

**FRESNO**

**Protections in place:**

	<b>Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Protection During Construction</b>	<b>Heritage Tree Protection</b>	<b>Riparian Vegetation Protections</b>	<b>Oak Canopy Retention</b>	<b>Oak Woodland Conservation Program</b>
<b>General Plan Language</b>	None	None	Open Space Element directs the county to ensure landmark trees are preserved. Scenic Highway Element requires County road improvement projects on scenic roads to preserve mature trees	Open Space Element designates riparian zones 50 - 100' wide and mitigation for disturbance at a ratio of 3:1. A 200' wide wildlife corridor along the Kern and San Joaquin River is established. A riparian ordinance should be adopted.	None	The Open Space Element directs the county to support preservation of significant areas of natural vegetation including oak woodlands and to preserve woodlands in new developments.
<b>Specific Ordinance</b>	None	None	None	None	None	None
<b>Voluntary Guidelines</b>	Guidelines recommend oak management plans. Range improvements should include oak retention when converting woodlands to agricultural use. A range of age and species are retained.	Guidelines recommend avoiding irrigation and root compaction through careful cuts, grading, and road design.	None	None	Guidelines recommend 10-30% canopy retention and professional advise when harvesting.	None

**Documents reviewed:**

**Date of Review:** August 2003

- Open Space Element
- Conservation Element

- Grading and Erosion Ordinance
- Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance

Land Use Element  
 Zoning Ordinance  
 Subdivision Ordinance

Tree Removal Ordinance  
 Voluntary Guidelines  
 Other County Codes

**Summary of Oak Protection Policies:**

Land Use Element, 1976, 1994	The Land Use Element articulates the goal of preserving the natural and resource lands in Fresno County. Land use designations include Open Space to preserve natural resources including wildlife habitat and natural or unique vegetation. Resource Conservation Zones are established in Westside rangelands (3.02), river influence areas (San Joaquin and the Kings River Valleys) (3.04). Open Space Areas (204-05) preserve and enhance habitats of significant plant or animal species (2.02) and shall remain essentially unimproved and open. The County must consider preservation and incorporation of natural features such as forested areas when issuing special use permits. Planned developments are to conserve natural site features, such as vegetation and watercourses in project design (3.00 i). Planned Rural Communities should minimize the impact of development on sensitive natural habitat areas (205-13 d.)
Open Space Element, 1976, 1994	Open space goals include retention, rehabilitation, and management of forests and wooded areas (306-02). Objectives include managing vegetation and wildlife resources in a responsible and productive manner (2.02), protecting habitats of plants and wildlife from unnecessary activities (2.03), and protection of riparian habitat as essential habitats to the maximum extent practicable (3.05). Landowners should be encouraged to maintain natural vegetation or plant suitable vegetation along fence lines, drainage and irrigation ditches and on unused or marginal land for the benefit of wildlife (3.06). Existing review procedures for subdivision maps, parcel maps, and site plans should incorporate measures to preserve riparian vegetation (3.07). The County should consider the acquisition of necessary riparian habitat for parks (3.08).
Open Space / Conservation Element, 2000	OAK WOODLAND: Goal OS-F is to preserve and protect valuable vegetation resources of Fresno County, including oak woodland habitat. The county should encourage private landowners and developers to preserve natural vegetation in visually sensitive areas (hillsides, ridges and transportation corridors) (OS-F.1), along fencelines, ditches, and marginal lands (OS-F.8), and require minimizing removal of vegetation on hillsides (OS-F.6). The county should support preservation of significant areas of natural vegetation including oak woodlands (OS-F.3), ensure landmark trees are preserved whenever possible (OS-F.4), and require that new developments preserve woodlands whenever possible (OS-F.10). The county should encourage prescribed fires to mimic natural processes (OS-F.9). The county should encourage conservation of oak woodlands by encouraging the Fresno County Oak Management Guidelines and prepare oak management plans and making the guidelines available to all landowners in oak woodlands (OS-F.B). To conserve scenic roadways, intensive land developments along scenic corridors should be designed to minimize visual scarring of vegetation (OS-L.3). Consideration should be given to ornamental trees during county road improvement projects (OS-L.5). The County shall ensure conservation of large continuous expanses of native vegetation to provide suitable wildlife habitat (OS-E.6). A biological resources evaluation is required prior to issuance of a discretionary permit (OS-E.9).

	RIPARIAN VEGETATION: This updated element calls for the county to require new public or private development to preserve and enhance existing riparian vegetation. The County designates riparian protection zones around natural watercourses with buffers from 50 to 100' wide (OS-D.4). Mitigation in the same watershed, on the ratio of 3:1 is required for any riparian areas destroyed (OS-D.6). The County will require a 200 foot wide wildlife corridor along the Kern and San Joaquin River (OS-E.14). A riparian ordinance should be adopted by the county (OS-D.A).
Scenic Element, 1976, 1994	The Scenic Highway Element requires County road improvement projects involving scenic roads to be constructed to insure that maximum consideration is given to preservation of ornamental trees (3.07). Landscaped drives bordered by mature and consistent landscaping having area wide significance are to be identified (Objective 2.03). All road construction projects, as well as private land development projects, should endeavor to retain healthy, mature trees along public roads (3.05)
Voluntary Oak Management Guidelines, 1998	The Guidelines encompass building, fire safety, range improvement and harvesting activities in oak woodlands all of which benefit from development of an oak management plan. Development recommendations include avoiding tree root compaction through careful cut and fill, grading, and road design. Avoid irrigation within 10' of an oak trunk. Fire guidelines include creation of defensible space and managing oaks for fire safety. Range improvements should incorporate oak retention when converting woodlands to agricultural use and obtaining professional advice for prescribed fires. Oak canopy of 10-30% should be retained when harvesting. A wide range of age and species, hollow trees, limbs and brush should be retained. Professional advice should be sought for commercial or extensive harvest.

**Contact Information:**

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