



*Providing Professional Forestry Services*

PO Box 2517  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

**CELL** 707.834.2990  
**EMAIL** blairforestry@gmail.com

August 26, 2022

County of Humboldt  
Planning and Building Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Humboldt County Planning Department:

The following attached document is an evaluation of an existing, unauthorized timberland conversion which was inspected by Blair Forestry LLC for Overland Road, LLC on APN 217-271-002. Please accept this letter as the Registered Professional Forester's (RPF) written report showing sufficient evidence that the converted area was inspected as required by Humboldt County Code, Ordinance No. 2559 (Commercial Medical Marijuana Land Use), Section 55.4.10(j), sited below.

"Alternately, for existing operations occupying HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA- ORDINANCE NO. 2559 Page 12 of 35 sites created through prior unauthorized conversion of timberland, if the landowner has not completed a civil or criminal process and/or entered into a negotiated settlement with CALFIRE, the applicant shall secure the services of a registered professional forester (RPF) to evaluate site conditions and conversion history for the property and provide a written report to the Planning Division containing the RPF's recommendation as to remedial actions necessary to bring the conversion area into compliance with provisions of the Forest Practices Act. .. "

The RPF has exercised due diligence in inspecting and evaluating the past timber conversion and in making recommendations so that the past conversion falls into compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules (CFPRs), specifically 14 CCR 1104.1.

Sincerely,

Thomas Blair RPF#2607

A blue ink signature that appears to read "Thomas Blair" with a long, sweeping underline.

Enclosed: Conversion Evaluation Report, Photos, General Location Map, Timberland Conversion Evaluation Map, CNDDDB Map

# Timberland Conversion Evaluation Report

August 26, 2022

As mandated by:

Humboldt County Code, Ordinance No. 2599 (Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance for areas outside the Coastal Zone), Section 55.4.12.2.4:

*"All terms of any permit or exemption approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE), including a less-than-3-acre conversion exemption or timberland conversion permit.*

*Where existing or proposed operations occupy sites created through prior unauthorized conversion of timberland, if the landowner has not completed a civil or criminal process and/or entered into a negotiated settlement with CAL-FIRE, the applicant shall secure the services of a registered professional forester (RPF) to evaluate site conditions and conversion history for the property and provide a written report to the Planning Division containing the RPF's recommendation as to remedial actions necessary to bring the conversion area into compliance with provisions of the Forest Practices Act. The Planning Division shall circulate the report to CAL-FIRE for review and comment."*

## Contact Information

1. Timberland Owner(s): **Overland Road, LLC**  
Phone: **(310) 944-4028**
2. Timber Owner(s): **Same as above**
3. Registered Professional Forester (preparing report): **Thomas Blair**  
RPF Number: **2607**  
Address: **Blair Forestry LLC**  
**PO Box 2517**  
**McKinleyville, CA 95519**  
Phone: **(707) 834-2990**

## Location of Project

Legal Description of Ownership:

Address: Alderpoint Rd.

**Blocksburg, CA 95514**

APN: **217-271-002**

**Section 20 of Township 2 South, Range 5 East, HBM**

Parcel Size: **30 acres (Assessed)**

Approximate Post-2015 Unauthorized Converted Acreage: **1.0 acre**

## Project Description

### Property History

Note: Property boundaries are based on the Humboldt County Assessor's APN parcel map and may vary geographically. Assessor's Parcel data in the GIS mapping program differed slightly geographically. The property background has been summarized using personal accounts of current landowners, historic orthographic photography, Humboldt County Web GIS, and CAL FIRE Watershed Mapper v2. This conversion evaluation report will focus on unauthorized conversion activities since 2015.

Review of CAL FIRE Watershed Mapper and available documentation on CALTREES, shows that this parcel is still part of an open Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP), 1-98NTMP-029-HUM. The most recent harvest of the subject parcel under the NTMP was in 2012 (Notice of Timber Operations #13). Subsequently in 2014, an approximate 1.3 acre clearing with greenhouses is evident on the parcel that was presumably used for cultivation. Between 2018 and 2020 approximately 1 additional acre was cleared around the original clearing. Personal communication with the landowner is consistent with these observations.

### Project Description

The current landowner, Overland Road LLC, purchased the property in 2021. The subject portion of the timberland conversion activities assessed under this report (approximately 1.0 acre) took place under previous ownership. Humboldt County Planning and Building Department has requested that an assessment be conducted by a Registered Professional Forester for the tree removal that occurred after 2015. As such, this document will address any remedial actions necessary to bring the Conversion Sites into compliance with provisions of the Forest Practices Act, specifically 14 CCR 1104.1. The landowner intends on maintaining the converted area for a project.

