

Prescribed Herbivory and the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CaIVTP)

An Overview

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Roadmap

- Review: Grazing vs. Other Fuels Treatment Tools
- Overview of CalVTP Purpose
- Where does CalVTP apply in California?
- What types of treatments are covered?
- How does CalVTP tie to funding?
- What's the process for using CalVTP to move projects forward?
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** How will CalVTP lead to greater use of prescribed herbivory?!

Targeted Grazing Defined

“Targeted grazing is the application of a specific kind of livestock at a determined season, duration and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals.... The major difference between good grazing management and targeted grazing is that targeted grazing refocuses outputs of grazing from livestock production to vegetation and landscape enhancement.”

Targeted Grazing Handbook

Comparing Grazing to Other Fuels Management Tools

	Grazing	Prescribed Fire	Mechanical Treatment	Hand Treatment	Herbicide Application
Removes fuels from landscape	✓	✓			
Modifies fuel profile (moisture content, oxygen access, etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Can be used across a wide range of topographic, land use, and ecological constraints	✓				
Tools can be stored in a shed when the job is done		✓	✓	✓	✓
An escape may destroy homes or neighborhoods		✓			

Grazing for Fuels Reduction

- Highly effective
 - In WUI
 - For fuels treatment maintenance
 - For removing annual fine fuels
 - For modifying fuels structure/profile
 - In areas where crews or equipment can't operate
- Less effective
 - Decadent brush
 - 1st year conifer plantings
 - Others?

CalVTP Purpose

Reduce Wildfire Risk and Promote Resiliency

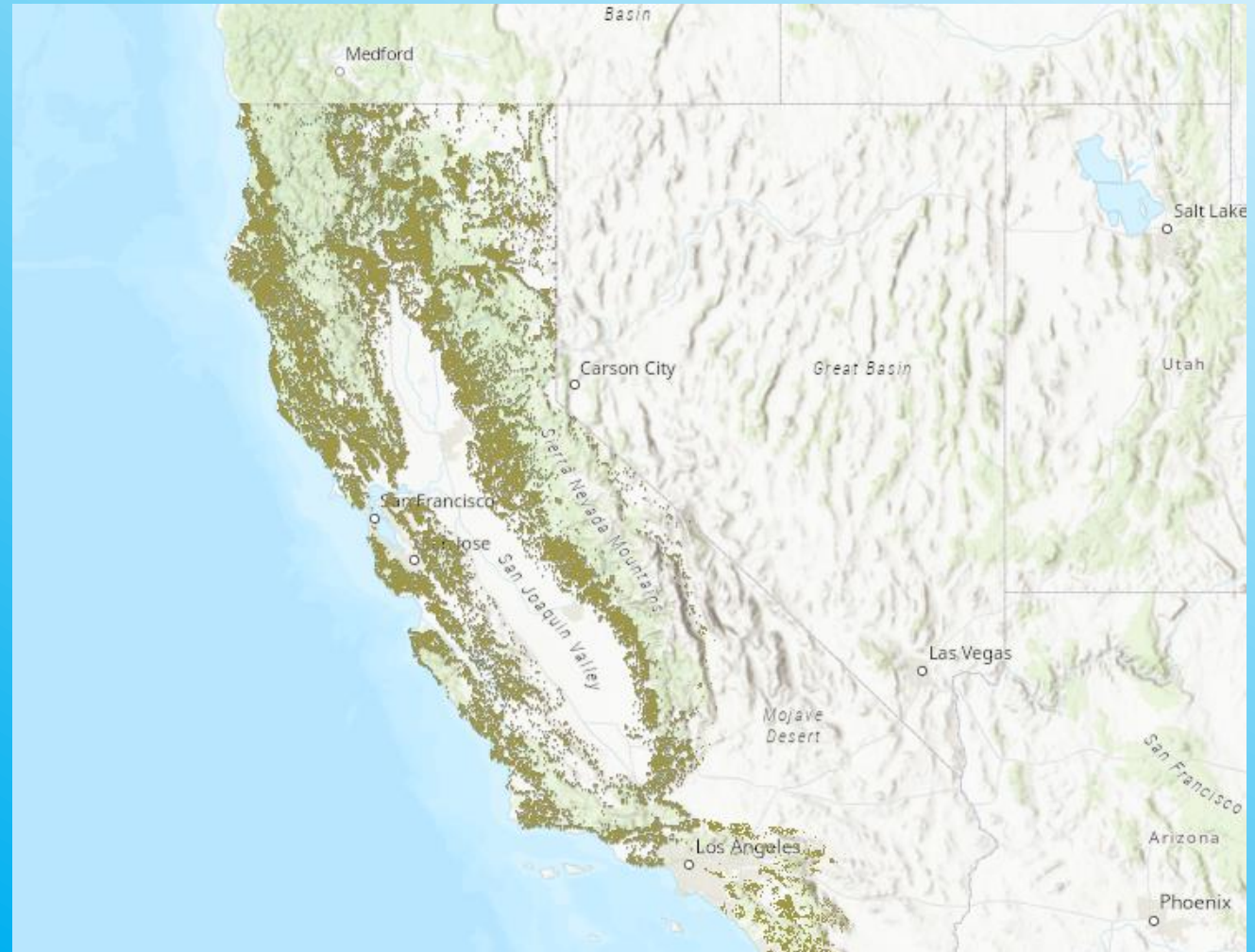
Increase pace
and scale of
vegetation
treatments

