

Vegetation

Forest-wide Desired Condition Statements

1. The national forest supports diverse resilient, productive, sustainable, & healthy ecosystems with natural processes & function.
2. There would be a mosaic of vegetation structures in different successional stages.
3. Areas of national forest are present which can be harvested for timber and for utilization of livestock forage.
4. Promote conditions to benefit wildlife, fish habitat, riparian/aquatic conditions, native plant communities, social conditions, cultural resources.
5. Native American's treaty rights and traditional uses are not obstructed.
6. Vegetation management strategies and activities include consideration and protection of cultural resources.
7. Secondary forest products such as Christmas trees, firewood, berries, mushrooms, bio fuel, etc. are produced & made available from the national forest.
8. A landscape mosaic of natural conditions and strategic treatments resulting in a variation of fuel conditions, vegetation structure, and age classes across the landscape limits potential for uncharacteristic fire.
9. Riparian/aquatic fish, wildlife, soils, and plant communities, etc. operate at proper function.
10. Active restoration work is strategically and collaboratively designed to benefit ecosystems & local communities.
11. Forest pathogens operate at endemic levels consistent with approximated historic, spatial, and temporal scales, with timely Forest Service/management consideration of impacts to adjacent land ownerships.
12. Local demand and capacity to process and utilize vegetation materials removed from the forest is present (balance & predictability). Treatments produce jobs and materials, which contribute to local community economics in a sustainable way
13. The public understands the need for and supports fire risk reduction & forest restoration projects. Historic range of variability (HRV) guides passive, active, & intense restoration.
14. A predictable and sustainable flow of material from the national forest encourages businesses to invest in equipment and personnel." "Sustainable" within the context of the above statement means balancing the local economy with landscape health.
15. The national forest supports sustainable populations of fish & wildlife on sustainable habitat that may shift on the landscape within the mosaic.
16. The best available, validated science and local monitoring results guide project planning & implementation (i.e. adaptive management).

17. A skilled, trained, motivated, and adequate work force (Forest Service & private sector) contributes to the desired conditions.
18. Recovery & rehabilitation treatments, including salvage after emergency events, are accomplished in a timely, economically and environmentally appropriate manner using pre-approved treatment criteria. Pre-approved treatment criteria will be implemented in situations such as fire salvage, beetle infestations with potential to affect adjacent land ownerships, etc.
19. Strategic treatments & routine maintenance are designed to produce effective results.
20. Strategic and variable fuels and vegetation structure exists in mosaic patterns across the landscape.
21. Minimize introduction and spread of noxious weeds, cheat grass, and other exotic species.
22. Utilize prescribed and wildland fire use where feasible. Prescribed fire is used as one form of maintenance
23. Adjacent private lands, trust lands, tribal lands, and national forests take reasonable measures to reduce fire risk in conjunction with local, state, federal agencies, and tribal governments.
24. The national forest supports harvestable populations of fish and wildlife and cultural resources in keeping with rights of Indian nations provided by treaties.
25. Access to resources that have high value to Native Americans, such as huckleberries, are protected. Native Americans ability to have “cultural harvest” prior to other groups’ harvest is ensured. Conflicts between traditional uses, personal and commercial uses are addressed.
26. Use best management practices, especially in areas within proximity of roads.
27. Cooperate and coordinate with other agencies and landowners in vegetation management planning and implementation.

