



## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Vegetation Management

The CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program (VMP) engages with landowners across the state to address hazardous fuel accumulation and promote healthy, resilient ecosystems. By partnering with landowners, the VMP works to create a more resilient California. The methods used include controlled application of beneficial fire (prescribed fire), manual and mechanical fuel treatments, and occasionally use chemical (herbicide) and biological (targeted herbivory) methods.

Each fuel reduction project is designed by CALFIRE with the landowner to capture specific goals and objectives. The appropriate environmental studies are conducted to determine the feasibility of the project and assess its overall impact to biological and cultural resources. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides a framework to assess and disclose project information. The Chaparral Management Program EIR (CMP), California Vegetation Treatment Program EIR (CalVTP), Notice of Exemptions (NOE), or other CEQA pathways are used to analyze each project proposed. The activities and methods of each project work in concert to reduce catastrophic fire potential, optimize soil and water productivity, and protect the intrinsic floral, faunal, and cultural values.



Hazardous fuel reduction generally requires the reduction of surface and ladder fuels. One type of activity, the shaded fuel break, requires thinning dense tree stands and leaving larger mature trees. In these treatment areas, firefighters can gain a vital foot hold to employ fire suppression tactics when needed. Other treatments work to ensure ingress and egress is maintained so first responders can gain access while community members can escape an ongoing fire. Comprehensively, working to create or maintain a healthy ecosystem moderates extreme fire behavior to create resiliency and promote community safety.



The VMP works alongside many partners like Prescribed Burn Associations, Cultural Fire Practitioners, Resource Conservation Districts, private landowners, and many other state and federal agencies to meet the common objectives of the California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. With tools like the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the program is expanding to implement CAL FIRE processes on federal lands managed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM where state and federal resources and goals align. As the threat of catastrophic wildfire continues to threaten our communities and homes, the VMP is used to work towards ecosystem resilience through proactive management a responsible stewardship.

CAL FIRE participates in the Interagency Tracking Dashboard to track our VMP and other fuel reduction efforts. Additionally, the CALFIRE Fuels Treatment Effectiveness report evaluates the impacts vegetation management treatments have on fire behavior and highlight how fuel reduction activities not only assist in suppression efforts but also protect life, property, and the natural resources of California. The VMP contributes to many success stories and is committed to realizing many more meaningful fuel reduction accomplishments.

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