
Chapter One:

Goals and Objectives

Introduction

This chapter contains multiple-use goals and objectives for integrated resource management across the entire Forest. Chapter Three contains additional goals and objectives for each management area.

Goals describe a desired end result and are normally expressed in broad general terms. Forest Plan goals link broad agency goals as set forth in law, executive order, regulation, agency directives, and the Resource Planning Assessment (RPA) program.

Forest Plan goals describe forest desired conditions, but are not quantitative nor time specific. Monitoring Forest Plan objectives will assess whether the forest is moving toward Forest Plan goals.

Objectives describe measurable time-specific desired results of forest management and are designed to accomplish Forest Plan objectives intended to promote achievement of Forest Plan goals. Objectives describe (1) **desired resource conditions** in the area covered by the Plan, either in the next decade or longer and (2) **desired levels of goods and services** that the Plan area is capable of producing in the next decade. Objectives describing desired levels of goods and service are only described on a Forest-wide basis, while those describing desired resource conditions are either Forest-wide or applicable to a portion of the Forest or a specific management area.

The Forest Supervisor shall strive to plan and implement projects that contribute to achieving Forest Plan goals and objectives in a manner consistent with Forest Plan standards, guidelines, Forest Service policy, and applicable legal requirements. Many variables affect objective achievement and cannot be fully assessed when a plan is revised or amended. However, a forest plan need not be amended if forest plan objectives are not achieved.

The objectives were developed in conjunction with the monitoring strategy described in Chapter Four. Objectives are measurable in either quantitative or qualitative ways.

Goals and objectives that changed in the Phase II Amendment are noted with an asterik (*). Appendix D in the Final EIS explains these changes with Alternative 2 being the Phase I Amendment Forest Plan and Alternative 6 being the Phase II Amendment Forest Plan.



GOAL 1:

PROTECT BASIC SOIL, AIR, WATER AND CAVE RESOURCES.





Goal 1: Protect basic soil, air, water and cave resources.

Discussion:

Soil, water and air provide the framework for forest and downstream health. Their condition affects the economic health of local communities, and by extension, communities beyond the Forest boundaries. Caves are unique resources, and provide habitat for species not found elsewhere. On the Black Hills, the connection between the hydrology of the area and cave formation and maintenance is believed to be extensive. Caves provide conduits for groundwater flowing from one surface watershed to another.

Congress has recognized the importance of these resources to long-term national well-being by providing direction for the maintenance or enhancement of soil, air, water and cave quality. Laws containing this direction include: the Clean Water Act; the Clean Air Act; the National Forest Management Act; the Organic Act; and the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.

In keeping with the direction from Congress, the Black Hills National Forest will be managed so that the rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, riparian areas and caves of the Forest reflect healthy, functioning ecosystems. Forest watersheds are in a low-risk category for significant adverse effects from a 100-year event resulting from management-induced changes in the watershed. Major flood events, which have historically

been a dominant force on the Black Hills, still occur due to intense storms.

Irreversible soil losses and detrimental soil conditions will not exceed standards and guidelines. Coarse woody debris will be left to provide for forest productivity.

Riparian areas will support diverse plant species. Natural woody debris will be left within stream channels to assist in the proper ecological functioning of riparian and aquatic systems, and to meet habitat requirements for fish and other aquatic species.

Healthy riparian areas and stream systems will affect stream flow regime. Some intermittent reaches will regain perennial flow. Other reaches will have longer average times of flow. Water conditions on the Forest will be of a quality and quantity to enable them to contribute to municipal water supplies for citizens surrounding the Black Hills, including those using the Madison Aquifer.

Caves classified as “significant” under the provisions of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 will be protected. On a site-specific basis, significant caves, including those that are available for the public to use for recreation and exploration will be identified and measures will be developed to protect cave ecosystems.



Objectives:

101. Maintain air quality standards in accordance with state implementation plans.
102. Use a qualitative survey which emphasizes riparian condition, such as the Proper Functioning Condition methodology, to refine the preliminary watershed health assessments (FP-FEIS, Appendix J) within the next planning period. This survey would focus first on Class III watersheds, and could be supplemented with additional quantitative methods, as needed, for the design of watershed improvements. Class I watersheds do not need to be surveyed unless information becomes available which suggests there was an error in classification.
103. Maintain or improve long-term stream health. Achieve and maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems to provide stream-channel stability and aquatic habitats for water quality in accordance with state standards.
104. Maintain or enhance watershed conditions to foster favorable soil relationships and water quality.
 - a. Implement projects to improve watershed conditions on an average of at least 300 acres annually over the plan period.
 - b. Achieve and maintain stable stream beds and banks, diverse riparian vegetation, and effective ground cover that controls runoff and erosion.
105. Prohibit motorized vehicle use in wetlands, wet meadows and riparian areas, except at specified locations and times of the year.
106. Manage water-use facilities to prevent gully erosion of slopes and to prevent sediment and bank damage to streams.
107. Restore degraded wetlands except where exemptions are allowed by a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.
108. Manage for sustained or improved water flows. 109. Allow public use of caves unless restrictions are necessary to protect values present in significant caves. Work cooperatively with agencies, research institutions, cave interest groups and the public for cave resource use, scientific study, significance evaluation, safety, protection and management.
110. Manage the majority of caves as “wild” caves, with no modifications or facilities to aid or impede use.
111. Determine significance of all caves.
112. Manage significant caves using site-specific criteria in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.
113. Apply for mineral withdrawals to protect significant cave ecosystems and resources.