

[The California Chaparral Institute](#)



Cuyamaca State Park continues to circumvent citizen oversight and state environmental laws* today with a prescribed burn in Rancho Cuyamaca State Park, San Diego County. The size of the smoke plume looks a little dicey. From our experience, it seems to be larger than a usual prescribed burn.

*Details: The park improperly used an "emergency exemption" in the California Environmental Quality Act to... [See More](#)

[Geoffrey Smith](#), [Lisa Davis](#), [Alan Barrett](#) and [138 others](#) like this.

- [49 shares](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Folks, we encourage discussion, but it would be helpful if everyone would do their homework before letting us know how wrong they think we are. This

would be a good place to start:

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../elossincuyamaca.html>



[Destruction of Nature in Cuyamaca State Park](#)

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is grinding up large...

[californiachaparral.org](#)

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- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Are you telling us that if we do not agree with you we are wrong? And then tell us to do homework by reading a biased article that YOU wrote?

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- [The California Chaparral Institute Lance](#), stop for a moment please. You are engaging in a couple logical fallacies here. We did not say if you don't agree with us, you are wrong. And now you are determining a research paper or article is biased before reading it? This is one of the primary problems we all need to work on - jumping to conclusions that confirm our own belief systems without even attempting to do our homework and look at the facts. If you think our research is biased, how about reading it first, then engaging in a discussion on the merits of the actual research. Here is our report on the Cedar Fire. You can start there. If not, please pick any other paper linked on our website and let's discuss that one.

http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../CHAP_21_Cedar_Fire...

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- [Jason Porter](#) I've been a fire manager (wildfire) for 14 years and you basically said the science we use in firefighting (spread, slope, fuels, weather, etc) is wrong. What an insulting article. And you base all the conclusions off of this 1 fire, ignoring 60 years plus of work by others in this field. Fuels management works, and I can show you more success stories than failures. Success of saving lives and property, increasing wildlife habitat, and ecosystem diversity.

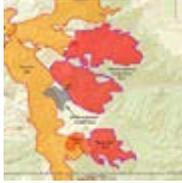
[Like](#) · [6](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), not sure where we said that the science of firefighting is wrong. If you read the webpage, we are talking about the abuse of the California Environmental Quality Act. What exactly are you basing your comments on?

Certainly not the article you are citing. This page might be worth your while to read though:

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

californiachaparral.org

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) From the smoke, the fire appears to be spreading in both directions, upslope and downslope.

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Fire appears to be crawling over the ridge onto the west side of Middle Peak.

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- [Mike Boeck](#) The truth is, if we control burned every piece of vegetation in the above photo to the ground, including all landscaping, it would prevent future fires from engulfing entire neighborhoods. Where do we draw the line? That's what this discussion is about.

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Yes, sometimes it gets to that point.

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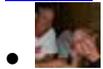
- [Cynthia Tassell](#) Wouldn't it make more sense to use goats? It may take longer but it's safer.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [11 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Cynthia](#), unfortunately, goats have been shown to cause significant environmental damage in pristine environments by destroying the soil crust, spreading flammable weeds, and eliminating species.
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Cynthia Tassell](#) I didn't know that. Thanks for letting me know.
[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Dave Brown](#) They also will not eat the 10 and 100 hrour fuels which the burn will remove.

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- [Ral Christman](#) Good! Do like the Kumeyaay did and burn it before it burns you. Got to manage the land.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [11 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Ral](#), please read our webpage and the papers available on here. We really do not know enough about what the Kumeyaay did to try and copy it.
<http://www.californiachaparral.org/enativeamericans.html>



[Native American burning](#)

Native Americans were like all other human beings; they modified their environment to...

californiachaparral.org

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- [Timeless Environments](#) I'm beginning this comparison of conservation with imagined tribal myths has run full circle and become a sort of ancestor worship Rick. The continual or constant resurrection of these myths and natives just won't go away and die quietly.

Was up on the caldera rim yesterday on Tenerife and there is one area I never really explored before. There were some major fires way in the past started by human stupidity, but the toughness of the Canary Island Pine is interesting. Huge areas of once entirely burned up trees now resprouting from the trunk and looking more like Italian Cypress trees. Beautiful wild areas. I just don't do well in the cities below. Should next time just plan camping.

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- [Martin Jorgensen](#) And yes, if it can burn it's a fuel. That may only be one aspect of managing it, but it is an aspect none the less and needs to be addressed in any management plan...

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) It's habitat [Martin](#). Homes are fuel.

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- [Clayton Richard Howe](#) One thing we appear to have in common is our love of this system. Great Dialogue. You lost me when you claim "millions more people igniting fires", Really? We must remember our historical fire regime because it evolved a system over a period of some...[See More](#)

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- [The California Chaparral Institute Clayton](#), to review:
 - Refer to your own agency as to why they feel it is important to reduce invasive non-native species.
 - You know we support strategic fuel breaks and RX burns done properly in the right ecosystems, so lease stop creating straw men to knock down. It serves no one.
 - What hunter gathers did is really not relevant to us on a landscape where yes, there are millions more people who are capable of igniting fires.
 - Biswell did not make distinctions between ecosystems. Read his papers. It was all about fuel. Cal Fire has now recognized that is wrong and has gone back to the drawing board on their Vegetation Management Program to develop approaches based on ecosystems not "fuel."

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- [Andrew Cherry](#) Mike Boeck move then. You seem like the type of guy that would live in New Orleans and blame the flooding on the city.
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•

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) For fear of engaging in a logical fallacy too, moving? Love it or leave it? Go back to _____. We can probably avoid these kinds of comments [Andrew](#).
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) I could go into research and numbers, but its really right there in front of you guys. Stop looking at recent history and at least look into 100 year history. Its hard because fuel loading records dont go back that far but you can reference photo graphs. This one prescribed fire isnt going to acutely fix the problem, but the concept, if adopted would save so many homes,

so much habitat. There are RX burns that get out, that will do damage, because it is done so little! Halting these rx burns halts people gaining valuable experience with this method, and it stops a natural routine. I know more about this than my choice words lead you to believe. I get so heated about this because it is sooo misunderstood. I understand your love for Chaparral but your claims are pretty selfish. Do you realize you are the one going against nature's will with these views, and we are the ones for it?

[Like · 1 · 14 hours ago](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) I dedicate my life to restoring what forests we have left to a natural state knowing its going to take a few generations worth of work to accomplish this. People like you try to delay this further and it really tears me up. Hope you figure it out one day.

[Like · 14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Andrew](#), RX burns do a lot of good in many situations. We are not debating that. What we are debating is how the park has gone about this process and their misunderstanding of the ecosystem they are supposed to be managing.

We certainly understand your frustration. We have it to. We respect your perspective as a firefighter. But please read our website on the issue and focus on those points. Fire is a natural process that we have screwed up for some time now and RX burns can help correct that. But what is happening in Cuyamaca is tied more to money from several large corporations than fire risk reduction and ecological restoration. Grinding up large areas of chaparral, causing significant damage to riparian areas with heavy equipment, and lighting off an area that burned 11 years ago is causing significant environmental damage.

Anyways, below is what their own advisers from San Diego State told them. What's happening up there now is beyond misguided.

"Dense shrub cover, primarily *Ceanothus palmeri*, has established on about 40% of the area surveyed, especially in stands with higher former forest cover and fire severity. About half of these stands had lower shrub cover, averaging 32%, and half had high cover, averaging 70%. On a landscape scale I recommend no vegetation management of *C. palmeri* dominated stands. *Ceanothus* is a nitrogen fixing genus of California shrubs that serves an important ecosystem function, especially following fire on low-nutrient soils in California's montane forests. These shrub stands will naturally thin over time, resulting in lower, patchier cover, and allowing establishment of conifers.

Site-specific removal of shrubs over small areas may be required for tree planting projects, but the disadvantage of *Ceanothus* removal, again, is that it may affect the availability of nutrients for successful tree establishment. *Ceanothus* is also known to be an intermediate host for mycorrhizal fungi associated with conifer species and necessary for their survival. In the stands examined that fell at lower elevations in the forested zone (1300-1400 m), shrub cover averaged around 60% and chaparral species dominated vegetation recovery, especially *Ceanothus leucodermis*. Again, *Ceanothus* plays an important nutrient cycling role post-fire in California

ecosystems. These sites appear to be following a normal trajectory of succession for chaparral-dominated sites. There is no indication that vegetation management is required."

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- [Andrew Cherry](#) No sense arguing with ya. Fact is more people are catching on. The more extreme wildfires that happen, the more rxb's are going to be accepted. Its happening. So get off your high horse and maybe work along side the agencies and departments that are doing what is right. During these firing operations so much goes into protecting wildlife and properties during the burns, as well as in the preparation. I wish ya luck.

[Like](#) · [13 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Well I am so glad that pros like Andrew Cherry never make mistakes!

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Everybody I know makes mistakes except firemen, apparently.

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) And I'm not going to move, I don't want to live in New Orleans and I wouldn't blame the flooding on the city. Wrong on all three counts Andrew. I suspect your ability to make proper decisions and I hope you never are tasked to "protect" me or my property.

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) You and your messiah complex can go off somewhere and save the world. Me? I just want to live somewhere that I don't have to see "firemen" loading napalm onto helicopters in order to start "backfires".

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Just had a fire here in the canyon and we put it out ourselves before the firetrucks even rolled up. Santa Ana winds were blowing 40MPH too!

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) 6AM in the morning; took fifteen minutes for OCFA to show up and their station is only three hundred yards away!

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Now go off and start a controlled burn to save the planet.

