

MGT AREA 5 -- MIXED CONIFER & PONDEROSA PINE OVER 40%

A VISION

This is a healthy and stable environment.

This looks into the future, although some of it may be happening now. It is stated in the "present tense" as if it is already that way. This gives a feel of where we are heading. It paints a general picture with a broad brush.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

- Activities and uses retain the form, line, color and texture which are characteristic of the landscape (retention visual quality objective) or remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (partial retention VQO).
- There is quality habitat for the hairy woodpecker, turkey, elk, red squirrel, and Abert's squirrel.
- The Forest environment is maintained to provide opportunities for dispersed recreation at an increased maintenance standard.

This table snaps a more detailed picture of what this management area will look like in the future. Since much depends on natural cycles, which need time, these conditions may take many years to achieve. Some of it may be in this condition now.

DESCRIPTION

Mixed Conifer: The vegetative composition (which includes aspen overtopping or mixed with young conifer), fire history and natural fuels are similar to Management Area 3. This area has had little to no logging activity, and road building has been minimal.

Soils and watershed restrictions on management activities will be more stringent than on Management Area 3. See timber element policies and prescriptions for slopes over 40%.

The area's value to wildlife is much greater than to domestic livestock because of steep slopes and the amount of large inaccessible areas.

On-site dispersed recreation use usually occurs only on trails passing through the area because of the steep slopes serve as primary scenic backdrops for sensitive recreation viewpoints off-site.

Ponderosa Pine: Many of these areas have been logged in the past with horses, but old stumps are the only remaining evidence. With the advent of machine skidding, logging was discontinued on these slopes because of machine limitations and watershed damage. With skyline yarding, these areas can be harvested without watershed damage but may remain uneconomical for this type of logging because of low volumes of existing timber.

Most of the remaining overmature trees and large snags within the pine type are on these steep slopes. The snags are important to snag dependent species of wildlife, especially where snags are rare in adjacent areas as in most of Management Area 4.

D. Management Area Prescriptions

because of steep slopes this area contributes very little to the range resource. However, the south facing slopes do provide a major portion of the big game winter habitat on the Carson.

On-site dispersed recreation use usually occurs only on trails passing through the area because of the steep slopes and amount of downfall on the ground. In addition, portions of these steep slopes serve as primary scenic backdrops for sensitive recreation viewpoints off-site.

Standards and Guidelines

This section contains the standards and guidelines against which activities and uses are to be compared. It focus on and provides more details about the "Desire Future Conditions.' In some cases it gives the long term 'where and when.' The Forest Plan Implementation Schedule is the tool used for all short-term planning and scheduling. The Implementation Schedule provides the operational perspective [making the commitment -- asking for the dollars and scheduling what year it will be done in.] The tactical perspective [the execution] is the actual implementation on the ground. This is done after we get the funding. It is also documented as accomplishments in the Forest Plan Implementation Schedule.

ROADS... Construct roads for timber sales utilizing Best Management Practices with the following guidelines: 3.9 miles per square mile for construction and 1.1 miles per square mile for reconstruction for first entry; 5.0 miles per square mile for reconstruction second entry.

RECREATION... Ponderosa pine lands which have the Visual Objective of foreground retention and are located within the immediate foreground (100 to 300 feet on the average main depending on tree density) of a sensitive trail route, use area or water body will be managed for the following: entry cycle = 20 years; 30" diameter pines with yellow, deep fissured bark; Stand age at replacement = 240 years.

TIMBER... Timber standards and guidelines are under the Forest-wide prescriptions.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT REPLACEMENT... Replacement of structural improvements will be planned in a 25-30 year cycle and will take priority over new structures if needed for prescribed management intensity.