

1 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**

2
3 **“Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist Amendments and Technical Rule**
4 **Addendum #2, 2017”**

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

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8 **Division 1.5, Chapter 4,**

9
10 **Subchapter 4, 5, & 6, Article 2;**

11 **Amend:**

12
13 **§ 912.9, 932.9, 952.9 Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist [All Districts]**

14
15 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

16 **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT**

17 (1) Do the assessment area(s) of resources that may be affected by the
18 proposed project contain any Past Projects or Reasonably Foreseeable Probable
19 Future Projects ~~past, present, or reasonably foreseeable probable future projects~~? Yes
20 No

21 If the answer is yes, identify the project(s) and affected resource subject(s).

22 (2) Are there any continuing, significant adverse impacts from past land use
23 activities that may add to the impacts of the proposed project? Yes No

24 If the answer is yes, identify the activities, describing their location, impacts and
25 affected resource subject(s).

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(3) Will the proposed project, as presented, in combination with ~~past~~ Past or Reasonably Foreseeable Probable Future Projects, ~~present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects~~ identified in items (1) and (2) above, have a reasonable potential to cause or add to significant cumulative impacts in any of the following resource subjects?

	Yes after mitigation (a)	No after mitigation (b)	No reasonably potential significant effects <u>impacts</u> (c)
1. Watershed			
2. Soil Productivity			
3. Biological			
4. Recreation			
5. Visual			
6. Traffic			
7. <u>Greenhouse Gases (GHG)</u>			
8. <u>Wildfire Risk and Hazard</u>			
9. <u>Other</u>			

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	Yes after mitigation (a)	No after mitigation (b)	No reasonably potential significant effects <u>impacts</u> (c)
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a) "Yes after mitigation"; means that potential significant adverse cumulative impacts are left after application of the ~~forest practice rules~~ Forest Practice Rules and mitigations or alternatives proposed by the plan submitter.

b) "No after mitigation" means that any potential for the proposed timber operation to cause or add to significant adverse cumulative impacts by itself or in combination with other projects has been reduced to insignificance or avoided by mitigation measures or alternatives proposed in the ~~THP Plan~~ THP Plan and application of the ~~forest practice rules~~ Forest Practice Rules.

c) "No reasonably potential significant cumulative ~~effects~~ impacts" means that the operations proposed under the ~~THP Plan~~ THP Plan do not have a reasonable potential to join with the impacts of any other project to cause, add to, or constitute significant adverse cumulative impacts.

(4) If column (a) is checked in (3) above describe why the expected impacts cannot be feasibly mitigated or avoided and what mitigation measures or alternatives were considered to reach this determination. If column (b) is checked in (3) above describe what mitigation measures have been selected which will substantially reduce or avoid reasonably potential significant cumulative impacts except for those mitigation measures or alternatives mandated by application of the Forest Practice Rules ~~rules of the Board of Forestry~~.

1 (5) Provide a brief description of the assessment area used for each resource
2 subject.

3 (6) List and briefly describe the individuals, organizations, and records consulted
4 in the assessment of cumulative impacts for each resource subject. Records of the
5 information used in the assessment shall be provided to the Director upon request.
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7 **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**
8 **TECHNICAL RULE ADDENDUM NO. 2**
9 **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT**
10

11 **Introduction**

12 The purpose of this addendum is to guide the assessment of cumulative impacts
13 as required in 14 CCR §§ 898, 912.9, 932.9, 952.9 and 1034 that may occur as a result
14 of proposed timber operations. This assessment shall include evaluation of both on-
15 site and off-site interactions of proposed project activities with the impacts of Past
16 Projects and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects ~~past and reasonably~~
17 ~~foreseeable future projects.~~

18 In conducting an assessment, the RPF ~~must~~ shall distinguish between the
19 potential on-site impacts of the Plan's proposed activities that are mitigated by
20 application of the Forest Practice Rules ~~and the interactions of proposed activities~~
21 (which may not be significant when considered alone) with impacts of Past Projects
22 and Reasonably Foreseeable Probable Future Projects ~~past and reasonably~~
23 ~~foreseeable future projects~~ pursuant to PRC § 15130(b)(1)(a).

24 Resource subjects to be considered in the assessment of cumulative impacts are
25 described in the Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 Appendix.

1 The RPF preparing a THP Plan shall conduct an assessment based on
2 information that is reasonably available ~~before~~ prior to submission of the THP Plan.
3 RPFs ~~are expected to~~ shall submit sufficient information to support their findings if
4 significant issues are raised during the Department's review of the THP Plan.

