

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE FOREST PLAN

The Forest Plan guides all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Fremont National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management

The Forest Plan.

Establishes the Management Direction and associated long-range goals and objectives for the Forest for the next 10-15 years;

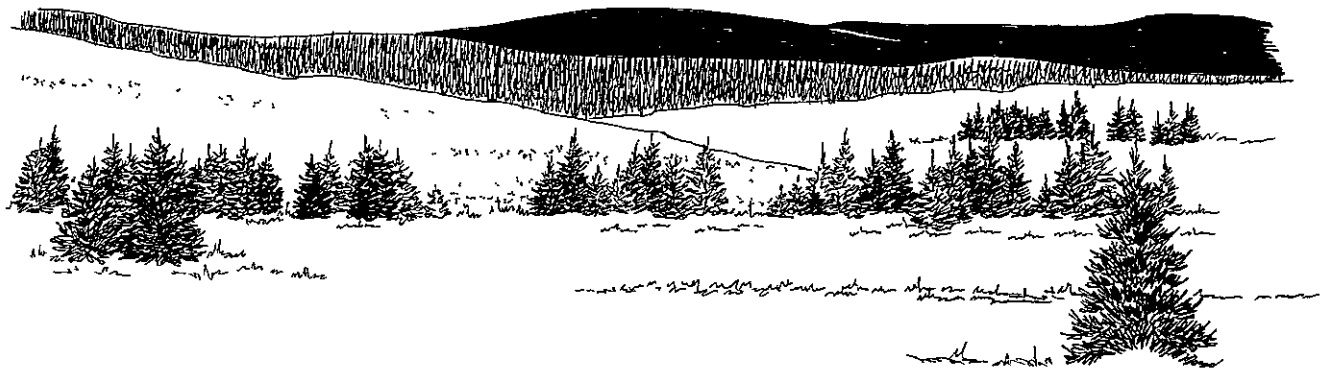
Specifies the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines, Management Area Direction and the approximate timing and vicinity of the practices necessary to achieve that direction,

Establishes the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for timber and identifies lands suitable for timber management;

Establishes the monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure that the direction is carried out and to determine how well outputs and effects are predicted

The Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations, and other guiding documents. Land use determinations, prescriptions, and standards and guidelines constitute a statement of the Plan's management direction; however, the projected outputs, services, and rates of implementation are dependent on the annual budgeting process.

This Plan will guide Forest Service programs and activities on the Fremont National Forest. The Forest Plan will be reviewed (and updated if necessary) at least every five years. It will ordinarily be revised on a 10-year cycle, or at least every 15 years



RELATIONSHIP OF THE FOREST PLAN TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

RELATIONSHIP TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) AND RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)

This Forest Plan sets forth the direction for managing the resources of the Fremont National Forest. The Plan results from the extensive analysis and considerations addressed in the accompanying EIS and ROD. The planning process and the analysis procedures used to develop this Forest Plan are described or referenced in the EIS. The EIS also describes other alternatives considered in the planning process. Specific activities and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in this Plan. The Forest will perform environmental analysis on these projects and activities. This subsequent environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in the Plan and EIS as its basis. Environmental analysis of projects will be tiered to the EIS accompanying this Forest Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE REGIONAL GUIDE

The Regional Guide for the Pacific Northwest Region (June 1984) provides direction for National Forest Plans. It includes standards and guidelines addressing the major issues and management concerns considered at the Regional level, to facilitate Forest planning.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This Forest Plan serves as the single land management plan for the Fremont National Forest. All other land management plans are replaced by the direction in this plan; see Chapter 5 and Appendix 9 for a listing of existing plans that this Forest Plan supersedes.

Implementation and action plans designed to give more specific guidance for management and development activities are developed "under the umbrella of" this Forest Plan and must conform to its direction. Such plans will be tiered to this Plan.

PLAN STRUCTURE

The Plan is presented in five chapters:

Chapter I describes the purpose of the Plan and what it contains, identifies the Forest's geographic location, and describes the area covered by the Plan. It also discusses the Plan's relationship to other documents.

Chapter II provides a summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation, prepared during the planning process. It includes: summaries of the present management situation for each resource, a brief socio-economic overview of the Forest's dependent communities and counties, demand and supply projections for various resource goods and services, productivity potentials, and reasons for the change in management direction presented in this Plan. Information and research needs identified during the development of this Plan are found at the end of Chapter II.

