

## **Scenery Management**

154. **(ST)** Prohibit management activities that are inconsistent with the visual-quality objective unless a decision is made to change the visual-quality objective. A decision to change the visual-quality objective will be documented in a project-level NEPA decision document.
155. **(ST)** The scenic classes, which are a measure of the relative importance or value of landscapes to people, are usually accepted as the base for visual-quality objectives unless special documented circumstances warrant a change.
156. **(ST)** A visual quality objective of Retention will be met within the foreground for all National Scenic and Recreation Trails.
157. **(GL)** Design and implement management activities to meet the adopted visual quality objective for the area as shown on the VQO Map enclosed with this document.
158. **(GL)** Rehabilitate all existing facilities and areas that do not meet the scenic-condition objectives specified for each management area. Set priorities for rehabilitation considering the following:
  - a. relative importance of the area and the amount of deviation from the scenic-condition objectives; "foreground" of high public-use areas has highest priority
  - b. length of time it will take natural processes to reduce the visual impacts so that they meet the scenic condition objective
  - c. length of time it will take rehabilitation measures to meet the scenic condition objectives
  - d. benefits to other resource-management objectives to accomplish rehabilitation

## **PART 5: ADMINISTRATION**

### **Real Estate**

#### *Facilities*

159. **(ST)** Do not retain newly acquired facilities unless sufficient maintenance funding is available or cooperative maintenance can be secured, and a substantial Government benefit can be demonstrated.

160. (ST) Destroy facilities acquired during land donation, exchange, or purchase unless they serve a definite purpose and funding is available for their maintenance.

*Rights-Of-Way*

161. (ST) Retain existing access rights where needed to meet *Forest Plan* goals and objectives.
162. (GL) Acquire rights-of-way to provide general unrestricted access for full public use and management activities where needed.
163. (GL) Require reciprocal grants where needed when granting rights-of-way easements across National Forest System lands.

*Land adjustments*

164. (GO) Seek opportunities to acquire or dispose of lands to reduce Forest Service administrative costs and improve management efficiency.
165. (ST) Give priority in land-adjustment activities to acquiring lands that contain habitat identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of Interior as necessary for recovery of federally-listed threatened and endangered species.
166. (ST) Consider the following in land-adjustment activities (including land exchange, purchase, disposal, donation):
- a. Evaluate and balance the overall combination of all resource values and factors including wildlife habitat, fisheries habitat, riparian areas, wetlands, cultural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic value, watershed protection, timber resources, rangelands, public access, better federal land management, and other factors. Impacts to issues and resources identified as important during site-specific scoping will be considered in all land-adjustment activities.
  - b. Consider the effect of land adjustments on sensitive species habitat. Avoid land adjustments which could result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of population viability for any sensitive species. Sensitive species habitat can be conveyed if conveyance would not result in a trend toward federal listing or adversely impact the population viability of the species, or if effects could be mitigated.
  - c. Acquire lands that contain resource values identified during scoping as important in contributing toward National Forest System resource-management goals and objectives as stated in the *Forest Plan*. Examples

include: wetlands, riparian areas, essential wildlife habitat, threatened or endangered species habitat, sensitive species habitat, significant cultural resources, timber lands, rangelands, or other areas.

### Special Uses

167. **(GO)** Ensure utility corridors are consistent between adjoining Forest, regions, and other Federal and State land management agencies.
168. **(ST)** Require burial of electrical utility lines of 33 kilovolts or less and telephone lines unless one or more of the following applies:
  - a. Visual quality objectives of the area can be met using an overhead line.
  - b. Burial is not feasible due to geological hazard or unfavorable geologic conditions.
  - c. Greater long-term site disturbance would result.
  - d. It is not technically feasible.
169. **(ST)** Do not approve new uses or reissue for current uses where the primary use is storage or disposal of hazardous materials, including landfills, when the use permits expire.
170. **(ST)** Conserve existing and designated inventoried rights-of-way that are needed for implementation of the *Forest Plan* to protect them for future construction and occupancy.
171. **(ST)** Authorize proposals to utilize designated utility corridors without alternative route analysis, subject to site-specific environmental analysis.
172. **(GL)** Utilize current utility corridors fully and provide utility corridors in the future in areas that meet the needs of society while protecting the integrity of the environment.
173. **(GL)** Do not authorize conflicting uses or activities within transportation and utility corridors.
174. **(GL)** Consolidate occupancy of transportation and/or utility corridors and sites wherever possible and compatible.

