

BOBCAT RIDGE PRESERVE DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared for
The Orange County Transportation Authority

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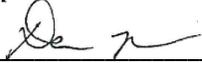
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**BOBCAT RIDGE PRESERVE
DRAFT FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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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

BOBCAT RIDGE 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 48-acre OCTA Bobcat Ridge Preserve (formerly known as Hafen Preserve) is to provide a blueprint for protecting the natural environment of the Preserve to the greatest extent possible against both wildfire and also damage from 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).

Bobcat Ridge 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, ephemeral and intermittent streams supporting riparian woodland, scrub oak chaparral, and oak woodland. Its location supports local and regional biological connectivity between lands owned by Orange County Parks, Cleveland National Forest, and other conserved open space. No 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. Two ephemeral drainages that flow in a westerly direction are located in the western half of the Preserve; a larger ephemeral drainage is located along the eastern boundary of the Preserve, with several small ephemeral drainages flowing into this larger drainage from within the property limits. Temperatures in interior valleys of Southern California, such as in the Preserve, often exceed 40 degrees Celsius¹ (104 degrees Fahrenheit [F]). 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 Very High Shrub and Grass-Shrub fuel types dominate the Preserve and surrounding wildlands.

In critical fire weather, fires burn with extreme behavior, high rates of spread and long-range spotting. This property is at the end of a 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. Two thirds of the Preserve is 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 riparian areas on the eastern edge of the Preserve 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.

Pre-fire vegetation treatments proposed to be implemented as part of this FMP are limited to "conducting regular maintenance of weeds along existing trails and maintaining safe access for firefighters on existing trails."² Discussions with OCFA Wildland Resource Planners resulted in agreement that no vegetation management will be required on the trails as the benefit of doing such is insignificant.

Responsibilities of both OCTA and OCFA during a wildfire are detailed in this plan. The draft FMP 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 completed the required training (National Park Service Wildland Fire Resource Advisor training) to be certified as a RA and is ready to provide this service during an incident. Post-fire actions will be guided by a CAL FIRE Fire Suppression Repair Plan (see Section V-C and Appendix A) 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 specifications on vegetation management standards and post-wildfire suppression repair standards.

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

² Hafen Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017) Executive Summary, page 2.

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 both wildfire and also damage from 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 aim of this plan is 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 Bobcat Ridge Preserve in 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 coastal sage scrub, ephemeral and intermittent streams supporting riparian woodland, scrub oak chaparral, and oak woodland, and the species within them. It is bounded on the east by lands owned by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and is near the Cleveland National Forest,³ Trabuco Canyon, and other conserved open space lands that are part of the Central and Coastal Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) Reserve to the south, west, and north.

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 Resource Management Plan (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 that has already been established in the 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 to 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 into the RMP and is to be re-evaluated every five years and updated as conditions change.

C. Regulatory Context

The agency responsible for fire response and control within this 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.⁴ The Bobcat Ridge Preserve also falls within the jurisdictional boundaries of the

³ US Forest Service. 2018. The Cleveland National Forest is created!
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/cleveland/learning/history-culture/?cid> Accessed April 3, 2018

⁴ Hafen Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Executive Summary.

Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan (FTSP) (County of Orange 1991) and is additionally within a State Responsibility Area.⁵

Documents that have been considered as complementing the fire management plan for the Preserve include: the OCTA Bobcat Ridge RMP (titled Hafen Preserve RMP when written), 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, and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Orange County. 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.

⁵ 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 48-acre Bobcat Ridge 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, immediately adjacent to the east side of Live Oak Canyon Road, north of its intersection with Shelter Canyon Road, and is accessed from Live Oak Canyon Road, Shelter Canyon Road, and Hunky Dory Lane. Surrounding land uses include CDFW's Hafén (Trabuco Canyon) property, Cleveland National Forest, O'Neill Regional Park, and areas of low density, rural residential development. Low density residential development is present immediately north and south of the property, with the latest house built less than two years before the completion of the Preserve's Resource Management Plan in September 2017. An unpaved trail traverses the Preserve, though it is largely overgrown. Evidence of grazing is not present on the Preserve.

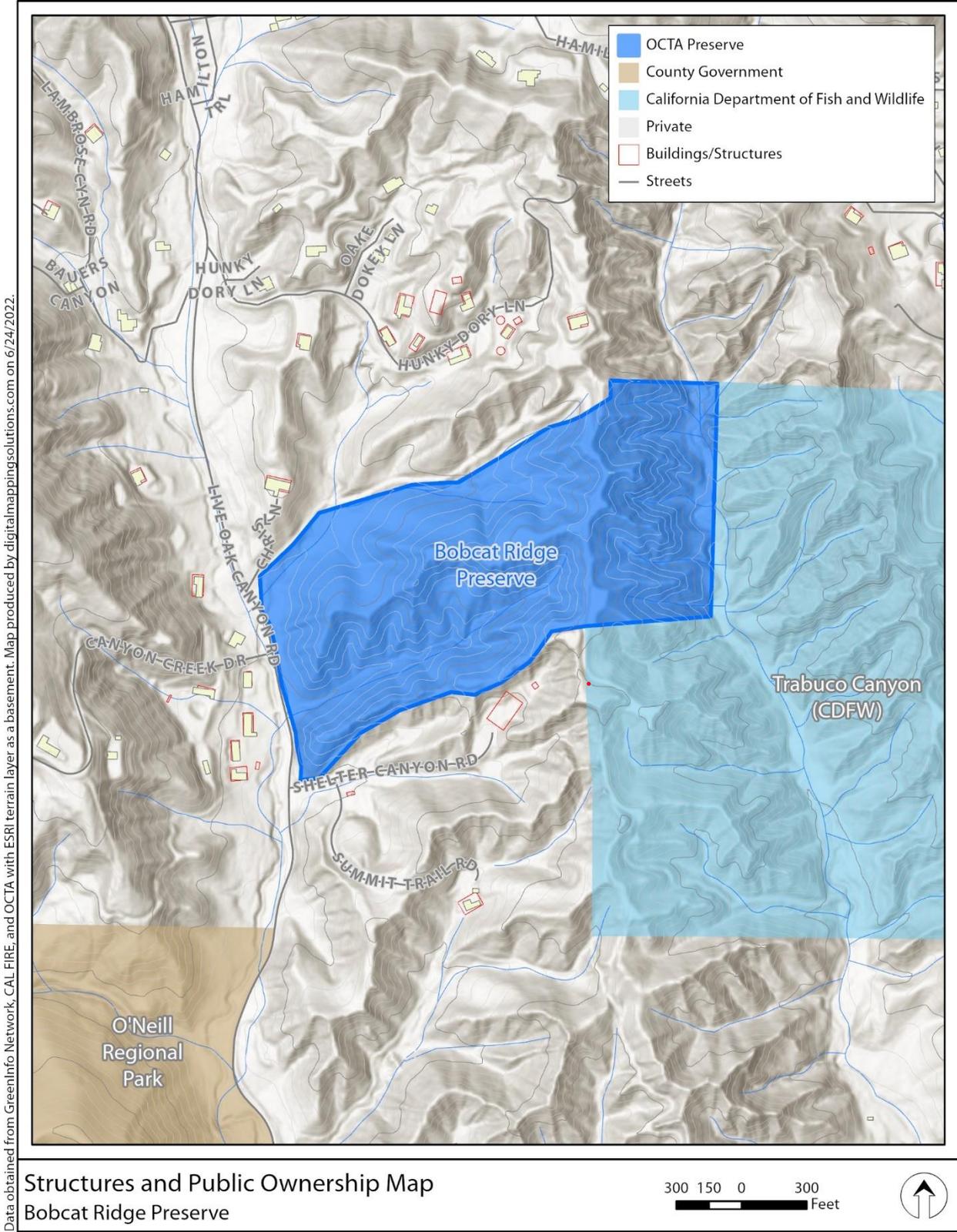


Figure 1. Structures within 1000 feet, land ownership, and streets near Bobcat Ridge Preserve.

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. Additional bird surveys were conducted in 2021; the results of these surveys are reflected in Appendix C, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Maps.

The overall landscape is arid and sloping, vegetated with wide swathes of scrubland and chaparral and bounded by stretches of coast live oak woodland and riparian areas (see Figure 3). According to surveys conducted in 2012 and described in the RMP, Scrub Oak Chaparral represents the main habitat type (~31 acres). California Sagebrush – California Buckwheat Scrub (~12 acres) is the next most dominant type; Coast Live Oak – California Sycamore Woodland Association riparian areas and Coast Live Oak woodland are also found on the Preserve (see Table 3).

The Bobcat Ridge 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 v and vi, below.

Bobcat Ridge Preserve	Acres	Percent
East	5.62	12%
North	3.04	6%
Northeast	2.75	6%
Northwest	10.22	21%
South	7.40	15%
Southeast	6.03	12%
Southwest	4.94	10%
West	8.26	17%
Total Acres	48.27	

Table 1. Summary of aspect of Bobcat Ridge Preserve.

Two ephemeral drainages that flow in a westerly direction are located in the western half of the Preserve. A larger ephemeral drainage is located along the eastern boundary of the Preserve and appears on the USGS quadrangle as a blue line stream; several small ephemeral drainages flowing into this larger drainage from within the property limits. Elevations range from 1,190 to 1,450 feet above mean sea level (msl). Slope steepness ranges from 0-70 percent, although most of the landscape ranges from moderate-to-extreme slope (9-70%).

Bobcat Ridge Preserve	Acres	Percent
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Level (0-0.5)	none	none
Nearly level (0.5 - 2)	0.06	0.1%
Very gentle slope (2 - 5)	0.23	0.5%
Gentle slope (5 - 9)	1.15	2%
Moderate slope (9 - 15)	3.73	8%
Strong slope (15 - 30)	14.58	30%
Very strong slope (30 - 45)	21.64	45%
Extreme slope (45 - 70)	6.89	14%
Steep slope (70 - 100)	none	none
Very steep slope (> 100)	none	none
Total Acres	48.27	

Table 2. Summary of slope steepness of Bobcat Ridge 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 the 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.

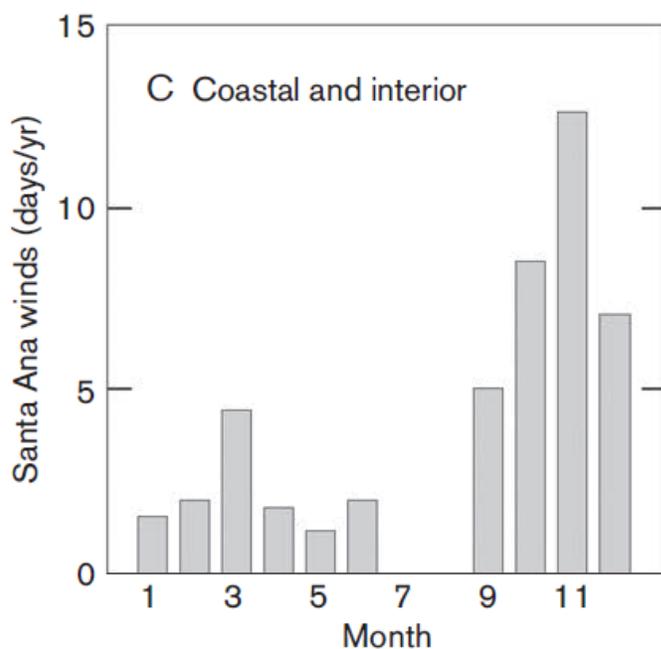


Figure 2. Average number days per month in which Santa Ana winds occur.⁶

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 Resource Management Plan 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 a majority of the annual precipitation to fall during a few storms over a close span of time."⁷ 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.

⁶ From *Fire in California's Ecosystems*, 2006, Sughiara, Van Wagtendonk, Shaffer Kaufman and Thode.

⁷ Bonterra Consulting. Baseline Biological Surveys Technical Report for the South County Properties. Appendix B pg. 6, Hafen Preserve Resource Management Plan. 2017. OCTA, with support from ICF.

