

Late Seral and OFDA Additions in the Volcano Area

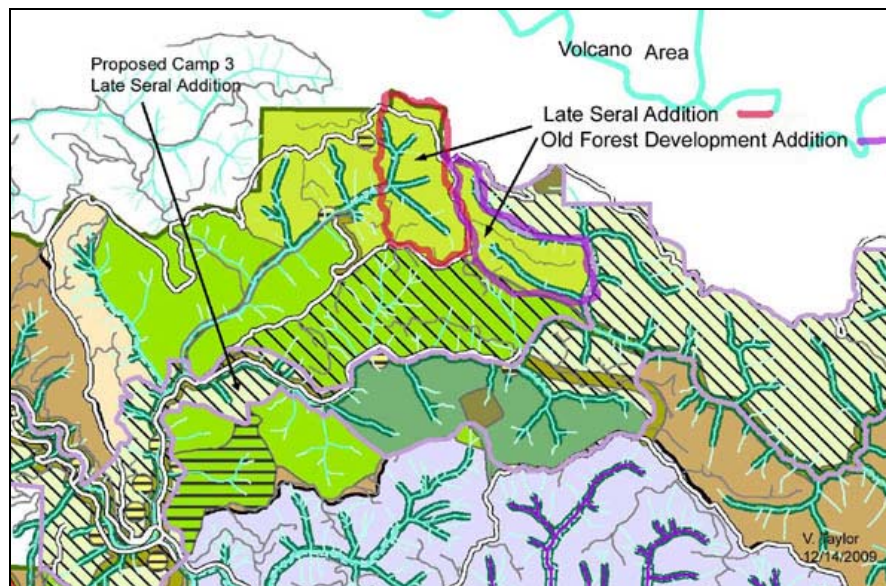
Proposed Volcano Area Late Seral Designation -- Key Points

- Addition to late seral designation of approximately 125 acres
- Would increase late seral designation outside of WLPZs and Woodlands Transfer to a total of about 1,900 acres
- Would provide protection for significant stands of 90+ year-old second growth trees
- Contains areas of high density of trees greater than 30 inches DBH
- Would be consistent with Management Plan objective of managing for late seral or old growth those areas with “the greatest likelihood of attaining that condition.”
- Would create a potential contiguous old growth development area of approximately 1750 acres
- The old growth development area would be located in area of highest current and potential recreation use
- An approved THP in portions of the proposed area will use single-tree selection and commercial thin to remove a maximum of 30% of basal area, retaining largest trees. This harvest will not differ substantially from an accelerated late seral development harvest.

Proposed Volcano Area Added OFDA Designation – Key Points

- Addition to OFDA of approximately 125 acres
- Would fill in a gap in previous OFDA designations in the area, creating more continuity in the band of Old Forest Structure Zone.
- Would provide additional protection to a significant stand with a high density of trees greater than 30 inches DBH

Figure 1



The proposed addition to Late Seral designation is within the area identified in the 2008 Management Plan as “Volcano 2”.

Volcano 2 was designated for harvesting in the 5-year schedule contained in the Management Plan. In 2009, the THP in the Volcano Area was modified to restrict the harvest to 3 selected areas within the THP proposed in the Management Plan (outlined in red in Figure 2). The selected areas had a high density of larger trees. Single-tree selection and Commercial Thin will be used. The modified THP was renamed to “Camp 6 THP.” It was approved by the JAG and is planned for sale in 2010.

