



## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The following are instructions and information for the completion of the environmental review of projects being proposed under the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP).

A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been completed for the California Forest Improvement Program. The PEIR identifies standard mitigation measures to minimize adverse environmental impacts caused by CFIP projects. These mitigations and others have been incorporated into CFIP rules (Article 8, Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Sections 1545-1545.9). The completion and certification of the CFIP PEIR Environmental Checklist verifies that the CFIP Grant/Project complies with the CFIP PEIR.

Information on resources in the project area and mitigation measures are also found in the Project Description, the Management Plan for the property, and from consulting the following individuals, groups or agencies:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (F&W)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation (DP&R)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS)
- Native Americans
- CAL FIRE Archeologist
- California Division of Mines & Geology

Completion of the Checklist is mandatory for all CFIP projects with ground-based practices and shall be completed prior to CAL FIRE clearing the project to commence operations. The Checklist shall not be completed for CFIP Grants where preparation of a management plan or plan addendum is the only practice.

Completion of the Checklist is based on questions about the project and the site, and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Project Description. Mitigation measures specified on this Checklist become an enforceable part of the CFIP project.

CAL FIRE staff will review projects on-site before approving an application to verify site conditions and proposed mitigations measures.

### **Information Relating to Specific Items in this Checklist**

#### **Water Quality**

To complete the section on water quality it is important to determine whether the project is in a watershed that has an approved set of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. These requirements must be met in addition to those required by CFIP.



**Item 1.** Streams for the purpose of completing the Checklist are watercourses as defined and classified in the Forest Practice Rules.

**Item 2.** Delineate any landslide areas, potential and actual, on the project map(s). If the project will be on or adjacent to an unstable area a geologist should be consulted to determine the impacts of the project on slope stability.

**Item 3.** All watercourses supporting salmonid fisheries will not have shade cover reduced except where a watercourse is being restored and except as agreed to by the appropriate agencies. The Forest Practice Rules for retention of shade canopy will be followed as a minimum.

**Item 4.** The potential for watercourse turbidity and sediment load increases and mitigation to minimize the potential will be discussed in the Project Description. Streams for the purpose of completing the Checklist are defined and classified as watercourses as per the Forest Practice Rules.

**Item 5.** Forest Practice Rules regarding deposition of slash and debris in watercourses will be followed.

**Item 7.** Show any domestic water supply sources on the Management Plan/project map and delineate a protection area around such water supply sources to protect water quality. In the Project Description, discuss how project activities in the vicinity of the protection area will be carried out to prevent water quality degradation. The protection of domestic water supplies shall be consistent with the requirements found in California's Forest Practice Rules.

**Item 8.** Discuss in the Project Description any circumstances or project site conditions (e.g., soil type, size of project, soil moisture) that would indicate the Resource Protection Guidelines would not adequately mitigate surface erosion effects. Examples might be projects on decomposed granite soils, or actively down-cutting gullies.

## **Wildlife**

**Item 10.** Habitat is altered during vegetation manipulation. Significant changes in habitat structure will be assessed in the Project Description and evaluated through the Checklist.

**Item 11.** The project Registered Professional Forester shall consult the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base and agency comments to determine potential impacts of the project. At a minimum, a radius of 1.3 miles around the project area shall be evaluated.

Delineate any sensitive areas, including wet meadow sites or significant migration routes, on the Project Map. In the Project Description, discuss how the CFIP activities influencing important habitat areas will be carried out to minimize disturbance.

If the occurrence of a listed species is likely in the project area, a consultation with the appropriate agency, CDFW or USF&W, will be initiated. If such species are present, a Special Treatment Area will be designated and no forest improvement practices will be performed unless they clearly benefit the protected species.



## **Forest Insects and Diseases**

**Item 12-14.** The practices required to address various insect or disease problems can change. The use of the Forest Practice Rules should not be considered the only requirements. It is suggested that forest insect and disease specialists be contacted for the latest practices. It is also suggested that the information related to the creation of a Zone of Infestation for a pest be reviewed for suggested practices.

## **Fire**

**Item 15-17.** Fire is a concern of importance when undertaking resource management projects. The Project Description will address issues of control if fire is to be used as a tool. All treatments that create slash must be treated to meet or exceed the standards described in the Forest Practice Rules.

## **Cultural Resources**

**Item 18.** Each project must be evaluated for potential impact to cultural resources. This evaluation is conducted by the project RPF (hired by the landowner) and can be assisted by a CAL FIRE Forester or Archaeologist. An archaeological survey report or clearance letter consistent with the most recent edition of the Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects shall be completed prior to operations and must be included in the project file to support the findings in the Environmental Checklist.

Keep all information on cultural sites confidential. In the Management Plan and Project Description, indicate that cultural sites will be protected in the manner described in the confidential information.

**Item 19.** Effects beyond the scope of the Program EIR shall be addressed through a negative declaration, exemption, or some other means before a project can start.

## **Form Instructions**

For each of the following potential effects, select the proposed mitigation measures. If no effect is anticipated, check "not applicable." When adding mitigation measures under "other" the font will automatically change size to fit in the text box. Try to keep additional mitigation measures short or state "see attached" if they are detailed and won't fit in the text box.



## CFIP PEIR ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Grantee Name:

CFIP Project Number:

### Water Quality

1. Soil deposition in streams caused by accelerated erosion due to the use of heavy equipment to remove vegetation.

Not applicable

Brush scalped off slopes will be windrowed along the contour and burned leaving effective berms of residual soil to impede surface water flow.

No heavy equipment on excessively wet soils.

As a minimum no heavy equipment operate within an equipment exclusion zone, providing a buffer strip.

