California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Wildfire's Potential to Change Napa County's Wildland

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Napa County's Fire Ecology & Fire Risk

- Define "Fire Regime"
- Vegetation Types
- Natural Fire Regimes
- Current Conditions
- Potential Changes

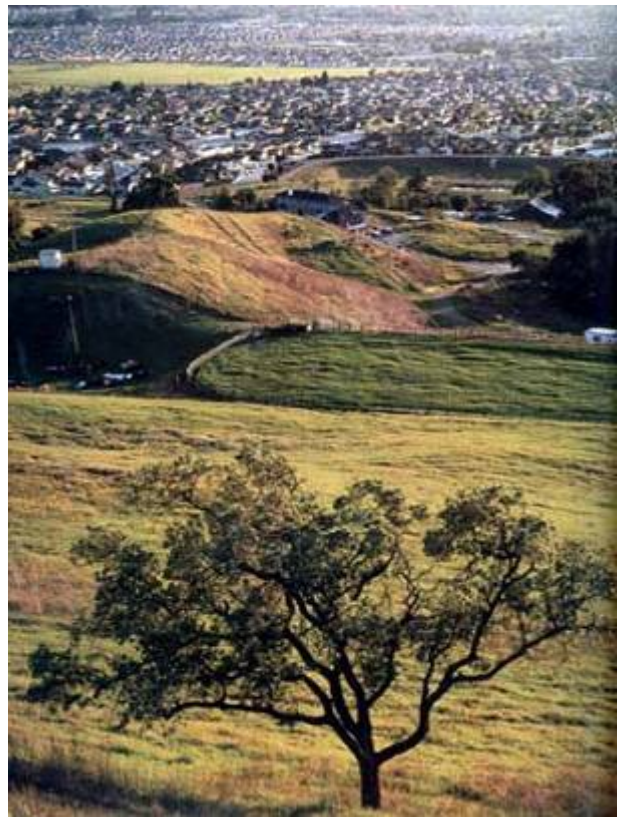
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

www.sky-fire.tv/.../fire_starter.jpg

Factors Affecting Vegetation

- Fire Regime
- Climate
- Soils
- Insects
- Herbivores
- Terrain

- The cost of fighting wildfires
- The ability to have clean air
- How and where we recreate



If we can understand the fire regime of where we live, we can begin to understand fire's role as an agent of change and its risk.

Natural Fire Regime defined

- Seasonality
- Severity
- Intensity
- Frequency
- Type

Natural Fire Regime

Season

Natural Fire Regime

- Intensity
  - Energy released/ fire front

Natural Fire Regime

- Severity
  - Impact that a fire has on an ecosystem

Natural Fire Regime

- Frequency
  - How often fires occur

Fire Regime

Type

- Ground
- Surface
- Canopy/ Stand Replacing

Napa's Common Vegetation Types

Oak Woodland

Chaparral

Grassland

Coniferous Forest

Napa's Common Vegetation Types & Fire Regimes

Oak Woodland

Season – summer & /or fall

Intensity – Low & Low-Moderate

Severity – Low & Low-Moderate

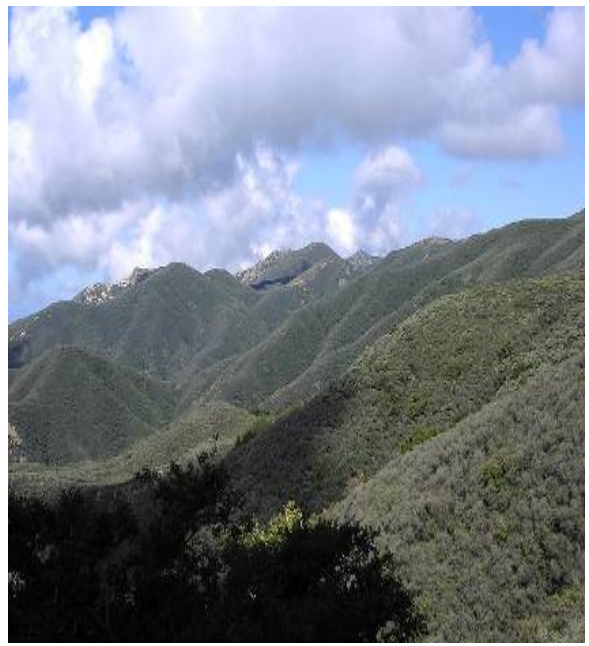
Frequency – Short

Type - Surface

Napa's Common Vegetation Types & Fire Regimes

Chaparral

- Season – summer & /or fall
- Intensity -High
- Severity – High
- Frequency – Medium (10-35yrs) possibly longer
- Type - Canopy



Napa's Common Vegetation Types & Fire Regimes

Grasslands

Season – summer and /or fall

Intensity - Low-Moderate

Severity – High

Frequency – Short

Type - Canopy

Napa's Common Vegetation Types & Fire Regimes

Coniferous Forest

- Season – Summer and /or fall
- Intensity – 80% Low/ 20% Mixed
- Severity – Low/ Mixed
- Frequency – Short/Medium
- Type – Surface/ Mixed

Current Conditions

Oak Woodlands – lack of fire is negatively affecting ecosystem

Chaparral - lack of burning

Grassland - lack of burning

Coniferous Forest - lack of fire is negatively affecting ecosystem

Potential for Change

Oak Woodlands

Potential for Change

Chaparral

Potential for Change

Grassland

Potential for Change

Coniferous Forest

Wildfire can or already has affected (via vegetation change):

Biodiversity

Clean water

Clean air

Recreation

Personal Safety

Homes/ Development

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