



CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 87 • Fort Bragg, CA 95437
phone • 707.964.4815 fax • 530.463.7521
email • clfa@volcano.net web • www.clfa.org

October 7, 2013

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Mr. Keith Gillless, Chairman
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Road Rules, 2013.

Dear Chairman Gillless and Board Members,

Over the past 18 months as the Forest Practice Committee has been reviewing this rule package CLFA has been present at most meetings taking part in rule development. This has been a valuable process as the rule language has been improved through input from various agencies and interested groups. The input has greatly increased the flexibility for those on the ground that will be implementing the rules while maintaining appropriate levels of protection for the resources that could be impacted. In order to continue this process CLFA is providing the following comments to help increase technical clarity and flexibility for implementation.

895.1. Definitions, Significant existing or potential erosion site. Please consider the fact that we currently have to identify active erosion sites and controllable sediment discharge sources (CSDS) in the harvest plan process. The addition of a third category is only going to complicate the process even more. CLFA has spent the past 5 years working with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop the definition of a CSDS. Please consider using that definition within this package to reduce the amount of confusion and duplication of information.

916.3 [936.3, 956.3](c)(93) page 11 line 4. Please consider the following modification; "At new and existing tractor road crossings..." The present proposed wording excludes any existing tractor road crossings that have been approved and installed as part of a Fish and Game Code process. This modification would allow for the use of such crossings without having to explain and justify each occurrence.

923.1 [943.1, 963.1](e)(4) page 25 line 2. The proposed rule language refers to "subsection (d)(1)" however there is no (d)(1) in the package under 923.1 [943.1, 963.1]. It would appear that the correct reference should be "(e)(1)" which requires the evaluation of roads for potential erosion sites. The modified wording should read: "The RPF shall disclose and map the significant existing and potential erosion sites identified per 14 CCR § 923.1 [943.1, 963.1], subsection ~~(d)~~(e)(1), for which no feasible treatment exists."

923.1[943.1, 963.1](c) & 923.4[943.4, 963.4](b) and (c) page 27 lines 19 – 15 on page 28, While we understand the want to limit road building and reconstruction within the WLPZ of class I, II, III, and IV watercourses, in many instances this isn't possible or the alternative requires roads to be built in much more precarious locations. This is particularly a problem with smaller ownerships which might not own areas that would be more appropriate for road building. While there is an allowance within this rule package to propose deviations and alternatives, sometimes the more environmentally friendly option is actually to build or rebuild these roads in the WLPZ.

923.5 [943.5, 963.5](a)(3)(C) page 42 line 7, "All logging roads and landing surfaces shall be adequately drained..." Please consider modifying this to read "All logging road and landing surfaces within the logging area shall be adequately drained..." Such a modification would make it clear that the roads and landings to address are those which are within, or appurtenant to, timber operations and not to the entirety of an ownership. This would also benefit situations in which a road may have been proposed for use but was not used due to a variety of factors including changes in log markets, type of yarding equipment or timing of harvest operations. In many cases these roads not used for operations may be overgrown with vegetation and show no signs of erosion.

923.5 [943.5, 963.5] (q)(3)(C) page 46 line 15. Please consider the following modification; "Where slash mulch is applied, a minimum of 75% of the area shall be covered by slash in contact with the ground. ~~slash coverage in contact with the ground surface shall be a minimum of 75 percent.~~" This modification clarifies that the area to be mulched needs to have sufficient coverage to be effective.

Technical Rule Addendum #5, Figure 2, page 16, line 25. Please consider deleting the sentence "Note the absence of an apparent critical dip at the crossing." It is possible that given the angle that the diagram appears to represent that in fact flow could be diverted to the ditch relief culvert on the right. However, it is not obvious that this would happen. In fact it appears also possible that flow would actually cross the road at the hinge of the fill slope between the crossing and the ditch relief culvert. Such a configuration is specifically identified as an appropriate location for a critical dip in Figure 7 on page 19. Figure 2 is intended to clarify hydrologic disconnection and it seems inappropriate to bring up the issue of whether or not it has a critical dip when the diagram is not a clear example of good, or bad, implementation.

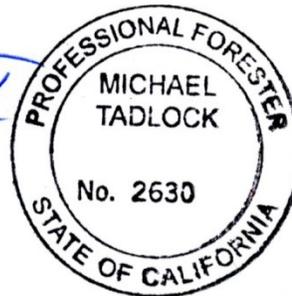
CLFA supports appropriate levels of protection for the state's natural resources while helping to keep our economy strong by maintaining a healthy forest products industry. In order to achieve these goals resource professionals in the field should be given the flexibility to develop protection measures that suit site-specific conditions. This rule package does allow for site-specific practices while providing substantial protection for the resources which may be impacted.

Although this rule package does allow for flexibility and resource protection it is clear that many of the requirements will add substantial costs to timber operations throughout the state. CLFA is not in a position to comment on the extent, or impact, of these costs in detail. However, it is clear that such costs will have an impact on landowners possibly reducing the viability of managing some ownerships as timberlands. CLFA recommends that the Board consider carefully any comments received that address the issue of additional costs brought about by this potential rule package.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



Michael Tadlock
RPF #2630
CLFA President



The California Licensed Foresters Association, with a membership responsible for the sustained management of millions of acres of California forestland, represents the common interests of California Registered Professional Foresters. The Association provides opportunities for continuing education and public outreach to its membership, which includes professionals affiliated with government agencies, private timber companies, consultants, the public, and the academic community. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, CLFA was established in 1980 after the passage of the landmark California Professional Foresters Law.