

CHAPTER II



Gordon Wiltsie

Issues and Concerns

CHAPTER II. Issues and Concerns

Introduction

This chapter discusses the issues and concerns that were identified in the original public involvement process for this Plan. Public issues and management concerns are aspects of natural resource management that receive special emphasis in Forest planning. The issues and concerns collectively indicate the scope and nature of the analysis needed for the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Inyo National Forest identified public issues by interacting with individuals and organizations that expressed interest in this planning process. Management concerns of the Forest Service include those from national, regional, and Forest levels. The Final Plan was developed in response to comments received on the Draft Plan, submitted to the public for review in October 1986. Forest Service responses to these comments are displayed in the Public Response Appendix in the Environmental Impact Statement Appendix document.

Not all public issues and management concerns related to Inyo National Forest management are appropriate for inclusion in this planning process. Those that have been selected for consideration address concerns that can be resolved by the Forest Service at the Inyo National Forest level, require land allocation decisions or broad management direction, have long-term importance, and have not been resolved in other recent decisions that were made with significant public involvement.

Each selected issue or concern is representative of public comment, legislation or litigation decisions, management evaluation of resource conflicts, or supply and demand analyses. In most cases, both the public and management have expressed interest in each general resource subject. Issues and concerns have, therefore, been consolidated and identified as "issue/concerns".

This chapter only displays those issues and concerns that were identified prior to distribution of the Draft Forest Plan. Those comments that were received in response to the Draft Plan are incorporated in the Public Response Appendix and are answered in detail by the Forest Service in that document.

Forest Plan Response to Original Issues and Concerns

The following list represents those public issues and management concerns that were identified in the original public involvement scoping process. Public issue/concerns are indicated by (p); management by (m). The Forest Service responses are located in the documents as noted. Economic and social issue/concerns are addressed first, followed by natural resource issue/concerns.

Economic Assessment

Issue/Concern: How can the Forest produce goods and services to maximize economic efficiency?

- Thoroughly discuss discount rates and value of non-market goods and services showing the possibilities of different results under different assumptions (p)
(Economic Analysis of the Management Situation)
- How can long-term and short-term economic benefits be balanced? (p)
(EIS Chapters II, IV)
- Do Forest Service programs help maintain economic stability and employment in local communities? (p)
(EIS Chapters III, VI)

Response: The analysis of Forest Plan alternatives emphasizes long-term cost efficiency and the maintenance of economic stability for recreation-based Eastern Sierra communities.

Social Assessment

Issue/Concern: How does the management of the Inyo National Forest influence the local social environment and lifestyle?

- Which segments of the population and which communities might be impacted by Forest management policy? (m)
(EIS Chapters III, IV)
- Where does the Forest have an influence on the public and community? (m)
(EIS Chapters III, IV)

Response: The relationship of Inyo National Forest activities to local groups is introduced in Chapter III of the EIS and the consequences of different alternatives on those groups is detailed in Chapter IV of the EIS. The Plan responds to the identified needs of key social groups.

Air Quality

Issue/Concern: What can the Forest do to influence air quality?

- Dust, smoke, and regional haze are the most serious air quality problems on and near the Forest. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines direct compliance with state and federal procedural requirements, and coordination of Forest Service activities with the Air Pollution Control District. The Forest will work with permittees and contractors to meet air quality standards.

Cultural Resources

Issue/Concern: How should the Forest manage cultural resources and provide for the use of Forest lands by American Indians for traditional practices?

- Archaeological sites should be inventoried and protected, including restrictions on motorized access. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Native American religious and ceremonial sites should remain inviolate. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Cultural resource interpretive activities on the Forest are very well attended. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Local American Indians wish to use Forest land for traditional cultural and religious practices. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to effectively integrate the management of cultural resources with the management of other resources. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines include direction that respond to expressed concerns. The emphasis is on complying with state and federal law in an efficient and effective manner, providing for public enjoyment and understanding of cultural values, and cooperating with local American Indian groups.

Diversity

Issue/Concern: What is a desirable level of vegetative diversity for the Inyo National Forest, and what should the Forest do to maintain or achieve that level?

