THRESHOLD UPDATE INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER'S WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, October 12, 2022
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
TRPA offices, 128 Market Street, Stateline, Nevada & Via Zoom

Draft Meeting Summary

Meeting Recording:
https://www.trpa.gov/october-12-2022-threshold-update-initiative-working-group/

AGENDA ITEM

I.   WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW

Members present: Jennifer Carr, Susan Chandler, Jason Drew, Jim Lawrence, Jesse Patterson, Steve Teshara, Monica Arienzo, Ashley Conrad-Saydah

Members absent: None

Staff present: John Hester, John Marshall, Kat McIntyre, Dan Segan

Public present: Laura Patten, Bob Larsen

II.   DISPOSITION OF AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

Draft summary link:
https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/TUISWG_22.08.10_MeetingSummary_draft.pdf

Working Group direction:
- Working group members noted an unfinished sentence, and confusing use of a double negative to describe the error on slide 19.
- Update the summary to include the working group's discussion of
    o the difference between thresholds and things that are monitored,
    o the importance of engaging with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team during the standard-setting process.

III.   DISCUSSION OF FOREST HEALTH THRESHOLDS

Presentation: Staff provided an update on the discussions around the forest health thresholds and updates to the proposed thresholds presented in July.

Working Group direction:

- The working group noted that goals related to specific species currently are included in the vegetation preservation category, noted the importance of biodiversity, and questioned where they would reside in the new structure. Staff noted that they would be in the biodiversity category.
- How can we deal with variability between the forest health data sets and ensure alignment between the scale of data and the goal or metric we are talking about? We need to consider the cost and technical feasibility of the collected data to evaluate progress toward the threshold in the future.

IV.   DISCUSSION OF WATERSHED AND WATER QUALITY THRESHOLDS

Presentation: Staff provided an overview of proposed water quality and watersheds threshold standards and the associated results chains.

Working Group direction:
- Results chains – The working group wants to continue to see the full results chains, but doesn't need to comment on the inputs, and will instead focus activity primarily on the thresholds and to a lesser extent the outputs.
  - Working group suggested that their primary focus should be on the blue and green boxes in the results chain and those look good, they want to continue to see and retain the information contained in the results chains because of their importance to education and management.
  - Several questions related to the inputs (yellow boxes) in the results chains, but the suggestion was that those questions should be deferred to the implementers who are reporting those measures.
  - There should be additional work done to continue to refine our understanding of how the individual elements of the results chains are connected.
- Nearshore Algae
  - Support for leaving the thresholds in place for now, while we develop the new monitoring framework.
  - We should consider the overall cost of retaining or not updating the thresholds.
- AIS
  - Make it more explicit threshold only applies to invasive plants at this time.
  - Provide a better explanation of why we are not proposing standards for warmwater fish or other AIS at this time.
- Should the TRPA adopt standards that overlap state / federal standards?
  - No consensus was reached between the points of view expressed below. The group did want to have the discussions in this venue and then provide the rationale for why or why not a duplicative threshold was or was not adopted.

- There is little value in adopting threshold standards that overlap with state or federal standards, we should focus on developing standards that drive additional action.
- Duplication provides safeguards and could add value where the goal is to prevent backsliding or where it helps to provide explicit justification for fundraising.

IX.   Adjournment