Other-

2. Landslides and slope failure due to heavy equipment operation on currently and potentially unstable lands.

Not applicable

No heavy equipment on current or potentially active slide area.

Other-

3. Increased water temperatures due to removal of watercourse shading.

Not applicable

Riparian vegetation will not be removed.

Other vegetation will be left as necessary to maintain stream temperature.

Other-



STATE OF CALIFORNIA, NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
**CFIP PEIR ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**  
RM-13 (REV. 10/23)

4. Increased turbidity and sediment load in streams from clearing stream channels.

Not applicable

Compliance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife permit requirements.

Use of manual methods to substitute for winch lines and heavy equipment.

To reduce soil loss areas of bare soil greater than 500 square feet will be treated within the standard watercourse and lake protection zones as described in the Forest Practice Rules.

Other-

5. Deposition of slash or debris in streams.

Not applicable

All areas below the stream and lake transition line of Class I, II and III watercourses as described in the Forest Practice Rules will be kept free of slash and debris, except as intended for woody debris enhancement for fisheries and wildlife.

Accidental deposits will be immediately removed. Removal will be consistent with the requirements found in California's Forest Practice Rules.

Other-

6. Accidental off-target deposition of herbicides due to spills and aerial drift.

Not applicable

Compliance with Federal, State and local rules will minimize the chance of this effect. These rules also address spills.

Other-

7. Effect on domestic water supplies from sediment deposits.

Not applicable

A Special Treatment Area is established around domestic water supplies to protect them.

Other-



8. Unusual circumstances or project site conditions (e.g., soil type, slope, size of project, soil moisture) which could result in surface erosion effects which are not adequately mitigated by the requirements in the Resource Protection Guidelines.

Not applicable

Effects beyond the scope of the Program EIR and additional review required.

Other-

9. Siltation of stream caused by accelerated erosion after vegetation removal.

Not applicable

Effects beyond scope of Program EIR and additional review required.

Other-

### **Wildlife**

10. Reduction of wildlife forage and cover from site preparation or clean and release practices.

Not applicable

Retention of black oaks and other mast-producing plants will occur.

Retention of 1-3 acre patches of brush cover to provide "edge effect."

There will be limited brush removal from around the bases of trees.

Substitute forage will be planted and/or browse plants will be rejuvenated.

Piles of brush will be left for birds or small mammal use.

Other-

11. Impact to rare, endangered or sensitive species habitat or wildlife as part of vegetation manipulation.

Not applicable

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base and the California Native Plant Society registers were consulted for evidence of such occurrences in the project area.



No species were identified.

Species were identified, a special treatment area was designated and no forest improvement practice will be performed that will impact the species.

Snags with visual evidence of use for nesting and roosting sites for rare and endangered species shall be protected.

Other-

### Forest Insects and Diseases

12. Possible infestation of residual stands of pines with Ips and Dendroctonus beetles if slash from wet season pre-commercial thinning operation not adequately disposed.

Not applicable

The requirements described in the Forest Practice Rules Technical Rule Addendum Number 3 will be followed.

Different species of conifers will be planted on the site to minimize the recurrence of the stand conditions that favored the infestation.

Other-

13. Infestation of pine stands with root rot pathogens after pre-commercial thinning.

Not applicable

Application of borax on thinned stumps will occur.

Other-

14. The project is within the Zone of Infestation for pitch canker, sudden oak death, or other forest disease (specify other disease in other below).

Not applicable

Infected or contaminated plant material will not be transported to areas that are free of the disease.

No disease symptoms in project area.

Tools used in cutting diseased trees will be cleaned with disinfectant before using them on uninfected trees.



Other-

### **Air Quality**

15. Particulates in the air from burning brush and slash.

Not applicable

Compliance with Air Resource Board rules and local ordinances.

Other-

### **Fire**

16. Slash build-up after pre-commercial thinning increases fire hazard.

Not applicable

Slash will be treated to at least the standards described in the Forest Practice Rules for the area.

Other-

17. Risk of fire escaping.

Not applicable

Compliance with all state and local laws and regulations.

Other-

### **Cultural Resources**

18. Potential significant disturbance of cultural resources.

The project was found to be exempt in accordance with the most recent edition of the Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects.

A current archaeological records check was conducted at the appropriate Information Center of the California Historical Resource Information System, as described in the most recent edition of the Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects.



Written notification was sent to local Native American groups and individuals, as described in the most recent edition of the Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects.

Written notification was sent to local Historical societies or similar organizations, requesting information about historical resources that may exist within the project.

A professional archeologist or an archaeologically-trained resource professional conducted an archaeological survey.

Archaeological, historic and cultural resource sites that exist within the project area were identified, evaluated, mapped, and recorded in accordance with professional archaeological standards.

Appropriate protection measures were developed for known archaeological, historical or cultural resource sites. These protection measures were developed in consultation with the CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist.

The archaeological investigation was documented as described in the most recent edition of the Cultural Resource Review Procedures for CAL FIRE Projects.

Other-

### **Other**

19. Project may result in significant environmental effects other than those listed above.

Not applicable

Effects beyond scope of the Program EIR. Additional review will be required.

Other-



## CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have reviewed the pertinent information and inspected the proposed CFIP project area. After evaluating the proposed project and incorporating mitigation measures, I have determined:

- Mitigation has been incorporated into this project as necessary to avoid, reduce, or minimize impacts to less-than-significant level.
- Implementing this project will result in no significant environmental impacts and no new California Environmental Quality Act documentation is required.
- The CFIP Project complies with the CFIP PEIR.

### **Registered Professional Forester**

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

RPF #:

### **CAL FIRE Forestry Assistance Specialist**

Printed Name:

Signature:

Title:

Date:

RPF #: