

Appendix G: Timber Suitability Analysis

Lands Generally Not Available for Timber Harvest (sec. 62.1)

The first task was to find lands that are generally not available for timber harvests or where timber harvest is not permissive. These lands include area removed from availability due to national designation, such as Wilderness Areas or Research Natural Areas. On the LTBMU, there are three Wilderness Areas (Desolation, Mount Rose, and Granite Chief) and one Research Natural Area (Grass Lake). Also included in this acreage are vegetation types identified as not capable of producing harvestable timber such as barren rock, water, shrub-lands, meadows, and some sub-alpine types. All the remaining acres were considered available for potentially treatments that could involve timber harvests. This resulted in approximately 103,000 acres out of 154,000 acres where timber related treatments could be utilized even if the objective was not timber production.

Lands Suitable for Timber Production (sec. 62.21)

There are no lands on LTBMU where timber “production” is either a primary or even a secondary objective or goal. However, timber output or harvest can be a by-product or derivative from an integrated vegetative treatment where the objective are other than timber production and timber harvest or removal is not explicitly forbidden in the forest plan. Timber output is an incidental product from prescription that had other purposes and timber harvest is seen as a “tool” for accomplishing other objectives such as restoration and fuels hazard reduction. There is no intent of producing a sustainable timber harvest over time on any lands in the basin. Therefore, there are no acres of lands suitable for timber production [3.a in the table above].

Other Lands Where Trees May Be Harvested for Multiple Use Values Other Than Timber Production (sec. 62.22)

These are lands where achieving desired conditions or resource objectives is not compatible with sustainable timber production, but timber harvest can be used as a tool to achieve other multiple-use purposes. Examples of the reasons that timber harvest could occur on lands where achieving desired conditions or resources objectives is not compatible with timber production may include, but is not limited to:

- Timber harvest to meet healthy forest and hazardous fuels objectives as part of community wildfire protection plans.
- Maintaining or recruiting mature forest characteristics in areas where final regeneration of a stand is not planned.
- Restoring meadow or riparian ecosystems being replaced by forest succession.
- Cutting trees to promote the safety of forest users. This includes hazard tree removal in campgrounds, picnic grounds, and administrative sites, and along roads and trails open to public travel.
- Timber harvest to meet early seral habitat objectives for wildlife
- Timber harvest to meet scenic objectives that may include viewing areas or that increases scenic quality and integrity of an area.

Other Land Generally Suitable for Timber Harvest (sec. 62.22)

These are lands where achieving desired conditions or resource objectives is not compatible with timber production, but timber harvest can be used to achieve other multiple-use purposes. In some areas, achieving the resource objectives and desired conditions of vegetation may make it difficult to provide timber products on a planned and reasonably predictable basis, yet timber harvest may be an important tool to restore or maintain those desired conditions. Examples of the reasons that timber harvest could occur on lands where achieving desired conditions or resources objectives is not compatible with timber production may include, but is not limited to:

1. Maintaining or recruiting mature forest characteristics in areas where final regeneration of a stand is not planned.
2. Restoring meadow or riparian ecosystems being replaced by forest succession.
3. Cutting trees to promote the safety of forest users. This includes hazard tree removal in campgrounds, picnic grounds, and administrative sites, and along roads and trails open to public travel.
4. Timber harvest to meet early seral habitat objectives for wildlife
5. Timber harvest to meet healthy forest and hazardous fuels objectives as part of community wildfire protection plans.
6. Timber harvest to meet scenic objectives that may include viewing areas or that increases scenic quality and integrity of an area.

A map showing the layout of the suitable vegetation types and unavailable areas within the LTBMU is displayed in Figure G1:

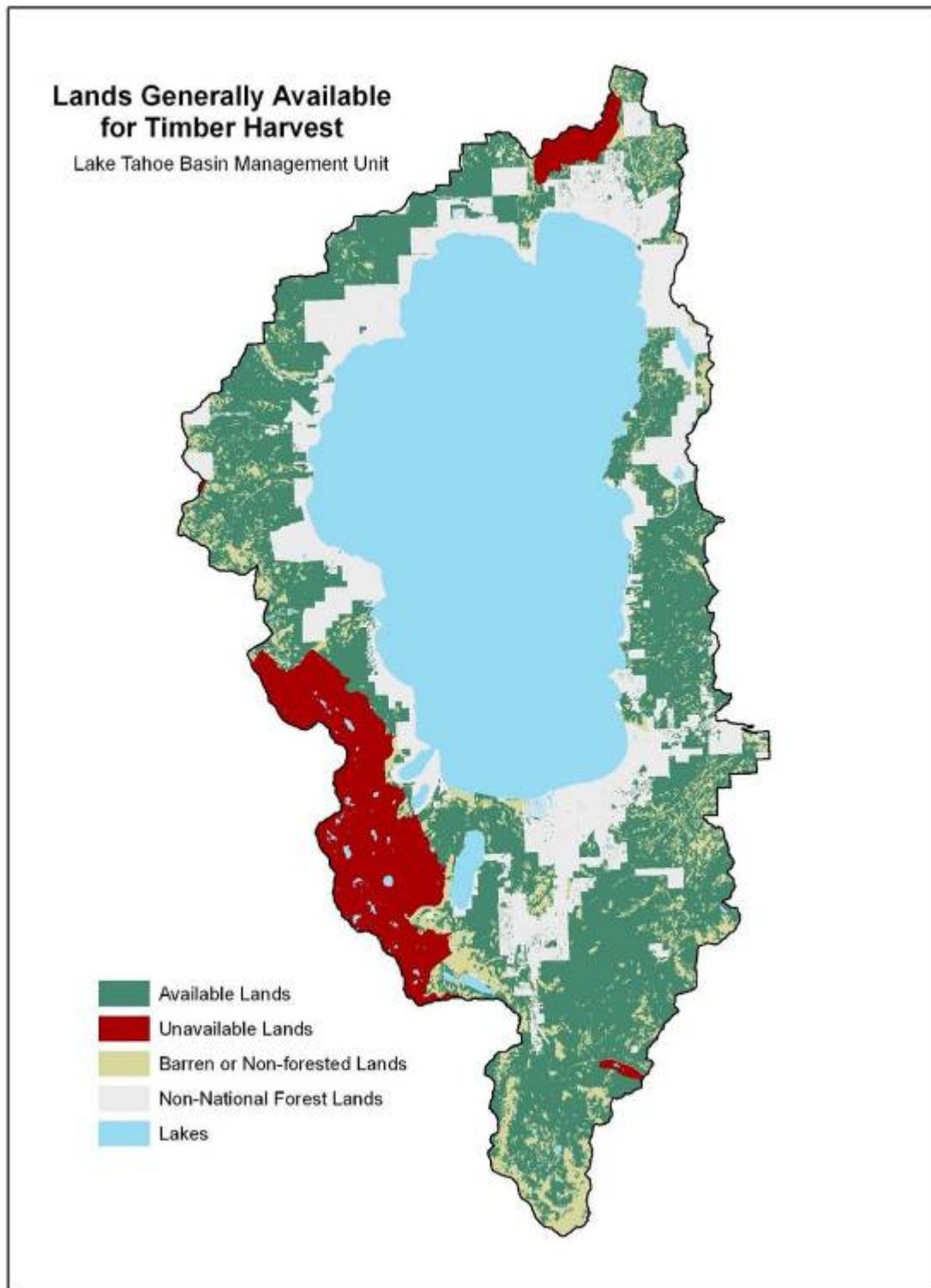


Figure G 1. Lands Generally Available for Timber Harvest Map

Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ) and Long-Term Sustained-Yield Capacity (LTSYC) (sec. 65.3)

Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Over the next 10 to 20 years, the LTBMU will continue to emphasize forest health and hazardous fuels reduction according to the Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy. This strategy prioritizes vegetation and fuels treatments in the Wildland Urban Intermix zones as identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The primary goals of this emphasis are to improve the resiliency of forested ecosystems to disturbance events such as wildfires, wind and storm events, and insect and disease outbreaks, including the management of forest vegetation to protect communities from losses associated with these disturbance events.

Wildlife/Fisheries

Harvesting forest vegetation will serve to improve habitat conditions for terrestrial or aquatic animal species, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and communities.