The total acreage of converted timberland on the property is approximately 2.24 acres which is consistent with the total acreage allowed to be converted under a Less Than 3-acre Conversion Exemption (14 CCR 1104.1).

Humboldt County has zoned this parcel **Timber Production Zone (TPZ)** which was established under the Timberlands Preservation Act (California Government Code Section 51113), as a zoning district to designate and set standards in areas designated for growth, harvesting, and production of timber, timber products, and other compatible uses.

A field inspection of the property and conversion area was conducted on August 10, 2022 by representatives of Blair Forestry Consulting LLC. All relevant sites concerning the past conversion areas were examined. Findings from this evaluation are summarized below.

### Timber Stand Description

Timber stands on the parcel and around the conversion area are comprised of 40 to 60-year-old Douglas-fir with a heavy component of tanoak. Douglas-fir diameters were generally from 12 to 18 inches with basal area ranging from 140 to 250 sq. ft. Other species present include madrone, live oak. The general region consists of heavily forested conifer stands dissected with open grassland and true

oak habitats. While it is assumed that mostly Douglas-fir and tanoak were cut during conversion activities, there were no stumps or logs around to assess composition of trees removed accurately.

The property is located within Humboldt County, which is in the Zone of Infestation for Sudden Oak Death (SOD). No symptoms or signs of SOD were observed during evaluation.

## **Analysis of Consistency Between Unauthorized Conversion and Applicable California Forest Practice Rules (CFPRs)**

### **Timber Harvesting and Operations**

*14 CCR 914.1 Felling Practices*

*14 CCR 914.2 Tractor Operations*

*14 CCR 914.7 Timber Operations, Winter Period*

Although there are no documents or records associated with the 1-acre clearing that occurred after 2015, operations most likely involved hand felling with chainsaws and tractor skidding. Topography of the site is ideal for ground-based timber operations as it is a large flat at the edge of a bench and there is a well-established skid road system to the east of the clearing. Stumps were removed from the conversion area prior to grading. Felling practices and tractor operations appear to have been consistent with 14 CCR 914.1 and 914.2.

Although no winter operations plan was proposed prior to operations, ground conditions on site do not indicate that operations were conducted during saturated conditions. The site has been rocked and treated for erosion control and no erosion points were observed. The RPF has no recommendations concerning Timber Harvesting and Operations.

### **Roads, Soil Stabilization and Erosion Control**

*14 CCR Article 12 Logging Roads, Landings, and Logging Road Watercourse Crossings*

*14 CCR 914.6 Waterbreaks*

Historic logging is responsible for the current road system within the subject parcel and roads associated with access to the timberland conversion site. NTMP Maps from 1-98NTMP-029-HUM show the road system on the parcel to have been in place for some time. A short spur was put in to access the conversion area, likely prior to 2015. Through the process of permitting the landowner's current project on this site, erosion control measures for all roads and the conversion area will be implemented and enforced and should adhere minimally to all road work rules described in 14 CCR Article 12.

On site visit, the roads accessing the conversion site were observed to be in excellent condition. Watercourse crossings appeared to have been sized appropriately and recently upgraded. The post-2015 conversion area was heavily rocked and stabilized. Overall, there were no observed inconsistencies with 14 CCR Article 12 concerning erosion control.

The soils, slope and aspect of the conversion area all suitable for the converted uses concerning soil stabilization and erosion control. The RPF has no recommendations concerning soil stabilization and erosion control.

## **Watercourses and Water Resources**

*14CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(F): "No timber operations are allowed within a watercourse and lake protection zone unless specifically approved by local permit (e.g., county, city)."*

All areas around, and adjacent to, the conversion site were inspected for Class I through IV waters. No timber operations were conducted within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) buffers required by Humboldt County or the California Forest Practice Rules. No watercourses or Water Resources were affected by conversion activities.

The conversion area appears to comply with 14 CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(F). No recommendation is suggested regarding Watercourses and Water Resources.

## **Hazard Reduction**

*14 CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(D)(6): "Full slash and woody debris treatment may include any of the following: a. burying; b. chipping and spreading; c. piling and burning; or d. removing slash and woody debris from the site for treatment in compliance with (a)-(b). Slash and woody debris may not be burned by open outdoor fires except under permit from the appropriate fire protection agency, if required, the local air pollution control district or air quality management district. The burning must occur on the property where the slash and woody debris originated."*

The conversion site and the surrounding timber stand was walked and assessed for debris resulting from timberland conversion activities. The conversion sites and surrounding areas were clear of slash and woody debris associated with conversion activities.

