

SCRIPPS RANCH

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE
PROTECTION PLAN

(CWPP)

SCRIPPS RANCH
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)
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- Denotes the minimum required chapters for validation of the CWPP.

INTRODUCTION

The Wildland-Urban Interface is a zone where undeveloped Wildland is contiguous with manmade structures in the form of homes, buildings, and infrastructure. Due to the danger of wildfires in many geographical areas, residential developments and personnel are often at risk. The Scripps Ranch Community of San Diego, California is just such an area, and it was struck by the disastrous Cedar wildfire on October 26, 2003. Bordered by heavy chaparral and inter-dispersed with highly flammable Eucalyptus woodlands, 305 homes were burned to the ground and several hundred more were severely damaged.

In November 2003 the Federal Law known as the *Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA)* was signed by the President. The Act emphasizes the need for federal agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and it places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)*. As a result of the HFRA, Federal Wildland Agencies are pledged to assisting proactive communities in the development and implementation of CWPPs. State wildland agencies are following suit. The Act also makes it clear that the assignment of limited funding assistance, in the form of Federal grants, must be given priority assignment to communities who have who have accomplished this planning and who are taking local initiative to reduce the wildfire hazard in their areas.

The reality for Scripps Ranch is that only ten percent of the hazardous, fuel-laden, forested areas burned in the Cedar Fire, and the danger is now just as severe as it was before. Furthermore, the added dry grass and weeds resulting from heavy rains during the 2004-2005 winter months has increased the likelihood that we will experience several locally generated and potentially dangerous wildfires unless proactive measures are taken to reduce the groundfuel.

The HFRA states that the CWPPs must be generated by the communities, and can be as simple or complex as the community desires. It also provides guidance for the minimum requirements for a CWPP. See the inset below, taken from the document *"Handbook for Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan"* prepared by the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress and promulgated by the Society of American Foresters.

In response to the law, we have formed the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council, and our Community has formed an Alliance with the Federal, State and Civic Wildland agencies in accordance with the HFRA. The three requirements listed below are incorporated into this document. It must be emphasized that this is a living document. Specific Project Plans will be developed in accordance with the guidance provided herein, and will be incorporated into the document as Addendums. Additional sections will also ultimately be added to make the plan more comprehensive.

The *minimum requirements* for a CWPP as described in the HFRA are:

- (1) **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- (2) **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- (3) **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SCRIPPS RANCH COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION ALLIANCE

This Alliance consists of Federal and State Agencies, Municipal Offices, and Community organizations committed to reducing the fire risks in San Diego's Scripps Ranch Community, a wildland/urban interface residential area, by establishing procedures to maintain fuel-free fire breaks, removing and replacing highly combustible fuel producing vegetation, and promoting fire safe homes.

A. The Charter

To comply with the spirit of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, we established a formalized alliance modeled on the California Fire Alliance (CFA). The document that establishes the CFA, and defines its mission, make-up, and operating parameters, is the California Fire Alliance Charter. Emulating that document, we prepared the Scripps Ranch Community Fire Safe Alliance (SRCFSA) Charter.

When we approached our local representatives of the Federal, State, and Civic offices who are primarily concerned with fire prevention and fire suppression, the concept of a formal Alliance with a signed charter, an executive team, a core group, and a staff level charged with of day-to-day coordination, was universally endorsed.

On July 22, 2005, we conducted a charter-signing event - held in a Scripps Ranch residential cul-d-sac that had been destroyed by wildfire 21 months before. Seven TV stations and three newspapers covered the event.

Participating in the ceremony were senior representatives of key agencies both Federal and State, City of San Diego representatives, the chairpersons of the four primary community organizations, and several stakeholder representatives. Appendix A is a copy of the SRCFSA Charter.

B. The Executive Core Group

The HFRA specifies that the final contents of a CWPP must be mutually agreed upon by three entities consisting of: **"The applicable local government (i.e., counties or cities); the local fire department; and the state entity responsible for forest management."**

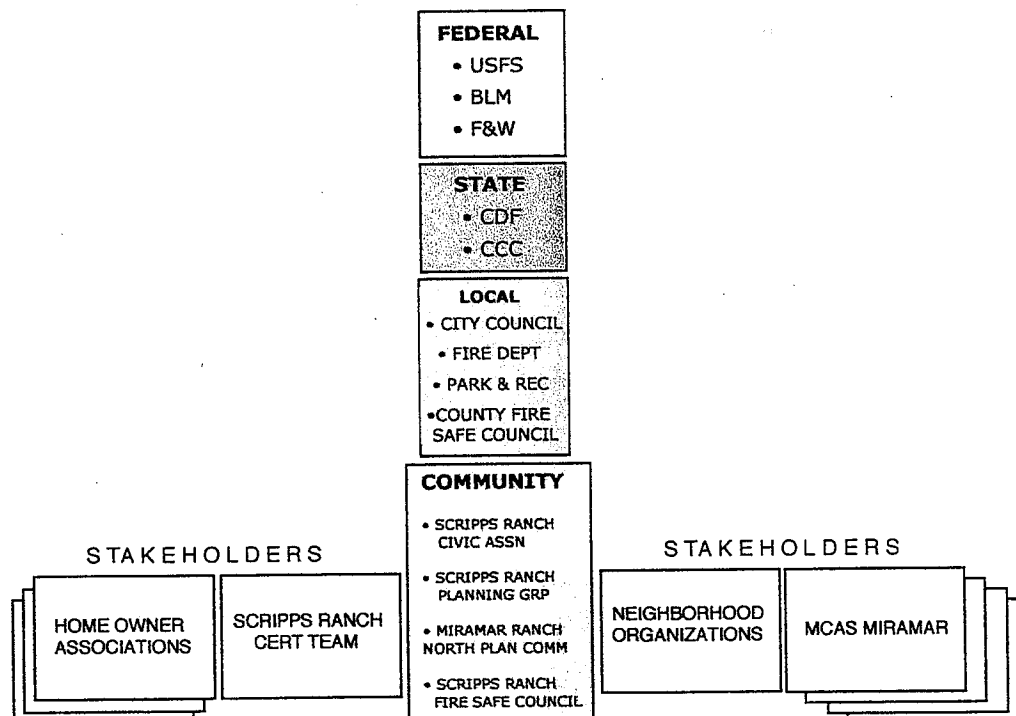
Our Executive Core Group consists of:

- Brian Maienschein, San Diego City Councilmember, District 5
- Jeff Bowman, Fire Chief, San Diego Fire/Rescue Department
- Charles Maner, Unit Chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

C. Local Land Management Professionals

In addition to the Executive Core Group, signatories to the Alliance Charter consisted of the senior representatives from Federal, State, County, and City agencies concerned with establishing and maintaining fire safe communities.

SCRIPPS RANCH COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE ALLIANCE



D. Field Staff Team. This team consists of designated staff members from the participating agencies and offices. They will be the initial points of contact for the development and implementation of specific projects aimed at accomplishing the goals and strategies of the Alliance.