5 Information used in the assessment of cumulative impacts may be supplemented
6 during the THP Plan review period. Agencies participating in ~~plan~~ Plan review may
7 provide input into the cumulative impacts assessment based upon their area of
8 expertise. Agencies ~~should~~ shall justify and support their recommendations with
9 documentation.

10 The Department, as lead agency, shall make the final determination regarding
11 assessment sufficiency and the presence or absence of significant cumulative
12 impacts. This determination shall be based on a review of all sources of information
13 provided and developed during review of the ~~Timber Harvesting~~ Plan.

14 15 **Identification of Resource Areas**

16 The RPF shall establish and briefly describe the geographic assessment area within
17 or surrounding the ~~plan~~ Plan for each resource subject to be assessed and shall briefly
18 explain the rationale for establishing the resource area. This shall be a narrative
19 description and shall be shown on a map when a map adds clarity to the assessment.
20

21 **Identification of Information Sources**

22 The RPF shall list and briefly describe the individuals, organizations, and records
23 ~~used~~ relied upon as sources of information in the assessment of cumulative impacts,
24 including references for listed records and the names, affiliations, addresses, and
25

1 phone numbers of specific individuals contacted. Records of information used in the
2 assessment shall be provided to the Director upon request.

3 Common sources of information for cumulative effects impacts assessment are
4 identified below. Sources to be used will depend upon the complexity of individual
5 situations and the amount of information available from other plans. Sources not listed
6 below may have to be consulted based on individual circumstances. Not all sources of
7 information need to be consulted for every THP Plan.

8 **1. Consultation with Experts and Organizations:**

- 9 (a) County Planning Department; (b) Biologists;
10 (c) Geologists; (d) Soil Scientists;
11 (e) Hydrologists; (f) Federal Agencies;
12 (g) State Agencies; (h) Public and private utilities.

13 **2. Records Examined:**

- 14 (a) Soil Maps; (b) Geology Maps;
15 (c) Aerial Photographs; (d) Natural Diversity Data Base;
16 (e) THP Plan Records; (f) Special Environmental

17 Reports;

- 18 (g) Topographic Maps; Basin Plans; (h) Basin Plans; Fire History

19 Maps;

- 20 (i) Fire History Maps; Relevant Federal Agency Documents or Plans;
21 (j) Relevant Federal Agency Documents or Plans;
22 (k) Relevant Watershed or Wildlife Studies (published or unpublished);
23 (l) Available Modeling Approaches

1 —As provided in Section 898 of the rules, the RPF or supervised designee and the plan
2 submitter must consult information sources that are reasonably available.

3
4 **Past Projects and Reasonably Foreseeable Probable and Future Activities**

5 **Projects**

6 Past Projects and Reasonably Foreseeable Probable Future Projects ~~future projects~~
7 included in the cumulative impacts assessment shall be described as follows:

8 **A.** Identify and briefly describe the location of ~~past and reasonably foreseeable~~
9 ~~probable future projects~~ Past Projects and Reasonably Foreseeable Probable Future
10 Projects as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1 within described resource assessment areas.

11 Include a map or maps and associated legend(s) clearly depicting the following
12 information:

13 1. Township and Range numbers and Section lines.

14 2. Boundary of the ~~planning~~ Planning watershed ~~Watershed(s)~~ within which the
15 plan area is located along with the CALWATER 2.2 identification number.

16 3. Location and boundaries of Past Projects and Reasonably Foreseeable
17 Probable Future Projects ~~past, present and reasonably foreseeable probable future~~
18 ~~timber harvesting projects~~ on land owned or controlled by the timberland owner of the
19 proposed timber harvest within the ~~planning~~ Planning watershed ~~Watershed (s)~~
20 depicted in section (2) above. For purposes of this section, Past Projects ~~past~~
21 ~~projects~~ shall be limited to those projects submitted within ten years prior to
22 submission of the THP Plan.

23 4. Silvicultural methods for each of the timber harvesting projects depicted in
24 section (3) above. Each specific silvicultural method must be clearly delineated on
25 the map(s), and associated THP Plan number referenced in the legend or an

1 annotated list. In addition, shading, hatching, or labeling shall be used which clearly
2 differentiates silvicultural methods into one of the four categories outlined in Table 1.

3 **5.** A north arrow and scale bar (or scale text).

4 **6.** Source(s) of geographical information.

5 The map scale shall be large enough to clearly represent one planning watershed per
6 page or of a scale not less than 1:63,360. Planning watersheds with densely situated
7 or overlapping harvest units, or those which are large or irregular in size, may require
8 multiple maps to achieve clarity. Map(s) shall be reproducible on black & white
9 copiers, and submitted on an 8½ x 11 page(s).

