Accessibility Note: This document uses underline and strike-through fonts to indicate text which is proposed for addition or deletion. Please adjust your screen reader settings accordingly.

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

**“Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas Silviculture Amendments”**

**Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR),**

**Division 1.5, Chapter 4:**

**Subchapters 4, and 6, Article 11**

**917.2. Treatment of Slash to Reduce Fire Hazard. [Coast]**

~~Except in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas of the Coast Forest District, t~~The following standards shall apply to the treatment of slash created by Timber Operations within the Plan area and on road adjacent to the Plan area.

a) Slash to be treated by piling and burning shall be treated as follows:

(1) Piles created prior to September 1 shall be treated not later than April 1 of the year following its creation, or within 30 days following climatic access after April 1 of the year following its creation.

(2) Piles created on or after September 1 shall be treated not later than April 1 of the second year following its creation, or within 30 days following climatic access after April 1 of the second year following its creation.

(3) Alternatives to (1) and/or (2) shall be justified in the Plan by the RPF and may be approved by the Director.

(b) Within one hundred (100) feet of the edge of the traveled surface of Public Roads, and within fifty (50) feet of the edge of the traveled surface of permanent private roads open for public use where permission to pass is not required, Slash created and trees knocked down by Timber Operations shall be treated by Lopping for Fire Hazard Reduction, piling and burning, chipping, burying or removal from the zone.

(c) All Slash and Woody Debris greater than one (1) inch but less than eight (8) inches in diameter within one hundred (100) feet of Approved and Legally Permitted Habitable Structures shall be removed or piled and burned; all Slash created between one hundred to two hundred (100-200) feet of Approved and Legally Permitted Habitable Structures shall be Lopped for Fire Hazard Reduction, removed, chipped or piled and burned; Lopping may be required between two hundred to five hundred (200-500) feet where unusual fire risk or hazard exist as determined by the Director or the RPF.

(d) An alternative to treating Slash and Woody Debris along roads and within two hundred (200) feet of Approved and Legally Permitted Habitable Structures may be approved by the Director when the RPF explains and justifies in the Plans how equal fire protection will be provided. The alternative shall include a description of the alternate treatment(s) and the portion(s) of the Plan area in which they will be utilized. In proposing alternate slash treatments, the RPF shall consider the estimated amount and distribution of slash to be created by the operation, type of remaining vegetation, topography, climate, and degree of public exposure fire history.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4562, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4513, 4551.5 and 4562, Public Resources Code.

**921.3. Silvicultural Methods.**

The objective of this Section is to prescribe silvicultural methods that will protect the long-term productivity of soils and Timberlands in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas and protect the natural and scenic qualities of these areas. The following silvicultural methods as prescribed below will be applied in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas. 14 CCR §§ 913 through 913.6, defines these methods.

(a) Commercial Thinning or Selection Methods. When the commercial thinning or the selection silvicultural method is used the following standards are required:

(1) For an initial entry into an even-aged stand, leave a well distributed timber stand after cutting and logging operations have been completed on the cut area at least forty (40)~~%~~ percent by number of those trees eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ and more d.b.h. present prior to commencement of current Timber Operations ~~and at least 50% by number of those over 12 inches (30.5 cm) d.b.h. but less than 18 inches (45.7 cm) or more d.b.h~~. ~~All l~~Leave trees shall be thrifty coniferous trees which are free from substantial damage caused by Timber Operations~~, and leave trees shall have the characteristics of a “Countable Tree” as described in PRC § 4528(b)~~. No conifer tree shall be cut which is more than seventy-five (75) feet ~~(22.86 m)~~ from a leave tree twelve (12) inches ~~(30.5 cm)~~ d.b.h. or larger located within the Logging Area. ~~Average top stump Diameter, outside bark, shall be considered 1 inch greater than dbh~~.

(2) For timber stands where more than one age class is present, leave at least fifty (50)% by number of those trees over 12 inches d.b.h. ~~Leave trees and established conifer regeneration shall amount to 50% of the pre-existing tree crown Canopy cover.~~  ~~All l~~Leave trees shall be thrifty coniferous trees which are free from substantial damage caused by Timber Operations~~, and leave trees shall have the characteristics of a “Countable Tree” described in PRC § 4528(b)~~. No conifer tree shall be cut which is more than seventy-five (75) feet from a ~~3 point Countable Tree~~ leave tree twelve (12) inches d.b.h. or larger located within the Logging Area.

(3) A report of Stocking as described in PRC § 4587 shall be filed within six months following completion of work as described in the Plan.

(b) Sanitation-Salvage Method. When the sanitation-salvage silivcultural method is used the following practices are required:

(1) Restrictions on time periods for subsequent Timber Operations shall not apply to the sanitation-salvage silvicultural method.

(2) A determined effort shall be made to regenerate any cut area during the first planting season following log removal. Necessary site preparation, planting or seeding shall be completed within the first planting season following logging, except where unusual and adverse weather conditions require extending site preparation and planting into the following planting season. Deficiencies in Stocking shall be corrected by planting annually at least three times if necessary to meet the Stocking Standards in 14 CCR § 921.4.

(3) Where the result of the cutting would have the effect of a clearcut all of the restrictions in this section pertaining to the use of clearcuts shall apply, except for 1) areas which are currently suffering severe damage due to insects or disease and the removal of the entire affected area is deemed necessary by a forest pathologist or forest entomologist and agreed to by the Director to prevent the spread of the disease or insects, or 2) except for areas which have recently been burned over and the RPF determined recovery of the affected area is unlikely.

(c) Clearcutting Method. The clearcutting method provides for harvesting of the entire existing timber stand in one harvest in an area. Every reasonable effort shall be made by the RPF to use silvicultural methods other than clearcutting to protect the natural and scenic values in the Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas. The clearcutting method is not authorized for Special Treatment Areas in the Southern Subdistrict of the Coast Forest District.

(1) The clearcutting method may be used when justified and explained in the Plan and found in conformance by the Director for one or more of the following reasons:

(A) Leave trees would be subject to severe damage from sunburn, saltburn, and/or windthrow.

(B) Conifer stand improvement necessitates the clearing of a stand of hardwoods.

(C) Leave trees would prevent regeneration of the principal conifer Species.

(D) Old growth stands where seventy (70) percent~~%~~ or more of the Countable Trees over thirty-six (36) inches ~~(91.4 cm)~~ d.b.h. are more than two hundred (200) years old.

(E) Timber stands where trees are infected with insects or diseases, and there is significant risk for substantial loss of standing timber or timber growth.

(2) Clearcut areas shall not exceed ten (10) acres ~~(4.047 ha)~~ in size, but may be enlarged to not more than fifteen (15) acres ~~(6.070 ha)~~ when explained and justified in the Plan, and when found in conformance with the Rules ~~of the Board~~. Exceptions to the ten (10) acres ~~(4.047 ha)~~ size limit may be proposed by the RPF preparing the Plan when in his or her judgment the result will be overall reduction of soil erosion due to logging and road construction, or when it is necessary to include “long corners” to take advantage of topography for a more natural logging unit.

(3) Clearcut areas of ten (10) acres or larger regardless of ownership shall be separated by a logical logging unit not less than three hundred (300) feet ~~(91.44 m)~~ in width between the clearcut areas. Except for the sanitation-salvage, commercial thinning, and selection silvicultural method, no other harvesting shall take place in the unit adjacent to the clearcut areas until a fifty (50) percent~~%~~ crown cover of conifer tree Species has been attained in the clearcut areas. Contiguous clearcuts may occur without regard to ownership only when the total combined acreage in the area clearcut is no more than ten (10) acres.

(4) Straight boundaries and a quadrilateral appearance should be avoided in defining and logging the area to be clearcut. The outline of the clearcut area should, where possible, be in accordance aesthetically with natural pattern and features of the topography.

(5) The area to be clearcut must be clearly defined on the ground prior to initial inspection so the Department can readily determine if the full intent of the regulations will be complied with.

(6) No area previously cut under any other silvicultural method, except the sanitation-salvage method, shall be clearcut until ten (10) years have elapsed.

(7) Regeneration after clearcutting shall be obtained by using conifer trees or seed appropriate to the site. Site preparation and the planting of seedlings and/or seeding shall be completed within the first planting season following logging except where unusual and adverse weather conditions require extending site preparation and planting into the following planting season. Deficiencies in Stocking shall be corrected by planting annually, if necessary. Stocking requirements shall be met within five (5) years after completion of Timber Operations.