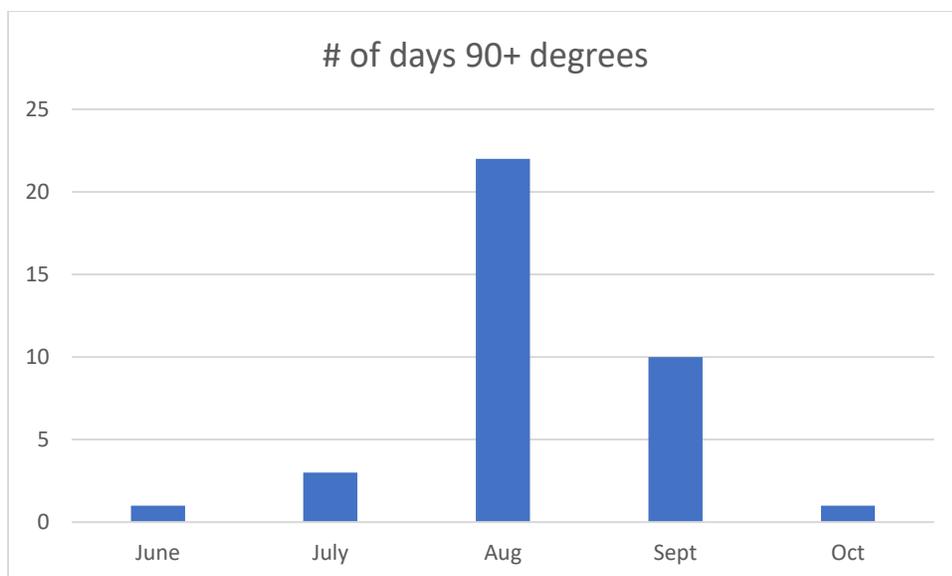


Figure 3. Number days per month in which the maximum temperature exceeds 90 degrees F.⁸

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. Two ephemeral drainages that flow in a westerly direction are located in the western half of the Preserve. A larger ephemeral drainage is located along the eastern boundary of the Preserve and appears on the USGS quadrangle as a blueline stream, several small ephemeral drainages flow into this larger drainage from within the Preserve limits. All onsite drainages are tributaries to Trabuco Creek.

iv. Soils: Soil types mapped on the Preserve consist of Botella clay loam (9-15 percent slopes), Cieneba sandy loam (30-75 percent slopes, eroded), and Soboba cobbly loamy sand (0-15 percent slopes).

v. Vegetation Types, Protected Species: Five vegetation types and other habitat types occur on the Preserve, including scrub, riparian, chaparral, woodland, and disturbed areas (comprised of the trails on the Preserve). Scrub Oak Chaparral covers the majority of the Preserve, however, a swath of California Sage-brush – California Buckwheat Scrub vegetation passes through the center of the Preserve, from west to east and runs north to south on the eastern third of the Preserve. Riparian vegetation is located on the eastern border, and Coast Live Oak Woodland forms the northwestern and western boundary. In

⁸ <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/trabuco-canyon/92679/november-weather/2178646?year=2021>

addition, the OCTA conducted surveys of cactus in the Preserve and the locations and boundaries of the cactus patches are shown in Figure 6.

Special-status plant species documented at the Preserve in 2012 include intermediate mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*) and chaparral nolina/chaparral beargrass (*Nolina cismontana*).

Vegetation Types and Other Areas	Acreage
Scrub Oak Chaparral	30.56
California Sagebrush - California Buckwheat Scrub	11.61
Coast Live Oak - California Sycamore Woodland Association	2.35
Coast Live Oak Woodland	3.61
Disturbed (Bare Ground)	0.12

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

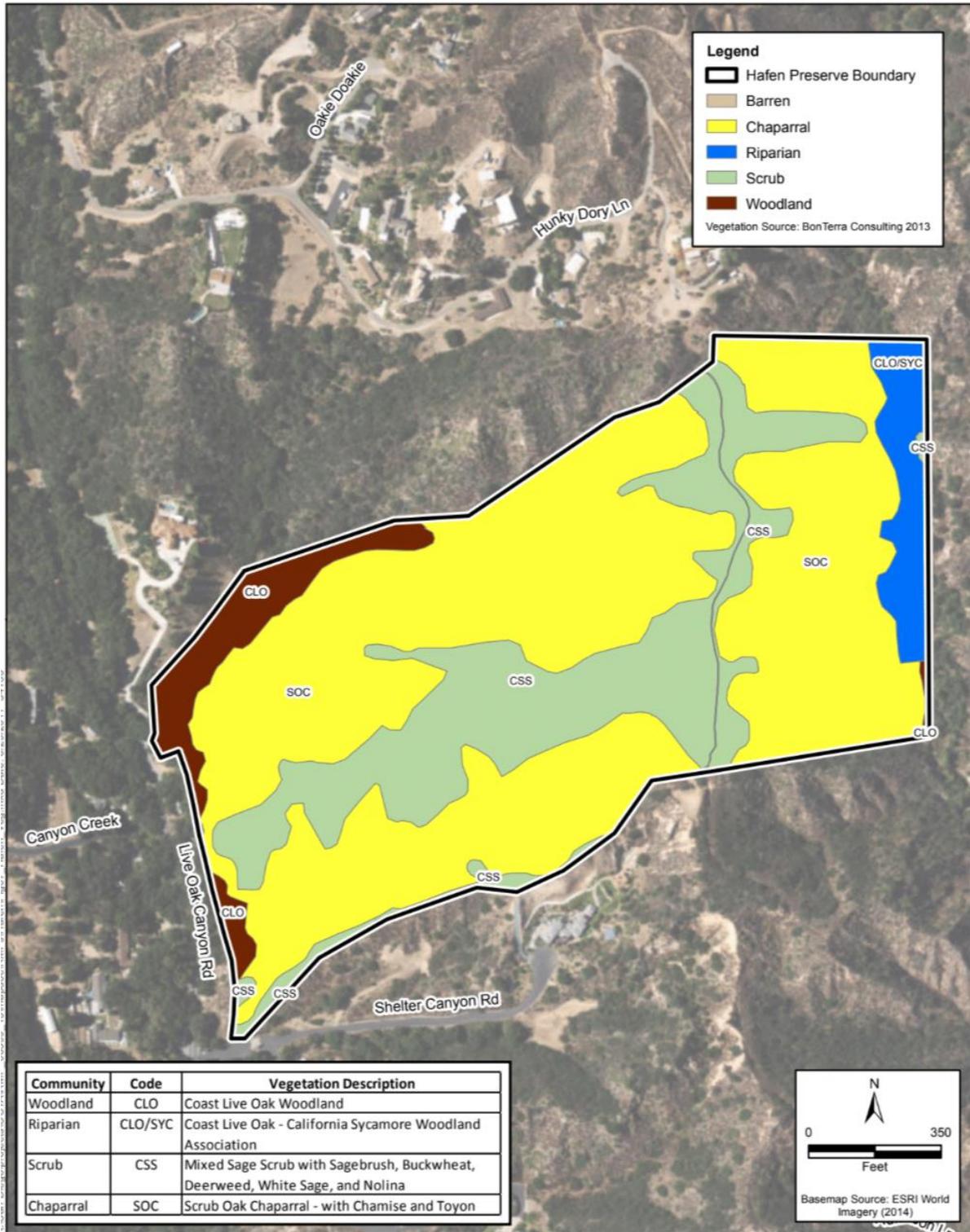


Figure 7
Vegetation Communities
Hafen Resource Management Plan

Figure 4. Vegetation Communities (from the Hafen 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 and woodland. All of the Preserve falls within an area designated by the USFWS as Critical Habitat for 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 Hafen property, and nearby Cleveland National Forest, O'Neill Regional Park, Trabuco Creek corridor, and Central-Coastal NCCP reserve areas, and other nearby open space parcels acquired by OCTA as part of its 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 several ridgelines and canyons that provide a variety of travel routes for local wildlife movement. Trails on site may also be used by wildlife for travel. 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 (*Polioptila californica californica*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*) 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 Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), and Yuma bat (*Myotis yumanensis*). Focused surveys for the OCTA covered species will continue to occur approximately every four years. The results of the most recent surveys completed in 2021 are reflected in Appendix C, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Maps.

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 late 18th century and the advent of a ranching culture coincided with the establishment of the California missions by Junipero Serra. 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 significantly altered since 1946. Buildings or other significant structures are not identified in the historic aerials. Low density residential development is present immediately north and south of the property, with the latest house built less than two years prior to the completion of the Preserve's Resource Management Plan in September 2017. An unpaved road on the property was graded sometime between 1953 and 1975, though it is now largely overgrown. Evidence of recent grazing is not present on the property.

viii. Cultural Resources: An Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment (ASA) was conducted by LSA Associates, Inc. on the Preserve in 2014. The assessment included a records search, Native American coordination, field survey, and report. This information will be kept confidential and was not included in the RMP for this Preserve. The ASA will be utilized to help ensure that activities on the Preserve do not impact any cultural resources.

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 almost the entirety of Bobcat Ridge Preserve (45.4 acres) in 1919. The most recent fire that burned a portion of the Preserve was the 1970 Nelson Fire, which burned 0.3 acres in the southwestern tip of the Preserve as part of a 3,586-acre fire.

While not large, at less than 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). The report, *Fire Regimes in the Santa Ana Mountains and Laguna Coast (1914-2019)* (Schlotterbeck 2020), indicates that between 1914 – 2019 35 fires (fifty percent of known ignitions or sixteen percent of all fires in that geography) were caused by roadside-types of ignitions in the Santa Ana Mountains.⁹ This report found nearly all areas with the highest wildfire frequency were along freeway and roadway corridors.

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 and commercial/agricultural facilities are also of concern.

FIRE NAME	YEAR	ACRES	CAUSE
(no name)	1919	2,225.0	Unknown/Unidentified
(no name)	1926	9,934.8	Unknown/Unidentified
(no name)	1963	168.1	Unknown/Unidentified
NELSON	1970	3,586.2	Miscellaneous
INDIAN	1980	28,940.2	Miscellaneous
LIVE OAK	1994	160.1	Miscellaneous
SANTIAGO	2007	28,430.0	Miscellaneous
ROSE	2017	0.2	Miscellaneous
(no name)	2017	0.003	Unknown/Unidentified
LIVE OAK	2018	1.7	Unknown/Unidentified

