

## **APPENDIX K**

### **Forest Plan Management Direction**

#### **Management Area: E2 Timber and Big Game**

##### **Goal**

“Manage Forest Lands to emphasize production of wood fiber (timber), encourage forage production, and maintain a moderate level of big game and other wildlife habitat.”

##### **Desired Future Condition**

Management of forests for timber production, domestic livestock, big game, and other wildlife habitat will be apparent. Forests will contain a mosaic of even-aged and uneven-aged stands dispersed in a manner creating patterns of tree cover for big game and openings providing forage. Created openings will range from 1-3 acres up to 40 acres, but will often be 20-30 acres in size. Horizontal and vertical diversity will be apparent; tree species will be diverse, but seral, more pest-free species such as ponderosa pine, western larch, and lodgepole pine will predominate. Accumulated fuels will be generally light, and large destructive fires will seldom occur. Prescribe fire will continue to be an important management tool.

A variety of native and seeded grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs will be available for big game, other wildlife, and domestic livestock. Range and timber management practices will result in improved range condition and increased amounts of available forage for both big game and domestic livestock. Dispersed recreation opportunities of all types will be available for a variety of users. However, management of roads will result in a noticeable amount of travel restrictions in some areas.

#### **Management Area Standards and Guidelines for E2-applicable to this project.**

**Wildlife:** Structural and nonstructural improvement, development, and maintenance for wildlife are permitted.

Management activities will not create barriers to impede movement of big game animals.

**Range:** Seeding of forage species is permitted where tree establishment and growth are not restricted. Prescribed burning may be practiced to improve range forage conditions and trend.

**Timber:** The following practices may be employed:

- Site preparation - by chemical, mechanical, biological, or manual means, or prescribed fire;
- Tree improvement - improved growing stock, genetic evaluation plantations, and seed production and seed orchard sites;
- Reforestation - natural or artificial;
- Protection of growing stock from animals, insects, and disease;
- Release and weeding;
- Precommercial thinning;
- Fertilization/pruning - may be permitted on a case-by-case basis;
- Commercial thinning;
- Salvage of mortality as needed and
- Final harvest - including even-aged management practices of shelterwood, seed trees, and clearcut, or uneven-aged management practices of individual tree and group selection.

- Maintain a blend of tree species with a preference for ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine across the Forest. Shade tolerant species such as grand/white fir, Engelmann spruce, and sub-alpine fir should be maintained as a minor stand component. Vegetative diversity should be enhanced or maintained.

**Transportation:** ... Roads may be closed to motorized use in order to meet big game habitat objectives, meet recreation and other resource objectives, and/or reduce maintenance costs.

## **Management Area C5-Riparian**

**Goal:** Maintain or enhance water quality and produce a high level of potential habitat capability for all species of fish and wildlife within the designated riparian habitat areas while providing for a high level of habitat effectiveness for big game.

**Description:** The management area is applicable to all designated riparian areas associated with Class 1, II and III streams, including adjacent floodplains and wetlands as shown on the management area maps.

**Desired Future Condition:** A near natural setting will predominate adjacent to the stream, with a wide variety of plant communities of various species, sizes and age classes. In forested riparian zones a continuous high tree canopy layer will be present and the forest will appear denser than in the surrounding land. Upper and mid-level conifer and hardwood canopy structure and lower shrub level will provide desired levels of stream surface shading, streambank stability and satisfactory cover for big game.

Riparian vegetation will be dense and diverse, contributing shade for water temperature control, stable streambanks and controlled sediment, and complex fish habitat along the banks. Evidence of streambank trampling from livestock will be less common. Dispersed recreation activities of all types will be abundant and available for a variety of users.

## **Management Area Standards and Guidelines**

### **Range**

Intensive range management including superior grazing systems such as periodic rest, will be practiced to protect and improve riparian vegetation and anadromous fish and wildlife habitats. Periods of extended rest may be utilized in some situations where it is necessary to allow re-establishment of desired shrub communities.

Meet the forage utilization standards for riparian areas, found in the Range portion of Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Range management techniques that control livestock distribution and timing of use will be used to meet riparian habitat goals. Range improvements that maintain or enhance riparian habitat goals will be permitted. Improvements should be located to encourage livestock use away from the riparian areas. Grazing system utilizing riparian pastures may be required to maintain water quality and protect riparian vegetation. Riparian corridor fencing should be considered on a limited basis for special applications.

### **Soils**

Within 250 feet of all streams and wet areas associated with streams, limit the mineral soil exposed by ground-disturbing activities to 10 percent of the project area.

### **Water**

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

## **Forest-Wide Standards and Guidelines applicable to the project**

### **Dispersed Recreation**

Provide for a spectrum of recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, viewing scenery, and so forth.

### **Cultural Resources**

Results of project level cultural resource inventories, or the intent to carry out such inventories, will be documented through environmental analysis for the project.

### **Range**

Allotment management plans will include a strategy for managing riparian areas for a mix of resource uses. Measurable objectives will be set for key parameters such as stream surface shading, streambank stability and shrub cover. The plans will address the monitoring needed to determine if the desired rate of improvement is occurring. A measurable desired future riparian condition will be established based on existing and potential vegetative conditions. When the current riparian condition is less than that desired, objectives will include a schedule for improvement. The plans will identify management actions needed to meet riparian objectives within the specific timeframe.

Identify allotments with riparian areas in unsatisfactory condition (see Glossary). Areas in such condition might have (1) suitable range with forage in less than fair condition and less than stable trend, or (2) basic resource damage or other resource damage occurring.

## **Forest Plan Glossary Definitions**

### **Satisfactory Range Condition:**

On suitable range, forage condition is at least fair, with stable trend, and allotment is not classified PC (basic resource damage).

**PC (Basic Resource Damage)**-Allotments will be classified as PC when analysis or evaluation indicates that one or more of the following conditions exist and livestock use on the allotment is or has been a major factor contributing to this condition.

1. Maximum summer water temperatures are elevated above state standards or other approved criteria on SMU class I or II streams and this is largely due to the loss of shade-producing vegetation in the allotment.]
2. Management-induced instability exceeds 20% of the total miles of stream (Stream classes I-IV) in an allotment. [**Note:** Stream Class III would be a perennial non-fishbearing stream, stream class IV would be an “intermittent” channel.]
3. Gully development of sufficient size to lower the seasonally saturated zone and change the plant community type is occurring.
4. Soil condition rating on 25 percent or more of key areas is rated poor or very poor.