Figure 2

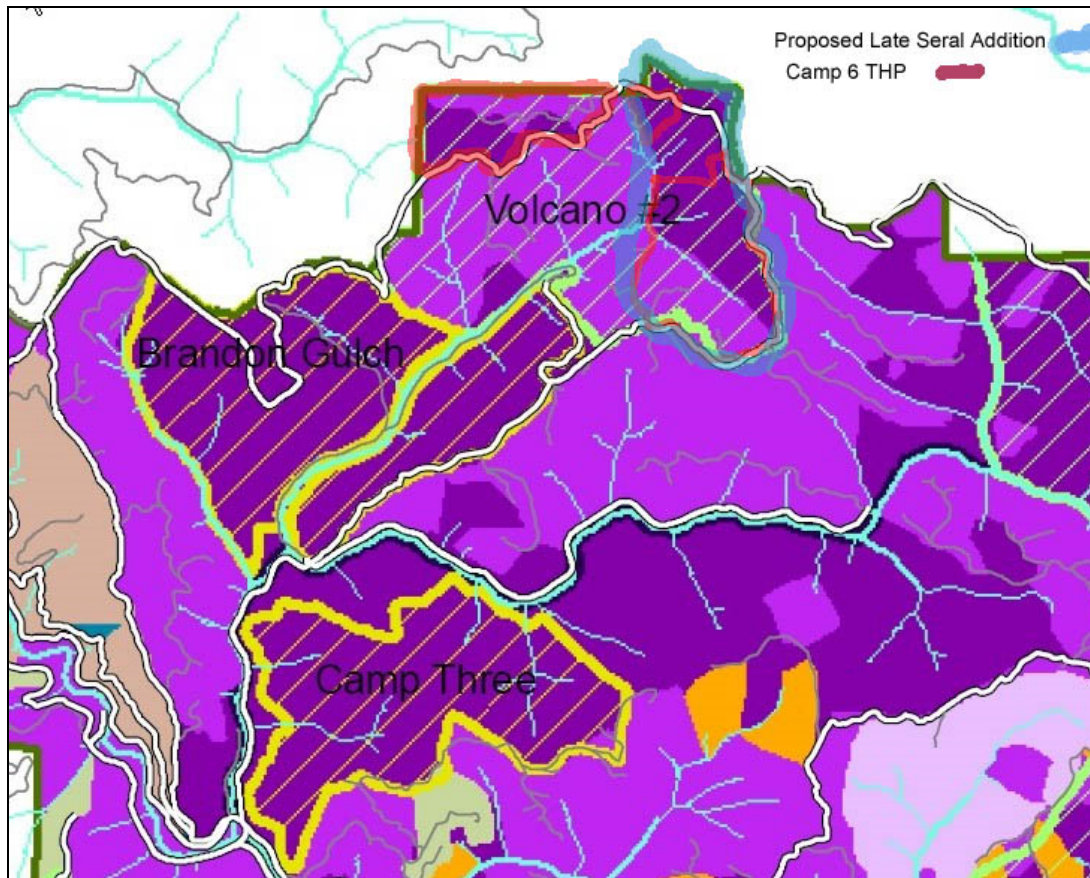


Figure 2 shows that the proposed Volcano Late Seral Area has significant stands of high-density large trees. The dark purple indicates areas with 15-20 trees per acre greater than 30 inches DBH. The medium purple indicates areas with 12-15 trees per acre greater than 30 inches DBH.

Although most of the areas with the densest trees are in the Camp 6 THP, the silviculture to be used does not differ substantially for that to be used to accelerate late seral development in the Brandon Gulch and Camp 3 THPs.

Camp 3 Proposed Late Seral Addition

Figure 1 shows a small area adjacent to Camp 3 that is now designated as an Older Forest Development Area. This area was omitted from the Camp 3 THP because it contains steep

slopes and perhaps other geological considerations that make harvesting impractical or inconsistent with Forest Practice Rules.

Because Camp 3 and Brandon Gulch are both designated for late seral development and adjoin the proposed small addition, as well as the low timber potential of the addition, it seems desirable to give it late seral designation.

JDSF's Ecosystem Management Approach

The 2008 JDSF Management Plan states:

