

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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December 17, 2009

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Dear Agency Representative:

The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is continuing its review of the California Forest Practice Rules related to protection of watersheds with anadromous salmonid species and impaired water bodies, formally termed the "Threatened or Impaired Watershed" rules (T/I rules). We greatly valued your involvement in the 2009 review of the rules related to riparian buffers. This year's review will more broadly focus on Forest Practice Rules related to roads, landings and watercourse crossings. While the review will be broad, it is intended to address road related measures appropriate for listed anadromous salmonid species, and consistent with water quality control basin plan and 303 (d) impaired waterbodies requirements.

The Board is requesting your agency's substantive involvement and input for this review so that planning and timelines for the regulation can be made. Initial input can be provided at the January 5, 2010, Forest Practice Committee meeting in Sacramento and the next Road Rules Committee meeting in January 2010 (date to be announced). An outline of the review is attached. Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring appropriate Forest Practice Rules for the state's non federal timberlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Gentry". The signature is fluid and cursive.

George Gentry  
Executive Officer

**Attachment**  
**Forest Practice Rules Road Rules Review**  
**December, 2009**

**Purpose:** The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is continuing the review of the Threatened or Impaired Watersheds (T/I) rules that were initially adopted in 2000. This portion of the review is focusing on the roads, landings and watercourse crossing regulations.

**Process:** The Board's Forest Practice Committee (FPC) is the responsible body for organizing and approving the review. The review will be informed by the Board's Road Rules Committee (RRC). The RRC is an interagency and public stakeholder group that has been in place since 2005 reviewing the entire set of road related forest practices rules and formulating organizational changes. The Road Rules Committee will serve as a first stop for review and vetting of proposals for new measures/new language that stakeholders wish the FPC to consider. The RRC will meet periodically and report monthly back to the FPC.

**Scope:** The review will cover both general road rules in the Forest Practice Rules and those specific to watersheds with listed anadromous salmonid species and 303 (d) impaired waterbodies. This year's review will not address remaining T/I components such as monitoring, cumulative effects, and special geologic features, which will be done in subsequent reviews.

The review includes 1) reorganization of the existing road rules in the Forest Practice Rules; 2) assessing the adequacy of the existing rules and amendments in terms of intent, current science, necessity, clarity, duplication and conflicting standards, effectiveness, cost implications, legal authority, and consistency with other agency's requirements; and 3) developing new rules as needed.

Intended outcomes are:

- 1) road related FPRs that are logically and clearly organized; and
- 2) the establishment of road related rules measures adequate for listed anadromous salmonid species, and consistent with water quality control basin plan and 303 (d) impaired waterbodies requirements.

**Time lines:** The FPC will hold monthly discussions of the road rules review at each regular FPC meeting during 2010. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month at 8:00 am in the Resources Building auditorium in Sacramento. The goal is to complete the review during 2010, but we will need additional input to determine all timelines.

**Status Report as of 12/09:** The RRC has drafted a reorganization of the current road rules in the Forest Practice Rules. This draft was presented to the full Board in 2008. The RRC is now updating that draft with relevant language adopted in 2009 by the Board from the Anadromous Salmonid Protection Rules, 2009. The RRC will convene its next meeting after January 19, 2010, but before the February 2010 FPC meeting. The FPC will meet on January 5, 2010, at 8:00 am, in Sacramento, to review progress and provide direction. The draft regulatory language, a matrix summarizing the proposed changes, and other related information is located on the BOF web site: [http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/proposed\\_rule\\_packages/](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/regulations/proposed_rule_packages/) (see Interagency Road Rules, 2009)

**Action Needed:** Substantive stakeholder/agency involvement and input is requested for this review so that planning and development of the regulation can commence. Initial input can be provided at the January 5, 2010, Forest Practice Committee meeting in Sacramento and the next Road Rules Committee meeting in January 2010 (date to be announced). Submission of initial input by January 19, 2010 is preferred. Further input can be submitted to the RRC and FPC as they meet over the next few months. Written Input should be sent to the Board at: [board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov](mailto:board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov)