



COVELL RANCH FOREST HEALTH FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

PROJECT PARTNERS:

CAL FIRE
COVELL RANCH AND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL
UPPER SALINAS-LAS TABLAS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
AUTEN RESOURCE CONSULTING
RESOLUTE ASSOCIATES

STEVE AUTEN – REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER #2734



Covell Ranch – Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project



Project Goal:

Increase the health and vigor of the Monterey Pine Forest by conducting ecologically restorative forest health treatments that increase climate resiliency and biological diversity, and reduce the severity of wildfire near the community of Cambria, California



Covell Ranch – Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project



Team Introductions:

- CAL FIRE
- San Luis Obispo County FireSafe Council
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
- Auten Resource Consulting



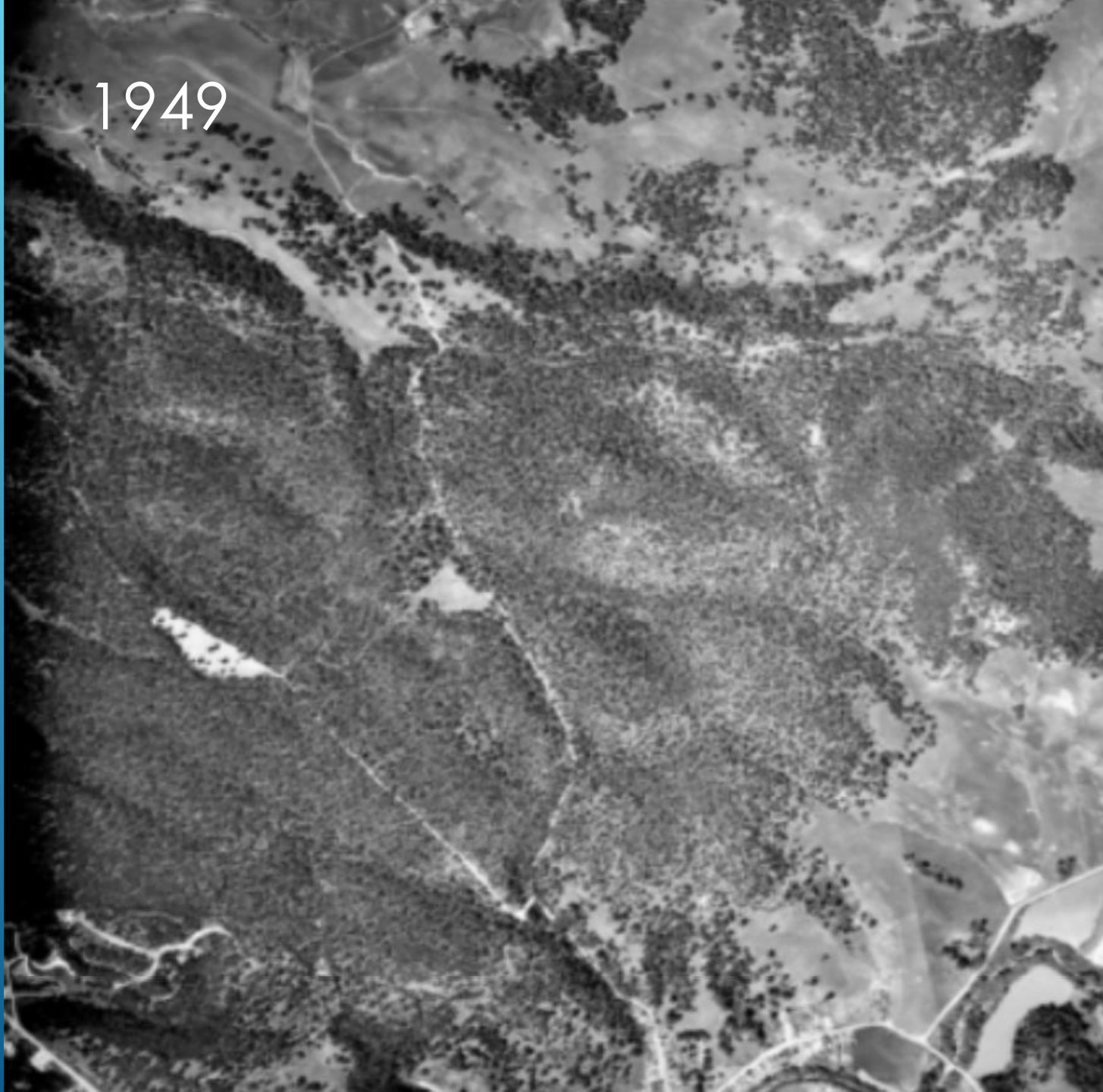


1937





1949





1956





Image U. S. Geological Survey



2014

12/2014





2021

3/2021





Covell Ranch – Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project

Today's Condition:





Covell Ranch – Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project

Today's Condition:





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Treatment Description:

- Treatment unit work, based on funding, would be completed over a 10-year period and include:
 - Spacing out of healthy trees in the understory targeting dead, dying, and diseased trees, 8 inches in diameter and less.*
 - Retention of micro stands of oaks and downed woody debris.
 - Understory shrubs shall be trimmed leaving the root systems intact to resprout while retaining micro stands of understory shrubs spaced out to maintain a level of habitat continuity.
 - No trimming of Douglas-fir trees, California buckeye, hydrophytic vegetation such as bracken fern, Carex spp, rushes or blue elderberry.
 - Pile burning of residual dead material predominantly made up of dead limbs.