Streamline
CEQA Review

Achieve 250,000
acres of
treatment
annually

Treatable Landscape

- State Responsibility Area (SRA) excluding veg types with negligible wildfire risk (e.g, wet meadows, ag land, etc.).
- Adjacent non-SRA land may be included in CalVTP projects under specific conditions.



Treatment Types

Wildland-Urban Interface

Fuel Reduction

Fuel reduction to strategically remove vegetation to prevent/slow spread of non-wind driven wildfire between structures and wildlands, and vice versa.

Fuel Breaks

Create zones of vegetation removal and ongoing maintenance that support fire suppression by providing staging areas or access for fire control actions.

Ecological Restoration

Areas generally outside of the WUI that have departed from natural fire regime as a result of fire exclusion. Projects would focus on restoring ecosystem processes, conditions, and resiliency.

Treatment Types

Prescribed Herbivory can accomplish
all three treatment types!

Treatment Activities

- Prescribed Fire
- Mechanical Treatment
- Manual Treatment
- **Prescribed Herbivory**
- Herbicides



Standard Project Requirements

- Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) are included in CalVTP to avoid and minimize environmental impacts and comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- For the purposes of the Programmatic CalVTP EIR, SPRs are intended to be implemented and enforced as mitigation measures under CEQA.

Project Specific Analyses

- Agencies undertaking projects may be able to proceed without any additional formal environmental review beyond the CalVTP EIR if:
 - They complete project-specific analysis (PSAs) showing that their projects' impacts are covered by the EIR, and
 - They commit to carry out all of the applicable “standard project requirements” and mitigation requirements included in the EIR.

Project Proponents

A Project Proponent is any local or state agency providing funding or with land ownership and/or land management, or other regulatory responsibilities in the *Treatable Landscape*.

- CalFire
- Counties
- Cities
- Water Agencies
- Special Districts (including RCDs)
- Open Space Districts
- State Parks
- CDFW
- Universities
- Conservancies
- Other Public Agencies

So what does this Alphabet Soup of acronyms mean for targeted grazing?!

- Programmatic CEQA coverage should streamline environmental analyses where state funding and/or other resources are involved. Money should get on the ground more quickly!
- CalFire and other state funding can now support fuels treatment projects that include grazing.
- Puts grazing (i.e., prescribed herbivory) on a level playing field with other treatments – this sets a precedent!
- **Represents an explicit acknowledgement that grazing is an important fuels management tool (beyond its relationship to food and fiber production).**

How can Targeted Grazers engage in this process?

- Work with project proponents to incorporate grazing into projects.
- Suggest projects to agencies and organizations and participate in the funding development process.
- Assist in developing Project Specific Analyses (PSAs) that include grazing.
 - \$2.4 million in one-time funding for PSA development in winter 2021-22.

Questions?

