

**APPENDIX G
NORTH COAST FUELS MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

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NORTH COAST FUELS MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

1.0 PLAN PARTICIPANTS: Barnum Timber Company, Natural Resource Management Corporation, Simpson Resource Company, Scotia Pacific Holding Company, Sierra Pacific Industries, Western Timber Services Inc. and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF&FP, Humboldt-Del Norte Ranger Unit).

2.0 EFFECTIVE AREA OF PLAN: The Humboldt Bay Air Basin (HBAB). At their discretion, participants will also adhere to provisions of this plan when burning in areas adjacent to the Basin when such burns might directly affect communities within the Basin.

3.0 EFFECTIVE DATES:

Objectives: To minimize the impact of smoke from slash burns on communities in the Humboldt Bay Air Basin, while assuring:

3.1 Adequate preparation of timber harvest areas for planting of conifer seedlings to insure future timber crops and meet reforestation standards mandated by state law.

3.2 Effective reduction of the wildfire hazard and attendant risk to public safety resulting from accumulations of woody debris following timber harvesting.

4.0 PROCEDURES

4.1 Forecast information will be requested from appropriate agencies during periods of time when significant burning activity will take place. On the morning of any planned burn that is close to communities within the HBAB, cooperators will call the Air Resource Board duty meteorologist and/or the National Weather Service to obtain and update on forecast smoke dispersal conditions.

4.2 As a further check on local wind conditions, Cooperators should release a helium balloon prior to ignition of any burns that are within 5 miles of any communities in the HBAB, or light a small test fire that can be safely contained or extinguished if smoke dispersal from this fire indicates that conditions are not suitable for continued ignition.

- 4.2.1 Construct an information base.** Cooperators will meet during August to map fall burn locations, and will assign an ID number to each burn.
- 4.2.2 Provide public notification.** Cooperators will inform appropriate local radio stations of the general location of any burns near communities within the HBAB so that this information can be broadcast on the morning of the burn.
- 4.2.3 Cooperators will individually notify the Air Pollution Control Officer of the location of all burning activity**
- 4.2.4 Adjust timing of burns and method of ignition to minimize smoke impacts and fire control problems**

4.2.4.1 Burning will be avoided, especially where sensitive areas (e.g. communities, parks, public roads) could be impacted, when a combination of negative conditions exist. These negative conditions include, but are not limited to:

- 4.2.4.1.1** Forecast nighttime low temperatures that are likely to result in surface inversions.
 - 4.2.4.1.2** Close proximity to sensitive areas.
 - 4.2.4.1.3** Unfavorable direction of surface/transport winds.
 - 4.2.4.1.4** High inversion temperature potential, as indicated by that morning's temperature sounding flight data.
 - 4.2.4.1.5** A high likelihood of fuel smoldering, based on the size of fuel to be ignited and an assessment of fuel moisture conditions.
 - 4.2.4.1.6** Poor dispersal conditions predicted for the following day(s).
- 4.2.4.2** Every reasonable effort will be made to ignite burns as early as possible in the day to take advantage of mid-day atmospheric mixing. No burns will be initiated after 2pm unless prior consultation has occurred with the Air Quality Management District staff.
- 4.2.4.3** Where conditions allow, burning in the spring will be favored over burning in the fall.
- 4.2.4.4** Use of more effective ignition techniques, such as the heli-torch or other systems currently under development, will be favored so that more rapid ignition can occur and smoldering time can therefore be decreased.

5.0 EDUCATION FOR PLAN PARTICIPANTS

- 5.1** Additional training will be requested from appropriate providers regarding interpretation of meteorological data, especially as it related to fire weather and smoke management.
- 5.2** Alternatives to burning that have the potential of economically achieving the objectives of this plan will be pursued.
- 5.3** Due to their proximity to major population centers and the potential for down-slope smoke movement resulting from evening temperature inversions, Simpson Timber Company will not burn in its McKinleyville, Arcata Bay or Fortuna tracts in the fall unless the Air Pollution Control Officer agrees that conditions are appropriate to do so.