

**State of California  
Office of Administrative Law**

In re:  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Regulatory Action:

Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections:

Amend sections: 917.2, 921.3, 921.4, 921.6,  
961.3, 961.4

Repeal sections:

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF REGULATORY  
ACTION

Government Code Section 11349.3

OAL Matter Number: 2023-1005-02

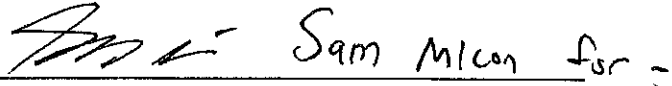
OAL Matter Type: Regular (S)

---

This action by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection amends regulations concerning the Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas.

OAL approves this regulatory action pursuant to section 11349.3 of the Government Code. This regulatory action becomes effective on January 1, 2024 pursuant to Public Resources Code section 4554.5.

Date: November 16, 2023

 Sam Milon for

Nicole C. Carrillo  
Senior Attorney

For: Kenneth J. Pogue  
Director

Original: Edith Hannigan, Executive  
Officer

Copy: Jane Van Susteren

## NOTICE PUBLICATION/REGULATIONS SUBMISSION

STD. 400 (REV. 10/2019)

**REGULAR**

For use by Secretary of State only

|  |                                      |   |                  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| OAL FILE NUMBERS                                   | NOTICE FILE NUMBER<br>Z-2023-0516-03 | REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER<br>2023-1005-025 | EMERGENCY NUMBER |
| For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only |                                      |   |                  |
| NOTICE   |                                      | REGULATIONS                               |                  |

**ENDORSED - FILED**  
in the office of the Secretary of State  
of the State of California

NOV 16 2023

1:36 PM

OFFICE OF ADMIN. LAW  
2023 OCT 5 PM 1:44

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY<br>Board of Forestry and Fire Protection | AGENCY FILE NUMBER (If any) |
|---|-----------------------------|

**A. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE (Complete for publication in Notice Register)**

|   |   |                                    |   |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. SUBJECT OF NOTICE<br>Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas  | TITLE(S)<br>14                                | FIRST SECTION AFFECTED<br>917.2    | 2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE<br>May 26, 2023 |
| 3. NOTICE TYPE<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                   | 4. AGENCY CONTACT PERSON<br>Jane Van Susteren | TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(916) 619-9795 | FAX NUMBER (Optional)                         |
| OAL USE ONLY<br><input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Modified <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved/Withdrawn | NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER<br>2023, 21-2          | PUBLICATION DATE<br>5/26/23        |   |

**B. SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS (Complete when submitting regulations)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1a. SUBJECT OF REGULATION(S)<br>Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas Silviculture Amendments        | 1b. ALL PREVIOUS RELATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S) |
| 2. SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Including title 26, if toxics related) |  |
| SECTION(S) AFFECTED<br>(List all section number(s) individually. Attach additional sheet if needed.)      | ADOPT  |
| TITLE(S)<br>14  | AMEND<br>917.2; 921.3; 921.4; 921.6; 961.3; 961.4        |
|   | REPEAL   |

PER AGENCY  
REQUEST  
SAM

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 3. TYPE OF FILING   |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Rulemaking (Gov. Code §11346)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Compliance: The agency officer named below certifies that this agency complied with the provisions of Gov. Code §§11346.2-11347.3 either before the emergency regulation was adopted or within the time period required by statute. | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Readopt (Gov. Code, §11346.1(h))                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn nonemergency filing (Gov. Code §§11349.3, 11349.4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmittal of disapproved or withdrawn emergency filing (Gov. Code, §11346.1)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Changes Without Regulatory Effect (Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (Gov. Code, §11346.1(b))   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  | <input type="checkbox"/> File & Print   |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Print Only   |

