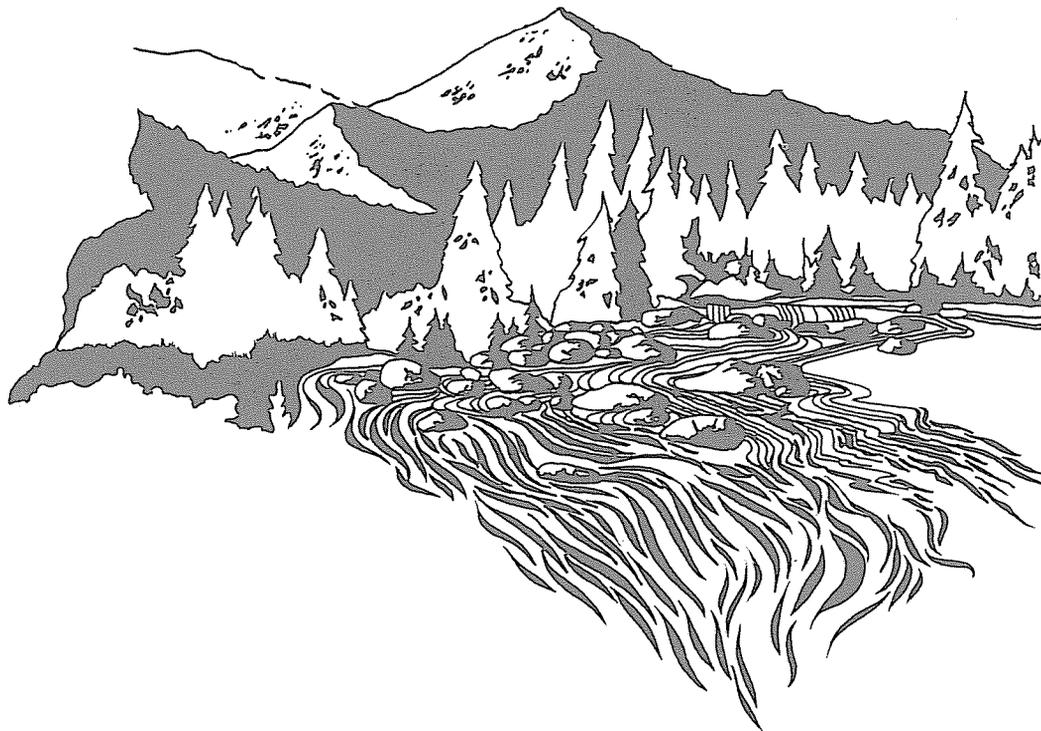


## C. FOREST-WIDE PRESCRIPTIONS



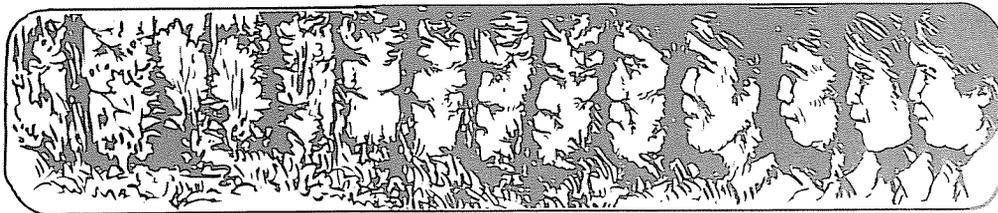
## C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

# A CARSON OVERVIEW

## CARSON MISSION

The Carson Mission lays out in simple terms the unique purpose or direction of the Carson.

Ultimately, the Carson Mission is . . .



**Caring for the Land...      ...Serving People**

*This will provide for a quality experience for today's and tomorrow's user.*

More specifically, our mission is ...

- to contribute to the quality of people's lives by providing special attention to:
  - ∞ small rural communities with dependence on Forest resources and programs,
  - ∞ traditional multi-cultural uses,
  - ∞ sustaining a total Forest cycle,
  - ∞ wildlife habitat diversity,
  - ∞ recreation opportunities and aesthetics,
  - ∞ environmental education,
  - ∞ the maintenance of high quality water,
- to maintain an active partnership with our publics and other agencies,
- to create a working environment in which we can function at our full potential.