Commented [DM1]: Decision Point: This is a regulatory standard; therefore, should ONLY black and white maps be required. NOTE: the proposed regulatory proposal the WFMP allows for color maps.

11 **Table 1**

Silvicultural Category	Silvicultural Method
Evenaged Management 14 CCR § 913.1 [933.1, 953.1]	Clearcutting, Seed Tree Seed Step, Seed Tree Removal Step, Shelterwood Preparatory Step, Shelterwood Seed Step, Shelterwood Removal Step
Unevenaged Management 14 CCR § 913.2 [933.2, 953.2]	Selection, Group Selection, Transition
Intermediate Treatments 14 CCR § 913.3 [933.3, 953.3]	Commercial Thinning, Sanitation-Salvage

1 2 3 4 5	Special Prescriptions and Other Management 14 CCR § 913.4 [933.4, 953.4]	Special Treatment Area Prescriptions, Rehabilitation of Understocked Area Prescription, Fuelbreak/Defensible Space, Southern Subdistrict Special Harvesting Method (14 CCR § 913.8), Variable Retention, Conversion
6 7 8 9	Alternative Prescriptions shall be put into the category within which the most nearly appropriate or feasible silvicultural method in the Forest Practice Rules is found pursuant to 14 CCR § 913.6 (b)(3)[933.6(b)(3), 953.6(b)(3)].	

10 **B. The RPF shall** ~~Identify~~ identify and give the location and description of any known, continuing significant environmental ~~problems~~ effects caused by ~~past~~ Past projects
11 Projects as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1. The RPF who prepares the ~~plan~~ Plan, or ~~their~~
12 supervised designee, shall obtain information from plan submitters (timberland or
13 timber owner), and from appropriate agencies, landowners, and individuals about past,
14 and future land management activities and shall consider past experience, if any, in the
15 assessment area related to past impacts and the impacts of the proposed operations,
16 rates of recovery, and land uses. A poll of adjacent land owners is encouraged and
17 may be required by the Director to determine such activities and significant adverse
18 environmental problems on adjacent ownerships.

Commented [DM2]: APPENDIX commences here, which has been determined to date by the FPC to be a guidance component to TRA #2.

20 **Repeal:**

21 **Appendix**

22 **Technical Rule Addendum #2**

23 ~~In evaluating cumulative impacts, the RPF shall consider the factors set forth~~
24 ~~herein.~~

25 **A. Watershed Resources**

1 Cumulative Watershed Effects (CWEs) occur within and near bodies of water or
2 significant wet areas, where individual impacts are combined to produce an effect that
3 is greater than any of the individual impacts acting alone. Factors to consider in the
4 evaluation of cumulative watershed impacts are listed below.

5 1. Impacts to watershed resources within the Watershed Assessment Area
6 (WAA) shall be evaluated based on significant on-site and off-site cumulative effects on
7 beneficial uses of water, as defined and listed in applicable Water Quality Control
8 Plans.

9 2. Watershed effects produced by timber harvest and other activities may
10 include one or more of the following:

- 11 • Sediment.
- 12 • Water temperature.
- 13 • Organic debris.
- 14 • Chemical contamination.
- 15 • Peak flow.

16 The following general guidelines shall be used when evaluating watershed impacts.
17 The factors described are general and may not be appropriate for all situations. Actual
18 measurements may be required if needed to evaluate significant environmental effects.
19 The plan must comply with the quantitative or narrative water quality objectives set
20 forth in an applicable Water Quality Control Plan.

21 **a. Sediment Effects** Sediment-induced CWEs occur when earth
22 materials transported by surface or mass wasting erosion enter a stream or stream
23 system at separate locations and are then combined at a downstream location to
24 produce a change in water quality or channel condition. The eroded materials can
25 originate from the same or different projects.

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2 Potentially adverse changes are most likely to occur in the following locations and
3 situations:

4 _____ Downstream areas of reduced stream gradient where
5 sediment from a new source may be deposited in addition to sediment derived from
6 existing or other new sources.

7 _____ Immediately downstream from where sediment from a new
8 source is combined with sediment from other new or existing sources and the
9 combined amount of sediment exceeds the transport capacity of the stream.

10 _____ Any location where sediment from new sources in
11 combination with suspended sediment from existing or other new sources significantly
12 reduces the survival of fish or other aquatic organisms or reduces the quality of waters
13 used for domestic, agricultural, or other beneficial uses.

