

# CHAPTER IV



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# Management Direction

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## CHAPTER IV. Management Direction

### Introduction

This chapter documents how the Inyo National Forest will be managed during this planning period. It provides direction to Forest land managers and explains to the public the reasons why specific areas are managed for specific reasons and how that will be accomplished.

The chapter is divided into five sections:

1. Forest Goals lists the resources of the Forest with their respective management goals.
2. Forest Objectives lists outputs for each resource that will result from implementing the Plan.
3. Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines are the bases for all management activities on the Forest. Each resource has a set of standards and guides to ensure that the resource is protected, maintained or developed in an environmentally sound and economically cost-effective way. These standards and guides apply to all areas of the Forest.
4. Management Prescriptions prescribe how areas on the Forest will be managed with a specific resource emphasis. For example, any Wilderness on the Forest no matter where it is located will be managed under Prescription #1 - Designated Wilderness. Each prescription describes the objective of management and the area's resource emphasis.
5. Management Area Direction delineates boundaries of the twenty management areas on the Forest. Each of these has a different mix of prescriptions, but all are managed under the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

National Forests are managed under a variety of federal laws ranging from the U.S. Mining Laws of 1872 to the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide provide additional policy direction. The Plan supplements but does not replace the direction from those sources.

Variance from Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, or Management Area Direction may occasionally be needed due to unforeseen site conditions, uncontrollable circumstances or unexpected natural phenomena. Where variance is unavoidable, it will be documented in an appropriate project environmental analysis. If necessary, the Plan can be amended or revised.

## Forest Goals

The multiple-use management goals that follow describe the desired future condition of the Inyo National Forest. These goals are derived from laws, regulations, policies, Resources Planning Act (RPA) Program goals, the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide, and identified Inyo National Forest issues and concerns.

### ECONOMIC/SOCIAL

The Forest is managed in an economically efficient and cost-effective manner while responding to the economic and social needs of the public and local communities.

### AIR QUALITY

National Forest System lands are managed to maintain air quality that complies with all applicable regulations. The conduct of Forest management activities is carried out in a manner consistent and compatible with the attainment of state and federal air quality objectives.

### CULTURAL RESOURCES

Identification, evaluation, protection, and interpretation of cultural and historic resources are continuous and an integral part of management of the Forest.

### DIVERSITY

The Forest has achieved diversity of plant and animal communities by providing a threshold level of vegetation types and seral stages.

### ENERGY

Maximum public benefits are obtained from the energy resources of National Forest System lands, while adverse environmental effects on other Forest resources from exploration, development and extraction are minimized. Management operations on the Forest are energy-efficient.

### FACILITIES

An efficient Forest transportation system, administrative sites, and other facilities are in place and maintained at least to the minimum standards appropriate for planned uses and the protection of resources.

## **FISH**

Fish habitat is managed to provide species diversity, to ensure that viable populations of native vertebrates are maintained and the habitats of management emphasis species are maintained or improved.

## **GEOLOGY**

Geologic resources, including groundwater, are assessed. The risks to persons and projects from potential geologic processes such as landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic events are recognized and provisions are made for them.

## **LANDS**

The Forest has a land and resource management structure and program with compatible relationships between National Forest System lands and adjacent non-federal lands. Specific activities to accomplish this goal are: special use administration, electronic site management, utility corridor management, rights-of-way management, withdrawal, landownership adjustment, and property boundary resurvey and monumentation.

## **MINERALS**

Maximum public benefits are obtained from the mineral (including geothermal) resources of National Forest System lands, while adverse environmental effects on other Forest resources from exploration, development and extraction are minimized.

## **PEST MANAGEMENT**

Pest-related damage is maintained at levels that do not unacceptably impact land and resource management goals and objectives.

## **PROTECTION**

The Forest has a cost-effective fire management program that minimizes resource losses and serious or long-lasting adverse effects from wildfire. The Forest Service mission in fire management is to use fire as a resource management tool.

## **RANGE**

A sustained yield of forage is provided, range condition is improved, and grazing capacity is increased on suitable range, while other resource values are maintained or improved through cost-effective development and improved management.

## **RECREATION**

A broad range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities in balance with identified existing and future demand is provided.

## **RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS**

All botanical Research Natural Areas are established and targets are met. All qualified aquatic and geologic candidates are identified and recommended for establishment.

## **RIPARIAN AREAS**

Riparian areas are managed to protect or improve riparian area-dependent resources while allowing for management of other compatible uses.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS**

Special Interest Areas (botanic, geologic, scenic, zoologic) are managed to fulfill the intent and purpose for which the areas are established.

## **THREATENED, ENDANGERED, OR SENSITIVE SPECIES**

The habitats of threatened or endangered animals are protected or improved to assist the recovery of the species in cooperation with state and other federal agencies. Sensitive plant species are protected to ensure they will not become threatened or endangered.

## **TIMBER**

The timber resource is managed to provide a sustained yield of commercial sawtimber, public fuelwood, and miscellaneous wood products, while other resource values are maintained at or above those minimums prescribed by law and/or regulation.

## **VISUAL RESOURCES**

The quality of the scenic resource and viewing opportunities are maintained or enhanced.

## **WATERSHED**

National Forest management activities are conducted to maintain or improve soil productivity, to maintain favorable conditions of waterflow, and to comply with water quality goals as specified in state and federal clean water legislation for the sustained benefit of consumptive and nonconsumptive users of water.

## **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

The newly designated North Fork of the Kern and South Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic Rivers are managed to protect their wild and scenic qualities. The Middle Fork of the San Joaquin is managed so as not to preclude its designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

## **WILDERNESS**

Classified wilderness is managed to protect and perpetuate the wilderness character of the area; to provide opportunities for primitive recreation; to maintain wildlife and fish, scenic, and watershed values; and to maintain or enhance the quality of wilderness experiences.

## **WILDLIFE**

Wildlife habitat is managed to provide species diversity, to ensure that viable populations of existing native vertebrates and invertebrates are maintained, and that the habitats of management emphasis species are maintained or improved.

## Forest Objectives

Forest objectives are the quantified resource and activity outputs for the 10-year planning period (1988-1997). The following table displays the outputs or inventory from the base year of 1982; the 1980 Resources Planning Act (RPA) targets for the years 1990 and 2030; and the outputs that will result from implementing the Plan. They are displayed in this manner for comparison purposes. There are no RPA targets for many of the categories.

### Forest Objectives Average Annual Outputs for Decade 1

Resource Elements	Base Year 1982	1980 RPA Goals 1990    2030		Decade 1 (1988-1997)
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#### FACILITIES

##### Administrative Sites

Forest Service owned (no.)	6		8
leased (no.)	1		1

##### Dams and Reservoirs

Forest Service (no.)	3		3
State/Local (no.)	4		4
Private (no.)	11		11

##### Roads (miles)

Construction (total)	0		2.5
recreation (site access)	0		0
(interior)	0		2.5
Reconstruction (total)	25		15.0
timber	15		5.0
recreation (site access)	5		5.0
(interior)	5		5.0

Maintenance (total)	974		977
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##### Trails (miles)

Construction (total)	0		24.3
existing wilderness	0		0.7
recommended wilderness	0		1.8
concentrated rec. areas	0		9.0
open National Forest	0		1.0
OHV	0		1.8
nordic	0		10.0

**Forest Objectives**  
**Average Annual Outputs for Decade 1**

Resource Elements	Base	1980		Decade 1
	Year	RPA Goals		(1988-1997)
	1982	1990	2030	
<b>Trails (miles) (cont'd)</b>				
Reconstruction (total)	10.8			39.7
existing wilderness	9.0			12.6
recommended wilderness	0			1.3
concentrated rec. areas	1.8			4.2
open National Forest land	0			2.2
OHV	0			16.2
nordic	0			3.2
Maintenance (total)	1236			1489
<b>LANDS AND MINERALS</b>				
Land acquired (acres)	60			54
Landlines surveyed (miles)	9			6
Leasable minerals (total power plants)	0			1
Locatable minerals (operating plans)	67	320	408	50
<b>PROTECTION</b>				
Fuel treatment (total acres)	18			243
fire related	0			0
timber related	18			93
range related	0			50
wildlife related	0			100
Expected wildfire (total) (acres burned)	747			918
Fire Intensity Level 1	13			9
Fire Intensity Level 2	34			55
Fire Intensity Level 3	53			64
Fire Intensity Level 4	647			239
Fire Intensity Level 5	0			551
Fire Intensity Level 6	0			0
<b>RANGE</b>				
Grazing (M AUMs)	41.4	42.2	44.5	41.4

**Forest Objectives**  
**Average Annual Outputs for Decade 1**

Resource Elements	Base Year	1980 RPA Goals		Decade 1
	1982	1990	2030	(1988-1997)
<b>RECREATION</b>				
Developed Private (M RVD)	1635			1914
Developed Public (M RVD)	1201	3510	5100	1578
Dispersed (M RVD)	1004	2490	3120	1191
Wilderness (M RVD)	540			644
<b>TIMBER</b>				
Allowable Sale Qty. (MMBF)	10.5	16.8	19.8	7.1
Fuelwood (M cords)	10.0			10.6
Long-term Sustained Yield (MMBF)				14.5
Reforestation (acres)	300	614	718	200
Timber Stand Improvement (acres)	328	900	918	374
<b>WATERSHED</b>				
Improvement (acres)	100	180	200	350
Quality (M ac./ft. at stds.)	1047	476	481	1050
Increased Quantity (M ac./ft.)	0			7.0
<b>WILDLIFE AND FISH</b>				
Mule deer (M animals total)	20.2	+20 percent		20.2
(M animals on Inyo NF)	12.0			12.0
Bald eagle** (winter roosting areas)	1			1
Peregrine falcon** (no. of pairs)	0			2
Goshawks in suitable timber (no. of pairs)	15			15
Nelson mountain sheep (no.)	130			140

**Forest Objectives**  
Average Annual Outputs for Decade 1

Resource Elements	Base	1980		Decade 1
	Year	RPA Goals		(1988-1997)
	1982	1990	2030	
<b>WILDLIFE AND FISH (cont'd)</b>				
Sierra Nevada mountain sheep (no.)	300			350
Lahontan CT trout* (stream mi.)	1			.3
Paiute CT trout* (stream mi.)	3			1.3
Resident trout (M lbs.)	1632	+20 percent		1640
Wildlife/Fish User Days (total) (M WFUDs)	391.0			393.8
mule deer	25.2			25.2
resident trout	340.0			341.7
other	25.8			26.9
<b>Direct Habitat Improvement</b>				
mule deer (M acres)	0.5			0.2
resident trout (miles)	0			0.4
other (M acres)	0			0.3
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>				
Programs (enrollees)	39	14	14	39
<b>TOTAL BUDGET (MM\$)</b>	9.9	11.1	12.2	12.1
<b>TOTAL COST (MM\$)</b>	10.3			13.5

\*Threatened, \*\*Endangered.

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## Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines set the minimum resource conditions that will be maintained throughout the Forest. They provide specific guidelines for the management of each resource to ensure its protection or enhancement. They apply wherever the resource or activity occurs. More specific or additional direction may be given by Management Prescriptions or Management Area Direction.

This section displays the guidelines for managing all resources of the Forest.

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## Air Quality

- Coordinate with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District when developing guidelines for management programs on the Forest.
- Obtain permits from the Air Pollution Control District prior to conducting prescription fire activities.
- Burn only when fuel conditions and climatic conditions are such that minimum total suspended particles and volatilized gases are generated and rapid smoke dispersion is assured.
- Conduct, or require of lessees and contractors, dust abatement procedures during construction or other Forest activities that generate significant dust.

## Cultural Resources

- Consult with local American Indian groups to ensure the protection of, and access to, traditional secular, religious, and ceremonial sites.
- Assess and authorize as appropriate both general and site-specific requests by local American Indians for traditional and religious uses of National Forest System lands.
- Consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and nominate appropriate cultural/historical sites to the National Register.
- 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 that address these needs. Develop and implement appropriate management plans and strategies.
- Foster active research programs by issuing antiquity/special use permits, cooperative agreements, and volunteer agreements.
- Document inventories, site evaluations, assessments of impacts, and mitigation plans in all EAs/EISs for Forest-initiated, authorized, or licensed activities.
- Treat Class II properties as if they were Class I until they are evaluated.
- Maintain the confidentiality of cultural resource site locations to aid in their protection.
- Avoid cultural resource damage during fire suppression activities and provide protection for known cultural values.
- Interpret cultural resources for the benefit of the public.

- Develop and implement strategies including road closures for the protection of cultural sites.

## Diversity

- Maintain or improve the diversity of plant and animal communities by providing a variety of vegetation types and seral stages within the Forest.
- Maintain at least five percent of each timber type and ten percent of each shrub type in each of the named seral stages. If any given seral stage-vegetation combination currently represents less than the minimum required level, manage to achieve the required level as soon as possible.
- Use the following timber types, shrub types, and seral stages to determine the Minimum Management Requirement level of diversity. Diversity at this level is measured Forest-wide and on all forested land whether managed for timber production or not. The red fir component will not be harvested during this planning period.

Timber Types: Jeffrey pine; red fir; lodgepole.

### 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 feet high, 0-39 percent canopy cover, substantial shrub layer);
- (3B,C) pole/medium tree (20-50 feet high, 40 percent or more canopy cover, variable shrub layer);
- (4A) large tree, mature to over-mature (most trees over 50 feet high, 0-39 percent canopy cover, substantial shrub layer);
- (4B,C) large tree, mature to over-mature (40 percent or more canopy cover, variable shrub layer);
- (4C) large tree, mature to over-mature (70 percent or more canopy cover and possible evidence of decadence).

Shrub Types: Big sagebrush, bitterbrush.

### Seral stages:

- (1) early stage
- (2) middle stage
- (3) late stage.

## Energy

- Authorize the development of wind as an energy source where development is compatible with the attainment of established Forest goals for other resources or uses.
- Authorize new hydroelectric power facilities as an energy source when development of projects will allow streamflow sufficient to maintain resident trout fisheries, maintain Visual Quality Objectives, and uphold wildlife and riparian resource objectives.
- Assure that energy conservation practices are applied to National Forest management programs.
- To the extent possible, require the use of existing roads, disturbed areas, and the co-location or clustering of energy development facilities such as roads, pipelines, powerplant and support structures.

## Facilities

- Provide additions to the transportation system for resource development. Provide public access to public land and developed recreation sites, consistent with Forest goals and objectives.
- Reconstruct and regulate traffic as needed for public safety and/or resource protection.
- Address concerns for public safety and resource protection through road closure, relocation or reconstruction of non-system roads consistent with available budgets.
- Maintain facilities to established standards, make them energy efficient, and/or replace if necessary.
- Schedule facilities maintenance and replacement per the following priorities:
  1. Correct inventoried health and safety items.
  2. Accomplish annual recurrent maintenance.
  3. Eliminate inventoried maintenance backlogs.
  4. Replace condemned facilities if there is a continued need and no feasible alternatives are available. If construction funds are not available, continue rehabilitation/refurbishing work necessary to maintain facilities at habitable standards while perpetuating the life of the structure.
  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 or when public

facilities can best be served by a community-wide system proposed by another entity.

- Provide trails for hikers, skiers, equestrians, bicyclists, snowmobilers, the handicapped, and off-highway vehicle users when compatible with user needs, level of development, and Forest goals and objectives.
- Maintain trails to assigned maintenance levels.
- Coordinate trail construction, rerouting, improvement, and maintenance with cooperating or affected agencies.
- Separate incompatible trail uses where feasible.
- Utilize existing developed facilities, roads, and trails for both summer and winter recreation activities, whenever possible, before developing new ones for exclusive seasonal use.

## Fish

### Threatened and Endangered Fish

- Rehabilitate and maintain essential habitat for these species according to species' recovery plans and Memoranda of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Provide high quality habitat for threatened and endangered fish species based on the results of habitat capability model analyses.
- Manage all stream reaches of essential habitat as depicted in the Recovery Plan to the following guidelines in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  1. Do not allow any activity that results in more than 10 percent degradation of the habitat within any given stream reach; this conclusion must be supported by data that results from the use of a quantitative methodology survey such as GAWS, COWFISH, etc.
  2. Restore unstable or eroding streambanks to attain a streambank system that is no more than 10 percent unstable at any given time.
  3. Retain vegetation adjacent to perennial streams that affords stream shading and streambank stability.

### Fisheries

- Provide medium- to high-quality habitat for resident fish species based on the results of the appropriate habitat capability model.
- Manage all stream reaches of all state designated wild trout waters according to the following:

1. Any activity that results in trampling and chiseling should not exceed 10 percent of any given stream reach. A reach is defined as a continuous portion of a stream with homogeneous physical characteristics. Use the current situation as documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as a reference point.
  2. Restore unstable or eroding streambanks to attain a streambank system that is no more than 10 percent unstable at any given time.
  3. Streamside vegetation should provide a minimum of 90 percent of the habitat's capability to provide stream shading and fish cover.
- Manage all stream reaches containing resident fish according to the following:
1. Any activity that results in trampling and chiseling should not exceed 20 percent of any given stream reach. Use the current situation as documented in the EIS as a reference point.
  2. Restore unstable or eroding streambanks to attain a streambank system that is no more than 20 percent unstable at any given time.
- Prohibit stream-modifying construction activities within or immediately adjacent to the aquatic zone during the following spawning seasons:
1. in streams with spring spawning species (rainbow, cutthroat, and golden trout), February 15-August 20;
  2. in streams with fall spawning species (brown and brook trout), October 1-April 15.

Exceptions to (1) and (2) above must be approved by the Forest Supervisor.

- Design stream crossings to accommodate fish passage where proposed roads and trails will cross streams that support active or potential fisheries.
- Maintain instream flows needed to support existing resident fisheries.
- Maintain water levels in reservoirs and natural lakes to support fisheries to at least existing levels.
- Negotiate with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the affected utility companies to rewater selected reaches of streams for the re-establishment of resident trout fisheries.
- Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game to establish standards for viable populations and tolerable levels of depletion for resident fish species.

## Geology

- Design and construct structures or facilities located near active faults and/or areas of known seismic activity to withstand seismic impacts. Relocate structures or facilities to less active sites where design and construction is not economically efficient.
- Conduct on-site geologic investigations prior to surface or vegetation-disturbing activities on lands mapped as highly or extremely unstable on Forest geologic resource inventory maps. Assess the feasibility of mitigation measures and include stability mitigation measures in project operating plans and design specifications.
- Make a slope suitability examination based on shear strength/shear stress relationships before constructing roads or other permanent developments in areas that are a hazard because of instability.
- Cooperate with other agencies, where appropriate, in identifying geologic hazards in areas of existing roads or facilities and assess the feasibility of implementing hazard mitigation measures.
- Wherever appropriate, include information explaining local geology or interesting geologic features in interpretive displays, publications, and interpretive programs.

## Hardwoods

- Protect the integrity of the hardwood ecosystem in all existing oak stands.

## Lands

### Electronic Sites

Fully develop existing sites before authorizing new sites. Authorize new sites or expand existing sites only after analysis indicates such use is compatible with Forest goals and objectives.

### Landownership Adjustments

- Acquire lands by exchange, purchase, or donation in the following priority:
  1. Highest priority:
    - a. lands with water frontage such as lakes, streams, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian zones;
    - b. key game management areas and lands having endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, or plant habitat;
    - c. lands needed to reduce fire risks;

- d. lands needed to prevent soil erosion;
- e. lands and easements that ensure access to public lands and resources;
- f. lands having unique historical or cultural resources;
- g. wilderness inholdings.

2. Moderate priority:

- a. lands primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes and lands needed for aesthetic purposes;
- b. lands needed for administrative purposes.

3. Lowest priority:

- b. lands needed to consolidate existing blocks of National Forest lands to improve administration of the area.

- Dispose of lands by exchange in the following priority:

- 1. Tracts inside or adjacent to communities when such tracts would enhance community development and reduce use conflicts, provided that suitable private land is not available. Coordinate National Forest System plans for land adjustments with the Bureau of Land Management, county, and community general plans.
- 2. Lands under special use permit within or adjacent to communities that would be better suited for private ownership.
- 3. Small federal parcels that are intermingled with other non-federal parcels.

Property Boundaries and Unauthorized Occupancy

- Locate, survey, post, and mark National Forest System boundaries to standard.
- Identify and reduce unauthorized occupancies on National Forest System lands.

Rights-of-Way Grants

- Utilize existing public or private utility rights-of-way, and minimize the creation of new rights-of-way where feasible to reduce impacts on other resources.
- Bury new or reconstructed power distribution lines, (33 kv or less), and telephone lines where feasible.

## Special Uses

- Issue special use permits only if private land suitable for the use is not reasonably available and if the use is compatible with established Forest goals and objectives.
- Apply the following priority when evaluating special use permit applications:
  1. public uses (governmental)
  2. semi-public uses
  3. private (exclusive) uses.
- Issue no special use permits on lands identified for exchange when this would reduce future exchange opportunities.

## Utility Corridors

- Participate in the Eastern Sierra Interagency Utility Corridor Study to identify an east/west corridor designation.

## Withdrawals

- Review existing withdrawals and recommend revocation when the purposes for which the withdrawals were established no longer exist or can no longer be administratively accomplished.
- Initiate Forest Service withdrawals for new sites only when other available surface use and occupancy controls cannot protect the surface resources.

## Minerals

### Minerals Management: General

- Administer mining laws and regulations to permit the uninterrupted production of minerals while assuring the adequate protection of other resources and environmental values.
- Where valid existing rights within withdrawn areas are exercised, operating plans should be consistent with the purpose of withdrawals.
- Coordinate the mineral management program with the Bureau of Land Management.

### Leasable Minerals: Oil, Gas, and Geothermal

- Provide for the leasing of National Forest lands for exploration and development of oil, gas and geothermal resources commensurate with other resource values. Follow existing Memoranda of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service that relate to oil, gas,

and geothermal mineral activities. Follow applicable regulations, operating orders, and notices for oil, gas, and geothermal leases issued pursuant to appropriate authority.

- Prepare environmental documents that analyze full-scale development prior to consenting to Bureau of Land Management's issuance of geothermal leases.
- Prepare postlease environmental documents in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management for site-specific exploration, development, and production proposals. Assure that impacts to resources are appropriately analyzed. Assure that impacts to these resources are mitigated to the extent possible.
- Consider the location of fluid conveyance lines and facilities for geothermal development to ensure the viability of deer migration corridors. Encourage geothermal development that utilizes air cooling rather than evaporative cooling systems.

#### Leasable Minerals: Other

- Provide for leasing National Forest System lands for the exploration and development of minerals, commensurate with other resource values, as specified under the Minerals Leasing Act of 1920 and the Minerals Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1967. This includes hardrock minerals. Follow applicable laws and regulations.

#### Locatable Minerals

- Allow all National Forest System lands not specifically withdrawn from mineral entry to be available for mineral exploration, location and extraction under applicable laws and regulations.

#### Saleable Minerals

- Utilize common variety minerals, e.g., sand, gravel, and borrow material without encroaching upon other resource values. Encourage the use of materials that are available from the private sector where possible.
- Provide for the sale of common variety minerals when such action will not cause unacceptable damage to the surface resources. This includes impacts on surface-based access.

#### Pest Management

- Coordinate pest control programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Health Services, other federal, state, and local agencies, and private sector groups as needed.
- Follow an Integrated Pest Management approach to managing pests during the planning and implementation of all appropriate activities, particularly those that influence vegetation. Consider and analyze, on a

site-specific project basis, a full range of pest management alternatives that include cultural, biological and mechanical methods. Select treatment methods through the environmental analysis process that consider the environmental effects, treatment efficacy, and cost effectiveness of each alternative. Determine monitoring and enforcement plans to implement specific measures during this site-specific process. Pest detection, surveillance, evaluation, prevention, suppression, and post-action evaluation are integral components of this Integrated Pest Management approach.

- Treat green pine stumps that are eight inches and larger in diameter with borax to minimize the aerial spread of annosus root disease in stands that are managed for timber production. Treat all green conifer stumps with borax in areas managed with a concentrated/developed recreation emphasis.

## Protection

- Implement a fire management program consisting of: 17 percent prevention and detection, 83 percent suppression and aviation, and the application of all appropriate wildfire suppression strategies (confinement, containment, and control).
- Use Prescriptions and Management Area Direction and fire management action plans when determining the appropriate wildfire suppression strategy.
- Use prescribed fire as a management tool.
- Consider both existing conditions and the effect of future management activities in the area surrounding the project area when developing treatment standards for fuels.
- Coordinate with local fire districts in the development of major new structural facilities on National Forest lands.
- Allowable burned acre objectives for specific areas will be determined in the preparation of fire management area plans.
- The Forest Service mission in fire management is to use fire as a resource management tool.

## Range

- Develop range resources to their reasonable potential and manage them for sustained yields.
- Provide grazing tenure to lend stability to the local livestock-raising community and established ranching operations.
- Manage grazing allotments according to a planned management system.

- Develop range Allotment Management Plans before term permits are issued where possible. Incorporate in those plans provisions for implementing Best Management Practices for range management.
- Consider deer forage requirements (five pounds per deer day) in the allocation of livestock forage as part of all range analysis.
- Use individual grazing allotment plans as the instrument to guide the avoidance of unacceptable damage to soil, water quality, and fish habitat and the resolution of incompatibilities between livestock and known key mule deer fawning areas. Institute positive measures such as delaying the grazing season and/or directing livestock away from riparian areas by herding, salting, water developments, or fencing. Amend allotment plans to include adopted means of resolution and needed mitigation measures. If mitigation is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage, as a last resort livestock grazing will be reduced or eliminated.
  1. Develop a priority schedule, with an annual review, of Allotment Management Plans to be revised over the planning period. Each Allotment Management Plan will be revised commensurate with available funding.
  2. After Allotment Management Plans are revised, they will be updated on an average of every ten years.
- Consider the benefit to fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and watershed as well as range when designing range improvements.
- Assess impacts on riparian areas within permit boundaries during grazing permit re-evaluations. Require structural and/or non-structural measures to correct unacceptable deterioration of riparian-dependent resources.
- Graze meadows only when "range-ready" as defined in Forest Service Handbook 2209.21.
- Conduct annual utilization checks on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats in grazing areas.
- Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for administrating shared grazing allotments to implement the decisions in the BLM's Benton-Owens Valley Management Framework Plan.
- Achieve or maintain rangeland, over time, in "satisfactory" condition as defined by the Region 4 or Region 5 (as appropriate) Range Analysis Handbook and Resource Value Rating System.
- Where feasible, locate all range improvements away from travel corridors, especially trails, popular fisheries, and other watercourses.
- Allotment Management Plans will display use, improvement, maintenance, and other management data.
- Use criteria will be established and documented for each unit of each grazing allotment. These criteria will be developed through the

interdisciplinary team approach using long-term trend studies and identified limiting factors. These criteria will define permissible grazing levels. This standard should be observed in the process--soil and vegetation are the basic resources. The condition of these two resources must be maintained or improved. If they are in a satisfactory condition, then they must be maintained in this condition. If they are in a less than satisfactory condition, then allowance must be made for improvement in condition.

- Inform the California Department of Fish and Game before planning and implementating revegetation projects.
- Grant extensions of season of use only when this use does not conflict with the Allotment Management Plan's objectives.
- Locate salt and sheep bedgrounds outside riparian areas and at least one-quarter mile away if possible and reasonable.

## Recreation

### Developed Recreation: Private

- Make future use determinations before issuing new permits: (1) three years prior to the expiration of existing term permits; or (2) when existing facilities are sold, a new termination date is requested, and potential financing of improvements require a later termination date.
- Encourage the updating of master development plans for existing commercial developments. Require master development plans for new developments or before allowing any new major construction on existing developments. Require the permittee to submit these plans for Forest Service approval.

### Developed Recreation: Public

- Construct and maintain facilities and sites to regional standards. Construct and maintain sites and associated water systems and wastewater treatment plants to Facility Condition Class 1 as defined in the recreation resource inventory.
- Emphasize permitted activities rather than prohibited ones on signs to lessen recreation use conflicts.
- Provide screening and shade, using vegetation and/or artificial structures, to increase use on less attractive sites.
- Design at least 10 percent of recreation units for use by the physically limited, in all new highly developed sites (Experience Levels 3 or 4), and in reconstructed sites with a capacity of more than 125. Consider the needs of the physically limited in toilet design for these sites where possible.

- Develop new campsites in concentrated recreation areas before other locations to generate increased use and higher returns to the U.S. Treasury.
- Develop associated day-use facilities and interpretive and informational sites and trails, together with overnight campgrounds, to achieve a balanced facility package.
- Coordinate with other agencies for the development and maintenance needed to provide parking opportunities for snow play and nordic skiing.

#### Dispersed Recreation

- Maintain activities and developments at levels that meet prescribed Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes as defined in the ROS Users Guide.
- Incorporate the increasing demand for mountain bike, equestrian, bicycle and nordic opportunities into composite plans, community plans, trail plans, and programs.

#### Interpretive Services

- Develop programs, displays, and publications to interpret Forest Service resource management and the natural and cultural environments.
- Design the physical elements of the Interpretive Services Program (e.g., signs, interpretive trails, information stations) to harmonize with the settings where they are located.
- Maximize the use of self-service information facilities.
- Develop interpretive composite plans for major interpretive opportunities (e.g., the bristlecones, Mono Craters).
- Formalize an interpretive plan of operation for each district based on interpretive composite plans.
- Continue to coordinate with the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association to promote and facilitate interpretation and education relating to the Eastern Sierra.

#### Off-Highway Vehicles/Over-Snow Vehicles (OHV/OSVs)

- Manage OHV/OSV use according to the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines and the 1977 Interagency Motor Vehicle Use Plan. The Motor Vehicle Use Plan is scheduled to be updated upon implementation of the Forest Plan. The update will be conducted with public involvement and will include maps indicating open routes for both OHVs and OSVs. Criteria used in updating the Plan will include but are not limited to:
  1. Impacts on soil resulting in reduced land productivity.
  2. Impacts on vegetation resulting in loss of soil.

3. Degradation of water quality.
  4. Degradation of air quality.
  5. Adverse impacts on habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.
  6. Adverse impacts on habitat in areas in the mountain sheep and mule deer Prescriptions.
  7. Adverse impacts on cultural resources.
  8. Adverse impacts on visual resources.
  9. Adverse impacts on other recreation uses.
  10. Adverse impact to others using the Inyo National Forest.
  11. New technological changes in OHV/OSVs.
  12. Changes in the goals or management direction for the Inyo National Forest.
- Coordinate Forest off-highway vehicle planning and funding with federal, state, and local agencies, and with private landowners where appropriate.
  - When necessary, close critical wildlife and fish habitat to OHV/OSV use.
  - Designate OHV/OSV trails and open areas to minimize conflicts with existing or potential developed recreation sites, private property, special uses, adjacent wilderness, administrative areas, cultural resources, riparian areas, key wildlife habitat, and sensitive watershed areas.
  - Cooperate with the State of California in developing a Statewide OHV Trail Plan.
  - Do not permit wheeled vehicles except for commercial and administrative use on OSV trails and corridors in winter.
  - Do not permit recreational use of wheeled vehicles over snow except in designated areas.
  - Permit OSV use only when there is sufficient snow cover to protect the soil and vegetative resources.

#### Recreation Residences

- Continue all recreation residence special use permits unless a future use determination identifies a higher public need. Complete future use determinations for recreation residence tracts during this planning period (1988-1998). Schedule future use determinations in advance of termination date of the permit to allow sufficient time for public input.

- Give priority to public access leading to or through developed or dispersed recreation areas wherever proposed improvements obstruct such access.
- Notify recreation residents within flood or avalanche zones that their residences are in dangerous areas, and that no additions to existing structures will be permitted. Include the floodplain damage clause (BR-5-3) in permits within floodplains.
- Resolve noncompliance deficiencies before issuing a permit for an improvement to an existing facility to a new owner.

### Research Natural Areas

- Cooperate in the establishment process for recommended botanical Research Natural Areas.
- Inventory geologic Research Natural Area candidates as a part of the Regional Research Natural Area program.

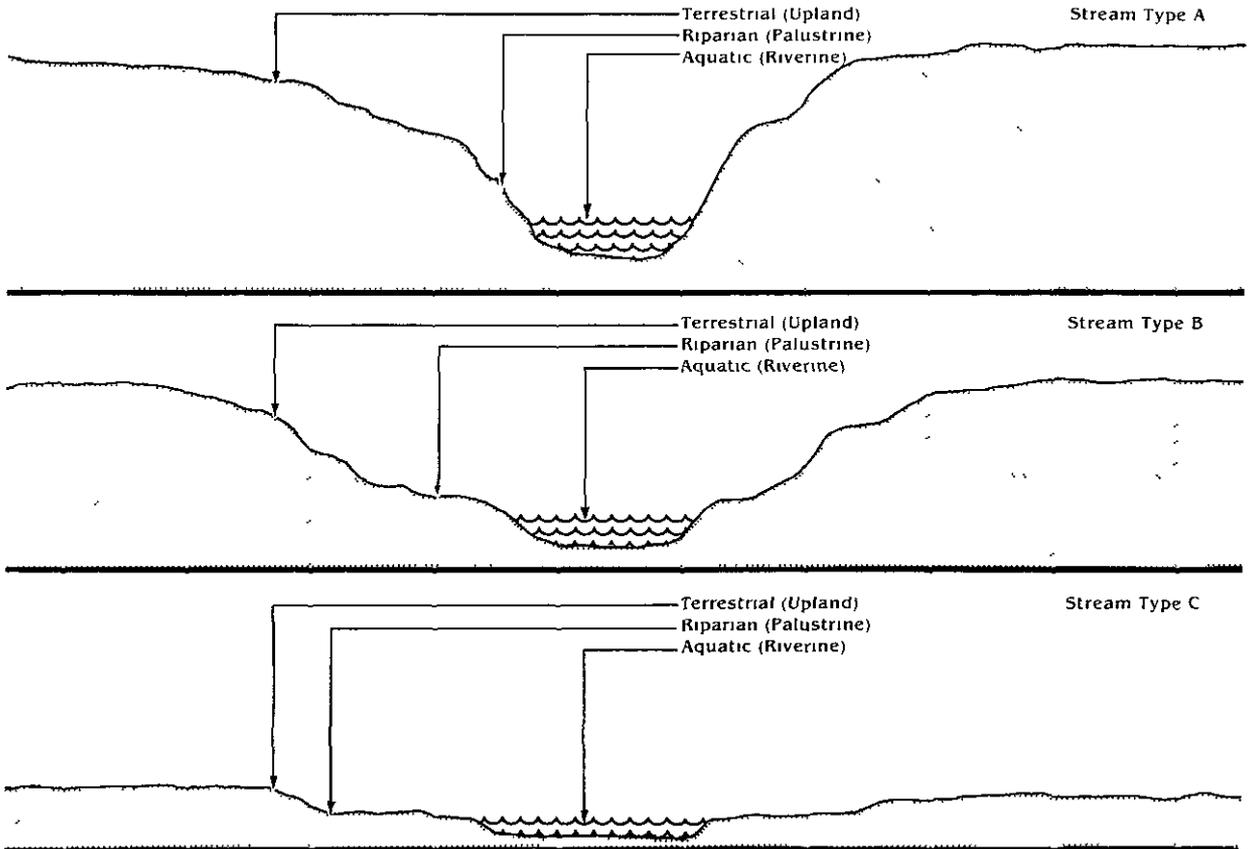
### Riparian Areas

- Give emphasis to riparian-dependent resources in the management of riparian areas.
- Protect streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and the plants and animals dependent on these areas.
- Prevent significant adverse riparian area changes in water temperature, chemistry, sedimentation, and channel blockages.
- Use Allotment Management Plans as the vehicle for ensuring protection of riparian areas from unacceptable impacts from grazing. Institute positive measures such as salting, herding, water developments, fencing, rest rotation, deferred rotation, and other grazing systems as mitigation measures. If mitigation is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage to the riparian habitat, as a last resort, livestock grazing will be reduced or eliminated in the affected areas.
- Rehabilitate and/or fence riparian areas that consistently show resource damage from any cause if conflicts cannot be resolved.
- Relocate existing roads, trails, and campsites outside riparian areas where necessary to eliminate or reduce unacceptable deterioration of riparian-dependent resources.
- Allow new developments and surface disturbance in riparian areas only after on-site evaluations have determined that riparian-dependent resources are not adversely affected, or mitigation of adverse impacts is identified and incorporated in project design and implementation specifications.

- Apply the following earth disturbance standards to each zone within each stream type. These standards apply to the amount of post-project disturbance. Earth disturbance is defined as complete removal of vegetation or a percentage of bare ground resulting from of the disturbance.

### Earth Disturbance Standards

Zone	Type	Amount of Earth Disturbance Permitted on Any 100-Meter Reach
<b>AQUATIC</b>		
-Standing or running water	See Forest Wide Standards & Guidelines	
<b>RIPARIAN</b>		
-Terrestrial habitat adjacent to water bodies in which plants are rooted in water or in saturated soil	A	3%
	B	5%
	C	10%
<b>TERRESTRIAL</b>		
-Upland area adjacent to riparian zone, in which water availability influences land form and vegetation	A	10% (If entrenched, on unstable terrain or on a slope 40% allow only 5% disturbance )
	B	
	C	20% (No restriction)



- Limit wildfire control methods and activities that would adversely affect the riparian zone. Avoid dozer-built lines in this zone where possible. Emphasize the restoration of dozer impacts on riparian zones when rehabilitating fire control sites.
- Require the following waterbar spacing on trails in riparian areas unless specifically determined otherwise by on-site project evaluations:

<u>Trail Gradient (%)</u>	<u>Spacing (feet)</u>
1-5	200
6-10	150
11-15	100
>15	50

- Prohibit new locations of equipment staging areas in riparian zones. Phase out existing staging areas that have adverse effects on these zones.
- Maintain the integrity of desert springs in the White and Inyo Mountains and the South Sierra Eastern Escarpment to conserve plant and wildlife habitat.
- Recognize the important and distinctive values of riparian areas when implementing management activities. Give preferential consideration to riparian-dependent resources when conflicts among land use activities occur.
- Delineate and evaluate riparian areas before implementing any planned management activity.
- Design range, fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects and/or silvicultural prescriptions to maintain or enhance riparian area dependent resources.
- Give priority to the rehabilitation of riparian areas when planning range, wildlife habitat, and watershed improvement projects.
- Move existing livestock watering locations out of riparian areas when and where feasible.

## Sensitive Plants

- Develop and implement a consistent, systematic, biologically sound program for sensitive plant species and their habitat so that federal listing does not occur.
- Complete inventories of project sites and areas of disturbance if there is potential habitat or known population locations are identified. The reporting procedures for this process will be outlined in the Sensitive Plant Program Management Plan for the Forest.

- Complete interim management recommendations for all listed sensitive plant species (the Watch I, Watch II, and Sensitive Species lists).
- Allow no new disturbance of identified sensitive plant habitat without direction from Interim Management Guides, Species Management Guides, or an environmental analysis.
- Allow scientific studies when there is no detrimental effect on sensitive species.
- Develop Species Management Guides and subsequent recovery plans for all species on the Forest sensitive plant list. They will provide background information and present status of the species, locate new populations, identify potential enhancement opportunities, locate key areas necessary for long-term protection, and describe maximum impact levels. Utilize information from the Natural Diversity Database, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **Special Interest Areas and National Natural Landmarks**

- Evaluate and recommend candidate Special Interest Areas for classification and candidate National Natural Landmarks for nomination by 1990.
- Manage the existing Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Botanical Area under the approved management plan.
- Protect the characteristics of the candidate areas until evaluation is completed.

### **Timber**

- Conduct a silvicultural examination and construct a prescription before any vegetative manipulation or cultural treatment. Make exceptions for the removal of hazard trees or trees that block vision along roads, rights-of-way clearings, mineral operations, minor amounts of removal by public fuelwood gathering, and similar cases.
- Locate and design timber sales with consideration for the Visual Quality Objectives of the surrounding landscape and existing and potential recreation use.
- Timber sale contracts will make provision for access across timber haul roads for officially designated nordic and snowmobile trails.
- Allow openings created by regeneration harvest to border or include natural openings if other resource values are protected. Openings shall generally be surrounded by timber stands five acres in size or larger except that on a case-by-case basis, openings may have up to 15 percent of their periphery in common with other openings.
- Do not enter pure stands of red fir during this planning period.

- Harvest timber in riparian zones and on other moist sites using logging systems that minimize soil disturbance, compaction, and other impacts on those sites in accordance with Regulation Class III requirements.
- Emphasize maximum road spacing in logging system plans and environmental analyses.
- Close or, where possible, obliterate unneeded roads to preclude resource conflicts, while considering OHV opportunities.
- Consider the need for specialized yarding equipment on slopes over 30 percent. Preclude tractor logging on slopes greater than 30 percent in the absence of on-site determinations.
- Conduct logging and/or construction projects to prevent debris from entering stream channels or causing watershed damage. Prohibit yarding logs through streams.
- Schedule planting or seeding within three years of clearcutting, so that adequate restocking can be attained within five years of harvest.
- Plan activities that will favorably modify the microclimate to help ensure plantation success. Include such activities as shelterwood cutting and using shade-cast devices for seedling protection.
- Determine the duration of openings on the basis of assigned Visual Quality Objectives for that area. Apply the guideline that a harvested area will no longer be considered an opening for timber management purposes when stocking surveys indicate that the new stand meets prescribed stocking requirements with trees four and one-half feet tall.
- Continue to honor the unsigned agreement with the Paiute/Shoshone people drafted in 1973. Issue no commercial permits to either Indian or non-Indian for the purposes of picking pinenuts or piuga on National Forest System lands. }
- Consider both summer and winter operating seasons in project-level environmental analysis.
- Restrict vehicles to designated roads when vehicle use by woodcutters is causing unacceptable damage to resources.

## Visual Resources

- Obtain the Forest Supervisor's approval through the environmental analysis process for any deviations from Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) assigned in Prescriptions.
- Maintain or enhance the size and diversity of all riparian zones, aspen stands, meadows, and alpine tundra vegetation zones where such zones are visible from Sensitivity Level 1 & 2 roads and trails, or where they receive significant recreation use.

- Rehabilitate and/or enhance the visual resource when implementing projects, where appropriate as follows:
  1. Rehabilitate the visual resource where the existing visual condition fails to meet the assigned VQO.
  2. Enhance the resource where the existing visual condition appears monotonous, and where there is an opportunity to create visual variety in the landscape through planting, vegetative manipulation, or other accepted means.
  3. Base priorities for rehabilitation and enhancement projects upon the VQO assigned to the project area, corridor viewshed plans, and on the following considerations:
    - The relative importance of the area and the amount of deviation from the adopted VQO.
    - The length of time it would take natural processes to reduce the visual impacts so that they meet the adopted VQO.
    - The length of time it would take rehabilitation measures to meet the adopted VQO.
    - The coordination with the resources necessary to rehabilitate the project area.
- Maintain foregrounds and middlegrounds of the scenic corridors of the following travel routes to Retention and/or Partial Retention VQOs as inventoried, but not less than Partial Retention:
  1. Highways officially designated by the state as California State and County Scenic Highways.
  2. California State Scenic Highway System routes as designated in the September 1970 Master Plan. These highways include:
    - State Highway 120, west of U.S. 395 to Tioga Pass
    - U.S. 395
    - State Highway 158
    - State Highway 203
    - State Highway 168.
- Meet the Retention VQO in all foreground zones of other Sensitivity Level 1 roads and trails, recreation sites, and within all concentrated recreation areas.

## Watershed

### Soils

- Reduce accelerated soil erosion resulting from management activities to natural background levels within three years after the soil-disturbing activity.

- Conduct an Order 2 Soil Resource Inventory or an on-site soil investigation to evaluate all areas that are scheduled for modification (vegetation manipulation, construction, etc.) or subject to concentrated use.
- Avoid the use of soil-disturbing equipment, OHVs, and trampling by livestock on wet or poorly-drained soils whenever possible.
- Use earth-retaining structures or other special methods as needed on steep slopes or in areas of instability.
- Keep dozer-constructed fire lines as narrow as possible, and provide for concurrent erosion control on areas with long, continuous gouges in areas of shallow, compacted, or highly erodible soils.
- Conserve the surface mineral and/or surface organic layer of the soils by minimizing soil disturbance to maintain long-term productivity.
- Store topsoil on-site in areas subject to mechanical disturbance. Respread as the top layer when the project is completed.
- Avoid land alterations that could potentially cause significant soil erosion and loss of soil productivity.
- Stabilize all areas disturbed by management activities to minimize soil erosion.
- Apply the Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the handbook, "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California" (U.S.D.A., Forest Service, 1979) when implementing ground-disturbing activities that may reduce the productivity of the landbase or cause surface erosion or mass wasting.
- Require an interdisciplinary review to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts for any projects or activities proposed in areas identified in the soil resource inventories as having an erosion hazard rating of nine or greater.
- Limit disturbance to no more than five percent per decade on that portion of a management area characterized by steep slopes, very high erosion potential, or high instability.

#### Water

- Maintain or improve water quality to meet state and federal standards. Cooperate and coordinate with state and federal agencies when planning projects that could affect water quality.
- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet water quality objectives and maintain and improve the quality of surface water on the Forest. Identify methods and techniques for applying BMPs during project level environmental analysis and incorporate into the associated project plan and implementation documents.

- Secure water rights for existing and foreseeable future National Forest consumptive uses according to state law. Convert all National Forest System water uses into the name of the Forest Service where possible.
- Obtain water availability assurances for existing and foreseeable future nonconsumptive uses through the special use permit and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) "4E Report" processes.
- Manage watersheds with the priority of maintaining and protecting existing healthy watersheds before rehabilitating degraded systems.
- Require the following waterbar spacing on dozer-constructed fire lines:

<u>Slope gradient (%)</u>	<u>Spacing (feet)</u>
1-3	300
4-6	250
7-9	150
10-14	125
15-20	80
21-40	60
41+	40

- Do not channelize natural streams unless there are no other options.
- Maintain instream flows needed to maintain stream channel competence.
- Design construction activities within streams to avoid sedimentation in the aquatic zone.
- Manage all stream reaches to maintain or improve their Stream Channel Stability Rating (SSR) to 110 or less for all domestic water supply watersheds.
- Manage sensitive stream reaches (those with bank protection ratings of 16-20) according to the following guidelines for all domestic water supply watersheds:
  1. Do not allow the sum of trampling and chiseling scores to exceed 20 percent.
  2. Do not permit roads, trails, or livestock paths to cross streams in these reaches unless they are satisfactorily mitigated.
  3. Maintain adequate instream flows to retain soil protecting riparian vegetation.
- Locate roads and trails on natural benches or ridges well away from stream courses and other water bodies where possible. Avoid constructing roads and trails that parallel or cross tributaries to a main stream.
- Use the steepest permissible pitches and grades to avoid paralleling the stream at stream crossings. Design to maintain the existing width:depth ratio of the stream.

- Use repeated treatments, if necessary, to establish vegetation on fill material where bridges or culverts cross streams.
- Heavily armor the streambed both upstream and downstream from each road, trail, and livestock path crossing that has neither a bridge nor a culvert. Give highest priority to streams that contain threatened or endangered trout species and watersheds that provide domestic water supplies.
- Use the following spacing of cross-drains on unsurfaced roads as a guide:

<u>Road Gradient (%)</u>	<u>Spacing (feet)</u>
1-3	1,200
4-6	700
7-9	400
10-14	250
15-20	120

- Outslope unsurfaced roads and trails where user safety and designed use are not jeopardized.
- Avoid creating berms that hinder drainage on low gradient roads.
- Revegetate roads and trails when use is terminated.
- Return all lands in declining watershed condition to equilibrium.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Develop management plans in conjunction with the Sequoia National Forest for the newly designated North Fork of the Kern and South Fork of the Kern 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

- Develop management plans or amend existing plans to address wilderness designated by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 or any wilderness legislation enacted during the planning period.
- Manage wilderness under the following guidelines: maintain a predominantly natural and natural-appearing environment, facilitate low frequencies of interaction between users, and exercise necessary controls primarily from outside the wilderness boundary. Any on-site controls should be subtle.

## Wildlife

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species

- Consider threatened and endangered species as below viability until recovery is achieved. Emphasize the protection and improvement of habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife. Manage for the protection and enhancement of all historically and potentially threatened or endangered species habitat as necessary to meet recovery levels.
- Cooperate with the Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game in the management of threatened and endangered species and the restoration of habitat. Submit proposals for actions that might affect the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for formal consultation.
- Develop and implement a consistent, systematic, biologically sound strategy to manage sensitive species and their habitats so that federal listing does not occur.
- Permit scientific studies on sensitive species only if the studies would benefit the species.

### Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species are those that the Forest identified for one or more of the following reasons: federally designated threatened or endangered species; sensitive species; harvest species; ecological indicator species; or special interest species.

Populations of species in these categories will be maintained at viable levels. These Standards and Guidelines apply to existing and potential habitats for these species.

#### Carnivores (State-listed or Sensitive): Sierra Nevada red fox, pine marten, fisher, wolverine

1. Inventory project areas where development or habitat alteration projects could alter habitats required by these species.
2. Maintain the integrity of habitats required by these species. Manage known habitats to ensure that breeding and adjacent foraging habitats are maintained.

#### Mule deer (Harvest)

1. Maintain or enhance the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer. Although management activities may allow for some alteration of their habitat, the goal is to maintain deer habitat to support deer population levels consistent with deer herd management objectives.

- Design vegetative treatment units on summer, winter, and transition ranges so that the distance from forage to cover does not exceed six hundred feet.
  - Recognize the sensitivity of infringement on known key mule deer fawning areas during the critical fawning period from June 15 to July 15. Resolve conflicts in favor of fawning areas.
  - Manage summer and transition ranges for each herd to provide a thermal cover to forage ratio between 20:80 and 80:20 on each area.
  - Develop water sources where water is needed and opportunities are available.
  - Coordinate with Caltrans and the counties to provide the safest possible road crossings for mule deer.
2. Recognize the importance of key deer habitats. Emphasize the protection of critical deer habitat when analyzing development proposals.
  3. Determine forage allocation for deer on the basis of five pounds of forage per deer per day (6.5 deer per AUM).
  4. Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game in implementing existing deer herd plans. Cooperate with the Department of Fish and Game in the preparation of needed additional deer herd plans.

**Bald eagle (Endangered)**

1. Manage for recovery. Recovery may require the management of potential sites as well as occupied sites.
2. Use the presence of bald eagles and results of the habitat capability model for the species to establish the existing and potential wintering areas including winter roosts, foraging areas, and daytime perches.
3. Maintain the integrity of existing wintering areas. Do not establish new winter uses or recreation developments within one-quarter mile of such areas.
4. Maintain and enhance fish, waterfowl, and other prey-base populations within winter foraging areas where opportunities exist.
5. Implement the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. Prepare a local winter bald eagle management plan that tiers to the Pacific States Plan.

### Golden eagle and prairie falcon (Special Interest)

1. Maintain or enhance the integrity of nesting habitats for golden eagles and prairie falcons.
  - Limit human disturbance within one-quarter mile of nest sites from February 1 through June 30.
  - Provide for several successional stages and vegetation types within five miles of nest sites.
  - Provide artificial ledges on cliffs where the lack of ledges is a limiting factor.

### Tule elk (Special Interest)

1. Follow the direction of the Tule Elk Management Plan for the Owens Valley.

### Peregrine falcon (Endangered)

1. Implement the Pacific Coast American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Establish two nesting pairs of peregrine falcons.

### Goshawk (Sensitive)

1. Maintain a density of at least one goshawk territory per eighteen square miles within goshawk habitat range. Distances between territories or clumps of territories will not exceed twelve miles. Goshawk habitat range is defined as an area containing active or potential nesting habitat as defined below.
2. Maintain at least one hundred acres of mature timber per territory to provide suitable conditions for the nest stand and an alternate nest stand. If the nest stand and an alternate nest stand are known, delineate at least fifty acres around each stand. If only the nest stand is known, delineate either one hundred acres around the nest stand or at least fifty acres around the nest stand and, within a half-mile radius, at least fifty acres around a potential alternate nest stand. Ensure that replacement stands are incorporated in territories.
3. Give preference to currently active nest territories when delineating a population network.
4. Include the following elements in potential goshawk habitat or territories retained to assure species viability: (a) five or more vegetation types and three or more seral stages within two miles of the nest stand; (b) at least 40 percent canopy cover; (c) a water source within one-quarter mile of the nest stand; and (d) a nest stand location on a slope of less than 20 percent.

5. Locate territories in areas classified as unsuitable for commercial timber management wherever possible.
6. Exclude timber activities within occupied nest stands during the nesting period. Timber activities during other time periods should be limited to those activities that meet the habitat variables associated with suitable habitat in the Forest's goshawk habitat capability model.

#### Blue grouse (Harvest)

1. Maintain or enhance blue grouse habitat by protecting vegetative diversity, riparian habitat, and down logs.

#### Sage grouse (Harvest)

1. Maintain a shrub canopy cover of at least 20 percent on at least 30 percent of vegetation treatment areas within six miles of known strutting grounds (leks).
2. Allow no vegetative treatment in sage grouse habitat that would have a significant negative impact on this species.
3. Recognize the sensitivity of sage grouse leks during the period from March 1 and April 30. Resolve conflicts in favor of sage grouse.
4. Cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game in reintroduction efforts.

#### Spotted owl/Great gray owl (Sensitive)

1. Conduct periodic inventories. If spotted owl pairs are located, manage their habitat as needed to maintain natural distribution on the Forest.
2. If great gray owls are documented, maintain foraging and nesting habitat where management activities could alter their habitat.

#### Sierra Nevada mountain sheep (Sensitive) and Nelson mountain sheep (Special Interest)

1. Maintain existing mountain sheep habitat. Where feasible, expand their ranges by transplanting animals to suitable unoccupied habitats as per the criteria stated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Sheep Recovery Plan.
2. Permit no increase in existing livestock use if the increase is shown to be deleterious to mountain sheep populations as defined in the Recovery Plan.
3. Maintain the health of established mountain sheep populations. If disease transmission from domestic livestock is shown to be deleterious to mountain sheep populations, find ways to alleviate this problem.

4. Prohibit the conversion of livestock type from cattle to sheep on or adjacent to existing or approved reintroduction sites for mountain sheep.
5. If reintroduced mountain sheep establish themselves in drainages outside the reintroduction sites, take advantage of opportunities to extend mountain sheep range, consistent with other resource activities.
6. Develop and implement a recovery and conservation plan for Nelson sheep similar to the one devised for Sierra Nevada sheep. Update the Sierra Nevada Mountain Sheep Plan.
7. Provide for the long-term viability of Sierra Nevada and Nelson mountain sheep populations by promoting reestablishment of these species into suitable habitat within historic range, giving preference to areas with no current livestock use and consistent with other resource activities.

#### Riparian area-dependent Species

1. Maintain the viability of the yellow warbler by implementing management direction for snags, down logs, riparian habitats, and habitat diversity.

#### Snag-dependent Species

1. Maintain the viability of the hairy woodpecker and Williamson sapsucker by implementing management direction for snags, down logs, and habitat diversity.

### Habitat Types

#### Forested Habitats

Successional Stages: Grass-forb, shrub-seedling, pole, mature and old growth.

Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types (WHRs): Eastside (Jeffrey) pine, lodgepole pine, mixed conifer, red fir, subalpine forest, pine-juniper, oak woodland and quaking aspen.

1. Maintain a minimum of 5 percent in each successional stage and each canopy cover class for each WHR habitat type. Recommended area size for implementation of this guideline is 10,000 acres.
2. Limit regeneration harvest area size to 40 acres. Limit area size for other treatments (i.e. overstory removal, commercial thinning) to a range of 80 to 140 acres unless determined otherwise in the environmental analysis process.

3. Manage to achieve the desired dispersion as soon as possible if a given vegetation type/seral stage combination is below long-term minimum levels.
4. Utilize both suitable and unsuitable timberlands to meet the diversity requirement as long as habitat characteristics for management indicator species are fully met.
5. Design treatment areas to have wavy or feathered edges, so a high "diversity index" is achieved. Design treatment areas larger than 10 acres so they have a diversity index greater than 1.4.

Down Logs (To provide woody material foraging sites for cavity-nesting wildlife.)

1. Leave in place an average of one log/acre in the Jeffrey pine forest where possible. In other coniferous forest types, leave in place an average of one log/acre that is at least twenty inches in diameter at the large end, and at least twenty feet long.
2. Give preference to logs and slash piles within 100 yards of meadows, standing water, streams, or the edges of regeneration units. Where possible, move logs to achieve a density of two to three logs per acre in such areas.

Old Growth (A forested stand that is past maturity and showing signs of decadence. The last successional stage in a forest ecosystem.)

1. Apply the following priority sequence when designating stands to be managed for old growth habitat values.
  - Those stands that best meet old growth conditions and are not managed for commercial timber production.
  - Stands that serve the needs of several resources, such as riparian habitat, watershed, and aesthetics.
  - Stands that are not managed for commercial timber production.
2. Allocate no less than 10 percent of the acreage to the late seral stage component in areas managed for timber, including both the suitable and unsuitable component.
3. Apply a minimum size requirement of forty acres to old growth stands managed primarily for wildlife habitat.
4. Review and display old growth stands and wildlife habitat needs for the entire timber compartment when planning individual timber sales.
5. Consider the following options when planning for old growth management:
  - Extend rotations for designated stands on commercial timberlands. Include a pattern of long-term stand replacement

that ensures the continued presence of old growth stands over time.

- Reserve old growth stands on non-commercial timberlands over time.
  - Select specific stands for old growth management in areas where sufficient stands do not presently exist, or where old growth is projected for harvest. Document these selections. Document any decision to forego the old growth component for a specific area.
6. Manipulate vegetation (e.g., intermediate harvest, planting, snag creation), where necessary, to maintain or enhance old growth habitat.

Snags (Standing dead trees over twenty feet tall.)

1. Maintain dead or down trees that are needed for cavity-nesting species.
2. Prescribe snag densities for each snag-dependent wildlife species or group of species (guild) for each timber compartment.
3. Manage snags on suitable timberlands to the extent possible to achieve an average density of 1.2/acre (15-24" dbh) plus 0.3/acre (>24" dbh); all should be higher than twenty feet.
4. Manage snags on nonsuitable timberlands and all riparian areas to the extent possible to achieve an average density of 1.5/acre (15-24" dbh) plus 0.5/acre (>24" dbh).
5. Manage snags on pinyon-juniper woodlands to achieve an average density of 0.8/acre (15-24" dbh), plus 0.2/acre (>24" dbh), where such larger snags are available. Manage the smaller snags to achieve an average density of 1.0/acre where larger snags are not available.
6. Give preference to snags around seeps, springs, and successional edges.
7. Manage snags in clumps of three to five, each clump representing a maximum area of five acres in riparian areas.
8. Count no more than ten snags on a given acre in terrestrial habitats toward fulfilling prescribed average snag density for an area. Groups of snags covering areas larger than 10 acres cannot be considered clumps.
9. Select snags >20 feet high and >16 inches in diameter to manage for wildlife habitat.
10. Consider snag creation where existing snag density falls below acceptable levels.

11. Permit snag cutting only in areas where the hard snag level exceeds three per acre, or where snags could endanger life or property, such as public use or work project areas.

### Shrub Habitats

Shrub Habitat Types: High elevation (alpine shrub, montane shrub, wedgeleaf ceanothus); low elevation (curlleaf mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush, low sagebrush); and high desert (saltbush-greasewood, shadscale).

Successional Stages (not applied to high elevations: <20% canopy cover (grass-forb); 20-40% canopy cover; >40% canopy cover.

1. Maintain a minimum of 15 percent of total shrub habitat in each successional stage in low elevation and high desert shrub types.
2. Limit vegetation treatment area size to a range of 80 to 140 acres in most cases. Design treatment areas so they have wavy or feathered edges and a diversity index greater than 1.4.
3. Bring all grazed habitats to at least fair condition with an upward or static trend on lands grazed under rest-rotation and deferred rotation systems.
4. Defer livestock grazing on vegetation treatment areas 1.5 to 2.5 years to allow establishment of herbaceous vegetation.
5. Address the management of all forage classes, including forbs, in terms of grazing systems and season of use in Allotment Management Plans.
6. Locate areas proposed for treatment in shrub habitats where existing herbaceous understory represents at least 10 percent of total vegetative cover.



## Management Prescriptions

Management Prescriptions specify how all the Forest resources will be managed to emphasize a specific resource. Each prescription has a different resource emphasis. Several prescriptions may be implemented within one Management Area, depending on the resources and use of the area.

This section describes the purpose of each prescription, what the resource emphasis will be and where the prescription will be applied. It displays direction for management of each resource. There are eighteen prescriptions that will be implemented.

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## Designated Wilderness (#1)

The purpose of this prescription is to protect wild lands and their wilderness values of natural ecological integrity and natural appearance.

The emphasis is on providing opportunities for solitude, challenge, and primitive recreation.

This prescription applies to the existing Ansel Adams, Hoover, Golden Trout, John Muir, South Sierra, and any Wilderness designated by Congress during the planning period.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
<b>Air Quality</b>	Monitor air quality on Class I airsheds to detect degradation. Recommend abatement measures after Air Quality Related Values and indicators are determined.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Protect significant cultural properties by limiting or distributing use.
<b>Energy</b>	Permit no new energy developments.
<b>Facilities</b>	Allow no road construction.  Manage the trail system as determined in the management plan for each wilderness. Maintain trails to assigned maintenance levels.  Mount signs to be unobtrusive and not detract from the surrounding natural environment. Sign only as needed for progressive travel. Do not sign features other than passes.  Use fords at stream crossings unless a bridge is needed for safety or route connection. Construct needed bridges using materials and methods that will best preserve wilderness values.  Emphasize the use of native materials when designing resource protection improvements.  Allow snow survey cabins to remain in wilderness only if essential for the safety of surveyors. Remove snow survey cabins after the associated survey sites have been correlated with, and replaced by, sites outside wilderness. Make exceptions if a cabin is needed for safe long-distance travel to a site that is still in use.

Where a demonstrated need is identified, allow automatic snow survey instrumentation and temporary seismic stations in wilderness with the condition that the facilities will be periodically evaluated for need. When the instruments are no longer needed, the facilities would be removed and the site restored to as near a natural condition as possible.

**Fisheries**

Allow aerial fish stocking in wilderness if it avoids impacts on visitors and involves only lakes that were aerially stocked before the affected wilderness was legislatively designated. Licensed fishing is allowed.

**Geology**

Consider the risk from landslide and seismic processes when locating new trails. Provide information on these risks to wilderness users.

**Lands**

Attempt to acquire all private land inholdings.

**Minerals**

Determine the validity of existing mining claims when a plan of operations is submitted. Subject to valid existing rights, designated wilderness areas are withdrawn from further mineral entry.

Administer operating plans to protect wilderness values and grandfathered valid existing rights.

Allow no mineral leasing, including geothermal leasing, in designated wilderness.

Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals in designated wilderness.

**Pest Management**

Allow insect and disease infestations to run their natural courses except where it is necessary to prevent unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent lands or to prevent unnatural loss to the wilderness resource because of exotic pests.

**Protection**

Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.

Obtain approval prior to emergency use of the following suppression activities: Regional Forester approval for tractor use and/or for heliport construction; Forest Supervisor approval for helispot construction, retardant application other than short-term or fugitive-dye, wheeled vehicles, generators, or chain saws (unless for direct suppression).

Apply low-impact suppression tactics such as reliance upon natural barriers unless more direct attack is needed to protect persons or adjacent property values. Favor the use of water over land disturbance. Favor cold-trailing over handline construction.

Mitigate temporary fire camps, helispots, evidence of vehicles, and other disturbances created by emergency fire suppression activities.

Use prescribed fire (planned ignitions only) to reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness to an acceptable level.

**Range**

Administer the range grazing program as defined by Forest Service Manual 2323.2 (Wilderness) and Forest Service Manual 2200 (Range).

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) will consider recreational stock grazing.

**Recreation**

Distribute publications to wilderness users that emphasize wilderness regulations, etiquette, and health and safety considerations including fire safety.

Allow the dispersed recreation activities appropriate to Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes. Allow no off-highway/over-snow (OHV/OSV) vehicle use.

Emphasize minimum impact camping techniques when interacting with wilderness users or developing informational handouts.

Require that campsites be located one hundred feet or more from lakeshores, trails and streams where terrain permits, but in no case closer than twenty-five feet.

Advocate and enforce the pack-it-in, pack-it-out program for trash.

Prohibit discharge of firearms except for emergencies, or for taking wildlife as permitted under state game laws.

Prohibit wood fires in areas that are environmentally sensitive or where wood is scarce.

Allow loose herding of pack and saddlestock only where trail conditions make it unsafe to tie stock together.

Prohibit overnight picketing or tethering of stock in meadows. Require that stock tied overnight be tied to hitch lines on hard sites.

Require that feed for recreation stock be packed into the wilderness under the following conditions: before the grazing season, where feed is unavailable, or where grazing would damage natural resources.

Prohibit tying of stock within one hundred feet of water, trails, or campsites except when loading or unloading. When loading or unloading, tie stock only to trees eight inches in diameter or larger.

Issue no new permits for pastures or stock packing services in the Ansel Adams, Hoover, John Muir, or Golden Trout Wildernesses. Allow for a transfer permit when ownership changes or permits are renewed if continued use is compatible with wilderness management objectives.

Emphasize the number of wilderness rangers during the restricted season in heavily used, popular areas to maximize personal contacts with wilderness users.

**Threatened, Endangered,  
or Sensitive Species**

Protected sites of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants and animals by restricting or redirecting use.

**Timber**

Allow no timber harvesting.

**Visual Resources**

Meet the Preservation Visual Quality Objective (VQO).

**Watershed**

Permit weather modification as long as effects on climate, wilderness use seasons, and other resources are acceptable.

Incorporate the Forest Watershed Improvement Needs Plan while protecting wilderness values.

Educate the public with regard to Giardia.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Incorporate both wild and scenic river management direction and wilderness management where a designated river segment extends into designated wilderness.

## Wilderness

Establish capacity limits for each wilderness and implement entry limits on specific trailheads to regulate use when use exceeds capacity.

Establish the season during which entry limits will apply. The restricted use season may vary from one trailhead to another.

Redirect or restrict use where necessary to restore impaired wilderness resources.

Limit party size and number of stock per party to a level that protects social and natural resource values. The level may vary within or between wildernesses.

Apply trailhead entry quotas to both commercial and noncommercial users.

Determine the current level of noncommercial and commercial backpacking and mountaineering use. Establish an appropriate level for these types of use.

Apply quotas on the Pacific Crest Trail to only those travelers who begin their trip at a trailhead with quotas.

Prohibit wheeled mechanical devices including, but not limited to, bicycles, wagons, and carts except those needed for administrative purposes or for use by physically handicapped persons under special permit.

Construct no benches, tables, or shelters.

Allow plant collection and scientific research under permit on a case-by-case basis.

Require the removal of airplane wreckage by owner or insurance company.

Notify the appropriate military authority of low-level flights over wilderness until flights cease. Coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration to update wilderness boundaries on flight charts.

Limit commercial wilderness activities under permit to those that meet public needs and cannot be provided elsewhere.

Permit no competitive type events in wilderness.

## Wildlife

Protect the integrity of natural ecological processes by restoring those processes that have been altered by human activities.

Protect key habitat for Management Indicator Species by limiting or distributing use.

Manage mountain sheep habitat to maintain and/or enhance carrying capacity. Relocate existing or construct new recreation trails only in areas where the trails will not cause significant adverse effects upon the use by mountain sheep of their habitat. Identify and provide for this sensitivity in the appropriate wilderness management plan.

Licensed hunting is allowed.

## **Proposed Wilderness (#2)**

The purpose of this prescription is to recognize and protect wilderness attributes of Further Planning Areas recommended for wilderness pending Congressional designation.

The emphasis is on providing traditional public uses during the interim that do not jeopardize designation as wilderness.

This prescription applies to the Table Mountain and Tioga Lake Further Planning Areas and portions of the White Mountains and Paiute-Mazourka Further Planning Areas. These total approximately 172,600 National Forest System acres.

<b><u>Element</u></b>	<b><u>Management Direction</u></b>
<b>Air Quality</b>	Maintain Air Quality Related Values.
<b>Energy</b>	Permit no new energy developments or leases.
<b>Facilities</b>	Allow no road construction or reconstruction.  Maintain, reconstruct, or construct trails on the current inventory according to established Forest-wide priorities.  Retain other facilities if desired, but do not expand them.
<b>Fisheries</b>	Continue current management, including aerial fish stocking and habitat improvement to the extent that wilderness values are not adversely affected. Licensed fishing is allowed.
<b>Lands</b>	Consider the acquisition of private lands inside the proposed wilderness boundary on a Forest-wide priority basis.  Allow special uses to continue, but not to expand. If a current permit terminates or expires, a new permit will only be issued on an annual basis.
<b>Minerals</b>	Determine the validity of existing mining claims when a plan of operations is submitted.  Administer operating plans to protect inherent wilderness attributes and grandfathered valid existing rights.  Allow no mineral leasing, including geothermal leasing, in proposed wilderness.  Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals in proposed wilderness.

Pest Management	Allow insect and disease infestations to run their natural courses except where they would unacceptably threaten the wilderness resource, the resources of adjacent lands, livestock, or human health and welfare.
Protection	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.  Minimize environmental disturbance when suppressing fires.
Range	Manage the grazing program to protect wilderness values. Address specific management needs in Allotment Management Plans.
Recreation	Allow traditional recreational uses, including motorized access, to continue unless wilderness values are seriously threatened. Allow OHV use on existing designated routes. OSVs may be used off roads and trails unless restricted by the new Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map. This map will be developed as an update of the 1977 Motor Vehicle Use Map with public participation during Plan implementation.  Manage for Primitive or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS classes.
Special Interest Areas	Propose no new Special Interest Areas in proposed wilderness.
Timber	Allow no timber harvesting.  Allow public fuelwood gathering of only dead and down material unless wilderness values are threatened.
Visual Resources	Meet the Preservation VQO.
Watershed	Incorporate the Forest Watershed Improvement Needs Plan while protecting wilderness values.
Wilderness	Replace this prescription with Prescription #1, amending the Forest Plan as necessary, if and when Congress designates additional wildernesses.
Wildlife	Manage wildlife habitat while protecting wilderness values.  Manage mountain sheep habitat to maintain and/or enhance carrying capacity. Relocate existing or

construct new recreation trails only in areas where the trails will not cause significant adverse effects upon the use by mountain sheep of their habitat. Identify and provide for this sensitivity in the appropriate wilderness management plan.

Licensed hunting is allowed.

### Mountain Sheep Habitat (#3)

The purpose of this prescription is to provide high quality habitat for mountain sheep to maintain or enhance existing population levels.

The emphasis is on mountain sheep habitat. Other management activities will be curtailed if they present unresolvable conflicts with mountain sheep management objectives.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
<b>Energy</b>	Recommend in favor of energy development where development is determined to be compatible with wildlife values. Recommend against energy development where impacts to wildlife values cannot be mitigated or are unacceptable.
<b>Facilities</b>	Locate trails and manage their use so they do not conflict with mountain sheep habitat.  Establish no roads or heliports where they would conflict with mountain sheep.
<b>Minerals</b>	Commensurate with the sensitivity of mountain sheep on their wintering grounds, work with claimants and mineral operators to limit mineral exploration and development activities within mountain sheep winter range during the period when the animals are using the winter range.
<b>Protection</b>	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.  Prescribed fire may be used for habitat improvement.
<b>Range</b>	Permit no increase in livestock use if the increase is shown to be deleterious to mountain sheep populations.
<b>Recreation</b>	Manage for Primitive and Semi-Primitive ROS classes. Allow no OHV/OSV use.  Resolve conflicts between mountain sheep and hang gliding in favor of mountain sheep.
<b>Visual Resources</b>	Meet the Retention VQO.
<b>Wildlife</b>	Evaluate potential transplant sites, giving preference to sites that have no current livestock grazing.

## Mule Deer Habitat (#4)

The purpose of this prescription is to preserve or enhance key mule deer habitat in order to maintain or increase existing population levels.

The emphasis is on key mule deer habitat, fawning areas, winter range, migration corridors, and holding areas. Other management activities will be prohibited or reduced if they present unresolvable conflicts in these key areas.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Energy	Recommend in favor of energy development where development is determined to be compatible with wildlife values. Recommend against energy development where impacts to wildlife values cannot be mitigated or are unacceptable.
Facilities	Locate trails and manage their use so they do not conflict with mule deer habitat.  Do not establish roads or heliports where they would conflict with mule deer.
Minerals	Work with claimants and mineral operators to limit mineral exploration/development activities within mule deer migration corridors during migration periods, within key fawning areas, and on key winter range if it is determined on a project-specific basis that mineral operations would affect mule deer usage of these habitats.
Protection	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.  Prescribed fire may be used for habitat improvement.
Range	Manage livestock Animal Unit Months (AUMs) on key deer winter range and other critical habitats such as migration routes, holding areas and fawning areas according to objectives of the Deer Herd Management Plans approved jointly by the Forest, the Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Game.
Recreation	Design new development so that the integrity of mule deer staging areas, migration corridors and key habitat is maintained. Allow the dispersed activities appropriate to Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roaded Natural ROS classes. OHVs are permitted on

existing designated roads and trails unless otherwise restricted. OSVs are prohibited unless otherwise indicated on the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.

**Riparian Areas**

Improve riparian areas where necessary to enhance fawning habitat.

**Timber**

Leave vegetation necessary for thermal and hiding cover.

**Visual Resources**

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

**Wildlife**

Maintain habitat quality in key fawning areas, winter range, holding areas, and key migration routes.

Manage vegetation on key habitat areas for optimum forage-to-cover ratios.

Manage the remaining non-key winter range to provide the composition and seral stages of preferred brush species that will meet the dietary needs of mule deer.

Restrict vehicular access as necessary to protect deer winter range, holding areas, and known key fawning areas.

Coordinate with Bureau of Land Management's Benton-Owens Valley Management Framework Plan for seasonal road closure dates to benefit mule deer.

## Research Natural Areas (#5)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain the ecological integrity of target vegetation types, for research, study, and observation.

The emphasis is placed on maintaining natural ecological processes.

Both existing and recommended Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are included. Additional site-specific direction may be found in the documents that established the RNA or subsequent management plans for established RNA. This prescription applies to the following:

### Forest Research Natural Areas

<u>Research Natural Area</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Data Base Acres</u>	<u>Vegetation Type</u>	<u>Physiographic Province</u>
Indiana Summit	Est. 1932	1,162	Jeffrey pine	Basin Ranges
Harvey Monroe Hall	Est. 1933	3,883	subalpine	Sierra Nevada
White Mountain	Est. 1953	2,004	bristlecone	Basin Ranges
Last Chance Mdw.	Est. 1982	660	foxtail pine	Basin Ranges
Sentinel Meadow	Est. 1983	1,897	lodgepole pine	Sierra Nevada
Whippoorwill Flat	Rec. 1985	3,328	pinyon pine	Basin Ranges
McAfee	Rec. 1985	2,627	alpine fellfield	Basin Ranges

#### Element

#### Management Direction

#### Cultural Resources

Protect identified cultural resources.

Coordinate ground-disturbing activities with the Pacific Southwest Research Station Director. As a general rule, excavations for cultural resources may be permitted when the natural integrity of the RNA is not endangered.

#### Energy

Allow no energy leasing, exploration or development.

#### Facilities

Do not construct new roads or trails or improve the standard of existing roads and trails unless they specifically contribute to the research objectives of the area.

	Maintain existing roads and trails to current standards.
<b>Fisheries</b>	Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game to leave all waterways unstocked.
<b>Geology</b>	Allow no alteration of the groundwater system.
<b>Lands</b>	Permit no utility or transportation rights-of-way.  Permit scientific study by special use permit or cooperative agreement only. All permits or agreements are executed between the proponent and the Pacific Southwest Research Station Director with prior approval of the District Ranger and Forest Supervisor.
<b>Minerals</b>	Recommend and/or maintain withdrawal from mineral entry.  Allow no surface occupancy for mineral leasing including geothermal.  Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals.
<b>Pest Management</b>	Allow forces of nature to prevail. Manage pests only when necessary to preserve the values for which the RNA was established.
<b>Protection</b>	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
<b>Range</b>	Restrict livestock to those areas where grazing is essential for the maintenance of a specific vegetative type. Otherwise, permit no livestock grazing.
<b>Recreation</b>	Allow the dispersed recreation activities appropriate to the Primitive ROS class, but discourage or expressly prohibit any public uses that contribute to modification of the area.  Prohibit overnight camping, campfires, and motorized uses including OHVs unless authorized by special use permit. OSVs are prohibited unless otherwise indicated on the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.
<b>Research and Study</b>	Make areas available for maximum scientific and academic uses that are nondestructive and nonmanipulative.

<b>Riparian</b>	Allow no modification of riparian areas.
<b>Timber</b>	Allow no commercial timber harvesting or gathering of fuelwood.  Allow no timber stand improvement or reforestation.
<b>Vegetation</b>	Allow no management practices except as required to preserve or restore the vegetative condition for which the area was established.
<b>Visual</b>	Meet the Preservation VQO.
<b>Watershed</b>	Allow no modification of soil or watercourses. Restore man-induced damage to a natural condition.
<b>Wilderness</b>	Uphold the laws governing use and management of wilderness where an RNA is located within a designated wilderness area.  Follow the more stringent RNA requirements where management differs from that of wilderness.
<b>Wildlife</b>	Allow legal hunting and fishing.  Allow no enhancement of wildlife habitat.

## Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (#6)

The purpose of this prescription is to provide for the management of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area as directed by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-425).

The emphasis is to protect the area's scenic, geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources while providing for public recreational use, and permitting scientific study and research in accordance with Title III Section 304 of the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

This prescription applies to the lands within the boundaries as described in the Act. The Scenic Area encompasses approximately 116,000 gross acres of the Basin including Mono Lake.

### Planning Direction

Section 304 directs in part that a "detailed and comprehensive" management plan for the Scenic Area be submitted within three years after enactment. Direction stipulates that the management plan must be consistent with the protection of water rights, and shall include but not be limited to the following:

- an inventory of natural (including geologic) and cultural resources;
- general development plans for public use facilities including cost estimates;
- measures for preservation of the natural and cultural resources.

Section 304 also directs that the management plan provide for hunting and fishing including commercial brine shrimp operations authorized under state law in accordance with applicable federal and state law, except as otherwise necessary for reasons of public health and safety, the protection of resources, scientific research activities, or public use and enjoyment.

The required Comprehensive Management Plan for the Scenic Area will be tiered to the Forest Plan by:

- identification of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area as a Management Area. However, this Management Area will be assessed in the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Scenic Area.
- the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, which apply to the Scenic Area.

## Ancient Bristlecone Forest(#7)

The purpose of this prescription is to protect the Ancient Bristlecone Pines for public enjoyment and scientific study. The area was established in 1958 to recognize the botanical, scenic, and historical values on its 28,991 acres (28,887 National Forest System; 104 private). The area is classified as a Special Interest Area.

The emphasis is on maintaining near-natural conditions. All activities are subordinate to the needs of protecting and preserving bristlecone pines and wood remnants.

Additional direction may be found in the establishment record and subsequent management plan.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Energy	Allow no energy exploration or development.
Facilities	Allow administrative facilities at locations and with designs that meet interpretive needs.  Limit roads and trails to existing routes except for interpretive roads and trails.
Geology	Locate interpretive facilities, including parking areas and trails, outside areas identified as having high risk from landslide or seismic processes.
Lands	Acquire all non-federal lands.  Permit no new above-ground utility rights-of-way.  Place existing utilities underground if this is technically feasible.
Minerals	Maintain current mineral withdrawal.  Coordinate closely with operators of valid mining claims to minimize and mitigate land disturbances as much as possible in proposed operation plans.  Allow no surface occupancy for mineral leasing, including geothermal.  Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals.
Pest Management	Allow forces of nature to prevail. Manage pests only when necessary to preserve the values for which the Special Interest Area was established.
Protection	Control all wildfires.

Use no heavy equipment or fire-retardant chemicals for controlling fires without approval of the Forest Supervisor.

Allow natural fuels to accumulate.

**Range**

Permit livestock grazing.

**Recreation**

Allow the recreation activities appropriate in Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roaded Natural ROS classes.

Provide Development Level 3 and 4 (highly developed) day-use facilities giving priority to those facilities that protect the area.

Construct interpretive trails, observation areas, visitor contact facilities, and parking areas at locations that do not impact major known scientific study sites.

Construct no overnight camping facilities within the area.

Prohibit overnight camping and open fires. Liquid fuel stoves may be used within vehicles.

Prohibit OHV use and restrict vehicle travel including bicycles to designated routes. OSVs are prohibited for recreation use.

Allow overnight parking only in designated parking areas during hunting season or by permit.

**Riparian**

Allow no modification of riparian areas.

**Scientific Study**

Make the area available for scientific and academic uses that do not cause observable degradation.

**Timber**

Allow no timber harvesting.

Allow no fuelwood gathering.

Allow no removal of wood remnants except for scientific research or museum specimens.

**Vegetation**

Allow management practices which do not threaten the vegetative condition for which the area was established.

**Visual**

Manage for the Retention VQO except where necessary to provide public use facilities.

**Watershed**

Allow no modification of soil or watercourses except to restore damaged areas to a natural condition or to control or prevent erosion.

**Wildlife**

Allow legal hunting.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers (#8)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain rivers that have been recommended or designated in a free-flowing condition. This is described in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

The emphasis is on scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, vegetation, and cultural values for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The North Fork of the Kern River and the South Fork of the Kern River have been designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Segments of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River will be recommended for wild and scenic river status in the Sierra National Forest Plan as the river runs between the two Forests.

This prescription applies to a linear strip paralleling these rivers and extending for approximately one-quarter mile on each side of their banks.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Energy	Permit no hydroelectric development, impoundment, or diversion.
Facilities	Allow limited road construction within recreation or scenic segments. Disallow roads within wild segments.  Allow trails and trail bridges within all segments.
Fisheries	Protect and improve golden trout habitat.
Geology	Consider the risk from landslide and seismic processes when locating new campsites or trails.
Lands	Acquire non-federal land and easements to implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and to facilitate management of other resources.  Ensure legal access to non-federal land that is not acquired.  Permit no utility rights-of-way within wild segments.  Permit utility rights-of-way within recreation and scenic segments when there are no alternatives.
Minerals	<u>Recreation and Scenic Segments</u>  Identify and determine the validity of all mining claims on public lands when a plan of operations is submitted.  Allow mineral leasing, exploration and development including geothermal, where accomplished with no

surface occupancy of the one-quarter-mile strip on either side of the river. This does not preclude crossing the strip with linear facilities at designated locations.

Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals.

Wild Segment

Allow no mineral leasing, exploration or development including geothermal.

Permit no sales or extraction of common variety minerals.

**Protection**

Recreation and Scenic Segments

Control all wildfire and use a technique of fire suppression that minimizes landscape alteration and ground disturbance.

Wild Segment

Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human caused fires.

**Range**

Recreation and Scenic Segments

Permit grazing.

Permit existing structural improvements.

Permit expansion of structural improvements outside designated wilderness provided they meet assigned VQOs and allow for user access.

Wild Segment

Permit grazing.

Limit structural improvements to existing structures.

**Recreation**

Cooperate with the adjacent National Forests in the Wild and Scenic River recommendation process and in the construction of management plans for the rivers.

Increase public awareness and understanding of the management direction for Wild and Scenic River segments through use of brochures and signs located outside the area.

### Recreation Segment

Allow the recreation activities appropriate in Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Allow OHV use on designated roads and trails only. OSVs may be used off roads and trails unless restricted by the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map. Provide for camping at designated sites only.

### Scenic Segment

Allow the recreation activities appropriate in Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Allow OHV use on designated roads or trails only. OSVs may be used off roads and trails unless restricted by the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Provide for recreation in a near-natural setting while allowing other compatible uses.

Allow camping and OHV use at locations at least 100 feet from the river's edge.

### Wild Segment

Allow the recreation activities included in Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized classes. Allow no OHV/OSV use.

Provide for recreation in a primitive setting that offers considerable physical challenge and requires well-developed outdoor skills.

Allow camping at locations at least one hundred feet from the river's edge.

Provide access by trail for non-motorized use only.

Increase public awareness and understanding of the management direction for Wild and Scenic River segments through use of brochures and signs located outside the area.

### Riparian

Protect river, river banks and dependent plants and animals from alteration.

### Timber

#### Recreation and Scenic Segments

Limit timber harvest to maintain or enhance user safety and scenic quality.

Allow timber stand improvement and reforestation as necessary to maintain or enhance the health and vigor of the stand.

Wild Segment

Do not allow timber harvesting.

Do not allow timber stand improvement and reforestation.

**Visual**

Recreation Segment: Meet inventoried VQOs.

Scenic Segment: Meet the Retention VQO.

Wild Segment: Meet the Preservation VQO.

**Watershed**

Allow no modification of soil or watercourses except to restore damaged areas to a natural state.

Control or prevent erosion.

**Wilderness**

Incorporate both wilderness management direction and wild and scenic river management direction where a classified river segment extends into designated wilderness. Apply the most restrictive requirements.

## Uneven-aged Timber Management (#9)

The purpose of this prescription is to manage suitable timberlands for the production of wood products using silvicultural treatments that maintain options for other resource emphases during the planning period.

The emphasis is on the production of sawlogs and miscellaneous wood products.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Lands	Locate all private land boundaries prior to sale layout.
Protection	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
Range	Permit grazing.
Recreation	<p>Provide for dispersed and developed recreation opportunities as defined by mapped ROS classes. Allow OHV use only on existing roads and trails unless authorized by permit. OSVs are permitted on designated corridors, trails and open areas identified on the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.</p> <p>Close or re-route designated over-snow trails during active timber sale operations.</p> <p>Permit base facilities and access within this area to serve alpine ski development. These will be identified and evaluated in project-level environmental analysis.</p>
Timber	<p>Utilize uneven-aged management techniques (group selection or single tree selection) using these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- at least three age classes,</li><li>- each age class comprises at least 10 percent of the basal area of the stand,</li><li>- at least twenty years between age classes,</li><li>- one class in the upper third at end of rotation period,</li><li>- 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,</li><li>- product objective is large-diameter (~24") sawtimber.</li></ul> <p>Choose site preparation activities that are most compatible with other resource needs.</p>

Implement precommercial and commercial thinnings and sanitation cuttings to be compatible with other resource needs.

Retain the integrity of the hardwood component.

**Visual Resources**

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

**Wildlife**

Maintain an average of 2.2 snags per acre greater than 16-24 inches in diameter (snags may be clustered at a greater density to meet per-acre average).

Maintain an average of 0.5 snags per acre greater than 24 inches in diameter (snags may be clustered at a greater density to meet per-acre average).

Maintain and enhance cover and forage areas for deer in key fawning and migration areas.

Maintain 10 percent of timbered acreage (both suitable and unsuitable) in old growth.

## High Level Timber Management (#10)

The purpose of this prescription is to manage suitable timberlands for maximum production of wood products. Management of other resources will be compatible with timber management activities.

The emphasis is on maximum production of sawlogs and miscellaneous wood products.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Lands	Locate all private properties before sale layout.
Protection	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
Range	Allow no grazing of plantations until the potential for damage to trees no longer exists.
Recreation	<p>Provide for dispersed recreation as defined by the Semi-Primitive Motorized and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Allow OHV use only on existing and new roads and trails. Allow OSVs on designated corridors, trails and open areas identified on the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.</p> <p>Close or re-route designated oversnow trails during active timber sale operations.</p>
Timber	<p>Allow for rotation lengths of 120 years for lodgepole pine; 140 years for Jeffrey pine; and 160 years for red fir.</p> <p>Remove overstory when the understory is well established and at least two feet high.</p> <p>Keep clearcut units usually to a maximum of twenty acres. Do not exceed forty acres except in the case of catastrophic occurrences such as fire or insect and disease; on specific timber sales only after sixty-day public notice and review by the Regional Forester.</p> <p>Use machine piling and burning and prescribed fire for site preparation in most cases. Consider other methods if other values are at risk.</p> <p>Release seedlings from competing vegetation in plantations as needed to meet expected growth rates. At the project level, consider a full range of methods to suppress competing vegetation, including mechanical, biological, and chemical techniques and</p>

prescribed fire. Base selection on an analysis of relative effectiveness, environmental effects, and costs.

Control animal damage as needed to protect regeneration considering a full range of methods on a site-specific basis.

Apply precommercial thinning to established plantations and stands that result from overstory removal.

Perform commercial thinning and sanitation intermediate harvests. Begin commercial thinning as soon as yields are available, and assure maximum useable cubic growth in the remaining stand. Use sanitation cutting to capture anticipated stand mortality.

Obliterate all unneeded roads after logging.

Retain the integrity of the hardwood component.

#### Visual Resources

Meet inventoried VQOs.

## Range (#11)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain or increase forage production and achieve uniform livestock distribution through maintenance or expansion of structural and nonstructural range improvements.

The emphasis is on maintaining a healthy, productive range land resource.

This prescription applies to sparsely forested or non-forested lands of high range productivity (400 plus pounds of palatable forage per acre) within allotments.

This prescription represents the maximum management intensity to be applied and allots up to 50 percent of available forage within one-half mile of water for utilization by livestock. Rejuvenation and type conversion will be practiced on vegetation types where it is cost-effective and treatment is necessary to maintain or improve forage production.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Protection	<p>Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.</p> <p>Prescribed fire may be used to increase forage production.</p>
Range	<p>Allow livestock to utilize up to 50 percent of available palatable forage within one-half mile of water developments.</p> <p>Apply the most intensive management on primary range that has 0-30 percent slopes.</p> <p>Make water developments available to maximize forage utilization.</p> <p>Treat vegetation on suitable range to maintain or increase forage production.</p> <p>Develop Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) in an interdisciplinary manner with public involvement, including permittees, state or other federal agencies, and other interested organizations or individuals.</p> <p>Rank each allotment on the Forest according to priority in terms of AMP update.</p>
Recreation	<p>Allow the dispersed recreation activities appropriate in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes. Allow OHV use only on existing roads and trails. OSVs may be</p>

used off roads and trails unless restricted by the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.

**Timber**

Take advantage of public fuelwood gathering where that activity would aid in clearing for type conversion projects.

**Visual Resources**

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

**Wildlife**

Evaluate the potential effect of any range improvement project on fish and wildlife habitat.

## Concentrated Recreation Area (#12)

The purpose of this prescription is to manage concentrated recreation areas to maintain or enhance major recreational values and opportunities.

The emphasis is on providing a broad range of facilities and opportunities that will accommodate large numbers of people safely, conveniently, and with little resource damage. Other resource activities will not be prohibited, but they are secondary to recreational values and use and should not detract from them.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Cultural Resources	Integrate cultural resource interpretive opportunities with developed facilities.  Protect significant cultural resource values from increased exposure to vandalism.
Diversity	Maintain a high level of diversity by allowing for vegetative management activities compatible with recreation objectives.
Fisheries	Improve fisheries habitat commensurate with increased recreational use.
Geology	Consider the risk from landslide and seismic processes when locating new campsites or trails.
Minerals	Ensure that the impacts to the visual resource and developed recreational facilities and programs are appropriately considered in environmental analyses studying the effects of proposed plans of operations for mineral explorations/developments. Ensure that impacts to these resources are mitigated to the lowest level reasonably possible.
Pest Management	Detect the presence of pests early, so that proper pest management measures can be applied to vegetation in highly susceptible concentrated recreation areas.  Manage vegetation to specifically include pest management considerations.
Protection	Control all wildfire.
Range	Maintain at a level compatible with recreation use.
Recreation	Maintain Roaded Natural and Rural ROS classes.  Control camping. Allow no dispersed camping unless designated in Management Area Direction and confine overflow occupancy to acceptable sites. Control

fuelwood removal consistent with availability, ROS class, and VQOs.

Allow OHV use on designated routes and trails. OSVs may be used off roads and trails unless restricted by the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Develop full trail systems to accommodate heavy dispersed activity and to protect sensitive riparian and water areas.

Permit base facilities and access within this area to serve alpine ski development. These will be identified and evaluated in project-level environmental analysis.

#### **Timber**

Apply selection harvest, stand maintenance, and other silvicultural methods to maintain or enhance the recreation benefits and attractions provided by a healthy and vigorous multi-aged stand. Other benefiting resources may include riparian areas, wildlife, and fish.

Develop and implement silvicultural prescriptions that specifically include pest management considerations.

#### **Visual Resources**

Meet the Retention VQO for all new, non-recreation-oriented facilities and the Partial Retention VQO for all other facilities, including recreation sites.

Meet the Retention VQO when implementing all other resource activities.

#### **Wildlife**

Avoid critical or significant wildlife habitats such as key winter deer range, migration routes, holding areas and fawning areas when developing recreation facilities.

## Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study (#13)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain and manage existing downhill ski areas for public use and to complete ski area studies currently in progress.

The emphasis is on upgrading and expanding facilities to meet allowable capacity (Skiers-At-One-Time) consistent with approved plans. The direction applies to existing facilities, expansion of existing ski areas and the construction of new facilities that might ensue from studies in progress.

This prescription applies to the area within the permit boundaries of the Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain Ski Areas and the Sherwin Bowl area that is currently being studied in a separate environmental analysis.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
<b>Minerals</b>	Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry.
<b>Protection</b>	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
<b>Recreation</b>	<p>Allow the recreation activities appropriate in the Rural ROS class. Allow no OHV use. OSVs are prohibited except for corridors identified in the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Plan.</p> <p>Permit further expansion of areas already developed for alpine skiing. Expansion may include runs, lifts, base areas, and access to a degree that is often not compatible with other resource management options.</p> <p>Design and locate improvements to provide for user safety and to harmonize with the natural environment.</p> <p>Follow construction and reconstruction standards specified in the approved Master Development Plan for the area.</p> <p>Allow limited day use and interpretive developments if compatible with ski area development.</p> <p>Establish user-access and vehicle-access controls by agreement between Forest Service and concessionaires.</p>
<b>Timber</b>	Maintain timber stands for health and vigor only. Timber harvest is incidental to ski area expansion.
<b>Visual Resources</b>	Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO for runs, lifts, and base areas as seen at middleground distances from Sensitivity Level 1 routes and occupancy sites.

Apply rehabilitation practices where the above VQOs are not being met.

**Watershed**

Monitor water quality to ensure compliance with water discharge requirements.

Adhere to Erosion Prevention Plans for each ski area.

**Wildlife**

The following wildlife elements apply only to the expansion of existing facilities and those under study:

Implement seasonal road closures as necessary to protect deer migrations to summer fawning areas.

Restrict the use of ski runs including construction and maintenance in deer migration corridors. These corridors are described in Management Area Direction.

Locate new base facilities where they will not significantly impact migration corridors, fawning areas or staging areas.

Ensure that new ski area facilities, associated developments and roads do not impact major mule deer migration corridors so as to significantly impede deer passage.

Ensure that new ski area facilities, associated developments and roads maintain the integrity of major mule deer staging areas during spring and fall migration.

## Potential Alpine Ski Area (#14)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain the potential for alpine ski development on those areas of the Forest offering downhill skiing opportunities of the highest quality. Manage areas with this prescription to retain their value as potential downhill ski developments.

The emphasis is on maintaining downhill run integrity and future base station locations.

When an area is developed for alpine skiing, Prescription #13 (Alpine Ski Areas, Existing and Under Study) will apply.

### Element

### Management Direction

#### Facilities

Recognize that those areas available for consideration for future alpine ski area development contain intrinsic scenic, vegetative, wildlife, and geologic values, as well as providing opportunities for dispersed recreation. Feasibility studies for any ski area proposals should consider the following:

1. Development should reflect a "light-on-the-land" philosophy.
2. Terrain modification for purposes of runs and lifts should be minimized.
3. Structures and other facilities should not be visible from adjacent wilderness.
4. Base facilities involving overnight facilities, large parking areas, and other similar permit operations should be restricted to the periphery of the development areas.
5. Lodge facilities within the development area should be limited to day use and reflect a "warming hut" design and function that is as much in harmony with the adjacent environment as possible considering structural limitations.
6. Construction of access roads within the development area should be limited to that needed to service day use facilities.
7. Access for purposes of lift construction should minimize earth disturbance by reliance on helicopters. Vehicle use for maintenance of water bars, sediment ponds, and lift maintenance should utilize routes which lay lightly on the land.

8. Design of access roads should minimize cuts and fills. Alignment should reflect a low design speed and incorporate curvature that minimizes visual impacts and accommodates access for other appropriate uses.
9. Layout of facilities and structures should minimize removal of vegetation.

**Lands** Issue land use permits only if they maintain alpine ski potential.

**Minerals** Manage mineral activity to maintain alpine ski potential.

**Protection** Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.

**Range** Allow all range management activities as long as they are compatible with maintaining alpine ski potential.

**Recreation** Allow no future planned campground developments to compete with base locations.

Coordinate motorized access needs with the transportation system needs for base development. Allow dispersed activities appropriate in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, and Roaded Natural ROS classes.

Allow OHV use only on designated roads and trails. OSVs are prohibited except for corridors identified in the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Plan.

Close or re-route designated oversnow trails during active timber sale operations.

**Research Natural Areas** Propose no RNAs.

**Timber** Utilize uneven-aged management techniques (group selection or single tree selection) using these criteria:

- at least three age classes,
- 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 end of 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.

Choose site preparation activities that are most compatible with other resource needs.

Implement precommercial and commercial thinnings and sanitation cuttings to be compatible with other resource needs.

Pure stands of red fir will not be entered during this planning period.

Retain the integrity of the hardwood component.

#### Visual Resources

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

#### Wildlife

Implement seasonal road closures as necessary to protect deer migration to summer fawning areas.

Restrict the use of ski runs including construction and maintenance in deer migration corridors. These corridors are described in Management Area Direction.

Locate new base facilities where they will not significantly impact migration corridors, fawning areas or staging areas.

Ensure that new ski area facilities, associated developments and roads do not impact major mule deer migration corridors so as to significantly impede deer passage.

Ensure that new ski area facilities, associated developments and roads maintain the integrity of major mule deer staging areas during spring and fall migration.

## Developed Recreation Site (#15)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain developed recreational facilities to provide necessary user services and to protect Forest resource values.

The emphasis is on the recognition of public demand for developed recreation site opportunities.

This prescription is applied to all existing and potential developed sites, whether publicly-operated or concessionaire-operated. The prescription does not apply to alpine ski developments.

The boundaries of developed recreation sites are not mapped because of the small scale of the map and the comparatively low acreage of the sites (existing and potential developed sites total only approximately 1,000 acres on the Forest).

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Cultural Resources	Protect significant cultural resources on developed recreational sites to reduce vandalism.  Design and implement interpretive sites oriented around key cultural resource values.
Energy	Permit energy development where compatible with recreation developments and use.
Minerals	Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry.
Pest Management	Detect the presence of pests early so proper pest management measures can be applied to vegetation in these highly susceptible developed recreation sites.  Manage vegetation to specifically include pest management considerations.
Protection	Control all wildfire.
Range	Permit no grazing in developed sites.
Recreation	Maintain Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Roaded Modified and Rural ROS classes.  Keep the size and extent of development consistent with ROS classifications.  Encourage increased year-round use of facilities where needed and where not limited by water or sanitation shutdown.  Confine vehicles to roads and parking spaces. Prohibit OHV use in and adjacent to sites except OHV

staging areas. OSVs are prohibited for recreation use.

Design and locate developments to reduce unnecessary vegetation and land-disturbing impacts.

Provide dispersed facilities that enhance developed site use: trails, signing, etc.

**Riparian Areas**

Locate and develop new sites to minimize impacts on riparian values.

**Timber**

Manage timber to eliminate safety hazards and to maintain the recreational attractions and values of sites. Maintain stands in a healthy, multi-aged condition.

Develop and implement silvicultural prescriptions that specifically include pest management considerations.

**Visual Resources**

Manage the vegetative settings in and adjacent to sites to meet the Retention VQO within the foreground zone.

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO for all facilities and developments as seen from Sensitivity Level 1 travel routes or occupancy sites one-half mile or more distant from that site.

Plant and maintain vegetation to provide screening and a natural-appearing setting that functionally and aesthetically satisfies users.

Emphasize the natural setting and do not dominate with facilities as seen from within the developed site.

**Wildlife**

Locate and develop new sites to minimize impacts on wildlife values.

## Dispersed Recreation (#16)

The purpose of this prescription is to maintain the potential for both winter and summer high-quality dispersed recreation opportunities.

The emphasis is on dispersed non-motorized recreation to accommodate the increasing public demand for nordic skiing and snowplay without significantly detracting from summer dispersed recreational opportunities.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Energy	Keep to a minimum any fencing because of energy development that excludes recreational use. Large tracts of land will not be fenced.
Geology	Consider the risk from landslide and seismic processes when locating nordic trails.  Provide information to nordic trail users on potential risks from landslide and seismic processes.
Minerals	Recommend withdrawal from mineral entry for base facility areas.
Protection	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
Recreation	Maintain ROS classes as inventoried.  Place parking areas in central locations to minimize their number. Meet user demands for increased parking and encourage the utilization of mass transit opportunities.  Provide additional parking and an increased trailhead system for dispersed nordic skiing.  Permit base facilities and access within this area to serve alpine ski development. These will be identified and evaluated in project-level environmental analysis.  Permit OSV use in corridors as identified on the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map. Allow OHV use only on designated roads and trails.  Permit commercial developed nordic operations only in areas of existing alpine base facilities or near the periphery of the prescription boundary. These will be modest day-use facilities.

Close or re-route designated oversnow trails during active timber sale operations.

Develop a recreation composite plan to include a coordinated trail system and support facilities. Coordinate trail systems with adjacent prescription areas.

## Timber

Utilize uneven-aged management techniques (group selection or single tree selection) using these criteria:

- at least three age classes,
- 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.

Choose site preparation activities that are most compatible with other resource needs.

Implement precommercial and commercial thinnings and sanitation cuttings to be compatible with other resource needs.

Plan cutting units, access routes, and skid-trail locations to complement dispersed recreation opportunities.

Manage red fir consistent with the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Retain the integrity of the hardwood component.

## Visual Resources

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

Maintain the Retention VQO as viewed from Sensitivity Level 1 roads and trails, recreation sites, and within all concentrated recreation areas.

Reroute nordic trails if necessary to maintain a natural-appearing landscape from them.

## Wildlife

Maintain the integrity of wildlife habitats.

## Semi-Primitive Recreation (#17)

The purpose of this prescription is to limit vehicular access to existing designated routes to protect and maintain recreation and/or wildlife values. These routes will be identified in the update of the Motor Vehicle Use Plan, which will be done when the Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan is implemented. The public will be included in the analysis and identification process.

Existing designated route access will be maintained. Repair and realignments of these designated routes is permitted to protect resources or resolve conflicts. Current road mileage will neither increase nor decrease from the designated routes identified in the updated Motor Vehicle Use Plan.

The emphasis is on providing semi-primitive dispersed recreation opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized.

This prescription applies to those areas that presently provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

### Element

### Management Direction

#### **Facilities**

Maintain existing roads at their current maintenance levels after designation. Close and/or obliterate those roads not designated for use.

Close new mining roads to public access. Obliterate these roads after they are abandoned.

#### **Minerals**

Manage minerals under existing mining laws and regulations.

#### **Protection**

Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.

#### **Recreation**

Allow the dispersed recreation activities appropriate in Primitive, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classes.

Manage recreational and scenic opportunities to maintain or enhance their values.

Provide for trail access consistent with management objectives for the area and ROS class. Allow OHV use only on designated roads and trails and in the Poleta Canyon designated open area. Allow OSV use off roads and trails unless restricted by the winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Allow newly developed recreational facilities consistent with ROS classes.

**Visual Resources**

Meet or exceed the Partial Retention VQO.

**Wildlife**

Maintain high habitat quality in key fawning areas, winter range, holding areas, and key migration routes.

Manage vegetation on key wildlife areas for recommended forage-to-cover ratios.

Improve riparian areas where necessary to enhance fawning habitat.

## Multiple Resource Area (#18)

The purpose of this prescription is to allow vehicle access on existing routes and areas designated as open. Roads can be constructed or upgraded to facilitate vehicle access for a full range of resource activities.

The emphasis is on providing for the use of all resources.

This prescription applies to lands managed without an individual resource emphasis.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
<b>Facilities</b>	Allow roads or other facilities to be constructed or upgraded in support of mineral, range, recreation, and other uses.
<b>Minerals</b>	Manage minerals under existing mining laws and regulations.
<b>Protection</b>	Use the fire suppression strategies of confinement, containment, or control for management of unplanned natural fires. Control all unplanned human-caused fires.
<b>Range</b>	Allow the use of the range by livestock, as specified in individual grazing permits, where grazing allotments overlap areas to which this management prescription is applied.  Allow the full use of public roads for access to range allotments.
<b>Recreation</b>	Allow the recreation activities appropriate in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, or Roaded Natural ROS classes.  Provide developed facilities to meet user needs and requirements.  Allow OHV use on both existing and new planned routes. OSVs may be used off roads and trails unless restricted by the Winter Motor Vehicle Use Map.
<b>Timber</b>	Provide personal use fuelwood in designated areas.
<b>Visual</b>	Meet VQOs as inventoried in the Roaded Natural ROS class.  Do not exceed the Partial Retention VQO in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS classes.

## Wildlife

Manage road and trail systems to maintain habitat quality for wildlife and fish. Road and trail design, construction and maintenance will allow for movements of wildlife and fish species between important portions of their home ranges.

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**Management Area Direction**

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## Management Area Direction

Management Area Direction provides general direction for management of an area whose boundaries are defined with reference to its unique characteristics. The direction for each area addresses the management situations and resource conditions that are specific to it.

The Forest is divided into twenty Management Areas. Each area is managed under a different set of prescriptions that reflect varying resource emphases. In addition, the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines apply to all the areas.

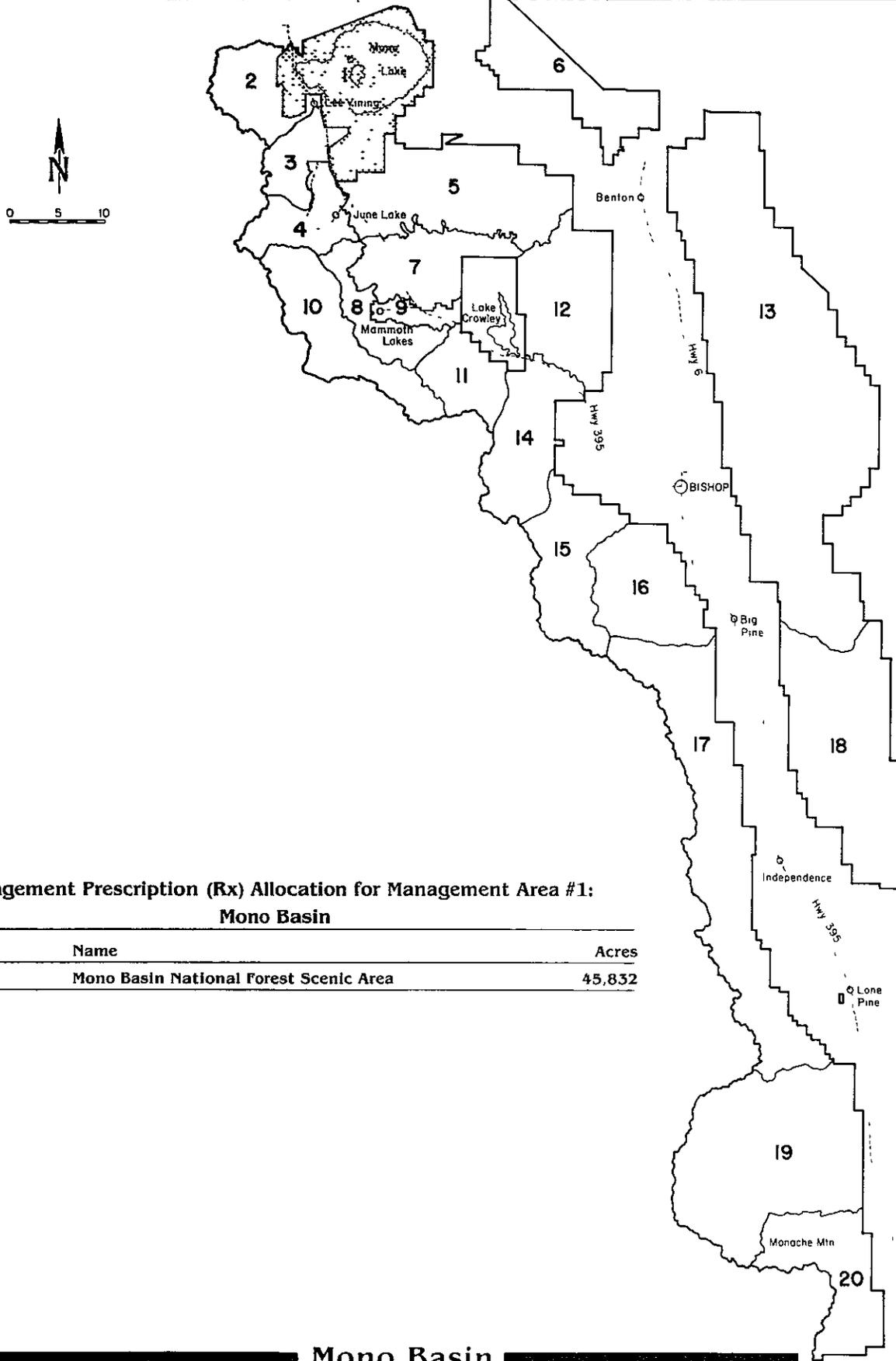
Descriptions of each Management Area are displayed in this section with maps that indicate the area's prescription boundaries.

The Management Areas and their locations in this chapter are:

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MANAGEMENT AREA # 1

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

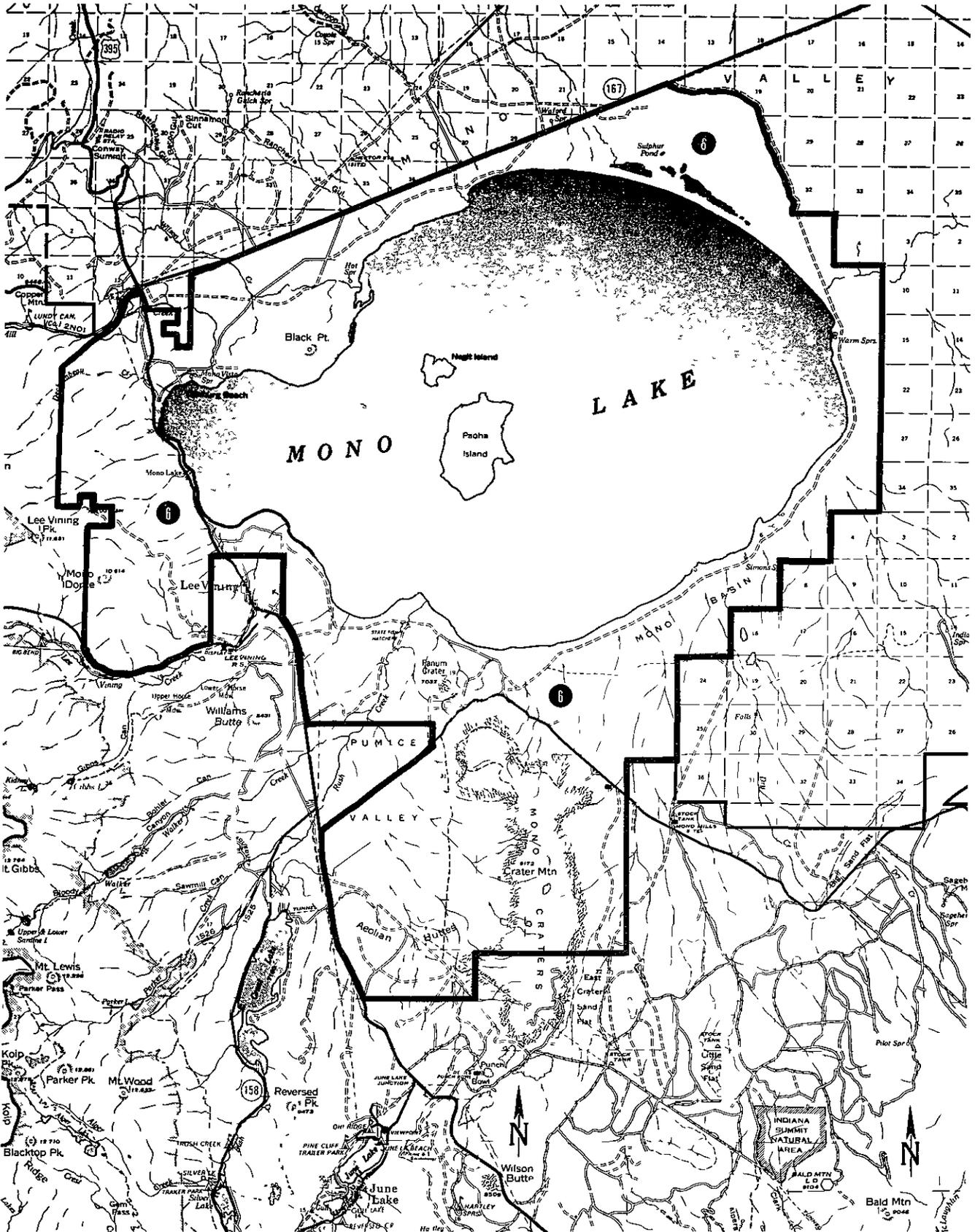


Management Prescription (Rx) Allocation for Management Area #1:  
Mono Basin

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 6	Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area	45,832

Mono Basin

# Mono Basin



⑩ Prescription Numbers    — Prescription Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Mono Basin (#1)

### Description

The Mono Basin Management Area corresponds to the boundaries of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area established by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (P.L. 98-425). It includes the lands immediately surrounding Mono Lake, the northern three-quarters of the Mono Craters, and about two miles of the Sierra Escarpment to the west of Mono Lake. Private land inholdings are numerous and include residences, grazing land, and a few businesses. The City of Los Angeles owns considerable acreage. Also included is a County Park, cemetery, and the area known as Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

Topography is nearly flat surrounding Mono Lake, including places where receding water levels have exposed about a mile of lake bottom and tufa formations at the south end. Over fifteen young volcanic cones create a startling backdrop to six-foot tall bitterbrush and sage. The Eastern Sierra Escarpment west of the lake is very steep, and composed of loose rock with pinyon/juniper cover. The high point here is approximately 10,614 feet at Mono Dome, compared to about 6,370 feet at the lake.

Cultural sites include prehistoric campsites and part of an historic railroad grade running from Mono Mills to Bodie.

Recent volcanic activity, evidence of numerous glacial advances, and perhaps the oldest lake in North America make the area important from the standpoint of natural history research and interpretation.

Block pumice unpatented mining claims cover the Mono Craters. Approximately four square miles of Jeffrey pine forest is located just east of the craters.

Portions of several cattle and sheep allotments extend into the Management Area.

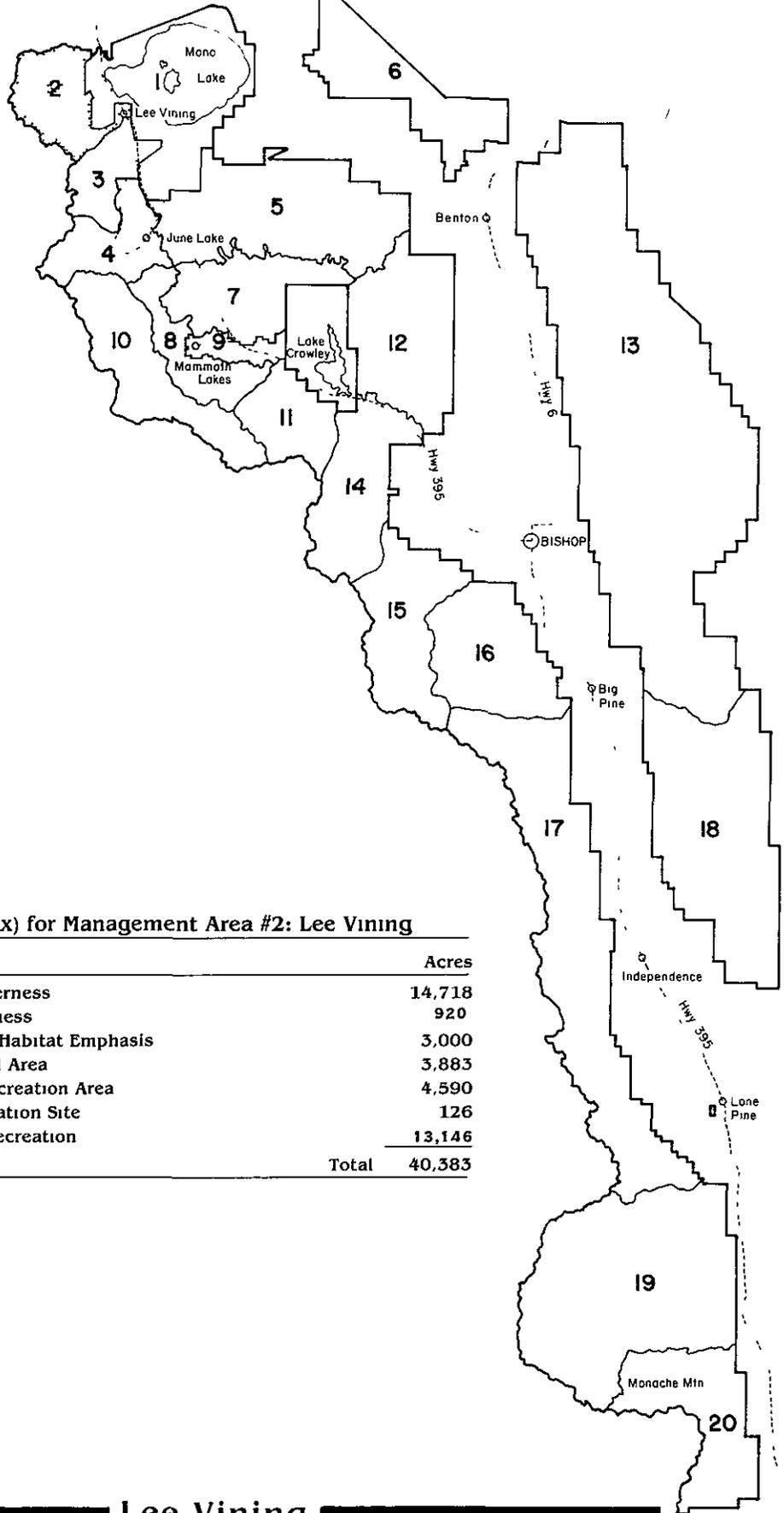
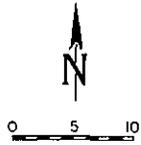
Current recreation use exceeds 150,000 visits per year, many to the south tufa area. Recreation activities include hunting, camping, exploring unique geologic features, and bird watching.

Mono Lake has historically provided habitat for more than 40,000 California gulls during the nesting season. This represents 20 percent of the world population and 95 percent of the state population of California gulls. The lake is also habitat for large numbers of migratory water birds, such as eared grebes, Wilson's phalarope, and snowy plovers.

### Management Area Direction

The Scenic Area will be managed under its own plan. Until this Management Plan is approved, interim management direction will be followed. The Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines apply to the Scenic Area and its Comprehensive Management Plan will be tiered to the Forest Plan.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

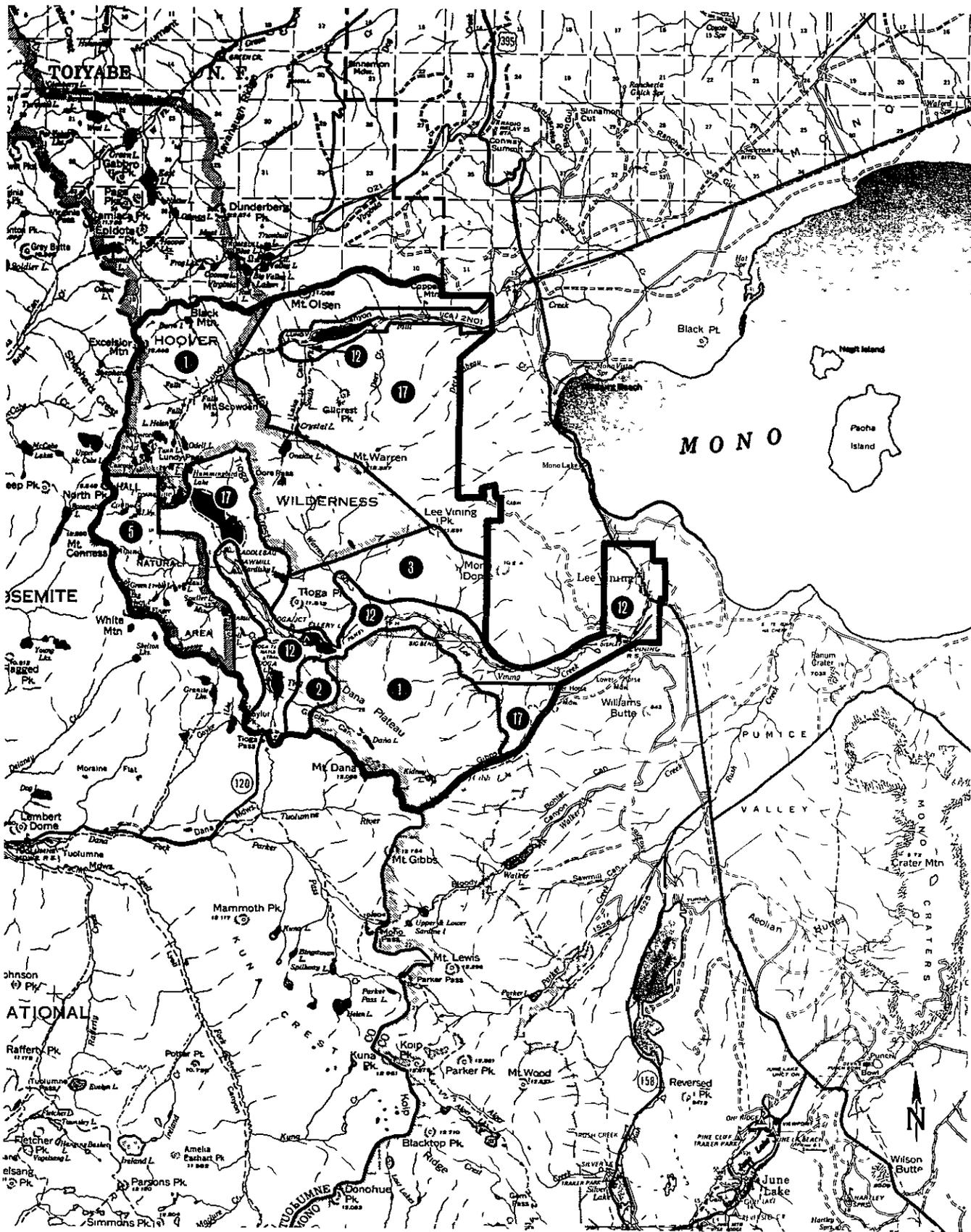


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #2: Lee Vining

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	14,718
Rx 2	Proposed Wilderness	920
Rx 3	Mountain Sheep Habitat Emphasis	3,000
Rx 5	Research Natural Area	3,883
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	4,590
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	126
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	13,146
Total		40,383

Lee Vining

# Lee Vining



⑩ Prescription Numbers    — Prescription Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Lee Vining (#2)

### Description

The Lee Vining Management Area includes Lee Vining Creek and Mill Creek (Lundy) drainages, the southernmost portion of the Hoover Wilderness, and the northernmost tip of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. It is located on the Eastern Sierra Escarpment generally west of the Town of Lee Vining and east of Yosemite National Park. Prominent features include the Town of Lee Vining, and Lundy, Saddlebag, Tioga and Ellery Lakes. Most of the land is in National Forest ownership. Two patented mining claims, Southern California Edison lands in part of the canyon bottoms, and the Town of Lee Vining are exceptions.

