

## ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

### INTRODUCTION

Of the eleven alternatives originally developed, six were chosen for more detailed study. The choice was made by evaluating each alternative in terms of three primary factors for each resource: outputs, key effects, and response to issues and concerns. The eleven original alternatives represent a range of outputs for each resource; the six chosen for detailed study were selected on the basis of their response to major issues and concerns, and their ability to meet at least Minimum Management Requirements, Minimum Implementation Requirements, Timber Policy Requirements and Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines described in the next section of this chapter. The outputs, treatment of issues and concerns, and environmental consequences represented by the alternatives studied in detail are displayed later in this chapter under the heading of Comparison of Alternatives.

Each of the alternatives eliminated from detailed study was analyzed to the point of describing a theme, goals, objectives, outputs, and key effects. The alternatives eliminated from detailed study and the primary reasons for their elimination are discussed briefly below. The outputs for eliminated alternatives are displayed in Table 3. The alternatives studied in detail are described later in this chapter.

### INDIVIDUAL ALTERNATIVE DISCUSSION

#### 1. Name: PRO

Theme: The primary purpose of this alternative is to determine the ability of the Forest to meet the timber targets from the Region's high-productivity alternative as assigned to the Inyo National Forest.

Reasons for Elimination: The analysis of this alternative indicated that the timber target could only be met by dropping the non-declining yield requirement. Without that requirement, timber harvest would drop to less than one-third of the base year level after the fifth decade for three decades. The timber harvest program itself would not meet minimal cost-efficiency criteria, as harvest costs would be greater than the value of the timber harvested. The production of range outputs would require domestic livestock to increase on key deer winter range, displacing deer. Wilderness recommendations would be lowest of all but the MKT alternative; only the Tioga Lake, Hall Natural, and Laurel-McGee areas (less than three percent of further planning acreage on the Forest) would be recommended for wilderness.

#### 2. Name: LBU

Theme: This alternative was analyzed to estimate the expected outputs and services that could be provided in the future if the 1982 budget were reduced by 25 percent.

**Reasons for Elimination:** Forest outputs would change noticeably if the budget were reduced and continued at reduced levels over an extended period of time. All recreation facilities would be maintained at low-standard levels, and dispersed recreation and wildlife-related outputs would fall below current levels of use. The result would be an unacceptable response to the primary public issue on the Inyo National Forest which is the quantity and quality of recreational opportunities. Grazing would drop significantly to less than a third of base year output levels, affecting the viability of many ranching operations dependent on the Forest for summer range. The PNV for this alternative would be the lowest of any alternative analyzed. The overall lack of responsiveness to major public issues disqualified this alternative from detailed study.

3. **Name:** WLI

**Theme:** Recommend a substantial amount of quality acreage for wilderness while maintaining or increasing commodity outputs through intensified management of lands outside wilderness.

**Reasons for Elimination:** As was shown in the benchmark analysis, further planning areas on the Forest have little potential for commodity production. The opportunity costs of increasing wilderness are noticeable only when maximizing individual resources.

As the Inyo does not have noticeable trade-offs between wilderness and commodity outputs, the need to offset such trade-offs by intensifying commodity management is adequately accomplished in the CEE alternative, which was studied in detail. CEE would realize 76 percent of the wilderness potential on the Forest in the most cost-effective combination, given the non-wilderness resource opportunities in further planning areas. CEE would also select the highest quality wilderness acreage in terms of wilderness recreation opportunities. WLI represents less livestock grazing and higher timber costs than CEE. This alternative would also reduce the land base available for intensive wildlife habitat management.

WLI, while following the guideline that most Further Planning acres on the Forest be recommended for wilderness, does not meet the criterion that those recommendations represent quality wilderness. Many of the acres recommended would be low-quality wilderness, in terms of both wilderness recreation and other wilderness values. In addition, WLI would recommend many acres for wilderness that represent high costs for trail and trailhead construction and for management of wilderness use.

AMN addresses the issue of recommending most Further Planning acres on the Forest for wilderness. This issue is studied in detail. AMN emphasizes large wilderness acreage as part of a broader amenity emphasis. The desire for overall amenity-oriented management is more of a public issue on the Inyo than the separate issue of extensive wilderness acreage.

4. Name: MKT

Theme: This alternative emphasizes high level outputs of market resources (timber, range, developed recreation, and minerals). Non-market resources are produced at economically efficient levels. The alternative includes a timber target of 25 MMBF average annual harvest and a grazing target of 55,700 AUMs by the fifth decade.

Reasons for Elimination: This alternative, like PRO, could meet the timber target only by dropping the non-declining yield requirement. The 25 MMBF timber target could be met only if the timber volume were allowed to drop well below base year for three decades after the fifth decade. In order to meet the range target, deer would be displaced by domestic livestock grazing on key winter range. The wilderness recommendation would also be minimal, with only the Laurel McGee, Tioga Lake, and Hall Natural areas recommended for wilderness.

5. Name: AMC

Theme: Maximize wilderness by recommending all Further Planning Areas for wilderness designation. Maintain current levels of market outputs while producing cost-effective levels of non-market outputs.

Reasons for elimination: This alternative would not respond to the management concern that all recommended wilderness meet basic criteria for suitability and manageability under wilderness designation. The cost of trails, supervision, and management would be higher than the public benefits provided.

In addition, management opportunities would be severely restricted, and valuable vehicle-based recreation and mineral opportunities would be foregone under wilderness designation. If all Further Planning Areas were recommended for designation, 62 percent of all Inyo Forest lands would be wilderness. As an additional 5 percent of Forest lands already have other restrictive special designations (e.g., Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, Research Natural Areas), only 33 percent of the Forest would be available for the full range of management options. While current outputs could be maintained over the first five decades under this scenario, there would be very little opportunity for future management to change in response to changing public needs or environmental conditions. For these reasons, AMC was not considered a reasonable alternative to study in detail.

**Table 3**  
**Average Annual Outputs by Decade for**  
**Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study**

Activity/Resource	Alternatives				
	PRO	LBU	WLI	MKI	AMC
<b>PNV (MM\$)</b>	3431	2383	3480	3464	3475
<b>TIMBER (MMBF)</b>					
Base Year*	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Decade 1**	20.0	11.5	11.5	20.0	11.5
Decade 2	25.0	13.0	13.0	21.3	13.0
Decade 3	30.0	13.0	13.0	22.7	13.0
Decade 4	30.0	13.0	13.0	23.7	13.0
Decade 5	30.0	13.0	13.0	25.0	13.0
<b>LONG TERM SUSTAINED YIELD</b>					
(MMCF)	4.7	3.3	4.0	4.5	4.1
(MMBF)	30.8	21.4	26.1	29.4	26.5
<b>GRAZING (M AUM)</b>					
Base Year	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
Decade 1	46.4	18.9	46.0	50.9	38.1
Decade 2	55.9	16.4	47.5	57.6	41.3
Decade 3	59.7	11.8	50.4	61.8	41.7
Decade 4	58.3	11.5	50.7	60.3	41.9
Decade 5	55.7	11.1	43.5	55.7	40.0
<b>WATER YIELD (M acre-feet)</b>					
Base Year	1093	1093	1093	1093	1093
Decade 1	1106	1101	1101	1101	1101
Decade 2	1093	1093	1093	1093	1093
Decade 3	1097	1094	1093	1097	1093
Decade 4	1094	1097	1093	1093	1093
Decade 5	1093	1095	1093	1093	1093
<b>LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT (Threatened) (acres of stream habitat)</b>					
Base Year	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 1	3	3	3	3	3
Decade 2	5	5	5	5	5
Decade 3	5	5	5	5	5
Decade 4	5	5	5	5	5
Decade 5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>PAIUTE CUTTHROAT TROUT (Threatened) (acres of stream habitat)</b>					
Base Year	3	3	3	3	3
Decade 1	13	13	13	13	13
Decade 2	18	18	18	18	18
Decade 3	18	18	18	18	18
Decade 4	18	18	18	18	18
Decade 5	18	18	18	18	18

\*Base year is 1982

\*\*Decade 1 is the period 1988-1997

**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Average Annual Outputs by Decade for**  
**Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study**

