

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Room 111 of the County Courthouse  
825 5th Street in Eureka  
[cob@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cob@co.humboldt.ca.us)

February 3, 2026

Humboldt County Planning and Building Director  
[jford@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:jford@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Dear Humboldt County Planning Director John Ford and Board of Supervisors,

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully but urgently request that Humboldt County take responsibility for the recent failure to uphold the Qualified (Q) Zone protections for old-growth redwoods in lower Redway, clarify how this occurred, and refine the policy to ensure it does not happen again. This letter is provided on behalf of a group of people that have come together over concern about this situation, the Old Growth Neighborhood Association.

### **Setting**

Lower Redway sits adjacent to the John B. DeWitt State Natural Reserve, that includes Holbrook Grove (approx. 230 acres) to the north and east of town, Whittemore Grove (approx. 200 acres) across the river to the west and primarily just north of Briceland-Thorn Road, and Redway Ridge (approx. 700 acres comprising a more recently acquired portion of Whittemore Grove) that extends south and west from Briceland-Thorn Road, flanking the South Fork Eel River and wrapping around the town of Redway.

Lower Redway and the John B. DeWitt State Natural Reserve contain rare remnant groves of old-growth redwood trees along the South Fork Eel River.

The Lower Redway Q Zone covers an estimated 153 parcels, which form a patchwork of numerous small private residential parcels and State Parks parcels (see Attachment E to this letter for information about the groves).

One of the most viable economic motors for Southern Humboldt is tourism, as discussed by county officials at several public meetings. Community groups have raised the need for improved connectivity between the town of Redway and the river and Lower Redway (see Attachment F to this letter). Instead of improving access to tourism options, the county's recent allowance of removal of old-growth redwoods in the Q Zone negatively impacts tourism.

Visitors heading to the Lost Coast on Briceland Road pass through the Q Zone. Locals take walks and have lunch amongst the old growth. Locals and tourists alike enjoy hot summer days and a swim here, and in the winter fishing for famed steelhead. For four

generations, many families have maintained summer homes for extended family gatherings, where they vacation and find inspiration amongst the old-growth redwoods of Lower Redway. More recently, vacation rentals in the Q Zone have become available, affording more visitors opportunities to enjoy the setting. Lower Redway is special because of the old-growth redwoods. They warrant extraordinary stewardship, and living here is both a privilege and a responsibility.

## **The Q Zone**

To ensure the long-term protection of old-growth redwood trees on private parcels in Lower Redway, in 1996 this Board adopted a Qualified Zone (Q Zone) in Lower Redway via Ordinance 2112 (the Ordinance). It was amended into the 1987 Garberville Redway Benbow Alderpoint Community Plan.<sup>1</sup> The Ordinance is included as Attachment A to this letter.<sup>2</sup>

The Ordinance states that the purpose of the Q Zone is “to protect redwood trees greater than 12” in diameter at breast height while allowing for the maintenance and development of permitted uses.” It states that a special permit is required for such removal and the removal shall be limited to “1) removal of trees within the physical footprint of a permitted building where [there are] no other feasible locations on the property which would allow for the trees to remain upon construction of the building, 2) removal of trees upon demonstration that such a tree, due to damage or disease, is in imminent danger of falling, thus creating an immediate hazard.” The Ordinance details a process in the event an emergency exists, including requiring an emergency Special Permit application. It also states that removal without approval “pose[s] a threat to public health, safety and welfare, and therefore is prohibited.”

The intent of the Ordinance is clear: old-growth redwood trees in Lower Redway must be preserved unless they pose an imminent risk of falling.

Routine limb fall is not grounds for tree removal under the Ordinance. Old-growth redwoods naturally shed limbs, within tens of feet from the tree, and occasionally they drop storm-damaged tops. Falling material from such height can certainly be hazardous

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<sup>1</sup> Accessed at: <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/285/Garberville-Redway-Benbow-Alderpoint-Community-Plan-PDF>

<sup>2</sup> See page c-18 of the Community Plan, page 58 of the pdf. Of note, the document available on the county website appears to be missing a page between c-18 and c-19 and thus hinders the ability to adequately understand what is required. We are hopeful that county staff have access to a complete version that could be shared with the public.

to nearby structures—but the solution is targeted professional limbing, not the destruction of entire old-growth redwood trees.

### **Recent Old Growth Removal in Lower Redway Q Zone**

Recently, a property at the corner of Briceland Road and Oakridge Drive on the route to the Lost Coast, containing multiple old-growth redwood trees was foreclosed and sold. The new landowner filed a CalFire Structural Hazard Exemption notification for removal of fire hazard trees within 150 feet of structures.

With CalFire approval, the landowner began cutting—removing at least five old-growth redwoods—without county review, neighbor notification, or a special permit.

The county did not require an application, a special permit, or make a finding consistent with the Ordinance. After media attention, Director Ford clarified that the county believed the Ordinance only applied when another county permit is sought, and none had been.

EPIC organized a letter-writing campaign that sent more than 630 letters to the county raising concern over the old-growth redwood tree removal in the Q Zone.

On January 30, 2025, Tom Wheeler of EPIC sent Director Ford a letter (included as Attachment C to this letter) regarding the county's ability to regulate tree removal and not be in conflict with CalFire's regulation of timber operations. Director Ford then acknowledged that his interpretation had changed and apologized, stating it would not happen again.

We appreciate reflection but cannot overlook the irreversible loss of old-growth redwoods in the Lower Redway Q Zone. We seek to ensure that the county clarifies its process and approach to the Q Zone and ensures the intent of the Ordinance is upheld and implemented going forward.

### **Concerns with CalFire's Process in the Q Zone**

In the recent example, in response to the landowner's filing, CalFire issued a Letter of Acceptance on December 16, 2025, for the removal of trees within zero to 150 feet of structures to protect structures from fire hazard trees (included as Attachment B to this letter) and issued a notice of inspection on February 4, 2026 (included as Attachment D to this letter).

The county's bypass of review of old-growth redwood tree removal in the Q Zone, and CalFire became the sole authority, the following problems arose:

- Any tree within 150 feet of any structure (even a shed or adjacent parcel building) could be removed.
- No independent qualified professional was required to conduct the hazard assessment consistent with the Q Zone. The CalFire inspection focused on trees

that pose a safety hazard to structures associated with falling limbs and tops, not just tree fall.

- This process did not require protection of old-growth trees.
- It does not require that a tree is in imminent danger of falling to justify removal.
- No alternatives analysis was conducted to avoid tree removal.
- This process did not require wildlife consultation or cumulative effects analysis.
- It did not afford notification of neighbors or opportunity for review and input.
- Commercial sale of removed logs is allowed, incentivizing removal of old-growth redwood for landowner profit.

Reliance on the CalFire fire hazard exemption process creates a dangerous loophole, threatens to weaken or render the Ordinance ineffective, and has now caused irreparable impacts to the old growth within the Q Zone. In this recent case, neighbors relied on county processes and oversight systems to prevent these outcomes—systems that did not function. We must now ensure that county decision-making, enforcement, and communication are strong enough, informed enough, and proactive enough to prevent such a failure from occurring again.

The removal of these old-growth redwood trees on a highly visible property adjacent to the main road and the Eel River alters the neighborhood physically, visually, spiritually, ecologically, and economically. It impacts property values and the sense of place that defines the community. Some properties rely on tourism. Visitors drive past the clear-cut area to access rentals, or on their way to the Lost Coast, and their experience is diminished by what they see. If this precedent continues, the Q Zone old-growth trees will be further irreparably harmed due to the lack of oversight.

### **Positive Models**

PG&E provides a strong example of consistently avoiding the removal of protected redwood trees in the Q Zone and instead performs targeted hazard mitigation. Landowners in the Q Zone invest in hazard limbing by qualified professionals rather than old-growth redwood tree removal. Targeted limb removal for hazard reduction is the thoughtful, balanced approach that should have been required in this recent case.

### **Our Requests**

We respectfully request that Humboldt County:

- Review all Q-Zone records to ensure they are complete, accurate, and fully accessible to county staff, landowners, and members of the public.
- Establish a clear, enforceable implementation process including:
  - Qualified hazard evaluation & alternatives analysis prioritizing limb removal
  - A special permit requirement for old-growth removal

- Effective neighbor notification, responsiveness to complaints and adequate enforcement
- Ensure sufficient technical advisory assistance is available to county staff.
- Do not simply defer to CalFire for tree removal in the Q Zone by taking a hands-off approach.
- Conduct a post-mortem of the recent old-growth redwood tree removals and assess what should have been done and learn from evaluation of the site.
- Evaluate why staff took a hands-off approach and identify weaknesses in the Ordinance's enforcement.
- Place a full agenda item before the Board to clarify Q Zone protections and strengthen the county's oversight process.

## **Closing**

Old-growth redwoods are irreplaceable and invaluable. The community depends on Humboldt County to uphold the protections designed to preserve them. We ask you to reaffirm your commitment to the Lower Redway Q Zone, correct the systemic gaps that allowed this failure, and ensure that old-growth redwoods in Lower Redway are never again put at risk through inadequate review.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Old Growth Neighborhood Association

## ***Attachments:***

**Attachment A:** Q-Zone Ordinance for Lower Redway, accessed at:

<https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/285/Garberville-Redway-Benbow-Alderpoint-Community-Plan-PDF>

**Attachment B:** CalFire December 16, 2025, Letter of Acceptance of Exemption

**Attachment C:** January 30, 2026, Letter from Tom Wheeler to John Ford re: County Regulation of Non-commercial Tree Removal

**Attachment D:** February 4, 2026, Notice of Inspection by CalFire

**Attachment E:** Information about old-growth redwood groves within the Lower Redway Q Zone, accessed at <https://www.redwoodhikes.com/Dewitt/Dewitt.html>

**Attachment F:** Fact Sheet regarding improved access to parks and community connectivity in Southern Humboldt, produced by Ancient Forest International in 2021.





Figure 1. Map of the Lower Redway Q Zone (provided by the Trees Foundation).



ORDINANCE NO. 2112

AMENDING SECTION 313-4 OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CODE  
BY REVISING THE PROVISIONS OF THE QUALIFIED ZONE FOR  
PROPERTY IN THE LOWER REDWAY AREA

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt ordain as follows:

Paragraph 1. **ZONE AMENDMENT.** Section 313-4 of the Humboldt County Code is hereby amended by revising the language of the Qualified Zoning Ordinance that applies to the property described in Exhibit A. The properties are also shown on the Garberville Redway Benbow Alderpoint Community Plan Zoning Map No. 1 of 2 on file at the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department.

Paragraph 2. **ZONE QUALIFICATION.** The special restrictions and regulations set forth in this section are hereby made applicable to the property described in Paragraph 1 in accordance with Humboldt County Code Section 315-6 which authorizes restriction of the R-1 zone regulations by application of the "Q" (Qualified Combining) Zone.

Paragraph 3. **PURPOSE OF QUALIFICATION.** The purpose of the special restrictions and regulations herein imposed on the property described in Paragraph 1 is:

- a. To protect redwood trees greater than twelve inches (12") in diameter at breast height (four and one half feet above the ground) while allowing for the maintenance and development of permitted uses.

Paragraph 4. **SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS.** Principal permitted uses and conditionally permitted uses otherwise allowed under the Zone regulations of the Humboldt County Code Section 314-24(a) and (b) shall be allowed on the properties described in Paragraph 1 consistent with the following limitations:

- a) **Other Regulations.** In addition to the regulations of Section 314-24(c), the following shall also apply:
  - 1) A Special Permit shall be required for the removal of any redwood greater than twelve inches (12") in diameter at breast height (dbh).
  - 2) The removal of any redwood greater than twelve inches (12") dbh shall be limited to 1) removal of trees within the physical footprint of a permitted building where there are no other feasible locations on the property which would allow for the trees to remain upon construction of the building, or 2) removal of trees upon demonstration that such a tree, due to damage or disease is in imminent danger of falling, thus creating an immediate hazard. (Driveways, and off street parking areas, on-site sewage disposal systems shall not be considered part of the physical footprint of a permitted building.)
  - 3) Such removal shall not precede Health Department sewage disposal clearance.

(I) The location, nature and cause of the emergency;

(II) The remedial, protective or preventative work required to deal with the emergency;  
and

(III) The circumstances during the emergency that appear to justify the waiver of procedural requirements, including the probable consequences of failing to take immediate corrective action.

(ii) Proceedings for Waiver of Procedures. The Planning Director shall verify the existence and nature of the emergency and, insofar as time allows, the facts relied upon by the petitioner. The Planning Department shall provide public notice of the emergency work, with the extent and type of notice to be determined on the basis of the nature of the emergency.

(iii) Criteria for Waiver of Procedures The normal procedural requirements for obtaining a Special Permit may be waived, and an emergency Special Permit may be conditionally or unconditionally granted, only if the Planning Director makes all of the following findings:

(I) An emergency exists that requires action more quickly than permitted by strict adherence to procedural requirements;

(II) Public comment received on the emergency action proposed, if any, has been reviewed and considered;

(III) The emergency action would be consistent with the policies of the adopted County General Plan and the regulations of this zoning ordinance.

(IV) The proposed work can and will likely be completed within thirty (30) days, unless otherwise specified by the Planning Director; and

(iv) Special Permit Required. Following the issuance of an emergency Special Permit, application shall be made for the required Special Permit in accordance with the other applicable provisions of this Paragraph.

Paragraph 5. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. Cutting and/or removal of redwood trees greater than 12" dbh conducted without first obtaining approval of the Planning Director as specified in Paragraph 4 are inconsistent with the County General Plan, the Lower Redway R-1-B-3-Q Zoning District and pose a threat to public health, safety and welfare, and are therefore prohibited.

- a. Any violation of any of the provisions of the zoning restrictions listed above in Paragraph 4 shall be declared to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to injunction and abatement as such.
- b. Any nuisance as defined in Paragraph 5. a) above may be abated through the procedures provided for in Humboldt County Code Sections 351-11 through 351-44. The procedure for said abatement provided herein shall not be exclusive, but shall be cumulative and in addition to any other abatement procedure, or any other remedies provided by the laws of California or the Code of the County of Humboldt.





Figure A-1. Map accompanying Resolution 2112, identifying the Q zone zoning as R1B3Q. Please note the map is oriented with north to the left and east to the top of the image.



