8 Maximum Acreages of Annual Treatment

8.1 Overview

This chapter identifies the anticipated maximum treatment acres in any one year of Program implementation as well as the method for evaluating and amending the Program, as needed. Actual annual acreages of fuel treatment projects that are included as part of Midpen's annual capital improvement and action plan will depend on annual staffing capacity, funding availability, partnerships, and other resources and must also consider other priorities and projects that further the mission and the Board's strategic goals and objectives.

8.2 Maximum Acreage of Annual Treatment

Table 8-1 shows the maximum acres of treatment per activity that may be performed in any given year. Up to 1,230 acres of new land could be treated in a single year and an additional up to 1,400 acres of previously treated areas could be maintained. This maximum envelope allowed is likely much greater than the amount that will be actually treated, given the circumstances of need, funding, and staffing in any one year.

Midpen will prepare an Annual Work Plan, with input from surrounding fire agencies, identifying those areas to be created and maintained in each coming year, with consideration for the higher prioritization areas. Midpen employees ~~staff~~ will then bring the anticipated budgets to the Board for review and approval as part of the annual capital improvement and action plan development process. The objective is to gradually increase annual treatment areas, depending on funding sources and availability of work crews, while minimizing negative impacts to the natural resources. The total areas treated annually will vary based on the aforementioned factors but will not exceed the maximum annual treatment by activity, as indicated in the table, below.

Table 8-1 Maximum Annual Treatments ~~Areas~~

Activity	Treatment Type	Unit	Create New or Maintain Existing	Maximum Annual Treatments (Acres)
Shaded Fuelbreaks	Manual, mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	50
			Maintain	100
Non-Shaded Fuelbreaks	Mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	5
			Maintain	80

Activity	Treatment Type	Unit	Create New or Maintain Existing	Maximum Annual Treatments (Acres)
Evacuation Routes, Critical Infrastructure, Fire Management Logistics Fuelbreaks	Manual, mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	400
			Maintain	400
Target Hazards Fuelbreaks	Manual, mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	20
			Maintain	20
Fire Agency New Recommended Fuelbreaks	Manual, mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	100
			Maintain	N/A[a]
Ingress/Egress Route Fuelbreaks	Mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	25
			Maintain	25
Disclines	Mechanical, herbicide	Acre	New	10
			Maintain	60
Midpen Structures and Facilities Defensible Space	Manual, mechanical, herbicide	Acre	New	As needed
			Maintain	175
~~Emergency Staging Areas, Emergency Landing Zones, and Other~~ Fire Management Logistics Areas	Manual, mechanical	Acre	New	100
			Maintain	30
Eucalyptus and Acacia Removal	Manual, mechanical, herbicide	Acre	New	20[b]
			Maintain	10
Fuel Reduction Areas	Manual, mechanical, herbicide, prescribed herbivory	Acre	New	500
			Maintain	500
Total			**New**	**1,230 ~~acres~~**
			Maintain	**1,400 ~~acres~~**

Notes: Monitoring actions will be determined by Midpen employees ~~staff~~ annually. Prescribed burning units and maximum burns per year will be defined through development of the PFP.

[a] Fire agency recommended fuelbreaks are maintained under the applicable category.

[b] An average of 55 trees and a maximum of 105 trees over 8 inches DBH per acre could be removed.

8.3 Assessing the Program

Chapter 7: Monitoring Plan identifies the monitoring and reporting under the Program that would occur to understand the effectiveness of the work. Through the evaluation of work performed in previous years, Midpen will continuously improve methods and approaches over time. Adaptive management recommendations, if any, will be identified in in the Annual

Monitoring Report. The Annual Monitoring Report, as approved by the General Manager and accepted/approved by the Board, will be the basis for making changes to the Program, including changes to the maximum acreages or methods.

8.4 Updates and Modifications to the Program

This Program is intended to be a "living document," in which minor changes that do not trigger additional environmental effects can be made without needing to complete additional environmental analysis. The document may be updated, and as necessary, supplemental CEQA or other environmental analysis prepared.

Each year following Board review of the Annual Monitoring Report, the appropriate Vegetation Management Coordinator or staff Coordinator will implement recommended changes to the Program. The appropriate Vegetation Management Coordinator or staff Coordinator will review proposed changes and updates to determine if changes to adopted RM Policy is necessary. This review will include an assessment of changes to the maximum acreages of treatment, methods of treatment, and types of activities covered under the Program.

When changes to the Program are required, the appropriate Vegetation Management Coordinator or staff Coordinator will ~~initiate a review process to~~ determine whether the proposed additions or changes are minor or substantial (as defined under the CEQA ~~approval process~~ guidelines for a project as not resulting in substantial new information or new significant environmental impacts). If the Program changes are confirmed to be minor, these changes can be addressed through the Vegetation Management Coordinator or staff Coordinator review and approval process. Examples of minor changes that would not likely trigger a new environmental review include process updates and use of different equipment to conduct the identified activities. If additional environmental review is needed, additional resources may be needed to complete environmental analysis and documentation.