Activity/Resource	Alternatives				
	PRO	LBU	WLI	MKI	AMC
<b>PEREGRINE FALCON (Endangered) (number of pairs)</b>					
Base Year	0	0	0	0	0
Decade 1	2	2	2	2	2
Decade 2	2	2	2	2	2
Decade 3	2	2	2	2	2
Decade 4	2	2	2	2	2
Decade 5	2	2	2	2	2
<b>BALD EAGLE (Endangered) (winter roosting areas)</b>					
Base Year	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 1	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 2	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 3	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 4	1	1	1	1	1
Decade 5	1	1	1	1	1
<b>MULE DEER (M animals)</b>					
Base Year	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Decade 1	11.2	11.8	11.9	11.2	11.9
Decade 2	9.9	11.6	11.6	9.9	11.6
Decade 3	8.7	11.4	11.1	8.7	11.1
Decade 4	7.4	11.2	10.7	7.4	10.7
Decade 5	5.9	11.0	10.3	5.9	10.3
<b>SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAIN SHEEP (Number of animals)</b>					
Base Year	300	300	300	300	300
Decade 1	350	350	350	330	350
Decade 2	400	400	400	360	400
Decade 3	450	450	450	390	450
Decade 4	500	500	500	420	500
Decade 5	550	550	550	450	550
<b>NELSON MOUNTAIN SHEEP (Number of animals)</b>					
Base Year	130	130	130	130	130
Decade 1	140	130	140	130	140
Decade 2	154	130	154	130	154
Decade 3	154	130	154	130	154
Decade 4	154	130	154	130	154
Decade 5	154	130	154	130	154
<b>RESIDENT FISH (M pounds)</b>					
Base Year	1632	1632	1632	1632	1632
Decade 1	1640	1632	1640	1640	1640
Decade 2	1649	1632	1649	1649	1649
Decade 3	1658	1632	1658	1658	1658
Decade 4	1667	1632	1667	1667	1667
Decade 5	1674	1632	1674	1674	1674

Table 3 (continued)  
Average Annual Outputs by Decade for  
Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study

Activity/Resource	Alternatives				
	PRO	LBU	WLI	MKI	AMC
<b>GOSHAWKS (Pairs in suitable timber)</b>					
Base Year	15	15	15	15	15
Decade 1	14	14	14	14	14
Decade 2	13	13	13	13	13
Decade 3	12	12	12	12	12
Decade 4	11	11	11	11	11
Decade 5	9	9	9	9	9
<b>TOTAL WILDLIFE AND FISH USER DAYS (M WFUDs)</b>					
<b>MULE DEER</b>					
Base Year	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Decade 1	23.5	24.8	25.0	23.5	25.0
Decade 2	20.8	24.4	24.4	20.8	24.4
Decade 3	18.3	23.9	23.3	18.3	23.3
Decade 4	15.5	23.5	22.5	15.5	22.5
Decade 5	12.4	23.1	21.6	12.4	21.6
<b>RESIDENT FISH--OTHER THAN T&amp;E</b>					
Base Year	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0	340.0
Decade 1	342.4	342.4	342.4	342.4	342.4
Decade 2	344.8	344.8	344.8	344.8	344.8
Decade 3	347.2	347.2	347.2	347.2	347.2
Decade 4	349.6	349.6	349.6	349.6	349.6
Decade 5	352.0	352.0	352.0	352.0	352.0
<b>OTHER</b>					
Base Year	25.8	25.8	25.8	25.8	25.8
Decade 1	26.9	26.9	26.9	19.7	26.9
Decade 2	32.0	31.2	32.0	20.5	32.0
Decade 3	37.2	22.2	34.2	21.7	34.2
Decade 4	41.9	17.9	38.3	22.6	38.3
Decade 5	49.6	23.0	43.7	24.0	43.7
<b>DEVELOPED RECREATION (M RVDS)</b>					
Base Year	2836	2836	2836	2836	2836
Decade 1	3686	3049	3686	3686	3686
Decade 2	4673	3579	4673	4673	4673
Decade 3	5383	3846	5383	5383	5383
Decade 4	5933	3889	6143	6143	6143
Decade 5	6030	3988	6272	6272	6272

**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Average Annual Outputs by Decade for**  
**Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study**

Activity/Resource	Alternatives				
	PRO	LEU	WLI	MKI	AMC
<b>WILDERNESS (M Acres)</b>					
Base Year	565.1	565.1	565.1	565.1	565.1
Decade 1	580.4	672.5	1029.9	580.4	1188.9
Decade 2	580.4	672.5	1029.9	580.4	1188.9
Decade 3	580.4	672.5	1029.9	580.4	1188.9
Decade 4	580.4	672.5	1029.9	580.4	1188.9
Decade 5	580.4	672.5	1029.9	580.4	1188.9
<b>TOTAL COST (MM\$)</b>					
Base Year	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
Decade 1	15.3	8.9	13.0	14.7	13.2
Decade 2	17.8	8.9	15.1	17.8	15.0
Decade 3	22.1	8.9	15.7	18.7	15.6
Decade 4	22.3	8.8	16.3	19.3	16.3
Decade 5	27.2	8.9	21.7	24.7	22.5

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL**

**INTRODUCTION**

The six alternatives selected for detailed study were developed more thoroughly in order to address specific issues, concerns, opportunities, and regulations. The theme and resource program direction for each alternative, by highlighting the main issues and concerns to be addressed, guided the development of assumptions and modeling guidelines to be used in the FORPLAN analysis for that alternative.

Average annual resource and activity outputs for each alternative were projected by decade through the fifth decade. A schedule of outputs over a 160-year period was also developed for each alternative studied in detail. Those long-range schedules are kept in the planning records. The 160-year analysis was necessary to ensure that timber harvest during the 50-year period would meet the long-term legal requirement of non-declining yield of wood products.

The following alternatives differ from one another in terms of issues and concerns addressed, resources and activities emphasized, total acres assigned to each management prescription, outputs produced, and environmental consequences. Comparative displays and discussions for the six alternatives studied in detail are found later in this chapter, under the heading Comparison of Alternatives.

## DIRECTION COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Planning alternatives are intended to explore a wide and varied range of options for managing a given National Forest. However, the range of alternatives is intended to be a reasonable one. A minimum set of management requirements are applied to all Forest planning alternatives for National Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region. These requirements fall into one of three categories: Minimum Management Requirements, Timber Policy Requirements, or Minimum Implementation Requirements. Forest Service Manual direction is also assumed to apply, but is not repeated here unless repetition is needed for emphasis.

### Minimum Management Requirements (MMRs)

Requirements in this category represent the mandates of the National Forest Management Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 219.27). The following is a summary of MMRs:

#### 1. Determination of Suitability for Timber Management

Lands will be considered suitable for timber management if:

- the land is forested and is currently producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood;
- the land has not been withdrawn from timber production by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service;
- technology and knowledge exist and are available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soil productivity or watershed conditions;
- existing technology and knowledge provide reasonable assurance that adequate restocking can be attained within five years of final harvest; and
- adequate information is available to project responses of the land to timber management activities.

#### 2. Threatened and Endangered (T & E) Species

Habitat that is critical for the recovery of threatened and endangered species will be determined, and measures will be prescribed to prevent the destruction or adverse modification of such habitat. Critical habitat includes all currently occupied habitat and that potential habitat necessary to meet recovery.

The Inyo will provide nesting habitat for at least two pairs of endangered peregrine falcons; at least one winter roosting area for endangered bald eagles; and at least five miles of stream habitat for threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. The Inyo may eventually provide habitat for Owens tui chub, a species listed in 1985 as endangered. A management plan for the threatened Paiute cutthroat trout is currently

being developed and will provide direction for management of this species.

### 3. Viability of Wildlife Populations

The maintenance of population viability for all native vertebrate species on the Forest is handled in Forest planning through the following concepts:

- Management Indicator Species (MIS) are used to represent the vegetation types, seral stages, and special habitat elements necessary to provide for all fish and wildlife species on the Forest, emphasizing those habitats most likely to be affected by management activities.
- The Wildlife and Fish Habitat Relationships (WFHR) Program, particularly the habitat capability models and special habitat criteria developed by each planning zone, is used to measure changes in wildlife populations.

### 4. Goshawks

Within goshawk habitat range, manage goshawk territories to maintain a density of at least one territory per eighteen square miles, amounting to nine in the tentatively suitable timber base. Distances between territories or clumps of territories will not normally exceed twelve miles.

Each territory will contain a minimum of 50 acres of habitat that provides suitable conditions for the nest stand and an alternate nest stand. Timber activities within occupied nest stands will be excluded during the nesting period. Timber activities during other time periods will meet the criteria for suitable habitat identified in the Forest habitat capability model for goshawks.

### 5. Snag-dependent species

To the extent possible, within each timber compartment provide, maintain, and manage for an average of 1.5 snags per acre: 1.2 per acre between 15-24 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and more than 20 feet high; 0.3 per acre greater than 20 inches dbh and more than 20 feet high. This requirement represents approximately 40 percent of natural potential snag-dependent wildlife density.

### 6. Dead, down logs

Leave in place an average of one log per acre in the Jeffrey pine forest. In other coniferous forest types, leave in place an average of at least one log per acre that is at least 20 inches in diameter at the large end and 20 feet long. Give preference to sound logs.

## 7. Diversity

Maintain at least 5 percent of each timber type and 10 percent of each shrub type in each of the named seral stages. If any given seral stage-vegetation type combination currently represents less than the minimum required level, manage to achieve the required level as soon as possible within the next 50 years.