- Manage natural forces (such as insects, disease, and fire) to maintain diversity in the long term while minimizing the disruptive effects of those forces in the short term. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Respond to the demand for land uses (such as hydroelectric and geothermal developments, road and utility corridors, campgrounds, timber management, and mineral extraction) that threaten to reduce diversity. (m)
(Forest Objectives, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV).
- Riparian areas and coniferous forests suitable for timber management have the greatest potential diversity and are the most threatened by management activities. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

- Full control of wildfires reduces diversity. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: Management direction in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines and Prescriptions guides vegetative management so that seral stage diversity and special habitat elements are maintained or enhanced. Output tables in the Forest Objectives indicate the degree to which the Forest is responding to the demand for land uses that could affect diversity.

Energy

Issue/Concern: How does energy development fit in with the overall resource management program on the Forest? Geothermal energy is addressed under Minerals.

- Resolve conflicts between hydroelectric projects and water-dependent resources. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Resolve potential conflicts between wind farms and visual resources, soil stability, and other land uses. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Keep energy development consistent with other resources, allowing no irreparable damage. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Encourage hydroelectric use outside wilderness and Further Planning Areas. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Consider energy resources such as wind, solar, wood fuel. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines acknowledge the principle of treating energy production as a Forest resource, while establishing the limits to which such development can acceptably affect other resources and environmental values.

Facilities

Issue/Concern: What level of facility construction and maintenance is needed to support Forest management objectives?

- Eliminate the backlog of building and utility maintenance to meet health and safety codes. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Provide for the expansion of administrative facilities where needed. (m)
(Forest Objectives, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

- There is a need for a materials management and development plan. (m)
(Appendix A, Plan)
- There is a need to coordinate with local fire districts when planning structural developments on the Forest. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Determine the feasible mass transit options on the Forest. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need for more roads for recreational access. (p)
(Forest Objectives, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to reduce roads to prevent environmental damage. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- Construct roads only where environmental damage can be minimized. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to regularly examine agreements between the Forest Service and Inyo and Mono Counties regarding the maintenance of roads that come under both jurisdictions. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need for more trails and better maintenance of existing trails. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- The need for trails specifically includes nordic skiing, hiking, OHV, and handicapped-access trails. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to locate, design, and construct trails to provide the desired experience while minimizing resource damage. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- The need for new trails is greatest in concentrated recreation use areas and nordic ski areas. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: Management direction throughout the Plan addresses facility development. The Forest Objectives indicate total miles of road and trail and number of administrative facilities projected for construction. The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines address maintenance and construction priorities and measures needed to protect soil, water, vegetation, and other resources. Management Prescriptions describe the kinds of facilities needed and set limits on the kinds allowed under the specified management emphasis. Management Area Direction deals with site-specific considerations.

Fish

Issue/Concern: How should fish habitat on the Inyo National Forest be managed?

- Protect stream habitat from grazing, recreation development, and water diversions. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Improve stream habitat quality for resident trout. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Meet the increasing demand for fishing. (m)
(EIS Chapters III, IV; Forest Objectives Plan, Chapter IV)
- Assure population viability of all resident fish species. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Protect lands surrounding streams and lakes with the potential for classification as wild trout waters. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Address the impact of small hydro development on fisheries. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV, EIS Chapters III, IV)
- Manage habitat for the recovery of threatened Paiute and Lahontan cutthroat trout. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines address the ways in which adverse effects on fish habitat can be minimized. They establish the need to manage for the recovery of threatened trout. Management Prescriptions and Management Area Direction address fish habitat restoration and/or enhancement opportunities. Chapter III of the EIS identifies projected demand for fishing; output tables in the Forest Objectives (Plan, Chapter IV) indicate the degree to which the Inyo will try to meet that demand. Chapters III and IV of the EIS analyze the effects of various alternatives on fish habitat.

Further Planning Areas

Issue/Concern: How should Further Planning Areas on the Forest be managed?

