

DEFINITIONS

0334.2

The term “timberland” has historically been defined in a number of ways for the purposes of state policy, regulation, and education. For the purposes of this policy statement, the Board includes two definitions that originate in California’s forest practice regulation and land zoning statutes: the Z’Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act and the Timberland Productivity Act.

The Z’Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act, Public Resources Code Section 4526 defines ‘timberland’ as, “...land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis.” This definition is the foundation of the State’s forest practice regulation program and the Board’s adoption of Forest Practice Rules for timber management on private and state owned lands.

The Timberland Productivity Act, Government Code Section 51100, et seq established a new zoning designation intended to encourage the growing and harvesting of timber, and compatible uses on California’s private and state owned lands. Section 51104 of the Act defines “timberland” as, “...privately owned land, or land acquired for state forest purposes, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, and which is capable of growing an average annual volume of wood fiber of at least 15 cubic feet [180 board feet] per acre.” The term “compatible use” is defined in Section 51104(h) of the Act as, “...any use which does not significantly detract from the use of the property for, or inhibit, growing and harvesting timber.” The definition goes on to specify compatible uses including, but not limited to management for watershed; management for fish and wildlife habitat or hunting and fishing; a use integrally related to the growing, harvesting and processing of forest products, including but not limited to roads, log landings, and log storage areas; erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance of gas, electric, water, or communication transmission facilities; grazing; and construction of a residence or other structure necessary for the management of land zoned as timberland production.

LAND AVAILABILITY

0334.3

In order to maintain timber growing land in California as a permanent source of current and future timber supply, the Board has found that it is in the public interest:

A. To oppose conversion to uses which preclude timber growing and harvesting on such privately owned timberland and other lands which have been classified as Timberland Production zone (TPZ) under provisions of the Z’berg-Warren-Keene-Collier Forest Taxation Reform Act of 1976, except where the public values to be achieved by such conversion exceed the public values derivable from timber growing. This policy applies both to conversion proposed by the owner of the land and to proposals for public acquisition of such land that do not include a managed timberland component;

B. To manage all timberland on State forests to investigate and demonstrate management for optimum long-run timber production. Where such forest lands contain or adjoin areas of high recreation value in State or other ownership, timber growing and harvesting practices may be modified in order to minimize conflicts between other land uses and to demonstrate the costs and effectiveness of such practices;

C. To support land management plans on federal public lands that are environmentally responsible and support economically sustainable rural communities and infrastructure;

D. To recognize that conservation easements pursuant to Civil Code 815.1 can be useful planning instruments compatible with the public values associated with timberland and Timberland Production zoning (TPZ) designations. Such public values include, but are not limited to preservation of watershed integrity, and floral and faunal habitat.