control on: Trabuco Canyon Rd. x. Robinson Ranch Rd. and Live Oak Canyon Rd. x- Santiago Cyn. Rd. Consider area of Camino Montana and other canyon perimeter streets) in Rancho Santa Margarita.
<u>Type 1</u> Strike Teams: 6-10	<u>Type 3</u> Strike Teams: 4-5	Water Tenders: 4-5	
<u>Crews</u> Single: 8-10 STs:	<u>Dozers</u> Single: 2-4 STs:	Overhead: 4-5 Div. Sup.: 4-6	
Aircraft: Type 1 Helicopter (Large): 1 Type 3 Helicopter (Light): 1 Type 2 Helicopter (Med.): 3 Air Tankers: 4			Logistics Open EOC to support aggressive fire or significant evacuation need. Consider responder fuel, water, and food needs. File F-MAG application with CAL-OES. Notify public works to assist in traffic management, Red Cross and Animal Services to assist in evacuation. Consult with SCE regarding electrical transmission & distribution issues.
WUI Engine Deployment - High Risk 1 engine/2-4 perimeter structures, 1 engine/isolated structures 2 engines/ multi-family structures			
WUI Engine Deployment - Moderate Risk 1 engine/2-4 perimeter structures, 1 engine/isolated structure, 2 engines/multi-family structure			
WUI Engine Deployment - Low Risk 1 strike team/2 blocks of perimeter hom			
			Other Liaison with County Parks for O'Neill Park lands- County Parks Dispatch: (562) 795-5410, or with the Forest Service for Cleveland National Forest lands. Dozer restrictions: use on ridge lines or to expand existing or legacy TT's, restrict use in canyon bottoms. Use caution for dozers on slope, past dozer roll-over near Joplin.

Figure 13. Expected emergency resource needs identified in the Wildland Urban Interface Pre-Fire Plan (2016) for a wildfire in/near Trabuco Canyon. OCTA has requested that OCTA contacts be included in the applicable plan for the Trabuco Rose Preserve.

C. Wildfire Suppression Repair

Wildfire suppression remediation, repair, or rehabilitation refers to activities focused on the repair and rehabilitation of any damage to resources directly caused by firefighting activities. It does not include post-fire recovery efforts needed to mitigate fire-related impacts to resources (see Wildfire Recovery). For the purposes of this FMP, repair activities refer to the actions taken by OCFA immediately after firefighting activities to repair impacts from equipment, fire lines, and other firefighting efforts. Repair activities are focused on reducing the overall effects that may occur downslope and are described in a Fire Suppression Repair Plan (also known as Incident Repair Plan, or IRP) that is developed for the property. As a landowner, the OCTA will be actively involved in the development of the IRP and oversight of its implementation so that the effects of suppression on the Preserve are identified and mitigated. Combined, the OCTA and OCFA will form an Incident Rehabilitation (or Repair, or Remediation) Team to develop and implement the IRP.

i. Orange County Transportation Authority Responsibilities

The RMP for the Trabuco Rose (then Ferber Ranch) Preserve lays out specific actions for post-fire response:

“If a fire occurs on the Preserve, the Preserve Manager will inventory the condition of natural communities following the fire, and will coordinate with the Monitoring Biologist, Wildlife Agencies, and Regulatory Agencies as necessary, to determine if habitat restoration is warranted...

The Preserve Manager will inventory the condition of natural communities following a fire on the Preserve, and will coordinate with the Monitoring Biologist, and Wildlife Agencies as necessary, to determine if habitat restoration is warranted. The OCTA Conservation Plan Administrator and Preserve Manager will work with the Wildlife Agencies and OCFA, as necessary, to determine if fire severity and frequency meet the requirements of a Changed Circumstance as defined in the Conservation Plan and utilize funding as appropriate to implement post-fire restoration. [OCFA will assist by helping determine the fire severity.] Options for funding this restoration include (1) using funds allocated for adaptive management, (2) reallocating funds from existing management priorities, as appropriate, (3) pursuing outside funding sources, or (4) seeking authorization to use Changed Circumstance funding.”

Following a wildfire on the Preserve, a representative of the OCTA will attend all Incident Rehabilitation Team meetings. The representative will perform a reconnaissance of OCTA lands affected by the burn or suppression activities and convey damage and mitigation recommendations to the OCFA so that it can be included in the IRP. This representative will coordinate all rehabilitation measures on OCTA lands called for in the IRP. The OCTA representative will review/approve all proposals not specifically identified in the IRP. The OCTA representative will also interact with public watershed protection agencies and regulatory Wildlife Agencies.

Wildfires that burn OCTA lands will be documented and reported in the NCCP/HCP Annual Reports or under separate cover as appropriate. Maps created by fire protection agencies after a large wildfire could have inaccuracies and should be field checked to determine actual OCTA lands affected. It is recommended OCTA conduct its own mapping of the area burned during or immediately following the incident and provide the data to the Wildlife Agencies. Wildfire perimeters and major unburned areas within the overall fire perimeter should be located with a Global Positioning System (GPS) and transferred to a Geographic Information System layer. For significant damages caused by the suppression activities, costs to OCTA should be reimbursed by OCTA filing a compensation claim.

ii. Orange County Fire Authority Responsibilities

OCFA staff will be involved in the repair of fire suppression impacts on the Preserve after a major wildfire. The workload depends on the size and intensity of the fire and the extent of fire suppression actions and will be detailed in the IRP (see Appendix B for an example). The authority to complete suppression repair work lies with the Public Resources Code (PRC), including PRC 4675 and PRC 4676(a,b). Policy derived from these statutes is provided in the CAL FIRE Handbook. This policy and authority provide for repairs necessary to prevent further resource damage.

Wildfire suppression repairs conducted by OCFA equipment operators will be performed prior to move-out, and generally will include:

- Preparation of an IRP.
- Recontouring areas of the Preserve where suppression occurred, especially in sensitive areas, prime habitat or areas previously restored.
- Installing waterbars (ditches cut at an angle into the soil) on dozer firelines.
- Removing soil and organic debris from streams where fire lines crossed and applying mulch or other fine organic material on fire line approaches where appropriate.
- Bringing road drainage structures back to pre-fire condition.
- Treating/reducing large concentrations of downed trees (slash) near roads and structures.
- Repairing damaged land improvements (e.g., fences and gates) related to suppression activities.
- Addressing public safety issues, such as flagging/marking hazard trees, threatening roads or structures for removal by professional fallers, and mapping/reporting downed power and phone lines.

Repair activities will focus on minimizing erosion and minimizing the introduction of alien species. The mitigations described in the IRP apply to constructed fire lines, watercourse crossings, access roads, drop points, helispots and any other locations disturbed by fire suppression activities. The mitigations are intended to reduce downslope effects. Of particular concern are potential water quality impacts, damage to private roads, and cultural resources. The intent is to utilize resources presently assigned to the incident for repair with operators that have knowledge of the activities that occurred during control operations. A

Repair Specialist will be assigned to ensure that work is done as required and according to the IRP. Additional specialists may be used if the need arises. These general standards will be applied except where site-specific needs are identified, and alternative repair actions are developed and agreed upon.

Bare soil that has been moved by suppression activities to form fire control lines and safety zones must be returned as closely as possible to the original grade. Side-cast fill material will be pulled up into the cut zone, outsloped and packed to resemble the original contour as much as possible. Berms shall be pulled back across the surface of the disturbed soil and scattered to take advantage of the native seed present within the material. All material and debris that was pushed into riparian vegetation shall be removed and placed on stable repository sites. Temporary fire camps, helispots, and other sites shall be removed, and the sites returned to their natural state.

The creation of fire lines by heavy equipment on slopes can often be a source of considerable erosion and OCFA is expected to follow the IRP and recontour with heavy equipment in specific scenarios. This recontouring will be performed prior to the move-out of equipment that was used for fire suppression. Some erosion control measures will be required where suppression activities have exposed mineral soil. Erosion control on burned areas will only be necessary within areas where all viable seed and rootstock have been consumed or killed. OCFA does not perform plantings.

All existing roads and trails that have been modified by suppression activities will be returned to their original condition after the fire unless full re-contouring is necessary. Roads shall be outsloped where possible. On roads, mechanical equipment shall create holes through the older berms at natural drainage areas. All berm material cleared via this process shall be pulled onto the road surface, scattered, and packed.

After re-contouring of the soil, if necessary, the exposed soil shall be covered with unburned (or blackened, cold) organic matter. Shallow seed furrows that will retard overland water flow will be created by lightly dragging the toothed edge of a McCloud across the slope. Existing downed material and available debris will be scattered on top of raked area. Walking on the raked area will be avoided throughout this process.

New hand and dozer fire control lines create opportunities for unauthorized visitors to use as trails and may result in increased erosion. Dozer fire control lines or handlines that connect with roads or trails shall be fully recontoured, covered, and visually hidden for a distance of 200 feet using existing downed natural material.

