

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Lassen Modoc Unit
697-345 Highway 36
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4171



Revised 11/2020

TREE REMOVAL INFORMATION

STATE REGULATIONS

Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) 714 the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is responsible for the enforcement of the Z'Berg – Nejedly Forest Practice Act. The Act allows for the harvesting of trees for commercial purposes on all non-federal timberland in California, and included in these regulations is the removal of naturally occurring commercial tree species from forested lots, areas of pending new construction, and from around existing structures. In Modoc, Lassen and Plumas Counties "commercial species" includes Ponderosa and Jeffrey Pine, Sugar Pine, Red and White Fir, Douglas fir, and Incense Cedar.

The following most commonly used harvest documents are exempt from the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) preparation and submission requirements, hence why they are called exemptions. It is important to note, however, that whether being conducted under a THP or an exemption, timber operations must be conducted in conformance with the California Forest Practice Rules. These exemptions are free of charge from CAL FIRE and are submitted to CAL FIRE in Redding for review and approval.

1. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption

This exemption is required for property owners who intend to remove trees for land uses other than the growing of commercial tree species. This applies to those who plan to remove trees for the construction of residences, driveways, outbuildings, septic systems, solar panels, vineyards, orchards, and gardens in preparation for such development. **This exemption is required whether or not the trees are sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded.** This exemption must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester and timber operations must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator. Building contractors are ineligible to perform this work unless they are a Licensed Timber Operator. CAL FIRE has up to 15 days to approve the exemption and once approved the exemption is valid for 1 year.

2. Structure Protection Exemption

This exemption is required only if the wood is to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded, and is required for the removal of selected trees located within 300 feet from an existing legally permitted structure. Registered Professional Forester (RPF) services are required if trees are going to be removed within 150-300 feet from the structure, but not required if tree removal stays within 150 feet of the structure. A Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be listed on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities including the treatment of logging slash created by timber operations. Clearcutting is not allowed and the post-harvest stand shall be composed of healthy and vigorous dominant and codominant trees. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the exemption and once approved the exemption is valid for 1 year.

3. Christmas Tree; Dead, Dying, Or Diseased; Fuelwood Or Split Products Exemption

This exemption is required only if the wood is to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded, and is required when removing trees that are dead or are obviously dying from insect attack or disease, or when removing fuelwood or other miscellaneous products such as Christmas trees, chips, poles, etc. The harvest cannot exceed 10% of the average volume per acre. Otherwise, a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) is required. Registered Professional Forester services are not required, but a Licensed Timber Operator must be identified on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities including the treatment of logging slash created by timber operations. This exemption is valid for 1 year.

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4. Forest Fire Prevention Exemption

This exemption is required only if the wood is to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded, and is required if the property owner wants to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of vegetative fuels for the purpose of reducing fire rate of spread, duration and intensity, and fuel ignitability. This exemption must be prepared by a Registered Professional Forester and a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) must be identified on the exemption. The LTO is responsible for all logging activities including the treatment of logging slash created by timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the exemption and once approved the exemption is valid for 1 year.

5. Drought Mortality Exemption

This exemption is required only if the wood is to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or traded, and is required when the property owner wants to remove dead and dying trees from their property in amounts greater than 10% of the average volume per acre. The service of a Registered Professional Forester is required if the trees are not currently dead, and if the project is greater than 20 acres in size. A Licensed Timber Operator must be listed on the exemption and is responsible for all logging activities including the treatment of logging slash created by timber operations. CAL FIRE has up to 5 days to approve the exemption and once approved the exemption is valid for 1 year.

Specific terms and conditions apply to exemptions, including logging debris clean-up requirements and protection of wildlife, archaeological sites, water quality, and other natural resources. Before hiring a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO), be sure to ask the LTO for proof of valid insurance or call CAL FIRE LTO Licensing at (916) 653-7211. A state filing fee is not imposed for the five forms, however, the person listed on the form as the Timber Owner will be required to pay a post-harvest yield tax, based on the board foot volume of timber removed from the parcel, to the State Board of Equalization. Small amounts of timber may be exempt from yield tax. A complete listing of these and other CAL FIRE forms and information can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/ResourceManagement/HarvestingForms.asp>

A local CAL FIRE licensed forester is available to assist landowners through the exemption process. For Lassen and Modoc County areas contact CAL FIRE Unit Forester Ivan Houser at 530-257-4171 or Modoc Area Forester Don Schroeder at 530-294-5110. For all areas of Plumas County except that portion located due East of Stirling City administered by the Butte Unit, contact CAL FIRE Lassen Modoc Unit Forester, Ivan Houser.

Below is an incomplete listing of Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) that conduct forestry and timber harvesting operations within Lassen, Modoc and Plumas Counties. The listing does not imply endorsement of any business nor their capability. Be sure to ask the LTO to show proof of valid liability insurance if required (see below) and both the LTO and RPF proof of a valid license.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS

<u>Company or Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>License #</u>
James Marty	283-0630	Quincy	1840
Danielle Bradfield	927-7095	Cromberg	2808
Rachael Norton	283-7206	Clio	3050
Don Hansen	596-3481	Hamilton Branch	974
Phil Nemir	257-2294	Susanville	1666
Bill Banka	832-5123	Portola	1999
Peter Sundahl	534-5229	Oroville	2861
Terry Rogers	877-1196	Paradise	2537
Lee Hunt	894-6827	Chico	2189
Michael Goodner	335-5486	Burney	2178
Mark Shafer	260-3705	Susanville	2485

LICENSED TIMBER OPERATORS

The following are “A” Licensed Timber Operators. One million dollar liability insurance required; all types solid wood forest products allowed for commercial cutting and/or removal.