The following timber types, shrub types, and seral stages will be used to determine the MMR level of diversity. Diversity at the MMR level is measured Forest-wide.

Timber types: Jeffrey pine (eastside); red fir

Seral stages (first two decades):

- 1) grass/forb (with or without scattered shrubs and seedlings)
- 2) shrub/seedling/sapling (trees up to 20 feet high)
- 3A) pole/medium tree (20-50 ft. high, 0-39 percent canopy cover, substantial shrub layer);
- 3B&C) same as 3A except 40 percent or more canopy cover, variable shrub layer
- 4A) large tree, mature to overmature (most trees over 50 feet high, 0-39 percent canopy cover, substantial shrub layer)
- 4B&C) same as 4A except 40 percent or more canopy cover, variable shrub layer
- 4C) that component of 4B&C with 70 percent or more canopy cover and, possibly, evidence of decadence. Seral stages (after two decades): same as above except for the absence of 3A and 4A.

Shrub types: Big sagebrush, bitterbrush, mountain mahogany

Seral stages: early stage, middle stage, and late stage.

## 8. Riparian Areas

Apply no new management activities to riparian areas associated with lakes or perennial streams that would cause unacceptable long-term changes in water quality, aquatic flora and fauna, and/or hydrophytic vegetation within those areas. This requirement is described in more detail below in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for fish, watershed, and riparian areas.

## 9. Soil and Water Productivity

Limit disturbance on those Forest lands characterized by slopes that exceed the natural angle of repose or have a very high erosion potential, or high levels of instability, to no more than 5 percent per decade.

## Timber Policy Requirements (TPRs)

### 1. Timber Harvest at CMAI.

Even-aged timber stands will be scheduled for harvest at or near Culmination of Mean Annual Increment (CMAI) of growth. CMAI is the turning point in the life of a tree after which its rate of growth begins to decline. Harvest at or near CMAI is intended to optimize wood production in a stand of timber.

In addition to harvest at CMAI, a range of rotation ages or timing options will be analyzed for the management of present and future timber stands. This variety is a means of progressing toward the goal of managing commercial timber for optimum production while providing the variety of tree sizes needed for other values, such as scenic variety and wildlife habitat diversity.

### 2. Long-term Sustained Yield

The timber harvest at the end of the planning horizon will meet the requirement of long-term sustained yield of wood products. This requirement assures that timber will be harvested at roughly the same rate as the Forest is growing new trees.

### 3. Harvest Flow

If the policy of non-declining even flow is not applied, substitute the requirement that the amount of timber harvest be stable enough, from one decade to the next, to protect the stability of communities dependent on the timber industry.

### 4. Dispersion

The dispersion policy requires that openings should not adjoin one another if their combined acreage would exceed Plan or Regional standards for maximum size of openings, and the timber between openings of similar age represent logical units for later harvest.

## Minimum Implementation Requirements (MIRs)

Requirements in this category, although not legally mandated, are considered necessary to ensure a minimum level of public acceptance.

1. Manage sensitive plants to ensure that species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions.
2. Maintain the foregrounds and middlegrounds of scenic corridors of officially designated state and county scenic highways and California State Scenic Highway System routes identified in the September 1970 Master Plan to meet or exceed the Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention. Those routes on the Inyo National Forest are:

- U.S 395
- California Highway 120 (west of U.S. 395)

- State Highway 158 (June Lake Loop)
- State Highway 203 (to Minaret Summit)
- State Highway 168 (west of Bishop)
- State Highway 168 (east of Westgard Pass).

3. Forests may impose a technical or operational constraint on the maximum total acres of clearcut on the Forest in any one time period. The Inyo has not chosen to impose such a constraint.

### Regional Herbicide Direction

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing Vegetation Management for Reforestation on National Forests in the Region. That EIS includes a detailed analysis of alternative approaches to the treatment of undesirable vegetation in competition with young trees.

The Preferred Alternative will be to continue with the current policy of considering the full range of vegetation management options, making specific decisions on a case-by-case basis. Herbicides have not been used on the Forest for eight years. Herbicides are not currently considered necessary to meet planned timber targets in the Jeffrey and lodgepole pine types east of U.S. 395, nor would their use increase growth rates. Competing vegetation on the Forest is typically low-growing relatively sparse grasses and brush that has been effectively and economically dealt with through a combination of mulches and hand releases.

Herbicides are not planned for use in the vegetative management of plantations during this planning period. Changes in this position would be made only after completion of the Region 5 Vegetation Management EIS, and completion of appropriate site-specific environmental analysis.

### Forest Requirements Common to All Alternatives

This category includes any management requirements incorporated in the FORPLAN model by the Forest for the analysis of all Forest alternatives. Forest requirements are intended to ensure implementability of alternatives at the local level. As such, they are based on local (rather than Regional) conditions. The Inyo did not develop any such requirements. Requirements specific to individual alternatives are discussed in Appendix B.

### Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines Common to All Alternatives

The following is a summary of the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines that would apply under any alternative (except, in some cases, the Current "No-Action" Alternative). Detailed treatment of these Standards and Guidelines (with the addition of those unique to the Preferred Alternative) is found in Chapter IV of the Plan. The following summary emphasizes those points that respond to public issues and management concerns.

### Air Quality

Meet or exceed all applicable state and federal regulations.

## Cultural Resources

Consult with local American Indian groups when conducting environmental analyses for project work.

Identify the types of data and research efforts needed to develop more efficient inventory, evaluation, protection, and compliance processing. Encourage and support in-Service and private sector efforts to address these needs. Develop and implement appropriate management plans and strategies.

Maintain the confidentiality of cultural resource site locations.

Avoid cultural resource damage during fire suppression activities, and provide protection for known cultural resource values.

Develop, implement, and monitor protection plans for Class I properties (those eligible for the National Register) and vandalized properties.

## Energy (for geothermal, see Minerals)

Encourage energy development commensurate with other National Forest goals, objectives, and management direction for the affected lands.

Assure that energy conservation practices are applied to National Forest management programs.

## Facilities

Provide additions to the transportation system for resource development and provide public access to public land and developed recreation sites in a manner consistent with the overall management objectives for the land served.

Reconstruct or close road segments or regulate traffic as needed for public safety and resource protection.

Maintain facilities to assigned standards, make them energy efficient, and/or replace them if necessary.

Schedule facilities maintenance and replacement according to the following priorities: (1) correct health and safety items, (2) perform recurrent annual maintenance, (3) eliminate maintenance backlogs, (4) replace, rehabilitate, or refurbish condemned facilities, (5) provide new facilities where needed.

Consider mass transit options when vehicle use exceeds the capacity of existing roads or threatens to damage resource values.

Develop a materials development and management plan for rock and earth construction materials.

Provide trails for hikers, skiers, equestrians, bicyclists, snowmobilers, the handicapped, and off-road vehicle users where compatible with user

needs, overall development levels, and management objectives for the area served.

Maintain trails to assigned maintenance levels.

Separate incompatible trail uses where feasible.

### **Fish**

Maintain and rehabilitate essential habitat for threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout according to the species recovery plan and Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Provide high-quality habitat for threatened trout, and medium- to high-quality habitat for other resident fish, emphasizing the control of sedimentation and maintenance or enhancement of riparian vegetation.

Prohibit stream-modifying construction activities during the spawning seasons for resident fish in the affected stream.

Design road and trail stream crossings on streams with active or potential fisheries to accommodate fish passage.

Maintain instream flows needed to support resident fisheries, and lake and reservoir levels needed to support existing fisheries.

### **Geology**

Locate and design facilities to avoid or withstand seismic, landslide, and volcanic processes affecting life or property, or ensure that the risks from such processes have been considered.

### **Lands**

Apply the following priorities when acquiring non-federal land: (1) lands with water frontage, key wildlife or sensitive plant habitat, outdoor recreation or aesthetic values, access value, unique historical or cultural resources, or lands within wilderness; (2) lands needed to protect resource values by eliminating or reducing fire risk, soil erosion, or illegal occupancy; or lands needed to lower administrative costs by eliminating title claims; (3) lands needed to block in or consolidate existing National Forest lands.

Apply the following priorities when disposing of federal land: (1) tracts inside of or adjacent to communities when such tracts would be used for public purposes, such as affordable housing; (2) small federal parcels that are intermingled with nonfederal lands; (3) lands under special-use permit and occupied by substantial structural improvements.

Consolidate public utility rights-of-way to reduce impacts on other resources.

Bury new or reconstructed power distribution lines (33KV or less) and telephone lines, unless burying would cause unacceptable environmental

damage or unless overhead lines would be desirable to mitigate seismic hazards.

Consider future needs for additional utility lines parallel to the north-south interstate Pacific DC Intertie transmission line when setting management direction for affected lands.