14 _____ Channels with relatively steep gradients which contain
15 accumulated sediment and debris that can be mobilized by sudden new sediment
16 inputs, such as debris flows, resulting in debris torrents and severe channel scouring.

17 Potentially significant adverse impacts of cumulative sediment inputs may include:

18 _____ Increased treatment needs or reduced suitability for
19 domestic, municipal, industrial, or agricultural water use.

20 _____ Direct mortality of fish and other aquatic species.

21 _____ Reduced viability of aquatic organisms or disruption of
22 aquatic habitats and loss of stream productivity caused by filling of pools and plugging
23 or burying streambed gravel.

1 Accelerated channel filling (aggradation) resulting in loss
2 of streamside vegetation and stream migration that can cause accelerated bank
3 erosion.

4 Accelerated filling of downstream reservoirs, navigable
5 channels, water diversion and transport facilities, estuaries, and harbors.

6 Channel scouring by debris flows and torrents.

7 Nuisance to or reduction in water related recreational
8 activities.

9 Situations where sediment production potential is greatest include:

10 Sites with high or extreme erosion hazard ratings.

11 Sites which are tractor logged on steep slopes.

12 Unstable areas.

13 **b. Water Temperature Effects** Water temperature related CWEs
14 are changes in water chemistry or biological properties caused by the combination of
15 solar warmed water from two or more locations (in contrast to an individual effect that
16 results from impacts along a single stream segment) where natural cover has been
17 removed. Cumulative changes in water temperature are most likely to occur in the
18 following situations:

19 Where stream bottom materials are dark in color.

20 Where water is shallow and has little underflow.

21 Where removal of streamside canopy results in
22 substantial, additional solar exposure or increased contact with warm air at two or more
23 locations along a stream.

1 _____ Where removal of streamside canopy results in
2 substantial, additional solar exposure or increased contact with warm air at two or more
3 streams that are tributary to a larger stream.

4 _____ Where water temperature is near a biological threshold for
5 specific species.

6 _____ Significant adverse impacts of cumulative temperature increases
7 include:

8 _____ Increases in the metabolic rate of aquatic species.

9 _____ Direct increases in metabolic rate and/or reduction of
10 dissolved oxygen levels, either of which can cause reduced vigor and death of
11 sensitive fish and other sensitive aquatic organisms.

12 _____ Increased growth rates of microorganisms that deplete
13 dissolved oxygen levels or increased disease potential for organisms.

14 _____ Stream biology shifts toward warmer water ecosystems.

15 _____ **c. Organic Debris Effects.** CWEs produced by organic debris
16 can occur when logs, limbs, and other organic material are introduced into a stream or
17 lake at two or more locations. Decomposition of this debris, particularly the smaller
18 sized and less woody material, removes dissolved oxygen from the water and can
19 cause impacts similar to those resulting from increased water temperatures.
20 Introduction of excessive small organic debris can also increase water acidity.

21 _____ Large organic debris is an important stabilizing agent that should be maintained
22 in small to medium size, steep gradient channels, but the sudden introduction of large,
23 unstable volumes of bigger debris (such as logs, chunks, and larger limbs produced
24 during a logging operation) can obstruct and divert streamflow against erodible banks,
25 block fish migration, and may cause debris torrents during periods of high flow.

1 Removing streamside vegetation can reduce the natural, annual inputs of litter
2 to the stream (after decomposition of logging related litter.) This can cause both a drop
3 in food supply, and resultant productivity, and a change in types of food available for
4 organisms that normally dominate the lower food chain of streams with an overhanging
5 or adjacent forest canopy.

6 ~~_____ **d. Chemical Contamination Effects.** Potential sources of~~
7 ~~chemical CWEs include run-off from roads treated with oil or other dust-retarding~~
8 ~~materials, direct application or run-off from pesticide treatments, contamination by~~
9 ~~equipment fuels and oils, and the introduction of nutrients released during slash~~
10 ~~burning or wildfire from two or more locations.~~

11 ~~_____ **e. Peak Flow Effects.** CWEs caused by management induced~~
12 ~~peak flow increases in streams during storm events are difficult to anticipate. Peak flow~~
13 ~~increases may result from management activities that reduce vegetative water use or~~
14 ~~produce openings where snow can accumulate (such as clear cutting and site~~
15 ~~preparation) or that change the timing of flows by producing more efficient runoff~~
16 ~~routing (such as insloped roads.) These increases, however, are likely to be small~~
17 ~~relative to natural peak flows from medium and large storms. Research to date on the~~
18 ~~effects of management activities on channel conditions indicates that channel changes~~
19 ~~during storm events are primarily the result of large sediment inputs.~~

20 ~~_____ **3. Watercourse Condition.** The watershed impacts of past upstream~~
21 ~~and on-site projects are often reflected in the condition of stream channels on the~~
22 ~~project area. Following is a list of channel characteristics and factors that may be used~~
23 ~~to describe current watershed conditions and to assist in the evaluation of potential~~
24 ~~project impacts:~~

1 _____ ◇ Gravel Embedded — Spaces between stream gravel filled with
2 sand or finer sediments. Gravel are often in a tightly packed arrangement.

