

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

PROJECT CONCEPT		
PROJECT TITLE Reducing the Spread of Wildfires on Ben Lomond Mountain		PARK UNIT NAME Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
DISTRICT NAME Santa Cruz		FACILITY NO.
PROJECT MANAGER Tim Reilly	PHONE NO. 831-335-6383	EMAIL timothy.reilly@parks.ca.gov
DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER Same	PHONE NO. Same	EMAIL Same
PROJECT BID DATE	CONSTRUCTION START DATE	FUNDING SOURCE 2018 California Fire Safe Council Grant

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Identify the scope of the project in detail, including its purpose, location, and potential impacts. If the ground is to be disturbed, describe the depth and extent of excavation. Describe the existing site conditions, including previous development. Note if work will impact or extend beyond park property. Indicate if work will be done in conjunction with, or as part of, other projects. (Use additional pages if necessary.)

The project is located along Empire Grade in Santa Cruz County, Section 36, T10S, R3W, MDBM, on the Davenport 7.5' Quadrangle. The project will reduce the fuel hazard on 3.2 miles of strategic road, connecting prior fuel reduction projects done along Empire Grade in 2012-14.

The portion of the project on State Park's property includes approximately 1,750 feet of frontage along Empire Grade adjacent to Alba Road, which would cover approximately 6 acres of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park's Fall Creek Unit using the maximum project footprint encompassing up to 100 feet from the road edge. The project will utilize hand crews to create a shaded fuel break in the forest-dominated area. The prescription will be to cut understory vegetation and small trees less than 8" diameter at breast height (DBH). The width of prescribed fuel reduction will vary depending on terrain and fuel loads, extending from 30 feet up to approximately 100 feet from the road edge.

The overall goal of this project is to further subdivide the firescape on Ben Lomond Mountain along strategic ridges and major roads. The proposed fuel reduction project will reduce fuel loading along major egress routes in the mountain community of Bonny Doon, where fuel hazard is very high and limited egress exists. Vegetation that could increase flame height and crown fire potential along the roadsides will be removed as part of this grant through a combination of thinning, chipping, and lop and scatter treatments. This project will improve chances for safe evacuation in locations which are high priority in the Community Wildlife Protection Plan. Approximately 92 private landowners are also participating in the fuel reduction work under this grant.

Ben Lomond mountain is a well known hot spot for biological diversity. A species assessment considered possible species present in the project area based on the known geographic distribution of the particular listed taxon, its habitat affinities, and an assessment of habitats present in the project area.

The project will not result in ground disturbance; therefore, no potential impacts to cultural resources exist.

Environmental Compliance Guidelines are described in the attachment and proposed activities will not have a significant effect on sensitive areas, resources, or species.

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PCA No.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- ☒ 7.5 minute (quad) map of project area (**Required**)
- ☒ Site Map (**Required** - Scale should show relationship to existing buildings, roads, landscape features, etc.)
- ☐ DPR 727 Accessibility Review and Comment Sheet (**Required** – Attach DPR 727 or emailed project exemption from the Accessibility Section.)
- ☐ Sea-level Rise Worksheet (for coastal park units)
- ☐ Graphics (Specify - photos, diagrams, drawings, cross-sections, etc.):
- ☒ Other (Specify): Empire Grade Environmental Compliance Guidelines

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

IS AN APPLICATION, PERMIT, OR CONSULTATION REQUIRED?

YES	MAYBE	NO	CONTACT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Coastal Development Permit
- DFG Stream Alteration Permit
- State & Federal Endangered Species Consultation
- Corps of Engineers 404 Permit
- RWQCB or NPDES Permit
- DPR Right to Enter or Temporary Use Permit
- PRC 5024 Review
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Encroachment Permit (Specify Agency):
- Native American Consultation
- Other (Specify):

COMMENTS:

DEPARTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE

HAS A GENERAL PLAN BEEN APPROVED FOR THE UNIT?

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If YES, is the project consistent with the GP?

If NO, what is the project justification?

Is it a temporary facility? (No permanent resource commitment)

Health and Safety?

Is it a Resource Management Project?