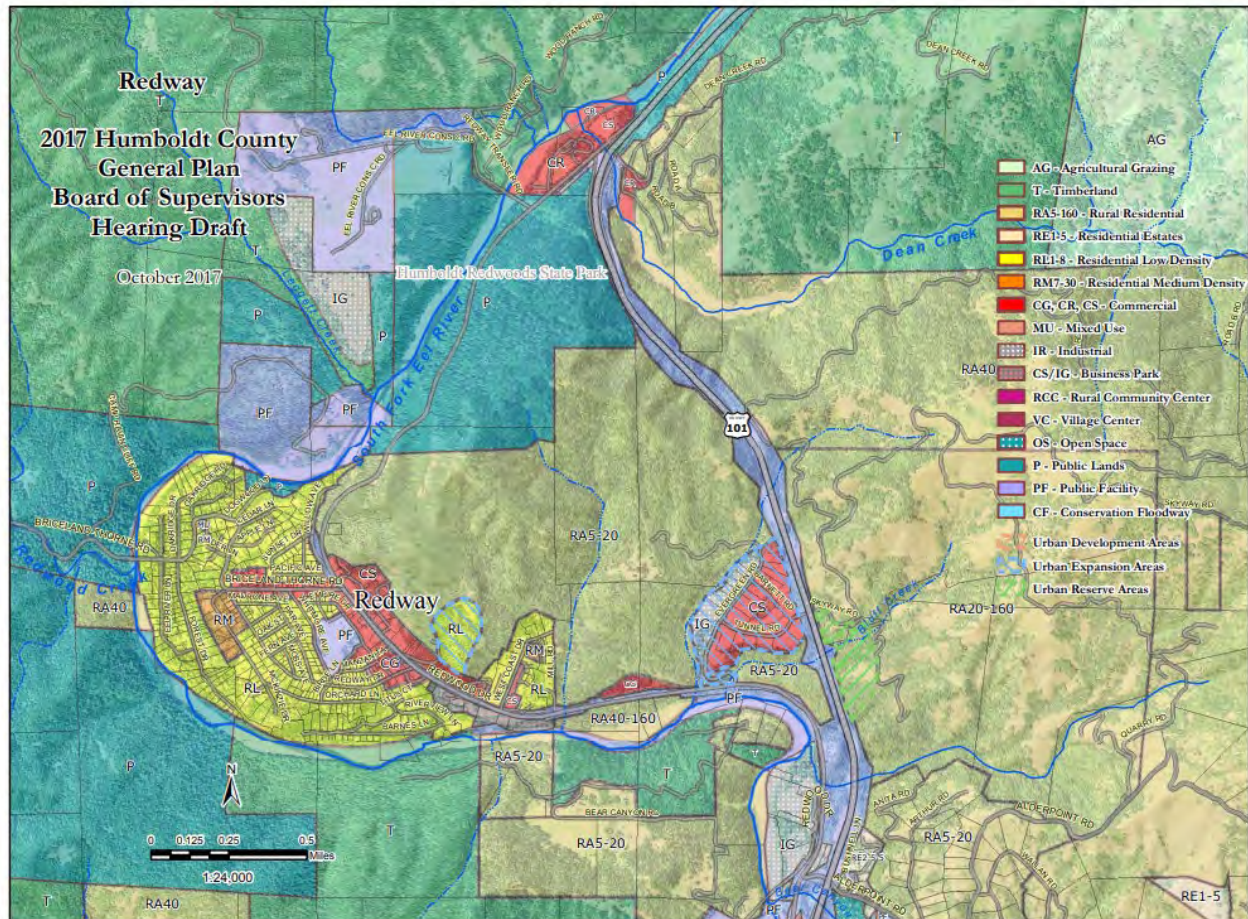


Figure A-2. Redway community zoning map, accessed at <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1764/37-Redway-PDF>

## Attachment B: CalFire December 16, 2025 Letter of Acceptance of Exemption



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
NORTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS - SANTA ROSA  
135 Ridgway Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA, 95401  
(707) 576-2959  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



December 16, 2025

Robert Scarlett  
PO Box 91  
Garberville, CA 95542

Structure Protection (0 to 150 feet) v2019  
No: 1-25EX-00914-HUM

### Letter of Acceptance

This letter acknowledges acceptance of your "Notice of Exemption" per **Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 1038(a), (b), (c), (c)(6), (d), (e), (f), 1038.3, 1038.5, and 1038.6**, from plan preparation and submission requirements (PRC 4581) and from the completion and stocking report requirements (PRC 4585 and 4587).

**This Exemption EXPIRES December 14, 2026. Timber operations shall comply with all operational provisions of the Forest Practice Act and District Forest Practice Rules. Note: in-lieu practices, exceptions to rules, and alternative practices are not allowed.**

Regulatory rules may differ if the exemption is in a county with special rules or within a Special Treatment Area. The Timberland Owner and the Licensed Timber Operator are advised to be aware of the rules for the specific location of the exemption.

#### **Other Agency Considerations:**

- **Regional Water Quality Control Boards** (Regional Boards) regulate waste discharges from timber harvest activities. The Regional Boards may have special requirements for timber harvesting conducted under this exemption. Please contact your local Regional Water Control Board with any questions regarding compliance with the California Water Code.
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife** (DFW) may require notification if the timber operations will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. Information on the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and other DFW programs can be found at the following internet address: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review>

On-site inspection will be conducted by local CAL FIRE Unit Forest Practice Inspectors to evaluate compliance with all the provisions of the Forest Practice Act and Rules. For questions regarding the above referenced exemption, please contact the appropriate regional office listed above or contact the local CAL FIRE Unit for your County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cale Lopez".

Cale Lopez – RPF #3154  
Timber Regulation & Forest Restoration Forester  
Northern Region Headquarters – Santa Rosa  
135 Ridgway Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707-576-2940 (office)  
707-608-8020 (cell)

cc: Unit, File

To view Exemption Notices, please visit: <https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees/>



MD ✓

Admin Use Only

Exemption Number: 1-25EX-00914-HUM

Date Received: DEC 15 2025

Date Approved: DEC 16 2025

Date Expires: DEC 14 2026

**STRUCTURE PROTECTION EXEMPTION**

Removal of fire hazard trees from 0 to 150 feet of an  
Approved and Legally Permitted Structure

VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM DATE RECEIPT BY CAL FIRE.

*Timber Operations pursuant to the notice of exemption may not commence for five (5) working days from the date of the Director's receipt of the notice unless this delay is waived by the Director. If the Director does not act within five (5) working days of receipt of the notice of exemption, Timber Operations may commence. [ref. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(13)]*

The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is hereby notified of Timber Operations under the requirements of 14 CCR § 1038(c)(1) to cut or remove trees within one-hundred-fifty (150) feet from any point of an Approved and Legally Permitted Structure that complies with the California Building Standards Code in compliance with Public Resources Code (PRC) § 4290 & 4291. Complete all items on this notice; when responses do not fit in the space provided, so state, and add additional pages as necessary.

1. **LICENSED TIMBER OPERATOR(S)** When more than one LTO is on the Plan, please provide a detailed description of timber operation responsibilities for each.

Name: Sherwood Inc Lic. No. 4013227 ✓ Phone: 707-446-8995

Address: P.O. Box 5987 City: Garderville State: CA Zip: 95502

Email: Sherwood Excavation@gmail.com

*I acknowledge the responsibilities as the Licensed Timber Operator for this plan.*

Signature (optional): [Signature] Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **TIMBERLAND OWNER(S) OF RECORD**

Name: Robert Scarlett Phone: 707-223-8668

Address: P.O. Box 91 City: Garderville State: CA Zip: 95542

Email: Robert.Scarlett461@gmail.com

*I acknowledge the responsibilities as the Timberland Owner for this plan.*

Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/11/2025

3. **TIMBER OWNER(S) OF RECORD**

Name: Robert Scarlett Phone: 707 223 8668

Address: P.O. Box 91 City: Garderville State: CA Zip: 95542

Email: Robert.Scarlett461@gmail.com

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**TIMBER TAX NOTICE:** The **TIMBER OWNER** is responsible for payment of a yield tax.

For timber yield tax information or for assistance with these questions call 1-800-400-7115, or write: Timber Tax Section, MIC: 88, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, P.O. Box 942879, Sacramento, CA 94279-0088; or visit CDTFA at <https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov>.

Some small or low-value harvests may be exempt from the Timber Yield Tax per Revenue and Taxation Code Section 38116. Timber Owners may be considered exempt if the value of the harvesting operations does not exceed \$3,000 dollars within a quarter, according to CDTFA's Timber Tax Harvest Value Schedules.

If the Timber Owner believes harvesting may be exempt (according to the timber tax exemption language above for low-value harvests) please complete the volume and species information below. Otherwise, proceed to the next item.

Final determination of tax-exempt status will be made by the Timber Tax Section of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

**If the CDTFA timber tax section is to be considered a tax exemption based on projected harvest, please complete the information below.**

Select the best estimate of total volume for this harvest, in thousands of board feet (MBF-Net Scribner short log):

☐ Under 8 MBF      ☐ 8 – 15 MBF      ☐ 16 – 25 MBF      ☒ Over 25 MBF

A. Estimate the percentage of timber to be removed during this harvest: (percentages should equal 100%)

Redwood 100 %      Ponderosa/Sugar Pine \_\_\_\_\_ %      Douglas-fir \_\_\_\_\_ %      Other Conifer \_\_\_\_\_ %

Cedar \_\_\_\_\_ %      Port-Orford Cedar \_\_\_\_\_ %      Fir \_\_\_\_\_ %      Other Hardwoods \_\_\_\_\_ %

B. Fuelwood over 150 cords? ☐ Yes ☒ No      C. Christmas trees over 3,000 lineal feet? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4. Is it anticipated that a tree existing before 1800 AD greater than 60 inches in diameter at stump height for Sierra or Coastal Redwoods, or 48 inches in diameter at stump height for all other tree species will be harvested? [ref. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(15)] ☒ Yes ☐ No

**NOTE:** If "Yes", refer to 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(15)(A-C). An RPF is required to prepare an explanation and justification per 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(15)(B)(1-3) to be included at submission unless 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(15)(C) applies.

