

2017 Monitoring Report for High Conservation Value Forests

Monitoring of the effectiveness of measures to maintain or enhance High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) occurred as described under Section 5, 6 and 7 of the Forest Management Plan. As a result, the HCVFs are monitored throughout the year. A summary of the process follows:

Every THP that is submitted has a Request for Resource Input (RRI). Therefore, every THP is reviewed by the Conservation Planning Department to identify presence of any rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species, presence of habitat for those species, and presence of HCVF in or near the project area (defined by the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Area in the timber harvest plan).

The presence of HCVFs is also assessed by the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) during the initial stages of plan development before and after the RRI is sent to CPD personnel. So, there are two initial checks in the system for identifying HCVFs around areas of proposed harvest activity. When an HCVF is identified, the measures outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6.8) are applied for each individual type of HCVF. Those measures may be incorporated into the THP or excluded from operational areas. If the measures are part of the THP, CalFire will enforce the THP and any potential errors in operation under the permit could result in a violation from CalFire. CalFire personnel actively inspect THPs on a regular basis. Also, management activities conducted near (generally within 0.25 miles) any of the murrelet occupied old growth stands would occur through consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is also enforced under the THP process.

Additionally, some HCVFs are monitored and reported within the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) reporting. The Northern Spotted Owl HCP requires annual reporting and the Aquatic HCP requires biennial reporting. In addition, the Forest Resources Information System (FRIS) annually depletes the forest inventory and updates harvested areas using post-harvest aerial photography. Activity in a HCVF would be identified through this process. Monitoring of HCVF areas and acres is also conducted during the annual reporting process for Forest Stewardship Council® certification.

In 2017, nothing unusual in the HCVFs was identified through any of these processes.

In 2016, 360 acres of High Conservation Value Areas were maintained and enhanced through the Klamath Private Land Management (PLM) plan. Through this management plan, approximately 180 acres of HCVF oak woodland and 180 acres of adjacent HCVF grasslands were treated for conifer encroachment by manual removal of conifers less than 8 inches dbh. Under-represented successional stages were maintained or enhanced as outlined in the Forest Management Plan (Section 6).

In 2017 Green Diamond disposed of (sold) 8,577 acres of forest land. Consequently, the total acreage of HCVF was reduced from 106,764 acres at the end of 2016 to 103,721 acres at the end of 2017. There were no changes in HCVF area due to forest management, discovery or elimination of HCVF areas or other minor adjustments in ownership boundaries.