

## MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Management prescriptions comprise an important part of the direction to be applied to specific land areas within the Mendocino National Forest. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) defines management prescriptions as "management practices selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives." Management prescriptions provide the linkage between management direction and specific land areas, and they provide direction in addition to the Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

The following section describes the 12 management prescriptions, the specific standards and guidelines associated with each prescription, and summarizes the areas to which the prescription should be applied.

The following land allocations described in the FSEIS and ROD (USDA/USDI 1994) were made and will be implemented in the following hierarchy:

LAND ALLOCATIONS	DESCRIPTION OF INCLUDED AREAS	MANAGEMENT RX
Congressional Reserves	Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers	RX 9; RX 10
Riparian Reserves	Riparian Reserves	RX 4
Administrative Withdrawals	Backcountry Areas, Research Natural Areas	RX 12, RX 11
Late-Successional Reserves	Late Successional Reserves	RX 6
Matrix	Wildlife Emphasis; Chaparral Management; Minimal Management; Recreation Areas; Timber Modified	RX 1; RX 3, RX 4; RX 5; RX 7

## *RX 1 - WILDLIFE EMPHASIS*

Description: Management is directed toward maintaining or increasing habitat capability for management indicator wildlife species. Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to meet wildlife habitat needs and to enhance wildlife habitat where possible. Recreation opportunities include semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized activities, as well as roaded natural. However, some limitations may be placed on motorized activities in breeding zones or other areas where wildlife species sensitive to disturbance occur. The most compatible visual quality objective with this prescription is partial retention. However, application of the prescription will also result in significant acreages meeting the modification objective with a few areas of retention.

Application: Applies to 59,690 acres of presently existing annual and perennial grasslands, hardwood savannah, hardwoods, and riparian areas. Approximate distribution of this prescription to management areas is described under management area direction.

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:

1. Utilize low intensity range management strategies where those strategies best minimize conflicts with wildlife. Utilize more intensive range management strategies (e.g. rest/rotation management, structural, or nonstructural range improvements) where such strategies better mitigate conflicts with wildlife or where domestic grazing improves utilizable forage production for wildlife.
2. Utilize seasonal closure of off-highway-vehicle trails as appropriate to minimize conflicts with deer fawning areas, nesting zones, tule elk key habitat, or as may be appropriate for other species, as indicated in biological evaluations or assessments.
3. Maintain or manage for appropriate forage/cover ratios according to habitat capability model for deer.
4. Use cost effective habitat improvement projects (structural and non-structural) to raise habitat capabilities to medium or high.
5. Monitor key deer areas and refine boundaries as better information on deer use is obtained. Define and map migration corridors.
6. Implement projects to improve vegetative age class distribution and diversity.

## RX 2 - RANGE EMPHASIS

**Description:** *This prescription promotes intensified range management to increase forage production and utilization by domestic livestock. Range management strategies may vary according to the suitability and economic feasibility of management. Wildlife needs will be taken into consideration when determining range strategies and amount of forage needed to provide for both wildlife and domestic grazing animals. Recreation opportunity classes include semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized, and roaded natural. Application of this prescription will generally meet visual quality objectives of partial retention and modification.*

**Application:** Applies to 0 acres of perennial and annual grass, and hardwood savannah rangeland within certain existing allotments. While no lands have been assigned to this management prescription at this time, it has been retained in the document for potential future use pending new information.

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines

1. Apply intensive range management methods to obtain relatively uniform livestock distribution, use of forage, and maintenance of plant vigor (normally strategies C and D) where opportunities exist and where cost effective including the following (see Appendix D for a description of range strategies):
  - a) Development of water sources, fencing, cattle guards, and corrals.
  - b) Non-structural improvements including fertilization, clover or other supplemental seeding, broadcast burning, treatment of competing vegetation, eradication of noxious weeds, and other treatments as appropriate.
2. Base restoration of depleted rangelands on the needs and priorities determined through the Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) inventory and range analysis surveys.
3. Confine off-highway-vehicle use to designated roads and trails, with consideration of seasonal closures where livestock distribution is affected by OHV activities.

### *RX 3 - CHAPARRAL MANAGEMENT*

**Description:** This prescription provides for a variety of resource objectives in chaparral lands including wildlife, range, watershed, and fuels management through a rotational prescribed burning program or other vegetation treatment techniques. Range and wildlife benefits include increased forage production and improved travel through chaparral lands. Improved forage to cover ratios can also be achieved. Watershed management benefits include increased quantities of on site water available for wildlife and range, extended water flows during critical summer periods, and reduced risks of high intensity wildfires. Chaparral management improves age class distribution and diversity, and also breaks up large continuous blocks of high fuel loadings, resulting in easier fire suppression and reduced threat of catastrophic wildfire. The most common visual quality objective under this prescription will be partial retention.

**Application:** Applies to 106,991 acres of productive chamise and mixed shrub chaparral lands (excludes innergorge and unstable areas, chaparral lands on Hennecke soils, and portions of the riparian reserves). Approximate distribution of this prescription to individual management areas is included in the management area direction.

#### **Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:**

1. Provide for semi-primitive motorized, non-motorized, and roaded natural recreation opportunity classes, as shown on the ROS map included with the Forest Plan, and their commensurate visual quality objectives.
2. Vary range management intensity depending on allotment objectives and demand for low elevation range.
3. Locate and design prescribed burns using an interdisciplinary approach, to protect and conserve botanical diversity, viability of sensitive plant species and populations, wildlife habitat, watershed values, and other resource values as appropriate to specific project sites. Specific management requirements and mitigating measures shall be determined through biological evaluation and environmental analysis, and shall be documented in accordance with the requirements of NEPA.
4. Utilize seasonal closure of off-highway-vehicle trails (OHV) where livestock distribution is affected by OHV activities.
5. Cooperate with local landowners and local, state, and federal agencies in preparing and implementing coordinated resource plans.

