
NEWS RELEASE

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Board Adopts Anadromous Fish Protection Rules

Sacramento – The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) today unanimously approved permanent rules that protect anadromous salmonids including Coho salmon and Steelhead Trout. The 8-0 vote culminates more than a decade of science-based work to develop the final forest practice rules.

Board Chairman Stan Dixon stated, “The vote culminates more than a decade of science-based work to develop the final forest practice rules. These new Forest Practice Rules represent the most significant anadromous fisheries-specific protections adopted by the Board in its considerable history. This milestone represents a significant investment of time and resources toward salmon and steelhead trout recovery in California”

These new Forest Practice Rules were the result of an ambitious review of contemporary science and existing regulatory standards. The review began in 2006 with the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of state and federal agencies as well as eminent watershed scientists. The TAC oversaw the completion of a literature review in which contemporary scientific publications on various riparian functions were examined. The findings of this scientific literature review were later reported to the Board and subsequently reviewed in a public workshop that included additional leading watershed scientists.

Following a lengthy period of Board deliberation over a variety of alternative standards, the Board unanimously adopted a set of regulations that it found to be supported by contemporary science and an unprecedented collaboration between the Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) to develop new and improved protective measures for salmon and steelhead watersheds based on the findings of the TAC. The new standards adopted by the Board enhance salmon and steelhead trout bearing watersheds by improving protections for water temperature, soil stability, in-stream fish refuge, and nutrients that contribute to properly functioning salmonid habitat.

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