- There is a need for more wilderness. (p)
(EIS Chapters II, IV, and Appendix C)
- There is no need for more or not much more wilderness. (p)
(EIS Chapters II, IV, and Appendix C)
- Consider watershed values when recommending wilderness. (p)
(EIS Appendix C)

- Resist the pressure from industry to immediately "road" those areas made available for non-wilderness uses by the California Wilderness Act (thus precluding possible future wilderness recommendations). (p)
(Prescription #17, Plan Chapter IV)
- Resist the pressure from wilderness advocacy groups to manage non-wilderness areas as "de facto" wilderness. (p)
(Prescription, Plan Chapter IV)
- Make well-considered recommendations for the wilderness or non-wilderness management of Further Planning Areas. Consider the suitability and manageability of each area for wilderness and the trade-offs between wilderness designation and other resources and activities. (m)
(EIS Chapters II, IV, and Appendix C)
- There is a need to coordinate Inyo National Forest wilderness recommendations with BLM recommendations for adjoining lands. (m & p)
(EIS Chapter II)

Response: A detailed analysis of individual Further Planning Areas in terms of wilderness and non-wilderness values is documented in Appendix C of the EIS. A range of wilderness recommendations, ranging from all wilderness to no new wilderness, is displayed in the Benchmarks and Alternatives described in Chapter II of the EIS. The overall effects of various alternatives on Further Planning Areas on the Forest are discussed in Chapter IV of the EIS. Effects on individual areas are discussed in Appendix C of the EIS. Prescription #17 emphasizes retaining the semi-primitive character of an area. Other prescriptions allow for the construction of roads for various purposes. There are no roads scheduled for construction during this planning period in Further Planning Areas.

Plan wilderness recommendations are preliminary administrative recommendations that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Final decisions on wilderness designation are made by Congress.

Geology

Issue/Concern: What is the role of geologic resources and services in the overall Forest management program?

- There is a potential demand for groundwater as a domestic water source for Mammoth Lakes. (m)
(EIS Chapters III, IV)
- There is a need to assess groundwater resources on a Forest-wide basis. (m)
(Plan Appendix A)

- There is a need to recognize and make allowance for the risk to planned Forest projects posed by geologic processes such as landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic events. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to protect outstanding geologic features that are vulnerable to damage or destruction. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The possible need for domestic groundwater in the Mammoth Lakes area is discussed in Chapters III and IV of the EIS. The need to assess groundwater supplies and to protect those geologic features that are candidates for Special Interest Areas are identified in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. The need to consider risks from geologic processes is handled in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Issue/Concern: What land use and landownership adjustment policies and procedures are needed to respond both to local community needs and to the demands of regional and national publics?

- Should National Forest lands adjacent to growing communities be available (through exchange) for private development programs? (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- As the Mammoth and June Lake communities expand, there is an increasing demand to locate community service facilities on public land under special use permit. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Electric energy conveyors have expressed their need for a future utility corridor paralleling the major north-south interstate Pacific DC Intertie transmission line. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: Priorities for land acquisition, land disposal, special use permits, rights-of-way, and utility corridors are established in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals

Issue/Concern: How can the Forest best encourage mineral (including geothermal) exploration and development while protecting surface resource values and other land uses?

- To what extent should National Forest land be available for geothermal exploration and power plant development? (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

- What effects would geothermal development have on the environment and on the recreational attractions that support the local economy? (p & m)
(EIS Chapter IV)
- What are the long-term effects on surface resources and on groundwater of removing geothermal fluids? (p & m)
(Plan Appendix B)
- Consider the impact of additional wilderness and/or additional mineral withdrawals on mineral activities. (p)
(EIS Chapter IV)
- There is a need to address the impacts of mineral exploration and development on surface resources such as visual quality, soil stability, vegetation, and wilderness values. (m)
(EIS Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines establish the degree to which mineral activities can acceptably affect other resources. The analysis of potential effects of mineral activity on other resources and the effects of planning alternatives (including wilderness recommendations) on mineral activities is documented in Chapter IV of the EIS. Management Prescriptions and Management Area Direction in Chapter IV of the Plan set specific standards and guidelines for mineral activity under different management emphases and on specific areas of land.

Pest Management

Issue/Concern: What is the appropriate pest management strategy for the Inyo?

- It is desirable to use cultural, biological, or mechanical controls instead of chemical pesticides. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV, EIS Chapter III)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines set guidelines for the choice of pest management techniques.

Protection

Issue/Concern: What is the appropriate fire management strategy for the Inyo?