## RX 4 - MINIMAL MANAGEMENT

**Description.** Maintains the existing physical characteristics of land through low intensity management. No regulated timber harvests are planned for these areas. Dispersed recreation is usually compatible with this prescription, and concentrated recreation use is unlikely. Low intensity range management (strategy B) may be compatible where lands are intermingled with more intensively managed lands.

**Application** This prescription applies to 258,170 acres of land in the following categories: Chaparral lands that are on non-productive sites; non-productive forested land, productive forested land that is not economical to manage; lands with substantial instability or regeneration problems, Riparian Reserves, and certain lands with significant scenic, geologic, ecologic, or heritage resource values

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines

Within riparian reserves.

1. Follow riparian reserve direction provided in the Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

Within other areas.

1. Manage to meet adopted ROS objectives.
2. Allow harvest of timber, fuelwood, and other products only if needed to avoid insect or disease epidemic, or to enhance other resource objectives such as wildlife or diversity
3. The most common VQOs under this prescription are retention and partial retention. However, there may also be limited areas of modification.
4. Manage those unique areas, such as heritage resource sites or significant geologic features, to protect or enhance their values
5. Range management may occur incidentally when lands are interspersed among other lands managed for range production. Invest in range investments and improvements only to protect other resource values

## *RX 5 - RECREATION AREA*

Description: This prescription provides direction for maintaining attractive landscapes and recreation quality around major lakes and within other areas of concentrated recreation use. Other resource activities are permissible, although practices may be modified to preserve scenic quality or to minimize conflict with recreation use of the area.

Application: Applies to the the following areas:

Letts Lake, within Management Area #3  
Plaskett Meadows, within Management Area #30  
Lake Pillsbury, within Management Area #11  
Davis Flat OHV Area, within Management Area #3  
Sugarfoot Proposed Recreation Development, within Management Area #16  
Hammerhorn Lake Area, within Management Area #23  
Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area, within Management Area #38  
Other Developed Recreation Sites

Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:

- 1 Pursue acquisition of lands or easements needed to protect visual quality, open space, and recreation developments and activities, or encourage private landowners to provide compatible recreation developments for public purposes.
- 2 Protect heritage resources and develop strategies to reduce vandalism. Design and implement interpretive plans so that visitors may view significant properties and better understand heritage resource values.
3. Allow livestock grazing only to the extent deemed to be compatible with recreation. Locate salt and watering sources away from areas of significant recreation use.
4. Maintain a ROS class of "Roaded Natural".
  - a) Manage camping, overflow area occupancy, and fuelwood removal consistent with the ROS class and the Visual Quality Objective of "Retention" or "Partial Retention."
  - b) Restrict wheeled vehicles to designated routes.
  - c) Where appropriate within developed non-OHV oriented recreation areas, create short loop foot and horse trails in diverse forest environments. Include ties to developed sites, nearby roads, and existing trails.
  - d) Where appropriate within developed OHV oriented recreation areas, create loop OHV trails in diverse forest environments. Include ties with other nearby OHV facilities
- 5 Improve and expand developed facilities to meet demand
  - a) Rehabilitate developed sites and manage at the "Standard" level
  - b) Encourage privately operated public recreation, and consider concessionaire maintenance and operation of Forest Service recreation facilities where cost effective and recreation objectives can be best served

6. Manage for scheduled timber harvests that maintain or enhance recreational and scenic values
7. Meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives of retention or partial retention.
  - a) Keep recreation facilities and roads within developed areas as unobtrusive as possible.
  - b) Plant and maintain vegetation to provide screening and a natural-appearing setting which functionally and aesthetically satisfies visitors.
  - c) Design trails and other new or rehabilitated recreation facilities or improvements to blend with the surrounding landscape.
8. Manage developed recreation sites within Late Successional Reserves consistent with the LSR management prescription, RX 6.

## RX 6 - LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVES

**Objectives.** The purpose of this prescription is to provide for the viability of the northern spotted owl and other species dependent on older mature forested habitats, including, but not limited to, goshawk, marten and fisher. Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs) are to be managed to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth related species including the northern spotted owl. These reserves are designed to maintain a functional, interacting, late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystem. (FSEIS ROD p. C-11)

**Exceptions:** Activities required by recovery plans for listed threatened and endangered species take precedence over LSR standards and guidelines. (FSEIS ROD p. C-11) Forested lands within Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs) are not included in the suitable timberland base and are not available for regularly scheduled timber harvests. Most types of recreation are compatible with this prescription, although some restrictions may be necessary if activities disrupt normal behavioral patterns during critical periods (i.e., nesting or denning seasons).

**Visual Quality Objectives** of retention or partial retention would most commonly be associated with this prescription.

**Application** This prescription applies to 208,670 acres of mapped and unmapped LSRs.

Silvicultural systems proposed for Late-Successional Reserves have two principal objectives. (1) development of old-growth forest characteristics including snags, logs on the forest floor, large trees, and canopy gaps that enable establishment of multiple tree layers and diverse species composition; and (2) prevention of large-scale disturbances by fire, wind, insects, and diseases that would destroy or limit the ability of the reserves to sustain viable forest species populations. Small-scale disturbances by these agents are natural processes, and will be allowed to continue. (FSEIS ROD p. B-5)

Stand management in Late-Successional Reserves should focus on stands that have been regenerated following timber harvest or stands that have been thinned. These include stands that will acquire late-successional characteristics more rapidly with treatment, or are prone to fire, insects, diseases, wind, or other disturbances that would jeopardize the reserve. Depending on stand conditions, treatments could include, but should not be limited to: (1) thinning or managing the overstory to produce large trees; release advanced regeneration of conifers, hardwoods, or other plants; or reduce risk from fire, insects, diseases, or other environmental variables, (2) underplanting and limiting understory vegetation control to begin development of multistory stands, (3) killing trees to make snags and coarse woody debris, (4) reforestation, and (5) use of prescribed fire. Thinning prescriptions should encourage development of diverse stands with large trees and a variety of species in the overstory and understory. Prescriptions should vary within and among stands. (FSEIS ROD p. B-6)