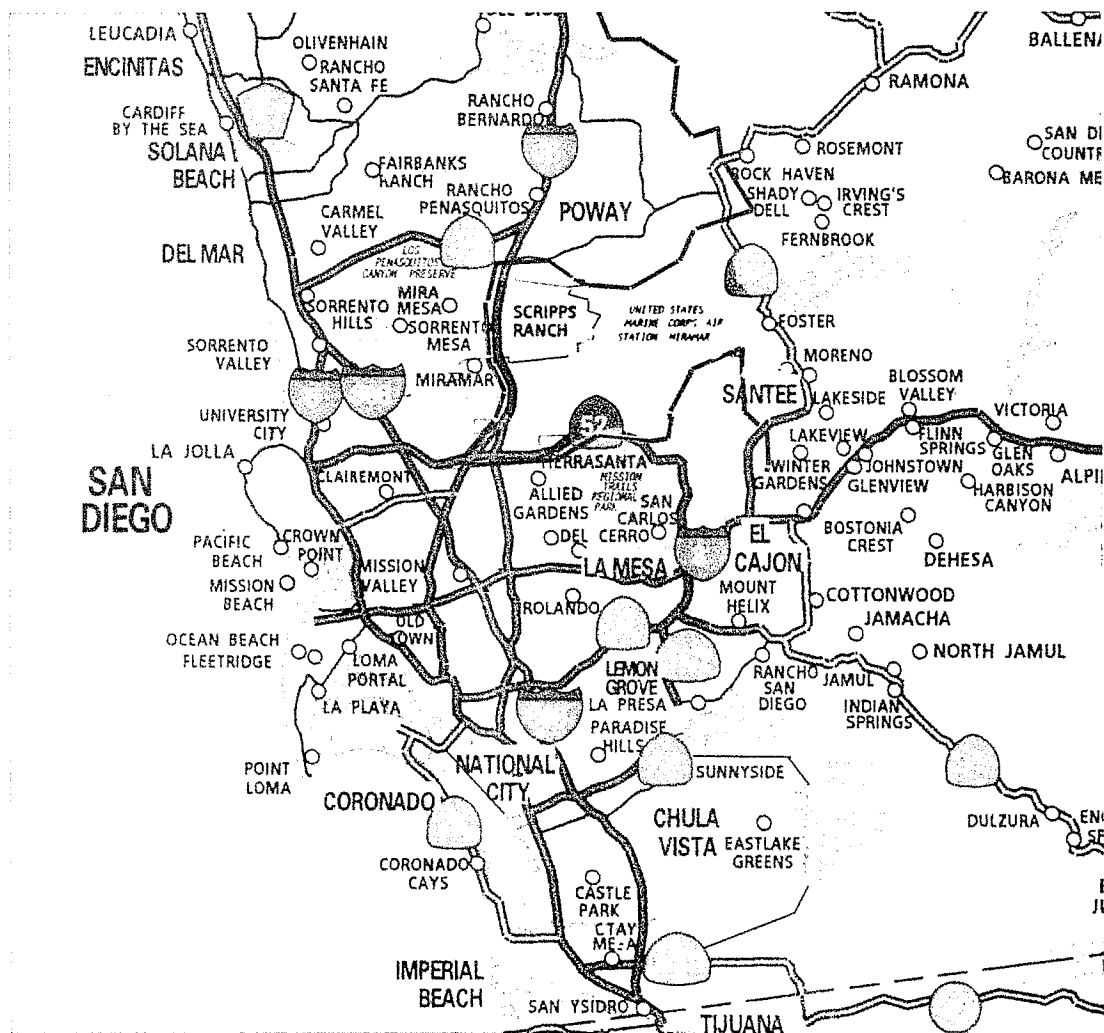
E. Community Stakeholders. A few community stakeholders were represented at the signing ceremony, however, one of the stated strategies of the Alliance is to seek the involvement of a broad range of local stakeholders to secure a unified and coordinated approach for fire protection and fuels management. This will be an ongoing process as this CWPP is implemented.

SCRIPPS RANCH COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE ALLIANCE -- CONTACT LIST					
July 22, 2005					
LEADERSHIP GROUP	AGENCY	FIELD STAFF TEAM	TELEPHONE	FAX	EMAIL
RICH HAWKINS RON WOYCHAK GREGORY HULTMAN	FEDERAL				
	• USFS	JOAN WYNN	858-674-2984	858-673-6192	jwynn01@fs.fed.us
	• BLM	CLAY HOWE	858-676-0894	858-676-0897	clayton_howe@ca.blm.gov
	• F&W	GREG HULTMAN	619-669-6651	619-669-7292	Greg_Hultman@r1.fws.gov
CHARLES MANER BERNARDO GARCIA	STATE				
	• CDF	THOM PORTER	619-590-3100	619-590-3106	thomas.porter@fire.ca.gov
	• CCC	STEVE KIRSCH	619-409-4382	619-409-4392	Skirsch@ccc.ca.gov victor-avila@cc.ca.gov
MARTY LEAVITT BRIAN MAIENSCHN JEFF BOWMAN ANN HIX	LOCAL				
	• COUNTY FSC	ROBIN KINMONT	619-562-0096	619-592-4799	rkinmont@firesafesdcounty.org
	• CITY COUNCIL	CHRISTINE MILLAY	619-236-7020	619-888-8888	cmillay@san-diego.gov
	• FIRE DEPT	EDDIE VILLAVICENCIA	619-533-4435	619-544-6806	evillavicencia@san-diego.gov
	• PARK & REC	DAVID MONROE	619-533-6733	619-689-1365	dmonroe@san-diego.gov
MARC SORENSEN ROBERT ILKO BILL BERNARD JERRY MITCHELL	COMMUNITY				
	• Scripps Ranch Civic Assn	GORDON BOERNER	858-689-2411		gboerner@san.rr.com
	• Scripps Ranch Planning Group	GORDON BOERNER	858-689-2411		GBoerner@SDNB.com
	• Miramar Ranch North Planning Committee		858-883-4363		billbernard19@sbcglobal.net
	• Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council	JERRY MITCHELL	858-945-6303	858-271-5295	jmitche1@san.rr.com

CHAPTER TWO

PRIORITIZING FUEL REDUCTION IN SCRIPPS RANCH

A. Scripps Ranch – An Urban Residential Community. Scripps Ranch is a residential suburb in northeast San Diego. It has 12,000 homes, four retail business centers, and a small light-industry business park. It is bordered on the north by the City of Poway, on the west by Mira Mesa, another San Diego suburb, and on the east and south by the undeveloped U.S. Government preserve of the Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar.