- Allow natural fires to burn in appropriate areas. (p)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to determine the most cost-effective fire organization for the Inyo National Forest, depending largely on the combination of fire suppression strategies implemented. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Management Prescriptions provide for the suppression strategies of confinement or containment to be applied where life, property and resource values would not be adversely affected; detailed guidelines for fire suppression will be developed as part of the Fire Management Action Plan.

Range

Issue/Concern: How should the Inyo balance the needs of the range program (domestic livestock and wild horses and burros) with the need to protect and/or produce other resources?

- Full fire control contributes to declining range forage outputs. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Cattle overgraze riparian areas and key wildlife wintering and fawning areas, resulting in increased erosion and loss of vegetation for forage and cover. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction Plan, Chapter IV)
- The grazing program should not be reduced or prevented from increasing as a result of the issues listed above. (p)
(Forest Objectives Plan, Chapter IV)
- How many animals are appropriate for a wild horse or burro management territory. How is the range resource equitably apportioned to wild horses and burros, native wildlife, and domestic livestock? (p)
(Chapter I, existing plans are incorporated, and Appendix A)
- There are many factors limiting the ability of the Forest to meet the President's target for red meat production (46 percent increase over specified base level). (m)
(EIS Chapters III and IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Prescriptions, and Management Area Direction in Chapter IV of the Plan address the degree to which livestock grazing will be modified to protect other resources. Chapter III of the EIS discusses the limiting factors with regard to the range resource. The full range of fire suppression strategies is considered appropriate for lands with a range management emphasis.

Most wild horse and burro herds are managed under plans that have been developed with significant public involvement. There is one additional plan to be developed on the Forest.

Recreation

Issue/Concern: What is the best recreational opportunity program for the Inyo (considering supply, demand, other resource management and development opportunities, and environmental protection needs)?

- Recreation development is of concern to many people, and of vital concern to some, especially to local area residents. (p)
(EIS Chapters II and IV, Forest Objectives, Plan Chapter IV)
- The public is collectively interested in the entire range of development options. (p)
(EIS Chapter I, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- The resource values that attract recreationists to this area are extremely important and should rarely be compromised. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- The public is dissatisfied with the reduced use seasons and deteriorating facilities they have encountered in recent years. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- The supply of overnight facilities is falling behind demand. (m)
(EIS Chapter III, Forest Objectives, Plan Chapter IV)
- Day use facilities, such as trails and interpretive sites, are insufficient to meet needs. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- There are major potential conflicts between recreational developments and small hydroelectric development, geothermal development, and timber harvest in the red fir forest east of San Joaquin Ridge. (m)
(EIS Chapter IV, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Should more land be made available immediately for added alpine ski area capacity? (p)
(Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- Alpine ski area potential should not be compromised by other management activities on identified potential ski areas until the demand for skiing begins to level off. (m)
(Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- Alpine ski areas have impacts on visual quality, soil stability, water quality and quantity, transportation patterns, safety, the local community, and landownership patterns. (m)
(EIS Chapter IV, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Community growth in response to increased alpine skiing could negatively affect summer recreation sites on Forest lands near growing communities. (m) (EIS Chapter IV)
- There is a need for more opportunities for OHV use. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)

- There is a need for more restriction on OHV use. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- Remove OHV routes from sensitive areas. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The demand for recreation on the Inyo and the concerns of local residents for the recreation program are discussed in Chapter III of the EIS. Chapter II of the EIS explores a wide range of recreational development options. Chapter IV of the EIS documents the analysis of impacts on recreation by other resources and activities. The Forest Objectives in Chapter IV of the Plan display projected recreation outputs by type over the planning period. Management direction in the Plan provides for the protection of recreation values and for a broad and diverse range of developed and dispersed summer and winter recreation opportunities.

Research Natural Areas

Issue/Concern: What contribution should the Inyo make to the national and regional systems of Research Natural Areas (RNAs)?

- Research Natural Areas should be identified and established. (m & p)
(EIS Chapter III, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- The Inyo should confirm the fact that all botanical RNA targets assigned to the Forest have been met. (m)
(EIS Chapter III)

Response: Chapter III of the EIS displays the regional Research Natural Area targets for the Inyo and shows how these targets have been met. The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines call for the establishment of recommended Research Natural Areas.

Riparian Areas

Issue/Concern: What is the significance of riparian areas on the Forest, and how should riparian area-dependent resources be maintained, enhanced, and/or restored?