Is it repairing, replacing, or rehabilitating an existing facility?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IS THE PROJECT WITHIN A CLASSIFIED SUBUNIT?

Natural Preserve

Cultural Preserve

State Wilderness

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS MANUAL CHAPTER 0300?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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COMMENTS:

Project ID No.

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

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SUPERINTENDENT PROJECT CONCEPT APPROVAL OR DESIGNEE

TITLE

DATE

RESOURCES

Explain all 'Yes' or 'Maybe' answers in the "Evaluation and Comments" section (reference by letter and number). Attach additional pages, if necessary.

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A. EARTH – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Create unstable soil or geologic conditions?
2. Adversely affect topographic features?
3. Adversely affect any unusual or significant geologic features?
4. Increase wind or water erosion?
5. Adversely affect sand deposition or erosion of a sand beach?
6. Expose people, property, or facilities to geologic hazards or hazardous waste?
7. Adversely affect any paleontological resource?

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. AIR – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect general air quality or climatic patterns?
2. Introduce airborne pollutants that may affect plant or animal vigor or viability?
3. Increase levels of dust or smoke?
4. Adversely affect visibility?

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

C. WATER – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Change or adversely affect movement in marine or fresh waters?
2. Change or adversely affect drainage patterns or sediment transportation rates?
3. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of groundwater?
4. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of surface waters?
5. Expose people or property to flood waters?
6. Adversely affect existing or potential aquatic habitat(s)?

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

D. PLANT LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native plant community?
2. Adversely affect any unique, rare, endangered, or protected plant species?
3. Introduce a new species of plant to the area?
4. Adversely affect agricultural production?
5. Adversely affect the vigor or structure of any tree?
6. Encourage the growth or spread of alien (non-native) species?
7. Interfere with established fire management plans or practices?

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E. ANIMAL LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native or naturalized animal population?
2. Adversely affect any unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species?
3. Adversely affect any animal habitat?
4. Introduce or encourage the proliferation of any non-native species?

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YES	MAYBE	NO	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F. CULTURAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site, or tribal cultural resource?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Cause an adverse physical or aesthetic effect on an eligible or contributing building, structure, object, or cultural landscape?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Diminish the informational or research potential of a cultural resource?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Increase the potential for vandalism or looting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Disturb any human remains?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Restrict access to a sacred site or inhibit the traditional religious practice of a Native American community?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G. AESTHETIC RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Adversely affect a scenic vista or view?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Significantly increase noise levels?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Adversely affect the quality of the scenic resources in the immediate area or park-wide?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Create a visually offensive site?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Be incompatible with the park design established for this unit or diminish the intended sense of “a special park quality” for the visitor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	H. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Be in a public use area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Have an adverse effect on the quality of the intended visitor experience?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Have an adverse effect on the quality or quantity of existing or future recreational opportunities or facilities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Have an adverse effect on the accessibility of recreational facilities (e.g., ADA requirements)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I. SEA-LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME EVENTS (COASTAL UNITS ONLY):
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Has this project been evaluated for potential impacts from sea-level rise, coastal storm surge, and other extreme events, using the Department’s Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Events Guidance Document or an equivalent process? <i>Please attach the Sea-Level Rise Worksheet (provided in the guidance document) or other detailed evaluation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Based on the evaluation described above, will the project be adversely impacted by frequent flooding or permanent inundation during its expected lifetime?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-coastal unit			
EVALUATION AND COMMENTS			
D.3 There's a risk that seeds from a plant not currently found in the area could find its way onsite via tools or personnel implementing the project.			
D.5 The project involves the removal of understory vegetation, including trees with a diameter at breast height of 8 inches or less.			
D.6 There's a risk to encouraging the spread of non-native species; however, the project looks to maintain canopy cover which will limit the ability of a non-native species to expand over time.			

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY
Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.

TRIBAL LIAISON COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

- ☒ Reviewer is Designated District/Service Center/Division Tribal Liaison or Designee
☐ NAHC Listed Tribe(s) contacted (attach correspondence record for contact and findings)

Findings:

- ☒ Project action does not have potential to affect "tribal cultural" resources (explain)

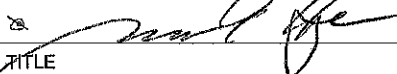
Check more than one box if tribes provide differing responses, and describe all consultations below.