The RPF has no recommendations concerning 14 CCR 1104.1(a)(2)(D)(6).

## **Biological Resources**

*14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(H): "No sites of rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals shall be disturbed, threatened or damaged and no timber operations shall occur within the buffer zone of a sensitive species as defined in 14 CCR 895. 1"*

No surveys were conducted on this parcel for Northern Spotted Owls (NSOs) or other potential Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species or Species of Special Concern (RTES or SSC) associated with post-2015 timberland conversion operations. Protocol level surveys are intended to assess potential impact to habitat prior to harvest operations. Without survey information prior to conversion activities, it is impossible to know whether RTES or SSC were historically present or that the conversion activities negatively affected known or unknown occurrences of these species.

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) showed no known sites of RTES or SSC on or around the subject parcel or Conversion Site. Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions under 14 CCR 1104.1 are generally exempt from biological surveys but require that disturbance to any known or discovered sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species (RTES) or species of special concern (SSC) be avoided.

A CNDDDB map showing known occurrences of RTES, including northern spotted owls within 1.3 miles of the conversion area is included at the end of this report. No recorded occurrences of RTES are associated with the conversion area. No recommendation is suggested regarding biological resources.

## **Cultural Resources**

*14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(1): "No timber operations are allowed on significant historical or archeological sites."*

The current landowner states that an archaeological investigation is currently taking place. No evidence of archeological sites were observed during the field evaluation of the conversion area. The landowner claims he has not found any archaeological sites or artifacts in or around the conversion area. The conversion area appears to comply with 14 CCR 1104.1 (2)(1). No recommendation is suggested regarding cultural resources.

## **Summary and Recommendations**

Overall, it is the opinion of the RPF that the post-2015 1.0-acre conversion generally meets the standards set forth in the CFPRs concerning 14 CCR 1104.1. Both the pre-2015 and the post-2015 conversion areas combined (2.3 acres) do not exceed the 2.99 acre maximum allowed using a Less Than 3 Acre Exemption. Overall topography, absence of water resources near the site, and intensive armoring of the conversion site with rock combine to make the site suitable for its converted use. The RPF has no recommendations required to bring the Conversion Sites into compliance with provisions of the Forest Practices Act, specifically 14 CCR 1104.1.

Reforestation is not recommended around permanent structures due to this property being located within a High Fire Severity Zone. The landowner should minimally maintain defensible space around all structures as per PRC 4291.

## **Site Maps**

General Location Map: Shows ownership boundary in proximity to recognizable landmarks and general location of conversion within property boundary.

Timberland Conversion Evaluation Map: Location of timber conversion operations, Boundary of the conversion area, location and classification of watercourses, Observation Sites and roads.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Assessment Area Map: Location of timber conversion in relation to biological resources.

## **Resources**

California Forest Practice Rules 2022. Sacramento: CAL FIRE, 2022. Print.

California Natural Diversity Database. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Web.  
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB>. Version 5.108.157. Accessed August 8, 2022.

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2022. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 08 August 2022].

CalTREES – California Timber Regulation and Environmental Evaluation System.  
<https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees/Default.aspx>. Accessed August 8, 2022.

Forest Practice Watershed Mapper v2. CAL FIRE. Web. [http://egis.fire.ca.gov/watershed\\_mapper/](http://egis.fire.ca.gov/watershed_mapper/).  
Accessed August 8, 2022.

Handbook of North American Indians: volume 8 – California, Robert Heizer - 1978

Humboldt County Web GIS. County of Humboldt. Web. <http://webgis.co.humboldt.ca.us/HCEGIS2.0/>.  
Accessed March 8, 2022.

Google Earth Pro. Accessed August 8, 2022.

Weaver, W.E., Weppner, E.M. and Hagans, D.K., 2015, Handbook for Forest, Ranch and Rural Roads: A Guide for Planning, Designing, Constructing, Reconstructing, Upgrading, Maintaining and Closing Wildland Roads (Rev. 1<sup>st</sup> ed.), Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Ukiah, California.





Photo 1 – Rocked road within conversion site.



Photo 2 – Armored post-2015 conversion site





Photo 3 – Fuels treatment adjacent to post-2015 conversion site.



Photo 4 – Heavy rock layer over post-2015 conversion area.





Photo 5 – Recently upgraded culvert on Class II watercourse approaching access road to project area.