- Maintain and increase riparian vegetation. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Livestock grazing, recreation, and water diversion have impacts on riparian areas. (p)
(EIS Chapter IV, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Energy developments, mineral activities, and timber harvest represent actual or potential conflicts with riparian area-dependent resources. (m)
(EIS Chapter IV, Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

- Accelerated erosion in wet meadows (including active streambanks and channel degradation) is of special concern. These problems are most severe in the White Mountains and on the Kern Plateau. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- The current policy of full wildfire control prevents the use of unplanned ignitions to eliminate woody vegetation encroaching on wet meadows. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: Chapter IV of the EIS documents the analysis of the environmental consequences of various activities on riparian areas. The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines and Management Prescriptions in Chapter IV of the Plan provide specific measures for the protection of riparian areas. Management Area Direction highlights area-specific riparian area protection or restoration needs.

Sensitive Plants

Issue/Concern: How should the Forest manage habitat for sensitive plant species?

- Protect threatened and endangered species. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Consider the effects of Forest management on all native plant species. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- What is the best overall approach to managing the sensitive plant program? (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- How should potential conflicts between the needs of sensitive plants and other resources and activities be mitigated? (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The impacts of alternatives on sensitive plants are discussed in Chapter IV of the EIS; standards and guidelines for protecting sensitive plant habitat are found in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Special Interest Areas

Issue/Concern: Should the Forest consider establishing any additional Special Interest Areas?

- Establish special areas to protect archaeological sites, threatened and endangered species, botanical, geological, and visual quality areas. (p)
(EIS Chapter III)

- The Forest is directed to identify candidates for geologic Special Interest Areas. The Inyo has many outstanding geologic features. (m)
(Plan Appendix A)
- The Forest needs to evaluate National Natural Landmark nominees proposed by the Department of Interior and to consider nominating other outstanding features on the Forest for National Natural Landmark listing. (m)
(EIS Chapter III)

Response: The subject of evaluating candidates for National Natural Landmark listing is discussed in Chapter III of the EIS. Geologic Special Interest area candidates are also listed there. The need to evaluate and recommend selected Special Interest Area candidates and National Natural Landmark nominees is identified in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Timber

Issue/Concern: What is the best balance between timber (including fuelwood) production, other resource management and development opportunities, and environmental protection needs?

- Establish a regulated forest to meet long-term sustained yield on all available, suitable timber land. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Integrate silvicultural practices with other resource values. (p & m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Determine the size of the managed timber base, resolving conflicts between timber and other resources. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Provide public-use fuelwood to meet demand. (p)
(Forest Objectives, Plan Chapter IV)
- Maintain the opportunity for active management of pinyon-juniper. (p & m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Consider the conflict between public fuelwood gathering and other values such as wildlife habitat and unique or outstanding vegetation types. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The assignment of Management Prescriptions in the Plan resolves conflicts between timber and other resources, establishes the size of the managed timber base, and provides for a regulated forest on lands with a primary timber emphasis. The content of those prescriptions integrates silvicultural practices with other resource values.

Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines deal with potential conflicts between fuelwood cutting and other resource values. The output tables for Forest Objectives in Chapter IV of the Plan indicate projected fuelwood outputs over the planning period. None of the proposed Management Prescriptions would preclude future opportunities for active pinyon-juniper management.

Visual Resources

Issue/Concern: What role does visual quality play in the overall resource management program, and how can that quality be protected and enhanced?

- Maintain and manage for visual quality. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Resolve conflicts between visual quality and other resources. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Maintain or enhance current visual resources and scenic attractions. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines set the stage for management of visual resources. Each management prescription includes an assigned Visual Quality Objective (VQO).

Watershed

Issue/Concern: How should the Forest respond to the needs for water quality, increased water yields, water rights for Forest resource management, and healthy watershed condition?

