

THRESHOLD UPDATE INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER'S WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

11:00PM - 2:00PM

TRPA offices, 128 Market Street, Stateline, Nevada & Via Zoom

Link: <https://www.trpa.gov/july-13-2022-threshold-update-initiative-stakeholders-working-group/>



Meeting Summary

AGENDA ITEM

I. WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW

Members present: Jennifer Carr, Susan Chandler, Jason Drew, Jim Lawrence, Jesse Patterson, Steve Teshara, Bill Yeates

Members absent: Monica Arienzo

Staff present: John Hester, Ken Kasman, John Marshall, Kat McIntyre, Julie Regan, Dan Segen

Public present: Laura Patten

II. OVERVIEW OF THRESHOLD STANDARD OUTLINE

Presentation: Staff provided an overview of the past work of the working group, including a review of the adopted framework for threshold standards. Staff then reviewed the outline for threshold standard development for Air Quality, Biodiversity, and Watersheds and Water Quality categories.

Presentation link:

HTTPS://WWW.TRPA.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/22_7_13_TUISWG_OUTLINE_SLIDES.PDF

Working Group direction:

- Linkages between standards and standard categories need to made more explicit and clear. Expand the tagging system to standards and standard categories not included in the current round of the update. Example: Air quality standards impact scenic and recreation.
- Standards need to be clearly linked to things we can do - Document that we (basin partnership) can realistically exert control over the desired condition expressed in the standard.

- Standard evaluation should be relevant and meaningful for the partnership, current evaluations contain a lot of information that partners never look at.
- Need an explicit crosswalk for all current standards to the new system. Should be able to clearly document the fate of all standards. If a current standard is now a goal in the regional plan, show which goal.
- Correct the reference to Carbon Dioxide on pg 11. Current and proposed standard is a Carbon Monoxide standard.

III. DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS TO THE FOREST HEALTH THRESHOLD STANDARDS

Presentation: Staff provided background on issues related to forest health in the region, and background on the five proposed threshold standards for forest health. The forest health standards are designed to promote regional resilience of Tahoe's Forests, by addressing issues related to overstocking and excess fuels in the forest. Staff also provided a brief overview of the Tahoe Science Advisory Council directions for standard development, including exploring the use of the Individual, Clumps, and Openings (ICO)-based metric used by the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative for establishing a pattern (horizontal heterogeneity) threshold standard target.

Presentation link:

[HTTPS://WWW.TRPA.GOV/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/22_7_13_TUISWG_FH_SLIDES.PDF](https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/22_7_13_TUISWG_FH_SLIDES.PDF)

Working Group direction:

- Species based targets – a number of members expressed concerns over the species based approach for forest targets (eg. Sierra mixed conifer, Red Fir) and questioned why the species groups targeted differed between threshold standards. The group expressed support for exploring the following options, which staff said it would bring back to the committee within two months:
 - The Science Advisory Council suggestion of a bioclimatic approach to target ranges
 - Exploring simplified targets given limited differences between the current targets.
 - Greater consistency between types (groups) used to set targets
- Exploration of ICO based target as suggested by the Science Council.
- Forest health document should be reorganized. Need more emphasis on the "why" in the document and need to more clearly link the conditions today to the

proposed management actions to address the issues, and then addressed the actions to the threshold standards.

- More focus on the management implications of the proposed thresholds.
- Climate change – how do we deal with species that we expect will be lost, but outside of the current planning horizon?
- Need to review the forest health standards with a full suite of biodiversity standards, to understand how/if plant biodiversity will be addressed
- Highlighted the importance of engaging with the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team throughout the process

IX. Adjournment