

Project Number: EMC-2016-yyy

Project Name: Snag Retention—Implementation and effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules at maintaining functional wildlife habitat through snag retention.

Background and Justification:

Snags are an important habitat feature for many wildlife species and are a potential source of large woody debris in streams. The Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) require within the logging area all snags shall be retained during timber operations [Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1)]. However, the FPRs also list six exceptions to this requirement [14 CCR § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1) (a) - (f)]. Whether these exceptions adversely impact terrestrial species is unknown. As such, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has recommended the effectiveness monitoring of 14 CCR § 919.1 (939.1, 959.1). In addition, the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee has recognized the theme “Wildlife Habitat: Structures,” which includes critical monitoring questions regarding snags. This proposal addresses the effectiveness of snag retention in the FPRs.

Objective(s) and Scope:

This proposal covers all forest districts. It seeks to address the practice of retaining snags for wildlife habitat during timber operations.

Monitoring Questions:

4. How often are snags removed under authority of section 919.1 [939.1, 959.1] (a) – (f)?
5. When snags are removed, how many are left in the plan area?
6. When snags are retained during harvest operations, how are they affected by site preparation?

Rule or Regulation:

14 CCR § 919.1 [939.1, 959.1]; FGCom T&E Species Policy; FGCom Raptor Policy

EMC Critical Question or Priority:

Theme 10: Wildlife Habitat: Structures

Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in retaining...

- (b) a mix of stages of snag development that maintain properly functioning levels of wildlife habitat?

Collaborators:

CDFW, private forest land owners, CAL FIRE

Existing or Needed Funding:

Requires project collaborators and funding.

Timeline and Fiscal year (s):

Unknown

Principal Investigator or Contact:

Unknown

Submitted by CDFW

Note: Rule or Regulation = Forest Practice Rule, Water Quality Objective or Fish and Wildlife Code or Regulation
