

**USDA** United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern  
Region



# Amendment 12 Replacement Pages

## Sedona Area, Coconino National Forest





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Beaver Creek/ Sedona  
Ranger Districts

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File Code: 1920

Date: September 15, 1999

Dear Friend of the Redrock Country:

It has been some time since we have communicated with you regarding Amendment 12 of the Coconino National Forest Plan for the Sedona area. You may have noticed that we have been implementing many of the actions identified within the Amendment, including road closures, camping and campfire restrictions and trail and trailhead construction. However, as you may also know, we did receive some administrative appeals on the decisions within Amendment 12 and as a result we have made some changes to the document.

Enclosed are replacement pages for Amendment 12 which will replace some of the pages sent to you when we made our decision last July. There is also a summary page that indicates where in the document changes were made.

We appreciate your interest and support of National Forest activities in the redrock area. I encourage you to continue the responsibility for implementing the decisions and achieving the goals we have stated in Amendment 12.

Sincerely,

KEN ANDERSON  
District Ranger

Enclosures (1)



## AMENDMENT 12 - DIGEST

The following section is a summary of the changes to the Forest Plan as a result of an administrative appeal on Amendment 12. All Forest Plan Amendments are numbered consecutively. If you want to obtain other amendments or the Plan, please contact the Supervisor's Office, Land Management Planning, to obtain them.

Forest Plan Page Number	Superseded Sheets	Replacement Sheets
108-3 through 108-4	1	1
206-17 through 206-18	1	1
206-21 through 206-24	2	2
206-29 through 206-30	1	1
206-41 through 206-42	1	1
242-25 through 242-28	2	2

### DIGEST:

Pages 108-3 and 206-24 have been modified for clarity. A wilderness group size standard on page 206-24 was moved from the Area-Wide Direction to the Wilderness Management Area direction.

Page 206-18 has been modified to more clearly refer to additional land acquisition standards and guidelines found in the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Pages 206-22, 206-24, and 206-30 have been augmented for clarity regarding recreation management for inspirational and contemplative benefits.

Page 206-24 was updated due to an appeal concerning group size limits outside of wilderness.

Page 206-41 was modified due to an appeal regarding Soldier Pass Trailhead.

Pages 242-25 to 242-28 were modified to correct several errors concerning forest road maintenance objectives.

Vultee Arch, Doggie and Mooney Trails in order to improve the Wilderness experience.

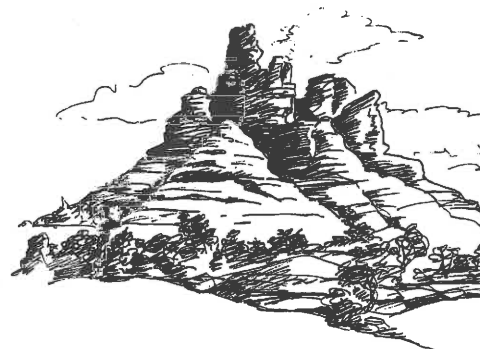
12. Obtain a permanent easement for the Margs Draw Trailhead Wilderness access.
13. Rehabilitate damaged Wilderness sites, including West Fork, Bell Rock, Sycamore Pass, Sedona's north and east urban interface, Margs Draw and Boynton Canyon.
14. Update Wilderness Implementation Schedules to reflect Forest Plan objectives. Use the Wilderness Opportunity Spectrum as a tool to describe recreation goals.

