

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Demonstration Project

October 9, Shaver Lake

UC Berkeley Center for Forestry
TSS Consultants
USDA Forest Service Region 5
Southern California Edison

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The Project

- A series of hazardous fuel treatment demonstrations in three locations in central and southern California.
- Targeted audience includes fire agencies, natural resource managers, electric utilities, water conservation districts, homeowner associations, fire safe councils, county and city planning departments, fuels treatment contractors, and other stakeholders.
- Treatments took place over a week, with stakeholder tours on a Friday to view treatment results and product demos.
- Equipment & techniques were monitored for effectiveness, efficiency, cost, and resource impacts.

General Objectives

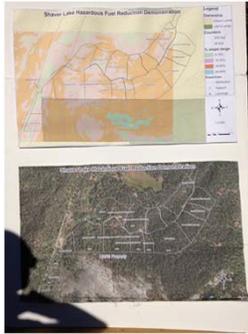
- Raise awareness about different fuel treatment alternatives.
- Provide up to date information on resource impacts, efficiencies, and costs of treatment techniques.
- In order to allow...
 - Government agencies and partners to assess, plan and budget for future fuels treatment projects, heightened cooperater awareness about equipment options and impacts, and improved ability of local contractors to make informed business decisions about what equipment to buy or lease.
 - Improved wildland and watershed health, enhanced ability to defend communities and other infrastructure from wildfires, mitigation of air emissions impacts, improved reduction in hazardous fuel accumulation, reduced site impacts, potential increase in acres treated, and local job retention.

Existing Research

- Few research studies looking at different treatment technologies in the same location
- Dry Forest Mechanized Fuels Treatment Trials Project, 2002
 - Washington, Idaho, Oregon
 - The Yankee Group & TSS Consultants
 - http://ucanr.edu/sites/WoodyBiomass/newsletters/Woody_Biomass_Related_Publications50962.pdf
- This project:
 - Shaver Lake (high elevation Sierra Nevada mixed conifer)
 - Big Bear Lake (high elevation San Bernardino mixed conifer)
 - Santa Rosa Indian Reservation (mid elevation chaparral)

Shaver Lake Demo

- Burn Boss Air Burner
- Goats
- CCC Hand Crew
- Mechanical Equipment
 - Caterpillar, FAE – Prime Tech, Fecon, John Deere, Kaiser, Takeuchi









Pending Results

- Pre- and post-treatment data collected & focused on treatment costs, impacts to soil, and changes in wildfire behavior.
- Equipment and techniques monitored in real time to assess system production and create a video record of the operations.
- Final report anticipated second or third quarter 2016 at the UC Extension webpage and HFRD webpage: ucanr.edu/hfrd.
- Potential fourth demo site in 2016 to evaluate treatments on steep landscapes – east of Sacramento off Highway 50.

Potential Board Projects

- Burning limitations: can only burn vegetation from your own property
 - Air burner/Burn Boss can't be used like a community chipper project
- Based on study results, review regulations that limit the use of effective treatment tools