Defining Early Seral Habitats

*Industry Perspectives*

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An Industry “Perspective” Does not Exist

• Many landowners raise timber as a crop

• Differing value propositions

• Scale of operations influences practices

• Management incorporates multiple values, but *timber crop is paramount*
Oregon Harvest Amounts, all ownerships (1958-2008)
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/ppet/16.shtml
Oregon and Washington Harvest Amounts (1958-2008)
by Year and Landowner
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/ppet/16.shtml
Where did the Logs Go?

• Average U.S. home size doubled in ~50 years
  – Average size of ~2300 square feet (2005)

• 1978-2009, ~47 million homes built in the U.S.

• 466 billion board feet of logs needed to build these homes, or ~15 billion board feet per year

• USFS cut averaged ~12 billion board feet per year in the period from 1978-1988
  – ~3 billion bbf from Oregon
Wood is a global commodity

By 2006, nearly 80% of industry land had been purchased by different timberlands investment structures (Stein et al.; USFS)
  – Timberland investment management organizations (TIMOs)
  – Real estate investment trusts (REITs)

Timberlands must remain competitive against other asset classes
Intensification or Extensification?

• Spatial and temporal scope of operations
  – Fragmentation

• Practices vary by strategy

• Novel pressures

Landscape and Stand Changes

• Spatial distribution of ES stands
  – Strong contrasts with historic patterns
  – Landscape context varies by ownership
  – Elevational gradient by ownership

• Conversion of high productivity, low-elevation stands

• ES stand management
  – Historic: Passive regeneration, burning for site preparation, planting of unimproved stock
  – Current: Active regeneration, chemical site preparation, planting of improved stock
Intensification in ES Stands

- IFM
- Unmanaged (post harvesting)
- Unmanaged (post disturbance)

Stand age (years)

Site potential shrub cover
Issues in ES Stand Management

• Compressed ES stage

• Truncated stand ages

• Reduced structural complexity (spatial)

• Habitat may be reduced or eliminated for certain species
  – A ‘balance’ between ES and other species?
Identify Solutions

• Can ‘space’ be substituted for ‘time’ in ES stand management?
  – At what scales?

• Reduced structural complexity as a trade-off for intensification?

• Uniformity