

United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service



United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

Interior Columbia Basin Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix 17b - Regional Definitions for Old Forest

March 2000

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project
Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Lead Agencies

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Introduction

In October, 1989, the Chief of the Forest Service directed all Regional foresters to develop ecologically based old-growth (old forest) definitions for the major forest cover types. This was necessary because characteristics of old forest vary among geographic regions, cover types, and site attributes. The EIS Team used these established old forest definitions rather than duplicate the time-consuming effort to develop new ones. In Appendix 17b, readers will find three versions of old forest minimum requirements; one for each of the Forest Service regions in the project area. Although the requirements vary slightly in their factors for definition, break points, and approach, they are all compatible. Generally, they use the following factors for definition:

1. Large trees for species and site.
2. Variation in tree size and spacing.
3. Amount of large snag and downed wood.
4. Tree decadence.
5. Multiple canopy layers.
6. Canopy gaps and understory patchiness.

Appendix 17b is divided into three parts. It includes old forest definitions for: (1) Montana and Idaho, north of the Salmon River (Northern Region); (2) Idaho south of the Salmon River (Intermountain Region); and (3)Washington and Oregon (Pacific Northwest Region. Although these definitions were developed by the Forest Service, they are intended for use by Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management managers who are identifying old forests within one of the three regions.

This appendix is a reproduction of the established definitions. They have not been reformatted to fit the format of the other appendices for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project's Environmental Impact Statement. Questions about these definitions should be directed to staff from the Forest Service Region where the definition was developed.

Due to the format of the original documents, the old forest definitions are not available electronically and are being distributed upon request only. To receive hard copies, please contact:

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