



# Section 61.3. Vegetation Protection and Management

Forest Health and Wildfire Committee

May 27, 2020

# Agenda

- Review purpose and intent of code update
- Status of Work Plan
- Review Section 61.3. Vegetation Protection and Management
- Overview of high-level areas for amendment
- Questions and Comments

# What are we trying to do?

- Code updates that facilitate and promote increased pace and scale of vegetation management promoting forest health, community safety, and resilient landscapes while protecting the environment.
- Clarify the code to be more user friendly

# Status of Work Plan

- 1) Reasons for Tree Removal ✓
- 2) Standards for Tree Removal ✓
- 3) Prescribed Fire ✓
- 4) Vegetation Protection and Management
- 5) Revegetation



## Section 61.3. Vegetation Protection and Management

# Section 61.3. Vegetation Protection and Management

- Section includes protections for:
  - Old Growth
  - SEZs
  - Wildlife, Habitat, and Sensitive Plant Species
  - Historical Resource Protection

# Recommended Areas for Amendment

- Refine code language
  - Based on collaborative conversations with partner agencies
  - Updating language to reflect current practices



# Amendment Recommendations

- Standardizing various references throughout 61.3.
  - Subsections use a variety of language to refer to Old Growth Tree Removal
    - ‘Cut’ versus ‘felled, treated, or removed’
    - Standardize throughout each subsection as ‘felled, treated, or removed’.
  - Removal of Old Growth for Ecosystem Management Goals should be approved by a ‘qualified forester’ not a ‘qualified interdisciplinary team’.



# Amendment Recommendations

- Frozen Ground Operations
  - Currently Tree Cutting Within Stream Environment Zones allows for “over snow” activity.
  - Suggested to include operations on frozen ground
    - Lahontan Water Board
    - More stable than snow
    - Less environmentally impactful



June 5, 2020

# Amendment Recommendations

- Innovative Technologies/Equipment Used in SEZs
  - Tree cutting within SEZs currently requires innovative technologies to be piloted and proven environmentally safe.
  - Add language that once an innovative technology is properly demonstrated to the TRPA it becomes a viable option for all partners going forward.



# Heavenly Creek SEZ Pilot Project

- The 21-acre fuels reduction project, completed in 2007.
- Represented the first use of low-ground-pressure CTL forwarder/harvester technology to treat overstocked fuels within lands classified as stream environment zone (SEZ).
- Monitoring program designed to measure:
  - Soil quality that affect the capacity of the land to maintain healthy vegetation communities and resistance to erosion.
  - Indicated treatment of SEZ with this type of technology can be implemented safely.

# Old Growth: Area for Further Discussion

- TRPA Standards: 24'' east-side diameter at breast height and 30'' west-side diameter at breast height
- Reasons for Old Growth Removal:
  - Unreasonably Contribute to Fire Hazard
  - Unacceptable Risk to Structures or Areas of High Use
  - Diseased or Infested Trees
  - Ecosystem Management Goals
  - Ski Areas Master Plans
  - EIP Projects
  - Extreme Fuel Loading
  - Large Public Utilities Projects
  - Emergency Fire Suppression
  - Private Landowners

# Old Growth: Area for Further Discussion

- Standardize old growth diameter at breast height (DBH) to 30 inches Basin-wide
  - Adopted after Sierra Forest Plan Amendment.
  - 2016 LTBMU Forest Plan standardizes old growth at 30'' dbh Basin-wide.

## Timeline/Next Steps

- June- Forest Health and Wildfire Committee- Package of proposed code language for 61.3. Vegetation Protection and Management returns for recommendation.
- Summer 2020- APC and RPIC

# Forest Health and Wildfire Committee

## Questions

### Agenda Item 2



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# Public Comment

## Agenda Item 2



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# Forest Health and Wildfire Committee Questions and Direction Agenda Item 2



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