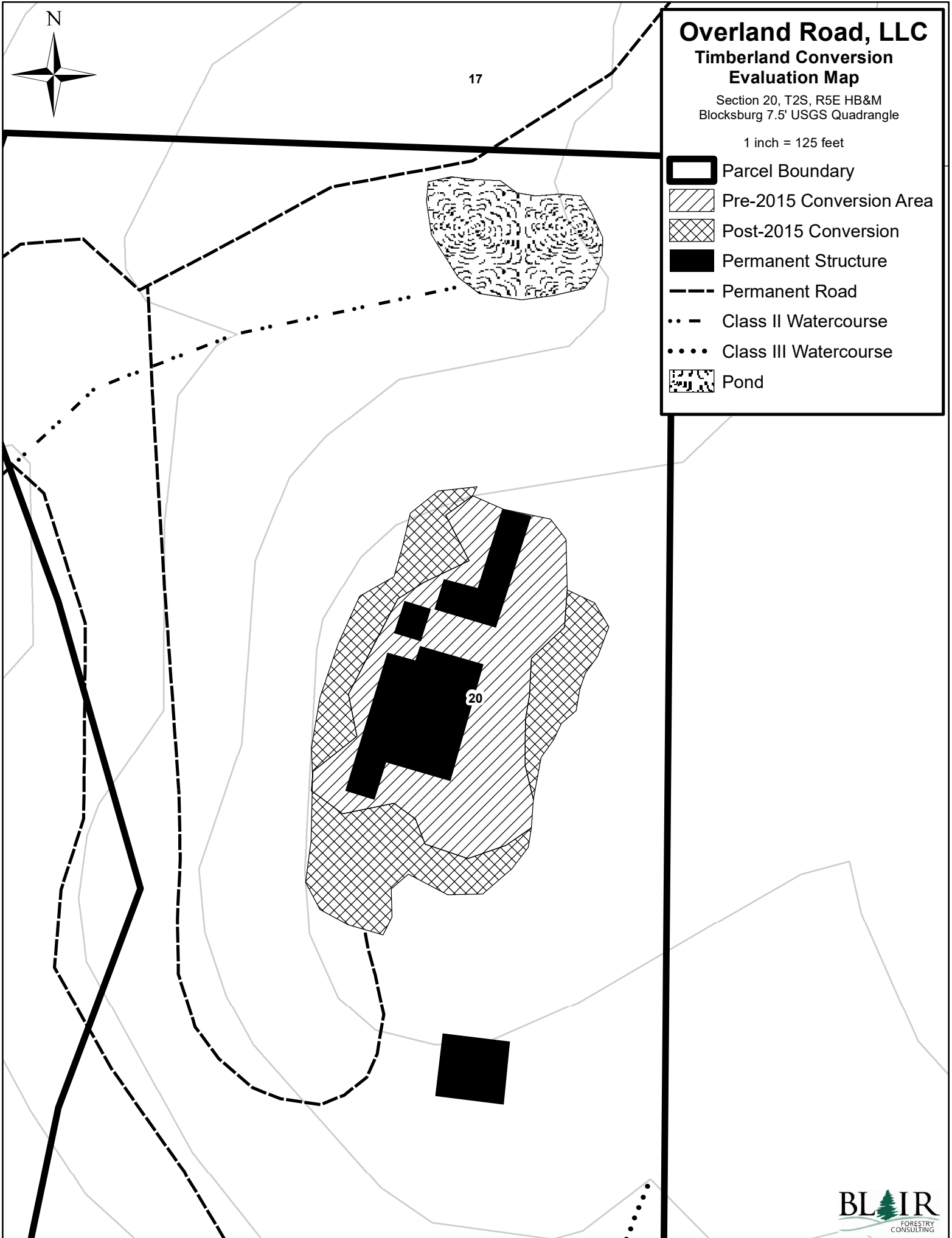


# Overland Road, LLC Timberland Conversion Evaluation Map

Section 20, T2S, R5E HB&M  
Blocksburg 7.5' USGS Quadrangle

1 inch = 125 feet






-  Parcel Boundary
-  Pre-2015 Conversion Area
-  Post-2015 Conversion
-  Permanent Structure
-  Permanent Road
-  Class II Watercourse
-  Class III Watercourse
-  Pond



# Overland Road, LLC CNDDDB Assessment Area Map

Section 20, T2S, R5E HB&M  
Blocksburg 7.5' USGS Quadrangle

1 inch = 2,000 feet

-  Parcel Boundary
-  Post 2015 Conversion
-  1.3-Mile CNDDDB Assessment Area
-  Spotted Owl Activity Center
-  County Road

