

Ecological Restoration of the Kite Hill
Preserve, Woodside—*Converting the
Flammable weed grasses, back to
wildflower fields* – *By unearthing the
dormant 100-250 year old native seeds that are
still in the soil, and permanently
lowering fire fuels by 98%!*

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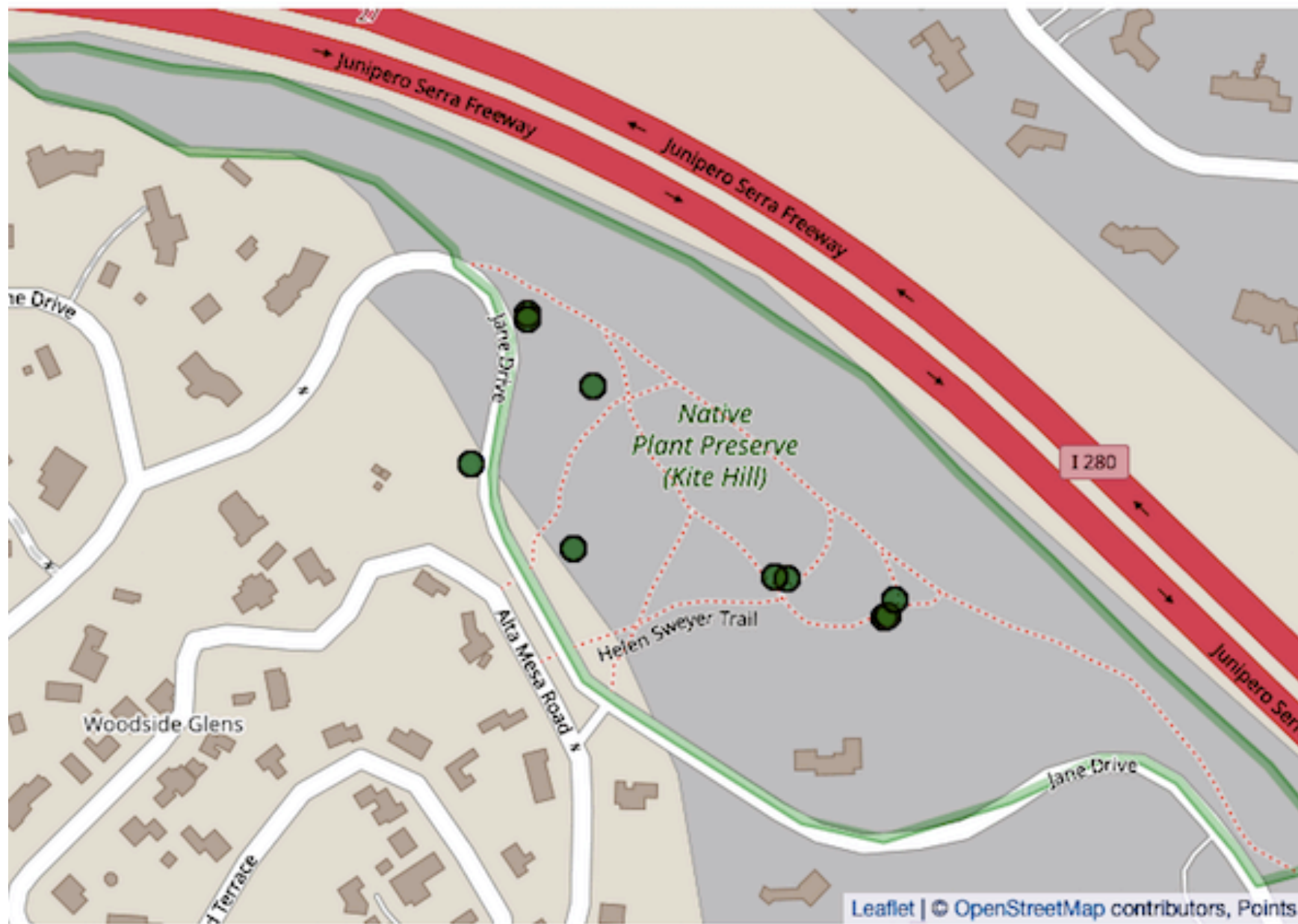
*800 acres of native grasslands and wildflowers restored since 1992.
Photos by Craig Dremann, except for the butterfly from Wikipedia,
YouTube screen shots, and Google Earth images.*

The fire-safe native bunchgrasses were so common when the California flag was designed in 1850, *13 bunches were added underneath the bear, and those grasses as they looked in February.* The green in-between are wildflowers sprouting.



