



To: 1950 Forest Service National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)

Date: APR 09 1985

Subject: Revision of Valle Vidal Multiple Use Area Guide

To: Forest Supervisor, Carson NF

The following information is in addition to our 1950 letter dated March 13, 1985.

An additional statement is provided to clarify the previous vehicle parking clause in the Recreation section of the Valle Vidal Multiple Use Area Guide.

The revised statement will read as follows: "Vehicular parking is permitted from daylight to dark within the 20-foot area along open roads, except where designated as a no parking zone. Overnight parking is permitted at designated parking areas."

The proposed "Wildlife Area Closures" as to area and season of use are also approved.


M. J. HASSELL
Regional Forester

cc:
J. Hibbetts, RN

MUG REVISION



REVISION TO MULTIPLE USE GUIDE
AND RECREATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE VALLE VIDAL

Questa Ranger District
Carson National Forest

This revision is to alter three management requirements listed in the Multiple Use Area Guide (MUG) - Valle Vidal Unit, Carson National Forest and the Environmental Assessment of the Recreation Management Plan for the Valle Vidal Management Plan for the Valle Vidal Management Unit. These documents were approved by the Regional Forester, M.J. Hassell on April 7, 1983, and July 5, 1983, respectively.

These alternatives reflect a refinement of the management strategy of this Unit. Public input, additional wildlife data and administrative needs have brought about the need for the following changes:

1. Vehicle Parking

The management requirement regarding vehicle parking in the MUG is on page 9, No. 4, and in the Recreation Environmental Assessment on page 5, No. 10. The requirement states: Vehicular parking shall occur only at designated parking areas.

This will be changed to: Vehicular parking is allowed to within 20 feet of all open roads except where designated as no parking zone.

The need for this change arose as an issue with hunters that were in the Unit in 1983 and 1984. A large number of them commented to Forest Service officials and New Mexico State Game and Fish personnel that the policy posed unreasonable hardships when they were retrieving downed game, stopping on the road to scope for game and certain instances when they wanted to hunt a certain area but the closest parking was a considerable distance.

After further consideration of the policy the District recognized that similar comments will be forthcoming from fuelwood gatherers, fishermen, photographers and others wishing to experience some of the vistas. The District also found the enforcement of the existing policy will require excessive manpower above the current level of management.

To alleviate this problem the District considered adding more parking areas. This was dismissed because of cost of construction, additional administration and detracton from scenic values. The District also considered removing all parking restrictions, but dismissed this alternative because it would not meet the intent of the MUG.

Implementation of this change will satisfy all parking issues and still meet the intent of the MUG. All visitors to the Unit will be able to access more areas by automobile for whatever purpose. The District will maintain 14 parking areas and use these as a management tool to encourage people to concentrate in these areas. To protect critical wildlife crossings, riparian areas and cultural resource sites, the District has identified three areas that will be designated as no

parking zones. Administration and enforcement of this policy will be more in line with current manpower, funding and management levels.

Trade-offs recognized with this change will be an increase in disturbance to wildlife and vegetation loss where vehicles park. The District biologist feels that considering the speed of the automobile on these interior roads, there will be very little additional loss of effective habitat. Vegetation loss will occur only in areas that are repeatedly used for parking.

2. Wildlife Area Closures

The management requirement regarding wildlife area closures is in the Recreation Environmental Assessment, pages 7 and 8, No. 5. The requirement states:

Area 1

From May 1 to June 30, Area 1 is closed to entry. This closure is intended to protect elk calving areas. During this closure period, designated roads will be open to allow recreationists to cross Area 1 to reach Area 2.

In the winter, when the snow reaches a sufficient depth so that the majority of the elk have moved to winter ranges, this Area will be open for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. In light snow years, the Forest Supervisor may determine that this area should not be available for recreational use. However, if there is little snow, conditions would not be adequate for winter sports anyway.

Area 2

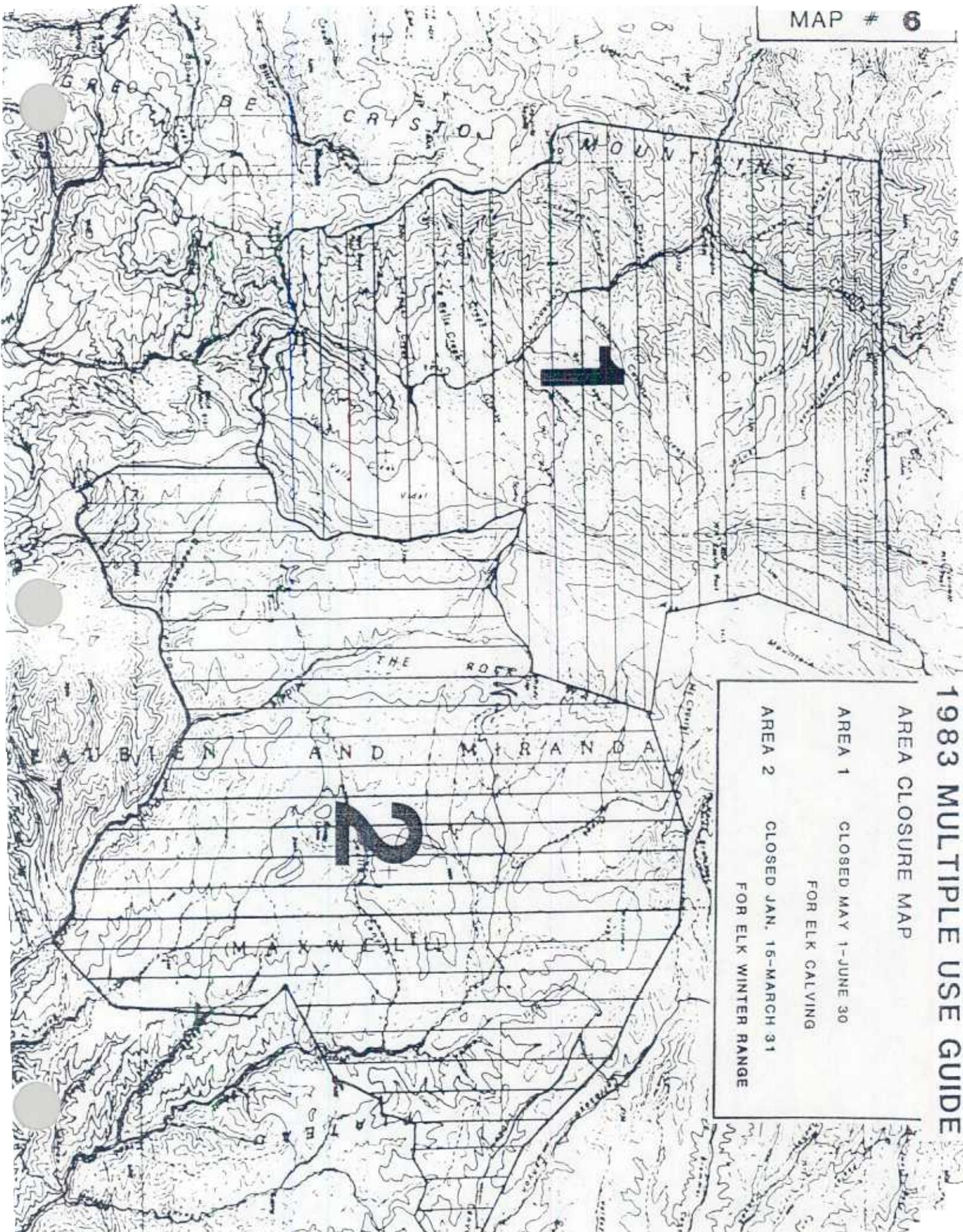
From January 15 to March 31, Area 2 is closed to entry. This closure is intended to prevent harassment of the elk during the critical winter months. During this closure period, designated roads will be open for use to allow recreationists to cross Area 2 to reach Area 1.