5. Will timber harvesting occur within the standard width of a Watercourse or Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ)?  
☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", trees to be harvested shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) prior to Timber Operations [ref. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(12)]. Include the name, license number, and signature of the RPF [ref. 14 CCR § 1602.1]:

RPF Name: \_\_\_\_\_

License number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If "Yes" to harvesting in the WLPZ, indicate the exception permitted per 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(12):

- ☐ Sanitation-salvage harvesting, as identified in 14 CCR § 913.3 [933.3, 953.3], shall meet the Stocking Standards of 14 CCR § 912.7 [932.7, 952.7](b)(2) immediately after completion of operations.  
☐ The removal of dead or Dying Trees where consistent with 14 CCR § 916.4 [936.4, 956.4](b).

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6. Will Timber Operations occur in a WLPZ, or within any equipment limitation zone (ELZ) or equipment exclusion zone (EEZ) designated for Watercourse or lake protection, **within a watershed with listed anadromous salmonids**? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", indicate the exception(s) permitted by 14 CCR § 916.9 [936.9, 956.9](s):

- ☐ Hauling on existing roads.  
☐ Road maintenance.  
☐ Operations conducted for public safety.  
☐ Construction or reconstruction of approved Watercourse crossings.  
☐ Temporary crossings of dry Class III Watercourses that do not require notification under Fish and Game Code §1600 et seq.  
☐ Harvesting recommended *in writing* by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to address specifically identified forest conditions (attach a copy of the written recommendation from CDFW).

7. Have significant archaeological sites been identified within the project area? ☐ Yes ☒ No

**NOTE:** No Timber Operations are allowed on any site that satisfies the criteria listed in 14 CCR § 895.1 for a Significant Archaeological or Historical Site except under conditions described in 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(3)(A) & (B).

If "Yes", will operations occur within these identified archaeological sites? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**NOTE:** If "Yes", provide written concurrence from a Department Archaeologist with the exemption submission per 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(3)(C).

8. Tentative commencement date of Timber Operations: January 1st, 2026 per 14 CCR § 1038.1(a)(5)

**NOTE:** Prior to Timber Operations, the Timber Operator shall notify the Department of the actual commencement date of operations. The notification shall be directed to the appropriate CAL FIRE Unit Headquarters, Forest Practice Inspector, or other designated personnel. If the notification is provided by mail, Timber Operations may not commence until three (3) days after the postmark date of notification per 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(14).

9. Check all Yarding methods to be utilized per 14 CCR § 1038.2:

|                                     | GROUND - BASED                     |                          | CABLE              |                          | OTHER                      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tractor, including end/long lining | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cable, ground lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hand thinning and removing |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rubber tire skidder, forwarder     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cable, high lead   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (describe below)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Feller buncher                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cable, skyline     |                          |                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Shovel yarding                     |                          |                    |                          |                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Tethered operations                |                          |                    |                          |                            |

**NOTE:** If more than one yarding method is selected, they must be identified on accompanying maps.

10. Provide the legal land description of the location of the Timber Operation [ref. 14 CCR § 1038.1(a)(4)]. Attach a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map or equivalent map, per 14 CCR § 1038.2 depicting:
- Boundaries of the Harvest Area.
  - Location of all Watercourses and Lakes with Class I, II, III or IV waters.
  - A larger scale (detailed) map such as an assessor's parcel map showing the location of Timber Operations shall be included with the exemption submission.
  - Color coding shall not be used.

Additional maps, which may be topographic or planimetric, may be used to provide additional information, to show details, and improve map clarity. **A legend shall be included indicating the meaning of the symbols used.** Describe the access route to the timber operation so that it can be easily located, and/or include an assessor's parcel map for small areas. Attach additional supporting pages as necessary.

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 Resource Management



| Baseline Meridian | Township | Range | Section | County   | Acreage* | Assessor's Parcel # (optional) |
|-------------------|----------|-------|---------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| HBM               | 04S      | 03E   | 10      | Humboldt | 0.43     | 077-072-007-00                 |
|                   |          |       |         |          |          |                                |
|                   |          |       |         |          |          |                                |

\*Acres are estimated and are for the Harvest Area

- 11. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE:** Per 14 CCR § 1038(c)(5), Timber Operations conducted under this exemption subsection shall conform to the applicable city or county general plans, city or county implementing ordinances, and city or county zoning ordinances within which the notice of exemption is located. The following must be completed by the LTO, Timberland Owner, or if applicable the RPF, as listed in this exemption.

(select agent thereof)

☐ LTO      ☒ Timberland Owner      ☐ RPF

Name: Robert Scarlett Phone: 707 223 8668

Address: P.O. Box 91 City: Garberville State: CA Zip: 95542

Email: robert.scarlett461@gmail.com

*I certify that the city or county within which this exemption is located has been contacted and the exemption is in conformance with all city and county regulatory requirements in accordance with 14 CCR § 1038(c)(5).*

Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/11/2025

The following are limitations or requirements for Timber Operations conducted under this Notice of Exemption for Fire Hazard Trees within 0-150 feet of a legally permitted structure that complies with the California Building Code:

- This notice must be submitted to and received by CAL FIRE at the appropriate office listed below prior to the commencement of Timber Operations.
  - Coastal Special Treatment areas and Marin County: the Director shall have ten calendar days from date of receipt to accept or reject the notice of Timber Operations.
- 14 CCR § 1038(c) places certain limits on the harvesting of trees under this exemption. These limits need to be examined to assure compliance.
- 14 CCR § 1038 Timber Operations conducted under this notice shall comply with all operational provisions of the Forest Practice Act and District Forest Practice Rules applicable to "Timber Harvesting Plan," "THP," and "Plan." Timber operations must conform to applicable city or county general plans, city or county implementing ordinances, and city or county zoning ordinances within which the exemption is located. The requirements to submit a completion and stocking report do not normally apply within the 0 to 150-foot zone.
- Only trees within 150 feet of an Approved and Legally Permitted Structure (14 CCR § 895.1) that complies with the California Building Code (includes only structures designed for human occupancy, garages, barns, stables, and structures used to enclose fuel tanks) may be cut and removed. (ref. 14 CCR § 1038(c)(1))
- Clearcutting, seed tree removal step or shelterwood removal step are not allowed under this Notice of Exemption. 14 CCR § 1038(c)(2)
- All surface fuels created by Timber Operations, within 150 feet of an approved or legally permitted structure, that could promote the spread of wildfire, including slash and woody debris, exceeding one (1) inch in diameter, and brush, shall be chipped, burned, or removed within 45 days from the start of operations. 14 CCR § 1038(c)(3)
- In addition to the surface fuel treatment described in 14 CCR § 1038(c)(3), the Harvest Area must meet the vegetation treatment standards in PRC § 4584(i)(1) to (2)(A) illustrated in Board Technical Rule Addendum No.4 within one (1) year from the receipt of issuance of notice of acceptance. 14 CCR § 1038(c)(4)
- There are special requirements for Timber Operations conducted in Coastal Commission Special Treatment Areas and in counties with special rules adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Timber Operations shall comply with the rules associated with the specific Special Treatment Area Timber Operations are within. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(6). These rules should be reviewed prior to submitting this notice to CAL FIRE.
- All Timber Operations conducted in the Lake Tahoe Region must have a valid Tahoe Basin Tree Removal Permit, as defined by TRPA,

