

# Excerpt from the Late-Seral Development Prescription for Brandon Gulch Timber Harvest Plan

July 23, 2008 Draft of the JAG Late Seral Development Committee

## 5. Special Considerations

### a. Recreation and Aesthetics

Recreation use on Brandon Gulch consists primarily of two campgrounds and use of recreational trails (Roads 360, 362, and 1000, see Figure 3) used by campers, hikers, bikers, equestrians, shooters, and unauthorized use of OHVs.

The direction given in the Settlement Agreement (Appendix 2) is to ensure that: "Recreation use will be considered when devising the THP amendments. Potential harvest modifications to reduce visual impact on recreation users, including but not limited to those provided by the Management Plan and the Forest Practice Rules, shall be considered for incorporation in the THP amendments."

To meet this directive, treatments should be applied in the close vicinity of campgrounds and trails to mitigate the effects of timber harvest and to enhance vegetation development that promotes desirable aesthetic and visual conditions. Concerns and suggestions provided by an initial recreation user survey (Appendix 8) should be considered in carrying out timber harvesting and mitigating its effects.

The following elements provide additions or emphasis to the recreation guidelines in the Management Plan:

- 1) Roads and Trails. Roads 360, 362, and 1000, are used by hikers, equestrians, and trail bike riders and are valued for providing aesthetic experiences and views of the forest. Trails used by equestrians should provide adequate width and overhead height clearance. To lessen visible impacts of timber harvesting in sensitive areas, setbacks on the uphill side of trails should be 150 feet along the slope, possibly with greater setbacks on the downhill sides where visibility penetrates further into the forest. Removal of any trees within setbacks should be limited to those necessary to ~~enhance specific needs of forest and ecological development~~ **enable harvesting operations. The setback can be reduced in size when no significant visual impact will result.** Any proposed tree harvesting within setbacks should be controlled by visual confirmation from professional staff on the trail, possibly with input from JAG in the initial phase of field implementation. Trails along streamsides are especially scenic and setbacks along Brandon Gulch and the North Fork of the Noyo River may exceed specifications of the Forest Practice Rules to protect particularly identified values. Sherwood Trail is of particular importance requiring special maintenance to prevent erosion.

After harvest, all trails should be restored as much as possible to their original or desired condition. All trails and trailheads within Brandon Gulch should be well marked and mapped. Opportunities should be taken to provide information to the public on sustainable

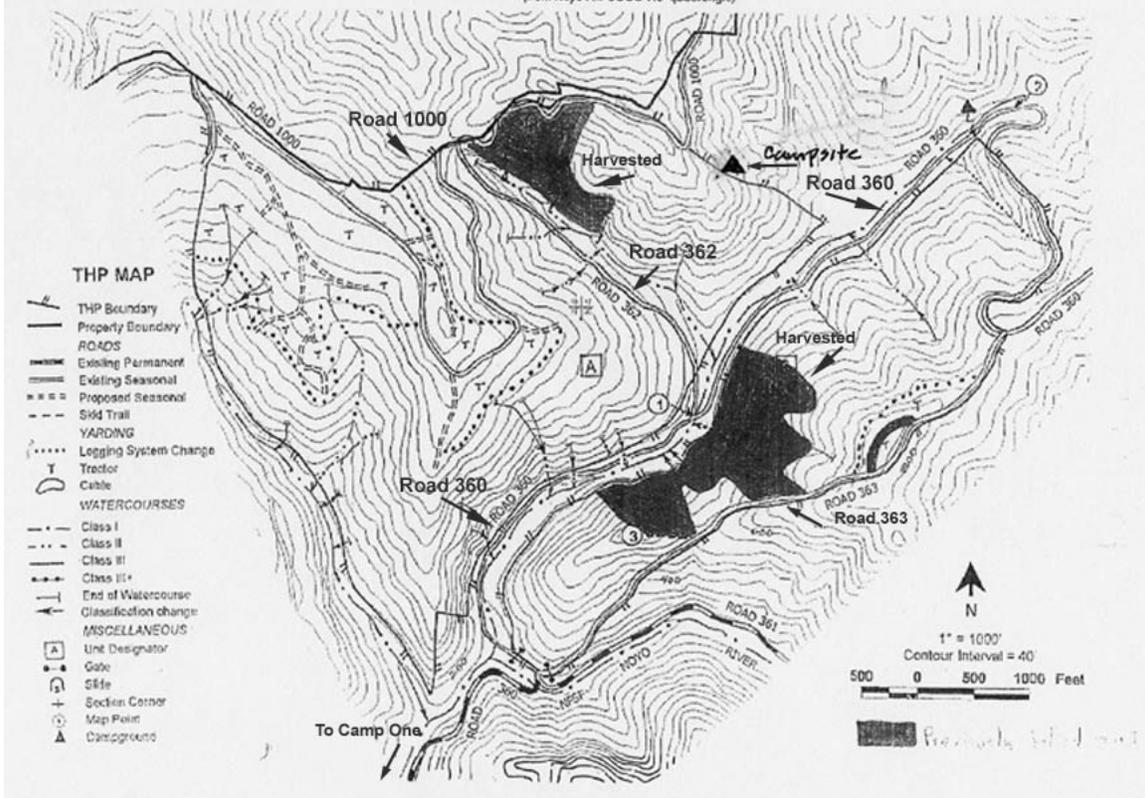
forest management, advancing late-seral stand conditions, and balanced resource use on portions of trails from which harvesting can be observed.

