Administrative Correction – 08/10/2016

A management approach to clarify guidance for Recommended Wilderness Areas was added to Appendix B. Proposed and Probable Management Practices. Per the Forest Plan, management approaches are not part of the plan components or decisions but are expressions of intent for how the Prescott NF will likely apply aspects of future management. This additional language, shown below in *green italics*, provides consistent direction for Recommended Wilderness Areas management independent of changes in Forest Leadership Team composition.

Recreation Strategy

The Prescott National Forest initiated a sustainable recreation planning process in September of 2009 with the goal of establishing a landscape scale "all hands all lands" approach to recreation management. This process would address common recreation challenges and enhance the ability of land managers, communities, and forest visitors to jointly implement shared recreation goals.

Existing collaborative groups interested in recreation agreed to lead this effort. The Prescott NF was divided into three geographic zones that were based on social network mapping. The Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership (UAFWP) took the lead in the southern—or gateway—zone; the Prescott NF Stewardship Forum represents the northern and western sections of the forest, including the area around Prescott known as the Prescott Basin; and the Verde Valley, on the east side of the Prescott NF, is represented by the Verde Front Group. An areawide multistakeholder coordination team has been leading the process.

Community meetings were held in each zone to learn more about local recreation interests and from the results of these meetings the zone leadership teams developed a vision, goals, and strategies for the area and the communities in and around the Prescott NF. This input was incorporated into the revision of the "Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan."

The vision that was developed states, in part, that "…through ongoing dialogue among land managers, recreation providers, and communities, a thoughtful and sustainable balance of social, economic, and environmental benefits will be achieved."

The results of this collaborative effort include a prioritizing of the strategies, establishing a recreation coalition plan, and sharing of the results and initial strategy implementation proposals with local communities. The meetings are open to all who wish to improve recreation in the area, and the group would like to expand participation to include more members of the public, other key State and Federal agencies, and more representatives from local jurisdictions.

Recommended Wilderness Areas

Per Wilderness Guideline 10 (Guide-Wild-10), Recommended Wilderness Areas are managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics. Activities with short term (less than 2 years) impacts to the wilderness character may be considered when weighed against long term (10+ years) benefits. Greater support is given to those activities that trend the Recommended Wilderness Areas towards Desired Conditions and promote the viability of protected and otherwise desired native species. Generally, motorized access is not

allowed, but exceptions may be made by the Responsible Official on a case-by-case basis if it is necessary to an activity that must occur in a Recommended Wilderness Area. The following constitutes general guidance for activities in Recommended Wilderness.

Access

***Aircraft**. Overflights are allowed. There are no authorized landing strips or sites in Recommended Wilderness and none will be constructed. Landing an aircraft in a Recommended Wilderness should be on an emergency basis. Any refueling of aircraft in Recommended Wilderness, or anywhere else on the forest, must be coordinated with the Forest Service and requires certain fuel handling protocols.*

***Emergency Access**. Emergency access by law enforcement officers using a motorized vehicle is allowed in Recommended Wilderness. Immediate threats to human health and safety constitute emergencies.*

***Recreational Access**. Recreational access in Recommended Wilderness must follow the guidance found in Recreation Standard 1 (Std-Rec-1). According to the Prescott NF Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), driving up to 300 feet off of a system road for dispersed camping is allowed. Other motorized recreational access is not allowed. Travel by Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) is subject to the same limitations as access by full-sized vehicles.*

***Roads and Motorized Trails**. There are no system roads or motorized trails in Recommended Wilderness. No new permanent roads will be constructed. If motorized access is determined to be necessary, a temporary route may be developed. Temporary routes should follow a route that is least damaging to soils and vegetation and its impacts should be restored to as natural a condition as possible after use.*

Research

Research using mechanized or handheld motorized equipment is allowed and should be coordinated with the Forest Service. Research using motorized vehicles is generally not allowed but may be approved on a case-by-case basis if it is deemed necessary by the Responsible Official.

Vegetation Management

Thinning and use of prescribed fire in Recommended Wilderness is allowed only to trend towards or achieve desired conditions. Treatments should be designed to minimize the appearance of human intervention.

Structures

Generally, new construction is not allowed in Recommended Wilderness. If the case can be made why a structure should be in Recommended Wilderness, that structure should use native materials and be designed to blend with the scenery and minimize the man-made appearance. Maintenance of existing structures in Recommended Wilderness may be allowed using motorized or mechanized equipment, if necessary.

Southwestern Region Strategic Action Plan

The Prescott NF strategic action plan (SAP) is a process for identifying, characterizing, and prioritizing the landscapes on the Prescott in preparation for restoration efforts. This process would adapt the methodology and format of the watershed condition framework assessment to determine which watersheds on the Prescott NF are in need of restoration. The SAP will involve collaboration efforts with partners, resource specialists, scientists, and the public throughout the process to help identify important aspects of the landscapes and determine restoration priorities.