The seasonal closures, as defined above, will be changed by this revision as follows:

- 1 The area closure dates for Area 2 will be changed from January 15 - March 31 to January 1 - March 31. This change will allow an additional two week period for the elk to complete their migration to the winter range.
2. The area closure boundary between Areas 1 and 2 will be changed. Under this proposed change, the boundary between the two Areas will go north of Clayton Corral along the Little Costilla Peak ridge line. During the winter months, this change would provide additional protection of the winter range south of Ash Mountain. Additionally, administration of the closure would be much easier because nearly all recreation traffic traveling through the Valle Vidal could be contacted at the Clayton Corral Saddle. The attached map shows the proposed boundary change.

3. Studies by the District and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish indicate that a number of elk winter in the area north of the road that runs from Costilla Creek to Clayton Corral. For this reason, winter activities in Area 1 will be separated. The area north of the road has been designated for cross-country skiers. Snowmobiles may be used north of the road only for cross-country ski trail track setting. The area south of the road will be open to all winter activities. Entry into both areas will be contingent on snow depth and the migration of the majority of the elk that has been mentioned earlier. The District and the Game Department will monitor the impacts of skiers on wintering elk in the area north of the road and, if necessary, the restrictions will be further refined in future years.

These proposed changes reflect a refinement in the wildlife management of the Unit and meet the direction set forth in the MUG. The State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish concurs with these proposed changes.



1983 MULTIPLE USE GUIDE

AREA CLOSURE MAP

AREA 1 CLOSED MAY 1-JUNE 30

FOR ELK CALVING

AREA 2 CLOSED JAN. 15-MARCH 31

FOR ELK WINTER RANGE

MULTIPLE USE AREA GUIDE - Valle Vidal
MANAGEMENT UNIT - CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

October 1982

This Area Guide has been prepared using the following as source or umbrella documents:

1. FSH 2109.21 R3 Multiple Use Area Guide Southwestern Region.
2. FSH 2109.32 R3 Carson National Forest Multiple Use Area Guide, Supplement 2, October 1976.
3. Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pertaining to the Pennzoil Corporation's donation of portions of the Vermejo Ranch signed by M.J. Hassell August 11, 1981, and the accompanying environmental assessment (EA).
4. Wildlife management will be emphasized. FSM 2611.1--18 R3 Supplement 27 Memorandum of Understanding between USDA Forest Service, Region 3, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the Vermejo Park Corporation signed February 13, 1982.
5. Livestock Grazing Policy for the Vermejo Addition (Valle Vidal) approved by M.J. Hassell February 1, 1982.
6. Indenture Agreement between Kaiser Steel Corporation and Vermejo Park Corporation concerning removal of the coal resource owned by Kaiser, signed, June 28, 1977.
7. Abstracts and record deeds transferring title of the 100,000 acre Valle Vidal Management Unit to the United States of America.

The Valle Vidal Management Unit (formerly Vermejo Addition) is now a part of the Carson National Forest and is governed by the direction contained in items one and two. The Decision Notice in item three directs that the management of Valle Vidal be "multiple use management of the land for its unique combination of wildland resources, primarily public outdoor recreation, continued timber production, forage for livestock and wildlife, unique wildlife habitat and watershed."

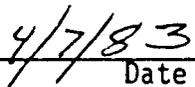
The direction contained in this Area Guide is a combination of that found in items one through seven with some repetition, enhancement through interpretation and increase in specificity.

The Carson National Forest proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and DEIS will be issued in FY 1983. Data collection on the Valle Vidal Unit will not be complete until 1984. Therefore, management of the Unit will be governed by this document until the Carson Plan is amended or revised after 1985, or this document is amended or revised.

Interim implementation plans will be prepared for site specific management of the various resources on the Unit, such as: range, wildlife, recreation, minerals, riparian, timber, watershed, etc. The implementation plans will use the coordinating requirements in this document to ensure integration of other resource needs, and preparation will follow the NEPA process as described in FSH 1909.15. All implementation plans and other documents involving allocation of lands and/or resources will be approved by the Regional Forester. The accompanying map is a part of this guide.



M.J. HASSELL
Regional Forester



Date

MULTIPLE USE AREA GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Vermejo Ranch was originally part of a land grant made by Mexican Governor Manuel Armijo on January 11, 1841, to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda. In time, Beaubien bought out Miranda, and became sole owner. When Beaubien died in 1846, Lucien Maxwell, Beaubien's son-in-law, purchased rights of other heirs. Maxwell sold to an English syndicate in 1867 for \$1,250,000. The new owners incorporated the Maxwell Land Grant and Railroad Company in 1870. It was reorganized as the Maxwell Land Grant Company in 1880.

