

ESCA Bulletin

Parker Flats Field Work Update

Beginning Wednesday, 10 October 2012 with Regulatory and Army Approval

The preparatory work described below will begin in the northern area (puff of smoke shaped parcel) and then proceed to the southeast area (pipe bowl shaped parcel) and then finish along the 50qstrip just north of Parker Flats Road. All the work will be done north of Parker Flats Road, east of Parker Flats Cut-Off Road, and west of 8th Avenue Extension.

This modified approach was presented at the 20 September 2012 Community Information Meeting. In support of the required additional investigations, vegetation cutting of brush, undergrowth, and vegetation debris under the oak tree canopy will be conducted using hand-held tools and mechanical equipment. All practical efforts will be made to limit root disturbance during vegetation cutting, and subsequent investigations. The vegetation debris will be chipped and left on-site to capture residual seed bank and soil microorganisms, and support regrowth. As has been the practice for the ESCA Remediation Program (RP) Team for the last five and one half years, field work will minimize the impact to the natural environment to the extent feasible while remaining protective of human health and the environment.

Wednesday

Field crews, in coordination with ESCA RP Biologists began initial field work in the northern area (puff of smoke+shaped, isolated northern parcel) by cutting to ground surface the undergrowth - poison oak, brush, grasses. This area is expected to re-sprout, as they did over the past two years since the initial investigation was completed.

Thursday

- Begin cutting to ground surface undergrowth in the pipe bowl+portion of Parker Flats.
- Work with the Biologist and Botanist/Arborist to minimize impacts to trees under 6+diameter at breast height (dbh) and over 4 feet in height.
- No healthy oak trees larger than 6+dbh will be removed.

Friday and continuing until completed

- Continue cutting to ground surface undergrowth in the pipe bowl and stem+portion of Parker Flats.
- Work with the Biologist and Botanist/Arborist to minimize impacts to trees under 6+diameter at breast height (dbh).
- No healthy oak trees larger than 6+dbh will be removed.
- Limb-up any oak trees larger than 6+dbh with low-lying limbs to facilitate equipment and instrument access; limb up smaller trees when possible.
- Start Baseline Digital Geophysical Mapping for munitions in accessible areas.
- Botanist/Arborist will determine if diseased trees or dead trees or limbs should be cut which will be completed in a manner to support regrowth.



Mechanical equipment currently being used on Parker Flats MRA

Currently, one (1) CAT 299c Compact Track Loader with FECON cutting head. This piece of equipment is primarily used for restoration and habitat management projects due to the low ground pressure they exert on the soil. This equipment is best described as a %bobcat skid steer+and stands 6.5 feet high and accommodates a single operator



For more information on the ESCA Remediation Program:

www.fora-esca-rp.com

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*Previous ESCA Bulletins can be viewed at: www.fora-esca-rp.com/daily-bulletins.html