## EMPHASIS ON THE CARSON

- WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT ...improve/maintain at a mod-high level.
- RECREATION ...provide high quality opportunities.
- WATERSHED ...improve/maintain conditions.
- VISUAL RESOURCE ...improve/maintain.
- ROADS ...low level of development.
- TIMBER ...moderate outputs.

**MAKE FOREST PLAN BETTER...** Management of the National Forests is a subject of intense public controversy, scientific interest, inquiry, and debate. And it should be -- our National Forests are important!



As we learn more, we will change how we manage the Carson. Direction in the Carson Forest Plan will continue to evolve. The Forest Plan will always be in a "draft" state as we work together to make it better.

### **MAINTAINING OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE...**

New studies, inventories, and public interest help to refine the allocation processes (how we decide to set areas aside for various purposes). In light of the evolving nature of our understanding, the direction and cornerstone of the Carson Forest Plan will be maintaining options for the future.

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE...** We have all been given marvelous gifts -- the land and each other. But, as with a child, we do not fully understand either. We and the land will grow older and wiser together. So, we must walk with humility through this journey of life. Let us not squander our inheritance but invest for the future.

**LOCAL NEEDS AND DESIRES...** The management of the Carson can affect the various lifestyles of local residents through the activities and products it produces. As with National and Regional needs for products and activities, the Forest will be sensitive to these local needs and desires. Specific responses will be documented in the standards and guidelines in this Forest Plan.

**RESPONSIVE...** The Forest will not try to artificially structure or set lifestyles or economic factors. It will follow the lead of the public as expressed through their demands for Forest products and activities. The intent will be to not have quick or massive changes.

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

By the year 2030, the Carson National Forest is attempting to achieve a management situation that can respond to local or national demands for a wide mix of recreation opportunities, including wildlife related uses, that range from the primitive to the urban end of the spectrum, for wood products, livestock production and water yield. The goal is to produce these outputs and opportunities on a sustained basis while maintaining air, soil, and water resources at or above minimum local, State, or Federal standards. Levels of output and use opportunities would be adjusted so they are within long-term supply potentials and to ensure the impact on cultural, visual, wildlife, and vegetative resources can be mitigated to protect these resources for future management options. Activities related to mineral development and public utility needs would be permitted within the framework of existing laws and environmental concerns.

The intent of management is to promote dependent user stability through direct supply of products such as wood and forage and to provide community stability and enjoyment through the direct or indirect supply of products and other opportunities. Management practices should provide the best cost-benefit results as well as protect resources.

Table C-1 displays expected resource outputs in 2030 and the corresponding issues that are addressed.

Table C-1. Desired future condition by the year 2030 and corresponding ICO's.

ITEM	UNIT	ANNUAL OUTPUT	ISSUES
Allowable Sale Quantity 1/	MMCF	9.0	
	MMBF	46.9	
Sawtimber Forest total	MMBF	3F	1, 11
	MMBF		1, 11
Products Forest total	MMBF		1, 11
	MMBF		1, 11
P-J Firewood (green)		4.6	2, 11
		6.2	2, 11
Down/dry Firewood (slash)			
Permitted Grazing Use		127	6, 10, 11
Developed Recreation		1464	7, 11
Dispersed Recreation	MRVD	647	8, 10
Wildlife Recreation	MWFUD	244	5, 10
Wilderness	MRVD	32	3, 4, 11
Water	MA-F	345	9

MOVE Table C-1 to Appendix H-3 (Amendment 11)

1/ Includes sawtimber and products.

By 2030 the age class distribution on suitable land will be improved as the result of regularly scheduled regeneration harvests. General stand health and vigor will be improved, and dwarf mistletoe and western spruce budworm problems reduced as the result of timber harvest and precommercial thinning. Wildlife habitat diversity will be greater than present through application of integrated stand management; cover requirements will be fully met.

