

Fire Ecology



Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is an area where human development and natural landscapes meet. Due to Strawberry Canyon's location near the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, the watershed is considered a WUI. The proximity of homes to Strawberry Canyon makes using fire as an ecosystem management tool too dangerous. Instead, UC Berkeley's Office of Emergency Management uses grazing, mechanical cutting, and targeted herbicide application to clear flammable and invasive tree species.



Fire is a natural part of California's ecosystems, and it has played a major role in shaping Strawberry Canyon's landscape.

Historically, some indigenous California peoples used fire as an ecosystem management tool to favor the plants and animals they depended upon for food.

Benefits of Fire:

Fire can threaten homes, therefore people actively work to prevent fire in Strawberry Canyon. However, fire does provide many benefits to oak woodland ecosystems including:

- Clearing competing brush
- Reducing fire fuel loads that contribute to catastrophic fires
- Encouraging seed propagation and plant growth
- Creating diverse habitat