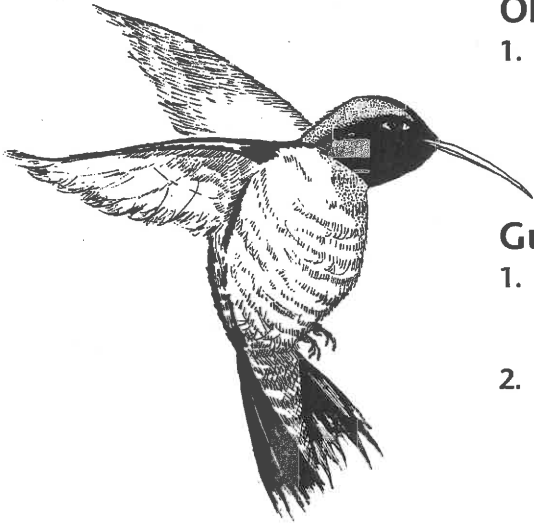
## Standards

1. Camping and recreation fires are prohibited in Boynton Canyon.
2. Visitor travel in Boynton Canyon is allowed only on designated trails or by special use permit.
3. Camping is prohibited throughout the West Fork of Oak Creek, except in designated campsites. Recreation fires in the West Fork of Oak Creek are prohibited.
4. In Wilderness group size limit is generally 12 or fewer persons.

## Guidelines

1. Allow wheelchairs suitable for outdoor use but do not make special accommodations for wheelchairs in Wilderness. Encourage alternate transportation methods, such as horseback riding, that are appropriate to the Wilderness setting.
2. For the West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon establish a reservation only permit system for overnight camping. This system should include the following: no camping within 2.5 miles of the confluence, no more than 5 camping areas, each camping area to accommodate 2-4 camping parties, camping party size to be generally 4 persons, camp areas to be located outside of spotted owl protected activity centers where possible, and total annual overnight use to be maintained at or less than 1997 use (approximately 1,300 persons).
3. Monitor human use in West Fork Canyon including length of stay, number of visitors, travel routes, time of visit, and party size.





## COMMERCIAL USES

### Objectives

1. Continue to support Wilderness-dependent recreation opportunities such as backpacking, horse packing and hunter guiding where these activities are consistent with resource and WOS/ROS objectives.

### Guidelines

1. Commercial tour activities should be limited to trails and campsites designated for such use.
2. Commercial tours will be limited to Wilderness-dependent opportunities that cannot occur outside of Wilderness. Generally maintain or reduce current levels of commercial touring in Wildernesses.

## INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNICATION

### Objectives

1. Encourage widespread understanding of the philosophy of Wilderness and support for its natural and social benefits. People should be prepared with appropriate equipment and information. Visitors should learn about sensitive ecological features, know their responsibility and act in a way that protects ecological systems.
2. Expand partnerships such as the resort Wilderness Ranger Program to increase awareness of Wilderness values and etiquette.
3. Increase residents' awareness of the Wilderness near them by providing them with information about Wilderness.
4. Provide education and information at all Wilderness trail-head access points. This should include information about the variety of trails and experiences available in the Munds Mountain, Red Rock-Secret Mountain, and Sycamore Canyon Wildernesses and information about personal safety leave-no-trace etiquette and pertinent regulations.
5. Place major emphasis on interpretation about Wilderness at popular access points, such as Boynton Canyon, Bell Rock, West Fork and Dry Creek Road.

## Objectives

1. Ensure appropriate protection measures are in place at cultural interpretive sites.
2. Allow for a "sense of discovery" at cultural interpretive sites.
3. Archaeological site etiquette information is readily available to National Forest visitors.
4. Encourage partnerships with American Indians, commercial ventures, volunteers and universities for documenting, preserving, interpreting and managing sites and to evaluate and develop creative management opportunities.
5. Identify Traditional Cultural Properties and consult on their management with the appropriate American Indian communities. Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) are recognized, respected, preserved and managed for continued traditional uses.
6. Identify and retain evidence of valued historic/prehistoric landscape elements, such as orchards, fields, ditches, buildings and ruins.
7. Inventory distinctive historic features and recognize their interpretive potential.
8. Inventory historic trails and wagon roads and determine their feasibility for use as non-motorized trails. Include the Old Munds Highway, the Old County Road and the Lime Kiln Road.
9. Complete cultural surveys of all Forest system trails in order to facilitate maintenance and reconstruction activities.
10. Implement stabilization and conservation programs at damaged sites.
11. Eliminate unofficial trails that lead to archaeological sites to protect sites from damage.
12. Eliminate effects of aircraft on cultural resources.

