

**MANAGEMENT AREA 6A (68,700 acres) - STRAWBERRY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS**

**1. Description**

Management Area 6A consists of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness which is entirely within the Malheur National Forest. An east-west hydrologic divide separates the wilderness into two distinct parts. The northern portion drains into the mainstem of the John Day River and the southern portion drains into the Silves and Malheur River systems.

A variety of physical and biological environments occur in the area, both forested and nonforested, as determined by soil, slope, aspect, elevation (approximately 4,600 to 9,038 feet at the top of Strawberry Mountain), and climatic factors.

This area was designated a Class I Airshed by the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments.

**2. Goals**

Manage in accordance with values specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984. Preserve and protect the wilderness character of the resource. Provide naturalness and opportunities for solitude, challenge, and inspiration. Within these constraints and following a policy of nondegradation management, provide for recreational, scenic, educational, scientific, and historical uses.

Manage the area to be essentially free from evidence of restrictions and controls. Only facilities essential for resource protection are to be used and these will be constructed of native or natural-appearing materials. Provide no facilities for the comfort or convenience of the user. Space and disperse groups informally to minimize contacts with other groups or individuals.

Within Management Area 6A, two wilderness recreation opportunity spectrum (WROS) classes will be provided. Manage approximately 6,870 acres around Canyon Mountain north of Berry Creek for pristine wilderness opportunities; and the remaining 61,830 acres for primitive wilderness opportunities. Each wilderness recreation opportunity spectrum class has distinct management goals and standards in terms of physical/biological objectives, social setting objectives, and the desired managerial setting.

**3. Standards**

**RESOURCE ELEMENT      STANDARDS**

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area unless superseded by the following standards:

**Recreation**

1. Limit dispersed recreation and distribute use as necessary to protect wilderness values. Use the "Limits of Acceptable Change" process to determine management actions necessary to preserve natural environments and provide for planned wilderness experiences.
2. Manage use employing the following techniques in descending order of priority: information services and public education, indirect management methods, area restrictions, mandatory permits, and closure to public use.

- 3. Retain the current number and type of outfitter-guide permits until better total capacity figures can be derived.
- Cultural Resources**
- 4. Recognize that cultural resources within and relating to the wilderness are a valuable, nonrenewable resource. Identify, evaluate, and manage these resources in compliance with Federal and State laws and Forest Service policy.
  - 5. Remove the works of humans in the wilderness unless they are: (a) deemed necessary to support public purposes; (b) serving administrative purposes necessary for protection of the wilderness resource, or (c) essential to cultural resource management
  - 6. For significant sites threatened with loss or deterioration, complete a comparative analysis evaluation which determines the site's importance to the understanding of comparable resources within and outside the wilderness. For archaeological sites conduct data recovery where appropriate. For historic structures and features perform stabilization where appropriate.
  - 7. For some significant standing historic buildings and engineering structures and features, abandonment and allowing natural deterioration to occur is an appropriate management decision. Before abandonment, conduct suitable mitigation such as documentation to Historic American Buildings Survey or Historic American Engineering Record Standards Follow the process outlined in 36 CFR 800 prior to any decision to abandon or remove buildings or structures which may meet National Register criteria Manage any retained or maintained buildings or structures to have a minimum impact on the wilderness resource
  - 8. Prohibit on-site interpretation by signs. Interpretation may be done outside the wilderness through brochures and audio-visual programs.
- Visuals**
- 9. Meet preservation visual quality objectives.
- Fish and Wildlife**
- 10. Continue aerial stocking of fish by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in Strawberry Lake provided it does not conflict with other wilderness management objectives.
  - 11. Assess proposals for re-introductions of wildlife, e.g., American peregrine falcon and bighorn sheep, using project level environmental analysis.
  - 12. Dead and defective tree habitat will be provided at natural levels.
- Range**
- 13. Limit livestock grazing and numbers to those allotments established prior to establishment of the wilderness.
  - 14. Use native materials that harmonize with the wilderness character for structural improvements.
  - 15. Remove unnecessary range improvements

