Establishing the treatments

After an RMZ has been selected for monitoring, it must be divided into separate treatment areas. A treatment area must be at least 450 ft. long and 300 ft. wide. It consists of a sampling area at least 330 ft long and edge-effect buffers at least 66 ft long on each end of the sampling area. Two 150 ft long by 75 ft wide grids will be established within the sampling area. Each grid will have six permanently marked reference points (plot centers) for collecting information on Large woody debris, understory vegetation and canopy cover. The species, DBH, damage and defects will be determined for all trees pre-and post treatment. Leave trees are tagged so individual tree growth and mortality can be recorded.

What Will Be Monitored and Where?

Pre-commercial thinning, commercial stand thinning and hardwood conversions are the principal riparian (RMZ) management activities that will be employed to achieve the goal of the riparian restoration strategy. Scientifically valid monitoring of these activities (silvicultural treatments) will require untreated controls and randomized sampling. Replicate monitoring sites will be established within the six west-side HCP planning units in order to evaluate the full suite of riparian silvicultural treatments and to assess how these activities may be affected by local and regional differences in plant association, soils, disease problems, and other biotic and abiotic factors.