Shaun Lemnah	283-2727	Quincy	A9577
Steve Gordon	258-9354	Quincy	A1303
Clint Pearson	394-8157	Quincy	A10663
Jim West	283-1172	Quincy	A10113
Stoy Logging Company	284-1024	Greenville	A10377
D.C. Construction	284-6779	Greenville	A9301
J&C Enterprises	258-1667	Taylorsville	A11058
Wesly Hardy	836-0983	Graeagle	A9875
Folchi Logging & Construction	832-5214	Portola	A8689
Westwood Logging CO.	310-1161	Westwood	A7213
Holt Logging	256-3104	Westwood	A40
Clint Tissot	816-0994	Chester	A11146
Tantardino Logging Inc.	596-4539	Lake Almanor	A1319
Almanor Tree Removal	249-1303	Lake Almanor	A8750
Almanor Tree Service	596-4111	Lake Almanor	A9729
Preferred Tree Service	258-1669	Lake Almanor	A11027
Turner Excavating, Inc.	596-3953	Lake Almanor	A11122
Michael Corliss	589-4029	Forbestown	A107

The following are Limited (“B”) Licensed Timber Operators. One million dollar liability insurance not required; NOT allowed to commercially cut and/or remove sawlogs, veneer logs, poles, piling, and pulp logs. Commercial cutting and/or removal of the following minor forest products only is allowed: fuelwood, posts and split products, root crown burls, tanbark, and Christmas trees.

Ken Roper	283-2078	Quincy	B10954
Claude Sanders	836-1923	Cromberg	B2728
Kim Kalbaugh	836-2507	Blairsdon	B10534
Curtis Hartwig	836-0393	Clio	B2875
Mike Smith	993-1352	Chilcoot	B10622
Woods Fire & Emergency, Inc.	832-5577	Portola	B10434
Alberto's Firewood	258-7598	Portola	B11190
Pedro Benuto Contracting	775-772-4946	Portola	B10047
Mark Shafer	260-3705	Susanville	B7052

A complete listing of Licensed Timber Operators can be found at the following link:

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestpractice_itos

A more complete listing of Consulting Registered Professional Foresters can be found at the following link:

http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/locate_a_rpf_or_crm_/registered_professional_forester/rpf_consulting_list_01.29.2016.pdf

Glossary – Abbreviations and Definitions

PRC – Public Resources Code

CCR – California Code of Regulations

PRC 4526. Timberland. "Timberland" means land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis.

PRC 4526.5. Timber operator. "Timber operator" means a person who is engaged in timber operations or who contracts with others to conduct the operations on his or her behalf, except a person who is engaged in timber operations as an employee with wages as his or her sole compensation.

PRC 4527. Timber operations.

(a) (1) "Timber operations" means the cutting or removal, or both, of timber or other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the incidental work, including, but not limited to, construction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, firebreaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, and beds for the falling of trees, fire hazard abatement, and site preparation that involves disturbance of soil or burning of vegetation following timber harvesting activities, but excluding preparatory work such as treemarking, surveying, or roadflagging.

(2) "Commercial purposes" includes (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 that are subject to the provisions of Section 4621, including, but not limited to, residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects.

CCR 895.1 Commercial Species (For the Northern Forest District:) means those species found in group A and those in group B that are found on lands where the species in group A are now growing naturally or have grown naturally in the recorded past.

Group A:

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| -sugar pine (<i>Pinus lambertiana</i>) | -white fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>) |
| -coast redwood (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>) | -California red fir (<i>Abies magnifica</i>) |
| -ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>) | -noble fir (<i>Abies procera</i>) |
| -Jeffrey pine (<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>) | -Douglas-fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) |
| -western white pine (<i>Pinus monticola</i>) | -incense cedar (<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>) |
| -lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>) | -Port Orford cedar (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>) |

Group B:

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| -knobcone pine (<i>Pinus attenuata</i>) | -Sierra redwood (<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>) |
| -gray pine (<i>Pinus sabiniana</i>) | -golden chinkapin (<i>Castanopsis chrysophylla</i>) |
| -California black oak (<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>) | -foxtail pine (<i>Pinus balfouriana</i>) |
| -Oregon white oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) | -white alder (<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>) |
| -tanoak (<i>Notholithocarpus densiflorus</i>) | -Monterey pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>) |
| -mountain hemlock (<i>Tsuga mertensiana</i>) | -Pacific madrone (<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>) |
| -Brewer spruce (<i>Picea breweriana</i>) | -California laurel (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>) |
| -Englemann spruce (<i>Picea englemanni</i>) | -western juniper (<i>Juniperus occidentalis</i>) |