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines

1. Develop a management assessment for each large LSR or group of smaller LSRs before habitat manipulation activities are designed and implemented. Standards and guidelines should be refined at the province level, prior to development of LSR assessments. The assessments may be developed as components of legally-mandated plans, as part of province-level planning, or as stand-alone assessments. If developed to stand alone, the assessments should be closely coordinated with watershed analysis and province-level planning. LSR assessments should generally include: (1) a history and inventory of overall vegetative conditions within the reserve, (2) a list of identified late-successional associated species known to exist within the Late-Successional Reserve and information on their locations, (3) a history and description of current land uses within the reserve, (4) a fire management plan, (5) criteria for developing appropriate treatments; (6) identification of specific areas that could be treated under those criteria; (7) a

proposed implementation schedule tiered to higher order (i.e., larger scale) plans, and (8) proposed monitoring and evaluation components to help evaluate if future activities are carried out as intended and achieve desired results. Only in unusual circumstances would silvicultural treatments, including prescribed fire, precede preparation of this management assessment. LSR assessments are subject to review by the Regional Ecosystem Office. Until LSR assessments are completed, fire suppression activities should be guided by land allocation objectives in coordination with resource management specialists. (FSEIS ROD p. C-11)

2. Prohibit timber harvest within occupied marbled murrelet habitat at least until completion of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Plan. Silvicultural treatments in non-habitat within the 5-mile circle must protect or enhance the suitable or replacement habitat. When objectives of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Plan have been identified, management direction will be amended or revised as appropriate. (FSEIS ROD p. C-12)
3. Provide for Regional Ecosystem Office review of thinning or other silvicultural treatments inside LSRs to ensure that the treatments are beneficial to the creation of late-successional forest conditions. Except from review reforestation activities legally required and planned as part of existing sold timber sales, where the reforestation prescription has been modified to meet the objectives of the LSR. (FSEIS ROD p. C-12)
4. Allow silvicultural treatments designed to reduce the risks of large-scale disturbance, such as fire, that can eliminate northern spotted owl habitat on hundreds or thousands of acres. Silvicultural activities aimed at reducing risk shall focus on younger stands in LSRs. The objective is to accelerate development of late-successional conditions while making the future stand less susceptible to natural disturbances. Salvage activities should focus on the reduction of catastrophic insect, disease, and fire threats. Treatments should be designed to provide effective fuel breaks wherever possible. However, the scale of salvage and other treatments should not generally result in degeneration of currently suitable owl habitat or other late-successional conditions. (FSEIS ROD p. C-12, 13)
5. Consider management that goes beyond guidelines for silvicultural activities when levels of risk in an LSR are particularly high and may require additional measures. Management activities designed to reduce risk levels are encouraged in those LSRs even if a portion of the activities must take place in currently late successional habitat. Risk reduction should generally be focused on young stands, activities in older stands may be appropriate if: (1) the proposed management activities will clearly result in greater assurance of long-term maintenance of habitat, (2) the activities are clearly needed to reduce risks, and (3) the activities will not prevent the LSRs from playing an effective role in the objectives for which they were established.
6. The following guidelines are general. Specific guidelines should be developed for each physiographic province, and possibly for different forest types within provinces.
  - a) Prohibit salvage activities where the disturbed area is 10 acres or less and where the disturbance has not reduced canopy closure to less than 40%. The potential for salvage activities to benefit species associated with late-successional forest conditions is greatest when stand-replacing events greater than 10 acres are involved. Salvage in disturbed sites of less than 10 acres is not appropriate because small forest openings are an important component of old-growth forests. In addition, salvage should occur only in stands where disturbance has reduced canopy closure to less than 40 percent, because stands with more closure are likely to provide some value for species associated with these forests. (FSEIS ROD p. C-14)
  - b) Retain all standing live trees including those injured but likely to survive. Surviving trees provide a significant residual of larger trees in the developing stand. Defects caused by fire in residual trees may accelerate development of structural characteristics suitable for asso-

ciated species. Those damaged trees that eventually die will provide additional snags. (FSEIS ROD p. C-14)

- c) Retain snags that are likely to persist until late-successional conditions have developed and the new stand is producing large snags. Snags provide a variety of habitat benefits for a variety of wildlife species associated with late-successional forests. Late-successional conditions are not associated with stands less than 80 years old (FSEIS ROD p. 14)
- d) Retain adequate coarse woody debris quantities in the new stand so that in the future it will still contain amounts similar to naturally regenerated stands. The analysis that determines the amount of coarse woody debris to leave must account for the full period of time before the new stand begins to contribute coarse woody debris. Because coarse woody debris decay rates, forest dynamics, and site productivity vary among provinces and forest types, the specifications will also vary. Province-level plans will establish appropriate levels of coarse woody debris and decay rates to be used. Levels will be "typical" and will not require retention of all material where it is highly concentrated, or too small to contribute to coarse woody debris over the long timeframes. Where green trees, snags, and logs are present following disturbance, the green-tree and snag guidelines will be applied first, and completely satisfied where possible. The biomass left in snags can be credited toward the amount of coarse woody debris biomass needed to achieve management objectives. Where logs which were present on the forest floor prior to disturbance are in an advanced state of decay, they will not be credited toward objectives for coarse woody debris retention developed after a disturbance event. Advanced state of decay should be defined as logs not expected to persist to the time when the new stand begins producing coarse woody debris (FSEIS ROD p. C-14, 15)
- e) Allow some salvage that does not meet the preceding guidelines when salvage is essential to reduce the future risk of fire or insect damage to late-successional forest conditions. Some risk associated with fire and insects is acceptable because they are natural forces influencing late-successional forest development. Consequently, salvage to reduce such risks should focus only on those areas where there is high risk of large-scale disturbance. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15)
- f) Permit removal of snags and logs when necessary to reduce hazards to humans along roads and trails, and in or adjacent to campgrounds. Where materials must be removed from the site, as in a campground or on a road, a salvage sale is appropriate. In other areas, such as along roads, leaving material on site should be considered, and material will be left where available coarse woody debris is inadequate. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15)
- g) Develop diameter and biomass retention guidelines for disturbances in younger stands consistent with the intention of achieving late successional forest conditions. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15)
- h) Prohibit removing logs present on the forest floor before a disturbance event. Logs present on the forest floor before a disturbance event provide habitat benefits that are likely to continue. It seldom will be appropriate to remove them. Logs in an advanced state of decay will not be credited toward objectives for coarse woody debris retention developed after a disturbance event. Advanced state of decay should be defined as logs not expected to persist to the time when the new stand begins producing coarse woody debris. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15)
- i) Retain coarse woody debris reflecting the approximate species composition of the original stand to help replicate preexisting suitable habitat conditions. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15)
- j) Permit some deviation from these general guidelines to provide reasonable access to salvage sites and feasible logging operations. Such deviation should occur on as small a

