# Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 4, 2025

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: James Phelps, Senior Planner

Subject: Proposed Zone Change (Z-24-01) Amending Zoning District Map 10-6.205-519 and CEQA Determination

## Background

The project site is located 5 miles southwest of Highway 3 and the community of Callahan; on APN 031-290-010; Township 39N, Range 8W, Section 7, MDB&M; 41.2606, -122.8277.

The project is a proposed zone change for 323 acres from Rural Residential (R-R-B-40) to Timber Production (TPZ) in order to align the site with the historic, existing, and proposed future use of the property for timber production.

On December 18, 2024, the Planning Commission considered the matter and recommended that the Board of Supervisors determine the project exempt from CEQA and approve the proposed Zone Change (Z-24-01).

On February 18, 2025, the first reading of the draft ordinance to reclassify 323 acres from Rural Residential (R-R-B-40) to Timber Production (TPZ) was introduced at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

The second reading of the draft ordinance was scheduled for March 4, 2025.

## Analysis

In 2021, the River Complex Fire burned through the majority of the property, leaving approximately 30 unburned acres along the western boundary. As of 2024, post fire reforestation efforts include 50,220 seedlings planted (155 seedlings per acre), consisting of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, sugar pine, white fir and incense cedar. In 2025, an additional 3,000 riparian hardwoods were also planted, consisting of red alder, black cottonwood, and big leaf maple.

A California Cooperative Forest Management Plan was developed for the property by a Registered Professional Forester, Daniel O. Prielipp (RPF #2827). The Plan shows 80 acres of Site Class III and 243 acres of Site Class IV. The property meets the stocking standards of the forest practice rules (Article 6, Section 1080.1(a)(2)-(3), Stocking Standards for Substantially Damaged Timberlands). Where only dead, down, or dying trees were salvaged logged following the substantial damage, no restocking is required.

## Environmental Review

The proposed project (i.e., zone change to Timberland Production District) is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15264, *Timberland Preserves*. Pursuant to this section, local agencies are exempt from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or negative declaration on the adoption of timberland preserve zones under Government Code Sections 51100 et seq. (Gov. Code Sec 51119).

## Recommended Action

1. Waive the second reading and adopt the draft ordinance reclassifying 323 acres from Rural Residential (R-R-B-40) to Timber Production (TPZ).

## Recommended Motions

I move to take the following actions:

1. Determine the project exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15264; and
2. Waive the second reading of the draft ordinance amending Zoning District Map 10-6.205-519; and
3. Adopt the draft ordinance amending Zoning District Map 10-6.205-519.

## Attachments

1. Draft Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an Ordinance of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, Reclassifying Approximately 323 Acres of Land South and West of Highway 3 and the Community of Callahan, from Rural Residential 40 Acre Minimum (RR-B-40) to Timberland Production District (TPZ) on APN 031-290-010; Township 39N, Range 8W, Section 7, MDB&M; 41.2606, -122.8277.
2. Planning Commission Staff Report – December 18, 2024
3. Signed Resolution of the Planning Commission, PC 2024-028