



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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File Code: 2410/1510

Date: November 6, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senator
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

This letter is in response to your request for information. Specifically, you asked the Forest Service to identify the amount of timber which could theoretically be removed from 25,000 acres within the identified polygons (see Figure 1) over a 50-year time period, should those lands be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and managed under the provisions of your proposal (aka the Oregon and California Land Grant Act of 2014). The total area of the polygons is approximately 65,000 acres.

For the analysis, harvesting assumptions were based entirely on the language of the proposed bill. No other analysis of the lands in question was conducted. Gradient Nearest Neighbor (GNN) data was used in the analysis to determine the following information for all 30m by 30m pixels which fell within each identified polygon: stand age, forest type, quadratic mean diameter, average stand height for the dominant and co-dominant trees, and the number of trees per acre. Forest type was defined using FIA protocols (<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/database-documentation/>). Pixels identified as having a Forest Type of Douglas-fir or western hemlock were classified into low productivity for the Rogue River-Siskiyou and high productivity for the rest of the identified National Forests; resulting in four strata: Douglas-fir high productivity, Douglas-fir low productivity, western hemlock high productivity, and western hemlock low productivity. Simplistic models were built for each of the four strata assuming 500 acres would be harvested annually. The models assumed that the high productivity sites were harvested at ages ranging from 40-79 years and low productivity sites were harvested at ages ranging from 60-119 years. Variable retention harvesting focused on retaining 35% retention was modeled. Using regional volume equations, average annual board foot removed annually was estimated for multiple model runs (Figure 2). The possible total board foot removal over the 50 year period was estimated to be 784 million board feet for the 25,000 acres.



At the further request of your staff, we re-ran the simulation using the same parameters listed above for a larger area that was identified by your staff. This larger area was comprised of 200,000 total acres, of which 75,000 acres was treated. The average projected annual removal was estimated to be 44.4 million board feet. For the 50 year period the total removal was estimated to be 2219 million board feet. Figure 3 depicts the information per decade for both the productive and less productive sites (i.e. moist forest sites).

This information is being provided to you solely at the request for information from your office. The Forest Service has taken no official position on the proposed bill.

Please let me know if you have any questions or further information needs.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rebecca Lockett Heath (for)
JAMES M. PEÑA
Regional Forester, R6

