



I.

INTRODUCTION

The ridge over the Caldecott Tunnel, located in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties where State Route 24 (“Highway 24”) bores through the Oakland/Berkeley Hills (Figures 1a & 1b), presents a complicated challenge for resource managers, demanding attention to a variety of important objectives that in the past have been seen only to conflict. The ridge serves a crucial biological function: it is the only significant habitat linkage or wildlife corridor between the remaining large, isolated patches of open space in the central East Bay (Figures 2a and 2b).

However, preservation and enhancement of the biological value of this ridge, known as the Caldecott Corridor, must be coordinated with other important resource management objectives and constraints. Paramount among these is managing the threat of fire. The Caldecott Corridor area has a history of severe wildfires (Figure 5), including the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire which began on the west side of the ridge, took twenty-five lives and destroyed thousands of homes.

A third major consideration is the pattern of land ownership. Land in the Caldecott area is owned by an array of public agencies and private individuals with differing missions, goals, and uses for their properties (Figure 6).

The purpose of this Resource Management Plan for the Caldecott Wildlife Corridor is to assemble baseline factual information on resources and resource management, to analyze management options, to identify mutually beneficial approaches which avoid or reduce conflict among interests, and to define specific actions that can and should be taken to effectively address and balance the resource management needs of this area.