

MENDOCINO**Protections in Place**

	Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions	Oak Protection During Construction	Heritage Tree Protection
General Plan Language	<p>The County shall develop CEQA standards that require disclosure of impacts to all sensitive biotic communities during review of discretionary projects. These standards shall require the following mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserve, to the maximum extent possible, oak trees and other vegetation that occur near the heads of drainages or depressions to maintain diversity of vegetation type and wildlife habitat as part of agricultural projects.• Comply with the Oak Woodlands Preservation Act (PRC Section 21083.4) regarding oak woodland preservation to conserve the integrity and diversity of oak woodlands, and retain, to the maximum extent feasible, existing oak woodland and chaparral communities and other significant vegetation as part	<p>Protect oak woodlands through limitations on density and clustering, and conserve and replant oaks in community areas and developments (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-85, Page 4-48).</p>	<p>Protect existing oak trees on hillsides and minimize visual impacts of development (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-87, Page 4-48).</p> <p>Also, policy to protect scenic values of county's natural and rural landscapes and areas of natural beauty (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-128, Page 4-54).</p>

	<p>of residential, commercial, and industrial approvals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate replacement of lost oak woodlands at 2:1 ratio for habitat loss (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-21.1, Page 4-38). <p>Ukiah Valley Area Plan, which only covers portions of the Ukiah Valley: Replacement planting will be done at a ratio of at least 3:1, and planted trees will be maintained for at least 5 years, with trees not surviving being replaced and maintained for 5 years. (Ukiah Valley Area Plan Policy OC2.3e, Page 9-17) (Is not applicable to ministerial projects.)</p>		
Specific Ordinance	<p>Removal of any true oak species or Tan Oak for the purpose of developing a cannabis cultivation site is prohibited. (Mendocino County Code Section 10A.17.040(K))</p>	<p>When designating areas for cannabis cultivation, must attempt to minimize impact on environmentally-sensitive areas including hillsides where slopes exceed 15%, prime soil, oak woodland, and timber resources (Mendocino County Code Section 20.242.070).</p>	<p>In the Coastal Zone: Development significantly restricted in Highly Scenic Areas (HSA) (Mendocino County Code Section 20.504.015).</p> <p>A definition of Highly Scenic Areas is found here: https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=5330</p> <p>The definition is broad enough to include oaks, although there do not seem to be any HSAs that have oaks (this could change as more HSA are added).</p>
Voluntary	None	None	None

Guidelines			
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	Riparian Vegetation Protections	Oak Canopy Retention Provisions	Oak Woodland Conservation Program
General Plan Language	<p>Protect stream corridors and associated riparian habitat, require riparian buffers for projects. (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-1, Page 4-34).</p> <p>Limit land-use density and intensity within critical wildlife habitat including riparian corridors (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-76, Page 4-46).</p> <p>Conserve riparian vegetation through development design and standards (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-90, Page 4-48).</p> <p>Stream restoration and maintenance programs should conserve riparian vegetation (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-91, Page 4-48).</p>	<p>Maintain and enhance urban tree canopy, which creates sense of open space (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-86, Page 4-48).</p>	<p>Goal: Prevent fragmentation and loss of the county's oak woodlands, forests, and wildlands and preserve their economic and ecological values and benefits. (Mendocino County General Plan Goal RM-5, Page 4-32)</p> <p>Generally, protect the county's natural landscapes by restricting conversion and fragmentation of timberlands, oak woodlands, stream corridors, farmlands, and other natural environments (Mendocino County General Plan Policy RM-24, Page 4-37).</p>
Specific Ordinance	<p>No development or activity, which could degrade riparian areas permitted except for a few exceptions, such as utilities and dams (Mendocino County Code Sections 20.496.035 and 20.719.035). (County code</p>	None	<p>Removal of any true oak species or Tan Oak for the purpose of developing a cannabis cultivation site is prohibited. (Mendocino County Code Section 10A.17.040(K))</p>

	<p>section 15.32.040.C, which pertains to roads, quotes policy, which is protective of riparian vegetation, from the Coastal Element.)</p> <p>Grading ordinance requires avoiding impacts to the root system of riparian vegetation (Mendocino County Code Section 20.488.010)</p>		
Voluntary Guidelines	None	None	<p>An Oak Resources Assessment Report was issued in 2001, covering the status of the county's oak woodlands, programs and activities focused on oak woodland conservation, oak resources at risk, and an evaluation of future needs.</p> <p>The report includes maps of oak species, with detail on acreage, ownership patterns, and habitat associations.</p> <p>The report summarized the county's publicly-owned oak woodlands, including management agency oak stewardship goals. (e.g., Bureau of Land Management activities are focused on securing large contiguous blocks of habitat for the purpose of improving high quality wildlife habitat.)</p> <p>(Mendocino County Oak Resources Assessment Report, Feb 2001, http://cemendocino.ucanr.edu/files/17071.pdf)</p>

Documents Reviewed **Date of Review:** May 2021

☒ Open Space Element ☐ Grading and Erosion Ordinance
☒ Conservation Element ☐ Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
☒ Land Use Element ☐ Tree Removal Ordinance
☒ Scenic Element ☐ Voluntary Guidelines
☒ Zoning Ordinance ☐ Other County Codes
☐ Subdivision Ordinance ☒ Oak Resources Assessment Report

Summary of Oak Protection Policies:

General Plan, 2009	Resource Management Element (Chapter 4 of General Plan) contains policies discussing land use and conservation. Updated in 2009, this section discusses the county's various resources and policies concerning open spaces, rural landscapes, and scenic resources. Relevant goals and policies include preventing fragmentation and loss of the county's oak woodlands (Goal RM-5), protecting natural landscapes by restricting conversion and fragmentation of oak woodlands (Policy RM-24), and maintaining and improving oak woodland habitat to provide for slope stabilization, soil protection, species diversity, and wildlife habitat by replacing oak woodlands at a 2:1 ratio and complying with the Oak Woodlands Protection Act (4-38). Additionally, the Resource Element calls to conserve oak woodlands by limiting density and clustering (Policy RM-85).
Zoning Ordinance	Title 20 of the Zoning Ordinance specifically mentions minimizing environmental impacts on hillsides with slopes greater than 15% and oak woodlands when cultivating cannabis (20.242.070). Development in Highly Scenic Areas requires significant environmental consideration (20.504.015).

Contact Information: Website: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org>

Mendocino Planning & Building Services **County Contacts:**

860 North Bush St ☐ No contacts
 Ukiah, CA 95482 ☐ Policies provided by county staff
 Phone: 707-234-6650 ☐ Policies discussed with county staff
 Fax: 707-463-5709 ☒ Policy inventory reviewed by county staff