Topography is generally very steep and rocky with the notable exceptions of a high, sloping, generally inaccessible bench between the two canyons, and the Dana Plateau. Elevations range from 6,500 feet near Lee Vining to 13,053 feet at Mt. Dana. Access is essentially restricted to canyon bottoms, lakes, and roads. The Management Area contains the Tioga Lake Further Planning Area, evaluated in the RARE II process as having an unmodified natural appearance and providing visual protection to the Tioga Pass Road.

Vegetation is sparse on the steeper slopes where mountain mahogany, various other shrubs, and grasses prevail. Moraine slopes low in Lee Vining Canyon have good stands of pinyon/juniper and sage. The riparian areas contain heavy stands of aspen and willow with some conifers (Lee Vining Canyon has eight species of conifers), and spectacular meadows. The bench between the canyons contains aspen, lodgepole pine, and fir. The higher elevations are mostly alpine grasses with some lodgepole pine and mountain hemlock.

Cultural sites include the oldest camp site in the Mono Basin, located at the Lee Vining Ranger Station, and several 100-year-old mining buildings including the town of Bennettville.

The four lakes all have Southern California Edison dams, with a hydroelectric power plant located in each canyon. The two patented claims are still active in the area. One of these maintains a four-wheel-drive road to the wilderness boundary southwest of Lundy Lake.

There are portions of three grazing allotments in the eastern portion of the area.

The Management Area gets major recreation use from destination-oriented campers and fishermen. The area contains State Route 120, the east entrance to Yosemite National Park, six Forest Service campgrounds, two resorts (special use permits), and County campgrounds. Campgrounds and resorts are usually full all summer. Fishing on the four lakes is very popular.

The Hall Research Natural Area (Hall RNA) is located within this management area. It is devoted to the study of alpine vegetation. The Hall RNA is about nine square miles in size and contains numerous alpine lakes.

In 1985, twenty-seven Sierra Nevada mountain sheep were reintroduced into Lee Vining Canyon to increase the population network of this sub-species. Areas

considered important for these sheep (3,000 acres) will be managed with a mountain sheep emphasis.

Lundy Canyon has also been designated as a potential mountain sheep reintroduction site. An additional environmental analysis will be done prior to a mountain sheep reintroduction. This will determine management objectives. The Lee Vining Canyon and Lundy Canyon mountain sheep will be managed as one population.

### Management Area Direction

#### Cultural Resources

- Maintain the historic site of Bennettville in a state of arrested decay, and interpret for the public. Bennettville is recognized locally as an important site.

#### Geology

- Emphasize the explanation of glacial geology in any interpretive displays in Lee Vining Canyon.

#### Range

- Abolish the Sheep and Goat Lee Vining Creek Allotment and manage the allotment area for perpetuation of mountain sheep.

#### Recreation

- Pursue development of a self-service information display at the summit of Lee Vining Canyon.
- Pursue the acquisition of a recreation land base for development in both Lee Vining and Lundy Canyons.
- Prepare a recreation composite plan for Lee Vining Canyon only after the Forest has acquired a recreation land base in the Canyon.
- Do not rehabilitate Junction Campground to the extent that elimination ceases to be an option when the composite plan is developed.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plan for State Route 120 from the Junction of U.S. 395 to Tioga Pass.
- Minimize the visual impact of power production facilities, community utilities, and the Lee Vining Ranger Station complex.

#### Water

- Continue to coordinate with Southern California Edison to limit reservoir fluctuations to those that are reasonable for required operations.

- Negotiate with public utility entities to return water to portions of the following dewatered streams: Lee Vining Creek, Mill Creek, and Wilson Creek.

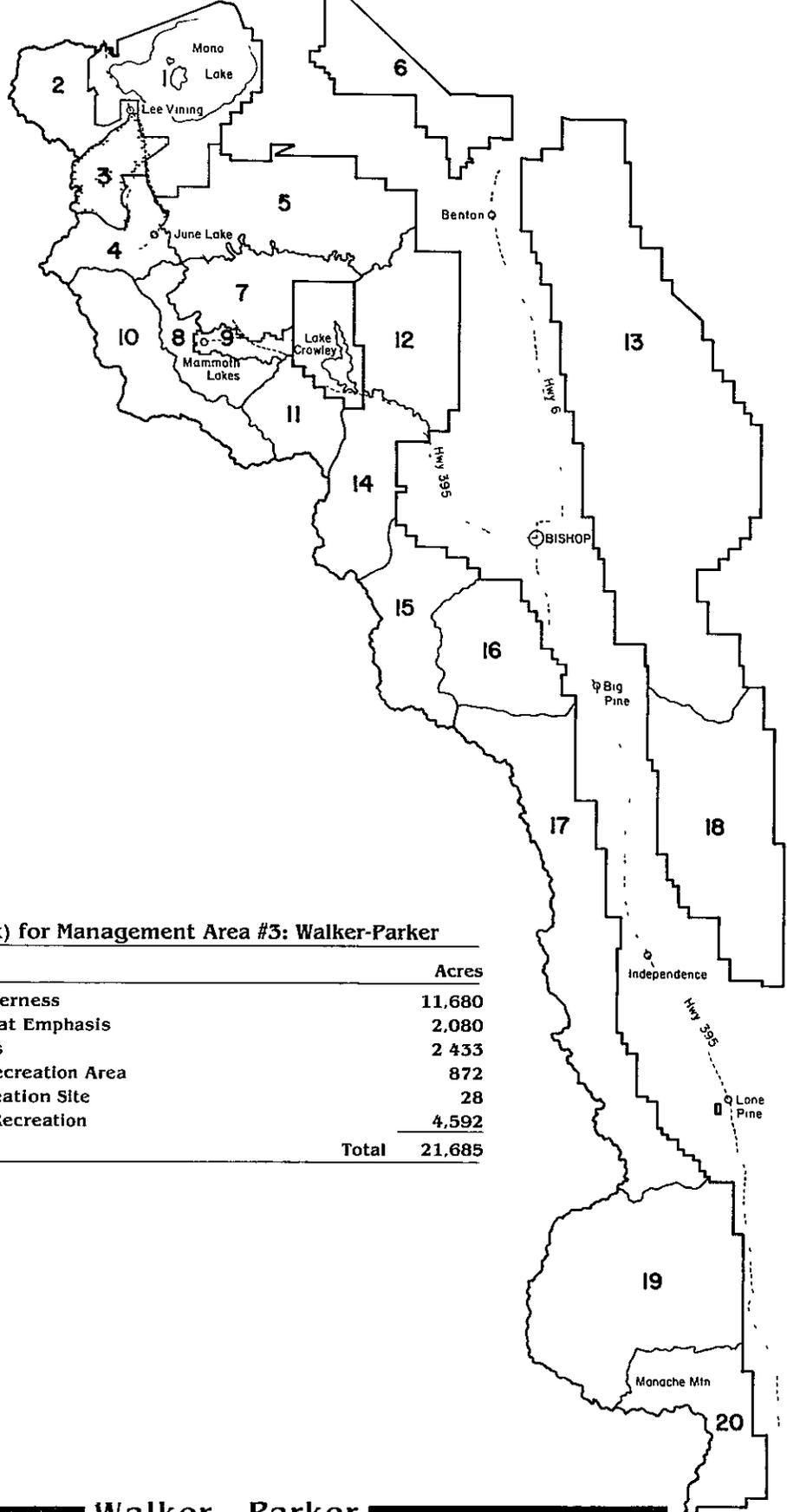
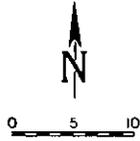
#### Wilderness

- Recommend the 920-acre Tioga Lake Further Planning Area for wilderness designation. This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation 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 have been reserved by the Congress to itself.

#### Wildlife

- Coordinate management of mountain sheep in Lee Vining Canyon with the California Department of Fish and Game and Yosemite National Park.
- Take advantage of opportunities to extend mountain sheep range consistent with other management objectives.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

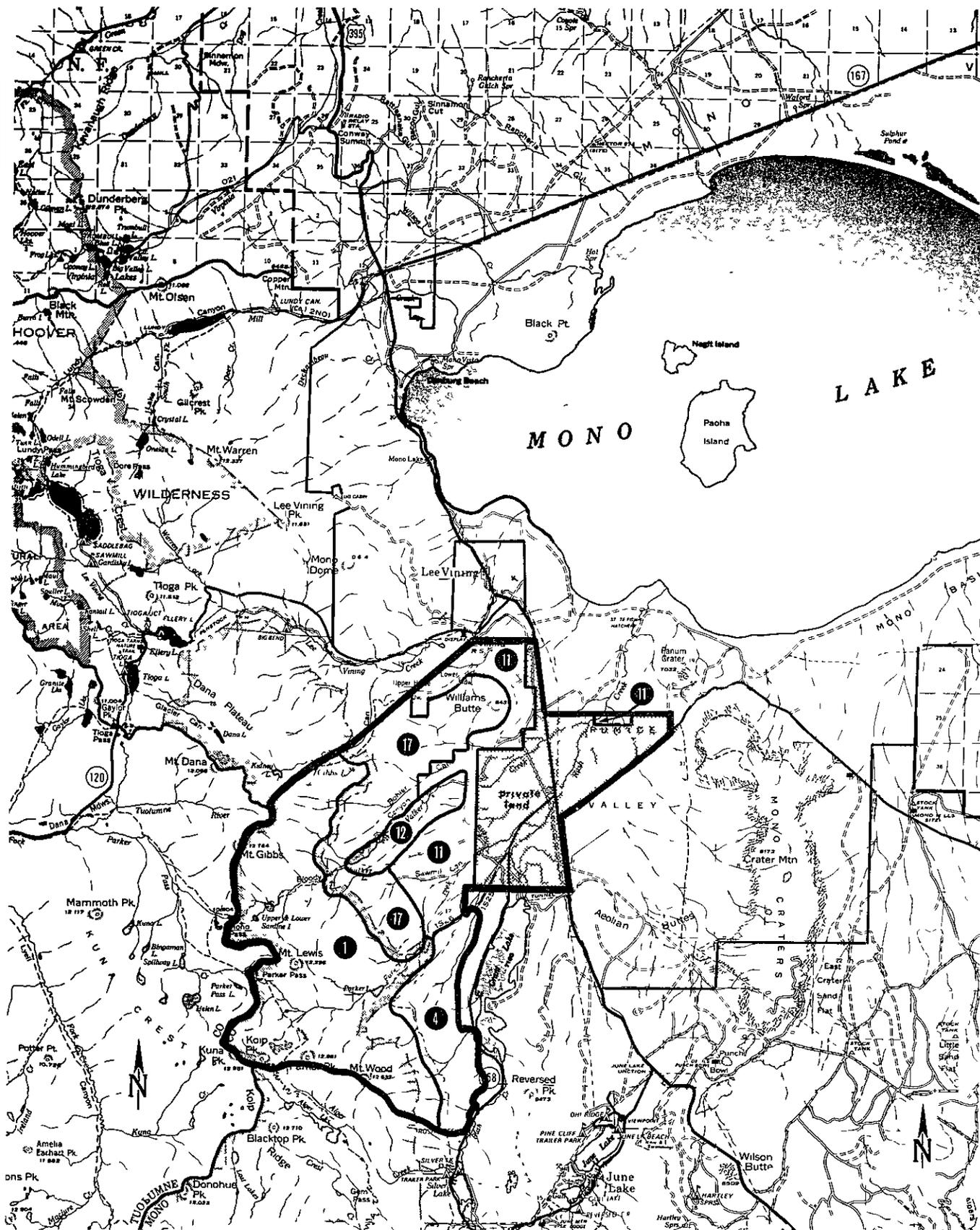


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #3: Walker-Parker**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	11,680
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	2,080
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	2,433
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	872
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	28
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	4,592
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,685</b>

**Walker - Parker**

Walker-Parker



10 Prescription Numbers    — Prescription Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Walker-Parker (#3)

### Description

The Walker-Parker Management Area includes the Sierra "front country" between Lee Vining and the June Lake Loop, and a small portion of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. It primarily lies west of U.S. 395, but a wedge-shaped part extends into Pumice Valley east of U.S. 395. Ninety-five percent of the area is visible from any point on a four-mile stretch of U.S. 395. It includes all of Walker and Parker Creeks, as well as Parker Bench. Prominent features include Mt. Gibbs, Koip Peak, Parker Peak, Walker and Parker Lakes, and Parker Bench. Nearly one-third of the area is owned by the City of Los Angeles. Other private land consists of a few private parcels and four or five residences.

Topography is almost flat on one-quarter of the area (including all the Los Angeles lands), rising precipitously along the Eastern Sierra Escarpment. Moraines extend onto the flats from each of the two canyons. Elevations range from 6,500 feet in the east to 12,979 feet at Koip Peak.

The vegetation is diverse and spectacular. Parker Bench contains about four square miles of aspens interlaced with grass/sage openings or mountain mahogany thickets. This area is extremely valuable as mule deer fawning habitat and summer range. The middle one-third of the area contains stands of conifers including white fir nearly 200-feet tall at the west end of Walker Lake. The north end is pinyon/juniper, and the flats are sage/grass or irrigated meadows. Vegetation at the higher elevations is typically sparse sub-alpine.

Numerous prehistoric sites exist, and Bloody Canyon served as a major prehistoric travel route to the Mono Basin from the San Joaquin Valley.

A large portion of the Casa Diablo deer herd summers in this Management Area. The area between Parker and Walker Lakes is especially important as fawning habitat for this deer herd. An estimated 1,250 deer from this herd summer between Deadman Creek and Lee Vining Creek.

Large parts of three grazing allotments are within this area. Much of the Los Angeles lands is irrigated and grazed.

Recreation activities are dispersed camping, fishing, and hunting.

The City of Los Angeles aqueduct traverses most of the area, adding Walker and Parker Creeks as it runs toward Grant Lake. Six miles of Rush Creek is generally dry because of similar diversions. Cain Ranch (a City of Los Angeles camp complex), the area's dump, and a gravel pit are all located on City of Los Angeles lands.

## Management Area Direction

### Range

- Where possible, utilize the Coordinated Resource Planning process and others to involve the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and private landowners in resolving grazing and riparian conflicts.

### Recreation

- Provide for dispersed day use and overnight camping opportunities consistent with the Roded Natural ROS class in the area in Prescription #11.
- Provide for developed day-use facilities, parking, and consistent access in the area in Prescription #12, particularly in the Walker Lake area.
- Emphasize Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation activities and opportunities in the area in Prescription #4.

### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plans that include U.S. 395 and State Route 158.

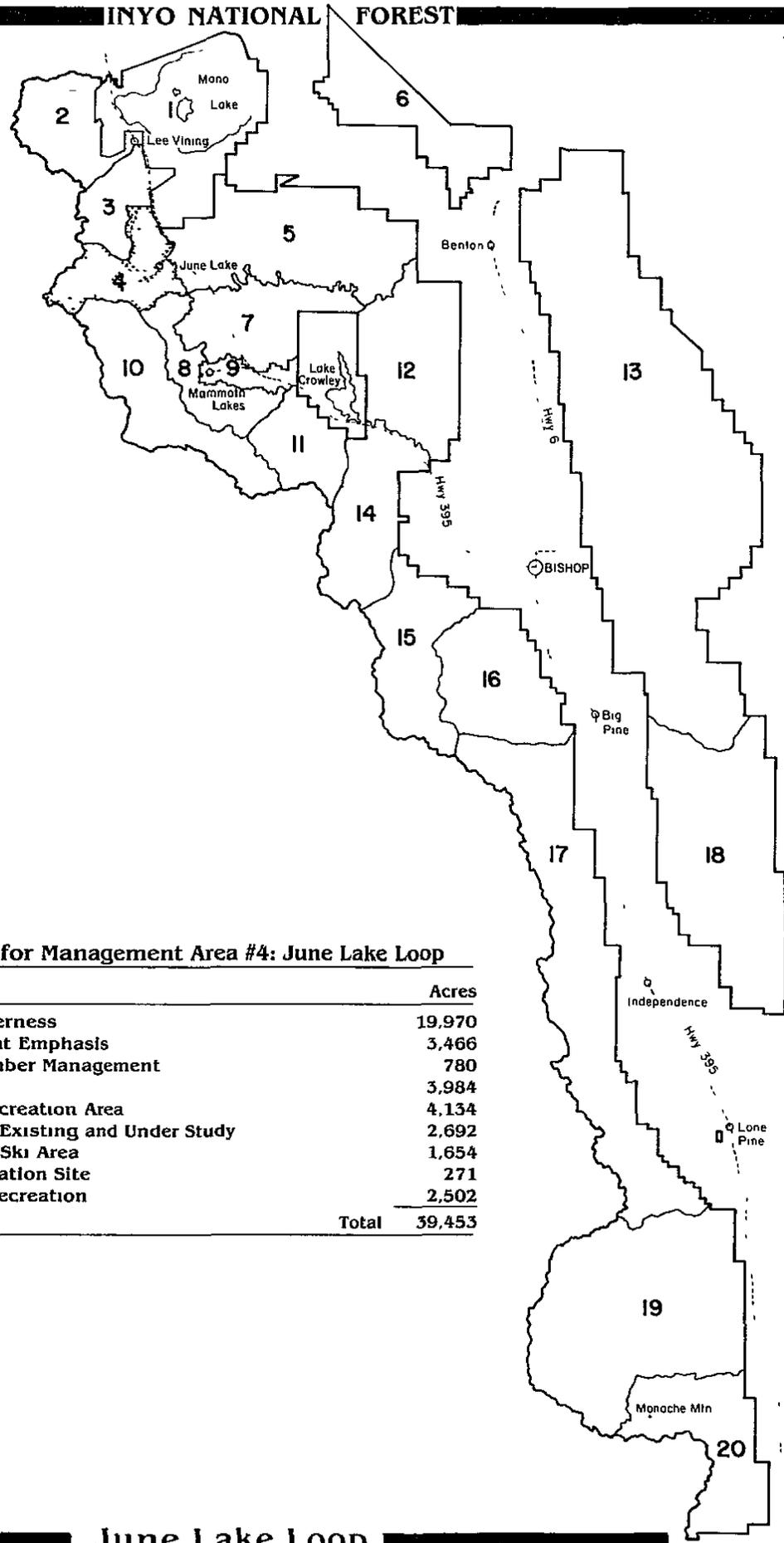
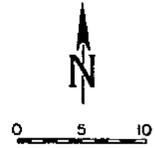
### Water

- Negotiate with public utility entities to return water to portions of the following dewatered streams: Rush Creek, Walker Creek, and Parker Creek.

### Wildlife

- Emphasize the importance of the Casa Diablo deer herd in management decisions.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

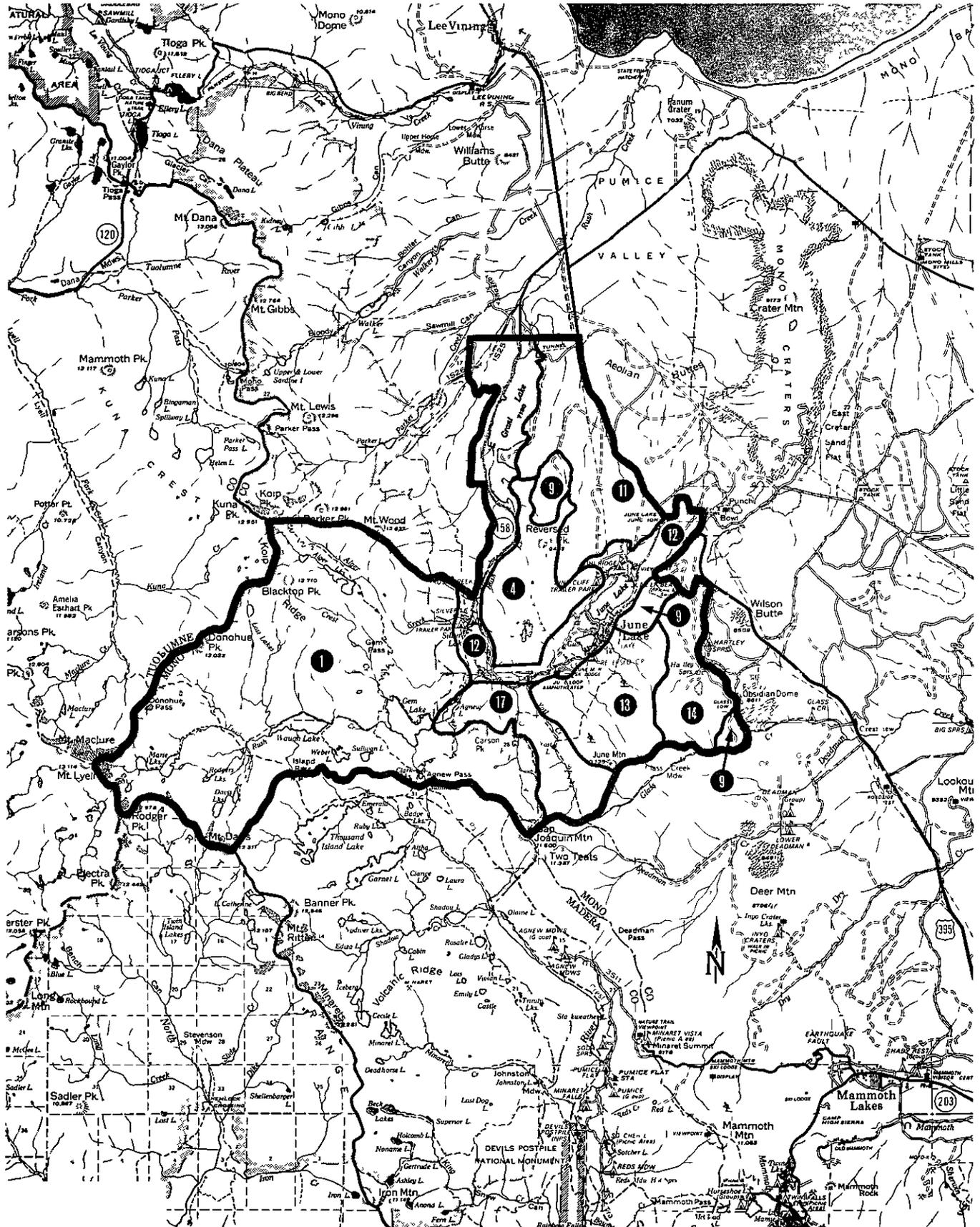


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #4: June Lake Loop**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	19,970
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	3,466
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	780
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	3,984
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	4,134
Rx 13	Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study	2,692
Rx 14	Potential Alpine Ski Area	1,654
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	271
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	2,502
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,453</b>



# June Lake Loop



10 Prescription Numbers   
  Prescription Area Boundary   
  Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## June Lake Loop (#4)

### Description

The June Lake Loop Management Area includes a small portion of the Ansel Adams Wilderness and all lands regarded as the June Lake Loop. The area is bounded on the northeast by U.S. 395, the west by the Eastern Sierra Escarpment and the south generally by June Mountain. Prominent features in the "loop" are four lakes (June, Gull, Silver and Grant), June Mountain, and Reversed Peak. Prominent features in the Wilderness are Gem and Waugh Lakes, Rodger and Blacktop Peaks, and Mts. Lyell and Davis. Private lands within the area include the town of June Lake, and City of Los Angeles lands near Grant Lake.

Topography consists chiefly of a spectacular horseshoe-shaped glaciated canyon about a quarter-mile wide bounded by cliffs on steep high moraines. High gentle peaks lie above this canyon on June Mountain and Reversed Peak and east of U.S. 395. The western portion rises to the steep Eastern Sierra Escarpment. The entire area is drained by Reversed Creek and Rush Creek. Elevation ranges from 7,050 feet below Grant Lake to 13,114 feet at the top of Mt. Lyell.

Vegetation consists of heavy stands of lodgepole pine and Jeffrey pine on the high north-facing slopes of June Mountain and Reversed Peak, to grass/sage in much of the northeast one-half of the area. Scattered Jeffrey pine and occasional large patches of mountain mahogany dot areas around Reversed Peak. Vegetation along the creeks is typically riparian, containing willow, aspen, and grassy meadows. High elevation vegetation is typically sub-alpine.

Portions of this area are important as summer range migration routes and holding areas for the Casa Diablo deer herd. The Yost Lakes and Reversed Peak areas are considered important summer range for this deer herd. The Hartley Springs area is located within the migration corridor between winter and summer range.

One sheep allotment extends into the Management Area. The area also contributes a minor amount of timber from stands on the north side of Reversed Peak.

Major recreation use occurs at a rate of one million recreational visitor days per year, utilizing the "loop's" four lakes, six public campgrounds, three permittee campgrounds, five marinas, ski area, pack station, and considerable recreation-oriented facilities in the private sector. The "loop" is a year-round destination resort area. The area also contains a major trailhead into the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The June Lake Loop will also provide much of the overnight base, in both public and private facilities, for users visiting the recently established Mono Basin Scenic Area.

Grant Lake is a City of Los Angeles reservoir and as such includes a portion of the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Lake levels fluctuate, partially negating this lake's value for recreation use. There is also a Southern California Edison

power plant and penstocks from Agnew and Gem Lakes. As a result of these penstocks, Fishtail Falls flows infrequently.

### Management Area Direction

#### Geology

- Emphasize the explanation of glacial and/or volcanic geology in any interpretive display around the June Lake Loop. Decide which is most appropriate based on view and dominant features identified from the interpretive location.

#### Lands

- Exchange National Forest System lands into the private sector for community expansion when:
  1. The most appropriate use of the National Forest System lands over the long term is in the private sector;
  2. Federal, state, county, local and Forest Service planning processes identify and support conveying ownership of the parcel from National Forest System status to the private sector; and
  3. The use intended for the federal land being exchanged meets the intent of the current approved Community General Plan.
- Present proposed developments on National Forest System lands to other governments for their comment when those governments have a vested interest in the proposal.
- Allow development on National Forest System land when it is clearly demonstrated that the infrastructure of a community can support the demands of the proposed development and benefits from development outweigh adverse impacts on the community.

#### Minerals

- Reflect high level recreation values in environmental analyses for geothermal development.

#### Recreation

- Permit development of June Mountain Ski Area to 7,000 SAOT before developing any adjoining potential ski areas.
- Prepare a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer and winter recreation development potential in the June Lake Loop. This does not include the expansion or development of June Mountain and is the area in Prescription #12. Construct new sites as funds become available. Coordinate with the community of June Lake to determine the needs of the community when completing the recreation composite plan.

- Identify and program dispersed trail facilities in the areas in Prescriptions #4, #12, and #17. Include hiking, equestrian, and bicycle opportunities.
- Manage the areas in Prescriptions #4 and #17 for their Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation activities and opportunities.
- Pursue construction of a bike trail around June Lake Loop.
- Consider alpine ski development for the Hartley Springs area. This would be part of any cumulative effects study generated in the Mammoth/June area.
- Coordinate with Caltrans and Mono County to plan and develop parking, and support facilities for nordic, snowmobile, or snowplay opportunities along U.S. 395, State Routes 158 and 203, the Lake Mary Road and the Scenic Loop Road.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop corridor viewshed analysis and plans that include U.S. 395 and State Route 158.
- Minimize the visual impacts of transmission lines, power plants, and private land developments.
- Pursue opportunities to relocate the 115KV line out of the Oh! Ridge Campground developed site.
- Encourage and work with the community of June Lake and Mono County to develop scenic resource element guidelines and mitigation measures as a part of any local planning effort.

#### Water

- Allow development in the Mammoth/June area where adequate water is available after natural resource needs are met. Allow for the exploration and development of new water sources on National Forest System lands for community purposes only when such opportunities have been exhausted on private lands.
- Manage the Twin Springs watershed above the June Lake Public Utility District water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.
- Adhere to the June Mountain Ski Area Erosion Prevention Plan.
- Conclude negotiations with Southern California Edison and other licensed public utility entities to manage reservoir levels in Agnew, Gem, and Waugh Lakes to enhance recreation, visual, and other natural resource values.

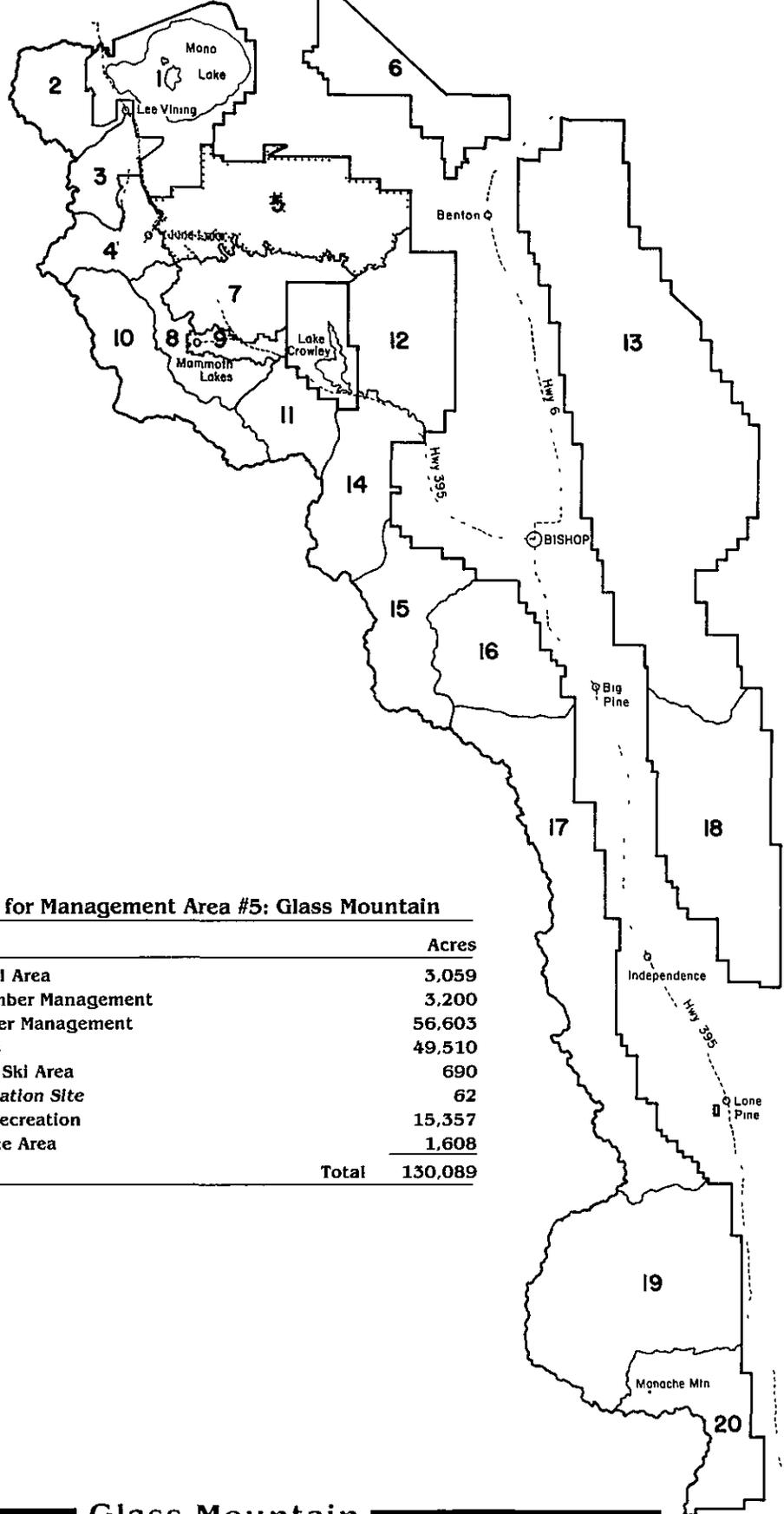
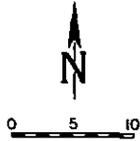
- Initiate negotiations with the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to manage Grant Lake reservoir for the enhancement of recreation, visual, and other natural resource values.

#### Wildlife

- Emphasize the importance of the Casa Diablo deer herd in management decisions.

MANAGEMENT AREA # 5

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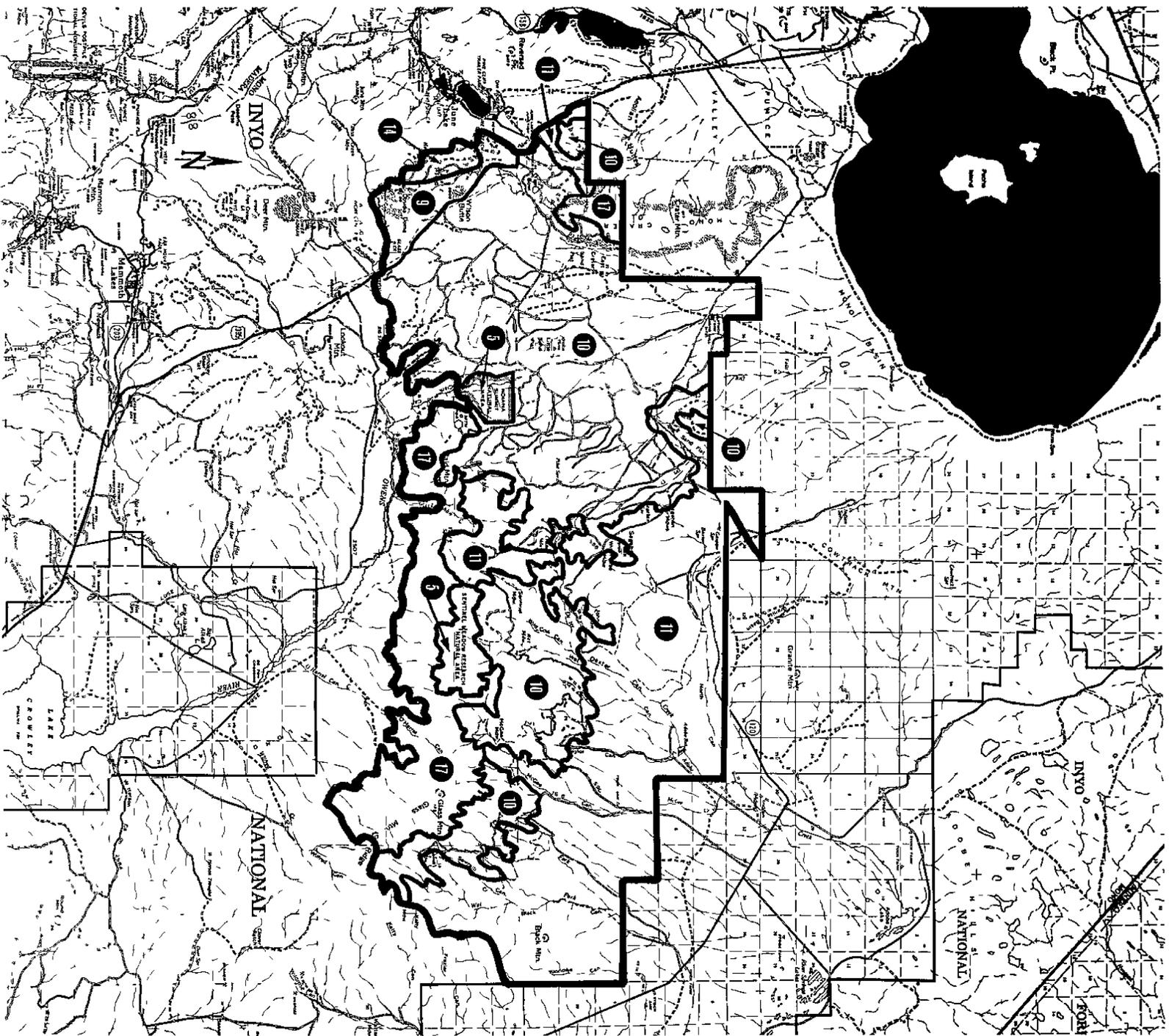


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #5: Glass Mountain

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 5	Research Natural Area	3,059
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	3,200
Rx 10	High Level Timber Management	56,603
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	49,510
Rx 14	Potential Alpine Ski Area	690
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	62
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	15,357
Rx 18	Multiple Resource Area	1,608
<b>Total</b>		<b>130,089</b>

Glass Mountain

# Glass Mountain



⑩ Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Glass Mountain (#5)

### Description

The Glass Mountain Management Area is located for the most part east of U.S. 395 and Mono Craters and extends for about twenty-five miles east to the Forest boundary east of Black Mountain. The south boundary includes the distinct ridge forming the north lip of the Long Valley Caldera. The north boundary is the Forest boundary, running just below timber line and along State Route 120. Prominent features include Obsidian Dome, Bald Mountain, Sagehen Peak, Glass, and Black Mountains. Private land inholdings consist of dispersed undeveloped 40-acre parcels located around meadows.

Topography is mostly gentle, flat to rolling, with slopes seldom exceeding 20 percent that drain toward Mono Lake and Adobe Valley. Exceptions include lava flows and portions of the Mono Craters at the west end, sharp canyons at the east end and the steeper slopes leading up to the crest of Glass Mountain. Elevation ranges from 6,600 feet at Taylor Canyon to 11,123 feet at Glass Mountain.

Vegetation is commercial timber on approximately 55 percent of the area and includes lodgepole pine and Jeffrey pine. The Jeffrey pine here and in Management Area # 7 make up the largest contiguous stand of pure Jeffrey pine in the world. These timber stands generally have a grass/sage understory. Most of the remainder is vegetated with pinyon/juniper and sage/grass communities. Also present are dispersed meadows and sand flats. The Craters, lava flows, and the south-facing slopes of Bald and Glass Mountains are essentially unvegetated.

Prehistoric use is significant, with Glass Mountain being an important obsidian source. Glass Mountain obsidian has been found in prehistoric sites in the Midwest. Mono Mills, a lumber mill in the late 1800s, and appurtenant railroad grades and logging related structures occupy a portion of the area. Sawmill Meadow contained a small sawmill near the turn of the century. Evidence of it is still visible today.

A major mining operation atop Mono Craters extracts block pumice for processing in a local mill at Lee Vining. The operation employs about thirty-five people, counting all phases.

All or part of nine grazing allotments are located in the area. Over 50,000 acres is considered suitable range. Most allotments are utilized by sheep.

Recreation use is dispersed camping, hunting and wood gathering. In the winter, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are popular activities.

Timber is harvested and fuelwood is cut on the area. Several timber stands are suitable for goshawk habitat.

Some important deer winter range exists in the eastern portion of the management area. Most of these deer migrate around the south end of the Glass Mountains. One migration route, apparently used in low-snow years, transects this management area around the north end of the Glass Mountains. Some areas in the Glass Mountains are also used as summer range. The Hartley

Springs area is located within the migration corridor between winter and summer range of the Casa Diablo deer herd.

Pronghorn use the northeast portions of the Management Area. These animals are the result of transplant endeavors in 1982, 1984 and 1985.

A small population of sage grouse use the northern portion of the Management Area. Two strutting grounds are located here.

The Management Area contains two Research Natural Areas; Indiana Summit with a Jeffrey pine community, and Sentinel Meadow with lodgepole and limber pine communities.

### Management Area Direction

#### Cultural Resources

- Pursue development of a Mono Mills historical interpretive site. Incorporate the Mono Mills Railroad site into the interpretive plan for the Mono Basin Scenic Area.

#### Geology

- Encourage continued geologic exploration and research relating to post-caldera formation, seismic and volcanic activity and the prediction of future seismic activity and volcanic eruptions.

#### Range

- Consider placement and timing of water availability for deer and other wildlife when developing water sources for livestock.
- Utilize plant species that also benefit wildlife when revegetating rangeland.
- Maintain or develop a vegetative mosaic when regenerating range forage.

#### Recreation

- Program and develop support facilities for both nordic and snowmobile access along U.S. 395 when opportunities and funding become available.
- Manage Hartley Springs Campground in its current status until a comprehensive environmental analysis is completed on the Hartley Springs area.
- Maintain dispersed facilities throughout the area. Do not turn them into developed sites. Examples are Crooked Meadow, Sawmill Meadow, Sentinel Meadow, and Pilot Spring.
- Inventory, design and program the development of an interpretive auto tour oriented towards the geologic/volcanic chain of topographic features including the Mono Craters, Punchbowl, Wilson Butte, and Obsidian Dome in Management Area #5 and selected features in Management Area #7.

Coordinate interpretive planning for auto tour and interpretive facilities with the interpretive plan for the Mono Basin Scenic Area.

- Coordinate with Caltrans, State Parks and Recreation, and Mono County to plan and develop parking and support facilities for nordic, snowmobile and snowplay opportunities along U.S. 395, State Routes 158 and 203, the Lake Mary Road and the Scenic Loop Road.

#### Timber

- Maintain plantation stocking at the greatest density acceptable to timber management where cover needs exist for deer (e.g., around meadows and along deer migration routes).
- Utilize existing roads rather than new road construction to minimize impacts on wildlife where practical.

