Using FORSEE and Continuous Forest Inventory Information to Evaluate Implementation of Uneven-aged Management in Santa Cruz County Coast Redwood Forests

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Abstract
The area known as Swanton Pacific Ranch and Forest in northern Santa Cruz County has been owned and managed by California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Foundation since 1987. The California Forest Practice Rules specific to the Southern Sub-District of the Coast District limit harvest rate and opening size. Cal Poly forest managers are implementing uneven-aged forest management on 1182 acres of 80 to 110 year old, second-growth coast redwood forests using a modified Guldin BDq. The Lockheed Fire spread into most of the managed forest area during the summer of 2008.

Whereas scientific information does exist on uneven-aged management in coast redwood stands, relatively little information is available on implementation of uneven-aged forest management for coast redwood stands in the Southern Sub-District of the Coast District in Santa Cruz County especially within the context of how fire can influence implementation over the longer term. This McIntire Stennis funded, observational research study used the FORSEE program and a 20+ year Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) record to evaluate changes in past and current stand structure using trees per acre, basal area per acre, and volume per acre.

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