## MANAGEMENT AREA 9 (750 acres) - RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNAs)

1. Description

Management Area 9 contains one existing research natural area (RNA), Canyon Creek and four proposed RNAs, Dixie Butte, Baldy Mountain, Dugout Creek, and Shaketable. Canyon Creek and Baldy Mountain are both within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness (Management Area 6A). The Shaketable area is located in the Shaketable Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized area. The Dixie Butte Proposed Research Natural Area is located near the top of Dixie Butte. Dugout Creek is located near the North Fork Malheur River campground. The acres within this management area are only those acres outside the wilderness (Shaketable, Dixie Butte and Dugout Creek). These areas are shown on management area maps.

2. Goals

Provide areas for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems. Maintenance of the natural processes within each area will be the prime consideration. Proposed areas shall be managed to maintain their RNA qualities.

3. Standards

General management direction for RNAs is described below. For the existing Canyon Creek Research Natural Area more specific management direction is contained in its establishment report. For proposed RNAs, more specific direction will be developed upon establishment and incorporated into this Forest Plan as amendments.

| RESOURCE ELEMENT | STANDARDS |
|---|---|
| | The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area unless superseded by the following standards: |
| **Recreation** | 1. Prohibit recreational use that threatens research or educational values. |
| | 2. Prohibit developed recreation sites. |
| | 3. Discourage dispersed recreation sites. |
| **Visuals** | 4. Manage to achieve retention visual quality level (see Management Area 14, Standard No. 17). |
| **Wilderness** | 5. Ensure that, where RNAs overlap with wilderness, wilderness use is consistent with RNA objectives and that research activities will also be compatible with wilderness management. |
| **Fish and Wildlife** | 6. Dead and defective tree habitat will be provided at natural levels. |
| **Range** | 7. Permit livestock grazing only where essential to maintain a specific vegetative type for which the RNA was, or will be, established. Boundary fencing may be used to exclude livestock. |
| **Timber** | 8. Exclude scheduled timber harvest. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber management. |

9. Prohibit firewood cutting.

**Minerals**

10. Recommend withdrawal upon establishment if not already withdrawn.

**Lands**

11. Retain National Forest lands.

**Facilities**

12. Allow temporary structures, such as gauging stations and instrument shelters, only if needed to meet research natural area objectives. The Pacific Northwest Experiment Station Director must approve, in consultation with the Forest Supervisor, any improvements or temporary facilities.

Roads

13. Build new roads only when they contribute to RNA objectives or to the protection of the RNA. Maintain existing roads as directed by management area objectives.

Trails

14. Maintain existing trails commensurate with use. Reconstruct trails where needed to provide for public safety and to reduce environmental damage.

15. Move existing trails out of RNAs as the opportunity occurs.

Utility Corridors

16. Manage this area as a Category 1 Avoidance area for the location of utility corridors.

**Protection**

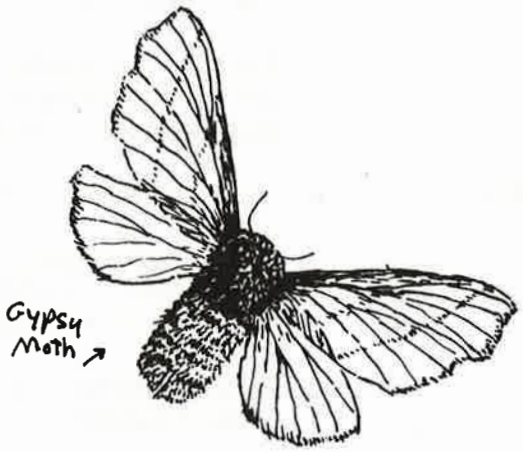
Fire Management

17. Use prescribed burning, if needed, to perpetuate the vegetation for which the RNA was established or proposed.

18. Control all wildfires within RNAs as quickly as possible. However, if fires within any area are desirable, develop a fire management action plan to allow planned and natural ignitions to burn when within prescription.

Insects and Disease

19. Take action against endemic or epidemic levels of insects or diseases in accordance with the direction given in the establishment report.

4. Schedule of Management Practices

No management practices are scheduled for Management Area 9.