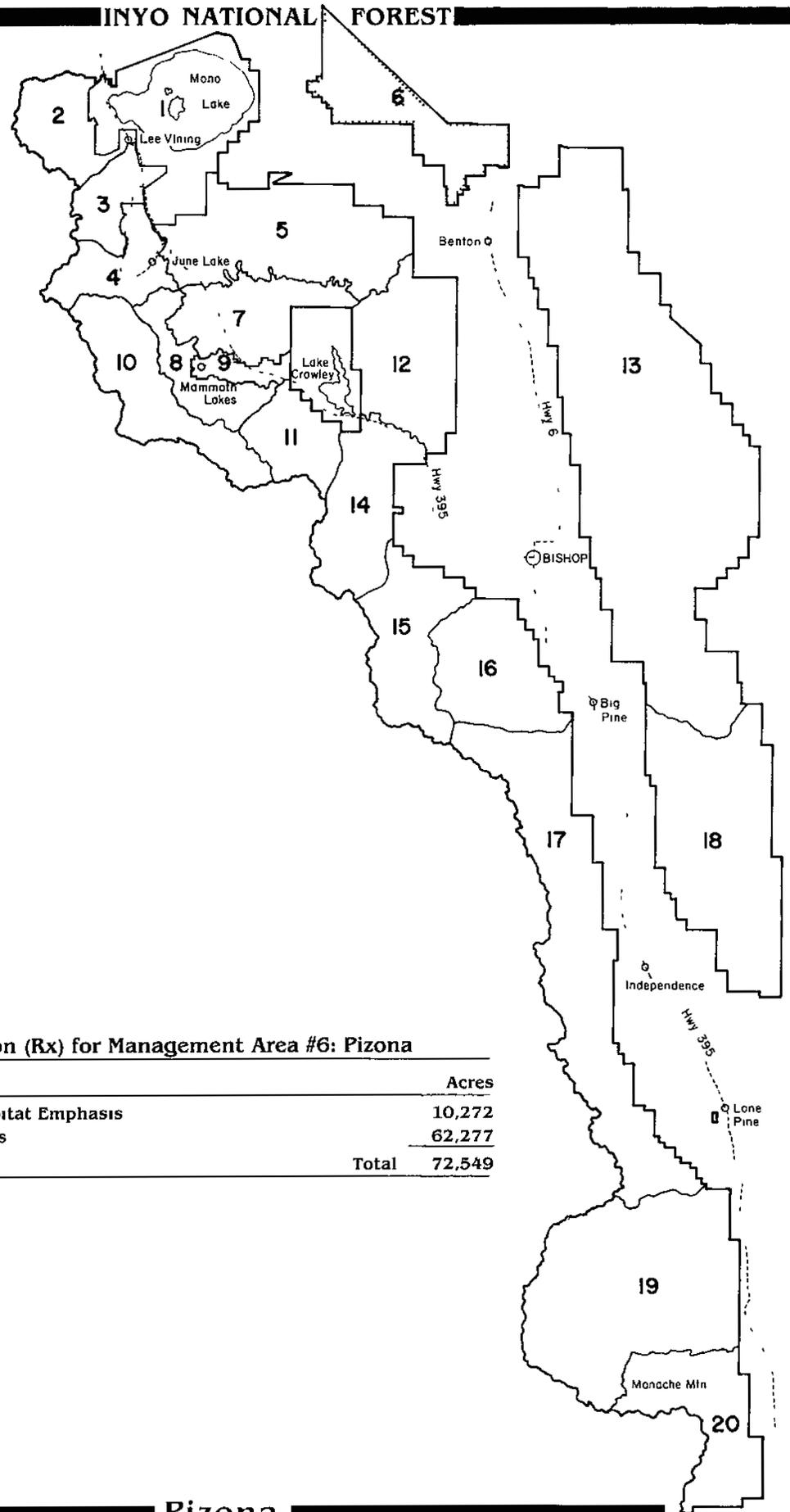
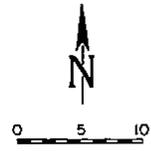
#### Visual Resources

- Develop corridor viewshed analysis and plans that include U.S. 395.
- Plan for additional powerline construction with the objective of eventually moving the existing 115KV line along U.S. 395.

#### Wildlife

- Develop water sources for deer and other wildlife as appropriate.

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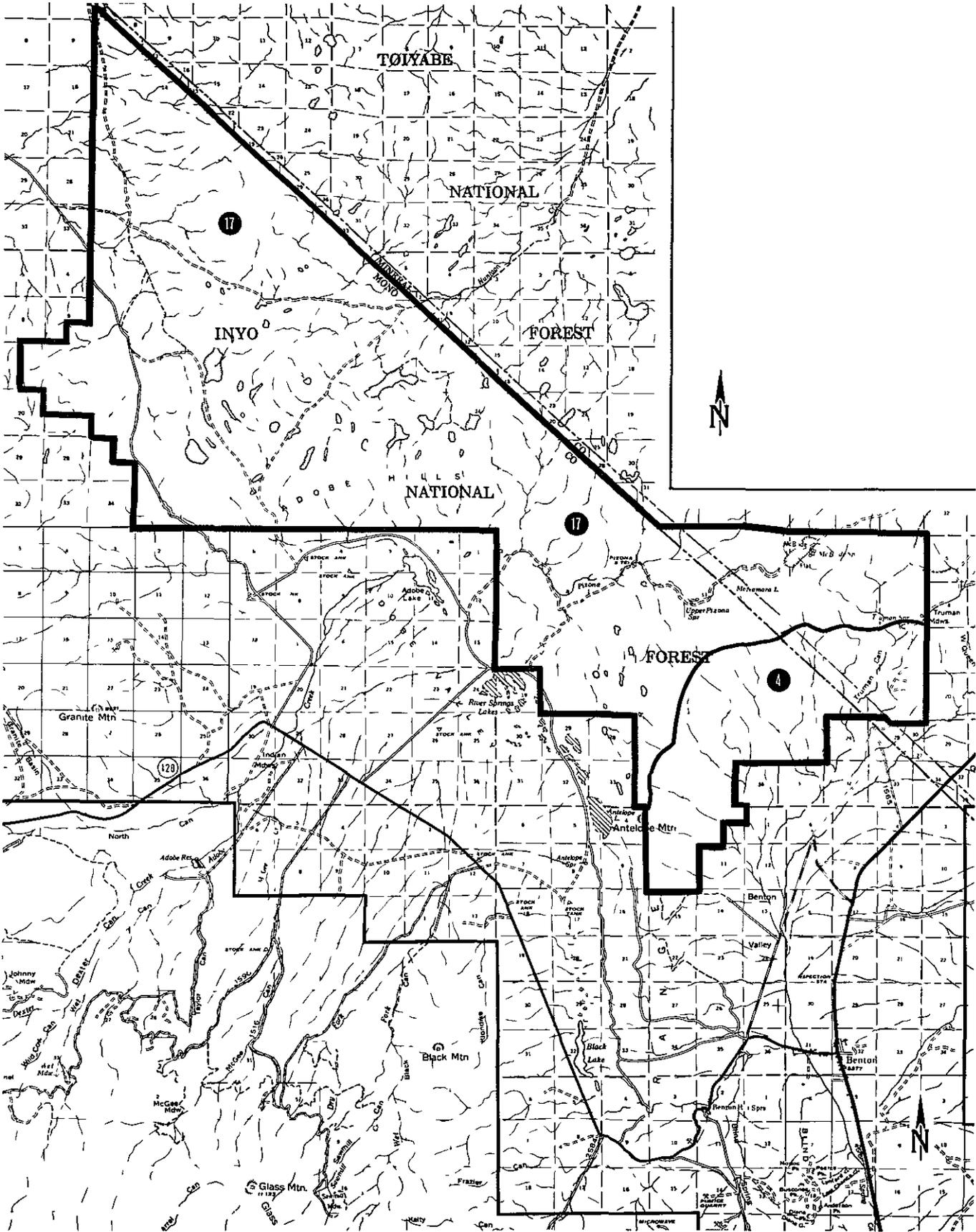


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #6: Pizona

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	10,272
Rx 17	Limited Access	62,277
Total		72,549

Pizona

# Pizona



10 Prescription Numbers    Prescription Area Boundary    Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Pizona (#6)

### Description

The Pizona Management Area, also known locally as the "Pizona" country, is an isolated portion of National Forest that begins six miles east of Mono Lake and extends beyond the Nevada border. It lies north of Montgomery Pass and Adobe Valley, and is bordered on the northeast by the Toiyabe National Forest. Prominent features are occasional springs and low rolling hills. Private land consists of dispersed undeveloped 40-acre parcels in conjunction with grassy flats or springs.

Topography is generally flat to moderately steep scab rock, rim rock, and rocky canyons. Elevations range from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. Canyons, although not deep, run in all directions, and orienting oneself can be difficult. Drainages dead end in sinks where no readily available water exists. The only available water sources are occasional minor springs or ponds.

Vegetation is almost universally pinyon/juniper with a grass/sage understory and an occasional dry grassy flat.

Prehistoric cultural sites are numerous and often well-preserved because of limited access and dry climate. There are few historic sites and very little evidence of past mining activity or operating claims.

The most distinguishing feature of this area is the existence of a population of wild horses. The 75-150 wild horses are part of the Montgomery Pass wild horse herd that ranges within the southeast portion of this management area. The herd utilizes adjacent Toiyabe National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and private lands. Two grazing allotments exist but one has not been used in recent years, partly because of competition for feed with the wild horses. A Coordinated Resource Planning process that involves all interested individuals and groups is being used to develop management strategies for the wild horse territory.

Recreation use is extremely limited, consisting of commercial guide-outfitter operations or an occasional hunter or off-highway vehicle.

A major interstate utility right-of-way, the Pacific DC Intertie transmission line, bisects the southwestern part of the Management Area.

The southern portion of this Management Area is used as winter range by the Casa Diablo deer herd.

### Management Area Direction

#### Lands

- Recognize the route paralleling the Pacific DC Intertie transmission line as having the highest potential for a north-south utility corridor on the Forest.

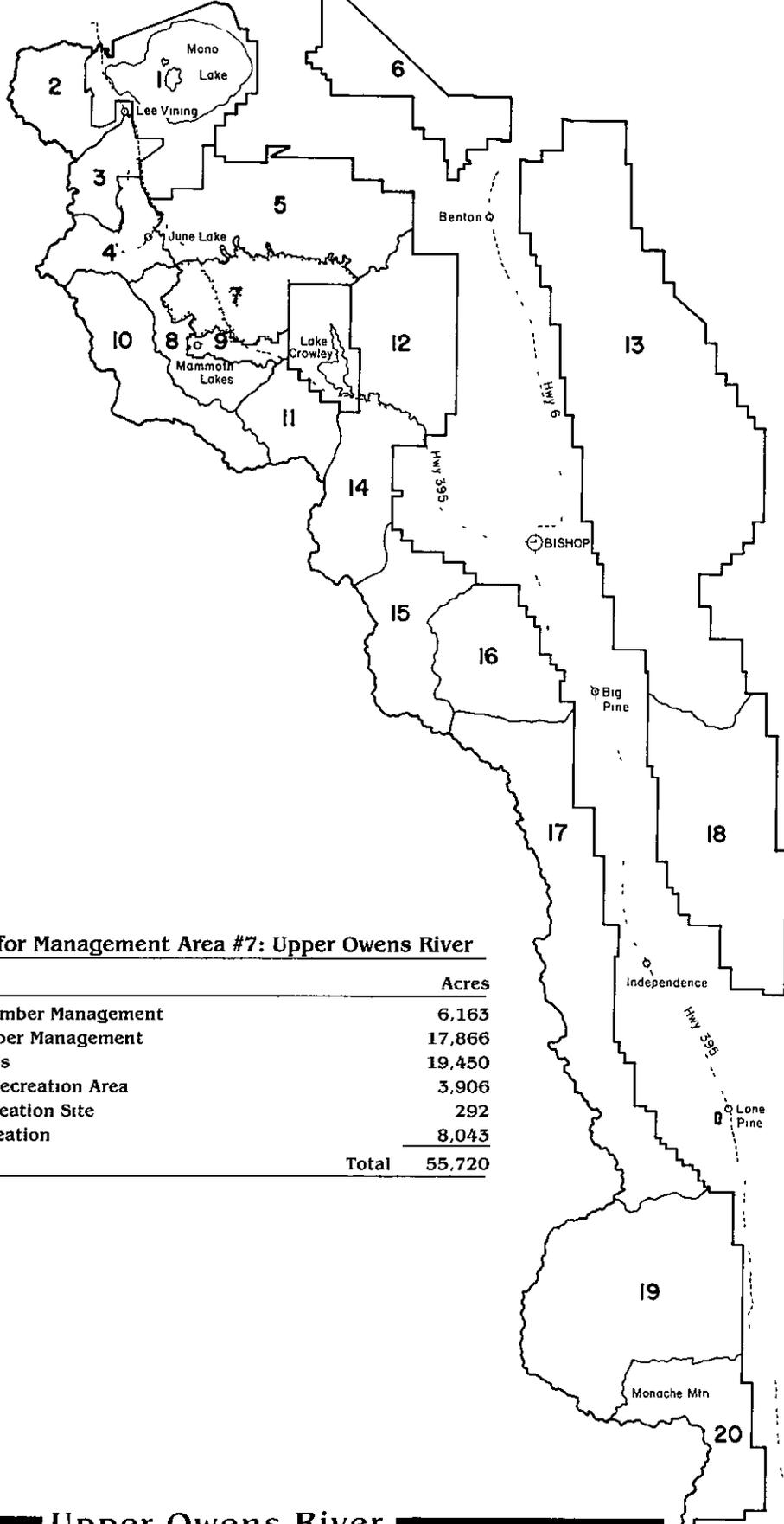
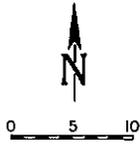
### Range

- Manage the "Pizona Country" to provide for the use and requirements of wild horses. Allow the Coordinated Resource Planning process that is currently being conducted to establish wild horse numbers and requirements.
- Seek opportunities to recognize and coordinate wild horse use on lands adjacent to the herd's territory.
- Pursue the acquisition of private lands to maintain wild horse and wildlife water and forage needs.
- Allow natural predators to regulate wild horse numbers.

### Recreation

- Maintain the dispersed nature of the recreation occurring in this management area. Do not allow developed facilities for recreation. Permit commercial outfitting and guiding to the extent compatible with management of the wild horses.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

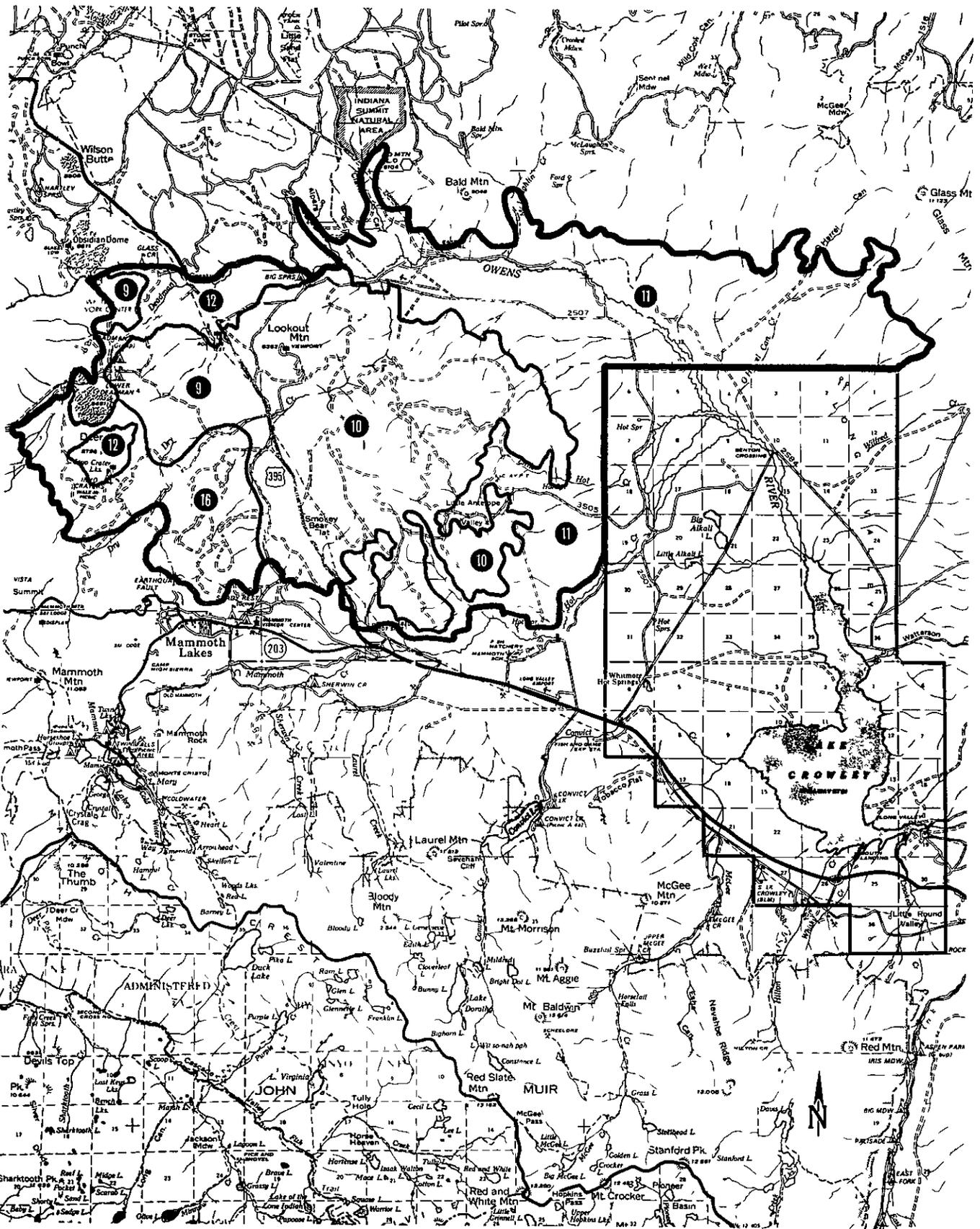


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #7: Upper Owens River**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	6,163
Rx 10	High Level Timber Management	17,866
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	19,450
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	3,906
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	292
Rx 16	Dispersed Recreation	8,043
<b>Total</b>		<b>55,720</b>

**Upper Owens River**

# Upper Owens River



10 Prescription Numbers    Prescription Area Boundary    Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Upper Owens River (#7)

### Description

The Upper Owens River Management Area is located immediately above and to the northwest of Lake Crowley. Included are the subdrainages of Deadman Creek, the Upper Owens River, Little Hot Creek, Dry Creek, and portions of Hot Creek. Prominent features include Lookout Mountain, Deer Mountain, Smokey Bear Flat, Little Antelope Valley and the Deadman/Inyo Craters volcanic formations.

With the exception of the land immediately adjacent to the Owens River, the remainder of the area is National Forest. A small fringe of the incorporated Town of Mammoth Lakes is located in the southern portion of the area. U.S. 395 traverses in a northwest/southeast direction and is the major access to the area.

Topography is characterized by numerous small drainages with moderate side slopes and flat ridgetops. Elevation ranges from 6,960 feet in the Hot Creek drainage to 8,796 feet atop Deer Mountain. The eastern portion contains moderately rolling rangeland with sage and bitterbrush side slopes and grassy valley bottoms. Higher elevations are characterized by the Jeffrey pine forest.

As the primary watershed for Lake Crowley, the area provides an important source for domestic water for the City of Los Angeles. The Upper Owens River is an important trout fishery.

The Management Area is within the Long Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). Seven lessees currently hold geothermal leases on approximately 38,190 acres of land within the Management Area. Exploration, including wells drilled to a depth of more than 6,000 feet, has been conducted by private industry and the scientific community. There is one operating 10 megawatt powerplant on private land within the Management Area. Commercial developers have applied to Mono County for the rights to build two additional power plants on private land. Commercial developers have applied to the Bureau of Land Management to build a single power plant on National Forest System land.

All or part of seven grazing allotments are located in the management area. Recreational use is primarily of a dispersed nature. The Inyo Craters, a popular day-use site, focuses on the interpretation of geologic history. Deadman, Lower Deadman, Glass Creek, and Big Springs Campgrounds provide overnight camping facilities.

Timber stands include nearly pure red fir; mixed stands of red fir, white fir, lodgepole and Jeffrey pine; pure stands of lodgepole; and a pure stand of Jeffrey pine. Because of logging activity, numerous single-lane and two-lane dirt and gravel roads bisect the area. Logging debris and dead and down wood form an important source of firewood for the adjacent Town of Mammoth Lakes and numerous other communities as far south as Lone Pine, California. There is commercial fuelwood harvesting on the area.

Because of its proximity to U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway, proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and visibility from high elevation points such as Mammoth Mountain and Minaret Summit, the area requires special attention to meet established Visual Quality Objectives.

The area serves as important habitat for mule deer during the spring and fall migrations. A major deer migration corridor for the Casa Diablo deer herd extends from Management Area #12 (Benton-Casa Diablo) around the south end of the Glass Mountains, and follows the western slope of the Glass Mountains to a staging area in the Upper Owens River.

A large population of sage grouse (an estimated 1,000-1,200 birds) uses the Mammoth Caldera area, including the eastern half of this Management Area. Winter ranges are concentrated mostly on Bureau of Land Management and City of Los Angeles lands in the vicinity of Crowley Lake. Summer habitats for this species include the entire basin. There are three known strutting grounds in this Management Area.

### Management Area Direction

#### Fish

- Manage O'Harrel Canyon Creek drainage to provide for recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout.

#### Geology

- Continue cooperation and coordination of geophysical exploration and research with the scientific community.
- Encourage continued geologic exploration and research relating to post-caldera formation, seismic and volcanic activity and the prediction of future seismic activity and volcanic eruptions.

#### Range

- Consider placement and timing of water availability for deer and other wildlife when developing water sources for livestock.
- Utilize plant species that also benefit wildlife when revegetating rangeland.
- Maintain or develop a vegetative mosaic when regenerating range forage.
- Encourage water spreading to enhance forage for livestock and sage grouse where feasible.
- Develop watering locations away from riparian areas.

#### Recreation

- Program and develop support facilities such as parking areas and trailheads for both nordic and snowmobile access along U.S. 395 and the

Scenic Loop Road when opportunities and funding become available. OSV access to the Inyo Craters will be permitted to continue.

- Develop a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer and winter recreation development potential west of U.S. 395. Include the area in Prescriptions #10, #12 and #16. Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.
- Prohibit dispersed camping within two miles of the private land boundary of the community of Mammoth.
- Pursue reconstruction of Big Springs Campground at a location more suitable for the purpose.

#### Riparian

- Manage riparian areas to maintain high habitat quality for fish, especially in threatened and endangered species waters, wild trout waters, and the meadow reaches of the streams.

#### Timber

- Maintain plantation stocking at the greatest density acceptable to timber management where there are cover needs for deer (e.g., around meadows and along deer migration routes).
- Utilize existing roads for timber harvest where practical to minimize impacts on wildlife.

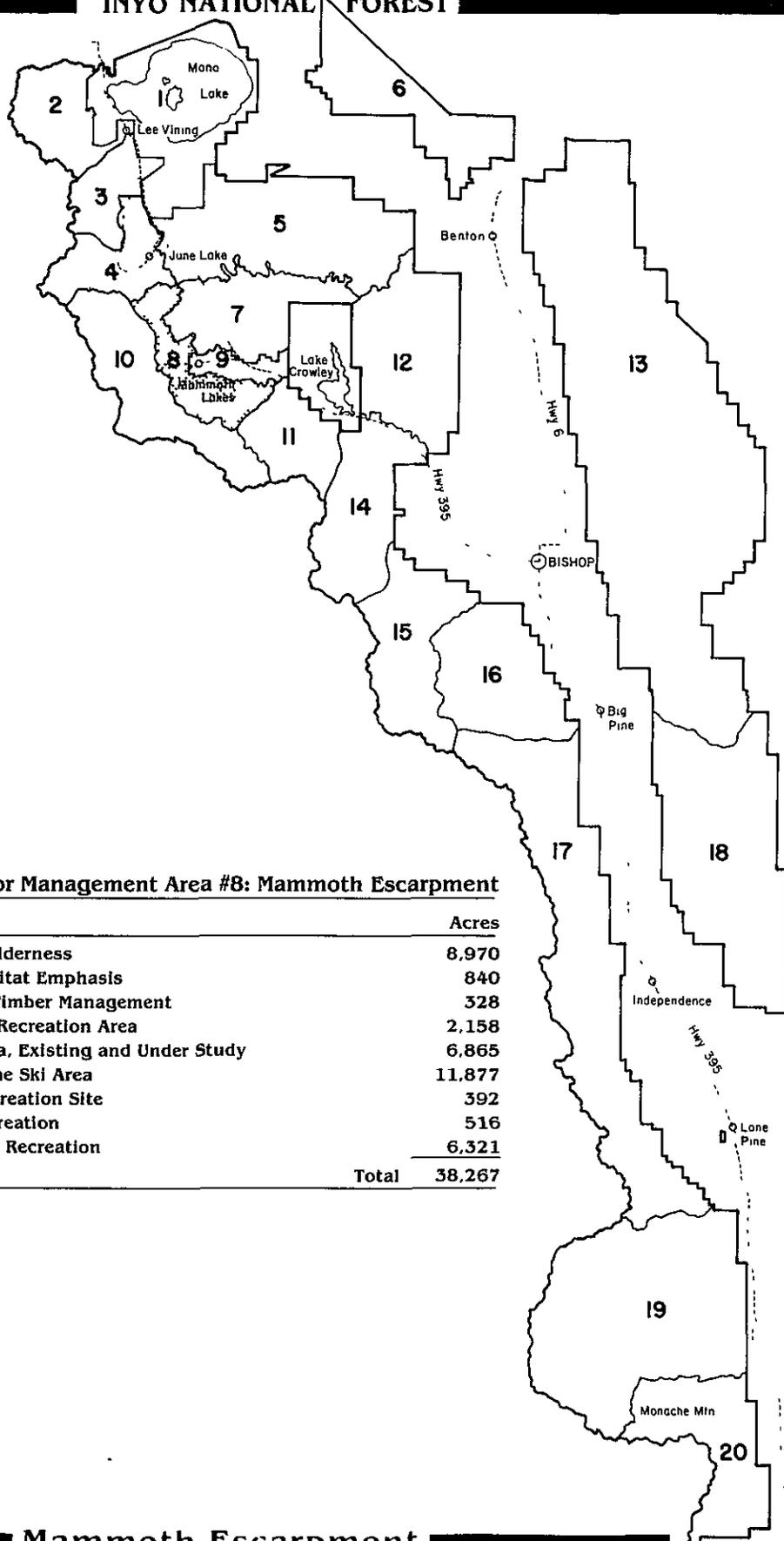
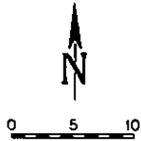
#### Visual Resources

- Develop corridor viewshed analysis and plans to include U.S. 395.
- Establish a crossing point for a major powerline route serving the potential geothermal area to the west of U.S. 395 at the least visually-sensitive point.
- Plan for additional powerline construction with the objective of eventually moving the existing 115KV line along U.S. 395.

#### Wildlife

- Maintain the productivity of meadows for sage grouse.
- Allow management activities that do not significantly interfere with key sage grouse habitat.
- Maintain or enhance the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

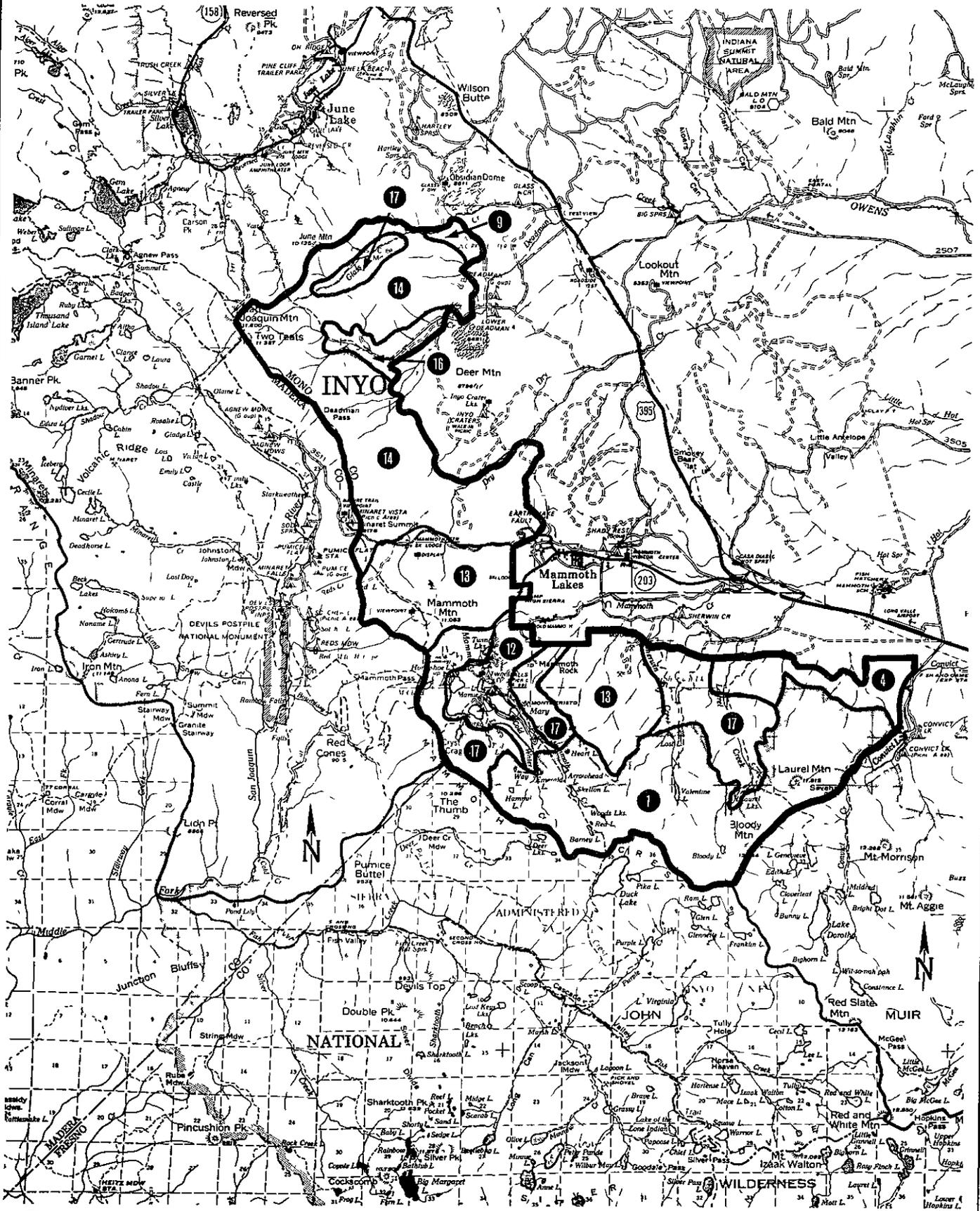


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #8: Mammoth Escarpment**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	8,970
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	840
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	328
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	2,158
Rx 13	Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study	6,865
Rx 14	Potential Alpine Ski Area	11,877
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	392
Rx 16	Dispersed Recreation	516
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	6,321
<b>Total</b>		<b>38,267</b>

**Mammoth Escarpment**

# Mammoth Escarpment



⑩ Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Mammoth Escarpment (#8)

### Description

The Mammoth Escarpment Management Area stretches from San Joaquin Mountain on the northwest boundary southerly, bordering the Ansel Adams Wilderness, to Mammoth Mountain and along the Mammoth Crest to Bloody and Laurel Mountains on the southeast boundary. A small portion of the John Muir Wilderness is included at the south end of the Management Area. Prominent features are San Joaquin Mountain, Minaret Summit, Mammoth Mountain, Mammoth Lakes Basin, Mammoth Rock, the Mammoth Crest, and Bloody and Laurel Mountains. Private inholdings include a 1.5-acre tract adjacent to Lake Mary and a 3.75-acre parcel adjacent to the Valentine Reserve and Lake Mary Road.

Topography rises from gentle slopes along the lower reach of Sherwin Creek to very steep, often precipitous terrain along the Mammoth Crest. Elevations range from 7,200 feet at the eastern tip of the area to 12,544 feet at the crest of Bloody Mountain. The lands form a spectacular and important scenic backdrop from U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway.

Vegetation is characterized by sage/bitterbrush and mountain mahogany in the southern portion of the escarpment, and mixed fir and lodgepole pine stands in the north. Mountain mahogany, lodgepole, whitebark, and limber pines are found at higher elevations. Riparian areas support stands of aspen, water birch, and willow.

The Management Area has a few active mining claims.

Small portions of three grazing allotments extend into the Management Area.

Developed recreation is the primary use on the area. This Management Area has more recreation visitors than any other in the Forest Service. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, the largest facility of its type in the United States, is located here. There is potential for additional alpine ski opportunities in the area.

The Mammoth Lakes Basin, a series of alpine lakes nestled in a bowl-shaped area immediately southwest of the Town of Mammoth Lakes is important for both summer and winter recreation purposes. It is also important as a watershed for domestic water use in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The area includes numerous summer homes, lodges and resorts.

In addition to alpine skiing, many opportunities for nordic skiing are offered in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and in Mammoth Meadow. Although tracks are set in these areas, they are not formally designated as nordic ski areas. Because this area interfaces with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, its value for day-use activities and open space adjacent to the community must also be recognized.

Approximately 4,000 deer are dependent on this area for migration routes and summer range. The area is important to the Sherwin mule deer herd as a migration route in the fall and winter, with Solitude Canyon, Mammoth Pass and Deadman Pass serving as major migration corridors. The area east of Sherwin Creek is an important staging site in the spring as the deer herd

awaits the melting of snow. Glass Creek contributes to the Casa Diablo deer herd by providing fawning habitat.

Special uses in the area include electronic permits for sites on Mammoth and Lincoln Mountains, organization camps along Sherwin Creek, and permits to the Mammoth County Water District for domestic water and sewer activities in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. As a part of the permit agreement, dams in the Mammoth Lakes Basin are maintained by the Mammoth County Water District. Water use from the Lakes Basin is controlled by a Master Operating Agreement between the Forest Service and the Mammoth County Water District.

### Management Area Direction

#### Cultural Resources

- Emphasize the interpretation of effects of recent volcanism on aboriginal life.

#### Facilities

- Conduct a cumulative effects study of the Mammoth/June area when a development proposal in this area requires an Environmental Impact Statement. The Mammoth/June area is defined by U.S. 395 on the east; Highway 203 on the south; the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses on the west; and the ridgeline of the June Lake complex on the north.

#### Fish

- Manage Glass Creek drainage above the campground to provide for recovery of the Lahontan cutthroat trout as approved by the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan.

#### Geology

- Emphasize glacial and bedrock geology at interpretive sites within the Lakes Basin.

#### Lands

- Consider no land exchanges involving Sherwin Meadow until final decisions are made on the ski area proposed for Sherwin Bowl.
- Continue electronic site use on Mammoth and Lincoln Mountains consistent with existing development plans.

#### Minerals

- Limit access for exploration activities to methods not requiring road construction.

#### Recreation

- Develop recreation composite plans to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer and winter recreation development potential in the area

in Prescription #12 (Lakes Basin). Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.

- Identify and program dispersed trail facilities in the areas in Prescriptions #12, #14 and #17. Include hiking and equestrian trail opportunities in all areas and bicycle trails in the area in Prescription #12. Include opportunities for mountain bike trails within the Management Area. Interface trail systems with the community.
- Maintain levels of reservoirs in Mammoth Lakes Basin to desirable levels for recreation use and scenic enhancement during the entire summer use season.
- Emphasize day-use activities within the Mammoth Lakes Basin by developing needed day-use facilities to complement overnight campgrounds.
- Limit expansion of resort capacity in the Mammoth Lakes Basin to 10 percent above 1985 levels.
- Encourage public transportation in the Mammoth Lakes Basin for summer and winter day-use.
- Emphasize development of front country trails, particularly those linking Mammoth to the Forest.
- Limit nordic capacity (Skiers At One Time) in Mammoth Lakes Basin to 1,200, unless a special study indicates an increased capacity is socially and environmentally acceptable.
- Maintain current use patterns and open space on National Forest System lands adjacent to Valentine Reserve.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plan that includes State Route 203 and the Lake Mary Road.
- Develop special mitigation measures along State Route 203 from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to Base Lodge 1 to soften ski area impacts for the summer-oriented visitor. This locality has been developed as an elongated base area for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the designated VQOs may not have been met.
- Construct all ski area development in areas in Prescriptions #13 and #14 to meet the Retention VQO as seen from trails and use areas in Management Area #10 (wilderness).
- Encourage and work with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County to develop a scenic resource element, an architectural element, guidelines, and mitigation measures as a part of any local planning effort.

## Water

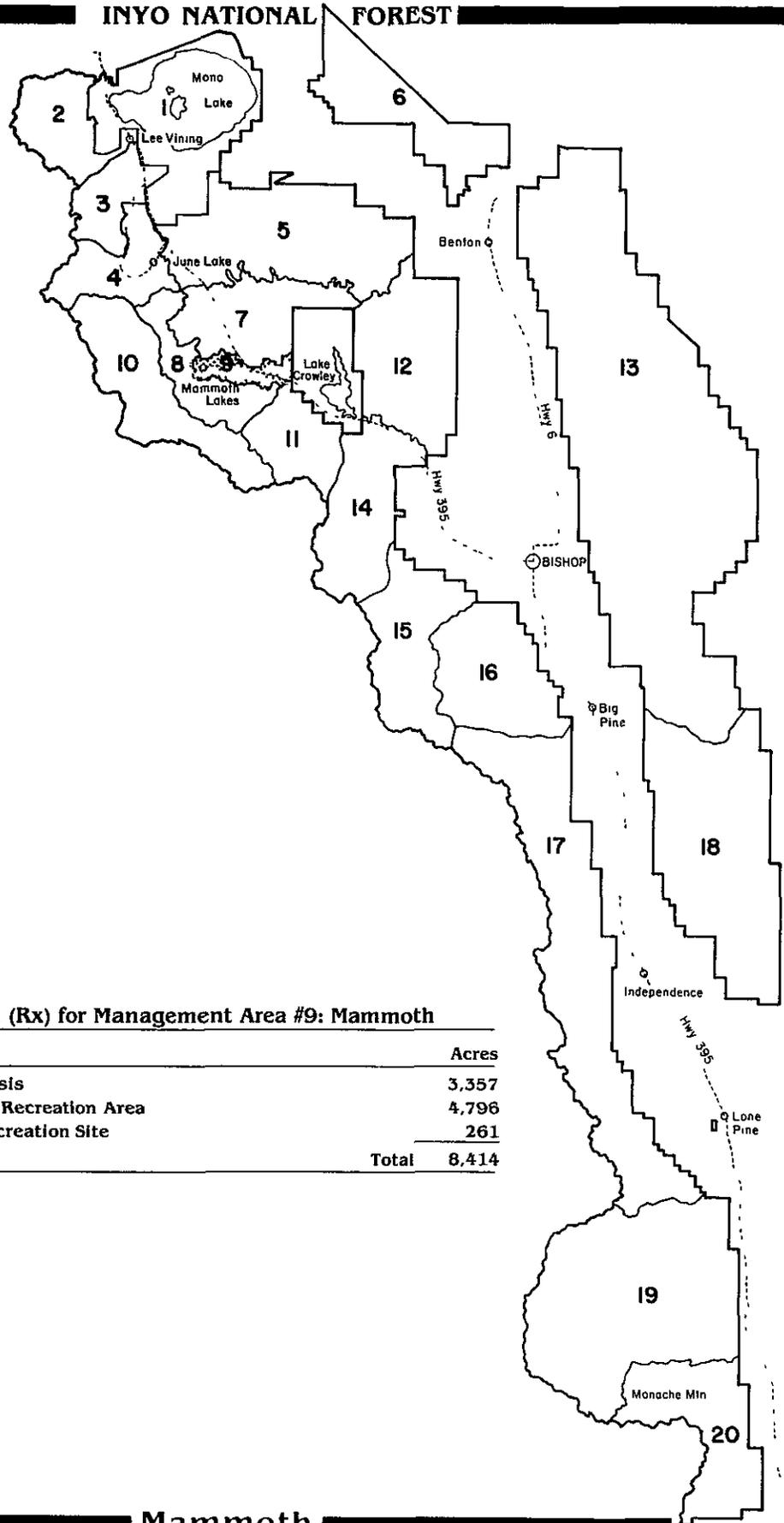
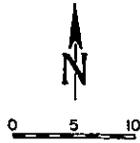
- Allow development on National Forest System lands in the Mammoth/June area where adequate water is available after natural resource needs are met. Allow for the exploration and development of new water sources on National Forest System lands for community purposes only when such opportunities have been exhausted on private lands.
- Work with responsible agencies to assure compliance with provisions of the Water Management Plan for Mammoth Lakes Basin.
- Manage the Glass Creek watershed above the Crestview water supply intake, and Mammoth Lakes Basin above the Mammoth Lakes Community water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.
- Recognize the value of maintaining undiminished streamflows in management decisions.
- Adhere to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Erosion Prevention Plan.
- Manage water resources within Mammoth Lakes Basin to provide adequate protection of natural resources, and to serve recreational demand along with water supply needs. Satisfy municipal water supply needs after natural resources needs are met.