PER AGENCY  
REQUEST  
SAM

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 4. ALL BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES OF AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED REGULATIONS AND/OR MATERIAL ADDED TO THE RULEMAKING FILE (Cal. Code Regs. title 1, §44 and Gov. Code, §11347.1) |  |  |
| 5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGES (Gov. Code, §§ 11343.4, 11346.1(d); Cal. Code Regs., title 1, §100)  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Effective January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 (Gov. Code §11343.4(a))   | <input type="checkbox"/> Effective on filing with Secretary of State           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Changes Without Regulatory Effect |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effective other, (Specify) January 1, 2023 | per PRC 4554.5(a)  |
| 6. CHECK IF THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE NOTICE TO, OR REVIEW, CONSULTATION, APPROVAL OR CONCURRENCE BY, ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance (Form STD. 399) (SAM §6660)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair Political Practices Commission                   | <input type="checkbox"/> State Fire Marshal                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |  |  |

|  |                                    |                       |  |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 7. CONTACT PERSON<br>Jane Van Susteren | TELEPHONE NUMBER<br>(916) 619-9795 | FAX NUMBER (Optional) | E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional)<br>jane.vansusteren@bof.ca.gov |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|

8. I certify that the attached copy of the regulation(s) is a true and correct copy of the regulation(s) identified on this form, that the information specified on this form is true and correct, and that I am the head of the agency taking this action, or a designee of the head of the agency, and am authorized to make this certification.

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| SIGNATURE OF AGENCY HEAD OR DESIGNEE<br>Jane Van Susteren  | DATE<br>10/5/2023 |
| TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY<br>Jane Van Susteren, Regulations Coordinator, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection |                   |

For use by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) only

ENDORSED APPROVED

NOV 16 2023

Office of Administrative Law

1  
2 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
3 **"Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas Silviculture Amendments"**  
4 **Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR),**  
5 **Division 1.5, Chapter 4:**  
6 **Subchapters 4 and 6, Articles 7 and 11**  
7

8 **917.2.**

9 ~~Except in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas of the Coast Forest District,~~

10 ~~¶~~The following standards shall apply to the treatment of slash created by Timber  
11 Operations within the Plan area and on road adjacent to the Plan area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16  
17 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4562, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
18 Sections 4513, 4551.5 and 4562, Public Resources Code.

19  
20 **921.3. Silvicultural Methods.**

21 The objective of this Section is to prescribe silvicultural methods that will protect the  
22 long-term productivity of soils and Timberlands in Coastal Commission Special  
23 Treatment Areas and protect the natural and scenic qualities of these areas. The  
24 following silvicultural methods as prescribed below will be applied in Coastal

1 Commission Special Treatment Areas. 14 CCR §§ 913 through 913.6, defines these  
2 methods.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (2) A determined effort shall be made to regenerate any cut area during the first planting  
6 season following log removal. Necessary site preparation, planting or seeding shall be  
7 completed within the first planting season following logging, except where unusual and  
8 adverse weather conditions require extending site preparation and planting into the  
9 following planting season. Deficiencies in Stocking shall be corrected by planting  
10 annually at least three times if necessary to meet the Stocking Standards in 14 CCR §  
11 921.4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Leave trees shall be marked in areas harvested for rehabilitation purposes.



1 (e) Fuelbreak/Defensible Space. These are projects where some trees and other  
2 vegetation and fuels are removed to create or maintain a shaded fuel break or  
3 defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they  
4 might cause. Minimum Stocking Standards within the timber operating area shall be met  
5 immediately after harvest and shall be those found in 14 CCR § 912.7. The RPF shall  
6 describe in the Plan specific vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce  
7 fuels to meet the objectives of a Community Fuelbreak Area or other objectives  
8 identified by the RPF with the written concurrence of a public fire agency and  
9 determined by the Director to be consistent with the purposes of this section. The Plan  
10 shall include RPF recommendations to protect the natural and scenic qualities of the  
11 resources that led to the designation of the area as a Special Treatment Area, including,  
12 but not limited to, treating slash in areas highly visible to the public from a publicly  
13 accessible vantage point.

14 (f) Variable Retention may be utilized as described within 14 CCR § 953.4(d) to achieve  
15 the objectives of this section. The Plan shall include RPF recommendations to protect  
16 the natural and scenic qualities of the resources that led to the designation of the area  
17 as a Special Treatment Area, including, but not limited to, treating slash in areas highly  
18 visible to the public from a publicly accessible vantage point.