(d) Rehabilitation Cutting. Rehabilitation cutting may be applied to stands where the primary forest management objective is to reestablish full conifer Stocking on lands where brush and hardwoods are the predominant~~e~~ Species. Areas harvested for rehabilitation purposes must be significantly understocked with conifers prior to the proposed harvest. The Director may request that a report of Stocking be submitted by the RPF prior to approval of the Plan. This report will be requested when it cannot be mutually resolved on the ground that the area is significantly understocked. Restrictions applicable to clearcutting in 14 CCR § 921.3(c) shall apply to rehabilitation cutting. Leave trees shall be marked in areas harvested for rehabilitation purposes.

(e) Fuelbreak/Defensible Space. Where some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed to create or maintain a shaded fuel break or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum Stocking Standards within the timber operating area shall be met immediately after harvest and shall be those found in 14 CCR § 912.7. The RPF shall describe in the Plan specific vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce fuels to meet the objectives of a Community Fuelbreak Area or other objectives identified by the RPF with the written concurrence of a public fire agency and determined by the Director to be consistent with the purposes of this section.

(f) Variable Retention may be utilized as described within 14 CCR § 953.4(d) to achieve the objectives of this section.

(g~~e~~) Recutting of Logging Areas. Timber Operations for removal of trees may only be repeated on a Logging Area within less than ten (10) years after completion of a previous Timber Operation if minimum Stocking Standards have been met, the reasons for the operation are justified and explained in the Plan, and the scenic and/or natural qualities of a stand would be enhanced by lighter or more frequent tree removal. In no instance shall Stocking be reduced below the standards provided in 14 CCR § 921.4 nor shall more than sixty (60) percent~~%~~ by numbers of those trees eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ and more d.b.h. and no more than fifty (50) percent~~%~~ by numbers of those trees over twelve (12) inches ~~(30.5 cm)~~ d.b.h. but less than eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ d.b.h. be removed within any one ten (10) year period.

(h) An Alternative Prescription shall be included in a Plan when, in the judgment of the RPF, an alternative Regeneration Method or Intermediate Treatment offers a more effective or more Feasible way of achieving the objectives of this section than any of the standard Silvicultural Methods provided above.

(1) The Alternative Prescription shall comply with 14 CCR §§ 913.6(b) and (d), and is subject to Director approval as described within 14 CCR § 913.6(e)

(2) If an Alternative Prescription will have the practical on-the-ground effect of a clearcut, regardless of name or description, then the acreage limitations, and requirement for separation by a typical logging unit, Yarding equipment limitations, exceptions, and Stocking requirements for the clearcut Regeneration Method described above, shall apply.

On Timber Operations in which cutting has occurred within ten (10) years preceding the current operations, stumps which are the result of cutting trees within the preceding ten (10) shall be counted as trees cut during the current operation in determining percent of trees cut.

Timber Operations conducted under the Sanitation-Salvage Silvicultural Method, and the harvesting of minor forest products and incidental vegetation are exempt from the above provisions of this Section.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4553, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4551.5, 4561, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

**§ 921.4. Stocking Requirements.**

The Stocking Standards for understocked Timberlands and Substantially Damaged Timberlands as provided for by §§ 14 CCR 1080 through 1081.1 and 1085 through 1085.6 are not applicable in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas in the Coast Forest District. After completion of Timber Operations one of the following Stocking Standards must be met:

(a) Basal Area. The average residual basal area, measured in stems one (1) inch ~~(2.5 cm)~~ or larger in Diameter at least one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet per acre ~~(28.69 m2 per ha)~~ on Site I lands, at least one hundred (100) square feet per acre ~~(22.96 m2 per ha)~~ on Site II and Site III lands and at least seventy-five (75) square feet per acre ~~(17.22 m2 per ha)~~ on Site IV and V lands~~, or~~.

(b) Point Count. The area contains an average Countable Tree point count of at least two hundred (200) per acre on Site I and II lands, one hundred twenty-five (125) per acre on Site III lands, or one hundred (100) per acre on Site IV and V lands. The point count to be computed as follows:~~point count as specified below:~~

~~(1) On Site I and II lands, the area contains an average point count of 450 per acre (1111.9 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

(1~~A~~) Each Countable Tree which is not more than four (4) inches d.b.h. counts one (1) point ~~450 Countable Trees per acre (1111.9 per ha) not more than 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 1 towards meeting Stocking requirements.~~

(2~~B~~) Each Countable Tree over four (4) inches and not more than twelve (12) inches d.b.h. counts two (2) points ~~150 Countable Trees per acre (370.6 per ha) over 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh and not more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 3 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