Kite Hill Preserve, Woodside







When starting work at Kite Hill, in places the flammable weedy wild oats were five feet tall – The rule is, every foot-tall you allow them to grow before you cut them, puts one ton of finely-mowed fire fuel per acre on your property --all summer and fall--that can burn a home to its foundations.

Instead, you want to mow earlier in spring, and mow one foot high, and mow monthly -- to eliminate the flammable weeds and unearth the dormant wildflower and native grass seeds.



Before-and after photos at Kite Hill, from the northeast corner.

The weed grasses that now cover California 99%, provide the kindling that catch the trees and shrubs on fire.



Screen-shot of a video of a Healdsburg weed-grass fire.

The PGE 2017 Santa Rosa fire storm—The weed grasses carrying the fire, not the trees.





Also from
2017 PGE fire
—Every
Eucalyptus
needs to be
cut down
now, so in the
future, they
do not turn
into a 100
foot tall
torches!



Bennett Ridge subdivision east of Santa Rosa—had defensible spaces, trimmed shrubs and trees, but the weed grasses were mowed when 3-5 ft. tall and straw left on ground—burning 70 homes to their foundations in the 2017 fires.

What you NEVER want to see around your home or in your open spaces in spring -- a solid lawn of weed grasses.



What you *ALWAYS* want to see each spring -- wildflower seedlings side-by-side, that will make your area fire-safe.



And eventually, eliminate the weed grasses by
unearth the dormant wildflower seeds.



The wildflower seeds are unearthed by **mowing at one foot high, start early in spring, and mow monthly until summer.** *Kite Hill in February, Land Escapes employee mowing.*



Unearth meadows of wildflowers. During a normal rainfall season, Kite Hill has 50 million tidy tips blooming per acre.



And later in spring, the Clarkias bloom at Kite Hill.



Some of the rare wildflowers, you must be very careful when mowing, because their leaves look similar to the weed grasses.



Calochortus, Mariposa or butterfly lily leaves sprouting in early spring.



Then, by being careful, the beautiful white and yellow Calochortus flowers can bloom by the thousands at Kite Hill, between May and June.



Along Alta Mesa, this conversion back to solid wildflowers, can occur in only a few years--starting with a thick cover of flammable weed grasses...



And then soon, dormant California poppy seeds start sprouting...as you mow weed grasses early and monthly...



Until the weed grasses are gone. And you produce a permanent fire-safe wildflower meadow in their place.



And everywhere in the shade underneath the oaks, you want to see a **solid cover of miners lettuce**, one of the most **fire-safe native**, and it keeps out weeds once established.



A few places where yellow star thistle still grows, like this area along Jane Drive-needs organic fertilizers to be added, so native seedlings have the nutrients they need to grow.



A severe lack of soil nutrients can be seen in the poppy plants, when they are stunted and turn red-purple



And when properly fertilized, plants respond quickly.



Get 20-pound bags of Hi Yield brand bone meal, 8-pound bags of blood meal, Ace potting soil– and add these nutrients.



Plants that eliminate yellow star thistle -- the tarplants, can permanently keep thistles out. Tarplants bloom in summer, and are fire-proof because they stay green. Tarplants make a very nice spicy scent when the sun hits them.





And in summer you may unearth some rare wildflowers, like the **Lessingia** that grows one foot tall and blooms along the edges of the **Kite Hill** trails.

And you may also discover a treasure chest of other wildflowers, that have been waiting for you to mow the weeds off of them, so they could sprout and grow again?



And you could also be providing new habitat for the native pollinators, like the rare Western bumblebee and butterflies.



Bay Checkerspot on tidy tips – Photo from Wikipedia

Unearth the dormant wildflowers, can permanently eliminate 98% of the weed fire fuels threatening our homes and open spaces. – *The best solution to make us fire-safe.*



This Powerpoint is on-line

www.ecoseeds.com/

woodside-kite-hill-story.pptx