

**9. Minimum Level
Benchmark**

- a. **Description** This benchmark specifies the minimum level of management which would be necessary to maintain the unit as part of the National Forest System. This includes the minimum costs and outputs associated with this level of management (See Table B-21)
- b. **Purpose** The purpose of developing this benchmark is to determine the probable costs of managing the Forest at the lowest level of management intensity allowed by law. All budget expenditures would be necessary to provide minimum environmental constraints and protection of the life, health, and safety of users.
- c. **FORPLAN Objective Function** This benchmark was developed outside the FORPLAN model.
- d. **Assumptions and Constraints** Only those activities would occur which are essential to provide minimum environmental protection and to protect the life, health, and safety of users of the Forest.
- All constraints are applicable throughout the planning horizon (150 years).
- e. **Timber** Timber harvest would cease. There would be personal use of fuelwood, fence posts, rails, etc. The reduction in this amount over the planning period is due to the reduced amount of roads available for access to the Forest.
- f. **Range** There are no permitted commercial livestock using the Forest. Forage would be used by wild horses, wildlife, and incidental recreational livestock. The area used by wild horses would increase as the number of animals increased. The potential for damage to the wild horse territory would increase as the horse herd grew. Resource damage and competition between wild horses and elk would occur on the winter range of the original territory.
- g. **Wildlife** Big-game habitat capability would decrease over time as the forested canopy closes, creating an overabundance of cover. Yet, we project that elk numbers will remain at the present levels through the fifth decade.
- Habitat diversity would decrease over the five decades, approaching a natural forest condition.
- h. **Old Growth** Old-growth habitat would increase as stands mature into the old-growth characteristics.
- i. **Fisheries** Fish habitat would improve over time to a near-natural condition. The decrease in management activities such as logging, roading, and livestock grazing would reduce sedimentation and improve streamside vegetation. There would also be an improvement in water temperature. Habitat condition would attain 90 percent of the natural potential by the fifth decade.
- j. **Water** Water quality would generally improve over the planning period.
- k. **Recreation** Developed Recreation: There would be no developed sites maintained for use.

Dispersed Recreation. Roaded modified settings would convert to Roaded Natural settings by the third decade. Semiprimitive settings and wilderness would remain in their current conditions

Visual resource: The Forest would return to a natural-appearing landscape by the third decade.

Cultural Resources: Cultural resource inventories and mitigating measures would be needed for ground-disturbing activities conducted by permittees for activities such as mining, electronic site development, etc.

l Transportation

Total road miles would decrease as roads closed naturally Maintenance would be confined to main access routes and that needed to correct situations which would cause resource damage such as sedimentation in streams

m. Protection

Fire protection index would be higher due to the reduced protection force. There would be a reduced expenditure on a per-acre basis but a higher loss expense from fires due to an increase in natural fuels.

Law enforcement would be primarily confined to preventing theft of Government property

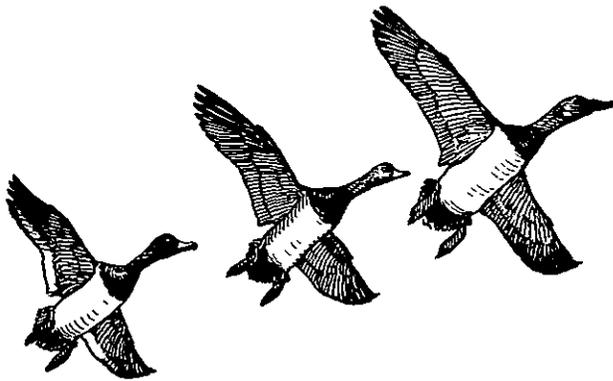


TABLE B-21
BENCHMARK MINIMUM LEVEL.

Output/Effect	Unit of Measure/yr	1st Decade	2nd Decade	5th Decade
RECREATION				
Developed Use	M RVDs	0	0	0
Dispersed Use				
Semi-Primitive				
Non-Motorized	M RVDs	0	0	0
Semi-Primitive				
Motorized	M RVDs	157.3	157.3	157.3
Roaded Natural	M RVDs	3,357	3,791	4,226
Roaded Modified	M RVDs	588.7	294.8	0
Wilderness	M RVDs	61.8	61.8	61.8
WILDLIFE AND FISH				
Elk (Summer)	Numbers	10,100	10,100	10,100
Anadromous Fish	M Pounds	40.9	61.6	70.6
Big-Game Use ^{1/}	M WFUDs	49.1	49.1	49.1
Fish Use ^{1/}	M WFUDs	30.2	45.5	52.1
RANGE				
Livestock Use	M AUMs	0	0	0
TIMBER				
LTSYC	MM Cu Ft	No Timber Harvest		
Programmed Sale	MM Bd Ft	No Timber Harvest		
Offered	MM Cu Ft	No Timber Harvest		
Other wood fiber and				
Personal firewood	MM Cu Ft	2.9	1.4	0.7
Volume by species				
Ponderosa Pine	MM Cu Ft	-----	None	-----
Mixed Conifer	MM Cu Ft	-----	None	-----
Lodgepole Pine	MM Cu Ft	-----	None	-----
Harvest Method				
Overstory Removal/				
Two-story stand	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Intermediate cut	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Clearcut	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Shelterwood cut	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Selective cut	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Precommercial thin	M Acres	-----	None	-----
Reforestation (Plant)	M Acres	-----	None	-----
WATER QUALITY				
Sediment	Index	215	215	215
Water Yield	M Acre-Foot	620	620	620
FIRE				
Fire Effective Index	\$/M Acres	1,344	1,344	1,344
Fuel Treatment	M Acres	0	0	0
FACILITIES				
Passenger Car	Miles	0	0	0
High-Clearance Vehicle	Miles	7,100	7,100	7,100
Construction and				
Reconstruction	Miles	0	0	0

^{1/}Included in recreation visitor days in recreation