(3~~C~~) Each Countable Tree over twelve (12) inches d.b.h. counts as four (4) points ~~75 Countable Trees per acre (185.3 per ha) over 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 6 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(2) On Site III, IV, and V lands the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre (741.3 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

~~(A) 300 Countable Trees per acre (741.3 per ha) not more than 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 1 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(B) 100 Countable Trees per acre (247.1 per ha) over 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh and not more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 3 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(C) 50 Countable Trees per acre (123.5 per ha) over 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 6 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

(4) Redwood root crown sprouts will be counted using the average stump d~~D~~iameter one (1) foot ~~(.305 m)~~ above average ground level of the original stump from which the redwood root crown sprouts originate, counting one (1) sprout for each one (1) foot ~~(.305 m)~~ of stump Diameter to a maximum of six (6) per stump.

(c) Site Classification shall be determined by the RPF who prepared the Plan.

(d) Rock outcroppings, Meadows and Wet Areas, or other areas not normally bearing timber shall not be considered as requiring Stocking and are exempt from such provisions.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4551.5, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

**921.6. Hazard Reduction.**

(a) Lopping. Except in the Southern Subdistrict, to reduce fire hazards, maintain soil fertility, reduce erosion, and improve visual appearance, all Slash and debris created by the current operations and within 300 feet of Public Roads and Watercourses open to the public shall be lopped and scattered, chipped, or crushed, prior to April 1st of the year following its creation, so that no material generally remains more than 30 inches (76.2 cm) above the ground.

As an exception to the above requirements after creation of Slash and debris, the RPF may propose and, with the concurrence of the Director's representative, delete those areas within 300 feet not visible from roads or Watercourses when such requirements are not necessary to reduce fire hazards, to maintain soil fertility, to reduce erosion and to improve visual appearance.

(b) Burning. ~~Broadcast burning shall be prohibited on lands harvested under the commercial thinning and selection silvicultural methods in Coastal Zone Special Treatment Areas. Broadcast burning may be allowed for site preparation purposes in accordance with 14 CCR § 917.4 on lands harvested under the clearcut, rehabilitation or sanitation-salvage methods when a prescribed burning Plan is submitted as part of the THP which explains and justifies broadcast burning in the Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas.~~ A determined effort shall be made to protect the surface organic horizon of the soil during the course of any permitted broadcast burning operations.

(c) Snags. All Snags within the WLPZ and within 100 feet (30.48 m) of meadow edges shall be left standing with the following exceptions:

(1) When felling is required for fire or safety reasons, as specified by the Rules or CAL-OSHA regulations, or when necessary in sanitation-salvage operations.

(2) When a Snag of commercial value is marked for felling by an RPF or Supervised Designee after an initial preharvest inspection and consultation with the CDFW and the Timber Owner.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4562, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 451.5, 4562 and 30417, Public Resources Code.

**961.3. Silvicultural Methods.**

The objective of this Section is to prescribe silvicultural methods that will protect the long-term productivity of soils and Timberlands in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas and protect the natural and scenic qualities of these areas. The following silvicultural methods as prescribed below will be applied in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas. 14 CCR §§ 953 through 953.13, defines these methods.

(a) Commercial Thinning or Selection Methods. When the commercial thinning or the selection silvicultural method is used the following standards are required:

(1) In the pine type, after Timber Operations have been completed, at least 50% by number of those trees eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ or larger d*.*b.h. and at least 50% by number of those trees twelve (12) inches ~~(30.5)~~ d*.*b.h., but less than eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ d*.*b.h. must be left.

(2) In the redwood type, after Timber Operations have been completed, at least fifty (50) percent~~%~~ by number of those trees twelve (12) to eighteen (18) inches ~~(30.5 cm to 45.7 cm)~~, eighteen (18) to thirty-two (32) inches ~~(45.7 cm to 81.3 cm)~~ and thirty-two (32) inches ~~(81.3 cm)~~ or larger d*.*b.h. must be left.

(3) These leave tree requirements shall be calculated from the timber stand existing prior to the commencement of Timber Operations. Leave trees shall be thrifty, coniferous trees which are Dominant or Co-dominant in crown class prior to timber harvesting or which have crowns typical of such Dominant and Co-dominant trees. They shall be free from substantial damage caused by Timber Operations. No cut conifer tree shall be more than seventy-five (75) feet ~~(22.86 m)~~ from a leave tree over eighteen (18) inches ~~(45.7 cm)~~ d*.*b.h. located within the Logging Area.