The implementation of the Forest Plan by the year 2030 will have resulted in the maintenance treatment of all the revegetated acres as well as the continued maintenance of sagebrush and pinon-juniper reinvasion occurring on those acres treated during the first 10-15 years of the plan. Those acres in unsatisfactory range condition should improve to the next condition class as the planned allotment management intensity level rises above the current level. The resultant affect would yield approximately 6% more permitted AUM's.

Within the existing wildernesses, trails will be better maintained and signed. Additional management funding will be provided, therefore, littering and overuse problems will be minimized. The additional public contact needed to reduce these problems will be accomplished.

Part of the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness study area will be reserved for wilderness designation, which will satisfy part of the use conflicts concern. The part which is most suitable for timber harvesting and motorized recreation will be evaluated further for either multiple use or wilderness when a new plan is proposed in 10-15 years.

Campgrounds and picnic areas will be rehabilitated, therefore, the overuse problems will be addressed. Land will be allocated for the Sangre de Cristo ski area. If constructed, the ski area will be designed and managed to minimize impacts on the Wheeler Peak Wilderness.

Additional dispersed recreation management funding will be available, therefore, the trails, litter, and overuse problems will decrease. Increased public contact will occur which should assist in off-road vehicle management. User conflicts may continue to occur, as more and more user groups engage in conflicting recreation activities. Funds to monitor and manage these conflicts will be available.

The desired wildlife and fish management situation over the next 50 years will be to protect and/or create sufficient habitat components Forestwide to provide recreational opportunities in the amount of 244M wildlife and fish user days. This will be accomplished by integrating the habitat needs of wildlife and fish into other resource activities, protection, and improvement of habitats of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species to achieve their recovery, and through intensive habitat management and improvement to achieve desired wildlife and fish population objectives.

All watersheds will be in satisfactory condition or better by the year 2030 as determined by the watershed condition index. This will be accomplished by direct soil and water improvement methods which include streambank stabilization, contour trenching and plowing, obliteration of roads and revegetation of areas with insufficient vegetative ground cover. Indirect methods will also be used and include livestock grazing allotment management, off-road vehicle management and travelway maintenance/management.

**C. Forest-wide Prescriptions**

All riparian areas will be in satisfactory or better condition by the year 2030. This will be accomplished by travelway obliteration and an increased level of maintenance of roads within the riparian. Developed recreation areas will be reconditioned in the first decade. Most of the developed recreation areas on the Forest are in the riparian. There is no regularly scheduled timber harvest in the riparian. Timber manipulation will occur only to improve wildlife habitat. Fish habitat improvement structures will be constructed throughout the decade.

Future issues will probably consist of those this planning effort does not resolve plus acid precipitation and changes in lifestyle brought about by growth.

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Table C-2 describes the reasons for the choice of vegetation management practices and gives guidelines for the average annual acres of each practice to be applied to the specific Management Areas. Additional information on these practices may be found in the following references: Regional Guide for the Southwest Region, FSH 2409.26a Cutting Methods, FSM 2471, and Appendix B of the FEIS.

Table C-2. Vegetative management practices.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE
<b>SHELTERWOOD REGENERATION CUT</b>	Spruce
	Mixed Conifer
	Ponderosa Pine
	Total

This practice is applied to regenerate timber stands that have reached overmaturity. As a regeneration harvest method, shelterwood regeneration cuts are most appropriate because:

- they help control dwarf mistletoe infections which are common
- they are used to create single canopy stands resistant to fire
- they are cost effective: maintaining a partial canopy and a microclimate favorable for establishing seedlings,
- regeneration success has been more favorable in these methods.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>SHELTERWOOD REGENERATION CUT</b>	Spruce	250
	Mixed Conifer	2300
	Ponderosa Pine	1400
	Total	3950

This practice is applied to regenerate timber stands that have reached overmaturity. As a regeneration harvest method, shelterwood regeneration cuts are most appropriate because:

DELETE tables, replace with standard regional tables in Appendix H-3 (Amendment 11).