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

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

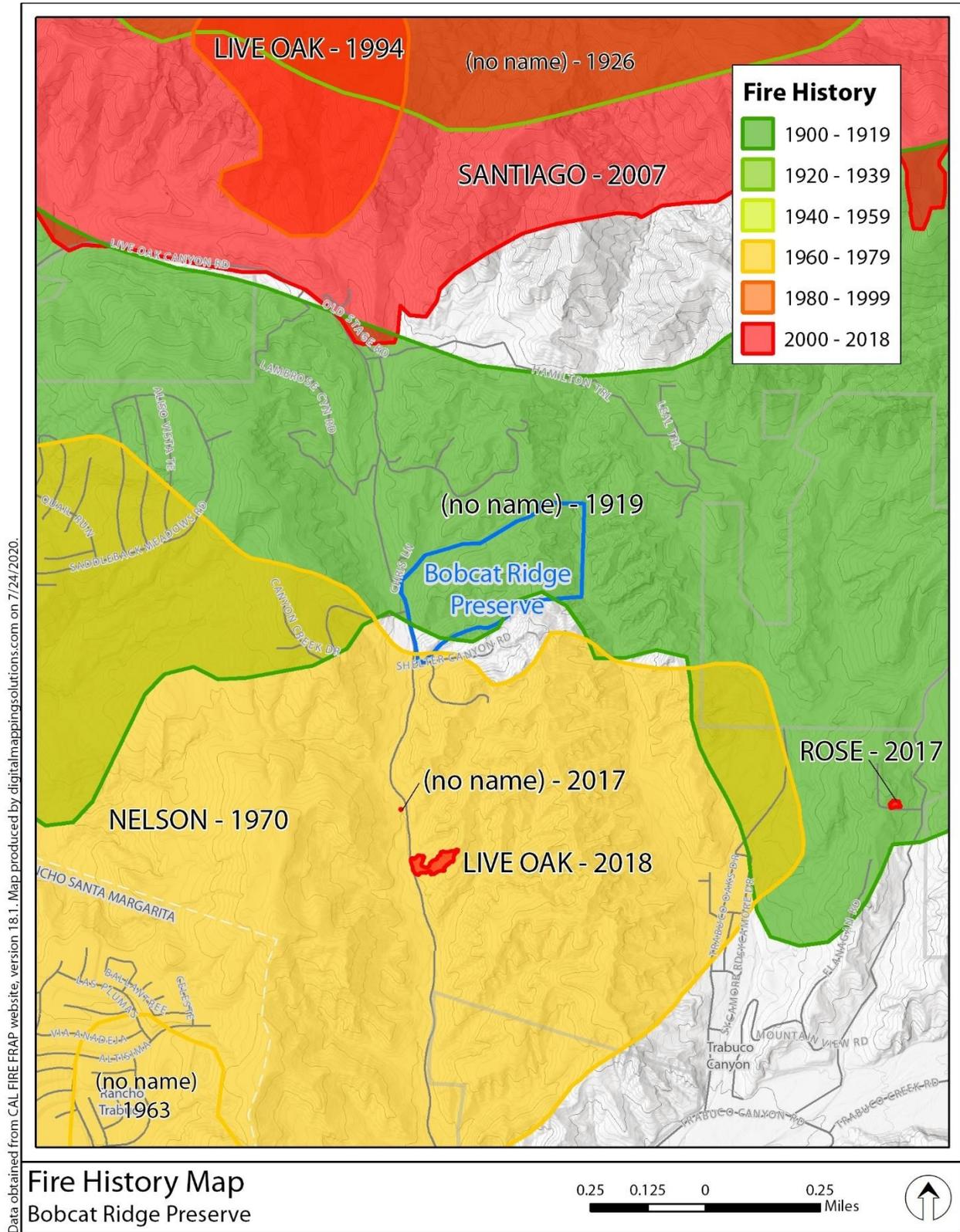


Figure 5. Fire history in the Bobcat Ridge Preserve region.

x. Recreational Resources: Based on an evaluation of biological resources, safety concerns, and local land use/parking constraints, it was determined that public access cannot be accommodated on site (Hafen Preserve RMP, 2017). The current configuration of trails does not connect to other regional trails due to safety concerns and 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 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, the surrounding area is an inter-mix of low-density, rural residential development 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, and as discussed in the fire behavior analysis sections below, there is significant interface fire hazard from nearby developments due to the adjacent fuel types and insufficient defensible space surrounding those developments. There are recreational users on many nearby area trails, although public access is currently prohibited on the Bobcat Ridge Preserve. Figure 1 indicates the structures within a 1000-foot buffer surrounding the Preserve. No 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), which continues south to border the western edge of the Preserve. Shelter Canyon Road splits from Live Oak Canyon Road to abut the southernmost tip of the Preserve, and the Preserve can also be accessed via Hunky Dory Lane to the north of the Preserve.

Beyond the major routes to the Preserve boundaries, an unpaved trail traverses the Preserve, though it is largely overgrown. The nearest public trail is the Holy Jim Canyon Trail to the east of the Preserve.

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 fire 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 mixed 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 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, and the 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. In particular, the developed areas within 1000 feet of the Preserve's northern boundary (on Hunky Dory Lane, off Oakie Doakie Lane) do not appear to be defensible and present a high interface fire risk, especially under Santa Ana wind conditions. The newest structure near the Preserve was built with ignition-resistant construction and poses a lesser ignition risk.

Human activity associated with the communities near the western and southern boundaries of the Preserve could similarly cause fires. Fortunately, conditions most likely to cause large fires would be with Santa Ana wind conditions, from the north or northeast; this wind direction would push the fire away from the Preserve.

No human activity is adjacent to the eastern boundaries of the Preserve, which limits the chance of ignition. The nearest public hiking trail is the Holy Jim Canyon Trail.

The risk of a fire affecting the Bobcat Ridge Preserve is influenced not only by the fuels it supports, but also by the fuels present within the surrounding landscape. Adjacent fuel types are a factor in determining the potential for spread to the Preserve, especially because the Preserve is 48 acres within a larger matrix of wildland fuels. The fuel types on adjacent properties vary between low-fuel volumes and discontinuous fuels to the west of the

Preserve (which would limit spread to the Preserve), to highly flammable fuel conditions north and east of the Preserve, 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. Wildland fuels are generally comprised of swathes of shrub and grass-shrub to the north, east, and south, with patches of developed areas to the north and lines of hardwoods immediately bordering the Preserve to its west and east. The level of hazard will vary due to season or climate. While there is risk of fire year-round, this risk is lowest in the spring when foliar moisture is higher.

A. Description of Fuel Types Present on the Preserve

The spatial distribution of each fuel type is shown on Figure 6, which identifies unique fuel types. Fire predictions on this Preserve indicate that approximately two-thirds 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 dominance of the Very High Shrub fuel type, which is predicted to exhibit extreme fire behavior, except where cactus is present in significant quantities. Cactus moderates fire behavior because of its high moisture content. Scrub Oak Chaparral is the main fuel type throughout the Preserve, with a significant swathe of Mixed Sage Scrub running through the center of the Preserve. As discussed below, while flame lengths are predicted to be shorter than 8 feet for this latter vegetation type in northeasterly wind scenarios, it would be prudent to expect both vegetation types to exhibit more serious fire behavior in uphill wind scenarios, with rapid rates of spread throughout the Preserve. See Figures 7a and 7b for a map of predicted flame lengths on the Preserve based on FlamMap fire behavior modeling software.

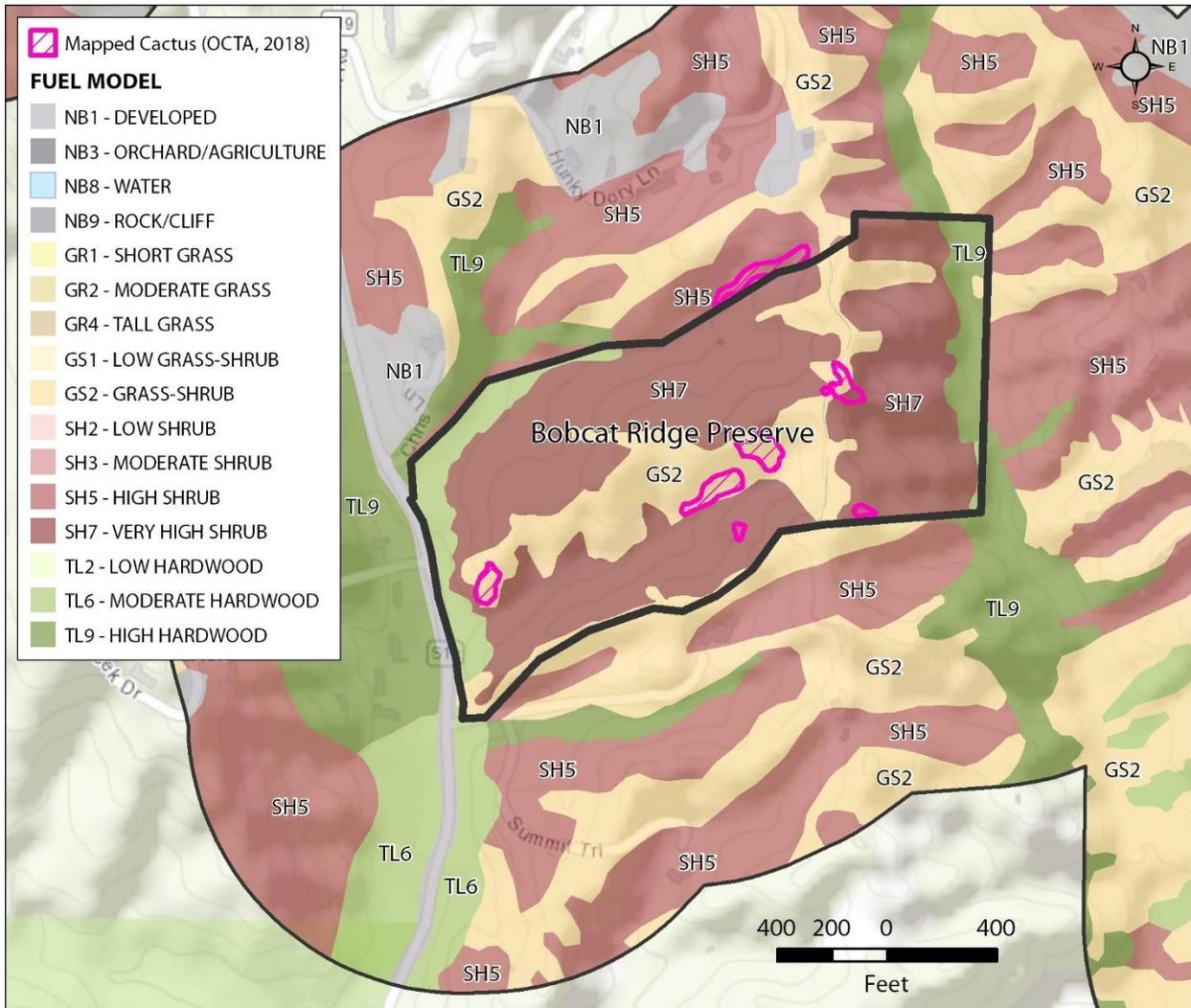


Figure 6. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing fuel model classification based on vegetation.

Fuel Model Name and Code	Fuel Model Description	Vegetation Map Code	Acres	Percent
NB99 – Rock/Cliff	Barren	DIST/RUD/RK/BARREN	0.113	0.2%
GS122 – Grass-Shrub	Low load, dry climate grass-shrub shrub about 1 foot high, grass load low, spread rate moderate and flame length low	CSS	10.691	22%
GS122 – Grass-Shrub with Cactus	Same as above, but assigned higher fuel moistures	CSS with cactus	0.917	2%
SH145 – High Shrub	Low load, humid climate timber shrub, woody shrubs and shrub litter, low to moderate load, possible pine overstory, fuelbed depth about 3 feet, spread rate high and flame moderate	SOC	0.001	0.002%
SH147 – Very High Shrub	Low load, humid climate shrub, woody shrubs and shrub litter, dense shrubs, little or no herbaceous fuel, depth about 2 feet, spread rate and flame high	SOC/CT	30.378	63%
SH147 – Very High Shrub with Cactus	Same as above, but assigned higher fuel moistures	SOC/CT with cactus	0.183	0.4%
TL186 – Moderate Hardwood	Moderate load broadleaf litter, spread rate and flame moderate	CLO	3.605	7%
TL189 – High Hardwood	Very high load broadleaf litter, may be heavy needle drape, spread rate and flame moderate	CLO/CSW	2.346	5%
Total Acres			48.237	

Table 5. Bobcat Ridge 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, 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.

B. Predicted Fire Behavior on the Preserve

Regionally, fire behavior is expected to be extreme. In critical weather, fires are expected to burn with extreme behavior, high rates of spread, and long-range spotting. This community is at the end of a historical fire corridor, but most fires have been held just short of the area. In the Bobcat Ridge area, Santa Ana wind-driven fires have moved westward from Interstate 15 up and over the Main Divide and into this area in 4-6 hrs. Fires coming from Holy Jim Canyon to the east may travel to this area in 2-4 hours but are often wind sheltered deep in the Trabuco drainage. The Santiago fire was held north of Harris Grade on Live Oak Canyon Road/Hamilton Trail by aggressive backfiring. A dozer line held the Indian Fire near Joplin Youth Center. Typical onshore wind-driven fires that spread from the east are expected to be held at the ridgeline separating the Trabuco/Modjeska drainages (Rhode, 2015).

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 aligns the wind with the slope, so 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 Zones,¹⁰ 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.

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 methods.¹¹ 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 two wind scenarios are almost identical for flame length predictions.

