

Amendment 2007-01

Land and Resource Management Plan

Mendocino National Forest

Background

This amendment is made pursuant to enactment of HR233 – Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act of 2006 (the Act). On the Mendocino National Forest, the Act added to the existing Yolla Bolly–Middle Eel and Snow Mountain Wildernesses, and designated two new wildernesses, Sanhedrin and Yuki. The Act also designated a portion of Black Butte River as ‘Scenic’, and portions of the Black Butte River and Cold Creek as ‘Wild’. There are no NEPA analysis or decision documents supporting this amendment, as the changes in management direction are compelled by the higher authority of the Act.

Management Direction

The several Wilderness areas and Wild/Scenic Rivers established by the Act are located within multiple Forest Plan management areas. This has the effect of applying the Forest Plan’s Wilderness or Wild/Scenic River prescriptions to all or portions of the affected management areas.

Management Area boundaries will not change under this amendment. Management Area direction will remain in effect also, except in cases of conflict with Wilderness or Wild/Scenic River management direction. Conflicts between Management Area direction and Wilderness prescription or Wild/Scenic River prescription shall be resolved in favor of the applicable prescription.

In general the changes in management direction are as follows:

- Apply Rx 9 – Wilderness [pp. IV 72-75] to all areas designated as wilderness by the Act.
- Apply Rx 10 – Wild & Scenic River Rx [pp. IV 76-77] to the segments of the Black Butte River and Cold Creek designated by the Act. The direction refers to ‘outstandingly remarkable values’ that must be protected. See Forest Plan FEIS, Appendix L [pp. L 13-15] for more information regarding the specific values for these two streams

In order to facilitate application of the changes in management direction, they are set forth in management area-specific inserts. Each insert has a map showing the affected part of the management area, and a narrative of the applicable management direction. Table 1 lists the management area inserts and their page numbers.

Table 1 – Management Area Direction Inserts	
Management Area	Pages
MA 07 – Bear Creek	IV-108a, b
MA 09 – Bowery	IV-114a, b
MA 10 – Ericson Ridge	IV-120a, b
MA 12 – Skeleton Glade	IV-128a, b
MA 14 – Open Ridge / Alder	IV-136a, b
MA 15 – Yuki	IV-140a, b
MA 17 – Grizzly LSR	IV-150a, b
MA 18 – Refuge LSR	IV-154a, b
MA 19 – Sanhedrin LSR	IV-158a, b
MA 23 – Buck	IV-172a, b
MA 24 – Eel River	IV-176a, b
MA 25 – Leech	IV-180a, b
MA 26 – Twin Rocks	IV-184a, b
MA 39 – Brushy Mountain	IV-236a, b
MA 43 – Big Butte-Shinbone Backcountry Area	IV-262a, b
MA 43 – Elk Creek Backcountry Area	IV-258a, b
MA 43 – Thatcher Backcountry Area	IV-260a, b