

Vine Hill clarkia recovery plan review  
10-12-15  
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### **General comments:**

This recovery plan is a comprehensive and thorough summary of the (albeit, limited) knowledge about the Vine Hill region rare plants and vegetation community. I appreciate the inclusion of all three rare plant species in this combined recovery plan, as their histories and futures are intertwined, and the recovery of a functioning plant community is far more valuable than focusing solely on the persistence of a single isolated species.

In terms of delisting/recovery: the emphasis on establishing new populations followed by the need for vegetation management to address competition and community succession is very appropriate, and adequately addresses the challenges faced at the current preserve.

### **Small edits and comments:**

Pg7, First paragraph of Executive summary, not immediately clear how rare the manzanita and ceanothus are (the term "species of concern" is used but this is not specific, can you include their state status, state endangered and Rare Plant Rank 1B1, respectively in the first sentence?)

Pg7, Paragraph Clarkia:

Clarkia imbricata count in 2015 was 270 plants, include this range here?

Pf 7, Paragraph Artostaphylos densiflora

The number of plants is not accurate. In 2009 we estimated 16 or 17 original plants (has not been recounted since) AND 85 clones (which were counted in 2010).

Pg 14, Paragraph 1: Include 2015, 270 clarkia plant estimate with the other data?

Pg 14, last paragraph. There are a few additional abundant common species that could be added to this list: bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilium* var. *pubescens*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), and wood rush (*Luzula comosa*). I mention these, as the most comprehensive community list may aid in selecting future sites.

Pg 21, Paragraph 2: Discusses plants at vine hill preserve, then shifts to the few remaining plants at Vine Hill Road (not the preserve) getting destroyed in 1985 by roadside maintenance and then shifts back to talk about the preserve. This is confusing, can the destruction of Vine Hill Road plants be decoupled from the preserve description (where it is important to emphasize that there are still naturally

occurring plants). The Vine Hill Road population is discussed in an above paragraph on page 20.

Pg 21, Paragraph 2, there are an estimated 85 propagated clones (not 46).

Pg 26

Paragraph 1. The original vine hill ceanothus plants may have been impacted/destroyed by roadside maintenance that impacted the manzanita, but the timing sequence seems unlikely. (I'll try to explain, the worst roadside maintenance happened long before the Preserve was established; the cuttings of ceanothus from near the roadside happened after it became a preserve). It is not known what happened to these reported original plants (that I learned about from Betty Guggolz, this was before my time).

Pg27, Last paragraph (fire): grammer: limits the ability to experiment with use of fire...

A small comment regarding the mosaic description of woody species interspersed with the open areas: In describing the historic vegetation community of the three rare plants within the Sonoma Barren, it may be important to note that the "mosaic" idea, while it is the most plausible, is our description of how this species most likely coexisted. Unfortunately, we just don't know for sure.