

Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for
Nonpoint Source Discharges and Other
Controllable Water Quality Factors Related to
Timber Harvesting and Associated Activities
Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company,
LLC in the Upper Elk River Watershed
(Order No. R1-2016-0004)

Item No. 6 April 7, 2016

Jim Burke



Presentation Outline

- ❖ Status update and overview
- ❖ Public comments and responses
- ❖ Revisions to proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
- ❖ Questions and public comments

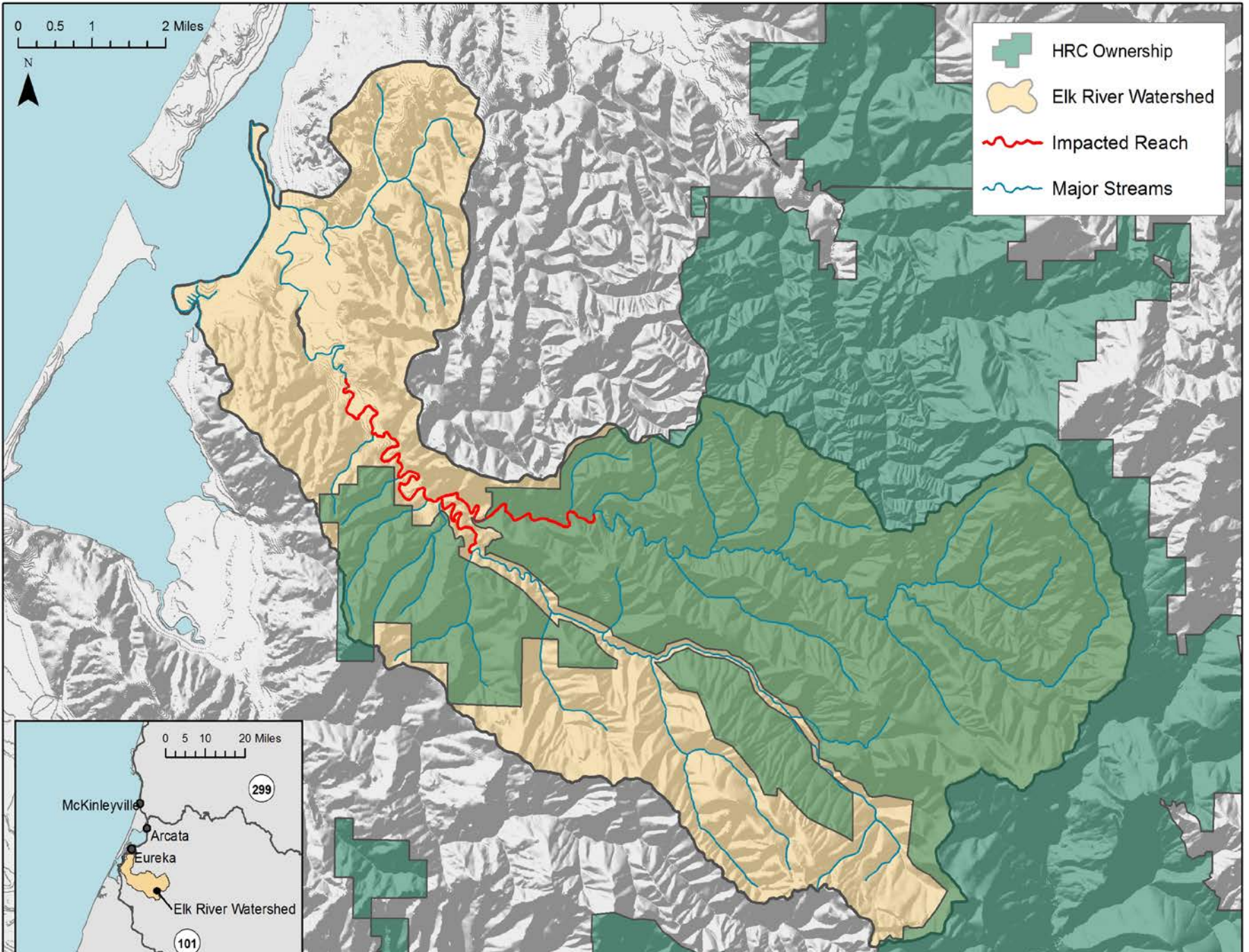
Timeline

- ❖ November 18, 2015 – Board workshop
- ❖ December 4, 2015 – Begin public comment period for Draft WDRs and Mitigated Negative Declaration
- ❖ January 19, 2016 – Close of public comment period
- ❖ March 23, 2016 – Release of proposed Order for public review

Overview





- ❖ Establishes enforceable provision to implement water quality requirements
- ❖ The proposed WDRs replace HRC's existing Elk River WDR and Cleanup and Abatement Orders
- ❖ Relies largely on HRC's Report of Waste Discharge





0 0.5 1 2 Miles



-  HRC Ownership
-  Elk River Watershed
-  Impacted Reach
-  Major Streams

0 5 10 20 Miles

McKinleyville
Arcata
Eureka
Elk River Watershed

299
101

Overview

- ❖ Identify and treat existing sediment source
- ❖ Prevent creation of new sources
- ❖ Monitoring and reporting

