

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

135 Ridgeway Ave.
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 (707) 576-2959
 Website: www.fire.ca.gov



Date: December 5, 2022

Ref: 1-22-00116 HUM

Jesse D. Weaver
 Forest Manager
 Redwood Empire Sawmills
 P.O. Box 156
 Cloverdale, CA 95425

Dear Mr. Weaver:

You submitted an email to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on September 22, 2022 regarding Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) 1-22-00116 HUM, located on Sherry Elliot's property. A list of abbreviations is provided for your benefit in understanding the Department's responses.

CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	PHI	Pre-harvest Inspection
CCR	California Code of Regulations	PRC	Public Resources Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	RPF	Registered Professional Forester
ELZ	Equipment Limitation Zone	THP	Timber Harvesting Plan
LTO	Licensed Timber Operator	WLPZ	Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone
NCRWQCB	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	WQ	Water Quality
		WAA	Watershed Assessment Area

- 1. CONCERN:** Re: THP#1-22-00116-HUM (Elliott THP) Dear Director, I am the forest manager for the adjacent landowners, Roger and Michele Burch. We do not object to the plan submitter's desire to harvest trees on their property. Please be mindful that the plan submitter has filed a quiet title action in Humboldt County Superior Court contesting our deeded easement across their property. We request that improvements completed under the provisions of this THP not compromise our access under our deeded non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress located on the plan submitter's property. Specifically, we request that the plan not require that certain portions of the road be paved, as such paving would potentially limit our ability to walk machinery up the road. A copy of the recorded deed (Humboldt County Document 2000-8916-6) is attached for your records. We appreciate your consideration of this concern during the review process and throughout the implementation of the THP.

RESPONSE:

Plan Proposed Mitigations

Section II, Item 25 a 4), pages 36 and 37 states the following;

4) With a grade of 15% or greater which extends 500 feet or more.
Per 14 CCR 923.5 [943.5, 963.5](q)(2)

14CCR 923.5 (q) (2): Existing seasonal haul route contains portions of road prism that average or exceed 15% for 500 feet or more, see Detail Map for locations. The specific erosion control measures needed to properly drain these sections of road are as follows:

- 1. Waterbreaks shall be maintained as specified in 14 CCR 914.6 [934.6, 954.6].
- 2. Watercourse crossing facilities and drainage structures, where feasible, shall be kept open to the unrestricted passage of water. Where needed, trash racks or similar devices shall be installed at culvert inlets in a manner, which minimizes culvert blockage. Temporary blockages shall be removed by November 15.
- 3. Before the beginning of the winter period, all roadside berms shall be removed from logging roads or breached, except where needed to facilitate erosion control.
- 4. Drainage structures, if not adequate to carry water from the 100-year flood level, shall be removed in accordance with 14 CCR 923.3(d) by November 15th of each year or by the end of timber

operations whichever occurs first. Properly functioning drainage structures on roads that existed before timber operations need not be removed.

- 5. During timber operations, road running surfaces in the logging area shall be treated as necessary to prevent excessive loss of road surface materials by, but not limited to, rocking, watering or chemically treating.

Section IV, Watershed Assessment discussion point F 3, page 111, states the following:

3. Surface Erosion on Existing Seasonal THP and Appurtenant Roads.

This THP proposes the re-use of existing seasonal truck roads. The appurtenant existing seasonal truck roads, maintained by the timberland owner, show some signs of erosion and sediment introduction and has been identified under Item 25 with remediation. The THP proposes that all unsurfaced truck roads be waterbared and drained properly to reduce erosion. Measures contained in the THP addressing saturated soil conditions and stable-operating surfaces shall ensure that no significant erosion occurs from hauling operations.

The Forest Practice Rules state the following;

923.7, 943.7, 963.7. Maintenance and Monitoring of Logging Roads and Landings. [All Districts]

The following maintenance and monitoring standards shall apply to Logging Roads and Landings:

(a) Logging Road and Landing surfaces shall be monitored and maintained during Timber Operations and throughout the prescribed maintenance period to ensure hydrologic disconnection from Watercourses and lakes to the extent feasible, minimize soil erosion and sediment transport, and to prevent significant sediment discharge.

(b) Logging Roads that are used in connection with stocking activities shall be maintained throughout such use, even if this extends beyond the prescribed maintenance period.

(c) During Timber Operations, road running surfaces in the logging area shall be treated as necessary to prevent excessive loss of road surface materials by methods including, but not limited to, rocking, watering, paving, chemically treating, or installing commercial erosion control devices to manufacturer's specifications.

OR Finding

Relative to the paving of the existing road segment within the plan that is between 15% and 20%, Section II, Item 25 a 4), pages 36 and 37 of plan have been revised to remove the option of paving. Though this paving option is in conformance with Forest Practice Rule 923.7, the Landowner has stated they do not wish to rock or pave the road for the purpose of this THP. Section IV, Watershed Assessment discussion point F 3, page 111 of the plan proposes all unsurfaced truck roads be waterbared and drained properly to reduce erosion. These operational mitigations conform to the provisions of the Forest Practice Rules. The Department finds no significant cumulative impacts resulting from proposed timber operations

The THP complies with the applicable Forest Practice Rules concerning appurtenant road use during timber operations (reference 14 CCR 923 et al). Mitigations concerning road use and maintenance can also be found in THP Items 18, 24, and 25.

Please consider this letter as the Department's "Official Response to Significant Environmental Points Raised during Public Review of THP 1-22-00116 HUM." The plan was found in conformance with the Forest Practice Act on December 5, 2022 and approved on that date.

Thank you for your input on the plan. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



CHRIS C. CURTIS
Forester II, Forest Practice
RPF #2541

cc: RPF, Unit, File; Timber Owner, Timberland Owner, and/or Submitter
CDFW, RWB. To view harvesting documents, please visit: <https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees/>