3 _____ ◇ Pools Filled — Former pools or apparent pool areas filled with
4 sediments leaving few areas of deep or “quiet” water relative to stream flow or size.

5 _____ ◇ Aggrading — Stream channels filled or filling with sediment that
6 raises the channel bottom elevation. Pools will be absent or greatly diminished and
7 gravel may be embedded or covered by finer sediments. Streamside vegetation may
8 be partially or completely buried, and the stream may be meandering or cutting into its
9 banks above the level of the former streambed. Depositional areas in aggrading
10 channels are often increasing in size and number.

11 _____ ◇ Bank Cutting — Can either be minor or severe and is indicated by
12 areas of fresh, unvegetated soil or alluvium exposed along the stream banks, usually
13 above the low flow channel and often with a vertical or undercut face. Severe bank
14 cutting is often associated with channels that are downcutting, which can lead to over-
15 steepened banks, or aggrading, which can cause the channel to migrate against slopes
16 that were previously above the high flow level of the stream.

17 _____ ◇ Bank Mass Wasting — Channels with landslides directly entering
18 the stream system. Slide movement may be infrequent (single events) or frequent
19 (continuing creep or periodic events).

20 _____ ◇ Downcutting — Incised stream channels with relatively clean,
21 uncluttered beds cut below the level of former streamside vegetation and with eroded,
22 often undercut or vertical, banks.

23 _____ ◇ Scoured — Stream channels that have been stripped of gravel
24 and finer bed materials by large flow events or debris torrents. Streamside vegetation
25 has often been swept away, and the channel has a raw, eroded appearance.

1 ~~_____ ◇ Organic Debris Debris in the watercourse can have either a~~
2 ~~positive or negative impact depending on the amount and stability of the material.~~
3 ~~Some stable organic debris present in the watercourse helps to form pools and retard~~
4 ~~sediment transport and downcutting in small to medium sized streams with relatively~~
5 ~~steep gradients. Large accumulations of organic debris can block fish passage, block~~
6 ~~or divert streamflow, or could be released as a debris flow.~~

7 ~~_____ ◇ Stream Side Vegetation Stream side vegetation and near~~
8 ~~stream vegetation provide shade or cover to the stream, which may have an impact on~~
9 ~~water temperature, and provides root systems that stabilize streambanks and~~
10 ~~floodplains and filter sediment from flood flows.~~

11 ~~_____ ◇ Recent Floods A recent high flow event that would be~~
12 ~~considered unusual in the project area may have an impact on the current watercourse~~
13 ~~condition.~~

14 ~~_____ **B. Soil Productivity**~~

15 ~~Cumulative soil productivity impacts occur when the effects of two or more~~
16 ~~activities, from the same or different projects, combine to produce a significant~~
17 ~~decrease in soil biomass production potential. These impacts most often occur on site~~
18 ~~within the project boundary, and the relative severity of productivity losses for a given~~
19 ~~level of impact generally increases as site quality declines.~~

20 ~~The primary factors influencing soil productivity that can be affected by timber~~
21 ~~operations include:~~

22 ~~_____ ◇ Organic matter loss. _____ ◇ Soil compaction.~~

23 ~~_____ ◇ Surface soil loss. _____ ◇ Growing space loss.~~

24 ~~The following general guidelines may be used when evaluating soil productivity~~
25 ~~impacts.~~

1 ~~—————~~ **1. Organic Matter Loss.** Displacement or loss of organic matter can
2 result in a long term loss of soil productivity. Soil surface litter and downed woody
3 debris are the store house of long term soil fertility, provide for soil moisture
4 conservation, and support soil microorganisms that are critical in the nutrient cycling
5 and uptake process. Much of the chemical and microbial activity of the forest nutrient
6 cycle is concentrated in the narrow zone at the soil and litter interface.

7 Displacement of surface organic matter occurs as a result of skidding, mechanical site
8 preparation, and other land disturbing timber operations. Actual loss of organic matter
9 occurs as a result of burning or erosion. The effects of organic matter loss on soil
10 productivity may be expressed in terms of the percentage displacement or loss as a
11 result of all project activities.

