


<p>Approved:</p> <hr/> <p>Bruce Varner, Fire Chief</p> <p>Date: 4-14-08 IB No.: 055</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</p> <p><b>Use of Livestock for Vegetation Management and Weed Abatement</b></p> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <i>City of Santa Rosa City Code Chapter 9.08.</i></li> <li>* <i>City Code 17-24.030 Tree alteration, removal, relocation</i></li> <li>* <i>City Code Chapter 17-12 STORM WATER.</i></li> </ul> </div>
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**NOTE:** This bulletin is a summary of the Fire Department interpretations of City and State Codes. Information contained herein applies to typical instances and may not address all circumstances.

The City of Santa Rosa approves the use of livestock for brush management, if certain conditions are met (see below). A permit is required prior to commencing any work. All other weed abatement regulations in the City Code (Section 9.08) must be complied with.

**Permit Requirement**

- Contractor shall submit a work plan describing the extent of work and how the work will comply with the bulletin requirements.
- Contractor will be required to walk the area with representatives of the Fire and Recreation and Park’s Department to review the specific compliance proposals.
- An operating permit will be provided with specific conditions and shall be located on-site during the abatement.
- The service providers need to protect all heritage trees and all other trees and/or shrubs to be preserved by secure fencing. The fence should guard the trunks and low limbs from the goats reach. The fences need to remain continuously in place for the duration of time the goats are in the vicinity of heritage or protected trees. The service provider will be held accountable for damage to the designated heritage trees. Bark/cambium tissue damages that exceed 50% of the diameter of the main stem will be declared “Altered” without a permit and shall require mitigation in accordance to City code 17-24.

**Contractor Responsibilities**

- Livestock shall be managed and monitored 24-hours a day to prevent escapes, harassment from predators and/or humans, or over-browsing of vegetation. Site specific coordination with the Recreation and Parks Department may be required to ensure protection of certain heritage trees.
- Person(s) managing and monitoring the livestock shall have at least two years experience in the raising, handling and controlling of livestock.

## **Use of Livestock for Vegetation Management and Weed Abatement**

- Contractors must carry a minimum of \$1 million of liability insurance.
- It is the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that erosion control is accounted for in all sensitive areas and fencing or barricades are installed to protect the surrounding creeks, streams and other waterways.
- At least 10 business days prior to beginning operations, the Contractor shall notify, in writing, the Santa Rosa Fire Department and all owners and residents with property located immediately adjacent to the area to be browsed. This notice must identify City Code section 9.08 as the authority for the temporary use of livestock.
- At least 10 business days prior to beginning operation, the contractor shall obtain written permission from the owners of any property through which the goats must gain access.
- At least 5 business days from the removal of the livestock at the end of the operation, the contractor shall notify the Fire Department, in writing, of their pending removal.
- At least 1-3 days prior to the movement of livestock within the contract area, the contractor shall notify the department by fax or email of intended movement within the contract area.

### **Fencing Requirements**

- The area to be browsed shall be measured and staked and appropriately fenced with a temporary electrically-charged fence to delineate the brush management area.
- Signs shall be posted at 25-foot intervals along the fence warning of the possibility of mild electrical shock.

### **Browsing Conditions**

- A maximum of 75 livestock are permitted on any single acre of the premises.
- Livestock, and the temporary electric fence, shall be moved periodically so that no more than 75-80 percent of the vegetation is thinned or reduced.
- Livestock shall remain within a secure enclosure at all times.
- Livestock may be moved to a separate holding pen at night. Such pens must be located the maximum distance practicable from residences.
- Droppings in the holding pen must be removed and properly disposed of daily to prevent accumulation, avoid health or sanitation problem and the breeding of flies, and to prevent discharge into any Storm Water Conveyance System, in accordance with City Code Chapter 17-12 "STORM WATER."

## **Use of Livestock for Vegetation Management and Weed Abatement**

- Protect all heritage trees and all other trees and/or shrubs to be preserved by secure fencing. The fence should guard the trunks and low limbs from the goats reach. The fences need to remain continuously in place for the duration of time the goats are in the vicinity of heritage or protected trees.
- Livestock may be used for brush management only and must be immediately removed when the brush thinning has been accomplished.
- Any use of livestock by the City of Santa Rosa or it's permittee for the purpose of performing brush management on City-owned property in non-agricultural zones or for weed abatement, is subject to the same forgoing requirements.

## **Contact Information**

- Brush/Weed Abatement: City of Santa Rosa Fire Department (707) 543-3540.
- Brush Management on City-owned open space land: City of Santa Rosa Recreation and Park's Department (707) 543-3292.
- Property restrictions (easements, permits, title, etc.): County Recorder (707) 565-2651.
- Obtaining permits for brush management on private property with restrictions: City of Santa Rosa Fire Department Weed Abatement and Vegetation Management Program (707) 543-3500