

Appendix C Standards and Guidelines

Table C.1. Standards and Guidelines Applicable to All Activities occurring in the HFQLG Pilot Project Area (Table 2 of the SNFPA ROD).

HFQLG Land Allocation	Standards and Guidelines
Offbase and deferred areas	The following HFQLG resource management activities are prohibited: DFPZ construction, group selection, individual tree selection, all road building, all timber harvesting activities, and any riparian management that involves road construction or timber harvesting.
Late successional old growth (LSOG) rank 4 and 5	Group selection and individual tree selection are not allowed in LSOG 4 and 5 stands. DFPZ construction is allowed in LSOG 4 and 5 stands. Design DFPZs to avoid old forest stands (CWHR classes 5M, 5D, 6) within this allocation.
California spotted owl PACs	The following resource management activities - DFPZs, group selection, individual tree selection, and riparian restoration projects and other timber harvesting - are not allowed within spotted owl PACs.
California spotted owl habitat areas (SOHAs)	The following resource management activities - DFPZs, group selection, individual tree selection, and riparian restoration projects and other timber harvesting - are not allowed within spotted owl SOHAs.
National forest lands outside of the above allocations and available for vegetation and fuels management activities specified in the HFQLG Act	DFPZs
	Eastside pine types and all other CWHR 4M and 4D classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design projects to retain at least 30% of existing basal area, generally comprised of the largest trees. · • Design projects to retain all live trees ≥30 inches dbh; exceptions allowed for operability. Minimize impacts to ≥30-inch trees as much as practicable. · • For CHWR 4M and 4D classes that are not eastside pine types, retain, where available, 5% of total post-treatment canopy cover in lower layers comprised of trees 6 - 24-inches dbh. · • No other canopy cover requirements apply.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWHR 5M, 5D, and 6 classes except those referenced above: • Design projects to retain a minimum of 40% canopy cover. • Design projects to avoid reducing pre-treatment canopy cover by more than 30%. · • Design projects to retain at least 40% of existing basal area, generally comprised of the largest trees. · • Design projects to retain, where available, 5% of total post-treatment canopy cover in lower layers comprised of trees 6-24 inches dbh. · • Design projects to retain all live trees ≥30 inches dbh; exceptions allowed for operability. Minimize impacts to ≥30-inch trees as much as practicable.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other CWHR class stands: · • Retain all live trees ≥30 inches dbh, except to allow for operations. Minimize operations impacts to ≥30-inch trees as much as practicable.

	Group Selection
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design projects to retain all live trees $\geq 30''$ dbh, except allowed for operability. Minimize impacts to ≥ 30-inch trees as much as practicable. • •
	Area thinning (individual tree selection)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All eastside pine types: · • Design projects to retain at least 30% of existing basal area, generally comprised of the largest trees · • Design projects to retain all live trees ≥ 30 inches dbh; exceptions allowed for operability. Minimize impacts to ≥ 30-inch trees as much as practicable. · • Canopy cover change is not restricted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWHR classes 4D, 4M, 5D, 5M and 6 (except eastside pine type): · • Where vegetative conditions permit, design projects to retain $\geq 50\%$ canopy cover after treatment averaged within the treatment unit, except where site-specific project objectives cannot be met. Where 50 percent canopy cover retention cannot be met as described above, design projects to retain a minimum of 40% canopy cover averaged within the treatment unit. · • Design projects to avoid reducing canopy cover by more than 30% from pre-treatment levels. · • Design projects to retain at least 40% of the existing basal area, generally comprised of the largest trees. · • Design projects to retain, where available, 5% of total post-treatment canopy cover in lower layers comprised of trees 6-24 inches dbh. · • Design projects to retain all live trees ≥ 30 inches dbh; exceptions allowed for operability. Minimize impacts to ≥ 30-inch trees as much as practicable.
Down wood and snags	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine retention levels of down woody material on an individual project basis. Within westside vegetation types, generally retain an average over the treatment unit of 10-15 tons of large down wood per acre. Within eastside vegetation types, generally retain an average of three large down logs per acre. Emphasize retention of wood that is in the earliest stages of decay. Consider the effects of follow-up prescribed fire in achieving desired retention levels of down wood. • Determine snag retention levels on an individual project basis. Design projects to sustain across a landscape a generally continuous supply of snags and live decadent trees suitable for cavity nesting wildlife. Retain some mid and large diameter live trees that are currently in decline, have substantial wood defect, or have desirable characteristics (teakettle branches, large diameter broken top, large cavities in the bole) to serve as future replacement snags and to provide nesting structure. When determining snag retention levels, consider land allocation, desired condition, landscape position, and site conditions (such as riparian areas and ridge tops), avoiding uniform distribution across large areas 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During project-level planning, consider the following guidelines for large-snag retention: • In westside mixed conifer and ponderosa pine types, four of the largest snags per acre. In the red fir forest type, six of the largest snags per acre. • In eastside pine and eastside mixed conifer forest types, three of the largest snags per acre. • In westside hardwood ecosystems, four of the largest snags per acre (hardwood or conifer). • Where standing live hardwood trees lack dead branches, six of the largest snags per acre to supplement wildlife needs for dead material. Use snags larger than 15 inches dbh to meet this guideline. Snags should be clumped and distributed irregularly across the treatment units. Consider leaving fewer snags strategically located in treatment areas within the WUI and DFPZs. While some snags will be lost due to hazard removal or use of prescribed fire, consider these potential losses during project planning to achieve desired snag retention levels. <p style="text-align: center;">Spotted owl surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to undertaking vegetation treatments in spotted owl habitat having unknown occupancy, conduct surveys in compliance with the Pacific Southwest Region survey direction and protocols, and designate PACs where appropriate according to survey results.
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