

C2 MANAGED OLD GROWTH

GOALS

PROVIDE AND PROTECT SUFFICIENT SUITABLE HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES DEPENDENT UPON MATURE AND OVERMATURE LODGEPOLE PINE FOREST STANDS, AND PROMOTE A DIVERSITY OF VEGETATIVE CONDITIONS FOR SUCH SPECIES.

DESCRIPTION

Designated mature and old growth and replacement forest habitat within the delineated higher elevation lodgepole pine types will be located, distributed, and managed (using silvicultural techniques) for wildlife indicator species. Forest stands will meet ecological, biological, size, and distribution criteria as suitable old growth for survival and reproduction of indicator species. The Forest management indicator species for this habitat group is the northern three-toed woodpecker. Other important dependent species include northern goshawk, Vaux's swift, townsend warbler, brown creeper, and a variety of cavity users. Developing lodgepole pine old growth stands, in various stages of management, will meet size and distribution criteria. Locations of managed units are shown on management area and resource maps.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

In managed old growth stands, activities will often be evident and directed towards development and maintenance of old growth lodgepole forest attributes. Stands will be dispersed in quantities and sizes which meet dependent wildlife species needs. Lodgepole stands managed for old growth will have two stand characteristics, each dependent on the extent of management activities such as timber harvest, planting, thinning, and others. The lodgepole pine units will consist of about equal acreage in two distinct age classes, 0 to 60 and 60 to 120. The areas with stands less than 60 years old will often appear as 'typically' managed forest stands influenced by timber management practices; and the stands over 60 years will display typical signs of old growth, with large diameter trees, abundant dead and down material, vertical diversity, evidence of some decadence, and fading evidence of past timber management practices. Dispersed recreation opportunities will be available in the younger stands but motorized opportunities will be limited in older stands. The mature and old growth stands will contribute towards the Forest diversity and aesthetic values.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

Dispersed recreational opportunities will range from Roaded Natural to Roaded Modified (ROS Users Guide). Recreational opportunities will be consistent with the maintenance of old growth habitat characteristics.

No developed recreational opportunities or facilities are permitted.

Access will be mostly for walk-in or horseback opportunities on roads closed to motorized use, with some open road opportunities.

Motorized vehicle use will be restricted to the designated routes (roads and trails) necessary to cross the area (see Transportation) and/or to provide access for activities occurring in adjacent management areas.

VISUAL

Management activities will result in a natural appearing (Retention) to a modified (Maximum Modification) visual setting. Visual quality will be subordinate to old growth habitat goals.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE

In addition to size and distribution criteria described in Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, managed old growth habitat units will include the following items in the oldest age classes (60-120 years for lodgepole pine):

1. Twelve to fifteen live trees per acre, greater 6 inches d.b.h. in lodgepole pine stands.
2. an average of two hard snags, greater than 10 inches d.b.h., per acre, in lodgepole pine stands. At least 50 percent of these snags will be 15 feet tall or taller with the remainder at least 6 feet high;
3. a minimum of two to four down logs at various stages of decomposition per acre in lodgepole pine stands, and at least 6 inches in diameter at the large end;
4. although two or more canopy levels is preferred, a single canopy level is acceptable in lodgepole pine stands;
5. at least 55 percent crown closure with emphasis on stands having 70 percent or more crown canopy closure;
6. evidence of moderate to high levels of decadence; and
7. a low level of human disturbance with few, if any, open roads within the stand.

Maintain snags to provide 100 percent of the potential population level within the managed old growth habitat areas.

Snags and dead and down tree habitat will be created in all managed old growth units that are deficient in these habitat components. Practices may include girdling, topping, or felling of live trees.

In the event of catastrophic loss of any existing designated old growth habitats causing a drop below the minimum distribution requirements, replacement units in the most advanced successional stage available will be selected in close proximity to the original location.

Structural and nonstructural habitat improvements and their maintenance may be utilized to maintain or enhance old growth habitat characteristics

FISH

All fish habitat improvement, development, and maintenance projects are permitted within the constraints of retaining or enhancing old growth habitat characteristics.

Use of mechanical equipment for fish habitat improvement projects is permitted although no roads or permanent trails may be constructed for access.

RANGE

Moderate levels of livestock grazing is permitted; however, forage in general will be limited to that which is normally present under densely forested canopies. Bedding by domestic sheep in managed old growth units will not normally be permitted.

Maintain existing range improvement structures. Additional structural improvements are generally not permitted.

TIMBER

Timber harvest is permitted on a scheduled basis to enhance wildlife habitats as follows:

1. Maintain the distribution requirements for an equal number of 75-acre units in the lodgepole pine type in both of the 0 to 60 years and 60 to 120 years age classes, so that existing old growth units would be managed and move geographically through time.

The full range of silvicultural practices and intensities would apply to the 0 to 60-year age class in order to develop the large tree component as soon as possible. Emphasis will be on even-aged management techniques and practices.

2. When these stands assume the characteristics of old growth habitat, timber management activities (including fuelwood cutting, salvage harvest, or the removal of any dead or down material) will not normally be permitted, except for those practices that may be needed to maintain or enhance old growth characteristics.

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

LANDS

Exchange or acquisition of land may occur where it will not adversely affect existing old growth quality, size, and spacing requirements.

Issuance of any permits or licenses that may adversely impact managed old growth units will be discouraged.

TRANSPORTATION

For areas in the 0 to 80-year category in mixed conifer, and 0 to 60 in lodgepole pine, roads and trails may be constructed, reconstructed, operated, and maintained.

For old growth areas older than 80 years in mixed conifer, and 60 years in lodgepole pine, roads and trails are permitted but will be limited to the number and miles necessary to meet surrounding area objectives and minimize impacts to wildlife in the old growth units. Where feasible and practical, old growth units should be avoided. Activities may include construction and reconstruction of new roads and trails, and operation and maintenance of open roads and trails.

Restrict motorized vehicle use within managed old growth units to open roads and trails in all age classes older than 80 years for the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer types, and older than 60 years for the lodgepole pine type. Most roads in these areas should be closed to motorized use.

FIRE

For moderate to high intensity wildfires, the appropriate suppression response should emphasize control strategies.

Low impact suppression methods should be favored. Use of mechanical equipment to suppress wildfires is acceptable within the objective of minimizing the impact of the suppression effort on the old growth values.

FUELS

Natural fuel treatments are permitted to maintain or enhance old growth habitat characteristics or reduce the potential for severely burning an old growth area.

Natural fuels should not exceed an average of about 12 tons per acre in the 0 to 3-inch size class and an average residue depth of 6 inches, as depicted in the Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (Technical Reports PNW 52) (USDA Forest Service 1976b):

Age Class	Lodgepole Pine	Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Conifer
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0-60 0-80	2-LP-3-PC	3-PP-4-PC 4-PP-1-TH 1-PP&ASSOC-4-PC
60-120 80-160 and 160-240	3-LP-3	2-PP&ASSOC-4 2-MC-3 6-PP-4

Prescribed burning is the preferred method of fuel treatment.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles to meet management area objectives. Emphasis will be on the prevention of stand and fuels conditions that increase pest populations above epidemic levels. Natural or endemic levels are acceptable, and no special management practices will be employed to control losses from insects or diseases at these levels.

Suppress or control pests when outbreaks threaten managed old growth resources, the ability of stands to become old growth, or other resources on adjacent lands. Favor biological methods when acceptable. IPM methods will not conflict with wildlife objectives.