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- or shall be conducted under a valid TRPA memorandum of understanding, when such a permit is required by TRPA, 14 CCR § 1038.1(b)(1)
10. Timber Operations may not be conducted without a copy of the Directors notice of acceptance of the notice of exemption at the operating site, except where the Director has failed to act within the five (5) working day review period. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(13)(A)
  11. No helicopter yarding shall be allowed 14 CCR § 1038.1(b)(3)
  12. In-lieu practices within WLPZs as specified under Article 6 of these rules, exception to the rules, and alternative practices are not allowed 14 CCR § 1038.
  13. No Tractor or heavy equipment operations on slopes greater than 50%. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(5)
  14. No construction of new tractor roads on slopes greater than 40%. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(5)
  15. No Tractor or heavy equipment operations on known Unstable Areas. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(7)
  16. No new road construction or reconstruction, as defined by 14 CCR § 895.1. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(8)
  17. No heavy equipment operations within the standard width of a WLPZ, as defined in 14 CCR § 916.4[936.4, 956.4](b). 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(9)
  18. **No timber harvesting within the standard width of a Watercourse or Lake Protection Zone**, as defined in 14 CCR § 916.4 [936.4, 956.4](b), except sanitation-salvage harvesting, as defined in 14 CCR § 913.3 [933.3,953.3], where immediately after completion of operations, the area shall meet the stocking standards of 14 CCR § 912.7 [932.7,952.7](b)(2), except for the removal of dead or dying trees where consistent with 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(12). Trees to be harvested within a WLPZ shall be marked by, or under the supervision of, an RPF prior to Timber Operations. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(12)
  19. **ASP watersheds** – No Timber Operations are allowed in a WLPZ, or within any ELZ or EEZ designated for Watercourse or Lake Protection, under exemption notices except (1) Hauling on existing roads (2) Road maintenance (3) Operations conducted for public safety (4) Construction or reconstruction of approved watercourse crossings (5) Temporary crossings of dry Class III watercourses that do not require notification under Fish and Game Code §1600 et seq. (6) Harvesting recommended in writing by CDFW to address specifically identified forest conditions.
  20. Operations conducted under a notice of exemption are not permitted in known sites of rare, candidate, threatened or endangered plants and animals if the sites will be disturbed or damaged. No Timber Operations may occur within a buffer zone of a listed, or sensitive species as defined by 14 CCR § 895.1. 14 CCR § 1038.1(c)(10)(11)
  21. If any activities related to Timber Operations, as defined by PRC 4527, are to include any of the following activities in any river, stream or lake, including episodic and perennial waterways, a notification to the California Department Fish and Wildlife is required pursuant to Fish and Game Code §1602: 1) A substantial alteration of the bed, bank, or channel 2) A substantial diversion (i.e. water drafting) or obstruction of the natural flow; or 3) Use of material from or deposit of material into the Watercourse. Information on the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, as well as notification forms, may be found at the following link:  
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/lsa>
  22. **Completion and Stocking reports are required for areas when operations occur within the COAST DISTRICT, COASTAL COMMISSION SPECIAL TREATMENT AREAS and/or MARIN COUNTY.** The landowner shall submit to CAL FIRE a RM-71 Completion and Stocking report per PRC 4585 and PRC 4587.
  23. This Notice of Exemption is valid for one year from the date of receipt by CAL FIRE.  
– **Marin County** the exemption is valid for the calendar year of acceptance.
  24. A Timber Operator with a valid state license must be designated upon submission of this Notice.

**The following suggestions may help ensure compliance with the Forest Practice Rules:**

1. Timber Owners, Timberland Owners and Timber Operators should obtain and review copies of the Forest Practice Rules pertaining to the Notice of Emergency. Copies may be obtained from Barclays Law Publishers, P.O. Box 2006, San Francisco, CA 94126, CAL FIRE, Forest Practice, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460; or CAL FIRE's website at <http://www.fire.ca.gov>.
2. Contact the CAL FIRE office listed below for questions regarding the use of this notice.

**File this notice online with CalTREES (<https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees/>) or send to the CAL FIRE Forest Practice Manager at the office below for the county in which the operation will occur:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, western Trinity and Yolo Counties.                                                                                                  | 135 Ridgway Avenue<br>Santa Rosa, CA 95401<br><a href="mailto:santarosareviewteam@fire.ca.gov">santarosareviewteam@fire.ca.gov</a><br>(707) 576-2959 |
| Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, eastern Trinity and Yuba Counties.                                                                                                                                        | 6105 Airport Road<br>Redding, CA 96002<br><a href="mailto:reddingreviewinbox@fire.ca.gov">reddingreviewinbox@fire.ca.gov</a><br>(530) 224-2454       |
| Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Tulare, and Ventura Counties. | 1234 East Shaw Avenue<br>Fresno, CA 93710<br><a href="mailto:fresnoreviewinbox@fire.ca.gov">fresnoreviewinbox@fire.ca.gov</a><br>(559) 243-4107      |

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## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Humboldt-Del Norte Unit  
118 S. Fortuna Boulevard  
Fortuna CA 95540-0425  
Humboldt County  
(707) 725-4413  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



November 10, 2025

Robert Scarlett  
20 Ridgeway Dr  
Redway, CA 95560

## SERVICE RECORD REPORT

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has permitting and enforcement jurisdiction over, among other things, the conduct of timber operations, including the conversion of timberland to uses other than growing timber, on timberland.

In the State of California, the conduct of timber operations is strictly regulated pursuant to the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 4511–4629.13) (the Forest Practice Act) and the Forest Practice Rules (Title 14, Cal. Code of Regs., §§ 895–1115.3) adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (the Board of Forestry) pursuant to the authority delegated to the Board in the Act.

Timber operations, as defined in the Forest Practice Act, means (i) the cutting or removal, or both (ii) from timberlands (iii) of timber or other solid wood forest products (iv) for commercial purposes. The commercial purposes of the cutting and removal may be either an intent to sell, barter, exchange, or trade the timber or an intent to convert timberland to a use other than growing timber, whether or not there is any intent to commercialize the timber. (Pub. Resources Code § 4527.) All timber operations must be conducted pursuant to a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) approved by CAL FIRE. (Pub. Resources Code § 4581.) A landowner who intends to convert timberland must also secure a Timberland Conversion Permit (TCP) from CAL FIRE prior to the timberland conversion. (Pub. Resources Code § 4621.)

The Act defines "timberlands" to include all non-federal land that is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of commercial species, as designated by the Board of Forestry. (Pub. Resources Code § 4526; see 14 CCR § 895.1.) A "crop of trees" includes any number of trees that may be harvested commercially. (14 CCR § 895.1.) It is important to note that timberlands are thus defined by their physical characteristics rather than their zoning, that some or all of a property may be timberlands, and that zoning restrictions may not preclude the conduct of timber operations and, therefore, the requirement of a THP or TCP.

In addition to local permit requirements (e.g. building, grading, cannabis cultivation, etc.), a THP is required prior to conducting timber operations on timberland and a TCP is required prior to converting timberland to a use other than growing timber. However, several exemptions are available should the eligibility requirements be met.

California State Law also requires that any person who conducts timber operations on timberland be a License Timber Operator (LTO). LTO's are persons who have been licensed under the Forest Practice Act law and are authorized to conduct timber operations on timberland. LTO's are required to work under a harvest document that has been accepted or approved by CAL FIRE prior to conducting timber operations.

Service Record ID: 25SR-00416

Date Services Performed: 11/10/2025 12:00:00 AM

Legal Description: HBM: T04S R03E S10 077-072-007

Site Address:

*"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."*

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**Notes:**

On October 21st, 2025, I conducted a service inspection at 20 Oakridge Road in Redway CA. Onsite during the inspection was the new landowner Robert Scarlett and LTO Levi Cope. The landowner requested a site visit to evaluate several trees that he feels pose a safety hazard to the structures on his property and his neighbors. I have inspected this property several times in the past year under the previous owners who harvested several trees around the property and wanted to harvest several more trees after their house was damaged by dead material or tops of the trees breaking and damage the habitable structures.

During the inspection approximately five trees/ clumps were identified all within 30 feet of structures as having the defect and site conditions indicative of tree failure as described in Hazardous Tree Identification, Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide as defined in the Forest Practice Rules under 895.1

Danger Tree means any tree located on or adjacent to a utility right-of-way or facility that could damage utility facilities should it fall where: the tree leans toward the right-of-way, or (2) the tree is defective because of any cause, such as: heart or root rot, shallow roots, excavation, bad crotch, dead or with dead top, deformity, cracks or splits, or any other reason that could result in the tree or a main lateral of the tree falling. See Chapter VII, Hazardous Tree Identification, Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide-1977, A Joint Publication of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

These identified trees have already damaged the roof and deck of the main habitable structure and caused damage to the adjacent shed and adjacent property and continue to pose a safety threat.

The property in question is in the Lower Redway Q Zone as delineated by Humboldt County Building and Planning Department. In this zone trees over 12 inches at DBH are not allowed to be harvested unless in an emergency situation, and tree(s) are threatening people or property. In the County ordinances it states a Special Permit is necessary. On Thursday November 6th I had a phone conversation with Warren Black with the County of Humboldt, and he didn't think the County was requiring a permit within the Redway Zone to harvest select safety hazard trees but was going to investigate zoning further.

