

- 1 mechanical treatments that further restore forest structure. Mechanical treatments are costly, so
2 the capacity to implement such treatments across the landscape is limited. Strategic placement
3 and design of mechanical treatments increases their effectiveness in protecting values to be
4 protected.
- 5 ■ Wildland fire may be the only viable tool in areas such as steep rugged terrain or remote areas
6 where mechanical treatments are not feasible. Objectives in these areas may include higher fire
7 intensities and higher levels of mortality to achieve vegetation structural changes that would not
8 occur through other means to move toward desired conditions. Fire and fuels specialists, forestry,
9 silviculturists, and other resource specialists will work to ensure land management objectives are
10 met. Joint silviculture prescriptions and burn plans may be produced.
 - 11 ■ Management of wildland fire is coordinated across jurisdictional boundaries whenever there is
12 potential for managing a wildfire or a prescribed fire on more than one jurisdiction (for example,
13 Federal, State, county, local, Tribal governments, and land grants, etc.). This includes water
14 sources, access, and land use agreements; and is done with the understanding that fire-adapted
15 ecosystems transcend jurisdictional boundaries.
 - 16 ■ Community wildfire protection plans, or similar assessment and management plans, should be
17 regularly integrated with Federal, State, county, local, Tribal governments, Land Grants, and
18 private lands within the Cibola's boundary in order to mitigate negative impacts of wildfire.
19 These plans identify and prioritize areas for treatment based on input from communities and
20 multiple stakeholders. These plans help determine treatment priorities and encourages
21 communication between agency and partners.
 - 22 ■ Information, education, and transformational processes should be utilized to inform the public
23 about fire danger and prevention. Children and adults should be encouraged to report new
24 ignitions immediately. They should also understand their responsibility for reducing the number
25 of human-caused wildfires. Providing public information in the form of signage, public contacts,
26 and fire-use restrictions should also be emphasized in the prevention program.

27 Range and Grazing

28 Background

29 There is congressional mandate to allow grazing on suitable lands (Multiple Use and Sustained Yield
30 Act of 1960, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974, Federal Land Policy
31 and Management Act of 1976, National Forest Management Act of 1976).

32 Forage-producing National Forest System lands will be managed for livestock grazing and the
33 allotment management plans will be prepared consistent with land management plans (36 CFR
34 222.2). Unless otherwise specified by the Chief of the Forest Service, all grazing and livestock use
35 on National Forest System lands and on other lands under Forest Service control must be authorized
36 by a grazing or livestock use permit (36 CFR 222.3).

37 The Cibola administers a total of 86 active grazing allotments on the Mount Taylor, Magdalena, and
38 Mountainair Ranger Districts. (There are no allotments on the Sandia district.) Livestock grazing
39 contributes to the livelihood of the permittees and to the economy of local communities and counties.
40 Livestock management on National Forest lands has shifted to an adaptive management philosophy
41 that allows timely changes in livestock numbers or time to be made in response to changing
42 conditions involving changes in forage production, water availability, and precipitation patterns. As a
43 result, livestock numbers have declined over the last 20 years, because the Forest has balanced

1 permitted numbers with the capacity of the land while responding to environmental changes such as
2 but not limited to drought and shrub encroachment. Over the last decade, the Cibola have worked
3 with partners and permittees to reduce grazing pressure on sensitive areas (for example, critical
4 areas, riparian areas).

5 Desired Conditions

- 6 ■ Sustainable livestock grazing contributes to the long-term socioeconomic and diversity and
7 stability of rural communities and the cultural identity tied in with traditional uses.
- 8 ■ Proper livestock stocking rates and associated management activities contribute to healthy,
9 diverse plant communities, satisfactory soils, water quality, and wildlife habitat.
- 10 ■ Livestock management also includes structural and nonstructural range improvements.
- 11 ■ Range improvements minimize impacts to soil, watershed, and wildlife resources.
- 12 ■ Livestock grazing and other multiple-use activities do not negatively impact cultural resources.
- 13 ■ Livestock grazing and associated management activities are in balance with the needs of wildlife
14 forage, watershed ground cover, natural fire regime, and resilience to climate variability.
- 15 ■ Herbaceous native plant communities occur within the natural range of variability.
- 16 ■ Recognize other multiple uses including traditional, recreational uses that are integral part of the
17 landscape.

18 Standards

- 19 ■ New or reconstructed fencing shall allow for wildlife passage, except where specifically
20 intended to exclude wildlife (such as elk fencing) and/or protect human health and safety.
- 21 ■ New and reconstructed range improvements will be designed to prevent wildlife entrapment and
22 provide safe egress for wildlife (for example, escape ramps in water troughs, and cattle guards).
- 23 ■ For permitted livestock grazing activities in recommended wilderness areas, annual operation
24 instructions shall be updated to reflect any motorized or mechanized use which may be required
25 to administer terms and conditions under the term grazing permit (such as repair or
26 reconstruction of fences, water developments) that may have been approved under exceptions
27 outlined in Forest Service Manual 2320–Wilderness Management, section 2323.22.
- 28 ■ When motorized transport and mechanized use associated with grazing allotments is authorized
29 in recommended wilderness areas, it shall be limited to that needed to carry out management
30 activities of practical necessity and reasonableness, following the rationale of Forest Service
31 Manual 2320–Wilderness Management, section 2323.2, and shall not degrade the wilderness
32 character of the area.

