

DECISION MEMO

Fremont National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Forest Plan Amendment No. ~~5~~ 7 Lake and Klamath Counties, Oregon

Background

During the Fremont National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) appeal process, it was determined that a number of corrections and clarifications were needed. The purpose of this amendment is to correct and clarify portions of the Forest Plan. Assurance that consistent interpretation and implementation is imperative and will be covered in this amendment.

Decision

It is my decision to amend the Fremont National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan by: (1) Clarifying wilderness capacity in the summary of resource conditions, Chapter II, p. 31; (2) Moving "Cultural Resources" paragraph from p. 31 to p. 32 due to changes on p. 31; (3) Correcting Table 11, "Resource Outputs and Activities for Timber", Chapter IV, p. 52; (4) Clarifying road management objectives, Chapter IV, p. 154; and (5) Correcting the "Vegetation Management Practices" acreage, Appendices, p. 142. These revised pages are attached.

Reasons for Categorically Excluding this Decision

This action falls under Category 1, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Section 26.1b, Administrative actions. This amendment will not significantly change the Forest-wide environmental impacts disclosed in the Fremont National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further documentation in an EIS or environmental assessment.

Implementation Date

This decision will be implemented no sooner than 7 calendar days after publishing of a legal notice of decision in the "*Herald and News*" (published in Klamath Falls, Oregon).

Appeal Opportunity

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217. Two copies of any Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Reviewing Officer (John E. Lowe, Regional Forester, 333 SW First Street, Portland, Or. 97204) within 45 days of the date a legal notice of this decision appears in the "*Herald and News*". Any Notice of Appeal must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9, "Content of a Notice of Appeal".

Additional Information

Questions and information requests should be directed to Sherm Radtke (Planning Staff) or Cleon Puetz (Forest Planner) at the Fremont National Forest office, 524 North G Street, Lakeview, Or. 97630



Charles R. Graham
Forest Supervisor

12/11/92

Date

supply and demand

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) planning process was used to analyze and assess the supply and demand for recreation on the Fremont National Forest. ROS planning encompasses both dispersed and developed recreation. Acreage totals for each ROS class are displayed in Figure 4.

Demand for **dispersed recreation** in all ROS classes is expected to more or less double over the next 50 years. The Forest's ability to meet demand for dispersed recreation through the planning horizon (2030) varies by ROS class. Projected use for *semiprimitive nonmotorized* recreation on the Forest would begin to exceed current supply by about year 2015. The current supply of the *semiprimitive motorized* setting on the Forest is quite low compared to the Forest's other ROS settings. Demand for this setting is also relatively low. The ROS setting *roaded-natural* is used by recreationists more often than any other setting on the Forest, and this trend is expected to continue.

Demand for **developed recreation** is expected to increase by an average of two percent annually over the next 50 years. As mentioned previously, all developed sites occur within the *roaded natural* ROS class. While demand for *roaded-natural* appearing settings is projected to reach approximately 290,000 RVD's by 2030, the supply of this setting could accommodate the projected increase.

Current supplies of the *roaded modified* setting are far above present demand. Although recreational use of this setting is projected to roughly double by 2030, the Forest's supply would be sufficient to accommodate more than ten times that amount of use.

Demand for **Wilderness** recreation is expected to increase by 80 percent between now and the year 2030. This wilderness area, being more remote than some wilderness to the metropolitan areas, has the potential for fewer encounters which could increase the desire for longer stays. The practical cross-country capacity would consider: Use capacity being limited by the number of ingress/egress points, and the number of encounters allowable in those areas. With two parties/week throughout a 120 day season, (or use by 34 parties) the ingress/egress points would show moderate impacts. Since there are only about 15 of these points, $15 \text{ points} \times 34 \text{ parties} \times 4 \text{ people/party} \times 3 \text{ days/stay} = 6,120$ RVDs for practical capacity for cross-country use. For trails, Palisades and Blue Lake, it is anticipated that Blue Lake will receive the most use, therefore, the practical capacity would be:

Table 9. GEARHART MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS,
Practical Maximum Capacity

