PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

Potential Preliminary Alternative “A”

“A” includes the most acres reserved for species and the least acres in the harvest land base. It also draws the sharpest distinction between management in reserves and management in the harvest land base, and provides a minimum level of recreational opportunities.

Large Block Forest Reserves: The large block forest reserves would have the same boundaries as northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet critical habitat. No commercial removal of timber would take place within the moist forest. In dry forests there would be short-term thinning until stands reach the age of 80, at which point no further thinning would take place.

Protection of Older Forests: Reserve all forests 120 years old and older.

Riparian Reserves: Riparian reserves would encompass lands within one site-potential-tree-height on all streams and would include an inner “no-thin” buffer of 120 feet on perennial and fish-bearing intermittent streams and 50 feet on non-fish-bearing intermittent streams. No commercial removal of timber would take place within the moist forest.

Timber Management: Outside of critical habitat: thinning and regeneration harvest with no retention (AKA “clearcuts”).

Potential Preliminary Alternative “B”

“B” includes the second most acres dedicated to species. It provides for a moderate intensity timber approach in the moderate number of acres in the harvest land base. Alternative B would continue to provide the current level of recreation opportunities.

Large Block Forest Reserves: The reserve is designed by modeling the capability of the forest, given current ownership patterns, to form contiguous blocks of northern spotted owl habitat and then reserving the most effective arrangement of lands for spotted owl conservation. Forests within this reserve would be managed for spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat, as well as for fire resiliency. No treatments would take place in older stands.

Protect Older Forests: Reserve all forests 120 years old and older on high productivity sites; 140 years old and older on moderate productivity sites; and 160 years old and older on low productivity sites.

Riparian Reserves: Perennial and fish-bearing intermittent streams: Riparian reserves would encompass lands within one site potential tree and would have a 60-foot “no commercial treatment” buffer. For non-fish bearing intermittent streams lands within a boundary of either 50 (non-debris prone) or 100 (debris prone) feet will be managed with a 50-foot “no commercial treatment” buffer.

Timber Management: Inside critical habitat but outside of large block forest reserves: thinning and regeneration harvest with 20-30% retention. Under Alternative B there will also be higher retention in dry
forests. Outside of critical habitat thinning and regeneration harvest would occur with 10 to 20 percent retention. Uneven-aged management would be applied in the dry forests.

**Potential Preliminary Alternative “C”**

“C” includes the third most acres dedicated to species. It provides for an intensive timber approach, including clear cuts (except in the driest forest), in the moderate number of acres in the harvest land base.

**Large Block Forest Reserves**: The reserve is designed based on the basic size and spacing requirements for blocks of spotted owl habitat. Forests within this reserve would be managed for spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat, as well as for fire resiliency. No treatments would take place in older stands.

**Protection of Older Forests**: Reserve all forests 160 years old and older.

**Riparian Reserves**: For perennial and fish-bearing intermittent streams riparian reserves would encompass lands within one site potential tree and would have a 60-foot “no commercial treatment” buffer. For non-fish bearing intermittent streams lands within a boundary of either 50 (non-debris prone) or 100 (debris prone) feet would be treated with a 50-foot “no commercial treatment” buffer.

**Timber Management**: All areas outside of reserves (including critical habitat outside of reserves): thinning and regeneration harvest with no retention (clear cuts). Uneven aged management would be applied in dry forests.

**Potential Preliminary Alternative “D”**

“D” contains the least amount of acres dedicated exclusively to species and the most acres in the harvest land base.

**Large Block Forest Reserves**: The large block forest reserves would encompass older stands (as defined under “protection of older forests,” below). Forests within this reserve would be managed for spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat, as well as for fire resiliency.

**Protection of Older Forests**: Reserve forests 120 years old and older on high productivity sites; 140 years old and older on moderate productivity sites; and 160 years old and older on low productivity sites.

**Riparian Reserves**: Riparian reserves would encompass lands within one site-potential-tree-height on all streams. The reserves would include an inner “no-thin” buffer of 120 feet on all streams.

**Timber Management**: Younger stands in critical habitat: stands would be managed with an uneven-aged management strategy that would combine sustained-yield timber production with maintaining owl habitat. Outside of critical habitat timber would be harvested through thinning and regeneration harvest with 10 to 20 percent retention rates. Uneven-aged management would be applied in dry forests.