## Standards

1. Prohibit uses on archaeological or historic sites that cause site damage and/or that are inconsistent with the protection and use of Traditional Cultural Properties.

## Guidelines

1. Consider a full range of methods to mitigate or minimize impacts on cultural sites, such as:

- ▼ redesign or cancellation of a proposed project;
- ▼ site avoidance, data recovery, interpretation or adaptive reuse;
- ▼ fill on top of sites;
- ▼ relocation of a resource;
- ▼ fencing, barriers, restricted access and site closures;
- ▼ interpretation and documentation; and
- ▼ discouraging commercial marketing of archaeological sites.

2. Prohibit commercial filming at cultural sites.

## COMMUNITY

### Goals

1. Harmony exists between residents and visitors. Residents have a sense of safety and security concerning National Forest lands directly adjacent to residential development.
2. Land ownership patterns of private holdings and National Forest meet the needs of the community and achieve National Forest goals.
3. The community shares National Forest stewardship goals. Community members understand their stake in ecological health and collaborate in National Forest decisions that are mutually beneficial to the National Forest and the community.
4. The Forest Service provides leadership in planning efforts that involve National Forest/community interface issues and multiple-agency jurisdictions.

### Objectives

1. Refer to Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan pages 84-88 for additional Land acquisition policy direction.
2. Acquire priority private parcels from willing sellers, when possible, through methods other than land trades within the planning area.

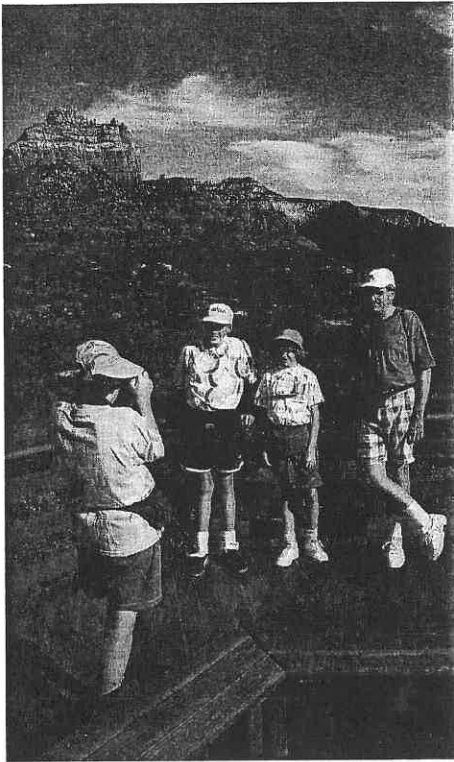
4. Secondary priority land acquisition parcels include: Johnston, Bill Gray Ranch, Windmill Ranch, Thompson, Deer Pass and Long Canyon (Seven Canyons).
5. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the appropriate level of environmental analysis and public involvement will be conducted for any land exchange or disposal.

## Guidelines

1. Consider the effects of potential land development on infrastructure (such as transportation and sewer); utilities (such as water and power); and adjacent National Forest, private lands and other public lands in all land exchange proposals.
2. Discourage new utility corridors on National Forest lands. When no other alternative exists, combine new utilities with existing utility corridors or road/trail corridors.
3. Encourage open space designations on private land between private development and National Forest lands as a buffer to minimize conflicts between residents and other National Forest users.
4. Encourage local governments to consider transportation and energy efficiency, recycling, water conservation and increased environmental sensitivity when working with local and regional governments and concessionaires on National Forest lands.
5. National Forest parcels less than or equal to 10 acres in size could be disposed of under the Small Tracts Act, Townsite Act or General Exchange Act to resolve encroachment issues or provide lands needed for public purposes.
6. Encourage local governments and private parties to use such methods as deed restrictions, development agreements, joint planning authority and master planning to mitigate effects from future land exchanges on the community and National Forest.
7. Encourage local governments or agencies, private landowners and/or other appropriate entities (e.g. Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, local land trust) to protect the resources and character of National Forest surrounding high priority private parcels through methods such as, conservation easements, land trust management, deed restrictions, or public acquisition.