AREAS	PRACTICAL USE	TOTAL NO. RVDs
Trails	$3 \text{ parties} \times 3 \text{ persons/party} \times 120 \text{ days} =$	1,080 RVDs
Palisades	$5 \text{ parties} \times 3 \text{ persons/party} \times 120 \text{ days} =$	1,800 RVDs
Blue Lake	$6 \text{ parties} \times 4 \text{ persons/party} \times 120 \text{ days} =$	2,880 RVDs
Total	$1,080 + 1,800 + 2,880 =$	5,760 RVDs
Cross-Country	$15 \text{ points} \times 34 \text{ parties} \times 4 \text{ persons/party} \times 3 \text{ days/stay} =$	6,120 RVDs
Total Use		11,880 RVDs

Cultural Resources

The Fremont National Forest manages one of the most extensive cultural resource bases in the Pacific Northwest Region. As indicated by the following list, a variety of artifacts, sites, and buildings comprise the Forest's cultural resource base.

<i>Prehistoric (Native settlement)</i>		<i>Historic (Non-native settlement)</i>	
Pictographs	Petroglyphs	Homesteads	Mills
Burial sites	Seasonal camps	Immigrant roads	Mines
Quarries	House-pit villages	Railroad grades	Cabins
Trails		Administrative buildings	Flumes

The Forest also contains areas of cultural and religious significance to living Native Americans.

supply and demand

Inventory surveys have been completed for 466,382 acres of the Forest and 702 sites have been discovered. Prehistoric sites dominate the inventory on the Forest, though there is a varied historic cultural resource as well.

The inventories identified several sites that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of historic places. One of these sites, the Bly Ranger District station compound, has now been placed on the Register.

Vandalism of cultural resource sites is frequent on the Forest, as sites are numerous and easily found by Forest users. Current attempts to protect cultural resources involve monitoring sites and promoting public education.

Federal laws mandating the identification and protection of cultural resource sites reflect the demand to preserve this resource. Cultural resources are considered nonrenewable. Sites, artifacts, and historic structures cannot be replaced if destroyed, nor can the research information represented by these sites be replicated.

The cultural resources offer significant opportunities for research and interpretative activities. Much of the resource is still highly visible because of the thin soil layer and relatively light rainfall. Beyond the physical resource, the data to be gained through stratigraphy studies and other archeological techniques also represents a significant resource.

The Forest is assessing the interpretative potential of different areas for both historic and prehistoric resources. To date, the Winter Ridge Trail on the Paisley Ranger District has been identified as a potential interpretive area.

Minerals and Energy

On most of the Fremont National Forest, volcanic deposits such as basalt flows, volcanic tuffs, and ash and pumice layers overlie the older landforms more likely to contain mineral deposits. However, surface geologic indicators, as well as past and present activities on the Forest indicate that the potential for locatable minerals in some areas is relatively high. Mercury and uranium are mineral deposits on the Forest which have been mined commercially in the past. Current claims exist for these minerals, but no additional production has resulted.

Table 11. Resource Outputs and Activities for Timber

OUTPUT/ACTIVITY	UNIT	DECADES				
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Tentatively Suitable for Timber Production	MAcres	816.3	816.3	816.3	816.3	816.3
Acres Suitable for Timber Harvest	MAcres	705.0	705.0	705.0	705.0	705.0
Timber Harvested by:						
Clearcut	MAcres	6.4	4.3	6.3	5.1	4.6
Shelterwood	MAcres	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Selection	MAcres	12.5	12.1	12.7	10.0	12.7
Overstory Removal	MAcres	2.5	1.3	.2	0.0	0.0
Commercial Thinning and Partial Cutting	MAcres	7.5	7.5	7.5	6.9	7.6
Allowable Sale Quantity (1)	MMCF/Year	25.4	25.4	24.9	24.9	25.0
	MMBF/Year	139.5				
Ponderosa Pine	MMCF/Year	12.7	10.3	18.7	9.0	10.6
Pine-Associated	MMCF/Year	9.9	13.9	5.5	15.2	13.6
Lodgepole Pine	MMCF/Year	2.8	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.8
Pure Ponderosa Pine (2)	MMCF/Year	17.3	17.7	20.4	17.2	17.1
Nonchargeable Volume	MMCF/Year	3.3	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.6
	MMBF/Year	18.9				
Total Timber Sale Program	MMCF/Year	28.7	28.7	27.7	27.5	27.6
	MMBF/Year	158.4				
Fuelwood	MCords/Year	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.0	11.9
Reforestation by:						
Planting	MAcres/Year	6.4	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0
Natural Regeneration	MAcres/Year	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
Timber Stand Improvements by:						
Precommercial Thinning and conifer release	MAcres/Year	8.0	8.0	10.0	9.0	9.0