33 Guidelines

- 34 ■ Grazing management practices should be designed to maintain or promote ground cover that will
35 provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability appropriate for the
36 ecological zone. Additionally, grazing management should retain ground cover sufficient for the
37 forage and cover needs of native wildlife species.
- 38 ■ Forage utilization should be based on site-specific resource conditions and management
39 objectives, but in general should be managed at a level corresponding to light to conservative
40 intensity (31 to 40 percent of current year’s growth). Exceptions may be allowed to meet
41 objectives related to scientific studies, fuels reduction, invasive plant control, or other targeted

- 1 grazing or site-specific objectives. If forage utilization is exceeded in a growing season, the
2 grazing regime may need to be adjusted the following year to meet long-term vegetation
3 objectives.
- 4 ■ Annual operating instructions for livestock grazing permittees should ensure livestock numbers
5 are balanced with capacity and address any relevant resource concerns (such as forage
6 production, weeds, fawning habitat, soils, riparian health, water quality, etc.).
 - 7 ■ Livestock management should favor the development of native cool season grasses and forbs.
 - 8 ■ Permitted grazing should allow for residual ground cover levels to provide for plant
9 physiological needs, soil protection, scenic quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat such as
10 riparian wildlife habitat connectivity and vegetation desired conditions.
 - 11 ■ Grazing intensity, frequency, occurrence, and period should provide for growth and reproduction
12 of desired plant species while maintaining or enhancing habitat for wildlife.
 - 13 ■ To minimize potential resource impacts from livestock, salt or nutritional supplements should
14 not be placed within a 0.25 mile of any riparian area or water source. Salt or nutritional
15 supplements should also be located to minimize impacts to soils and soil erosion.
 - 16 ■ Salting or mineral supplementation should not occur on or adjacent to known populations of rare
17 plant species, habitat associated with species of conservation concern and/or core threatened or
18 endangered species habitat, unsatisfactory soils, stream channels, riparian areas, or wetlands, and
19 known archeological sites and other sensitive historic properties or known archeological sites.
 - 20 ■ Consideration should be given for re-stocking and management of grazing allotments after
21 wildfire and other disturbances that can produce critical changes in resource conditions, to adapt
22 range management to allow for ecosystem recovery following a disturbance.
 - 23 ■ Structures used to manage livestock should be located or relocated and used in a way that does
24 not conflict with riparian functions and processes.
 - 25 ■ Treatments for restoring rangelands should emphasize large-scale landscape approaches and the
26 use and perpetuation of a diversity of native plant species with an emphasis on grass, forb, and
27 shrub communities.
 - 28 ■ Management practices to achieve desired plant communities should consider protection and
29 conservation of known cultural resources, including historical sites, prehistoric sites, and
30 culturally significant plants.
 - 31 ■ New and existing water developments should be designed for both wildlife and livestock use and
32 if practical designed and/or retrofitted to provide a year-round watering source for wildlife.
 - 33 ■ Overflow from troughs should be diverted to allow for soil moisture recharge and creation or
34 maintenance of wetland habitat features.
 - 35 ■ New livestock troughs, tanks, and holding facilities should be located out of riparian areas,
36 archeological sites, and areas that may impact habitats associated with species of conservation
37 concern and/or core threatened or endangered species habitat to reduce concentration of
38 livestock in these areas. Existing facilities in water resource features should be modified,
39 relocated, or removed where their presence is determined to inhibit movement toward desired
40 riparian or aquatic conditions and consistent with existing water rights, water quality and
41 quantity.
 - 42 ■ Grazing of domestic sheep and goats should not be authorized in areas of current and potential
43 bighorn sheep habitat to prevent the spread of disease between domestic and wild populations.

- 1 ■ Consider the use of closed or vacant allotments by livestock to provide pasture during times or
2 events when existing allotments are unavailable and require ecosystem recovery as a result of
3 wildfire or other disturbances.
- 4 ■ Constructed features, facilities, and management activities for range activities closely follow the
5 form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the desired scenic character being viewed to
6 remain visually subordinate to the surrounding landscape, except where the size or design of a
7 structure would dominate the landscape. For those exceptions, the structures complement the
8 desired scenic character.
- 9 ■ Range facilities are allowed in all scenic integrity objectives, and should be designed and
10 constructed to blend with the natural surroundings, consistent with the scenic integrity
11 objectives.
- 12 ■ When trails intersect with fences, accessible pass-through areas should be provided to allow for
13 easier passage for recreation users, unless it interferes with range management and resource
14 protection needed for the pasture.
- 15 ■ Existing structures in recommended wilderness areas should be maintained, but not expanded, to
16 protect the area's wilderness character. Maintenance of existing structures should not expand the
17 evidence of motor vehicle and mechanized equipment use beyond current conditions within the
18 recommended wilderness area.