- Soil productivity is declining. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to rehabilitate damaged or deteriorated watersheds. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction, Plan Chapter IV)
- Adopt policies in timber management, grazing, and recreation that enhance watersheds. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a lack of legal mechanisms for obtaining water rights for nonconsumptive water uses (those dependent on water in place). (m)
(EIS Chapter III)
- There is a public demand for more water yield and availability. (p & m)
(EIS Chapters II and III)
- There is competition between consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines establish direction that address the long-term productivity of the soil, water quality, watershed rehabilitation needs, and the need for instream flow to support nonconsumptive uses. Management Prescriptions indicate the watershed management direction compatible with different management emphases. Management Area Direction highlights priority watershed improvement needs. Chapter III of the EIS discusses the question of water rights for

nonconsumptive uses. Chapter III also discusses opportunities to increase water yield. The maximum water yield benchmark presented in Chapter II displays the maximum potential to increase yield.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Issue/Concern: What recommendations should the Forest make for the management of candidate wild and scenic rivers?

- Potential additions to the wild and scenic rivers system should not be threatened. (p)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Preserve free-flowing rivers unspoiled in their natural state and consider for wild and scenic rivers system. (p)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Assess candidate rivers for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system. (m)
(EIS Chapter II)

Response: The Plan assesses the wild and scenic river candidate on the Forest and recommends it for designation. This is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Congress has the authority to designate rivers to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Management Prescription for wild and scenic rivers applies to the recommended wild and scenic river, thus protecting it until final designation. EIS Chapter II discusses the reasons that the Forest applies this prescription to the same river segments in all alternatives.

Wilderness

Issue/Concern: Is there any need for change in the management of designated wilderness on the Forest?

- Examine existing wilderness management plans for consistency and responsiveness to current conditions. Provide for the needed changes in the Plan. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to establish direction for wilderness designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines calls for the examination and amendment of existing plans and the development of new plans as needed.

Wildlife

Issue/Concern: How, where, and to what degree should wildlife habitat be maintained and enhanced, and how should wildlife needs be coordinated with other resource management and development opportunities on the Forest?

- What is a desirable level of diversity, amount, and distribution of wildlife habitat? (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- What relative emphasis should be given to habitat for the various wildlife species? (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- How should wildlife needs be balanced with the needs of competing resources? (p & m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- Full control of wildfires reduces habitat for wildlife dependent on early seral stages. (m)
(Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)
- What contribution can management make to the growing demand for wildlife-related recreation (hunting and nature study)?
(EIS Chapter III, Forest Objectives, Plan Chapter IV)
- Deer numbers have declined over the past twenty to thirty years. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV, Appendix B)
- The Forest must analyze the opportunities for meeting the 1980 RPA Program goal of increasing mule deer numbers 20 percent. (m)
(EIS Chapter II)
- Sage grouse populations are declining. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Blue grouse habitat should be protected. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- There is a need to manage endangered species on the Forest (bald eagle and peregrine falcon) for species recovery. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- How many goshawk nest sites are needed to maintain population viability? How many of these sites should be maintained in stands of suitable timber? (m)
(EIS Chapter II)
- Sierra Nevada mountain sheep should be reintroduced into historic range. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- The management of Nelson mountain sheep should be emphasized. (p)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, Plan Chapter IV)

- Protect habitat for sensitive and special interest species not addressed in specific issues or concerns. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Maintain enough snags, down logs, and overall habitat diversity to ensure population viability for snag-dependent species. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- The Forest would have difficulty meeting the 1980 RPA Program goal for cavity-nesting birds while meeting the RPA timber target. (m)
(EIS Chapter IV)
- Manage riparian habitat to ensure the viability of riparian-dependent wildlife. (p & m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)
- Manage Great Basin shrub habitat types so that the viability of wildlife dependent on early seral stages is ensured. (m)
(Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Plan Chapter IV)

Response: Wildlife habitat protection needs are addressed by species, or group of species, in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. The interaction of wildlife needs with other resources is handled in various Management Prescriptions. Mountain sheep and mule deer habitat are the primary emphases of two Management Prescriptions. Needed inventories and implementation plans are listed in Appendix A; research needs are listed in Appendix B. The demand for hunting is presented in Chapter III of the EIS, and the potential of the Forest to provide hunting is analyzed in the Benchmarks and Alternatives in Chapter II. The output tables in Forest Objectives (Chapter IV of the Plan) indicate the hunting outputs projected for the planning period. Problems with meeting RPA goals are addressed under consequences of the RPA Alternative displayed in Chapter IV of the EIS. The full range of fire suppression strategies are considered appropriate on many Forest lands.