D. Wildfire Recovery

OCTA is responsible for and will determine if post-fire restoration activities that are not part of the IRP prepared by the OCFA are necessary. OCTA would be responsible for such activities as seeding and planting vegetation (as necessary), or installation of erosion barriers, straw wattles, and other forms of erosion control. If seeding is determined to be

necessary, the seed mix should consist of native species collected from within the Preserve. If the collection of seed from within the Preserve is not possible, coordination and approval of alternative seed sources from CDFW and USFWS will be obtained.

No permanent erosion control devices will be installed. Temporary erosion control devices can be installed when erosion has been exacerbated by artificial structures or landscape features upslope that cannot be corrected and seeding or planting will not stabilize the accelerated erosion within one year.

If any significant cultural resource sites have been exposed by wildfire, OCTA should work with a qualified archaeologist to design specifications or procedures to cover and block access to the sites.

A tree hazard assessment may be necessary after a fire. If any trees along roads or trails have been damaged or killed by wildfire, they will be inspected, and safety risks mitigated by a licensed arborist.

Following a major wildfire, care should be taken to avoid inadvertent introduction of non-native plant species and pathogens to the Preserve. Exotic species may become established and spread quickly in the low competition, nutrient-rich post burn soils. Surveillance of control lines and other areas of soil disturbance will be a focus of post-fire activities as part of the implementation of the Invasive Species Management Plan. Equipment and tools should be cleaned before entering the Preserve.

Decisions regarding placement of restoration areas should keep in mind that locations near previous fire roads or dozer lines may be used again during response to future wildfires so will have a higher vulnerability to recurrent disturbance.

The RMP for the Trabuco Rose (then Ferber Ranch) Preserve lays out specific actions for post-fire response:

“If a fire occurs on the Preserve, the Preserve Manager will inventory the condition of natural communities following the fire, and will coordinate with the Monitoring Biologist, Wildlife Agencies, and Regulatory Agencies as necessary, to determine if habitat restoration is warranted...

The Preserve Manager will inventory the condition of natural communities following a fire on the Preserve, and will coordinate with the Monitoring Biologist, Wildlife Agencies, and Regulatory Agencies as necessary, to determine if habitat restoration is warranted. The OCTA NCCP/HCP Administrator and Preserve Manager will work with the Wildlife Agencies, Regulatory Agencies, and OCFA, as necessary, to determine if fire severity and frequency meet the requirements of a Changed Circumstance as defined in the NCCP/HCP and utilize funding as appropriate to implement post-fire restoration. Options for funding this restoration include (1) using funds allocated for adaptive management, (2) reallocating funds from existing management priorities, as appropriate, (3) pursuing

outside funding sources, or (4) seeking authorization to use Changed Circumstance funding.

Post-fire management activities may include but are not limited to the following.

- Conduct emergency post-fire erosion control, where necessary. [This is separate from and in addition to work performed by OCFA under the IRP and would include areas that are not re-contoured.]
- Repair/restore damaged fences, roads, or other official Preserve structures to pre-fire conditions.
- Monitor post-fire recovery closely. Implement control measures to remediate any resulting erosion, sedimentation, and invasion by nonnative plant species.
- Coordinate with OCFA to recontour any dozer lines created within the Preserve. Restoration of dozer lines by OCFA will include, but not be limited to, recontouring lines, removing berms, scattering previously cut brush over lines, and potentially replanting available cactus pads. These activities will be agreed upon and coordinated between OCFA and Preserve Manager. [These activities are specified and agreed to in the IRP.]
- Plan all post-fire actions (e.g., habitat restoration, invasive species removal, erosion control, or trail stabilization) in consultation with the Wildlife and Regulatory Agencies prior to project initiation and permitted if necessary, by State and Federal regulation programs. The Preserve Manager will use current information on best approaches and strategies for post-fire restoration, including erosion control, seeding, and success criteria.”¹⁷

The M2 Conservation Plan acknowledges that a single wildfire is not a Changed Circumstance, but a Changed Circumstance is triggered when fires burn the Preserve frequently:

“A Changed Circumstance fire event will be defined as one that exceeds the ability of the Preserve Manager’s standard staff/equipment to control and occurs over the same area(s) more frequently than the expected recovery interval. Exceeding the ability of the Preserve Manager means that the available fire-management resources (as described/listed in the RMP) cannot contain or control the fire and additional firefighting resources are required to control and contain the fire. The effects of fire frequency may vary by proximity to the coast, elevation and aspect, time of year, and other factors. Based on the fire history of Orange County and experience on similar Preserves, for this Plan, the repeated frequencies triggering Changed Circumstances is *three fires within a 50-year span on the same area of a Preserve. If four fires occur within a 50-year time span, this would be considered an Unforeseen Circumstance.*” (italics provided)

If frequent wildfires burn the Preserve, the Preserve Manager or a qualified individual will develop specific actions to be implemented, which will be included in an updated FMP.

¹⁷ Ferber Ranch Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Section 1, pg. 15 and Section 3, pg. 23.

Possible responses to a Changed Circumstance fire may involve the following, per the M2 Conservation Plan:

- “Revise standard fire prevention procedures by the land management entities on Preserves.
- Collaborate with local fire agencies to assess and revise specific fire-related practices in Preserve Areas (fire breaks, vegetation management, etc.).
- Revise Preserve management as outlined in the RMP regarding public access, use, and fire information.
- Install temporary erosion control features.
- Increase invasive (particularly fire-facilitating) species control and native plant reseeding or planting.
- Revise vegetation monitoring in potential fire-prone areas and post-fire areas.
- Implementing an altered monitoring regime (more frequent, different methods) to evaluate the response of Covered Species and their habitats to the fire event.”

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APPENDICES

- A. Fuel Management Standards
- B. Fire Suppression Repair Standards and Example of Plan
- C. Glossary of Terms
- D. Environmentally Sensitive Lands Maps
- E. Wildland Urban Interface Pre-attack Plan

APPENDIX A: Fuel Management Standards

A. *Introduction*

1. Purpose and Content

The purpose of this document is to guide vegetation management in vegetation thinning zones of the M2 Preserves of the Orange County Transportation Authority, in order to comply with local ordinances and with the Conservation Plan of the M2 Preserves. These recommendations are intended to provide sufficient fire safety for structures, while still maintaining the natural values of the Preserves, as well as minimizing surface soil erosion and other impacts to sensitive natural habitats.

Fire safety goals are attained by continually maintaining vegetation along roads, with the purpose of providing safe ingress and egress by emergency personnel. In general, trimming annual grass slows the spread of a fire, reduces its capacity to carry fire, and reduces flame lengths. Removal of dead material lessens the fuel volume and continuity, reduces fire intensity, and limits the spread of fire.

B. *Best Management Practices for Fuel Management*

These standards are intended to minimize the environmental impacts of fuel management treatments potentially associated with attaining fire safety goals in the Wildland Fire Management Plan and complying with local ordinances. The following best management practices should be applied to all treatment areas:

1. **Treatment scheduling** shall be planned for times of the year which maximize effectiveness and minimize environmental impacts.
 - Where grasslands need to be shortened, grasslands should be mowed or grazed to four inches in spring, but no later than June 1, unless otherwise recommended by the landowner. Proposed activities with the potential to impact nesting birds (including, but not limited to, vegetation removal and use of heavy construction equipment) should occur outside of the avian breeding season, which generally runs from March 1 to September 15 (as early as January 1 for some birds) to avoid disturbance to breeding birds or destruction of the nest or eggs. If that timeframe cannot be avoided, activities must adhere to the OCTA NCCP/HCP Nesting Bird Policy for preserve management.
 - Grass to be trimmed should be no shorter than two inches in height upon completion.
 - Desirable native annual wildflowers may remain un-mowed until after they have set seed.
 - Treatments shall not occur during extreme fire danger conditions, as defined by the local fire jurisdiction.

- Fuel management contractors will have spark arrestors on all machinery and comply with PRC 4442.
2. **Vegetation disposal** shall be conducted in a way that does not impact the natural vegetation or increase flammability. Plant material can be composted on site, removed to a location elsewhere on the Preserve, mowed, or chipped and spread to a depth of less than 3 inches. In no case may unprocessed plant material be left. No plant material of any kind shall be added.
 3. **Bare soil** shall not be exposed in over 50% of the site, and no single bare patch will be larger than 15 square feet.
 4. **Haul routes**, if used for removal of vegetation debris, shall be pre-approved by the landowner before work commences, and shall be restored to natural conditions by the contractor upon completion of the project. Repair shall ensure the ground is protected from erosion, rainfall runoff is dispersed, and native vegetation is restored before October 15.
 5. **Large dead material**, larger than six inches in diameter, should remain on the site if isolated from smaller dead material, smaller than three inches in diameter, if not under a tree canopy, or if moved at least 100 feet from the structure. The dead material shall be removed or scattered when it rots to the point where it becomes friable.
 6. **Invasive weeds** shall be removed as part of the vegetation management. Noxious weeds such as yellow star thistle, black mustard, alien grasses, and pampas grass will be targeted for removal.

