

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, and some mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands.
- The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.
- VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals

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- The Vegetation Management Program is derived from Senate Bill 1704
- The original legislation established the basic processes and procedures consistent with the need to manage chaparral-covered and associated lands within California
- The Vegetation Management Program has been in existence since 1982 and has averaged approximately 25,000 acres per year since its inception.

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- VMP PROGRAM GOALS (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection)
- The goal of the *Vegetation Management Program* (VMP) is to reduce the chance of large, damaging wildfires by reducing fire hazards on wildlands in California. Encouraging the best 'mix' of natural resource benefits from these lands, consistent with environmental protection and landowner objectives, is the Department's intent.

This includes the three broad purposes, which encompass most Vegetation Management objectives:

- Reduction of conflagration fires.
- Optimization of soil and water productivity.
- Protection and improvement of intrinsic ecosystem values.

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VMP GOALS:

- Fuel Reduction
- Community Defensible Space
- Range Improvement
- Invasive Species Management
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

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- Reduce the number and intensity of large, damaging wildfires with corresponding savings of suppression costs.
- Increase public safety.
- Increase water quantity and maintain water quality from managed watersheds.
- Decrease the potential for damage from flooding and siltation.
- Protect and improve soil productivity, and decrease erosion over the long term.
- Improve wildlife and fisheries habitat.
- Improve oak woodlands through fire management and regeneration.
- Establish and maintain desired plant communities.

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- Propagate rare or endangered species of plants, which are fire dependent.
- Improve air quality over the long term.
- Improve forage and browse for livestock.
- Increase opportunities for recreation and improve scenic vistas.
- Decrease the risk to firefighters and other responders during wildland fires.
- Provide training opportunities for personnel in incident organization, operations, fire behavior, firing methods and effects of weather influences.

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VMP projects use various techniques to accomplish program goals:

- Broadcast Burning
- Mosaic Burning in Chaparral
- Pile & Burn using Hand Crews
- Chipping and Commercial Biomass
- Mechanical Fuel Reduction

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Environmental Review - Agency Letters:

- Department of Fish and Game or relevant federal agency
- Local Native American Tribal Groups
- Water Quality Control Board
- Local Air Pollution Control District
- Information Center Archaeological Records Search
- Natural Diversity Data Base Report
- CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

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Project Burn Plan finalized

- Cost Summary prepared
- Environmental Checklist finalized
- Archeological Report completed
- Rx Burn Agreement and Project Plan Signatures
- Project Approval (Region or Sacramento)
- Air Pollution Permit
- Complete pre-burn treatment as necessary
- Complete Incident Action Plan
- Notify Region of proposed burn date
- Public notifications as per IAP
- Site-specific weather forecast
- Go/No Go Checklist
- Implement Project
- Completion report to Region Office

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MECHANICAL FUEL REDUCTION OPERATIONS

TYPES:

- CHAINSAWS
- BULL DOZERS
- CHIPPERS
- MASTICATOR
- FELLER BUNCHERS







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Landowners may choose to apply for participation in the Vegetation Management Program. The Unit VMP Coordinator will make the determination as to the suitability of a project for funding through the Vegetation Management Program. When approved as a VMP project, CAL FIRE assumes the liability for conducting the prescribed burn.

MENDOCINO UNIT VMP COORDINATOR
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A helicopter is shown in flight against a blue sky, positioned behind the text in the slide.