(4) Immediately following completion of Timber Operations, Stocking must meet or exceed Stocking Standards of 14 CCR § 961.4.

(5) A report of Stocking as described in PRC § 4587 shall be filed within six months following completion of work as described in the Plan.

(b) When the Sanitation Salvage Silvicultural Method is used, the following practices are required:

(1) A determined effort shall be made to regenerate any cut area during the first planting season following log removal. Necessary site preparation, planting or seeding shall be completed within the first planting season following logging except where unusual and adverse weather conditions require extending site preparation and planting into the following planting season. Deficiencies in Stocking shall be corrected by planting annually until full Stocking requirements are met.

(2) Operations utilizing the sanitation salvage silvicultural method shall meet the basal area or point count Stocking Standards of 14 CCR § 961.4 within five (5) years after the completion of Timber Operations.

~~(c) The standards for silvicultural methods under this section may be modified when explained and justified in the Plan. Proposed modifications shall protect the natural and scenic qualities of the Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas to at least the same extent as otherwise provided in these Rules.~~

~~Credits~~

(c) Fuelbreak/Defensible Space. Where some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed to create or maintain a shaded fuel break or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum Stocking Standards within the timber operating area shall be met immediately after harvest and shall be those found in 14 CCR § 952.7. The RPF shall describe in the Plan specific vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce fuels to meet the objectives of a Community Fuelbreak Area or other objectives identified by the RPF with the written concurrence of a public fire agency and determined by the Director to be consistent with the purposes of this section.

(d) Variable Retention may be utilized as described within 14 CCR § 953.4(d) to achieve the objectives of this section.

(d) An Alternative Prescription shall be included in a Plan when, in the judgment of the RPF, an alternative Regeneration Method or Intermediate Treatment offers a more effective or more Feasible way of achieving the objectives of this section than any of the standard Silvicultural Methods provided above.

(1) The Alternative Prescription shall comply with 14 CCR §§ 953.6(b) and (d), and is subject to Director approval as described within 14 CCR § 953.6(e)

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4551.5, 4561, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

**§ 961.4. Stocking Requirements.**

The Stocking Standards for Substantially Damaged Timberlands and understocked Timberlands as provided for by 14 CCR §§ 1080 through 1081.1 and 1085 through 1085.6 are not applicable in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas in the Southern Forest District. After completion of Timber Operations one of the following Stocking Standards must be met:

(a) Basal Area. The average residual basal area shall be at least one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet per acre ~~(28.69 m2 per ha)~~ on Site I lands, at least one hundred (100) square feet per acre ~~(22.96 m2 per ha)~~ on Site II and Site III lands and at least seventy-five (75) square feet per acre (17.22 m2 per ha) on Site IV and V lands, or

(b) Point Count. The area contains an average point count ~~as specified below:~~ of one hundred twenty-five (125) per acre on Site I, II and III lands or one hundred (100) on Site IV and V lands to be computed as follows:

(A) Each countable tree [Ref. PRC § 4528(b)] which is not more four (4) inches d.b.h. counts one (1) point.

(B) Each countable tree over four (4) inches and not more than twelve (12) inches d.b.h. counts two (2) points.

(C) Each countable tree over twelve (12) inches d.b.h. counts three (3) points.

~~(1) On Site I and II lands, the area contains an average point count of 450 per acre (1111.9 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

~~(A) 450 Countable Trees per acre (1111.9 per ha) not more than 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 1 towards meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(B) 150 Countable Trees per acre (370.6 per ha) over 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh and not more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 3 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(C) 75 Countable Trees per acre (185.3 per ha) over 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 6 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(2) On Site III, IV, and V lands the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre (741.3 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

~~(A) 300 Countable Trees per acre (741.3 per ha) not more than 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 1 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(B) 100 Countable Trees per acre (247.1 per ha) over 4 inches (10.2 cm) dbh and not more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 3 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

~~(C) 50 Countable Trees per acre (123.5 per ha) over 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 6 toward meeting Stocking requirements.~~

Redwood root crown sprouts will be counted using the average stump d~~D~~iameter one (1) foot ~~(.305 m)~~ above average ground level of the original stump from which the redwood root crown sprouts originate, counting one (1) sprout for each one (1) foot ~~(.305 m)~~ of stump Diameter to a maximum of six (6) per stump.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4551.5, 4561.2, 4583 and 30417, Public Resources Code.