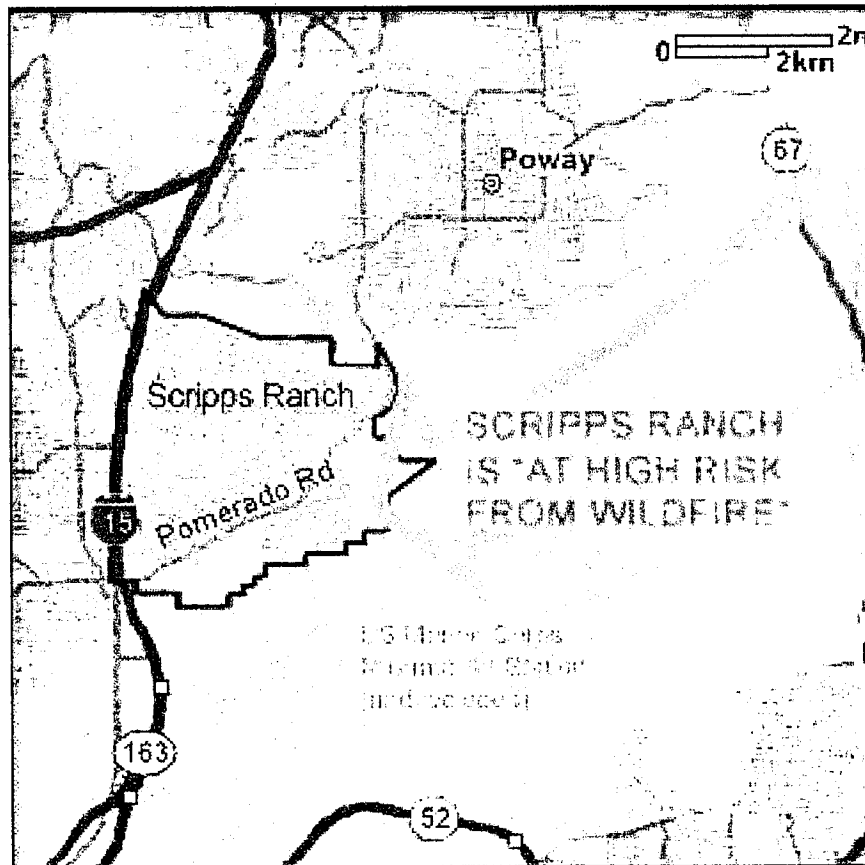
B. A Community on the Wildland/Urban Interface

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 defines "At Risk Communities" as "Wildland Urban Interface Communities Within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are At High Risk From Wildfire."

This definition describes Scripps Ranch perfectly. With direct contact to undeveloped federal government wildland on the east, southeast, and south, Scripps Ranch is in the path of potential wildfires carried by the most dangerous seasonal fire promoting winds; the high speed, low humidity, easterly Santa Ana's.

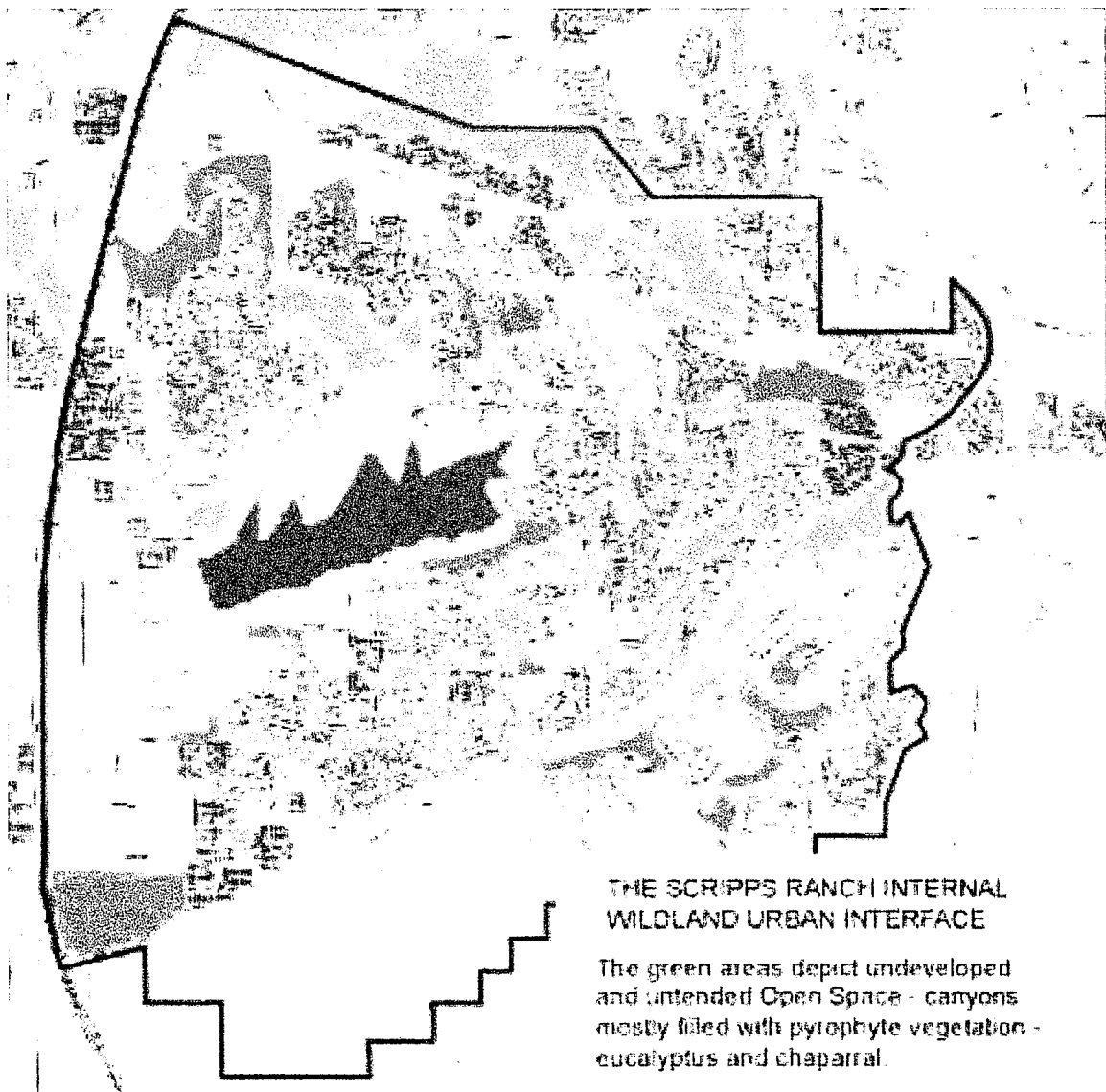
C. Identifying Areas for Hazardous Fuel Reduction

C.1. The External Threat. Although Scripps Ranch is located near the center of the nations seventh largest city, 40 percent of its borders are adjacent to wildland, as defined by the HFRA. It is from this exposure that the community was hit by an out-of-control firestorm on October 26, 2003. This exposure still remains, and will for the foreseeable future. The open space on the Miramar Marine Air Station provides a safe landing approach area for aircraft, free of dense urban development. Unfortunately, it also provides a constant threat of wildfire to the adjacent urban neighborhoods

