F&W Forestry®

F&W FORESTRY SERVICES, INC.

Practices to Protect Threatened and Endangered Species, and Old-Growth Forests

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F&W Forestry Services, Inc. provides the following list of practices to assist foresters in protecting significant non-timber natural resources. The intent is to enable foresters to take appropriate steps to identify, avoid, and/or avoid degrading these resources. These procedures incorporate the best scientific information including the results of research from collaboration with SFI Implementation Committees (SICs).

The US Federal Government lists species as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Additionally, most states maintain lists of state rare, threatened, or endangered species or communities and a some maintain a database or inventory species or communities.

Most states and the US Federal Government rank species and communities as follows (G=Global, S=State):

G or S1	G or S2	G or S3	G or S4	G or S5
Critically Imperiled	Imperiled	Vulnerable	Apparently secure	Secure

Many rare species are difficult to identify with certainty. Many rare communities may be more easily identified by experienced foresters, simply by virtue of being unusual for the region. Foresters should note areas which are unusual or atypical for the tract or region.

> *Old Growth Forests, Old Forests and Late Successional Stands are general categories of potentially significant natural communities.*

Such forests may exhibit some of the following characteristics: an abundance of older trees; presence of dead and downed logs and snags; canopy gaps formed from trees that have fallen; undulating forest floor with abundant mosses, lichens, and fungi; undisturbed soils with a thick humus layer; a lack of

coppice growth; and absence of signs of human disturbance. Such forests may be ecologically important, and deserve further investigation.

SPECIFIC PRACTICES RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF RTE SPECIES AND OLD GROWTH FORESTS

- Foresters should review lists and descriptions of rare, threatened or endangered species and communities for their state or region. The intent is for foresters to be able to recognize unusual species or communities (either those that are identified as rare or otherwise imperiled, or those that are unusual for the region and may need further investigation) and afford them the protection appropriate to the uniqueness of the resource.
- If RTE species or significant natural communities are present, their identification and location should be noted, and the location housed in the property GIS.
- F&W Forestry encourages foresters to include training in the identification, ecological benefits, and management of fld forests.
- F&W Forestry encourages support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in their regions of management.
- Verified Old Growth forests should be protected from disturbing management activities.