- 2) Existing Campsites and Day-Use Areas at JDSF provide a remarkable sense of solitude and therefore careful attention is required to ensure adequacy of setbacks. Setback size should be 200 feet within which harvesting should be excluded (Management Plan, page 275) with added sensitivity given within 300 feet (Management Plan, page 119). Prior to harvesting, onsite evaluation of potential visible impacts should be conducted by JDSF staff and one or more JAG representatives to ensure that desirable visibility screens are prescribed. These will likely vary considerably around campsites due to variability in terrain and vegetation. Thinning near campgrounds and day-use areas should be limited to enhancing understory development, future screening, and removing potential hazard trees. Planning for thinning should be controlled by visual confirmation from professional staff in the campground, possibly with input from JAG in the initial phase of field implementation. [Trails to campgrounds should receive the same visual protection provided to other recognized trails.](#) Riparian buffers may exceed standards of the California Forest Practice Rules to protect special values at particularly important locations of recreation areas.
- 3) Cable Corridors should be kept as narrow as possible and, [if practicable](#), aligned ~~at the most acute angle as possible to trails~~ to minimize visibility. Care must be taken to avoid injuring [leave](#) trees at the edge of corridors.
- 4) Tractor Logging should leave as much vegetation as possible for visual screening from roads and trails. Tractor use should be restricted when soils are moist to avoid soil compaction.
- 5) Landings and Access Routes should be limited to the minimum size needed consistent with providing safe working areas. Landings (including those from previous logging entries) should be cleaned up and planted unless designated for reuse. All access roads and landings should be decommissioned by covering with slash to limit non-authorized use, stabilize surface soil, and enhance regeneration of native plants. Special care should be taken to avoid conditions conducive to establishment of exotic plants.
- 6) Logging Debris away from trails and visitor use will be treated using standards within the Forest Practice Rules. If visible from trails and visitor use and on entrances to access roads and landings, logging debris should be lopped and scattered if not removed via prescribed burning treatments. Slash abatement may in places exceed the normally-prescribed 50 feet from a road (Management Plan pages 119 and 273) to reduce fire risk or enhance recreation and aesthetic values.
- 7) Garbage Increased attention must be given to discouraging the dumping of garbage, which should be promptly removed where it occurs.

[Map of Brandon Gulch THP on next page]

BRANDON GULCH 2000 TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN

Sections 17, 18, 19 & 20 T18N, R18W MDB&M  
(from Noyo Hill USGS 7.5' quadrangle)



THP MAP

- THP Boundary
- Property Boundary
- ROADS
  - Existing Permanent
  - Existing Seasonal
  - Proposed Seasonal
  - Skid Trail
- YARDING
  - Logging System Change
  - Tractor
  - Cable
- WATERCOURSES
  - Class I
  - Class II
  - Class III
  - Class III\*
  - End of Watercourse
  - Classification change
- MISCELLANEOUS
  - Unit Designator
  - Gate
  - Slide
  - Section Corner
  - Map Point
  - Dumpground

N

1" = 1000'

Contour Interval = 40

500 0 500 1000 Feet

*Revised 10/1/00*