

**From:** [Kimberly Burr, Esq.](#)  
**To:** [Craig, Dan@CALFIRE](mailto:Craig_Dan@CALFIRE)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public comment. Riparian degradation leads to fire hazard  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 3:03:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [Biology 190-71, Riparian Systems.pdf](#)

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April 8, 2025

Dear Board of Forestry:

Please add the attached document (excerpted below) by the Natural Resource Conservation Service to the administrative record in the matter of Rule making to allow more logging in the watercourse lake protection zone (WLPZ). Counter to what the purported reason given by CalFire which is to reduce fire fuel, the true experts on riparian function and value, do not think logging in the WLPZ will reduce fuel.

Thank you, Kimberly Burr

“” **Degraded riparian systems -**

When a riparian system is degraded, heavy runoff moves through the riparian zone directly into river channels. Fine sediments eventually fill up stream pools, altering the shape of the stream channels and covering rocky stream bottoms, thereby impairing important food-producing, shelter, and spawning areas. Runoff can bring seeds of nonnative and nonriparian plant species, reducing habitat for native species, and the water table can be lowered by crowding out more native riparian species. Degradation of the native plant community *can create a fire risk* by increasing fuel loads. Furthermore, streamsides lose their ability to buffer and protect streams, resulting in damage to aquatic habitat, increased costs for treating drinking water, and loss of aesthetic appeal.””

(Natural Resource Conservation Service, *emphasis added*)

