

Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for
Discharges Related to Green Diamond Resource
Company's Forest Management Activities in the
Upper Elk River Watershed,
Humboldt County
(Order No. R1-2020-0001)

Item No. 4

February 6, 2019

Jim Burke



Presentation Outline

- ❖ Big Picture and Background
- ❖ TMDL Requirements
- ❖ State Board Resolution and Directive
- ❖ Revised Riparian Protection Measures
- ❖ Public Comments and Responses
- ❖ Questions and Answers



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Timeline

- ❖ 1986 – PALCO acquired by MAXXAM
- ❖ 1997 – New Years storm
- ❖ 1998 – Multi-agency determination of cumulative impacts, RWB actions
- ❖ 1999 – Habitat Conservation Plan
– Headwater Forest Deal
- ❖ 2003 – Sensitive Watershed Nomination



Timeline

- ❖ 2006 – RWB adopts first Elk River WDRs
- ❖ 2012 – RWB adopts Green Diamond's Forest Management WDR with South Fork Elk River Management Plan (SFERMP)
- ❖ 2016 – Regional Board adopts TMDL
- ❖ 2017 – State Board, Office of Administrative Law and U.S. EPA approve TMDL

TMDL Program of Implementation

- ❖ Waste Discharge Requirements
- ❖ Elk River Recovery Assessment
- ❖ Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program



TMDL Requirements

- ❖ Roads
- ❖ Harvest related surface erosion and landslides
- ❖ Management related discharge sites
- ❖ Specific Elk River Watershed Indicators:
 - Headward channel incision and bank erosion
 - Peak flow increases
 - Riparian zones
- ❖ Zero Load Allocation

State Board Resolution

❖ State Board Understandings of TMDL Requirements:

- TMDL indicators and targets apply throughout a discharger's ownership
- WDRs must incorporate all TMDL requirements or make findings why indicators/targets omitted
- Anthropogenic sediment discharges must be eliminated or minimized to the extent feasible

❖ Directed the RWB to review WDRs for consistency with TMDL



WDR Revision Process

- ❖ Internal meetings
- ❖ December 2017, EO letter to Green Diamond requesting input on WDRs revision to meet the TMDL
- ❖ Evaluated SFERMP for consistency with TMDL
- ❖ Expanded findings to clarify TMDL compliance



TMDL Riparian Targets

❖ TMDL Riparian zone indicator:

- 300 feet on Class I and II watercourses
- 150 feet on Class III watercourses

❖ TMDL target:

“Improvement in the quality/health of the riparian stand so as to promote 1) delivery of wood to channels, 2) slope stability, and 3) ground cover”

TMDL Targets

- ❖ No increase in the existing drainage network through headward incision in low order channels; and
- ❖ Decreasing length of channel with actively eroding banks

