**ITEM #19 – 21: GROUND BASED EQUIPMENT**

| **GROUND BASED EQUIPMENT** | |
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| 1. []Yes [] No | Per 14 CCR 895.1 a layout is a prepared bed in which a tree is felled, generally constructed by a tractor or other ground based equipment.  Are tractor or skidder constructed layouts to be constructed?  **If YES, specify the location (consider mapping) and the extent of use.**  **NOTE: winter operations and soil stabilization measures apply to tractor or skidder constructed layouts.** |
| Per 14 CCR 914.3 [943.3, 954.3](e)Tractors shall not be used in areas designated for cable yarding except:   * To pull trees away from streams * To yard logs in areas where deflection is low * Where swing yarding is advantageous * To construct firebreaks and/or layouts * To provide tail-holds   Such exception(s) shall be explained and justified in the THP, and require Director's approved | |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Will ground based equipment be used within area(s) designated for cable yarding:  (CHECK all that apply) |
| [] | Pulling trees away from watercourses |
| [] | Yarding logs from areas with low deflection |
| [] | Swing yarding |
| [] | Construct fire breaks |
| [] | Construct layouts |
| [] | Providing tail-holds |
| [] | Other  Describe: |
|  | **If YES, specify the location (consider mapping) and provide LTO instructions** |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Are any exceptions proposed for ground based operations within cable areas outside of the exceptions listed above?  **If YES, provide the required explanation and justification in SECTION III of the THP and provide operations instructions for the LTO in SECTION II below.** |

| Per 14 CCR §914.9 [934.9, 954.9](a) Alternatives to Standard Rules:  (a) Alternative practices may be developed by the RPF on a site-specific basis provided the following conditions are complied with and the alternative practices will achieve environmental protection at least equal to that which would result from using measures stated in 14 CCR §§ 914.1-914.8 ,934.1-934.8, 954.1-954.8.  (1) Environmental impacts with potential for significant adverse effects on the beneficial uses of water, on the residual timber, and on the soil productivity are identified and measures proposed to mitigate such impacts are included in an approved THP. The THP shall also contain a clear statement as to why alternative harvesting and erosion control measures are needed.  (2) The alternative practice(s) must be explained in sufficient detail and standards provided in the THP so that they can be adequately evaluated and enforced by the Director and implemented by the licensed timber operator.  (3) On a THP in which alternatives covering harvesting and erosion control measures have been incorporated, the timber operator shall agree to the alternative specifications by signing and filing with the Director a copy of the plan, the amended plan or a facsimile thereof, prior to beginning or continuing operations on the portion of the plan to which the alternatives apply.  (b) The Director shall not accept for inclusion in a THP alternative harvesting and erosion control measures proposed under this section which do not meet the standard of subsection (a) of this section. In the event that there is more than one written negative position showing that the alternative practice(s) does (do) not meet the standard of subsection (a) received from among the agencies listed in 14 CCR 1037.3 and the Department which participated in the review of the plan including on-the-ground inspection, the Director shall reject the proposed alternative.  (c) Alternative practices stated in an approved THP shall have the same force and authority as those practices required by the standard rule. | |
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| 1. []Yes [] No | Is the RPF proposing any Alternative Practices to the standard rule on a site-specific basis?  **If “YES” provide clear instruction to the LTO in Section II advising LTO how the Alternative is to be implemented to maintain equal protection of the standard rule. In Section III explain how the alternative practice proposed achieves environmental protection at least equal to that what which would result from using measures stated in 14 CCR §§ 914.1-914.8 ,934.1-934.8, 954.1-954.8.** |

| LTO Instructions: |
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| 14 CCR 914.2 [934.2, 954.2](a-k) Identifies the Forest Practice Rule requirements for the use of ground based equipment within the harvesting area.   * (b) Tractor, or other heavy equipment equipped with a blade, SHALL NOT operate on skid roads or slopes that are so step as to require the blade to be used for breaking. * (c) Tractor roads SHALL be limited in number and width to the minimum necessary for removal of logs. * When less damage to the resources specified in 14 CCR 914[934, 945] will result, existing tractor roads shall be used instead of constructing new tractor roads. * [NORTHERN only] RPF may propose exceptions for silvicultural reasons when explained and justified within the plan. * (e) Slash and debris from timber operations SHALL not be bunched adjacent to residual trees required for silvicultural or wildlife purposes, or placed in a location where they could discharge into a Class I or II watercourse, or Lake. * (g) where tractor roads are constructed only those roads shall be used for the skidding of logs to landings * (h) Desirable residual trees and seedlings will not be damaged or destroyed by tractor operations. * (i) where water breaks cannot effectively disperse surface runoff, other erosion controls shall be installed as needed. * Slope restriction are identified in subsection (d), (f) [Coastal, Northern], (j) [Southern]   **The LTO shall be aware of these rule requirements prior to operations** | |
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| 1. []Yes [] No | Will new tractor roads be constructed? |
| **f.** []Yes[] No | Will tractor road use be limited to existing tractor roads? |
| ASP NOTE: per 14 CCR 916.9 (k)(1) – Year-around tractor road limitations, Tractor roads shall not be used when operations may result in significant sediment discharge and (m) Tractor Road Drainage Facility Installation - All tractor roads shall have drainage and/or drainage collection and storage facilities installed as soon as practical following yarding and prior to either (1) the start of any rain which causes overland flow across or along the disturbed surface within a WLPZ or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for watercourse or lake protection, or (2) any day with a National Weather Service forecast of a chance of rain of 30 percent or more, a flash flood warning, or a flash flood watch. | |
| **Will ground based equipment be used on:** | |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Unstable areas? (only allowed if unavoidable)  **If YES, the RPF SHALL develop specific measures to minimize the effect of operations on slope stability.**  **Provide the required justification and explanation in SECTION III and operational instructions to the LTO in SECTION II.** |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Slopes steeper than 65%  **if YES, provide site specific instructions to the LTO in SECTION II below and provide the required explanation and justification in SECTION III.** |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Slopes steeper than 50% where the erosion hazard rating (EHR) is HIGH or EXTREME**.**  **if YES, provide site specific instructions to the LTO in SECTION II below and provide the required explanation and justification in SECTION III.** |

| **Will ground based equipment be used on:** | |
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| 1. []Yes [] No   []  []  [] | Slopes between 50% and 65% with a MODERATE EHR at: (percentage based on average slope on sample areas of 20 acres)  Existing tractor roads that do not require reconstruction.  **[NORTHERN and SOUTHERN only]** New tractor roads that have been flagged by an RPF or supervised designee prior to use.  **[COASTAL only]** New tractor roads at a location that has been shown on the THP map, flagged by an RPF or supervised designee prior to the pre-harvest inspection, or prior to the start of timber operations if a PHI was not required.  **if YES, provide site specific instructions to the LTO in SECTION II below.** |
| 1. []Yes [] No | Slopes over 50% which lead without flattening to sufficiently dissipate water flow and trap sediment before it reaches a watercourse or lake?  **if YES, provide site specific instructions to the LTO in SECTION II below and provide the required explanation and justification in SECTION III.** |
| NOTE:   * Per 14 CCR 1034(x)(15) all exceptions must be located on a map. * If any question above is answered YES then tractor road locations must be flagged on the ground prior to the PHI or the start of timber operations if a PHI is not required. | |