



GOAL 10*:

ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A MOSAIC OF VEGETATION CONDITIONS TO REDUCE OCCURRENCES OF CATASTROPHIC FIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE EVENTS, AND FACILITATE INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITY.





Goal 10:

Establish and maintain a mosaic of vegetation conditions to reduce occurrences of catastrophic fire, insect, and disease events, and facilitate insect and disease management and firefighting capability.

Discussion:

Fire, insect, and disease events are a natural part of the Black Hills ecosystem and these events will always occur. Forest vegetation can be managed to reduce the extent and intensity of these events to provide a more stable flow of goods and services from the forest to the American people while staying within the historic range of variability and conserving plant and animal species. Ideally fire, insect, and disease events are not stand-replacing events, and a green forest will be returned. To move toward this goal, the Forest will establish and maintain a mosaic of vegetative conditions to reduce the extent and intensity of stand-replacing fire, insect, and disease events and facilitate insect and disease management and fire-fighting capability adjacent to at-risk communities, sensitive resources, non-federal land and generally across the forest.

Overall, the forest will be managed so that disturbances (including insects and diseases, fire, animals and human activities) are less likely to obstruct expected uses, values, commodities, or the desired extent and distribution of ecosystem components. The susceptibility of vegetation to stand-replacing fire and outbreaks of insect and disease pests will be reduced through vegetation management practices (such as silvicultural treatments and prescribed fire) that promote vigorous, productive, resilient and diverse ecosystems.

The forest's susceptibility to stand-replacing, high-intensity wildfire and insect epidemics will be reduced through a proactive approach to fire and fuels management. A combination of suppression, prevention and fuel treatment activities will be used to reduce the extent and intensity of fire and insect outbreaks while maintaining the forest as a biologically diverse and sustainable ecosystem.

Objectives:

10-01. *NEW. Manage for 50 to 75 percent moderate-to-low fire hazard in the wildland-urban interface and reduce fire hazard within proximity of structures to current NFPA standards except in Management Area (MA) 1.1 Black Elk Wilderness, MA 2.2 Research Natural Areas, MA 3.1 Botanical Areas, MA 4.2B Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway, and



MA 5.4A Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Manage the remainder of the Forest for 50 percent moderate-to-low fire hazard except in MA 1.1 Black Elk Wilderness, MA 2.2 Research Natural Areas, MA 3.1 Botanical Areas, MA 3.7 Late-successional Forest Landscapes, MA 4.2B Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway, and MA 5.4A Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.

10-02. *NEW. The scenic integrity objectives within the wildland-urban interface will be moderate to low for 2 to 4 years after management activities have been completed.

10-03. *NEW. Within 5 years of a formal research natural area (RNA) designation, manage for a moderate-to-low fire hazard between RNAs and at-risk communities (ARCs) and other resources as needed where the topography, wind conditions, and fuels could create the potential for high-intensity crown-fire spread to the ARCs or resources (e.g., sensitive plants, heritage resources), except those designated in Management Area 1.1 Black Elk Wilderness.

10-04. *MOVED FROM OBJECTIVE 224. Reduce or otherwise treat fuels commensurate with risks (fire occurrence), hazard (fuel flammability), and land and resource values common to the area, using the criteria in Forest-wide Guideline 4110.

10-05. *MOVED FROM OBJECTIVE 225. Manage wildfires using the appropriate response based on management area emphasis, existing values, risk of ignition, and fuel hazards within a given area.

10-06. *MOVED FROM OBJECTIVE 226. Develop fuel management and protection strategies for intermixed land ownerships in partnership with private, state, and other federal agencies.

10-07. *MOVED FROM OBJECTIVE 228. Where outbreaks of mountain pine beetle could present risks to management objectives for ponderosa pine, reduce acreage of ponderosa-pine stands that are in medium or high risk for infestation.

10-08. *MOVED FROM OBJECTIVE 229. Using analyses of insect-and-disease occurrences, prioritize suppression strategies to meet management objectives and minimize value loss of tree vegetation affected by outbreaks of insect-and-disease pests.