## RECREATION

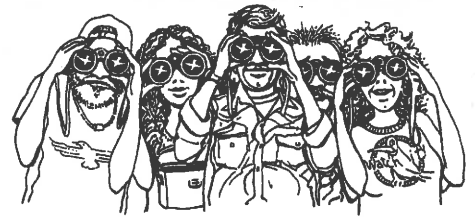
### Goals

1. Offer exceptional day-use recreation activities. National Forest camping continues to be an important recreation experience, but day-use opportunities are more abundant.
2. There is a range of nature-based recreation opportunities that provide a wide array of benefits by meeting people's needs and preferences while sustaining the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
3. Appropriate degrees of natural quiet are restored and maintained.
4. Emphasize opportunities for individuals, families or small groups and opportunities for experiencing solitude, scenic beauty and natural quiet. Recreation opportunities are primarily nature based. Both short and long visits are available.
5. Recreation activities and facilities meet visitor needs and are consistent with ecological goals and recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) objectives.
6. Recreation user conflicts are minimal and the recreation experience is healthy and safe.
7. Recreation activities and facilities protect water quality and the aquatic/riparian community.
8. Visitors have access to high-quality trail experiences.
9. Recognize the strong demand for inspirational and contemplative benefits in the natural landscape and provide settings that contribute to these benefits.

### Objectives

1. Manage some places for high levels of visitation and to meet the demands of day-use activities that emphasize scenic viewing, hiking and experiencing and learning about the natural environment and cultural resources. Manage some places for an uncrowded setting.
2. Provide leadership to coordinate recreation and visitor information planning among major recreation providers, such as Red Rock State Park, Crescent Moon Ranch Recreation Site, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sedona, Big Park Coordinating Council and the Cultural Park.
3. Increase opportunities for Semi-primitive and Primitive ROS experiences to better meet the high demand for this type of recreation setting.
4. Ensure that most National Forest visitor activities occur at developed sites and on trails designed for high levels of use.

5. Ensure that recreation site fees are reasonable to enable low- and moderate-income families to access recreation in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
6. Identify a network of roads at various challenge levels for off-highway vehicle touring. Focus OHV activity in the Savannah and Schnebly Rim MAs, although opportunities may be available in other management areas. Limit this activity in the Neighborwoods, Oak Creek Canyon, Transition and Redrock Frontcountry MAs, consistent with ROS and resident concerns. Exceptions include Casner Powerline Road, Broken Arrow and Soldier Pass four-wheel-drive roads.
7. Eliminate, redesign or relocate unneeded or poorly located roads and trails to lessen impacts on such resources as cultural sites, soil, water and wildlife and to minimize user conflicts.
8. Expand opportunities for scenic viewing along roads and trails.
9. Ensure that aircraft operations are conducted so as to eliminate or reduce noise impacts on visitors and restore and protect appropriate levels of natural quiet.
10. Protect sensitive archaeological and biological sites by reducing public access and informing visitors more thoroughly.
11. Reduce the need for and impacts from parking areas and traffic on National Forest land by expanding opportunities for biking, ride sharing and alternate types of transportation, such as shuttles or other mass transit.
12. Improve National Forest trailheads and develop additional trailheads as identified in Appendix B - Trailhead List.
13. Consolidate multiple-trail plans that apply to the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem into one plan called The Redrock Trail Plan. (Refer to Map 6 - Redrock Trail System and Appendix B - Trailhead List) The Plan should:
  - ▼ complement the transportation and other goals of the community and Forest Service;
  - ▼ include a variety of non-motorized trails such as: narrow rugged Wilderness trails, high-use trails to allow access to popular areas, wide gentle and hard-surfaced "pathways," and a variety of loops and neighborhood links;
  - ▼ disperse users to areas designed to accommodate trail use while protecting resources and community values;