Issue special-use permits only if private land suitable for the use is not reasonably available and if the use is compatible with established management objectives for affected National Forest lands.

Apply the following priorities when evaluating special-use permit applications: (1) public uses, (2) semi-public uses, (3) individual (exclusive) uses.

Recommend the revocation of existing power, mineral, water, and other withdrawals where the needed restrictions can be accomplished administratively or where the need for the withdrawal no longer exists. Initiate new withdrawals only when other use and occupancy controls cannot adequately protect surface resources.

## **Minerals**

Encourage the leasing of National Forest lands for exploration and development of oil, gas, and geothermal resources as long as those activities are compatible with the National Forest goals, objectives, and management direction for the affected lands.

Consider all National Forest lands not specifically withdrawn from mineral entry available for mineral exploration, location, extraction, or leasing under applicable laws and regulations.

Manage mineral activities to minimize adverse impacts on surface resources.

Provide for the disposal of common variety minerals where such action (including access) will not cause unacceptable damage to surface resources.

## **Pest Management**

Apply an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach during the planning and implementation of all appropriate activities, particularly those that influence vegetation. Under the IPM approach, a full range of pest management alternatives will be considered and analyzed on a site-specific basis.

## **Protection**

Use the appropriate wildfire suppression strategy based on management prescription and management area direction.

Use prescribed fire as a management tool.

## Range

Manage livestock grazing to avoid unacceptable damage to soil, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Address riparian area objectives in allotment management plans. Adopt management practices that minimize adverse impacts on these areas.

## Recreation

### Recreation Residences

Continue all recreation residence special use permits unless a future use determination identifies a higher public need.

Schedule future use determinations for recreation residences in advance of the termination dates of permits in order to allow sufficient time for public input.

### Developed Recreation

Construct and maintain facilities and sites to Regional standards.

### Dispersed Recreation

Coordinate with other agencies for the development and maintenance needed to provide parking for OHV (Off-highway Vehicle) snow play and nordic skiing.

### Interpretive Services

Develop programs, displays, and publications to interpret Forest resource management and the natural environment. Maximize the use of self-service information facilities.

### Off-highway Vehicles

Design OHV trails and open areas to minimize conflicts with existing or potential developed recreation sites, private property, special uses, adjacent wilderness, administrative areas, cultural resources, and riparian areas.

Coordinate Forest off-highway vehicle planning and funding with federal, state, and local agencies, private landowners and the public.

## Research Natural Areas

Inventory geologic RNA (Research Natural Area) candidates as a component of the Regional RNA program.

Complete the establishment process for recommended botanical RNAs.

## **Riparian Areas**

Protect streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and the plants and animals dependent on these features. Prevent unacceptable, long-term changes in water temperature, chemistry, sedimentation, and channel blockages associated with riparian areas.

Rehabilitate or fence riparian areas that consistently show resource damage or abuse if conflicts cannot be resolved otherwise.

Maintain instream flows needed to support the existing riparian ecosystem.

Prohibit the location of new roads, campsites, and similar disturbances inside the borders of riparian areas unless absolutely necessary and impacts can be mitigated. Relocate existing roads and campsites outside riparian areas where necessary and feasible.

Limit wildfire control and rehabilitation methods and activities that would adversely impact riparian areas.

## **Special Interest Areas**

Evaluate and recommend candidate Special Interest Areas for designation, and evaluate and nominate candidates for National Natural Landmarks (NNL) listing.

Manage the existing Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Botanical Area under the approved management plan.

## **Timber**

Allow openings created by regeneration harvest to border natural openings if other resource values are protected. Locate and design openings with consideration for the surrounding landscape.

Schedule artificial regeneration within three years of clearcutting.

Emphasize maximum road spacing when planning timber sales.

Conduct logging and construction so that debris does not enter stream channels or cause watershed damage.

Limit the size of tree openings created by even-aged silviculture to 40 acres or less.

Apply the guideline that a harvested area will no longer be considered an opening for timber management purposes when the prescribed forest tree stocking density is met with trees 4.5 feet tall.

## Visual Resources

Obtain Forest Supervisor's approval through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process for any deviation from assigned VQOs (Visual Quality Objectives).

Rehabilitate and/or enhance the visual resource, where appropriate, when implementing projects.

## Watershed

### Soils

Use earth-retaining structures or other special methods as needed in areas with high potential for landslides.

Make a slope suitability examination before constructing permanent developments in unstable areas.

Conserve the surface mineral and/or surface organic layer of the soil to maintain long-term productivity.

### Water

Maintain or improve water quality to meet federal and state standards.

Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet water quality objectives and maintain and improve the quality of surface water on the Forest. Methods and techniques for applying the BMP will be identified during project level environmental assessments and incorporated into the associated project plan and implementation documents.

Preclude channelization of natural streams.

Maintain instream flows needed to maintain stream channel competence.

Conduct construction activities to avoid sedimentation in the aquatic zone.

Manage all stream reaches to maintain or improve streambank stability, emphasizing streams in municipal watersheds.

Locate roads and trails on natural benches or ridges well away from stream courses and other water bodies where possible. Avoid constructing roads or trails that parallel or cross tributaries of a main stream.

Protect the streambed both upstream and downstream from each road, trail, and livestock crossing that has neither a bridge nor a culvert.

Revegetate roads and trails when use is terminated.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

Undertake no management activities that would preclude designation of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River as a Wild and Scenic River.

## Wilderness

Incorporate existing wilderness management plans (amending as necessary to accommodate 1984 wilderness additions) for the John Muir, Ansel Adams (formerly Minarets), Hoover, and Golden Trout Wildernesses.

Develop new wilderness management plans for the South Sierra Wilderness and any other new wildernesses designated by Congress during the planning period.

## Wildlife

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species

Evaluate management actions in threatened and endangered (T & E) species habitat. Submit proposals for any activities that might affect the viability of these species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for formal consultation.

Cooperate with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in the management of T & E species and the restoration of habitat.

Develop and implement a consistent, systematic, biologically sound strategy to manage sensitive species and their habitats so that federal listing is not eventually required.

Develop and implement a Forest sensitive plant program plan.

Permit scientific studies on sensitive species only if the studies would benefit the species.

### Management Indicator Species

Mule deer (harvest): Consider key winter range, fawning areas, migration routes, and holding areas when managing mule deer habitat on the Forest.

Bald eagle (endangered): Manage bald eagle habitat for recovery of the species. Maintain the integrity of the identified winter roosting area on the Forest. Do not establish new winter uses or recreation developments within 0.25 mile of that area.

Golden eagle and prairie falcon (special interest): Maintain and enhance the integrity of nesting habitat for these species.

Peregrine falcon (endangered): Implement the peregrine falcon recovery plan, providing for at least two nesting pairs of reintroduced birds.

Goshawk (sensitive): Wherever possible, locate territories in unsuitable timber as long as high quality habitat can be found there. Develop a goshawk habitat management plan.

Blue grouse (harvest): Maintain viability by implementing MMRs for diversity and riparian areas.

Sage grouse (harvest): Maintain the integrity of sage grouse habitat.

Sierra Nevada mountain sheep (sensitive) and Nelson mountain sheep (special interest): Maintain the integrity of existing habitat; do not increase livestock or introduce pack stock trails into such habitat. Consider reintroduction of sheep into suitable unoccupied habitat on a case-by-case basis.

Great gray owl (sensitive): Inventory potential habitat between February 1 and August 31 to determine the suitability of Inyo National Forest habitats for this species.

Spotted owl (sensitive): Inventory potential habitat between March 1 and July 30 to determine the suitability of habitats on the Forest for this species. If nesting spotted owls are found, manage their habitat as needed to maintain their natural distribution on the Forest.

## MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS AND MANAGEMENT AREAS

### INTRODUCTION

A Management Prescription sets forth the management direction by element or activity that applies to specific types of land within the Forest. Eighteen Management Prescriptions have been developed for the Inyo National Forest. Each Management Prescription identifies one or more resources for primary emphasis, describes the management of the emphasized resource(s), and establishes guidance for all other resources and activities so that they are compatible with the primary emphasis. Since they apply to types of land, and since similar types of land occur on different parts of the Forest, a given Management Prescription typically applies to a number of separate land units.

For mapping and display purposes, the Forest has been divided into twenty geographically identifiable areas called Management Areas. Each Management Area may include lands managed under two or more Management Prescriptions. For a description and map of Management Areas see the accompanying Plan.

Management Area boundaries are the same for all alternatives. Management Prescriptions, on the other hand, may be applied to different lands under different alternatives, depending on the goals and objectives of the alternative.

Forest resource outputs for each alternative are derived, for the most part, from the FORPLAN computerized linear program. The FORPLAN program schedules resource management activities on specific types of land and projects

resource outputs over a 50-year horizon. The management activities that provide input to FORPLAN are called FORPLAN prescriptions.

