



SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

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Sierra Pacific Industries Policy for Implementation of 2022 SFI Standard for “Special Sites” and “Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value”

Background: Under the 2022 SFI Standard, Principle 6 states that participants are required “To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically, or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.” Performance measure 6.1 states that Program Participants shall “identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.”

Indicators include: Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting *special sites* for protection; and appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites*. The Standard does not require a “survey” before management can take place. Program Participants should take the “reasonable man” approach where information or evidence suggests a more detailed review of a specific area is warranted

Sierra Pacific will address “special sites” and “Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value” on company lands as follows:

Special Sites:

In general, special sites are relatively small inclusions in our working forests where special values (and, therefore, special considerations for management) constrain the timber producing capabilities of those sites. These include T&E wildlife sites, buffer zones along streams for T&E fish stocks, sensitive plants and botanical areas, cultural and historical sites, or caves and other unique geological features. As part of our obligation under the California State Forest Practices Act, Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Washington Forest Practices Act, we are responsible for the identification and management of these sites. SPI includes these sites in specified layers of its company-wide GIS database.

FECV-Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value:

Objective four of the Standard requires participants to initiate a “Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Program Participant* management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.”

A FECV is generally a large area with unique ecological, biological, or social qualities that make it potentially a prime candidate for public ownership, not necessarily for the intensive timber

management objectives of a private forestland owner. On SPI's ownership, we have identified these lands and entered negotiations with government and private (not-for-profit) NGOs to adjust our overall land ownership. To date, over 100,000 acres of SPI lands have been transferred to public ownership through various mechanisms. Our goal is to allow privately-held conservation groups, the State, or Federal government to acquire these "higher and better use" lands.

Additionally, it is our intent to take monetary receipts from the sale of these lands and invest that capital in other lands more suited for intensive timber management. In so doing, we can preserve and protect unique lands currently in our ownership with high values to the general public while also assuring our long term viability to produce forest products from our privately held lands.