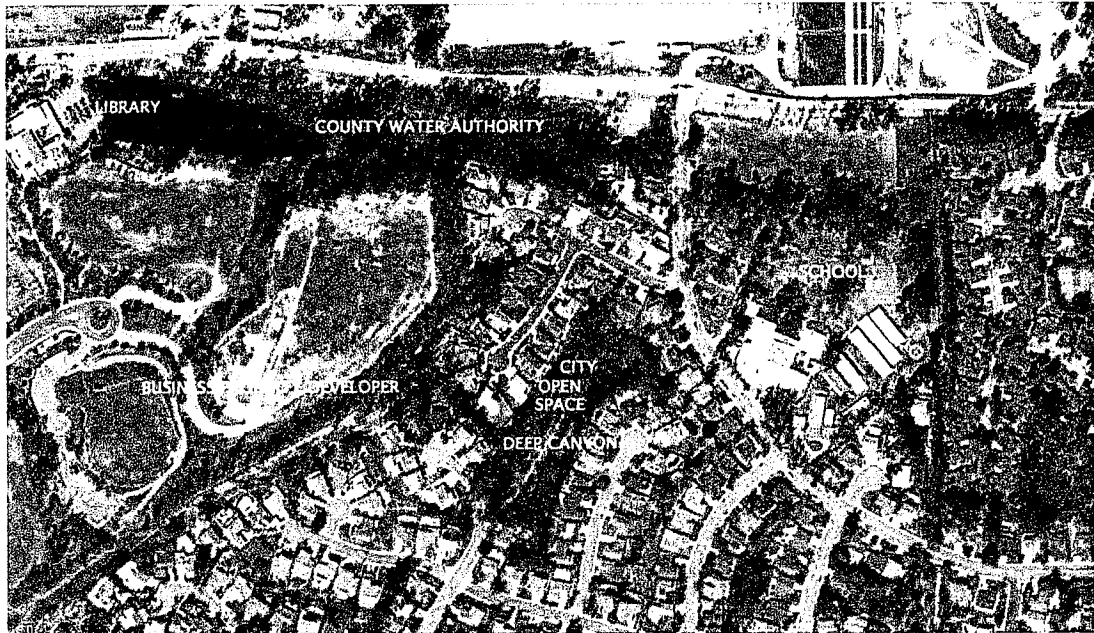


C.2 The Internal Threat. Scripps Ranch's wildfire threat is compounded by its own source of extremely dangerous fuel. The community is filled with canyons and embankments choked with dense, untended, pyrophytes -- primarily eucalyptus trees. These trees were hydroseeded into the area by the homebuilders in the 1970s. The area was irrigated for several years to promote the growth of the eucalyptus. Homeowners and community leaders, unaware of the long-term danger, gladly spread the eucalyptus into their yards and open spaces until it became the 'signature' feature of the community.

In the early 1980s the irrigation was shut off. Eucalyptus in their natural environment in Australia would get about 30 inches of rain per year. Now they were receiving about 10 inches -- that is until the extended draught beginning in the mid-1990s. This, plus the lerp psyllid disease resulted in groves of eucalyptus that were 60% dead or dying by October 2003. Slightly less than ten percent those groves burned in the Cedar Fire.



The following photographs illustrate the internal WUI problem. Not only are there some two-dozen deep, steep canyons, but also, because the homes are built on hills and in canyons, there are many strips of dense, untended mostly eucalyptus vegetation between home sites and the streets behind.



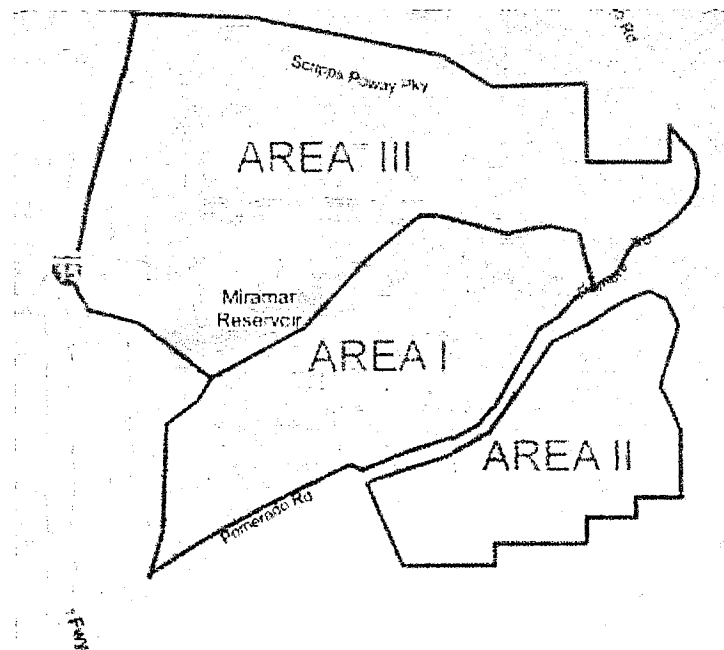
All of these areas are quite volatile and are subject to local ignition. The San Diego County 2003 Wildland Fire Safety Review described it this way:

"The greatest challenges posed by the eucalyptus are twofold. The duff layer under the trees is very deep and ... builds quickly as leaves, twigs, bark, and branches are shed continuously ... creating a loosely stacked material ... very flammable due to the oils contained within the leaves. This material reacts quickly to changes in the weather. As temperatures rise and the air dries, the duff layer reacts accordingly, resulting in a perfect layer of kindling. Once ignited, winds can loft the aerodynamic leaves great distances, often landing on homes or igniting spot fires.

The second problematic concern is the shredded and aerially suspended bark that clings to the trunks. Fire climbs the shredded bark and travels up the trees. With a gust of wind the burning shredded bark breaks away from the trunk and travels great distances. Areas such as Eucalyptus Hills and Scripps Ranch were subjected to the detrimental effects of this species."

D. Prioritizing Areas For Hazardous Fuel Reduction Treatment.

D.1. General Areas Within Scripps Ranch. The residential sections of Scripps Ranch can be sub-divided into three general areas. 'Old Scripps Ranch' was developed between 1970 and 1985. There were comparatively few fire related ordinances in effect at the time, so the vast majority of the structures were wood roofed and many had wood siding. The second area was developed between 1985 and 1997 and is located south of Pomerado Road. These homes were built under upgraded ordinances, and incorporated many more fire safety requirements. However, many were also shake roofed. Finally, the third area is generally north of Miramar Lake, developed from 1998 to the present time. This area has far less eucalyptus, and much of the open space is landscaped and maintained. There are virtually no wood roofs or wood siding in Area III.



D.2. Prioritizing Fuel Reduction in Urban Areas

Considering the external threat, the WUI boundary in Area II should get first priority. Although it was burned two years ago, it has sufficiently grown back to be a threat again and the danger will increase year by year. An annual maintenance plan is required.

From the standpoint of the internal threat, the as-yet unburned canyons and embankments in Area I should receive the most immediate attention. Which canyons first? Which are the most likely to be accidentally ignited? If there were sufficient funding, and the ability to select and schedule at will -- if we could do it on our own -- we would begin in the east end of Area I and work through the endangered areas to the west.

