

TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING PERMITS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Forest Practice Checklist

I. Determining if a harvest document is required.

1. Is the project occurring on timberland?

Yes....Go to question #2.

In Humboldt County, qualifying commercial timber species include coast redwood, Douglas-fir, grand fir, western hemlock, western redcedar, bishop pine, Monterey pine, sitka spruce, incense cedar, Port Orford cedar, California red fir, Jeffrey pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, western white pine, tanoak, red alder, white alder, pacific madrone, golden chinkapin, pepperwood, Oregon white oak, California black oak. **Timberland** includes areas where the above species are now growing naturally or have grown naturally in the recorded past, even if not currently present.

No....This does not constitute timber operations and a THP or other harvest document is NOT required by CAL FIRE. STOP HERE.

2. Are you cutting trees and plan to sell, barter, exchange or trade any type of wood product?

Yes.... A THP or other timber harvest plan exemption document is required by CAL FIRE prior to cutting any trees.

No.... A THP or other timber harvest plan exemption document may still be required by CAL FIRE. Go to question #3.

3. Are you cutting or removing trees from timberland, and converting the area to a non-timber use? NOTE: These requirements apply even if the wood products are not sold commercially or the trees are not of merchantable size.

a) Yes, and the area involved is less than three acres... Do not harvest without an approved Less than 3-acre conversion exemption (14 CCR 1104.1)

b) Yes, and the area involved is greater than three acres...A timberland conversion permit (TCP) and THP are required.

c) Yes, and the area is an approved subdivision under the Subdivision Map Act....

An Exemption for Conversion of Non-TPZ¹ Land for Subdivision Development (14 CCR 1104.2) can meet the TCP requirement and either a THP or Less than 3-acre conversion exemption are

required.

d) No.... If question number 1, 2, and 3 above are answered no, a THP or other harvest document is NOT required by CAL FIRE. An example would be cutting firewood for personal use.

¹ TPZ: Zoning classified as Timberland Production Zone.

PRC 4526 – Timberland

“Timberland” means land, other than land owned by the federal government, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

PRC 4527 - Timber Operations

“Timber Operations” means the cutting or removal or both of timber or other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the work incidental thereto, including, but not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, stream crossings, landings, and skid trails. “Commercial purposes” includes (1) The cutting or removal of trees which are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange or trade, or; (2) The cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber which are subject to the provisions of Section 4621, including, but not limited to, residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects. Removal or harvest of incidental vegetation from timberlands, such as berries, ferns, greenery, mistletoe, herbs, and other products, which action cannot normally be expected to result in a threat to forest, air, water, or soil resources, does not constitute timber operations.

Resource Management Handbook 5471

A timberland conversion permit (TCP) is required when:

- Immediate rezoning of three acres or more from TPZ to another zoning classification, whether or not timber operations are involved.
- Changing three acres or more of non-TPZ timberland to a non-timber growing use when timber operations are involved.

Resource Management Handbook 5471.1

- A TCP is required when converting timberland to non-forest land use when removing non-commercial species for commercial purposes.

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Resource Management Handbook 5471.4

- A TCP is not required for noncommercial removal of solid wood product from non-TPZ land. Noncommercial removal means that the products are neither sold nor exchanged for other goods or services. Noncommercial disposal includes the timberland owner's personal use of the products, disposal by piling, burning, and hauling away and dumping without processing. These operations are not timber operations under the FPA definition.