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

Table C-1. Vegetative Management Practices (continued)

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>CLEARCUT</b>	Spruce	140
	Mixed Conifer	300
	Ponderosa Pine	<u>10</u>
	Total	450
	Aspen (Not Appropriate)	320

This practice is optimal for:

- creating small openings to obtain habitat diversity for wildlife. Other regeneration harvest and habitat conditions obtained from small openings, edge effect
- regenerating aspen stands to enhance or maintain diversity for wildlife habitat and visual quality of stand of aspen
- thinning existing stands dominated by aspen, and to conifer stands with aspen mixtures to regenerate stand,
- controlling insect and disease conditions when potential seed trees are severely damaged by insects or disease,
- treating or harvesting stands in areas with potential for windthrow, or where windthrow would result in a damaged residual stand.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>INTERMEDIATE CUTS</b>	Spruce	50
	Mixed Conifer	590
	Ponderosa Pine	<u>1300</u>
	Total	1940
	Aspen (Not Appropriate)	

This practice is applied to create different stand densities of the stand, salvage timber that would die before harvest, improve visual quality, enhance the growth and vigor of the stand, and to reduce the potential for loss to insects and disease.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>SALVAGE</b>	Spruce	Variable
	Mixed Conifer	

This practice involves harvest of unmerchantable material on suitable lands, to remove mortality and improve stand health.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>SELECTION CUT</b>	Spruce	150
	Mixed Conifer	100
	Ponderosa Pine	<u>60</u>
	Total	310
	Aspen (Not Appropriate)	

This practice is applied to an area while maintaining at least a three-story condition. It maintains a continuous high canopy cover and provides habitat for many wildlife species. Uneven-aged management is not appropriate where there is a high risk of mistletoe or western spruce budworm.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>STAND IMPROVEMENT</b>	Spruce	200
	Mixed Conifer	1600
	Ponderosa Pine	<u>1600</u>
	Total	3400
	Aspen (Not Appropriate)	

Primarily thinning and release, this practice is applied to young stands to maintain spacing and remove insect damaged, diseased and poorly formed trees to enhance the health and quality of the stand. Tree spacing varies to meet one or a combination of objectives related to wildlife habitat, visual quality or maximizing growth on remaining trees.

DELETE tables, replace with standard regional tables in Appendix H-3 (Amendment 11).

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

Table C-1. Vegetative Management Practices (continued)

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
ARTIFICIAL REFORESTATION	Spruce	230
	Mixed Conifer	565
	Ponderosa Pine	380
	Total	1,175
NATURAL REFORESTATION	Spruce	
	Mixed Conifer	
	Ponderosa Pine	
	Total	0
	Aspen (Not Appropriate)	320

Reforestation is applied to establish new timber stands. Site preparation is done for both artificial (establishment from natural seeding). Artificial reforestation is used when the number of trees established is not part of the timber management program, but related to projects for wildlife habitat and improvement. Natural reforestation is used when the number of trees established is adequate. Aspen reforestation is used for quality maintenance.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
PRESCRIBED BURNING	Ponderosa	1650

This practice is applied to reduce ground fuels. This reduces the regeneration, and increases forage production for wildlife and livestock. tree seedlings and other plants. Burning is used because it is the most effective method of fuel treatment.

are a favorable seedbed for natural regeneration. Competition for light and moisture between trees is reduced. Burning is the most effective method of fuel treatment.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
GENERAL FIREWOOD HARVEST	Pinon-Juniper	1860

This practice is the harvest of pinon and juniper stands. Shelterwood regenerates the stands and provides forage and watershed protection.

Shelterwood harvest is done using shelterwood silviculture or intermediate harvest. Intermediate harvests open the stand up so more grass and forage is produced.

Follow-up prescribed burning may be used to reduce fuels and stimulate new growth of forbs and browse plants to benefit wildlife and livestock grazing. The fuel from pinon-juniper reproduction is used for firewood.

Burning increases grass and forbs because competition is reduced. Burning is the most cost-effective method.

Follow-up seeding on firewood harvest areas is inadequate for the benefit of wildlife and livestock grazing. production and be on slope.

Seeding and cool season forage species may be done where natural seed sources are inadequate for wildlife and livestock grazing. Areas seeded will have a soil rating of moderate or high forage.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
WILDLIFE PREPARATION	Pinon-Juniper	300

This practice is used to prepare areas for wildlife habitat. This includes establishing cover plants and treatments.