However, the magnitude and community complexities of this job make this approach impossible. To put it simply, there are nowhere near enough grant funds, and we are dealing with City Open Space, Home Owner's Associations, commercially zoned property, and 12,000 homeowners with a wide range of financial capabilities and motivation.

In a July 2004 Union Tribune article, Richard W. Hasley, a noted biologist and fire expert put the prioritization dilemma into perspective:

"To solve the fire danger we are facing today, the ultimate responsibility for fire safety lands squarely with individual homeowners. It is their duty to do everything they can to retrofit existing structures with low fire-risk features ... and most importantly, regularly maintain defensible space around their homes"

In other words, our program will have to be driven by the homeowners, which takes the prioritization out of our hands. We will not be able to go to a neighborhood and say, "You're next." What will actually happen, and is now beginning to happen, is that homeowners (neighborhood leaders) will come to us asking our assistance in establishing a fuel reduction project in their neighborhood.

There are several ways that we can make a valuable contribution to the process, even if we are unable to directly fund, or partially fund, duff removal projects. Accordingly, we are developing procedures where we will be able to assist in the organization and planning of neighborhood projects -- and that will be our focus in 2006. The prioritization, that is to say, the order in which these projects will be accomplished, will then depend primarily on when neighborhood leaders come forward to get their projects underway.

E. Methods of Treatment. Each project area will have it's own method treatment depending on the vegetation, density and slope.

E.1. Hand Removal of Eucalyptus Duff and Sprouts. This will be the preferred method for the densely populated areas. We will use CCC crews equipped with hand tools, chain saws, and chippers. Normally chipping will take place on site to take advantage of the mulch for weed suppression.

E.2. Small tree removal. The CCC crews will remove dead and dying trees up to about 50 feet that can be felled into safe areas. Trimmed logs may stay on site

(on embankments) to serve as erosion control barriers. Branches will normally be chipped on site.

E.3. Large tree removal. Due to the inherent danger of large eucalyptus, licensed professional crews experienced with the Eucalyptus in Scripps Ranch will remove these trees. Logs will be cut to firewood length and taken to the Scripps Ranch depository for free firewood.

E.4. Treatment of Chaparral. Several canyons and embankments are primarily covered with chaparral and are good candidates for goat-treatment. We hope to initiate regular goat treatments within Scripps Ranch during 2006. This is also a very promising method for treating the WUI boundary between Scripps Ranch Area II and the Government land to the east.

E.5. Undeveloped Government Open Spaces. Open space areas, primarily chaparral, extending several miles to the east might be good candidates for prescribed fires, and we will research this treatment method during 2006.

CHAPTER THREE

TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

A. Reducing Structural Ignitability Within Scripps Ranch. Removing or reducing groundfuel in urban areas reduces the chances of locally ignited fires that can grow rapidly into a wildfire. Reducing the ignitability of homes and other structures is another important means of mitigating wildfire danger. There were 305 homes destroyed during the October 2003 Cedar Fire in Scripps Ranch. Many were ignited directly by the flames from the burning groundfuel. Others were burned when the house next door became the wildfire fuel. Still others were ignited by firebrands landing in nearby ignitable vegetation or woodpiles -- or onto shake shingle roofs.

B. Our Mission Includes Public Education. Many of these losses were preventable, as was evidenced by the survival of scores of homes in the path of the flames and firebrands. We will initiate programs to encourage residents to make their homes, and their neighborhood safer. We will do this by initiating Fire Prevention Programs intended to inform and influence the Scripps Ranch Residents. See Our Mission Statement and our objectives number one, three and four on the next page.

C. Our Project Goals. We have set as a goal to launch a six new Educational Programs related to the treatment of structural ignitability during the period 1 November 2005 to 31 October 2006. As of now, these Projects will be:

C.1 The Wood Roof Project

(1 November 2005)

C.2. Disposing Your Christmas Tree

(1 January 2006)

C.3. Spring Cleaning, In Your Yard and In Your Garage

(1 March 2006)

C.4. Replacing Fire Hazardous Plants and Trees near your Home

(1 May 2006)

C.5. Playing With Fire — Canyon Fires Burn Homes

(1 July 2006)

C.6. Wooden Fences — Fuses to Your Home.

(1 September 2006)



**MISSION AND OBJECTIVES
OF THE
SCRIPPS RANCH FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**
Formerly: Chimney Canyon Fire Safe Council

MISSION:

To reduce the susceptibility of our urban community to future wildfire destruction by taking proactive measures to: suppress dangerous ground fuel; promote an awareness of fire prevention among homeowners and civic leaders; and participate in fire safe organizations and educational programs.

OBJECTIVES:

- Create fire safety within the community by suppressing ground fuel, introducing fire-wise landscaping, and encouraging homeowners to consider fire prevention as a high priority when making changes and improvements to their property
- Assist in post firestorm recovery through clean-up of fire damage and by replacing exotic, fire promoting vegetation with drought tolerant, fire resistant, indigenous trees and shrubs
- Establish an educational program to foster a greater understanding of the wildfire threat, and to emphasize the various stakeholders' roles in making our community a safer, more beautiful place to live.
- Exchange information with, and learn from the experience and wisdom of other environmental and fire prevention-oriented organizations; and
- Foster cooperation and coordination on fire prevention efforts among stakeholders at all levels, federal, state, city, and neighborhood.

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council
San Diego, California
Scripps Ranch
858-945-6303
srfiresafecouncil@mac.com

D. The Wood Roof Project — An Example

Project Manager: Dave Mattia

Address: On Negley Drive, adjacent to the Maywind Canyon,
and next door to a wood roof.

Project Milestones: Dave is preparing a five-phase program:

1. Scripps Ranch Newsletter Open Letter to be in the December 2005 issue and distributed to the 12,000 households in Scripps Ranch on December third: (See next page).
2. A personal survey of Scripps Ranch to identify all homes in the community still with wood roofs — to be completed by the end of January 2006.
3. Fire Safe Council Information Flyer #5 — to be distributed via eMail, on our website, and hand delivered to all homes with wood roofs and within five homes of wood roof homes on February fourth, 2006. (See page 5)
4. Financial Aid. Dave will research roofing companies and banks to get special deals on replacement costs and on loans for the jobs, if necessary.
5. Friendly neighborhood visits.

This open letter has been submitted to the SRCA Newsletter for publication. It's author is Dave Mattia, who has taken on this Wood Roof problem as a Fire Safe Council Project. Let's hope it gets published. Thank you Dave!

Worrisome Woes of Wooden Roofs

We have just come upon the 2nd anniversary of the Cedar fire. It does cause us to reflect on the devastation that ripped through San Diego, and especially through our own community. We can't help but think about the people who also were devastated and immediately left homeless. The fires in Scripps Ranch came with little or no warning, and did little to discriminate against its victims. But it was clearly demonstrated how vulnerable homes were with wooden roofs.

