Incidental Take Permit Guidelines for Timber Operations, 2007

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1, Subdivision 3,
Chapter 6 Regulations for Implementation of the California Endangered
Species Act, Article 3. Incidental Take Permit Guidelines for Timber

[February 11, 2008]

Adoption contents:

Operations

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Adopt: 787.0. Purpose and Scope of Regulations.

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(a) The purpose of this article is to establish rules and guidelines in accordance with Section 2112 of the Fish and Game Code to implement Fish and Game Commission policies regarding the issuance of incidental take permits pursuant to Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code for timber operations or activities that may take coho salmon, a species that is listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act, Fish and Game Code sections 2050, et seq. ("CESA"). The Fish and Game Commission approved the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) (February 2004), and approved for inclusion specified policies pursuant to Section 2112 of the Fish and Game Code to guide the issuance of incidental take permits under Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code for timber operations or activities. This article sets forth rules and guidelines to implement those policies. In accordance with section 2112 of the Fish and Game Code, this article specifies conditions and circumstances when: (1) take is prohibited; (2) an incidental take permit is required; and (3) an incidental take permit is not required. This article outlines various ways to obtain incidental take permits for timber operations and activities, including an expedited process for obtaining incidental take permits by certification pursuant to these regulations, and through the normal permitting process set forth in CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq.. The standards for issuance of incidental take permits are the permit issuance criteria set forth in

section 2081(b) and (c) of the Fish and Game Code. This article is not intended to create a presumption that any particular timber operation or activity will incidentally take coho salmon.

(b) This article does not affect the Department's authority to authorize take pursuant to any other provision of the Fish and Game Code or any other provision of the California Code of Regulations including, but not limited to, take authorizations issued or approved by the Department pursuant to section 2835 of the Fish and Game Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(d), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(b) and (c), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.1. Definitions.

- (a) The terms used in this article are defined by the definitions provided in the Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 895.1, et seq., except as specifically provided in this article:
- (1) Coho Salmon Impact Evaluation. A "coho salmon impact evaluation" is an evaluation by the Department of potential impacts of proposed timber operations to coho salmon, conducted in accordance with section 787.9.
- (2) Jeopardy Determination. A "jeopardy determination" is the Department's determination, made in accordance with section 787.6 as

to whether issuance of an incidental take permit for proposed timber operations activities would jeopardize the continued existence of cohosalmon.

- (3) Recovery Unit. A "recovery unit" is a group of watersheds related hydrologically, geologically and ecologically which constitute unique and important components of an Evolutionarily Significant Unit for coho salmon. The coho salmon recovery units are delineated and described in the Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) (February 2004), inclusive of amendments.
- (4) Watersheds with Coho Salmon. "Watersheds with coho salmon"

 means any planning watershed(s) where coho salmon (Oncorhynchus

 kisutch) have been documented by the Department of Fish and Game to be

 present during or after 1990. A list of watersheds with coho salmon is

 available at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/timber/index.html

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2081(d) and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2081(b) and (c) and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.2 Take Determination for Timber Operations.

(a) When acting as a Lead, Responsible or Trustee Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. ("CEQA"), where timber operations are proposed in watersheds with coho salmon, subject to the availability of staff, the Department will prepare a "coho salmon impact evaluation" in

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accordance with section 787.9 and determine whether the proposed
timber operations will or are likely to take one or more life stages
of coho salmon. Any determination that take will or is likely to occur
shall include a description of the activities and project specific
conditions which may lead to take.

