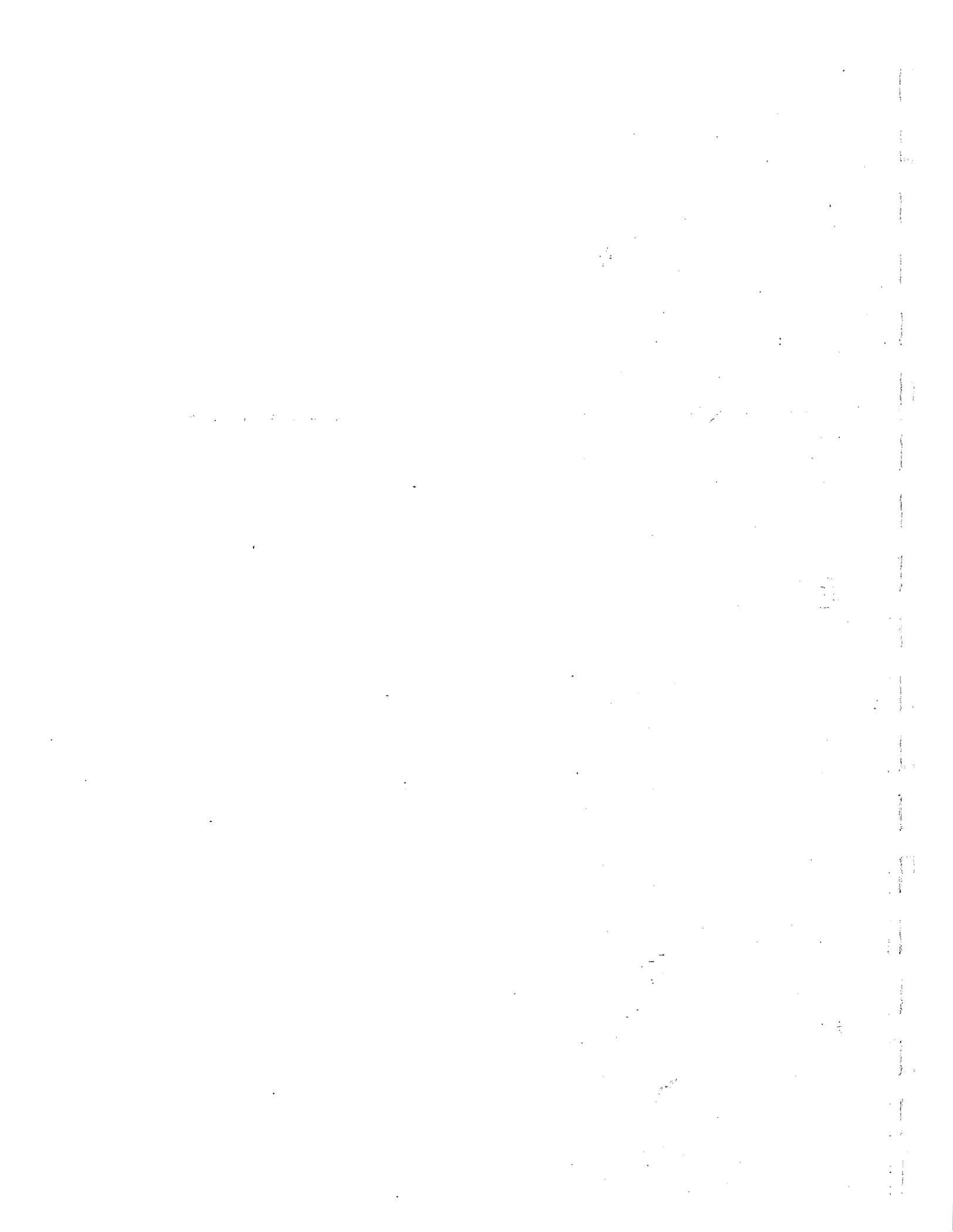


# **APPENDIX H**

## **Treatment Priorities for Landscape Cells**

*on the*

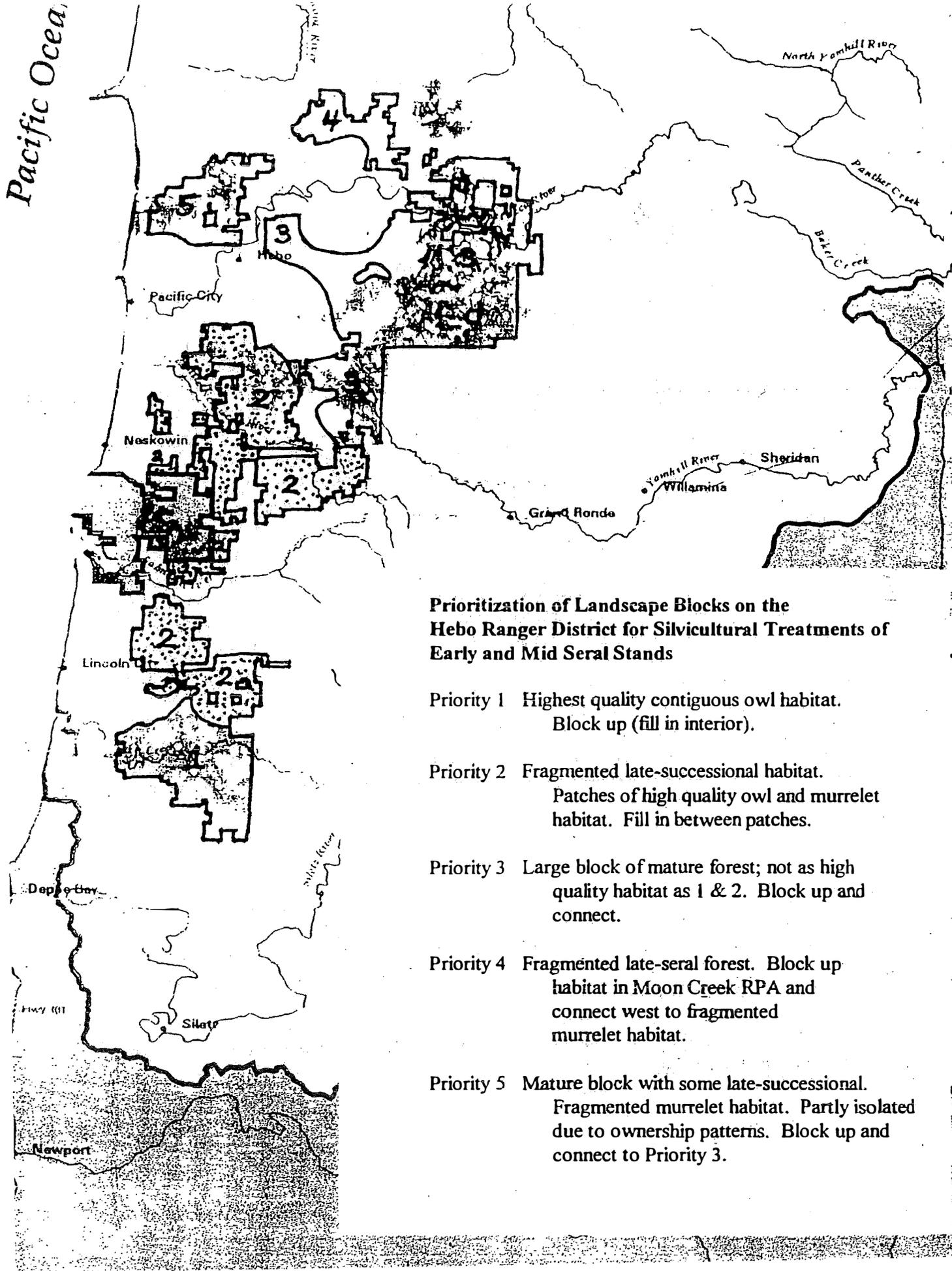
## **Hebo Ranger District**



## Appendix H. Treatment Priorities for Landscape Cells on the Hebo Ranger District

The majority of the Hebo Ranger District is within the Core Landscape Zone, as are the Congressionally Reserved and Administratively Withdrawn Areas in the Cascade Head Experimental Forest and Scenic Research Area. Due in large part to the fire history of the area, the oldest stands of trees and the highest quality late-successional habitat on the District are located between Euchre Mountain in the south and Mt. Gauldy in the north. The majority of the northern spotted owls on Hebo have been found within the Euchre Mountain to Mt. Gauldy area. New owls entering this area are likely passing through BLM lands to the east and south, making the south to north habitat link in the Core important for connectivity to existing late-successional habitat and habitat developing in the Nestucca Watershed and on the slopes of Mt. Hebo. Refer to Appendix H Map 1 for a more clear picture of the areas discussed. Most of the late-seral (mature and old-growth) forest from the Clear Creek drainage and Little Nestucca Watershed south to the Euchre Mountain area is at least 110 years old. These stands may benefit by the addition of large snags and logs to increase habitat quality for late-successional species. These treatments could be done in conjunction with thinning stands less than 80 years old. Because of the existing owl pairs, importance to connectivity and the age of the late-seral stands, this “southern block” of the Hebo Ranger District is **first priority** to block up and connect late-successional habitat, primarily by thinning (density management treatments). The majority of stands currently available for thinning are less than 50 years old. Depending on the condition, accessibility and isolation of stands between five and 50 years old, stands could be treated in multiple entries or receive no treatments at all. For example, if a stand is surrounded by late-successional habitat and is at the end of a road planned for closure, it could be treated only