19 (ge) Recutting of Logging Areas. Timber Operations for removal of trees may only be  
20 repeated on a Logging Area within less than ten (10) years after completion of a  
21 previous Timber Operation if minimum Stocking Standards have been met, the reasons  
22 for the operation are justified and explained in the Plan, and the scenic and/or natural  
23 qualities of a stand would be enhanced by lighter or more frequent tree removal. In no  
24 instance shall Stocking be reduced below the standards provided in 14 CCR § 921.4  
25 nor shall more than sixty (60) percent% by numbers of those trees eighteen (18) inches

1 (45.7 cm) and more d.b.h. and no more than fifty (50) percent by numbers of those  
2 trees over twelve (12) inches (30.5 cm) d.b.h. but less than eighteen (18) inches (45.7  
3 cm) d.b.h. be removed within any one ten (10) year period.

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

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

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

15 (3) Proposed modifications shall protect the natural and scenic qualities of the  
16 Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas to at least the same extent as  
17 otherwise provided in these Rules, in consideration of the resources that led to  
18 the designation of the area as a Special Treatment Area.

19  
20 On Timber Operations in which cutting has occurred within ten (10) years preceding the  
21 current operations, stumps which are the result of cutting trees within the preceding ten  
22 (10) years shall be counted as trees cut during the current operation in determining  
23 percent of trees cut.

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

4  
5 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4553, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
6 Sections 4551.5, 4561, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

7  
8 **§ 921.4. Stocking Requirements.**

9 The Stocking Standards for understocked Timberlands and Substantially Damaged  
10 Timberlands as provided for by §§ 14 CCR 1080 through 1081.1 and 1085 through  
11 1085.6 are not applicable in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas in the Coast  
12 Forest District. After completion of Timber Operations one of the following Stocking  
13 Standards must be met:

14 (a) Basal Area. The average residual basal area, measured in stems one (1) inch (2.5  
15 cm) or larger in Diameter at least one hundred twenty-five (125) square feet per acre  
16 (28.69 m<sup>2</sup> per ha) on Site I lands, at least one hundred (100) square feet per acre  
17 (22.96 m<sup>2</sup> per ha) on Site II and Site III lands and at least seventy-five (75) square feet  
18 per acre (17.22 m<sup>2</sup> per ha) on Site IV and V lands, ~~or,~~

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

23 ~~(1) On Site I and II lands, the area contains an average point count of 450 per acre~~  
24 ~~(1111.9 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

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

4 (2B) Each Countable Tree over four (4) inches and not more than twelve (12) inches  
5 d.b.h. counts two (2) points 150 Countable Trees per acre (370.6 per ha) over 4 inches  
6 (10.2 cm) dbh and not more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to count as 3  
7 toward meeting Stocking requirements.

8 (3C) Each Countable Tree over twelve (12) inches d.b.h. counts as four (4) points 75  
9 Countable Trees per acre (185.3 per ha) over 12 inches (30.5 cm) dbh; each tree to  
10 count as 6 toward meeting Stocking requirements.

11 (2) On Site III, IV, and V lands the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre  
12 (741.3 per ha) to be computed as follows:

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

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

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

20 (4) Redwood root crown sprouts will be counted using the average stump dDiameter  
21 one (1) foot (.305 m) above average ground level of the original stump from which the  
22 redwood root crown sprouts originate, counting one (1) sprout for each one (1) foot  
23 (.305 m) of stump Diameter to a maximum of six (6) per stump.

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

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

4  
5 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections  
6 4551.5, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

7  
8 **921.6. Hazard Reduction.**

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

15  
16 As an exception to the above requirements after creation of Slash and debris, the RPF  
17 may propose and, with the concurrence of the Director's representative, delete those  
18 areas within 300 feet not visible from roads or Watercourses when such requirements  
19 are not necessary to reduce fire hazards pursuant to § 917.2(b), to maintain soil fertility,  
20 to reduce erosion and to improve visual appearance.

21 ~~(b) Burning. Broadcast burning shall be prohibited on lands harvested under the~~  
22 ~~commercial thinning and selection silvicultural methods in Coastal Zone Special~~  
23 ~~Treatment Areas. Broadcast burning may be allowed for site preparation purposes in~~  
24 ~~accordance with 14 CCR § 917.4 on lands harvested under the clearcut, rehabilitation~~  
25 ~~or sanitation salvage methods when a prescribed burning Plan is submitted as part of~~

1 ~~the THP which explains and justifies broadcast burning in the Coastal Commission~~  
2 ~~Special Treatment Areas.~~ A determined effort shall be made to protect the surface  
3 organic horizon of the soil during the course of any permitted broadcast burning  
4 operations.