- (b) The following is a list of activities that could potentially take coho salmon. This list is not exhaustive and there is no presumption that take will necessarily occur whenever these activities are implemented.
- (1) Construction, maintenance, replacement and removal of watercourse crossings (e.g., culverts, bridges and Humboldt crossings);
 - (2) Watercourse bank stabilization;
- (3) Construction, maintenance, replacement, removal and use of fords (i.e., low water crossings);
- (4) Development, maintenance and operation of water diversion and drafting sites;
- (5) Construction, maintenance, and use of segments of roads, skid trails, landings and associated drainage facilities hydrologically connected to watercourses;
- (6) Any physical modification of a channel zone including removal of large wood from a Class I channel zone;
 - (7) Landslides initiated or accelerated by timber operations;
- (8) Timber operations in a Class I watercourse and lake protection zone, accessible to coho salmon;

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 711.7, 2080, 2081(d) and 2112, 1 Fish and Game Code; and Sections 21067, 21069, 21070, 21080.1, 21080.3, 21080.4, 21080.5, 21082.2, and 21104.2, Public Resources 3 Code. 4. Reference: Sections 702, 711.7, 2080, 2081(b) and (c), and 2112, Fish 5 and Game Code; Sections 21067, 21069, 21070, 21080.1, 21080.3, 6 21080.4, 21080.5, 21082.2, and 21104.2, Public Resources Code. 7 8 Adopt: 787.3 Take of Coho salmon from Timber Operations Prohibited. 9 10 Any unauthorized take of coho salmon is prohibited and may be 11 subject to criminal action pursuant to the Fish and Game Code. 12 13 Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2080, and 2112, Fish and Game 14 15 Code. Reference: Sections 702, 2080, and 2112, Fish and Game Code. 16

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Adopt: 787.4. Incidental Take Permit for Timber Operations Required.

(a) If the Department determines that proposed timber operations, including activities specified in section 787.2(b) could potentially take coho salmon, and the proposed project is not revised to avoid take in accordance with section 787.5, the Department may authorize incidental take of coho salmon by issuing a permit under the authority of Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code using any of the following processes if subsection (b) of this section is met:

- (1) Incidental take permit by certification. The Department may issue an incidental take permit by certification pursuant to section 787.7 for timber operations that are not the subject of a timberland conversion permit when timber operations in watersheds with coho salmon incorporate all of the minimization and mitigation measures set forth in Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1) (a)-(t), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2).
- (2) Incidental take permit incorporating selected measures. An applicant may propose, and the Department will consider an incidental take permit application prepared in accordance with CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq., for timber operations that incorporate selected measures from Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2). The Department may issue an incidental take permit in accordance with CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq.
- (3) Incidental take permit incorporating watershed evaluation—based measures. An applicant may propose, and the Department will consider an incidental take permit application prepared in accordance with CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq., for timber operations that incorporate minimization and mitigation measures based on a watershed evaluation. The watershed evaluation must include the components set forth below and shall be included in addition to the requirements of

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.2(a). The

Department may issue an incidental take permit in accordance with CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq., for timber operations that incorporate minimization and mitigation measures based upon an evaluation of watershed conditions, risks and limiting factors for coho salmon where the timber operations are proposed.

(A) The following are required components of a watershed

- (A) The following are required components of a watershed evaluation:
 - (i) Description of assessment area.

- (ii) Status of coho salmon within each planning watershed in the assessment area.
- (iii) Status of coho salmon habitat conditions and water quality within each planning watershed in the assessment area.
- (iv) Identification and prioritization of limiting factors. A reasoned analysis shall assign ratings of high, moderate and low to those factors which may individually or cumulatively limit coho salmon distribution and abundance in the watershed.
- (v) Proposed planning watershed specific management practices to prevent or control discharges and environmental impacts from timber operations that could contribute to the identified high and moderate risk limiting factors, and; corrective actions that would reduce or eliminate the high and moderate risk limiting factors on the landscape and mitigate the impacts of timber operations which cause or contribute to those limiting factors.

(vii) A program for monitoring implementation and effectiveness of the management practices and, where the plan is not effective in limiting or eliminating the limiting factors as planned, an adaptive management strategy for changing the plan and schedule to ensure that limiting factors are reduced or eliminated in the watershed.

