

Appendix D: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Non-Significant Forest Plan Amendment #16

This amendment approved in the 2001 Huckleberry Land Exchange Record of Decision adds two Special Areas to the managed under the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Plan, as amended. These areas are Management Area 8D, Huckleberry Mountain Special Area and Management Area 8E, Greenwater Special Area.

Management Area 8D

In the Huckleberry parcels retained as National Forest System land, T20N, R9E, Section 30 (631 acres), the S1/2 plus E1/2 NE1/4 of Section 26 (80 acres) and about 6 acres in the northeast corner of Section 28, (inclusive of the Grass Mountain/Huckleberry Divide Trail and 200 feet on each side of the trail) will be allocated to Management Area 8D. Refer to Plate 1, of Huckleberry Land Exchange Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

- This Special Area will be managed to emphasize its cultural and historic features, and provide long-term protection for old-growth forest, wildlife, fish, and water quality.
- Streams, ponds, wetlands, and potentially unstable areas within the Special Area will be allocated to Riparian Reserve.
- No scheduled timber harvest or road construction will be allowed.
- No motorized recreation will be allowed; management on the trails within these sections will change to hiker and pack-and-saddle stock.

Management Area 8E

In the Greenwater Parcel Group, acquired by the Forest Service in March 1998, the land allocation on up to 2,340 acres (out of the total 10,938 acres received in the partial group) will be changed to new Management Area 8E, Greenwater Special Area, via Forest Plan Amendment 16. Refer to Plate 1, of Huckleberry Land Exchange Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

- 1,600 to 1,700 acres within the inventoried elk winter range in all or portions of Sections 13, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 311, T19N, R10E, plus 640 acres of elk summer range in Section 33, T19N, R11E will be allocated to MA 8E, Greenwater Special Area.
- All other lands in the Greenwater Parcel Group—about 8,598 acres—remain allocated to Late Successional Reserve (LSR). They will be managed using Forest Plan standards and guidelines for LSR. Riparian Reserve acres also remain unchanged.
- The lands in MA 8E, Greenwater Special Area will be managed to provide elk (and deer) forage habitat in portions of the inventoried winter range—plus one section of summer range---in conjunction with long-term protection for old-growth forest, fish, wildlife, and water quality. The goal will be no net loss of forage habitat, consistent with all other laws and regulations, such as the ESA.
- Within the acres of inventoried elk winter range, and the Section 33 summer range, the Forest Service will have the ability to maintain or create small openings for elk (and deer) forage. The majority of openings will be no larger than 15 acres and will take advantage of any existing openings

¹ Section 31, T19N, R10E will be reallocated to MA 8E and MA 8A, Mather Memorial Parkway.

and meadows. These lands---which have been managed by Weyerhaeuser Company---currently support trees that are generally early-seral stage.

- Streams, ponds, wetlands, and potentially unstable areas within the Special Area will be allocated to Riparian Reserve.
- No more than 30 percent of exchange parcels, outside of Riparian Reserves and in MA 8E, were considered for forage openings. Roughly 400-500 acres in winter range and 100 to 130 acres in Section 33 summer range will be maintained as forage openings.
- The portion of Section 31, T19N, R10E that lies within the Mather Memorial Parkway will be allocated to both MA 8A, Special Area Mather Memorial Parkway and MA 8E. The existing standards and guidelines for MA 8A will apply within the Parkway² and, in general will take precedent over MA 8E.
- Any forage openings will avoid suitable nesting habitat for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.
- A site-specific environmental analysis in compliance with NEPA and other relevant laws, and in consultation with USFWS, will be completed prior to creation of any forage openings.
- A detailed monitoring plan, prepared in cooperation with federal, state, and Tribal biologists and other specialists will be completed at the time of the site-specific analysis and any decision.
- Type conversion---or permanently converting the existing vegetation (mostly early seral stage) to a grass-forb habitat---will be done using a variety of methods (mechanical, fire, hand, etc.) to be determined during site-specific environmental analysis. Road reconstruction and maintenance, as needed for management of any created forage openings, will be allowed.
- Type conversion and maintenance of forage openings will be accomplished as funding---including funding for the environmental analysis and monitoring plan---is available.

² Standards and guidelines for MA 8A include a goal of maintenance and enhancement of scenic and recreation qualities: wildlife habitat improvements are appropriate. The desired future condition within the parkway includes maintaining a range of tree sizes with a continuum of large trees. Currently, this 580-acres section contains fewer than 20 acres of mid-seral or older trees.