As we look around the Scripps Ranch community, we can see that some of the brush that burned in 2003 has grown back. Still other ravines that did not burn contain plenty of the old brush and debris. Consider the localized brush fires, which we all know do occur for various reasons within our community. No doubt, there needs to be a continual effort to remove the brush that is the fuel for the fires. However, when it comes to the existing wood-shake roofs, it can't be over-emphasized that we need to become 100% compliant in retrofitting them with 'Class-A' fire-safe roofing. Consider this for the safety of our neighbors and our neighborhoods.

We know that changing out wooden roofs yield many benefits. Fire-safe roofs serve to lower our homeowner's insurance, and for some, it might just help them to keep their insurance. Fire-safe roofs will certainly increase the value of a home over a wooden roof, to even more than the expense of replacement. And a fire-safe roof will even make that house marketable, should it be considered for selling. Fire-safe roofs also serve to help the firefighters to effectively do their job when fires do break out in the canyons. Rather than extinguishing wooden-roofed homes, the firemen could concentrate the majority of their efforts in the canyons and ravines instead, and get a quicker handle on putting the fires out. Yet, the most obvious reason for replacing a wooden roof with a Class-A fire-safe roof is that your home can be spared, should another fire break out near you. Not only will homes with fire-safe roofs have the best chance for survival, but also the homes of nearby neighbors as well. Our community is dependent on each homeowner's decision to be proactive. Let's be fire safe in all we do, especially with our homes.

The Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council is actively seeking roofing contractors that would be interested in providing a 'group-rate' discount for those that might need a little extra help or incentive to join and contribute in this important fire-safety measure.

Please contact us at srfiresafecouncil@mac.com

Thanks so much !
Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council



Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

A COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION ORGANIZATION

Information Flyer #5

Wooden Roofs

- COUNCILMEMBER BRIAN MAIENSCHIN highlighted a significant problem in his inaugural speech at the charter signing ceremony of the SCRIPPS RANCH COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE ALLIANCE. He called attention to the fire hazard still remaining in Scripps Ranch due to shake shingle roofs. This is in spite of the fact that, during the Cedar Fire, many homes with wooden roofs far from the wall of flames were ignited by showers of flying embers (mostly in the form of eucalyptus candlebark).

- Here is a quote from the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRESTORM 2003 - A report for the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center:

"We decided to write off shake-shingled roofs and often understood that the house next to it was as good as gone too because they were set so close together" -
Structural Fire Captain ... explaining on-site strategic decisions during the fires

- COUNTY SUPERVISOR PAM SLATER-PRICE also highlighted the wood-roof problem recently in her Special FireSafe San Diego Newsletter:

How you can defend your home against wildfire threats

So you've recognized that your home with its canyon view could be at risk during a wildfire. You've decided to protect your home as best you can. What steps do you take?

According to fire officials, the first place you should look is above.

The installation of a Class A fire-resistant roof is the first step homeowners should take to make their homes safer from fire, according to the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association.

Homeowners with wood shake shingle roofs should replace their existing roofs with more fire-resistant materials.

County fire chiefs urge homeowners to choose non-combustible roofing materials like tile, fiber cement, clay or asphalt shingles when they replace a roof.

County Supervisor Pam Slater says personal experience showed her how much of a difference a roof could make.

"The day after the 1996 Harmony Grove fire, I toured the destruction caused by that fire," said Slater. "I vividly remember seeing how fire-resistant roofs saved homes," she said. "A house with a tile roof would be saved, while the one next door -- with a wood shingle roof -- would be ashes."



Aftermath:
At left, a house shows how a wood-shake shingle roof can be a fire's starting point. Below, a family clears debris after a fire in Elfin Forest.

- Scripps Ranch is on the Wildland/Urban Interface and therefore falls under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA). As directed by the HFRA, and at the request of several Scripps Ranch neighbors, we are establishing a new educational outreach program to inspire our homeowners to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the community. Replacement of wood roofs is the TOP PRIORITY for achieving structural and neighborhood safety.

November 10, 2005

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

(858-945-6303)

srfiresafecouncil@mac.com

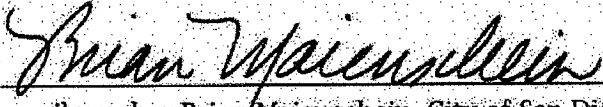
CHAPTER SIX

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan developed for the Scripps Ranch Community of San Diego, California by the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council:

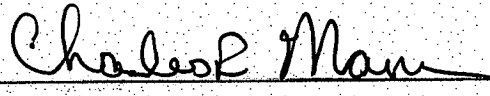
- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in San Diego County have been consulted.
- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Scripps Ranch.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed in the plan.

The following entities attest that the standards listed above have been met and mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

 1-10-2006

Councilmember Brian Maienschein, City of San Diego, District 5

Chief Jeff Bowman, City of San Diego Fire/Rescue Department



Unit Chief Charles R. Maner, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

CHAPTER SIX

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Councilmember Brian Maienschein, City of San Diego, District 5

 12/9/2005

Chief Jeff Bowman, City of San Diego Fire/Rescue Department

Unit Chief Charles R. Maner, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Scripps Ranch.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed in the plan.

The following entities attest that the standards listed above have been met and mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

Councilmember Brian Maienschein, City of San Diego, District 5

Chief Jeff Bowman, City of San Diego Fire/Rescue Department

Unit Chief Charles R. Maner, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Scripps Ranch

Document Tracking

(for use by CWPP Review Committee):

ORIGINAL CWPP

Date 1st submittal received: _____ CWPP Reviewed: _____

Revisions requested, letter to CWPP originators: _____

Revisions received: _____

Date CWPP approved by Committee: _____

Final signatures obtained: _____

CAL FIRE authorized: _____

Approval letter to CWPP originators: _____

PDF Posted to Website: _____

CWPP AMENDMENT(S)

Date Amendment received: 1/11/18 Amendment Reviewed: 2/8/18

Requested Amendment revisions letter to CWPP originators: 2/20/18

Revisions received: 5/16/18

Date Amendment approved by Committee: _____

Local signatures obtained on Reviewed/Approved Document: _____

CAL FIRE final signature/authorization: _____

Approval letter to CWPP originators: _____

PDF Posted to Website: _____

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Introduction

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was developed by the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council with guidance and support from the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

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ADDENDUM – AUTHORS CONTACT INFORMATION

This information is not included as part of the final public CWPP document for protection of the applicant's privacy as per the Privacy of Information Act. It will be attached as a separate document for internal use only and must be updated/revised periodically throughout the life of the document.

SECTION I: COLLABORATION**A: COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS**

Representatives directly involved in the development of the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council **CWPP** are included in the following table. Their organization, and roles and responsibilities are indicated below:

CWPP Development Team:

Organization/Name	Roles / Responsibilities
City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Eddie Villavicencio, Assistant Fire Marshal	Provide wildfire preparedness education, technical support and guidance as it pertains to the city's wildland codes and regulations.

SECTION I: COLLABORATION -- continued

B. Community Overview -- Description of topography, population, climate, land uses, businesses, schools infrastructure, fire safe councils, and other applicable traits specific to this CWPP area.

Scripps Ranch is a community of San Diego, California in the northeastern part of that city. Its Zip code is 92131. It is located east of Interstate 15, north of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and south of Poway.