This Preserve is very small and is mostly Very High Shrub (Fuel Model 147), with smaller inclusions of Grass Shrub (Fuel Model 122) lacing through the area and very small patches of cactus running through the center of the Preserve. On the far eastern and far western edges of the Preserve are swathes of Moderate Hardwood (western edge) and High Hardwood (eastern edge).

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

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.

In both wind scenarios, the majority of the Preserve (67-68%) is predicted to burn with flame lengths greater than 20 feet. These are the areas of High and Very High Shrub (Fuel Models 145 and 147).

In the Grass Shrub (Fuel Model 122) and Moderate Hardwood areas, lower flame lengths of less than 4 feet (8%) and 4-8 feet (23%) are predicted.

The cactus areas are nestled in the Grass Shrub, bordering the Very High Shrub, and are predicted not to burn. Areas of cactus are expected to burn with low flame lengths, less than 8 feet, even though the fuel type was similar to coastal sage scrub without cactus. The cactus is predicted to burn 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 on the center ridge of the Preserve and on its northern border where the width of the cactus is narrow. Cactus provides essential habitat for sensitive species including the Cactus wren. When cactus burns intensely, it will 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 4 feet).

The 1000-foot buffer around the Preserve has alternating patches of High Hardwood, Moderate Hardwood, High Shrub, and Grass Shrub throughout. As one would expect, the High Hardwood and High Shrub patches are expected to burn with the highest flame lengths, with the Grass Shrub and Moderate Hardwood burning with lower flame lengths.

There are developed areas to the north and northwest of the Preserve in the buffer. These developments are surrounded by swathes of High Hardwood, Grass Shrub, and High Shrub, and a narrow strip of cactus on the Preserve's northern border.

The High Hardwood and High Shrub areas are predicted to burn with flame lengths greater than 20 feet. These areas are directly adjacent to each development on at least one side, causing high interface fire hazard.

Several adjacent homes, as portrayed in Figure 1, may present a risk to the Preserve and adjacent residential properties if defensible space is not regularly maintained. Residents of Preserve-adjacent properties are responsible for maintaining adequate defensible space in order to reduce interface fire risk.

The house on Live Oak Canyon Rd. is almost completely surrounded by fuels that are predicted to burn with the highest flame lengths and will need to maintain defensible space regularly in compliance with local and regional standards.

The first house on Hunky Dory Lane has High Shrub on the west side of it and Grass Shrub on the east side. The west side is predicted to burn with the highest flame lengths and there is a high danger. There is a large lawn that may offer some defensible space; however, defensible space will need to be regularly maintained around this property.

The developments on Hunky Dory Lane after Oakie Doakie are nearly surrounded to the south, east, and north with areas predicted to burn with the highest flame lengths, causing high interface fire hazard. Some of the areas right up against the buildings look more like grass or barren fuels on Google Maps; however, the property owner will need to remain vigilant about regularly maintaining defensible space in this high-hazard area.

The last development off Hunky Dory has High Shrub to the west and Grass Shrub to the east. Flame lengths greater than 20 feet are predicted to the west and lower flame lengths to the east. From Google Maps it appears that there are some grassy or cleared patches around this building that may contribute to a small amount of defensible space; as above, the property owners are responsible for maintaining sufficient defensible space to reduce interface fire hazard in this high-risk area.

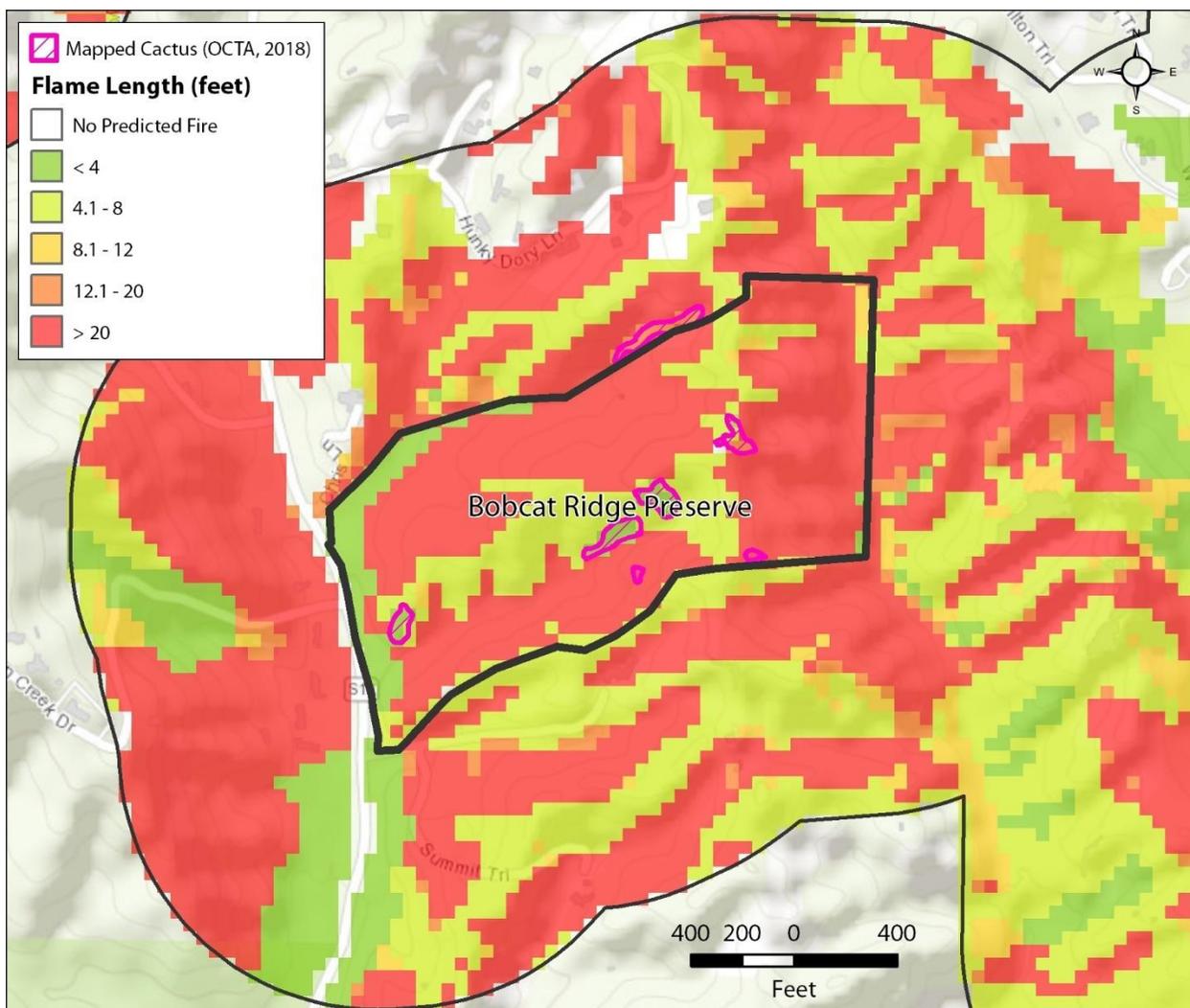


Figure 7a. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing predicted flame length for results from the northeast wind scenario.

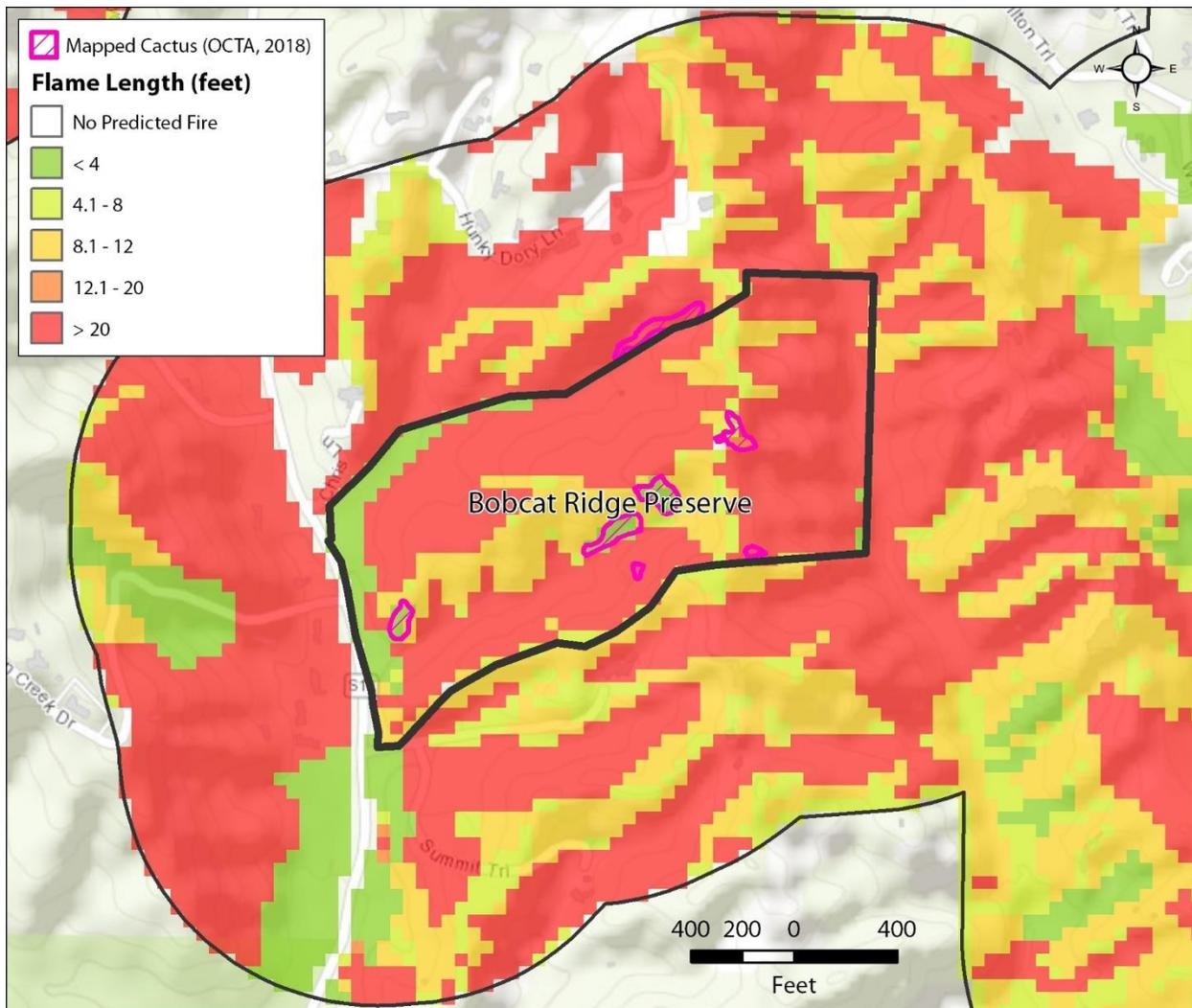


Figure 7b. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing predicted flame length for results from the uphill wind scenario.

Flame Length	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.21
Less than 4 feet	4.25
4.1-8 feet	11.02
8.1-12 feet	0.26
12.10-20 feet	0.36
Greater than 20 feet	32.14

Scenario I Northeast Wind (see Figure 7a).

Flame Length	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.22
Less than 4 feet	4.06
4.1-8 feet	10.85
8.1-12 feet	0.06
12.10-20 feet	0.11
Greater than 20 feet	32.94

Scenario II Uphill Wind (see Figure 7b).

Table 6. The acreage predicted to burn with the various flame length categories, considering the total area of the Preserve. 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, 48.25 acres.

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).

Rate of spread is the measurement of how fast the head (or leading front) of a surface fire advances. 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, practically not discernable.

In both scenarios, about 9% of the total area is predicted to burn with rates of spread of 1.1-5 feet/minute. This is in the Hardwood on the western edge of the preserve.

In both scenarios, about 25-27% of the total area is predicted to burn with rates of spread of 40-80 feet/minute. This appears to be the swathe of Grass Shrub that runs through the preserve.