12 ~~—————~~ **2. Surface Soil Loss.** The soil is the storehouse of current and future
13 site fertility, and the majority of nutrients are held in the upper few inches of the soil
14 profile. Topsoil displacement or loss can have an immediate effect on site productivity,
15 although effects may not be obvious because of reduced brush competition and lack of
16 side by side comparisons or until the new stand begins to fully occupy the available
17 growing space.

18 Surface soil is primarily lost by erosion or by displacement into windrows, piles, or fills.
19 Mass wasting is a special case of erosion with obvious extreme effects on site
20 productivity. The impacts of surface soil loss may be evaluated by estimating the
21 proportion of the project area affected and the depth of loss or displacement.

22 ~~—————~~ **3. Soil Compaction.** Compaction affects site productivity through loss of
23 large soil pores that transmit air and water in the soil and by restricting root penetration.

24 The risk of compaction is associated with:
25 —Depth of surface litter.

- 1 _____ Depth of surface litter. _____ Soil structure.
- 2 _____ Soil organic matter content. _____ Presence and amount of coarse
- 3 fragments in the soil.
- 4 _____ Soil texture. _____ Soil moisture status.
- 5 _____

6 Compaction effects may be evaluated by considering the soil conditions, as
 7 listed above, at the time of harvesting activities and the proportion of the project area
 8 subjected to compacting forces.

9 _____ **4. Growing Space Loss.** Forest growing space is lost to roads,
 10 landings, permanent skid trails, and other permanent or non-restored areas subjected
 11 to severe disturbance and compaction.

12 The effects of growing space loss may be evaluated by considering the overall
 13 pattern of roads, etc., relative to feasible silvicultural systems and yarding methods.

14 **C. Biological Resources**

15 Biological assessment areas will vary with the species being evaluated and its
 16 habitat. Factors to consider in the evaluation of cumulative biological impacts include:

17 _____ **1.** Any known rare, threatened, or endangered species or sensitive
 18 species (as described in the Forest Practice Rules) that may be directly or indirectly
 19 affected by project activities.

20 Significant cumulative effects on listed species may be expected from the results of
 21 activities over time which combine to have a substantial effect on the species or on the
 22 habitat of the species.

23 _____ **2.** Any significant, known wildlife or fisheries resource concerns within
 24 the immediate project area and the biological assessment area (e.g. loss of oaks
 25 creating forage problems for a local deer herd, species requiring special elements,

1 sensitive species, and significant natural areas). Significant cumulative effects may be
2 expected where there is a substantial reduction in required habitat or the project will
3 result in substantial interference with the movement of resident or migratory species.
4 The significance of cumulative impacts on non-listed species viability should be
5 determined relative to the benefits to other non-listed species. For example, the
6 manipulation of habitat results in conditions which discourage the presence of some
7 species while encouraging the presence of others.

8 **3. The aquatic and near water habitat conditions on the THP and**
9 **immediate surrounding area. Habitat conditions of major concern are:**

10 ~~◇ Pools and Riggles ◇ Large woody material in the stream.~~

11 ~~◇ Near water vegetation~~

12 Much of the information needed to evaluate these factors is described in the
13 preceding Watershed Resources section. A general discussion of their importance is
14 given below:

15 **a. Pools and Riffles.** Pools and riffles affect overall habitat quality and fish community
16 structure. Streams with little structural complexity offer poor habitat for fish
17 communities as a whole, even though the channel may be stable. Structural complexity
18 is often lower in streams with low gradients, and filling of pools can reduce stream
19 productivity.

20 **b. Large Woody Material.** Large woody debris in the stream
21 plays an important role in creating and maintaining habitat through the formation of
22 pools. These pools comprise important feeding locations that provide maximum
23 exposure to drifting food organisms in relatively quiet water. Removal of woody debris
24 can reduce frequency and quality of pools.

1 ~~_____ **c. Near Water Vegetation.** Near water vegetation provides many~~
2 ~~habitat benefits, including: shade, nutrients, vertical diversity, migration corridors,~~
3 ~~nesting, roosting, and escape. Recruitment of large woody material is also an important~~
4 ~~element in maintaining habitat quality.~~

5 ~~_____ **4.** The biological habitat condition of the THP and immediate surrounding area.~~