- (1) Long term sustained yield forest-wide is equal to 32.9 MMCF/Year and is achieved by FORPLAN in Decade 14.
- (2) This is the unmixed Ponderosa Pine component harvested from both the Ponderosa Pine and Pine-Associated timber types.
- (3) Reforestation needs include an estimated 6,400 acres of clearcut regeneration units and a portion (2,500 acres) of selection (unevenaged management) harvest. The balance of the acreage harvested (Shelterwood - overstory removal, commercial thinning and other partial cutting) will be essentially in a fully stocked condition following treatments.

Standards and Guidelines Specific To MANAGEMENT AREA 6

Forest management activities associated with this intensity will be noticeable but subordinate to the characteristic landscape. Visual contrast of management with these elements will be minimized through manipulation of the shape, edge effect, scale, and distribution of resource treatments.

Road management objectives would "encourage" highway vehicle use with considerable guidance to the user on primary routes. Road closures may be necessary to **prevent resource damage under certain conditions.**

Standards and Guidelines Applicable To all Intensities

visual management

- A. Scenic road corridors will generally have visual foreground zones extending 1/4 to 1/2 mile out from the centerline of the road and will be managed for retention or partial retention.
- B. Harvesting methods meeting the needs for both foreground retention and partial retention will be used in these areas. The created openings in evenaged stands will be limited to three percent of the stand area per decade in retention and five percent per decade in partial retention.
- C. Designated middleground areas will extend from the foreground zone to five miles from the observer and will be managed for partial retention.
- D. Middleground partial retention areas will use harvesting methods meeting partial retention guidelines. Created openings in evenaged stands will be limited to eight percent per decade.

landownership adjustments

Land Exchange

- A. Retain National Forest System lands except those parcels identified for disposal in the land adjustment plan as amended.

minerals management

- A. Common mineral materials sources will be designed and/or located to reduce effects upon the visual resource by using vegetative screening, topography, and rehabilitation potential of the site.
- B. Prudent requirements in Plans of Operation and recommendations for lease stipulations will be provided to minimize effects of mining activities and improvements on the visual resource.

Land Uses

- A. Land uses within the viewshed corridor must be in parity with the visual objectives of retention and partial retention. This includes the treatment of wildfire and prescribed burns as directed in USDA Handbook 608 (National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, Chapter 6, Fire).

Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average in First Decade for Suitable Lands)

PRACTICE	ACRES
Regeneration Harvest (1):	
Clearcut	6,400
Shelterwood and Seed Tree	
-Preparatory Cut	—
-Seed Cut	—
-Removal Cut	2,500
Selection	12,500
Intermediate Harvest:	
Commercial Thinning (includes partial cutting)	5,500
Salvage/Sanitation	2,000
Timber Stand Improvement	8,000
Reforestation (2)	8,900

- (1) FORPLAN solution will show 8,900 acres per year of clearcut regeneration harvest. Adjustment is made to display 2,500 acres per year of anticipated shelterwood-removal cut.
- (2) Includes natural and artificial. Total includes 2,500 acres of natural regeneration in addition to reforestation of clearcut regeneration units.

Timber Productivity Classification

POTENTIAL GROWTH (Cubic Feet/Acre/Year)	Suitable Lands (Acres)	Unsuitable Lands (1) (Acres)
Less than 20	—	44,120 (2)
20 - 49	270,420	26,076
50 - 84	357,006	33,220
85 - 119	83,446	7,964
120 - 164	—	—
165 - 224	—	—
225+	—	—

- (1) Productivity estimated for lands, such as wilderness, where data are not available.
- (2) Some of these lands could become suitable during the Plan Period if they become cost efficient.