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) Study that photo of the rim running hard and lol at the 100% mortality of overladen brush or chap



[Like](#) · [11 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Soren](#), do you ever read the research or the maps available that will help you understand the systems you keep posting about. Any of it? Chaparral shrubs are not killed by high-severity fire. Where are you getting this nonsense?

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Brad Bernardy](#) A fire adapted ecosystem will burn, eventually. It's nature's way and just a matter of time. A little smoke now or a lot later is often the choice in many communities. Sometimes, millions of additional dollars are spent when climatic conditions push it to a conflagration taking out property and sometimes lives in its path.

I don't know enough about this area to comment on the fire ecology aspect but have many years of experience as a prescribed burn manager throughout the country. If done correctly, prescribed burning can enhance many aspects of the ecosystem and create fuel breaks to help slow/control wildfires among other beneficial outcomes. Unfortunately, if done incorrectly, it can also damage natural resources not only setting back the area but also affect relationships developed among land stewards and interested parties.

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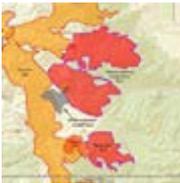
- [Chris Casey](#) You got it brad....can you imagine the gridlock with " CA citizen oversite"? You'd never get a burn day, someone would always have a reason to shut you down. Then be the first to shriek when the flames blow up their canyon.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · [13 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Brad](#), you are right. prescribed burning can do a lot of good. It also can cause significant problems if done in the wrong place at the wrong time. Here are some examples of it going wrong:

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

californiachaparral.org

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- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) Either a prescribed burn in the winter or a catastrophic wildfire in the summer. You decide!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [5](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Winter burns in Cuyamaca State Park are unnatural. Such burns have been shown to cause significant ecological damage, Burns. That is our issue.

[Like](#) · [Commented on by Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



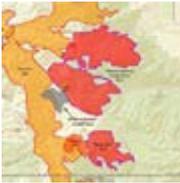
- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) Sorry guys. I disagree. I only have degrees in wildlife and fisheries . My entire fire career is in question.

[Like](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Burns](#), let's discuss the research as we understand it. Please take a look at any of the papers and reports on this page and come back to discuss. Your perspective would be appreciated.

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

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- [Mike Boeck](#) Wow, I am a member of the local firesafe council, helped start the local fire watch, still participate in fire patrols, have personally reported or put out multiple fires including saving my neighbor's life when his kitchen caught on fire while he was ...[See More](#)
[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) The ad hominem attacks are just that [Mike](#), baseless. Thank you for your contributions.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Satterthwaite](#) Chaparral has a fire cycle of 5-7 years. This prescribed burn is necessary for healthy reproduction fire severity reduction. Fire is necessary. Do the research so you don't make your society look ignorant and stupid.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Jason](#), that kind of fire return interval will guarantee the elimination of chaparral. Where on earth are you getting your data? And please, let's dispense with the ad hominem attacks. Stick with facts, least you become what you claim others to be. The research is available here:
<http://www.californiachaparral.org/threatstochaparral.html>



[Loss of chaparral](#)

Increased fire frequency, grazing, development, and invasive plants are the...
californiachaparral.org

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- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) You can't cite your own data.
[Like](#) · [1](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) 5-7 years is preposterous though. It's more like 10 times that. Many of the obligate seeders (non resprouting shrubs) won't even make seed in 5 years. Are you mixing chaparral up with pine forest?

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Burns](#), would you please look at the site before jumping to conclusions? Doing otherwise does not help your point. There are multiple research papers from multiple scientists you can download that explain the situation well.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [13 hours ago](#)



- [Greg Diaz](#) ☐☐

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Not sure what you are commenting on here, [Greg](#).

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) My post

[Like](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Greg Diaz](#) Yes soren Fleming post and how we have to do our job to prevent bigger wild fires ! No need to complain about the plume and sorry for all the smoke/ashes ...☐

[Like](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) Im not sorry at all suck smoke and kick ash

[Like](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Greg Diaz](#) Lol right I just threw that in sarcasm lol hahahah

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) More fire please. This is a good thing.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Burns](#), please read the research presented here, then come back.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) By the way. Its called a Prescribed fire not a controlled burn. Those facts would be a good start.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Burns C. Brimhall](#) By the way. Its called a Prescribed fire not a controlled burn. Those facts would be a good start.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) With all due respect, over the past 100 years what we have seen is that every decade or so there are a series of large fires, followed by task force reports and huge sums of money spent on fire suppression/treatments, followed by another decade of large fires. We have done a pretty good job saving lives and some property, but preventing bigger wildfires, not really Greg. Not by a long shot.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) For you people who have 0 fire exp understand that a proper fire ecology is based on a bi annual up to 5 year cycle. It burns now like it does because of your involvement and mis management, stop the rx burns and thinning projects if you want but remember who risks our asses to save your belonging because you wanna live in the woods with your artificial materials and change in the natural ecosystem... You want a great example look at the RIM fire Yosemite, the park 10-40% mortality rate in most places (thank rx burning and thinning) the forest it started in the stanislous 70-100% mortality rate. Keep bumping your gums about stuff you don't know about! Seriously you people are ungrateful un informed idiots stick to your trails and starbucks smh I've lost partners to this beast trying to save properties! Ball off jackasses

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- [James Manske](#) Spot on. They don't understand it saves more then it hurts. But Only correction I got for you is that the rim fire was mostly in the Stanislaus national forest. Only a portion of Yosemite was on fire.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) Oh I know I spent 21 days on it but for the dumb folks they associate rim with Yosemite

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [James Manske](#) Nvm I didn't read all of Ur post Lol my bad.

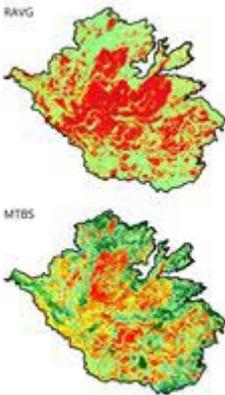
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- [The California Chaparral Institute Soren](#), where on earth are you getting your data? You should probably look at the actual fire severity map of the Rim Fire. 70-100% mortality? It might be helpful if you looked at the actual data.

Below is a figure of side-by-side fire severity maps for the Rim fire - the USFS's preliminary "RAVG" assessment (40% high severity) versus the final MTBS map (19.9%). You'll see that areas initially mapped as large contiguous high-severity fire patches a few thousand hectares in size are now, in the final assessment, generally comprised of many smaller patches dozens to a few hundred hectares in size. Much if not most of this difference between preliminary and final is due to flushing of pines and other conifers that initially appeared to be dead (0% green foliage) but produced new green crowns from surviving terminal buds in the spring and summer of 2014. What happened within the Rim fire is likely within the historical range.

Ball off jackasses? Never heard that one. Care to explain?



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- [The California Chaparral Institute James](#), who is "they?"

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) I got my data from ash on my boots on that fire, where are YOU from who are YOU cause I know fire behavior and what the forest I worked in looked like and if you notice that big ball of red is nf the outer to the right is np sooooo uhhhhh yea

[Like](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) Soren, you da' man. Remember man, in the long run, they just hug trees, give them compliments, they tell everyone they're precious. WE save them, WE are trying to return things back to its natural state. We are fixing the problem.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Soren](#), [Andrew](#), let's stick to the data, not how big our boots are. Anecdotal stories are useful, but when it comes to policy, it is the science that examines ALL the events (not just the ones you have experienced) that is important. And FWIW, we do have firefighting experience with the USFS and Cal Fire, so please withhold the ad hominem attacks. They diminish the points you are trying to make.

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- [Steve Harbour](#) Does anyone really believe the Native Americans were burning dense chaparral and oak woodlands on steep mountainsides like Middle Peak? Burning areas of vegetation like this would likely get out of control, even in winter, and consume the entire ecosystem they lived in. That idealized theory is way, way overblown. This area burned just 11 years ago, it's way to soon to begin doing controlled burns, allowing exotic, non-native species to overwhelm the area. The park service is totally misguided in its attempts to interrupt the natural cycle this way. I walk this park a lot - the conifers are coming back anyway, no need to spend taxpayers money to plant them.

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Very well said, [Steve](#).

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- [Charlie Hohn](#) Planting them also seriously can mess with population genetics. And can introduce invasives and disturb the soil.

[Like](#) · [3](#) · [Yesterday at 8:46am](#)

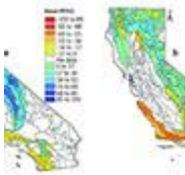


- [Linn Gassaway](#) Having done much research on Native California burning yes they did burn steep chaparral because that was their grocery store and Walmart. Burned chaparral produces a store of standing fire wood, produces straighter shoots needed for basket materials and higher yields of seeds for food. If you burn patches in rotation over thousands of years you create a mosaic that does not get out of control over thousands of acres.

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- [The California Chaparral Institute Linn](#), please read the science. The mosaic burn hypothesis has been rejected some time ago. Read the literature on the linked page below and let's talk more: <http://www.californiachaparral.org/fire/firescience.html>



[Chaparral is threatened by too much fire](#)

Contrary to conventional wisdom, fire...

californiachaparral.org

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- [Charlie Hohn](#) Many of the chaparral slopes are like 45% slope. I think it's there in part because they didn't burn it.