FORPLAN prescriptions and Management Prescriptions are related to one other, but they are not identical. Each Management Prescription addresses the entire range of resources, whereas each FORPLAN prescription addresses only the single resource for which activities are prescribed and outputs are generated. Management Prescriptions are allocated to large, diverse land types; FORPLAN prescriptions are applied to more distinct, narrowly-defined land and vegetation types. The following is a summary of Inyo National Forest Management Prescriptions. For a more detailed description of Management Prescriptions, see Chapter IV of the Plan; for a discussion of FORPLAN prescriptions, see Appendix B of this document.

## **SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS**

### **1. Designated Wilderness**

**Description:** Emphasizes the protection of wild lands and wilderness values. Applies to wilderness lands that have been designated by Congress.

**Direction:** Manage all resources so that they are harmonious with the wilderness values of natural ecological integrity, natural appearance, solitude, and primitive recreation. Regulate the amount and type of recreation use; limit the kind and amount of structural improvement; limit disruptions of natural ecological processes, allow for non-wilderness activities such as mining, grazing, and access to private land to the extent provided for by legislation and federal laws. Apply the Preservation Visual Quality Objective (VQO). Maintain the Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

### **2. Proposed Wilderness**

**Description:** Emphasizes the protection of wilderness values while providing for traditional uses of the affected area until Congress designates the area wilderness or it is released through further administrative review or by Congress. Apply Management Prescription #1 immediately upon designation. Applies to all Further Planning Areas recommended for wilderness under a given alternative.

**Direction:** Allow no construction of new facilities or authorization of new uses; allow for existing facilities and uses to the extent compatible with the protection of wilderness values. Apply the Preservation VQO. Maintain Primitive or Semi-Primitive ROS Classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

### 3. Mountain Sheep Habitat

**Description:** Emphasizes high quality habitat for Sierra Nevada and Nelson mountain sheep to maintain or increase population levels. Applies to the suitable mountain sheep habitat that is managed in a given alternative.

**Direction:** Prohibit or modify activities that would conflict with mountain sheep habitat objectives. Such activities include road and trail construction, domestic livestock grazing, and recreation use. Apply the Retention VQO. Maintain Primitive or Semi-Primitive ROS Classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

### 4. Mule Deer Habitat

**Description:** Preserve or enhance key mule deer habitat to maintain or increase population levels. Applies to suitable winter range, summer range, fawning areas, and/or holding areas managed with a mule deer management emphasis under an alternative.

**Direction:** Prohibit or modify activities that would conflict with mule deer habitat objectives. Such activities include domestic livestock grazing and vehicle access. Enhance mule deer habitat by such activities as browse release, improvement of cover-to-forage ratios, and improvement of cover in fawning areas. Apply the Partial Retention VQO. Allow those activities acceptable under the Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roded Natural ROS classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

### 5. Research Natural Area

**Description:** Maintain the ecological integrity of target vegetation types with an emphasis on research, study, and observation. Applies to the five established and two recommended Research Natural Areas on the Forest.

**Direction:** Provide for non-manipulative and non-destructive academic and scientific uses. Prohibit or limit activities or uses that would affect natural ecological processes. Such activities include facility (including road and trail) construction, recreation, livestock grazing, vehicle access, fish stocking, and fuelwood gathering. Apply the Preservation VQO and maintain the Primitive ROS Class. Control any wildfires originating outside the Roded Natural Areas that pose a threat to the area. Apply the confinement or containment suppression strategies to natural fires originating within the Roded Natural Areas unless persons, property, or the unique values of the Roded Natural Areas are threatened.

## 6. Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area

**Description:** Provide for recreational enjoyment, interpretation, and protection of the natural scenic features of the Mono Basin. This applies to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area established by Congress in 1984.

**Direction:** Develop a management plan for the Mono Basin Scenic Area as directed by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. Until completion of the management plan, follow the direction in the 1985 Interim Management Plan.

## 7. Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest

**Description:** Provide for public enjoyment, scientific study, and protection of ancient bristlecone pines in a near-natural setting. Applies to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest established administratively in 1958.

**Direction:** Allow recreational day-use and interpretive facilities and uses and academic and scientific activities that cause no noticeable degradation. Prohibit or modify any activities that could conflict with the protection and preservation of bristlecone pine trees and wood remnants. Such activities include overnight camping, OHV use, energy or mineral activities, road or trail construction, private land uses, wildfire suppression, and fuelwood gathering. Apply the Retention VQO except where a lower VQO is needed to provide public use facilities. Allow those activities included in the Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

## 8. Wild and Scenic Rivers

**Description:** Maintain the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River in a free-flowing condition and emphasize scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural values for public enjoyment. Applies to a strip of land extending an average of 0.25 mile from each bank (unless and until it is released for other uses).

**Direction:** Prohibit or modify any activities that would adversely affect the values protected by the recommended designation. Such activities include hydroelectric development, camping, vehicle access, facility (including road) construction, mineral activities, and timber harvest. Apply the Partial Retention VQO. Allow those activities included in the Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. (Only Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized for "wild" segments.) Control all wildfires in scenic and recreation segments. On "wild" segments, apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

## 9. Uneven-aged Timber Management

**Description:** Emphasize the production of sawlogs and other wood products on suitable timber lands, using methods that maintain other resource options for the future. Applies to lands on which timber management is emphasized, but on which other resource values are such that modification of high level timber management strategies is warranted.

**Direction:** Apply timber management strategies that do not preclude future management options for resources other than timber. The following criteria apply:

- at least three age class in the stand;
- each age class comprises at least 10 percent of the basal area of the stand;
- at least twenty years between age classes;
- one class in the upper third at the end of the rotation period;
- openings up to two acres in size--up to five acres where terrain, stand characteristics, operational factors, or non-timber resource objectives make this necessary, product objective is large-diameter (~24" sawtimber).

Favor site preparation methods that are most compatible with other resources. Apply the Partial Retention VQO. Provide for recreation activities in the Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roded Natural ROS classes. Control all wildfires.

## 10. High Level Timber Management

**Description:** Emphasize the maximum production of sawlogs and other wood products, assuming that timber management will be the primary long-term management emphasis for the lands involved. Applies to all suitable timber lands managed with a long-term timber management emphasis under an alternative. Any included pockets of unsuitable timber or unforested land would be managed for uses compatible with timber management on the surrounding suitable timber lands.

**Direction:** Apply those timber management strategies that maximize long-term timber production. Manage all other resources at levels compatible with timber management objectives. Examples of resources for which management would be modified are domestic livestock grazing and developed recreation. Apply VQOs as inventoried. Provide for recreation activities in the Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roded Natural ROS classes. Control all wildfires.

## 11. Range

**Description:** Manage range forage to provide for long-term sustained yield of domestic grazing outputs, increased forage production, and uniform livestock distribution. Applies to all suitable rangelands managed with a primary range emphasis under an alternative.

**Direction:** Rejuvenate and/or type-convert suitable vegetation types as needed to improve range condition or to maintain or increase forage

production. Construct, maintain, and replace structural improvements as needed to distribute livestock. Modify other management activities as needed to accommodate grazing. Apply the Partial Retention VQO. Allow for activities in the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

## 12. Concentrated Recreation Area

**Description:** Emphasize the maintenance and enhancement of major recreational values and opportunities. Applies to areas with high levels of existing or potential recreation use that are managed with a recreation emphasis under an alternative.

**Direction:** Provide a broad range of recreational facilities and opportunities to accommodate large numbers of people safely, conveniently, and with minimal resource damage. Modify other management activities to minimize conflicts with recreation values. These include vegetation management (including timber harvest), energy development, livestock grazing, and any activity that would reduce scenic quality. Apply the Retention VQO to all management activities and new non-recreation facilities, and Partial Retention to all other facilities. Maintain the Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified, and Rural ROS classes. Control all wildfires.

## 13. Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study

**Description:** Manage ski areas for public enjoyment. Applies to all lands managed under permit for alpine skiing.

**Direction:** Develop the facilities (including runs, lifts, base lodges, etc.) necessary to provide for skier enjoyment. Locate and design facilities to ensure public safety and to blend in with the natural environment. Exclude or modify other resource objectives and activities where necessary to provide for alpine skiing. Such objectives and activities include timber harvest, developed recreation, public vehicle access, mineral activities, and inventoried Visual Quality Objectives. Apply the Partial Retention VQO to runs, lifts, and base areas as seen in the middleground from Sensitivity Level 1 routes and occupancy sites. Allow activities appropriate in the Rural ROS class. Control all wildfires.

## 14. Potential Alpine Ski Area

**Description:** Maintain the potential for ski area development. Applies to those areas of the Forest that represent downhill skiing opportunities of the highest quality and are identified under an alternative as potential ski areas. When an alpine ski area is developed, it will be managed under the prescription for Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study.

