

Attachment Q
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Lahontan Region

Required Management Actions for Pile Burning within Waterbody Buffer Zones, and Stream Environment Zones ~~to Qualify for a Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption~~ under Timber Waiver Category 6

All vegetative management projects that involve pile burning under Category 6 of the Timber Waiver must meet the following requirements. For pile burning within an SEZ, complying with these requirements is a condition of eligibility for the exemption, provided in Attachment N, from the Basin Plan Prohibition against the discharge, or threatened discharge, attributable to new development in SEZs, of solid or liquid waste, including soil, silt, sand, clay, rock, metal, plastic, or other organic, mineral or earthen materials, to SEZs in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Requirements:

- Maintain a 25 foot buffer (no piling or burning) from water-courses.
- ~~Allow fire to creep between piles and into these buffers, maintaining flame lengths of less than 2 ft in height except where sensitive plant occurrences, fens, and the noxious weeds whitetop and cheatgrass are present.~~
- No more than 30% of any acre may be occupied with piles.
- Place piles in a non-linear pattern in each unit where possible.
- The maximum pile size shall not exceed 10 feet diameter by 5 feet height.
- No more than 15% of any acre may be burned each year.
- No more than 15% of any acre can have burn scars at any time which are not in a significant stage of native vegetative (i.e., not invasive weeds)-recovery (i.e., not invasive weeds).
- Burn scars not showing significant evidence of native vegetative recovery within two growing seasons following the burn shall have native duff or mulch applied across them to facilitate vegetative recovery of the site.
- Burn scar recovery shall be demonstrated by the presence of native or riparian vegetation across the burn scar.
- When piling the material, the large wood component (> 9 inch diameter logs), must be distributed so each pile contains less than 50%, by volume, large wood.
- Burn scars that exceed either a 25-foot diameter or 500 contiguous square feet shall have native duff, or organic mulch, and seed raked onto the scar to a 90% coverage. This management action shall occur as soon as the burn is completely extinguished. In the event the burn scar is covered by snow or ice, the required raking must occur within 15 days of the ground no longer being covered by ice or snow.
- ~~Maximize the distance between piles to the extent feasible, maintaining approximately 20 feet average spacing between piles.~~
- After initial ignition of piles, but while still burning, allow each pile to be re-piled once (i.e., place large unburned pieces back into the burning pile). Additional re-piling will be allowed if necessary to achieve 80% consumption of the piled material.

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- When piles are adjacent to aspen trees, re-piling during pile burning shall be restricted to one time per pile and hot piling (i.e., don't feed one pile with the material from other piles or ground material) is prohibited.

Recommendations:

- Native duff may be raked into and onto the burn scar to speed up the vegetative recovery of the burn scar.
- Place piles in a non-linear pattern in each unit where possible.
- Maximize the distance between piles to the extent feasible, maintaining approximately 20 feet average spacing between piles.
- Piles should be burned or removed as soon as possible, giving preference to those burn piles within SEZs.
- Allow fire to creep between piles and into these buffers, maintaining flame lengths of less than 2 ft in height except where sensitive plant occurrences, fens, and the noxious weeds whitetop and cheatgrass are present.

These parameters have been designed to ensure that significant impacts will not occur from those slash piles built or burned within sensitive areas such as Waterbody Buffer Zones, and SEZs. Enrollees who cannot meet these specific project requirements must, in their Category 6 Application (Attachment K), provide justification and detailed monitoring and mitigation measures which provide equal protection to these sensitive areas. Enrollees who cannot meet these requirements within SEZs are not covered under a Basin Plan Prohibition Exemption under this Timber Waiver and must apply for a separate Basin Plan prohibition exemption.