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16. In the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness additions, designated by the 1984 Oregon Wilderness Act, allow the occasional use of motorized equipment for facility maintenance and other range activities when evaluated through the environmental analysis process and approved by the Regional Forester.
- Timber**
17. Exclude timber harvest; lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management.
- Water, Soil, and Air**
18. Identify the air-quality related values and develop standards for protecting them in conformance with Oregon State's Implementation Plan.
- Minerals**
19. The wilderness is closed to minerals entry and mineral leasing subject to valid existing rights, as of December 31, 1983, on the part of the wilderness classified prior to that date, and as of June 26, 1984, for wilderness classified on that date. Prior to approving any plan of operations, valid existing rights must be established through a mineral examination of the claim(s) by a qualified Forest Service mineral examiner. Include reasonable mitigation and reclamation measures to protect wilderness values in any approved operating plans. Periodically inspect all claims for potential unregulated activity.
- Lands**
20. Prohibit installation of permanent communication facilities.
- Facilities**
- Utility Corridors**
21. Manage this area as an "Exclusion Area" for the location of utility corridors.
- Protection**
- Fire Management**
22. Prepare, update, and implement a wilderness fire management action plan, which gives specific direction on how fires will be managed in this wilderness area, including the use of natural ignitions.
23. The use of planned or natural ignitions to achieve wilderness objectives may be considered in the future, if it is determined they are necessary to maintain the natural ecological evolution
- Insects and Disease**
24. Allow endemic levels of infestations. Treat epidemic levels that severely threaten adjacent lands.

## Wilderness

### PRISTINE AREAS

**Area Characteristics:** Area is characterized by an extensive unmodified natural environment. Natural processes and conditions have not and will not be measurably affected by the actions of users. The area is managed to be as free as possible from the influence of human activities. People are only brief visitors. Essentially no facilities are required to protect the wilderness resource. Terrain and vegetation allow extensive and challenging cross-country travel.

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| Experience Opportunity               | Provides the most outstanding opportunity for isolation and solitude, free from evidence of past human activities and with very infrequent encounters with other users. The user has outstanding opportunities to travel cross-country utilizing a maximum degree of primitive skills, often in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk.   |
| <b>Physical/Biological Standards</b> | Management goal is to sustain or enhance the natural ecosystems. Adjacent areas and classes will be managed to protect the natural integrity of the area.   |
| Air                                  | 25. Air quality resulting from outside activities is maintained as per Federal Clean Air Act and State standards. Air quality will not be degraded as a result of recreational use, such as from campfire smoke.  |
| Soils                                | 26. Soil degradation will be minimized to prevent a loss of native vegetation.  |
| Water                                | 27. Maintain the natural quality of streams and lakes. There will be no measurable degradation of water quality as a result of human activity, including Forest Service administrative use.   |
| Vegetation                           | <p>28. Maintain healthy, native vegetation. Vegetative loss will not exceed 225 square feet at any impacted site, and less than 0.5% of any acre.</p> <p>29. Due to human activities, there will be no loss of trees, and there will be fewer than two trees with exposed roots per impacted site.</p> <p>30. There will be no long-term modification of natural plant succession as a result of human activities. Acceptable modifications are those which will recover in one growing season.</p> <p>31. All dead, standing vegetation will be left in place.</p> <p>32. Snags and down vegetation will be managed to approximate natural conditions.</p> <p>33. Manage to allow natural ecological successions, including natural infestations of insects, to operate freely, insofar as they do not endanger significant resources outside wilderness.</p>                                  |
| Fish and Wildlife                    | <p>34. Maintain fish and wildlife indigenous to the wilderness with emphasis on preservation of threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>35. Riparian habitat will be protected from human and livestock impacts.</p> <p>36. Visitor use will seldom and only temporarily displace wildlife populations.</p> <p>37. Displacement of wildlife due to visitor use can be significant, and will be an overriding concern in wilderness where the primary objective is to maintain a natural ecosystem. Visitor use will not decrease habitat effectiveness in this class for any species by more than 10%. An indirect measure of visitor effects on wildlife can be travel route density. For example: specific to deer and elk there should be an average commonly used user-made travel route (see trails) density of less than 0.4 mile per 640 acres, throughout suitable habitat areas.</p> |