- ☐ Tribe(s) did not respond
☐ Tribe(s) approved project as written
☐ Tribe(s) approved project with treatments or conditions
☐ Tribe(s) and DPR unable to reach mutual agreement on project treatments or conditions

Explain

No Tribal consultation involved with this project.

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Mark Hylkema

TITLE

SCR Dist. Tribal Liaison

DATE

1/30/2020

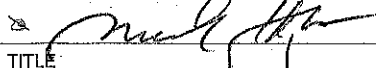
ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)**Findings:**

- ☒ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
☐ PRC 5024 attached; project approved as written
☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

Explain

No archaeological or other Cultural Resources involved with this project.

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Mark Hylkema

TITLE

SCR District H. Res. Prog. Manager - Archaeologist

DATE

1/30/2020

Project ID No. _____

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

PCA No. _____

HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)**Findings:**

- ☒ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
☐ PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written
☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

Explain

This project will have no impact on any listed or potentially eligible historic resources. This project is mainly clearing of understory vegetation, and will have no impact on feel or setting of the park.

NO IMPACT

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Dan Osanna

TITLE

Environmental Program Manager I

DATE

1/29/20

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)**Findings:**

- ☐ No Impact
Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
☐ Potential Significant Impact

Explain

f

TITLE

DATE

0

MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)**COMMENTS:**

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

Project ID No.

PCA No.

HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

Findings:

- ☐ No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary
- ☐ PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts

Explain

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

Findings:

- ☒ No Impact - INCLUDE ALL MEASURES TO AVOID IMPACTS
- ☐ Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s)
- ☐ Potential Significant Impact

Explain

- AVOID IMPACTS ON SENSITIVE SPECIES
- AVOID IMPACTS TO NESTING BIRDS
- USE HAND CREWS WHERE POSSIBLE

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

J. HERRERA

TITLE

SES

DATE

1/30/2020

MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)

COMMENTS:

No Impacts

SIGNATURE



PRINTED NAME

Rachel Arias

TITLE

PM II

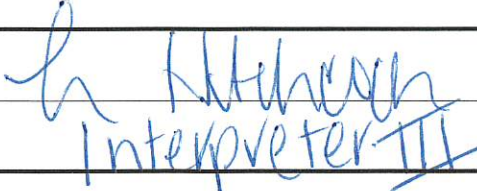


DATE

2/7/20

Project ID No.

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

PCA No.

OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTS MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)		INTERPRETATION	
No comment			
SIGNATURE 		PRINTED NAME L. Hitchcock	
TITLE Interpreter III		DATE 1/31/20	
OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTS MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)			
SIGNATURE 		PRINTED NAME	
TITLE		DATE	
OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTS MUST INCLUDE TITLE AND SIGNATURE)			
SIGNATURE 		PRINTED NAME	
TITLE		DATE	

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

Project ID No.

PCA No.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REVIEW

YES MAYBE NO

☐ ☐ ☒

☐ ☐ ☒

☐ ☐ ☒

☐ ☐ ☒

☐ ☐ ☒

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects at the park?
2. Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects?
3. Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to become operational?
4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project?
5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?

COMMENTS:

RECOMMENDATION:

- ☐ Not a project for the purposes of CEQA compliance.
- ☐ Project is De Minimis; register in logbook
- ☐ The project is exempt. File a Notice of Exemption.
- ☒ A Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- ☐ A Mitigated Negative Declaration should be prepared.
- ☐ An EIR should be prepared.

SIGNATURE

Sheila Branon

PRINTED NAME

Sheila Branon

TITLE

Sr. Park + Recreation Specialist

DATE

2/11/20

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW

COMMENTS:

I acknowledge any constraints placed on the project as a result of the specialists' comments above and recommend the project proceed.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE

DS II

DATE

2/11/2020

BONNY DOON FIRE SAFE COUNCIL, INC.

