“NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL PROTECTION MEASURES AMENDMENTS, 2013”

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

Division 1.5, Chapter 4, Subchapters 4, 5, and 6,

Article 9 – Wildlife Protection Practices

Amend:

§ 919.9(g), § 939.9(g) – Northern Spotted Owl [Coast, Northern Forest Districts]

§ 919.9, § 939.9 Northern Spotted Owl [Coast, Northern]

(f) If:

(1) the submitter’s proposed operations were reviewed by a SOE under 14 CCR § 919.9, subsection(a) [939.9, subsection(a)]; and *********

(g) Where an activity center has been located within the plan boundary or within 1.3 miles of that boundary, the RPF shall determine and document in the plan: (i) activity center-specific protection measures to be applied during timber operations and (ii) owl habitat, including habitat described in (1)-(5) below, that will be retained after the proposed operations are completed:

(1) Within 500 feet of the activity center the characteristics of functional nesting habitat must be maintained. No timber operations shall be conducted in this area during the northern spotted owl breeding season unless reviewed and approved by the Director as not constituting a take. Timber operations may be conducted in this area outside the breeding season if appropriate measures are adopted to protect nesting habitat.
(2) Within 500-1000 feet of the activity center, retain sufficient functional characteristics to support roosting and provide protection from predation and storms. No timber operations shall be conducted in this area during the breeding season unless reviewed and approved by the Director as not constituting a take.

(3) Five hundred acres of owl habitat must be provided within a 0.7 mile radius of the activity center, unless an alternative is reviewed and approved by the Director as not constituting a take. The 500 acres includes the habitat retained in subsections (1) and (2) above and should be as contiguous as possible. Less than 50% of the retained habitat should be under operation in any one year, unless reviewed and approved by the Director as not constituting a take.

(4) 1336 total acres of owl habitat must be provided within 1.3 miles of each activity center, unless an alternative is reviewed and approved by the Director as not constituting a take. The 1336 acres includes the habitat retained within subsections (1)-(3) above.

(5) The shape of the areas established pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) shall be adjusted to conform to natural landscape attributes such as draws and streamcourses while retaining the total area required within subsections (1) and (2) above.

###