

REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2009
TO: Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest
FROM: Shawne Mohoric, Acting Forest Service Representative to the REO
SUBJECT: Clarification of , Shasta-Trinity National Forest

This letter offers correction and clarification of several paragraphs in the Forest-Wide Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA) for the Shasta-Trinity NF. The REO, based upon review by the LSR Work Group, concurs with the Forest that the clarification is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines (S&G) under the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) and consistent with the intent of the previous review of the LSRA by the REO LSR Word Group.

As required by the NWFP S&Gs (C-11), the Shasta-Trinity National Forest prepared a Late-Successional Reserve Assessment (LSRA) in 1999, which was reviewed and found to be consistent under the NWFP S&Gs (C-11). The NWFP S&Gs (C-12-13) for risk reduction treatments do not limit the size of trees that can be removed when reduction of risk of large-scale disturbance is the primary objective of treatments within LSRs. However, by incorrectly referencing letters that exempt specific silvicultural activities from REO review, dated July 9, 1996 and updated on September 30, 1996, the LSRA limited trees to be removed to less than 20 inches dbh. Reference to these letters is removed by this correction. The LSR Work Group also concurred with a 150 year age limit on trees which could be cut to enhance development of late-successional habitat. It is logical to assume that trees this old would be larger than 20 inches dbh. This issue is clarified by the edits.

Through this letter, the following paragraphs in the LSRA are clarified and corrected with the changes noted in bold and strikethrough.

Activity Design Criteria 4: pages 194-195 in LSRA

4. Thinning in early successional pole and mid-successional stands – Hazard Related: ~~These treatments are consistent with the exemption letters that exempt specific silvicultural activities from REO review, dated July 9, 1996 and updated on September 30, 1996, except as noted¹.~~ **These treatments are consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan on page C-12 to C-13 “Guidelines to Reduce Risks of Large-Scale Disturbance”.**

Stand Attributes

b. Cutting large older trees, generally over 150 years for any purpose will be the exception, not the rule. **Diameter limits are not set, but treatments will follow “Guidelines to Reduce Risks of Large-Scale Disturbance” at C-12 to CC-13 in the Northwest Plan ROD.** Individual trees exceeding 150 years should not be harvested except for the purpose of creating openings,

providing other habitat structure such as downed logs, elimination of a hazard from a standing danger tree, or cutting minimal yarding corridors. Where large old trees are cut, they will be left in place to contribute toward meeting the overall CWD objective. An exception will be in situations where leaving the material will exceed the prescribed large woody debris amounts necessary for the target fuel hazard level and putting portions of the LSR at risk to a catastrophic event.

Treatment Standards

- a. The treatment is primarily a hazard reduction treatment designed to reduce large-scale loss of key late-successional structure; to increase diversity of stocking levels and size classes within the stand or landscape; to increase tree size, crown development, or other desirable characteristics; to maintain vigor for optimum late-successional development; or to provide various stand components beneficial to late-successional forest-related species.
- b. The treatment is primarily an ~~improvement~~ thinning **in order to reduce the risk of large-scale disturbance**. Release cutting for the purpose of regenerating a second canopy layer in existing stands is no more than an associated, limited objective as described below under opening and heavily thinned patches. Efforts need to be made to promote diversity of hardwood and conifer species. Most of the thinning in these types of stands will focus on removal of suppressed and intermediate trees. Occasional co-dominants will be removed in order to provide growing space for remaining trees. In some cases, smaller diameter trees may be favored over adjacent larger diameter trees in order to promote species diversity and/or structural diversity.

Activity Design Criteria 5: page 197 in LSRA

Stand Attributes

c. Cutting trees older than 150 years for any purpose will be the exception, not the rule. **This exemption allows trees to be cut up to 150 years and does not prescribe a diameter limit.** Individual trees exceeding 150 years should not be harvested except for the purpose of creating openings, providing other habitat structure such as downed logs, elimination of a hazard from a standing danger tree, or cutting minimal yarding corridors. Where older trees are cut, they will be left in place to contribute toward meeting the overall CWD objective. An exception will be in situations where leaving the material will exceed the prescribed large woody debris amounts necessary for the target fuel hazard level and putting portions of the LSR at risk to a catastrophic event. (Regional Ecosystem Office Review of Proposed Silviculture and Salvage Treatments in the Iron Canyon Watershed, Shasta-Trinity National Forests, dated August 22, 1996.)

If you have questions regarding this review, please contact Kim Mellen-McLean at 503-808-2677.

/s/ Shawne Mohoric

SHAWNE MOHORIC

Acting Forest Service Representative to the REO

cc: Arlene Kallis – Shasta-Trinity NF

Debbie Pietrzak, BLM

Kim Mellen-McLean, LSR Workgroup, FS

2306/kmm