cc: Doug Crandall

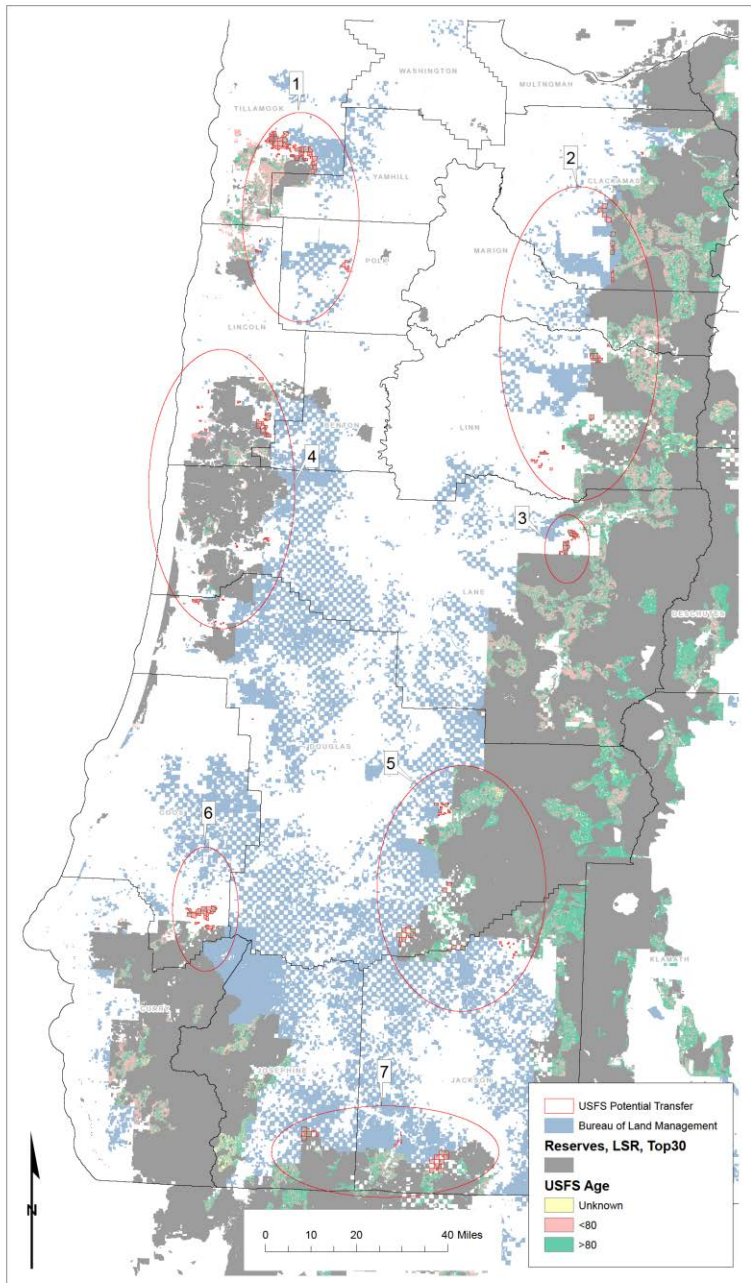


Figure 1

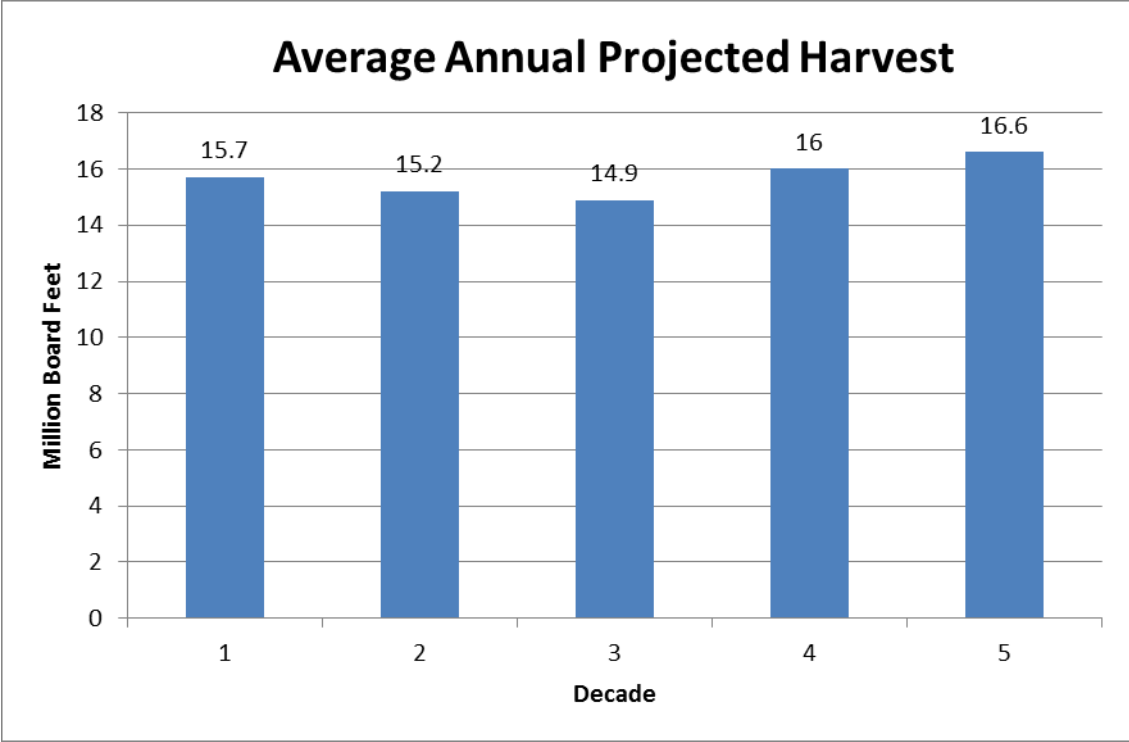


Figure 2

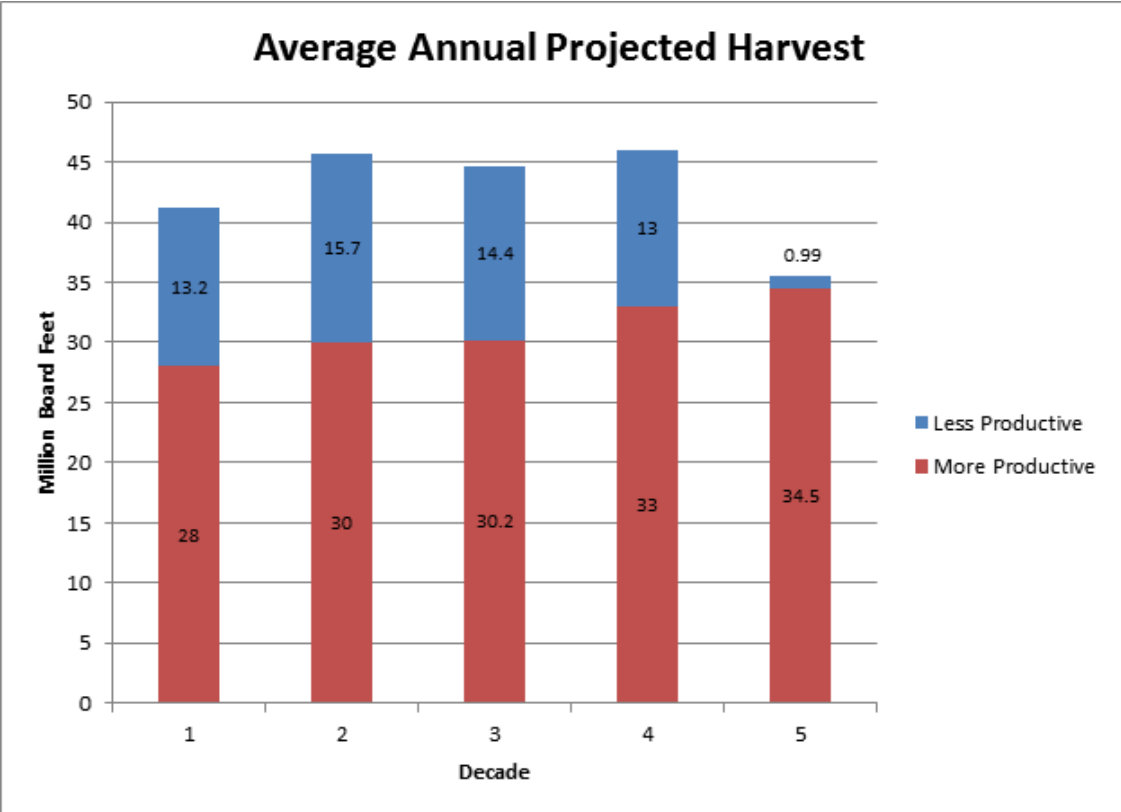


Figure 3