Class I



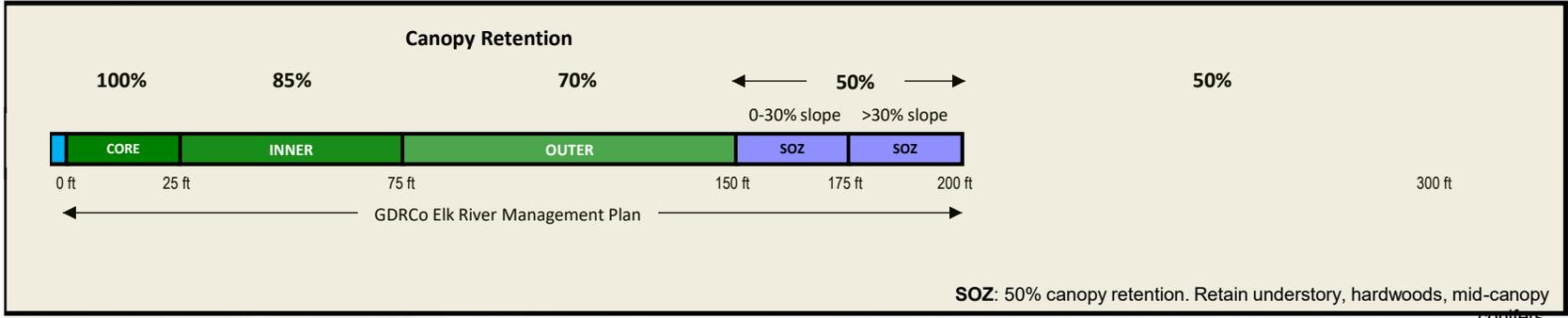
Class II



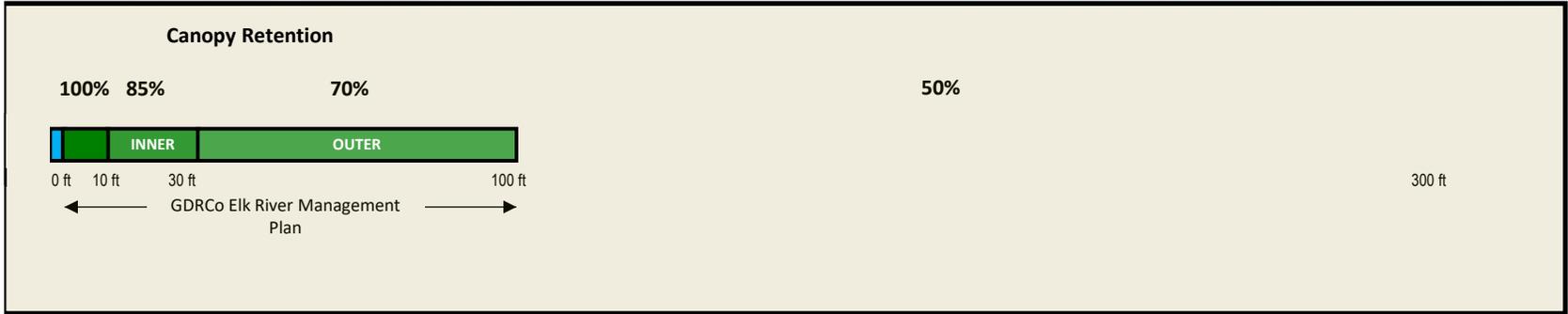
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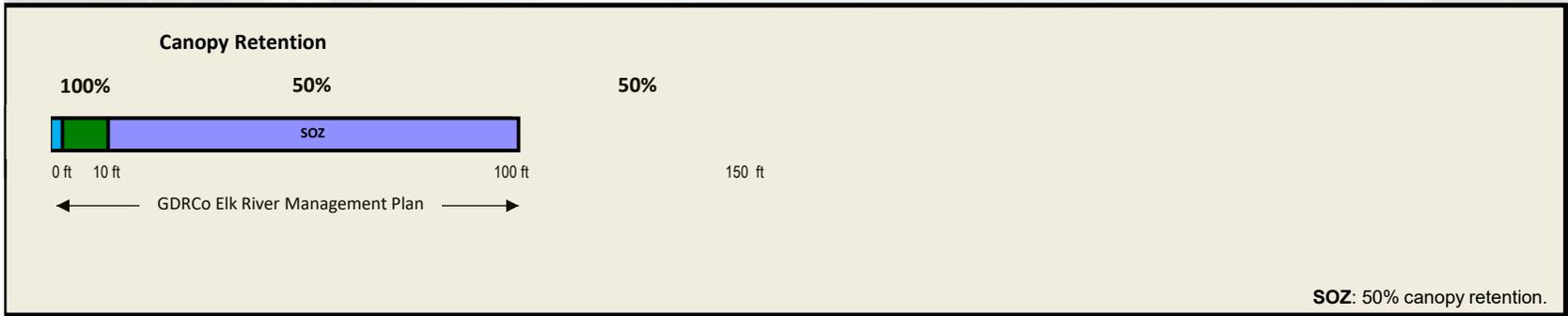
Class I



Class II



Class III



Summary of Comments

- ❖ Comment letters from 5 people/groups
- ❖ Commenters opinion generally split:
 - Permit is too lenient
 - Permit is too stringent

Summary

- ❖ Adaptive management
- ❖ Elk River Management Plan is largely consistent with TMDL
- ❖ The proposed Order complies with the State Water Board's direction
- ❖ The proposed Order fully implements applicable TMDL requirements

Staff Recommendation:

- ❖ Adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2020-0001



Thank You

- ❖ Questions?
- ❖ Comments?



