

## Highway One Eucalyptus Treatment Reduces Fire Hazard Point Reyes National Seashore, California National Fire Plan – Fuels Reduction

The Highway One Fire Management Unit (FMU), identified in the recently approved Fire Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, contains 2,874 acres, including 94 acres of eucalyptus. This unit extends along a busy traffic corridor between the communities of Olema and Bolinas, where the chance of fire from vehicle related ignition is high.

In winter 2005, treatment was initiated on 25 acres in eucalyptus stands along the east and west sides of Highway One to reduce hazardous fuels. The stands along Highway One developed from individual trees which were once planted in a row along the road for shade and aesthetic purposes. Blue gum eucalyptus is characterized by volatile oils concentrated in its leaves, and deciduous bark, which produces a large quantity of highly flammable litter at the base of the trees. This non-native, invasive species, introduced to California in the mid-1800's, displaces native plant communities and increases fuel loads throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.



*Hazardous fuel reduction is underway in the eucalyptus groves along Highway One near the communities of Olema and Bolinas, California.*

Younger trees, 18 inches in diameter and less were removed in phases, beginning with the smallest (up to 5 inches in diameter) and progressing up to larger trees. The cut trees were piled and chipped, and the tree stumps were chemically treated to prevent resprouting.

Crews from Marin Conservation Corps, a local youth development and environmental organization accomplished the cutting of the smaller trees. Fuels management crews trained in higher diameter cutting will complete the project later this summer. The California Exotic Plant Management Team, a National Park Service task force developed to reduce the spread of invasive species, is overseeing the application of herbicide to the cut stumps.

Planning for this project included consultation with Marin County Fire Department and Bolinas Fire Protection District, the two local fire agencies with jurisdictions near the project area.

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