portion of the area as possible, and should not result in violation of the basic intent that late-successional forest habitat or the development of such habitat in the future should not be impaired throughout the area. While exceptions to the guidelines may be allowed to provide access and operability, some salvage opportunities will undoubtedly be foregone because of access, feasibility, and safety concerns. (FSEIS ROD p. C-15, 16)

7. Allow nonsilvicultural activities inside LSRs that are neutral or beneficial to the creation and maintenance of late-successional habitat. While most existing uses and developments may remain, it may be necessary to modify or eliminate some current activities in LSRs that pose adverse impacts. This may require the revision of management guidelines, procedures, or regulations governing these multiple-use activities. Adjustments in standards and guidelines must be reviewed by the Regional Ecosystem Office. (FSEIS ROD p. C-16)
8. Allow road construction in LSRs for silvicultural, salvage, and other activities only when potential benefits exceed the costs of habitat impairment. If new roads are necessary to implement a practice that is otherwise in accordance with LSR guidelines, they will be kept to a minimum, be routed through non-late-successional habitat where possible, be designed to minimize adverse impacts, and be located at least ¼ mile from the activity center of known spotted owl pairs. Alternative access methods, such as aerial logging, should be considered to provide access for activities in reserves. (FSEIS ROD p. C-16)
9. Allow for road maintenance, including felling hazard trees along rights-of-way. Consider leaving material on site if available coarse woody debris is inadequate. Topping trees should be considered as an alternative to felling. (FSEIS ROD p. C-16)
10. Permit fuelwood gathering only in existing cull decks, where green trees are marked by silviculturists to thin (consistent with LSR standards and guidelines), to remove blowdown blocking roads, or in recently harvested timber sale units where down material will impede scheduled post-sale activities or pose an unacceptable risk of future large-scale disturbances. In all cases, these activities should comply with the standards and guidelines for salvage and silvicultural activities. (FSEIS ROD p. C-16)
11. Do not restrict the exercise of tribal treaty rights with these standards and guidelines unless the Regional Interagency Executive Committee determines that the restriction is (1) reasonable and necessary for preservation of the species at issue, (2) the conservation purpose of the restriction cannot be achieved solely by regulation of non-Indian activities, (3) the restriction is the least restrictive available to achieve the required conservation purpose, (4) the restriction does not discriminate against Indian activities either as stated or as applied, and (5) voluntary tribal conservation measures are not adequate to achieve the necessary conservation purpose (FSEIS ROD p. C-16)
12. Assess the impacts of ongoing and proposed mining actions, and include appropriate stipulations (e.g., seasonal or other restrictions) related to all phases of mineral activity in mineral activity permits. The guiding principle will be to design mitigation measures that minimize detrimental effects to late-successional habitat. (FSEIS ROD p. C-17)
13. Prohibit development of new facilities that may adversely affect LSRs. Review new development proposals that address public needs or provide significant public benefits, such as powerlines, pipelines, reservoirs, recreation sites, or other public works projects on a case-by-case basis and consider approval when adverse effects can be minimized and mitigated. Plan new developments to have the least possible adverse impacts on LSRs. Locate developments to avoid degradation of habitat and adverse effects on identified late-successional species. Existing developments in LSRs such as campgrounds, recreation residences, ski areas, utility corridors, and electronic sites are considered existing uses with respect to LSR objectives, and may remain, consistent with other standards and guidelines. Routine maintenance of existing facilities is expected to have less effect on current old-growth conditions than development of new facilities.

Maintenance activities may include felling hazard trees along utility rights-of-way, trails, and other developed areas. (FSEIS ROD p C-17)

