

## MGT AREA 4 -- PONDEROSA PINE UNDER 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 remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (partial retention visual quality objective) or they may visually dominate the original characteristic of the landscape. However, they must borrow from the form, line, color, and texture of the landscape (modification VQO).
- There is quality habitat for the hairy woodpecker, turkey, elk and Abert's squirrel.

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

The ponderosa pine vegetative type is the largest of the Carson's commercial forest zone. There are two general stand conditions that occur in this management area:

Ponderosa pine with a gambel oak understory occurs on a wide variety of elevational and climatic ranges, however, it is most commonly found on warm dry slopes. The oak usually comes in after a site disturbance, such as fire or logging.

Ponderosa pine with a ponderosa pine understory is characterized by relatively pure stands of ponderosa pine regeneration with inclusions of Douglas-fir, white fir, gambel oak, pinon pine, and juniper. The ponderosa pine regeneration is dominant and occupies more than 75% of the site.

Logging, grazing, firewood gathering, and recreation are historic uses of this management area. There are numerous two track non-system roads. The area provides crucial and key habitat for many species of wildlife because of diversity of cover and food production, i.e., deer, elk, and turkey winter range and songbird nesting habitat.

Ponderosa pine is often called a fire dependent species. The thick bark of the ponderosa provides more protection from fire than bark of other species. This results in ponderosa being found in transition zones between pinon-juniper, Douglas-fir and white-fir. With fire protection the range of the ponderosa often shrinks to a fairly narrow elevational band. Ponderosa is most productive in the transition zone with Douglas-fir (management areas 3 and 5) and can be maintained through harvesting and use of fire.

Natural fuel accumulations are fairly light, 5 tons to 15 tons per acre, and fire occurrence is the highest on the forest (see fire element discussion). Logging and precommercial thinning residues can add 10 to 30 tons per acre. These acumulations can produce sufficient heat (B.T.U.'s) and flame length to kill residual

## D. Management Area Prescriptions

trees during periods of high or extreme fire danger. Dispersed recreation use is heavy and risk of man-caused fires is high.

### 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. Guidelines are 2.0 miles per square mile for construction first entry; 2.0 miles per square mile for reconstruction first entry; 4.0 miles per square mile for reconstruction 167 second entry.
- Improve drainage and surfacing on existing roads that will not be closed to improve riparian areas and reduce stream sedimentation with a guideline of 3.0 miles annually.

**MANAGE UNPLANNED IGNITIONS...** Manage unplanned ignitions after July 15, or when the summer monsoons are fully established. The objectives will be to improve wildlife habitat by promoting sprouting in oak and to remove slash which impedes wildlife movement.

**PRESCRIBED BROADCAST FIRES...** Prescribed broadcast fire will be used in this area to: reduce fuel loading, fire proof adjacent private lands, promote wildlife food, cover values, and increase livestock forage productivity. (1,000 acres of prescribed broadcast fire annually are proposed as a guideline.)

#### RECREATION...

- Lands which have the Visual Quality Objective of foreground retention and are located within the immediate foreground (100 to 300 feet) of a sensitive travel route, use area, or water body will be managed for the following: entry period will equal 20 years; 30 inch diameter pines with yellow, deep fissured bark; stand age at replacement will be 240 years.
- Maintain a mosaic of stand diversity along visual corridors. Include all stand conditions and basal area levels to the maximum possible for the site condition.

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

**REPLACEMENT OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS...** Replacement of structural improvements will be planned in a 30-40 year cycle and will take priority over new structures if needed for prescribed management intensity.