[Like](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Just a final point on this [Charlie](#). Having conducted prescribed burns and seen them turn on us, it really isn't reasonable to believe that once a human lights off a fire, that it is in any way controllable without the kind of military-like troop deployment that we use now.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



-

- [Steve Mudge](#) Controlled burns---sheesh---did anyone see what happened up in Montana ded Oro a few years ago? Controlled burn got out of hand and burned the whole Bishop Pine forest--- one of the park's gems.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 4:35am](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) We have a report on that escaped fire. We didn't know about the Bishop pine loss . Here's our report:
http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../Montana_de_Oro...

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [Clayton Richard Howe](#) Are you aware that Dr. Harry Biswell of UC Berkeley advised that IF the park did nothing in the area of native american fire management practices with routine rotational burning / (or other disturbance-Spanish, Mexican, American Cattle and Sheep) of park lands that the system evolved with of over 10,000 years of disturbance, that 97% (or so) of the park would be destroyed by fire. (Destroyed meaning changed from its mature climax state for our lifetime). He was wrong...98+ % of the park was destroyed. (Burned back to a baseline state. Starting over, a new emerging forest). Google him!

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Clayton, this is 2015. We are dealing with millions more people igniting fires, invasive and highly flammable non-native weeds, and a rapidly changing climate... none of which Native Americans faced. We need to look forward for solutions, not backward to imagined behaviors of people long ago or to paradigms promoted by professors who did not understand the complexities of diverse ecosystems. Biswell's one-size-fits-all approach has been rejected some time ago.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 12:40am](#)



- [Linn Gassaway](#) Boswell one size fits all?? You don't read much Biswell! That's not Biswell! Plus there actually is less human ignition today than when Native Americans ran the show. Fire endangering houses is a completely different issue than the need for fire to maintain a Chaparral ecosystem.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [Yesterday at 2:42am](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) The pre colonial native Americans didn't have masticators. They didn't build huge roads. They hadn't introduced hundreds of invasives nearly at once. I am interested in Native American traditional management techniques but I don't think they have much to do with what is going on here. These large scale "treatments" can scar the land on a geologic level more so than a fire.

Of course fires cause other problems too but we need to work on them near and inn populated areas not deep in the mountains.

[Unlike](#) · [3](#) · [Yesterday at 4:18am](#)



- [Neahga Leonard](#) The Chaparral Institute strikes again with the denial of traditional land management practices. Come on guys, this conversation/argument arises on nearly every one of your posts. The constant denial that they had a strong effect and were effective management practices has gotten old a long time ago. Yes, we have a different set of concerns and situation now, but the shrill denial of history does not stand you well in making coherent arguments for or against what approaches we should be taking today.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · [Yesterday at 6:36am](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) You all (not Neahga) need to do a better job specifying the difference between chaparral, oak woodland, and pine forest. The chaparral doesn't need more fire, but Native American management techniques in oak woodland are worth exploring for sure. What is your fear? The oaks aren't recruiting well and the understory is all invasive weeds. What's going to get worse?

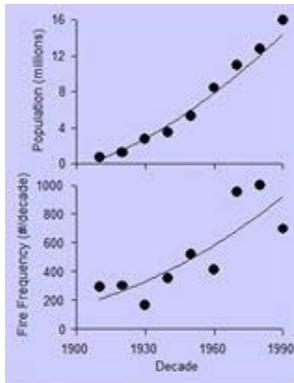
The pine forests are such a mess I don't even know where to start. It doesn't help that many aren't natural and were planted by the ccc or whatever and should either be chaparral or oak woodland.

For current "fuel management" I am most worried about erosion issues including any roads being built.

[Unlike](#) · [3](#) · [Yesterday at 6:45am](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Linn, I'm always inserting a dash and "caused" between human and ignition. It's avoids the image of spontaneous human ignition. Regardless, let's address your claim that there are fewer human-caused ignitions today than when Native Americans ran the sh...[See More](#)



(Data: Keeley and Fotheringham)

[Like · 3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [23 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Thank you [Charlie](#), for reminding us that much of this discussion needs to be separated between what type of ecosystem we are talking about. Unfortunately, as you know, most people do not and apply the fire-suppression story to all.

[Like · 3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 8:46am](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Neahga](#), we do not doubt that Native Americans burned the landscape and did so to exploit the natural resources they needed to survive. What we are trying to point out is:

1. Some have over-extended what they think Native Americans did to the point that it has taken on near mythological proportions. The claim that there were not any large fires because Native Americans were somehow properly managing the landscape has no scientific merit.
2. We do not know where or how much burning was going on. And we will never know.
3. As we have already mentioned, there is too much fire (rather than not enough) fire in native California shrubland ecosystems. Trying to replicate what we think Native Americans did would only add to the problem.
4. And finally, Native Americans are human beings. They exploit the environment to survive. They burned like we rip out shrublands to plant vineyards - to obtain resources. As a consequence, there is significant data to support the theory that they were responsible to eliminating many shrubland habitats along the central coast. They did not burn to maintain some kind of "healthy" ecosystem balance.

The question we often ask folks who keep bringing up the need to burn like they think Native Americans did, is how did native ecosystems in California survive without us?

Here's a good paper on the subject:

http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../Keeley_Indian...

[Like · 1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [23 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Why do you say we can never know how or where the native Americans burned but claim to know their motives for doing so? It's silly and frankly a bit inappropriate. Of course humans often cause negative impacts but you are basically saying they were too stupid or naive to understand the need to conserve species and take a long scale view. The implication being we are doing better which is honestly ridiculous.

My advice is stick to the first three points which are solidly backed up in science. "Point" 4 is divisive and discriminatory and has nothing to do with science or evidence.

[Like · 2](#) · [23 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Btw the native Americans were around for over 10,000 years and before that it was the ice age. So yes they did have a huge effect on the recent ecology and evolution of the region.

It's enough to advocate for leaving the chaparral alone because evidence strongly shows burning it is harmful. Leave the anthropology out please.

[Like · 1](#) · [23 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Charlie, we've talked about this before. We'll just have to agree to disagree.

For mixed-severity forests, how do you distinguish historical human-caused fires from those caused by lightning? They all leave the same kind of fire scar in the tree rings. We can't. All we can tell is when a fire hit a tree in the past, that's it, and sometimes the extent of a fire. The full extent of what Native Americans did, fire wise, will forever remain a mystery, especially in native shrublands.

Charlie, we are not implying Native Americans were stupid or that we are better. Come on. What we are saying is that Native Americans were human. Chaparral does not provide a lot of exploitable resource value. It is perfectly understandable why Native Americans, ranchers, and farmers want to get rid of it. The value we see in chaparral is not one that is available when you are trying to make a living off the land. Burning to survive is a pretty good motive to assume. Would there be any other?

We can't avoid point 4 because one of the justifications for what happened in Cuyamaca yesterday is that Native Americans burned the landscape. We need to get away from that as a justification because it is not particularly relevant under today's conditions.

[Like · 3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [23 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) What you were saying is that the native Americans "burned like we rip out shrublands to make vineyards" - two very different things. Then you said they "did not burn to keep healthy ecosystem balance"... Granted they would not have framed it in those terms but otherwise I call bull-poop. The initial inhabitants did over exploit resources and the more recent

groups absolutely did burn to keep an ecosystem in balance. Otherwise they would starve and die. Their method of semi-agriculture was ecosystem based. It sounds like you don't understand it very well and it would benefit everyone if you did more research on the cultural side of things. Seriously. I know that your comments like that offend at least some native Americans and when I see them I think "well, the science and sense are gone from this conversation". Sorry if it sounds like tone policing but this is the main reason I'm not a stronger supporter of your group which is otherwise so so needed. It really makes me sad to be honest. And I know others who feel the same.

The pre colonization native Americans, like other more recent CA inhabitants, mostly lived in the lowlands. They wouldn't be climbing up 45 degree slopes in chaparral to light it ablaze. Most of the areas they managed most intensively now are ruined by suburbs or at least by very intensive grazing. That is sufficient to refute the nonsense from the land managers who want to burn there. Without "point 4"

[Like · 3 · 23 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Charlie](#), my perspective on this is again, that Native Americans were humans. Their impact on the landscape was restricted by the technology they had, not because of some ecosystem-based management style. When they could, and there is multiple lines of evidence to support this, Native Americans caused significant harm to native habitats and species. They could pull it off because there were not enough of them to completely ruin everything, causing as you say, starvation and death.

I am sorry this offends some folks, but all of this is based on the literature and the realistic evaluation of the human species.

This would NOT be an issue if Native American burning was not used to justify landscape scale, environmentally damaging projects.

Your take on where Native Americans did their burning is enlightened and is what needs to be promoted. We shall keep that in mind in the future. However, when folks claim Native Americans prevented big fires, that we should copy their burning practices, and that chaparral needs to burn because they think Native Americans did it to keep the ecosystem healthy, well, those are myths that need to be refuted BECAUSE they are used to promote the destruction of the chaparral. We are dealing with that now in Santa Barbara. Here's a partial description of the situation in an upcoming book that is being published this year:

Emblematic of the impact caused by the misapplication of the fire-suppression paradigm is a statement made by the chair of the Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission who criticized a proposal to designate chaparral as a protected, environmentally sensitive habitat.

“Fire in our local ecosystems is one of the best ways to achieve the goal of good biodiversity. The local Native Americans burned almost every year. Early Spanish explorer records prove this to be true. There are many lightning-caused fires in our area, but we routinely put them out, creating an unnatural condition of heavy, dense fuel loading and harming our ecosystem in the process.” (Giorgi 2014).

The chair's statement would have been at least partially supportable if it had only referred to the region's few higher elevation pine forests or the mixed conifer forests on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada (see Chapters 1 and 2). However, it is inappropriate to extend it to the chaparral ecosystem that dominates the surrounding Los Padres National Forest (Figure 7-4). In addition, unlike high elevation forests where lightning is common, the south coast region of southern California does not experience sufficient lightning frequency to sustain the kind of fire imagined by the board's chair. In fact, the region has one of the lowest lightning frequencies in North America (Keeley 2002).

This information was provided to the Fish and Game Commission through testimony before and during the hearing prior to the chair's statement. Afterwards, the commission voted to reject the idea that chaparral be designated as a sensitive habitat.

[Like](#) · [3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [22 hours ago](#)



- [Mary Ann Kiger](#) Thank you CCI!

[Unlike](#) · [2](#) · [22 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Their intention is irrelevant. Speculating that they might have done the same as us is irrelevant. If they grew up in the same culture and came from Europe maybe. We will never know what would have happened with Native American management if colonization had not occurred. I am not trying to troll you, I really and truly don't understand the obsession with why the native Americans in the past did what they did and with "proving" they are as "bad" as Europeans. Fact is before large scale crop monoculture almost everyone was closer to the land including Europeans before the Romans and the feudal era. We should be humble and understand that other cultures have things to teach us especially as our culture struggles with sustainability.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · [22 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) We know very little about past weather patterns and it's possible Lightning was more common in the past.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [22 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Look my whole point here is you can still call out the bad dumb prescribed burns without the whole spiel about how native Americans all lusted or habitat destruction because they "are humans". In addition to the problems I noted above what about the idea that we are an adaptable intelligent species capable of change? If humans are parasitic demons inherently bent on destruction then all conservation work (and everything else) is a damn waste of time. We might as well just give in and heat the planet up until we go extinct. But I don't believe that. I believe we have the capability to be better than that.

[Like](#) · [21 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) "Burning in chaparral has been proven to greatly increase the proliferation of invasive herbaceous plants that are linked to increased mudslide and fire frequency, decline in

watershed health, and decline of biodiversity. While native Americans may have conducted some burns in chaparral these invasive species were not present at the time. Furthermore there is no evidence that controlled burns or other fuel management methods in areas away from structures have any benefit in fire control. These backcountry chaparral burns are a waste of taxpayer money and furthermore present the risk of escaping and threatening human life or property"

You can't argue with that and it doesn't insult anyone who is open to evidence.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [21 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Good description of a measured response, [Charlie](#). We will keep it in mind.

So after that, what do you say when someone tells you, "OK fine, but Native Americans prevented big fires so we need to do what they did," and they use that to justify a landscape scale burn plan that is before a planning commission... and everyone on the commission nods in agreement?

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) They are gonna nod even if the guy starts spouting gibberish as we both know. The invasives are a huge deal. Maybe without them some burns in chaparral would be ok. Maybe not. Either way they are here now and the burning will promote type conversion. We know that as a fact regardless of what happened before the invasives. Also the Chumash etc managed the land very intensively all year and the agencies don't have the money or desire to do that.

Native American burning should be contrasted with factory farms and large ranches. That is what replaced it. I think some of the huge cattle ranches that are overgrazed in some cases and full of invasives are a great place for some Native American groups to try traditional methods. The top of that mountain isnt a place for us to burn and probably isnt a place they would have either. Though those mountains do get lightning much more so than the ones by Santa Barbara or the Santa Monicas

Maybe some Native American fires ran up into chaparral but probably most did not due to their timing.

[Like](#) · [18 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) OK, [Charlie](#), we'll let it rest there.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Fair enough

[Like](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [Linn Gassaway](#) You do realize your figure on population and ignitions begins in 1900 well after NA population decline and European take over. You can look up my research and catchup on the NA burning archaeology literature before you reply.

[Like](#) · [15 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



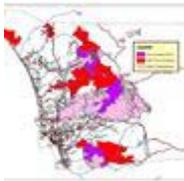
- [The California Chaparral Institute Linn](#), a reference would be helpful. Regardless, there are basically just three research papers relating to any reasonable attempt to date the historical fire regime in southern California chaparral plant communities. Unlike forests, there are no tree rings, so it is extremely difficult. You can find them on the page linked below. Here are the references:

Mensing, S.A., Michaelsen, J., Byrne. 1999. A 560 year record of Santa Ana fires reconstructed from charcoal deposited in the Santa Barbara Basin, California. Quaternary Research. Vol. 51:295-305.

Keeley, J.E. and P.H. Zedler. 2009. Large, high-intensity fire events in southern California shrublands: debunking the fine-grain age patch model. Ecological Applications 19: 69-94.

Lombardo, K.J., T.W. Swetnam, C.H. Baisan, M.I. Borchert. 2009. Using bigcone Douglas-fir fire scars and tree rings to reconstruct interior chaparral fire history. Fire Ecology 5: 32-53.

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/fire/firescience.html>



[Chaparral is threatened by too much fire](#)

"The ecological subsections surrounding the...
californiachaparral.org

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- [James Wright](#) I have never heard of the cci or the burn situation you are discussing. I came upon this via another group I belong to. After reading this whole discussion as an uninformed and unbiased(as anyone can be) reader I have to say that Charlie makes a very s...[See More](#)

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute James, Charlie](#) does indeed make some excellent points.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [13 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) "Escaped burn", nice description. Somehow the homes of the Cal Fire and USFS crews never seem threatened during these events.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 5:51pm](#)



- [Jason McAhren](#) That's probably the most ignorant comment ever..... My house was threatened in both the 03 and 07 fires.... While I was on the other side of the county saving homes of people that weren't firefighter..... But my fuel management and defensible space saved my house!
[Like](#) · [9](#) · [February 4 at 7:44pm](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Were those fires controlled burns?
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 10:08pm](#)



- [Eric Shreve](#) Mike Boeck your comment is comical.
[Like](#) · [2](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Eric](#), care to explain why Mike's comments are comical?
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) There's nothing comical about a so-called controlled burn that nearly wipes out the entire northernmost stand of Tecate Cypress trees on the planet. People that are in denial of the unpredictability of fire are comical to me.
[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Eric Shreve](#) What viable evidence do you have in regards to wildland fire agencies purposely conducting controlled burns around rural communities to threaten the homes of non-firefighting personal? Because, I've lived in the East County my entire life and have seen the success in proper fuels management between Calfire and USFS in the chaparral environment.
[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Nobody said they purposely conducted controlled burns to threaten any homes! You are purposely twisting what I'm writing for some reason. Mistakes happen. Controlled burns sometimes escape from firemen's plans.

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Carol Rosalind](#) The Rim Fire proved these burns do not help.
[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [4](#) · [February 4 at 5:30pm](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) No, it didn't prove anything. There wasn't any vegetation or fuels management work accomplished in the park prior to the Rim fire. That fire burned mostly ground that hadn't seen fire in nearly 100 years. You bet your ass if you let fuel accumulate that long without action it's going to burn eventually.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Sorry, [Jason](#), you are incorrect. The area of the Rim fire had seen huge amounts of clear cutting, poorly maintained tree plantations, and the consequences of salvage logging. Very few areas had been left untouched by logging. Not sure if you were on the fire, but it few through and over the clear cuts (fuel treatments) in the Sierra Pacific in-holding like they were, well, full of fuel.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [15 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) Soooo, you are saying they logged in Yosemite national park? I was referring to the park portion of the fire if you read my comment. As far as fuel treatments (Rx burns in the park) those areas had some of least burn severities from the fire. Fire intensities created in dense vegetation will blow through clear cuts and fuels treatments, and that's where the fire built steam on all of its major runs. Yes, logging slash assisted that, I don't downplay that at all. But I hardly consider logging without taking care of the flash a full fuels treatment. But the areas where true fuels management and Rx burning occurred experienced less severe intensity. The concept of fuels work isn't necessarily to stop the fire like you seem to think it is. It's to create an environment where fire can still burn but at lower intensities, giving firefighters opportunity to suppress OR to allow fire to burn through an understory on its own in a beneficial manner. I can show you the success stories of that in several places. So no sir, I'm not wrong! Just like your "studies" you twisted and manipulated my words and meaning. I hardly consider logging, clear cuts, and mismanaged plantations fuels management. And this perfectly illustrates that you do not fully comprehend what it means/is either.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Jason, you were commenting on Carol's general comment that the Rim Fire proved these burns do not help. But your point is well taken. We are were addressing the Rim itself as per Carol, not what burned in the park.

That said, the park had indeed seen a lot of fuels management work by letting a number of

lightning fires burn, and perhaps more significantly, not allowing logging and tree plantations mess with the natural ecosystem. We may be misunderstanding you as you seem to be contradicting your first comment about "no" fuels treatments in the park with your second comment saying there were some.

Regarding fire movement, fire does not build steam. In order to have momentum to build, you have to have considerable mass. Fire has little because it is basically glowing gas. This is one of those firefighting myths that has been around so long everyone believes it. The second the fuel load drops, so does the fire. You know this if you have been on enough fires and seen a fire hit a forest that has been treated properly (and the fire weather isn't severe). Fires drop to the ground when the fuel is reduced.

We have fire experience Jason, so we are well aware that fuels treatments are not designed to stop fire.

We concur that vegetation treatments can and do reduce fire intensity and severity. That is not the point of the original post or the comments we have offered here. Read them over again. Our issue is Rancho Cuyamaca State Park's disregard of proper environmental oversight and causing significant damage to the post-fire landscape through an ill-timed prescribed burn in order to create a tree farm designed primarily to sequester carbon.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Carol Rosalind](#) Jason you will find this paper of interest as it answers some of your comments: <http://www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46372>



[Severity of an uncharacteristically large wildfire, the Rim Fire, in...](#)

Treearch is an online system for sharing...