In both scenarios, the greatest number of acres (about 63% of the total area) are predicted to burn with a rate of spread of greater than 80 feet/minute. These are areas of Very High Shrub.

There are patches of cactus scattered throughout the preserve, where it is assumed that high fuel moisture will reduce the ability of the fire to spread. Areas of cactus moderate high spread rates, with most areas of cactus spreading with rates slower than 5 feet/minute.

Most of the entire buffer and areas that surround the developments are predicted to burn with rates of spread of 40-80 feet/minute and/or faster than 80 feet/minute. This could cause high interface fire danger for all the developments in terms of rate of spread. Some areas in the Moderate Hardwood appear to have slow rates of spread from 1.1-5 feet/minute.

The same interface challenges exist in terms of rate of spread as with the flame length analysis in the developed areas to the north and northwest of the preserve in the buffer. These developments are surrounded by swathes of High Hardwood, Grass-Shrub, and High Shrub.

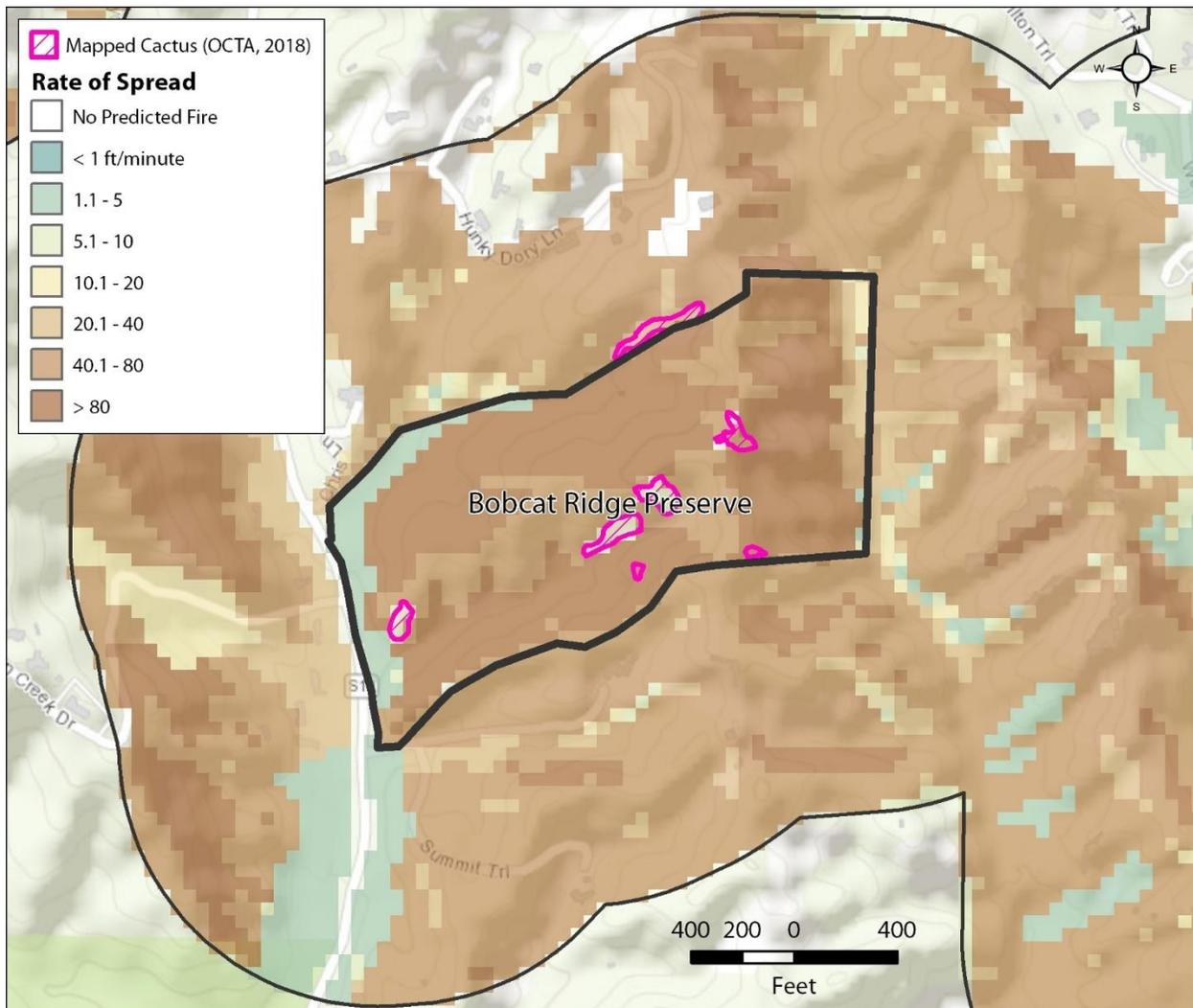


Figure 8a. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing predicted rate of spread for results from the northeast wind scenario.

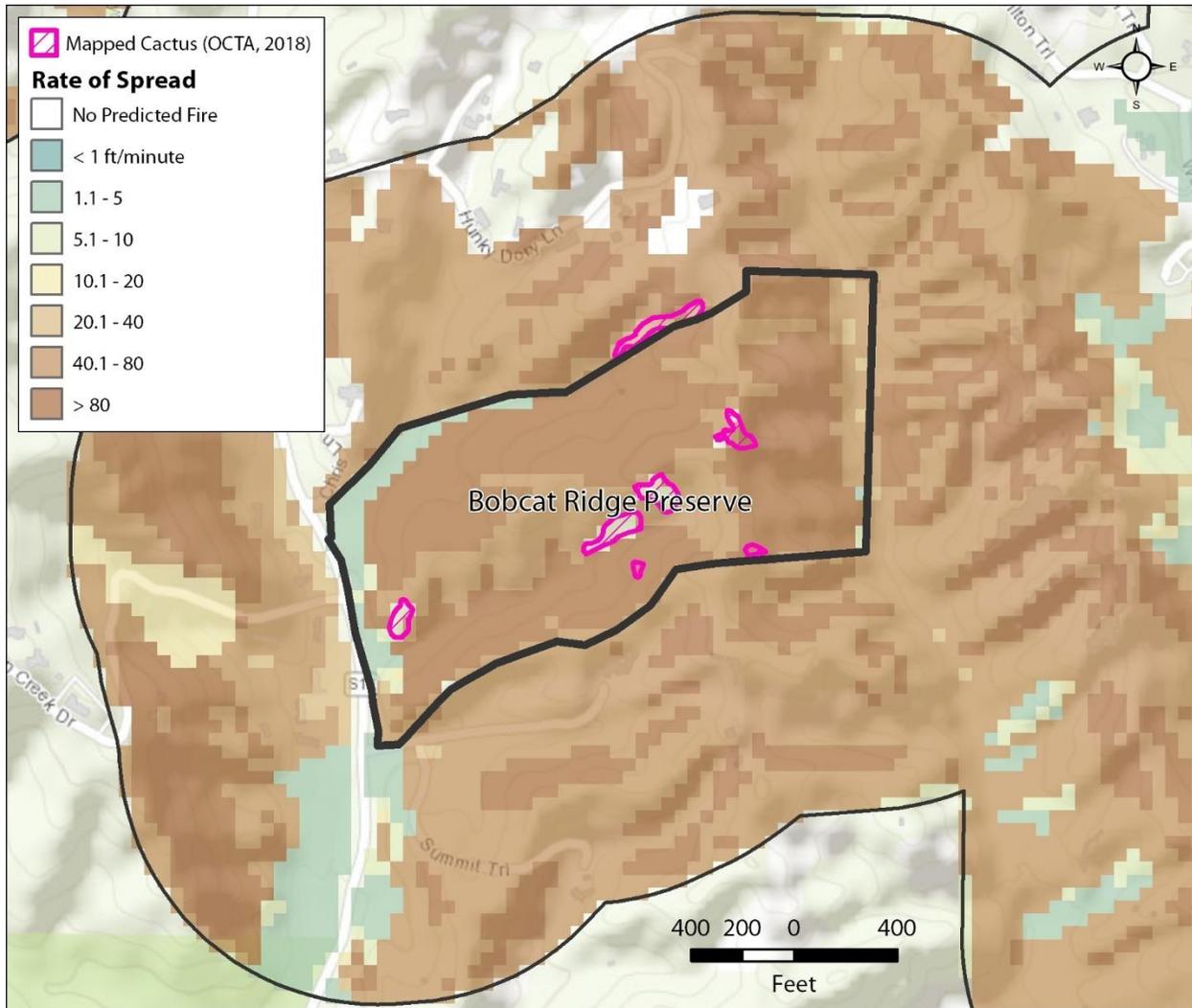


Figure 8b. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing predicted rate of spread for results from the uphill wind scenario.

Rate of Spread	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.22
Less than 1 ft/minute	0.11
1.1 – 5	4.20
5.1 – 10	0.07
10.1 – 20	0.26
20.1 – 40	1.08
40.1 – 80	12.12
Greater than 80 ft/minute	30.17

Scenario I Northeast Wind (see Figure 8a).

Rate of Spread	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.22
Less than 1 ft/minute	0
1.1 – 5	4.14
5.1 – 10	0
10.1 – 20	0.06
20.1 – 40	0.53
40.1 – 80	12.90
Greater than 80 ft/minute	30.38

Scenario II Uphill Wind (see Figure 8b).

Table 7. 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 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.

Surface fires are predicted to burn in almost all locations (94% of the Preserve) in both wind scenarios because tree crowns are largely absent from the Preserve. Individual trees in the High Hardwood vegetation on the eastern edge of the Preserve are predicted to torch. Fire is not expected to travel from tree-crown to tree-crown.

The two wind scenarios are almost identical in terms of crown fire activity.

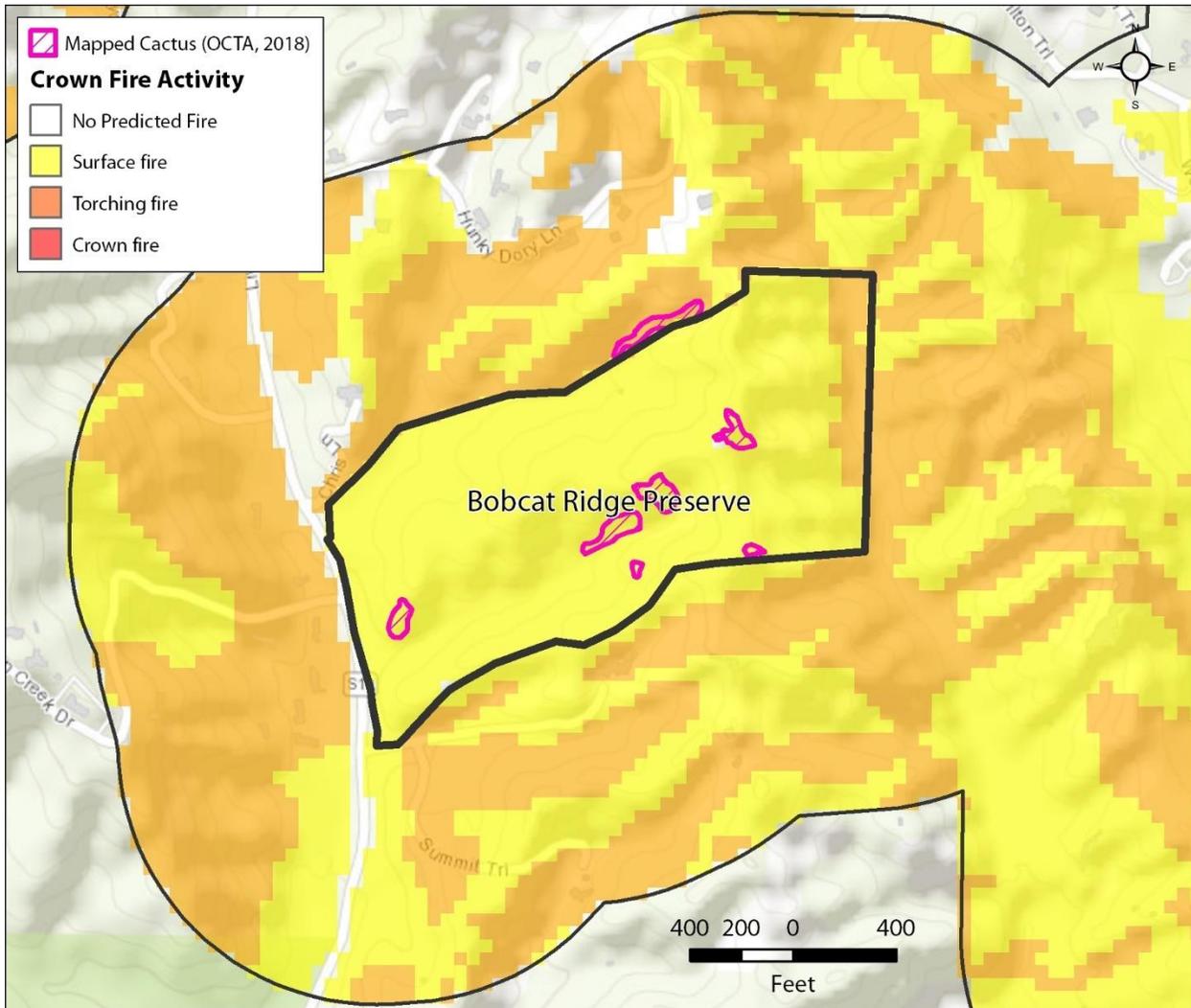


Figure 9a. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing crown fire activity for results from the northeast wind scenario.

