

GREATER MILL CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Vegetation Management

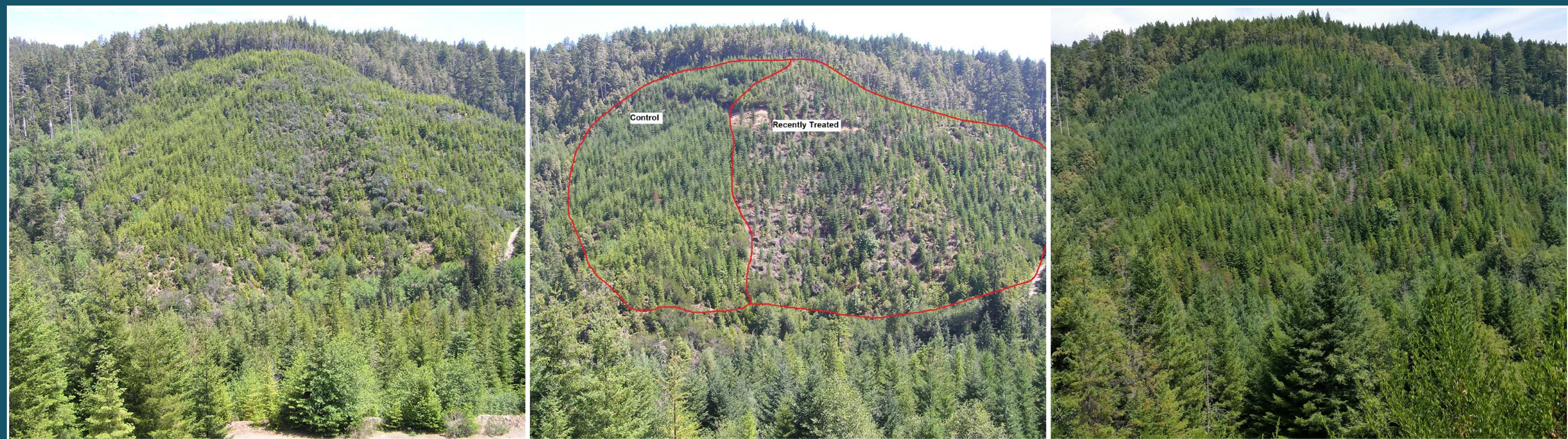


Proposed vegetation management actions would include those described for implementing the Vegetation Management Areas identified in the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Vegetation Management Plan: Forest Restoration, Uncommon and Sensitive Natural Communities Management, Prescribed Fire, Non-native Plants and Pathogens, and Cultural Vegetation Management. These actions would consist of forest restoration through thinning; prescribed fire (controlled burning); i.e. snag creation; crown manipulation; tree planting; manual and mechanical vegetation removal; flaming/torching; and mowing/solarization/covering.

The main action is forest restoration through thinning, which would involve treatments to reduce stand density, redistribute growth among the remaining trees, and enhance forest conditions to expedite the development of late-seral structure.



An example of a young, overly dense forest being thinned to improve growth and maintain forest health.



A series of photos showing an area before, immediately after, and 11 years after treatment. The forest shown in the left part of the photos was not thinned for comparison.



As part of ground-based operations, a skidder pulls cut trees to a small landing where they are processed and loaded onto a haul truck.



Prescribed fire being used to reduce fuel loads and slow encroachment

Operational method refers to the method by which trees are felled and how woody material is treated and/or removed from the treatment area.

- One operational method is biomass removal, which refers to removing trees to reduce fire hazard, encourage understory development, and offset the costs of operations. Three types of biomass removal methods—ground-based, skyline, and helicopter—would be implemented.
- Excess biomass that is not removed from the site would be used in other restoration activities in the project area, lopped and scattered on site or reduced in size through grinding, shredding, or chipping to expedite decomposition and alter fire behavior.

Forest restoration activities would occur in phases. Phase 1 areas were determined by a prioritization process that, considering stand density, species composition, erosion risk and threat, landscape scale considerations, and coordination with other projects.

