



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

June 13, 2016

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

Re: White and Black Oak Woodland Management Special Prescription

Dear Chairman Gilles:

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has reviewed the proposed regulation language included in the 45-day notice for the White and Black Oak Woodland Management Special Prescription. CAL FIRE supports the proposed regulation that would provide for a new type of silvicultural prescription under 14 CCR §§ 913.4 [933] to allow for the management of oak woodlands.

This special prescription will provide a valuable silvicultural treatment to help maintain, enhance, and restore a unique and valuable California resource. The conservation and management of native oak woodlands is important for their ecological and cultural values relative to biodiversity, food source, habitat, range, recreation, cultural and aesthetic qualities.

Thank you for providing CAL FIRE an opportunity to comment on this important rule package. We will have a representative available at the June Board meeting should any questions arise related to implementation and enforcement of the White and Black Oak Woodland Management Special Prescription regulations.

Sincerely,

HELGE ENG
Deputy Director
Resource Management

1 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**
2 **“White and Black Oak Woodland Management Special Prescription”**

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

4 **Division 1.5, Chapter 4,**

5 **Subchapter 4, Article 3**

6 **Subchapter 5, Article 3**

7
8 **Amend:**

9 **§ 913.4 [933.4] Special Prescriptions.**

10 The following special harvesting methods are appropriate under certain conditions:*****

11 *****

12 (f) White and Black Oak Woodland Management. Timber harvest within certain
13 deciduous oak woodlands, forests, and savannahs as described herein may occur as
14 necessary to restore or conserve the ecological, cultural, and economic values of these
15 historically oak-dominated stands. The silviculture shall be designed to reduce water,
16 light, and nutrient competition from Group A species in order to promote the sustained
17 viability of Oregon white oak and California black oak stands. Group B species including
18 white and black oaks may also be harvested. The use of this prescription shall be
19 designed to balance the contribution of resource values attributable to Oregon white oak
20 and California black oak stands with the other goals of forest management specified in
21 14 CCR § 897, and shall meet the following requirements:

22 (1) The prescription may be applied to stands in which Oregon white oak
23 (*Quercus garryana*) and/or California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) meet or exceed,
24 preharvest, an average of 35 square feet of basal area per acre.

1 (2) The RPF shall provide a description of the stand for which the special
2 prescription is to be applied including:

3 (A) An estimate, by species, of pre-harvest stand composition, diameter
4 distribution, and basal area.

5 (B) A description of natural and any known anthropogenic factors
6 conducive to Oregon white oak and/or California black oak historic and sustained
7 occupancy of the site. This may include discussion of climate, soil, light, aspect, fire
8 regime, management practices, or other relevant factors.

9 (C) A description of any apparent or known trend in changing stand
10 composition occurring over time and the factors likely to be contributing to this trend.

11 (3) The RPF shall provide a description of the planned post-harvest stand
12 condition including, by species, desired stand composition, diameter distribution, and
13 basal area.

14 (4) The RPF shall describe what trees are to be harvested and the method by
15 which those trees shall be identified, as well as any special instructions to the LTO
16 regarding measures to be taken to protect residual oak trees during timber operations.
17 If trees are to be identified by the method of marking, they shall be marked by, or under
18 the supervision of, an RPF prior to harvest. A sample area must be marked prior to the
19 preharvest inspection for evaluation. The sample area shall include at least 10% of the
20 harvest area to a maximum of 10 acres per stand type which is representative of the
21 range of conditions present in the area. The Director may waive the requirements for
22 the remainder of the area when explained and justified by the RPF in the THP.

23 (5) The RPF shall describe how the boundaries of the special prescription shall
24 be identified and, prior to the preharvest inspection, the special prescription boundaries
25 shall be identified on the ground, under the supervision of an RPF.

1 (6) Decadent and Deformed Trees of Value to Wildlife shall be retained unless
2 they pose a safety hazard or explained and justified by the RPF as to why removal is
3 necessary to facilitate timber operations or the objectives of the harvest or special
4 prescription.

5 (7) Immediately upon completion of timber operations the post-harvest stand
6 shall contain Oregon white oak and/or California black oak stocking levels that meet or
7 exceed an average of 35 square feet of basal area per acre.

8 (8) Immediately upon completion of timber operations, Group A species shall not
9 exceed 50 percent of the combined Group A and B species post-harvest stand basal
10 area. Oregon white oak and/or California Black oak stocking levels shall not be reduced
11 proportionally relative to Group A species as a result of the harvest.

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14 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4551, and 4553, Public Resources Code. Reference:
15 Section 4512, 4561, 4561.2, 4551.5, 4582 and 4582.5, Public Resources Code.
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