WDR Requirements

- ❖ Harvest limits
- ❖ Temporary harvest prohibition in high risk subwatersheds
- ❖ Enhanced riparian management zones (RMZ)
- ❖ Feasibility study to control in-stream sediment sources
- ❖ 5-year check-in with Board



Summary of Comments

- ❖ Written comments by twenty individuals
- ❖ Commenters opinion generally split:
 - Permit is too lenient
 - Permit is too stringent

Adequacy of the ROWD

- ❖ Net reduction in sediment over existing conditions
- ❖ Need water quality protection above that provided by ROWD
- ❖ Alternative methods of compliance

Other Comments

- ❖ RWB decisions cause and harm to residents and beneficial uses
- ❖ Prohibition applies to South Fork Elk subwatersheds

Revisions

- ❖ Riparian protection
- ❖ Removed expanded Class I RMZ
- ❖ Revised RMZ tree retention requirements to percent canopy:
 - 60% for Class II
 - 70% for Class III

Other Revisions

- ❖ Temporary prohibition
 - Removed limited lifting
 - Clarified lifting of prohibition subject to public comment and Regional Board decision
 - Allowing exception for Railroad Gulch study
- ❖ Wet weather requirement changed to precipitation threshold

Summary

- ❖ Relies where possible on:
 - HCP prescriptions
 - FPRs that provide water quality protection
- ❖ Balance between stringent control measures and HRC's management objectives
- ❖ 5-year check-in


Staff recommendation:

Adopt proposed Order No. R1-2016-0004



Thank You



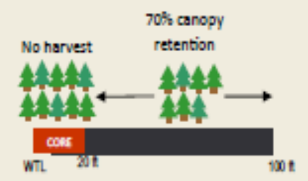
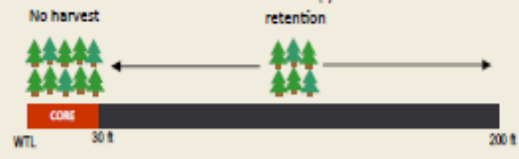
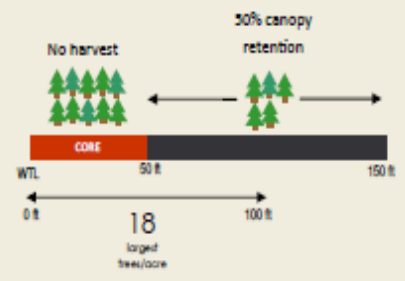
 = 10% canopy retention

CLASS I

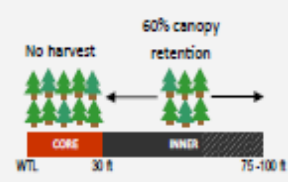
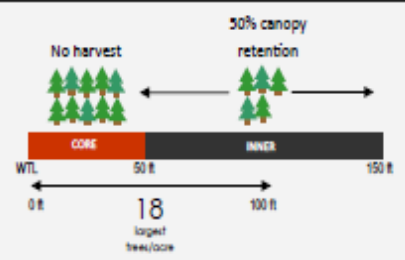
CLASS II

CLASS III

PROPOSED WDR RIPARIAN REQUIREMENTS

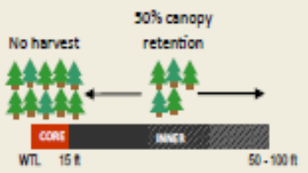
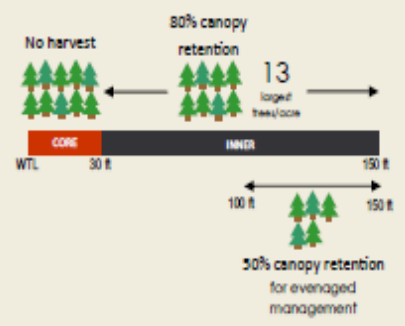


HUMBOLDT REDWOOD COMPANY ELK RIVER ROWD SEPTEMBER 2015



- Retain trees ≤ 8 in dbh within 15 ft of bankfull
-

FOREST PRACTICE RULES 2015 ANADROMOUS SALMONID PROTECTION RULES



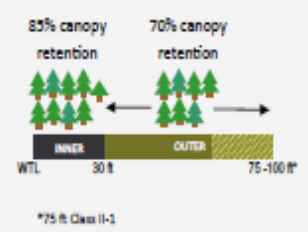
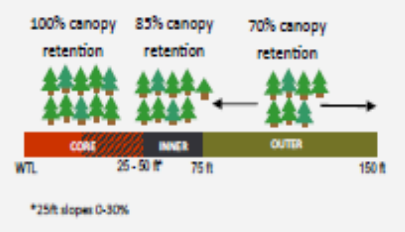
CLASS II-S



CLASS II-L

- Retain channel zone trees
 - Retain large trees stabilizing sediment
 - Retain hardwoods, where feasible
-

GREEN DIAMOND RESOURCE COMPANY Elk River/ Salmon Creek Management Plan



*75 ft Class II-1

- Tier A (slopes <math><30\%</math>)**
 - Retain channel zone trees
 - Retain 15 sq ft of basal area hardwoods per acre
- Tier B (slopes <math><30\%</math>)**
 - Retain channel zone trees
 - Retain one conifer ≥ 15 in dbh per 30 ft of stream length