

# Chapter 72

## PRESCRIBED BURNING

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72.0 Purpose: This chapter sets forth standards and regulations pertaining to the use of fire in controlled circumstances for vegetation management.

72.1 Applicability: The standards and regulations set forth in this chapter apply to all intentional burning for the purpose of vegetation management, unless otherwise exempt from TRPA review under the provisions of Chapter 4.

72.2 Prescribed Burning: Persons who own or manage forests or range lands may use prescribed burning, consistent with the standards and regulations set forth in this chapter, to maintain forest health and diversity and to reduce the risk of wildfire.

72.2.A Limitations: Prescribed burning shall be limited to the following activities:

- (1) Seral stage management;
- (2) Fuels management;
- (3) Wildlife habitat management,
- (4) Silviculture; or
- (5) Pest control.

72.3 Performance Standards: The use of prescribed burning for vegetation management shall comply with the following standards:

72.3.A Location Of Prescribed Burning: The use of prescribed burning shall be limited to those areas where the plan area statements designate as a permissible use one or more of the following uses:

- (1) Nonstructural wildlife habitat management;
- (2) Range improvement;
- (3) Fuels management; or

(4) Prescribed fire management.

72.3.B Extent Of Prescribed Burning: Each prescribed burn shall be limited to the minimum area necessary to achieve the purpose of the prescription.

72.3.C Timing Of Prescribed Burning: Prescribed burning shall be limited to time periods for which TRPA finds that atmospheric conditions normally will allow complete dispersion of the smoke from the prescribed burn during each day of the burn.

72.3.D Responsible Persons: A qualified expert, experienced in the use of fire for vegetation management, shall prepare a burning prescription for review and, if appropriate, approval by TRPA. The expert shall certify that the prescription meets the standards of this chapter. The expert shall oversee the conduct of the burn.

72.3.E Standards Of Other Government Agencies: All prescribed burning shall comply with applicable standards of other government agencies with appropriate jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, the El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District, the California Air Resources Board, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the California and Nevada Departments of Forestry, and the United States Forest Service. Where TRPA standards conflict with other agencies' standards, the most stringent standard shall control.

72.4 Compliance Program: To achieve compliance with the standards in section 72.3, TRPA shall apply the following provisions:

72.4.A Consistency With Primary Use: TRPA shall review and, if appropriate, approve applications to conduct prescribed burns, consistent with the provisions of Chapter 18 regarding allowed and special uses, for those uses listed in subsection 72.3.A.

72.4.B Burn Prescription: All applications to conduct prescribed burning shall be accompanied by a burn prescription. A burn prescription shall include the following items:

- (1) Detailed statement of the purpose of the prescribed burn.
- (2) Description, including a map at an appropriate scale, of the location and a real extent of the prescribed burn. Such description shall allow TRPA to determine whether the proposed burn complies with subsections 72.3.A and 72.3.B.
- (3) Description of the timing of the prescribed burn, and meteorological information which demonstrates that the timing of the prescribed burn will normally allow complete dispersion of the smoke from the burn during each day of the burn.
- (4) A list of the applicable standards of TRPA and other government agencies with jurisdiction over the burn, and a discussion of how the proposed prescription complies with those standards.

- (5) A detailed description of the proposed burning operation, including a description of all safety procedures which will be used to prevent wildfire.
- (6) A certification by a qualified expert experienced in the use of fire for vegetation management that the burn prescription complies with this chapter; and that the expert shall oversee the conduct of the burn to ensure that the prescription is followed.
- (7) Other information which TRPA may require.

