

PART 5: ADMINISTRATION

Real Estate
Special Uses
Infrastructure

PART 1: PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Air

1. **(GO)** Protect the Forests and Grassland ecosystems from unacceptable on-forest air pollution-caused impacts.
2. **(ST)** Conduct all land-management activities in such a manner as to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local air-quality standards and regulations.

Water Resources¹

3. **(GO)** Work cooperatively with national, state and local interests to protect, water related values in perpetuity on National Forest System lands.

Hydrologic function

4. **(ST)** Manage land treatments to conserve site moisture and to protect long-term stream health from damage by increased runoff.
5. **(ST)** Manage land treatments to maintain enough organic ground cover in each land unit to prevent harmful increased runoff.

Riparian areas and wetlands

6. **(GO)** Activities that have the ability to affect the continuity of structure, composition, and function within riparian ecosystems shall be managed to sustain riparian areas.
7. **(ST)** In the water influence zone next to perennial and intermittent streams, lakes, and wetlands, allow only those actions that maintain or improve long-term stream health and riparian ecosystem condition.

¹Directions 3-24 come from the *Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook R2 Amendment 2509.25-96-1*. Forest Plans work in concert with the *Forest Service Manual* and handbooks such as this one. To understand how these standards and guidelines will be implemented for projects, consult the handbook. It is available on request from the Supervisor's Office, 240 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526.

8. **(ST)** In watersheds containing aquatic TES species, allow activities and uses within 300 feet or the top of the inner gorge (whichever is greatest), of perennial and intermittent streams, wetlands, and lakes (over 1 acre) only if onsite analysis shows that long-term hydrologic function, channel stability, and stream health will be maintained or improved .
9. **(ST)** Design and construct all stream crossings and other instream structures to provide for passage of flow and sediment, withstand expected flood flows, and allow free movement of resident aquatic life.
10. **(ST)** Conduct actions so that stream pattern, geometry, and habitats are maintained or improved toward robust stream health.
11. **(ST)** Maintain long-term ground cover, soil structure, water budgets, and flow patterns in wetlands to sustain their ecological function, per 404 regulations.
12. **(ST)** Cooperate with state, tribal, and local governments and holders of water rights, and other interested parties to manage water resources to minimize damage to scenic and aesthetic values, fish and wildlife habitat, and to otherwise protect the environment.
13. **(ST)** Manage water-use facilities to prevent gully erosion of slopes and to prevent sediment and bank damage to streams.

Erosion and sediment

14. **(GO)** Manage the soil resource, Forest Service activities and those activities permitted by the Forest Service, such that the physical, chemical and biological processes and functions of the soil in an ecosystem are maintained or enhanced.
15. **(ST)** Limit roads and other disturbed sites to the minimum feasible number, width, and total length consistent with the purpose of specific operations, local topography, and climate.
16. **(ST)** Construct roads and other disturbed sites to minimize sediment discharge into streams lakes, and wetlands.
17. **(ST)** Stabilize and maintain roads, trails, and disturbed sites during and after construction to control erosion.
18. **(ST)** Reclaim roads and other disturbed sites when use ends, as needed, to prevent resource damage.

Soil productivity

19. **(ST)** Manage land treatments to limit the sum of severely burned and detrimentally compacted, puddled, and displaced land to no more than 15 percent of any land unit (*FSH*