

Executive Summary

This report provides the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) with a current comprehensive package of proposed regulatory changes intended to improve the timber harvesting plan (THP) permitting process and facilitate the issuance of an incidental take permit (ITP) for anadromous salmonid species listed pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

At the request of the Board, the Departments of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and Fish and Game (DFG) are providing this information to assist the Board and the public in understanding the changes proposed in the context of existing regulatory requirements and other proposed alternatives previously presented to the Board.

This report includes:

- The July 12, 2006 letter from Secretary Chrisman to the Board requesting action to better protect anadromous fish and improve the permitting process to provide greater clarity for the regulated public.
- State and federal law that govern regulatory actions proposed for the protection of anadromous salmonids. Specifically, Fish and Game Code § 2112 requiring DFG to develop and adopt rules, and the recently enacted reauthorization of the federal Magnuson-Stevens Act that includes a provision requiring the Secretary of Commerce to complete a recovery plan for Klamath River Coho salmon.
- Graphics that illustrate how the proposed changes relate to existing regulations.
- Several explanatory documents providing 1) itemized summaries of the proposed changes in the context of the existing Forest Practice Rules, specifically focused on the definitional changes, 2) a brief description of how the proposed “adaptive management” approach is supported by the Board’s current scientific literature review of riparian processes, and 3) hypothetical examples of how the proposed monitoring and adaptive management approach will be applied under various land management scenarios.
- The proposed DFG language that will implement the “self-certification” process following the Board’s approval and adoption of these rules.
- The current comprehensive proposed changes with several comparative documents in “pleading” format to facilitate understanding of the extent of changes in the context of the existing rules and the agencies’ previously proposed alternative. This comprehensive document includes revisions developed as a result of stakeholder input, previously presented language for monitoring and adaptive management, and options for site-specific standards to be developed within the Board’s CEQA process that would be sufficient for a Coho ITP (Gate B).