2014 Five and Ten Year Sales Plan Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation

By Jeffery Lindsey, Forest Planner Hoopa Tribal Forestry January 20, 2014

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Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation 5 and 10-year Sales Plan, January 31, 2014

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Introduction

In accordance with the Forest Management Plan, a five year projection of Timber harvest should be completed on a regular basis to allow for continued monitoring of resources and coordination with review agencies. Based on the measures of the 2011 Revision of the Forest Management Plan (FMP), an updated Five and Ten-Year Sales Plan is needed to insure compliance with FMP goals and to project future activities.

The 2014 Five and Ten year is constructed in two parts. Part one is the first five years, which makes up one rotation around the reservation. The second will be the second five years, which consists of a second rotation around the Reservation, and should complete the majority of the available old growth. The end of this ten year plan may coincide with the end of old growth harvesting. However, as will be explained later, the current projections have additional units that most likely will not be needed in each Timber Sale, and these have potential to push the switch to second growth operations further back. Time will tell.

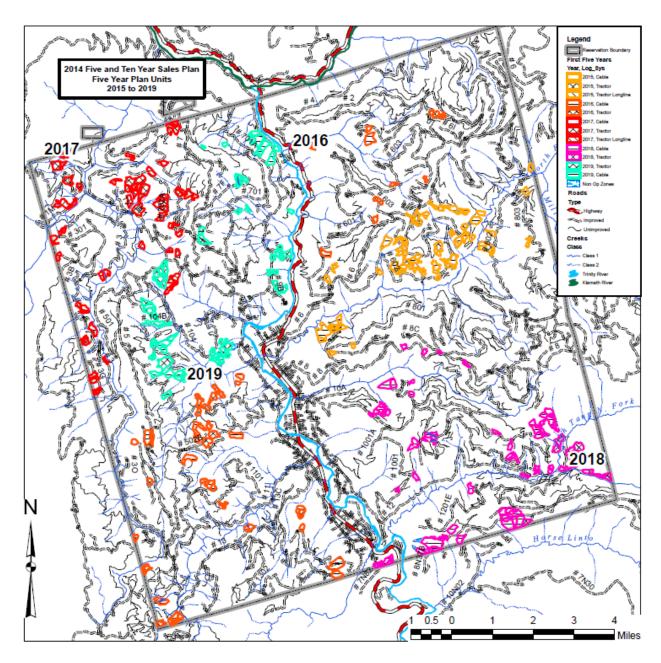
Procedure

For the most part, because the 2013 numbers seem at present to be holding, the methodology has not changed. The numbers are still based on the 2006 CFI survey. That data was processed by the Colorado BOFRP station and then ran through growth projection models to determine the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). When this process was complete, the AAC was set at 8.889 MMBF for the next ten years. That remains the target volume through 2016, but was used throughout the entire 10-yrs because there is currently no good estimate of what direction the AAC will go after the 2016 CFI.

The volumes used in this Sales Plan are based off the 2006 survey, and have not been grown due to the slow rate of the mature stands. Rather, an increased defect has been implemented to account for the decline often witnessed in these older stands. This gives a conservative projection of the available volume, but scaling results from recently logged units justify this conservative approach.

The Five Year Sales Map on the following page shows the selected stands contained in the first five years of this plan. These units have been chosen mostly to conform to the 2013 Five and Ten-Year Plan, with some additions to meet target volumes.

Over the past three years, the planner has been tracking the volume of units. This simply compares the volume projected to the final cruise volume. Although the changes in unit size complicate the equation, the past three years have produced an average realization rate of 81%. That is, for each sale once all the units are flagged and cruised, the units should produce 81% of the projected volume. This does not include units that are not cruised. So in reviewing the 2013 units, this new Realization Value is being incorporated into the calculations.



The projections begin with the 2015 Units. Where changes need to be made, they are. For instance in the 2015 Timber Sale, additional units were added to bring up the initial volume. Using the Strata group classification and the CFI volume-per-acre, each unit is assigned a unit volume. That is adjusted by the probable silvicultural method, and then a standard 22% defect reduction. The goal is the have at least 1½ times the AAC, or 13.5 MMBF once all the adjustments have been made. And in this Plan, the Realization Value is also included. This requires each sale year to start out in excess of 20 MMBF. This will become increasingly more difficult over time, but that is the current target. However, for the first five years, this seems achievable. It appears that despite past predictions, the Old Growth Harvest may last into 2025, if managed properly. A lot will depend on the results of the 2016 CFI, and resulting TIA. A lot more will depend on how many extra units can be deferred to later dates and then picked up in the next harvest.