Prescribed burning, mechanical and/or chemical techniques to improve forage and browse conditions are the optimum means to achieving this objective. Standards and guidelines provide for the establishment of wildlife forage and cover plants and constraints on the size, dispersion, and duration of vegetative treatments.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
OVERSTORY MODIFICATION	Pinon-Juniper	150

This practice is employed on the Jicarilla Ranger District to reduce overstory to an open savanna type for the purpose of increasing livestock and wildlife forage and providing firewood. Fifty percent of the acreage is harvested as green personal and commercial use firewood. No more than 20 percent of the acreage is removed by mechanical or chemical means based on species, soil stability and cost effectiveness.

DELETE tables, replace with standard regional tables in Appendix H-3 (Amendment 11).

C. Forest-wide Prescriptions

Table C-1. Vegetative Management Practices (continued)

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>OAK TREATMENT AND REJUVINATION</b>	Oak/Shrub	300

This practice includes cutting, prescribed burning, and/or chemical treatments to create temporary openings or to rejuvenate gambel oak on big game winter ranges. Methods are considered to be optimum practices to achieving these objectives.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>BRUSH TREATMENT</b>	Sage and low elevation grassland	70

This practice employs mechanical, chemical, and prescribed fire methods to reduce brush and maintain a grassland community. The objectives will be to provide conditions favorable for livestock and wildlife to create a diversity of sagebrush and grassland vegetative types. Treatment methods are proven to be environmentally sound techniques for accomplishing this type of vegetative treatment. Standards and guidelines for the maximum size, dispersion, and duration of vegetative treatments and the establishment of a diverse vegetation.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>BRUSH AND WOODLAND TREATMENT</b>	Pinon-Juniper treatment areas	2800

This treatment is by prescribed burning, mechanical, and revegetation areas previously treated. The objective will be to maintain seral grassland conditions within obligations. Treatment methods are proven to be the most ecologically sound and environmentally standpoint. Standards and guidelines are established for providing a diversity

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	VEGETATION TYPE	ACRES
<b>RIPARIAN TREATMENT</b>	Riparian areas	100

This treatment involves removal of woody vegetation, planting, cutting, fencing, and prescribed burning to improve riparian conditions. Treatment methods are proven to be the most ecologically sound and environmentally standpoint. Standards and guidelines are established for providing a diversity

**PRODUCTIVITY...** Table C-1 productivity classes stands. It does not

acres of land suitable for timber production by the cubic-foot volume in this table is based on the potential biological growth of natural stands under control or other intensive management practices.

Table C-2. Timber productivity classification

Growth (cubic feet/acre/year)	Suitable Lands (acres)	Unsuitable Lands <sup>1</sup> (acres)
Less than 20	0	395,565
20-49	161,450	218,291
50-84	211,720	179,150
85-119	6,830	6,800
120-164	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Estimated based on inventory data available for some unsuitable lands and extrapolations for others (such as wilderness).

DELETE tables, replace with standard regional tables in Appendix H-3 (Amendment 11).

**C. Forest-wide Prescriptions**

**YOUR NOTES...**

### **Wild/ Scenic/ Recreation Eligible River Areas...**

River corridors identified in the National River Inventory, or otherwise identified for study, will be protected in the following ways:

- Manage wild and scenic river study areas to protect existing characteristics through the study period and until designated or released from consideration. [FSM 2354.21]
- Rivers identified for study are managed to maintain their outstanding values. [FSM 1924.03]
- To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law, control stream impoundments and diversions. The free flowing characteristics of the identified river cannot be modified. [FSH 1909.12,8.12]
- Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river area must be protected and, to the extent practicable, enhanced. [FSH 1909.12,8.12]
- Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational). [FSH 1909.12,8.12]
- The protection requirements will continue until a decision is made as to the future use of the river and adjacent lands. [FSH 1909.12,8.12]
- Congressionally authorized rivers will be protected, as specified in Section 12(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, until action is taken by the Congress. [FSH 1909.12,8.12]

The standards/guidelines in Management Area 18 – Wild, Scenic and Recreation Rivers also govern interim management of study rivers. [FSH 1909.12,8.2]