

**Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**

[Notice Published July 11, 2008]

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**Northern Spotted Owl Definitions, 2008**

**Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR):**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) proposes to amend and adopt the regulations of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

**Amend**

14 CCR § 895.1 Definitions

14 CCR § 919.9, 939.9 - Northern Spotted Owl

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board will hold a public hearing starting at 8:00 A.M., on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at the Resources Building Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, and 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California. At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, relevant to the proposed action described in the *Informative Digest*. The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a summary of their statements. Additionally, pursuant to Government Code section 11125.1, any information presented to the Board during the open hearing in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration becomes part of the public record. Such information shall be retained by the Board and shall be made available upon request.

**WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD**

Any person, or authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Board. The written comment period ends at 5:00 P.M., Monday, August 25, 2008. The Board will consider only written comments received at the Board office by that time (in addition to those written comments received at the public hearing). The Board requests, but does not require, that persons who submit written comments to the Board reference the title of the rulemaking proposal in their comments to facilitate review.

Written comments shall be submitted to the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Attn: Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Written comments can also be hand delivered to the contact person listed in this notice at the following address:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Room 1506-14  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA

Written comments may also be sent to the Board via facsimile at the following phone number:

(916) 653-0989

Written comments may also be delivered via e-mail at the following address:

[board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov)

## **AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE**

Public Resources Code (PRC) 4551 and 4554.5 authorizes the Board to adopt such rules and regulations as it determines are reasonably necessary to enable it to implement, interpret or make specific sections 4512, 4513 and 4561 of the Public Resources Code. Reference: Public Resources Code sections 4513, 4551.5, 4561, 4584 and 21080.5.

## **INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

Two definitions in the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) are proposed for amendments to conform to current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) federal regulatory requirements for northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) and to clarify state and federal Endangered Species Act “Take” definitions. The two definitions proposed for amendment more precisely define the range of the northern spotted owl and incorporate the state of California definition of “Take” in addition to the federally listed species definition. Section 919.9 and 939.9 are revised to insert the proposed amended definition for the range of the northern spotted owl.

## **SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE REGULATION**

**Amendments for the range of the northern spotted owl:** The purpose of this proposed amendment is to resolve a discrepancy between the FPRs and the Federal Register Notice that describes the range of the northern spotted owl within the California Cascade

Province. The proposed changes primarily modifies, and more precisely describes, the boundary of the evaluation area. The amendment more closely reflects the range of the northern spotted owl, as described by the Service in the Federal regulations. The realignment of the eastern and southern regulatory boundaries and clarification to the existing northern spotted owl consultation process will focus detection efforts within areas of confirmed long-term northern spotted owl distribution, and eliminate surveys in unsuitable habitat.

**Amendments for state definition of Take** The purpose of the regulation is to provide clarification to, and the appropriate application of, the definition of "Take." In order to avoid confusion or an overbroad application of Take when state-listed species are at issue, they must reflect both federal and state code. The Board has proposed two mutually exclusive alternatives for consideration of adoption for this purpose: Alternative #4 or Alternative #5.

## **DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The Board has determined the proposed action will have the following effects:

- Mandate on local agencies and school districts: None are known.
- Costs or savings to any State agency: None are known.
- Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable Government Code (GC) sections commencing with GC 17500: None are known.
- Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed upon local agencies: None are known.
- Cost or savings in federal funding to the State: None are known.
- Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: None are known.
- Potential cost impact on private persons or directly affected businesses: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. The proposed regulation does not impose any new operational or plan preparation requirements that would result in an adverse cost impact .
- Effect on small business: None. The Board has determined that the proposed amendments will not affect small business because the proposal adds no new operational or plan preparations cost.

- Significant effect on housing costs: None are known.
- Adoption of these regulations will not create or eliminate jobs within California.
- Adoption of these regulations will not: (1) create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or (2) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

The proposed Rules do not conflict with, or duplicate Federal regulations.

### **BUSINESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

The regulation does not require a report, which shall apply to businesses.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES**

In accordance with Government Code 11346.5(a) (13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative it considers or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Board would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

### **CONTACT PERSON**

Requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulations, the *Initial Statement of Reasons*, modified text of the regulations and any questions regarding the substance of the proposed action may be directed to:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460  
Telephone: (916) 653-9418

The designated backup person in the event Mr. Zimny is not available is Doug Wickizer, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, at the above address and phone (916) 653-5602.

### **AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

The Board has prepared an *Initial Statement of Reasons* providing an explanation of the purpose, background, and justification for the proposed regulations. The statement is available from the contact person on request.

When the *Final Statement of Reasons* has been prepared, the statement will be available from the contact person on request.

A copy of the express terms of the proposed action, using UNDERLINE to indicate an addition to the California Code of Regulations and ~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ to indicate a deletion, is also available from the contact person named in this notice.

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file, including all information considered as a basis for this proposed regulation, available for public inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. All of the above referenced information is also available on the CDF web site at:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board\\_proposed\\_rule\\_packages.html](http://www.fire.ca.gov/BOF/board/board_proposed_rule_packages.html)

### **AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT**

After holding the hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Board makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text—with the changes clearly indicated—available to the public for at least 15 days before the Board adopts the regulations as revised. Notice of the comment period on changed regulations, and the full text as modified, will be sent to any person who:

- a) testified at the hearings,
- b) submitted comments during the public comment period, including written and oral comments received at the public hearing, or
- c) requested notification of the availability of such changes from the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Requests for copies of the modified text of the regulations may be directed to the contact person listed in this notice. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

/s/ Christopher Zimny

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Christopher Zimny  
Regulations Coordinator  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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