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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Preharvest Review

- Questions To Consider
- Summary Checklist
- Backup Information



A Publication of
Associated California Loggers





Questions To Ask During Preharvest Review of THP's (Or Timber Sales)

Note:

These questions and attached checklist are designed to uncover information that will help avoid surprises, assure contract compliance and contribute to a smooth work flow while complying with applicable laws and regulations. These questions and others derived from your experience merit your consideration during your discussions with involved parties. In some cases a check-off on the check-list is sufficient, but in many cases you'll want to record additional information such as names, phone numbers or flag color, etc. on attached sheets.

1. Who's Who?

Get the names and phone numbers of the people (in each instance), who care. Find out what they want to know. To whom do you go for answers?

2. Major Documents

Simply a question of whether there's a "done deal" here. Is there some controlling interest that's not signed up? Can the deal vanish? Who requires an insurance certificate, and how is it to be done? Are there parts of the THP that involve other agencies (such as Fish & Game)? While we're on the subject of documentation, how will the logger get the scale/weight information? You need to be sure this is timely and in a form with which you can deal.

3. Where Is Everything?

This may be the single biggest question of the process. There will be areas where you are supposed to do certain things (like log within the property lines). The question here is, are the areas clearly mapped, and can you find them on the ground? If they are flagged, what color flagging was used? If not, who's supposed to lay these out? Pay particular attention to the following areas:

1. Property Lines
2. EEZ or ELZ areas
3. Archeology sites
4. WLPZ
5. High erosion areas
6. Improvements - water lines, power lines, buildings, etc.
7. Areas requiring special visual treatment.

4. When Are Things Supposed To Happen?

What is the intended schedule of the project? Is there a "winter ops" plan if that's needed? Are there time of year (such as wildlife or fire hazard) considerations or time of day (noise or dust) problems? What kind of log flow is expected by the owners and the mills? Is there any part of the project that you must coordinate with some other entity?

5. How Is The Timber Marked?

Are trees marked to be left or to be cut? What color is used? Is timber marked for a different sale on or next to the property? Can additional timber be marked, and by whom? Will additional timber be marked in a timely manner? What if a marked tree does not have a minimum log? Are any bearing or witness trees marked, and what is to be done with them? Are any wildlife or other special leave trees clearly marked? Sometimes it's helpful to know the long term objectives.

6. Falling Questions

What are the expected stump heights? If the stumps are to be treated chemically, (as with Timbor), who will provide it and who has the application authority? (Yeah, there are rules about this stuff too.)

What is the minimum top and the minimum log? What kind of lopping is expected? What are you going to do with hangups if they occur? What about snags?

7. Log Manufacture & Delivery

For each sort (species, size, or destination), what are the preferred and acceptable log lengths? What is the minimum log (gross and net). What does each mill go nuts about? How are the logs to be branded/paint spotted? Is each mill prepared to accept the logs? Are there Scaler Information Sheets (most mills insist on these being available before logs are delivered). What about load tickets? Who provides them? How are they to be filled out (what information is required)? Where are they? What are the log dump hours? Are there any particular procedures in the mill (like on which side do you tie down)? Who is the mill person to contact about these questions?

What sort of merchantability does the timber owner expect? If there are conflicts between merchantability and desired lengths - the mill won't take an 18 ft log, and the tree broke at 19 ft - , who prevails and who deals with the whining? Is there a home for a mixed load when you're cleaning up?

8. Skidding/Yarding

Other than the areas shown on the map, are there places to avoid? Are there any special requirements?

9. Roads & Landings

Are the roads and landings shown on the THP adequate? If there are additional spurs to be built, does the THP need to be amended? Who will decide if the roads are useable in wet weather? What are the standards for road maintenance? If roads are to be watered, where is the water hole? Who controls it and are there any restrictions on its use?

From the job to the highway, are there any Right of Way agreements or problems? Any gates, cattle guards, or other problem areas? Is there a specified haul route? How about signs or traffic control? Are there campgrounds or settlements on or near the road that require special care or speed restrictions?

Are there a legal encroachments to the highway? Are signs required? Do you know how to get to each mill?

10. Cleanup

What cleanup is required? Are there firebreaks that must be built as a part of the job? Any special requirements for erosion control? What (if any) is your responsibility beyond the end of the job? How are the roads to be treated when the job is done? If there are burn piles, who is responsible for burning them? If this is a small landowner, are there any "little Honeydews" that the owner wants?

When the job is done, who gives the final inspection? Who releases the holdback (if any)?

11. Public Relations

Have the neighbors been contacted (beyond the required notice)? Are there any problems about which you should know? Have any assurances been given about which you should be aware? What about trees that fall across the property line?

What kind of position should you take on public relations problems? What about the neighbor who pleads that you not cut the tree "that the grandkids play under"?

12. Safety Concerns

Discuss your Fire Plan and MedEvac plan. Who will file a Fire Plan? Who is the responsible Fire Agency? This is the time to develop a good MedEvac plan, including Helicopter landing areas, if appropriate. How will the parties communicate in an emergency? How can the world get hold of you? (It may not be a bad idea to let the sawmills know, sometimes they are the first to hear about something you should know.)

Are there any particular hazards about which you should be aware? You know you have to be careful *for* the critters, are there any critters we should be careful *of*? (Snakes, bugs, the owner's Rottweiler?) What is the procedure for dealing with hazard trees? Can un-marked hazard trees be cut or marked hazard trees left?

If this is an inexperienced owner, have he or she been made aware of the hazards to them of watching the operation? Is everyone aware of your safety policies?

Are there public safety concerns? Consider work along roads, trails, or other access areas. Who will provide control (flagging, warning signs, etc.)?

