

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

University of California
College of Agriculture
and
United States Department of Agriculture
Co-operating

Extension Service
Farm Advisor Work
Agriculture Club Work
Home Demonstration Work

Post Office Building
Madera, California

CONTROL BRUSH BURNING PROGRAM FOR MADERA COUNTY

1951 SCHEDULE OF BURNS

(Revised)

1. Buchenau - Turk	Raymond	3000 Acre	June 30 - July 1
2. Arthur Demney	Raymond	1500 Acre	July 7 - 8
3. Jim Kates	Ahwahnee	500 Acre	July 14 - 15
4. Shiplor - Carter #1	O'Neals	1000 Acre	July 21 - 22
5. Stivers	O'Neals	5500 Acre	July 28 - 29
6. Oakhurst	Oakhurst	3500 Acre	August 4 - 5
7. Bigelow - DeMello	O'Neals	3500 Acre	August 11 - 12
8. Everett Ellis	North Fork	2000 Acre	August 18 - 19
9. Shiplor - Carter #2	O'Neals	4000 Acre	August 25 - 26
10. Ecker	O'Neals	2000 Acre	September 1 - 2
11. Ahwahnee Experimental	Ahwahnee	690 Acres	September 4
12. North Fork	North Fork	2200 Acres	September 8



CONTROL BRUSH BURNING PROGRAM FOR MADERA COUNTY

1951 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Madera County Control Brush Burning Committee

Gordon Throne, Chairman
John O'Neal
Ed Moran
Jim Kates

O'Neals - Northfork Area

John O'Neal, Chairman
Bill Ryan
Jess Biglow
Harry Vanderburgh
Ernest Mason
Everett Ellis
Gordon Throne
Neil McDougal

Ahwahnee - Raymond Area

Jim Kates, Chairman
W. C. Turk
Jim Kates, Sr.
Hugh Miller
Paul Mundt
Jack Harrell
George Crooks

Oakhurst - Coarsegold Area

Ed Moran, Chairman
John Wight
Lindsay Wright
Ray Murray
Walt Goree
E. Coe
Hubb McAllister
Willard Shaffer
Lester Bissett

CONTROL BRUSH BURNING PROGRAM FOR MADERA COUNTY

1951

I GENERAL

The Madera County Control Brush Burning Committee was organized three years ago and has successfully conducted many control brush burns in the county. During these three years the committee has sponsored the burning of approximately 30,000 acres. The burning of this large acreage has demonstrated the feasibility of the use of control burning and the converting of waste brush land into profitable grass land range. In order to complete the conversion of this brush land to grass land, it will be necessary to re-burn in order to kill brush seedlings and sprouts. With this in mind, it becomes the policy of the County Committee to give priority in the scheduling of each year's burns to the control burns that are re-burns.

II ORGANIZATION

1. The brush covered areas in Madera County shall be divided into three Control Brush Burning Areas.

O'Neals - North Fork
Ahwahnee - Raymond
Oakhurst - Coarsegold

2. Land owners and operators in each of the three areas hold a meeting early in the year to make plans for the coming season, hear reports, and select chairman. The Chairman in turn selects four or more committee men to work with him. Subsequently, meetings may be held as the occasion demands.

3. Each area Control Brush Burning Committee, aided by the Farm Advisor and the State Forest Ranger, develops a control burning program for that community. This is generally a coordination of the plans of the individuals for their particular ranches.

4. The County Control Brush Burning Committee is composed of the Chairman and committeemen of the three areas.

5. The County Control Brush Burning Committee coordinates the programs of the separate areas into a County Control Brush Burning Program.

6. The Farm Advisor and State Forest Ranger cooperate with the County Committee and the several area Control Brush Burning Committees in organizing and conducting the coordinated programs.

7. The County Committee will seek the cooperation of the University of California and the Agricultural Extension Service in the educational and experimental phases of the program. The cooperation of the State Division of Forestry and the United States Forest Service will be welcomed.

III THE INDIVIDUAL LAND OWNER OR OPERATOR WHO DESIRES TO PRACTICE CONTROL BRUSH BURNING WILL:

1. Consult with the local area Control Brush Burning Committee regarding a

control burn and brush clearance program for his land.

2. Consult with the Farm Advisor if he so desires for suggestions as to method of brush control and as to reseeding, deferred grazing, and other methods of management after burning so as to get the best use from his land.

3. Draw up a brush control program for his ranch which will include:
- a. Measures to be taken before burning.
 - b. Detailed plans for conducting the control brush burning.
 - c. Follow-up measures to keep the brush under control such as re-burn within two to four years and reseeding where natural grasses will not establish themselves.

