

**MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS
APPLICABLE TO ALL AREAS**

Activities

Standards and Guidelines

Recreation	A02, E06 D05	Conduct cultural resources inventories for proposed ground disturbing projects.
	A02	Evaluate sites found during inventories and other activities in terms of National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria and prepare avoidance or mitigation measures. Nominate at least one site per year to the National Register of Historic Places.
	A02, E06	Protect significant sites through avoidance, monitoring and signing based upon the probability of the extent of cultural resource disturbance or damage.
	A03	Manage for visual quality objectives (VQOs) ranging from preservation to maximum modification as defined in the Forest Visual Resource Inventory. Apply guidelines found in USDA Handbooks, National Forest Landscape Management Volume 2 Series.
	A02	The Forest will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and with Executive Order (EO) 11593.
	A03, A04 E06	Design and construct improvements and permanent structures in foreground areas with natural appearing materials. Improvements, permanent structures, vegetation manipulation, and ground-disturbing activities will be compatible with the natural landscape. Apply design guidelines found in USDA Handbook, National Forest Landscape Management Series.
	A03, A04 E06	In retention and partial retention (VQO) middleground and background distance zones, create or maintain a diversified texture of forested landscape in relation to the existing landscape character type. All improvements, permanent structures, vegetation manipulation, ground-disturbing activities and/or construction will be compatible with the Visual Quality Objective for the area.
	A03, A04 E06	In retention and partial retention foreground distance zone, activities will be compatible with the natural landscape.

Amendment 15: The Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project area is exempted from meeting retention and partial-retention VQOs until slash disposal treatments and rehabilitation of landings, skid trails, and temporary roads are completed.

A03	Acceptable variation in VQO classifications from the acreages presented in the standards and guidelines for specific management areas are as follows: Preservation: No Change Retention: ± 2 percent in foreground, ± 5 percent in middle ground and background Partial Retention: ± 5 percent in foreground, ± 10 percent in middleground and background Modification+: ± 10 percent in all zones
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- E06, E07
P34 Salvage harvesting operations will be prescribed as needed to meet conditions imposed by wildland fire, insect or disease epidemics, blow down, or other catastrophes. Salvage prescriptions will consider timber salvage values, harvesting costs, and environmental impacts of the harvesting.
- E06
E07 Forest products such as Christmas trees, posts, poles, and vigas, will be available if removal does not conflict with other resource objectives.
- E07 Close all local roads not essential for management needs upon completion of sale. Roads will be reopened for any post-sale activity, then closed following completion of that activity.
- E06
F03 Limit wheeled or tracked logging equipment to slopes less than 40 percent.
- Mechanized equipment will be allowed on slopes greater than 40 percent in the Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project area where necessary to reduce crown fire hazard ratings to acceptable levels in the wildland-urban interface.**
- E06 Use cable logging systems for slopes generally over 40 percent.
- E06, C01,
C02 (Two sentences and one table deleted by Amendment 9)
Insert Alternative G, Old Growth Standards and Guidelines:

OLD GROWTH:

Standards: Until the forest plan is revised, allocate no less than 20 percent of each forested ecosystem management area to old growth as depicted in the table below.

In the long term, manage old growth in patterns that provide for a flow of functions and interactions at multiple scales across the landscape through time.

Allocations will consist of landscape percentages meeting old growth conditions and not specific acres.

Guidelines: All analyses should be at multiple scales - one scale above and one scale below the ecosystem management areas. The amount of old growth can be provided and maintained will be evaluated at the ecosystem management area level and be based on forest type, site capability, and disturbance regimes.

Strive to create or sustain as much old growth compositional, structural, and functional flow as possible over time at multiple-area scales. Seek to develop or retain old growth function on at least 20 percent of the naturally forested area by forest type in any landscape. Use information about pre-European settlement conditions at the appropriate scales when considering the importance of various factors. Consider the effects of spatial arrangement on old growth function, from groups to landscapes, including de facto allocations to old growth such as goshawk nest sites, Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers, sites protected for species behavior associated with old growth, wilderness, research natural areas, and other forest structures managed for old growth function.

Retain key forest species such as oak.

Retain key habitat components such as snags and large downed logs.

Harvest conifers less than 9" in diameter only within those protected activity centers treated to abate fire risk as described below.

Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- In Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers (PAC), vegetation treatments will only be considered after all appropriate NEPA analysis and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed. When vegetation treatment within a PAC is deemed necessary, the PAC will be monitored for effects of treatment.