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

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

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

12  
13 NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4551 and 4562, Public Resources Code. Reference:  
14 Sections 4551.5, 4562 and 30417, Public Resources Code.

15  
16 **961.3. Silvicultural Methods.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (1) A determined effort shall be made to regenerate any cut area during the first planting  
23 season following log removal. Necessary site preparation, planting or seeding shall be  
24 completed within the first planting season following logging except where unusual and  
25 adverse weather conditions require extending site preparation and planting into the

1 following planting season. Deficiencies in Stocking shall be corrected by planting  
2 annually until full Stocking requirements are met.

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

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

10 (c) Fuelbreak/Defensible Space. Where some trees and other vegetation and fuels are  
11 removed to create or maintain a shaded fuel break or defensible space in an area to  
12 reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Minimum Stocking  
13 Standards within the timber operating area shall be met immediately after harvest and  
14 shall be those found in 14 CCR § 952.7. The RPF shall describe in the Plan specific  
15 vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce fuels to meet the objectives  
16 of a Community Fuelbreak Area or other objectives identified by the RPF with the  
17 written concurrence of a public fire agency and determined by the Director to be  
18 consistent with the purposes of this section. The Plan shall include RPF  
19 recommendations to protect the natural and scenic qualities of the resources that led to  
20 the designation of the area as a Special Treatment Area, including, but not limited to,  
21 treating slash in areas highly visible to the public from a publicly accessible vantage  
22 point.

23 (d) Variable Retention may be utilized as described within 14 CCR § 953.4(d) to achieve  
24 the objectives of this section. The Plan shall include RPF recommendations to protect  
25 the natural and scenic qualities of the resources that led to the designation of the area



1 as a Special Treatment Area, including, but not limited to, treating slash in areas highly  
2 visible to the public from a publicly accessible vantage point.

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

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

9 (2) Proposed modifications shall protect the natural and scenic qualities of the  
10 Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas to at least the same extent as  
11 otherwise provided in these Rules, in consideration of the resources that led to  
12 the designation of the area as a Special Treatment Area.

13  
14 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections  
15 4551.5, 4561, 4561.2, and 30417, Public Resources Code.

16  
17 **§ 961.4. Stocking Requirements.**

18 The Stocking Standards for Substantially Damaged Timberlands and understocked  
19 Timberlands as provided for by 14 CCR §§ 1080 through 1081.1 and 1085 through  
20 1085.6 are not applicable in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas in the  
21 Southern Forest District. After completion of Timber Operations one of the following  
22 Stocking Standards must be met:

23 (a) Basal Area. The average residual basal area shall be at least one hundred twenty-  
24 five (125) square feet per acre (~~28.69~~ m<sup>2</sup> per ha) on Site I lands, at least one hundred

1 ~~(100)~~ square feet per acre (~~22.96 m<sup>2</sup>~~ per ha) on Site II and Site III lands and at least  
2 seventy-five (75) square feet per acre (17.22 m<sup>2</sup> per ha) on Site IV and V lands, or

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

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

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

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

11 ~~(1) On Site I and II lands, the area contains an average point count of 450 per acre~~  
12 ~~(1111.9 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

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

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

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

20 ~~(2) On Site III, IV, and V lands the area contains an average point count of 300 per acre~~  
21 ~~(741.3 per ha) to be computed as follows:~~

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

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

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

6 Redwood root crown sprouts will be counted using the average stump dDiameter one  
7 (1) foot ~~(.305 m)~~ above average ground level of the original stump from which the  
8 redwood root crown sprouts originate, counting one (1) sprout for each one (1) foot  
9 ~~(.305 m)~~ of stump Diameter to a maximum of six (6) per stump.

10  
11 NOTE: Authority cited: Section 4551, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections  
12 4551.5, 4561.2, 4583 and 30417, Public Resources Code.