

Timber Desired Conditions

Silvicultural systems for vegetation treatment reflect the natural disturbance regimes for the site and maintain forest resiliency. Natural disturbance regimes range from stand-replacing events that remove over 80% of the forest canopy and result in even-aged forest stands; to mixed-severity events that leave 20% to 80% of the forest canopy and may result in even-aged, two-storied, or multi-storied stands; to low-severity events that leave 80% or more of the forest canopy, and leave the forest canopy mostly intact. The sustainable flow of commodities from Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest lands is a result of treatments used to move the current vegetation pattern to a desired vegetation pattern and do not exceed the long-term sustained yield of 97 million cubic feet of timber over 10 years. (This is an average of approximately 50 million board feet annually.)** Products are made available for commercial uses.

*(** These numbers are currently the numbers that were developed in the '07 plan evaluation, and will be reviewed and updated as work progresses.)*

Trees in areas suitable for timber production that are dead or dying due to fire, insect outbreaks, or disease are salvaged to recover the economic value for which these areas are managed.

Harvests, including even-aged or two-aged regeneration harvests, reflect the scale of natural disturbances and are designed to reach desired conditions such as size class distribution, species composition, patch size, fuel reduction, and provide checks on the spread of insect outbreaks and disease.

Harvests in the Wildland Urban Interface, whether on lands suitable for timber production or timber harvest, are designed to reduce fuel loads and limit the risk of wildfire affecting the adjacent urban areas.

Lands suitable for timber production are managed to limit wildfire losses to the timber resource.

Timber Objectives

1. Following Plan approval, an average planned sale quantity (PSQ) of 50 million board feet, or approximately 9.7 million cubic feet, of commercial timber may be offered for sale from the total suitable land base on an annual basis. Salvage harvest of trees substantially damaged by fire, windthrow, or other catastrophe, or in imminent danger from insect or disease attack may be harvested over and above this volume.

*** These numbers are currently the numbers that were developed in the '07 plan evaluation, and will be reviewed and updated as work progresses.*

2. Within 10 years of Plan approval, fire risk should be reduced on 2000 to 4000 acres in the wildland-urban interface.

Timber Standards

1. Harvest on lands not suitable for timber production are designed to enhance the desired conditions of those lands, and are not designed for the purpose of timber production.
2. Timber will not be harvested on lands where soil, slope, or other watershed conditions may be irreversibly damaged, as identified in project specific findings.
3. Where clearcutting, seed tree cutting, shelterwood cutting or other cuts designed to regenerate an even-aged or two-age stand of timber are used, an exception to the 40-acre maximum size for openings that may be cut in one harvest operation is as identified in the following table.

Conditions	Maximum Opening Size
<i>Examples:</i>	
Lodgepole pine stands	XXX acres
Ponderosa pine stands	ZZZ acres

The plan maximum size for openings to be cut in one harvest operation shall not apply to the size of openings harvested as a result of natural catastrophic conditions such as fire, insect and disease attack, or windstorm.

These size limits can be exceeded on an individual timber sale basis after 60 days public notice and review by the regional forester.

4. Timber harvest activities shall only be used when there is reasonable assurance of restocking within five years after final regeneration harvest. Restocking level is prescribed in a site specific silvicultural prescription for a project treatment unit and is determined to be adequate depending on the objectives and desired conditions for the plan area. In some instances, such as when lands are harvested to create openings for fuel breaks and vistas or to prevent encroaching trees, it is adequate not to restock.
5. Harvesting systems shall be selected based on their ability to meet desired conditions and not strictly on their ability to provide the greatest dollar return.
6. Even-aged or two-aged prescriptions other than clearcutting (seed tree, shelterwood, etc.) shall be used when appropriate to meet Forest Plan direction.
7. Timber harvest activities shall be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team, including the potential environmental, biological, aesthetic, engineering, and economic impacts on the sale area, as well as the consistency of the sale meeting Forest Plan direction. Harvest activities shall be shaped and blended to the natural terrain to the extent practicable.
8. The quantity of timber that may be sold per decade (except for salvage or sanitation harvesting of timber stands which are substantially damaged by fire, windthrow, or other

catastrophe, or which are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack) will be less than or equal to the long-term sustained-yield capacity (LTSYC).

9. Even-aged stands shall generally have reached or surpassed culmination of mean annual increment (95 percent of CMAI, as measured by cubic volume) prior to regeneration harvest, unless the following conditions have been identified during project development:
 - When such harvesting would assist in reducing fire risk within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) or the Community Protection Zone (CPZ).
 - When harvesting of stands will trend landscapes toward vegetation desired conditions.
 - When harvest is thinning, stand improvement, or uneven-aged systems that do not regenerate even-aged or two-aged stands.
 - When harvest is for sanitation or salvage of timber stands substantially damaged by fire, wind-throw or other catastrophe, or which are in imminent danger from insect or disease attack.
 - When harvest is on lands not suited for timber production and the type and frequency of harvest is due to the need to protect multiple use values other than timber production.

Timber Guidelines

None identified.

Timber Suitability

Exhibit 01 Timber Production Suitability Classification

Land Classification Category	Acres
1. Total National Forest System lands	3,940,058
2. Lands not suited for timber production due to legal availability or technical considerations (sections 61.11 – designated wilderness, proposed wilderness, research natural areas, proposed wilderness, Lolo Trail NHT; 61.13 - landslide-prone lands; 61.14 – not able to reforest - none identified; and 61.15 - non-forest).	1,852,485
3. Lands that may be suited for timber production (line 1 minus line 2)	2,087,573
4. Lands suited for timber production (sec. 62.2).	810,093
5. Lands not suited for timber production because timber production is not compatible with the desired conditions and objectives established by the plan (sec. 61.12 –Idaho Roadless Rule designated roadless areas, riparian conservation areas) (line 3 minus line 4)	1,277,480
6. Total lands not suited for timber production (sec. 61.1). (line 2 plus line 5)	3,129,965