6 ~~Significant factors to consider are:~~

7 ~~◇ Snags/den trees _____ ◇ Downed, large woody debris~~

8 ~~◇ Multistory canopy _____ ◇ Road density~~

9 ~~◇ Hardwood cover _____ ◇ Late seral (mature) forest characteristics~~

10 ~~◇ Late seral habitat continuity~~

11 ~~The following general guidelines may be used when evaluating biological habitat. The~~
12 ~~factors described are general and may not be appropriate for all situations. The THP~~
13 ~~preparer must also be alert to the need to consider factors which are not listed below.~~
14 ~~Each set of ground conditions are unique and the analysis conducted must reflect~~
15 ~~those conditions.~~

16 ~~_____ **a. Snags/Den/Nest Trees:** Snags, den trees, nest trees and their~~
17 ~~recruitment are required elements in the overall habitat needs of more than 160 wildlife~~
18 ~~species. Many of these species play a vital role in maintaining the overall health of~~
19 ~~timberlands. Snags of greatest value are > 16" DBH and 20 feet in height. The degree~~
20 ~~of snag recruitment over time should be considered. Den trees are partially live trees~~
21 ~~with elements of decay which provide wildlife habitat. Nest trees have importance to~~
22 ~~birds classified as a sensitive species.~~

23 ~~_____ **b. Downed large, woody debris:** Large downed logs (particularly~~
24 ~~conifers) in the upland and near water environment in all stages of decomposition~~

1 provide an important habitat for many wildlife species. Large woody debris of greatest
2 value consists of downed logs > 16" diameter at the large end and > 20 feet in length.

3 ~~—————~~ **c. Multistoried canopy:** Upland multistoried canopies have a marked
4 influence on the diversity and density of wildlife species utilizing the area. More
5 productive timberland is generally of greater value and timber site capability should be
6 considered as a factor in an assessment. The amount of upland multistoried canopy
7 may be evaluated by estimating the percent of the stand composed of two or more tree
8 layers on an average per acre basis.

9 ~~—————~~ Near water multistoried canopies in riparian zones that include conifer and hardwood
10 tree species provide an important element of structural diversity to the habitat
11 requirements of wildlife. Near water multistoried canopy may be evaluated by
12 estimating the percentage of ground covered by one or more vegetative canopy strata,
13 with more emphasis placed on shrub species along Class III and IV streams (14 CCR
14 916.5, 936.5, or 956.5).

15 ~~—————~~ **d. Road Density:** Frequently traveled permanent and secondary roads
16 have a significant influence on wildlife use of otherwise suitable habitat. Large declines
17 in deer and bear use of areas adjacent to open roads are frequently noted. Road
18 density influence on large mammal habitat may be evaluated by estimating the miles of
19 open permanent and temporary roads, on a per-section basis, that receive some level
20 of maintenance and are open to the public. This assessment should also account for
21 the effects of vegetation screening and the relative importance of an area to wildlife on
22 a seasonal basis (e.g. winter range).

23 ~~—————~~ **e. Hardwood Cover:** Hardwoods provide an important element of
24 habitat diversity in the coniferous forest and are utilized as a source of food and/or
25 cover by a large proportion of the state's bird and mammal species. Productivity of deer

1 and other species has been directly related to mast crops. Hardwood cover can be
2 estimated using the basal area per acre provided by hardwoods of all species.

3 ~~————— [Northern and Southern only]: Post harvest deciduous oak retention~~
4 ~~for the maintenance of habitats for mule deer and other hardwood-associated wildlife~~
5 ~~shall be guided by the Joint Policy on Hardwoods between the California Board of~~
6 ~~Forestry and Fire Protection and California Fish and Game Commission (5/9/94). To~~
7 ~~sustain wildlife, a diversity of stand structural and seral conditions, and tree size and~~
8 ~~age classes of deciduous oaks should be retained in proportions that are ecologically~~
9 ~~sustainable. Regeneration and recruitment of young deciduous oaks should be~~
10 ~~sufficient over time to replace mortality of older trees. Deciduous oaks should be~~
11 ~~present in sufficient quality and quantity, and in appropriate locations to provide~~
12 ~~functional habitat elements for hardwood-associated wildlife.~~

13 ~~————— f. Late Seral (Mature) Forest Characteristics: Determination of the~~
14 ~~presence or absence of mature and over-mature forest stands and their structural~~
15 ~~characteristics provides a basis from which to begin an assessment of the influence of~~
16 ~~management on associated wildlife. These characteristics include large trees as part of~~
17 ~~a multilayered canopy and the presence of large numbers of snags and downed logs~~
18 ~~that contribute to an increased level of stand decadence. Late seral stage forest~~
19 ~~amount may be evaluated by estimating the percentage of the land base within the~~
20 ~~project and the biological assessment area occupied by areas conforming to the~~
21 ~~following definitions:~~

22 ~~—Forests not previously harvested should be at least 80 acres in size to maintain the~~
23 ~~effects of edge. This acreage is variable based on the degree of similarity in~~
24 ~~surrounding areas. The area should include a multi-layered canopy, two or more tree~~
25 ~~species with several large coniferous trees per acre (smaller subdominant trees may~~

Commented [DM3]: Decision Point: Should the reference the Joint Policy still be contained in TRA #2 guidance. If the FPC determines that this should be a regulatory standard, this text could be relocated to 912.9, or this SHALL could become a MAY in the appendix to reflect that this is "guidance".