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- Visuals**
- 38. Camping areas will be located within forested areas, on litter, where possible. In all cases, sites will be located to take advantage of topographic and vegetative screening. Camps will be located at least 200 feet from lakes, other camps and key interest features.
  - 39. Human activities should remain subordinate in foreground distance zones. Human activities should not be recognizable in middle-ground distance zones.
- Livestock**
- 40. Commercial allotments are prohibited..
- Social Standards**
- Encounters**
- 41. There will be at least an 80% probability of not more than one encounter per day between groups during all use periods.
- Group Size**
- 42. Maximum party size will be 6 people. Livestock limits should be based on vegetation and soil impacts, and in all cases must not exceed 9 head total.
- Camps**
- 43. There will be no other camps visible (within 500 feet) or audible from any site. Naturalize most, if not all, campfire sites.
- Livestock**
- 44. Recreation stock is held overnight at least 200 feet from lakes and streams and away from camp areas.
- Pets**
- 45. Pets will be under reliable voice control and/or physical restraint. They may be *banned for the protection of wildlife populations and to decrease resource impacts.*
- Managerial Standards**
- Off-Site Evidence of Control**
- 46. Management controls which are necessary to protect the ecological and social elements throughout the wilderness are evident outside the wilderness and at trail heads and boundary portals. Formal regulations, orders, and/or permits may be necessary to achieve management objectives. Formal and informal users education programs will be initiated to inform users about what to expect and how to use the area for optimum benefit of all. Information service actions are designed to help meet management objectives rather than to promote use.
- On-Site Evidence Of Control**
- 47. Patrols and monitoring of conditions by Forest Service and other appropriate state and Federal management personnel is conducted as necessary to achieve management objectives.
- Signs**
- 48. Use only the minimum signing that is essential to protect the wilderness resource.
- Trails**
- 49. There will be no system trails in this wilderness recreational opportunity *spectrum class*. User travel will be managed so visitor-use travel routes are not readily apparent or appear to be wildlife trails. Where natural appearing travel routes have been created from visitor use, they will not be shown on maps or Forest Service trail guides.

**Wilderness****PRIMITIVE AREAS**

**Area Characteristics:** Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment. Concentration of users is low and evidence of human use is minimal.

The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Only essential facilities for resource protection and safety are used and are constructed of native or natural appearing materials. No facilities for comfort or convenience of the user are provided. Visitors are encouraged to disperse to desirable existing sites to minimize contacts with other groups.

**Experience Opportunity:** High opportunity for exploring and experiencing considerable isolation, solitude, and self-reliance through application of primitive recreation skills in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk.

**Physical/Biological Standards:** Management goal is to sustain or enhance the natural ecosystems.

**Air:** 50. Air quality resulting from outside activities is maintained as per Federal Clean Air Act and State standards. Air quality will not be degraded as a result of recreational use, such as from campfire smoke.

**Soil:** 51. Soil degradation will be minimized to prevent a loss of native vegetation.

**Water:** 52. Maintain the natural quality of streams and lakes. Activities will not degrade water quality except for temporary changes which are transitory in nature, such that the water quality returns to its previous level when the activity ceases.

**Vegetation:** 53. Vegetative loss will not exceed 400 square feet at any site (1.0% of any acre). Due to human activities, there will be no loss of trees, and fewer than 4 trees with exposed roots per impacted site.

54. There will be no long-term modification of natural plant succession as a result of human activities on areas outside of campsites, trails, and administrative sites. Acceptable modifications are those which will recover in one growing season.

55. All dead, standing vegetation will be left in place, except to protect major bridges.

56. Snags and down vegetation will be managed to approximate natural conditions. Dead and down vegetation may be utilized in amounts that can be replaced annually through natural accumulation.

57. Vegetation impacts along trails will be confined to the planned location and to meet the objectives of the trail.

58. Manage to allow natural ecological successions, including natural infestations of insects, unless they endanger significant resources outside the wilderness.

