CalVTP MMRP Implementation Tools

Chaparral or Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat Measures Flow Chart

No

Suitable habitat for chapparal or coastal sage scrub not present

Proceed with treatment¹

Yes

Avoid all suitable habitat with potential for chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub

Proceed with treatment¹

Is suitable habitat for chaparral or coastal sage scrub present (SPR BIO-1)?

Yes

Is avoidance of suitable habitat with potential for chaparral or coastal sage scrub possible?

No

Conduct surveys to determine alliance level, condition class, and fire return interval departure for chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat (SPR BIO-1 and SPR BIO-5)

Review **SPR BIO-5** in full (**NOTE:** conditions of chaparral and/or coastal sage scrub need to be assessed for each vegetation type)

Determine the appropriate spatial scale at which to consider type conversion and substantiate the appropriateness of that scale.

With a qualified RPF or qualified biologist and in consideration of survey results, design treatments that avoid environmental effects of type conversion in chaparral and coastal sage scrub at the appropriate spatial scale.

Maintain a minimum percent cover of mature native shrubs within the treatment area to maintain habitat function specific to the vegetation alliances that are present in the treatment area.

Mature native shrubs that are retained will be distributed contiguously or in patches within the stand. If the stand consists of multiple age classes, patches representing a range of middle to old age classes will be retained to maintain and improve heterogeneity, to the extent needed to avoid type conversion.

Demonstrate with substantial evidence that the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub would be at least maintained within the identified spatial scale at which type conversion is evaluated for the specific treatment project.

No

Conduct treatments pursuant to **SPR BIO-5**

Is this an ecological restoration treatment?

Yes: Apply the following steps below

Complete removal of the mature shrub layer will not occur in native chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation types.

Do not implement treatment in vegetation types that are within their natural fire return interval unless it is demonstrated with substantial evidence that the habitat function of chaparral and coastal sage scrub would be improved by the treatment activity.

Maintain a minimum of 35 percent relative cover of existing shrubs and associated native vegetation at existing densities in patches distributed in a mosaic pattern within the treated area or the shrub canopy will be thinned by no more than 20 percent from baseline density. (For alternative approaches to cover retainage, review **SPR BIO-5**).

If the stand within the treatment area consists of multiple age classes, retain patches representing a range of middle to old age classes.

Conduct all treatments pursuant to SPR BIO-5

¹ Proceed with treatment in compliance with other applicable measures.