In 1926, 200,000 acres of the property were organized by a group of outdoor sportsmen, and became known as the Vermejo Park Club. That property was acquired in 1948 by W. J. Gourley. He added other acreage and combined into one unit what then were known as Vermejo Park and W. S. Ranch. The property was purchased by Vermejo Park Corporation in 1973 after Mr. Gourley's death in 1970. The United States considered acquiring the property at that time, but money was not available.

In early 1982, the Pennzoil Company of Houston, Texas, donated 100,000 acres of its 492,560-acre Vermejo Ranch in northeastern New Mexico to the people of the United States through the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is now administered by the Carson National Forest.

The Forest Service plans to complete preparations for public use of the Unit by the summer of 1983. To speed the work, provide for public safety, and to protect resources, the donated land is presently closed to public entry. Work being done includes marking boundaries, placing directional and informational signs, closing unneeded roads, and improving some roads that will remain in use.

As part of the Carson National Forest, the area will be known as the Valle Vidal Unit (formerly called the Vermejo Unit) and will be administered for all its many resource values. Mineral, timber, grazing, and wildlife activities will continue. Outstanding scenic and recreation values will be available for public enjoyment. Outdoor recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, and birdwatching.

There were conditions specified prior to acquisition. The four major ones are:

- Sales of approximately three to four million board feet of timber will be offered annually.
- The area will not qualify for Wilderness designation due to past management practices and commitment of the timber resource.
- Wildlife management will be emphasized.
- Kaiser Steel Corporation owns rights to coal on approximately 60,000 acres of the Valle Vidal Unit.

DEFINITIONS

Coordinating Criteria

The guidelines are for management. Some of them are broad and general and appear to be more like goals, while others are specific in nature and may require quantifiable results. Some of the criteria will apply to the entire Valle Vidal Unit and others will apply to a specific management zone.

MANAGEMENT ZONE

The Valle Vidal Unit has been divided into zones that require distinctive methods of management. The division into zones may be based on vegetation, animal requirements, management sensitivity, research needs, and existing or proposed facilities. See the Valle Vidal Multiple Use map.

Crest Zone

The crest zone is composed of ecosystems of low productivity limited at high elevations by climates characterized by low temperatures, seasonal drought and shallow soils. Ecosystems include Pinus aristata, Pinus flexilis, low productivity spruce-fir, krumholz, alpine tundras, and talus or scree.

Mapping units are from the Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey 1982 field inventory and include mapping units 300, 302, and 604. Soil temperatures are characterized by the pergelic and cold cryic regimes. Wind dessication is often a factor of plant moisture stress. Effective precipitation is reduced by wind redistribution of snow and rain and by low moisture storage capacity of soils on upper slopes and ridges.

Intermediate Zone

The intermediate zone comprises areas where conditions are favorable for the growth of trees for sawtimber; for grass, forbs, and shrubs for wildlife and livestock forage. Combinations of the above vegetation create ideal watershed and wildlife habitat. Elevations range from 7,000 to 10,500 feet. The zone is separated into two large subdivisions. Area one is considered summer range for elk and deer and is predominantly spruce, fir, and aspen with numerous meadows. Area one also has the Valle Vidal, for which the unit is named, and the Valle consists of large expanses of grass with mixed conifer fringes. Area two is considered winter range and is predominantly ponderosa pine with some lower elevation mixed conifer and scattered patches of brush species and pinyon-juniper.

Travel Influence Zone

This zone comprises areas of existing or anticipated significant public outdoor recreational occupancy, use, and enjoyment along existing and planned overland routes of travel. It includes areas in and around existing or planned developed recreation sites. These are areas in which beauty of the landscape and other aesthetic values are an important part of the outdoor environment and offer significant opportunities for existing, planned, or anticipated recreational use and enjoyment of people visiting or traveling through the zone.

Riparian Management Zone

This zone is characterized by one or more woody and herbaceous plant species that requires at least seasonally free or unbound water for all or part of its life cycle. There are areas within the riparian zone that have an existing road network. The riparian management zone will be mapped to include all riparian ecosystems, including those with roads, all floodplains, and all other lands within 100 horizontal feet of the annual high water edge of perennial or interrupted water bodies.

Special Zone--Potential Research Natural Areas

There are three potential research natural areas within the Unit.

- Little Costilla Alpine and Krumholz is approximately 650 acres and is located within the Crest Zone.
- Clayton Pass Bristlecone Pine is approximately 300 acres.
- Upper McCrystal Wet Meadow is approximately 590 acres with 100 acres on the Unit and 490 acres on the Vermejo Park Corporation.

REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE INTERMEDIATE RIPARIAN AND TRAVEL INFLUENCE ZONES

Management Emphasis

Special emphasis is placed on providing a diverse and high quality wildlife and fisheries resource that is harmonious with other uses and missions of the following: USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region (Forest Service), New Mexico, Department of Game and Fish (Department), and Vermejo Park Corporation (Vermejo).

Coordinating Requirements

General

All proposed activities will be fully coordinated and meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements as specified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15 as well as all other applicable laws and requirements.

WATERSHED

1. Manage terrestrial ecosystems and watersheds to maintain satisfactory conditions for the productivity and protection of the watershed.
2. Design and maintain for efficiency all water developments needed to provide water for National Forest System uses.
3. Complete watershed restoration action plans by 1990 to improve all unsatisfactory terrestrial ecosystems and watersheds. (These action plans cover all activities and uses and are supplemental to the Carson N.F. Land and Resource Management Plan.)

4. Improve all terrestrial ecosystems and watersheds to satisfactory or better condition by 2020.
5. Implement soil and water conservation measures with management activities to ensure maintenance and improvement of watershed conditions.
6. After the second growing season following wildfires of ten acres or larger, evaluate changes in watershed condition.

