

KOOTENAI N.F. - THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

OLD GROWTH VALIDATION PROCESS
ALL PROPOSED SALES

FOREST OBJECTIVE - PROVIDE HABITAT NECESSARY FOR OLD GROWTH DEPENDENT WILDLIFE IN 10% OF EACH MAJOR DRAINAGE AREA BELOW 5500'.

1. IDENTIFY ALL STANDS IN EACH COMPARTMENT THAT MEET THE OLD GROWTH DEFINITION IN KOOTENAI FOREST PLAN APPENDIX 17, USING THE FOLLOWING:
 - A. PHOTO INTERPRETATION
 - B. STAND EXAM DATA WHERE AVAILABLE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMBINING TYPE 47 QUICK PLOT EXAM AND WALKTHROUGH FOR OLD GROWTH)
 - C. GROUND VERIFICATION OF ALL STANDS WITH NO STAND EXAM OR QUESTIONABLE STAND EXAM DATA. (SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST AND INSTRUCTIONS) CURRENTLY DESIGNATED MA 13 AREAS ALL NEED TO BE FIELD VERIFIED AS WELL AS ANY OTHER AREAS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE OLD GROWTH VALUES.
2. SUMMARIZE OLD GROWTH STANDS FOR COMPARTMENT ON "OLD GROWTH COMPARTMENT ANALYSIS SUMMARY SHEET"
3. SHOW ON WORK MAP (2.64"= 1 MILE) ALL STANDS THAT HAVE OLD GROWTH VALIDATED OR MAY BE SUITABLE FUTURE REPLACEMENT STANDS.
4. FOR COMPARTMENT, DETERMINE ACRES OF EXISTING OLD GROWTH AND ITS PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AREA BELOW 5500 FEET ELEVATION.
5. IF THERE IS A SHORTAGE BELOW 10%, LOOK AT ADJACENT COMPARTMENTS TO SEE IF IT MAY BE AVAILABLE THERE. IF THERE IS AN EXCESS OVER 10%, EVALUATE ADJACENT AREAS TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE SHORT OF OLD GROWTH.
6. IF COMPARTMENT AND ADJACENT AREAS ARE ALL BELOW 10% OLD GROWTH, THEN IDENTIFY REPLACEMENT MATURE STANDS THAT WILL BECOME OLD GROWTH.
7. THE SILVICULTURIST WILL DO A SUMMARY WRITE UP ON THE STATUS OF OLD GROWTH IN THE COMPARTMENT BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE MADE AFFECTING THE OLD GROWTH.
8. THE LAST STEP IN THE PROCESS, WHICH WILL BE DONE BY THE SILVICULTURE SECTION, WORKING WITH THE DATA BASE SHOP, WILL BE TO MAKE MANAGEMENT AREA CHANGES SO THAT AREA THAT ARE GROUND VERIFIED OLD GROWTH AND ARE NEED TO MAKE UP THE 10% ARE DESIGNATED AS MA 13. MA 13 AREAS SHOULD ALSO BE MAPPED OUT AS "STANDS" ON THE ATLAS AND IN THE DATA BASE, FOR BETTER DATA MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING. MINIMUM ATTRIBUTES FOR STAND COMPONENTS IN TSDB ARE BASAL AREA, COMPONENT YEAR OF ORIGIN, AVERAGE DBH, AND MAJOR SPECIES - FOR 14"+ AND TOTAL LIVE COMPONENTS. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE HAND ENTERED FOR WALKTHROUGH STANDS.

Basic assessment procedures for ag. areas

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OLD GROWTH WALKTHROUGH AND WRITE-UP

ON THE THREE RIVERS RANGER DISTRICT

These instructions have been developed in an effort to standardize old growth walkthrough surveys and write-ups on the Three Rivers Ranger District. They are also meant as an aid in learning this process, and to help improve the quality of surveys and write-ups. Quality of work is very important due to the public scrutiny this project may receive. It is important for you to read and be familiar with Kootenai Forest Plan appendix 17, which contains the old growth attributes and definitions that are used in this process.

During the walkthrough the "Old Growth Walkthrough Checklist" should be carried. The ten old growth attributes listed should be kept in mind at all times, and the presence or absence of these recorded throughout the stand. Notes can be taken on the front and/or back of the walkthrough checklist or on a separate sheet. The ten attributes on the checklist are:

- 1) Large live trees/acre greater than or equal to 17" DBH
- 2) Multilayered canopy
- 3) Large snags or dying trees 20"+ DBH and 12 - 20" DBH
- 4) Stand decadence indicators including insects, diseases, and fungi
- 5) Age of overstory
- 6) Basal Area
- 7) Canopy closure
- 8) Large down logs/acre greater than or equal to 12" in diameter
- 9) Pileated feeding
- 10) Stand size, including adjacent old growth stands

In addition, notes should be taken about (but not limited to) the following:

Past logging activity

Fire history

Age classes present

Wildlife species present

Plant species present - Overstory composition
Understory composition
Shrub and herbaceous plant species
(indicator and other)

Presence or absence of species diversity

Size classes of trees present

Presence of unique or valuable features such as wallows, creeks, other riparian habitat, significant cavity habitat, value as a wildlife travel corridor, etc.