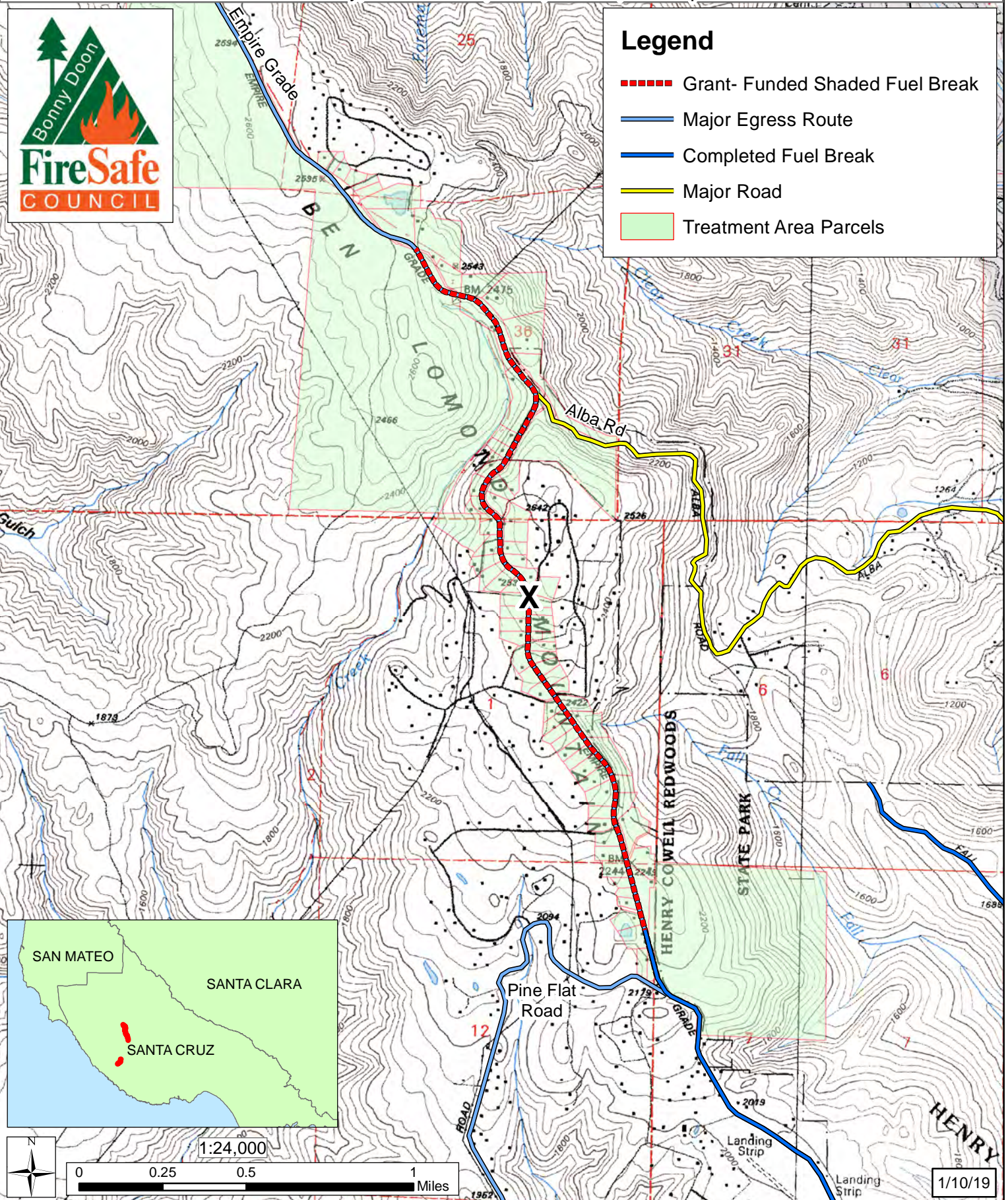
SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT 18SMG-123922 - NORTH AREA MAP

Reducing the Spread of Wildfires on Ben Lomond Mountain Routes with Strategically Located Fuel Breaks
Santa Cruz County, T9S & T10S, R3W, MDBM, Davenport 7.5' Quad