C. Vegetation Thinning Zone

The following prescriptions within the vegetation thinning Zone were approved by the OCFA and appear in the 2017 Ferber Ranch Preserve Resource Management Plan:

Vegetation Thinning Zone - 100-ft from habitable structures, per existing agreements

The vegetation thinning zone is important to allow for safe passage and to provide a location where firefighter resources can be deployed. Consistent with the RMP for this Preserve, "Prior to implementation of the FMP, the Preserve Manager will conduct regular maintenance of weeds along existing fire roads, and maintain existing roads in a condition that will provide safe access for firefighters." Treatments in the vegetation thinning zone are also aimed at reducing the potential for ignitions.

Zone A (20022 Trabuco Oaks Drive) will have a 100-foot buffer maintained as follows: removal of dead plant material and the cutting of annual grasses to four inches. When vegetation other than grass grows back into this area, thinning at 25% [resulting in a retention of 75% vegetative cover] needs to occur 40 feet from property line [on OCFA land]. The vegetation in this area (0.294 acre) is comprised of and was mapped as coast live oak. The removal of the dead plant material and cutting of annual grasses (if they surpass four inches [in height]) will not affect the habitat quality and thus will not be deducted from the existing habitat acreage as documented with the 2012 Biological Baseline Surveys.

Zone B (1 Windy Ridge) will have a 100-foot buffer maintained as follows: removal of [all] dead plant material and the thinning of plants by 25% [resulting in a retention of 75% vegetative cover] within 30 feet from the property line [on OCTA land]. The vegetation in this area is comprised of and was mapped as California Sagebrush and scrub oak. Vegetation thinning has not been conducted within this defined area. This thinning will create 0.295 acre of new impact that was accounted for within the M2 NCCP/HCP.

The boundaries of each vegetation management zone will be staked with clearly visible markers to ensure that vegetation management is restricted to the appropriate locations.

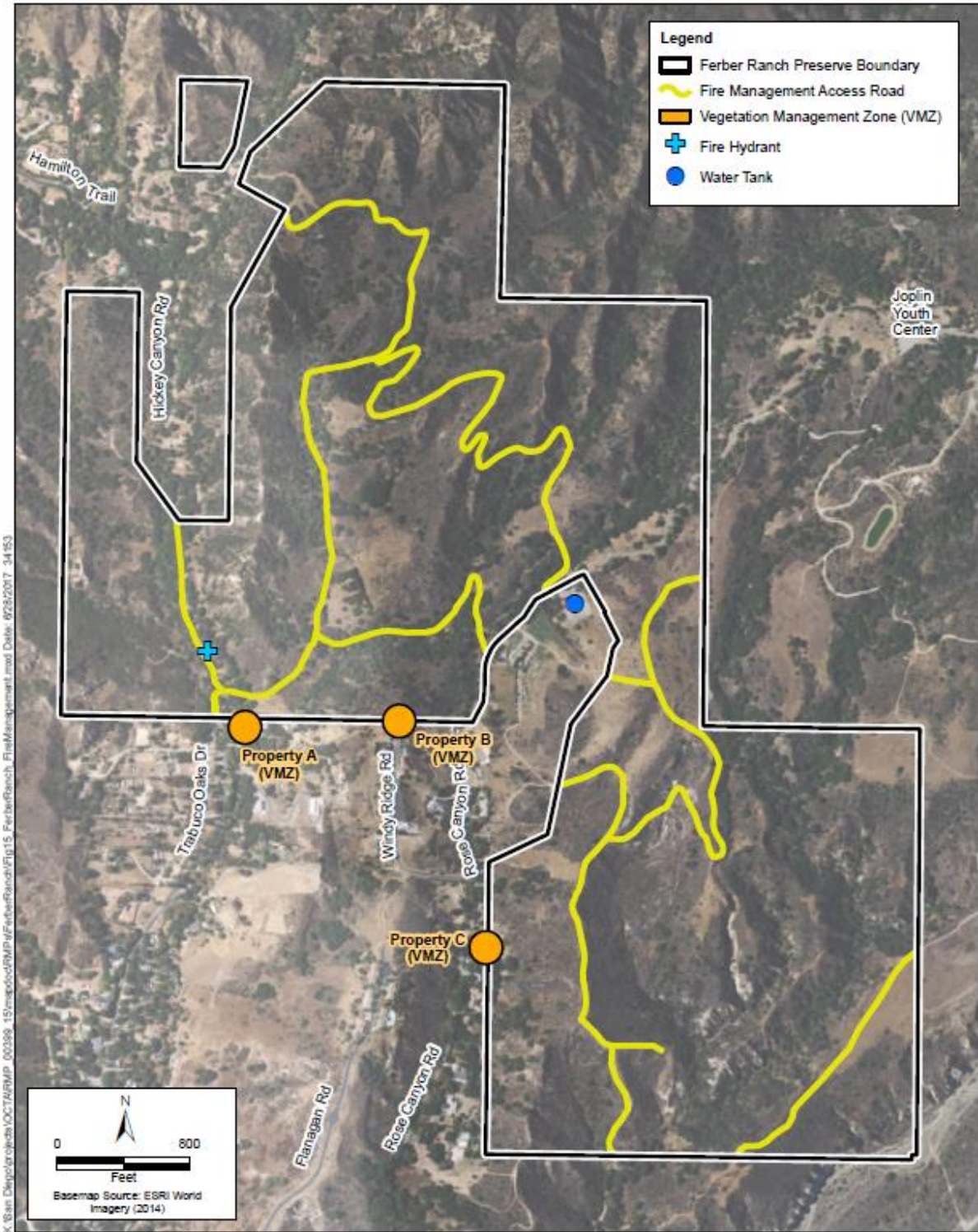


Figure 16
Vegetation Management Zones and Other Fire Management Factors
Ferber Ranch Resource Management Plan



Figure 1. Location of Vegetation Management Zones, from Resource Management Plan (then Ferber Ranch).

APPENDIX B: FIRE SUPPRESSION REPAIR PLAN
XXXXXX INCIDENT
CAXXX – 00XXXX
Date

GENERAL SUPPRESSION REPAIR POLICY

Suppression damage is defined as adverse impacts to resources caused by firefighting efforts. The authority to complete suppression repair work lies with the Public Resources Code (PRC), including PRC 4170 and 4170.5, PRC 4675, and PRC 4676(a,b). Policy derived from the statutes is provided in the CAL FIRE Handbook. This policy and authority provide for repairs necessary to prevent further resource damage.

Mitigations described within this plan have been developed to apply to constructed fire lines, watercourse crossings, access roads, drop points, helispots and any other locations disturbed by fire suppression activities. These mitigations are intended to be used to reduce the overall effects that may occur downslope. Of particular concern are potential water quality impacts, damage to private roads, and cultural resources. The intent is to utilize resources presently assigned to the incident for repair with operators that have knowledge of activities that occurred during control operations. A Repair Specialist will be assigned to ensure that work is done as required and according to the Fire Suppression Repair Plan. Additional specialists may be used if the need arises. These general standards will be applied except where site-specific needs are identified and alternative repair actions are developed and agreed upon.

ROADS

Roads that were used during fire control operations will be assessed for the need for grading and watering. Roads that have been substantially damaged by fire control traffic will be graded and watered.

Roads will be drained. Where rolling dips existed prior to the fire, they will be reinstalled. Berms created during fire control will be removed. Drivable waterbars will be used where necessary.

Culvert inlets and outlets will be cleaned out as needed. Material shall be deposited above the anticipated “high-water” mark.

Previously abandoned roads that were reopened for fire control will be drained and blocked to prevent vehicle access. Berms created during fire control will be removed. Drainage structures will be re-installed.

Slash piles adjacent to public roads will be treated for hazard reduction. Piles will be pulled apart and scattered. If necessary, slash will be lopped or otherwise treated as agreed upon. Slash treatment will be conducted in consultation with landowners.

DOZER LINE

Waterbreaks will be installed on all constructed or used dozer lines using the following criteria:

Waterbreaks and/or rolling dips shall be used to reduce the volume and velocity of water by directing it off of fire lines as soon as possible at controlled locations.

Waterbreaks should be deep enough to significantly reduce the chance of being destroyed by off-highway vehicle use. Waterbreaks on dozer lines will be at least 18" deep.

Waterbreak spacing:

Gradient:	0-25%	26-50%	>50%
Spacing:	100'	75'	50'

If the fireline is wider than one dozer line (12'), or several come together, the distance between waterbars will be reduced, since the drainage area is different than that accounted for in the spacing tables above.

In areas where tractor fire lines cannot be drained by installation of waterbreaks, the equipment operator will "tractor pack" woody vegetation into the soil surface to prevent surface erosion.

The Repair Specialist may identify areas where additional soil stabilization measures are required. These areas will be clearly flagged on the ground, and necessary work shall be conveyed and clearly explained to the equipment operator(s).

Where fire lines are built down long ridges, waterbreaks will be constructed in opposite directions (in a herring bone configuration - / \ / \ / \ /) to prevent water from accumulating on one side of the line, except where inappropriate for slope stability.

