

# Regulations for Tree Removal

May 30, 2015

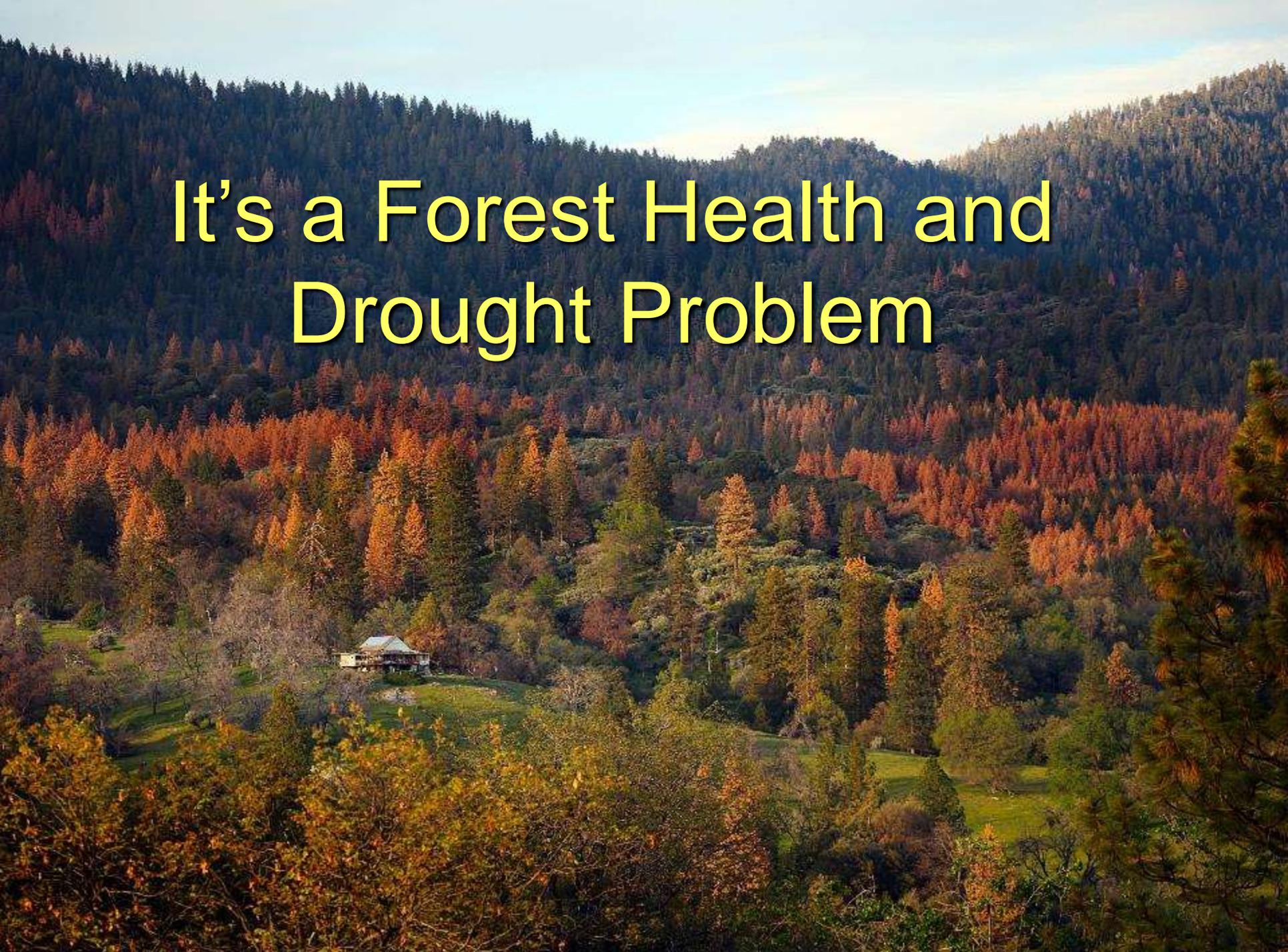
Unit Forester  
Len Nielson

**CAL FIRE**

Madera Mariposa Merced Unit



# It's a Forest Health and Drought Problem



# Why are so many trees dying? Unhealthy Forests



1909



1938



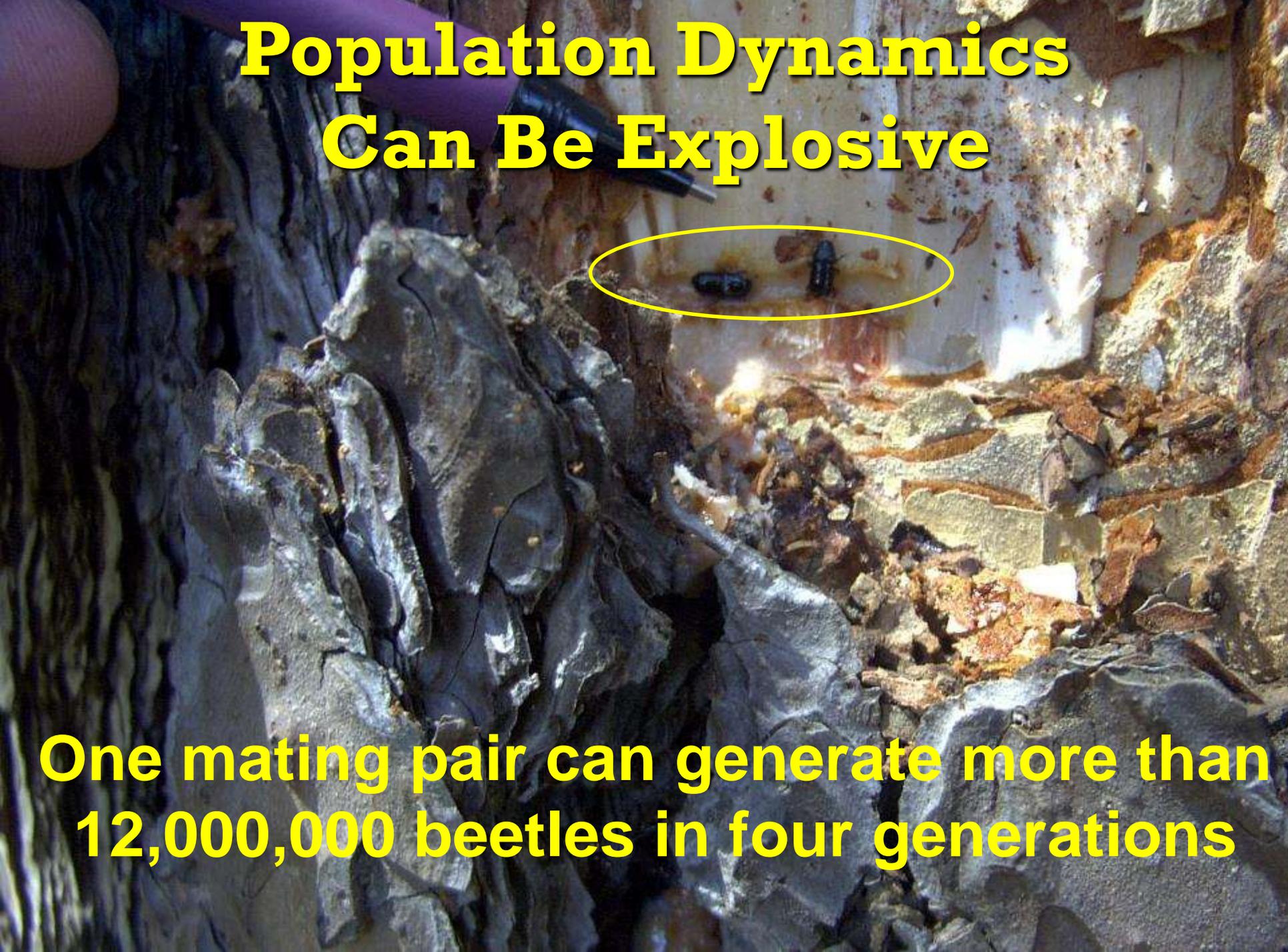
1958



1979

**Drought conditions are even more severe since stands are denser than historically occurred.**

# Population Dynamics Can Be Explosive



One mating pair can generate more than  
12,000,000 beetles in four generations

# Where We're Going

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## ● What we're doing now

- Mapping of mortality
  - Collaborating with USFS aerial survey
  - FRAP is looking at remote sensing/aerial imagery
  - CAL FIRE's mapping flight is completed
- Photo points to monitor and evaluate the tree mortality