19 Management Approaches

- 20 ■ The Cibola National Forest uses an adaptive management strategy to manage the rangeland
21 resources. The adaptive management approach is to improve or maintain the health of rangelands
22 by completing site-specific NEPA environmental analyses, assessments, and decisions, and
23 updating allotment management plans for individual grazing allotments.
- 24 ■ Forest managers work continually with permittees to adjust timing, intensity, and frequency of
25 livestock grazing to respond to changing resource conditions and needs of the livestock
26 permittees. In addition, collaboration among stakeholders is important. This includes the local
27 interdisciplinary team; permittees; Federal, State, county and local government entities; and non-
28 governmental organizations.
- 29 ■ Emphasize the achievement of desired conditions in coordination with livestock permittees and
30 other stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation of stocking levels, mitigation measures, and
31 grazing systems facilitate moving towards desired conditions.
- 32 ■ Livestock and associated developments are managed to minimize impacts to Forest resources,
33 including water quality, cultural resources, scenery, wilderness, recreation resources, native plant
34 and animal species, wetlands, springs, seeps, karst and riparian areas.
- 35 ■ Vacant allotments or pastures are evaluated for consistency with, and trend toward, Plan desired
36 conditions prior to renewing use. The Congressional Grazing Guidelines (FSM 2320–Wilderness
37 Management, section 2323.33–exhibit 01) are used to manage livestock grazing in wilderness
38 and primitive areas.
- 39 ■ The Cibola National Forest work with permittees, Federal, State, county and local government
40 entities and non-governmental organizations, Tribes, and other organizations to maintain or
41 improve rangeland conditions. Range developments are maintained on an annual basis in a
42 satisfactory condition.
- 43 ■ Because drought is inevitable in the Southwest, livestock grazing management on the Cibola
44 National Forest incorporates, as necessary, (1) evaluation of drought conditions, (2) drought

- 1 management relative to vegetation impacts, (3) stocking during and after drought, and (4) early
2 and effective communications with the grazing permittee, livestock industry, other Federal and
3 State agencies, Tribes, and local governments.
- 4 ■ Recognize that livestock could be used as an immediate pre- and/or post-fire management tool
5 (coordinated with burned area emergency rehabilitation) to facilitate seed dispersal and seed
6 penetration into soils that have experienced high burn severity.
 - 7 ■ Livestock can be used as a management tool for the control and / or management of invasive
8 weed species.
 - 9 ■ Ensure unauthorized uses such a non-permitted livestock grazing and the presence of feral
10 animals is minimized and or eliminated.
 - 11 ■ Coordinate planning and development of newly constructed and reconstructed projects (such as
12 recreational trails) to benefit the needs of recreation and livestock desired conditions.
 - 13 ■ Consider unique collaborative approaches with range specialists to address conflicting uses
14 between livestock permittees and recreation users of range improvements such as corrals and
15 drinkers, etc.

16 Forest Products

17 Background and Description

18 There is congressional intent to allow forest products to be removed from National Forest System
19 lands (Multiple use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
20 1976, National Forest Management Act of 1976). Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2460 provides
21 direction on removal and disposal of forest products. FSM 2404.2 describes the delegation of
22 authority and limitation to sell and dispose timber and forest products.

23 On the Cibola, forest products include, but are not limited to, posts, poles, latillas, vigas, fuelwood,
24 pellets, and rough-cut dimensional lumber (typically used for pallet production). This material
25 primarily provides local subsistence and livelihood to rural communities, with small quantities sold
26 across State lines and a portion of the dimensional lumber sold to Mexico for pallet production.

27 Desired Conditions

- 28 ■ Forest products, such as wood pellets for home and industrial heating, oriented strand board,
29 animal bedding, wood molding, pallets, structural lumber, firewood, posts, poles, biomass for
30 electricity, and other forest products, such as medicinal herbs, Christmas trees, boughs,
31 wildflowers, mushrooms, grasses, seeds, nuts, and cones, are available to businesses and
32 individuals in a manner that is consistent with other desired conditions on a sustainable basis
33 within the capacity of the land.
- 34 ■ A sustainable supply of wood is available to support a wood harvesting and utilization industry
35 of a size and diversity that can effectively and efficiently restore and maintain the desired
36 conditions for forest and woodland communities.
- 37 ■ Where appropriate, forest products are available: (1) to the public, including Tribal and land
38 grant communities, for traditional and culturally important activities, (2) through either personal-
39 use permits or commercial sales, and (3) as plant communities successfully adapt to a changing
40 and variable climate.