The outfall end of all waterbreaks shall be opened by hand if necessary. Tractors should not open the outfall of the waterbreak if sidecast material would lead to additional erosion. The Repair Specialist should review those areas of specific concern to ensure sidecast material is minimized.

Waterbreaks should be located to discharge into natural vegetation. Where this is not possible, rocks or slash should be placed at the discharge point to effectively dissipate water, if feasible. If slash is used, it shall be hand-packed or tractor packed to make effective contact with the ground.

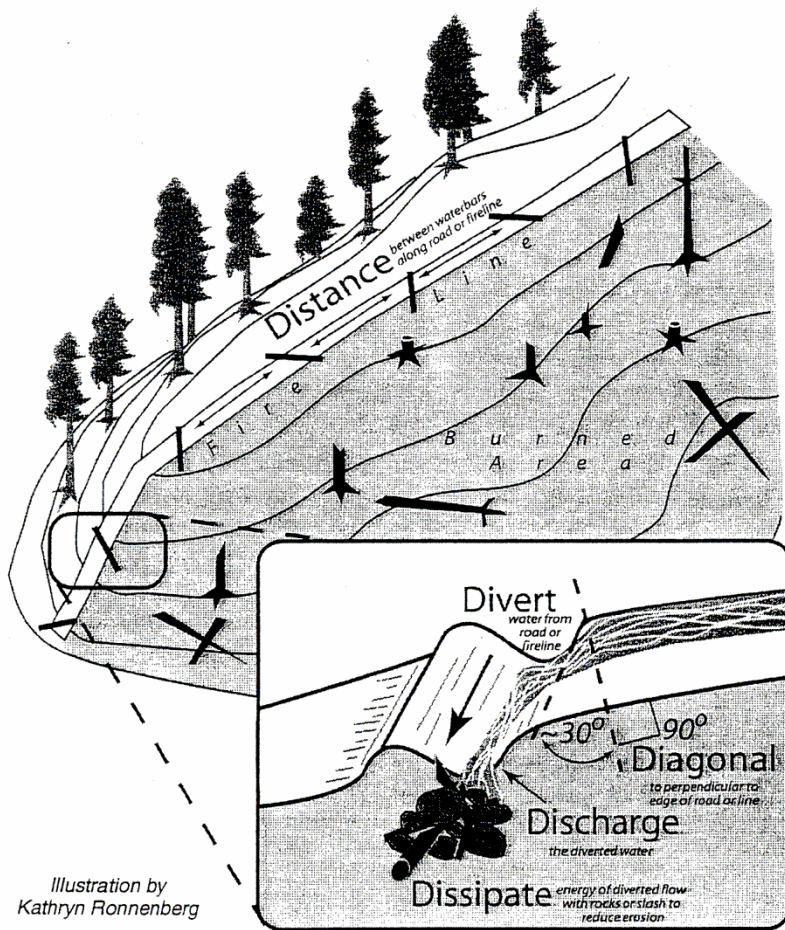
Spacing will be modified to take advantage of natural features that will reduce the water’s erosive energy.

Waterbreaks should cross the fire line at an angle of approximately 30 to 45 degrees (i.e., 30 to 45 degrees off of perpendicular).

Please refer to the following waterbreak schematic.

Waterbreak schematic:

(Source: Furniss, The Five-D System for Effective Fireline Waterbars)



HAND LINE

Install waterbreaks as needed based on slope and soil erodibility.

All waterbreaks shall be installed diagonally with a minimum depth of 6". Waterbreaks shall be constructed to allow for drainage at the discharge end into non-erodible material.

WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS

All slash, soil, and debris deposited into watercourses resulting from fire suppression activities shall be removed and stabilized above the high-water line. Depending on site conditions, dozers, excavators, or hand crews may be used.

Mulch will be applied within 50' of watercourses. Tractor packed slash is the preferred mulch where available. Coverage will be at least 75%. Where slash is not available, weed free straw will be used. Coverage will be at least 90% and 2" deep. In site-specific locations where steep slopes, highly erodible soils, or other factors are present, mulch may be applied up to 100' from the watercourse, as agreed upon.

DROP POINTS/STAGING AREAS/SAFETY ZONES

Smooth berms and ensure drainage.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Repair gates and fences damaged by fire control activities. Repairs will be conducted in consultation with landowners.

Other infrastructure, such as water pipes, will be evaluated and repaired as agreed upon and in consultation with the landowner.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, OR HISTORIC SITES

Any repair of archaeological, cultural, or historic sites will be planned and conducted in consultation with the landowner, CAL FIRE archaeologist, and tribal representatives. Site specific treatments will be agreed upon prior to commencing repair action.

OTHER

Remove all trash from the fire lines and other affected areas.

Remove flagging related to suppression or suppression repair.

Prepared by: _____
XXXXXXX, Suppression Repair Technical Specialist

Approved by: _____
XXXXXXX, Plans Section Chief

Approved by: _____
XXXXXXX, Incident Commander
 SEE ATTACHMENTS FOR SITE SPECIFIC WORK

EXAMPLE OF FIRE SUPPRESSION REMEDIATION PLAN
SANTIAGO FIRE
CA-ORC-18-64103
Suppression Repair Plan for SRA Lands
 June 12, 2018

General

- Repair any water lines and culverts that may have been damaged due to suppression activities where feasible.
- Remove berms and barriers created by fire control access and suppression efforts.
- Pack out all trash.
- Report any damages or needs to the Fire Suppression Repair Division Group Supervisor. Comp Claims will be notified if the damage cannot be fixed immediately.

Staging Areas/Safety Zones

- New Construction: pull berms, resurface, cross drain, remove debris resulting from use and lop and scatter or chip on site, and abandon (if applicable).
- Existing: Repair to original condition; cross drain, remove debris resulting from use and lop and scatter or chip on site (if applicable).

Roads

- Grade to original road prism where necessary.
- Clean culverts plugged with soil and debris resulting from fire control activities.
- Breach/remove berms to facilitate drainage.

Firelines

Dozers:

- Where excessive berms are formed, back blade onto control line surface.
- Back blade or pull organic debris onto surface and scatter evenly over control line at designated sensitive areas.
- Construct waterbars.

Handlines

- Where excessive berms are formed, pull berms onto control line surface.
- Pull organic debris onto lines and scatter evenly over control line surface at designated sensitive areas.
- Construct waterbars to the same standard as dozer lines (see above).

Install waterbars on all constructed or used dozer lines, roads, and handlines using the following criteria (at every listed distance):

<u>Slope%</u>	<u>0-10</u>	<u>11-25</u>	<u>26-50</u>	<u>>50</u>
Dozer line and Handlines	100'	75'	50'	50'
Road	200'	150'	100'	75'

*All waterbars should be installed diagonally with a minimum cut of 6" into existing grade, and minimum height of 18" from the bottom of the trench to backfill top. Waterbars should be installed at all approaches to watercourse crossings. Waterbars shall be constructed to allow for drainage at

the discharge end into non-erodible material and into the green where feasible. **All waterbars to be constructed at 30 degrees, angled downhill.**

Watercourses

- All watercourse issues shall be reported to the Suppression Repair Group Supervisor immediately, before any work may begin.
- All slash, soil, and debris deposited into watercourses resulting from fire suppression activities shall be removed and stabilized.
- All loose soil must be pulled away from the watercourse and stabilized.

Slash Piles

- Piles within 150' of permanent structures, public trails, or public roads will be lopped and scattered within 18" of soil surface, or chipped where feasible.
- Piles outside of the 150' fire safe zone shall be retained for wildlife cover.

Archaeological or Historic Sites (if discovered)

- All potential sites shall be avoided.
- Impacted sites will be reported to the Fire Suppression Repair Group Supervisor.
- If sites are encroached upon, work will stop immediately; **if there is no threat of fire spread**, and the Division/Group Supervisor shall be notified.

Specific Repair Plan for SRA and State DPA Areas (Assessment is ongoing)

- **Division A**
 - Archaeologist/Suppression Repair Specialist: survey dozer lines for potential archaeological artifacts or sites.
 - Handlines: remove berms, pull cut organic debris onto line, and construct waterbars where needed.
 - Safety zones and pullouts: pull berms, resurface, cross drain, remove debris and trash resulting from use and scatter or chip debris on site, and abandon (if applicable).
 - Dozer lines: remove berms, construct waterbars, and pull cut organic debris from the berms onto line for erosion control.
 - Repair fences as needed.
- **Division M/Z**
 - Archaeologist/Suppression Repair Specialist: survey dozer lines for potential archaeological artifacts or sites.
 - Handlines: remove berms, pull cut organic debris onto line, and construct waterbars where needed.
 - Dozer lines: remove berms, pull cut organic debris from the berms onto line for erosion control, and construct waterbars.
 - Repair fences as needed.

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Backfire – A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire or change the direction of force of the fire’s convection column.

Bulk Density – Weight per unit volume. For fuels, this is usually expressed as pounds per cubic foot; for soils, grams per cubic centimeter.

Canopy – The stratum containing the crowns of the tallest vegetation present (living or dead), usually above 20 feet.

Canopy Base Height – The lowest height above the ground above which there is sufficient canopy fuel to propagate fire vertically. It is a measure of a group of trees, not an individual tree. This measurement incorporates ladder fuels, such as tall shrubs and small trees.

Convection – (a) The transfer of heat by the movement of a gas or liquid; convection, conduction, and radiation are the principal means of energy transfer; (b) As specialized in meteorology, atmospheric motions that are predominantly vertical in the absence of wind (which distinguishes this process from advection), resulting in vertical transport and mixing of atmospheric properties.

Containment – (a) The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread; (b) The act of controlling hazardous spilled or leaking materials.

Contained – The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire’s spread.

Controlled – The completion of control line around a fire, any spot fires therefrom, and any interior islands to be saved; burned out any unburned area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines; and cool down all hotspots that are immediate threats to the control line, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under the foreseeable conditions.

Crown Fire – A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire. Crown fires are sometimes classed as running or dependent to distinguish the degree of independence from the surface fire.

Crown Fire Activity – See “Crowning Potential.” The presence of a crown fire or torching in any one area.

Crowning Potential – A probability that a crown fire may start, calculated from inputs of foliage moisture content and height of the lowest part of the tree crowns above the surface. See also “Spotting Potential.”

Defensible Space – The area adjacent to a structure or dwelling where wildfire prevention or protection practices are implemented to provide defense from an approaching wildfire or to minimize the spread of a structure fire to wildlands or surrounding areas.

Dozer Line – Fireline constructed by the front blade of a dozer.

Extreme Fire Behavior – “Extreme” implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically, sometimes dangerously.

Fire Behavior – The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

Fire Behavior Modeling – The mathematical algorithms that describe the physical properties associated with the rate and volume of heat transfer, or ignitability.

Firebrand – Any source of heat, natural or human made, capable of igniting wildland fuels. Flaming or glowing fuel particles that can be carried naturally by wind, convection currents, or by gravity into unburned fuels.

Fire Hazard Severity – Fire hazard severity zones are based on the combination of vegetation, topography, weather, crown fire potential, ember production and movement, and the likelihood of an area burning. Buildings constructed in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones are required to be built using fire-resistive features.

Fireline – The part of a containment or control line that is scraped or dug to mineral soil; (b) For purposes of pay administration for hazardous duty, a fireline is defined as the area within or adjacent to the perimeter of an uncontrolled wildfire of any size in which action is being taken to control fire. Such action includes operations, which directly support control of fire (e.g., activities to extinguish the fire, ground scouting, spot fire patrolling, search and rescue operations, and backfiring).

Fireline Intensity – The product of the available heat of combustion per unit of ground and the rate of spread of the fire, interpreted as the heat released per unit of time for each unit length of fire edge. The primary unit is Btu per second per foot (Btu/sec/ft) of fire front; (b) The rate of heat release per unit time per unit length of fire front. Numerically, it is the product of the heat yield, the quantity of fuel consumed in the fire front, and the rate of spread.

Fire Suppression – All work and activities connected with control and fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

Flame – A mass of gas undergoing rapid combustion, generally accompanied by evolution of sensible heat and incandescence.

Flame Length – The distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame (generally the ground surface), an indicator of fire intensity.

FlamMap – A software program that simulates potential fire behavior characteristics (spread rate, flame length, fireline intensity, etc.), fire growth and spread and conditional burn probabilities under constant environmental conditions (weather and fuel moisture).

Flaming Front – That zone of a moving fire where the combustion is primarily flaming. Behind this flaming zone combustion is primarily glowing or involves the burning out of larger fuels (greater than about three inches in diameter). Light fuels typically have a shallow flaming front, whereas heavy fuels have a deeper front.

Foliar Moisture Content – The weight of water compared with the weight of cellulose, expressed as a percentage. A 100 percent moisture content is found when that portion of a plant has equal weights of water and cellulose.

Fuel – Any combustible material, especially petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.

Fuelbed – An array of fuels usually constructed with specific loading, depth, and particle size to meet experimental requirements; also, commonly used to describe the fuel composition.

Fuel Model – Simulated fuel complex for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified. Vegetation is grouped into a set of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

Fuel Modification – Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, and burning).

Fuel Reduction – Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

Fuel Type – An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

Grass Fuel Model – See “Fuel Model.” Grassy vegetation that has similar suite of species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions. Grass fuel models are associated with fast fire rate of spread, high intensity, but low heat output when the grass has dried.

Heat of Preignition – The amount of heat required to ignite one pound of fuel.

Heat sink – A substance that absorbs or dissipates heat. In a wildfire, a heat sink is typically unburned fuel. More moist and the bigger material are greater heat sinks.

Hotspotting – Checking the spread of fire at points of more rapid spread or special threat. Is usually the initial step in prompt control, with emphasis on first priorities.

Ignition – The action of setting something on fire or starting to burn.

Incident Command System (ICS) – A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

Indirect Attack - A method of suppression in which the control line is located some considerable distance away from the fire's active edge.

Initial Attack (IA) – A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

Long-range spotting – Large glowing firebrands are carried high into the convection column and then fall out downwind beyond the main fire starting new fires. Such spotting can easily occur $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or more from the firebrand's source.

Mop Up – Extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after an area has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke.

Radiation – (a) Propagation of energy in free space by virtue of joint, undulatory variations in the electric or magnetic fields in space, (i.e., by electromagnetic waves); (b) Transfer of heat in straight lines through a gas or vacuum other than by heating of the intervening space.

Rate of Spread – The relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions. It is expressed as rate of increase of the total perimeter of the fire, as rate of forward spread of the fire front, or as rate of increase in area, depending on the intended use of the information. Usually it is expressed in chains or acres per hour for a specific period in the fire's history.

Reaction Intensity – The rate of heat release, per unit area of the flaming fire front, expressed as heat energy/area/time, such as Btu/square foot/minute, or Kcal/square meter/second. *See also:* "[Combustion Rate](#)."

Response time – The time between notification of a wildfire and the arrival of firefighters at the scene.

Retardant – A substance or chemical agent which reduces the flammability of combustibles.

Roll Vortex – Long rolls of counter-rotating air that are oriented approximately parallel to the ground in the [planetary boundary layer](#).

Shaded Fuel Break – Fuel breaks built in timbered areas where the trees on the break are thinned and pruned to reduce the fire potential yet retain enough crown canopy to make a less favorable microclimate for surface fires.

Shrub Fuel Model – See “Fuel Model.” Shrubby vegetation that has similar suite of species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions. Shrub fuel models typically are associated with fast fire rate of spread, high intensity, especially when the shrub vegetation is old.

Spot Fire – Fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by a firebrand.

Spotting – Behavior of a fire producing sparks or embers that are carried by the wind and which start new fires beyond the zone of direct ignition by the main fire.

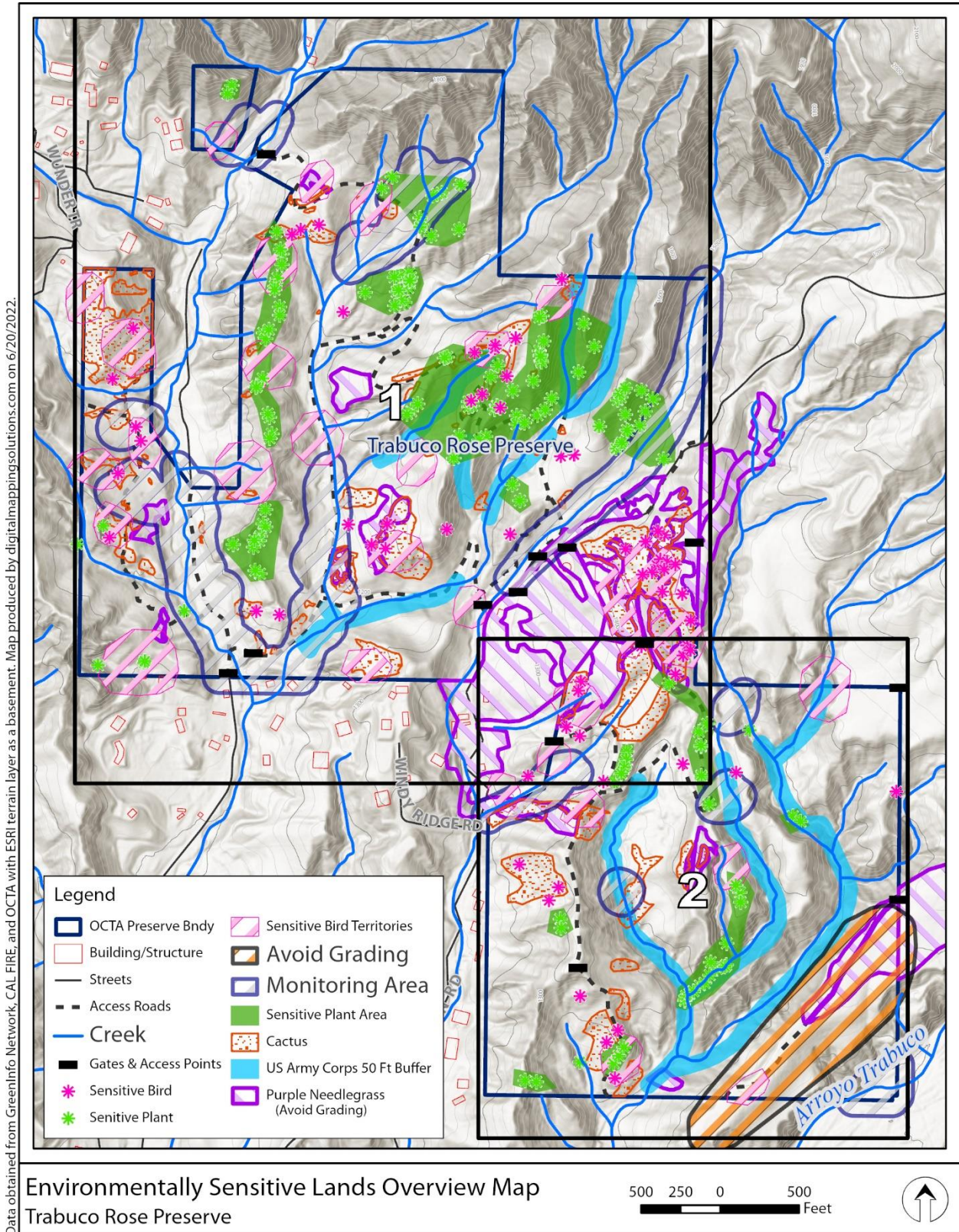
Torching – The burning of the foliage of a single tree or a small group of trees, from the bottom up.

