

Vegetation Subgroup Recommendations – Vegetation Suitability Matrix, 5/31/2006

| | Mgmt. Theme #1, WUI, Roaded | Mgmt. Theme #2, Roaded Dry, Not WUI | Mgmt. Theme #3, Roaded Mesic, Cool Moist, Cool Dry, Not WUI | Mgmt. Theme, #4, Unroaded, Not Dry (IRA's) | Mgmt. Theme #5, Unroaded WUI (IRA's that overlap with WUI) | Mgmt. Theme #6, Unroaded Dry (IRA's) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Vegetation Mgmt. | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Wildland Fire Use | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y |
| Prescribed Fire | L | Y | Y | Y | L | Y |
| Fire Suppression | Y | Y | Y | Y, with criteria | Y, with criteria | Y, with criteria |
| Road Construction | L, no net gain | L, no net gain | L, no net gain | N | L, with criteria | L, with criteria |
| Timber Production | L, with criteria | Y | Y, with criteria | N | N | N |
| Unscheduled Timber Harvest | Y, with criteria | Y | Y | L | L | L |
| Pest Mgmt./Pathogens | Y | Y | Y | L | L | L |
| Livestock Grazing | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Wildlife Mgmt. Projects | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Fish Mgmt. Projects | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Personal Use Products | Y | Y | Y | Y, see notes | Y, see notes | Y, see notes |
| Trail Construction | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Utility Corridors | L | L | L | L | L | L |
| Developed Facilities | See notes for this section. | | | | | |

Criteria Associated with Vegetation Suitability Matrix (revised 6/6/06 by LKT):

Vegetation Management

Activities to manage vegetation not for commercial use allowable in all management themes.

Wildland Fire Use

Within the WUI (MT 1 and 5), recognize wildland fire use as a possible tool for reducing fuel loads, but use only when/where structures will not be at risk. Decision to use this tool results from analysis in fire plan, CWPP and District Ranger discretion.

Prescribed Fire

Within the WUI (MT 1 and 5), recognize prescribed fire as a possible tool for reducing fuel loads, but use only when/where structures will not be at risk. Decision to use this tool results from analysis in fire plan, CWPP and District Ranger discretion.

Fire Suppression

This measure is often required legally and logically to protect resources and property, though Fire Plans and line officer discretion may determine conditions under which wildland fire use may be permitted. In MTs 4, 5, 6 fire management teams will attempt to minimize impacts to the land and roadless characteristics.

Road Construction

In MTs 1, 2, 3, recognize that road density is currently high in many areas. Costs are high for both construction and decommissioning of roads. Projects should utilize existing roads to the extent possible. New road construction is allowed to provide better long term access, relocate roads out of riparian areas or relocate roads which compromise an important resource, etc., though no net gain in road mileage (? in each 5th field watershed?) is allowed. Full restoration of decommissioned roads is needed to allow new construction.

In MTs 1, 2, 3, consider the impacts to unroaded areas of 1,000 acres and larger from potential new road construction, including impacts to native vegetation, wildlife security habitat, scenery, recreation, etc., and minimize impacts when warranted.

In MT 4, roadless areas without dry forest or WUI management concerns, it is not expected that roads will be necessary.

In MT 5, WUI in roadless areas, roads necessary for restoration and fuel reduction treatments should be placed to strategically and effectively access treatment areas. When/where possible, these roads will be used temporarily, and restored to healthy native vegetation and soil conditions after use, and after restoration, roads will not affect roadless character. Roads shown important for long term WUI management should be built with the least impacts to the land and roadless area size/character. New technology 'light-logging' equipment should be considered as an alternative to new roads.

In MT 6, roadless areas in dry forest, roads demonstrated as necessary for restoration should be designed to minimize impacts to the land and roadless character, and should be fully restored to native vegetation and contour after the project. New technology 'light-logging' equipment should be considered as an alternative to new roads. *(USFS needs to confirm that these temporary roads will not detract from suitability as Inventoried Roadless Area before consensus is reached).

Timber Production

In MT 1, roaded WUI, ensure that tree regeneration and logging slash does not increase fire risk. Also maintain scenic values where important to communities.

In MT 2, roaded dry forest, scheduled timber production may be a part of regular restoration activities.

In MT 3, timber production may result from restoration of historic and sustainable forest structure and landscape patterns (mosaic) and thinning in previously managed forests. Retention of large trees and snags is important to more closely approximate historic conditions and maintain critical habitat features.

Unscheduled Timber Harvest

MTs 4, 5, 6 are limited to ensure that dry forest restoration efforts and WUI treatments do not compromise roadless characteristics. USFS needs to confirm that these potential actions will not detract from the roadless areas suitability as an Inventoried Roadless Area before consensus is reached on these answers.

Discussion around clarifying our statement on need for varied treatments within the WUI to focus on effective measures to protect structures, and elsewhere within the defined area to restore HRV.

Pest and Pathogen Management

MTs 4, 5, 6, roadless areas, have a greater emphasis on allowing endemic levels of these disturbances, but still allows control measures for protecting adjacent ownerships and important habitat.

Livestock Grazing

(Recognize that decisions on livestock grazing are probably outside of this decision space, and based on existing allotments.)

Consider this activity as a tool for reducing fuel load and creating/maintaining fuelbreaks.

Personal Use

The Forest Service is encouraged to monitor effects of these activities and establish guidelines and conditions to meet desired conditions if warranted. For example, firewood collection could be restricted in some areas, if deemed necessary.

Trail Construction

In WUI and dry forest, MTs 1, 2, 5, 6, where possible, locate trails to provide better access for prescribed fire, weed control, fuel treatments, etc., and for use as prescribed fire fuelbreaks.

Utility Corridors

In MTs 4, 5, 6, roadless, utility corridors would negatively affect roadless character, and other routes would be encouraged.

Developed Facilities

New facilities should be located so as to not create additional WUI or resources needed for fire protection, when at all possible.

Vegetation Subgroup Recommendations – Priorities for Vegetation Management, 5/31/2006

50% efforts/funding- WUI (directed by HFRA), thinning, prescribed fire, invasives control) 30% - Dry Forest Restoration, 20% - other forest type restoration (e.g.