

Lahontan Water Board Program Fact Sheet

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Timber Harvest

Overview

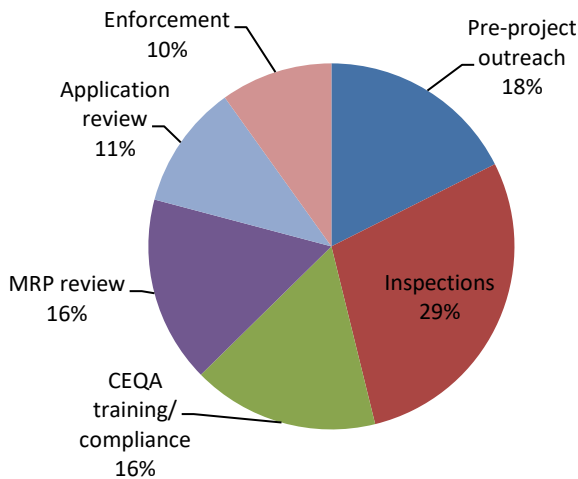
The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Lahontan Water Board) Timber Harvest Program resources are 3.5 PY from the State General Fund and the State's lumber product assessment fund. The program uses a conditional waiver (2014 Timber Waiver) to implement the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control 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 California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the USFS. Commercial timber harvest conducted by small landowners, industrial timber companies, and the USFS are also covered under Timber Waiver categories.

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

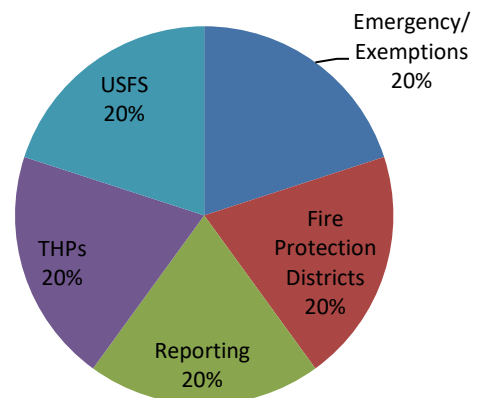
Key Efforts

- Review proposed projects to ensure that Timber Waiver requirements are adhered to.
- Conduct inspections of active and completed harvesting projects.
- Identify potential or existing water quality problems and request corrective actions.
- Review and track Timber Waiver monitoring reports.
- Provide outreach to entities with projects in the planning phase.
- Through increased communication, staff increased compliance with the Timber Waiver.

Staff Activities



Types of Waivers



Accomplishments

Timber Waiver outreach and enforcement actions

- Staff coordinated with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Cal Fire, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA,) United States Forest Service (USFS) Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), and other Tree Mortality Task Force staff regarding 2014 Timber Waiver enrollment and implementation details for Caltrans's Hazardous Tree Assessment & Removal Process efforts in the Tahoe Basin.
- Staff conducted an informational tour of the UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station to facilitate a dialogue between forest managers and the Association of California Insurance Companies.
- Staff issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the USFS LTBMU for poor burn fuel storage and management that resulted in the development of written fuel handling protocols and staff training.
- Staff issued an NOV to a Lassen County Timber Waiver project for road construction, road abandonment, and crossing modification activities that resulted in sediment delivery to a fish bearing stream, which have now been corrected.

Lake Tahoe Basin

- Staff worked with the USFS LTBMU to ensure that the LTBMU's fifth annual operations plan for the South Shore Fuel Reduction Project met the Waste Discharge Requirements. During the 2017 field season, approximately 511 acres were thinned by hand crews and 275 acres were mechanically treated. Staff also worked with the LTBMU on the Carnelian Fuels Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration Project. During the 2017 field season, approximately 501 acres were thinned by hand crews and 625 acres were mechanically treated.
- Staff participated in the interagency Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership initiative to restore and maintain the resilience of the forests, watersheds, recreational opportunities, and communities on Lake Tahoe's western shore.

Statewide

- Staff coordinated with State Water Board, California Resources Agency (CalFire, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Geological Survey) in implementing the requirements of AB 1492, the Timber Regulation and Restoration Program. Staff is engaged in a newly formed statewide Emergency Response Technical Working Group to develop and implement Water Board action plans during and after catastrophic fire events.

Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Achieved</u>
• Timber Harvest Inspections	20	29

Performance Targets for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Progress to Date</u>
• Timber Harvest Inspections	20	12

Unaddressed Work

- Coordination with the State Water Board and other Regional Water Boards on the development of state-wide permit for utility line corridors.

