

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION****Forest Practice Rule § 14 CCR 916.9(a)(4) – Class II-Large**

Dear Interested Party:

As you may be aware, last year the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Forest Practice Committee began review of the "Class II-Large (L)" element of Forest Practice Rule Section 916.9. This review was undertaken in response to concerns raised by members of the regulated public regarding interpretation and implementation of the rule section. At its November 2012 meeting, the Board conducted a hearing on possible amendments to the rule section. Following the hearing, the Board remanded the rule proposal to the Forest Practice Committee with direction to continue further with review and consideration of the issues that precipitated development of the rule proposal.

To further inform consideration of this matter, the Forest Practice Committee is seeking approved Timber Harvesting Plan and Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (Plan) data regarding Class II-L watercourse frequency, stream order (as defined in Forest Practice Rule Section 895.1), and contributing drainage area. Additional data regarding the implementation cost differences between Class II-Standard and Class II-Large protection requirements for each Plan would also be appreciated. Photographs of Class II segments and brief narrative information about the Class II watercourse classification process would likewise be welcomed in the submissions.

Specifically, the Board is requesting responses to the attached questionnaire from those individuals with *approved* Plans falling under the jurisdiction of Forest Practice Rule Section 916.9. The Plan *must contain* or be *within 1,000 feet* of at least one Class I fishbearing watercourse reach and contain at least one Class II watercourse eligible for Class II-L designation. (Note: Class II watercourses located along Plan boundaries would be considered *contained within* for the purposes of this solicitation, provided the watercourse is receiving some measure of Class II protection.)

The Board's Forest Practice Committee would appreciate your responses to this solicitation by February 20 in order to allow enough time for review in advance of the March 5, 2013 Committee meeting. Responses, questions or comments should be directed to Board Staff as follows:

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*The Board's mission is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands, and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.*