RANGE

1. Coordinate allocation of the forage resource for livestock and wildlife with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
2. Incorporate the needs of other resources especially wildlife needs when developing allotment management plans.
3. Assign no forage capacity to areas in unsatisfactory watershed condition where revegetation measures are not cost effective. Through management, restrict livestock use in these areas.
4. Manage range resources to maintain and improve watershed condition to a satisfactory or better condition.
5. The permitted grazing season will be refined by conducting range readiness studies during the first three years of grazing under Forest Service administration.
6. A grazing system will be developed for each allotment to assure maintenance and improvement of the range condition as needed. A 3-pasture rest rotation is considered the least intensive management necessary to provide for the physiological needs of the plants. There may be possibilities to implement a high intensity-short duration system. Grazing systems will be jointly evaluated and planned with the permittees.
7. Livestock grazing will be authorized by issuance of a term grazing permit. Once capacity is verified, and an approved management system is in place the term permit will be modified to reflect that capacity. Issuance of the permit to associations on community allotments will be encouraged. As appropriate, grazing agreements with organized associations will be considered.
8. Responsibility for routine maintenance of the structural range improvements will be assigned to permittees. Such improvements will be in operational condition prior to assignment of maintenance responsibility.
9. The lands were donated to the United States without grazing encumbrances. The distribution of capacity in a manner which best meets management objectives of the Forest Service will receive high priority.

Because a substantial amount of grazing is available on the unit, special conditions are hereby established to guide allocations of grazing capacity and to provide information to interested permittees so they can better evaluate the option of moving their operations to the unit. The special conditions are as follows:

- a. Upper limits will be consistent with Carson N.F. policy.
- b. Grazing capacity will be allocated as follows:
 - (1) First priority will be to offer to current permittees on the Carson and the Santa Fe National Forest whose terms grazing permit has been reduced in season or number since January 1, 1973, and opportunity to apply for grazing capacity on the Unit up to, or equal to, the past reduction in AUM's. This includes reduction jointly agreed to for resource improvement but excludes those resulting from grazing permit violations.
 - (2) Second priority will be to allocate grazing capacity necessary to balance the capacity and permitted livestock on overstocked allotments on the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. Permittees on these allotments will be given the opportunity to voluntarily apply for grazing on the Unit to the extent of their existing terms permits in order to retain permit levels now allowed.

Third priority will be to offer existing permittees on the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests an opportunity to apply to have currently term permitted number reassigned to the Valle Vidal Unit.

Fourth priority is to offer surplus grazing capacity in accordance with FSM 2231.62.

10. Manage the range resource to improve existing range conditions and reverse downward trends.
 - a. Re-establish native forage producers.
 - b. Control unwanted plants.
 - c. Avoid overuse of plants to assure healthy condition of vegetation.
 - d. Establish utilization standards for riparian plant species that are in accord with coordinating requirements for the Riparian Zone.
11. Construct new fences and modify existing fences to allow wildlife movement.

FUELWOOD

1. Permits, with or without charge will be required for all fuelwood harvest by July 1, 1983.

2. Permits without charge for personal use fuelwood will be available for dead and down wood when supply exceeds demand, access is limited or difficult or social, environmental, or economic considerations preclude effective management under the charge permit system.
3. Charge permits. Fees will be charged for dead and down when demand for certain species in a local area exceeds supply.

Fees will be based on Regional minimum price, standard rates developed by Forests, appraised rates (in the case of offered sales), or joint policies established with the Bureau of Land Management.
4. Emphasize fuelwood as a resource in the management of lands unsuitable for timber production. Initiate periodic fuelwood inventories on both suitable and unsuitable lands to determine potential source and availability.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

1. Accomplish transportation planning, management, development, and maintenance of all modes of access to meet the management emphasis of the unit.
2. Develop and evaluate transportation facilities construction and maintenance alternatives and select an alternative that meets management objectives with the least adverse effect on the human environment.
3. All resource coordination for the protection of National Forest System lands, resources, and ecosystems apply to the planning, development, and operation of transportation facilities by private parties under permit or easement, State and local governments under Memoranda of Understanding, or other Federal agencies under Memoranda of Understanding.
4. Allow motorized travel on all National Forest System roads, except where specifically closed or regulated by order. All roads or trails open to motorized travel shall be identified by a route number or assurance arrow. New road construction will be minimized. Certain system roads may be closed during periods of planned activity to reduce maintenance liabilities, minimize conflicts of use, and contribute toward user safety.
5. Develop an ORV plan that coordinates the requirements of all resources and demands on those resources. Establish areas that are permanently or seasonally closed to use and employ all feasible methods to disseminate this information to the public. The ORV plan will be completed and approved prior to public use.
6. Motorized vehicles may not depart from Forest roads and proceed cross-country in those management areas closed or restricted to such use except as authorized by special permit.
7. Open areas shall be visibly marked with a route number or assurance arrow.

8. Positive signing techniques will be favored over regulatory, negative directions. Emphasis will be placed on giving users information about where their particular activity can be pursued instead of where they are restricted and prohibited.
9. Determine, through environmental analysis, the most desirable public access routes to the Unit considering the requirements of all resources.

CORRIDORS

1. All corridors will provide for joint use (FSM 2778, Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)).
2. All linear rights-of-way, except those highways covered under the Highways Act of 1964, are included.
3. Requests for corridors will be evaluated by the NEPA process ✓
4. Criteria for evaluating rights of way. The following will be evaluated prior to designation of new corridors: expand the existing right-of-way limits to include additional facilities where compatible; e.g., authorize a pipeline right-of-way adjacent to an existing road.
5. Windows. A constrained area that has an existing right-of-way and has room for expansion. Windows will be considered when:
 - a. Users express a need for additional rights-of-way in a constrained area;
 - b. A systems analysis indicates a constrained (restricted) area; and
 - c. Windows will be considered to be present:
 - (1) Where topography restricts placement of linear right-of-ways, e.g., mountain passes already impacted by linear right-of-ways.
Where adjacent land uses and values do not prevent their establishment;
On any blocks or tracts of public land that are in direct alignment between source and market; and
Where blocks or tracts of Federal lands are in alignment with other windows, avoidance areas, or existing corridors.
6. Avoidance Areas. Lands across which corridors cannot be established.
 - a. Discretionary avoidance areas:
Areas of critical environmental concern;

- (2) Sites that appear on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, or natural landmarks subject to concurrence of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation;
 - (3) Proposed, threatened or endangered species habitat;
Research natural areas;
Physical hazard areas, e.g., landslide or avalanche paths, areas subject to extreme weather conditions.
7. Criteria for corridor designation. Consider designation of corridors if the following criteria are present:
- a. Rights-of-way are in place and there are no physical obstructions to the construction of facilities in adjacent rights-of-way;
 - b. The proposed designated area traverses a relatively solid Federal land pattern; e.g., not a checkerboard ownership;
 - c. There are no critical public resources that are sensitive to right-of-way proliferation; e.g., prime or unique farmland, prime timberlands, high visual resource values; high wildlife values;
 - d. The proposed facility is being substituted for an existing facility that is programmed or scheduled for elimination;
 - e. State or local policies prescribe corridor designation.

