

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-8007
(916) 653-0989 FAX
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov



Staff Report

Forest Practice Committee Agenda Item #2

“Draft Modified THP Acreage Increase Proposal”

During discussions in regards to this proposed acreage increase of the Modified Timber Harvest Plan (MTHP) Staff, as well as the Department, have been asked on several occasions about the past utility of the existing MTHP. During these discussion Staff has been unable to provide accurate figures on the use of the existing MTHP and in response decided to research the use of this permitting vehicle and provide findings to the Forest Practice Committee.

These data are gathered from the online *CAL FIRE* THP Library, which is publically available at: <ftp://thp.fire.ca.gov/THPLibrary>. Staff only queried data from 2008 - 2012 due to the fact that it was not until 2008 that all regions were posting harvest documents online. Researching MTHP data prior to 2008 would be much more time consuming and utilize resources from each region to aid staff in synthesizing these data. The information that was readily available to staff is as follows:

Submitted MTHPs from 2008 – 2012 (to date)

Table 1: MTHP Data from 2008

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	3	38
Northern	0	0
Southern	0	0
Total	3	38

Table 2: MTHP Data from 2009

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	1	8
Northern	0	0
Southern	0	0
Total	1	8



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Table 3: MTHP Data from 2010

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	0	0
Northern	0	0
Southern	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 4: MTHP Data from 2011

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	7	150
Northern	1	40
Southern	2	114
Total	10	190

Table 5: MTHP Data from 2012 (to date)

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	4	57
Northern	5	211
Southern	2	22
Total	11	290

Table 6: Total MTHP Data from 2008 - 2012 (to date)

Forest Practice District	# of Approved MTHPs	Acres of MTHP
Coast	15	57
Northern	6	211
Southern	4	22
Total	25	640

Summary

As indicated in Table 6, MTHPs are used relatively infrequently with only 25 approved projects spanning an approximate 4 year timeline. Acreages of approved MTHPs ranged from 4 – 86 acres, with an average acreage of approximately 25 acres over the queried timeline. It must be noted that the queried timeline does span an unprecedented economic downturn. The State’s forest products industry has been as negatively affected by these economic woes as any industry in the State and therefore the above provided figures may represent the lower thresholds of utilization of the MTHP. While 2008 – 2010 display nominal use of the MTHP, years 2011- 2012 indicate increased utilization and are consistent with generalized statements provided by the Department during the September Forest Practice Committee meeting on the use of the MTHP.