

**Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region**  
**Waiver Application & Certification**  
**Conditional Waiver for Timber Harvest Activities on National Forest System lands**  
*Please type or print clearly in ink (see instructions for completion)*

**1. National Forest:**

**2. Ranger District:**

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**3. Timber Harvest Activities Information:**

Project Name:		
Project Location (County, Calwater watershed, Section, Township and Range):		
Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report Title and Date:		
Project Size (approx. acres):	Waterbodies affected:	
Project Description (attach additional pages if needed):		
Contact Person:	Phone:	E-mail:
Supervisor:	Phone:	E-mail:

**4. Pre-Project Certification. (For those projects which the Regional Water Board has notified USFS in writing that the Regional Board does not want copies of draft and final environmental documents, complete this section & submit with USFS decision document prior to project implementation. Note: The decision document must contain the required information or that information must be attached. See Instructions, Category-Specific Condition “a” for more info.):**

I, the Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, or duly authorized representative, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the above timber harvesting activities will be conducted in conformance with all applicable provisions of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Resolution No. R6T-2003-0001 including all general conditions (cited in the Instructions) and the category-specific criteria and conditions (listed in the Instructions), and that discharges resulting from the above-referenced project are expected to comply with all requirements of applicable water quality control plans.	
Name (print or type):	Title (print or type):
Signature:	Date:

**5. Post-Project Certification (complete and submit after project completion):**

I, the Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, or duly authorized representative, hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the above timber harvesting activities were conducted in conformance with all applicable provisions of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Resolution No. R6T-2003-0001 including all general conditions (cited in Instructions) and the category-specific criteria and conditions (listed in Instructions), and that discharges resulting from the above activities were in compliance with and are expected to comply with all requirements of applicable water quality control plans.	
Name (print or type):	Title (print or type):
Signature:	Date:

## **Instructions for Completing Waiver Application Form for USFS Timber Harvest Activities**

The Regional Board, in Resolution No. R6T-2003-0001, adopted the “Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges Related to Timber Harvest Activities.” Subject to the conditions set forth in Attachment A of Resolution No. R6T-2003-0001 (“Waiver”), the Regional Board waives the requirements to submit a report of waste discharge and obtain waste discharge requirements for timber harvest activities (existing or proposed) that meet specified eligibility criteria and conditions. *No fee is currently required to apply for or receive a categorical waiver from the Regional Board for timber harvest activities.*

To be eligible for coverage under this waiver category, a project must meet the definition of timber harvest activities, and must comply with all of the applicable eligibility criteria and conditions. (Projects not directly connected to a specific timber harvest activity are not eligible.)

### **DEFINITION**

“Timber Harvest Activities” means all activities on timberland relating to timber harvesting, including the cutting or removal of both of timber and other solid wood forest products, including Christmas trees, from timberlands for commercial purposes, together with all the work incidental thereto, including, but not limited to, construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads, fuel breaks, firebreaks, stream crossings, landings, skid trails, or beds for the falling of trees; fire hazard abatement; site preparation that involves disturbance of soil or burning of vegetation following timber harvesting activities; and herbicide application; but excluding preparatory treemarking, surveying or roadflagging. Also included in this definition are silvicultural activities performed by the USFS using its own crews, volunteers, inmate crews, etc., and/or service contracts, without regard to whether timber is to be sold for commercial purposes. “Commercial purposes” includes the cutting or removal of trees which are processed into logs, lumber, or other wood products and offered for sale, barter, exchange, or trade, or 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.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR WAIVER CATEGORY #5 (i.e., USFS TIMBER HARVEST ACTIVITIES):**

- a. The USFS has conducted a multi-disciplinary review of the timber harvest proposal, including review by watershed specialists, and has specified best management practices (BMPs), and additional control measures as needed, in order to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans.
- b. The USFS has conducted a cumulative watershed effects analysis and included specific measures needed to reduce the potential for CWEs in order to assure compliance with applicable water quality control plans.