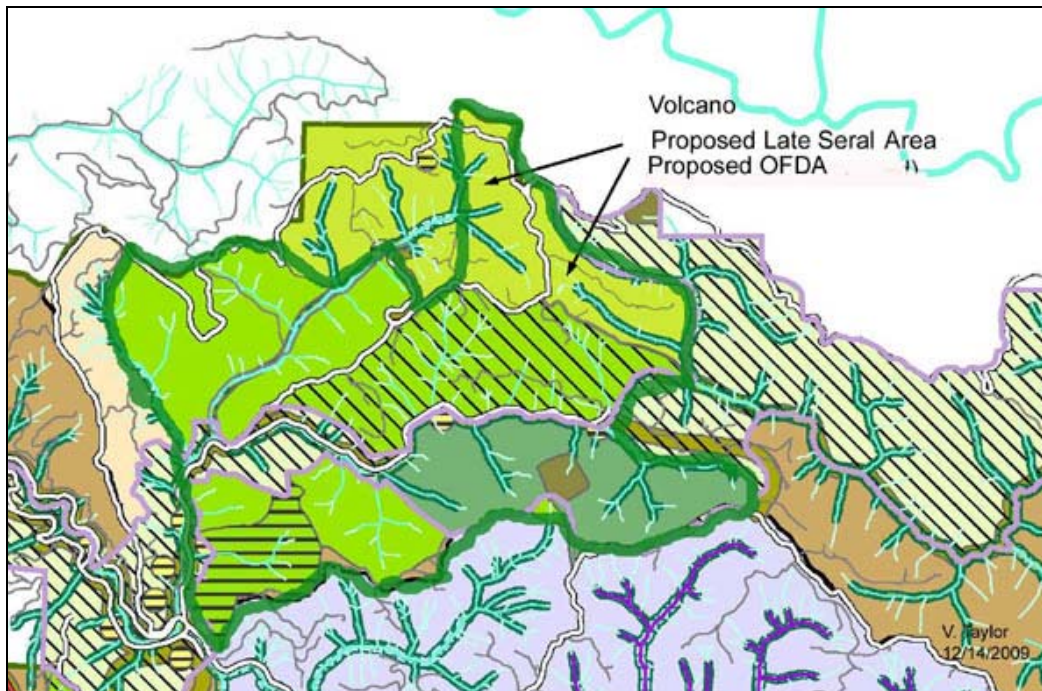
Consistent with other management objectives manage forest stands toward late seral or old-growth condition in those areas showing the greatest likelihood of attaining that condition or where existing late seral or old-growth associated values can be maximized.¹

The areas encompassed by the Camp 6 THP are among the areas in Jackson Forest "showing the greatest likelihood of attaining that [late seral] condition" by virtue of their age and density of large trees.

Creates Potential 2000 Acre Old Growth Development Area

The proposed late seral additions would create a large compact contiguous area that potentially could be managed for old growth development. The area is shown outlined in green in Figure 3.

Figure 3



With the exception of the area in the center with slanted lines and the proposed OFDA addition, the entire area would be designated for late seral management. The central area, which comprised the earlier Volcano 1 THPs, is designated as an Older Forest

¹ "JDSF's Ecosystem Management Approach," *JDSF 2008 Management Plan*, p. 65.

Development Area. During the planning period of 40 years, the management of the OFDAs would be largely consistent with management for late seral. The option would exist to designate it for old growth development at a later time.

Arguments for Volcano Late Seral Area

1. The proposed addition would make the total area allocated to late seral development closer to an amount consistent with the Management Plan's goal for older forest development:

Given the current low level of older forest in the redwood region, a significant portion of the structural goals are oriented towards accelerating the development of older forest structures.

Including all late seral and old growth areas and reserves, including those in WLPZs and the Woodlands Transfer Area, the total acreage to be managed for old growth development before the proposed late seral additions totals 13,800 acres, or 28% of the forest acres.

Although 13,800 acres appears to be a substantial portion of the forest, the total numbers obscure the limited allocations of significant areas to old growth development outside of the WLPZs and the Woodlands Transfer Area. The WLPZs contain 7,300 acres, which are not in blocks. The Woodlands Transfer Area contains (outside of WLPZs) 3,200 acres. Harvesting in the Woodlands Transfer Area is restricted by terms of the transfer deed; so late seral development is, arguably, the only management that could be justified.

With all of the allocation changes approved to date by the Landscape Committee, there are 2,200 acres designated for late seral or old growth outside of the WLPZs and the Woodlands Transfer Area. This amounts to only 6% of the acreage outside of the WLPZs and the Woodlands Transfer Area.

To designate only six percent of the area in the largest portion of the forest for late seral development seems inadequate from many viewpoints. Certainly the public desires more than this. The Management Plan's own goals argue for a more substantial portion of the forest to be managed for restoration to old growth.

2. The proposed additions create a large contiguous area of potential old growth management in the area of the forest most used for recreation and with the most potential for further recreation development, including an expanded network of trails. The large old-growth development area would be highly valued by the public. It would also, over time, create a significant refuge for species dependent on old redwood forest ecology.
3. The Volcano Area contains substantial stands of old, large second-growth. As such, it fits the criteria stated in the management plan for stands that should be managed for restoration to late seral or old growth:

Consistent with other management objectives manage forest stands toward late seral or old-growth condition in those areas showing the greatest likelihood of attaining that condition or where existing late seral or old-growth associated values can be maximized.²

² "JDSF's Ecosystem Management Approach," *JDSF 2008 Management Plan*, p. 65.