- 14 Consider land exchanges involving LSRs if they provide benefits equal to or better than current conditions. Consider using land exchanges to improve area, distribution, and quality (e.g., connectivity, shape, contribution to biodiversity) of LSRs, particularly where public and private lands are intermingled. (FSEIS ROD p. C-17)
- 15 Consider projects designed to improve conditions for fish, wildlife, or watersheds, if the projects provide late-successional habitat benefits or have a negligible effect on late-successional associated species. Projects required for recovery of threatened or endangered species should be considered even if they result in some reduction of habitat quality for other late-successional species. Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that is consistent with LSR objectives. (FSEIS ROD p C-17)
16. Develop range related management that does not adversely affect late-successional habitat in coordination with wildlife and fisheries biologists. Adjust or eliminate grazing practices that retard or prevent attainment of LSR objectives. Evaluate effects of existing and proposed livestock management and handling facilities in LSRs to determine if LSR objectives are met. Where objectives cannot be met, relocate livestock management and/or handling facilities. (FSEIS ROD p. C-17)
17. Prepare a specific fire management plan for each LSR prior to any habitat manipulation activities. This plan, prepared during watershed analysis or as an element of province-level planning, or a LSR assessment, will specify how hazard reduction and other prescribed fire applications, including prescribed natural fire, will meet the objectives of the LSR. Until the plan is approved, proposed activities will be subject to review by the Regional Ecosystem Office. The Regional Ecosystem Office may develop additional guidelines that would exempt some activities from review. In all LSRs, watershed analysis will provide information to determine the amount of coarse woody debris to be retained when applying prescribed fire. (FSEIS ROD p. C-18)
- 18 Utilize minimum impact suppression methods in accordance with guidelines for reducing risks of large-scale disturbances within LSRs. Plans for wildfire suppression will emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat. The goal of wildfire suppression within an LSR is to limit the size of all fires. When watershed analysis, province-level planning, or a Late-Successional Reserve assessment are completed, some natural fires may be allowed to burn under prescribed conditions. Rapidly extinguishing smoldering coarse woody debris and duff should be considered to preserve these ecosystem elements. During actual fire suppression activities, fire managers will consult with resource specialists (e.g., botanists, fisheries and wildlife biologists, hydrologists) familiar with the area, these standards and guidelines, and LSR objectives, to assure that habitat damage is minimized. Until a fire management plan is completed for LSRs, suppress wildfire to avoid loss of habitat in order to maintain future management options. (FSEIS ROD p C-17, 18)
- 19 Restrict the sale and collection of special forest products within LSRs where appropriate. In all cases, evaluate whether activities have adverse effects on LSR objectives. Sales will ensure resource sustainability and protection of other resource values such as special status plant or animal species. Where these activities are extensive, evaluate whether they have significant effects on late-successional habitat. Special forest products include but are not limited to posts, poles, rails, landscape transplants, yew bark, shakes, seed cones, Christmas trees, boughs, mushrooms, fruits, berries, hardwoods, forest greens (e.g., bows, beargrass, mosses), and medicinal forest products. (FEIS ROD p. C-18)
- 20 Implement adjustment measures such as education, use limitations, traffic control devices, or increased maintenance when dispersed and developed recreation practices retard or prevent attainment of LSR objectives (FEIS ROD p. C-18)

21. Assess ongoing and proposed research activities in late-successional habitat to determine if they are consistent with LSR objectives. Some activities (including those within experimental forests) not otherwise consistent with the objectives may be appropriate, particularly if the activities will test critical assumptions of these standards and guidelines, will produce results important for habitat development, or if the activities represent continuation of long-term research. These activities should only be considered if there are no equivalent opportunities outside LSRs. The Regional Ecosystem Office may choose to formally review specific projects, and may recommend to the Regional Interagency Executive Committee modification, up to and including cancellation, of those projects having an unacceptable risk to Late-Successional Reserve objectives. (FEIS ROD p. C-18, 19)
22. Recognize and continue existing right-of-way agreements, contracted rights, easements, and special use permits in LSRs as valid uses. Consider new access proposals, however, mitigation measures to reduce adverse effects on LSRs may be required. Consider alternate routes that avoid late-successional habitat for new access proposals. If a road must be routed through an LSR, it will be designed and located to have the least impact on late-successional habitat. Review all special use permits, where objectives of LSRs are not being met, reduce impacts through modification of existing permits or education. (FEIS ROD p. C-19)
23. Avoid introducing nonnative plant and animal species into LSRs. If an introduction of nonnative species is proposed, complete an assessment of impacts and avoid any introduction that would retard or prevent achievement of LSR objectives. Evaluate impacts of nonnative plant and animal species currently existing within LSRs, and develop plans and recommendations for eliminating or controlling nonnative species that are inconsistent with LSR objectives. These will include an analysis of the effects of implementing such programs to other species or habitats within LSRs. (FEIS ROD p. C-19)
24. Evaluate other activities within LSRs. Interdisciplinary teams will develop and document appropriate guidelines for other activities within LSRs. Activities deemed to have potentially adverse effects on LSR are subject to review of the Regional Ecosystem Office. The Regional Ecosystem Office may develop additional criteria for exempting some additional activities from review. (FEIS ROD p. C-19)
25. Conduct necessary inventory and monitoring activities within each LSR to determine population densities and habitat trends for wildlife species dependent on older mature forested habitats.
26. Evaluate opportunities to obliterate roads which are surplus to the needs of administration, management, and protection of resources within LSRs. Develop road management direction based on the potential for adverse environmental effects and economic feasibility.
27. Retain 100 acres of the best northern spotted owl habitat as close to the nest site or owl activity center as possible for all known (as of January 1, 1994) spotted owl activity centers located on federal lands outside of other mapped land allocations published in the FSEIS ROD (this is one category of currently unmapped LSRs). (FSEIS ROD p. C-10)
28. Conduct surveys for the following species prior to ground disturbing activities. Protect currently known and newly discovered sites, and implement LSR standards and guidelines for all sites (these are one category of currently unmapped LSRs). (FSEIS ROD p. C-4, 5, 11, 19, 20)

Ptilidium californicum (Liverwort) This species is rare and has a very limited distribution in old white fir forests with fallen trees. It occurs on trunks of trees at about 5000 feet in elevation. Mitigation options include maintaining stands of suitable habitat for inoculum and dispersal along corridors, and studying specific distribution patterns. Protect known occupied locations if distribution patterns are disjunct and highly localized by deferring timber harvest and avoiding removal of fallen trees and logs. (FEIS ROD p. C-20)

Ulota meglospora (Moss) This species occurs in northern California. It is locally abundant in very old stands of tanoak and Douglas fir, but it is generally scarce throughout its range. Mitigation activities include conducting basic ecological studies and surveying for presence. Protect known occupied sites if distribution patterns are disjunct and highly localized. Defer timber harvest or other activities which would not maintain desired habitat characteristics and population levels. (FEIS ROD p. C-20)

Aleuria rhenana (Fungus) This mushroom is widely distributed but rare and little known throughout its range, known from one collection from Mt. Rainier National Park. It is a conifer litter decomposer. Mitigation activities include conducting ecological studies and surveys to determine localities. Protect known populations if surveys continue to indicate that the population is rare. Defer ground-disturbing activities. (FEIS ROD p. C-20)

Otidea leporina, O. onotica, and O. smithii (Fungi) These mushrooms occur in conifer duff, and are widespread in distribution but uncommon. They are dependent on older-age forests. Specific mitigation options include protecting older forests from ground disturbance where the species are located. (FEIS ROD p. C-20)

## RX 7 - TIMBER MODIFIED

**Description:** This prescription provides emphasis on timber production while providing for other resource objectives including visual quality, watershed, rare and endemic species, and wildlife. All suitable timberlands have been assigned to one of two timber regulation classes. Because areas managed under the Timber Modified prescription must meet both timber and non-timber resource objectives, they have been placed in Regulation Classes II (reduced yields), and III (marginal yields). In these regulation classes lowered timber yields are expected as a result of increased rotation lengths, less intensive cultural practices, (site preparation, release, stocking control, etc.), or because harvest methods are restricted (green tree retention, shelterwood, or selection harvesting).

