

PROJECT NAME: WEBSTER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SIZE: 1,016 ACRES



PROJECTED START AND COMPLETION DATE:

12/19

LOCATION:

Four miles south of the community of Creston, CA, between State Highway 229 and Huer Huero Creek.

Summary: The Webster Vegetation Management Project is a 1,016-acre fuel reduction project that will use crushing and burning to reduce dense, continuous stands of 8-foot tall chamise chaparral.

The objective of this project is to alter dense continuous stands of 8-foot tall chamise chaparral using a dozer crushing and burning method in which a bulldozer towing a crushing drum rolls over the brush resulting in a fuel bed flattened to a height of less than one foot. After crushing, and after a sufficient curing time of approximately two weeks, broadcast burning will be used to dispose of the slash. All burning will be completed by CAL FIRE engine companies and hand crews during periods of low fire danger.

Ancillary work includes pruning of residual trees and shrubs, as well as continuous fire watch. Trees, mature shrub specimens, riparian zones, important habitat, rocky areas, and cultural sites will be flagged by CAL FIRE for avoidance, leaving a mosaic of treated and untreated areas where fuel continuity has been eliminated.

What communities or habitats will the project protect? This project is necessary to protect the communities of Creston, Parkhill, Santa Margarita and Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County. The community of Creston is considered isolated and surrounded by native wildland fuels of chamise chaparral. Creston and the nearby wildland urban interface/intermix neighborhoods adjacent to the communities of Parkhill, Santa Margarita and Atascadero are vulnerable to wind-driven and fuel-driven fires from all directions. The vegetation in this area requires immediate action to prevent future fires from endangering lives and property.

