



VI.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommended actions described below represent the full range of both general and specific actions that the Caldecott Committee believes can help to achieve one or more of the goals established in the Mission Statement. These actions are not presented in order of priority. Figure 7 illustrates the actual location of many recommended actions within the Corridor.

A. Vegetation/Habitat Management Strategy for the Caldecott Corridor

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Recommended actions for the management of vegetation or habitat in the Caldecott Corridor are presented below. Some of these actions are primarily intended to minimize fire hazard and some are intended primarily to improve the biological value of the Corridor. They are included here rather than in subsequent sections of the Plan because there is no clear line between fire-related actions and habitat-related actions.

Specific recommendations for the west-side are discussed first, and relate mainly to City of Oakland lands and UC Berkeley lands in Claremont Canyon (which are actually in the north portion of the Study Area, but west of the primary ridgelines). Recommendations for the east-side are presented next, and pertain primarily to EBMUD and EBRPD lands. The final section briefly discusses vegetation on private lands near homes. This last topic is more thoroughly discussed in the VMC report, but is mentioned only to reinforce the concept that public and private actions need to be coordinated to be effective.

Four terms used below require explanation:

- *Fuel Reduction Buffer Zone*—Areas of natural vegetation managed to reduce fuel loads, to provide defensible space to fight fires, to support a mixture of healthy native plant communities and wildlife habitats, and to retain aesthetic appeal. The overriding management priority within this zone is reducing fire hazards. Vegetation treatments will periodically occur in nearly 100% of these areas and may, in some instances, involve conversions from one habitat type to another and their continuing maintenance in early (seral) stages of natural succession.
- *Fuel Reduction/Habitat Management Transition Zone*—Areas of natural vegetation managed in a highly selective manner to reduce fuel loads, to diminish fire intensity in adjacent areas of defensible space, and to maintain or enhance healthy native plant communities and wildlife habitats. Vegetation treatments will emphasize removal of non-native, highly flammable plant species and selective thinning of some flammable native vegetation to create mosaics, but will not involve conversions from one habitat type to another. Management activities will emphasize either modest facilitation of natural succession or modest resistance to natural succession (i.e., maintaining open stands of brush or native grassland), depending on the area in question.
- *Habitat Management Zone*—Areas of natural vegetation managed to maintain or improve healthy native plant communities, to protect rare native plants, to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, to promote wildlife and gene movement through the Corridor, and to protect rare, threatened, and endangered species. Though attention will be given to management actions which have collateral benefits to reducing the risk of



Managing a prescribed fire (Patricia Matthews)

fire, the overriding management priority will be to maintain and restore natural ecosystem processes and will generally involve little actual treatment.

- *Ignition Reduction Buffer*—A narrow band of natural vegetation managed to reduce both the quantity and degree of ignitable material adjacent to likely sources of ignition.

Most of the recommended actions presented in the following chapters are derived from the VMC Report and are site-specific, biologically integrated applications of the broad policy recommendations contained within that document. For additional background and detailed information on vegetation treatment methods and rationales, please refer to that report.