

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Division 1.5, Chapter 4****Subchapter 4,5 & 6 Article 2 Ratings and Standards****(Alternative Stocking Standards)****§ 912.7 Resource Conservation Standards for Minimum Stocking**

(e) A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) may propose an alternative stocking standard for any proposed regeneration method, intermediate treatment or special prescription not to fall below the lowest applicable resource conservation standards in (912.7, 932.7, 952.7) for the lowest site classification (Site IV, 150 point count, 50 square feet of basal area) if the proposed alternative stocking achieves suitable resource conservation and contributes to the following forest health and ecological goals as defined by the Board:

- (1) Improved fire resilience.
- (2) Increased drought tolerance.
- (3) Improved forest pest and disease resistance.
- (4) Increased carbon sequestration rates and climate benefits related to forests and durable wood products.

The RPF shall describe the management objective for the stand, state the alternative stocking standard for the proposed regeneration method, intermediate treatment or special prescription and explain and justify the proposed alternative stocking standard by providing the following information:

- (A) Site specific forestland characteristics including site class, aspect, soil type, elevation, slope, understory shrub composition, and a general estimate of available water in the soil.
- (B) Economic factors supporting the proposed alternative and associated risks if the alternative stocking is not implemented.
- (C) A description of the current stand, including species composition and current stocking measured using the applicable point-count or basal area method.
- (D) An estimate of the projected post-harvest stand species composition and stocking using the same measure of stocking used for the description of the current stand.
- (E) A discussion including substantial evidence of how the proposed alternative stocking will contribute to the Board's forest health and ecological goals while meeting the stated management objective.
- (F) A description of stand maintenance and vegetation treatments that will be applied where necessary to ensure suitable resource conservation and site occupancy post-harvest.

The proposed alternative stocking area shall be inspected on site by the local Forest Practice Inspector. A sample mark may be required based upon the type of harvest. The local Forest Practice Inspector will verify on-site conditions and certify to the director the proposed alternative stocking will achieve suitable resource conservation. The Director, after review pursuant to PRC § 4561.2 may accept the proposed alternative if in their judgment the intent of the Act will be met, and there will not be an immediate significant and long-term harm to the natural resources of the state.