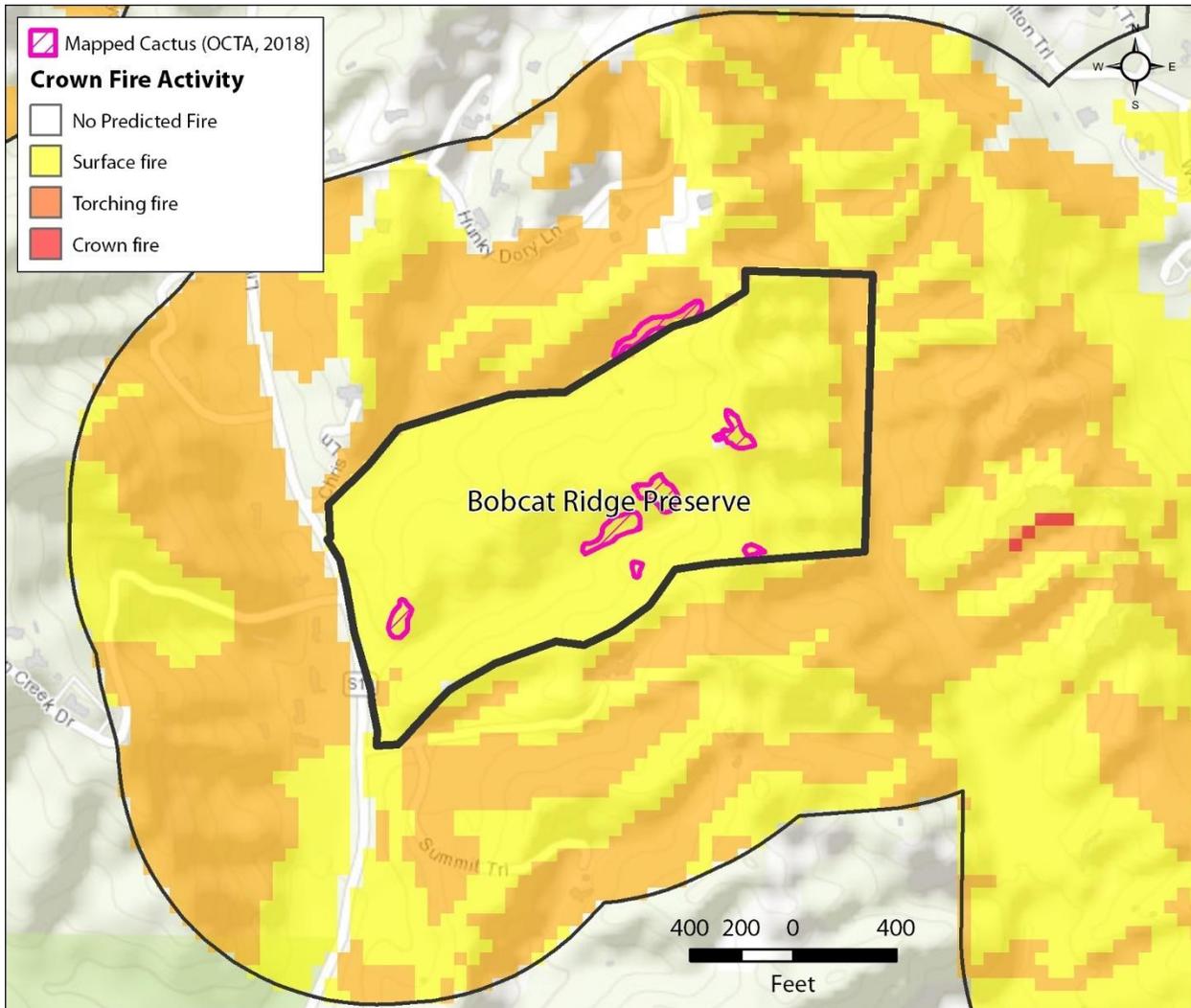


Figure 9b. Bobcat Ridge Preserve map showing crown fire activity for results from the uphill wind scenario.

Crown Fire Activity	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.16
Surface Fire	45.40
Torching Fire	2.67
Crown Fire	0.00

Scenario I Northeast Wind (see Figure 9a).

Crown Fire Activity	Acres
No Predicted Fire	0.11
Surface Fire	45.22
Torching Fire	2.83
Crown Fire	0.00

Scenario II Uphill Wind (see Figure 9b).

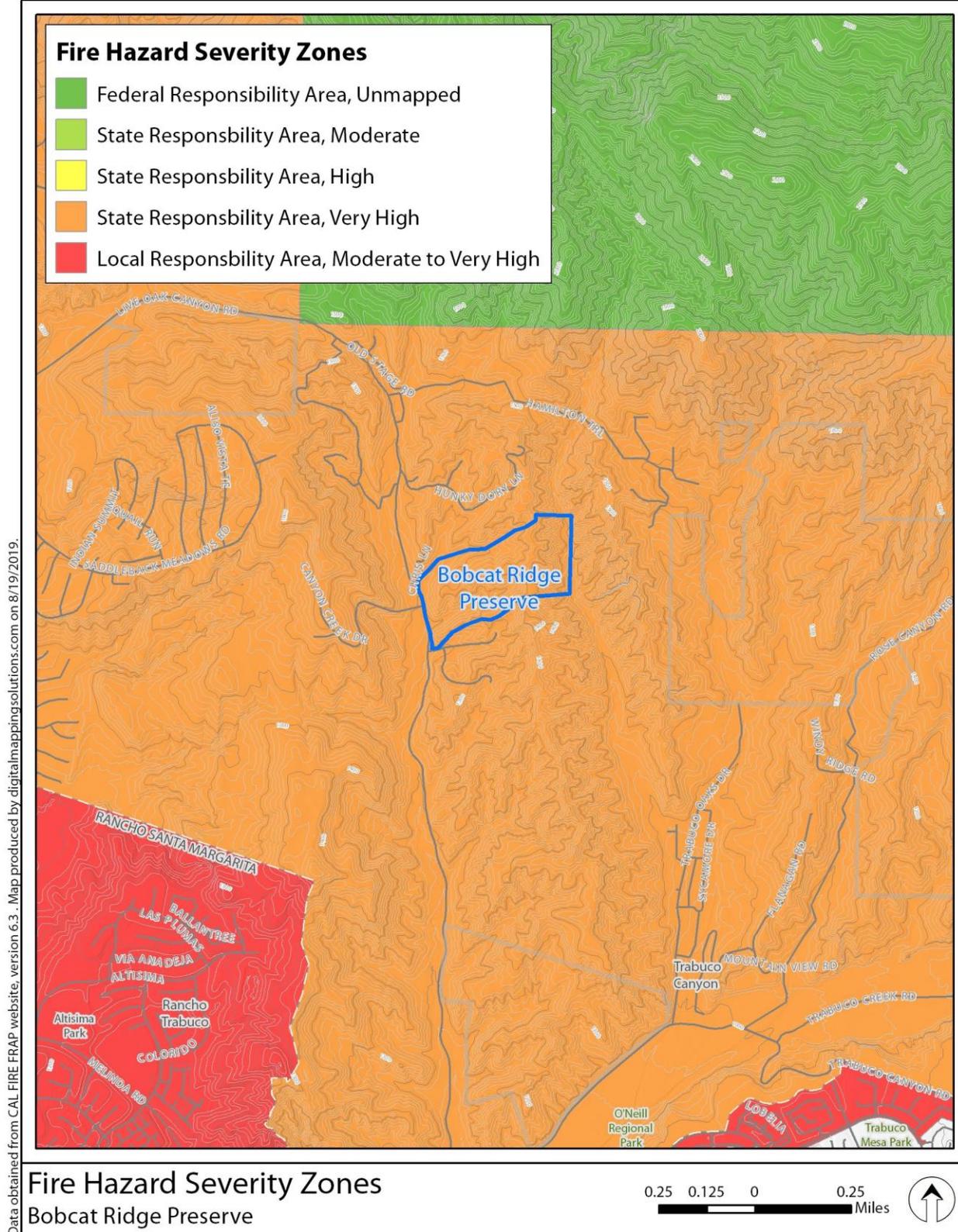
Table 8. Area burned by the various categories of fire spread rate.

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 of High and Very High Shrub fuel models 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 map of Bobcat Ridge.

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 Sherriff, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and others that may be part of the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Group.

OCTA benefits from relationships with other agencies. Cooperating partnerships, financial support, and other resources through the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Group, and mostly with OCTA's relationship with the OCFA Wildland Resource Planner, all support wildland fire protection of the Preserves. 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.¹² 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 include 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

Table 9. ALERTCalifornia cameras sites with coverage of Bobcat Ridge Preserve.

¹² <https://alertcalifornia.org/about/>

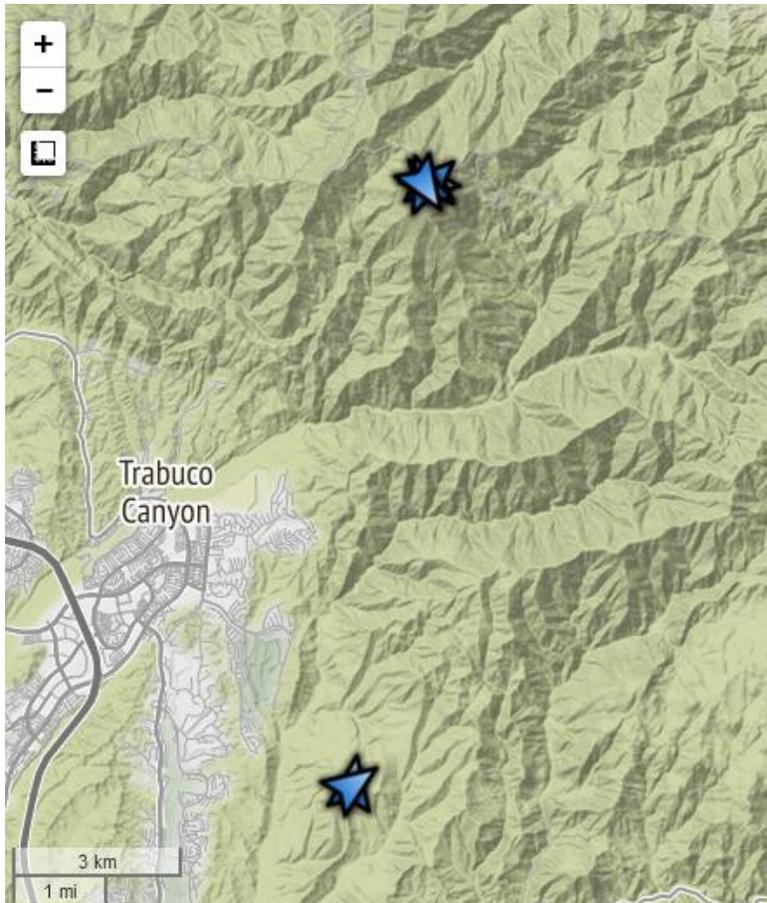


Figure 11. Locations of nearby ALERTCalifornia cameras. The location at the top of the map (Santiago Peak) hosts the four cameras. The location on the bottom of the map hosts cameras named Bell Canyon South and Bell Canyon North. All cameras rotate during operation, thus direction of arrows on this figure are examples only.