AIR MANAGEMENT

The unit is classified as a Class II area. There are no close sources of air pollutants. Air quality is excellent. Minor, temporary sources of pollution are local roads and smoke from wildfires and from prescribed fires on adjacent areas. Activities conducted will not degrade air quality below standards for Class II areas.

MINERALS

All mineral rights on the unit with the exception of coal have been conveyed to the Forest Service.

1. The coal resource will be managed as specified in the Indenture Agreement between Vermejo Park Corporation and Kaiser Steel Corporation signed June 1, 1977. The Forest Service has assumed agreement responsibilities formerly held by the Vermejo Park Corporation.
2. When need for salable mineral materials is indicated, an environmental analysis will be conducted. From it, determination is made whether or not the site should be operated. If so, appropriate conditions of operation are specified. Disposal is free for Federal, State, and local government units for road use. Competitive or negotiated sale is appropriate for personal and commercial use.

3. All other minerals have Weeks Law status and are managed as specified in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2803.16-17.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Inventory and evaluate the cultural resources on the unit.
2. Protect resources from vandalism and other disturbance.
3. Allow no surface disturbance until archeological survey and report is complete and approved.
4. Provide interpretive services to the public concerning the cultural resource.

VISUAL QUALITY

1. Inventory the visual resource and establish visual quality levels.
2. Recognize the beauty of the landscape as a resource, and consider it in the management of all resources.
3. Emphasize amenity values on lands with high scenic quality.
4. Locate man-made structures, to the extent possible, where they will not be silhouetted against the sky.
5. Manage visual resource to prevent unacceptable alterations of the natural appearing landscape and to create and/or maintain visual diversity.

RECREATION

1. Develop a recreation management plan that incorporates requirements of all other resources.
2. Recreation use will be allowed as soon as facilities meet user safety and resource protection standards.
3. Vehicular camping shall occur only at developed campgrounds.
4. Vehicular parking shall occur only at designated parking areas.
5. Designate areas where non-vehicular camping (backpack, horsepack, etc.) may or may not occur.
6. Designate areas closed or open to use either permanently or seasonally.
7. Encourage adjacent landowners to provide camping facilities.
8. Consider concessionaire development and/or operations of facilities on the Unit.

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9. Discourage development of facilities within the Riparian Zone.
10. Monitor use of visitors to determine their activities, impacts, perceptions and preferences.
11. Develop an ORV plan that coordinates the requirements of all resources and demands on those resources. Establish areas that are permanently or seasonally closed to use and employ all feasible methods to disseminate this information to the public. The ORV plan will be completed and approved prior to public use.

Motorized travel may not depart from Forest roads that are open to travel cross-country in those management areas closed or restricted to such use except as authorized by special permit.

Open areas shall be visibly marked with a route number or assurance arrow.

14. Positive signing techniques will be favored over regulatory, negative directions. Emphasis will be placed on giving users information about where their particular activity can be pursued instead of where they are restricted and prohibited.

ENGINEERING

1. Post legal boundaries on the ground between private land and National Forest System lands to provide reasonable public notification.
2. Minimize impacts of land line location surveys and markers on the landscape.
3. Protect all surveyed land corners, monuments, and witness trees from damage or destruction.

LAND USES

1. Approve only those applications for occupancy of National Forest System land wherein occupancy serves a public need that cannot logically be provided elsewhere and resultant damage is within acceptable ecological limits.
2. The land, perpetual royalty interest and non-exclusive easement rights are described in the deed to the United States from Vermejo Park Corporation, a Delaware Corporation to the United States and will be adhered to in any Forest Service activity or transaction.

The abstract, relating to the Taos County, New Mexico, official records in the offices of the County Clerk, County Treasurer's and District Court, consisting of 34 pages, was last satisfactorily certified on April 19, 1982, and the abstract relating to the Colfax County, New Mexico, official records in the offices of the County Clerk, County Treasurer's and District Court, consisting of 64 pages, was last satisfactorily certified on April 22, 1982, by David R. Park, Department of Agriculture.

The abstracts, record deeds and following data disclose valid title to be vested in the United States of America, subject to:

- a. Easements for existing or established roads, highways, railroads and utilities, if any.
- b. Rights of Kaiser Industries, evidenced by an Indenture Agreement between Kaiser Industries and Vermejo Park Corporation; the said indenture agreement being dated June 1, 1977, filed for record on September 2, 1977 and recorded in Deed Book 132, page 191, of the land records of Colfax County.

"With respect to the Indenture Agreement IX, 'miscellaneous provisions,' paragraph D, the Forest Service hereby waives its rights to the 'continuing right to the exclusive use of the surface lands to be deeded to Kaiser hereunder, to the extent (in Kaiser's determination) not necessary to Kaiser's coal operation thereupon' until such time as Congress enacts authorizing legislation for the Forest Service to enter into a hold harmless agreement with Kaiser."