13. Other Questions

How much does everyone want to know about what's going on - that is, does anyone expect daily reports, or just problems, or just disasters?

Some of these questions may require you to dig for the answers elsewhere, and some of the answers should be of interest to the RPF. We've tried to limit these to the things that would normally come up, although some only apply to some kinds of jobs. Still, don't limit yourself to these questions - the more you ask, the more you'll know.



Timber Harvest Plan (Or Sale) Review "Quick Check Summary"

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Note:

This "Quick Check Summary" is to help uncover information to make your logging operation more trouble free. More detailed information should be recorded on the attached sheets. **For ProLogger credit (one unit) send a copy of this summary (both sides) with both signatures to the ACL office.** *If you can't check "Yes", overwrite "No" or "N/A" (not applicable)*

1. Do you have the names and phone numbers of everyone who'll be involved with the Plan? Yes.
Do you know who to go to for answers? Yes.
Do they know how and where to contact you? Yes.

2. Have *all* parties and agencies agreed that the logging is ready to go forward and all have signed appropriate documents? Yes. Are you shown as the LTO? Yes.

3. Do you know where everything is, how it's marked and any flagging colors? Yes.

Property lines <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	ESA sites <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
EEZ and ELZ areas <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Archeology sites <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
WLPZs <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	High erosion areas <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Improvements - water lines, power lines, buildings, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Areas requiring special visual treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	

4. Has an operating schedule been agreed upon? Yes
Winter Ops needed and ready? Yes
Time of year (fire, wildlife, etc.) or time of day (noise, dust, etc.) restrictions? Yes
Are there any "alternative practices"? Yes
Do you know any agreed upon log flow schedule? Yes
Is the schedule tied to any other project or event controlled by others? Yes
Do you know the log dump hours at each mill? Yes

5. How is the timber marked? To be left. To be cut.
What color is used? _____
Can additional timber be marked? Yes By Whom? _____
Is there other marking in or adjacent to the harvest area? Yes
Leave a tree that doesn't have a minimum log? Yes
Are any bearing or witness trees to be cut? Yes Under what conditions? _____

Are any wildlife or special leave trees clearly marked? Yes

"Quick Check Summary"

THP # _____

Date ____/____/____

6. Do you understand the falling requirements? Yes
Expected stump heights? Yes
Stump treatment? Yes. Who supplies and applies? _____
Are minimum top and log specified? Yes
Is there an agreement on dealing with snags? Yes

7. Have log specifications been set? Yes
Do you know the preferred and acceptable log lengths for each sort? Yes
Are logs to be branded and/or paint spotted? Yes
What is the minimum log? _____
Is each mill prepared to accept the logs? Yes
Have "Scaler Information Sheets" been provided? Yes
Do you have "Load Tickets" and understand the info requirements? Yes
Do you have a contact at each mill where you can get information and answers? Yes
Have arrangements been made for a mixed load at the end of the job? Yes

8. During skidding, are there any places to avoid or that have special requirements? Yes

9. Are the planned roads and landings adequate? Yes
Is a plan amendment needed? Yes
Do you have access to a water hole and it's use? Yes
Who decides when a road is useable in wet weather? _____
Have standards for road maintenance been set? Yes
Is there a specified haul route? Yes
From job to highway, are there any right-of-way, encroachment, agreement or traffic conflict problems? Yes
Are you responsible for any traffic signs and control? Yes

10. Has the amount of cleanup been agreed upon? Yes
Has a lopping standard been set? Yes
Are there special requirements for erosion control? Yes
Are you required to do any special road work to close out the job? Yes
Do you have any responsibility beyond the end of the job? Yes
Who gives the final inspection? _____

11. Have any assurances been given to neighbors that you should be aware of? Yes
Are there any "neighbor problems"? Yes

12. Are there any safety hazards to you and your crew that need to be minimized? Yes
Has a MedEvac and communication plan been established? Yes
Who will be the responding fire agency? _____
Will they be notified of the start and completion of logging and your location? Yes

Signed: _____
Logger (or foreman who will supervise operations)

Signed: _____
RPF (or supervised designee)

Date: _____



(Your company name)

PRE-HARVEST REVIEW

Names And Contacts

Date(s) PHR Conducted: _____ THP No./Sale _____

Attending the pre-harvest review: _____

RPF: _____ No. _____ Phone (_____) _____

CDF Inspector: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Landowner: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Timber owner: _____ Phone (_____) _____
(if different)

To see for answers: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Mill contact(s) _____ Phone (_____) _____

_____ Phone (_____) _____

Fire Agency: _____ Phone (_____) _____

Site Specifics

Flagging Colors:

Property Lines _____ WLPZ _____

EEZ _____ High erosion areas _____

ELZ _____ Wildlife sites/trees _____

Arc Sites _____ Road/trail alignments _____

Other _____

Operating Restrictions

No Operations:

Time of Day: _____

Time of Year: _____

Log dump hours: _____

Related projects or events: _____

Performance Specifics

Minimum Top: _____ Minimum Log: _____

Snag agreement: _____

Log Length: Preferred _____

(By Sort) Acceptable _____

Stump height: _____

Log brand: _____ Color spot: _____

Final mixed load(s) to: _____

Special skidding requirements: _____

Clean-up and slash treatment notes: _____

Roads and Landings

Alignment and placement notes: _____

Maintenance standards: _____

Haul Route: _____

Required Signs or Traffic Control: _____

Required close-out work: _____



Hazards

Location of Danger Trees: _____

Road/Trail System Hazards: _____

Special Cautions For Equipment: _____

Notes:

