

OTHER PUBLIC RESOURCES CODES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Nearly all the authorities in the Public Resources Code are directly or indirectly related to environmental protection. PRC §4111-4135 establishes fire protection authorities that are aimed at protecting the forest, range, and watershed environment. PRC §4111-4446, dealing with fire prevention authorities and regulating the use of fire, is clearly for the protection of the environment.

PRC §4511-4628, the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, are directed specifically to the protection of the forest resources and the forest environment. As a statement of policy, the Legislature declared “. . . that the forest resources and timberlands of the state furnish high quality timber, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic enjoyment while providing watershed protection and maintaining fisheries and wildlife . . . it is the policy of this state to encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need . . .”

The above are but a few examples of the laws mandating broad responsibilities to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) for protection of the environment. It is important to recognize that the basic mission of the CDF has always been directed toward environmental protection.

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