Presence of sensitive wildlife or plant species

Soil rockiness and stability

Fuels and duff

Large live trees, large snags, and large down logs per acre can best be determined by using a 1/5 acre plot which has a radius of 52.7 feet. Count trees over 17", down logs over 12", and dead or dying trees from 12"-20" and 20"+. Multiply the number of each counted times 5 to get an estimate of each per acre. This should be repeated several times during the walkthrough.

Basal area can be determined by using a relascope at a 20 or 40 BAF and finding the number of "in" trees as you would in a variable radius plot, and multiplying by the BAF used. This also should be repeated several times throughout the stand.

To accurately determine age classes present in the stand, several trees of each diameter class should be drilled. Even-aged stands have trees of varying diameter classes, so this alone can not be used to determine number of age classes. Trees should be drilled throughout the stand.

To determine whether or not a stand has multiple canopy levels, look at the heights of trees and their frequency. Even-aged stands have a uniform canopy at one level, but also contain suppressed trees somewhat lower than the main canopy, and may have some trees regenerating in the understory. A stand with a multi-layered canopy will have significant amounts of trees in the understory, such as shade tolerant species, but will also have areas where overstory trees have fallen down and younger trees create a lower canopy layer.

During the walkthrough pay attention to the other items mentioned, such as decadence indicators, pileated feeding, and plant species. Take good notes and relate what you saw in your write-up.

The route taken through the stand should pass through most of the stand, however it is not practical to attempt to see every square foot. Trends should be noted such as wetter or drier areas or changes in size of trees or species composition.

THE WRITE-UP

The write-up is equally important as the walkthrough and should be completed **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** afterwards. The write-up should recap what you recorded in your notes and make conclusions about whether or not the stand is old growth or replacement old growth. Your conclusion should be supported by addressing the presence or absence of the 10 attributes on the "Walkthrough Checklist". Remember - decisions need to be made using this information, and it needs to be as defensible as possible. The write-up can be broken into separate headings, for example Access, Overstory, Understory, Vegetation, Insects and Disease, and Wildlife, but other headings or no headings may also be used.

Often surveys will encompass an MA 13 area that includes more than one stand and/or incomplete parts of stands. One write-up may be completed for the area with all whole and partially included stand numbers recorded on the top of the yellow cover sheet.

Also important on the write up are the names of examiners, with the name of the author circled. An easily understandable map with the correct stand numbers should be included, either hand drawn or xeroxed from the field map.

Finally, write-ups should be turned in to the Silviculture shop for final analysis.

OLD GROWTH WALKTHROUGH CHECKLIST
KOOTENAI N.F. -- THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

STAND NUMBER _____ EXAMINERS _____
HABITAT TYPE _____ DATE _____
HABITAT GROUP _____ ELEVATION _____

<u>ATTRIBUTE</u>	<u>SCALE</u> 0.....2.5.....5.....7.5.....10	<u>SCORE</u> (0-10)
1. LARGE LIVE TREES/ACRE GE 17"DBH	5 _____	25+ _____
2. MULTILAYERED CANOPY	NO _____	YES _____
3. LARGE SNAGS OR DYING TREES		
20"+ DBH	0 _____	15+ _____
12-20"DBH	0 _____	20+ _____
4. STAND DECADENCE INDICATORS	NONE _____	ABUNDANT _____
5. AGE OF OVERSTORY	130 _____	300+ _____
6. BASAL AREA	150 _____	250+ _____
7. CANOPY CLOSURE	70% _____	95%+ _____
8. LARGE DOWN LOGS/ACRE GE 12" DIAMETER	10 _____	40+ _____
9. PILEATED FEEDING	NO _____	YES _____
10. STAND SIZE (ACRES) (INCLUDING ADJOINING O.G. STANDS)	50 _____	500+ _____
TOTAL SCORE		_____

COMMENTS: DESCRIBE STAND, AND WHY IT IS OR ISN'T OLD GROWTH. TOO MANY SCORES
IN THE LOW (ZERO TO ONE) RANGE WILL INDICATE STAND IS NOT OLD GROWTH.

DOES THE STAND HAVE POTENTIAL FOR REPLACEMENT OLD GROWTH?

OLD GROWTH COMPARTMENT ANALYSIS SUMMARY SHEET

COMPARTMENT _____
 COMPARTMENT ACRES BELOW 5500" _____
 DESIGNATED OLDGROWTH ACRES _____
 OLDGROWTH IN NON-BASE M.A.'S _____

DATE OF ANALYSIS _____
BY (INITIAL) _____

[illegible]

*INVENTORY TYPE: FWT - FIELD WALK THROUGH; SP - STANDARD PLOTS; QP - QUICK PLOT
PI - PHOTO INTERPRETATION

COMMENTS: _____

** USE ADDITIONAL PAGES, AS NEEDED. GROUP BLOCKS OF O.G. STANDS TOGETHER.