Restoration of Old-Growth Redwood Structural Characteristics With Frequent Variable Silvicultural Entries [1]

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Approximately 2,000 acres of second growth redwood forests in the Redwood Region of northwest. California has been divided into ten units. Each unit is entered every 10 years to timber harvest 50 percent of the growth since the last entry. Timber is removed using a variety of silvicultural systems; single tree selection, variable density thinnings and 1/2 acre to 2.5 acre size group cuts. Native conifer seedlings of all species are planted in the openings.

The goal of these cuttings is to develop and maintain a complex old growth redwood forest while obtaining ecomomic returns for the owner. The conifers in these stands will be mainly redwood with a mixture of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, grand fir and western hemlock. A range of age classes from one year to over 600 years will be achieved over time. These stands will be managed to create and maintain habitat for all species of concern; marbled murrelet, spotted owls, and so forth. To minimize blowdown, redwood sprouts will be selectively thinned out, favoring seedling originated trees to grow into the large 600+ year old growth trees. The frequent entries will provide annual economic return for the owner and maintain habitat for all species

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