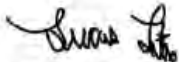
Also, trees existing before 1800 AD greater than 60 inches in diameter at stump height for Sierra or Coastal Redwoods, or 48 inches in diameter at stump height for all other tree species will be harvested. Based on the safety issues surrounding the proposed trees this RPF agrees that the selected trees pose a safety hazard to the habitable structures and may be harvested.

If trees are to be harvested and commercialized a harvest document from CAL FIRE is required. Based on my inspection, a Structure Protection Exemption which allows removal of fire hazard trees from 0-150 feet of an approved and legally permitted structure would be an exemption that could be used to harvest the select safety hazard trees identified during the inspection. I would also encourage the landowner to get written approval or documentation that no Special Permit from the County of Humboldt is required to harvest trees with the Lower Redway Q Zone.

Please call with any questions.

CAL FIRE encourages landowners to contact a Registered Professional Forester or their local CAL FIRE Unit Forester to assist in determining whether their land includes timberlands. Finally, other agencies may have jurisdiction related to your potential project and it is encouraged that you contact them.

Sincerely,



Lucas Titus - RPF#2780  
Forester II, Resource Management  
South/Central Supervisor  
Cell (707) 599-6893  
Email: Lucas.Titus@fire.ca.gov

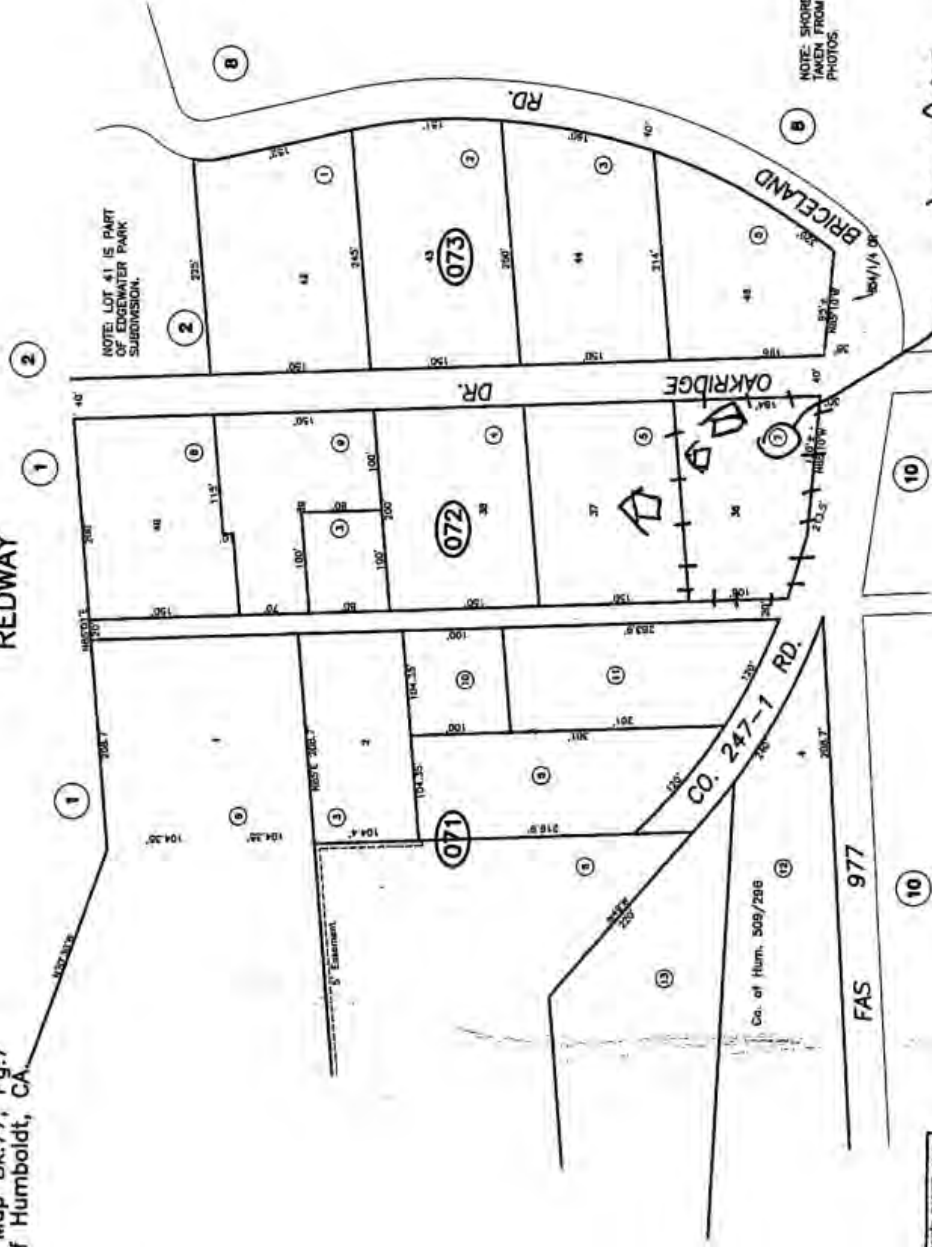
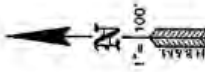
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# Scarlett U-130 Assessor's Parcel Map

Assessor's Map Bk.77, Pg.7  
County of Humboldt, CA

077-07

REDWAY



Exemption Area  
A = structure  
+++ - Boundary



NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses  
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

RM Bk. 11, MAPS PG. 43-44



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**Attachment C:** January 30, 2026 Letter from Tom Wheeler to John Ford County  
Regulation of Non-commercial Tree Removal

To: John Ford, Humboldt County Planning Department  
From: Tom Wheeler, Executive Director and Staff Attorney, EPIC  
Date: January 30, 2026

Re: Whether and to what extent can Humboldt County regulate timber operations

Dear John,

I am writing to provide you with some thoughts concerning the legality of local regulation of timber harvest. I hope these help clarify the County's role in regulating non-commercial timber operations, such as the use of 14 CCR § 1038 "hazard tree" exemption. While the Forest Practice Act expressly preempts local regulation of the "conduction of timber operations," Pub. Res. Code § 4516.5(d), counties and other local governments still retain substantial regulatory authority, particularly for non-commercial timber operations.

**Retained Authority over Timber Operations**

"Timber operations" does not include all forms of tree or forest management; rather it is limited to the removal of "timber or other solid wood forest products...from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the incidental work" related to such commercial operations. Pub. Res. Code § 4527. "Commercial purposes" is further defined to including:

(A) the cutting or removal of trees that are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or (B) the cutting or removal of trees or other forest products during the conversion of timberlands to land uses other than the growing of timber...including, but not limited to, residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects.

In multiple areas of the Forest Practice Rules, the Board of Forestry specifically recognizes that local governments can share jurisdiction for non-commercial logging. See, e.g., 14 CCCR § 1038(c)(5) ("Timber Operations conducted under this subsection shall conform to the applicable city or county general plans, city or county implementing ordinances, and city or county zoning ordinances within which the notice of exemption is located. The LTO, timberland owner, or if applicable the RPF, shall certify that the city or county has been contacted and the notice of exemption conforms with all city or county regulatory requirements.") To be clear, EPIC does not believe that this is a grant of authority by the Board to local governments, rather, a recognition of the retained authority of local governments to regulate non-commercial timber conduct.

Furthermore, although the state preempts the field, local governments still retain traditional zoning control, including whether commercial timber harvesting is a permissible land use in a zoning district. See *Westhaven Comm. Dev. Council v. Cty. of Humboldt*, 61 Cal. App. 4th 365

(1998). Local governments also generally retain the authority under the Forest Practice Act to regulation timber operations that constitute or create a nuisance. 14 CCR § 4514(2).

#### **Additional Local Regulations Permissible with Approval of Board of Forestry**

To the extent that there is confusion about what role Humboldt County can play in regulating timber conduct, the County may petition the Board of Forestry to develop county-specific rules. 14 CCR § 4516.5. Many sister counties (Santa Cruz, Marin, Santa Clara, Monterey, Lake, etc.) have petitioned for, and the Board has adopted, county-specific regulations. These regulations often are concerned with reducing conflict between neighboring landowners, such as setting rules regarding hours of operation and timber hauling on local roads. 14 CCR § 926.9. County rules go further still and regulate timber operations to reduce environmental impacts associated with timber production. See, e.g., 14 CCR § 927.9. Where Board-approved county rules contain a standard or requirement that is more restrictive or otherwise inconsistent with the Forest Practice Rules, the county rules would take precedence.