By treearch.fs.fed.us

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- [Carol Rosalind](#) Our results suggest that wildfire burning under extreme weather conditions, as is often the case with fires that escape initial attack, can produce large areas of high-severity fire even in fuels-reduced forests with restored fire regimes.

[Like](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), here is the key conclusion from the paper [Carol](#) is citing:

"Our results suggest that wildfire burning under extreme weather conditions, as is often the case

with fires that escape initial attack, can produce large areas of high-severity fire even in fuels-reduced forests with restored fire regimes."

[Like](#) · [1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) I think you misconstrue what people mean when they say fire builds a head of steam. Of course it doesn't have mass behind it. But a fire can create its own weather environment, by preheating fuels in front of it, and creating stronger winds through the convective column. This combination greatly contributed to a fire's speed and progression. And yes, under extreme enough conditions it can blow through a fuels treatment. But fuels treatments can still give firefighters a tactical advantage during IA or extended attack. Fires that start in treated areas are also less likely to get established in canopies where they can exhibit higher levels of fire behavior versus burning aggressively on the ground. This will still increase chances for tree survivability and opportunity for fire resources.

[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), we agree with your last comment here. How about that!

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Carol](#), we just want to thank you for injecting more science into this discussion. You are one of the few.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [33 minutes ago](#)



- [Laurie Manno](#) I remember when the sheep men & cattle men would graze their animals to cut down on the brush back before the 405 freeway went over pass and I can remember in San Fernando Valley the grazing going on. I believe that was stopped in the mid 60's and what happened the Lancaster fire that burned all the way to the beach(Malibu beach). It takes common sense to manage range land!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [February 4 at 5:02pm](#) · [Edited](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Laurie](#), the Santa Monica Mountains, where the Malibu fires burn, did not have any significant grazing activity.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 1:15am](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) It had grazing way back but the fact is rangeland will carry fire too. If you graze it so hard it won't, the mudslides will be apocalyptic.

The Santa Monica's have probably had fires burn to the ocean since they formed (extremely young mountain range to be fair) and will continue to do so unless they are paved and all vegetation including landscaping is removed, or unless one day the climate changes to tropical rain forest. Back country firebreaks and grazing in the Santa Monica's don't make sense. Everything that is open space there still is steep as anything.

[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [Yesterday at 6:48am](#)



- [Laurie Manno](#) Good management is the answer. On steep mountains it is very hard, but a lot of flat land fueled that fire! My Uncle Tom was a forest ranger at the time when the big Lancaster fire burned to PCH and then jumped it the flames landed in my uncle's front yard went around his house and down the hill to the colony, the house next to his was Angelas Lansberry house burned to the ground, my uncle pool house was the only damage he was lucky.

[Like](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Laurie](#), read [Charlie](#)'s comment again. What flat land are you talking about that went all the way to Malibu? The Santa Monica Mountains are incredibly steep and rugged. There is no contiguous flat land from the valley through the mountains to the sea.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Laurie Manno](#) driving along the 14 going south there are flat lands, hills, mountains, lake Hughes have steep mountains as well hilly areas & flat areas where the brush is over grown, I don't believe I said continuous flat all the way to the sea, Malibu canyon is very steep and it would be very hard if at to fight!

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Laurie Manno](#) The point I am trying to make is good range management really helps, it can't fore see everything nor control all outbreaks but it can help. I also think that controlled grazing can help in areas that can be grazed. Just good common sense! By the way what started the Lancaster Fire I have forgotten??

[Like](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Janet Jankowski](#) I understand the burn to control fire. Santa Barbara County has more than its fair share of brush!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 4:28pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Janet](#), please read our responses to many of the comments here. You will see the problem with prescribed burns of this kind. Fuel treatment have devastated huge areas of native habitat above Santa Barbara and Goleta, replacing it with highly flammable weeds. Here's an example:



[Like](#) · [6](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 4:36pm](#)



- [Les Morris](#) It's not just "...brush!" People who build in these areas need to prepare, from the type of building materials to use, the type of landscaping to protect the building site & buildings. Further, each home must be required to have a 2500 gal water tank full at all times. It's already required for homes with water wells. It should be required for every home including those on city water systems, in any area populated with Chaparral!

[Unlike](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 7:03pm](#)



- [Martin Jorgensen](#) Had some form of vegetation management been done since 1910 the Cedar Fire would not have devastated our backcountry, burned so many homes, or taken so many lives.

If you have a hard time believing that ask the people who managed it the best- the Native Americans. They used burning on a regular basis for a variety of reasons.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [7](#) · [February 4 at 4:09pm](#)

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- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Martin, please read the page linked below from our website. We can not use suspected practices of Native Americans to manage today's landscape. With millions of people, non-native weeds, and a changing climate, the environment is extremely different than the one that existed several hundred years ago. Regardless, there was a fire larger than the Cedar Fire in 1889, prior to the era of vegetation management.

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/enativeamericans.html>



[Native American burning](#)

Native Americans were like all other human beings; they modified their environment to...
[californiachaparral.org](#)

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•

- [Jason Porter](#) So are you (the institute) saying we should sit back and do nothing? The fact that more invasive exist and the veg types have been manipulated from historic norms in fact dictates that management needs to take action! It's not just about native Americans, even if they didn't ignite fires in this veg type fire still had a natural return interval to the system (by lightning). Every vegetation type has that historic fire return interval. For most western systems it was 10-20 years, until man interfered by suppressing fire. That fact that man interfered is reason why we have to manage now. Or we can do nothing and watch it blow up in our faces on its own.

[Like](#) · [4](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



•

- [Soren Fleming](#) Jason get that tree hugging hippie

[Like](#) · [2](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



•

- [The California Chaparral Institute Soren](#), if you would like to contribute in an adult, productive manner, we welcome it. Otherwise, you may go elsewhere.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), care to cite the research that says most western systems have fire return intervals of 10-20 years? You are buying into the fire suppression myth which sees everything as fuel. Here are some numbers that may help (we have the references if you want them):

Ecosystem/ Acres in US/ Est. Fire Return Interval

Sagebrush steppe/ 122 million/ 325-450 yrs low elevation

Lodgepole pine/ 14.6 million/ 135-310 yrs elev. depend

Pinon-Juniper/ 74 million/ 400 yrs+

Fir-spruce/ 19 million/ 300 yrs+ (Colorado)

Chaparral/ 9 million/ 30-150 yrs+ (California)

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) Your sources won't matter, your misunderstanding of what the interval means is still skewed. The fire return interval isn't saying that the defined species (for example lodgepole) burns every 10-20 years, it means that fire presents itself in that system on that interval. And being a healthy system and the interval is continuing on time, that means that fire will be more understory in nature, a natural pruning process. Simple tree ring data can define those historic intervals and is our primary source for most species. Of course higher elevation species like spruce/fir will have higher intervals, and sage as well. But our pine systems traditionally burn more frequently.

And yeah, we do see everything as a fuel because it is, it will all burn under the right conditions, that is no myth! You come stand out on a fire line trying to stop the beast and tell me all vegetation (and even homes) are not fuel! And with accumulations of vegetation over 100 years plus we have to manage to protect "fuels" (vegetation and structures) we value. You can't just stand back and protect it all. You have to determine the resource you value most and remove or reduce a fuel less valuable to protect what is valued.

[Like](#) · [2](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), our sources won't matter? This is what is causing problems for folks who follow politics rather science when it comes to climate change.

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) What makes your science better than the science that someone else believes? You are condoning 75 years of fire science that others believe is valid. And you take the typical liberal stance that this science is all derived from politics. It's typical of most organizations like

yours to discredit the science of any federal agency and instead go out and find your own that agrees with you agenda.

[Like · 1 · 14 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), so are you saying that lodgepole pine forests in Yellowstone are exposed to fire every 10-20 years? You might want to look into the difference between a crown fire regime and a surface fire regime. Not all forests are like dry ponderosa forests in the Southwest or mixed-conifer forests in the lower Sierra.

Please read the site referenced below. It discusses the huge, high-severity crown fire Yellowstone complex in 1988 and how it was a perfectly natural event, contrary to all the hand wringing at the time from people who said there was too much fuel.

<http://www.nps.gov/.../a-test-of-adversity-and-strength.cfm>

[Wildland Fire: History | U.S. National Park Service](#)

The NPS

nps.gov

[Like · Remove Preview](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) It was an example, and considering the west is covered in ponderosa more widely than other desirable trees it's what I went with. And actually I won't argue that stand replacement doesn't have a natural role in ecosystems, to an extent. But let's look at Arizona now. Do you realize that, because of the extent of stand replacement fires there in 2002 there are places that may never see ponderosa pine again? Fuel loading is contributing to more massive stand replacing fires than we have ever seen in the past. Another thing that proves that fire suppression has allowed fuels to accumulate beyond historic norms is repeat photography. I have pictures in my possession that show what the forests around my home looked like when my ancestors settled the area. Very open tree stands that they brought their wagons through that I can't ride through on horseback in my time. Pinyon and juniper is another prime example. I can look at photos of rolling sage hills that are now completely gone and have been replaced by dense pinyon and juniper. It's visible evidence! Oh, but I forgot, you don't view all vegetation as fuel.

[Like · 1 · 13 hours ago](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Jason](#), a lot of those early photos showed scenes that had been modified by logging, over-grazing, and possibly Native American burning, etc. As a consequence, they are not a very good measurement of what things should look like

under natural conditions. This is why objective data collection is so important. It attempts to weed out the other variables.

