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2 **Board of Forestry and Fire Protection**  
3 **Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations**  
4 **Division 1.5, Chapter 4,**  
5 **Subchapters 4, 5, &6, Article 4**

6 **August 20, 2019 Forest Practice Committee Rule Plead**  
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8 **§ 914.2 [934.2, 954.2]. Tractor Operations.**

9 The following standards are applicable to Tractor Operations:

10 (a) Tractor Operations shall be conducted in a manner which complies with 14 CCR §  
11 914 [934, 954].

12 (b) Tractor, or other heavy equipment which is equipped with a blade, shall not operate  
13 on skid roads or slopes that are so steep as to require the use of the blade for braking.

14 (c) Tractor Roads shall be limited in number and width to the minimum necessary for  
15 removal of logs. When less damage to the resources specified in 14 CCR § 914 [934,  
16 954] will result, existing Tractor Roads shall be used instead of constructing new Tractor  
17 Roads. **[Northern Only]** The RPF may propose exceptions for silvicultural reasons  
18 when explained and justified in the THP.

19 (d) Heavy equipment shall not operate on Unstable Areas. If such areas are  
20 unavoidable, the RPF shall develop specific measures to minimize the effect of  
21 operations on slope instability. These measures shall be explained and justified in the  
22 Plan and approved by the Director, and must meet the requirements of 14 CCR § 914  
23 [934, 954].

1 (e) Slash and debris from Timber Operations shall not be bunched adjacent to residual  
2 trees required for silvicultural or wildlife purposes or placed in locations where they  
3 could be discharged into a Class I or II Watercourse, or Lake.

4 (f) Tractor Operations shall be subject to the following limitations:

5 (1) Heavy equipment shall be prohibited where any of the following conditions  
6 are present:

7 (i) slopes steeper than 65%

8 (ii) slopes steeper than 50% where the Erosion Hazard Rating is high or  
9 extreme

10 (iii) slopes over 50% which lead without flattening to sufficiently dissipate  
11 water flow and trap sediment before it reaches a Watercourse or Lake.

12 (2) On slopes between 50% and 65% where the Erosion Hazard Rating is  
13 moderate, and all slope percentages are for Average Slope steepness based on  
14 sample areas that are 20 acres, or less if proposed by the RPF or required by the  
15 Director, heavy equipment shall be limited to:

16 (i) existing Tractor Roads that do not require reconstruction, or

17 **(ii) [Coast only]** new Tractor Roads at a location that has been shown on  
18 the THP map, flagged by an RPF or Supervised Designee prior to the pre-  
19 harvest inspection or, when a pre-harvest inspection is not required, prior  
20 to the start of Timber Operations, and approved by the Director.

21 **(ii) [Northern and Southern]** new Tractor Roads that have been flagged  
22 by an RPF or supervised designee prior to use.

23 (3) The RPF may propose exceptions to the limitations on Tractor Operations  
24 described above if the proposed exception will comply with 14 CCR § 914 [934,  
25 954], and if the THP both clearly explains the proposed exception and justifies

1 why application of the standard rule is either not Feasible, or would not comply  
2 with 14 CCR § 914 [934, 954]. The location of Tractor Roads to be used under  
3 such exceptions shall be flagged prior to the pre-harvest inspection or, when a  
4 pre-harvest inspection is not required, prior to the start of Timber Operations.

5 (g) Where Tractor Roads are constructed, Timber Operators shall use Tractor Roads  
6 only, both for Skidding logs to Landings and on return trips.

7 (h) Timber Operators shall exercise due diligence so that desirable residual trees and  
8 seedlings will not be damaged or destroyed in Tractor Operations.

9 (i) Where Waterbreaks cannot effectively disperse surface runoff, other Erosion  
10 Controls shall be installed as needed.

11 **(j) [Southern only]** Except where terracing will disturb less than 50% of the soil  
12 surface, mechanical Site Preparation shall not be conducted on any of the following:

13 (1) Any slopes over 40%.

14 (2) Slopes over 30% which lead without flattening to a class I or class II  
15 Watercourse or to a Lake.

16 (3) Areas having average slopes over 30%, where the Erosion Hazard Rating is  
17 high or extreme. The area sampled for the average shall not exceed 20 acres.

18 **(k) [Southern only]** The Director may approve exceptions to (j)(1), (j)(2), and (j)(3)  
19 above when damage to soil and water quality caused by the use of heavy equipment  
20 will not exceed that caused by other Site Preparation methods if explained and justified  
21 in the THP.

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23 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4551, 4551.5 and 4553, Public Resources Code.

24 Reference: Sections 4512, 4513, 4562.5, 4562.7 and 4582, Public Resources Code.

1 **§ 914.3 [934.3, 954.3]. Cable Yarding.**

2 The following standards are applicable to Cable Yarding:

3 (a) Due diligence shall be exercised in the installing, and operating, of cable lines so  
4 that residual trees will not incur unreasonable damage by such installation or use.

5 (b) Residual trees required to be left upon completion of Timber Operations shall not be  
6 used for rub trees, corner blocks, Rigging or other cable ties unless effectively protected  
7 from damage.

8 (c) The practice of Tight-Lining for the purpose of changing location of cable lines is  
9 prohibited unless such practice can be carried on without damaging residual trees.

10 (d) Cable Yarding settings shall take maximum advantage of the natural topography and  
11 timber types so that Yarding operations will protect residual trees.

12 (e) Tractors shall not be used in areas designated for Cable Yarding except to pull trees  
13 away from Streams, to yard logs in areas where deflection is low, where swing Yarding  
14 is advantageous, to construct firebreaks and/or Layouts, and to provide tail-holds. Such  
15 exception(s) shall be explained and justified in the THP, and require Director's approval.

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17 Note: Authority cited: Sections 4551, 4551.5 and 4553, Public Resources Code.

18 Reference: Sections 4512, 4513, 4527, 4562.5, 4562.7 and 4582, Public Resources  
19 Code.