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. Responsibility 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, OCFA [will work with OCTA to perform pre-fire vegetation management, and does not hold OCFA responsible for the pre-fire vegetation management].¹³
- 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.”

¹³ 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, in the Bobcat Ridge Preserve, no vegetation management was identified.

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 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 Bobcat Ridge (then Hafen) Preserve also specifies duties regarding pre-fire management: “Prior to adoption of the FMP, fire management in the Preserve will consist primarily of conducting regular maintenance of weeds along existing trails and maintaining safe access for firefighters on existing trails.”¹⁴

The M2 Conservation Plan establishes a Strategy/Management Action that “[t]he 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 maps 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 response. 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. The Environmentally Sensitive Lands maps (Appendix C) inform the OCFA of riparian and cactus scrub areas and locations of rare and sensitive species to avoid and is an important component to inform the decision-making process during a wildfire.

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 the Orange County Ignition Prevention Working Group, a subset group of COAST. Closure

¹⁴ Hafen Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Executive Summary, pg. 2.

of the Preserve to the public is an effective method of preventing wildfire as human activities are closely correlated to wildfire ignition.

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.¹⁵ Should any additional such structures be approved nearby, OCFA will ensure that any vegetation management needed for an adjacent structure 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, OCFA commissioned a set of Wildland-Urban Interface 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 and water sources. The portion of the Trabuco Wildland Urban Interface Pre-Fire Plan that covers the Preserve appears in Figure 12. The Plans identified the following access roads: Live Oak Canyon Rd east from Santiago Canyon Rd (Cook's Corner), which borders the Preserve to its west and leads to additional access points via Oakie Doakie and Hunky Dory to the north of the Preserve, and intersects with Shelter Canyon Road, which abuts the Preserve's southwestern corner. No staging areas, temporary refuge areas, or safety zones are identified in the Preserve.

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 canyon.
- 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.

¹⁵ <https://www.ocfa.org/Uploads/SafetyPrograms/OCFA%20RSG%20-%20Vegetation%20Management%20Guidelines.pdf>

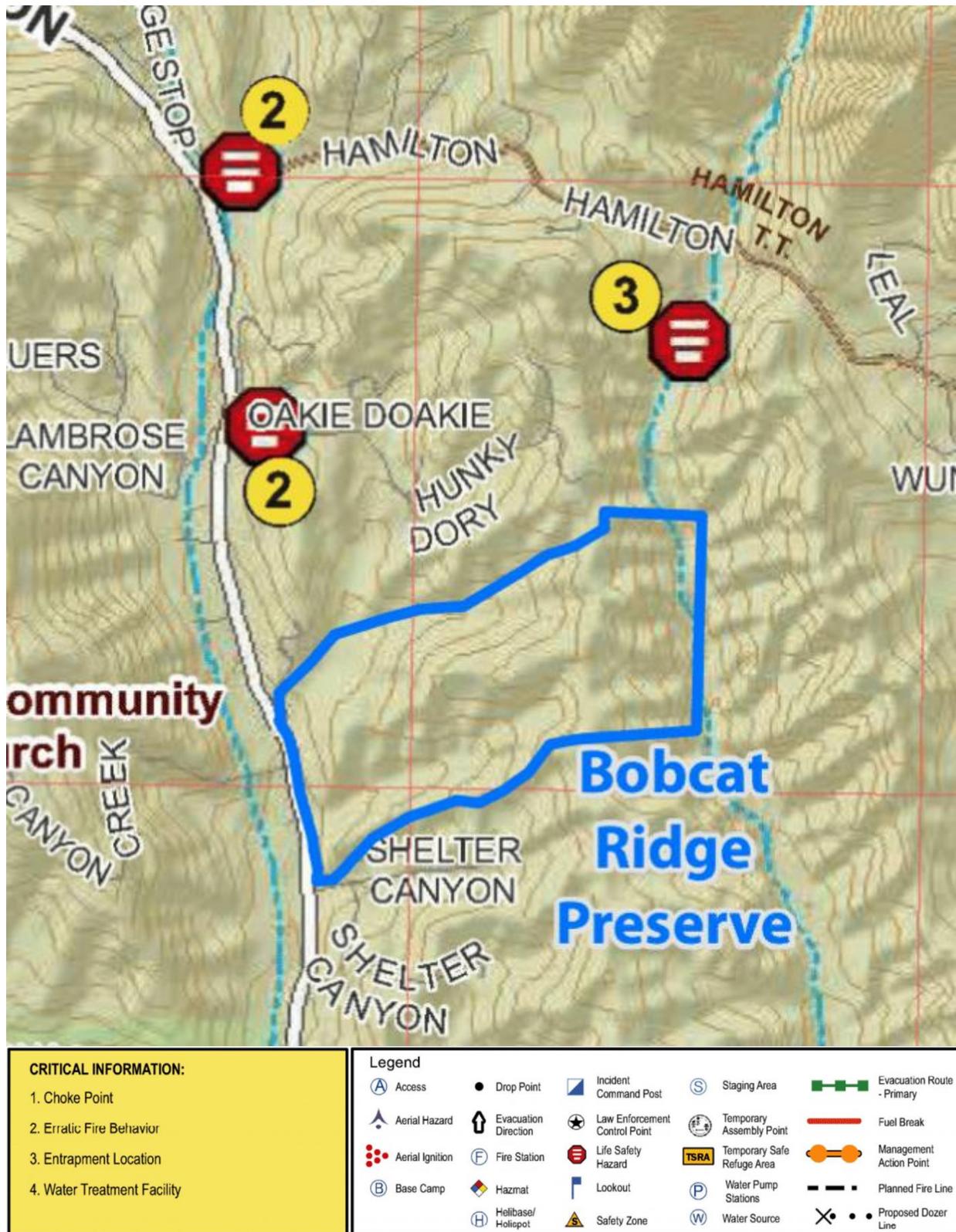


Figure 12. Tactical map of the Bobcat Ridge Preserve.

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. Fireline 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 will 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 a Resource Advisor (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/or 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 at 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 IAP. 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, a copy of the fire management plan, and a RA certification.

Emergency Evacuation: OCTA staff or contractors that may be within the Preserve during an uncontained wildfire must either be evacuated from the Preserve or brought to a "safe area." This Preserve is not part of an evacuation route for any adjacent parcels. In no circumstance should members of the public be brought to the Preserve during a wildfire incident. 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 Bobcat Ridge Preserve, the preferred evacuation route to vacate the Preserve is along Live Oak Canyon Road to the west of the Preserve (and all other nearby roads – Shelter Canyon Road and Hunky Dory via Oakie Doakie Lane – that intersect with Live Oak Canyon Road to the south and north of the Preserve). See Appendix D, WUI Pre-Attack Plan.

ii. Orange County Fire Authority Responsibilities

OCFA is responsible for providing fire protection for the Bobcat Ridge Preserve. As shown in Table 10, the nearest fire station is OCFA Station #42, on Ridgeline Road (2.1 miles from the Preserve), closely followed by OCFA Station #18, on Trabuco Canyon Road (2.2 miles from the Preserve), both of which are equipped with vehicles suitable for wildland fire response and can reach Bobcat Ridge Preserve in under 5 minutes.

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. Firecrew members assigned to Station #18 in Trabuco Canyon receive training in wildland firefighting and special equipment operation.

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 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 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 of Windy Ridge Rd. No water sources are available in canyon wildland areas, however.

Nearest Fire Station	Service Area	Fire Station Address	Route	Distance	Estimated Time
STATION #42	PORTOLA HILLS	19150 Ridgeline Rd., Lake Forest 92679	Via Live Oak Canyon Rd	2.1 miles	< 5 minutes
STATION #18	TRABUCO	30942 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon 92678	Via Live Oak Canyon Rd	2.2 miles	< 5 minutes
STATION #54	FOOTHILL RANCH	19811 Pauling Ave., Lake Forest 92610	Via Glenn Ranch Rd	4.7 miles	5 - 10 minutes
STATION #16	MODJESKA	28891 Modjeska Canyon Rd., Silverado 92676	Via Modjeska Grade Rd	4.9 miles	5 - 10 minutes
STATION #31	NO. MISSION VIEJO	22426 Olympiad Rd., Mission Viejo 92692	Via El Toro Rd	5.8 miles	5 - 10 minutes
STATION #45	SANTA MARGARITA	30131 Aventura, Rancho Santa Margarita 92688	Via Santa Margarita Pkwy	6.3 miles	10 - 15 minutes
STATION #19	LAKE FOREST	23022 El Toro Rd., Lake Forest 92630	Via County Hwy S18	7.8 miles	10 - 15 minutes

Table 10. Location of nearby fire stations and response times to the Bobcat Ridge Preserve.

There are a few staging areas near the Preserve. One is located at Cooks Corner, which is at the intersection of Live Oak Canyon Road and Santiago Canyon/El Toro Road. Two staging areas are within O'Neill Regional Park, where Live Oak Canyon Road becomes Trabuco Canyon Road. Locations of Incident Command posts are in the same place as the staging area inside the regional park, and at Fire Station #18.

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 C, 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.	
<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 (2015) for a wildfire in/near Bobcat Ridge Preserve. OCFA has requested that OCTA contacts be included in the applicable plan for the Bobcat Ridge 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, 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, 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 Bobcat Ridge 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 NCCP/HCP 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 NCCP/HCP 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.”¹⁶

Following a wildfire on the Preserve, a representative of 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 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.

¹⁶ Hafen Preserve Resource Management Plan (September 2017), Section 3, pg. 17.

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.

According to the Bobcat Ridge Preserve RMP, “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 [f] 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 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.”

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 A 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. 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 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 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 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 OCFA are necessary. OCTA would be responsible for such activities as vegetation seedings 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 archeologist 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 Bobcat Ridge (then Hafen) 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 NCCP/HCP 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 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.
- 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.
- Plan all post-fire actions (e.g., habitat restoration, invasive species removal, erosion control, or trail stabilization) in consultation with the Wildlife 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.”

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 fire management plan. 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. Fire Suppression Repair Standards and Example of Plan
- B. Glossary of Terms
- C. Environmentally Sensitive Lands Maps
- D. Wildland Urban Interface Pre-attack Plan

APPENDIX A: 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 California 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 dozed 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.

