

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 11, 2008

Prepared on June 18, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 14

SUBJECT: Individual Conditional Waiver Of Waste Discharge Requirements For  
Timber Harvest Plan Camp Lindblad 1-07-119 Scr, Santa Cruz  
County, Order No. R3-2008-0048

KEY INFORMATION:

Harvest Type: Selective Harvest – Timber Harvest Plan

Project Area:	150 ac	Watershed:	San Lorenzo
Harvest Area:	150 ac	Subwatershed:	Kings Creek
Water Courses: (Class and Length)	Class I 1,425 feet Class II 5,225 feet Class III 6,570 feet	Forester:	James Hildreth
Eligibility Criteria:	Tier IV	Landowner and Discharger:	Mt. Diablo Silverado Council Boy Scouts of America

SUMMARY

The Camp Lindblad Timber Harvest Plan (THP) proposes a combination of ground based yarding (tractor and rubber tire skidder) and cable skyline yarding for the 150 acre selective harvest in the Kings Creek Watershed. The Kings Creek Watershed is a sub-watershed of the San Lorenzo River watershed. On May 16, 2003, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Resolution No. R3-2002-0063, the San Lorenzo River (including Carbonera Creek, Lompico Creek, and Shingle Mill Creek) Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basin Plan Amendment. The TMDL became effective on December 18, 2003, when it was approved as a Basin Plan amendment by the Office of Administrative Law. Kings Creek is listed as impaired for sedimentation/siltation on the 2006 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments requiring TMDLs.

Camp Lindblad is the fourth harvest plan to be ranked (Attachment 4) Tier IV via the Eligibility Criteria since the Water Board's adoption of the General Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements – Timber Harvest Activities in the Central Coast Region (General Waiver) in July 2005. Tier IV plans are not eligible for enrollment under the General Waiver.

Water Board staff proposes an Individual Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (Individual Waiver) (Attachment 1) and Monitoring and Reporting Program (Attachment 2) for Camp Lindblad.

## BACKGROUND

On July 8, 2005, the Water Board adopted the General Waiver.

The General Waiver includes the Eligibility Criteria to evaluate potential water quality threats from a proposed timber harvest activity. Eligibility Criteria are used to numerically evaluate a plan seeking enrollment under the General Waiver, based on factors such as intensity of infrastructure, cumulative impacts of harvesting within the watershed, and the number and type of streams in the proposed harvest area. Based on this evaluation and observations in the field, the Executive Officer assigns each plan seeking enrollment under the General Waiver one of four monitoring tiers. The first three monitoring tier levels contain monitoring requirements for plans eligible for enrollment under the General Waiver. When a plan is assigned Tier IV, it is not eligible for the General Waiver and must obtain an Individual Waiver or Waste Discharge Requirements.

On January 14, 2008, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) approved the THP 1-07-119 SCR Camp Lindblad.

On February 7, 2008, Water Board staff received a request from James Hildreth, Registered Professional Forester (RPF, who represents the Discharger), for the enrollment of THP 1-07-119 SCR Camp Lindblad under the General Waiver. The Eligibility Criteria indicated that the Camp Lindblad THP is ranked Tier IV.

## DISCUSSION

Factors that contributed to the Tier IV designation include a high Cumulative Effect Ratio - almost twenty-seven percent of the Kings Creek sub-watershed has been harvested in the past fifteen years. The plan area also has a high Drainage Density Index due to two and a half miles of perennial and ephemeral streams in and adjacent to the plan area. The Drainage Density Index is calculated by comparing the length and types of streams against the size of the harvest area. Finally, Camp Lindblad harvest area has a medium Soil Disturbance Factor. This criteria measures the amount of timber harvest infrastructure such as roads, landings, skid trails, watercourse crossings, and landings relative to the size of the harvest area.

The Discharger proposes a combination of ground based yarding (Tractor and Rubber Tire Skidder) and Cable Skyline yarding for the selective harvest of 150 acres in the Kings Creek Watershed. The Kings Creek watershed is a sub-watershed of the San Lorenzo River watershed.