## Attachment D: February 4, 2026 CalFire Notice of Inspection



### DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Humboldt-Del Norte Unit  
118 S. Fortuna Boulevard  
Fortuna CA 95540-0425  
Humboldt County  
(707) 725-4413  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



February 04, 2026

SHERWOOD TREE  
P O BOX 5987  
EUREKA, CA 95502

### Notice of Inspection

**Section 4604 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) requires the department to inspect timber operations for compliance with the Forest Practice Act and rules of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.**

Harvest Document: 1-25EX-00914-HUM  
Inspection Date: 01/27/2026  
Inspection Type: Active  
Inspection Number: 1  
Inspection ID: INSP-26-000124  
Person Contacted: Robert Scarlett

### Inspector Observations

Operations have been active on this exemption with a start notification received on January 5, 2026. Logs are decked onsite, and one large slash pile remains onsite to be treated by February 19, 2026. One tree is still available for harvest under this exemption. The landowner stated PG&E is going to assess the tree and possibly remove parts of the remaining tree or the tree may be fell at a later date. When the current LTO climbed the remaining tree, they encountered rotten parts of the tree and decided not to take it down at this time. There was a loader onsite during the inspection and I talked to an adjacent landowner about their concerns with the harvesting. To date I have received several phone calls regarding the operations on this property. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lucas Titus - RPF#2780  
Forester II, Resource Management  
South/Central Supervisor  
Cell (707) 599-6893  
Email: [Lucas.Titus@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Lucas.Titus@fire.ca.gov)

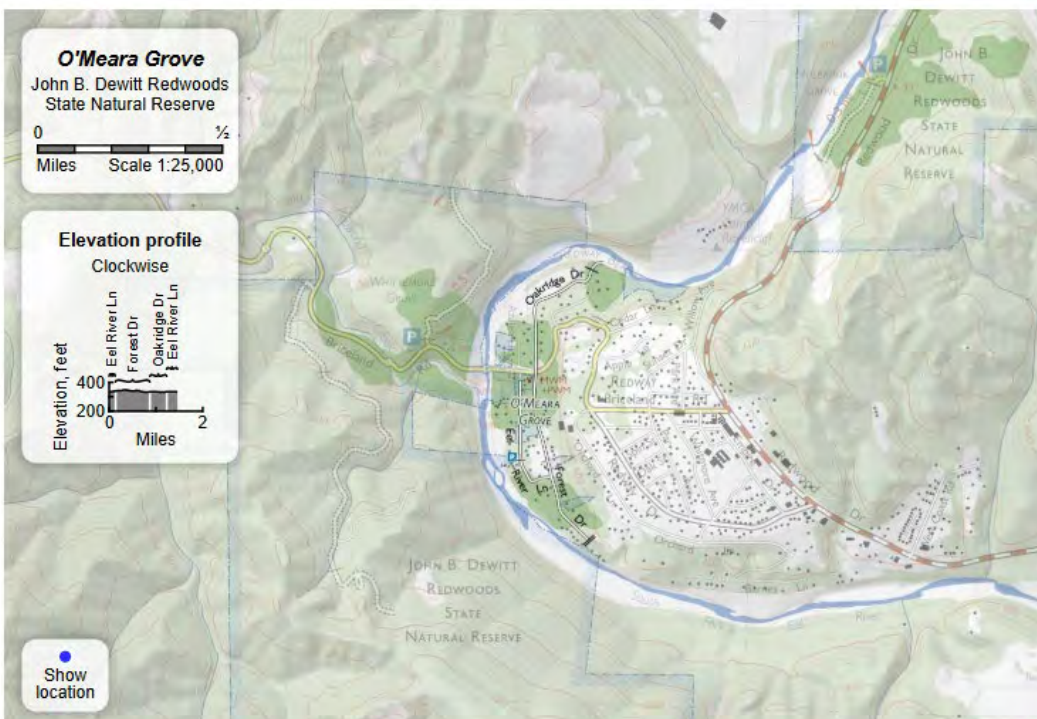
cc: Unit, Region, LTO, TLO, TO, RPF, FG, WQ, FILE

To view harvesting documents, please visit: <https://aca-prod.accela.com/CALTREES/Default.aspx>

**Attachment E:** Information about old-growth redwood groves within the Lower Redway Q zone accessed at <https://www.redwoodhikes.com/Dewitt/Dewitt.html>



*Forest Drive*







*O'Meara Grove*



*Ed River Lane*





*Eel River Lane*



*Redway Beach*



**Attachment F:** Fact Sheet regarding improved access to parks and community connectivity in Southern Humboldt, produced by Ancient Forest International in 2021:

**Fact Sheet: Improving Access to Parks and  
Community Connectivity in Southern Humboldt County**

The Garberville/Redway/Benbow area is a visitor's gateway to Humboldt County's outdoor recreation opportunities including redwood parks, the Wild and Scenic South Fork Eel River, and the Lost Coast (Figure 1). This area is simultaneously rich in resources, but economically disadvantaged, surrounded by nature, but lacking recreational opportunities close to town. It is blessed with extraordinary existing parks – including ancient redwood groves on the edge of town – but the parks are fragmented from each other and lack meaningful trails to facilitate use. This proposal outlines four discrete actions that would turn these under-utilized assets into valuable amenities for the community, providing opportunities for tourists and residents alike.

**Connect two ancient redwood groves in Redway with a 1-mile trail (Figures 2 & 3)**

The two main groves in the [John B. Dewitt Redwood State Nature Reserve](#) – Whittemore Grove and Holbrook Grove – are within a mile of each other and could easily be connected with a trail. Currently neither grove has a trail of more than a few hundred feet, despite having substantial areas of ancient trees. Holbrook Grove flanks the wild and scenic South Fork of the Eel River and has ancient redwoods down to the water's edge on both banks. There are only two landowners between the two State Parks groves: the Redway Community Services District and the Sonoma County Family YMCA. This project is simple and would allow these majestic groves to be enjoyed.

**Establish a Multi-use Trail on the Ridge Above the Eel River in Redway (Figure 3)**

In the early 2000's approximately 500 acres of redwoods across the river from Redway were added to the John B. Dewitt Grove. This area currently has no developed trails. A multi-use trail for hikers, and potentially mountain bikes and equestrians, would provide substantially increased recreational opportunities near town. The trail could provide the significant benefit of addressing fire prevention concerns on Redway Ridge through fuel hazard reduction and improved access.

**Improve Briceland Road to Allow Pedestrian Access Between Upper and Lower Redway (Figures 4, 5, & 6)**

Built on a hillside above the South Fork Eel River, the town of Redway has two distinct areas, with the only connection between the town and the river areas being a narrow section of Briceland Road, a busy county road with no sidewalks or shoulder. In recent years, along this 0.5 mile stretch of Briceland Road, several cars have gone over the road edge at the narrowest section and into the primary lift station for Redway Community Services District (RCSD) (see photos in Figures 4 & 5). Improving this short stretch Briceland Road for walking and biking access would significantly enhance the recreation opportunities and community connectivity to ancient redwood groves and river, as well as improve safety for the RCSD, create safe access for children in lower Redway to walk to school upper Redway.

**Improve an Existing 'Use Trail' Between Benbow Lake State Recreation Area and the Southern Humboldt Community Park (Figure 7)**

These two existing parks are only separated by a short distance along the South Fork Eel River; there is an informal 'use trail' connecting them, otherwise this section of river is essentially roadless. Formalizing the route would substantially increase the trail network and recreation opportunities for both parks.