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### Fish and Wildlife

59. Riparian habitat will be protected from human and livestock impact.
60. Visitor use will not displace wildlife from critical areas during critical periods (such as fawning, and winter range areas).
61. Maintain fish and wildlife indigenous to the wilderness with emphasis on preservation of threatened and endangered species.
62. Displacement of wildlife due to visitor use can be significant, and will be an overriding concern in wilderness where the primary objective is to maintain a natural ecosystem. Visitor use will not decrease habitat effectiveness in this class for any species by more than 20%. An indirect measure of visitor effects on wildlife can be travel route density. For example: specific to deer and elk there will be an average trail density (system and commonly used user-made) of less than 0.8 mile per 640 acres throughout suitable habitat areas.

### Visuals

63. Camping areas will be located within forested areas, on litter, where possible. In all cases, sites will be located to take advantage of topographic and vegetative screening. Camps will be located at least 200 feet from lakes, trails, other camps and key interest features. Site design (such as trails) should remain subordinate to the natural landscape.
64. Human activities will remain subordinate in foreground distance zones. Human activities will not be recognizable in middle ground distance zones.
65. Facilities, including trails, will be harmonious with natural landscape in middle ground and background distance zones. Native and natural materials must dominate.

### Livestock

66. Commercial livestock grazing is permitted under approved management plans to the extent that such use is compatible with all resource values.

### Social Standards

#### Encounters

67. Emphasis is on little or no interparty contact. There will be at least an 80% probability during all use periods of less than 7 other groups encountered per day while travelling along trails. Attempt to minimize conflicts between hiking and horseback groups at entry points, along travel routes, and at campsites.

#### Group Size

68. Party size limits will range from 6 to 12 people depending on the actual number of encounters in an area. Livestock limits will be based on vegetation and soil impacts, and in all cases must not exceed 18 head total. Only allow the party size to approach 12, and the number of livestock to approach 18, when 4 encounters or less are expected.

#### Camps

69. Campsites will provide a high degree of solitude. There must be greater than an 80% probability that none or at most only 1 campsite is visible (within 500 feet) or audible from any other campsite.
70. Camps will be separated from other campsites and set back from trails, meadows, lakes and streams at least 200 feet, where feasible.

- 71. Open fires will be banned or limited.
- Livestock
- 72. Grazing stock is permitted except in established camp areas. Recreation stock is held overnight at least 200 feet from lakes and streams, away from camp areas, and out-of-sight trails.
- Pets
- 73. Pets will be under reliable voice control and/or physical restraint. They may be banned for the protection of wildlife populations and to decrease resource impacts.
- Managerial Standards**
- Off-Site Evidence of Control
- 74. Management control necessary to protect the ecological and social elements throughout the wilderness are evident outside the wilderness and at trail heads and boundary portals. Formal regulations, orders, and/or permits may be necessary to achieve management objectives. Formal and informal user education programs will be initiated to inform users about what to expect and how to use the area for optimum benefit of all. Information service actions are designed to help meet management objectives rather than to promote use
- On-Site Evidence of Control
- 75. There is a periodic presence of wilderness rangers, technicians engaged in monitoring or project work, and trail crews. Management personnel shall conform to party size limitations, established social and ecological element standards, and where feasible work should be scheduled for low-use periods.
- Signs
- 76. Provide minimum signing necessary to protect wilderness resources. Visitor takes primary responsibility for personal safety. No more than one sign with a maximum of two route indicators will be placed at trail junctions. Distances will not be provided. Geographic features may be labeled on maps but will not be signed.
  - 77. Signing will be the minimum needed and primarily for resource protection. Destination signing is not permitted.
- Trails
- 78. Trails will be constructed and maintained to most difficult standards. Trails will not access all attraction features, such as lakes. Allow for cross-country travel within this class to provide a broad range of recreation experiences and to manage use levels.

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4. Schedule of Management Practices

**MANAGEMENT AREA 6A - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

| Management Practice                             | Activity Code | Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999) |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| RECREATION<br>Trail Construction/Reconstruction | AT22          | 23.3 Miles                           |
| Wilderness Implementation Schedule              | AW112         | 1 Plan                               |

