



Forest residents may be wondering what the Del Monte Forest Conservancy has been up to lately. Some have noticed the vegetation work near Ford Meadow in Pescadero Canyon. A machine called a masticator grinds and chips targeted vegetation like invasive grasses and dense shrubs within the forest understory.

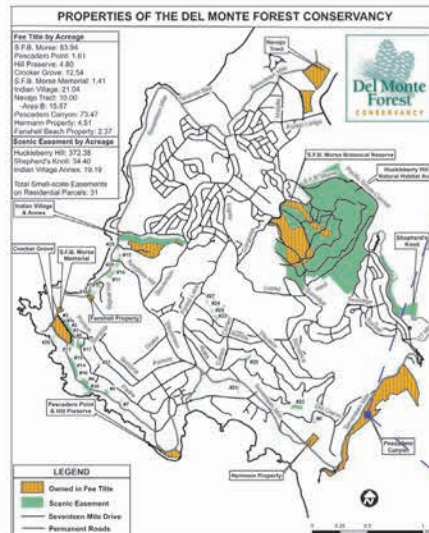
The treatment area is for a University of California lead research study that is underway with oversight by the Conservancy foresters. Professors David Wood from UC Berkeley Pathology and Entomology and Tom Gordon from UC Davis Forest Pathology and Entomology are experimenting with vegetation treatments to Monterey Pine understory species in an attempt to stimulate pine regeneration. There are six plot locations throughout the Monterey area of which five are in Pebble Beach. The professors have chosen two plots with heavy poison oak, two plots with heavy grass, and two plots with heavy shrub.

This work may have drawn some concern as it appears that a fair amount

of the forest understory has been reduced. Conservancy foresters, Dylan Windt and Bill Vaughan have assured the Conservancy that the area treated consists almost entirely of non-native invasive grasses mixed with dense layers of poison oak and invasive shrubs such as yellow-blooming French broom visible along the roadside. An earlier attempt to regenerate pines in this area saw approximately 40 individuals overtopped and out-competed by invasive grasses and dense layers of poison oak.

It is the hope of the Conservancy to learn that mechanical vegetation treatments to invasive grasses and impenetrable shrubs can have a positive influence on Monterey pine regeneration,

especially in areas where the forest is maturing and rapidly becoming less dense.



Pescadero Canyon Research Area Near Ford Meadow (blue square on map is approximate location of study area above)