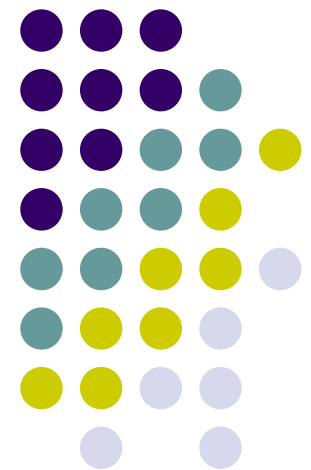


Development of the Western Region Hazard Tree Identification Protocol

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TREE FUND

Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund



Hazard Tree Guidelines

How to evaluate and identify hazards in a large population of trees

Reasonable and prudent level of effort

Processes to quickly identify hazardous trees

Background



- Hazard trees represent a significant liability to the general public, cities, counties, utilities, and State and Federal agencies.
- Unmanaged, hazard trees can cause personal injuries and fatalities, damage to public and private property, power outages, and threats to the nation's critical infrastructure.
- The Utility Arborist Association is interested in developing industry accepted procedures for identifying hazard trees during power line inspections.



Project Objectives

- Develop an industry accepted protocol or best management practice for identifying individual trees, within a large population of trees, which should be examined more closely to assess their potential risk.
- Initially, develop a pilot project in the western states of California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington and Utah.
- In the long-term produce a national or international set of guidelines that could be adapted to meet local or regional conditions.



Developing BMPs – Initial Steps

- What work has already been accomplished in this area?
- What are the types of hazardous conditions that should be identified and managed (what constitutes a hazard tree)?
- What is the scope and frequency of required inspections to identify hazard trees?
- Is there a necessary and acceptable level of risk or tolerance for hazardous trees?

Developing BMPs – Initial Steps



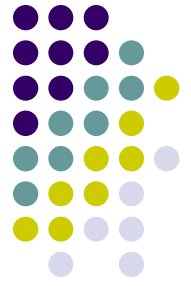
- What are the most effective methods that should be used to identify and evaluate hazard trees?
- What are the thresholds or triggers for mitigation?
- What type of mitigation should be used, and where?
- What are the expected costs (financial, environmental and safety) for implementation of best management practices and where will the funding come from?

Project Plan



- Identify relevant stakeholders
 - Some examples are: Electric Utilities, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Forestry, Public Utilities Commission, Vendors, Municipal Forestry, Large Land Owners
- Convene a working group that will represent the interests of the stakeholders
- Identify and evaluate similar efforts
- Create a draft standard for circulation

Project Plan



- Based on comments, finalize the draft standard
- Publish and distribute findings
- Develop Memorandums of Understanding with stakeholder associations
- The project target completion is December 31, 2007