## Infrastructure

### Travelways

175. (ST) Protect or enhance trails to be retained as part of the designated travelway system during other resource projects, but relocate, reconstruct, or otherwise keep functional and maintain the ROS experience of those disrupted by other management activities. Give special consideration to nationally-designated trails.
176. (ST) Designated travelways displayed on the *forest visitor map*, and newly constructed travelways, are open to motorized-vehicle use unless a documented decision shows that:
- a. motorized use conflicts with *Forest Plan* objectives
  - b. motorized use is incompatible with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class
  - c. travelways are located in areas closed to motorized use and are not "designated routes"
  - d. motorized use creates user conflicts that result in unsafe conditions unrelated to weather conditions
  - e. physical characteristics of travelways are hazardous for motorized use
  - f. travelways do not serve an existing or identified future public need
  - g. financing is not available for maintenance necessary to protect resources

On all lands outside of designated travelways, motorized use with wheeled vehicles is restricted unless the *forest visitor map* or a Forest Order indicates that use is specifically allowed. Snow machine use on snow is allowed unless specifically restricted.

177. (ST) Specific roads that qualify under criteria established by statute for Revised Statute 2477 will be honored by the Forest Service.
178. (GL) System travelways determined to be no longer needed to achieve proposed management activities or located where resource damage cannot be mitigated shall be obliterated, revegetated, and sloped to drain.
179. (GL) Develop and implement a coordinated signing and road-maintenance program in cooperation with other jurisdictions.
180. (GL) Maintain all roads at the minimum maintenance level to meet the management objectives for the area.

181. **(GL)** Post past and probable flood heights near facilities in inventoried 100-year floodplains to provide visible warnings to the public about possible periodic flooding.
182. **(GL)** Develop new trail systems to expand the range of recreational opportunities, provide for user safety, and disperse existing use into different areas.
183. **(GL)** Manage road use by seasonal restriction if:
  - a. use causes unacceptable damage to soil and water resources due to weather or seasonal conditions
  - b. use causes unacceptable wildlife conflict or habitat degradation
  - c. use results in unsafe conditions due to weather conditions
  - d. roads serve a seasonal public or administration need
  - e. areas accessed have seasonal needs for protection or non-use

# CHAPTER TWO

## Geographic Area Direction

### INTRODUCTION

Management direction by geographic area is new for forest plans. This chapter contains a brief description of each geographic area, including a map, setting, goals and desired condition with fire suppression strategy, standards and guidelines, and a travel management strategy. This is the most detailed level of *Forest Plan* direction, and applies *in addition* to forestwide and management area direction.

Geographic areas serve two main purposes. The first is to apply management direction which is too specific to apply across the ARNF-PNG as a whole, as either forestwide or management area direction. For example, describing desired vegetation conditions in forestwide or management area direction is made difficult by the many vegetation types represented on the Forests and Grassland. These conditions can be described in a geographic area because of its smaller scale.

The second purpose is to identify what forestwide and management area direction will generally receive most emphasis within the area. This is important because there is so much forestwide and management area direction that it becomes difficult to tell which items are most important when trying to implement the *Forest Plan* in a specific area. Geographic area direction helps to focus implementation of potential projects on the most important items and helps to specify priorities among competing uses, activities, resources, or other items.

The ARNF-PNG contains 59 geographic areas, outlined in Figure 2.1. A narrative and more detailed map are included for each area; the map shows the prescription allocations and associated acreages for primary land uses within the geographic area. The narratives are grouped alphabetically for each Ranger District, and each Ranger District grouping is preceded by a figure showing the district's boundaries and the names of the geographic areas within it. The narratives are arranged in four main sections, containing the following:

**Setting:** This section describes the location and the major geographic and vegetation features of the area, other area characteristics, historic features, recreational use, past management, transportation system, and other pertinent information. This section helps orient readers to the area, but does not contain any management direction.

**Goals and Desired Conditions:** This section describes the goals and desired conditions for the area that were established within the context of forestwide and management area goals. They highlight particular emphases or additional details beyond what could be described in Chapters One and Three. **The goals and desired conditions may apply to all management areas within the geographic area or only to particular management areas. When the goals and desired**