

brush piles - EBMUD requests - 9/26/12

Hi all,

Here's some feedback and guidelines re what to do with our cut brush:

The general rule is, if you are cutting brush out in the pasture away from the road, leave it out in the pasture in a pile to be habitat and rot; if it is close to El Toyonal and the buildings, put in beside the road for chipping later.

Teasel: leave the stalks in the pasture but bag and dispose of the seed heads yourself, off pasture.

Tules: leave the cuttings in the pasture.

Hemlock: leave where it lies, or mound in one place to rot.

Recently, EBMUD chipped our brush piles along El Toyonal - these piles were from several work parties and months of accumulation. The goal was to wait until there was enough plant matter to warrant the machinery, but by the time they did the chipping, things were pretty mixed and every which way. This is the request of those who did the chipping work:

A couple things about stacking brush we would really appreciate if OHA members did in the future:

- 1) We can't chip tules/cattails; the leaves are too fine and they gum up the blades. So please just spread those in the pasture.
- 2) Please stack the brush with the but/cut ends facing the road. The piles were extremely tangled and difficult to separate and pull towards the chipper
- 3) Finally please don't mix weeds and leaves with the piles. The brush pile by the paddocks was really difficult to work with since each layer of brush was piled with leaves and weeds. That pile probably sat for several months and it was more of a compost pile than brush pile. Again extremely difficult to separate and chip.

Finally the weeds (thistle and hemlock etc.. just pile those in the pasture or on top of other weeds and let them compost; its less work and difficult to chip.

Otherwise it looks pretty good up there and thanks for all the work.

I agree, thank you everyone for your work - and questions about what to do - with the cuttings,
Erica