



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
Oak Woodland Ordinance Fact Sheet

LNG-1024
9/21/2017

Date Approved: April 11th, 2017

Effective Date: May 11th, 2017

Where is this applicable?

- All Sites within the unincorporated inland portions of the County, outside of Urban or Village areas.

What is the definition of an Oak Woodland?

- A grouping of trees, where the dominant species is oak, over 1 acre in a contiguous pattern and distinguishable as a unit, including Stands within 500 feet of the woodland.
- Dominant trees are: Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*)

What is the definition of clear-cutting?

- Clear-cutting means the removal of contiguous trees that occupy an area of one acre or more within an Oak Woodland from a Site or portion of a Site for any reason, including the harvesting of wood, or to enable the conversion of land to other land uses.

What is prohibited?

- Clear-cutting (removal of 1+ acres) of Oak Woodlands on slopes of 30% or greater on any site.

What is exempt?

- Oak Woodland Management Plans, preemption and emergency, residential development, conservation easement, public utility work, establishing a fence line, and creating a fire break.

Can I obtain a permit to clear-cut Oak Woodland?

- Yes, Minor Use Permit approval is required to remove 1-3 acres over a 10 year period.
- Conditional Use Permit Approval is required to remove more than 3 acres over a 10 year period.

What are Heritage Oaks?

- Individual oak species of 48 inches dbh or greater, separated from all Stands and Oak Woodlands by at least 500 feet. Minor Use Permit approval is required for removal.

What is an Oak Management Plan?

- Prepared by a qualified individual to allow clear-cutting of Oak Woodland. (See Section 22.58.060 of the ordinance)
- Clear-cutting cannot exceed 5% of the Site's total Oak Woodland Canopy over the established time period