

Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2014-2015

Timber Harvest

Overview

The Region's Timber Harvest Program resources are 2.5 PY from the State General Fund and the program uses a conditional waiver (Timber Waiver) to implement the State of CA Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The Timber Waiver applies to vegetation management projects that range from homeowner defensible space operations to local Fire Protection Districts' community protection plans, to large Wildland Urban Interface projects proposed by the CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, the BLM, and the USFS. Commercial timber harvest conducted by small landowners, industrial timber companies, and the USFS are also covered under the Timber Waiver categories.

The Timber Waiver structures the enrollment conditions and implementation and monitoring requirements based on levels of increasing potential risk to water quality. The primary impacts to water quality from timber harvesting are sedimentation from disturbed land and solar/thermal heating of surface waters after vegetation is removed.

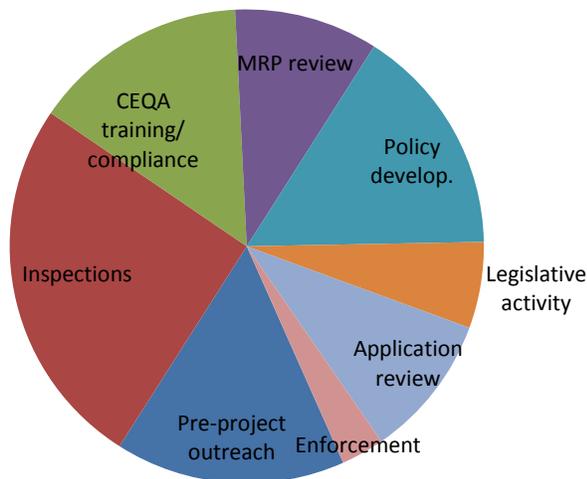
For commercial logging projects the State of CA has developed a Review Team process that involves the Water Boards, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, the CA Department of Conservation, and CALFire. The Review Team process satisfies the California Environmental Quality Act requirements, and CALFire is the lead agency.

Goals

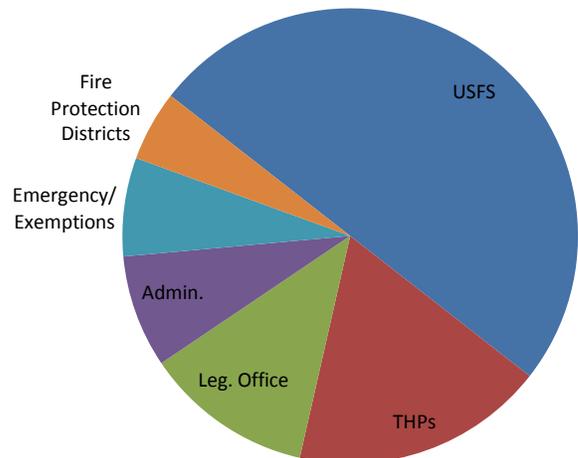
Timber Harvest Program staff work closely with project implementers to ensure proposed projects meet all requirements of the Timber Waiver. Staff conduct inspections of projects once harvesting has commenced.

Timber Waiver enrollment, site inspections, and monitoring reporting requirements are all tracked in the CIWQS database. Staff strive to have a sufficient field presence to identify and correct potential water quality problems.

Staff Activities



Types



Accomplishments

Timber Waiver

Updated the Lahontan Region's Timber Waiver in April of 2014 by removing detailed prescriptive requirements and replacing those with performance-based requirements to give flexibility to project implementers.

Lake Tahoe Basin

Staff continued working closely with USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and local fire district personnel. This helped to ensure that the LTBMU's annual operations plan for the South Shore Fuel Reduction Project met the Board's Waste Discharge Requirements. Monitoring forms for the South Shore WDR were updated to be consistent with the Timber Waiver monitoring forms. The LTBMU is three years into its multiple year project and operations are proceeding smoothly. The USFS LTBMU submits its annual operations plans each year in the spring for the South Shore project.

Staff continue to participate in the multi-agency Tahoe Forest Fuels Team, and offered permitting guidance for Wildland Urban Interface fuel reduction projects conducted by local fire districts.

Inyo National Forest

Staff worked closely with public and private land managers in commencement of a 7-10 year defensible space and fuel reduction project in the June Lake area that covers close to 350 private acres and more than 4,500 public acres.

Lassen National Forest

Staff conducted outreach in January 2014 with forest service personnel on the Timber Waiver update and provided consultation on water quality for pre-project planning.

Regional

Staff coordinated with the State Water Board and the USFS Regional Office to host a joint NEPA/CEQA training in May 2013 to streamline joint NEPA/CEQA documents improving public review processes and Water Board permitting. That joint training received many accolades and is being used as a template for future training throughout the state.

Performance targets for FY 2013-2014

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Timber Harvest Inspections	20	30

Performance targets for FY 2014-2015 – Progress to date

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Timber Harvest Inspections	20	26