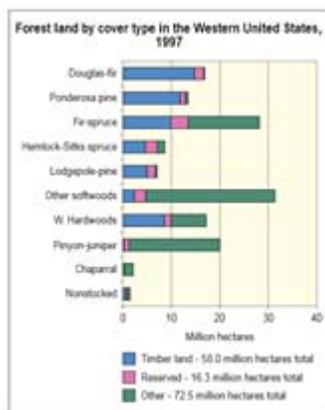
We don't want to be pesky, but while the ponderosa pine is common in the West, it is by no means the dominant tree species. See the graph below. Doug fir, fir-spruce, and pinyon-juniper far outpace pines. Just by acreage, the fire suppression story represents only a small part of what is going on out there. But if you measure the commentary here, it is the whole story.

As you know, there are multiple variables that determine how a forest grows over time. Unfortunately, fire suppression has been tagged as the cause of it all, leading to poor management decisions. We concur that fire suppression has resulted in more vegetation in lightning saturated forest landscapes. But climate is much more responsible for the big, high-severity fires we are seeing now. For example, here is a quote from a USFS research paper this past year:

"Our results suggest that wildfire burning under extreme weather conditions, as is often the case with fires that escape initial attack, can produce large areas of high-severity fire even in fuels-reduced forests with restored fire regimes."

You can get the full paper here:

<http://www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/46372>



[Like](#) · [Commented on by Jim](#) · [9 hours ago](#)



- [Jerry Amador](#) The control fire at the state park is conducted by the CAL FIRE Agency. It's to clean up the surrounding area.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [5](#) · [February 4 at 3:04pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Clean up? Can you explain what you are talking about [Jerry?](#)

[Like](#) · [3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 3:06pm](#)



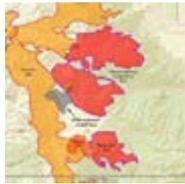
- [Jerry Amador](#) Land management. .fuel reduction what I ment. Good for the land.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 3:13pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Jerry, please read our webpage on this and get back to us. Chaparral can not survive a fire return interval of 11 years, which is what is going on.

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

californiachaparral.org

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- [Jean Hehn-Bradley](#) It takes years and years for the land to recover after a burn, natural or man made. Not to mention all the particulates put into the air by smoke.

[Unlike](#) · [3](#) · [February 4 at 4:15pm](#)



- [Megaen Kelly](#) WTF! Can't they be reported to a state department?
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 2:56pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Unfortunately, [Megaen](#), they are the state fire department.
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 3:38pm](#)



- [Megaen Kelly](#) That's disheartening
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 7:28pm](#)



- [Clayton Richard Howe](#) No it's great! Return the historic fire regime of 10,000 years. Don't be misled!
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 9:14pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Clayton](#), we don't have records beyond a few hundred years for the area.
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 12:30am](#)



- [Megaen Kelly](#) Clearly this is a polarizing topic. I object to "government" agencies getting away with circumnavigating the law that the rest of us have to follow.

[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [Yesterday at 12:35am](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Twice now the USFS "controlled burns" have almost destroyed the community that I live in. Beware!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 2:54pm](#)



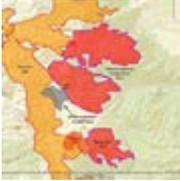
- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Th Is isn't the Forest Service. It's Cal Fire.
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 3:02pm](#)



- [Laura Barney](#) Cal Fire is right, in many circumstances. Even up here on the SLO unit.
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 3:05pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Laura](#), Cal Fire is right? Not sure what that means. Please visit this page that describes a major problem with their approach. See the details of the escaped burn in the San Felipe Valley:
<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

californiachaparral.org

[Like](#) · [Remove Preview](#) · [1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 3:37pm](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) But it's inside of the cedar fire burn scar. Imagine if they could had done this before the cedar fire. Think of how many less acres would had been impacted and how many trees would still be standing. This park needs better fuels treatment.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [10](#) · [February 4 at 2:51pm](#)

•

[Hide 16 Replies](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute Lance](#), can you please provide scientific support for your opinion?
[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 3:03pm](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Ok I'll do my best as far as fire intensity goes. If this specific area would had been properly treated before the Cedar fire such as canopy thinning and ladder fuels reduction, the stationed fire intensity would had been quite a but less, the btu comp...[See More](#)
[Like](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 3:19pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Lance, thank you. You gave a good description of a fire regime for a mixed conifer forest. However, under the severe weather and drought conditions in 2003, it is extremely doubtful fuel treatments would have done any good in Cuyamaca. There was a huge, high-severity fire in 1889 that burned most of the area too, long before the era of fire suppression. Here's a paper on the subject:
http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../K2009_Large_Fires...
[Like](#) · [1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 3:33pm](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Right but this area burned during Santa conditions. The start location was to the north west of this location. So technically it was a backing fire on the eastern facing slopes burning against the wind. Even in those circumstances it would had been easier to defend had the fuels been treated.
[Like](#) · [February 4 at 3:36pm](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Bottom line here is that in my opinion we'll ministers fire regime and fuels treatment is a good thing. Sometimes you have to break some eggs to make an omelette. Modifying a small portion of land and resources in order to protect a considerably larger habitat is better in my book than restricting an agencies ability to protect the land and homes, then later having the area nuke off and kill everything anyways.
[Like](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 3:44pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Lance](#), Cuyamaca burned Tuesday (10/27) after the Cedar Fire was finished moving west into San Diego on Monday (10/26). See linked map below. Resources were stretched thin, so not much could be done with Cuyamaca under the conditions present at the time - low humidity, long-term drought, and winds. Fuel treatments would not have helped. The forest burned not because of fuel loads, but because of the severe weather, just like in 1889.



Figure 1. Cedar fire progression map. Location of special focus study sites numbered 1-6. Fire was reported at 1537 hrs. By 0300 hrs after moving southwest, the head of the fire split just north of the Barona Casino. The branch moving toward Scripps Ranch (location #2) was thought to be a separate fire at the time because the fire's dramatic rate of spread was not fully understood. Map source USFS.

[Like · 2](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 4:07pm](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) Hmm. I think fuel management makes sense near homes. In core habitat it seems pretty problematic per the research I am aware of. I'm not sure if this area was previously chaparral or ponderosa pine forest. The ponderosas like many small intensity fires. Chaparral is fire adapted but already has as much fire as it needs or more. Burning chaparral too much turns it into annual weeds that can burn EVERY YEAR and also don't hold the soil and protect the watershed.

A lot of times people get the idea they should turn chaparral into pine forest for whatever reason but it's problematic at best. Add that to the fact that climate change is causing habitats to change anyway... Anything where you are killing one native plant to plant another is probably not great.

[Unlike · 3](#) · [February 4 at 4:08pm](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) It was a mixed conifer forest with ponderosa and Jeffrey pines with a chaparral understory, even some tecate cypress. Im pretty sure that they aren't going to convert the fuel type here to a grass type but I will agree that the are burning on the higher end of their prescription.

[Like · 2](#) · [February 4 at 4:13pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Lance, regarding the Cedar Fire, it did not nuke off and kill everything. High-severity fire is a natural event most California ecosystems. Actually what the Cedar did was restore a unique habitat - the early seral post-fire habitat, one that is continually threatened by agency "mitigation" projects like the one going on in Cuyamaca.

[Like · 3](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 4:30pm](#) · [Edited](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) PS [Lance](#), from your photo it looks like you love music. So do we. All of us here play some kind of instrument - drums, guitar, ukulele... we probably have more in common than our discussion here may suggest

[Like · 1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [February 4 at 5:02pm](#)



- [Charlie Hohn](#) hate to be repetitive but the best 'compromise' is doing fuel clearance near structures and settled areas only. going way into the mountains and lighting fires might be fun but it isn't going to solve this problem.

[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 5:50pm](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Rick, I have a lot of respect for you and your organization. I know that we can have differing opinions and still be open for new ideas and discussions. Yes I love music, and I love our local ecosystem but I had to represent the other side of this discussion. There is good in this approach to land management and I wasn't seeing that being represented.

[Unlike](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 7:11pm](#)



- [Steve Wilson](#) Hi Rick, long time, no see! I don't know what the park is doing so I won't comment. But Lance's remarks reminded me of what I do know about the Cedar Fire. The initial northeast-wind driven run of the fire was pretty much unstoppable, but fuel reduction near homes and along egress roads might have reduced intensity enough to prevent some of the loss of lives and structures. After the Santa Ana passed and a lighter west wind pushed the fire to the east, ground and ladder fuel reduction in forested areas would have lowered intensity and likely enabled earlier control. The intense run through Cuyamaca and into the Julian area, that took the life of the Novato firefighter, was more fuels driven than wind driven - extreme crown fire supported by continuous availability of ground and ladder fuels. The south east corner almost held where several blocks of the Tragedy burn project had connected a break from Pine Valley to the State Park, but the fire came through in a stringer of fuel that had been left when the final burn had been shut down before being completed, due to wind and RH exceeding burn RX. That gap in the treated area allowed the fire to spread on up to the Laguna area.

A good example of the effectiveness of ground and ladder fuel reduction is in the case of the Angora Fire near South Lake Tahoe several years back. In a nutshell, running crown fire continued through areas where ground and ladder fuels had been piled but not yet burned, but dropped to a surface fire within a couple of hundred feet of entering the area where piles had been burned, even though the final broadcast (ground litter) burn was not yet done.

ps... retirement is good, lots of music and skiing!