## Wildlife

- Maintain the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

MANAGEMENT AREA #9

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

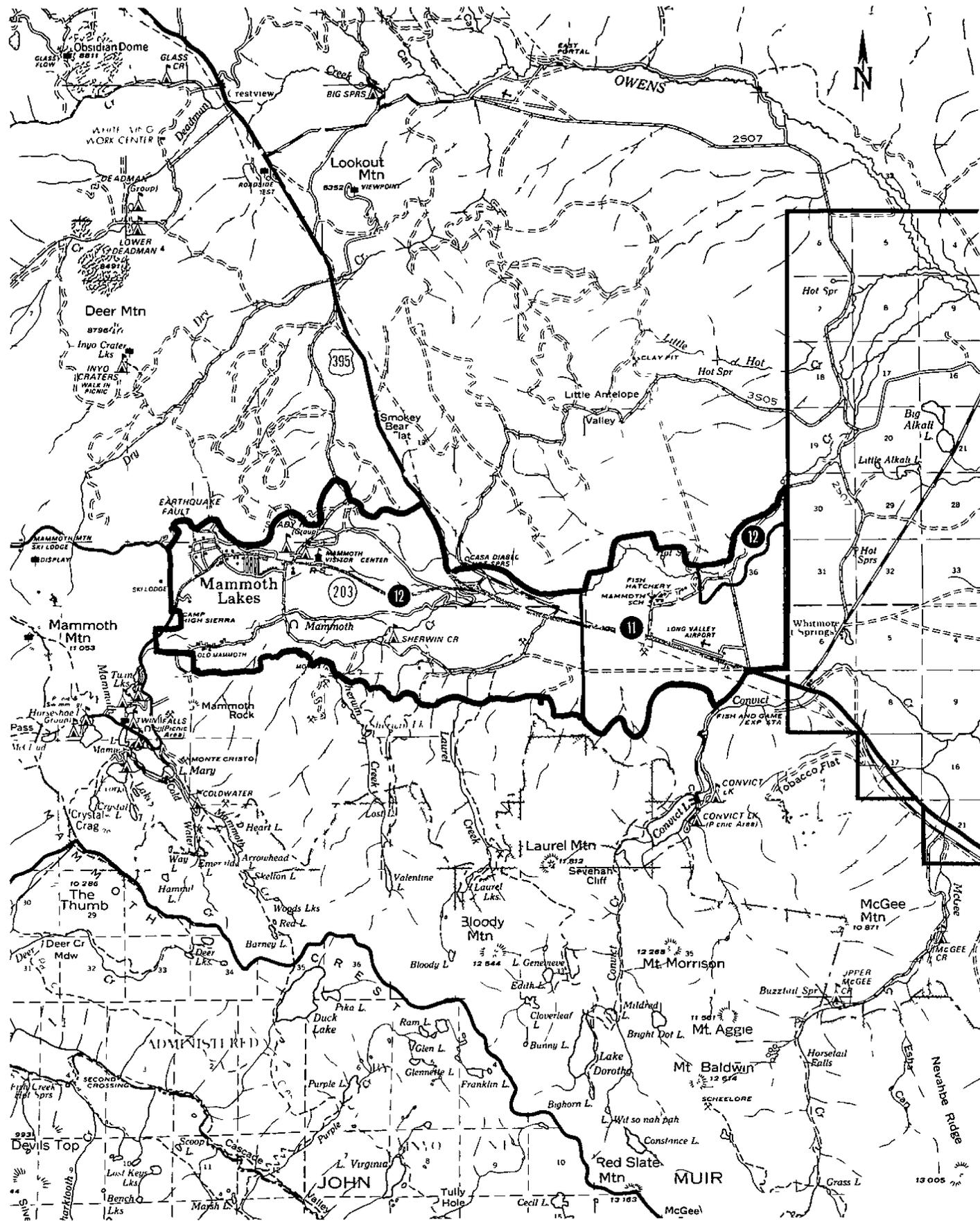


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #9: Mammoth

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	3,357
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	4,796
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	261
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,414</b>

Mammoth

# Mammoth



10 Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundaries — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Mammoth (#9)

### Description

The Mammoth Management Area contains private land within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, National Forest System land, and land owned by the City of Los Angeles. The Mammoth/June Lake Airport, Hot Creek Fish Hatchery, Hot Creek, and Sherwin Creek Campground are important features in this Management Area.

The area contains the administrative facilities of the Mammoth Ranger District. Facilities include a major visitor center and District Office complex, a warehouse building, a housing area with six government-owned houses and fifteen trailer pads for private house trailers, a grazing pasture and tack facilities.

Topography is predominately moderately rolling terrain in the Mammoth Creek drainage. The western portion of the area contains red fir and Jeffrey pine forest, with the eastern portion comprised primarily of a grass/bitterbrush/sage vegetative type.

Recent land exchange efforts have consolidated land ownership within the Town of Mammoth Lakes leaving only two parcels of National Forest System lands remaining in the Town. These lands are identified as the Shady Rest and Woodstock parcels. Land exchange efforts in the past have been oriented primarily toward consolidation of ownership and providing lands for community needs such as school and hospital sites, industrial park sites for community and private needs, and land for affordable housing development. Because of the current growth emphasis of the newly incorporated Town, it is anticipated that future land exchanges will be proposed by the community to seek to provide amenity facilities in support of the current destination resort philosophy.

Because of the proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, many National Forest land uses are directly related to the support of this popular resort community. Uses include the facilities of the Mammoth County Water District, Southern California Edison major power transmission lines, the Mammoth/June Lake Airport, Continental Telephone communication facilities, a community park, and the Hot Creek Fish Hatchery operated by the State of California. In addition to the private land, the City of Los Angeles also owns several parcels in the eastern portion of the area.

The area contains portions of two grazing allotments.

The area is important as a mule deer migration route and staging area in the fall and spring.

Recreation use is heavy at Sherwin Creek Campground, Shady Rest and Old Shady Rest Campgrounds immediately adjacent to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and at Earthquake Fault Interpretive Site. Heavy dispersed use also occurs along Mammoth Creek and on Forest lands immediately adjacent to private land in the Town. Hot Creek Interpretive Site, a popular day-use area, focuses on the interpretation of the geologic resource.

Base Lodge II and the proposed Base Lodge VII, important access points for the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, are also located within the Management Area. Because of its proximity to the proposed Sherwin Bowl Ski Area, the western portion of the unit will play an important part in the development of base and other complementary facilities if Sherwin Bowl is developed.

The visual corridors along U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway, and State Route 203, the primary entry point for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, are important viewsheds to the traveling public.

### Management Area Direction

#### Cultural Resources

- Maintain and enhance cultural resource interpretive sites such as Mammoth Creek cabin, VIS cabin, Indian Caves.

#### Facilities

- Allow development of new ski base areas commensurate with local transportation system planning.

#### Fish

- Maintain productivity of the Hot Creek fishery in Section 25, Township 3 South, Range 28 East.
- Maintain resources affecting Hot Creek Fish Hatchery.
- Study Laurel Pond for introduction of fish in coordination with California Department of Fish and Game.
- Manage according to Hot Creek Wild Trout Management Plan of 1986.

#### Geology

- Continue to cooperate with and coordinate geophysical exploration and research with the scientific community.
- Encourage continued geologic exploration and research relating to post-caldera formation, seismic and volcanic activity and the prediction of future seismic activity and volcanic eruptions.
- Where appropriate emphasize geothermal resources at interpretive sites or in guides that cover the area.

#### Lands

- Exchange Forest Service lands into the private sector for community expansion when:
  1. The most appropriate use of the National Forest lands over the long term is in the private sector;

2. State, county, local and Forest Service planning processes identify and support conveying ownership of the parcel from National Forest System status to the private sector; and
  3. The use intended for the federal land being exchanged meets the intent of the current approved Community General Plan.
- Allow no federal land exchanges north of State Route 203 with the Mammoth Lakes community during this planning period.
  - Present proposed developments on National Forest System lands to other governments for their comment when those governments have a vested interest in the proposal.
  - Allow development on National Forest System land when it is clearly demonstrated that the infrastructure of a community can support the demands of the proposed development and benefits from development outweigh adverse impacts on the community.

#### Recreation

- Provide trail interface opportunities with the community of Mammoth Lakes.
- Maintain open-space areas adjacent to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for passive recreation use.
- Prohibit dispersed camping throughout the Management Area.
- Prohibit development of Shady Rest Park beyond existing perimeter roads, and north of the powerline rights-of-way.
- Allow development of Mammoth Creek Park by the Town of Mammoth.
- Identify and program the expansion potential of the Shady Rest and Sherwin Creek Campground complexes and develop as funds become available.
- Fully develop the interpretive potential of the Hot Creek geologic site as funds become available.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plans that include State Route 203 and U.S. 395.
- Mitigate the visual impacts of existing major uses in the area seen from U.S. 395 and State Route 203 east of the Town, as this is the major gateway to the Mammoth area.

#### Water

- Allow development on National Forest System lands in the Mammoth/June area where adequate water is available after natural resource needs are met. Allow for the exploration and development of new water sources on

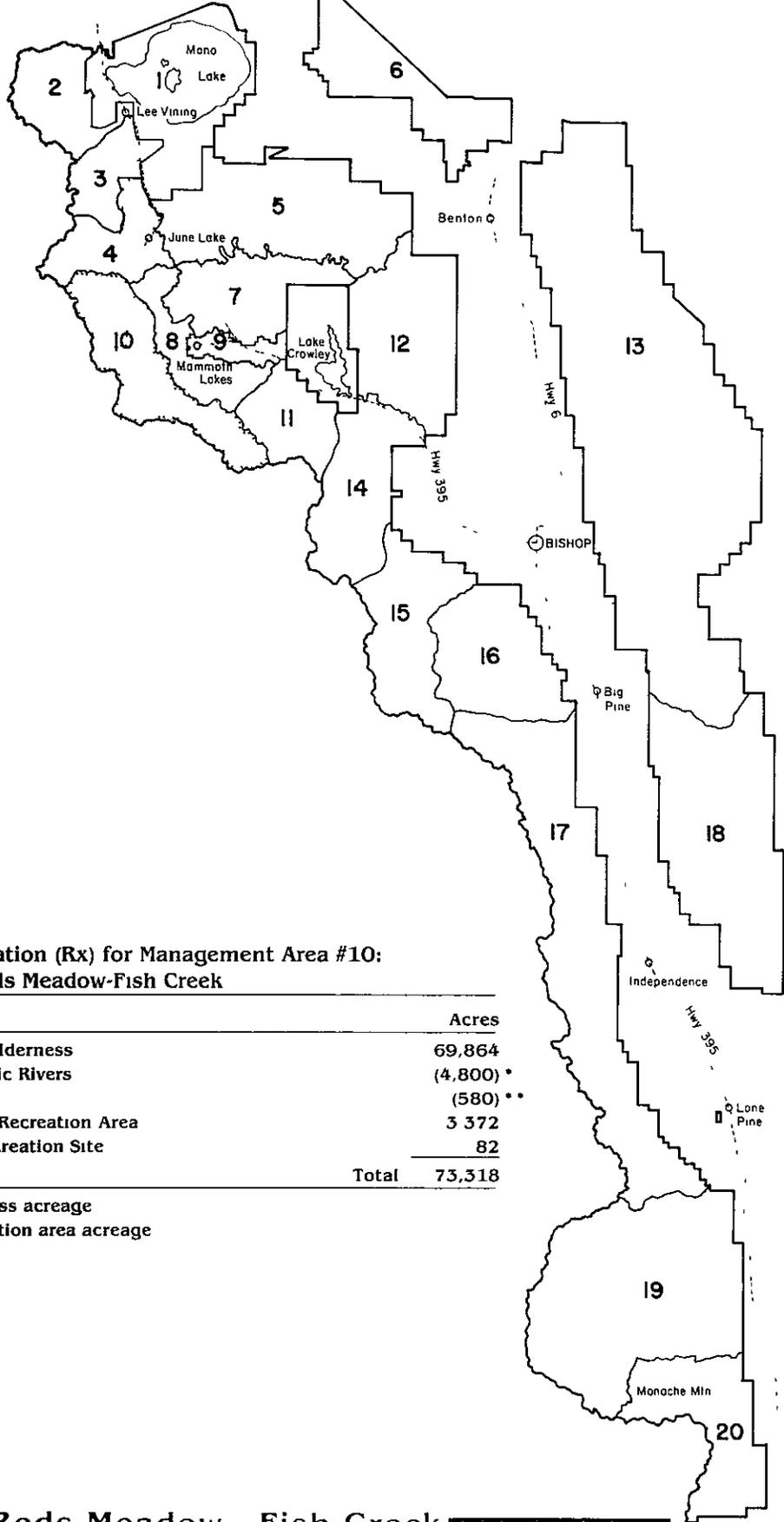
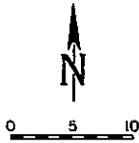
National Forest System lands for community purposes only when such opportunities have been exhausted on private lands.

- Support state water quality control requirements and local ordinances to mitigate adverse impacts of urban runoff onto National Forest System lands.

#### Wildlife

- Continue to enhance and maintain waterfowl habitat at Laurel Pond.
- Maintain the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST



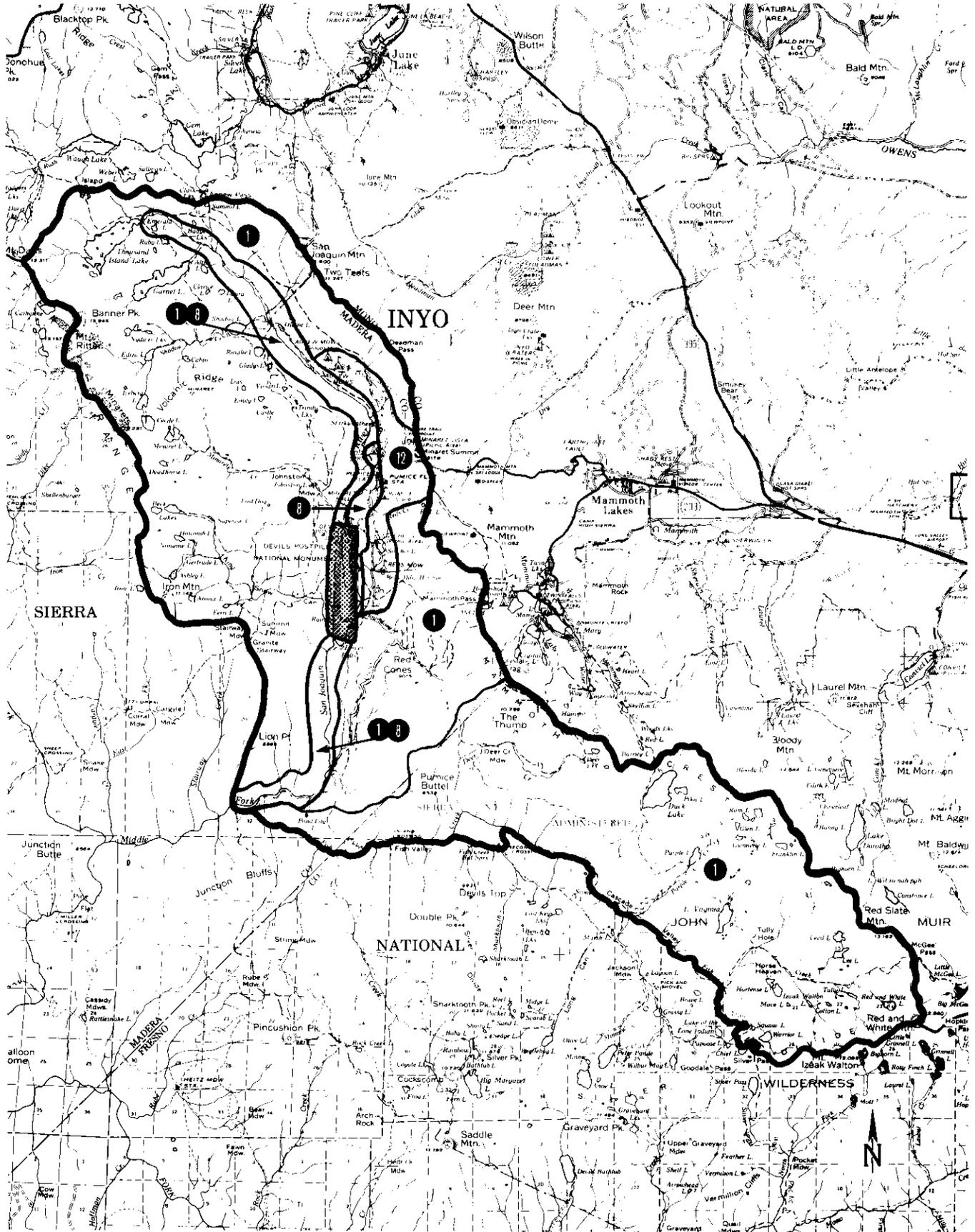
Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #10:  
Reds Meadow-Fish Creek

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	69,864
Rx 8	Wild and Scenic Rivers	(4,800) *
		(580) **
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	3,372
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	82
<b>Total</b>		<b>73,318</b>

\*Included in designated wilderness acreage

\*\*Included in concentrated recreation area acreage

Reds Meadow—Fish Creek



10 Prescription Numbers    — Description Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Reds Meadow-Fish Creek (#10)

### Description

The Reds Meadow-Fish Creek Management Area includes Reds and Agnew Meadows, a portion of the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses, and that part of the Sierra National Forest in the John Muir Wilderness administered by the Inyo National Forest. Devils Postpile National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, is located in the center of the Management Area. Prominent features are the Minarets, a distinctive "needle-like" formation along the Ritter Range escarpment, the Reds Meadow Valley, Devils Postpile, Minaret Falls, the high country in the Wildernesses with their many major peaks and lakes, Fish Creek Gorge, and the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, a Wild and Scenic River candidate. There are no private land inholdings in the Management Area.

Topography is characterized by U-shaped valleys, steep to precipitous slopes, basaltic outcrops and cinder cones to 13,157 feet at the crest of Mt. Ritter.

Vegetation is as varied as the elevational differences, ranging from mixed chaparral/montane chaparral to pure lodgepole pine and red fir stands, to subalpine whitebark and limber pines.

There are no grazing allotments within the Management Area. There are two outfitter-guide pasture permits.

Recreation is the primary resource. The Reds Meadow Recreation Area, including the Devils Postpile National Monument, is an important developed recreation complex for day visitors, overnight campers and fishermen. Agnew Meadow and Reds Meadow serve as heavily used trailheads into the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. A commercial facility provides a rustic resort experience with lodging and pack services for backcountry visitors. Day-use visitors are required to ride a public transportation system which is provided to reduce traffic congestion during the heavy use period (July to early September).

### Management Area Direction

#### Geology

- Emphasize glacial, bedrock, and volcanic geology at interpretive displays and in guides that cover the area.

#### Recreation

- Develop a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer recreation development potential in the area in Prescription #12 (Reds Meadow). Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.
- Expand transportation systems and access alternatives that de-emphasize the private auto. Look at shuttles and a wide range of trail opportunities such as walking, horses, and bicycles as a possible replacement to private auto use.

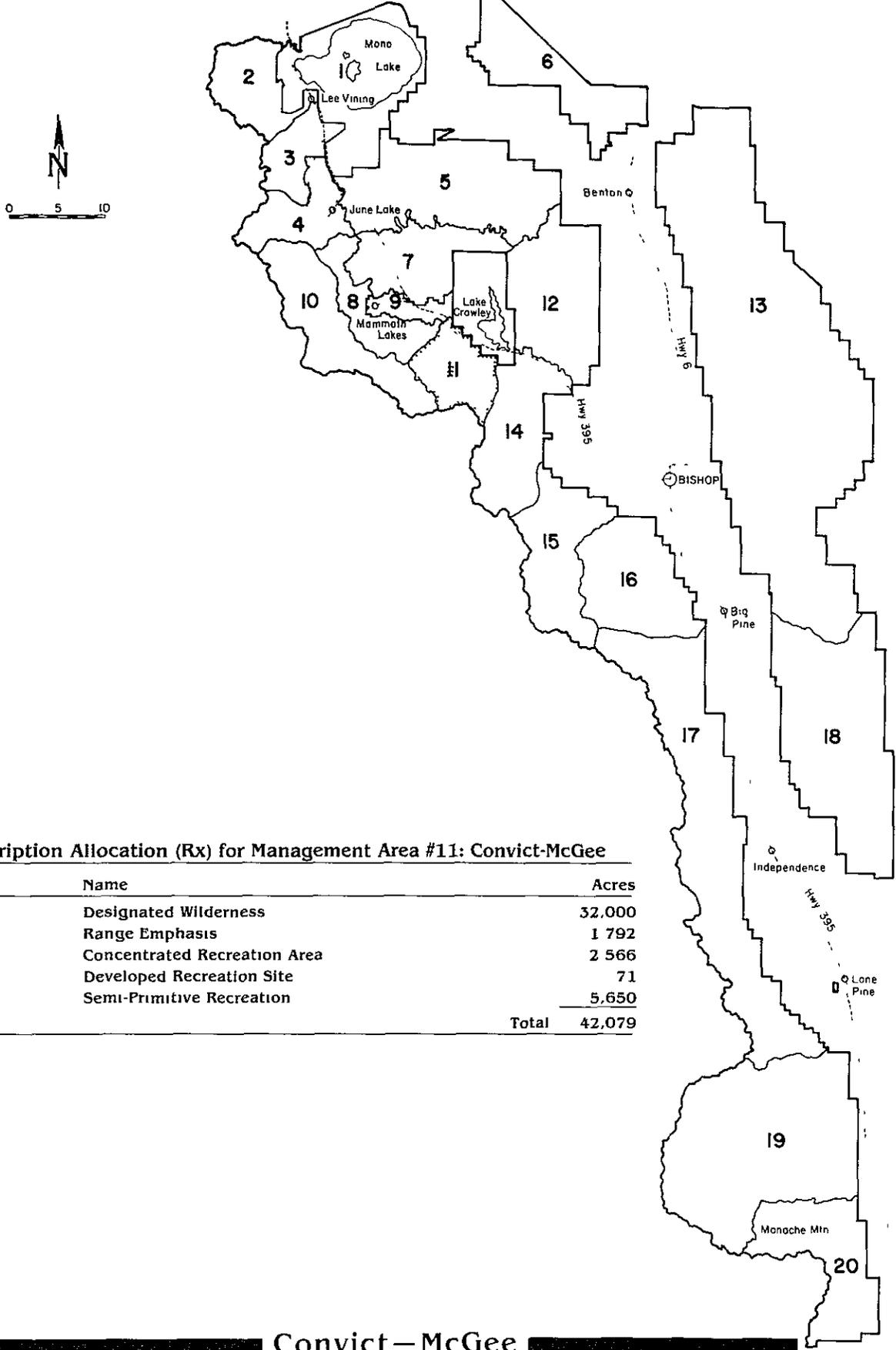
- Continue to coordinate with the National Park Service to share administrative and fiscal responsibility for the existing shuttle system.
- Manage to maintain primitive recreation experience opportunities during winter months.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Maintain the existing wild and scenic attributes of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and allow no activities that would preclude this candidate river from wild and scenic designation.

MANAGEMENT AREA # 11

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

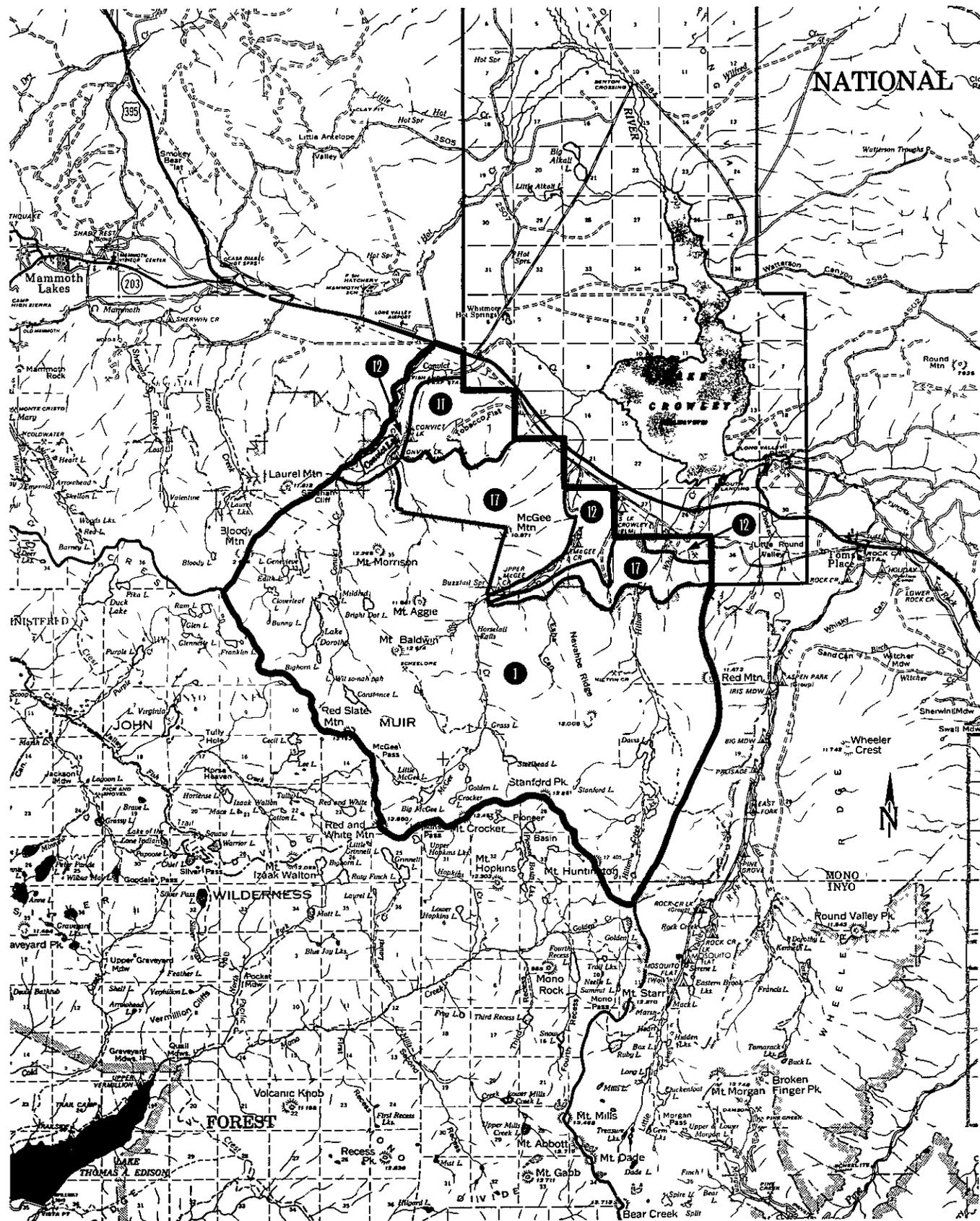


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #11: Convict-McGee

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	32,000
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	1,792
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	2,566
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	71
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	5,650
<b>Total</b>		<b>42,079</b>

Convict - McGee

# Convict—McGee



NATIONAL

10 Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Convict-McGee (#11)

### Description

The Convict-McGee Management Area located southwest of Lake Crowley and U.S. 395 contains all of the Convict Creek, McGee Creek, and Hilton Creek drainages. Three-quarters of the management area is a part of the John Muir Wilderness. Prominent features are Convict Lake, Mt. Morrison, Bloody Mountain, Mt. Baldwin, Red Slate Mountain, Mt. Morgan, and Stanford Peak. Private land inholdings consist of 120 acres along Hilton and Whiskey Creeks, and 240 acres along Convict Creek owned by the City of Los Angeles.

Topography is rugged and steep. Moraines dominate the lower slopes, with the terrain rising to the Eastern Sierra Escarpment. Elevations range from 6,900 feet on lower Whiskey Creek to 13,163 feet on Red Slate Mountain.

Vegetation varies from the open sage/bitterbrush-dominated moraines and the pinyon pine/mountain mahogany-dominated intermediate slopes to patches of subalpine whitebark pine. Scattered pockets of aspen add to the vegetative diversity.

The Management Area contains two grazing allotments and a small section of a third.

The McGee Creek drainage includes several campgrounds and is a popular trailhead into the John Muir Wilderness. Outfitter and guide services are available from a pack station into the upper McGee Creek.

The area is important to the Sherwin-Buttermilk mule deer herd as a migration route in the fall and winter. This Management Area also includes the southern portion of the Sherwin deer herd staging area.

### Management Area Direction

#### Geology

- Emphasize glacial and bedrock geology at interpretive displays and in guides that cover the area.

#### Recreation

- Pursue development of a loop path around Convict Lake that would tie into existing developed shoreline paths.
- Rehabilitate the trailhead area of McGee Creek.
- Provide shade in the newly constructed McGee Creek Campground.
- Develop a composite plan before expanding day-use and overnight capacity.

#### Visual

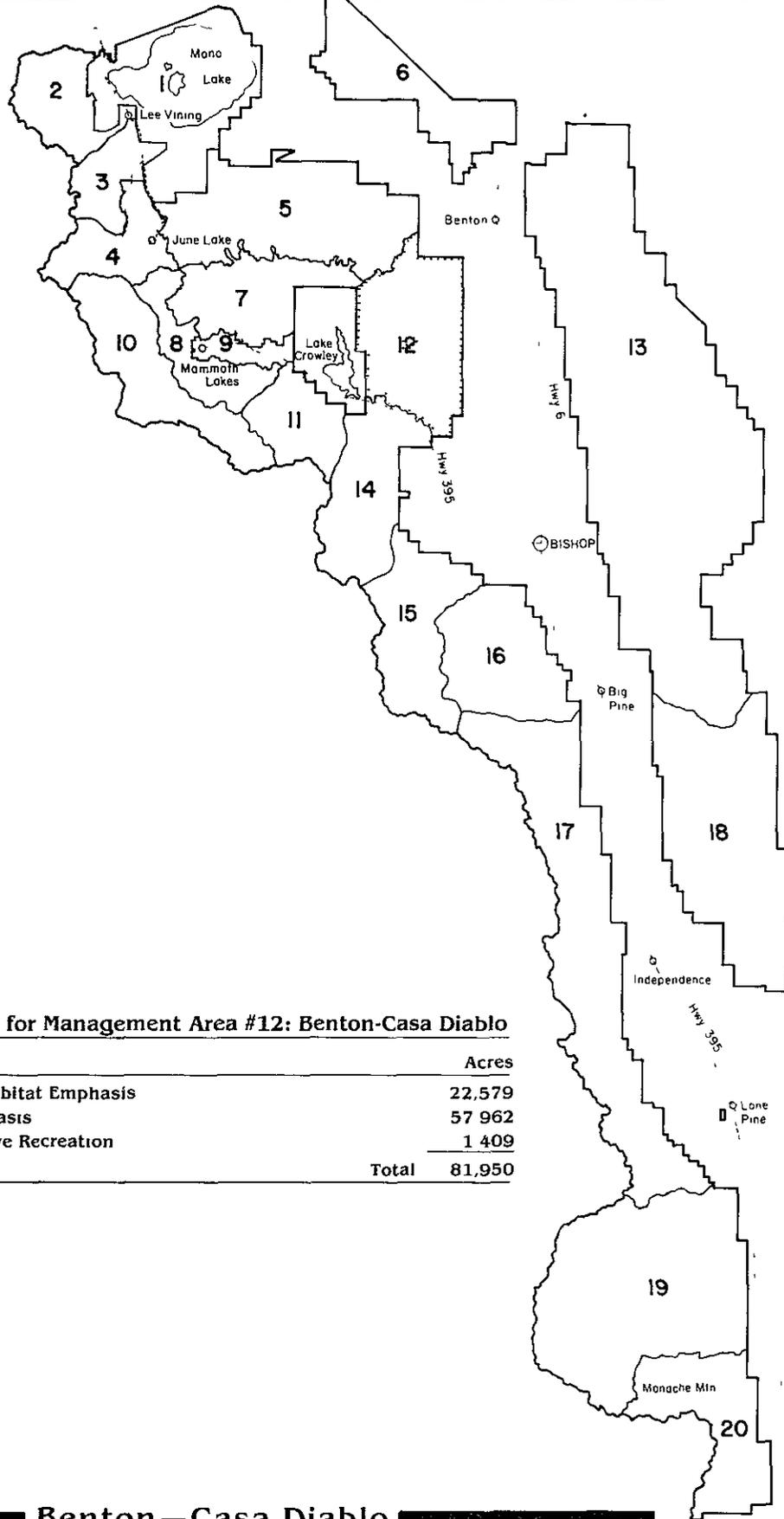
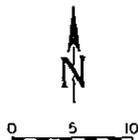
- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plans to include U.S. 395 within and adjacent to this Management Area.

- Allow no new overhead lines to occupy existing utility routes as seen from U.S. 395. Relocate existing powerlines as opportunities arise.
- Reduce the visual impact of the Convict sewer plant facility by using vegetative screening.

#### Wildlife

- Maintain the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

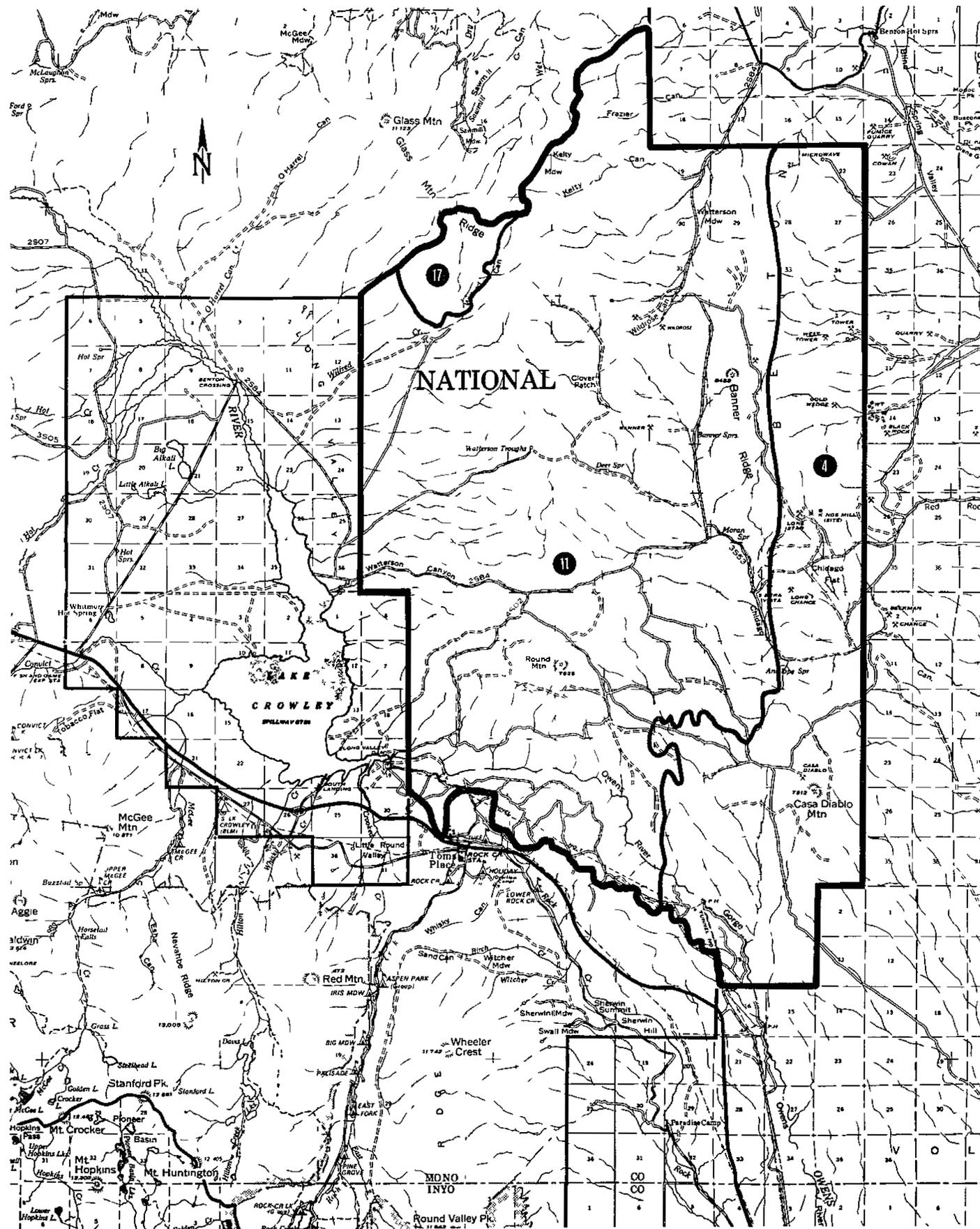


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #12: Benton-Casa Diablo**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	22,579
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	57,962
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	1,409
<b>Total</b>		<b>81,950</b>

**Benton—Casa Diablo**

Benton—Casa Diablo



10 Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Benton-Casa Diablo (#12)

### Description

The Benton-Casa Diablo Management Area lies between Lake Crowley and Hammil Valley. Prominent features include Kelty Peak, Casa Diablo Mountain, Banner Ridge and Owens River Gorge.

The area is characterized by a broad volcanic tableland punctuated by mountain peaks of the Benton Mountain Range. The western portion of the area drains toward Lake Crowley, the southern portion toward the Owens River, and the eastern portion toward Chalfant Valley. Elevations range from 5,800 feet in the Owens River Gorge to 10,560 feet at Kelty Peak. The area has several dispersed parcels of private land inholdings, and several square miles of City of Los Angeles ownership in and around the Owens River Gorge.

Vegetation ranges from a sparse Jeffrey pine forest intermixed with mountain mahogany and pinyon pine to pinyon-juniper and sagebrush-bitterbrush scrub.

The Management Area is highly mineralized and contains many mining claims. It is also valued for livestock grazing and contains all or part of eight grazing allotments. Recreationists visit in light numbers for primitive camping, fishing, fuelwood gathering, and other dispersed uses. The area is well served by roads and trails. A small group of pronghorn (approximately twenty animals) migrate from winter habitat in Hammil Valley to the Crowley Lake Basin where they summer.

The majority of the winter range for the Casa Diablo deer herd, 1,500 animals, is located in this Management Area. A major migration corridor extends from the winter ranges around the south end of the Glass Mountains and then follows the base of the Glass Mountains paralleling the Owens River.

### Management Area Direction

#### Range

- Consider placement and timing of water availability for deer and other wildlife when developing water sources for livestock.
- Utilize plant species that also benefit wildlife when revegetating rangeland.
- Maintain or develop a vegetative mosaic when regenerating range forage.
- Manage grazing to minimize effects on fish and wildlife.

#### Visual

- Utilize only existing powerline routes for the location of additional overhead lines. Do not create new routes through the area.

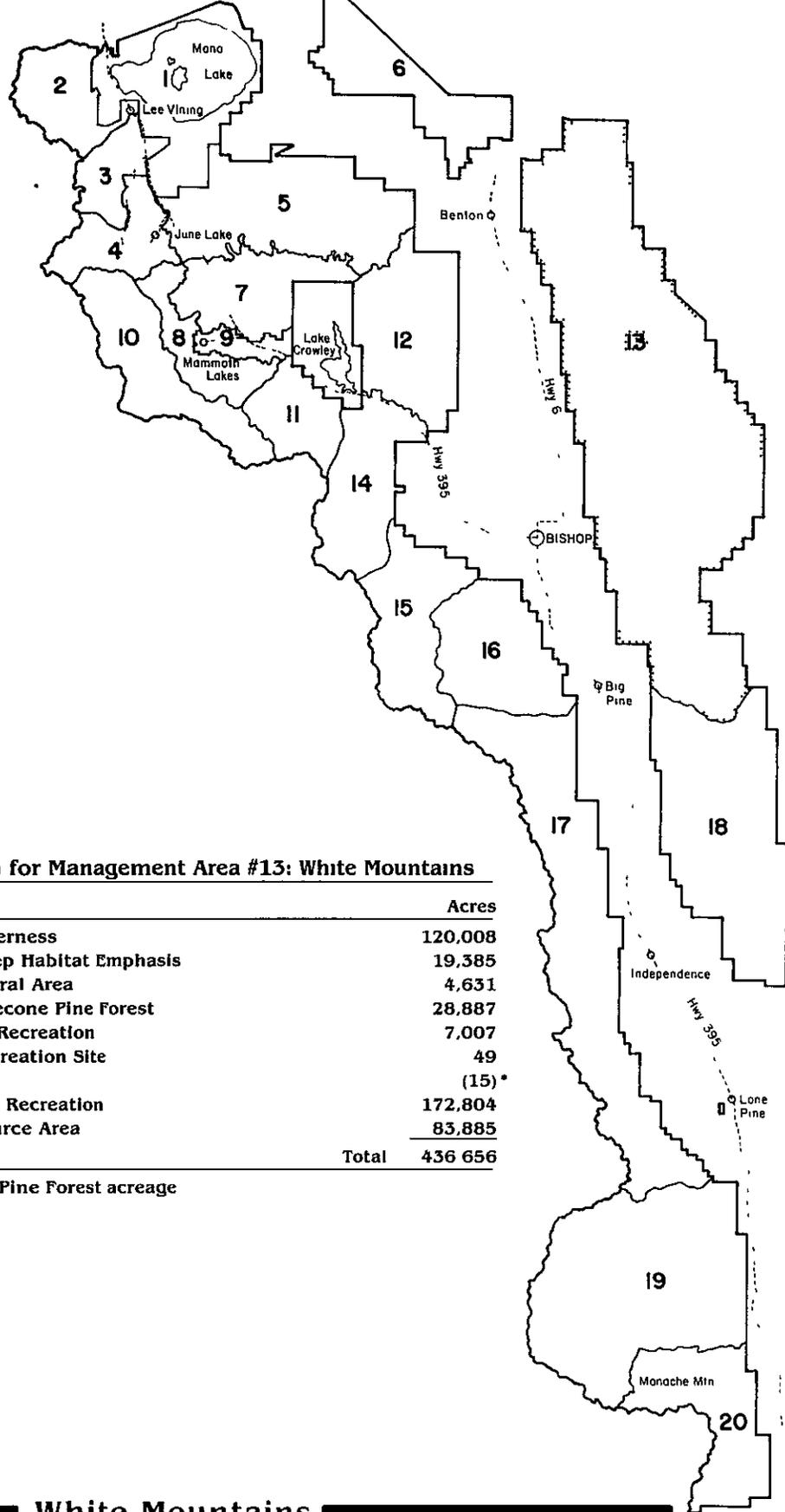
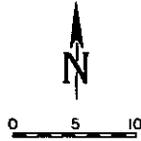
### Water

- Negotiate with public utility entities to return water to portions of the Owens River Gorge.