**Application:** Applies to 61,000 acres of capable, available, and suitable timberlands found outside of wilderness, wild & scenic rivers, Backcountry areas, RNAs, and riparian reserves. Approximate acreage distribution to management areas is shown under management area direction.

### Management Direction and Specific Standards and Guidelines:

1. Within areas assigned a Retention Visual Quality Objective:
  - a. Provide a natural appearing landscape by assuring management activities are not visually evident
    - 1) Foreground Distance Zone - Manage vegetation for diversity of species common to the area, with a range of ages and size classes up to and including trees with old growth characteristics. Normally, limit timber harvest openings to one acre. Utilize uneven-aged silvicultural system and special cutting methods. Impacts of management activities in highly visible foreground areas will be reduced through special treatments.
    - 2) Middleground Distance Zone - Manage vegetation with a range of ages and size classes. Utilize even-aged, uneven-aged, and special cutting. Normally, limit openings resulting from timber harvest to ten acres.
2. Within key areas for wildlife:
  - a. Employ road access limitations where needed to minimize disturbance to wildlife in key habitats, especially for spotted owl, marten, fisher, tule elk, bear, and deer.
  - b. Manage livestock grazing at the appropriate intensity level to minimize conflicts with wildlife and meet wildlife habitat needs.
  - c. Confine off-highway-vehicle use to trails where conflicts with deer fawning areas will not occur.
  - d. In identified key summer and winter ranges and migration corridors, retain the following stocking level of hardwoods in lands managed for timber production. These stocking levels may be averaged over 40 acres
    - 1) 15 square feet of basal area in mixed conifer stands (if less than 15 square feet currently exists, the existing level may be reduced by no more than 25%).
    - 2) 35 square feet of basal area in conifer hardwood stands (if less than 35 square feet currently exists, the existing level may be reduced by no more than 25%).

- 3) Provide two age classes (0-80 yrs , 80+ yrs.) with at least one sound tree/acre greater than 20 inches DBH.
  - 4) Ensure species selected for retention are representative of species present on site prior to manipulation
  - e Maintain or manage for appropriate forage/cover ratios according to habitat capability model for deer.
  - f Use cost effective habitat improvement projects to raise habitat capabilities to medium or high.
  - g. Monitor key deer areas and refine boundaries as better information on deer use is obtained. Define and map migration corridors to improve management on a project level basis.
- 3 In all other areas of suitable timberlands:
- a. Manage to provide roaded natural recreation opportunities.
  - b Designate suitable trails for off-highway-vehicle (OHV) use Locate and schedule such use to minimize conflicts with timber management
  - c Meet Visual Quality Objectives of modification, except for certain travel corridors or areas of concentrated recreation use, where partial retention is usually called for. Maintain continuous forest cover utilizing green tree retention, shelterwood, or selection harvest methods.
  - d Regulate all timber yields from suitable timber lands
  - e. Intensively manage timber stands for control of competing vegetation, stocking control, etc. Rotation lengths will range from 100 to 160 years, averaging about 103 years.
  - f. Release seedlings from competing vegetation in plantations as needed to meet expected growth rates Consider all methods of vegetation management, including mechanical, biological, and chemical treatments. Base selection on a site specific environmental analysis which considers the relative effectiveness of treatment methods, environmental effects, and costs.
  - g Use longer rotation, smaller openings, or uneven-aged management on suitable low site timberlands.
  - h Design harvest in red fir to take advantage of natural regeneration where feasible, including removing litter and duff to expose mineral soil. Use artificial planting when an adequate seed source does not exist, or if natural regeneration is unlikely.

*RX 8 - TIMBER INTENSIVE*

Description: N/A

## RX 9 - WILDERNESS

Description. Manage designated Wildernesses in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and associated regulations. Opportunities are abundant for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation uses such as hiking, horseback riding, camping, fishing, hunting, and photography. Management activities and permitted uses will be regulated to ensure that unnecessary impacts on the wilderness characteristics of the area do not occur.

Application: This prescription applies to the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness and the Snow Mountain Wilderness

Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:

- 1 Meet a VQO of Preservation
- 2 Develop a fire management plan to meet the following objectives:
  - to restore and maintain natural conditions and processes;
  - to reduce unnatural accumulations of fuels, permitting fire to resume its natural role in the ecosystem;
  - to reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire within the wilderness or escaping from the wilderness
- 3 Consider using planned and unplanned ignitions when developing the fire management plan. When implementing this plan, maintaining air quality is an overriding consideration.
- 4 Use contain or control wildfire suppression strategies until the fire management plan is complete.
- 5 Break up large areas of continuous fuels.
- 6 Conduct fire protection activities to minimize suppression activity impacts and permit re-introduction of natural fire regimes.
- 7 Favor the use of natural barriers, topography or water courses, and low impact techniques.
- 8 Locate wherever possible, helispots, staging areas, and spike camps during wildfire suppression
  - a) outside the Wilderness or b) so as to have the least impact to Wilderness values.
- 9 Avoid the use of chemical retardants in the Wilderness whenever possible.
- 10 Inventory heritage resources as activities are authorized.
- 11 Pursue land exchange opportunities to reduce in-holdings. If, after 3 years, the landowner does not agree to an exchange, pursue purchasing the land.
- 12 Terminate existing permits that are not compatible with wilderness values. Issue new permits only for compatible uses
- 13 Take prompt and appropriate action to resolve all known cases of unauthorized occupancy and use.
- 14 Verify existing rights prior to authorizing any significant surface disturbance activities using a FS mineral examiner. Requiring annual operating plans which specify a restoration plan and adequate performance bond prior to approval of activities.