- ▼ offer a variety of opportunities for day trips;
- ▼ provide effective connections between nearby resorts, residential areas and National Forest;
- ▼ define criteria for National Forest user satisfaction and schedule periodic surveys to monitor user satisfaction to minimize impacts on Wilderness values;
- ▼ promote shared trails, not single-use trails;
- ▼ provide outstanding trail experiences that help people experience the diverse environment of the redrock country; and,
- ▼ locate trails to take people where they want to go.

14. Some forest sites are a destination for visitors with interest in the spiritual landscape, including, but not limited to, locations at Bell Rock, Boynton Canyon, Cathedral Rock, Schnebly Hill and Table Top Mesa. Where possible provide access to these sites with opportunities for contemplative reflection and scenic vistas, and provide access for older people and people with disabilities seeking opportunities for regenerative reflection.



## Standards

1. Camping and campfires are prohibited in the Neighborhoods, Oak Creek Canyon, Redrock Frontcountry, Gateway, Red Cliff, Dry Creek Basin, Special Area and Transition MAs except in designated places.
2. Off-road driving is prohibited within most of the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem, except under rare circumstances by permit.

## Guidelines

1. Limit dispersed camping to locations that protect resources, provide neighborhood security and protect the National Forest visitor's quality of experience.
2. Additional camping and campfires restrictions may be needed, depending on the results of future monitoring.
3. Until such time as monitoring or new information provides improved methods to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting natural quiet in the planning area, the following actions are recommended.
  - ▼ Prohibit all landing of commercial aircraft on National Forest lands within the planning area, except for emergency or management needs.
  - ▼ Adjust the activities of Forest Service-permitted hot air balloon companies to reduce the impact of their activities on residences and wildlife.

as recovery of threatened and endangered species.  
Visitors and residents:

- ▼ know where to get information about National Forest opportunities and regulations;
- ▼ learn about the cultural and natural features of the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem;
- ▼ understand the role of fire, know how to minimize risk and accept some temporary changes in air quality to accommodate prescribed fire activities;
- ▼ consider potential impacts when choosing recreation activities and know how to minimize their impacts;
- ▼ understand the legal and ethical limitations on their activities and the reasons for these restrictions;
- ▼ know about the unique and sensitive resources in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem and are stewards of these resources; and
- ▼ are aware of when they are entering or leaving the National Forest.



## Objectives

1. Collaborate with the community, local governments, agencies, and service and volunteer organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, National Park Service and Arizona State Parks, to develop and implement an effective visitor information plan.
2. Coordinate National Forest information disseminated through other sources, such as chambers of commerce, resorts, concessionaire fee booths, State parks, national monuments and museums, into a consistent and accurate message that promotes stewardship.
3. Develop visitor welcome centers in cooperation with the community, other agencies, and private partners.
4. Provide interpretive information at trailheads and designated camping and parking areas explaining heritage and Wilderness philosophy and etiquette.
5. Provide information for OHV tourists and trail users, including maps and signs that provide road and trail information and explain National Forest regulation for such activities as OHV travel and camping and trail opportunities.
6. Implement the Sedona Ranger District Interpretive Strategy.
7. Provide interpretation and information for the local community and National Forest users regarding wildfire.

Make efforts to educate homeowners and builders about risk-reduction practices.

8. Provide orientation information and interpretation at sites that receive high levels of visitation.

### Guidelines

1. At Wilderness access points, provide directional guidance and information on minimum impact and archaeological site etiquette.
2. Use a consistent design style for interpretive and information signs and kiosks, allowing for individual site distinctiveness.
3. Information should direct visitors to places that can sustain visitor use.
4. Information about the location of sensitive, cultural and biological sites is not provided to visitors.
5. At selected popular destination sites provide interpretation to encourage visitors to protect the natural surroundings and to respect the introspective and contemplative experience of other visitors.