4. Go over the proposed control burn area with the State Forest Ranger and Farm Advisor and the Area Control Brush Burning Committee and agree on location of firebreaks and measures to be taken to eliminate danger spots. At this time, the man who will be in charge of the fire, known as the "fire boss," will be selected. This will either be the land operator or some local rancher experienced in fire fighting and/or control brush burning.

5. File with the State Forest Ranger his application for permission to burn (this application does not absolve the owner of liability in case the fire damages the property of neighbors.)

6. Eliminate during the winter and spring as many danger spots as possible along the firebreak, particularly along lee side.

7. Construct any necessary firebreaks around the area to be burned. It is very desirable to have the fire guard so located and constructed that motorized equipment can go clear around the fire even if it is necessary to take in or leave out a few acres.

8. Notify the County Committee, the Farm Advisor, and the State Forest Ranger when the necessary fireguards have been made and control measures taken. They will inspect the fireguard and other safety measures and will advise with the rancher on a detailed plan of operation for the control brush burning.

9. Check with the State Forest Ranger as soon as possible before the desired burning date and secure burning permit. A few days before the burn, notify neighbors, in writing, that the brush will be burned off.

10. On the date of burning:

- a. The operator of the land should have available the necessary fire fighting equipment. He should have a pickup or truck with cans of drinking water and water for back pumps and extra fire tools. The "fire boss" should patrol around the fire line advising the crews on each side as to the progress, whether they should speed up or slow down and whether one crew or the other needs help, etc. It will create a much better community feeling if the owner or owners provide coffee and sandwiches for the crews.
- b. The "fire boss" should select two or more good men as "sector bosses", one to be in charge of each crew taking the back firing around the fire line, seeing that the crew doesn't go too fast or too slow. That adequate guards are left at danger spots, etc. He will supervise the men during the actual "back firing" to see that they go at the right speed.

11. The land owner in conjunction with the "fire boss" will have sufficient crew remain on the job to properly patrol the area subsequent to burning. It might be difficult to get neighbors to stay and do this patrol work after the burn.

12. As far as possible, carry out the follow-up program to keep the brush under control as agreed upon with the Area Control Brush Burning Committee.

IV
DUTIES OF AREA CONTROL BRUSH
BURNING COMMITTEE

1. Make survey of the district to determine areas to be cleared through burning, need for community firebreaks, etc., etc.

2. Draw up tentative plans for firebreak construction and brush clearance for the area including locations of firebreaks, method, equipment to be used, costs, schedule of operations, personnel needed and available, community cooperation, follow-up work in land use, re-burning, planting, etc.

3. Review all applications for permit to control burn any brush lands within the community, together with the accompanying follow-up land use plan.

4. Aid and encourage farmers who file applications for control brush burning permits to develop a sound program of land use for their property including increase of feed resources, reduction of fire hazard, fire prevention, and control of erosion.

5. Encourage ranchers to file applications for control burning permits during the winter or early spring.

6. Encourage farmers to eliminate, during the winter, all danger spots along the proposed fire line.

7. Encourage community cooperation in fire guard construction, control burning, fire hazard reduction.

8. Submit the plans for their area to the County Control Brush Burning Committee.

9. Help control burning activities in the community.

V
DUTIES OF THE COUNTY
CONTROL BURNING COMMITTEE

1. Draw up and announce a general over-all program for Control Brush Burning in Madera County so as to make best use of such personnel and equipment as may be available.

2. Review plans submitted by Area Committees for control brush burning (and land use and management) within their communities, suggesting necessary or desirable changes where needed.

3. Settle any conflicts as between communities or individuals as to burning dates, use of equipment and personnel, etc.

4. Assign to each community certain dates during the dry season when fire will most effectively kill the brush and clean up the debris, so that (1) property owners and area committees may know approximately when to plan burning operations, and (2) best use can be made of State Division of Forestry's equipment and personnel for standby use during control burning, when such is available.

5. Establish the boundaries of each Control Brush Burning Area. Within the areas of each Control Brush Burning Area, the program will be administered by the Area Control Brush Burning Committee.

6. During 1951 the County Committee will:

- a. Seek the cooperation of the County PMA Committee in encouraging brush removal through PMA payments.
- b. Endeavor to secure the cooperation of the Control Brush Burning Committee in neighboring counties through the San Joaquin Valley Range Improvement Committee.
- c. Endeavor to secure the cooperation of County Control Brush Burning Committees in other counties of the State to organize a State-wide Brush Control Committee which will work for (1) a coordinated state-wide brush control program, (2) increase of research and experimental work on brush control, (3) desirable State and Federal legislation, (4) an educational program on the benefits of brush control.
- d. Conduct an educational program to acquaint all of the people of Madera County as to the necessity for and benefits of brush control through control burning and otherwise.

