Staff Overview: Licensed Timber Operators Responsibilities discussion.

# Overview

During the 2025 call for regulatory review a request was made for the Board of Forestry to consider evaluating and defining the roles and responsibilities for Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs).

Two concerns were identified:

1) Consider language which would require specific areas of operations and responsibility for each LTO. CAL FIRE has a difficult time determining who the responsible LTO may be when potential violations occur when multiple LTOs are identified on harvesting permits. Note: Some of this concern was addressed with the rule plead “Geographically Overlapping Harvesting Permits:”

2) Consider language which specifically identifies the responsible LTO for road maintenance activities.

# Summary of Revisions

The following represents a summary of significant organizational and substantive revisions made to the rule text.

14 CCR 1035.3, Licensed Timber Operators Responsibility has been provided as the rule plead so the committee, private and public entities are aware of the current responsibilities required in regulation per the Forest Practice Act.

Additionally, 14 CCR 1035.1, Registered Professional Forester Responsibility, has been provided within the rule plead to add clarity of each professional’s responsibility when conducting timber operations. When addressing specific areas of operations or who may be responsible for maintenance activities it may be better addressed as a requirement of the RPF, who is responsible for professional advice throughout timber operations.

Board staff is providing this information to open discussions so all potential concerns / issues can be captured to better define potential regulatory changes.