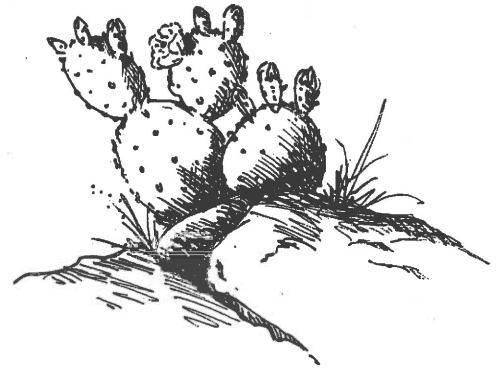


2. Encourage local governments to ensure appropriate trail access on private lands through the private land development process. Use the Redrock Trails Plan and the Sedona Urban Trails and Pathways Plan as guides for future trail planning efforts. (Refer to Map 6 - Redrock Trails Plan)
3. Manage access at neighborhood National Forest trailheads to discourage visitor parking along residential streets and to encourage alternative forms of transportation.

## RECREATION

### Objectives

1. Due to the level of adjacent development and the ease of access, manage generally for Rural or Roaded Natural ROS settings, except where there are remnant pockets of Semi-primitive ROS settings such as in the Soldier Pass area. While this trailhead has an ROS objective of Rural, the adjacent National Forest should be managed as Semi-primitive Motorized. Maintain the rough and primitive condition of the four-wheel-drive road in this area.
2. A system of trails and pathways surrounds the City of Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek and provides trail recreation opportunities and a means of non-motorized travel off busy streets. Design trails and trailheads to:
  - ▼ direct visitors through residential areas and onto National Forest lands in an efficient manner with minimal inconvenience for residents and visitors;
  - ▼ provide convenient trail access for residents and visitors;
  - ▼ prevent damage to vegetation and soils;
  - ▼ encourage residents to use designated trails, neighborhood links and trailheads and discourage user-created paths.
3. Expand partnerships with neighborhoods to promote trail and resource stewardship and to obtain assistance in trail maintenance and planned trail construction.
4. Collaborate with the AG&FD, The Yavapai and Coconino County Sheriff's and City of Sedona Police Department , to develop special hunting and shooting regulations.
5. Restore damaged sites, with priority given to Sedona North Urban Interface, Airport Saddle, Soldier Pass, Jordan Road, Broken Arrow, Upper and Lower Red Rock Loop Roads, the Sedona Gun Range and Chavez Crossing.





6. Work toward private/public partnerships that provide National Forest visitor access and orientation facilities, especially trailheads and parking. These facilities might be located on National Forest lands under appropriate authorization.
7. Address local neighborhood concerns about the impacts of visitor use on residential quality of life. Use such methods as night-time closures, improving signs and limiting motorized access and the number of visitors.

### **Standards**

1. Camping and recreation fires are prohibited except in designated sites at Chavez Group Campground.

## **COMMERCIAL USES**

### **Objectives**

1. Modify commercial activities as needed to address resident concerns for safety and to minimize disturbance from commercial activities that access National Forest lands through neighborhoods.

### **Guidelines**

1. Work with commercial tours, filming groups and home owners to resolve user and neighborhood safety and quality of life conflicts such as concerns about noise, safety and facilities maintenance needs.

## **INTERPRETATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **Objectives**

1. Work with partners in the community to encourage residents' stewardship of National Forest resources. Volunteer partnerships have high resident participation and provide opportunities for exciting stewardship with a strong learning component.
2. Collaborate with Red Rock State Park as a partner in environmental education and stewardship.