- (4) Incidental take permit incorporating alternative measures. An applicant may propose, and the Department will consider an incidental take permit application in accordance with CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.0 et seq. The application submitted in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.2 may specify minimization and mitigation measures included in the Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2) and/or project specific minimization and mitigation measures developed by the applicant. The Department will review and render a decision on the application in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 783.3, 783.4, and 783.5
- (b) In order to issue an incidental take permit under the processes outlined in this section, the permit issuance criteria set forth in Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code must be met. In addition, as required by Section 2081(c) of the Fish and Game Code, the Department shall not issue an incidental take permit for coho

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salmon if issuance of the permit would jeopardize the continued
existence of the species. The Department will determine whether
issuance of the permit would jeopardize the continued existence of the
species in accordance with section 787.6.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(d), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(b) and (c), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.5. Incidental Take Permit for Timber Operations Not Required.

- (a) If the Department determines proposed timber operations will avoid take of coho salmon, an incidental take permit under section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code is not required.
- (b) If the Department determines proposed timber operations, including activities specified in section 787.2(a), could potentially take coho salmon, and as a result of a request by the project proponent or Lead Agency to consult with the Department, the project proponent revises or incorporates specific measures into the proposed project or the Lead Agency requires specific measures to be incorporated into the proposed project that the Department determines will avoid take, an incidental take permit under section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code is not required.

(d) Regardless of whether the Department first makes a determination regarding the take of coho salmon, the Department and any project proponent who intends to meet the requirements of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (Fish and Game Code section 2800 et seq) may enter into a planning agreement pursuant to section 2810. The planning agreement must include an interim process during plan development for project review. The interim process may include measures for timber operations or activities which the Department concludes will avoid take. Timber operations or activities carried out in accordance with any such interim process that avoids take will not require an incidental take permit under section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2080, 2080.1, 2081, 2112, and 2810, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2080, 2080.1, 2081, 2112, and 2810, Fish and Game Code.

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- (a) If the Department determines that take will, or is likely to result from proposed timber operations, the Department must conduct an additional analysis to determine if issuance of an incidental take permit for the proposed timber operations will jeopardize the continued existence of coho salmon. This means determining whether issuance of an incidental take permit for proposed activities would be expected, directly or indirectly, to substantially reduce the likelihood of survival of coho salmon in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers or distribution of the species.
- (b) A jeopardy determination will be made using an analysis at the scale of the coho salmon recovery unit and will be made for the Evolutionarily Significant Unit. A jeopardy determination must be based upon the best scientific and other information that is reasonably available, which may include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration of:
 - (1) coho salmon's ability to survive and reproduce; and
- (2) any adverse impacts of the taking on coho salmon's ability to survive and reproduce in light of :
 - (A) known population trends;
 - (B) known threats to the species; and
- (C) reasonably foreseeable impacts on the species from other related projects and activities.
- (c) The Department could determine that proposed timber operations will jeopardize the continued existence of coho salmon if

one or more of the following criteria are met and the impact will likely reduce the numbers of coho salmon in the recovery unit returning to spawn successfully in future years.

- (1) One or more cohorts of coho salmon within the recovery unit return in very low numbers, or not at all, and timber operations will likely "take" a substantial number of any life stage of coho salmon.
- (2) Timber operations will create a barrier to passage or substantially reduce access by coho salmon to any habitat used for migration, spawning or rearing.
- (3) One or more cohorts of coho salmon within the recovery unit return in very low numbers, or not at all, and timber operations will directly or incrementally through cumulative effects render existing spawning or rearing habitat unsuitable for continued use by coho salmon.
- (4) Exceptional project specific circumstances exist or are proposed which will reduce the numbers of coho salmon in the recovery unit returning to spawn successfully in future years.
- operations are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of coho salmon, the Department shall consult, upon request by the project proponent or Lead Agency, and specify reasonable and prudent minimization and mitigation measures which, if fully implemented, will avoid jeopardy while maintaining the project purpose to the greatest extent possible.
- (e) Where, following such consultation, the project proponent declines to incorporate any of the specified reasonable and prudent

minimization and mitigation measures into the proposed project, the

Department shall not issue an incidental take permit. If, however, the

project proponent agrees to incorporate all of the specified

reasonable and prudent minimization and mitigation measures into the

proposed project to avoid jeopardy, the Department may issue an

incidental take permit if the permit issuance criteria set forth in

Section 2081(b) are met.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(c) and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2080, 2081(c), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.7 Incidental Take Permit by Certification for Timber Operations

