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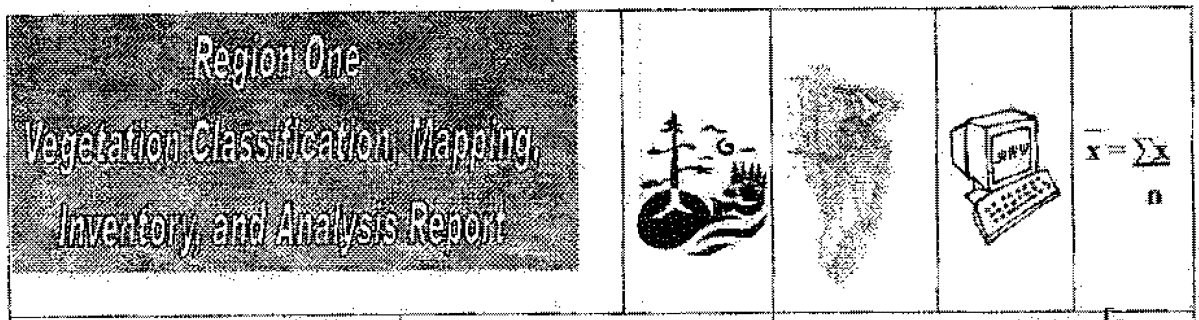

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Estimates of Old Growth for the Northern Region and National Forests

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Introduction

This document summarizes analysis conducted using Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data to estimate the percentage of old growth on forested lands in the Northern Region and on National Forests in the Northern Region.

Overview of FIA

The national Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program provides a congressionally mandated, statistically-based, continuous inventory of the forest resources of the United States. Since 1930, the FIA program has been administered through the Research and Development branch of the Forest Service, which makes it administratively independent from the National Forest System. The Interior West Forest Inventory and Analysis work unit, headquartered at the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station in Ogden, Utah oversees the FIA inventory in Region 1. More information on IW-FIA is available on the internet at: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ogden/sitemap/index.shtml.

FIA inventory design is based on a national hexagon of inventory plots. Data is collected on all forested portions of the plots, throughout the United States, regardless of ownership. FIA protocols specify sample plot location within this hexagonal grid. Data collection standards are strictly controlled by FIA protocols. The sample design

Table 2: Northern Region and individual National Forest estimates of percent of old growth, standard error, and 90%-confidence intervals.

Unit	Percent Old Growth Estimate	90%-Confidence Interval-Lower Bound	90%-Confidence Interval-Upper Bound	Total Num PSUs	Num Forested PSUs
Northern Region	13.5%	12.8%	14.2%	3883	3423
Beaverhead-Deerlodge	22.9%	20.5%	25.4%	547	442
Bitterroot	12.5%	10.0%	15.3%	252	226
Idaho Panhandle	11.8%	9.6%	14.0%	413	397
Clearwater	9.4%	7.3%	11.8%	305	300
Custer	10.1%	6.4%	14.1%	195	105
Flathead	10.1%	8.2%	12.0%	382	338
Gallatin	25.5%	21.7%	29.3%	285	223
Helena	10.9%	7.8%	14.1%	149	138
Kootenai	8.8%	7.0%	10.7%	370	352
Lewis & Clark	13.3%	10.6%	16.2%	299	267
Lolo	9.5%	7.6%	11.4%	347	327
Nez Perce	14.4%	11.8%	17.2%	339	308

Distribution of Old Growth within Individual National Forests

Using FIA data, the same methodology can also be used to estimate the percent old growth on medium to large geographic areas, landscapes, or watersheds within individual National Forests. Estimates of old growth across these areas provide a means for examining the distribution of old growth within a National Forest. Reports for individual National Forests provide this watershed or landscape-level information. In order to obtain reliable estimates of old growth with meaningful confidence limits, the landscape area must be large enough to encompass a reasonable number of FIA plots. Because of the resolution of the FIA data, it should not be used for estimates within a project-area as there are seldom enough plots to derive estimates of old growth with any sort of reliability.

Relationship to Forest Maps of Allocated Old Growth Stands, and Project-level Mapping

Broad-level estimates of old growth are intended to be used in conjunction with project-level estimates and associated maps and maps of stands allocated to old growth management by a National Forests. These broad-level estimates are intended to allow land managers to assess forest-plan compliance and to set the context for the maps of