Recreation/Scenery

Harvesting forest vegetation will serve to maintain or improve the recreational experience of forest visitors, including the management of forest vegetation to maintain or improve scenic resources.

Table G 1. LTBMU Timber Sale Program Quantity (by Practice)

65.5 - Exhibit 03

Timber Sale Program Quantity¹

(Annual Average Volume Outputs for First Decade)

Practice Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ) By Management Emphasis²							
Lands Suitable for Timber Production	Timber Prod.	Water Yield	Wildlife/Fisheries	Recreation/Scenery	Fire/Fuels/Forest Health	Other	Totals
Regeneration Cutting (even- or two-aged)	-						
Uneven-aged Management							
Intermediate Harvest							
Commercial Thinning							
Salvage/Sanitation							
Other Harvest Cutting							
Subtotal, Sawtimber (MMBF)							
Subtotal, All Products (MMCF)							
Other Lands ³		Water Yield	Wildlife/Fisheries	Recreation/Scenery	Fire/Fuels/Forest Health	Other	Totals
Regeneration Cutting (even- or two-aged)							
Uneven-aged Management							
Intermediate Harvest							
Commercial Thinning					2.0		2.0
Salvage/Sanitation					0.5		0.5
Other Harvest Cutting							
Subtotal, Sawtimber (MMBF)					2.5		2.5
Subtotal, All Products (MMCF)					6.5		6.5
Grand Totals - Sawtimber (MMBF)					2.5		2.5
Grand Totals, All Products (MMCF)					6.5		6.5

Notes:

All products includes Sawtimber plus other products such as biomass and fuelwood

1 To be expressed to nearest 0.1 million cubic feet (MMCF). Use local conversion ratios for BF/CF conversions.

2 See exhibit 01 for primary management emphasis category definitions.

3 Other lands where trees may be harvested for multiple use values other than timber production as described in section 62.22.

MMBF – One million board feet

The TSQP is displayed in the tables and charts below. They are projected for 10-decades and displayed as average annual amounts. Outputs are shown for both green sawlogs greater than 9.9-inch to a utilizable top and for the total, which includes other products that have been converted to MBF or CF along with the sawtimber. Tables are in both board feet and cubic feet.

The Yields are based on treating approximately 3,500 acres [single foot print] in the first decade based on a combination of initial and maintenance treatments. This amount is projected to increase to about 6,000-7,000 acres in the future as additional activities are needed to move the LTBMU toward its desired condition for forest health by the addition of more restoration treatments along with those needed to reduce risk of catastrophic fire in the WUI.

The LTSYC was derived by estimating the amount of treatments needed to maintain the forestlands at its desired condition once the unit reaches that state. Active management is needed to restore and maintain the Basin forestland at its desired condition. This is due to the need to continue fire suppression throughout the unit with the exception of a few small areas in which natural wildfire might be allowed to burn, e.g., Desolation Wilderness or Grass Lake Research Natural Area.

Table G 2. LTBMU Long-Term Sustained Yield Capacity by Vegetation Type

mmcf/year average Decade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TSQP/yr [gsl]-mmbf	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3
TSQP/yr [all products]	3.3	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7
LTSY/Yr	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
mmcf/year average Decade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TSQP/yr [gsl] mmcf	5.0	6.0	6.2	7.0	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.6
TSQP/yr [all products]	6.5	7.8	8.1	9.1	9.4	9.1	8.8	9.0	9.2	9.6
LTSY/Yr [Sawtimber Only]	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8

Notes: TSPQ– Timber Sale Program Quantity; LTSYC– Long-Term Sustained-Yield Capacity