- c. Mining claims or matters pertaining to mining claims as may be located on the Ponil Ranch property in Colfax County, New Mexico.
- d. Undefined rights of the San Luis Power and Water Company to establish and maintain its reservoirs and water systems.
- e. The right reserved to the Costilla Estates Development Company in the construction or maintenance of its reservoirs and water system to take and use such materials on the premises and to use such ways, roads, quarries, borrow-pits, and the like as it may find reasonably necessary, and to erect and maintain such equipment, including telegraph and telephone lines, as it may reasonably desire.
- f. Right-of-way and restrictions as to use of water and the cutting of timber as set out in deed from the Costilla Estates Development Company to Vermejo Club and deed from Vermejo Club to Southwest Land Company and through deed from Southwest Land Company to W.S. Ranch Company as follows:

The party of the second part, its successors and assigns shall make no use of the waters on the lands sold which shall at any time interfere with the water rights appurtenant to the irrigation reservoirs, ditches and other irrigation works now owned by the Costilla Estates Development Company or by the San Luis Power and Water Company;

The party of the second part, its successors and assigns shall not cut or permit to be cut the timber now or hereafter growing on said lands in such manner or to such an extent as to damage any watershed from which water is supplied to the irrigation reservoirs, ditches and other irrigation words now owned by the Costilla Estates Development Company or the San Luis Power and Water Company;

The Costilla Estates Development Company and the San Luis Power and Water Company, and their respective assigns, shall at all times have such rights-of-way across the said lands as shall be necessary or reasonably convenient to reach any irrigation reservoirs, ditches or other irrigation works now or hereafter owned by the Costilla Estates Development Company, or the San Luis Power and Water Company, or their assigns, for the operation and repair thereof; and

It is the intention of the parties to this deed to pass to the party of the second part the absolute title to the said lands, subject only to the conditions herein set out, which conditions shall inure to the benefit of any future owner of the irrigation reservoirs, ditches and other irrigation works now owned by the Costilla Estates Development Company or by the San Luis Power and Water Company; but nothing herein contained shall permit the construction of any irrigation reservoirs, ditches or other irrigation works on the lands hereby conveyed.

- g. Reservation by the grantor in the deed to the United States of easements for ingress and egress.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

1. Fish and wildlife habitat will be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species. Featured species will be determined in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.
2. Cooperate with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to establish desired species population levels. (Wildlife and Fish)

Determine habitat requirements of the desired population levels and evaluate the impacts on other resources.

Negotiate with the Department to reach agreement on population levels and resource allocations for fish and wildlife species.

3. Manage the Unit in a manner which will maintain, protect, and enhance the habitat for all naturally occurring and other desirable wildlife species and provide for continuing high quality wildlife oriented recreational opportunities.
4. As authorized under provisions of the Sikes Act, cooperate with the Department in the development and administration of a program as established by the State Game Commission for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife and fish. Such program may be funded in whole or in part by the issue of public land area management stamps as provided under Section 202(c)(3)(F) and Section 203(a) and (b) of the Sikes Act (88 Stat. 1369 16 USC 670i).
5. Cooperate with the Department and Vermejo in the development of a comprehensive wildlife management plan for the Unit as an amendment to the plan for "Management of New Mexico Wildlife, 1981-1985 (Operation

6. Protect and manage key and critical wildlife habitats and components for the conservation of unique wildlife values. This includes but is not limited to hiding and thermal covers, snags, old growth, roost trees and water sources.
7. Cooperate with the Department in establishing off-road vehicle closures as provided in 36 CFR 295, Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 and the New Mexico Habitat Protection Act.
8. Protect, conserve, and assist in the recovery of State and Federal threatened and endangered species.
9. Cooperate in the development of joint recommendations to the State Game Commission for annual hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations.
10. Identify and protect sensitive, proposed, threatened or endangered plant and animal species.
11. Provide water sources to wildlife where water is limiting.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

1. Develop a Fire Protection Plan for the Unit that is consistent with resource values and coordinating requirements of other resources.
2. Consider the use of prescribed fire, planned and unplanned ignition, in management of the Unit.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Restrict use of heavy equipment to periods when roads and sites will not be seriously damaged, or cannot be fully restored.
2. Locate borrow areas where they may later serve a useful purpose, such as stock tanks, helispots, vista points.
3. Locate project work camps, construction camps, and fire camps to minimize damage to the land and its resources, uses, and activities.
4. Evaluate adverse impacts of Forest Service management actions on environment irrespective of landownership.
5. Encourage use of small local contractors, to the extent possible, in carrying out National Forest programs.
6. Invest resource management dollars on the land with the highest capability to produce renewable resources.
7. Provide for public safety and environmental needs in the use of pesticides and fire retardants.
8. Provide safety for Forest visitors through use of appropriate laws, closures, law enforcement, or other management techniques as needed to ensure their safety.

9. Emphasize public safety in planning, designing, and constructing facilities on National Forest System lands.
10. Eliminate dangers of abandoned pits, shafts and tunnels to the public wildlife and to livestock. Plans for eliminating these dangers should take into account any possible historical value present.
11. Withdraw sites from mineral entry. ✓

RESEARCH

Encourage and cooperate with Rocky Mountain Station Educational institutions and other agencies to establish research projects that are commensurate with management activities.

INFORMATION

1. Encourage school administrators to implement local conservation education programs through Title III grants or otherwise seek the best ways to participate in local conservation education programs.
2. Vigorously encourage environmental education programs in communities.
3. Work with school systems to identify and encourage regular use of environmental study areas on National Forest lands.
4. Develop an interpretive services plan that encompasses resource management. The plan should place emphasis on the "positive" aspect of activities allowed and encouraged, and inform the public that the Unit is not being managed as other National Forest System lands.

REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO MANAGEMENT ZONES

Crest Zone

Management Emphasis

Management Emphasis will be directed towards (1) maintaining the land in as near a natural condition as possible, and (2) managing the land for a stable, high-quality watershed as well as amenity values; open space, wildlife habitat, and dispersed recreation.

Coordinating Requirements

1. This zone is not available for domestic livestock use.
2. There will be no new roads constructed in this zone.
3. There will be no commercial timber harvesting.
4. Transportation or facility corridors are not permitted.

Intermediate Zone

Management Emphasis

The management emphasis for the entire unit applies in this zone.

Coordinating Requirements

1. Develop a fuelwood management plan in conjunction with a road management plan that could allow controlled seasonal use of administrative roads to harvest fuelwood.
2. Efforts at fuelwood management will be proportionate to demands for the product.
3. Exclude domestic livestock grazing from the "Elk Pasture" in area one.
4. Develop a stage I inventory data base.
5. Complete a regeneration inventory by 1985.
6. Stress insect and disease control by silvicultural management practices, but use of pesticides may be necessary.
7. The minimum standards for treatment of activity fuels for fire protection purposes will be:
 - a. Aspen type - no treatment
 - b. Mixed conifer type
 1. Unmerchantable material will be yarded in tractor skidded areas.
 2. Fuelbreaks and fuel reduction corridors will be established.
 - c. Ponderosa pine type
 1. Unmerchantable material will be yarded.
 2. Fuelbreaks and fuel reduction corridors will be established.
 3. Broadcast burning should be used to reduce fuel loadings when activity plus residual fuels are 15 tons/acre or greater.
 - d. Spruce-fir type
 1. Unmerchantable material will be yarded in tractor skidded areas.
 2. Fuel reduction corridors will be established.