# Photo Points for MMU

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- ◉ Miami Mountain
- ◉ Cedar Valley
- ◉ Deadwood Peak
- ◉ Signal Peak
- ◉ Bass Lake
- ◉ William Cell bridge
- ◉ Others





# Work Underway

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- Educational Material

- Power Points
- Tree Notes are being updated
  - Tree Note #19 Managing Bark Beetles in Urban and Rural Trees
- Web site is being updated

[http://calfire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_pestmanagement.php](http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_pestmanagement.php)

- Regulatory Relief

- Lift 10% limitation on 1038(K) is being proposed
  - Should go on agenda in front of Board of Forestry
- Provide Units with insect and forest pathologist support
  - Kim Corella
  - Tom Smith

# Tree Removal Permits

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## ● Most Common Permits

- Timber Harvest Plan
  - Lengthy and expensive
- Exemptions
  - 1038(b) Dead and dying 10%
  - 1038(c) 150' fire safe clearance
  - 1038(d)\* Substantially Damaged Timberland, 1038(g) Slash for energy
  - 1038(k)\*\* Drought Mortality
    - Over twenty acres, under twenty acres
  - Restrictions

# 14 CCR 1038 (B) Restrictions

- (1) - No tractor operations on slopes >50%
- (2) - No construction of new tractor roads on slopes >40%
- (3) - Compliance with Special Treatment Area rule provisions
- (4) - No tractor operations on slides or unstable areas
- (5) - No new road construction or reconstruction
- (6) - No heavy equipment operations in WLPZ except for road & drainage structure maintenance.
- (7) - No disturbance to known sites of rare, threatened, or endangered plants or animals
- (8) - No timber operations within the buffer zone of a sensitive species
- (9) - No timber operations within the standard width of a WLPZ except for sanitation salvage
- (10) - No timber operations on a significant archaeological or historical site.

# Timber Harvest Plan

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- Large document
- New form as of April 2015
- Registered Professional Forester (RPF) prepares it
- Takes about 6 months
- Costly
- Lasts for 5 years and can be extended
- Allows you to sell, barter, or trade wood products
- Must comply with all Forest Practice Rules

## CHRISTMAS TREE; DEAD, DYING OR DISEASED; FUELWOOD OR SPLIT PRODUCTS EXEMPTION

1038(b)

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- Often referred to as Less than 10%
  - Per acre
- Valid for one year
- Licensed Timber Operator prepares it
- Relitively Inexpensive
- Allows you to sell, barter, or trade wood products
- Two pages long plus some maps
- Must comply with all Forest Practice Rules