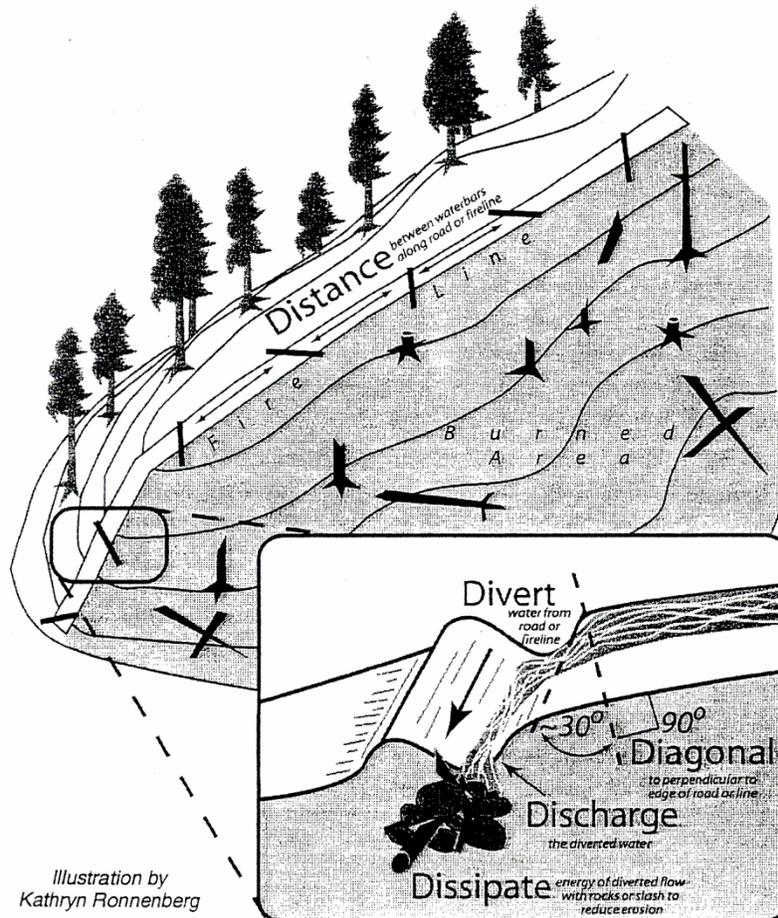


Illustration by
Kathryn Ronnenberg

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>
<u>Dozer line and Handlines</u>	100'	75'	50'	50'
<u>Road</u>	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 B: 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 3 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 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.

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.

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.

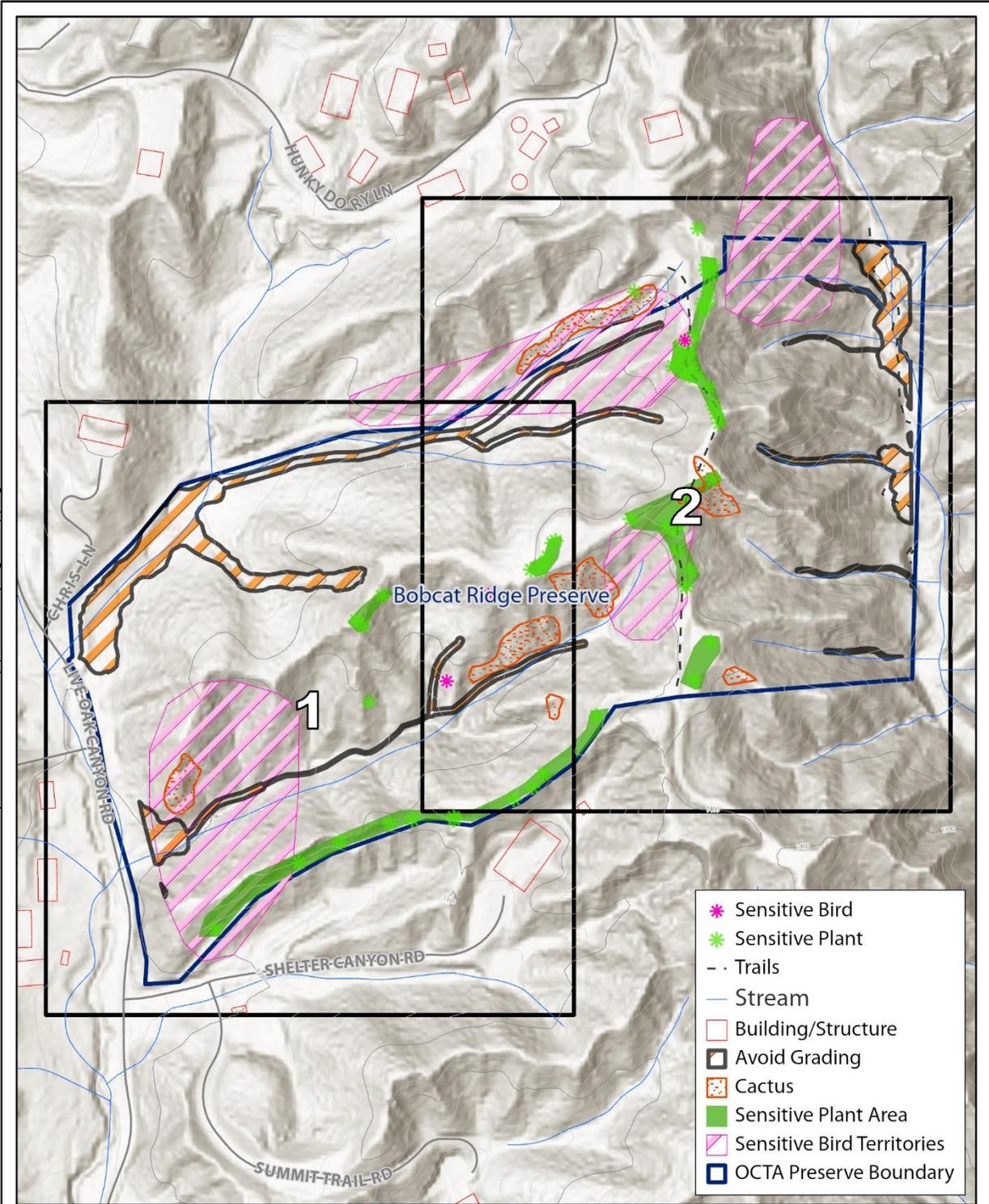
Unified Command – In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort which allows all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. This is accomplished without losing 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 C: ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS MAPS BOBCAT RIDGE PRESERVE

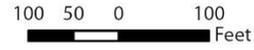
Data obtained from GreenInfo Network, CAL FIRE, and OCTA with ESRI terrain layer as a basement. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 6/24/2022.



Environmentally Sensitive Lands Overview Map
Bobcat Ridge Preserve



Environmental Sensitive Lands Detailed Map Page 1 of 2 Bobcat Ridge Preserve



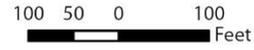
Data obtained from GreenInfo Network, CAL FIRE, and OCTA with ESRI terrain layer as a basement. Map produced by digitalmappingsolutions.com on 6/20/2022.



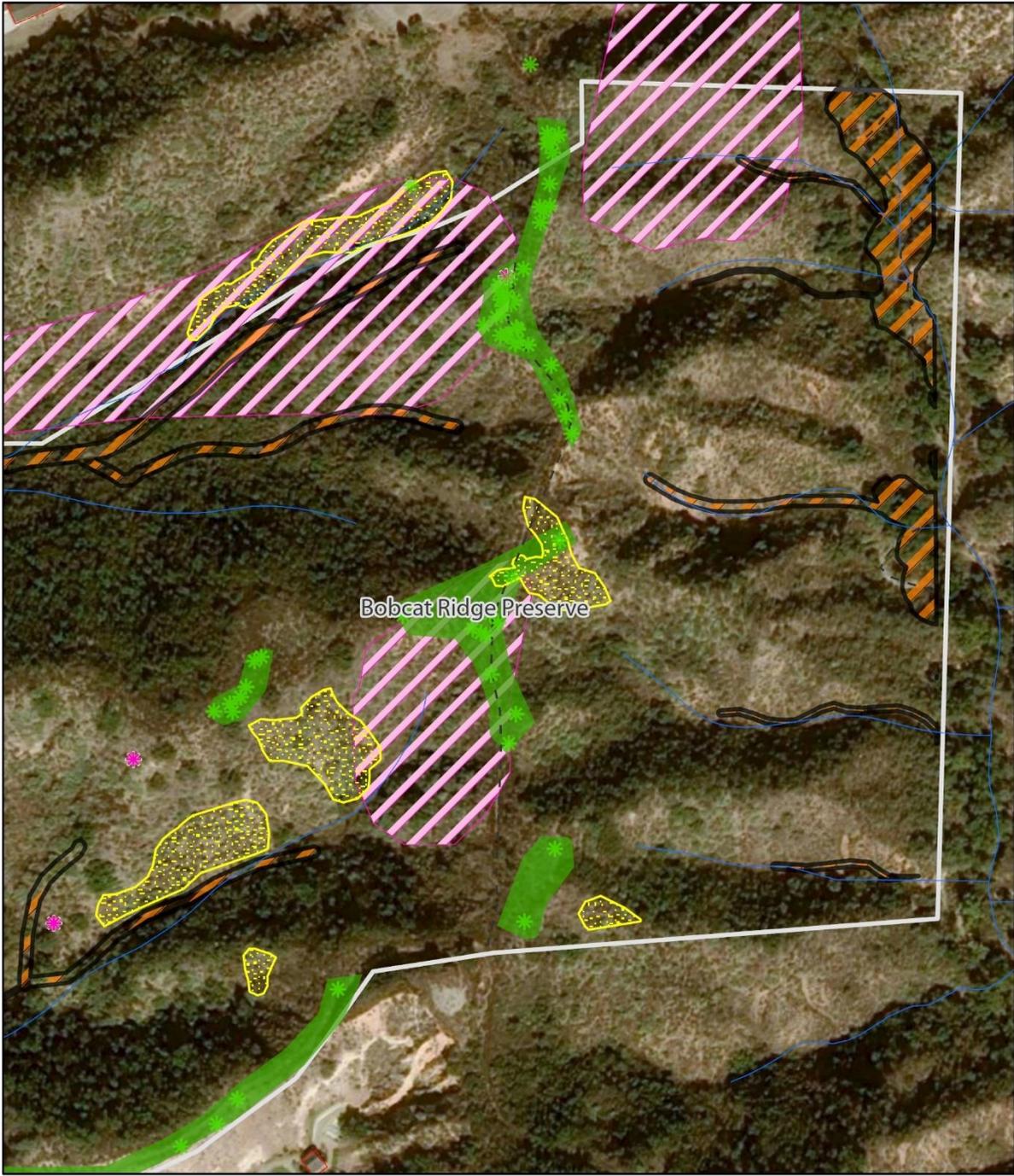
- Sensitive Plant
- Sensitive Bird
- Stream
- Building/Structure
- Avoid Grading
- Cactus
- Sensitive Bird Territories
- OCTA Preserve Bdy
- Sensitive Plant Area

Environmental Sensitive Lands Detailed Map Page 2 of 2

Bobcat Ridge Preserve



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.



- Sensitive Plant
- Sensitive Bird Territories
- Sensitive Bird
- Trails
- Building/Structure
- Avoid Grading
- Stream
- Cactus
- Sensitive Plant Area
- OCTA Preserve Bdy

APPENDIX D: WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE PRE-ATTACK PLAN¹⁷

¹⁷ *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 Matgarita. 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		Location		Limits of Use
	SZ	Retreat So. into Rancho Santa Margarita			when road not compromised by fire
	SZ	Trabuco Elem. School, 31052 Trabuco Cyn. Rd.			people + large animals
	SZ	Trabuco Horse Arenas (2): next to elem. school & across from O'Neill Park.			people + large animals
	SZ	O'Neill Park, 30892 Trabuco Cyn. Rd.			mowed grass areas
Water Supply	Joplin Youth Center, 19480 Rose Cyn. Rd.				cleared fields/mowed grass areas
	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.				
			<i>Fire Behavior</i>		
			Rate of Spread		6,600 -10,890 ft./hr.
			Spotting		> 1 mile
			Flame Length		Avg. 8-11 ft. Peak: 30-60 ft.
			* Peak flame lengths occur when fire growth is in alignment with heavy fuel, slope and wind.		
WUI ARRANGEMENT					
Interface:		Intemix:		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.	Threatened/Defensible	60%
Structures	937 homes	Non-Threatened	0%
		W/ Defensible Space	85%
EMERGENCY RESOURCE NEEDS - FIRST SIX HOURS (In addition to Initial Attack Resource)			
Fire Ordering Point: ORC Dispatch: (714)573-6522 *COP FS-CNF Dispatch (619)557-5262		Law Enforcement Ordering Point: OCSD (714)288-6963	
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.	
Type 1 Strike Teams: 6-10	Type 3 Strike Teams: 4-5	Water Tenders: 4-5	
Crews Single: 8-10 STs:	Dozers 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		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 - 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			