

South Rim

Lower Panther Creek

Parts 1 & 2 (Scan)

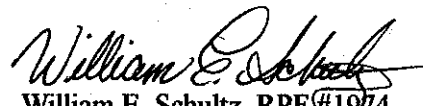
**OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL POINTS
RAISED DURING THE TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN EVALUATION
PROCESS**

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)**

TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (THP) No : 4-06-042/CAL-7
SUBMITTER : Sierra Pacific Industries
COUNTY : Calaveras
END OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD : August 13, 2007
DATE OF RESPONSE AND APPROVAL : August 30, 2007

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE, CDF, Department) is the lead agency in the review of Timber Harvesting Plans. These Plans are submitted to CAL FIRE, which directs a multidisciplinary review team of specialists from other governmental agencies to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations. As a part of this review process, CAL FIRE accepted and responded to comments, which addressed significant environmental points raised during the evaluation of the plan referenced above. This document is the Director's official response to those significant environmental points, which specifically address this timber harvesting plan. Comments, which were made on like topics, have been grouped together and addressed in a single response. Remarks concerning the validity of the review process for timber operations, questions of law, or topics and concerns so remote or speculative that they could not be reasonably assessed or related to the outcome of a timber harvesting operation, have not been addressed.

Sincerely,


William E. Schultz, RPF #1974
Deputy Chief
Forest Practice

STAFF FORESTER:staff
cc: County Planning
Fish and Game
Parks and Recreation
Water Quality

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

To inform the public of this proposed Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) and determine if there were any concerns with the plan the following actions were taken:

- Notice of the receipt of the plan was submitted to the county clerk for posting with other environmental notices (ref. 14CCR §1032.8).
- Notice of the plan was posted at the Department's local office and also at the regional office in Fresno.(ref. 14CCR §1032.8).
- Notice of the receipt of the THP was sent to those organizations and individuals on the Department's list for notification of plans (ref. 14CCR §1032.9(b)).
- A "Notice of the Intent to Harvest Timber" was posted near the plan site (ref. 14CCR §1032.7).
- A "Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber" was mailed to all property owners within 300 ft. of the plan boundary, where applicable (ref. 14CCR §§1032.7(e) & (f)).

In addition, the Department determined that a pre-harvest inspection (PHI) was required to take place on the site of the proposed operation before a decision could be made on the proposed plan. The review of this plan resulted in site-specific measures being incorporated into the THP. With the addition of these protective measures CAL FIRE determined there would be no significant adverse or cumulative impacts resulting from this plan.

THP REVIEW PROCESS

The laws and regulations that govern the Timber Harvesting Plan review process are found in Statute law in the form of the Forest Practice Act which is contained in the Public Resources Code (PRC), and Administrative law in the rules of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Forest Practice Rules) which are contained in the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The Forest Practice Rules are lengthy in scope and detail and provide explicit instructions for permissible and prohibited actions that govern the conduct of timber operations in the field. The major categories covered by the rules include:

- Timber Harvesting Plan contents and the Timber Harvesting Plan review process
- Silvicultural methods
- Harvesting practices and erosion control
- Site preparation
- Watercourse and lake protection
- Hazard reduction
- Fire protection
- Forest insect and disease protection practices
- Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas (where applicable)
- Use, construction, and maintenance of logging roads and landings
- County-specific rules (where applicable)

When a THP is submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, a multidisciplinary review team conducts the first review team meeting to assess the Timber Harvesting Plan. The review team normally consists of, but is not necessarily limited to, representatives of CAL FIRE, the Department of Fish and Game, the California Geological Survey, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The purpose of the first review team meeting is to assess the proposed logging plan and determine on a preliminary basis