Staff Overview: Revisions to Proposed Rule Text for Fuels Reduction in the WLPZ.

# Overview

At the August meeting, the Board’s Forest Practice Committee continued work on the rule text for fuel reduction work within the WLPZ.

Stakeholders private, corporate, and agency evaluated the rule text in the plea and offered suggestions specific to the need for certain regulatory requirements. The rule text proposed reflects the revisions discussed during the committee meeting.

The specific revisions discussed at the August meeting have been added to the proposed rule text. The Black text represent original rule language, red underlined text identifies the rule text as it was presented in July 2024 FPC meeting, blue underlined text identifies the rule text presented in August 2024 FPC meeting and green underlined text identifies changes that were discussed during the August committee meeting and now represents the current Rule Plea.

Strikethrough text identifies language that has been removed from the rule plea. Board Staff has attempted to leave the rule text from each committee meeting in its appropriate color but adding a strikethrough if that language has been modified or removed during committee discussions so that stakeholders can easily identify the proposed language from each month to help evaluate the proposed changes.

# Summary of Revisions

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

* Page 6, Line 20-21, a sentence was added to distinguish between the surface cover and undisturbed area retention standard. In discussions it was agreed surface cover and undisturbed area could be considered separately and as such the percentage of undisturbed area could be reduced below 75%. A sentence has been added to 916,4 [936,4, 956.4](b)(6) allowing for the consideration of undisturbed area to be reduced when conducting operations per 14 C CR 916.13
* Page 13, Line 1, 916.5(e) “G” added language “below 50%” to the sentence “Understory canopy may be reduced when operations are conducted per 916.13”.
* Page 13, Line 14-15, 916.5(e) “I” added language clarifying a multi storied stand is not required when operations are conducted per Section 916.13.
* Page 14, Line 14-16, during committee a question was asked of the committee what an RPF needs to include in a description of the post-harvest and overstory canopy discussion. Based on discussions during committee the description should be based on the variations to the standard rules identified per 14 CCR 916.5, [936.5, 956.5] “G”, “H”, “I”. This language has been added for RPF direction and clarity during review.
* Page 15, Line 14, Board staff reviewed cable operations to determine if there was a need for cable considerations specific to 916.13. 916.13 focuses on the cutting of harvest trees and intermediate fuels through the use of ground-based equipment. Cable operations are specific to a type of harvesting technique which are defined per 914.3. A sentence was added to 916.13(h) indicating cable operations shall be consistent with 14 CCR § 914.3
* Page 16, Line 21-22, based on discussions for monitoring the language has been changed to address reporting by the Department upon Board request. Ther reporting will be based on CalTREES reporting which identifies the frequency of use, acres treated, and any violations that may have occurred.
* Page 19, Line 7-8, language added to 1052 – emergency notice has been included in the rule plea to clarify that 14 CCR 916.13 [936.13, 956.13] is not allowed under emergency notices.