

TUOLUMNE

Protections in place:

	Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions	Oak Protection During Construction	Heritage Tree Protection	Riparian Vegetation Protections	Oak Canopy Retention Requirements	Oak Woodland Conservation Program
General Plan Language	The Conservation Element states oak woodlands should be retained within new development requiring a discretionary permit. Revegetation programs may be required. The county should pass out native tree retention and replacement guidelines with Building and Grading Permits	The Conservation Element calls for the county to pass out native tree construction protection guidelines with Building and Grading Permits and cooperate in other educational efforts.	The Conservation Element calls for a Heritage Tree Program for trees and groves based on outstanding scenic, historic or biological value and/or age or size. Preservation should be encouraged through recognition and public education	None	The Conservation Element requires "no net loss" of valley oak woodland in development through avoidance or mitigation. Applicants may perform a site-specific study or use the Biological Resources Conservation Handbook to develop mitigations	The Handbook should set minimum acreage preservation standards for blue oak woodland, blue oak-bull pine woodland and live oak woodland, map live oak woodland habitat, assess impacts to that habitat, and offer mitigations.
Specific Ordinance	The Wildlife Handbook prohibits removal of valley oaks >6" dbh in mapped valley oak woodland. Residences are limited to 1/10 acres and commercial structures prohibited. Grazing and off-road vehicles are regulated	The Wildlife Handbook recommends roads should avoid driplines of valley oaks. Clearing or grading in the understory is prohibited to facilitate reproduction.	None	The Wildlife Handbook requires 200' setbacks in rural areas, and 100' setbacks in urban areas.	None	None

Voluntary Guidelines	Trees of all species, sizes and ages, wildlife trees, and brush should be retained. Replacement trees for those removed during construction should be considered.	Building should cluster houses, protect oaks during construction by avoiding root compaction, planning roads, cuts and fills, foundations and septics. Irrigation within 10' of trunks should be avoided.	None	None	Fuelwood harvesting should retain a canopy of 30% cover on single oaks and 15% on multi stemmed trees.	All landowners with 37 or more acres of oak woodland habitat shall be provided with a copy of these guidelines by the clerk of the board. Landowners are encouraged to develop their own management plan. The hardwood advisory committee will meet semiannually to evaluate guidelines and programs.
-----------------------------	---	---	------	------	--	---

Documents reviewed:

Date of Review: August 2003

- Open Space Element
- Conservation Element
- Land Use Element
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Grading and Erosion Ordinance

- Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
- Tree Removal Ordinance
- Voluntary Guidelines
- Other County Codes: Tuolumne County Biological Resources Conservation Handbook, 1987

Summary of Oak Protection Policies:

Conservation / Open Space Element, 1996	TREE RETENTION: Significant vegetation including stands of oak woodlands should be retained within new development requiring a discretionary permit. Revegetation programs may be required for premature vegetation removal (4.I.k). Commercial and industrial developments should be encouraged to retain existing stands of trees into their site designs and include native species in their landscape plans (10.F.e).
---	---

