

Project Number: EMC-2016-XXX

Project Name: General Protection of Nest Sites—Implementation and effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules at protecting active nests.

Background and Justification:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) identified terrestrial wildlife resources as a top priority for Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) effectiveness monitoring. In addition, the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee has specifically recognized “Wildlife Habitat: Species and Nest Sites” as a theme with critical monitoring questions that have yet to be answered. This proposal addresses the critical question regarding protection of nest sites following the measures in Title 14, California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) §- 919.2 [939.2, 959.2].

Objective(s) and Scope:

This proposal covers all forest districts. It seeks to assess the practice of retaining nest tree(s), designated perch tree(s), screening tree(s), and replacement tree(s) for the protection of sensitive species’ nests during timber operations.

Monitoring Questions:

1. Is 14 CCR § -919.2 [939.2, 959.2] (b) implemented consistently throughout each forest district?
2. How often are the active nests of sensitive species located and reported by RPFs or LTOs?
3. What proportion of nests subject to 14 CCR § 919.2 remain active and produce fledglings? *

Rule or Regulation:

14 CCR § 919.2 [939.2, 959.2] (b); FGC § 2081(b); FGC § 3511; FGC § 3503; FGC § 3503.5; FGCom T&E Species Policy; FGCom Raptor Policy

EMC Critical Question or Priority:

Theme 7: Wildlife Habitat: Species and Nest Sites

Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in protection of nest sites...

- (a) following general protection measures in 14 CCR § 919.2 [939.2, 959.2] (b)?

Collaborators:

CDFW, ?

Existing or Needed Funding:

Requires project collaborators and funding.

Timeline and Fiscal year (s):

Unknown

Principal Investigator or Contact:

Unknown

Submitted by CDFW

Note: Rule or Regulation = Forest Practice Rule, Water Quality Objective or Fish and Wildlife Code or Regulation

* Nest failure can be a natural nest fate. However, the fate of identified active nests does not appear to be tracked. Collecting this data in combination with the activities and environmental conditions surrounding the nest tree may expose important correlations.

Project Number: EMC-2016-XXX

Project Name: Snag Retention—Implementation and effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules at maintaining functional wildlife habitat through snag retention.

Background and Justification:

Snags are an important habitat feature for many wildlife species and are a potential source of large woody debris in streams. The Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) require within the logging area all snags shall be retained during timber operations [Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1)]. However, the FPRs also list six exceptions to this requirement [14 CCR § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1) (a) - (f)]. Whether these exceptions adversely impact terrestrial species is unknown. As such, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has recommended the effectiveness monitoring of 14 CCR § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1) ~~be monitored~~. In addition, the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee has recognized the theme “Wildlife Habitat: Structures,” which includes critical monitoring questions regarding snags. This proposal addresses the effectiveness of snag retention in the FPRs.

Objective(s) and Scope:

This proposal covers all forest districts. It seeks to address the practice of retaining snags for wildlife habitat during timber operations.

Monitoring Questions:

1. How often are snags removed under authority of section 919.1 [939.1, 959.1] (a) – (f)?
2. When snags are removed, how many are left in the plan area?
3. ~~When~~ When snags are retained during harvest operations, how are they affected by site preparation?

Rule or Regulation:

14 CCR § 919.1 [939.1, 959.1]; FGCom T&E Species Policy; FGCom Raptor Policy

EMC Critical Question or Priority:

Theme 10: Wildlife Habitat: Structures

Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in retaining...

- (a) a mix of stages of snag development that maintain properly functioning levels of wildlife habitat?

Collaborators:

CDFW, private forest land owners, CalFire

Existing or Needed Funding:

Requires project collaborators and funding.

Timeline and Fiscal year (s):

Unknown

Principal Investigator or Contact:

Unknown

Submitted by CDFW

Note: Rule or Regulation = Forest Practice Rule, Water Quality Objective or Fish and Wildlife Code or Regulation