15. Educate wilderness users about Giardia in the water.
16. Control native, indigenous, and exotic pest epidemics within the Wilderness only if there is a threat to significant resources outside the Wilderness or if significant unnatural loss of wilderness resources is occurring
17. Do not sign any cultural sites for interpretation, and discourage visitor concentration in areas of heritage resource values.
18. Inventory, research, and evaluate historic cabins and structures. Determine the need to maintain, destroy, or allow continued deterioration, and document the analysis in an environmental assessment
19. Provide for traditional Native American rights and practices to the extent possible.
20. Develop a search and rescue plan.
21. Emphasize public education as the primary means of correcting violations, developing cooperative attitudes, and fostering an understanding of natural process with occur in the Wilderness.
22. Design education programs to teach methods and skills for low impacts use of the Wilderness.
23. Emphasize uses which are dependent on the wilderness environment and cannot be reasonably accommodated elsewhere.
24. Do not post mileages or place names within wilderness
25. Eliminate the need for signs with accurate maps and informational brochures. Install and maintain the least possible number of signs. Inventory and evaluate existing signs and bring them up to current standards.
26. Post boundaries and establish physical controls where needed to prevent unauthorized motorized entry.
27. Permit grazing only within established allotments as long as that use preserves and does not damage other wilderness values. Adjust grazing management as necessary to protect wilderness values through allotment management decisions and Annual Operating Plans.
28. Permit or design improvements which blend in with the natural setting.
29. Provide for dispersed recreation at levels meeting projected demand and within physical limits.
30. Mitigate effects of human use, which exceed standards and guidelines for wilderness management using the following sequence of actions:
  - First Level Action-Public Information and Site Restoration;
  - Second Level Action-Use of Regulations,
  - Third Level Action-Restrict Number of Users,
  - Fourth Level Action-Close Area to All Users.
31. Discourage heavy concentrations of users and minimize impacts on natural systems

32 Consider the following when developing or revising wilderness management direction.

requiring visitor permits to monitor demographics, travel patterns, and use levels;  
banning or limiting wood fires if resource damage occurs;  
analyzing the effect of domestic pets and recreation stock on ecosystem processes and social quality; and  
establishing maximum levels of use, including party size, length of stay, and number of stock, in order to allow natural processes to continue and to retain social wilderness values

- 33 Use the ROS system to determine the number and type of facilities appropriate to the experience level as defined in the FSM.
34. Set campsites back 100 to 300 feet from ponds, lakes, and streams, and at least 100 feet from trails and other interest features where terrain permits.
35. Locate campsites to take advantage of vegetative screening and topography. Maintain healthy, native vegetation around campsites.
- 36 Remove improvements such as developed campsites and other features such as trash deposits, where possible and appropriate after heritage resource and other necessary assessments.
37. Permit recreational stock use as long as impacts remain within acceptable limits.
- 38 Encourage visitors with recreation stock to carry feed, preferably weed free livestock feed
- 39 Prohibit corrals for confining recreation stock. Utilize ropes, rails, or hobbles.
- 40 Confine recreation stock at least 200 feet from ponds, lakes, streams, springs, trails, camps, and other high interest features.
41. Develop publications that inform visitors of regulations, explain ground cover protection, no-trace camping, dispersion, control of dogs, use of firearms, and protection of wilderness values.
42. Allow only one fire ring per camp and encourage the use of portable stoves.
- 43 Limit use of dead and down vegetation to amounts that can be replaced annually through natural accumulations. Standing vegetation (green or dead) may not be used
44. Discourage the use of soap or detergent for bathing and laundering in streams, lakes, or other surface waters
- 45 Emphasize maintaining natural ecosystems while providing opportunities for wilderness recreation
46. Defer new trail construction during this planning period.
47. Manage trails to protect the wilderness resource and the objectives of the wilderness opportunity classes
- 48 Inventory and analyze trail related erosion problems. Develop a strategy and schedule for correcting identified problems.
- 49 Provide for reconstruction and maintenance of trails, and ensure that design standards accommodate designated user traffic. Maintain the narrowest trail width consistent with FSM/FSH direction for wilderness

50. Route "through-trails" away from concentrated use areas to minimize user contacts.
51. Manage opportunities for solitude within the YBME.
  - A. Analyze potential impacts on opportunities for solitude whenever improvements to or increases in access are proposed
  - B. Develop alternative primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities outside of the YBME. Provide information about alternative areas at trailheads and other locations of recreation and wilderness information.
  - C. Investigate complaints regarding the number of encounters, crowding, and impacts of visitors by conducting an inventory of areas specified in the complaints and sampling other areas to confirm and define the solitude condition. Include a determination of whether it is a continual problem or whether it is the result of occasional peak usage. When the impact has been validated and needs correction, implement the appropriate First and Second Level Actions to resolve impacts.
  - D. Utilize the following techniques, listed in order of preference, if steps A, B, and C do not improve conditions of solitude
    - Disperse use over a larger area to reduce numbers of encounters;
    - Implement the Third Level Action of restricting the number of visitors;
    - Implement the Fourth Level Action of closing the area to all users.
52. Manage trails to maintain a balanced spectrum of modes of travel, type of destination, and difficulty and distance.
53. Permit unobtrusive ground reference marking only if absolutely required for research, study, or monitoring levels of acceptable change.
54. Revegetate areas when present or historic use patterns have caused a loss of vegetation, and in areas that can be protected until the new vegetation is re-established. Use only native species.
55. Manipulate vegetation, (e.g. pruning) only when it will appear to be natural within one year
56. Maintain fish and wildlife species indigenous to the Wilderness with emphasis on preserving threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Where incompatible with maintaining wilderness values, the requirements for maintenance of wilderness values take precedence
57. Reintroduce species only if they were indigenous to the area, extirpated by human activities, and will not conflict with T&E species requirements
58. Comply with species management plans when planning and implementing management activities
59. Maintain the scenic quality of viewsheds seen from wildernesses by meeting adopted visual quality objectives as shown on the Forest VQO map.
60. Develop implementation schedules for each Wilderness consistent with the above direction.

## *RX 10 - WILD AND SCENIC RIVER*

**Description** The purpose of this prescription is to preserve the free flowing condition of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and their outstanding river values. No management activities that are inconsistent with these objectives will be permitted.

**Application:** A "Wild" designation applies to the Middle Fork of The Eel River, beginning at the Forest boundary, and extending into the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness. This prescription applies to the existing designation along the Middle Fork of the Eel River. If designated as recommended, this prescription will be extended to include the corridor along the upper portion of the Middle Fork of the Eel, Balm of Gilead Creek, and the Middle Fork of Stony Creek.

### **Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines**

1. Conduct fire management activities to minimize landscape alteration and land disturbance.
2. Pursue acquisition of private lands through exchange or other means.
3. Acquire easements for public access and to prevent degradation of scenic quality, or incompatible private development.
4. Allow no common variety mineral extraction and pursue mineral withdrawal for National Forest lands within the river corridors.
5. Existing use by livestock may be allowed to continue commensurate with protection of wild and scenic river values. No new allotments or permits will be approved.
6. Provide for recreation in a primitive setting which offers considerable physical challenge and requires well developed outdoor skills.
  - a) Provide inconspicuous facilities (outside Wilderness) where needed for safety and sanitation.
  - b) Permit overnight use of undeveloped areas, establish and enforce occupancy rules as needed.
  - c) Construct or improve trails, and post travel routes as needed to properly disperse recreation use and promote safe travel in the area.
  - d) Increase public understanding of the management direction for Wild and Scenic Rivers through the use of brochures, signs, and other media.
7. Permit felling and/or removal of timber outside of Wilderness only where necessary to maintain or enhance user safety and scenic quality, or to prevent insect or disease epidemic.
8. Meet a visual quality objective of retention.
9. Control or prevent erosion that damages scenic quality or endangers water quality or fishery resources. Establish ground cover on denuded areas capable of supporting vegetation.
10. Implement recommendations contained in the Summer Steelhead Management Plan for protecting and improving anadromous fish habitat within the Middle Fork of the Eel River.

11. Coordinate management of the anadromous and resident fisheries resources of the Middle Fork of the Eel River with the California Department of Fish and Game.
12. Address attainment of aquatic conservation strategy objectives when developing Wild & Scenic River management plans. (FSEIS ROD p. C-34)

## *Rx 11 - RESEARCH NATURAL AREA*

Description: Protect and manage recommended and established Research Natural Areas as components of the Research Natural Area system, preserving the natural integrity of the area for non-manipulative scientific and educational purposes. These areas contribute to the preservation of examples of significant natural ecosystems, provide genetic diversity (gene pools), and protect, where appropriate, habitats of threatened and endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species.

Application This prescription applies to all RNAs. These areas and the ecologic components represented by each are listed below:

Frenzel Creek	Serpentine Chaparral, Macnab and Sargent Cypress
Hale Ridge	Knobcone Pine
Devils Basin	Black Oak
Doll Basin	Mixed Conifer
Wilder Ridge	Chamise Chaparral

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:

1. Use special use permits or cooperative agreements to coordinate planned research activities. These will be executed between the research proponent and the Pacific Southwest Station Director, with review and approval of the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger.
2. Request withdrawal from mineral entry for recommended RNAs.
3. Prohibit recreational uses that would contribute to modification of the area.
4. Permit grazing within established range allotments as long as that use preserves and does not detract from the values for which the RNA was established.
5. Prohibit timber harvesting unless necessary to meet RNA objectives.
6. Construct no new roads, and limit access on any existing roads into the areas. Existing trails may be retained or expanded if needed to provide access for research personnel or educational groups.
7. Normally meet a visual quality objective of retention within RNAs. Consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis where consistent with RNA management objectives.
8. Protect habitat for all species of wildlife, fish and plants present in their natural condition.

## Rx 12 - BACKCOUNTRY

**Description:** This prescription provides for management of the undeveloped forest environment which maintains a diversity of plant and animal life and provides an opportunity for the enjoyment of primitive and/or semi-primitive recreational activities. Application of this prescription is intended to maintain future options for management by maintaining the undeveloped character of the areas where applied. Access is limited to foot and horse trail. Timber harvest, road construction, and other land disturbing activities are not permitted within these areas except in those situations which pose a serious and immediate threat to life, private property, or significant resource loss.

**Application:** This prescription applies to all or portions of the following roadless areas (RARE II):

AREA	ACREAGE
Thomes Creek . . . . .	9,838
Deer Mountain . . . . .	8,575
Briscoe . . . . .	5,967
Snow Mountain . . . . .	2,565
Elk Creek . . . . .	12,019
Thatcher . . . . .	8,485
Big Butte-Shinbone . . . . .	3,967
<b>TOTAL ACRES:</b> . . . . .	<b>51,415</b>

### Management Direction and Associated Standards and Guidelines:

1. Protect habitat for all species of wildlife, fish, and plants found within the area.
2. Limited fish, wildlife, and watershed improvements may be approved on a case by case basis, where needed to maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and watershed conditions. Structural improvements will be designed and implemented consistent with other management objectives for the area (i.e., maintenance of unroaded and undeveloped character, etc.).
3. Manage to provide opportunities for primitive and/or semi-primitive non-motorized recreational activities in an undeveloped setting.
4. Meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives of retention and partial retention.
5. Permit no timber harvest, road construction, or other land disturbing management activities except in those situations which pose a serious threat to life, private property, or significant resource loss.
6. Continue established use by livestock at the current level, provided such use does not result in long-term degradation of the area. Maintain existing improvements needed for proper management of livestock use, but do not authorize additional improvements.

