



THOMPSON RIVER IFM ATTACHMENT N, V1.0

PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF MODELING METHODOLOGY

The Inland Empire variant of the Forest Vegetation Simulator model (FVS) was used for modeling purposes. FVS was run in "plots as stands" mode (i.e., each sample point will constitute its own "stand"). The model was calibrated through the inputs set in the FVS_PlotInit table (e.g., location code, latitude/longitude, elevation and forest type code will all be specified) and additional calibrations employed included modification to the default maximum stand density indexes and turning off tripling.

Riparian buffers have been implemented in GIS, using the restrictions identified in the Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan, and sample points nominally located within those buffers have been identified. The silviculture modeled for these sample points followed the requirements set out in the Native Fish Habitat Conservation Plan—this generally amounted to retention of 10% of pre-harvest stocking in Class 3 riparian management zones and 88 trees per acre greater than or equal to 8 inches DBH (or 50% of pre-harvest stocking, whichever is greater) in Class 1 non-fish-bearing and Class 2 riparian management zones. No harvest was modeled in Class 1 fish-bearing riparian management zones.

Outside riparian management zones, the baseline was generally modeled as the historical management regime, a profitable industrial timberland management regime that still adheres to the principles of responsible forest management and, as such, is fully compliant with the easement encumbering the project area. This management style could generally be characterized as even-aged management achieved through natural regeneration. The shelterwood method was used to achieve regeneration if insufficient advance regeneration is present (otherwise the overstory removal method is permitted). Commercial thinning was implemented where warranted.

Treatments modeled in the baseline retained trees of similar species composition as were present prior to harvest. The harvest frequency could be as frequent as every 5 or 10 years, subject to the constraint that a harvest of less than 2,000 board feet per acre will not be permitted. Regeneration assumptions are those coded into the "full establishment model" in use by the Inland Empire variant (no modification to this regeneration model will be made). Legal constraints are described in more detail in Attachment H.