Chapter III summarizes how the Forest Plan responds to the major public issues and management concerns identified through the planning process.

Chapter IV is the heart of the Plan and contains the management direction the Forest has established for the planning period (10 to 15 years). This direction consists of resource management goals and objectives; the management areas and associated prescriptions designed to achieve these goals, and the standards and guidelines for implementing the prescriptions. Chapter IV also displays the projected resource outputs, activities, and budget which would result from implementation of this Plan.

Chapter V presents additional direction, under the headings of: Implementation Direction, Monitoring and Evaluation Program, and Amendments and Revisions. Collectively, these sections explain how management direction will be implemented, how project activities will be monitored and evaluated, and how the Plan will be kept current and responsive to changing conditions.

A glossary of terms and nine appendices follow this Forest Plan. The appendices present additional information on: timber sale and other resource management activity implementation scheduling, landownership management, scenic corridors, wilderness management, riparian management, and fish and wildlife monitoring.

FOREST DESCRIPTION

The Fremont National Forest is located in south central Oregon, beginning at the Oregon-California border. The Forest totals 1,198,308 acres, within a proclaimed boundary which also includes about 512,300 acres of private lands. The Forest's eastern boundary includes part of the Warner Mountains, a fault-block mountain range overlooking Nevada's Great Basin Desert. To the north and west the Forest is bounded by the Deschutes and Winema National Forests, respectively. A map indicating the Forest's location within Oregon, the Pacific Northwest Region, and the United States appears at the end of this chapter.

Lake County, in which most of the Forest is located, is one of the least populated areas in Oregon. It ranks thirty-first in population among Oregon's thirty-six counties, with a population density of .9 persons per square mile. Lakeview, population 2,800, is the county's largest town. Forest products and agriculture are the economic mainstays of the small, scattered communities adjacent to the Forest.

Lying within the rain shadow created by the Cascades, this predominately mature forest is characterized by drought-tolerant tree species such as juniper and ponderosa pine, although abundant stands of white fir occur at higher elevations. Ponderosa pine, white fir, and lodgepole pine are the dominant timber species, and all three are harvested commercially. Approximately 68 percent of the Forest is tentatively suitable for industrial wood production.

Many of the Forest's old-growth lodgepole pine stands have been infested with the mountain pine beetle, in an epidemic which began in the early 1980's. Entomologists estimate that most of the Forest's unmanaged old-growth lodgepole pines will be dead within ten to fifteen years.

The Lakeview Federal Sustained Yield Unit was established on the Forest in 1950. The Unit is an administrative designation of Forest lands, encompassing roughly the eastern 40 percent of the Forest. It requires that all timber from these lands be sold only to purchasers who will process the timber within Lakeview and Paisley, the two communities participating in the Lakeview Federal Sustained Yield Unit. The objective of the Unit is to maintain the economic stability of the participating communities.

The Forest is an important source of water for the agricultural lands and municipalities located in the surrounding, relatively arid valleys. Streams on the Forest total 5,300 miles, with perennial streams comprising about 600 of these miles. Numerous small lakes, wetlands, springs, and stockponds also

occur on the Forest, as well as several reservoirs. The Forest's streams, lakes, and reservoirs are popular areas for fishing, boating, and camping.

Forage is plentiful on the Fremont National Forest, with about 58 percent of the Forest being tentatively suitable for range use. The Forest offers about 71,000 Animal Unit Months (AUM's) of grazing, and is divided into 71 grazing allotments.

Numerous fish and wildlife species make use of the varied habitats present on the Forest. Of the 342 species which occur, 58 have been classified by the State of Oregon and /or the federal government as game animals or furbearers. The primary game species hunted include mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and pronghorn antelope. Rainbow, brook, red-band, and brown trout can be found in the Forest's lakes and perennial streams, and a few of the lakes also support warm-water fish, such as large-mouth bass. Among the waterfowl frequently seen on the Forest are Canada geese, whistling swans, mallards, and cinnamon teal. Nongame species are also varied and abundant. Some of the more unique representatives of this group on the Forest include golden eagles, sandhill cranes, and pikas. Two threatened and endangered species, the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon (a rare migrant), are found on Forest lands.

The Forest Headquarters is in Lakeview, Oregon, with Ranger Stations for the four Ranger Districts located in the Oregon towns of Bly, Lakeview, Paisley, and Silver Lake.



Figure 1. Vicinity Map of the Fremont National Forest.

