

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION****Tehama-Glenn Unit, (TGU)**

604 Antelope Blvd. | Red Bluff, CA 96080

(530) 528-5199

Website: www.fire.ca.gov

SUBJECT: CAL FIRE Harvest and Conversion (of Timberland) Documents for your Project

Dear Resident of Tehama and Glenn Counties,

This document was created to help landowners understand when they need to obtain a harvest document or Less-than-3-Acre Conversion Exemption from CAL FIRE, prior to building in timberland areas. The following Public Resource Codes (PRCs) can be found in the California Forest Practice Rules, (Title 14, California Code of Regulations).

If you plan to cut or remove, or both, timber for the purpose of sale, barter, exchange, or trade or for the conversion of timberland to land uses other than the growing of timber, you will need a State approved Timber Harvest Plan (Harvest Document such as, THP, Exemption, Emergency Notice, or Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan) as per PRC 4581.

“PRC 4581. Necessity of timber harvesting plan

No person shall conduct timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted for such operations to the department pursuant to this article. Such plan shall be required in addition to the license required in Section 4571.”

The cutting or removal, or both, of timber for commercial purposes must be performed by a License Timber Operator (LTO) as per PRC 4571(a). Commercial purposes are defined in PRC 4527.

“PRC 4571. Necessity of license.

(a) No person shall engage in timber operations until he (/she) has obtained a license from the board (Board of Forestry).”

“PRC 4527. Timber operations; commercial purposes; criteria.

(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 tree marking, surveying, or road flagging.

(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."

Information regarding LTO's may be obtained by visiting the CAL FIRE website at:
<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/forest-practice/licensed-timber-operators>

If your project involves the conversion of timberland to land uses other than the growing of timber, the property owner shall file an application for conversion as required per PRC 4621(a). Property owners may be eligible for a Conversion Exemption per Title 14, California Code of Regulations (14 CCR) 1104.1 if they meet specified criteria. Examples of conversion activities include, but are not limited to, residential or commercial developments, production of other agricultural crops, recreational developments, ski developments, water development projects, and transportation projects.

"PRC 4621. Application for conversion; procedure, form, fees and content to be prescribed.

(a) A person who owns timberlands that are to be devoted to uses other than the growing of timber shall file an application for conversion with the board. The board shall, by regulation, prescribe the procedures for, and the form and content of, the application. An application for a timberland conversion permit shall be accompanied by an application fee, payable to the department, in an amount determined by the board pursuant to subdivision (b).

If you intend to convert timberland to land uses other than the growing of timber, contact a Registered Professional Forester for consultation.

A list of consulting Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) may be viewed at the following location:

<https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/Caltrees/customization/common/rpflicenseList.aspx>

Additional information and the templates for the various timber harvest documents may be obtained by visiting the CAL FIRE website at:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/forest-practice/caltrees/timber-harvesting-forms>

The California Forest Practice Rules can be found on the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection website at:

[Bills Statutes Rules and Annual California Forest Practice Rules | BOF](#)

A CAL FIRE training video has been created detailing some of these same concepts and can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RPb7KfgpkA>

I am available to answer any questions regarding timber harvest, conversion of timberland or related topics.

Thank you,

Geronimo Zuniga

Geronimo Zuniga, RPF 2798
CAL FIRE – TGU Unit Forester
530-528-5122 (office)
530-761-2590 (cell)
geronimo.zuniga@fire.ca.gov

(Updated 9/15/25_gz)

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