On May 16, 2003, the Water Board adopted Resolution No. R3-2002-0063, the San Lorenzo River (including Carbonera Creek, Lompico Creek, and Shingle Mill Creek) Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Basin Plan Amendment. The TMDL became effective on December 18, 2003, when it was approved as a Basin Plan amendment by the Office of Administrative Law. Kings Creek is listed as impaired for sedimentation/siltation on the 2006 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water quality limited segments requiring TMDLs, Kings Creek supports anadromous steelhead trout. The proposed harvest covers 1.9% of the 7774 acre Kings Creek Watershed. Approximately 26% of the watershed has been selectively harvested within the last 15 years.

The plan area contains two and a half miles of watercourse, two miles of roads, one and two-fifths miles of skid trails, and six landings. The plan also contains ten watercourse road crossings (one of which crosses a Class I stream), and four skid trail watercourse crossings.

Water Board staff attended two preharvest inspections on the Camp Lindblad property as part of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's review team. During the first preharvest inspection on April 21, 2006, staff focused on the adjacent Pond THP which utilizes one mile of road within the Camp Lindblad property to access and remove timber from the adjoining Pond property. On August 20, 2007, the second preharvest inspection, staff reviewed the proposed harvest area on the Camp Lindblad property.

During the first preharvest inspection Water board staff made the following observations regarding the condition of the one mile of haul road and associated watercourse crossings within the Camp Lindblad property:

"During the first part of the inspection, the team visually inspected the [Camp Lindblad's] road network. The roads on the [Camp Lindblad] property are in unacceptably poor condition. Plugged culverts, sloughing banks, and diverted waterways characterize the crossings on the [Camp Lindblad] property. The crossings will be treated using a combination of critical / rolling dip installation, water breaks, bank stabilization, clearing of culverts, and / or the installation of trash racks. Ranger Mike Hannah, [Camp Lindblad] property manager, explained that the reason for the poor condition of the roads is due to both lack of the correct equipment and labor. The crossing in greatest disrepair is X5; the culvert has plugged and caused channel flow to be completely diverted. The watercourse travels approximately 40' down the road before rejoining the natural stream channel (Figure 1.0). Following timber harvest operations, X5 will be treated with a critical dip, cleaning of the culvert catch basin, the installation of a trash rack, and the entire segment of road within the Water Course and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) will be grass seeded. Additionally, two new crossings were discovered during the inspection and will be added to the THP map."

During the second preharvest inspection, staff found the road and associated crossings to be greatly improved. Based on the current condition of the road and associated crossings, Water Board staff is no longer concerned about short-term potential negative impacts to water quality and its beneficial uses. Water Board staff is concerned about long term maintenance of the road system on the Camp Lindblad property. Therefore, Water Board staff has included a condition to the proposed Individual Waiver (condition q listed below) requiring the discharger to develop a long-term road inventory and erosion control inspection and maintenance program (road program) (Attachment 5). This road program must describe how the Discharger will maintain infrastructure between harvests and implement and maintain measures that demonstrate that these activities are effective in controlling sediment discharges and supporting healthy aquatic habitat.

#### **WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN**

The Timber Harvest Plan for Camp Lindblad includes a winter operations plan. The winter operations plan describes when and where the Discharger will perform various types of activities associated with timber harvest operations throughout the winter period. This section provides a summary of the winter operations plan for Camp Lindblad.

The winter period, as defined by the California Forest Practice Rules for Santa Cruz County, begins on October 15 and ends on May 1 of the following year. The extended winter period is the first and last several weeks of the winter period, October 15 through November 30 and April 15 through May 1 respectively.

Throughout the entire year, the use of logging roads, skid trails, or landings shall not take place at any location where saturated soil conditions exist. Saturated soil conditions means soil is sufficiently wet that timber operations displace road and landing surface materials in amounts sufficient to cause a turbidity increase in drainage facilities that discharge into a watercourse. During saturated soil conditions, equipment would experience reduced traction, as indicated by spinning or churning of wheels, or equipment would create ruts greater than would be created by traffic following normal road watering.

Camp Lindblad proposes timber falling throughout the plan area, including the WLPZ, throughout the winter period. Heavy equipment operations (tractor skidding, cable yarding, loading, hauling, and roadwork) are only allowed during the extended winter period. Additionally, heavy equipment operations (tractor skidding, cable yarding, loading, hauling, and roadwork) shall be halted at the end of the extended winter period or when cumulative seasonal rainfall exceeds four inches, whichever occurs first.

Finally, waterbreaks shall be installed on all trails and roads prior to overland flow within the WLPZ. Erosion control facilities shall be installed on all skid trails, roads, and landings prior to the end of the day if the U.S. Weather Service forecast is a 30% or more "chance" of rain before the next day, and prior to the weekend or other shutdown periods. The discharger shall have an adequate supply of straw bales, straw blankets, or slash positioned near all crossings and other areas of exposed soil within the WLPZ to facilitate the rapid application prior to rainfall.

#### **ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**

The Individual Waiver for Camp Lindblad includes all the conditions associated with the General Waiver plus the following additional requirements.

- e) The Discharger shall notify the Water Board concurrently when notifying CDF of Commencement of Operations pursuant to California Forest Practice Rules, Title 14 CCR 1035.4 Notification of Commencement of Operations.
- i) The Discharger shall not cause alteration in stream temperature that exceeds Basin Plan requirements. The Basin Plan requirement for stream temperature states that, "At no time or place shall the temperature be increased by more than 5°F above natural receiving water temperature."
- j) The Discharger shall not cause alteration in turbidity that exceeds Basin Plan requirements.
- q) The Discharger must develop a long-term road inventory and erosion control inspection and maintenance program (road program). The road program must outline how the discharger will utilize, inspect, and maintain the road system and associated timber harvest infrastructure for the long-term protection of water quality. Long-term means fifteen years from the acceptance of the CDF Work Completion Report, or until the next Timber Harvest Plan is implemented, whichever comes first.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Water Board staff recommends Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) No. R3-2008-0048 (Attachment 2) for this THP. The proposed MRP includes implementation and effectiveness monitoring, water column monitoring, and forensic monitoring (as necessary).

Implementation and effectiveness monitoring requires the Discharger to conduct visual observation and documentation of roads, watercourse crossings, landings, skid trails, water diversions, watercourse confluences, known landslides, and mitigation sites in the timber harvest plan area. Implementation and effectiveness monitoring requires the Discharger to include photo-monitoring, temperature, turbidity, and forensic monitoring. The Discharger must monitor temperature continuously from May 1 through October 15. Visual, photo, and turbidity monitoring are triggered by storm-events. All monitoring locations are identified in the water quality monitoring map (Attachment 3).

Monitoring begins at the onset of timber harvest operations and ends when the Monitoring and Reporting Program is revised or rescinded. The Discharger must submit annual reports to the Water Board by November 15 of each year. The Discharger must also submit reports to the Water Board within forty-eight hours of a significant erosion event, impact to water quality, or non-compliance with the conditional waiver requirements.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

James Hildreth, Registered Professional Forester submitted the above-referenced THP to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) on January 14, 2008. CDF found the THP is in conformance with the Forest Practices Act and Board of Forestry Regulations.\*

In accordance with Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Article 17, § 15251 (a), the Secretary for Resources has certified CDF's THP approval as a certified regulatory program and therefore, CDF's regulation of timber harvesting operations is exempt from the requirement in CEQA to prepare an environmental impact report or negative declaration.

CDF reviewed and considered the recommendations made on the plan by each member of the interdisciplinary review team, which includes Water Board staff, before determining that the plan conforms to the Forest Practices Act and Board of Forestry Regulations.

CDF considered all the potential significant environmental effects of the Camp Lindblad THP and made a finding that the timber operations will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore the above-referenced THP serves as a substitute negative declaration for the proposed timber harvest.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of Order No. R3-2008-0048, Individual Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements, and Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R3-2008-0048 for Timber Harvest Plan 1-07-119 SCR Camp Lindblad.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Individual Waiver Order No. R3-2008-0048.
2. Proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R3-2008-0048.

3. Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Locations for MRP Order No. R3-2008-0048.
4. Camp Lindblad THP Eligibility Criteria.
5. Long-term road inventory and corrections program for Camp Lindblad.

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