



GOAL 3:

PROVIDE FOR SUSTAINED COMMODITY USES IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER.





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Discussion:

The Forest Service is committed to multiple-use management while being sensitive to the environmental effects when commodities are produced. Commodities, including wood products, livestock, minerals and other products, contribute to the economies of local and regional communities. Ecosystem management can be more cost-effective when commercial benefits can result.

Sustainable economic activity depends upon sustainable ecosystems. Attention is focused on providing an acceptable combination of resources and management practices, including the amount of clearcutting and road construction, the management of livestock grazing, mine waste clean-up and mined land reclamation.

Congress has recognized the importance of sustainable commodity use in laws including the Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Organic Act, and the 1872 Mining Act.

In keeping with this direction, the Black Hills National Forest will be managed to emphasize long-term sustainable production of commodities for economies, communities and people in an environmentally acceptable manner. Ecosystems will be managed at the regional, landscape or watershed scale or as appropriate. Timber harvest and livestock

grazing will occur without impairing the health of ecosystems and in a manner compatible with other Forest uses. Acres of land suitable and available for these activities is displayed for timber harvest in Appendix G and for livestock grazing in Appendix I. Mineral exploration, development and production is facilitated in accordance with regulations in 36 CFR 228.

The Forest System Roads will be maintained to facilitate both commodity and amenity uses of the Forest, as well as administration and protection. (Also see Goal 4 for more information.) Lands identified as suitable for timber production will require construction of some new local Forest Development Roads (FDRs). The density of the FDR system where timber will be harvested will generally range between two and five miles per square mile, with the average density around 2.6 miles per square mile. Densities in the higher end of the range will be associated with cable logging areas. The density of wheel track roads is currently about 1.8 miles per square mile, but in the future will be less. Wheel track roads are not FDRs. Wheel tracks are old road templates or user defined routes. The combined FDR and wheel-track density is about 4.4 miles per square mile. This density may be higher when county, state, federal, and private roads are considered.

Open road densities typically will be lower in winter range and other sensitive areas. Over the



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first decade, wheel track density will decline through obliteration. FDR density is not expected to change much in areas managed for

timber, but in other management areas densities may decrease.

Objectives:

301. Produce on a sustained basis and make available up to 233 million pounds of forage for livestock and wildlife use each year (weather permitting). The location and amount of forage produced under the forest canopy will vary with the density of the overstory. This may necessitate changes in where and how both livestock and wildlife grazing takes place on a local basis over the rotation of a stand of timber.

- a. Livestock use will be up to 127 million pounds of forage per year or approximately 128,000 AUMs.
- b. Wildlife use will be up to 106 million pounds of forage per year or approximate population levels of 70,000 deer and 4,500 elk or other combinations that use the same amount of forage.

302. Maintain rangelands in satisfactory range condition.

- a. *Management of rangelands determined to be neither meeting nor moving toward satisfactory rangeland condition in an acceptable timeframe, shall cause actions designed to move toward satisfactory rangeland condition within a stated timeframe to be implemented.
- b. *In the absence of a site-specific planning process and an Allotment Management Plan, management direction for ongoing rangeland management activities on active allotments needed to address rangeland conditions and trends and species viability will be incorporated into the grazing permits through the annual operating instructions (AOI).

303. Offer the following allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of timber on suitable and available timber lands in the next decade:

ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY FROM SUITABLE LANDS: (DECADE TOTAL)	
SAWTIMBER	
Million Cubic Feet	181
(Million) Board Feet	838
ROUNDWOOD	
Million Cubic Feet	21
(Million) Board Feet	N/A
TOTAL	
Million Cubic Feet	202
(Million) Board Feet	838



304. On lands not identified as suitable and available for timber harvest, timber volume may be offered as a by-product of other vegetation management objectives. This volume would be offered in addition to the ASQ.

305. The ASQ in Objective 303 includes the following non-interchangeable component in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. This portion of the ASQ is not interchangeable with the volume outside the Preserve.

ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY FROM SUITABLE LANDS IN NORBECK WILDLIFE PRESERVE: (DECADE TOTAL)	
SAWTIMBER	
Million Cubic Feet	5.4
(Million) Board Feet	27.0
ROUNDWOOD	
Million Cubic Feet	1.0
(Million) Board Feet	N/A
TOTAL	
Million Cubic Feet	6.4
(Million) Board Feet	27.0

306. Clearcutting may only be used to meet ecosystem management objectives such as enhancing diversity, providing forage for wildlife, reducing insect and disease infestations, regenerating aspen and birch stands, improving visuals or increasing water yield. Patch clearcuts will be limited to 10 acres or less.

307. Provide Christmas trees and fuelwood for commercial or personal use in areas where compatible with other resource objectives.

308. Ensure that exploration, development and production of mineral and energy resources are conducted in an environmentally sound manner so that they may contribute to economic growth and the national defense.

309. Provide the following changes to the National Forest System roads and two-track roads in support of long-term sustainable production of commodities.

Road Construction	280 miles/decade
Road Reconstruction	870 miles/decade
Road Obliteration	140 miles/decade
Two-track Obliteration	270 miles/decade

310. Maintain the Forest Development Road (FDR) system and prioritize capital improvements in accordance with Forest Plan direction and road management objectives.