### Wildlife

- Develop water sources for deer and other wildlife where needed as identified in the deer herd management plan.
- Protect important sage grouse wintering grounds and strutting grounds/nesting complex from detrimental disturbance.
- Maintain the integrity of migration corridors used by pronghorn and mule deer between Long Valley and Hammil/Chalfant Valley.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**



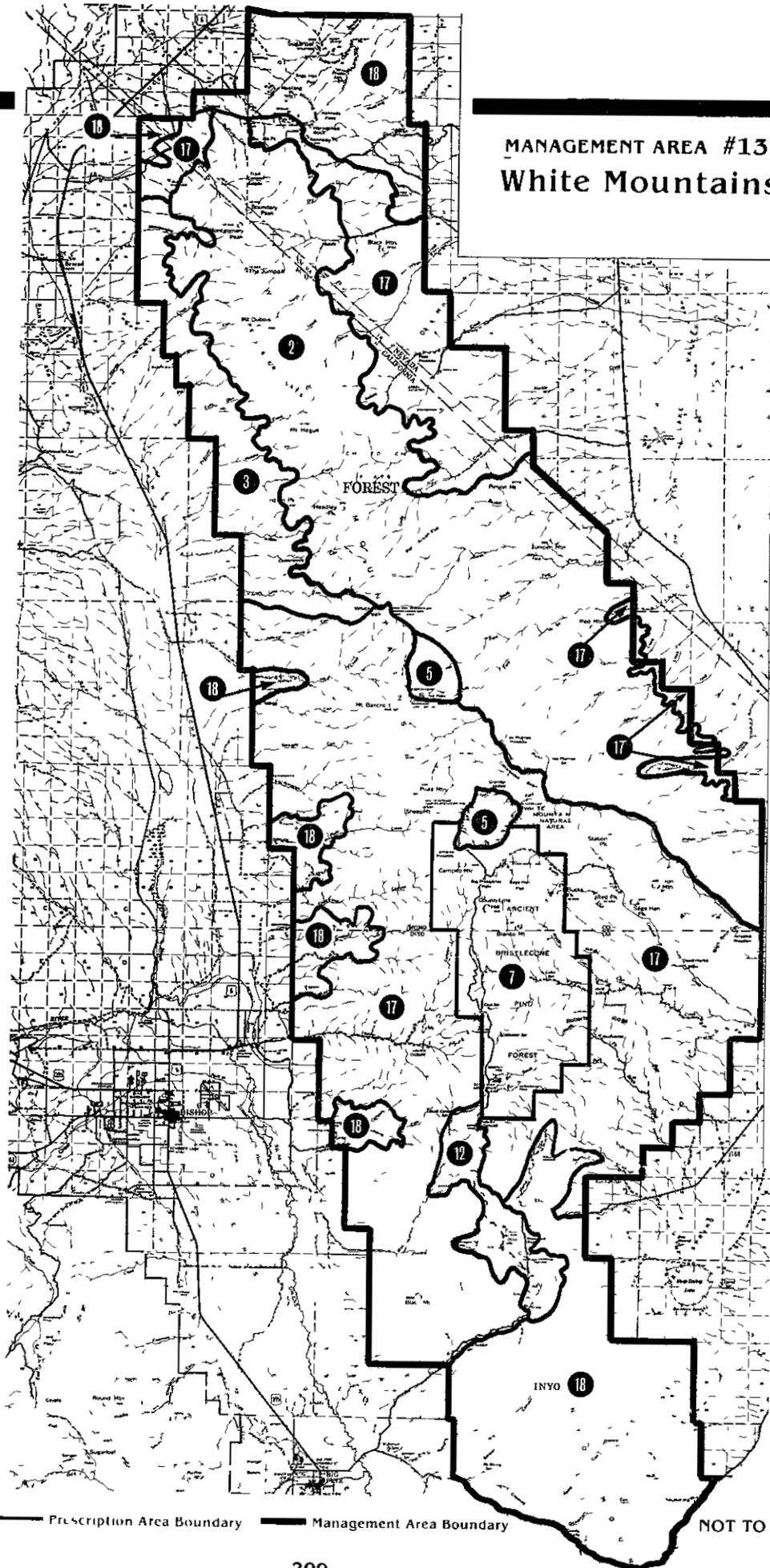
**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #13: White Mountains**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 2	Proposed Wilderness	120,008
Rx 3	Mountain Sheep Habitat Emphasis	19,385
Rx 5	Research Natural Area	4,631
Rx 7	Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest	28,887
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation	7,007
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	49
		(15)*
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	172,804
Rx 18	Multiple Resource Area	83,885
	<b>Total</b>	<b>436 656</b>

\*Included in Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest acreage

**White Mountains**

MANAGEMENT AREA #13  
White Mountains



10 Prescription Numbers

— Prescription Area Boundary

— Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## White Mountains (#13)

### Description

The White Mountains Management Area straddles the California-Nevada border within the Great Basin Geographic Province. Prominent features include bristlecone pine (the oldest living trees), Boundary Peak (the tallest peak in Nevada at 13,140 feet), White Mountain Peak (14,248 feet), Paiute cutthroat trout (a threatened species), and desert mountain sheep (a special interest species). The vast majority of the area is National Forest System land with only a few scattered parcels of private land inholdings.

The area is characterized by an abrupt, steep escarpment on the west; high mountain peaks, plateaus, rugged canyons, and foothills on the east. Elevations range from 4,600 feet on the Waucoba Road at the Forest boundary to 14,248 feet at the summit of White Mountain.

Vegetation ranges from alpine fellfields to bristlecone and limber pine forests to pinyon-juniper woodland to sagebrush and scrub at the lower elevations.

The White Mountain wild horse herd ranges mostly in the canyons within the northeastern portion of the Management Area from Queen Canyon in the north to Indian Garden Creek in the south. Pronghorn antelope, transplanted in the vicinity of Hammil Valley in 1982, range the northwestern boundary of the Management Area.

The White Mountains are moderately mineralized with numerous unpatented claims. Recreational use focuses primarily on the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, hunting, and to a limited extent trout fishing. The University of California maintains three high elevation research laboratories under permit. Livestock grazing is an important use. The Management Area contains all or part of ten grazing allotments. The area is largely unroaded and unaltered by human activities. There are occurrences of important prehistoric native American habitation sites. The scientific value of the remnant bristlecone pine wood is immeasurable.

The Management Area contains one established Research Natural Area (RNA) and one recommended for establishment. The White Mountain RNA was established in 1953 for its bristlecone pine community; the McAfee RNA is recommended for its alpine fellfield. The McAfee RNA is partially located in the White Mountain Scientific Area. This area was designated under a U-3 (Recreation) classification by the Regional Forester in 1971. This classification is no longer appropriate for the area under the regulations. Any road closures or other restrictions needed to protect the scientific values of the area are now under the jurisdiction of the Forest Supervisor.

A portion of this Management Area is being recommended for wilderness designation. It includes the White Mountains Further Planning Area, identified as having outstanding scenic attractions and recreational challenges.

## Management Area Direction

### Geology

- Emphasize the Great Basin Physiographic Province and sedimentary geology at interpretive sites and in guides that cover the area. Where appropriate, emphasize information on the White Mountain seismic gap, geology of the Bristlecone Pine Forest, history of local mining districts and the presence of important fossil groups.

### Lands

- Continue efforts to resolve conflicts between continuous broadcast and intermittent broadcast users at the Silver Peak electronic site.
- Participate with the Bureau of Land Management in the study of existing and potential powerline corridors. Include in this study the need for additional north-south utility lines paralleling the existing Oregon-Sylmar HVDC transmission line and for new east-west corridor locations.
- Declassify the White Mountain Scientific Area. Protect the scientific values of the area under the authority of the Forest Supervisor.

### Range

- Exclude portions of the Perry Aiken Flat allotment from cattle grazing to protect mountain sheep habitat.
- Issue no grazing permits for the road corridor along State Route 168 from the Forest boundary northeasterly through Westgard Canyon to the junction with the White Mountain Road (No. 4S01), and along White Mountain Road to Sierra View, in order to protect native plants and wildflowers for public viewing and enjoyment.

### Recreation

- Coordinate management of the Poleta OHV Area with the Bureau of Land Management and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.
- Allow OHVs to travel anywhere in the Poleta OHV Area.
- Prepare or update a recreation composite plan for areas in Prescriptions #7 and #12 that would inventory, coordinate, and program their full summer recreation development potential. Construct new facilities as funds become available.
- If the White Mountains are designated as wilderness, consider minimizing trail construction so as to continue the existing limited access within the area.
- Manage the White Mountains to emphasize Primitive and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized ROS class activities and opportunities except in areas designated as Prescription #18, which will emphasize Semi-Primitive

### Timber

- Prohibit fuelwood gathering above 8,000 feet elevation in the White Mountains.

### Visual

- Update the White Mountains sensitivity level mapping from trails and OHV routes.

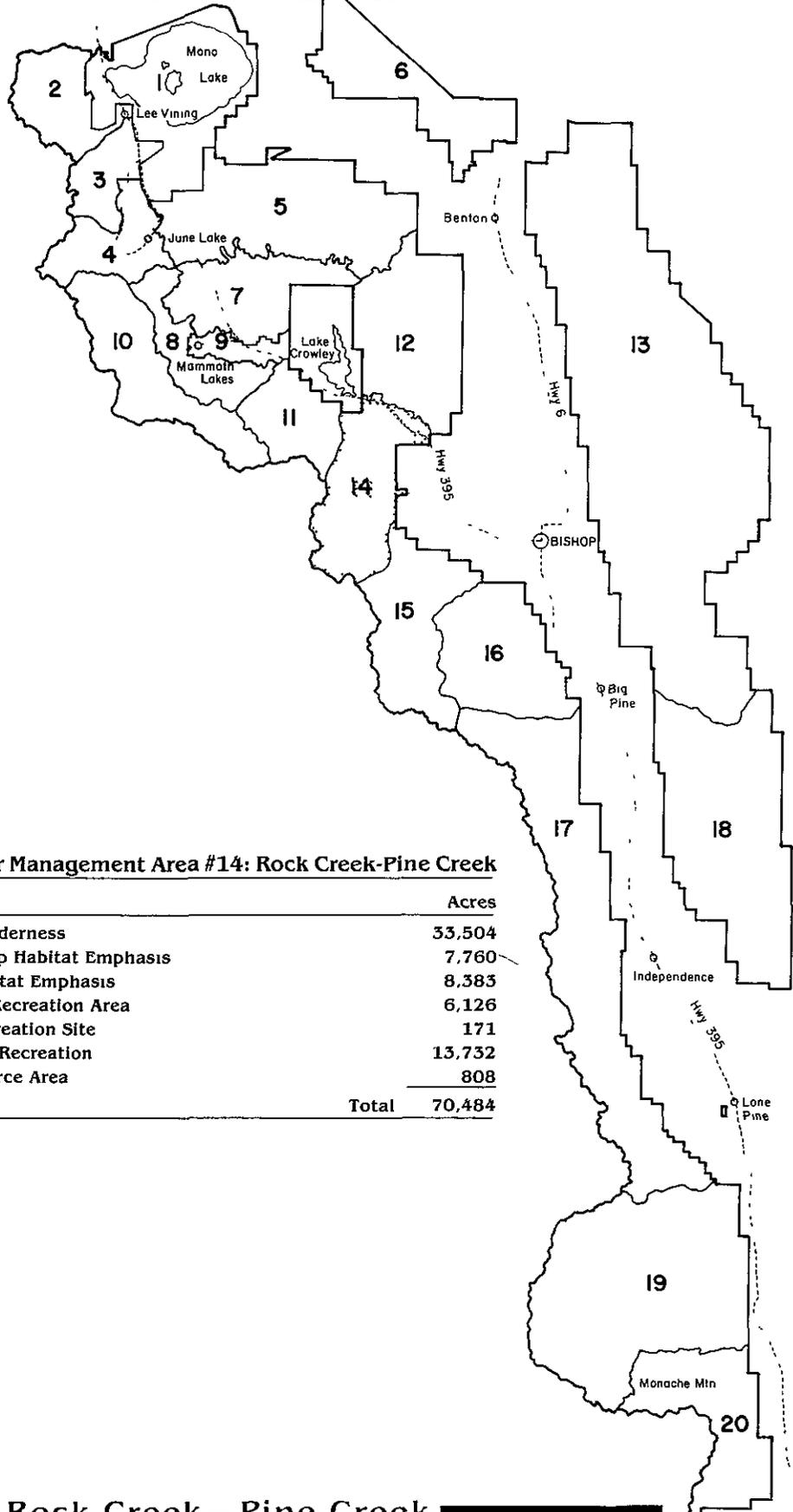
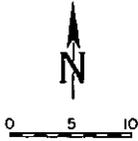
### Wilderness

- Recommend 120,000 acres in the higher elevations of the White Mountains Further Planning Area for wilderness designation. This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation 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. After designation by Congress, a wilderness management plan will be developed by the Forest.

### Wildlife

- Examine the potential for habitat improvement on mountain sheep winter range using prescribed fire.
- Prepare a plan for the recovery and conservation of Nelson mountain sheep.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

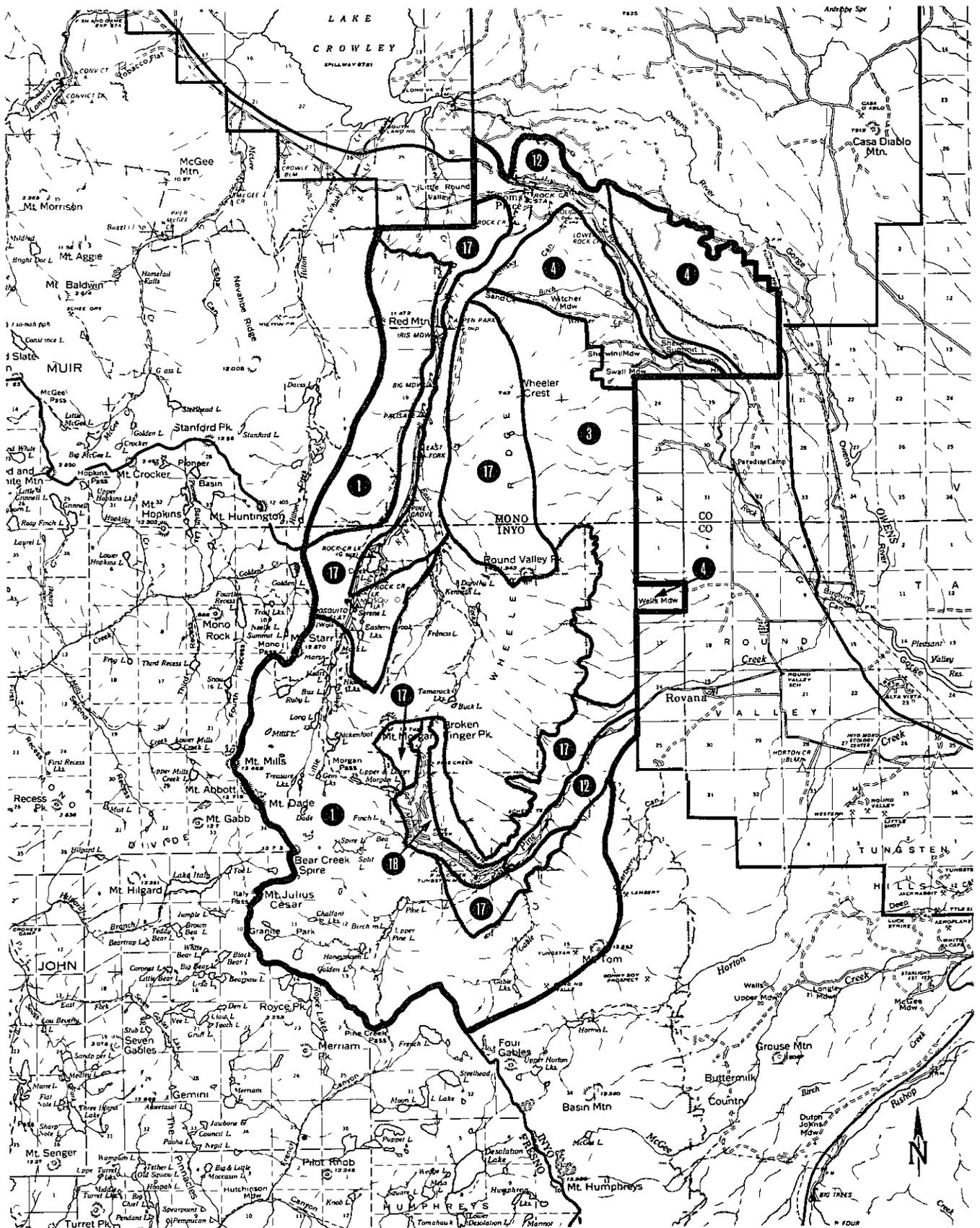


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #14: Rock Creek-Pine Creek**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	33,504
Rx 3	Mountain Sheep Habitat Emphasis	7,760
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	8,383
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	6,126
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	171
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	13,732
Rx 18	Multiple Resource Area	808
<b>Total</b>		<b>70,484</b>

**Rock Creek—Pine Creek**

Rock Creek—Pine Creek



10 Prescription Numbers    Prescription Area Boundary    Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Rock Creek-Pine Creek (#14)

### Description

The Rock Creek-Pine Creek Management Area straddles the Inyo-Mono County line and U.S. 395 from Sherwin Summit to Tom's Place. The rural communities of Sunny Slopes and Swall Meadows are located in this Management Area. About half of the Management Area is in the John Muir Wilderness. Prominent features are Wheeler Crest, Mt. Morgan, Mt. Abbott, Rock Creek Lake, and the concentrated recreation use facilities of Rock Creek Canyon.

The area is characterized by the rugged Eastern Sierra Escarpment, steep drainages, mountain meadows, and the Bishop tuff geologic formation. Elevations range from 4,860 feet near Round Valley to 13,748 feet atop Mt. Morgan. The area contains several dispersed parcels of private land and patented mining claims.

Vegetation ranges from subalpine forest, mixed coniferous forest, and pinyon-juniper to sagebrush and scrub.

One of the world's largest tungsten mines is located in the Pine Creek drainage. The mine has been inactive for the past few years and its status is uncertain at this time.

Summertime camping and fishing in Rock Creek Canyon are the most popular recreation activities. A resort under permit provides increasingly popular nordic ski and winter mountaineering services in Rock Creek Canyon. The area also contains most of one grazing allotment and supports key winter range for the Sherwin deer herd. A small band of Sierra mountain sheep have been reestablished at Wheeler Crest. Portions of this Management Area are extremely important as a winter range and migration corridor for several thousand deer of the Sherwin-Buttermilk deer herd.

### Management Area Direction

#### Range

- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

#### Recreation

- Review the future use determination decision for the area under permit to Rock Creek Lodge so that continued high quality nordic opportunities are provided to the public. Reexamine the future use determination for the Rock Creek Pack Station (Lot 13 Pine Grove Tract).
- Prepare a site plan for the day-use extension of the Tuff Campground.
- Fully identify and program dispersed trail facilities in the area in Prescription #12 (Rock Creek) and Lower Pine Creek from Rovana to Scheelite. Include hiking and equestrian trail facilities.

- Prepare site plans for Pine Creek Campground below Scheelite and for the trailhead area in Upper Canyon.

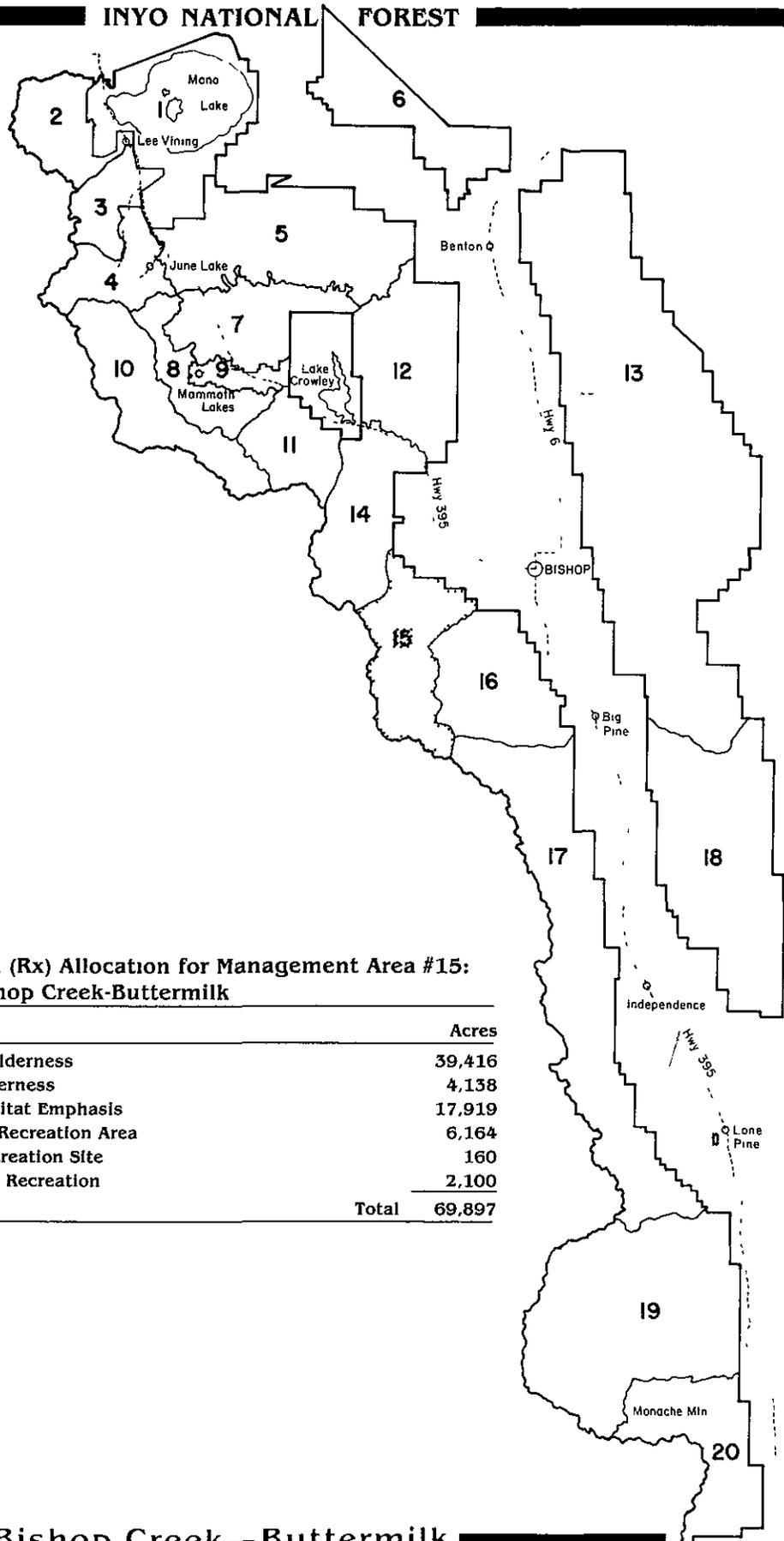
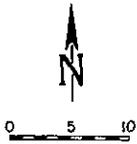
#### Visual

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plan that includes U.S. 395.
- Allow no new overhead lines to occupy existing routes as seen from U.S. 395.

#### Water

- Manage the Rock Creek watershed above Tom's Place, the Paradise community water supply intake, and the Pine Creek watershed above the Rovana community water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST



Management Prescription (Rx) Allocation for Management Area #15:  
Bishop Creek-Buttermilk

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	39,416
Rx 2	Proposed Wilderness	4,138
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	17,919
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	6,164
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	160
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	2,100
<b>Total</b>		<b>69,897</b>

Bishop Creek-Buttermilk



## Bishop Creek-Buttermilk (#15)

### Description

The Bishop Creek-Buttermilk Management Area includes a portion of the Sierra Escarpment and lies south and west of Bishop. More than half the area is in the John Muir Wilderness. Prominent features are Mt. Tom, Basin Mountain, Mt. Humphreys, Mt. Emerson, Mt. Darwin, Table Mountain, Lake Sabrina, South Lake, Bishop Creek, Horton Creek, and the Buttermilk country. The area contains many parcels of private land, including the rural communities of Starlite Estates, Aspendell, and Habeggars.

The area is characterized by steep, rugged mountains and canyons, mountain meadows and pristine lakes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet along lower Bishop Creek to 13,986 atop Mt. Humphreys.

A portion of the Management Area is being recommended for wilderness. The Table Mountain Further Planning Area was evaluated in the RARE II process as preserving the wilderness attributes of the region. It is contiguous to the John Muir Wilderness and currently provides wilderness-type recreation opportunities.

Vegetation ranges from subalpine forest to pinyon-juniper, sagebrush-bitterbrush, and desert scrub.

The area contains one grazing allotment and supports key winter range for the Buttermilk deer herd. Elderberry Canyon is a potential mountain sheep transplant site.

The Management Area contains the Bishop Creek concentrated use recreation area, making it best known for camping and fishing opportunities. Lake Sabrina and South Lake are large, man-made reservoirs which are the focal point for boat fishing. Thousands of visitors use this concentrated recreation use corridor annually.

### Management Area Direction

#### Facilities

- Do not increase current standards for road access and maintenance within the area in Prescription #4.

#### Fish

- Consider the South Fork of Bishop Creek for a resident trout fishery.

#### Range

- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

### Recreation

- Develop a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the summer and winter recreation development potential in the area in Prescription #12 (Bishop Creek). Construct developed sites as funds become available.
- Identify and program dispersed trail facilities in the area in Prescription #12 to include hiking and equestrian opportunities.
- Close all roads to OHV motorized use above Wells Upper Meadow in the Buttermilk area between November 15 and April 15 to reduce adverse impacts on this key winter deer range.
- Emphasize Semi-Primitive Motorized and Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized activities and opportunities in the area in Prescription #4 from April 15 to November 15.

### Visual

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plan to include State Route 168 (Bishop Creek), the South Fork of Bishop Creek, and the North Lake Road within this unit.
- Work with CalTrans and Inyo County to reestablish vegetation on cuts and fills where feasible along major roads in Bishop Creek.

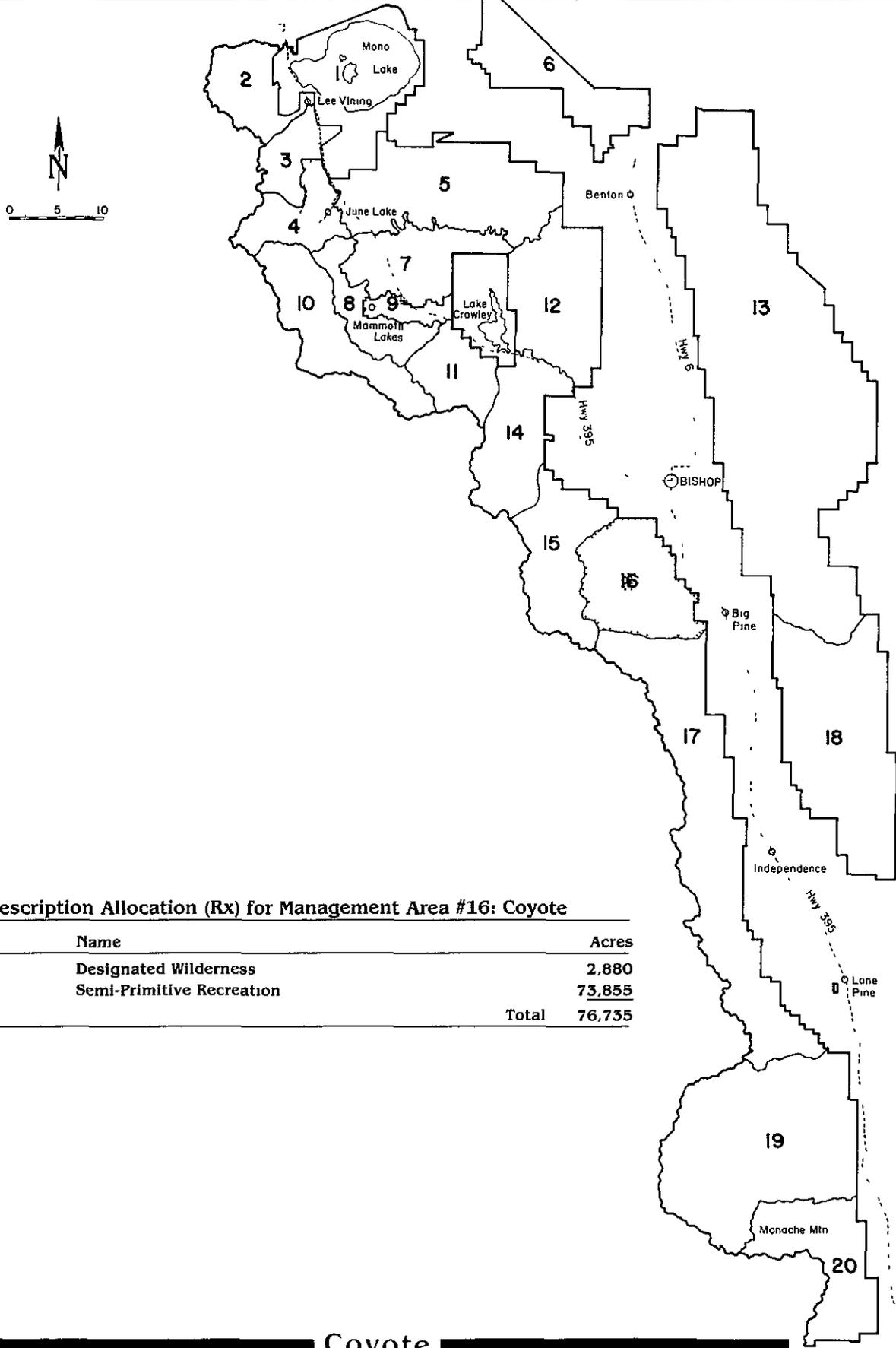
### Water

- Manage Bishop Creek watershed above the Plant Four community water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.

### Wilderness

- Recommend the 4,138-acre Table Mountain Further Planning Area for wilderness designation. This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation 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 have been reserved by the Congress to itself. After designation by Congress a wilderness management plan will be developed as an amendment to the John Muir Wilderness Management Plan.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

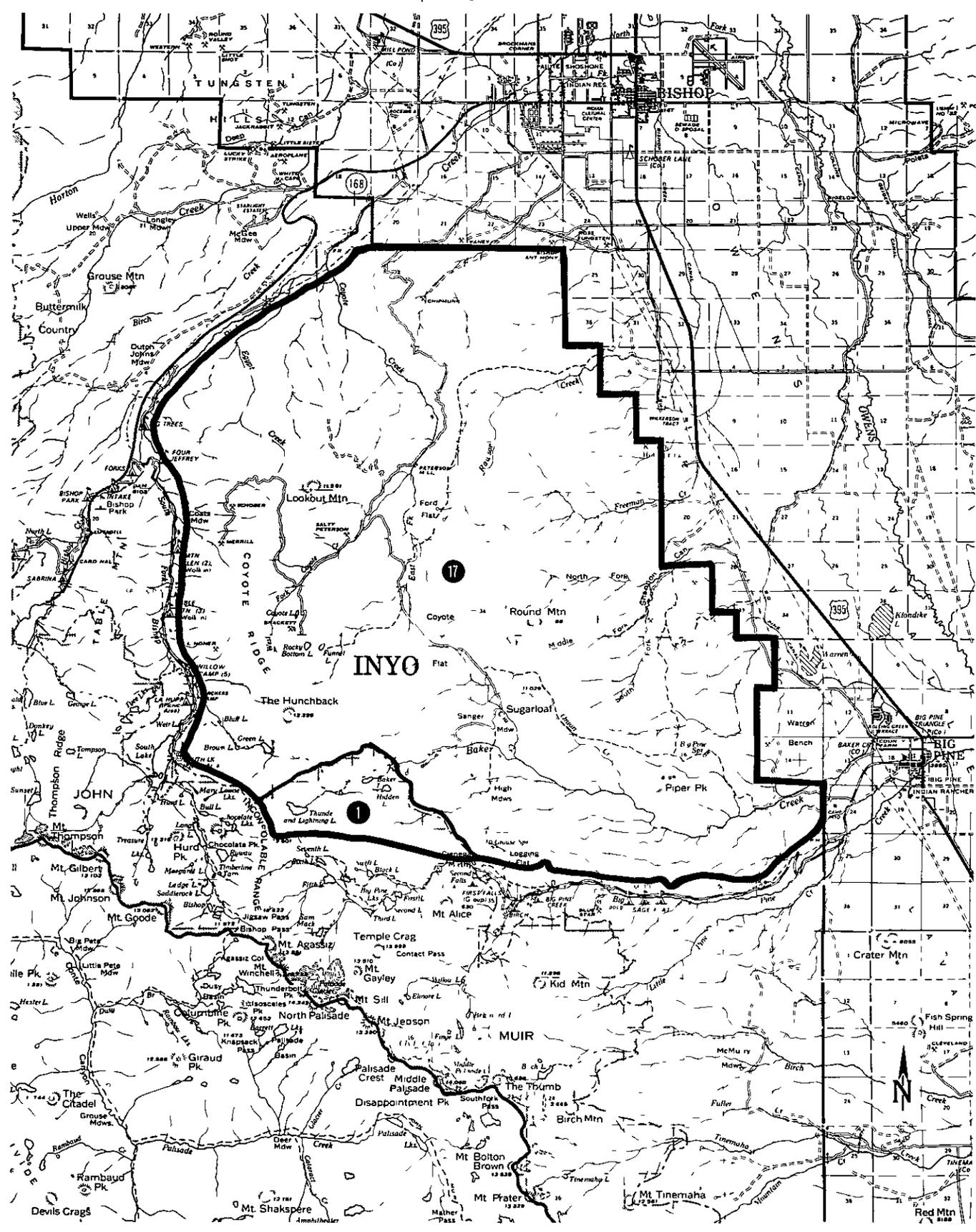


Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #16: Coyote

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	2,880
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	73,855
Total		76,735

Coyote

# Coyote



10 Prescription Numbers    Prescription Area Boundary    Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Coyote (#16)

### Description

The Coyote Management Area lies southwest of Bishop on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada. The area consists mostly of Coyote Flat. This is an ancient plain that was in existence prior to the uplifting of the Sierra mountain block. This ancient plain survived the uplift intact and now lies as a perched high plateau surrounded by precipitous, glaciated mountain and canyon topography. The area also includes a very small portion of the John Muir Wilderness in the southwestern sector. Other prominent features include Coyote Ridge, Lookout Mountain, the Hunchback, Round Mountain, Sugarloaf, a portion of the Inconsonable Range, and Baker and Coyote Creeks. Some parcels of private land inholdings are dispersed throughout the area.

Steep, rugged terrain and flat tableland topography characterize the area. Elevations range from 4,000 feet four miles northwest of Big Pine to 13,501 feet along the Inconsonable Range. Vehicle entry is via a single off-highway road. The area is largely unroaded and undisturbed by man's influences.

Vegetation is characterized by limber pine at the higher elevations, ranging into lodgepole-Jeffrey pine, pinyon-juniper, and sagebrush.

Some mining (primarily for tungsten) has occurred, and many mining claims are present.

Cattle grazing is an important use as the area contains four grazing allotments. The area is generally snowbound from December through April with little use except by an occasional cross-country skier.

Recreationists value the area for its off-highway accessibility and its primitive camping, fishing, and hunting opportunities.

Potential exists for a Sierra Nevada mountain sheep transplant into Shannon Creek. Lower portions of this management area are used as winter range by the Goodale deer herd.

### Management Area Direction

#### Range

- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

#### Recreation

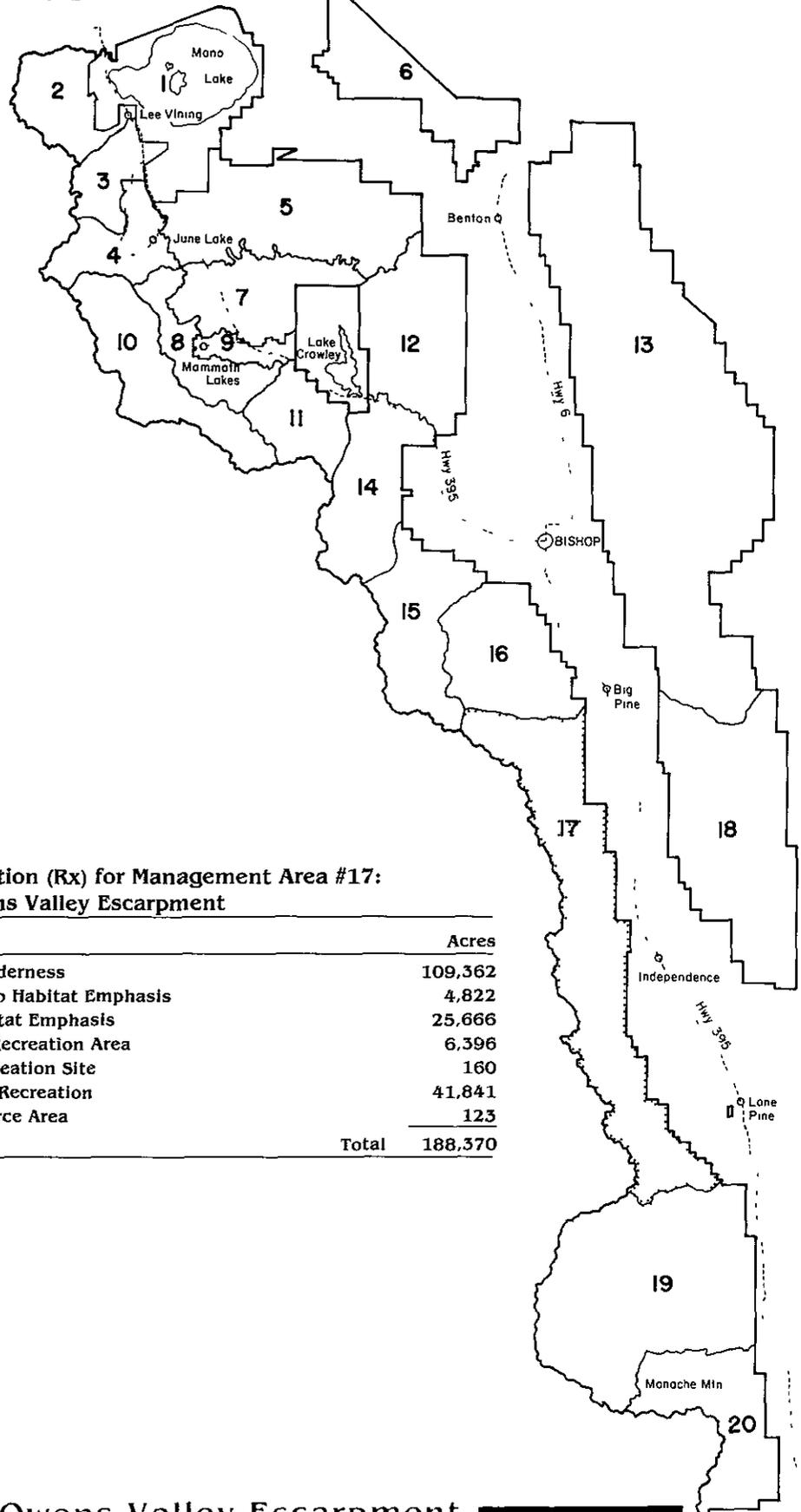
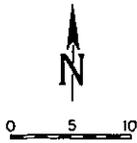
- Emphasize Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized activities and opportunities in the area in Prescription #17 (Coyote-Baker Creek). Develop a composite plan to include OHV opportunities, mountain bike and equestrian trails, locations of ROS classes, and limited overnight camping facilities to maintain a quality level of use with minimal resource damage.

