



Proposed BURKE Residence Defensible Space Plan

Vegetation Management Recommendations

This plan is written for APN 20-262-010.

In order to attain compliance with State Law PRC 4291 and Napa County Weed Abatement Ordinance 1290 (Napa County Code 8.36), it is required that all areas within 100' of habitable structures be treated to provide defensible space from potential wildfire.

This property is steep and narrow, which means, (1) the most appropriate defensible space would provide for 200' of clearance on the downhill side of the structure, and (2) most of the defensible space activity must be done on adjacent parcels to provide even 100' of defensible space. In addition, the riparian area must be modified in order to gain the 100' of required defensible space.

Therefore, is recommended, that:

1) 0-10' from structure (0-20' on downhill side) be devoid of any flammable materials. All grass should be cut and maintained at 4" height or less during fire season. All brush species should be removed. Only single specimen trees at least 30' tall with at least 20' crown spacing will be allowed in this area if they are oak, maple or dogwood. All tree branches in this area should be pruned to a height of at least 10' above grade. All bay or fir trees and all tree sprouts and seedlings should be removed entirely. Healthy madrone trees may be left if all dead branches are removed and tree crown spacing is at least 20'.

2) 10'- 50' from structure (20'-100' on downhill side) should have fuel reduced so no understory vegetation is present or growing. This requires cutting all grass to a height of 4" maximum, maintained throughout fire season. The selective removal of herbaceous species is also recommended. Those species which cure to provide a fuel bed should be cut as though they are grasses. Species such as fern and other water-loving plants may be left if height is less than 2' and clumps are no larger than 30 square feet and separated by 20' distance. All brush species should be removed, along with all bay sprouts and fir seedlings.

All deadwood should be removed, including dead branches within remaining trees. Trees may be left if they are at least 30' tall and are oak, maple, or dogwood and there is at least 10' crown spacing. All tree branches should be pruned to a height of at least 10' above grade and all dead branches removed. No bay or fir trees should be left in this area. All flammable materials must be removed from this zone.

3) 50'-100' from structure (100'-200' on downhill side). All shrub and brush species should be removed. Trees crowns should not be touching or overtopping each other. Bay trees and fir trees should be removed, unless single specimen fir or bay trees have at least 10' spacing between crowns. Trees to be left should have all dead branches removed and pruned of live branches to 10' above grade.

OPERATIONS:

This work will require hand crews, as the steepness of the grade and proximity of the intermittent stream precludes use of ground-based equipment. All cut materials and all flammable materials need to be removed from the site. A crane could be used to lift heavy materials out of the defensible space zones. Stumps should be cut low and left in place to avoid soil disturbance.

Annual maintenance will require the cutting of grasses and flammable herbaceous vegetation for 50' around the structure (100' if downhill from structure). Also recommended is the annual removal of dead trees, pruning of dead branches, and cutting of sprouts from stumps throughout the defensible space areas.



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