

MANAGEMENT AREA 20A (14,629 acres) - DRY CABIN WILDLIFE EMPHASIS AREA (WITH SCHEDULED TIMBER HARVEST)

1. Description Management Area 20A consists of, and lands adjacent to, the former Dry Cabin roadless area. The manageable boundary for this area is 15,829 acres. Within this boundary, 337 acres were previously considered part of Aldrich Mountain RARE II area and 1,200 acres overlap with old growth and are covered under Management Area 13. The area is located on the northwestern edge of the Malheur National Forest, the south side of the Aldrich Mountain Range, about 10 miles southeast of Dayville, Oregon. The terrain is extremely variable. The major characteristics are long, open ridges and steep forested draws in the lower portions and larger blocks of densely forested slopes in the upper portion. Streamcourses include Chickenhouse Gulch and Cabin, Dry Cabin, Todd, North Duncan, and Duncan Creeks, plus many unnamed tributaries. Elevations range from about 6,440 to less than 3,440 feet. The area is approximately 77% forested. Ponderosa pine is the dominant species, associated with Douglas-fir and white fir on the moister sites, and white fir, Douglas-fir, and larch on the upper-elevation sites. Wildlife species of high public interest include Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer.

2. Goals Maintain the natural beauty and character of the area through effective visitor-use and resource management. Provide opportunities for high quality semiprimitive dispersed recreation with emphasis on big game hunting. Manage for wildlife habitat, and high quality water at the confluence with Murderers Creek, while allowing for scheduled timber harvest.

3. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT STANDARDS

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area unless superseded by the following standards:

- Recreation**
 1. Manage dispersed recreation for goals of semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation in a natural appearing environment with emphasis on quality big game hunting. Permit motorized use only on the Aldrich Ridge Road (2150) and Thorn Ridge Road (2170).
 2. Manage developed recreation for development Level 1 facilities where appropriate along the Aldrich Ridge Road.
- Visuals**
 3. Meet visual quality objective of foreground partial retention along the Aldrich Ridge Road (2150) and Thorn Ridge Road (2170). See Management Area 14, Standard No. 18.
- Fish and Wildlife**
 4. Provide necessary habitat to contribute to Forest-wide maintenance of viable populations of management indicator species and featured species. Develop strategies to promote a variety of species including those dependent upon old growth, riparian, and solitude.
- Big Game**
 5. Manage elk and mule deer habitat to provide for 40% cover and an elk habitat effectiveness index (HEI) of 0.7.

The HEI model provides a means of balancing cover quality, cover spacing, forage, and open road densities. If these minimums are not attainable due to natural conditions (e.g., extensive nonforest areas), insect and disease conditions, or past management activities, then the highest possible cover percentage and index value will be maintained or created. Site-specific project analysis will address both short-term and long-term effects, particularly in the case of cover where short-term options to treat stands for insects and disease will improve forest health in the long-term. The Forest Supervisor will review and approve all recommendations to drop below cover and HEI standards as well as a strategy to reach standards within a reasonable length of time (see Forest-wide Standard No. 3).

Cover and habitat effectiveness determinations for site-specific projects will be calculated on a subwatershed basis. Calculations will include both forested and nonforested lands regardless of their suitability for timber production.

Habitat Effectiveness Index (HEI) Model

The model to be used to calculate elk habitat effectiveness on summer and winter range is:

$$HEI = (HE_c \times HE_s \times HE_r \times HE_f)^{1/4}$$

where:

HE_c = habitat effectiveness derived from the quality of cover

HE_s = habitat effectiveness derived from the size and spacing of cover

HE_r = habitat effectiveness derived from the density of roads open to vehicular traffic

HE_f = habitat effectiveness derived from the quality and quantity of forage.

Below is displayed the cover and elk habitat effectiveness standards:

Forest Area	HEI	Minimum ^{1/} Values For Variables				Minimum Amount ^{2/} of Area in Cover		
		HE _c	HE _s	HE _{r3/}	HE _f	Satis.	Marginal	Total
MA 20A	.7	.5	.6	.6	.5	20%	20%	40%

^{1/}The interactions between cover stand size and spacing, road density, forage, and cover quality are compensatory to a limited extent; that is, variables with low values tend to be compensated by those with high values. Because elk tend to respond primarily to habitat variables of relatively low value, minimum values have been established for each variable in the habitat effectiveness model. While it is desirable to meet or exceed the minimum value for each variable it may not be possible to do this in every case due to site condition or potential. However, if all the variables are met at only the minimum values, the minimum standard for HEI will not be met. Therefore, to meet the HEI standard, if one or more variables are at the minimum or below, other variables must be met at higher levels in order to achieve the HEI standard. Calculate HE_r variable for winter range only

^{2/}For cover definitions, see Glossary. Where satisfactory cover is below the minimum standard, retain sufficient hiding cover to mitigate this shortage.

^{3/}A closed road is one where use is not physically evident, no greater than one trip/week.