Scripps Ranch is a coastal/inland bedroom community within the City of San Diego. Miramar Reservoir is located within Scripps Ranch and offers recreational boating and fishing. A feature of Scripps Ranch is its landscaping, which includes many mature eucalyptus trees that are most apparent along Pomerado Road.

There are approximately 35,500 people residing in the neighborhood in approximately 12, 00 households.

SECTION I: COLLABORATION -- continued

C. Identification of Community Values at Risk

Using technology and local expertise, the sponsors of this CWPP have developed a series of maps depicting the site and situation of the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council Community (Appendix B).

Values at risk within the community are:

- 5 – Elementary Schools
- 1 – Middle School
- 1 – High School
- 1 – USIU University
- 1 – Chabad Hebrew Academy
- 4 - Churches
- 1 – Water Tank
- 7 – Parks
- 1 – City Fire Station #37
- 1 – Library

Many businesses both large and small

Senior Assisted Living Center currently under construction

Miramar Lake Water Treatment plant

12,500 homes

D. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability— All fire jurisdictions within the area as identified by this CWPP are listed below with information as available on number of firefighting personnel and fire response vehicles:

The City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is the agency which provides 24/7 primary emergency response services for medical aids, structure protection and wildland firefighting operations to the Scripps Ranch Community. The City of San Diego has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 2.

The Fire-Rescue Department consist of over 1,300 personnel, 57 Fire Station, 2 firefighting helicopters, with a 3rd firefighting helicopter by the end of the year.

Scripps Ranch Fire Station 37, is located within the community at 11640 Spring Canyon Rd and houses Engine 37 (4-person crew), Brush 37 (4-person crew) and Paramedic Unit 37 (2-person crew).

The next closest fire station is Fire Station 44, which is located less than a mile for the Scripps Ranch Community at 10011 Black Mountain Rd. Fire Station 44, houses Battalion 7 (1 Battalion Chief), Engine 44 (4-person crew) and Truck 44 (4-person crew).

SECTION II: PRIORITIZED FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

The partnership that exists between the listed organizations and citizens in this CWPP allows the community of Scripps Ranch to reduce hazardous vegetative fuels that could ignite residences and commercial facilities, particularly, during Santa Ana wind fire conditions. Maintaining properties with the appropriate defensible space is a key factor to protecting lives and properties.

The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project "activity" as defined under the "Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA." Any actual project activities undertaken that meet this definition of project activity and are undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state and federal environmental compliance requirements.

A. Priorities

The first priority of the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council is to continue to educate the residents of Scripps Ranch on fire safety. In order to provide a fire safe environment, one of our main priorities is the areas we are working on is to clean up the massive fuel along Pomerado Rd.

B. Existing Projects

- Supplying equipment for our evacuation routes pursuant to our evacuation plan (see attached)
- Defensible space
- Structural hardening in accordance with local fire and building codes
- Update existing evacuation plan

SECTION III: TREATMENT OF STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

In cooperation with the City of San Diego, the Scripps Ranch **CWPP** supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting the requirements of the California Building and Fire Code, City of San Diego Municipal Codes and Regulations. .

Following is a description of structural challenges, including proposed methods of improvement and implementation proposed for the community:

In cooperation with the City of San Diego, the **Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council CWPP** supports and promotes fire safe activities and supports and educates its citizens in ways to reduce structure ignitability through meeting the requirements of the City of San Diego Building and Fire Code.

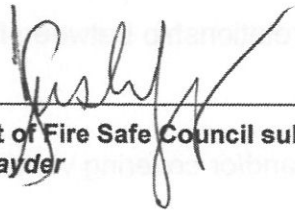
Following is a description of structural challenges, including proposed methods of improvement and implementation proposed for the community:

Continue to educate both new & existing residents on the relationship between fuel reduction firewise planting and reducing structural ignitability.

Specific improvements or modifications such as replacing and/or covering vents, Removal of flammable items from the area around the house,

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan as developed for Scripps Ranch CWPP:


- Was collaboratively developed, and meets the intent of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) in emphasizing the need for agencies to work collaboratively with communities in developing hazardous fuel reduction projects, and places priority on treatment areas identified by communities themselves in a CWPP. Interested parties and federal land management agencies in the vicinity of this CWPP have been consulted.
- Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect areas within this CWPP.
- Recommends measures to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only, utilizing a compilation of community issues/goals and projected fire mitigation strategies. The CWPP is not to be construed as indicative of project "activity" as defined under the "Community Guide to the California Environmental Quality Act, Chapter Three, Projects Subject to CEQA." Per the Community Guide, Section 3.1.1, "CEQA only applies to public agency decisions to approve, or actions to carry out, a discretionary project." Any actual project activities meeting this definition of project activity and undertaken by the CWPP participants or agencies listed shall meet with local, state and federal environmental compliance requirements.


 President of Fire Safe Council submitting this CWPP
 Kristin Rayder

5/10/18

Date

Participating State, Local, or Tribal fire agency representatives (add or delete as required):


 City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department
 Eddie Villavicencio, Assistant Fire Marshal

5-16-18

Date

 Agency name
 (name, title)

 Date

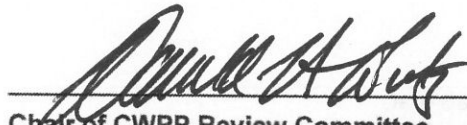
 TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE (if applicable)
 (Name of Tribe)

 Date

SECTION IV: SIGNATORS - page 2


This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been developed for the community/ies of Scripps Ranch.

This CWPP was reviewed and recommended for approval by the San Diego Community Wildfire Protection Plan Review Committee as demonstrated by the signature below.


Chair of CWPP Review Committee
(name) **DONALD H BUTZ**

5/24/18
Date

The CAL FIRE Unit Chief has final signing authority on CWPPs in San Diego County. The signature below attests that the standards listed in the section above and the content of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan are proposed to be met and mutually accepted:


STATE AGENCY (authorizing entity — required for finalization)

6-11-2018
Date

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
Monte Vista Unit
Tony Mecham, Unit Chief

SECTION V: Appendix A: References

Documentation Affecting Fuels Reduction, Building Construction, and Community Fire Protection

LIST OF REFERENCES:

1. City of San Diego Municipal Code ,Building Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art05Division01.pdf>
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art05Division07.pdf>
2. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Landscape Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art02Division04.pdf>
3. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art03Division01.pdf>
4. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Tentative Map Regulations, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art04Division02.pdf>
5. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Established, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter05/Ch05Art05Division94.pdf>
6. City of San Diego Municipal Code, Additions and Modifications, available at:
<http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art09Division03.pdf>
7. City of San Diego Brush Management Guide, available at:
https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/brush_0.pdf
8. City of San Diego Clarification of Brush Management Regulations and Landscape Standards, available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/brushpolicy.pdf>
9. City of San Diego Application for Use of Goats for Brush Management Permit, available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/goatspermit.pdf>
10. City of San Diego Ready, Set Go (English Version), available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/fire/safety/tips/readyssetgo>
11. City of San Diego Ready, Set, Go (Spanish Version), available at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/rsg-spanish.pdf>
12. www.livingwithfire.com
13. www.firesafecouncil.org
14. www.firesafesdcounty.org