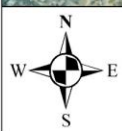
Covell Ranch Forest Health Fuels Reduction Project Treatment Units (665 acres total)

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Cambria, CA - San Luis Obispo County

T27S, R8E, Portions of Sections 14, 15, 16, & 23 and Portions of Santa Rosa Rancho (Estrada)

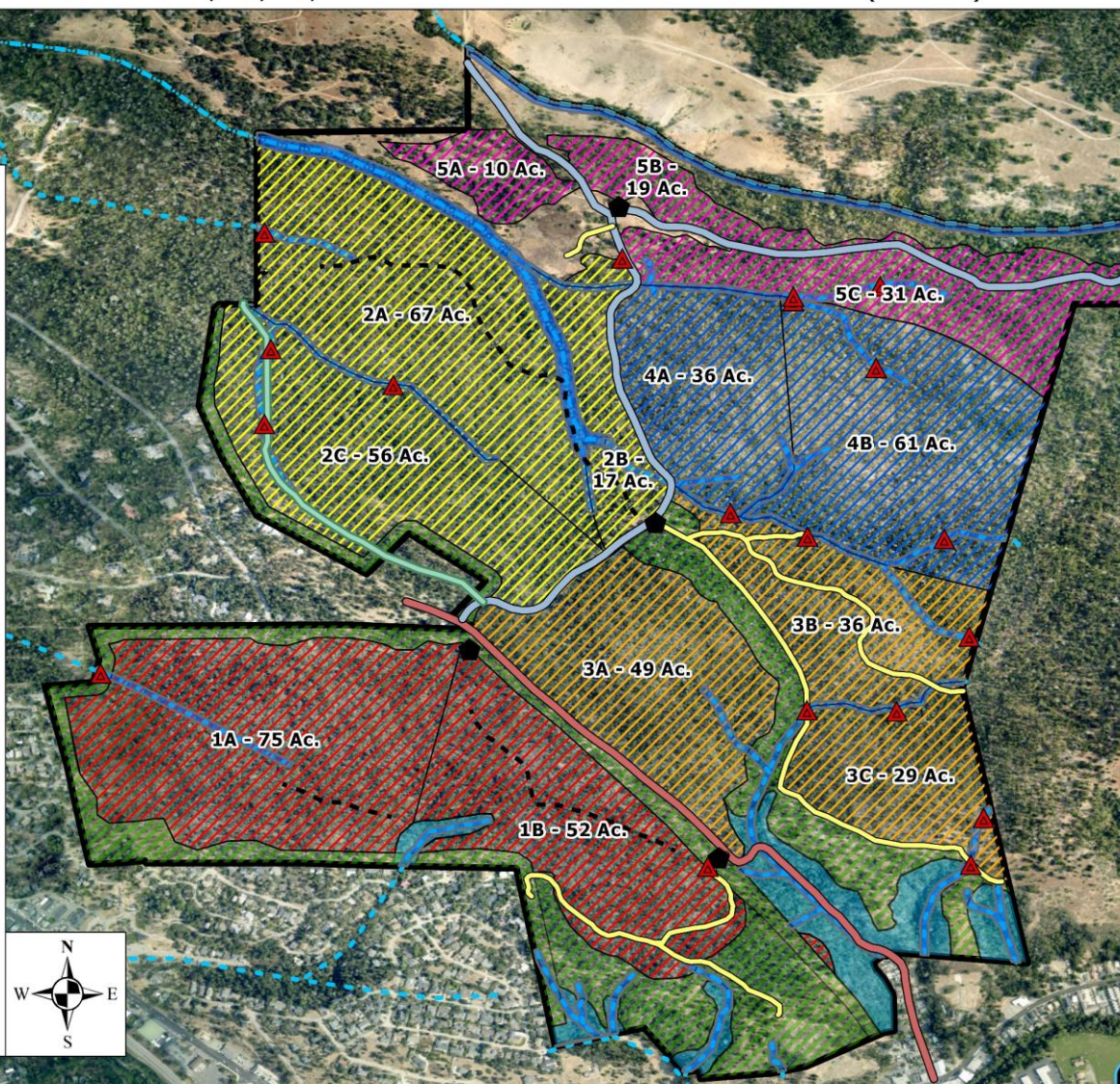
Legend

-  Treatment Unit 1 (127 acres)
-  Treatment Unit 2 (140 acres)
-  Treatment Unit 3 (113 acres)
-  Treatment Unit 4 (97 acres)
-  Treatment Unit 5 (60 acres)
-  Handwork (31 acres)
-  Existing Shaded Fuel Break (97 acres)
-  Covell Ranch Project Boundary
-  Equipment Access Points
-  Staging Areas
-  Bridge Street
-  Appurtenant Road
-  Seasonal Unpaved Road
-  Historic Road
-  Foot Trails
-  Class II Stream
-  Class III Stream
-  Well Casing



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 US Feet

Map Scale 1:7,500



MRM 05-24-21









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Project Timeline:

- Concurrent with the Public Works Plan (PWP) proposal to go to the Coastal Commission in October, the final CalVTP Project Specific Analysis (PSA) is to be voted on at the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Board meeting on September 16th. Comments directed to: <https://www.usltrcd.org/usltrcd-forest-health-and-fire-resilience-public-works-plan>
- The Coastal Commission hearing for both items will be on the agenda at the October Coastal Commission meeting between October 12th – 14th. Actual date to be determined. Date within this range is yet to be assigned.
- Project implementation for Unit 1 could begin to occur in fall if relatively dry weather conditions persist.





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Questions?

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