

**From:** [Robert Burney](#)  
**To:** [will.schmitt@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:will.schmitt@pressdemocrat.com); [SRFD](#); [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Not limited to smoky piles vs goats.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 12:56:55 PM

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To each of you involved with brush disposal in ‘the zone’ per the PD story

- (1) There is an easy way to **greatly** reduce visible smoke when burning piles.
- (2) There is a third, clean alternative to burning or goats/herbivores for brush disposal.
- (3) **All** methods of brush disposal release carbon dioxide.

Re (1): Top lighting, simply lighting a dry pile close to the top and on the downwind side (rather than from bottom) slows propagation enough to burn nearly all visible particulates. I can show you pictures of burning piles with no column of smoke visible for miles. (Seriously, just ask for pics.)

Re (2): Cutting brush and small-medium trees and either chipping or further limbing & bucking, then leaving spread low to decompose is slow to complete but clean and instantly reduces wildfire intensity. It’s less of a fuel ladder to climb if all the rungs are at ground level. Taking stuff down flat and leaving it is standard forestry practice for tree plantation brush release and pre-commercial thinning.

Re (3): Herbivore digestion and decomposition by various organisms also produces carbon dioxide, just somewhat less, slower, less dramatically. Realistically, goats don’t eat mature wood.

I’m going to leave aside the issues of the changing wildfire situation and long-term carbon sequestration and desequestration.

Especially for the fire folks, we’re seeing outright unreasonable amounts of fire and more of us need to do some real work. Nowadays I just burn piles in vineyards. Used to get around with a USFS category 2 hand crew and later category 1 crew.

Robert Burney

**From:** [Joel Paine](#)  
**To:** [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Burning of brush piles  
**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2021 7:46:12 PM

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To the members of the SR City Council:

I want to voice my opposition to legalizing the burning of brush piles on properties larger than 5 acres in the city, and frankly, anywhere that the city has jurisdiction over a permitting such activity. Many SR citizens, for good reason, have a PTSD reaction to seeing and smelling the smoke of wood fires. Also, we just don't need the addition of the resultant air pollution, especially given that burning wood contains many harmful substances linked to exacerbation of chronic lung disease as well as to causing cancers. A more prudent measure would be to encourage the chipping of the cut debris and using it as mulch. Please vote NO tomorrow on this issue.

Joel Paine, M.D.  
Fountaingrove