once, regardless of age. Treatment of stands along ATM roads could be done in several entries. The **highest priority** within the southern RPA would be to block up the existing late-successional habitat as quickly as possible. Within the rest of the “southern block”, the priority would be to connect the patches of late-successional habitat to provide interior habitat for new owl pairs and connectivity to the north. (For example, the late-seral stands in the Little Nestucca watershed and in the Erickson and Rock Creek Subwatershed are fragmented, but could provide suitable spotted owl nesting habitat as soon as the surrounding stands are tall enough to decrease “edge effects” and thereby increase the amount of interior forest.)

The **second priority** for thinnings would be connecting the late-seral blocks in the “northern block” of the Hebo Ranger District. Small patches of late-successional habitat are located on Buzzard Butte, in the Sand Lake area, in the East Beaver Creek and Moon Creek/Bay’s Creek Subwatersheds, and in the Square Top/East Creek area. Some of the areas between these patches are dominated by alder and will be considered for conversion to conifer. Small blocks on the outer edges of federal ownership and not crucial to connectivity would be **third priority**. However, the beneficial of linking late-successional habitat on State Park lands with late-successional habitat on federal lands to make a larger block of habitat (e.g., Cape Lookout and Sand Lake RNA) should be considered.



**Prioritization of Landscape Blocks on the Hebo Ranger District for Silvicultural Treatments of Early and Mid Seral Stands**

Priority 1 Highest quality contiguous owl habitat. Block up (fill in interior).

Priority 2 Fragmented late-successional habitat. Patches of high quality owl and murrelet habitat. Fill in between patches.

Priority 3 Large block of mature forest; not as high quality habitat as 1 & 2. Block up and connect.

Priority 4 Fragmented late-seral forest. Block up habitat in Moon Creek RPA and connect west to fragmented murrelet habitat.

Priority 5 Mature block with some late-successional. Fragmented murrelet habitat. Partly isolated due to ownership patterns. Block up and connect to Priority 3.