



Fiscalini Ranch Preserve Forest Health Goals

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is a public property that is open for daily public use.

The public may have questions or concerns about the work. Direct all questions to the Project Management Team.

Proposed treatments will thin understory vegetation and treat dead and dying trees to improve forest health and fire resilience. Monarch overwintering sites have treatments designed to maintain or improve habitat quality, while maintaining overall forest health objectives.

Treatment Prescription and Specifications

Additional Operational Guidelines specific to Operations at Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (FRP)

Chipping and Thinning Specifications (55 ac.)

1. Retain healthy trees ≥ 6 inches DBH, including pines and oaks, unless they are irreversibly diseased, dead, dying, or present a hazard to crews or the public.
 - a. Approximately 8-foot spacing reflects the desired stand condition; however, healthy trees ≥ 6 inches DBH shall not be removed solely to achieve this spacing.
 - b. Retain some trees ≤ 6 inches DBH to maintain regeneration and age-class diversity.
 - c. In areas of dense regeneration **where trees are about 6 feet tall or less**, thin seedlings and saplings to approximately 2-4' spacing to reduce competition, choosing dead, dying or diseased trees first.
 - d. Limb retained conifers to a height of approximately 5-8 feet to reduce ladder fuels. Vary limbing heights to maintain a natural appearance. Do not prune branches flush with the trunk, as this may damage the bole. A 1/2- to 1-inch stub is acceptable.
2. Understory Vegetation and Shrub Treatments
 - a. Maintain native shrub species in a mosaic pattern, leaving root systems intact. Retained shrub patches with combined crowns approximately 15-25 feet wide should generally be spaced 20-30 feet apart in contiguous treatment areas outside tree drip lines.
3. Minimize disturbance at access points from existing trail and road systems. Chippers may travel through treatment areas as needed to access interior locations. Dispersed, light tracking is preferred over repeated use of concentrated access routes or trails.
4. Treatment Along Trails and Roads
 - a. Chipped trails and roads generally designate where people are allowed to walk in the reserve.
 - i. Material shall be pulled a minimum of 50 feet from the treatment area to the chipper. Chipped material shall not be broadcast within the 50-foot zone around trails or roads, but only onto trails and roads themselves. Where appropriate, chips may be placed in piles along trails or roads for later spreading by FRP volunteers.
 - ii. When chipping within interior treatment areas, direct chips away from trails. FFRP seeks to minimize highly visible chipped areas that could encourage off-trail use.
 - b. Chippers may utilize roads and trails for access.
 - c. Trees may be cut along trail edges when needed, provided all treatment specifications are met.
5. Treated Material for Interior Treatment Areas
 - a. Chip depth shall not exceed 6 inches at any location and should average approximately 3 inches.



- b. Chip downed material up to 12 inches in diameter. Heavily decayed logs do not need to be chipped.
- c. Cut and treat trees that are hung up or leaning into other trees when necessary for safety.
- d. Retain at least 1-3 larger snags per acre, or those with wildlife use.
- e. Retain at least one stove pipe per acre.
- f. Legacy dead and dying standing trees will be retained for future snag habitat, unless they are hazardous to crew or near trails and hazardous to the public.
- g. Retain at least 1-4 logs equal or greater than 12 inches DBH and 15 feet in length per acre. Favoring the largest logs for beneficial wildlife habitat.

Monarch Overwintering Stands Treatment.

Core Zone treatments and Shelter Zone treatments (100') buffer on cores are outlined below.

Monarch overwintering sites within the project area were identified using recorded clustering locations provided by the Xerces Society. An approximately 100-foot buffer was established around known cluster-tree locations. These areas are the highest conservation priority and are particularly sensitive during the monarch overwintering season (approximately October through February).

The guidelines below address vegetation management activities within the Core Zone and, separately, within the less sensitive Shelter Zone surrounding it. If there is uncertainty as to whether a live tree proposed for treatment is within the Core Zone, retain the tree and contact the Project Management Team for direction.

Core Zone Guidance by Management Activity (~2 acres) Red/White Combo Flagging

1. Trees that have been used for clustering have been marked with tree tags, blue, green or orange flagging. Do not accidentally trim, cut, or damage them if they are live.
2. Do not thin or remove standing live trees of any diameter within the Core Zone unless a tree is determined to present an imminent hazard to property or personnel through an approved tree-hazard assessment protocol. Dead or leaning trees that could damage retained trees shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the relative benefits and risks of removal.
3. Tree pruning and ladder-fuel reduction may occur within the Core Zone outside the monarch overwintering season; however, branches more than approximately 10 feet above ground level shall not be removed.

Shelter Zone Guidance by Management Activity (~5 acres) Pink/ White Combo flagging

1. Removal of dead and dying trees, including trees affected by pathogens, and treatment of other ladder fuels using hand crews and mechanical methods is encouraged.
 2. Small-diameter live trees (up to 6 inches DBH) and understory vegetation may be thinned. Retain a portion of existing small-diameter trees to maintain age-class diversity within the grove and provide redundancy for wind protection and other habitat functions.
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