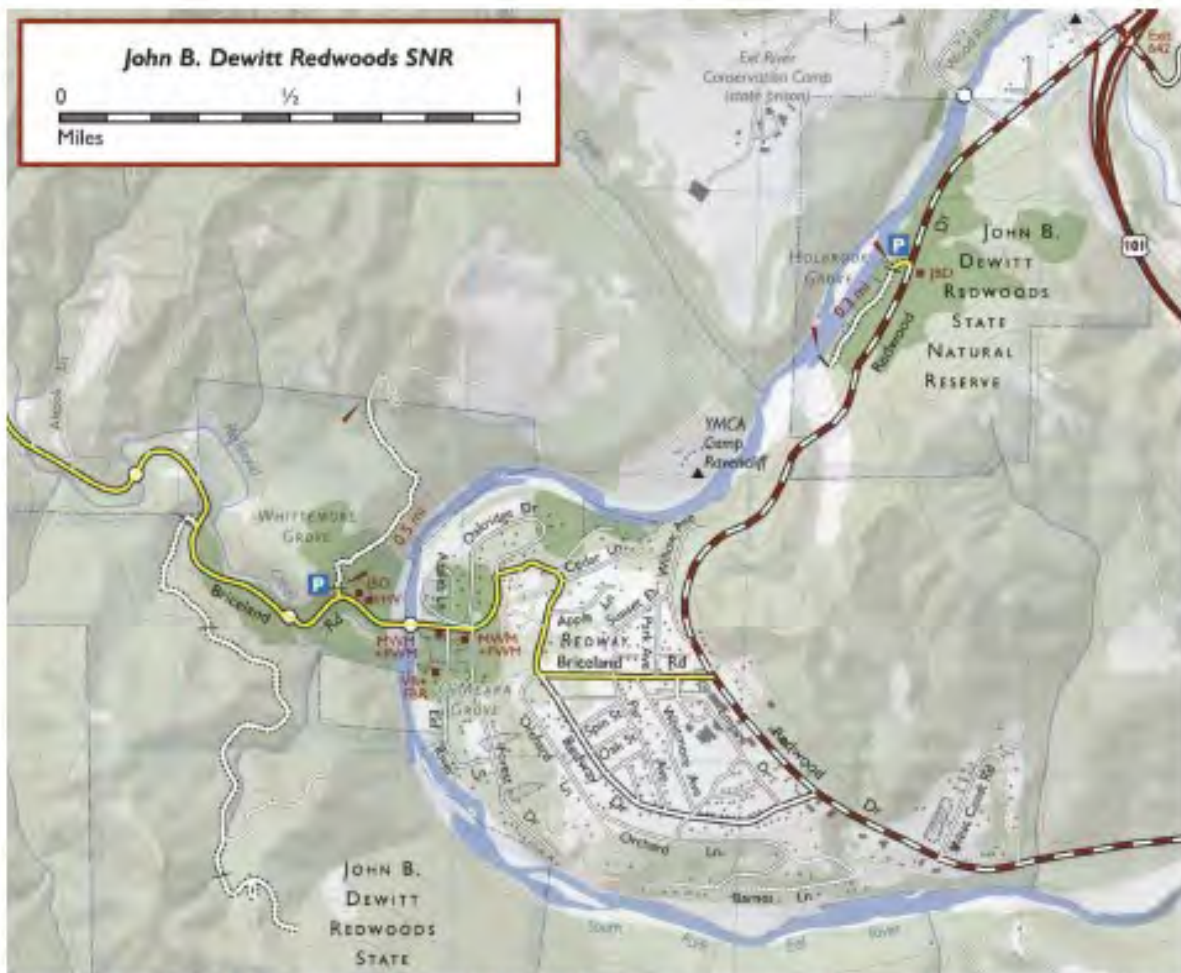
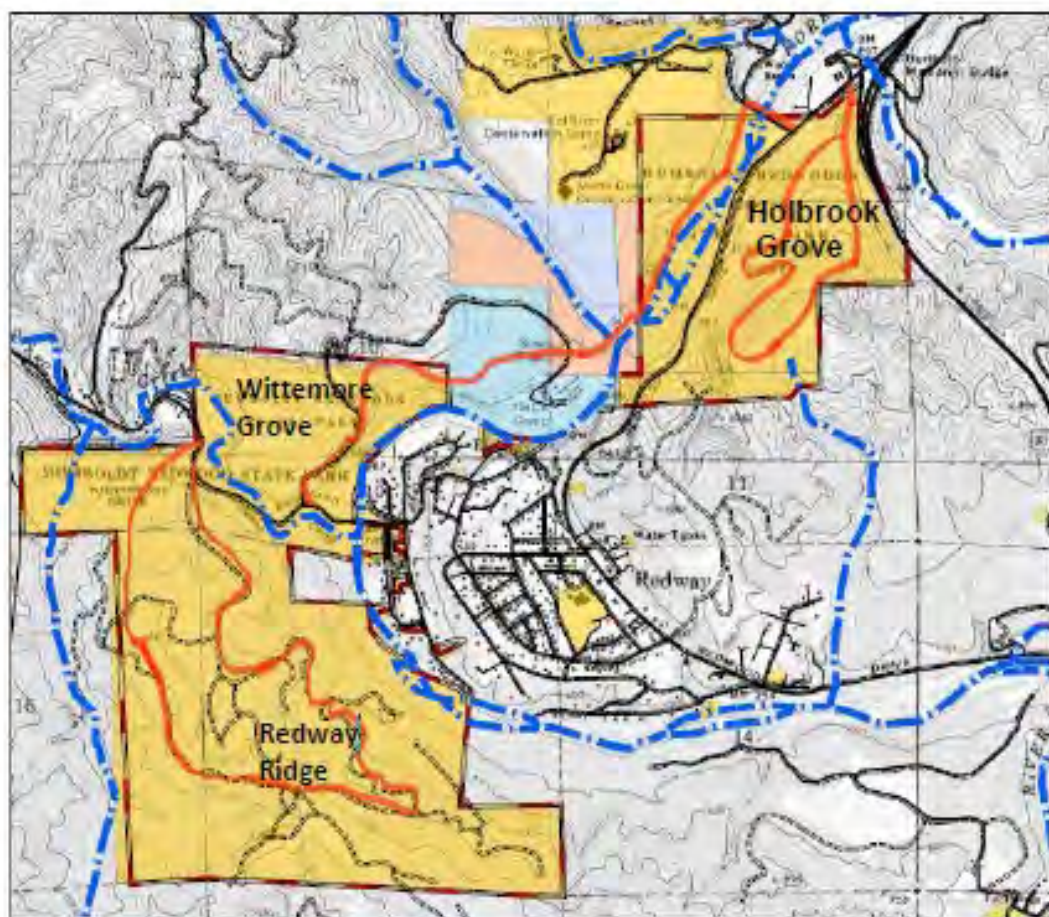


Figure 2. John B Dewitt Redwoods State Natural Reserve is located along the South Fork Eel River near the town Redway and includes John B Dewitt Redwoods State Natural Reserve lands and associated Whittemore Grove, Holbrook Grove, and Redway Ridge. Redway is the gateway to the Lost Coast.



### SoHum Recreation, Parks and Community Connectivity

Garberville 7.5' USGS Quadrangle  
Humboldt County, CA

0 850 1,700 3,400 Feet

- California State Park
- Sonoma County Family YMCA
- Redway Community Services District
- Studebaker
- Public Land, Schools, Non Taxable Entities
- ▬▬▬ ncastream100 arc
- ▬▬▬ Major Roads
- ▬▬▬ Seasonal Road

1:24,000



Produced by:  
Restoration Forestry, Inc.

Projection:  
UTM NAD 83 Zone 10N

Date: 3/7/2021

Document Path: C:\Gissel\Gville\_gissel\SoHum\Paradise\SoHum Recreation.mxd

*Figure 3 Proposed trails shown in red for Redway area John B Dewitt Redwoods State Natural Reserve lands and associated Wittemore Grove, Holbrook Grove, and Redway Ridge. The trails would enhance recreation opportunities, connect trails between ancient redwoods, and improve fire resilience on Redway Ridge.*





Figure 4. Shown in red is stretch of Briceland Road in need of improvements for pedestrian and bicycle access to ancient redwood groves, the South Fork Eel River and improve community connectivity.



Figure 5. Photo of RCSD lift station with narrow road segment.



Figure 6. RCSD lift station following a recent vehicular accident.



*Figure 7 Proposed trail shown in red for Garberville/Benbow area would enhance recreation opportunities and improve connectivity between Benbow Lake State recreation Area and the Southern Humboldt Community Park.*