

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) Stakeholder Group

UPDATE to August 2017 Stakeholder Position
Statement:

Planning for Stands with a Preponderance of Large
Young Trees (SPLYT)



At the September 2017 4FRI Stakeholder Group meeting, stakeholders re-visited the need for utilizing Site Class filters to determine SPLYT stand management. Full consensus was reached to remove all Site Class filters for such analyses. Please consider the following statement the final position of the 4FRI Stakeholder Group:

The iterative spatial analysis and field validation effort undertaken by the 4FRI Team and stakeholders yielded an initial filter for SPLYT stands located outside of Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) Protected Activity Centers, MSO Recovery Habitat, and wildland urban interfaces (WUI). SPLYT criteria are: a) Quadratic Mean Diameter (QMD) of the largest 20 trees is >15" and b) there is >50 square feet/acre of basal area (BA) in trees >16" diameter at breast height (DBH). All stands will be field-verified prior to mechanical thinning. Stands (or portions thereof) meeting SPLYT criteria, including those not captured by the data filter, will be treated at the lowest range of intensity. For example, a stand identified with the flexible toolbox to receive a Uneven-aged treatment with 10 to 25% interspace (UEA 10-25) treatment would be treated to 10% interspace and to the upper end of Natural Range of Variability (NRV) for trees per acre (TPA) and BA in order to maintain large tree dominance and conditions favorable to canopy-dependent species. Stands (or portions thereof) that are captured by the SPLYT criteria data filter but upon field verification are determined not to meet the SPLYT criteria will be treated within the range of intensities applied to other non-SPLYT stands.

Statement approved by unanimous 4FRI Stakeholder Group consensus on September 27, 2017 and provided to U.S.D.A. Forest Service 4FRI Board and Planning Team on October 13, 2017.

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