**Direction:** Maintain the integrity of potential downhill ski runs and base station locations. Manage other resources to the degree

commensurate with maintaining alpine ski development potential. The other resources and activities most likely to be affected are timber management, road construction, summer recreation development, land uses under special use permit, and mineral activities. Timber management will follow the same direction as that found in the Uneven-aged Timber Management Prescription. Meet inventoried VQOs. Allow the activities appropriate in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Control all wildfires.

#### 15. Developed Recreation Site

**Description:** Manage developed recreational facilities to provide necessary user services and to protect forest resource values. Applies to publicly and privately operated developed summer recreation sites.

**Direction:** Develop recreation sites to the extent consistent with the type and amount of recreation occurring on surrounding lands. Encourage the year-round use of facilities where winter use is not limited by the need to shut down water or sanitation facilities; regulate vehicle use to protect resources; locate and design developments to minimize impacts on soil, water, vegetation, and scenic quality. Prohibit or modify management activities to minimize conflicts with recreational values. Such activities include energy developments, mineral activities, livestock grazing, and timber harvest. Apply the Retention VQO to foreground zones and Partial Retention to facilities seen as middleground from Sensitivity Level 1 routes and occupancy sites. Maintain the Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified and Rural ROS classes. Control all wildfires.

#### 16. Dispersed Recreation

**Description:** Provide opportunities for a wide range of dispersed recreation activities for both winter and summer use.

**Direction:** Manage the area for the public enjoyment of both summer and winter dispersed recreation activities. Emphasize non-motorized winter use such as nordic skiing and snowplay. Provide for centralized parking and trailheads. Provide for protection of the visual resource during winter months for nordic skiers. Reroute nordic trails if necessary.

#### 17. Semi-Primitive Recreation

**Description:** Protect and maintain recreation and wildlife values by limiting vehicle access and road construction. Applies to those relatively unroaded lands on the Forest managed with an emphasis on dispersed recreation, wildlife, and/or other amenity values.

**Direction:** Allow no construction of new public two-wheel drive roads or upgrading of existing four-wheel drive roads except for mineral activities. Close new mining roads to public access and obliterate when use ends. Allow other resource management activities to the extent compatible with the amenity emphasis. Modify timber management; allow range and wildlife habitat manipulation; allow four-wheel drive and OHV recreation on established routes where compatible with resource

protection. Apply the Partial Retention VQO. Maintain Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property, or valuable resources are endangered.

#### **18. Multiple Resource Area**

**Description:** Allow for ease of access for resource management, mineral activity, and/or vehicle-based recreation use. Applies to lands managed for multiple use and ease of access.

**Direction:** Allow for the construction of new public two-wheel drive roads or upgrading of four-wheel drive roads. Meet VQOs as inventoried on lands in the Roded Natural ROS class. Apply Partial Retention to lands in the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classes. Maintain the Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roded Natural ROS classes. Apply the confinement or containment wildfire suppression strategies to natural fires unless human life, property or valuable resources are endangered.

#### **MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS THAT ARE AREA-SPECIFIC IN ALL ALTERNATIVES**

Five of these Management Prescriptions are applied to the same land area in each alternative. They are Designated Wilderness (#1), Research Natural Area (#5), Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (#6), Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (#7), and Wild and Scenic River (#8).

This pre-allocation of Management Prescriptions is based on decisions that have been made outside of this planning process. Existing wilderness on the Forest and the Scenic Area have been designated by Congress in one of three separate acts: the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, or the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and the five established Research Natural Areas (RNAs) were administratively established between 1932 and 1983. The two recommended RNAs (Whippoorwill Flat and McAfee Meadow) have been studied and were determined to be acceptable by both the Forest and the Region 5 RNA Committee many years ago. As the recommended RNAs do not contain lands with other resource management opportunities, the Forest has chosen to apply the Roded Natural Area prescription to recommended RNAs in all alternatives.

Since publication of the Draft Plan, Congress has designated both the North Fork and South Fork of the Kern River as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Leadership for the study of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River for wild and scenic status is the responsibility of the Sierra National Forest. The Inyo National Forest provided data for the analysis and shares responsibility with the Sierra for the recommendation to Congress.

#### **OTHER DIRECTION COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES**

Geothermal energy exploration and development are governed by site-specific analyses conducted outside this planning process. Those geothermal decisions

that have already been made are common to all alternatives. Leases have been offered and will continue to be offered in Lease Blocks I and II of the Mono-Long Valley KGRA. There will, however, be no geothermal leasing in the Monache Meadows area of the Kern Plateau.

## ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The following are narrative descriptions of the six alternatives studied in detail. These alternatives are presented in the following sequence.

- PRF: Preferred Alternative
- CUR: Current (1982) Program - No Action
- RPA: 1980 RPA Program
- CEE: Maximize Cost-efficiency
- AMN: Maximize All Amenities
- AMB: Emphasize Wildlife and Recreation

Each alternative description includes a narrative and a set of figures. Each narrative has three sections: Theme (goals, objectives, issues and concerns addressed); Resource Program Direction (key activities, standards and guidelines); and Environment to Be Created in 2030 (a broad view of the Forest as it would appear to the visitor if the alternative were implemented). The resource program direction in the alternative narrative does not, in most cases, repeat the direction common to all alternatives described above. For those few cases in which such direction is repeated, the repetition is included with the intention of emphasis.

The alternatives on the following pages include resource program direction that is projected over the fifty year analytical horizon of the Forest planning process. However, any of the alternatives, if selected, would represent a set of management decisions affecting only the first ten to fifteen years of that horizon. The plan period is defined by the NFMA regulations as one decade [36 CFR 219.3 (1982)], while the law permits a fifteen-year maximum [16 USC 1604(f)(5)]. Within ten to fifteen years, conditions on the Forest will be reanalyzed, and a revised plan developed [36 CFR 219.10(g)(1982) and 16 USC 1604(f)(5)].

Management actions, outputs, and environmental and socioeconomic effects are projected for several decades beyond the plan period. The purpose of these discussions is twofold. They present a long-term analysis for decision makers and for the public to use in evaluating alternatives. These projections indicate the management actions that would be needed to achieve and maintain, in perpetuity, the resource outputs called for under an alternative without impairment of the productivity of the land (16 USC 531).

These discussions also provide information for the national RPA Program, the development of which requires information four decades beyond the plan period (16 USC 1602). So that the analysis of alternatives for the RPA Program links with actual conditions and local issues at the Forest level, a complete estimate of outputs, costs, and effects for the RPA Program horizon is needed.

The projection of alternative attributes beyond the plan period, although required by law, does not legally bind the Forest to action beyond the plan period since, as noted above, the Forest is required to revise the plan within fifteen years of its initial development. This revision may well establish different long-term goals and different future projections than those established in the present plan.

See Appendix B for details regarding the modeling of each alternative in the FORPLAN program and the generation of outputs by that program. The methods and assumptions used to generate certain outputs outside the FORPLAN program are documented in the planning records.

#### **PRF: PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

##### Theme

This alternative is the final Preferred Alternative revised as the result of public comment on the Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. It is designed to provide a mix of management activities that is sensitive both to historic uses and expressed public preferences. A mixture of commodity and amenity resource outputs is emphasized. There is no budget limitation in the FORPLAN model.

The issues and concerns addressed by this alternative are: (1) balancing commodity and amenity benefits to optimize net public benefit; (2) responding to the needs of each affected social group; (3) providing a variety of high-quality recreation opportunities and a proportional distribution of use between summer and winter; (4) maintaining and improving amenity values to enhance the recreational appeal of the Eastern Sierra; (5) maintaining and enhancing habitat for harvest species of fish and wildlife; (6) restoring and enhancing riparian areas; (7) making wilderness recommendations in response to key opportunities; (8) providing opportunities for mineral and energy development in coordination with other resources; and (9) maintaining the range resource.

Developed summer recreation will be managed with the objective of increasing opportunities in response to demand. Alpine skiing will increase at a rate that responds to demand within environmental, infrastructure and social constraints. Development will be closely coordinated with community planning, so that ski area capacity and the community's ability to provide support services are developed together. The management of dispersed summer and winter recreation will provide for an increase in use roughly proportional to the use of developed sites.

Timber will be managed to provide a continuous supply of wood products for local markets to the degree consistent with cost efficiency and other resource objectives.

Domestic livestock grazing will be managed to be compatible with other resource objectives.

The wilderness land base will be increased by the addition of Further Planning Areas with high wilderness values, in combination with a low level of conflict with other resources or logical additions to existing wilderness, in combination with a low level of conflict with other resources.

Wildlife habitat will be managed with the objectives of protecting deer habitat, achieving recovery for threatened and endangered species, maintaining or enhancing habitat for sensitive and special interest species and maintaining population viability for all other native vertebrate species. Fish habitat will be managed with the objectives of responding to projected increases in dispersed recreation and achieving recovery for threatened trout.

