

**Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch**  
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**[www.epfw.org](http://www.epfw.org)**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**Source: Addie Jacobson, 209-728-1140**

## **Timber Harvest Plans for Proposed Large Scale Logging now available online and in local libraries.**

Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch (EPFW) is making it easier for citizens to access two new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) submitted by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) to the California Department of Forestry (CAL FIRE). Typically exceeding 100 pages in length, these documents have formerly only been available by ordering copies from CAL FIRE for a fee of ten cents per page. Now the THPs can be downloaded from EPFW's web site ([www.epfw.org](http://www.epfw.org)) or accessed through local libraries. EPFW is placing a printed copy of the THPs at the Arnold Library along with CDs of the THPs in each Calaveras Library for citizens to review.

### **The two THPs comprise nearly 2,000 acres of forestland.**

If approved, the **South Rim THP** would allow SPI to log 1,769 acres within the Lower Panther Creek watershed in the Mokelumne River drainage. Spanning both Amador and Calaveras Counties, the proposed harvest area is located approximately four miles east of West Point. It includes 231 acres of clearcuts and much of the rest would be logged by a method called shelterwood removal, which removes the mature, larger trees that provide shade to trees in the understory. SPI has typically implemented the shelterwood removal method to generate even-aged timber stands by removing large trees in a series of cuts over a period of time to encourage tree reproduction in the stand resulting in trees are of similar age and size in a stand. SPI is proposing to conduct cable yarding and helicopter logging as part of this THP.

In the **SPUR 11 THP**, SPI proposes to log 214 acres adjacent to Blue Creek, approximately 1½ miles east of the CDF Fire Station at Hermit Springs and about 17 miles east of West Point. The majority of the area would be clearcut, resulting in more tree plantations in the greater Mokelumne River watershed.

If approved, SPI plans to complete these timber harvests within the next 5 years. To see the effects of previously approved THPs in our area view aerial photographs at [www.epfw.org](http://www.epfw.org).

The public is invited to submit comments to CAL FIRE on these proposed THPs. Comments may address any areas of concern including, among others, water or wildlife effects of the logging, cumulative impacts resulting from the harvest, aesthetic damage, or landslide potential from logging on steep lands. EPFW urges members of the public familiar with the areas proposed for harvest to contact EPFW, California Department of Fish and Game, and CAL FIRE with information about the presence in these areas of endangered, threatened, sensitive or unique plants, birds, animals or other resources such as Native American artifacts.

The official 30-day public comment period will likely begin in May. Due to the timeframe for comments, it is important to begin plan review and get comments ready for submittal.

EPFW will post its comments on these two THPs on the EPFW website along with any responses received from CAL FIRE. As well, the public is invited to submit their plan comments to [epfw@goldrush.com](mailto:epfw@goldrush.com) for posting.