

# MGT AREA 10 -- LOW ELEVATION GRASSLANDS

## A VISION

This is a healthy and stable environment with plentiful grass.

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

- The range is in fair to good condition.
- Activities and uses remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (partial retention visual quality objective) or 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).

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

These are the grasslands at the lower elevations of the Forest. They occur below the pinon-juniper, and consist of various warm season grasses. They are adjacent to management area 11, revegetation.

## 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.

### RANGE...

- On allotments designated for level D management and primary big game winter range, maintain grassland and acreage to present levels when cost effective. Treat areas where woody species ground cover exceeds 10%. Reseed areas where herbaceous ground cover prior to treatment is at most 30%.

#### Treatment Methods:

*Burn:* When herbaceous fuel is adequate to carry fire to kill greater than 60% of invader species to be eradicated (herbaceous fuel greater than 600 lbs./acre), when encroaching trees are less than 4 ft. tall and tree distribution is even, and/or when sagebrush cover is greater than 20%.

*Herbicides:* When conditions aren't suitable for burning, encroaching trees are less than 4 feet tall, and sagebrush cover is less than 20%.

- 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.

## **D. Management Area Prescriptions**

### **TIMBER...**

The following standards and guidelines apply to patches and stringers included within the Management Area.

- Stands may be treated, and sawtimber and products may be harvested to meet specific Management Area objectives. Volume does not contribute to the Forest ASQ.
- Salvage timber when compatible with Management Area objectives or when needed to prevent or reduce insect and disease conditions within the Management Area or adjacent Management Areas.
- Prepare and Administer permits for non-convertible products when compatible with Management Area objectives.
- Prepare and Administer sale permits or free-use permits for dead or down firewood.

**WILDLIFE...**Manage timber inclusions for snag retention, wildlife cover, escape routes, and general habitat diversity.