

Timber Harvest Plan (THP) Review Process



Notification

Letters of Intent are sent to notify local tribal representatives and landowners within 300 ft of the proposed harvest. Landowners within 1,000 ft downstream of a proposed harvest are also notified.



Fieldwork



RPF conducts biological and cultural surveys, conducts a timber inventory, designates silvicultural prescriptions, maps plan areas, and designs road construction and maintenance.



Confidential Archeology Review

RPF requests survey records from the CA Office of Historic Preservation, conducts field surveys, and writes archeology report that is reviewed by CAL FIRE archeologist. Findings are not disclosed to the public to protect sensitive information.



Sign & Submit



Once RPF writes the THP, signatures are required from the landowner, RPF, and timber owner. Once signed, THP is sent to CAL FIRE regional review office, assigned a number, and the review begins.

Agency Review



CAL FIRE distributes THP to a Review Panel comprised of CDFW, CGS, and the CA Regional Water Quality Control Board.



RPF Response

The panel submits questions, clarifications, and comments. Panel may request as many review periods as necessary, but RPFs generally work through two or three reviews.



Pre-Harvest Inspection (PHI)



Review panel physically examines proposed plan area. PHI report is submitted to review team and includes first review questions. PHI marks the start of the 30-day public comment period.

Plan Operations



Logging requires the use of a certified License Timber Operator (LTO) whose signature is required for a complete THP. There can be more than one LTO per THP.



Public Comment Period



Public comment period lasts 30 days after PHI. Within 15 days of end of public comment period, CAL FIRE director must make the final decision and approve the plan if it aligns with the Forest Practice Rules.



Begin Harvest



Once a THP is approved, representatives from CAL FIRE or the review panel may inspect the harvest periodically. A THP is valid for 5 to 7 years.

The THP process ensures that logging operations are compliant with all environmental laws and regulations. Any violations are promptly addressed and may result in civil penalties, fines, criminal proceedings, or the revocation of an RPF or LTO license.