Management Theme 1: WUI Roaded

[Note: There was a suggestion to change Management Theme 1 to “WUI dry forest” and Management Theme #5 to “WUI non-dry forest,” and say “priority to treat areas near structures.” This suggestion was not discussed by the subgroup or PAC]

1. Manipulate vegetation to ensure defensible space for structures and to provide a safe environment to fire fighters, including escape routes & safety zones, and fuel breaks.
2. Reduce the risk of high intensity and/or high rate of spread of fires near structures and facilities by reducing surface & ladder fuels. Reduce risk of crown fire, emphasizing retention of fire resistant trees. *[Note: This is a point of disagreement. Some feel that fire risk reduction needs to be emphasized throughout the WUI, not just near structures, and not minimized in any way]*
3. National forest that is not near structures and fuel breaks is managed to restore the appropriate fire regime.
4. Adjacent private lands & national forest facilities take reasonable measures to reduce fire risk. (collaborative effort with private landowners, local, state, other federal and tribal governments).
5. Treatments blend ecologically & visually with surrounding national forest lands.
6. Strategic treatments & routine maintenance are designed to produce effective results.

Management Theme 2: Roaded Dry, Not WUI

1. Fire resistant trees/adaptive species are predominately present.
2. Vegetation patterns over most of the area (in the dry forest types) are maintained in open and lower-density forest communities. Dry forest types include ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and dry grand fir associations. There would be a variety of structures and different successional stages present on the landscape. Scattered, large old trees would be part of the landscape. North slopes would be maintained at higher density and could serve as special wildlife habitat. Ground/surface fuels are reduced to a level consistent with low intensity fire.
3. Reduce ground fuels and ladder fuels.
4. Reduce risk of crown fire.
5. Prescribed fire is emphasized as a tool for maintenance in the dry forest.

6. Objectives are accomplished using a variety of management tools (examples: timber thinning, chemical, pruning, timber harvest, wildland fire use prescribed fire, grazing, etc.)
7. Stands are resistant to stand-replacing fire.

Management Theme 3: Roaded Mesic Forest, Roaded Cold Moist Forest, Roaded, Cold Dry Forest – Not WUI

1. Emphasize management of special wildlife habitat requiring closed canopy, dense forest in this management type.
2. Restoration projects are considered, depending on the existing condition of the mesic forest, the historic range of variability, and proximity of mesic forest to dry forest.

Management Theme 4: Roadless (everything except Dry Forest, Not WUI)

[Note: Inventoried roadless area, as adjusted by the 2006 inventory]

1. Natural processes are generally allowed to occur where possible.
2. Utilize wildland fire for multiple resource benefits where possible, addressing risk of fire spread, fire plan details and other factors.
3. These areas provide examples of resilient and healthy ecosystems.
4. These areas contribute to security habitat for wildlife species sensitive to disturbance.
5. These areas contribute to high water quality/quantity and proper hydrologic function.

Management Theme 5: Roadless, WUI

[Note: Inventoried roadless area, as adjusted by the 2006 inventory]

1. Reduce the risk of high intensity fires near occupied structures and facilities. Focus treatments to the level that would protect structures and facilities. National forest that is not near structures and fuel breaks is managed for a WUI management scheme/regime *[Note: This is a point of disagreement. Some feel that fire risk reduction needs to be emphasized throughout the WUI, not just near structures, and not minimized in any way]*
2. Treatments for reduction of fuels are conducted in cooperation with local, state, tribal and private concerns.

3. Treatments blend ecologically and visually with surrounding national forest lands.
4. The main desired condition is to reduce the high risk of high intensity fires near occupied structures and facilities.

Management Theme 6: Roadless, Dry, Not WUI

[Note: Roadless = inventoried roadless area, as adjusted by the 2006 inventory]

1. Restoration of the dry fire regime is a priority.
2. Utilize wildland fire for multiple resource benefits where possible, addressing risk of fire spread, fire plan details and other factors.
3. These areas provide examples of resilient and healthy ecosystems.
4. These areas contribute to security habitat for wildlife species sensitive to disturbance.
5. These areas contribute to high water quality/quantity and proper hydrologic function.
6. Historic forest structure and succession data is gathered from these areas to guide restoration. This desired condition is emphasized for this management theme.
7. Reduce ground fuels and ladder fuels.
8. Reduce risk of crown fire.
9. Fire resistant trees/adaptive species are predominately present.
10. Stands are resistant to stand-replacing fire.