Amendment 10: For the Rio Peñasco, La Luz Watersheds, 38 total protected activity centers will have vegetative treatments and will be monitored for effects of treatment.

Amendment 12: A total of 19 protected activity centers in the Elk Canyon Watershed will have vegetation treatments and will be monitored for effects of treatment.

- Designate a 100-acre "no treatment" area around the known nest site of each selected protected activity center. Habitat in the "no treatment" area should be as similar as possible in structure and composition as that found in the activity center.
- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel treatment and prescribed fire to abate fire risk in the remainder of the selected protected activity center outside the 100-acre "no treatment" area.

Amendment 10: The nine-inch diameter limit is exempted in the Rio Peñasco/La Luz Watershed study where scientific studies are designed to test the best fuels management prescriptions in MSO protected activity centers.

Amendment 15: The nine-inch diameter limit on cutting trees in protected Mexican spotted owl habitat is exempted in the Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project area where trees must be felled in order to reduce crown fire hazard to acceptable levels within the wildland-urban interface.

- Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 in. in diameter at the root collar.
- Use light prescribed burns in non-selected protected activity centers on a case-by-case basis. Burning should avoid a 100-acre "no treatment" area around the activity center. Large woody debris, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation should be retained and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches diameter at the root collar.
- Pre and post treatment monitoring should be conducted in all protected activity centers treated for fire risk abatement. (See monitoring guidelines)

Replacement Page 206C
Amendment 9, June 5, 1996
Amendment 10, Dec. 5, 2002
Amendment 12, Jun. 30, 2005
Amendment 15, June 16, 2008

Steep Slopes (Mixed conifer and pine-oak forests outside protected activity centers with slopes greater than 40% that have not been logged within the past 20 years): No seasonal restrictions apply.

Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel removal, and prescribed fire.

Amendment 15: The nine-inch diameter limit on cutting trees greater than 9 inches and on slopes greater than 40 percent are exempted in the Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project Area.

- Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leaved woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar.
- Pre- and post-treatment monitoring should occur within all steep slopes treated for fire risk abatement. (See monitoring guidelines)

Reserved Lands (Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Congressionally Recognized Wilderness Study Areas): Allow prescribed fire where appropriate.

C. RESTRICTED AREAS (Mixed conifer, pine-oak, and riparian forests)

Mixed Conifer and Pine-oak Forests (See glossary definition): Manage to ensure a sustained level of owl nest/roost habitat well distributed across the landscape. Create replacement owl nest/roost habitat where appropriate while providing a diversity of stand conditions across the landscape to ensure habitat for a diversity of prey species. The following table displays the minimum percentage of restricted area that should be managed to have nest/roost characteristics. The minimum mixed conifer restricted area includes 10% at 170 basal area and an additional amount of area at 150 basal area. The additional area of 150 basal area is + 10% in BR-E and + 15% in all other recovery units. The variables are for stand averages and are minimum threshold values and must be met simultaneously. In project design, no stands simultaneously meeting or exceeding the minimum threshold values should be reduced below the threshold values unless a district-wide or larger landscape analysis of restricted areas shows that there is a surplus of restricted area acres simultaneously meeting the threshold values. Management should be designed to create minimum threshold conditions on project areas where there is a deficit of stands simultaneously meeting minimum threshold conditions unless the district-wide or larger landscape analysis shows there is a surplus.

Variable	MC All RU	MC BR-E RU	MC Other RU	Pine-Oak
Restricted area %	+10%	+10%	+15%	+10%
Stand Averages for:				
Basal Area	170	150	150	150
18" +trees/acre	20	20	20	20
Oak Basal Area	N/A	N/A	N/A	20
Percent total existing stand density index by size class:				
12"-18"	10	10	10	15
18"-24"	10	10	10	15
24"- +	10	10	10	15

If forests have goshawks commonly nesting in stands classified as VSS 1-3, use the complete inventory method for those areas. There may be situations where an area is classified as a VSS 3, based on predominant VSS class, but in actuality a combination of VSS 4 & 5 predominate the area. For those situations, use complete inventory methods.

Home Range Establishment

Post-fledgling family areas (PFA) will be approximately 600 acres in size. Post-fledgling family areas will include the nest sites and consist of the habitat most likely to be used by the fledgling during their early development.

Establish a minimum of 3 nest areas and 3 replacement nest areas per post-fledgling family area. The nest areas and replacement nest areas should be approximately 30 acres in size. A minimum total of 180 acres of nest area should be identified within each post-fledgling family area.

Nest site selection will be based first on using active nest sites followed by the most recently used historical nest areas. When possible, all historical nest areas should be maintained.