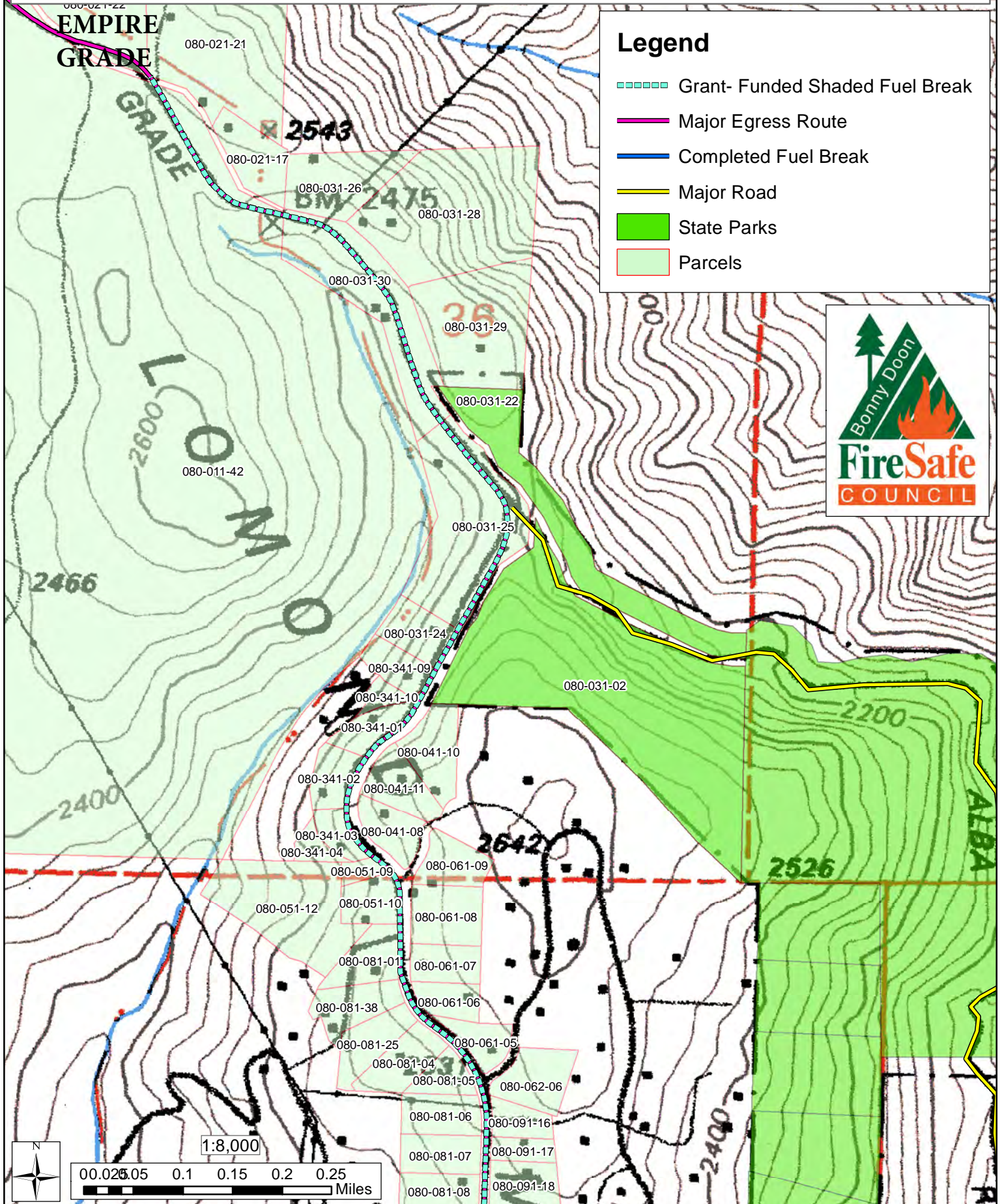


Legend

- Grant- Funded Shaded Fuel Break
- Major Egress Route
- Completed Fuel Break
- Major Road
- Treatment Area Parcels



BONNY DOON FIRE SAFE COUNCIL NORTH EGRESS ROUTE SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT California Fire Safe Council Grant 2018 SFA-SMG





Empire Grade Shaded Fuel Break ***Reducing the spread of wildfires on Ben Lomond*** ***Mountain Routes with Strategically located Fuel Breaks***

Environmental Compliance Guidelines

This document contains protection measures for biological and cultural resources in the footprint of the Empire Grade Shaded Fuel Break.