SECTION V: Appendix B: Meeting Tracking Documents

Addendum meetings:

12/8/17 Sandy Wetzel-Smith

Jessie Gates

Karen Herreros

Jerry Mitchell

12/18/17 Jessie Gates

Kristin Rayder

Karen Herreros

Jerry Mitchell

1/8/18 Jessie Gates

Kristin Rayder

Karen Herreros

Jerry Mitchell

SECTION V: Appendix C: Maps

Figure 1: *Area Map*

Figure 2: *Communities Map*

Figure 3: *Assets at Risk*

Figure 4: *USGS Topographic Map*

Figure 5: *Fire Threat (modeled by CDF FRAP)*

Figure 6: *Fire History 1910 – 2010 (CDF FRAP)*

Figure 7: *Wild land-Urban Interface Zone Designations (CDF FRAP)*

Figure 8: *Vegetation Classification*

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment

For

Scripps Ranch

Date Amendment Submitted: 5/10/18

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(list only those sections as amended)

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 SIGNATURE PAGES.....

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SECTION VI: APPENDIX B - MAPS.....

Community Wildfire Protection Plan Amendment

For

[Community Name]

Date Amendment Submitted: _____

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(list only those sections as amended)

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SIGNATURE PAGE(S).....

SECTION V: APPENDIX A – LIST OF REFERENCE DOCUMENTS.....

SECTION VI: APPENDIX B - MAPS.....

CWPP Review Committee Comments

CWPP: Scripps Ranch FSC

AGENCY/ REVIEWER: CWPP Review Committee

DATE: 2-8-2018

Cover/Tracking Page

- Nothing to complete – this page is for use by the Review Committee

Introduction Page: The Review Committee recommends adding this revision as an addendum or amendment to your CWPP, instead of how it was originally submitted.

Has the applicant done the following?:

- Insert Community name in top box
- Insert Community name in Introductory Paragraph
- Insert short introductory paragraphs describing the community
- Clarify the specific purpose(s) of why you are writing the document

AGENCY COMMENTS: The Review Committee noticed that the introductory paragraph needs to be updated with organizations that were consulted with. Verify that the introduction section matches with the collaboration section. Be sure to add agency names and titles of individuals that gave direct input on this CWPP.

Table of Contents Page

Has the applicant included a table of contents that corresponds to the sections of the CWPP?

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Section I: Collaboration

A. Communities/Agencies/Fire Safe Councils

Has the applicant included details about the agencies/representatives/organizations/businesses/homeowner's associations/individuals involved in the CWPP development and what their roles are?

AGENCY COMMENTS: The Review Committee noticed that the Agency, and Agency representatives listed are not correctly titled, and recommends updating this information. It is also advised that if the FSC did not receive direct instruction from agencies and individuals listed, they need to be removed from this section.

For each Organization, a point of contact should be listed in the Development Team section. For each organization, there should be a reference to who was consulted with. For example: If the FSC is working with SD City Fire, then a direct contact and organization need to be stated in this section. (See Below)

Scripps Ranch Planning Group	Advises the city on local planning and land-use issues.
------------------------------	---

B. Community Overview

Does the applicant provide a sufficient overview of their community including the location, any adjacent public lands, vegetation type and condition, topography, weather patterns, fire history, and the threat posed by the vegetation / fuels?

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

C. Identification of Community Values At Risk

Has the applicant described the values at risk?

Have they included a map of assets at risk in Appendix B?

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

D. Local Preparedness and Firefighting Capability

This section should outline which agencies respond to fire, medical, and associated emergencies, as well as wildland fires, in the community.

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Section II: Prioritized Fuel Reduction Treatments

A. Priorities

This section should include a summary of brush management projects to reduce fuel loads along selected ingress/egress routes and homes in the community, as well as note all roads, road markers, and water sources in the community. It should also include measures to reduce structural ignitability.

AGENCY COMMENTS: The Review Committee needs clarification on the agencies you are collaborating with. For example, in the introduction you mentioned the County of San Diego. In the collaboration section, you mentioned working with the city on local planning. In Section 2, you mention again the County. The requirements are different between the two, so please specify which you were consulting with.

B. Existing Projects

This describing section should describe projects currently being worked on by agencies such as USFS, BLM, USFW, CALFIRE, SD County Parks, etc, and identify projects within and adjacent to the community. It should also include any projects that have been approved and are awaiting funding, or that have been proposed and are awaiting approval. The description should include the scope of these projects, including local, County, State and Federal projects.

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Section III: Treatment of Structure Ignitability

This section should describe structural challenges and explain how the community plans to address them, including how the projects specified in the **Fuel Reduction** section will reduce the ignitability of homes and other structures in the community's WUI.

It should also address home improvements or modifications that can be made to structures to reduce ignitability, listing retrofits, state approved building materials, and other improvements around the structure (e.g. removing wood / debris from around house).

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Section IV: Signature Page

Before submitting, applicants should have gathered the following signatures:

- President of FSC submitting the CWPP
- Participating State, Local, or Tribal fire agency representatives

The Chair of the CWPP Review Committee will sign once the document has been reviewed and put forward for approval.

For the document to become an officially approved and authorized CWPP, the CAL FIRE Unit Chief's signature is required.

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Section V: Appendices

Appendix A: List of Reference Documents

- This is where the applicant can insert a list of all reference materials/guides, etc, such as building code, fire code, and any other documents utilized in the CWPP development process.

AGENCY COMMENTS: This section needs to be updated with current codes. Please verify that all codes up-to-date. Here are two updates for you to correct:

2. County of San Diego Consolidated Fire Code (current version), available at:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/docs/cosd-fire-code.pdf>

3. County of San Diego Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance (current version), available at:
<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/sdcfa/documents/prevention/2011-defensible-space-ordinance.pdf>

CWPP meeting tracking documents

- Applicant should insert a list of all meetings, dates and attendees held in the planning and writing of the CWPP document

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Appendix B: Maps

- Insert all maps listed in the Table of Contents
- Appendix B should include the following:
 1. *Area Map*
 2. *Assets at Risk Map*
 3. *Communities Map*
 4. *Topographic Map*
 5. *Fire Threat Map*
 6. *Fire History Map*
 7. *WUI Zone Map*
 8. *Vegetation Map*

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Appendix C: Authors Contact Information

- List of CWPP authors names and contact information

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

Appendix D & E Amendments

- Insert future amendments
- Insert community name
- Insert date submitted
- Insert revisions by Section – include only Sections with revisions
- Insert Amendment author's names and contact information
- Insert page numbers in Amendment table of Contents

AGENCY COMMENTS: Section Approved

THE DRAFT CWPP IS: (Circle one)

Not approved / Approved as presented / Approved with revisions

By consensus of the committee, which revisions are necessary for approval?

All revisions suggested above.