Unified Command – In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Vegetation Treatment – Activities that modify the vegetation, often to reduce the fire hazard. Manual labor, machinery, prescribed fire, and herbicide use are all used as vegetation treatments. Vegetation treatment may achieve several types of goals, such as the installation of defensible space, shade fuelbreaks, or firebreaks.

Waterbar – A shallow channel or raised barrier, e.g., a ridge of packed earth or a thin pole laid diagonally across the surface of a road or trail so as to lead off water, particularly storm water. (Frequently installed in firelines on steep slopes to prevent erosion.)

APPENDIX D: ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS MAP TRABUCO ROSE PRESERVE

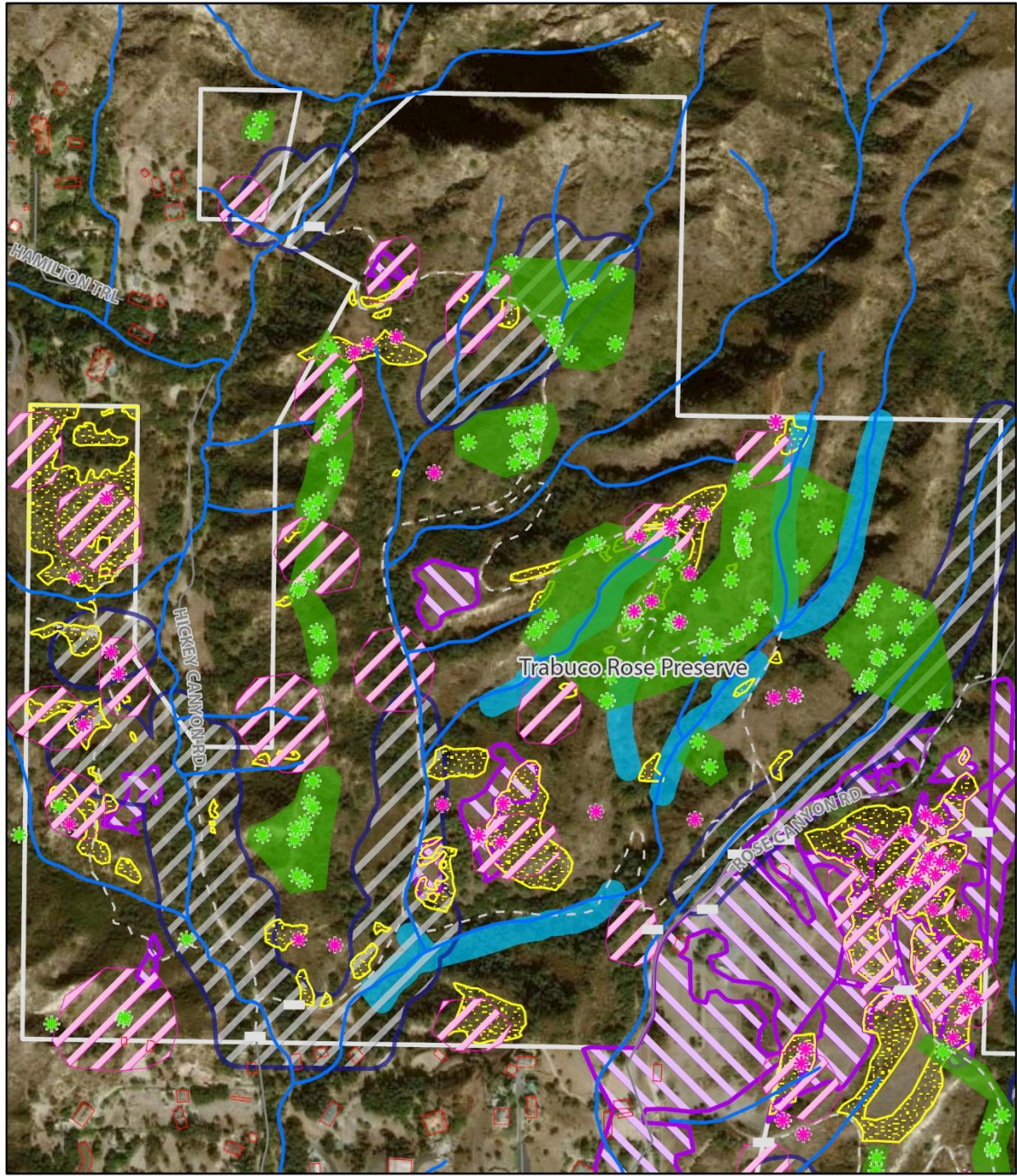


Environmentally Sensitive Lands Detailed Map Page 1 of 2 Trabuco Rose Preserve

150 0 150
Feet



Data obtained from GreenInfo Network, CAL FIRE, and OCTA with ESRI terrain layer as a basement. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 6/20/2022.



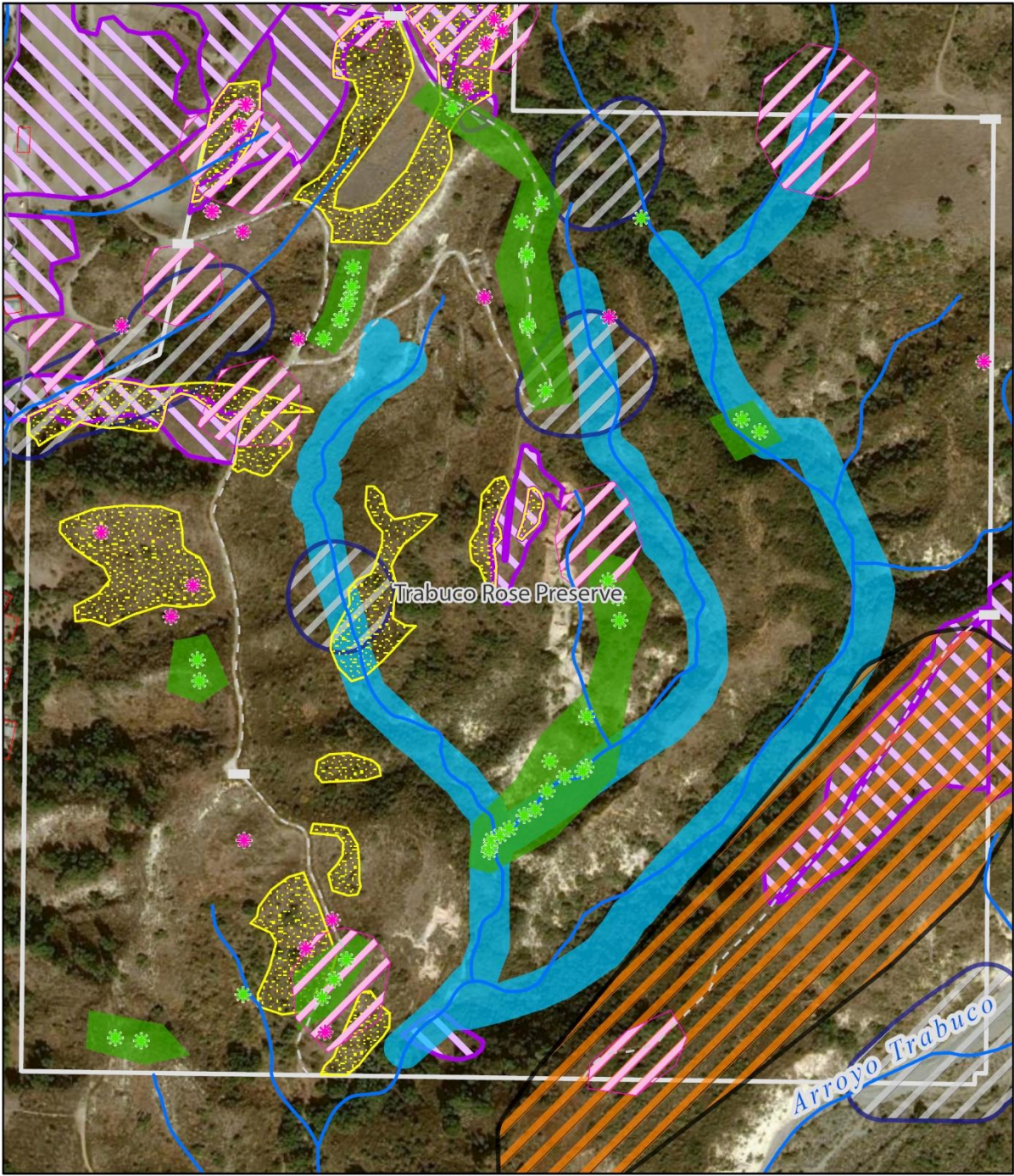
- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gates & Access Points | Streets | Sensitive Bird | Sensitive Plant Area | US Army Corps 50 Ft Buffer |
| OCTA Preserve Boundary | Trails | Sensitive Plant | Cactus | Purple Needlegrass (Avoid Grading) |
| Building/Structure | Creek | Sensitive Bird Territories | Monitoring Area | |