- (a) The Department may permit incidental take of coho salmon from timber operations by certification of compliance under this section if all of the following are satisfied:
- (1) The permittee certifies in writing that the permittee agrees to comply with and incorporate into its timber operations all minimization and mitigation measures specified in Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2) as identified and described in a THP or Notice of Timber Operations attached to the certification. Preconsultation with the

- (2) The permittee includes implementation and effectiveness
 monitoring procedures and schedules in the Timber Harvesting Plan

 (THP) or Notice of Timber Operations. Monitoring which is specified in
 the THP or Notice of Timber Operations to meet other regulatory
 requirements may be determined by the Department to satisfy the
 issuance criteria for an incidental take permit=
- (3) The permittee provides a financial security for performance with terms and in an amount acceptable to the Department in accordance with section 787.8.
- (4) The permittee provides written consent to the Department for access to inspect timber operations during and following completion of operations for compliance monitoring.
- (5) The Department returns a signed receipt of the certification finding that it meets the requirements of Sections 2081(b) and (c) of the Fish and Game Code. If any requirements is not met (e.g., a financial security in a form and amount acceptable to the Department is not provided), the Department shall deny the certification and notify the permittee.
- (6) The THP or Notice of Timber Operations which is the subject of the certification is approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.
 - (b) Effect of Certification.

- (1) A certification that is signed by the Department is an incidental take permit for coho salmon that becomes effective only after both of the following have occurred:
- (A) The permittee receives the signed certification from the Department from the appropriate regional office; and
- (B) The THP or Notice of Timber Operations attached to the certification, which contains the required minimization and mitigation measures, is approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection;
- incidental take of coho salmon from the timber operations described in the THP or Notice of Timber Operations that is attached to the certification. Any incidental take from operations that deviate from such timber operations, whether under subsequent amendments to the THP or Notice of Timber Operations or otherwise, is not authorized by this permit by certification.
- (3) CESA implementing regulations governing permit revocation and suspension (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.7) apply to an incidental take permit by certification.
- (c) Form of Certification. The certification required by section 787.7 shall take substantially the following form:

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

I certify that all of the minimization and mitigation measures set forth in Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2) including any alternative measures provided in these sections are included as enforceable elements of the attached Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) or Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) Notice of Timber Operations.

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I acknowledge that these measures are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized take of the species, the measures maintain my project objectives to the greatest extent possible, and they are capable of successful implementation. I understand that this permit allows incidental take of coho salmon pursuant to CESA; it does not authorize the violation of any Federal, State or local laws or regulations. I understand that this incidental take permit becomes effective after both of the following have occurred: (1) the THP or Notice of Timber Operations containing the required measures is approved by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; and (2) I have received receipt of the certification signed by the Department of Fish and Game from the appropriate address below. I understand that this certification permits incidental take of coho salmon from the timber operations described in the attached THP or Notice of Timber Operations. Any incidental take from operations that deviate from such timber operations, whether under subsequent amendments to the THP or Notice of Timber Operations or otherwise, is not authorized by this permit by certification.

1	I certify that the information submitted in this coresison is			
2	complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I			
3	understand that any false statement herein or failure to comply with			
4	the terms of the permit (e.g., unauthorized take under CESA for			
5	undertaking a project that differs from the one described in the			
6	attached THP or Notice of Timber Operations, or failure to properly			
7	implement required minimization and mitigation measures) may subject			
8	me to suspension or revocation of this permit and to civil and			
9	criminal penalties under the laws of the State of California.			
10				
11	THP or NTMP designation:			
12	Proposed beginning date of timber operations:			
13	End date for timber operations:			
14				
15	Attached is the security for performance, calculated in accordance			
16	with section 787.8, ensuring adequate funding to implement measures to			
17	minimize and fully mitigate impacts of authorized take, and for			
18	monitoring compliance with and effectiveness of, those measures.			
19	The undersigned is responsible for immediately notifying the			
20	Department of Fish and Game of any deviations from the above.			
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22				
23	(RPF or authorized representative signature) Date			
24				
25	The undersigned is authorized to provide consent to the Department of			
	Fish and Game to access and inspect the subject timber operations			