6. Develop a long-range plan for achievement of wildlife objectives through use of timber harvest that will be the basis of scheduled entries.
 7. Maintain dead and defective tree habitat capable of supporting 60-100% of the potential population of management indicator species for primary excavators.
- Range**
8. Prioritize forage utilization to provide for big game species at levels derived in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 9. Structural improvements will be designed to not detract from the existing natural condition of the landscape.
 10. Allow the occasional use of motorized equipment for facility maintenance and other range activities when approved by the Forest Supervisor.
- Timber**
11. Lands in this management area are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. Schedule timber harvest on the portion of the management area classified as "suitable" for timber management.
 12. On lands "suitable" for scheduled timber harvest, silvicultural prescriptions will be designed to maintain and/or improve cover conditions.
 13. Design timber harvest to maintain a natural appearing landscape and quality wildlife habitat. Emphasize uneven-aged management while allowing even-aged management where site-specific silvics or wildlife habitat objectives dictate. The overall effect will vary from natural appearing to slightly altered.
 14. Emphasize diversity of vegetation, experienced as one moves through the area. Create this effect by developing a sequence of stand conditions by utilizing group selection techniques applied to small treatment units (1/4 to 2 acres) and even-aged management in units up to 10 acres.
 15. Emphasize uneven-aged timber management in the lower portion of the area (approximately 2/3 of the area) (see Appendix K). Manage for the following target tree numbers and sizes:
 - (a) Twenty four inch uneven-aged management ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands - Maintain at least 2 trees per acre that are 24 inches in diameter and 5 replacement trees that are 18 to 24 inches in diameter.
 - (b) Twenty inch uneven-aged management ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands - Maintain at least 2 trees per acre that are 20 inches in diameter and 5 replacement trees that are 16 to 20 inches in diameter.
 - (c) Low site lands (all species) - Maintain at least 1 tree per acre 18 inches in diameter.
 - (d) Manage the stand, including understory, to maintain target tree standards throughout time and to meet regional direction for uneven-aged management (see glossary, uneven-aged management)

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16. Emphasize even-aged timber management in the upper portion of the area (approximately 1/3 of the area) concentrated on the better, more operable sites. Use extended rotations (180 years) with target tree sizes in excess of 24 inches in diameter on approximately 1/2 of the even-aged acres, with standard rotation lengths applied to the remaining 1/2, striving for the desired stand structure variety. Limit unit size to a maximum of 10 acres. Consider created openings no longer openings when the stand has reached a height of 20 feet.
- Stand Improvement
17. Defer precommercial and commercial thinnings when needed to meet elk habitat effectiveness objectives. Base this determination on a site-specific environmental analysis.
- Minerals
18. Provide access for exploration and development of locatable and leasable mineral resources. However, allow new road construction only where a road is necessary for the next logical stage of development of the mineral resource, and where other means of access (such as by helicopter, all-terrain vehicle, or pack animal) would be infeasible or unreasonable. Roads will be constructed to the minimum standards suitable for the proposed use, and will be obliterated to the extent feasible after completion of activities.
- Facilities
19. Except for facilities necessary to protect fragile resources, limit facilities to trail shelters and structures which meet sanitary and safety needs. All facilities should be of simple design and native, rustic-like materials. Minimize site modifications for facilities. Site development level should be Level 2 or less.
- Roads
20. Minimize road construction when determining access needs for timber management activities. Favor logging systems that require less road construction. Close or obliterate all newly constructed roads once management activities are completed. Road design will be determined by visual management needs, with the goal of maintaining a natural appearing landscape, and wildlife habitat needs. An area transportation plan will be developed
 21. To limit disturbance to big game, the open road density will be no greater than 1.5 mi/mi² by 1999. Where existing conditions do not meet this goal, project transportation system designs will be developed in order to move toward this goal in the shortest time frame possible. Densities will be monitored on a watershed basis (see Appendix I).
 22. All roads will be planned, designed and constructed to minimum level standards. No through roads.
 23. Access management will be identified as an issue during any project level environmental analysis.
 24. Restrict motorized vehicles to the Aldrich Ridge Road (2150) and the Thorn Ridge road (2170).
- Trails
25. Maintain existing trails. Construct or reconstruct trails to be consistent with management area objectives, accommodate increased use, ensure public safety, and reduce environmental damage.

Utility Corridors 26. Manage this area as a Category 1 Avoidance area for the location of utility corridors.

PROTECTION

Fire Management 27. Motorized equipment is authorized for fire suppression activities.

Residue Management 28. Use prescribed fire from planned ignitions to achieve resource management objectives. When based on site-specific analysis, use prescribed fire from natural ignitions (i.e., lightning) to allow fire to play its natural ecological role.

4. Schedule of Management Practices

MANAGEMENT AREA 20A - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management Practice	Activity Code	Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999)
TIMBER		
Timber Harvest Clearcut	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Shelterwood - Seed Tree Cut	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Selection	ET12	2 MMBF/104 Ac
Overstory Removal on Existing Stands	ET12	21.0 MMBF/2,144 Ac
Commercial Thinning	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Salvage/Other Products	ET12	1.0 MMBF/Ac N/A
Total Timber Harvest	ET12	22.2 MMBF/2,248 Ac
Reforestation Planting	ET24	20 Ac
Natural	ET24	20 Ac
Timber Stand Improvement Precommercial Thinning	ET25	1,348 Ac