Environmentally Sensitive Lands Detailed Map Page 2 of 2 Trabuco Rose Preserve

150 0 150 Feet





Data obtained from GreenInfo Network, CAL FIRE, and OCTA with ESRI terrain layer as a basement. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 6/20/2022.



- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gates & Access Points | Streets | Sensitive Bird | Sensitive Plant Area | Monitoring Area |
| OCTA Preserve Boundary | Trails | Sensitive Plant | Cactus | US Army Corps 50 Ft Buffer |
| Building/Structure | Creek | Sensitive Bird Territories | Avoid Grading | Purple Needlegrass (Avoid Grading) |

APPENDIX E: WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE PRE-ATTACK PLAN¹⁸

¹⁸ *Rhode and Associates, 2015. Wildland Urban Interface Pre-attack Plan. Prepared for the Orange County Fire Authority*

	WUI Name: TRABUCO		4061A
	Location: Trabuco Canyon - Trabuco Oaks Area		
	Topo: Santiago Peak, CA		
		Insp'd Date: 11/17/15 By: Rohde & Assoc.	

Risk Assessment	Tactical Plan	Tactical Map	Area Map	Aerial Map	Additional Info
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RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

TRABUCO		
RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX		
SAFETY	STATIC	ATTACK
FF Safety 1	Fuels 1	Access 2
Civ. Safety 1	Topography 1	Water 2
Air Safety 1	Clearance 1	Comms 1
Hazmat 2	Construct 2	Tac Air 1
Entrapment 1	Density 1	

S A F E T Y	FF Safety	FF Safe	No Safety Zones	Marginal Safety Zones	Adequate Safety Zones
	Civilian Safety	Civ Safe	Mandatory Evacuation	Evacuate if Time Permits	Shelter in Place
	Air Safety	Clear	Restrictions, Sleep Cyns	30' to 70'	More than 70'
	HazMat	HazMat	Bulk LPG, Chemicals	Hazards in Barn	None
S T A T I C	Fuels	Fuels	Heavy or Dead Trees, Brush	Moderate	Light
	Topography	Topog	Sleep	Medium Slope	Flat
	Clearance	Clear	30' or Less	30' to 70'	More than 70'
	Construction	Const	Abundant Combustable	Some Combustable	Non-Combustable
A T T A C K	Structural Spacing	Density	Dense Spacing	Subdivision Tracts	Rural, dispersed
	Access	Access	Narrow, Dirt Rds No turnarounds	1 Ln, paved, 1-way in/out	2-Lane Rds. Good Ingress/Egress
	Water	Water	No Water Source	Ponds, pools, low flow hyds	Good Hydrants
	Communications	Comm	Poor Radio, Cell Coverage	Some Weak Spots	Good Coverage
	Tac Air Support	Tac Air	20+ Min Re-load, No LZs	10-15 Min Re-load, No LZs	5 Min re-load, LZs



CRITICAL INFORMATION

Response Safety
 Inter-mix community at foot of historical fire corridor. History of structural loss in past fires. 100' defensible space around most structures, heavy brush in most areas. Recreational users on many area trails. Holy Jim Canyon (29 cabins) may be non-defendable under extreme fire conditions and lacks safety zones. Good radio & cell communications until Trabuco Narrows, then poor. CNF T2 best.

Aviation Hazards
 Ridge-line communications towers W/O Live Oak Cyn. Rd. Small boaters on dipsites-Mercado Del Lago Lake and Oso Reservoir in Rancho Santa Margarita. A single tight helispot is located in Trabuco Creek at Holy Jim.

Potential Choke Points/Entrapments
 Majority of planning area roads: Holy Jim Cyn. (29 cabins), Trabuco Creek Rd., area of Joplin Youth Ctr., Rose Cyn. Rd., Trabuco Oaks Dr., Sycamore Dr., Flannagan Rd., Hamilton Trail, Live Oak Cyn. Rd. and roads off Live Oak Cyn. including: Trabuco Ridge Dr., Monastery Rd., Shelter Cyn. Rd., Canyon Creek Dr., Hunky Dory Ln., Oakie Doakie, Lambrose Cyn. Rd., Bauers Cyn. Rd. Campers at O'Neill Pk.

BRIEFING INFORMATION			UNIFIED COMMAND		
Fuels	Heavy chaparral & coastal sage scrub, grass-oak woodlands in canyon bottoms/O'Neill Park. Combustible ornamental vegetation around some homes. 300 acre site on the S. side of Harris Grade last burned in 1919, one of OC's oldest fuel beds.		Potential Incident Command Post Location	1. O'Neill Park & OCFA FS18,30892 Trabuco Cyn. Rd. 2. Irvine Regional Park, 1 Irvine Park Rd. ORG 3. Lake Forest Sports Park, 28000 Rancho Pkwy. Lake Forest 4. Caspers Regional Park, 33401 Ortega Hwy.	
Last Year(s) Burned	2007 Santiago Fire (N/O Hamilton Tr.), 1980:Indian Fire (7 Holy Jim str), 1970 Trabuco Fire (3,000 ac.+str. loss), 1/89: 200 ac. Rose Cyn.,1/02:125 ac .Holy Jim			Unified Command Participants	OCFA, OCSD, FS-CNF, Cal-Fire
Expected Fire Behavior	In critical fire weather, fires burn with extreme behavior, high rates of spread, & long range spotting. This community is at the end of an historical fire corridor, but most fires have been held just short of the area. Santa Ana wind driven fires may travel from the I-15 up & over the Main Divide & to this area in 4-6 hrs. Fire in Holy Jim may travel to this area 2-4 hours, but are often wind sheltered deep in the Trabuco drainage. The Santiago fire was held N/O Harris Grade on Live Oak Cyn. Rd./Hamilton Tr. by aggressive firing. Dozer line held the Indian Fire near Joplin Youth Center. Typical onshore wind driven fires are held at the ridgeline separating the Trabuco/Modjeska drainages.		Staging Areas		1. O'Neill Park, 30892 Trabuco Cyn. Rd. 2. Santa Margarita Catholic High School, 22062 Antonio Pkwy. 3. Lake Forest Sports Park, 28000 Rancho Pkwy. Lake Forest 4. Cooks Corner, Live Oak Cyn. Rd. at Santiago Canyon Rd. 5. Oakley, 1 Icon, Foothill Ranch 6. Target Center, Portola Pkwy. at Bake Pkwy., Lake Forest
Topography	Trabuco Cyn. is a prominent east-west drainage in the Santa Ana Mountains. The community of Trabuco Oaks lies along Trabuco Creek (500 ft. elev.), and in nearby tributaries. The canyon is bounded by Santiago Pk. (5,689) to the NE, the highest peak in the Santa Ana range. Trabuco Creek narrows tightly 3 miles east at the National Forest Boundary, & Holy Jim is in this canyon 6 mi. east.			LARGE FIRE DEVELOPMENT FACTORS	
Access	Live Oak Canyon Rd. east from Santiago Canyon Rd. (Cook's Corner), Trabuco Cyn. Rd. N. from Plano Trabuco Rd. in Rancho Santa Margarita. Holy Jim is 6 mi/45 min. up Trabuco Creek Rd. (dirt). from Trabuco Canyon Rd. All secondary canyon streets intersect Live Oak or Trabuco Canyon Rds.		<i>Weather</i>		
Special Hazards	* Joplin Youth Center, 19480 Rose Cyn. Rd.- has vans for evac. (population = 100) Type 1 engine accessible. Notify via OCC "Control 1" for evacuation. * To evacuate O'Neill Park campground- County Parks Dispatch (562)795-5410. * Boys Town Group Homes top of Flanagan Rd. (aka "Mountain View"). Type 1 accessible. * Many recreational trail users, horses & large animals within canyons.		Temperature >80 degrees F.		
			Relative Humidity <10%		
Safety Zones/ Temporary Safe Refuge Areas	Type		Wind Speed Avg: 15-20 MPH Gusts: 20-37 MPH		
	Location		Fuel Moisture Seasonally dry or long term drought		
	Limits of Use		<i>Fire Behavior</i>		
	SZ	Retreat So. into Rancho Santa Margarita	Rate of Spread 6,600 -10,890 ft./hr.		
	SZ	Trabuco Elem. School, 31052 Trabuco Cyn. Rd.	Spotting > 1 mile		
SZ	Trabuco Horse Arenas (2): next to elem. school & across from O'Neill Park.	Flame Length Avg. 8-11 ft. Peak: 30-60 ft.			
SZ	O'Neill Park, 30892 Trabuco Cyn. Rd.	* Peak flame lengths occur when fire growth is in alignment with heavy fuel, slope and wind.			
SZ	Joplin Youth Center, 19480 Rose Cyn. Rd.	WUI ARRANGEMENT			
Water Supply	Good fire flow from canyon bottom hydrants, diminished flow in upper canyon areas. (500 GPM on red marked hydrants along Hamilton Trail). Defend critical water infrastructure- if accessible: Pump station on Rose Cyn. Rd. near Trabuco Cyn. Rd., Steel water tanks/pumps-Live Oak Cyn. Rd. x-Hamilton Trail, & Pump sta./reservoir at Rose Cyn. Rd. N/O Windy Ridge Rd. No water in canyon wildland areas.		Interface: Intermix: X Urban: Suburban: Rural: X Other:		

