

# Chapter 75

## ***SENSITIVE AND UNCOMMON PLANT PROTECTION AND FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION***

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75.0 Purpose: This chapter sets forth standards for the preservation and management of vegetation of significant scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, or natural values of the Region, and for management of vegetation to prevent the spread of wildfire.

75.1 Applicability: This chapter applies to all projects and activities which could have a detrimental effect on designated sensitive plants or uncommon plant communities, and to all areas where vegetation may contribute to a significant fire hazard.

75.2 Sensitive Plants and Uncommon Plant Communities: Designation of plants for special significance is based on such values as scarcity and uniqueness. The following standards shall apply to all sensitive plants and uncommon plant communities referenced in the environmental thresholds, and to other plants or plant communities identified later for such distinction. The general locations of sensitive plant habitat and uncommon plant communities are depicted on the TRPA Special Species map overlay.

75.2.A Sensitive Plants: Projects and activities in the vicinity of sensitive plants and their associated habitat, shall be regulated to preserve sensitive plants and their habitat. All projects or activities that are likely to harm, destroy, or otherwise jeopardize sensitive plants or their habitat, shall fully mitigate their significant adverse effects. Those projects and activities that cannot fully mitigate their significant adverse effects are prohibited. Measures to protect sensitive plants and their habitat include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Fencing to enclose individual populations or habitat;
- (2) Restrictions on access or intensity of use;
- (3) Modifications to project design as necessary to avoid adverse impacts;
- (4) Dedication of open space to include entire areas of suitable habitat; or
- (5) Restoration of disturbed habitat.

75.2.B Uncommon Plant Communities: Uncommon plant communities shall be managed and protected to preserve their unique ecological attributes and other associated values. Projects and activities that significantly adversely impact uncommon plant communities, such that normal ecological functions or natural qualities of the community are impaired, shall not be approved.

75.3 Vegetation Management To Prevent The Spread Of Wildfire: Within areas of significant fire hazard, as determined by local, state or federal fire agencies, flammable or other combustible vegetation shall be removed, thinned, or manipulated in accordance with local and state law. Revegetation with approved species, or other means of erosion control, may be required where vegetative ground cover has been eliminated or where erosion problems may occur.<sup>§</sup>

<sup>§</sup>Amended 11/18/2009