### **CATEGORY-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO WAIVER CATEGORY #5 (i.e., USFS TIMBER HARVEST ACTIVITIES):**

- a. Early in the planning process, the USFS is to submit to the Regional Board a description of the project (i.e., page 1 of the Application with additional pages as needed). The USFS shall also submit to the Regional Board copies of all draft and final environmental and decision documents prepared pursuant to NEPA, and any other decision documents that contain information documenting compliance with the eligibility criteria “a” and “b” listed above, unless Regional Board staff notifies the USFS in writing that such planning documents are not needed for a specific project. When Regional Board staff, based on its review of the project description, determines that environmental documents for a specific project need not be submitted, the USFS shall provide a certification notice signed by the Forest Supervisor or a duly authorized representative briefly documenting how the USFS complied with the eligibility criteria “a” and “b” above (see instructions for Box #3), and certifying that the USFS intends to comply with all applicable conditions.
- b. The USFS shall submit and comply with a monitoring program prior to commencement of timber harvest activities when: (1) the USFS’s cumulative watershed effects analysis indicates that the project may cause any

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watershed or sub-watershed to exceed a threshold of concern as determined by various models (i.e., Equivalent Roded Acres (ERA), Surface Erosion (USLE), Mass Wasting (GEO), etc.); or (2) the cumulative watershed effects analysis indicates that the project may increase risk values, as determined by various models (Equivalent Roded Acres (ERA), Surface Erosion (USLE), Mass Wasting (GEO), etc.), in any watershed or subwatershed that already exceeds a threshold of concern prior to project implementation. The Executive Officer retains the discretion to waive this requirement, or to impose monitoring requirements, as appropriate.

- c. The USFS shall comply with all seven of the General Conditions specified in the Regional Board's Waiver Policy. See Attachment A to Resolution R6T-2003-0001, pp. 3-4, Sec (I)(B)(1-7) at:  
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/WDRs/Waiver\\_Attachment\\_A.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/WDRs/Waiver_Attachment_A.pdf)
- d. The USFS shall submit to the Regional Board, forthwith upon completion of timber harvest activities, a final certification signed by the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger or their duly authorized representative, certifying that: (1) the timber harvest activities were conducted in conformance with all applicable provisions of this waiver, and (2) discharges resulting from the timber harvest activities were in compliance and are expected to comply with all requirements of applicable water quality control plans.

**Instructions for Completing & Submitting Page 1**

**Box #1:** Print or type name of national forest(s) proposing the project.

**Box #2:** Print or type name(s) of ranger district(s) proposing the project.

**Box #3:** Insert in spaces provided the project name, location, size, Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement title and date, watershed/waterbody affected, contact person, etc., and a brief narrative description of the project's intent, magnitude, methods, timing, proximity to watercourses, BMPs to be used, etc. Provide enough information for Regional Board staff to understand the type and magnitude of the project. The information should be similar in detail to that typically used in a 1-2 page scoping letter. Please identify whether any of the following exist in the project area or within one mile downstream: fish-bearing streams, domestic water supplies, wetland or aquatic habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.

Submit completed page 1 of the form early in the planning process (i.e., during scoping). Keep a copy for your records. If you do not hear back from the Regional Board, then provide all environmental and decision documents to the Regional Board for this project. If the Regional Board comments in writing that it does not require the environmental documents, send only the decision document(s). If the decision document contains the info required by Category-Specific Condition "a" (above) then you need only submit the decision document with the required certification. However, if the decision document does not contain the info required by Category-Specific Condition "a," then that info must be attached to the Application.

**Instructions for Completing & Submitting Page 2**

**Box #4:** For projects which the Regional Board has elected not to receive environmental documents, upon issuance of the decision document: (1) make a copy of the Application sent to the Regional Board during scoping (i.e., with sections 1-3 completed); (2) complete section #4; and (3) send the Application with completed sections 1-4 to the Regional Board along with a copy of the decision document(s) for your project. The Waiver is effective upon receipt of these materials by the Regional Board.

**Box #5:** For all projects, upon project completion, make a copy of the Application submitted previously, complete section #5, and submit the form (with sections 1-5 completed) to the Regional Board.

Send to: **Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Attn: USFS Timber Harvest Waiver  
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

For more info, contact Regional Board staff at **(530) 542-5400**, or see:  
[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/WDRs/Timber\\_WDR\\_Index.htm](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/WDRs/Timber_WDR_Index.htm)