

GMUG Proposed Land Management Plan

Reader's Guide

This Plan includes management guidance for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) for the next 10 to 15 years. The Plan is in three parts and contains five different Plan components:

Plan Component	Plan Part	Description
Desired Conditions	Part 1 (Forest-wide and Geographic Area Desired Conditions) Part 2 (Management Area Desired Conditions)	Overarching goals of forest management. They describe the desired outcomes of land management; how the Forest is expected to look and function in the future. Desired conditions are described in several ways: Forest-wide Desired Conditions for Resources describe desired conditions for individual resources or management programs, such as timber, recreation, watershed resources. Geographic Area Desired Conditions describe unique desired conditions for a specific geographic area. Management Area Suitability describes desired conditions for areas, or zones. Thirteen management areas describe a range of management intensity, levels of development, and degrees of naturalness.
Objectives	Part 2	Measurable, time-specific actions or outcomes to be accomplished to maintain or achieve desired conditions. Objectives are included for individual resource and program.
Suitability	Part 2	Identifies the generally suitability of areas for a variety of multiple uses. Suitability is based on physical and biological conditions of an area, consistency with resource and program desired conditions, and management area desired conditions. General suitability for major resource management activities by management area are displayed in Part 2.
Guidelines	Part 3	Operational controls or technical guidance for designing projects and activities for individual resource and program activities to maintain or achieve desired conditions. Guidelines may vary by the management area in which a project is proposed.
Special Areas	Part 1 (Special Area Desired Conditions) Part 2 (Special Area Objectives and Suitability) Part 3 (Special Area Guidelines)	Special areas are identified and managed for unique or special characteristics. Special areas include wilderness, scenic byways, botanical areas and other lands with special designations.

How is the Plan organized?

There are several ways to find information in this Plan.

- The **Table of Contents** displays the Plan organization.
- The **Introduction** section describes the purpose for a Forest Plan, the process used to develop the Plan, Plan Organization, how future projects need to be consistent with Plan guidance, and how the Plan framework will be followed through collaborative practices.
- **Part 1** is desired conditions, first Forest-wide by resource and program, then specific to geographic areas where it differs from Forest-wide desired conditions.
- **Part 2** includes objectives by resource, suitability of areas for different management activities, and management area guidance.
- **Part 3** includes guidelines.
- **Italicized words** are names of cross-referenced sections in the Plan or the "Plan Set of Documents."
- **Appendices** contain additional information to support Plan component guidance. For instance, *Appendix C* contains important information on resource program priorities and strategies.
- A **list of tables** provides the table title and page number.
- The **list of figures** includes links to maps of general suitability for various resources, and management area distribution.
- Page **footers** identify the Part and Section of the document, as listed in the Table of Contents.

How do I find information in the Plan about a specific location in the forest?

A particular area within the GMUG is subject to up to four scales of direction in this Plan:

1. Forest-wide desired conditions, objectives, suitability, guidelines.
2. Geographic area desired conditions. There are five geographic areas within the GMUG.
3. Management area desired conditions, suitability, guidelines. There are 13 management areas within the GMUG which describe the general desired level of development.
4. Special area (for a small part of the forest) desired conditions, suitability, guidelines. Special areas include existing and proposed wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, research natural areas, etc.

Maps which accompany the Plan show these areas. Read the desired conditions for the geographic area or special area, as well as Forest-wide direction, in *Part 1* of the Plan. Read the management area direction in *Part 2* of

the Plan. Read objectives and suitability in *Part 2* of the Plan, and guidelines in *Part 3* of the Plan.

How do I find information in the Plan about a specific resource or program?

Information about specific resources (such as wildlife) or specific programs (such as timber or minerals) are in each part of the Plan and in *Appendix C*. Where possible, the resources and programs appear in the same order in each section. Refer to the table of contents for more information.

When developing subsequent projects based on the Plan framework, guidance from multiple management areas, resources and programs may need to be reviewed to get a complete picture of the desired condition and management guidance for a particular area.

Here are some examples on where direction is found for a particular program.

Timber: In *Part 1*, there are general desired conditions for each major vegetation cover type for the Forest and geographic areas (*Part 1. A.1. Ecosystem Diversity*), and Forest-wide desired conditions for the portion of the Forest where timber harvest would occur (*Part 1. A.7. Timber Management and Wood Products*). In *Part 2*, there are timber objectives, including the timber sale program quantity. *Part 2* also discusses which management areas are suitable for timber production (Lands Generally Suitable for Timber Production (FSH 1909.12, sec. 62.21)), and which management areas are suitable for timber harvest for multiple-use objectives other than timber production (Other Lands (FSH 1909.12, sec. 62.22)). *Part 2* also includes a map showing general suitability for timber production (Lands Generally Suitable for Timber Production (FSH 1909.12, sec. 62.21)) and timber harvest (Other Lands (FSH 1909.12, sec. 62.22)). *Part 3* contains guidelines applied to timber harvest activities in several resource areas, including *Ecosystem Diversity*, *Species Diversity*, *Insect and Disease Management*, etc., as well as specific guidelines in the *Timber Management and Wood Products* section. Finally, *Appendix C* contains general strategies for the timber program, and a discussion about anticipated timber management practices.

Oil and Gas: Oil and gas activities are found in the "*Minerals and Geological Resources*" section of each part of the Plan. *Part 1* contains desired conditions for the orderly and environmentally sound exploration and development of oil and gas resources. In *Part 2*, oil and gas suitability is discussed in the minerals and geological resources suitability section. The 1993 leasing decision is being incorporated into the Plan regardless of which management area was mapped for areas covered by the previous decision (see Table 65 on general suitability by management area). In *Part 3*, there is a section for minerals and geological resources guidelines related to oil and gas development. *Appendix C* contains general strategies for the oil and gas program. Finally, further information about energy development is found in *Appendix I. Considerations of National Energy Policy*.