

Hello Angie,

I've always thought that the land can tell us what will grow in the riparian area, especially when most RMAs on lower-elevation forests were logged starting in the late 1800s and ending in the 1980s. Our 40 was probably logged with horse or oxen in 1900 soon after Mr. Timmerman filed his 160 acre donation land claim. Remnant giant stumps can still be seen in our riparian area.

So if I were laying out a thinning in a RMA, I'd prefer to follow this rule:

"When actively managing the riparian area, the operator shall leave well-distributed conifer trees based on historic evidence of remnant stumps, with the goal of mimicking what nature grew. Large gaps in the remaining conifer and hardwood trees shall be minimized, favoring small openings in canopy cover. The trees shall have the capacity to grow in diameter and crown height, as well as promoting understory vegetation.

These management strategies should consider safety, operational limitations, and efficient harvest of adjacent stands."

From Scott Hayes