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Water

- Manage Coyote Creek watershed above the Plant Four community water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

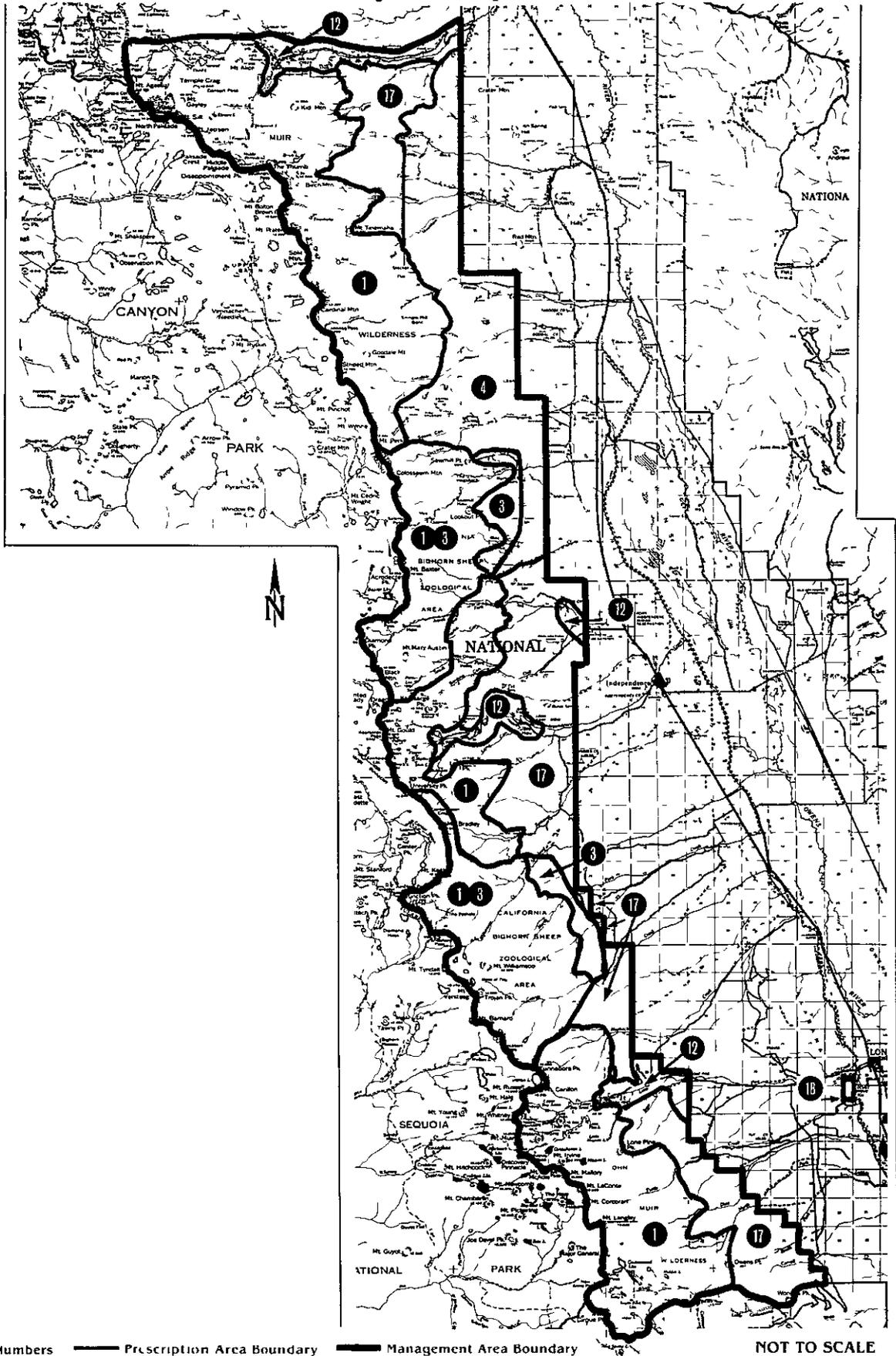


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #17:  
Owens Valley Escarpment**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	109,362
Rx 3	Mountain Sheep Habitat Emphasis	4,822
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	25,666
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	6,396
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	160
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	41,841
Rx 18	Multiple Resource Area	123
<b>Total</b>		<b>188,370</b>

**Owens Valley Escarpment**

# Owens Valley Escarpment



10 Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary

— Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Owens Valley Escarpment (#17)

### Description

The Owens Valley Escarpment Management Area extends from Big Pine Creek on the north to Wonoga Peak on the south. A large portion of the John Muir Wilderness is within the Management Area boundary. All of the area is within Inyo County. Prominent features are the Eastern Sierra Nevada Escarpment with its many peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation, and Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous United States. Several isolated parcels of private land inholdings occur at the lower elevations below the wilderness boundary.

The area is comprised of steep to precipitous rugged terrain in the canyons and moderate to gentle slopes on the alluvial fans and benches. Elevations range from 5,000 feet to 14,495 feet at the summit of Mt. Whitney. All of the drainage flows eastward into Owens Valley and is finally absorbed into the Los Angeles Aqueduct system.

Vegetation ranges from subalpine conifer forest with foxtail, limber, and whitebark pines in the higher elevations to juniper, pinyon pine, and the semidesert communities of sagebrush, shadscale, blackbrush, and bitterbrush in the lower elevations.

Riparian areas contain a mixture of water birch and willow with scattered pockets of black oak. The vegetative makeup provides key winter forage for deer, tule elk, and mountain sheep.

Five domestic cattle grazing allotments provide spring and early summer forage for local ranches.

Concentrated recreation use exists in Big Pine Creek, Oak Creek, Independence Creek, and Lone Pine Creek. Dispersed recreation use includes fishing, hunting, and hiking throughout the Management Area. Major trailheads that access the Wilderness are located in Big Pine Creek, and at Onion Valley and Whitney Portal.

From U.S. 395 the entire Management Area presents the scenic backdrop known as the "Sierra Escarpment."

This Management Area contains habitats important for the Mt. Baxter, Mt. Williamson and Mt. Langley mountain sheep populations, and includes the California Mountain Sheep Zoological Area. Lower portions of the Management Area are also important as winter range for the Goodale and Monache deer herds.

Taboose Creek is a potential site for reintroduction of Sierra Nevada mountain sheep.

### Management Area Direction

#### Facilities

- Coordinate with Inyo County to minimize the vegetative disturbance on roadsides in the area in Prescription #12.

### Fish

- Manage Tinemaha Creek watershed at and above the meadow reach to provide for recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout as directed in the approved recovery plan.

### Lands

- Maintain the 120-acre isolated parcel of National Forest System land in Sections 29 and 32, Township 15 South, Range 36 East for land exchange or Forest Service administrative use.

### Range

- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

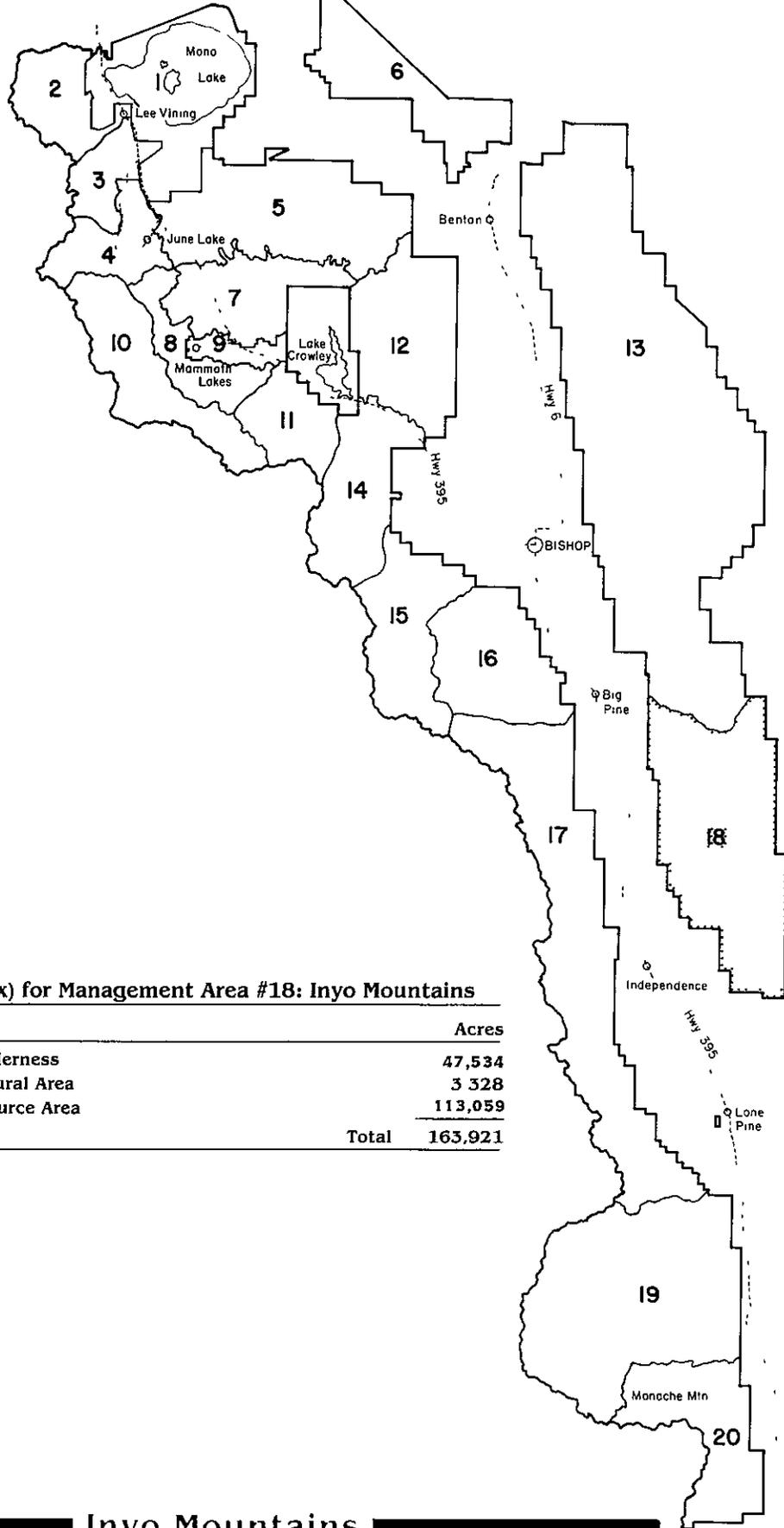
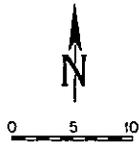
### Recreation

- Develop all overnight and day-use opportunities in the area in Prescription #12 (Big Pine, Independence, and Lone Pine Creek drainages).
- Develop a trail from Sage Flat Campground to Glacier Lodge in Big Pine Canyon for dispersed recreation.

### Water

- Manage Big Pine Creek watershed above the Sage Flat and Big Pine community water supply intakes, Independence Creek watershed above the Seven Pines and Grey's Meadow Summer Home Tracts community water supply intakes, and the Lone Pine Creek watershed above the Forest boundary with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

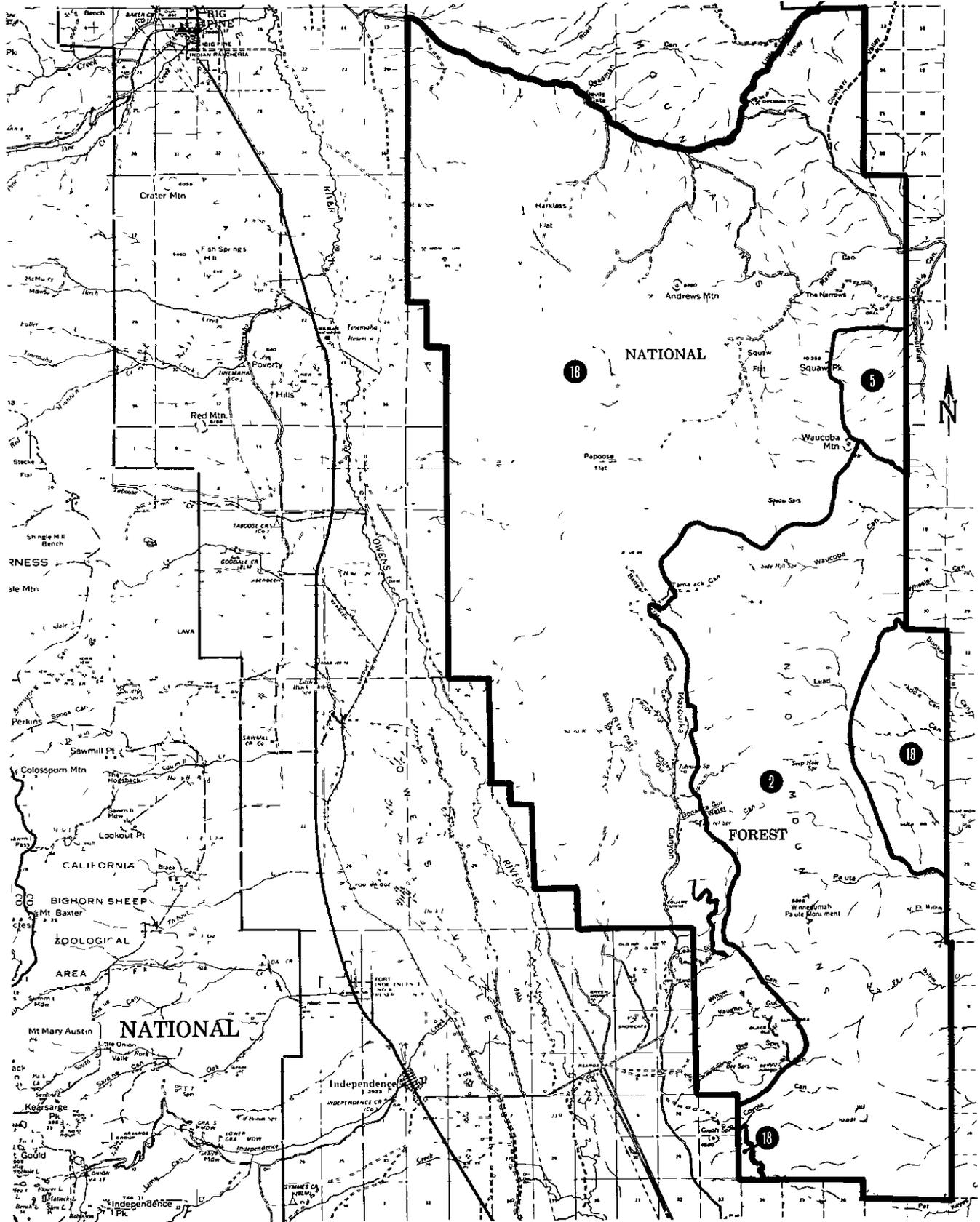


**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #18: Inyo Mountains**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 2	Proposed Wilderness	47,534
Rx 5	Research Natural Area	3,328
Rx 18	Multiple Resource Area	113,059
<b>Total</b>		<b>163,921</b>

**Inyo Mountains**

# Inyo Mountains



⑩ Prescription Numbers    — Prescription Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Inyo Mountains (#18)

### Description

The Inyo Mountains Management Area consists of a large, rugged mountain range located approximately eight miles east of Independence, California. The range runs north and south with slopes from the summit facing both Owens Valley and Saline Valley. Prominent features are Waucoba Mountain and Squaw Peak. The entire area is within Inyo County. There are no private land inholdings.

Both the east and west slopes of the mountain range are extremely steep and rugged. Lack of water is one of the most notable characteristics; there are no perennial streams. Elevations range from a low of 3,700 feet about five miles northeast of Independence to 11,123 feet on Waucoba Mountain.

Vegetation is typically semi-desert with sagebrush in the lower elevations giving way to pinyon pine in the higher elevations. A scattering of bristlecone and limber pine exists above 9,500 feet.

The Winnedumah Paiute Monument located in the southern part of the Management Area northeast of Independence is a striking monolithic landmark visible from Owens Valley.

Parts of the area are highly mineralized, and unpatented mining claim activity is prevalent, although no major production is evident.

The Saline Valley burro herd ranges in the foothills of the Inyo Mountains along the eastern boundary of the Management Area from Whippoorwill Flat south to the South Fork of Willow Creek.

There are two grazing allotments, one under permit and one vacant because of the lack of water.

Recreational activity is limited to dispersed camping, and no developed sites are proposed. A Research Natural Area for pinyon pine is proposed on the northeast slopes of Waucoba Mountain near Whippoorwill Flat.

Three surveys since 1981 in the southeastern portion of the Management Area have indicated a population of about thirty Nelson mountain sheep.

A portion of this area is being recommended for wilderness. The Paiute Roadless Area was evaluated in the RARE II process as having a high degree of natural appearance with unique features and many opportunities for solitude. There are few recreational opportunities because of rugged terrain, lack of access and little water.

### Management Area Direction

#### Facilities

- Place the Waucoba, Papoose, Squaw Flat and Badger Flat roads on the Forest Road System to be maintained at Level 2 (low-level maintenance).

### Facilities

- Participate with the Bureau of Land Management in the study of existing and potential powerline corridors. Include in this study the need for additional north-south utility lines paralleling the existing Oregon-Sylmar HVDC transmission line and for new east-west corridor locations.

### Range

- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

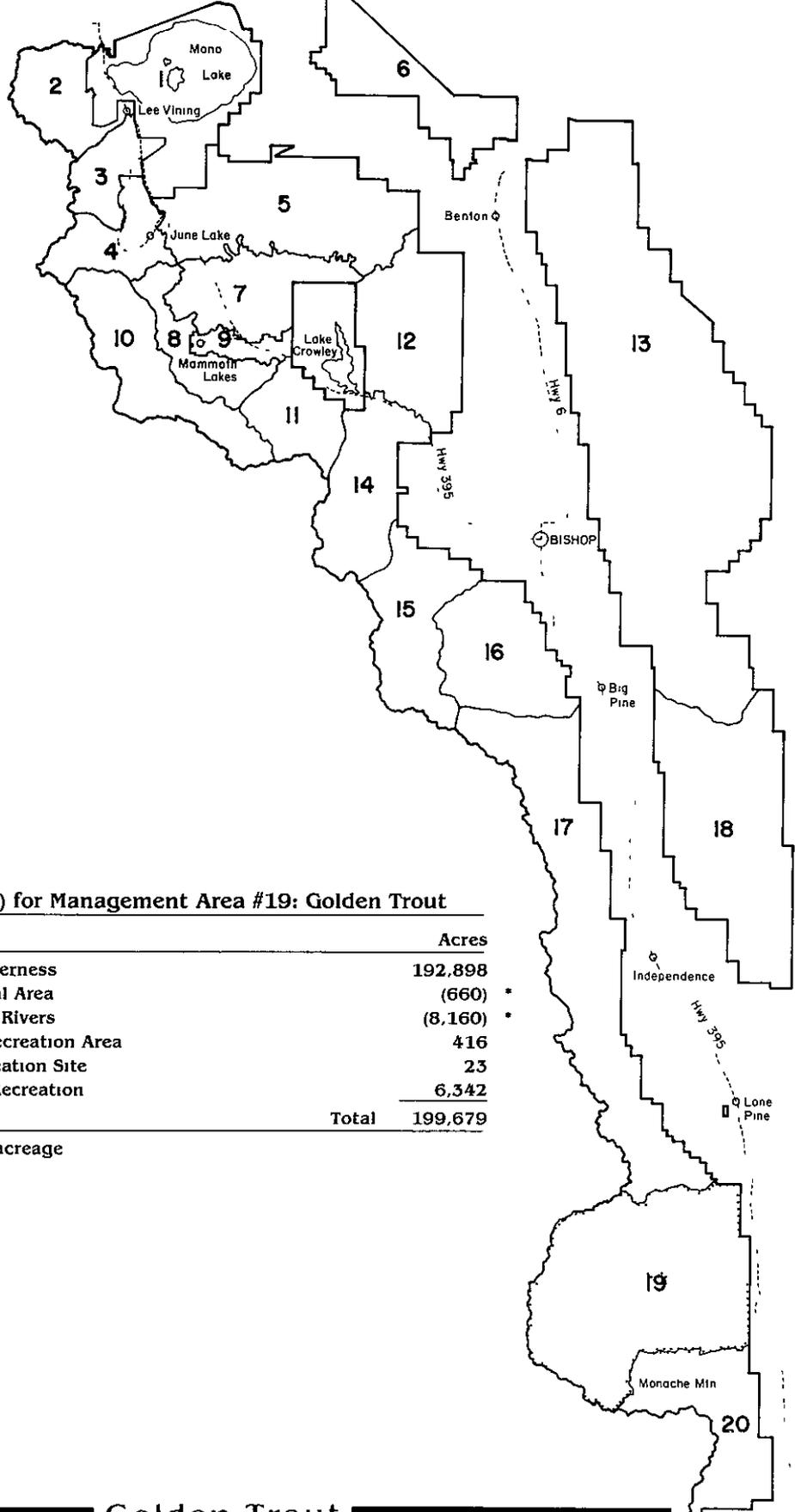
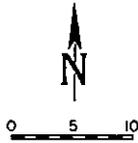
### Wilderness

- Recommend 47,942 acres in the southeast corner of the Paiute-Mazourka Further Planning area for wilderness designation. This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation 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. After designation by Congress a wilderness management plan will be developed for the area.

### Wildlife

- Prohibit overnight camping within 1/4 mile of spring water sources that are necessary for wildlife survival.
- Protect, maintain or develop water sources within the area for wildlife and vegetative diversity.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST



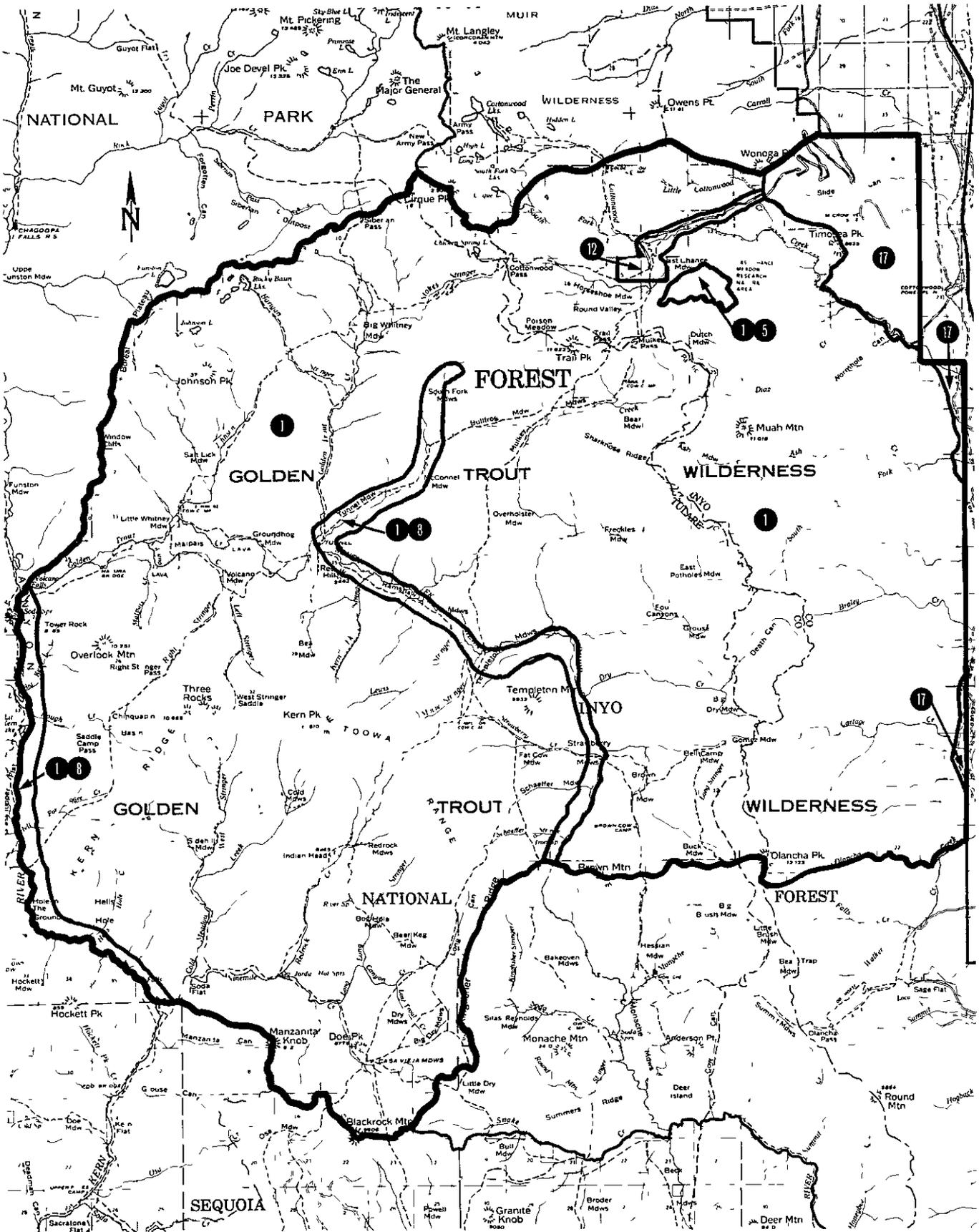
**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #19: Golden Trout**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	192,898
Rx 5	Research Natural Area	(660) *
Rx 8	Wild and Scenic Rivers	(8,160) *
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	416
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	23
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	6,342
<b>Total</b>		<b>199,679</b>

\*Included in designated wilderness acreage

**Golden Trout**

# Golden Trout



10 Prescription Numbers    — Prescription Area Boundary    — Management Area Boundary    NOT TO SCALE

## Golden Trout (#19)

### Description

The Golden Trout Management Area corresponds to the boundaries of the Golden Trout Wilderness on the Inyo National Forest and includes the Horseshoe Meadow enclave along with a corner of National Forest land outside the wilderness northeast of Timosea Peak. Prominent features are Wonoga, Cirque, Trail, Kern, and Olancho Peaks, Templeton Mountain, Golden Trout Creek, headwaters of the South Fork of the Kern River, and the North Fork of the Kern River gorge. Several isolated parcels of private land inholdings remain in the wilderness, and the City of Los Angeles owns some land in the Horseshoe Meadow enclave.

Topography is typical of the upper Kern Plateau country. Located mostly west of the Sierra Escarpment, the terrain is not so sharply defined, but is rolling and punctuated with evidence of volcanic activity (e.g., Templeton Mountain is a cinder cone), granitic peaks and outcrops, and many high-country meadows. Elevations range from 3,700 feet on the eastern boundary of the Management Area to 12,900 feet at Cirque Peak.

Vegetation is quite diverse. Ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine dominate the lower montane coniferous forest below 6,500 feet. The upper montane coniferous forest is found between 6,000 and 10,000 feet and is comprised of three communities: the mixed conifer (white fir-sugar pine-incense cedar) forest, the red fir forest, and the mountain juniper woodland. The subalpine forests are dominated by lodgepole pine. Western white pine and limber pine are restricted to isolated pockets within the lodgepole pine forest. Foxtail pine is found on the Kern Plateau and extends north to Onion Valley. The next population of this tree species lies over 300 miles north in the Klamath Mountains. This disjunct distribution is unique among subalpine tree species. Foxtail pine, which is closely related to bristlecone pine, also attains great age.

The chaparral community covers dry, rocky slopes usually where the conifers are absent. Common species of the chaparral communities are buckbrush, whitethorn, manzanita, mountain mahogany, antelope bush, and squaw currant. A large mountain meadow community of grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs is important to deer, livestock, and pack stock. Alpine fellfields including perennial herbs forming cushions or mats, are found above timberline. East of the Sierra crest, the following four plant communities are present: pinyon-juniper, sagebrush scrub, shadscale scrub, and creosote bush.

The Golden Trout Wilderness is unique in being the native home of the golden trout, California's state fish.

All but a small portion of the Management Area is occupied by six grazing allotments for cattle.

Hiking, backpacking, and pack stock use are the primary dispersed recreation activities.

The Last Chance Meadow Research Natural Area supporting foxtail pine was established in 1982 and is located east of Horseshoe Meadow. The Management Area contains the headwaters and 20 miles of the South Fork of the Kern River,

and 11 miles of the North Fork of the Kern River. Both of these have been designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

This Management Area is the focus of intensified watershed restoration activities. Efforts were begun in 1933 to restore damaged stream channels. Since that time, approximately 800 erosion control structures have been installed, protecting about 500 acres of meadowland from gullying and accelerated erosion.

The area contributes significantly to both the summer and winter needs of the Monache deer herd.

Olancha Canyon has the potential as a site for Sierra Nevada mountain sheep transplant pending an environmental analysis.

### Management Area Direction

#### Fish

- Strive to attain high quality habitat as defined in the Habitat Capability Model for all golden trout streams. Manage the habitat as the best that can be achieved given the incised conditions of stream channels as defined by quantitative methodologies such as GAWS, COWFISH, etc.
- Work with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to maintain a continuous water flow for fisheries in Cottonwood Creek below the penstock diversion.

#### Range

- Permit cattle entry on or about June 25, but make every effort to avoid encroachment on known fawning areas through mitigating measures shown in individual grazing allotment plans.
- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend allotment plans to include needed mitigating measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

#### Recreation

- In cooperation with the City of Los Angeles, close all roadside zones below the 320-acre trailhead area to off-road parking and use except for designated vista points or interpretive sites. Coordinate the closure with the development of a camping facility at the Horseshoe Meadow Trailhead.

#### Visual

- Continue to mitigate the negative visual impact created by Horseshoe Meadow Road with soil stabilization structures and vegetative measures.

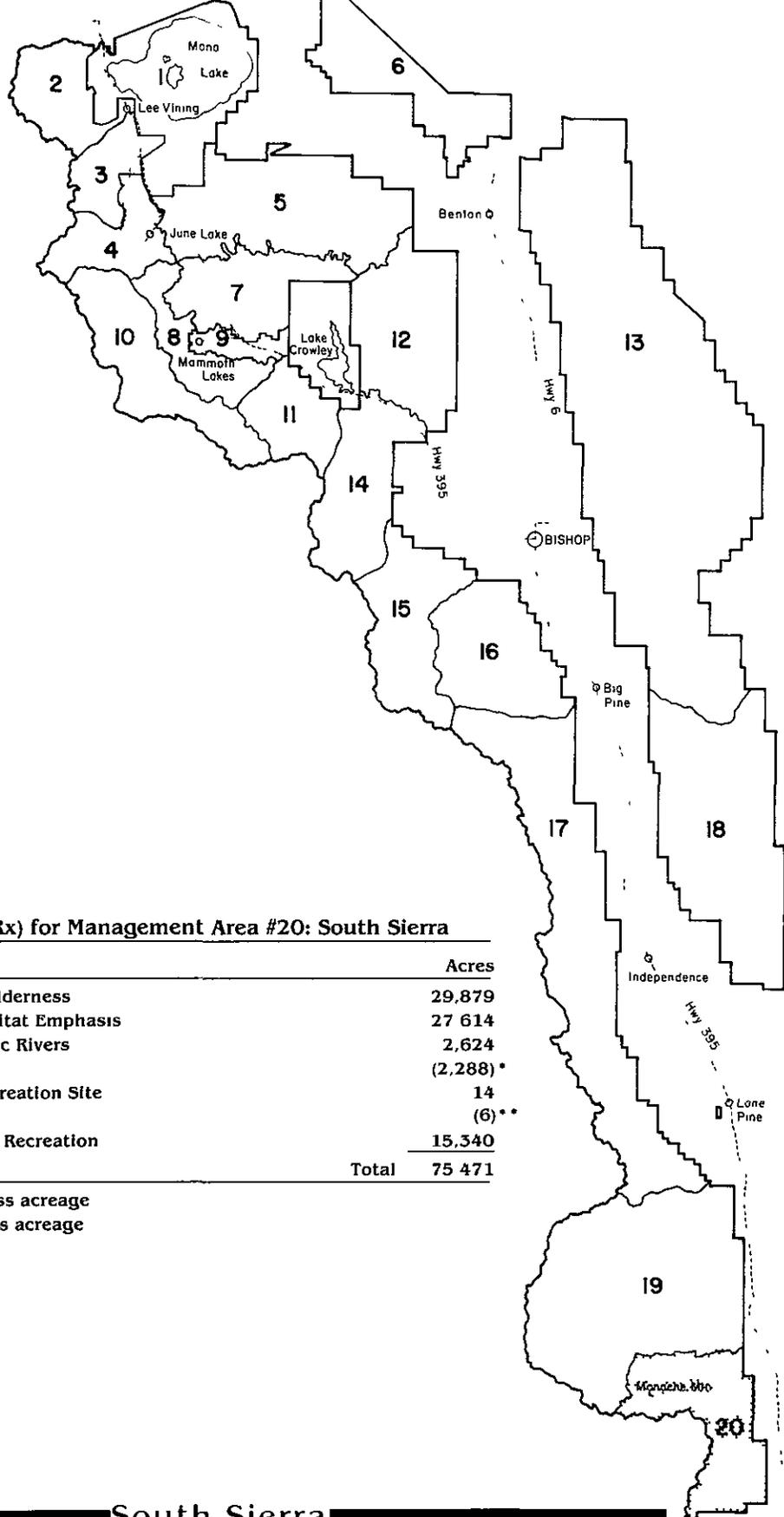
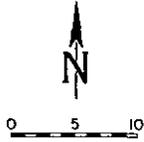
## Water

- Maintain existing meadows to arrest further degradation before initiating total watershed restoration projects.
- Place watershed restoration priorities in areas where sediment reduction, fish habitat, and visual resources would receive the most benefit.
- Negotiate with public utility entities to return water to portions of Cottonwood Creek.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Manage the South Fork of the Kern and the North Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic Rivers in accordance with final legislation. Prepare a river management plan for each designated river including final classifications and boundary descriptions.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**



**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #20: South Sierra**

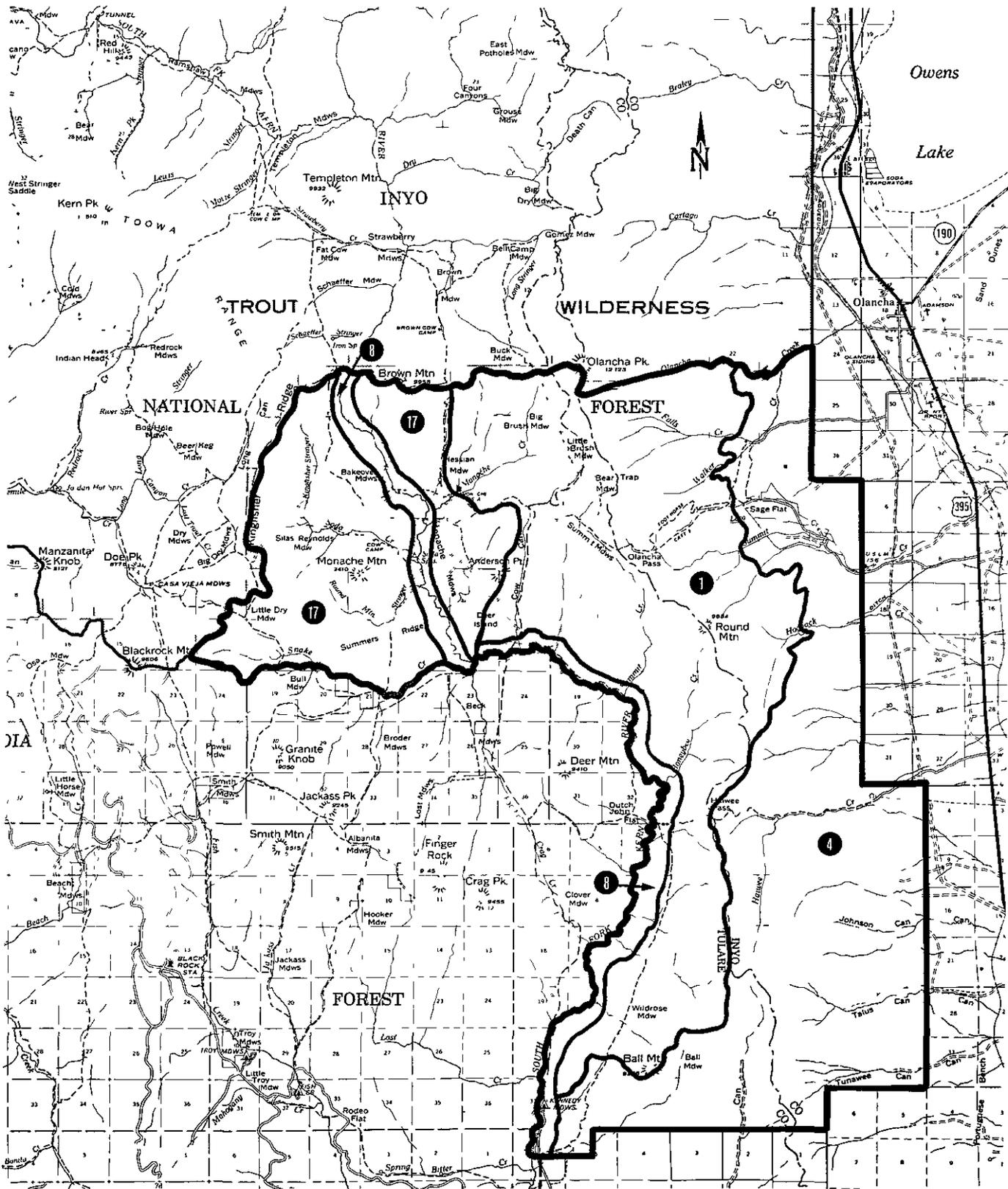
Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	29,879
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	27,614
Rx 8	Wild and Scenic Rivers	2,624
		(2,288)*
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	14
		(6)**
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	15,340
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75,471</b>

\*Included in designated wilderness acreage

\*\*Included in wild and scenic rivers acreage

**South Sierra**

# South Sierra



10

Prescription Numbers

— Prescription Area Boundary

— Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## **South Sierra (#20)**

### **Description**

The South Sierra Management Area is the southern extreme of the Inyo National Forest and is bounded on the north and west by the Golden Trout Wilderness. The south boundary adjoins the Sequoia National Forest. The area contains a little more than one half of the South Sierra Wilderness.

The county line running north and south between Inyo and Tulare Counties divides the area. Prominent features are Olancho Peak, Monache Mountain, Brown Mountain, the Sierra Escarpment, and broad, high-country meadows. Isolated parcels of private land inholdings occur at Bakeoven and Monache Meadows, and at Sage Flat.

Topography rises sharply from the Owens Valley to the Eastern Sierra Escarpment where it assumes more moderate slopes and rolling terrain westerly to large centrally located meadows. Monache Mountain is a cinder cone - dramatic evidence of volcanic activity. Elevations range from 4,240 feet in Owens Valley where Olancho Creek leaves the Forest boundary, to 12,123 feet at Olancho Peak.

Vegetation in the western portion of the area is characterized by old-growth ponderosa and Jeffrey pine and red fir on Kingfisher Ridge, lodgepole pine on the low flats, and sedge in the meadows. In the middle portion, containing part of the South Sierra Wilderness, vegetation is typically upper montane coniferous forest between 8,000 and 10,000 feet elevation. Eastward from the Sierra Escarpment isolated pockets of Jeffrey pine and white fir occur in the Haiwee Pass-Bald Mountain vicinity. These stands are not considered for commercial harvest due to their isolation. Pinyon pine on the upper slopes merges into semi-desert chaparral with greasewood and sagebrush on the lower slopes.

Industry has expressed considerable interest in the geothermal potential of the western portion of the Management Area.

Portions of three grazing allotments for cattle utilize the upper meadows and the lower slopes fronting Owens Valley.

Recreation opportunities consist of hiking and backpacking in the wilderness portion and off-highway use and cycling activities in the Monache Meadows area. No developed recreation facilities exist, but dispersed uses such as hunting, fishing, and camping are popular. In the Olancho Creek vicinity, activities are limited to hunting and a small amount of fishing.

The South Fork of the Kern River which transects the Management Area has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River.

The Monache Meadows portion of the Management Area is key to the Monache deer herd as a spring-fall holding range. Lower elevations fronting Owens Valley provide deer winter range. Several migration routes occur within the Management Area. Monache Meadow is also a critical, high-quality fawning area.

## Management Area Direction

### Range

- Permit cattle entry on or about June 25, but make every effort to avoid encroachment on known fawning areas through mitigating measures shown in individual grazing allotment plans.
- Allow no increases in grazing where this would significantly degrade fish or wildlife habitat. Amend AMPs to include mitigation measures and take corrective action where grazing is significantly impacting wildlife habitat.

### Recreation

- Refer to the Monache OHV Environmental Assessment for management direction for OHV use in this area. This assessment also determines any increased road mileage in the area and takes precedence over any restrictions defined in Prescription #17.
- Emphasize dispersed recreation in Monache Meadows by limiting developed facilities.
- Restrict access to Monache Meadows by off-highway vehicles.

### Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Manage the South Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic River in accordance with final legislation. Prepare a river management plan for the river that includes classifications and boundary descriptions.

### Wildlife

- Maintain the integrity of major migration corridors, fawning habitats and staging areas for mule deer.