

Chapter 65

VEGETATION PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

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- 65.0 Purpose: This chapter sets forth requirements for the protection of vegetation during construction.

- 65.1 Applicability: All projects and activities involving construction shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

- 65.2 General Provisions: The following vegetation protection provisions shall apply to construction:
 - 65.2.A Vegetation: Vegetation shall not be disturbed, injured, or removed except in accordance with the Code or conditions of project approval. All trees, major roots, and other vegetation, not specifically designated and approved for removal, in connection with a project, shall be protected according to methods approved by TRPA. All vegetation outside the construction site boundary, as well as other vegetation designated on the approved plans, shall be protected by installing temporary fencing as per Sections 65.2.I and 65.2.J.[§]

 - 65.2.B Equipment: Use of equipment of a size and type that, under prevailing site conditions, will do the least amount of damage to the environment may be specified as a condition of approval. Construction equipment and materials shall be restricted to the construction site boundary.

 - 65.2.C Debris: Slash, trees cut for the project, uprooted stumps, or other vegetative debris shall not remain on the project area after October 15 of each year, or final inspection, whichever comes first, except trees bucked into firewood in TRPA-designated areas. Any remaining stump shall be cut within six inches of the ground on the uphill side of the tree.

 - 65.2.D Tree Treatment Plan: A plan to treat trees on the project area, in accordance with Chapter 71, may be required as a condition of approval. At a minimum, the plan shall include the following:
 - (1) Provisions for identification and treatment of diseased or insect infested trees;

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- (2) Provisions for identification and removal of hazardous trees; and
- (3) Provisions for optimum stocking levels of trees including the protection and establishment of younger-aged trees.

65.2.E Tree Removal: Trees may be removed from within six feet of a foundation, or when other approved construction activities involving soil compaction, excavation or paving encroach into more than 25 percent of a tree's dripline. Falling, uprooting, or removal of trees and other materials shall be accomplished so as to avoid damage to remaining trees, vegetation and soil.

65.2.F Tree Roots: Tree roots four inches in diameter and larger encountered during excavation of utility trenches should not be severed, if avoidable. All tree roots four inches in diameter or larger severed during excavation shall be cut flush with the surface of the excavation.

65.2.G Prohibition: Trees shall not be used for the purpose of sign posts, telephone wires or temporary power, bracing for forms, or other similar types of uses.

65.2.H Revegetation Plan: Areas outside the construction site boundary that sustain vegetation damage during construction shall be revegetated according to a revegetation plan in accordance with Chapter 77.

65.2.I Standards for Soil and Vegetation Protection.[§]

- (1) The location and type of protective fencing shall be shown on approved plans.
- (2) No material or equipment shall enter or be placed in the areas protected by fencing or outside the construction areas without prior approval from TRPA.
- (3) Protective fencing for soil and vegetation shall be constructed with metal posts, industry standard mesh fencing, and at least 4 feet tall, unless an alternative protection method is approved by TRPA.
- (4) All protective fencing shall be adequately maintained and provide a functional barrier during construction.

65.2.J Standards for Retained Tree Protection.[§] All trees designed to be retained during construction shall be protected as follows:

- (1) Fencing shall be placed at a minimum along the dripline of the tree(s) unless an alternative placement is approved prior by TRPA.
- (2) The location and type of the protective fencing shall be shown on approved plans.

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- (3) No material or equipment shall enter or be placed in the areas protected by fencing or outside the construction areas without prior approval from TRPA.
- (4) Protective fencing for trees shall be constructed with metal posts, industry standard mesh fencing, and at least 4 feet tall, unless an alternative method is approved by TPRA
- (5) All protective fencing shall be adequately maintained and provide a functional barrier during construction.
- (6) An alternative method of tree protection may be required if conditions warrant due to location of tree or the importance of the tree for visual screening. A tree treatment plan may be required as per section 65.2.D.