#### Resource Program Direction

**Cultural Resources:** Conduct Forest-wide cultural resource inventory and project-related and non-project-related surveys. Emphasize type-of-site investigation rather than the less efficient site-by-site approach to the extent that is feasible. Emphasize a broad and varied cultural resource management program that includes inventory, evaluation (including National Register nominations and/or National Register eligibility determinations), protection, enhancement, and interpretation of cultural values.

**Facilities:** Construct approximately 87 miles of recreation access roads as needed and approximately 535 miles of trails for hikers, equestrians, nordic skiers, and OHV users over the planning period. Reconstruct the road and trail system on a programmed basis and maintain to assigned maintenance levels. Construct an administrative site for the new Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

**Fish:** Improve stream habitat in concentrated recreation areas and in native golden trout habitat. Negotiate with FERC and the affected utility companies to rewater streams for the re-establishment of resident trout fisheries. Conduct programmed watershed improvement work to benefit fish habitat. Develop a management plan for the Paiute cutthroat trout.

**Lands:** Acquire lands, if they become available, in Lee Vining Canyon, Lundy Canyon, and the upper Owens River for summer recreation development. Coordinate landownership adjustments with community planning and Forest management objectives to provide for the community growth associated with increasing alpine ski area capacity.

**Minerals:** Encourage the development of geothermal resources according to current agreements in Lease Blocks I and II. Consider additional geothermal exploration and development in response to lease applications on any additional Forest lands outside of designated or recommended wilderness.

**Pest Management:** Respond to the high overall need and opportunity for pest management based on the high levels of developed recreation use and new site construction and the moderate opportunity to manage vegetation associated with timber outputs.

**Protection:** Use all appropriate wildlife suppression strategies (confinement, containment and control) on the Forest as identified in the Forest fire management action plan that is being developed.

**Range:** Intensify range management with a vegetative treatment program. Accomplish fifty acres a year using prescribed burning. Allow for a reduction in grazing due to vegetation changes resulting from timber management on lands suitable for both timber and range management. Do not increase livestock grazing on deer winter range. Give priority to mule deer in key fawning areas, developing specific direction in allotment management plans. Apply the guideline of 50 percent utilization of forage by livestock.

**Recreation:** Develop the potential campgrounds and day-use sites needed to support the objective of increasing use. Develop those sites with the greatest projected use first. Water-oriented sites in concentrated recreation areas have the greatest projected use; sites away from water and concentrated use areas have the lowest projected use. Develop interpretive sites as the opportunity arises. Operate facilities and administer permits at standard levels of service. Develop new concentrated recreation areas in the Walker Lake-Sawmill Canyon and Deadman expansion areas. Develop an additional concentrated recreation area in the upper Owens River area if private land along the river becomes available.

Conduct a cumulative effects study for the Mammoth/June Area for any potential ski area development other than that specified in the approved development plans for Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain. Proposed ski area development in the Sherwin Bowl Area is currently being studied in an environmental analysis outside the Forest planning process. Limiting factors for additional development include infrastructure needs such as adequate water, sewer, snow removal, and transportation facilities; land availability; the regional skier market; and environmental impacts. For planning purposes, the development level projected in the 1985 Town of Mammoth Lakes General Plan represents ski area development under this alternative.

Manage for the increasing summer and winter dispersed use that will result from increased development. Provide a full complement of trails, restrooms, parking areas, and interpretive signs to enhance year-round recreational opportunities and protect resources. Manage dispersed recreation at standard levels of service.

Designate OHV and OSV routes, corridors and open areas in the update of the existing 1977 Interagency Motor Vehicle Use Plan.

**Research Natural Areas:** Complete the establishment process for the Whippoorwill Flat and McAfee Meadow RNAs.

**Riparian Areas:** Prohibit new activities in riparian areas that will have unacceptable long-term effects on water quality, fish or other aquatic fauna,

or water-dependent plant life. Fish habitat and watershed improvement work will also benefit riparian areas.

**Special Interest Areas:** Evaluate identified candidate Special Interest Areas and establish those selected.

**Timber:** Use even-aged management techniques for timber harvested east of U.S. 395 and uneven-aged management west of the highway. Manage timber for high level production where cost-effective on all suitable lands, with these exceptions:

1. west of U.S. 395 in the Mammoth/June area,
2. existing or potential concentrated recreation areas,
3. the Monache area, and
4. the foreground zones of Sensitivity Level 1 travel routes to meet the Retention Visual Quality Objective.

Provide fuelwood in response to demand. If the supply of logging residue falls below the demand for fuelwood, consider supplying some fuelwood out of the programmed harvest.

**Visual Resources:** Assign prescribed Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) with the following exception: timber management must meet or exceed the VQO of Retention in potential concentrated recreation areas. Timber harvest units should be limited to twenty acres or less in most cases.

**Watershed:** Implement the Forest Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) plan at an average rate of 350 acres per year.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** The Wild and Scenic River recommendation for the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River will be submitted to Congress by the Sierra National Forest.

**Wilderness:** Recommend the following Further Planning Areas for wilderness designation: Table Mountain, Tioga Lake, the upper elevations of the White Mountains, and the southeast quarter of the Paiute area in the Inyo Mountains. Containment will be the primary wildfire suppression strategy for natural fires in the wilderness.

**Wildlife:** Enhance mule deer habitat by vegetative treatment at an average rate of 180 acres per year, emphasizing key winter range. Do not increase cattle grazing on key deer winter range. Emphasize the protection of key fawning habitat, developing specific direction in allotment management plans. Prohibit or modify ski area development, geothermal development, and timber management to minimize impacts on deer migration routes.

Maintain the integrity of the existing bald eagle winter roosting area. Provide for at least two nesting pairs of reintroduced peregrine falcons. Maintain all existing goshawk nesting territories in suitable timber, allocating one hundred acres to each nesting pair.

Provide for at least one additional herd of reintroduced Sierra Nevada mountain sheep. Consider the reintroduction of additional herds on a case-by-case basis. Provide for at least one reintroduction of Nelson mountain sheep to unoccupied range.

Maintain at least 10 percent of forested lands including both suitable and unsuitable timber in older seral stages. Ensure that old growth acreage is adequately distributed throughout the commercial timber types.

Maintain or create snags in managed timber stands to meet at least 40 percent of the natural potential density of snag-dependent wildlife; allow for higher densities outside of managed timber.

#### Environment to be Created in the Year 2030

Summer visitors to the Forest in the year 2030 will find noticeably more recreationists, as use will have increased nearly 60 percent since 1982. There will be many more campgrounds, day use sites, and trails of all kinds. Facilities will be better maintained and services will have improved.

Anglers will find moderately increased fishing opportunities due to moderate fish habitat and watershed improvement work. Hunters will experience declining deer populations where geothermal development and community growth has disturbed deer habitat.

The type of use in the Monache area will not have changed, as the area will still be accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles. Visitors to the White and Inyo Mountains will encounter more hikers and stock parties using the new wilderness.

Vegetation will differ little in appearance as seen from major roads. There will be less timber harvested.

**Table 4**  
**Acreage Allocations by Management Prescription**  
**Alternative PRF**

Management Prescription	M Acres	Percent of Forest
1. Designated Wilderness	565.1	29.3
2. Proposed Wilderness	172.6	9.0
3. Mountain Sheep	35.0	1.8
4. Mule Deer	118.8	6.2
5. Research Natural Area*	14.9 (0.7)	0.8
6. Mono Basin NF Scenic Area*	45.8	2.4
7. Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest*	28.9	1.5
8. Wild and Scenic River*	2.6 (15.8)	0.1
9. Uneven-aged Timber Management	10.5	0.5
10. High Level Timber Management	74.5	3.9
11. Range	138.5	7.2
12. Concentrated Recreation Area	52.5	2.7
13. Alpine Ski Area, Existing & Under Study	9.6	0.5
14. Potential Alpine Ski Area	14.2	0.7
15. Developed Recreation Site	2.2	0.1
16. Dispersed Recreation	8.6	0.5
17. Semi-Primitive Recreation	437.8	22.6
18. Multiple Resource Area	199.1	10.3

\* Acres with dual designation (existing or proposed wilderness and RNA, Scenic Area, etc.) are displayed in the acreage total for Prescriptions 1 or 2 are indicated in parentheses under the other applicable prescription.