## NOTICE OF EMERGENCY TIMBER OPERATIONS FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION 1052.4

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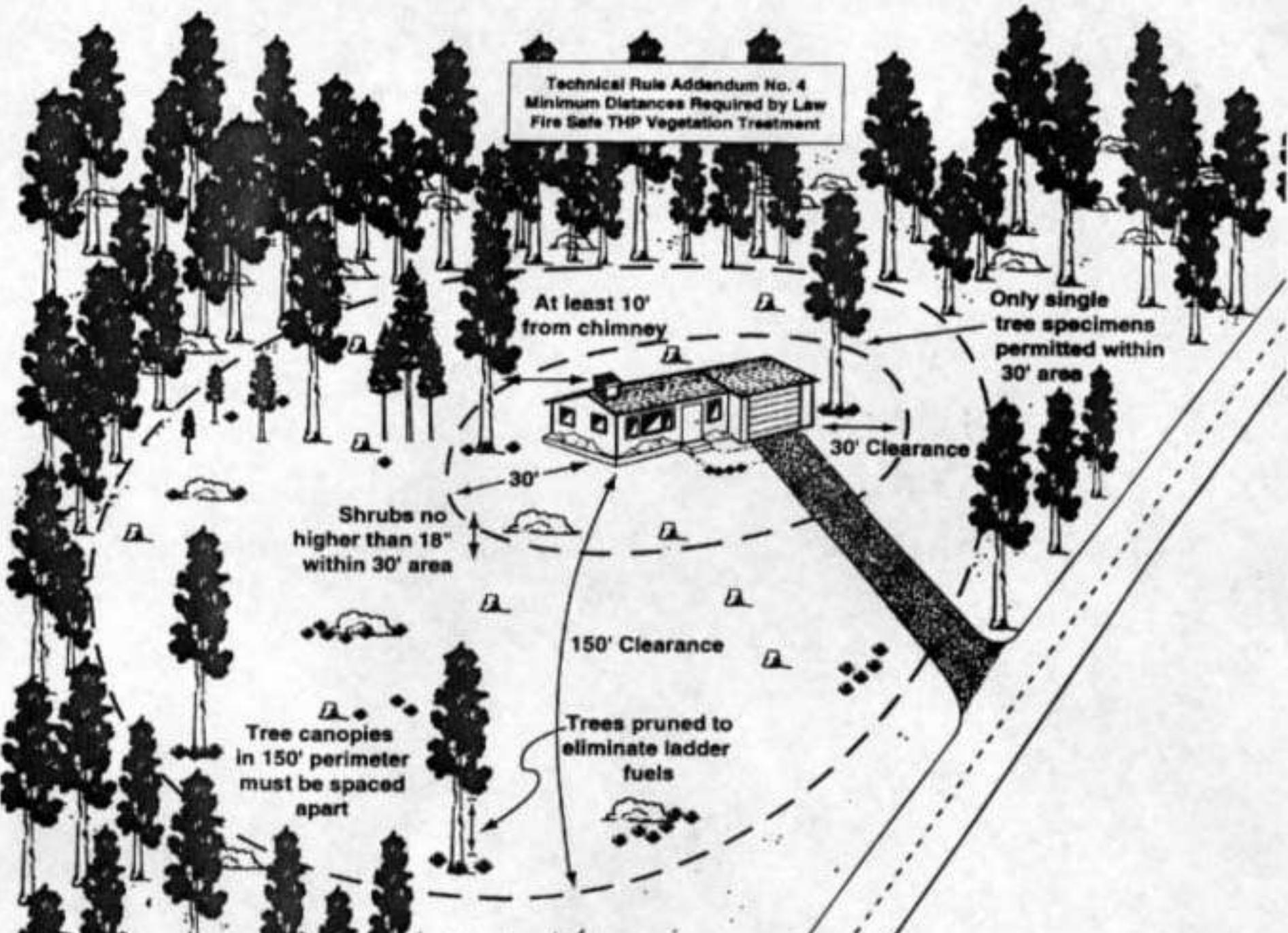
- RPF prepares it and the LTO is identified
- Three acres or more requires an Archeological Letter must be provided
- Valid for one year
- Allows you to sell, barter, or trade wood products
- Must comply with all Forest Practice Rules

## REMOVAL OF FIRE HAZARD TREES WITHIN 150 FEET OF A STRUCTURE EXEMPTION 1038 (c)

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- Two pages plus maps
- LTO can prepare it, Valid for one year
- Operations are limited to 150 feet from a legally permitted structure
- Clearcutting is not allowed
- All surface fuels must be treated in 45 days
- Allows you to sell, barter, or trade wood products
- Must comply with all Forest Practice Rules

**Technical Rule Addendum No. 4  
Minimum Distances Required by Law  
Fire Safe THP Vegetation Treatment**



At least 10' from chimney

Only single tree specimens permitted within 30' area

30' Clearance

30'

Shrubs no higher than 18" within 30' area

150' Clearance

Tree canopies in 150' perimeter must be spaced apart

Trees pruned to eliminate ladder fuels

# Challenges

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## ◉ Log buyers

- Value of logs is low right now

## ◉ Disposal of material

- Bioenergy
- Look for and encourage opportunities
  - Senior wood program, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs

## ◉ Funding

- No magic pots of money on the horizon

# Closing Thoughts

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## ◉ Disaster in slow motion

- We didn't create it and we can't solve it
  - We will help provide for public safety in these challenging circumstances

## ◉ Landowners must be engaged

- The trees on their land are their responsibility
- Create partners for the future health of the forest

Any Questions ?



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