Manage for the nest replacement sites to attain sufficient quality and size to replace the three suitable nest sites.

Management Scale

Distribution of habitat structure (tree size and age classes, tree groups of different densities, snags, dead and down woody material, etc.) should be evaluated at the ecosystem management area level, at the mid-scale such as drainage, and at the small scale of site.

Vegetation Management

Landscape Outside Goshawk Post-fledgling Family Areas

General: The distribution of vegetation structural stages for ponderosa pine, mixed-conifer, and spruce-fir is 10% grass/forbes/shrub (VSS 1), 10% seedling-sapling (VSS 2), 20% young forest (VSS 3), 20% mid-aged forest (VSS 4), 20% mature forest (VSS 5), 20% old forest (VSS 6).
NOTE: The specified percentages are a guide and actual percentages are expected to vary + or - up to 3%.

Amendment 15: The 40 to 70 percent canopy cover retention requirements for mid-aged, mature, and old-age forest areas (VSS 4-6) inside and outside goshawk PFAs are exempted in the Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project area where necessary to reduce crown fire ratings to acceptable levels in the wildland-urban interface.

The distribution of VSS, tree density, and tree age are a product of site quality in the ecosystem management area. Use site quality to guide in the distribution of VSS, tree density and tree age. Use site quality to identify and manage dispersal PFA and nest habitat a 2 to 2.5 miles spacing across the landscape.

Snags are 18" or larger dbh and 30 feet or larger in height, downed logs are 12 inches in diameter and at least 8 feet long, woody debris is 3 inches or larger on the forest floor, canopy cover is measured with vertical crown projecting on the average across the landscape.

The order of preferred treatment for woody debris is: 1) prescribed burning, 2) lopping and scattering, 3) hand-piling or machine grapple, and 4) dozer piling.

Canopy Cover: Canopy cover guidelines apply only to mid-aged forest structural stages (VSS 4, VSS 5, and VSS 6) and not to grass/forbs/shrub to young forest structural stages (VSS 1, VSS 2, and VSS 3).

Spruce-fir: Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average 1/3 60% and 2/3 40%, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 60+%, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+%. Maximum opening size is 1 acre with a maximum width of 125 feet. Provide two groups of reserve trees per acre with 6 trees per group when opening size exceeds 0.5. Leave at least 3 snags, 5 downed logs, and 10-15 tons of woody debris per acre.

Mixed-conifer: Canopy cover for mid-aged forests (VSS 4) should average 1/3 60+% and 2/3 40+%, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 50+%, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+%. Maximum opening size is up to 4 acres with a maximum width of up to 200 feet. Retain one group of reserve trees per acre of 3-5 trees per group for openings greater than 1 acre, and 10-15 tons of woody debris per acre.

Ponderosa Pine: Canopy cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average 40+%, mature forest (VSS 5) should average 40+%, and old forest (VSS 6) should average 40+%. Opening size is up to 4 acres with a maximum width of up to 200 feet. One group of reserve trees, 3-5 trees per group, will be left if the opening is greater than an acre in size. Leave at least 2 snags per acre, 3 downed logs per acre, and 5-7 tons of woody debris per acre.

Within Post-fledgling Family Areas

General: Provide for a healthy sustainable forest environment for the post-fledgling family needs of goshawks. The principle difference between "within the post-fledgling family area" and "outside the post-fledgling family area" is the higher canopy cover within the post-fledgling family area and smaller opening size within the post-fledgling family area. Vegetative structural stage distribution and structural conditions are the same within and outside the post-fledgling family area.

Amendment 15: The 40 to 70 percent canopy cover retention requirements for mid-aged, mature, and old-age forest areas (VSS 4-6) inside and outside goshawk PFAs are exempted in the Perk-Grindstone Fuel Reduction Project area where necessary to reduce crown fire ratings to acceptable levels in the wildland-urban interface.

Spruce-fir: Canopy cover for mid-aged (VSS 3) should average 60+% and for old forest (VSS 6) should average 60+%.

Mixed-conifer: Canopy Cover for mid-aged (VSS 4) to old forest (VSS 6) should be 60+%.

Ponderosa Pine: Canopy Cover for mid-aged forest (VSS 4) should average 1/3 60+% and 2/3 50+%. Mature (VSS 5) and old forest (VSS 6) should average 50+%.

Woodlands: Maintain existing canopy cover levels.

Within Nesting Areas

General: Provide unique nesting habitat conditions for goshawks. Important features include trees of mature to old-age with high canopy cover.