VI
DUTIES OF THE
STATE DIVISION OF FORESTRY

1. Aid in the drawing up, organization, and development of the program in the county when requested by Committees.

2. Consult with the County Control Brush Burning Committee and the local Area Control Brush Burning Committee on invitation, regarding the various phases of the Control Brush Burning Program.

3. Aid Area Control Brush Burning Committees in surveying and drawing up a Control Brush Burning Program for their several Areas when requested.

4. Accept applications from farmers for control brush burning permits.

5. On receipt of such application, in company with the area Control Brush Burning Committee, visit applicant and discuss with him the area to be burned, the construction of fireguards and other precautionary measures to be taken and elimination of danger spots.

6. On day of control brush burning, provide crew and equipment for standby purposes if available.

VII
THE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
IN MADERA COUNTY WILL:

1. Aid in drawing up, organization, and development of the brush burning program, as requested by the County and Area Committees.
2. Aid in conducting an educational campaign on land use, land clearance, reseeding, increasing feed supplies, erosion prevention, and control and fire prevention.
3. Aid in carrying on various experiments and test plots in relation to brush removal, control burning, reseeding, and any other phases of use of brush covered lands.

APPENDIX I ORIGINAL 1948 GENERAL STATEMENT

The Madera County Control Brush Burning Committee believes that controlling the more than 200,000 acres of brush covered lands in Madera County and getting this land into grass would mean -

1. MORE WATER for people, for stock and for irrigation.
2. MORE FEED for livestock and game.
3. MORE MEAT for California's increasing population.
4. MORE TIMBER.
5. MORE GAME BIRDS, DEER and wild life.
6. HIGHER INCOMES to ranchers, merchants, etc.
7. HIGHER LAND VALUES
8. MORE TAX REVENUES.
9. LOWER FIRE FIGHTING COSTS.
10. LOWER FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS.
11. LESS FIRE DAMAGE.
12. LESS EROSION.
13. LESS RUNOFF AND FLOOD DAMAGE.

Brush is increasing in density throughout most of the mountain area of Madera County above the 800 foot elevation. An energetic program to control this brush by control burning and otherwise is needed. The fullest cooperation, not only of all residents of the brush areas of the County, but of the County, State and Federal authorities is needed. Likewise, the sympathetic understanding of the residents of the cities and farms of the County.

The object of the control Brush Burning Program in Madera County is to set up a plan which will enable owners and operators of brush covered lands to cooperate in removing their brush by control burning with the cooperation of the State Division of Forestry, as provided by law. It is expected that this system of lawful, cooperative control burning will discourage and eliminate unlawful, deliberate wild burning. The Program sets up Community and County Control Brush Burning Committees which provide leadership in encouraging individual ranchers to draw up and carry through detailed plans for control burning and land use, and in coordinating these plans into Community and County Programs.

Ranchers of Madera County have long been interested in the use of control burning as a means of brush removal to increase the forage production of their land. The first organized effort in this respect was made through the Ahwahnee Experimental Control Burning Committee organized in 1941.

The dangers of control burning are well recognized, as well as the possibilities of law suits resulting from damage caused by fires. It is an accepted principle of law in California that negligence must be proven before a court will award damages resulting from the escape of a lawful control burn. Furthermore, it is now possible to secure a comprehensive liability insurance policy which enables farmers to be protected against losses arising from damage suits which might result from a control burn.

There are many unsolved problems connected with the permanent clearing of brush covered lands. One single burn usually results in a reinfestation of brush, more dense than existed prior to the burning. To prevent this reinfestation, further effort is needed. This can be done by a number of different methods, including use of bulldozers and other machinery, reburning, reseeding to desirable range plants, controlled and timely grazing by livestock, or by a combination of these systems. No one method will suit all ranches. The best procedure to follow will take the combined judgment of the rancher and his Community Committeemen, with the advice, where desired, of the Farm Advisor or the State Forest Ranger. Because of the difficulties and dangers involved in control brush burning, it is important that the rancher draw up a detailed plan for the control burning and for the follow up use of his land. This plan should include (1) safety measures to prevent escape of the control fire during or after burning (2) doing the burning so as to get an effective job done safely, and (3) a follow up program to keep the brush from re-infesting his land.

The Madera County Control Brush Burning Program sets up a method whereby local committees of ranchers can cooperate with the State Division of Forestry in drawing up and carrying through a program of brush removal through burning or otherwise that can result in the material reduction of wild fires, reduce the cost of fire suppression to the tax payer in increasing the supply of water for domestic, livestock and irrigation use, and finally, in the permanent improvement of the use of the land.