

## MGT AREA 21 -- VALLE VIDAL

### A VISION

Being developed. See discussion under "standards and guidelines."

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

● Being developed. See discussion under "standards and guidelines."

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

In early 1982, the Pennzoil Company of Houston, Texas, donated 101,794 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.

As part of the Carson National Forest, the area is known as the Valle Vidal Unit (formerly called the Vermejo Unit) and is 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.

An (Multiple Use) Area Guide was prepared to provide overall direction to the unit, using the following as source or umbrella documents:

- FSH 2109.21 R3 Multiple Use Area Guide Southwestern Region.
- FSH 2109.32 R3 Carson National Forest Multiple Use Area Guide, Supplement 2, October 1976.
- 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).
- 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.
- Livestock Grazing Policy for the Vermejo Addition (Valle Vidal) approved by M.J. Hassell February 1, 1982.
- Indenture Agreement between Kaiser Steel Corporation and Vermejo Park Corporation concerning removal of the coal resource owned by Kaiser, signed June 28, 1977.

## D. Management Area Prescriptions

- Abstracts and record deeds transferring title of the 100,000 acre Valle Vidal Management Unit to the United States of America.

### 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.

#### TO BE DEVELOPED

Because there was a lack of resource inventory information and the planning process was so far along at the time of acquisition, standards and guidelines for the Valle Vidal Unit are not yet included in the Plan.

A Multiple-Use Area Guide was developed to guide management of the Unit and approved April 7, 1983. The Decision Notice 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."

Management of the Valle Vidal unit will be governed by its Multiple-Use Area Guide until the Valle Vidal addendum to the Forest Plan is completed. That addendum is in the process of being developed with full public involvement, following NEPA guidelines. When it is completed it will be added in this section.

Interim implementation plans have been prepared for site specific management of the various resources on the Valle Vidal unit, such as: forage allocation, recreation management, major access, etc. The implementation plans use the coordinating requirements in the multiple-use area guide to ensure integration of other resource needs. All implementation plans and other documents involving assignments of lands and/or resources to uses or activities will be approved by the Regional Forester.