The following species assessment considers possible species present in the project area. The initial list of species was refined based on the known geographic distribution of the particular listed taxon, its habitat affinities, and an assessment of habitats present in the project area. Resources on species distribution, ecology, and taxonomy were utilized to assess each species and determine whether suitable habitat could be considered present. The following species should be properly identified and avoided as necessary during operations.

Ben Lomond buckwheat (*Eriogonum nudum* var. *decurrens*)

Ben Lomond buckwheat is an herbaceous perennial species listed by the County of Santa Cruz and on CNPS list 1B, but has no federal or state status. Habitat for this species includes open sandhills, canopy gaps in chaparral, or in the understory of ponderosa pine. This species is an erect herb and is sparingly branched. Its flowers are generally white and glabrous. Its bloom period is from June to October.



Ben Lomond buckwheat

Santa Cruz cypress (*Hesperocyparis abramsiana* var. *abramsiana*)

The Santa Cruz cypress (formerly *Callitropsis abramsiana*) is state and federally listed as endangered and is a species on the CNPS 1B.2 list. Habitat for this evergreen tree consists of closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous forest on sandstone or granitic parent material. Regeneration is compromised by an unnatural fire regime. The bark is grey with a fibrous stringy texture. The foliage is bright green to yellowish green with scale-like leaves. The cones are brown and spherical.



Santa Cruz cypress

Santa Cruz manzanita (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*)

Santa Cruz manzanita is an evergreen shrub with no state or federal listing and is a species on the CNPS 1B.2 list. This species is widespread throughout Ben Lomond Mountain and is especially prevalent on the ridges in small openings and on forest edges. This Santa Cruz Mountains endemic is relatively common in its preferred habitat of forest openings or edges. This obligate-seeder depends on disturbance to reduce competition and assist in the germination of its seeds. Therefore, it is possible that this species may appear following the shaded fuel break activities, which create the forest gap/edge habitat that this species requires. Given that the disturbance regime is not overly frequent—in order to provide the plants a chance to mature and create a seedbank—it is also possible that this species will become more prolific in the area over time. This species can easily be identified by the heart-shaped leaves overlapping with a hairy stem. Its bloom period is from November to May.



Anderson's manzanita

Nesting Birds

The following avoidance measures must be implemented if any vegetation will be disturbed, pruned, or cut down during the breeding season (March – August). Active nests used by species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) must be avoided. Refer to

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/migratory-bird-treaty-act-protected-species.php>

for the list of species protected under the MBTA. The IPaC (Information for Planning and Consultation) report for this project lists 23 species covered under the MBTA which may occur in the vicinity of the project area. These species are Allen's hummingbird, black oystercatcher, black swift, black turnstone, burrowing owl, Clark's grebe, common yellowthroat, golden eagle, Lawrence's goldfinch, Lewis's woodpecker, long-billed curlew, marbled godwit, mountain plover, Nuttall's woodpecker, oak titmouse, rufous hummingbird, short-billed dowitcher, song sparrow, spotted towhee, tricolored blackbird, whimbrel, willet, and wren-tit. Not all of these species may occur in the project area or its vicinity.

- The project will occur outside of nesting season (March – August) or nesting surveys will occur prior to operations
- Field personnel performing activities that will disturb vegetation where nests may be present shall be instructed in the identification of any MBTA species and their nests that may occur within the project area. If MBTA species or any active nests are detected during pre-activity surveys or during project implementation:
 - The species will not be killed, harmed, or harassed;
 - The active nest will not be adversely disturbed or destroyed;
 - No activities will occur within 100 feet of an active nest for a MBTA species during the breeding season;
 - Disturbance or removal of a MBTA species' nest can occur before or after the breeding season when the nest is not being actively used, unless it is not allowed by state law or county/city ordinance. Contact your local California Department of Fish and Wildlife office or City/County Planning office for further information