

2014  
**PHOTO SERIES FOR QUANTIFYING NATURAL FUELS  
TRAINING ON USE OF STEREO PHOTO SERIES**

On June 18<sup>th</sup> and June 25, 2014, the HEF and the East Bay Regional Park District hosted two trainings using photo series for quantifying natural fuels. The natural fuels photo series is designed to help land managers appraise fuel and vegetation conditions.

In January 2014 USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station published *Volume XIII: Grasslands, Shrublands, Oak-Bay Woodlands and Eucalyptus Forests in the East Bay of California*. This long awaited document includes photographs and fuels loading data representative of a range of natural conditions in our region. Each group of photos include information summarizing vegetation composition, structure and loading; woody material loading and density by size class; forest floor depth and loading; and various site characteristics.

The training was offered to HEF members and other public lands management agencies. It began with a classroom session addressing:

- Uses for the fuel inventory data (scientific studies, environmental analysis, fuel treatment plans and contracts, communication with public, as well as fire behavior predictions).
- Six fuels characteristics that can be quantified using fuels inventory methods (fuel loading, diameter size class, duff depth, dead to live ratio, horizontal continuity, and vertical continuity).
- History and science behind the method.
- How the fuels inventory photo series was prepared and which other volumes are applicable to the East Bay.
- Step-by-step instructions on how to use fuels inventory photo series.

A hands-on field session allowed participants to put their learning to work. They practiced how to complete a field inventory form to record fuel loading by size class and other pertinent observations. The day provided a variety of opportunities for interaction and use of an accepted method to quantify natural fuels.



*The Hills Emergency Forum facilitates a cooperative approach among eight governing organizations addressing urban wildland interface fire issues in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.*