

Forrest Stump Timber Sale

LFDC Stand Assessment

The Forrest Stump timber sale targets a 105-year-old naturally regenerated forest that retains many of the biological, structural, and genetic legacies of the old-growth forest that preceded it. This stand originated after a wildfire in the early 1900s and was later subject to salvage logging. Because it was never clear cut nor replanted it retained significant legacies, including individual surviving old growth trees, old growth snags and the native gene pool of the site.

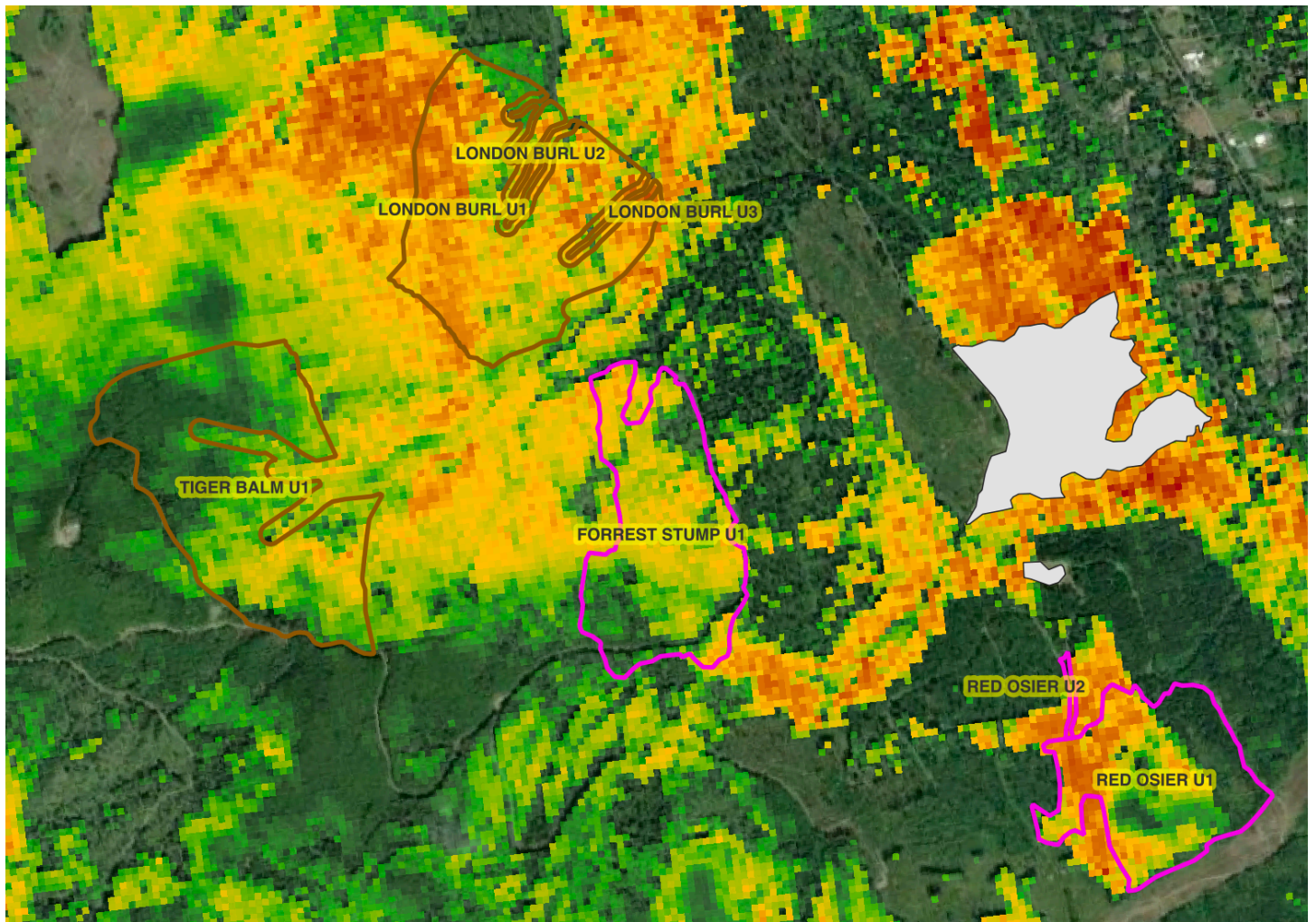
Despite these important features, DNR's evaluation of the stand is narrowly focused on understory regeneration as a proxy for structural complexity. This limited metric fails to reflect the true richness and ecological value of the forest. In reality, the stand is structurally complex and ecologically diverse, containing:

- Large, mature trees exceeding 40 inches in diameter. LFDC observed trees with cavities, broken tops, flaky bark, canopy platforms and epicormic branching throughout this forest.
- Standing dead wood and snags, actively used by woodpeckers and other old-forest-dependent species
- Small-scale natural disturbances, such as root rot patches and blowdown zones, which enhance habitat diversity
- Understory recruitment, shade-tolerant understory regeneration is present across most of the stand, and parts of the stand exhibit characteristics of Maturation II with shade tolerant trees creating a multi layered canopy
- A high diversity of native tree species, with Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, Douglas-fir, Pacific Silver Fir, Sitka Spruce, and Red Alder all present.

During our recent site visit, LFDC also documented the presence of multiple old-forest-dependent and old-forest-associated bird species including:

- **Pileated Woodpeckers:** This species requires large tracts of mature or old-growth forest with a high density of large, standing dead trees (snags) and decaying logs. These features provide both nesting and foraging opportunities. Logging removes essential habitat features like snags and large decaying wood.
- **Pacific Wren:** This species thrives in structurally complex forests, especially those with downed logs, snags, and closed canopies. Logging that removes these features can drastically reduce habitat suitability.
- **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** This species prefers mature coniferous or mixed forests with large trees and snags. It nests in tree cavities, often in standing dead trees, which are reduced or eliminated by logging.
- **Swainson's Thrush:** This species is a *forest generalist, but prefers* intact, older forests and can be negatively affected by clearcutting and canopy loss.
- **Western Tanager:** This species *favors mature conifer and mixed forests, it* needs large trees for foraging and nesting.
- **Western Flycatcher:** This species is *strongly associated with moist, mature forests, especially near streams*. It prefers structurally complex forests and is sensitive to logging.

While this stand does not key out to Maturation II, it contains many other elements of structural complexity. Importantly, it is part of a much larger landscape of mature forests on the east side of Tiger Mountain. The harvest of this site would not enhance the old forest condition of this site, instead it would fragment this landscape, degrading one of the largest sections of mature forests on DNR managed lands in the region.



Map of Forrest Stump area yellow/orange represents taller and more structurally complex areas.