1	during and following completion of operations, and hereby provides
2	such authorization to the Department of Fish and Game.
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6	(authorized representative signature) Date
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8	For Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou or Trinity Counties
9	
LO	Regional Manager
1.1	Department of Fish and Game
12	601 Locust Street
13	Redding, CA 96001
14	(530) 225.2300
15	
16	For Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Marin, or Sonoma Counties
17	
18	Regional Manager
19	Department of Fish and Game
20	P.O. Box 47
21	Yountville, CA 94599
22	<u>(707) 944.5500</u>
23	
24	The Department of Fish and Game [circle one: finds/does not find]
25	that: (1) the activities identified in the attached THP or NTMP Notice

of Timber Operations may result in take of coho salmon incidental to an otherwise lawful activity; where the Department of Fish and Game finds that the activities may result in incidental take, the Department of Fish and Game finds that: (2) the impacts of authorized take will be minimized and fully mitigated; the measures required to meet this obligation are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the authorized take; where various measures are available to meet this obligation, the impacts of take, the measures maintain the applicant's objectives to the greatest extent possible; and the measures are capable of successful implementation; (3) this permit by certification of compliance is consistent with regulations adopted pursuant to Sections 2112 and 2114 of the Fish and Game Code; (4) the permittee has assured adequate funding to implement the required measures and for monitoring compliance with and effectiveness of those measures; (5) and issuance of the permit by certification which is approved by the signature below will not jeopardize the continued existence of coho salmon. The Department of Fish and Game's findings are based upon the certification submitted; the approved THP or Notice of Timber Operations and associated environmental review and impact analysis; the administrative records supporting the incorporated Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1), 916.9.2, (936.9.2), 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2), and the Incidental Take Permit Guidelines for Timber Operations, section 787.0 et seq., and other information the Department of Fish and Game had before it at the time of the certification.

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DFG Regional Manager

Date

(d) Department Review and Response. The Department shall review and approve or deny the certification as soon as possible and no later than 30 days following receipt of all information specified in California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.4 by the appropriate Regional Manager.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2081(d), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2081(b) and (c), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.8 Security for Performance for Incidental Take Permits

(a) As required by Fish and Game Code section 2081(b)(4) and CESA implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 783.4(a)(4), the permit applicant must assure adequate funding to implement the required measures and for monitoring compliance with, and effectiveness of, those measures. Acceptable instruments of financial security include a pledged savings or trust account, certificate of deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit, the terms of which must be approved by the Department. Other instruments and their terms must be approved by the Department. Security must be provided to

- (v) For each new, reconstructed or temporary Class II watercourse crossing, additional security in the amount of \$1000/crossing shall be required. Where an existing Class II watercourse crossing will be used without modification, additional security in the amount of \$500/crossing shall be required.
- (vi) For each new, reconstructed or temporary Class III

 watercourse crossings additional security in the amount of

 \$500/crossing shall be required. Where an existing Class III

 watercourse crossing will be used but not reconstructed, additional
 security in the amount of \$250/crossing shall be required.
- (B) The security for performance for the Road Component will be returned following a written request by the permittee to the Department upon completion of the Prescribed Maintenance Period provided that each requirement of Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2) has been properly implemented. The Department shall make its best effort to return the security within 45 days of receipt of said request.
- (C) The security for performance for the Road Component will be forfeited by the permittee if each requirements of Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 923.9.1 (943.9.1), and 923.9.2 (943.9.2) has not been properly implemented, except that the Department may, at its discretion, return all or part of the security for performance of an applicable component if in the

Department's judgment the Permittee has completely remedied its failure to properly implement a required measure or measures.