[Like](#) · [February 4 at 11:51pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Hi [Steve](#), good to hear from you. No argument about the potential effectiveness of fuel treatments in forests, but I will have to disagree with your speculation on what would have happened if everything went perfectly during the Cedar and if there had been more veg treatments. You know things rarely go as planned. The Tragedy Springs burn... when the fire hit that area the humidity had gone up dramatically, moderating fire behavior significantly. In addition, it was basically black ground. Research has shown that's a rare event. Most fires do not intersect fuel breaks, least of which those that have been newly treated. Regardless, blackened ground is not the condition we'd want landscapes to

remain.

The Angora Fire... a lot of homes were lost as was the case in the Grass Valley Fire despite excellent efforts by the USFS to conduct fuel treatments in both areas. You know why, of course. The homes were still flammable. Until we can address the entire fire risk reduction equation, all the millions we spend clearing veg and compromising habitat will continue to fail to meet the desired outcome.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 12:28am](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Thank you [Lance](#)!

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 1:08am](#)



- [Lance Leonhardt](#) Ironically I witnessed that crown fire on the Angora.

[Like](#) · [Yesterday at 8:06am](#)



- [Alexandra Syphard](#) omg that's what that is! I can see it from my window. sigh.



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 2:47pm](#)



- [Clayton Richard Howe](#) Oh please.....

[Like](#) · [February 4 at 9:26pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Try to turn up the class a bit, [Clayton](#).

[Like](#) · Commented on by [Jim](#) · [Yesterday at 12:08am](#)



- [Ernie Smith](#) They use CEQA exemptions all the time, take a look at the west Black Oak freeway on Middle Peak, formally known as the single track Black Oak Trail.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 2:35pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) [Ernie](#), there really are not any exemptions unless there is an emergency. Prescribed burns must be within the certified Vegetation Management Plan. They are drafting a new one which we have been monitoring. You can find out more here:

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../helpcalfireeir.html>



[Cal Fire habitat clearance plan](#)

Major Threat to Nature in California - 1/3 of state targeted for habitat clearance
californiachaparral.org

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- [Ernie Smith](#) Exception and blanket are indeed not part of CEQA, yet the park system uses those terms when it suits them. The masticator use on Middle Peak, use of a bulldozer to grade a road on Middle Peak for the tree farm. They also invoke CEQA when it suits them, i.e. when the recreational uses requests tent pads in the campgrounds or light equipment use for trail maintenance.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 5:56pm](#)



- [Clayton Richard Howe](#) Isn't it sad what the Gold Spotted Oak Borer is doing to our Oaks? Could fire drive it back out because of a higher fire return interval than Arizona?



- [Tom Caves](#) Cal-Fire uses that exemption for burning alot..... Bottom line is that regular burnning is part of the chaparral eco-system...

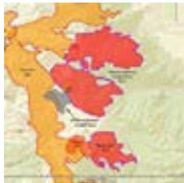
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 2:27pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Actually [Tom](#), Cal Fire does not use emergency exemptions. This is a special case where the park used a maneuver they know was illegal. Please read the webpage cited in the post.

Secondly, yes fire is part of the chaparral ecosystem. But the problem we have now is that there are too many fires. Case in point, they are burning an area that burned in 2003. That is NOT enough time for the system to recover properly. Such short time intervals between fires leads to type conversion. Please see this page:

<http://www.californiachaparral.org/.../dprescribedfire.html>



[Prescribed fire damaging to chaparral](#)

Prescribed fires have a place in certain...

californiachaparral.org

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- [Ali Sheehy](#) Regular burning is not part of any ecosystem. Regular burning is causing seral change to primary type (grassland which is now primarily Mediterranean exotic annuals.) Chaparral disappears with frequent fire as roots are destroyed and seed source is depleted. Humans cause 94% of all fires south of Sacramento so fires are a problem with poor planning and road/recreation development causing more frequent interface. Agencies need to work on managing people a lot more and keeping hands off nature everywhere but in the immediate wildland:urban interface.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 5:59pm](#)



- [Gene Emory](#) Except....most wildland in California is urban interface. Obviously doing nothing showed you the results of that failed theory. Let the professionals do their job, preserving and protecting California resources.

[Like](#) · [5](#) · [February 4 at 8:39pm](#)



- [The California Chaparral Institute](#) Not sure Gene what you are addressing here.
[Like](#) · [Commented on by Jim](#) · [18 hours ago](#)



- [Ali Sheehey](#) Uh, right all of California is wildland urban interface. Keeping drinking the logging company koolaid Gene.

[Like](#) · [17 hours ago](#)



- [Pamela Haas](#) Where is the unlike button. Our government at work...
[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [Yesterday at 6:31am](#)



- [Paul Hormick](#) Senseless.
[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 8:45pm](#)



- [Sandy Kuntz](#) Looked like an awfully big plume for a controlled burn. Did they keep it to "only" 100 acres? With so many burned areas up there, will there be any non-burned areas to hike in, and for wildlife to find shelter in? Not to mention the air pollution.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 7:24pm](#)



- [Al Kelley](#) GOTTA MAKE SURE THERE'S NOT EVEN 1 CONIFER LEFT!
[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 6:04pm](#)



- [Judith Lewis Mernit](#) You educated me about chaparral and fire almost a decade ago, and I thought the argument was settled. Guess not! Might be time for an update.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 5:56pm](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Not to mention the "controlled burn" that the USFS and Cal Fire turned the Santiago Fire into while my entire community was evacuated for ten long days.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 5:49pm](#)



- [Royal Fraser](#) Thank you for reporting what is happening up there today. None of the local news sources have reported any news about this but rather repeat lock step what Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Cal Fire are saying.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 5:48pm](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) "We had to destroy the forest to save it."

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 5:48pm](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) My point is, "controlled burns" sometimes get out of control and sometimes burn homes. It was only a change in the wind direction that prevented the Coal Canyon Fire (or maybe it was the Sierra Peak Fire, they both burned the same area) from decimating Orange Park Acres. In the other fire I was referring to, the "controlled burn" in the Cleveland National Forest's Harding Canyon was blown out of control by Santa Ana winds and raced down populated Modjeska Canyon. The only reason my home didn't burn down was because my neighbor was home from work sick and put out several spot fires in my yard.

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- [Dave Hogan](#)



[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [February 4 at 4:01pm](#)



- [Dave Hogan](#) The view from Mount Laguna. CalFire lost control of a prescribed fire in the same area one year ago.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 4:01pm](#)



- [Janet Jankowski](#) Wrong !!

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 3:49pm](#)



- [John Stump](#) I've been a life long resident of Santa Barbara County. In the '70s I fought wildfires with a hot shot unit. As an environmentalist I know that highly diverse chaparral ecosystems are endangered. We have a chaparral 'preserve', ie no human entry but a few do hike there. If they have to make preserves that tells us they are endangered as are flora phenomena like vernal pools, many important ones which were destroyed in a UCSB housing expansion development. Endangerment is a man made It's caused by urban and cities crawl. The meta

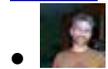
question we need to look at is why are we building residential tracts in the Chaparral zone, aka the fire zone? We need to rethink that and also learn about what kind of structures are immune to fire.

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- [Renee Owens](#) I am watching the big plume from my house as it gets bigger and bigger. As someone who has been an environmental consultant for brush / fuel management projects in this very region, I am sad to see such an irresponsible and unscientifically sound 'management' strategy being perpetrated on our beautiful state park. A prescribed burn in a region recovering from a massive wildfire just 12 years ago is a absurd. This is about politics at best, stupid egos at worst. No science here.

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- [Jim Chialtas](#) You have quite the up hill battle there Rick! The ignorance pervasive in our different agencies regarding sound science within the Chaparral ecosystem should baffle me but it doesn't.

The comments I am reading here are a sad state of affairs where government and private industry seem to have the upper hand on what people "know" as fact.

Question the status quo people! Don't listen to the beurocrats. Listen to the scientists who are not paid by the very agencies who put on burns like this. This somehow feels a lot like the people who might support Monsanto as looking out for our best interests. Yeah right....

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- [Michael O'brien](#) flat out illegal use of the exemption. an "emergency" is something that requires IMMEDIATE attention to forestall an even worse situation.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 2:48pm](#)



- [Jill Munsell Conger](#) Thanks for this posting. I saw the smoke on my walk home and figured it was an unplanned fire. Just ugh!

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- [Lucy Furr](#) noooooooo

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 2:31pm](#)



- [Diane Gage](#) DON'T like.

[Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [February 4 at 2:29pm](#)



- [Carol Selter](#) infuriating! they continue to wreck this park. what is their problem???
- [Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [5](#) · [February 4 at 2:16pm](#)



- [Geoffrey Smith](#) oh shit
- [Unlike](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 2:13pm](#)



- [Dave Brown](#) The column looks fine and from what I can see in this picture the smoke is venting and the burn looks good. Better to do it now then later when the Santa Anas are blowing.
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [4](#) · [12 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) What a bunch of nutjobs on here that believe anything they are told. You suppress fire for 100 years, you cause the ecosystem to change. Add invasive species to that and you just expect Mother Nature to take care of it on her own? Man has to intervene in management! Destructive fires burn because we do nothing. Reducing fuels (ladder fuels and ground fuels) and thinning out crowded tree canopies allows fire to move through less destructively. Fire has always had a natural role in these ecosystems and always will. But we can adapt to how that role will play out. It will never go away. We can sit back and let fuels accumulate and watch the destruction when it happens or chose to be proactive and lessen its impacts when it happens.
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [4](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Reyna Arce](#) People calm yourself always worried about the environment and not other things. They burn in order to prevent a huge fire
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [3](#) · [February 4 at 4:09pm](#)



- [Pat Bauer](#) If your experience tells you that's too much smoke for a prescribed burn. Exactly what is your experience with prescribed fire?
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Soren Fleming](#) You mean i shut this whole thread down people hate truth and logic
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Jason Porter](#) Their objectives make solid scientific sense to me. Fire is a natural role player in our ecosystems and its good to see its return as a management tool on the landscape. Less prescribed fire means more, catastrophic, destructive wildfire.
- [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Mandie Carter](#) Don't burns cause Poodle Dog Bush to pop up? After miles of dodging the stinky, rash giving bush and enduring hot, boring road walk detours on the PCT, I can tell you

Poodle Dog Bush sucks big time. The land did just fine before we decided it needed to be managed.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 5:40pm](#)



- [Cara Roberts Furio](#) Just going to say it....FREAKING STUPID, is this burn.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [February 4 at 5:00pm](#)



- [Martin Jorgensen](#) Suspected practices? Your ignorance is showing. You are approaching the complex issue of vegetation management from one skewed perspective and ignoring all the other factors that figure in. You are promoting your version of science and downplaying everyone else's. The problem with that is a lot of us have worked in this field our entire lives, and we've read, seen and lived the science for decades. We've seen what works in the field, and what does not. We've seen how hundreds of burns revegetated themselves, with and without human assistance. Some of us have even gone as far as to speak to the native American elders about how they used fire to help manage the environment around them. (I personally put a lot more validity in their oral histories than a lot of the so-called science being postulated now days). Though I applaud your concern for the chaparral ecosystem and your efforts to protect it, the only way you'll ever create any change is to convince everybody (including the professionals in the field) that your ideas are valid. From many of the comments I'm reading you're not being very successful in that endeavor.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [12 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) I could go into research and numbers, but its really right there in front of you guys. Stop looking at recent history and at least look into 100 year history. Its hard because fuel loading records dont go back that far but you can reference photo graphs. This one prescribed fire isnt going to acutely fix the problem, but the concept, if adopted would save so many homes, so much habitat. There are RX burns that get out, that will do damage, because it is done so little! Halting these rx burns halts people gaining valuable expirience with this method, and it stops a natural routine. I know more about this than my choice words lead you to believe. I get so heated about this because it is sooo misunderstood. I understand your love for Chaparral but your claims are pretty selfish. Do you realize you are the one going against nature's will with these views, and we are the ones for it?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Austin Waits](#) Wow, did not realize how ignorant the public remains to be.

Sad, just really sad.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



-

- [Mike Boeck](#) The truth is, if we control burned every piece of vegetation in the above photo to the ground, including all landscaping, it would prevent future fires from engulfing entire neighborhoods. Where do we draw the line? That's what this discussion is about.

[Like](#) · [about an hour ago](#)



- [Martha Baker](#) Not only was the Cuyamaca fire larger than it should have been but CalFire also did an ever bigger burn on Mt. Laguna. Here are pictures of the insidious pollution from the two fires in a relatively small part of East County that has us asthmatics breathing with difficulty tonight. CalFire needs some new direction. THis photo shows how pervasive the air pollution was in East County.



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 8:56pm](#)



- [Jason McAhren](#) Martha, please get your facts straight... The USFS did burn in mount Laguna today but it was considerably smaller then the other burn today... Btw the burn in Laguna was to help protect your community!!!

[Like](#) · [February 4 at 9:22pm](#)



- [Martha Baker](#) Jason, I beg to differ. The Laguna fire produced far more smoke and ash. I spoke with firefighters at the Pine Valley fire station and even they were surprised at the impact.

[Like](#) · [Yesterday at 8:43am](#)



- [Martha Baker](#) I am not against control burns at all. I am against massive amounts of air pollution that could have been abated had the agencies coordinated their burns on different days.

[Like](#) · [1](#) · [Yesterday at 8:50am](#)



- [Samuel Edward McBride](#) Been burning 3.5 hours now, huge smoke plume
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 3:33pm](#)



- [Ral Christman](#) Agree with your efforts also btw. More watch dogs on the environment is so important. I praise your efforts.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Mike Boeck](#) Man's "management" of the planet using "best management practices" seems to be less of a success than desired. Maybe it's mankind itself that presents the clear and present danger, not fire. Those who believe they have all the answers with their ecosystem management procedures would do well to study further. This field of endeavor is constantly changing and progressing. There are NO white and black solutions at the present time and nobody's plans are infallible, including the controlled burn proponents. I am attempting to open this discussion to differing viewpoints; those who insist theirs is the ONLY valid opinion are the ones with the problem.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2 hours ago](#)



- [Ral Christman](#) It worked in the past. The one ethnographic study about the Native peoples migrating to the desert as a response to the fires was a story that gave reasoning to do the prescribed burns. It worked..and that is why it was continued in this area. Even when Europeans arrived they saw smoke coming off the land. The burns were smaller to be managed, and the management was more active. According to Oral tradition it was working. So I Respectfully agree to disagree. Burn on Cuyamaca.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2 hours ago](#) · [Edited](#)



- [Timeless Environments](#) Wow, I feel totally exhausted after reading all of this. Need a vacation. Oh wait, I am on vacation. Need to get off FB and other social networking sites *sigh*
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [8 hours ago](#)



- [Jon Hedman](#) SHUT UP PEOPLE AND LET US TRY TO.FIX IT..end of story...or meet me on the the end of 6s22...and the best MAN wins...
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [10 hours ago](#)



- [Peg Beemer](#) HMM, considering that yesterday and tomorrow, there are wood-burning bans throughout southern California because of high particulate pollution, I this this demonstrates more than just poor judgement.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [11 hours ago](#)



- [Nancy Wilson](#) Pretty risky.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [14 hours ago](#)



- [Laurie Manno](#) The Yellowstone Fire in the 90's I believe was awful , but it also did alot of good as well, I was in the hellroring which is about 8 miles above Yellowstone not long after the fire and got to see 1st.hand the tragedy of what a fire can do. I was there 12 years after and one would not know something bad had happened. Fires are bad and at the same time good! Ever watch zero population, within 236 years u would never know that humans were ever here, Let mother nature do what she going to do!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Joyce Daubert](#) Frightened me seriously while driving home to Ramona. Everyday that nothing is aflame, is a good day for me.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) Here*

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Jerry Serabia](#) .

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Andrew Cherry](#) I have never seen so many ignorant comments on a thread as this one. You people in the general public need to get you facts straight. You need to do some research. Some of you give Californians a bad name. Go hug a tree until you really understand what is being fixed hear. Sad.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [16 hours ago](#)



- [Lin Penrose](#) Fires are natural and needed by the plant communities for survival and succession to the next level of vegetation that in turn supports abundant life, regardless of human social fears of properties harmed. Yes, I have experienced those fears & fires face to face. What does "burn" me is the use of Round-up and other non natural poisons/herbicides for fire fuel reduction. Also, the scraping and raping of so much precious top soil, plant and animal life along with those actions. Our human egos need a good waking up that we are not the only life that counts on this planet. Think we are about to get some very severe lessons from our provider.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [21 hours ago](#)



- [Toni Baugh McIver](#) Yea. Mulch will help the environment instead of choking it ☐
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 7:53am](#)



- [Brett ScrubRat Ritchey](#) So every time we have a fire, ten years after, transitional species take hold and eventually (at the right elevation and climate), the forest returns. How will that ever happen if they continually burn any time vegetation appears?
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 9:08pm](#)



- [Brett ScrubRat Ritchey](#) I was going to ask you guys about this glad you're on it.
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 9:06pm](#)



- [Martha Baker](#) At 5 p.m. in Pine Valley, ash was falling like snowflakes!



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:59pm](#)



- [Martha Baker](#) The Cuyamaca fire still burning after 5 p.m.



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:58pm](#)



- [Sharon Reeve](#) This is just disgusting!
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:53pm](#)



- [Sharon Reeve](#) I wrote to Kevin Best to oppose this activity.

[Unlike](#) · [1](#) · [February 4 at 8:56pm](#)



- [Betsy Livingstone](#) Boo.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:30pm](#)



- [Laura Camp](#) those people are out of their minds. If they had just left it alone except to control weeds. But no.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:22pm](#)



- [Edward Graham](#) Figures that it looks like an elephant(RNC).

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 6:26pm](#)



- [Jeanne Marie](#) Oh dear. I told my daughter that looked like a smoke cloud when I picked her up from school about 5. Looks like I was right.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 5:58pm](#)



- [Susan Brown](#) Whaaaaaat!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 5:17pm](#)



- [Denise Learned](#) I saw this while I was driving into work at 2 pm but I'm stupid I thought it was a funny looking cloud

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 5:09pm](#)



- [Ian Swift](#) Uncool

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 4:58pm](#)



- [Coleen Cunniff Huang](#) Were they burning yesterday further north near Santa Isabel, as well? Saw smoke coming from that direction yesterday but MUCH smaller plume.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 3:38pm](#)



- [Patricia Lee Edwards](#) we just saw this plume of smoke from Oceanside

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 2:44pm](#)



- [Steve Mudge](#) After having not seen the Cuyumaca Mts. area for many years I was appalled after driving thru there last year and seeing the devastating decline in the abundance of chaparral and mixed evergreen woodlands---the place looks like a savannah now---too many burns in too little time.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Yesterday at 4:31am](#)



- [Chris Lyon](#)



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [February 4 at 8:13pm](#)



- [Jon Hedman](#) I'M FRIGGIN SERIOUS AT THIS POINT...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [10 hours ago](#)

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-