Edible Fig (*Ficus Carica*) Eradication Project
Trabuco Ranger District, Cleveland National Forest
Trabuco and Holy Jim Canyons, Orange County, CA

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Trabuco and Holy Jim Canyons
- West flowing drainages of the Santa Ana Mountains
- High use recreation area, with recreational use cabins on NFS lands
- Native Riparian Veg is Coast Live Oak, Sycamore Dominated
- Historically, Trabuco Creek was spawning habitat for Southern Steelhead Trout
Edible Fig cover has approximately doubled in 10 years

Prop 84 Funding Request was to conduct trial treatments of fig to determine best methods for control and biomass removal.
Holy Fire – 2018. Burned watersheds above the project area.
Sept. 2018 – Crews working through thickets for basal bark application of Garlon 4 Ultra at 30% mix rate. Treated over 28 acres (with about 20% cover of fig)
Used 4 gallons of Garlon 4 – or about .15 gallons an acre.
Smaller test area for cut stump treatments – both garlon and imazapyr

Wood chipper had no problem with green material and amount of chips produced was acceptable for the site.
Flooding opened up large areas of riparian and scoured many fig patches; in spring after floods, untreated fig was rapidly sprouting and sending suckers into newly daylighted areas.
Conclusions:

- Basal bark applications of Garlon were very effective (Approximately 80% mortality)
  - Need to spray every major stem, which is very difficult and requires saws to carve path into thickets.
- Cut stump appeared to be effective, but we can’t draw conclusions due to effects of flooding
- Chipping is a viable way to remove biomass where there is road access.

Recommendations to others – if you have fig now in your streams – DO NOT WAIT TO TREAT!!
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