	<p>TREE PROTECTION: The county should cooperate with UCCE, CDFG, and the California Oak Foundation to develop a public education program encouraging voluntary stewardship of trees by providing brochures illustrating native tree protection methods during construction, tree retention and replacement guidelines with Building and Grading Permits. The county should promote elementary and secondary school programs and workshops, educational field days, or presentations on tree care including appropriate landscaping, erosion prevention, and tree preservation during construction (4.K.c)</p> <p>HERITAGE OAKS: A Heritage Tree Program should be established with criteria for identifying individual or groves of native and non-native and street trees as heritage trees, based on outstanding scenic, historic or biological value and/or the status of the tree as unique in age or size when compared to other trees of the same species including those considered local landmarks or contained in the National Register of Big Trees. Preservation of heritage trees should be encouraged through recognition and public education programs and competitions (4.1.i).</p> <p>OAK WOODLAND: New development should achieve "no net loss" of valley oak woodland and old growth oak through avoidance or appropriate mitigation (4.J.6). Applicants requesting a discretionary permit may perform a site specific study of potential impacts and mitigations with the appropriate State and Federal agencies. Or they may mitigate impacts using the Tuolumne County Biological Resources Conservation Handbook and associated site evaluations, aerial photographs, GIS, inventory, database and maps at their discretion. The Handbook shall address evaluating relative values of wildlife habitats, avoidance of woodlands; mitigation including conservation easements, mitigation banks, enhancements and restoration of on-site and off-site properties. The Handbook should stipulate minimum acreage preservation standards for blue oak woodland, blue oak-bull pine woodland and live oak woodland. It should map live oak woodland habitat, assess impacts to that habitat, and offer mitigations (4.J). The county should develop mitigation measures with other agencies for projects that do not use the Handbook. The County should create a voluntary register of large tracts of oak and mixed-oak woodlands to assist in implementing voluntary preservation efforts. Listing and surveys require permission of the landowner. Listing may qualify owners for incentive programs, acquisition or co- management (4.K.b).</p> <p>SCENIC VEGETATION: The Conservation and Open Space Element calls for the county to conserve scenic resources including vegetation by encouraging voluntary efforts to protect clusters of native trees and outstanding individual native and non-native trees (4.1.6). New development should blend with the natural vegetation (4.1.e) through clustering (4.1.f). Scenic route guidelines should address the retention of trees (4.1.g).</p>
Zoning Ordinance, Title 17	The Zoning Ordinance establishes Open Space Districts to provide areas for the protection of wildlife habitat and scenic quality. Roads, driveways, bridges, underground public utilities, non-commercial gardens, wells or sewage disposal systems are allowed. Vegetation removal may be appropriate in certain instances, such as when required by the County fire department subject to approval of the director and when by hand for reasons of health or safety.
Wildlife	The Handbook establishes streams, 2700 acres of riparian woodland, 480 acres of valley oak woodland, and 250 acres of old

Handbook, 1987	<p>growth oak as target habitats. Blue oak woodland is designated as a common habitat. All 5-acre patches of target habitat was mapped or inventoried for composition, regeneration, disturbance and quality. Goals are to provide the greatest possible protection for target habitats and to avoid impacts or minimize or compensate for unavoidable significant impacts in common habitat. Mitigation measures for all discretionary projects including grading are developed. Measures do not apply to building permits, commercial timber harvest or agricultural practices not requiring a special use permit. Mitigation on or adjacent to the project site has the highest priority. A wildlife habitat management plan is required.</p> <p>VALLEY OAK WOODLAND: Removal of valley oaks >6" dbh is prohibited except for public safety. Removal of smaller oaks, including seedlings should be minimized. Residences are limited to one per 10 acres and commercial structures are prohibited. Roads should avoid the driplines of valley oaks. Clearing or grading in the understory is prohibited to facilitate reproduction. Grazing should be regulated and off-road vehicles are prohibited to allow for reproduction.</p> <p>RIPARIAN AREAS: Building setbacks of 200' on both sides of streams and prohibition of vegetation clearing within 150' are required in rural areas. Setbacks of 100' are required in urban areas. Setbacks may be reduced by 50% as warranted. Building and clearing setbacks of up to 75' may be required on ephemeral streams if necessary to protect undisturbed riparian woodland. Setbacks shall be protected with open space zoning.</p>
Voluntary Guidelines, 1995	<p>Fuel wood harvesting should retain a canopy of 30% cover on single oaks and 15% on multi stemmed trees. Trees of all species, sizes and ages, wildlife trees, and brush should be retained. Professional advice should be sought for extensive harvest. Building should cluster houses, protect oaks during construction by avoiding root compaction, planning roads, cuts and fills, foundations and septic. Irrigation within 10' of trunks should be avoided. Replacement trees for those removed during construction should be considered. Pruning for fuel reduction should remove branches to 8' about the ground (<1/2 live crown). Brush and debris should be removed from under driplines. Slash should be used for mulch or fuel or piled and burned. Prescribed burning should be used when possible. All landowners with 37 or more acres of oak woodland habitat shall be provided with a copy of these guidelines by the clerk of the board. Landowners are encouraged to develop their own management plan. The hardwood advisory committee will meet semiannually to evaluate the guidelines and programs.</p>

Contact Information:

Tuolumne County Community Development Department
A.N. Francisco Building
48 West Yaney, 2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
Phone: (209) 533-5633
Fax: (209) 533-5616

Web site:

County Contacts:

- No contacts
- Policies provided by county staff
- Policies discussed with county staff
- Policy inventory reviewed by county staff