Silvicultural Standards

1. Aspen Type

Aspen is a pioneer species and is classified as very intolerant to shade. The intolerance of aspen to shade, its susceptibility to many fungal diseases, and the susceptibility of many aspen sites to conversion by conifers are reasons that support the use of even-aged management where perpetuation of this species is desired.

Aspen can regenerate very rapidly by vegetative sprouting from the roots. Successful root sprouting and continued growth of the new sprouts can only be brought about by heating of the forest floor and strong light. Therefore, the principal cutting methods which will be used to regenerate aspen will be patch, stand, or strip cutting. Variations of even-aged management will provide the needed environmental conditions for vegetative sprouting.

The clearcutting of aspen stands will be subject to the Regional standards. In all cases, the silvicultural cutting method applied will be selected to best fit the particular abiotic, biotic, economic, and management objectives which apply to that stand.

The number of acres that are presently mapped as aspen will be maintained.

2. Mixed Conifer Type

The mixed conifer type is composed of several species each having distinct silvical requirement and each having distinct shade tolerance. This type will also have varying site quality, incidence of dwarf mistletoe, and certain incipient insect pests, as well as biological requirements of the different plant species. Despite this wide range of differences, it is still desirable to manage these stands using even-aged management. The environmental requirements of each tree species can be met through the use of either shelterwood, or irregular shelterwood cutting methods and variations within each method.

Western Spruce Budworm (WSBW) presents a unique threat to attainment of management objectives in the mixed conifer type. Susceptible stands are multistoried and overmature, with a high percentage of true fir. When compatible with other management objectives, silvicultural methods will be used to develop stands which are resistant to WSBW. Such stands are even aged and dominated by Douglas-Fir, Ponderosa Pine and Aspen. Direct suppression using pesticides will be carried out during outbreaks when necessary to attain management objectives.

Dwarf mistletoe surveys will be integrated into stand examinations. Infected stands will be given a high priority for entry, including precommercial or commercial thinnings, and prompt removal of seed trees as soon as regeneration is established.

The clearcutting method will be used only in the mixed conifer type in situations of insect or disease attack, windthrow susceptibility, or other resource needs. In these particular situations, clearcut sizes will conform to the Regional standards for size of openings. In all cases, the silvicultural cutting method applied will be selected to best fit the particular abiotic, biotic, economic, and management objectives which apply to that stand.

3. Ponderosa Pine Type

Ponderosa pine is generally regarded as being a seral species, although it can be a climax species under certain local site conditions. Ponderosa pine is classified as a shade-intolerant species and seedlings normally only survive a few years in dense shade. However, some shade can be beneficial to young seedlings because the shade improves soil moisture conditions.

Although ponderosa pine can be found in even-aged or uneven-aged stands, past cutting and wildfire has made the majority of stands more even-aged in character. For this and the reasons listed above, the even-aged silvicultural system is preferred for the ponderosa pine type. One of the best regeneration cutting methods for ponderosa pine has proven to be the shelterwood method with its many variations.

Since ponderosa pine is normally a very windfirm species, it will be clearcut only in those particular situations where it is necessary to treat a specific insect or disease, because of topographic limitation, or to meet other resource needs. The size of clearcuts will be limited to that specified in the Regional standards. In all cases, the silvicultural cutting method applied will be selected to best fit the abiotic, biotic, economic, and management objectives which apply to that stand.

Dwarf mistletoe surveys will be integrated into stand examinations. Infected stands will be given a high priority for entry, including precommercial or commercial thinnings, and prompt removal of seed trees as soon as regeneration is established.

4. Spruce-fir Type

The spruce-fir type is found at upper elevations and the highest precipitation zones in the Southwestern Region. The spruce-fir type is comprised mainly of species which are classified as tolerant to very tolerant in their ability to endure shade. Although the species can survive under very shady conditions, rapid growth is

achieved only if adequate space and light are provided. Although many stands appear to be uneven-aged, the majority are actually even-aged with a wide range of diameters present. The spruce-fir type is also very susceptible to windthrow when dense stands are opened up.

For these reasons, even-aged management will be used in the spruce-fir type. The principal regeneration cutting methods will be patch, strip, or stand clearcutting methods with group shelterwood cutting method used in situations of windthrow hazard or where aspect and topography dictate its use. Regional standards on the size of openings will be followed. In all cases, the silvicultural cutting method applied will be selected to best fit the abiotic, biotic, economic and management objectives for the stand.

In order to prevent outbreaks of spruce beetle, wind thrown spruce will be removed promptly, and all slash or call material over 8 inches D.B.H. will be burned or disposed of in a suitable manner.

Maximum Size, Dispersal, and Size Variation of Tree Openings

A natural opening is an area with less than 10 percent crown cover which has never supported a higher tree density; for example, a meadow, rock slide, or swamp. A created opening is a contiguous area greater than two acres in size, created by vegetative manipulation, which does not meet tree height and stocking requirements. When an opening results from a natural occurrence, such as wildfire or windstorm, the opening will be treated as a created opening.

Clearcuts may not be larger than 40 acres without Regional Forester approval. The standards, shown in Table 1, do not apply in the following situations:

1. in the harvest of salvageable wood in areas subjected to catastrophic conditions, such as fire, insect and disease attack, or windstorm; and/or
2. in the harvest of dwarf mistletoe infested overstory trees which threaten the established regeneration. A biological evaluation by Regional forest pest management experts is required.

Table 1. Limitations on Created Openings.^a

Forest Type	Average Tree Height ^b (feet)	Trees Per Acre ^b	Crown Cover ^c (%)	Residual Trees ^c		Slopes less than 40%		Slopes greater than 40%		Minimum Spacing Between Openings (chains) ^f
				Per Acre	DBH (inches)	Maximum Opening Size (acres)	Maximum % of area in Openings ^e	Maximum Opening Size (acres)	Maximum % of area in Openings ^e	
Aspen	15	500	25	not applicable		40	35	40	25	5
Spruce-Fir	10	200	25	10 or 30	11 6-11	40	35	40	25	5
Mixed Conifer	10	175	25	same as Spruce-Fir		40	35	40	25	5
Ponderosa Pine	5	150	35	5 or 10	11 6-11	40	40	40	30	5

^aThe Criteria for the definition of when an area would no longer be classified as an opening was based on the reduction in forage and initiation of hiding cover for wildlife along with the watershed considerations of snow distribution and melt.

