

Appendix 17a

Definitions for Old Forest

Appendix 17a of the Supplemental Draft EIS is incorporated by reference, in accordance with 40 CFR 1500.4(j) and (o), 1502.21 and 1506.4. The incorporated material can be found on pages 17a-1 through 17a-6 in Volume 2 of the Supplemental Draft EIS. The content is briefly summarized below, with changes based on public comment and internal review following the summary.

Summary

In October 1989, the Chief of the Forest Service directed all Regional Foresters to develop definitions for ecologically based old growth. This appendix discusses the definition and description of old-growth forests and references the old-growth definitions used by the Northern, Intermountain and Pacific Northwest regions of the Forest Service (approximately 300 pages total).

Modifications Made to ICBEMP Supplemental Draft EIS Appendix 17a

Page/Column/Paragraph or
Table/Fig/Map/Photo

Change Made (bold=new; strikeout=delete)

Appendix 17a/17a-2/left/
1st para/2nd sentence

Revise: (The terms ~~“old growth”~~ and “old forest” and **“late seral forest”** are used synonymously in **Chapters 2 and 4** of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Environmental Impact Statement. **The term *old forest*, used in the management direction of Chapter 3, is based on the old growth definitions of the Forest Service Northern, Intermountain, and Pacific Northwest regions. The *Landscape Effects Analysis* chapter (Hemstrom et al. 2000) of the *SAG Effects Analysis* uses the term *late seral forest*. The *Landscape Dynamics* chapter (Hann, Jones, Karl, et al. 1997) of the *Assessment of Ecosystem Components* uses both terms in different places (for example, in Table 3.33 and Appendix 3_G in Volume 2 of the *Assessment of Ecosystem Components*). Forest structure definitions in Appendix 3_G include old forest but the definitions do not include information on forest age. They use classification of forest structure modified by O’Hara et al. (1996) from Oliver (1981) and define late seral forests as stands with at least 30 percent canopy cover of trees more than 20.9 inches diameter at breast height.**

Quantitative estimates of the extent and amount of old forests (according to the definitions in Chapter 3 in the Supplemental Draft EIS) were not possible because of data limitations of the broad-scale ICBEMP data. Late seral forest conditions range widely from those that barely meet the minimum tree size and canopy cover requirements and contain very little downed wood and few or no large snags, to those containing trees that might be several centuries old and large for the site conditions, and may contain many large snags and large pieces of downed wood. However, they were considered to be adequate for use as a surrogate to disclose effects on old forest in Chapter 4, as they do provide minimum characteristics of old forest.

Project personnel have favored use...