

CHAPTER 4. FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Introduction

Chapter 4 presents the management goals, objectives, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, and management area direction that constitute the overall direction for land and resource management covered by the Plan. The chapter includes the following sections:

FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS - Multiple-use and other goals established in the planning process to develop the Plan and guide Forest management in the future.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST - A description of what the Forest should be like at the end of 10 years and at the end of 50 years, given full implementation of Forest Plan direction.

FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES - The levels of goods, services, and effects that are anticipated to be produced as the Plan is fully implemented. The objectives are supplemented with narrative summaries of resource outputs and schedules.

FOREST-WIDE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES - Identify Forest-wide requirements and conditions to be met while achieving the Plan's goals and objectives.

MANAGEMENT AREAS - A description of each selected management strategy (practices and prescriptions) for specified areas. The management areas list goals, descriptions, desired future conditions, standards and guidelines, and management practices by resource element for each area.

Additional supporting information is contained in the Appendices.

FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS

Forest management goals are statements providing direction for the future and describing the desired conditions to be achieved. The goals are expressed in broad terms and are timeless in that they have no specific date by which they are meant to be completed. The Umatilla National Forest management goals are to:

Provide land and resource management that achieves a more healthy and productive forest and assists in supplying lands, resources, uses, and values which meet local, regional, and national social and economic needs.

Provide for a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities and experiences and a variety of recreation settings on the National Forest for Forest recreationists.

Provide attractive natural to near-natural settings for Forest users along important highways, roads, trails, and in and around developed and primitive sites.

Preserve, protect, and improve the resources and values of the Forest's wildernesses.

Protect and enhance the outstandingly, remarkable values and free-flowing condition of the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Protect and perpetuate special areas and related resources for their unique values

Provide for the protection and preservation of cultural resource values through a program which integrates inventory, evaluation, protection, and enhancement (including interpretation).

Provide, develop, and enhance effective and well-distributed habitats throughout the Forest for all existing native and desired nonnative vertebrate wildlife species.

Provide and manage big game (elk and deer) habitat and its components (cover, forage, and roads) to assist in meeting state wildlife agency population management objectives.

Provide and maintain a diverse, well-distributed pattern of fish habitats to assist in doubling anadromous runs in the Columbia River Basin (by the year 2000) in cooperation with Native American tribes, states, and other agencies. The goal applies to all areas dominated by riparian vegetation, including areas containing anadromous and resident fish habitat, perennial and intermittent stream courses, wetlands, and floodplains.

Maintain or improve habitats for all threatened or endangered plant and animal species on the Forest, and manage habitats for all sensitive species to prevent the species from becoming threatened or endangered.

Manage the forage resources for an improving vegetative trend in areas in less than 'fair' condition and for an upward or stable trend for areas in 'fair' or better condition. Provide for forage productivity and make suitable range available for livestock grazing. Increase the level of forage production where cost efficient and consistent with other resource goals.

Provide for diversity of plant and animal communities and species consistent with overall multiple-use objectives for the Forest. Maintain or enhance ecosystem functions to provide for the long-term integrity (stability) and productivity of biological communities.

Provide areas for research and education purposes which are typical of unique natural ecosystems and are in undisturbed or nearly undisturbed condition.

Provide for production and sustained yield of wood fiber and insofar as possible meet projected production levels consistent with various resource objectives, standards and guidelines, and cost efficiency.

Manage Forest lands to maintain or enhance soil and land productivity.

Manage Forest resources to protect all existing beneficial uses of water and to meet or exceed all applicable state and Federal water quality standards. Within the Forest capability, maintain or enhance water quantity, quality, and timing of streamflows to meet needs of downstream users and other resources. Maintain integrity and equilibrium of all stream systems, riparian areas, and wetlands on the Forest. Manage designated municipal supply watersheds to provide water which, with treatment, will result in a satisfactory and safe supply.

Maintain air quality at a level adequate for protection and use of Forest resources and which meets or exceeds applicable Federal and state standards and regulations.

Provide for exploration, development, and production of a variety of minerals on the Forest consistent with various resource objectives, environmental quality, and cost efficiency.

Promote human resources, civil rights, and community development within the zone of influence of the Forest. Promote cooperation and coordination with individuals, groups, landowners, Forest users, Native American tribes, and state and Federal agencies in forest management, and community and economic development.

Provide for the use and occupancy of the Forest by private individuals or Federal, state, and local governments when such use is consistent with Forest management objectives, is in the public interest, and cannot be reasonably served by development on private land.

Provide an optimum pattern of landownership within the Forest considering resource goals and efficiency of managing the Forest.

Provide and manage a safe and economical road and trail system and facilities needed to accomplish the land and resource management and protection objectives on the Forest.

Provide and manage administrative facilities sufficient to serve the public and accomplish land and resource management and protection objectives of the Forest.

Provide and execute a fire protection and fire use program that is cost efficient and responsive to land and resource management goals and objectives.

Protect forest and range resources and values from unacceptable losses due to destructive forest pests through the practice of integrated resource management.