^bRefers to heights and number of regeneration when an area is no longer considered an opening.

^cA canopy cover percentage used to determine if any area is still an opening when a variety of tree sizes are present. When only sapling size trees are present, the specifications referred to in footnote (c) will prevail.

^dOther trees present in the stand (with or without regeneration present) which would prevent classification of an area as an opening.

^ePercent of forested land within a compartment (or 1,000 acres if not compartments) which is permitted to be in created openings at any point in time.

^fSixty-six feet to a chain.

Biological Growth Potential

The minimum growth potential for determining if lands are capable of producing timber is 20 cubic feet per acre per year (net growth of industrial wood) attainable in a fully-stocked natural forest stand.

Utilization

Utilization Standards for the Determination of Harvest Levels.^a

Product	Minimum Tree Diameter At Breast Height (Inches)	Minimum Log Diameter At Top (Inches) ^b	Minimum Log Length (Feet)	Minimum Percent of Sound Material in Log
Sawtimber	9	6	10	
Roundwood ^c	5	4	5	

^aUtilization standards on existing contracts will not be affected.

^bMeasured inside the bark.

^cMinimum tree must contain 2 minimum logs of roundwood.

Measurement of Mean Annual Increment of Growth

The NFMA states that even-aged stands scheduled for harvest during the planning period will generally have reached the culmination of mean annual increment of growth (36 CFR 210.12(d)(ii)(c)).

The unit of measure is merchantable cubic feet per acre under the management intensity and utilization standards for the area. To determine the average age and size of the trees making up a stand at the point of culmination of mean annual increment, a stand simulation projection is made using the appropriate management intensity and utilization standards and site index for the stand.

The culmination of mean annual increment using full stocking control will general occur at 100 or more years in the ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, or spruce-fir types and will produce about an 18 inch or more diameter tree at the final harvest. For aspen, culmination will generally occur at about 60 and produce a 12-inch diameter tree. The actual rotation age will be dependent upon the species type, site quality, and management treatments applied to a specific stand according to the prescription selected but will generally coincide with the culmination of mean annual increment.

8. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire in area two
9. Prescribed fire will not be used in area one to reduce fuels until a regeneration inventory has been completed.

Travel Influence Zone

Management Emphasis

Management Emphasis will be directed towards managing the land for the production of amenity values such as the beauty of the landscape, outdoor recreational environment, and wildlife for public enjoyment. Plan, develop, and maintain recreation sites and facilities for intensive occupancy, use, and enjoyment of the public on lands with low to moderate sensitivity to disturbance. Develop and manage wildlife habitat, timber, livestock, range, soil, and water resources at levels to best enhance and maintain the outdoor recreational use and beauty of the landscape.

Coordinating Requirements

1. The visual quality level is either retention or partial retention.
2. This zone is considered to be in the special component.
3. The primary method of management will be uneven-aged, but even-aged is permissible if it conforms to other requirements for the zone.
4. 100 percent disposal of activity created slash is required for a width as prescribed by the Forest Landscape Architech. Disposal will be completed within 90 days or by June 1 each year.

Riparian Management Zone

Management Emphasis

Manage riparian areas to benefit riparian dependent resources.

Coordinating Requirements

1. Manage riparian areas in accordance with legal requirements regarding flood plains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, cultural, and other resources. Recognize the importance and distinct values of riparian areas in Forest plans.
2. Manage riparian areas to protect the productivity and diversity of riparian-dependent resources by requiring actions within or affecting riparian to protect and, where applicable, improve dependent resources (FSM 2526).
3. Give preferential consideration to resources dependent on riparian areas over other resources. Other resource uses and activities may occur to the extent that they support or do not adversely affect riparian-dependent resources.

4. Manage the roaded riparian areas on an opportunity basis to either relocate existing roads or upgrade maintenance on existing roads. Priorities, in order, for relocating or upgrading, are Middle Fork Ponil, North Fork Ponil, Costilla Creek and Greenwood Canyon.
5. Emphasize protection of soil, water, vegetation, and fish and wildlife resources prior to implementing projects (FSM 2526).
6. The following standards will be used for managing riparian areas until the Forest Plan is completed.
 - a. Aquatic resource.
 1. Maintain at least 80 percent of natural shade over water surfaces;
 2. Maintain at least 80 percent of natural bank protection;
 3. Maintain the percentage of sand, silt, and clay within 20 percent of natural levels.
 - b. Vegetation resource. Where the site is capable of supporting woody plants:
 1. Maintain at least 60 percent of the woody plant composition in three or more riparian species;
 2. Maintain at least three age classes of riparian woody plants, with at least 10 percent of the woody plant cover in sprouts, seedlings, and saplings of riparian species; and
 3. Maintain at least 60 percent of natural shrub and tree crown cover.
 - c. Wildlife resources. Maintain at least 60 percent of natural shade over land surfaces.
7. On a site-specific basis, identify riparian-dependent resources and develop action plans and programs to bring about conditions essential to supporting those dependent resources.
8. Cooperate with the Department of Game and Fish to establish water rights at Shuree Ponds.
9. Determine best uses for acquired water rights at McCrystal Creek (Ring Place).
10. Require 100 percent removal of activity slash from the area below the high water mark unless prescribed otherwise by the Forest Hydrologist. Removal will take place within 10 days. Require 100 percent removal of activity slash in the remainder of the zone at a width prescribed by the Forest Landscape Architect. Disposal will be completed within 90 days or by June 1 each year.

Special Zone-Potential Research Natural Areas

Coordinating Requirements

1. Maintain the areas in a pristine condition until a determination is made on their suitability for Research Natural Area (RNA) status.
FSM 4063
2. Conduct a study to determine the suitability of the three potential RNA's for inclusion in the RNA system. Complete the study and make recommendations to the Regional Forester.