(2) Area Component

- (A) The security for performance for the Area Component shall be calculated at the rate of \$500/acre for all proposed Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones and those Equipment Exclusion Zones and Equipment Limitation Zones which are established for Class III Watercourses, inner gorges and connected headwall swales.
- (B) The security for performance for the Area Component will be returned to the permittee upon filing of the Notice of Completion, and after receipt of a written request from the permittee to the Department, provided that all requirements of Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 916.9.1 (936.9.1) and 916.9.2, (936.9.2) have been properly implemented. The Department shall make its best effort to return the security within 45 days of receipt of said request.
- will be forfeited by the permittee if any requirements of Forest

 Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections

 916.9.1 (936.9.1) and 916.9.2, (936.9.2) has not been properly

 implemented, except that the Department may, at its discretion, return

 all or part of the security for performance of an applicable component

 if in the Department's judgment the Permittee has completely remedied

 its failure to properly implement a required measure or measures.
- (e) The full amount of the required security for performance must remain in place for the life of the permit. In the event that the

Department accesses all or part of the security for performance,
within 30 days thereof the permittee will be required to replenish the
amount of security to the full amount required by the Department.

(f) Notwithstanding, Section 787.7(a) the Department may, at its discretion, refuse to permit incidental take of coho salmon from timber operations by certification of compliance under this article if the applicant previously obtained an incidental take permit by certification of compliance under this article and the security for performance for that permit was forfeited in whole or part for a failure to properly implement a required measure or measures.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 2081(d), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 2081(b) and (c), and 2112, Fish and Game Code.

Adopt: 787.9 Coho Salmon Impact Evaluation

(a) When acting as a Lead, Responsible, or Trustee Agency under CEQA, and, subject to the availability of sufficient staff, the Department will evaluate potential impacts of proposed timber operations on coho salmon. Where the Department is a Responsible or Trustee Agency, the Department shall provide a reasoned analysis and determination, to the extent possible within the time frames established by regulation for environmental review and within any

written communication to the Lead Agency addressing any other trustee responsibilities of the Department.

- (b) The Department may determine that proposed timber operations will have potentially significant impacts within watersheds with coho salmon if one or more of the following criteria are met:
- (1) One or more cohorts of coho salmon return in low numbers or not at all, and timber operations will contribute net additional sediment to spawning and rearing habitat in the planning watershed where timber operations are proposed or the planning watershed immediately downstream.
- numbers, or not at all, and timber operations will further reduce shading within a Class I watercourse and lake protection zone accessible to coho salmon, in a planning watershed where water temperatures limit habitat suitability for any life stage of coho salmon.
- numbers, or not at all, and timber operations will reduce the potential for recruitment of functional large woody material from the Class I watercourse and lake protection zone into a Class I watercourse accessible to coho salmon in a planning watershed where excessive sediment impairs coho salmon spawning or rearing.
- (4) A substantial number of coho salmon will likely be taken by the proposed timber operations. For this determination, "substantial" means that the impact will, by itself, reduce the likelihood of coho salmon returning to spawn successfully in future years.

- (c) Where the Department determines that project impacts are likely to be significant, Department staff shall identify and propose mitigation measures intended to reduce potentially significant impacts to a level which is less than significant.
- (d) Where timber operations incorporate all of the measures set forth in Forest Practice Rules, California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 895.1; 916.9 and 936.9 and 956.9; 923.9, 943.9 and 963.9; 916.9.1 and 936.9.1; 916.9.2 and 936.9.2; 916.11.1 and 936.11.1; 923.9.1 and 943.9.1; and 923.9.2 and 943.9.2, the Department shall conclude that any impacts pursuant to 787.9(b) (1-5) have been sufficiently mitigated to a level which is less than significant.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 702, 711.7, and 2112, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 21067, 21069, 21070, 21080.1, 21080.3, 21080.4, 21080.5, 21082.2, and 21104.2, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 702, 711.7, and 2112, Fish and Game Code; Sections 21067, 21069, 21070, 21080.1, 21080.3, 21080.4, 21080.5, 21082.2, and 21104.2, Public Resources Code.