## APPENDIX J

### FOREST SERVICE ROAD MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

Forest Service Road #	Length (Miles)	Maintenance Objective*
153	.3	4
216A	4.5	4
120	6.7	3
152C	6.6	3
153	5.9	3
216A	1.7	3
525	7.6	3
525A	3.8	3
525C	6.4	3
525D	1.3	3
761	13	3
795	4.8	3
9457R	1.0	1
9459M	1.5	1**
9459P	1.0	1**
9460C	.5	1**
9460D	.3	1**
9469R	1.3	1**
9494G	.4	1**
9497F	.45	2
9499B	.4	1**
9500A	.7	2
9500M	.1	2
9524F	.4	2
9524H	2.1	2
9528	1.0	2
9549C	.3	2 (from 525 to Nolan Tank)
9586	4.3	2
9600	.2	2
9600A	.2	2
9840	.7	2
9844K	.2	2
9845K	.2	2
9860	.2	2
9904B	.3	2
9925	.2	2
9926	.2	2



## APPENDIX J

### FOREST SERVICE ROAD MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

Forest Service Road #	Length (Miles)	Maintenance Objective*
9926A	.1	2
9954	.1	2
9457P	.3	1
9457Q	.1	1
9458Y	.3	1
9459G	1.2	1**
9459H	.3	1
9459L	.5	1
9459N	.5	1
9459U	.3	1
9460U	.2	1
9469T	.4	1
9497D	.4	1
9501	.3	1
9500P	.2	1
9500R	.2	1
9500S	.3	1
9513B	.2	1
9513C	.8	1
9513F	1.3	1
9513H	.3	1
9524F	.1	1
9527A	.3	1
9528	.6	1
9528A	.2	1
9528B	.2	1
9544A	.4	1
9544B	.5	1
9544C	.4	1
9544F	.1	1
9544G	.1	1
9544J	.1	1
9544K	.1	1
9544L	.1	1
9544M	.2	1
9545	.6	1
9546A	.2	1
9547	.7	1

# APPENDIX J

## FOREST SERVICE ROAD MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

Forest Service Road #	Length (Miles)	Maintenance Objective*
9548B	.9	1
9549C	.2	1 (past Nolan Tank)
9549D	.4	1
9551A	.1	1
9556	.6	1
9561	.7	1
9568	.4	1
9570A	.7	1
9571B	.4	1
9573A	.2	1
9573B	.1	1
9573J	.3	1
9577	.3	1
9581	.3	1
9586B	2.7	1
9586C	.3	1
9586D	.5	1
9586G	.3	1
9586H	1.6	1
9598A	.1	1
9598C	.2	1
9801	1.3	1
9801B	.2	1
9839	.9	1
9842	.2	1
9844B	.3	1
9844D	.1	1
9844H	.1	1
9844J	.1	1
9845C	.2	1
9846	.6	1
9846A	.1	1
9846B	1.1	1
9849A	.1	1
9849B	.1	1
9860	1.2	1
9860A	.5	1
9860B	.4	1
9861	.6	1

## APPENDIX J

### FOREST SERVICE ROAD MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES

Forest Service Road #	Length (Miles)	Maintenance Objective*
9864	.1	1
9864a	.1	1
9870	.1	1
9870b	.1	1
9870c	.1	1
9874	.3	1
9874a	.2	1
9874b	.4	1
9876	.1	1
9886	1.0	1
9893	.3	1
9894a	.1	1
9905c	.1	1
9919	.4	1
9932	.1	1

#### \*MAINTENANCE LEVELS

**Level 1** roads are closed to public motor vehicle use. May be obliterated (natural or mechanical).

**Level 2** roads are generally high-profile-vehicle roads maintained at a lower level than considered compatible for passenger cars.

**Level 3** roads are maintained at levels considered compatible for all vehicles. These are unpaved roads and are considered fair-weather roads and may be seasonally closed.

**Level 4** roads are all-weather roads and may be gravel or paved. These are considered compatible for all types of vehicles.

**\*\***Close to public motor vehicle use, but maintain as a roadway for administrative purposes and non-motorized public uses.