Table 5  
Average Annual Outputs by Decade  
Alternative PRF

Resource Elements	Base Year	1980 RPA Goals		Decades (Decade 1: 1986-1995)				
	1982	1990	2030	1	2	3	4	5
<b>FACILITIES</b>								
<b>Administrative Sites</b>								
-Forest Service owned (no.)	6	-	-	8	8	8	8	8
-leased (no.)	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Dams and Reservoirs</b>								
-Forest Service (no.)	3	-	-	3	3	3	3	3
-State/local (no.)	4	-	-	4	4	4	4	4
-private (no.)	11	-	-	11	11	11	11	11
<b>Roads (miles)</b>								
Construction (tot.)	0	-	-	2.5	2.3	2.6	1.3	0
-timber	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
-recreation	0	-	-	2.5	2.3	2.6	1.3	0
Reconstruction (tot.)	20	-	-	15	15	15	15	15
-timber	15	-	-	5	5	5	5	5
-recreation	5	-	-	10	10	10	10	10
Maintenance (tot.)	974	-	-	977	1002	1024	1040	1049
<b>Trails (miles)</b>								
Construction (tot.)	0	-	-	24.3	24.2	0	5.0	0
-existing wilderness	0	-	-	0.7	0.6	0	0	0
-recommended wilderness	-	-	-	1.8	1.8	0	0	0
-concentrated rec. areas	0	-	-	9.0	9.0	0	0	0
-open NF	0	-	-	1.0	1.0	0	0	0
-OHV	0	-	-	1.8	1.8	0	0	0
-nordic	0	-	-	10.0	10.0	10.0	5.0	0
Reconstruction (tot.)	10.8	-	-	39.7	39.7	60.7	60.1	70.1
-existing wilderness	9.0	-	-	12.6	12.6	22.7	25.0	25.0
-recommended wilderness	-	-	-	1.3	1.3	1.0	3.1	3.1
-concentrated rec. areas	1.8	-	-	4.2	4.2	7.3	11.3	11.3
-open NF	0	-	-	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.9	2.9
-OHV	0	-	-	16.2	16.2	17.0	17.6	17.6
-nordic	0	-	-	3.2	3.2	10.2	10.2	10.2

Table 5 (continued)  
Average Annual Outputs by Decade  
Alternative PRF

Resource Elements	Base	1980		Decades				
	Year	RPA Goals		(Decade 1: 1986-1995)				
	1982	1990	2030	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Trails (cont'd)</b>								
Maintenance (tot.)	1236	-	-	1489	1731	1731	1731	1731
<b>LANDS AND MINERALS</b>								
Land acquired (acres)	60	0	0	54	270	270	150	70
Leasable minerals (total power plants)	0	-	-	1	3	5	6	6
Locatable minerals (operating plans)	67	320	408	50	52	56	57	57
<b>PROTECTION</b>								
Fuel Treatment (acres)								
-total	18	500	400	1761	689	767	967	1247
-fire related	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
-timber related	18	-	-	93	45	73	88	111
-range related	0	-	-	50	50	50	50	100
-wildlife related	0	-	-	100	178	228	413	280
Expected Wildfire (acres)								
-total	747	-	-	918	981	1062	1134	1224
-intensity level 1	13	-	-	9	10	11	11	12
-intensity level 2	34	-	-	55	59	64	68	73
-intensity level 3	53	-	-	64	69	74	79	86
-intensity level 4	647	-	-	239	255	276	295	318
-intensity level 5	0	-	-	551	589	637	680	734
RANGE (M AUMs)	41.4	42.2	44.5	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4	41.4
<b>RECREATION USE (M RVD)</b>								
Developed Private	1635			1914	2421	2832	2832	2832
Developed Public	1201	3510	5100	1578	1866	2057	2249	2249
Dispersed	1004	2490	3120	1191	1766	2023	2229	2437
Wilderness	540			644	680	718	755	790
Visual Quality Index	142.07	-	-	142.15	142.22	142.28	142.33	142.38

**Table 5 (continued)**  
**Average Annual Outputs by Decade**  
**Alternative PRF**

Resource Elements	Base Year	1980 RPA Goals		Decades (Decade 1: 1986-1995)				
	1982	1990	2030	1	2	3	4	5
<b>TIMBER</b>								
ASQ (MMBF)	10.5	16.8	19.8	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Fuelwood (M cords)	10.0	-	-	10.6	11.0	8.7	5.7	4.2
Long Term Sustained Yield (MMBF)	-	-	-	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Reforestation (acres)	300	614	718	200	200	200	200	200
Timber Stand Improvement (acres)	328	900	918	374	374	170	0	0
<b>WATER</b>								
Improvement (acres)	100	180	200	350	350	350	350	350
Quality (M acre-ft.)	1047	476	481	1050	1058	1065	1072	1079
Increased Quantity (M acre-feet)	0	-	-	7.0	0.2	0	0	0
<b>WILDLIFE AND FISH</b>								
Mule Deer (M animals total)	20.2	+20 percent		20.2	20.1	20.0	19.9	19.9
(M animals on Inyo)	12.0			12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.8
Bald Eagle** (winter roosting areas)	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Peregrine Falcon** (no. of pairs)	0	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Goshawks (pairs in suitable timber)	15	-	-	15	15	15	15	15
Nelson Mountain Sheep (no. of animals)	130	-	-	140	154	154	154	154
Sierra Nevada Mountain Sheep (no. of animals)	300	-	-	350	400	450	500	550

Table 5 (continued)  
Average Annual Outputs by Decade

Resource Elements	Base	1980		Decades				
	Year	RPA Goals		(Decade 1: 1986-1995)				
	1982	1990	2030	1	2	3	4	5
<b>WILDLIFE AND FISH (cont'd)</b>								
Lahontan CT Trout* (acres of habitat)	1	-	-	.3	.5	.5	.5	.5
Paiute CT Trout* (acres of habitat)	3	-	-	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Resident Trout (M pounds)	1632	+20 percent		1640	1649	1658	1667	1674
Wildlife/Fish User Days (M WFUDs)	391.0	-	-	393.8	400.5	408.8	417.9	427.6
- mule deer	25.2	-	-	25.2	25.0	25.0	24.8	24.8
- resident trout	340.4	-	-	341.7	343.5	345.3	347.1	348.7
- other	25.8	-	-	26.9	32.0	38.5	46.0	54.1
Derived from direct habitat improvement								
- mule deer	0.1	-	-	0.2	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.1
- resident trout	0	-	-	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
- other	0	-	-	0.4	0	<0.1	0	0
Derived from induced habitat improvement								
- mule deer	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
- resident trout	0.1	-	-	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
- other	0.1	-	-	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Units of direct habitat improvement								
-mule deer (M ac.)	0.5	-	-	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.6
-resident trout (ac.)	0	-	-	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
-other (M acres)	0	-	-	0.3	<0.1	0.3	0	0
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>								
Programs (enrollees)	39	14	14	39	39	39	39	39
<b>TOTAL BUDGET (M\$)</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>TOTAL COST (M\$)</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>

\*Threatened, \*\*Endangered.

## **CUR: CURRENT (1982) PROGRAM - NO ACTION**

### **Theme**

This alternative displays the current program of management activities on the Inyo National Forest and projects it over the 50-year planning horizon. The 1982 Forest budget is a limiting factor. The budget remains essentially constant over the planning horizon and continues to be distributed among the resources in roughly the same proportions as in 1982.

The issues and concerns addressed by this alternative are: (1) seeking to balance commodities and amenities to optimize net public benefit; (2) responding to the needs of affected social groups; (3) providing a range of recreational opportunities with an increasing emphasis on private development and winter sports; (4) managing fish and wildlife habitat for public enjoyment, primarily fishing and hunting; (5) making moderate wilderness recommendations, minimizing conflicts with other resources; (6) making land available for energy and mineral development while protecting other resource values

Developed summer recreation will be managed with the objective of maintaining use at current levels through the fifth decade. Alpine skiing will increase at a rate that responds to demand. The actual amount of development will be closely coordinated with community planning so that ski area capacity and the ability of the community to provide support services developed in tandem. The management of dispersed summer and winter recreation will allow for an increase in use, but will allow for the quality of the experience to deteriorate.

Timber will be managed with the objective of maintaining currently projected outputs over the planning horizon.

The grazing program will be managed with the objective of maintaining the current level of management intensity through the fifth decade.

The wilderness land base will be increased by the addition of Further Planning Areas with ecological systems not yet represented in wilderness on the Inyo.

Wildlife habitat will be managed with the objectives of: (1) minimizing Forest-wide reduction of deer habitat capacity; (2) achieving recovery for threatened and endangered species; (3) maintaining or enhancing habitat for sensitive and special interest species; and (4) maintaining population viability for all other native vertebrate species. Fish habitat will be managed with the objectives of responding to projected increases in dispersed recreation and achieving recovery for threatened trout.

### **Resource Program Direction**

**Cultural Resources:** Inventory cultural resource properties (primarily in preparation for timber sales and other activities that could affect cultural values) at a rate of approximately 12,000 acres per year, covering 33 percent of the Forest by the end of the fifth decade. Meet mandatory historic preservation requirements for project implementation primarily through