

Reference Paper for “NSJBEIS – Old Growth and 14 FS Wells Approved to Date” Map

Old Growth Inventory and Analysis

Vegetation surveys have been conducted throughout the NSJBEIS Project Area beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2010. All areas of potential gas field development on NFS lands in the NSJBEIS Project Area have been inventoried for vegetation type, including old growth. The vegetation database (R2Veg) has been updated with the inventory data, including all old growth sites identified.

The ponderosa pine old growth analysis in the 2006 FEIS was based on 2003 information. The updated statistics for ponderosa pine old growth based on current information are shown below.

Definitions

- The Diversity Unit is defined for this project as the NFS lands in the NSJBEIS Project Area.
- The ponderosa pine old growth definition is:
 - Age \geq 200 years
 - Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) \geq 16”
 - Large trees per acre (\geq 16” DBH) \geq 10
 - Rot OR dead/broken tops per acre \geq 1
 - Snags (10” min DBH) \geq 2
- Forested acres are defined as those acres with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer vegetation.

The above definitions are unchanged from those used in the 2006 FEIS. The following ponderosa pine old growth numbers are current as of July 27, 2010.

Ponderosa pine old growth in the Diversity Unit:

Total acres of ponderosa pine old growth: 1,299

Total number of ponderosa pine old growth stands: 30

Number of ponderosa pine old growth stands potentially affected by development: 7

Number of acres of ponderosa pine old growth potentially removed for facility construction: 14

Percent of ponderosa pine old growth potentially removed by construction: $14/1299 = 1.1\%$

Overall Diversity Unit Statistics:

Total forested acres in Diversity Unit: 23,801

Total acres of ponderosa pine old growth in Diversity Unit: 1,299

Percent of ponderosa pine old growth in Diversity Unit: $1299/23801 = 5.5\%$