	WUI Name: TRABUCO					<h1 style="margin: 0;">4061A</h1>
	Location: Trabuco Canyon - Trabuco Oaks Area					
	Topo: Santiago Peak, CA					
Risk Assessment	Tactical Plan	Tactical Map	Area Map	Aerial Map	Additional Info	
RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES & TACTICS (FIRESCOPE/PACE)						
Primary Plan (Offensive) Offensive and aggressive attack on flanks, with aircraft holding fire on slopes and away from structures. Limited evacuation of fire perimeter homes. Watch for spots into adjacent canyons or ornamental vegetation. Hold the ridge S/O Santiago/Modjeska Canyon and N/O Trabuco Oaks (Joplin Trail, near Vulture Craigs). Re-open Joplin Trail on this ridge with dozers- access off of Modjeska Grade Rd.			Alternate Plan (Offensive) Holy Jim is not defensible during extreme fire conditions- Check & go here only, no safe deployment sites for firefighters. Stay maneuverable when safe to protect multiple homes but use caution for fire entrapment. Firing tactics as a structure protection measure requires IC approval. Deploy to prep & defend properties, otherwise conduct fire-front-following tactics: 1 ST to Joplin, 1 ST to Rose Cyn. (includes Flannagan Rd.), 2 ST's to Trabuco Oaks, 1-2 ST. to upper Live Oak Cyn. area, 1 ST to Hamilton Trail. Consider use of Patrol/Foam TF/ST and crews to enhance protection, deploy Type 3's in deep canyon or difficult access areas. Stage 2 ST's for fire-front-following at O'Neill Park.			
Contingency Plan (Defensive - Responder Safety) Firefighters and law enforcement seek temporary refuge around homes with good defensible space or in safety zones. Gather civilians trapped in plan area with you. Select potential safe refuge sites in advance of movement. Escort civilians from area only when safe to maneuver. All canyon roads may be compromised by fire movement. Select prep. and defend homes for stands against fire or fire-front-follow. Use prep-and-defend and anchor-and-hold tactics along Santa Margarita urban fringe to hold fire to perimeter/canyon facing streets. Expect new spot fires occurring at long range. Do not attempt ground access to Holy Jim ahead of fire.			Emergency Plan (Defensive) Prioritize evacuation over fire control. Protect populations gathered in safety zones. Evacuate populations to surrounding urban areas. Use caution when defending homes with little defensible space, exposure to heavy fuels, or heavy ornamental vegetation. Move from completed structural defense locations to new sites that offer good defensible space & firefighter safety only when roads are assured safe for maneuver. Fire-front-follow in highly exposed or entrapment risk areas. Be vigilant for long-range spotting. Be vigilant for development of fire whirls or other extreme fire behavior that may compromise safety. Do not attempt ground access to Holy Jim ahead of fire. Expect high losses.			
Perimeter Control Plan:			Hold fire N/O Trabuco Creek and E/O El Toro Rd. Prioritize prevention of fire extension south along interface in Robinson Ranch area. Hold ridge if fire behavior permits between Trabuco and Modjeska/Santiago Canyons- hold along the Joplin Trail (near Vulture Craigs). This is an old dozer line, current bike path that requires dozers to re-open. Access off Modjeska Grade Rd. Old dozer/hand line extends from Santiago Peak to Joplin- last used in 1980 Indian Fire. Requires Hand line from Joplin to bottom of Trabuco Creek. (use caution, dozer rolled on hand line piece in 1980)			

EVACUATION PLAN			
Primary Evacuation Plan			
Activate Alert OC. Evac. if time, shelter-in-safe place when evac. routes threatened. Evac. Holy Jim & Joplin first, then Rose Cyn./Trabuco Oaks, & all roads off Live Oak Canyon Rd. N/O O'Neill Park- focus on deeper/upper cyn. areas first. Evacuate into Rancho Santa Margarita if time, or alternatively out Santiago Cyn. to Lake Forest/Orange, depending on fire trajectory. Discontinue evac. & shelter where when fire moves W/O Falls Cyn. or S/O Joplin Trail/ridge. Equines stage at Elem. School.			
Evacuation Trigger Point			
Evac. Holy Jim/Joplin for major Santa Ana wind driven fires moving from the I-15 towards the Main Divide in Mayhew, Indian, Horsethief, or McVicker Cyns. Evacuate the Trabuco area for fires crossing the Main Divide between Modjeska Peak & Los Pinos Peak, or in Modjeska Cyn.- or S. near Santiago Cyn Rd. For west winds, evacuate area for fires moving E/O El Toro Rd. S/O Cook's Cr.			
Temp. Evacuation Assembly Points (Human & Animal)			
1. Saddleback Church, 1 Saddleback Pkwy., Lake Forest 2. Trabuco Hills High School, 27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo 3. Tesoro High School, 1 Tesoro Creek Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita Large Animals: County Fair Grounds: 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa			
POPULATION & STRUCTURES AT-RISK		STRUCTURAL TRIAGE	
Population	2,927	Threatened/ Non-Defensible	40%
Planning Unit Acreage	2,632 ac.		Those deepest in canyons or without def. space. 100% in Holy Jim.
Structures	937 homes	Threatened/Defensible	60%
		Non-Threatened	0%
		W/ Defensible Space	85%
EMERGENCY RESOURCE NEEDS - FIRST SIX HOURS (In addition to Initial Attack Resource)			
Fire ORC Dispatch: (714)573-6522 *COP Ordering Point: FS-CNF Dispatch (619)557-5262		Law Enforcement OCSD (714)288-6963 Ordering Point:	
Engines: The number range reflects the number of "minimum" to "preferred" resources.		Law Enforcement: 80-100 officers, OCSD to evacuation, traffic control, and security. CHP to traffic. County Parks to evacuate O'Neill Regional Park. IC-Lt., Capt.	
<u>Type 1</u> Strike Teams: 6-10	<u>Type 3</u> Strike Teams: 4-5	Water Tenders: 4-5	
<u>Crews</u> Single: 8-10 STs:	<u>Dozers</u> Single: 2-4 STs:	Overhead: 4-5 Div. Sup.: 4-6	
Aircraft: Type 1 Helicopter (Large): 1 Type 3 Helicopter (Light): 1 Type 2 Helicopter (Med.): 3 Air Tankers: 4		Logistics Open EOC to support aggressive fire or significant evacuation need. Consider responder fuel, water, and food needs. File F-MAG application with CAL-OES. Notify public works to assist in traffic management, Red Cross and Animal Services to assist in evacuation. Consult with SCE regarding electrical transmission & distribution issues.	
WUI Engine Deployment - High Risk 1 engine/2-4 perimeter structures, 1 engine/isolated structures 2 engines/ multi-family structures			
WUI Engine Deployment - Moderate Risk 1 engine/2-4 perimeter structures, 1 engine/isolated structure, 2 engines/multi-family structure		Other Liaison with County Parks for O'Neill Park lands- County Parks Dispatch: (562) 795-5410, or with the Forest Service for Cleveland National Forest lands. Dozer restrictions: use on ridge lines or to expand existing or legacy TT's, restrict use in canyon bottoms. Use caution for dozers on slope, past dozer roll-over near Joplin.	
WUI Engine Deployment - Low Risk 1 strike team/2 blocks of perimeter hom			