1 be either conifers or hardwoods), large conifer snags, and an abundance of large
2 woody debris.

3 ~~Previously harvested forests are in many possible stages of succession and may~~
4 ~~include remnant patches of late seral stage forest which generally conform to the~~
5 ~~definition of unharvested forests but do not meet the acreage criteria.~~

6 ~~_____ **g. Late Seral Habitat Continuity:** Projects containing areas meeting~~
7 ~~the definitions for late seral stage characteristics must be evaluated for late seral~~
8 ~~habitat continuity. The fragmentation and resultant isolation of late seral habitat types is~~
9 ~~one of the most significant factors influencing the sustainability of wildlife populations~~
10 ~~not adapted to edge environments.~~

11 ~~This fragmentation may be evaluated by estimating the amount of the on-site project~~
12 ~~and the biological assessment area occupied by late seral stands greater than 80~~
13 ~~acres in size (considering the mitigating influence of adjacent and similar habitat, if~~
14 ~~applicable) and less than one mile apart or connected by a corridor of similar habitat.~~

15 ~~_____ **h. Special Habitat Elements:** The loss of a key habitat element may~~
16 ~~have a profound effect on a species even though the habitat is otherwise suitable.~~
17 ~~Each species may have several key limiting factors to consider. For example, a special~~
18 ~~need for some large raptors is large decadent trees/snags with broken tops or other~~
19 ~~features. Deer may have habitat with adequate food and cover to support a healthy~~
20 ~~population size and composition but dependent on a few critical meadows suitable for~~
21 ~~fawning success. These and other key elements may need special protection.~~

22 ~~_____ **D. Recreational Resources**~~

23 ~~The recreational assessment area is generally the area that includes the logging area~~
24 ~~plus 300 feet.~~

25 ~~To assess recreational cumulative impacts:~~

1 _____ **1.** Identify the recreational activities involving significant numbers of
2 people in and within 300 feet of logging area (e.g., fishing, hunting, hiking, picnicking,
3 camping).

4 _____ **2.** Identify any recreational Special Treatment Areas described in the
5 Board of Forestry rules on the plan area or contiguous to the area.

6 _____ **E. Visual Resources**

7 The visual assessment area is generally the logging area that is readily visible to
8 significant numbers of people who are no further than three miles from the timber
9 operation. To assess visual cumulative effects:

10 _____ **1.** Identify any Special Treatment Areas designated as such by the
11 Board of Forestry because of their visual values.

12 _____ **2.** Determine how far the proposed timber operation is from the nearest
13 point that significant numbers of people can view the timber operation. At distances of
14 greater than 3 miles from viewing points, activities are not easily discernible and will be
15 less significant.

16 _____ **3.** Identify the manner in which the public identified in 1 and 2 above will
17 view the proposed timber operation (from a vehicle on a public road, from a stationary
18 public viewing point or from a pedestrian pathway).

19 _____ **F. Vehicular Traffic Impacts**

20 The traffic assessment area involves the first roads not part of the logging area on
21 which logging traffic must travel. To assess traffic cumulative effects:

22 _____ **1.** Identify whether any publicly owned roads will be used for the
23 transport of wood products.

1 ~~_____ 2. Identify any public roads that have not been used recently for the~~
2 ~~transport of wood products and will be used to transport wood products from the~~
3 ~~proposed timber harvest.~~

4 ~~_____ 3. Identify any public roads that have existing traffic or maintenance~~
5 ~~problems.~~

6 ~~_____ 4. Identify how the logging vehicles used in the timber operation will~~
7 ~~change the amount of traffic on public roads, especially during heavy traffic conditions.~~

8
9 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4551, 4551.5, 4553, 4562, 4562.5, 4562.7, and
10 21080.5, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 4512, 4513, 4526, 4551.5,
11 4562, 4562.5, 4582.5, 5093.50, 21000(g), 21001(f), 21002, 21080.4, 21080.5 Public
12 Resources Code. Sections 100 Water Code; Section 5650c fish and game code.