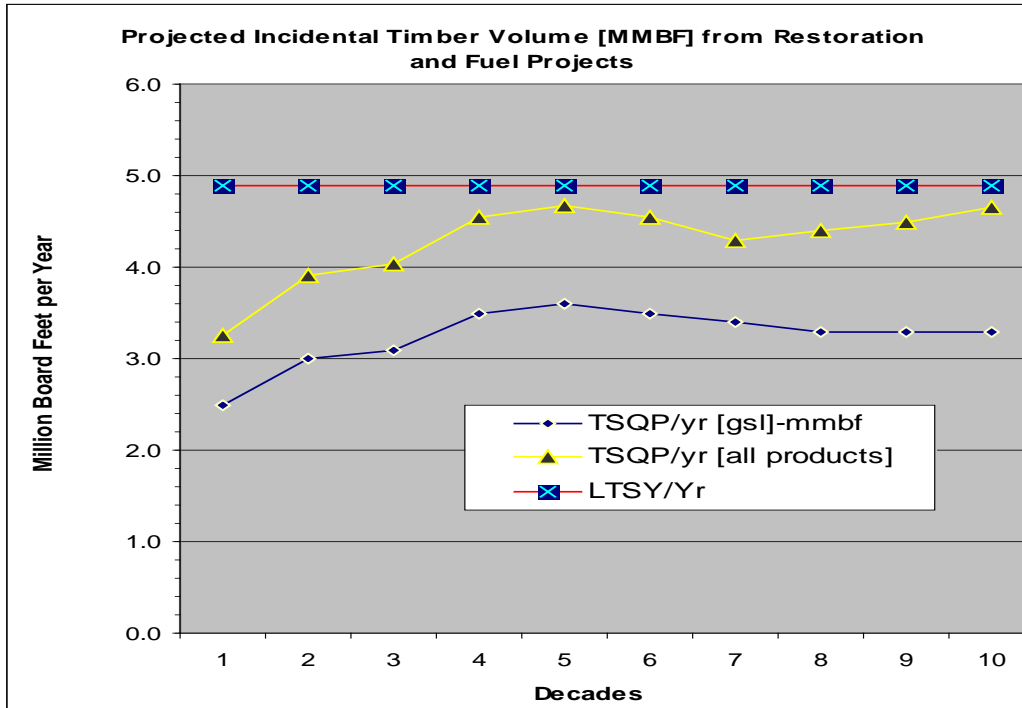


Figure G 2. Projected Incidental Timber Volume (MMBF)

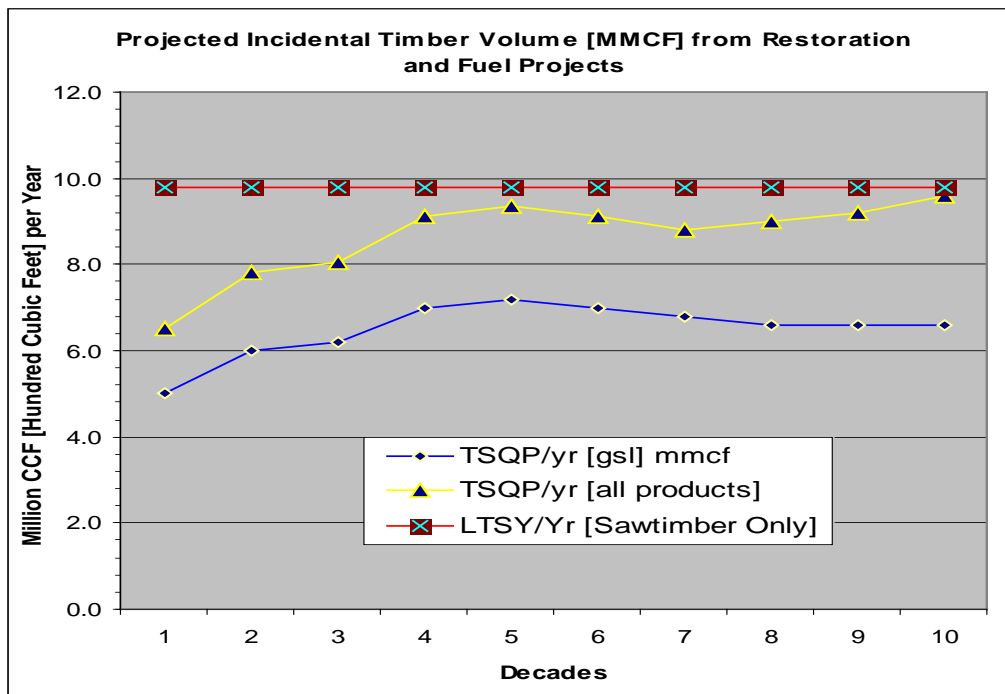


Figure G 3. Projected Incidental Timber Volume (MMCF)

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