

Chapter

# 2

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

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Revised Land and Resource Management Plan

# Management Area Prescriptions

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## Introduction

The 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan (1985 Plan) for the Bighorn National Forest included specific direction on managing different land areas. These land areas were called management areas and are once again used in this Revised Plan. Each management area has a certain emphasis that will direct management activities on that piece of land. They include required prescriptions—standards and guidelines—so the Revised Plan and the Final EIS (FEIS) refer to areas as management area prescriptions. These prescriptions are grouped into categories with similar management emphasis.

The descriptions of each management area prescription include:

- ◆ **Theme** – the general management direction.
- ◆ **Setting** – the general environment in which the management area is located
- ◆ **Desired Condition** – how the area will look and the opportunities available in the future.
- ◆ **Standards and Guidelines** – management direction that applies to a particular area. Where there is a discrepancy between forestwide and management area direction, the more restrictive approach applies.

The following table compares the management areas used in the 1985 plan on the Bighorn National Forest with management area prescriptions used in the Revised Plan. There are now six major categories based on a continuum from least evidence of disturbance to most evidence of disturbance.

Table 2-1. Comparison of management area (MA) prescriptions in the Revised Plan and the 1985 Forest Plan.

New Management Area Prescriptions		Management Areas in the 1985 Plan
1.11	Pristine Wilderness	Same – per Plan Amendment 14, 8/1/98
1.13	Semi-primitive Wilderness	Same – per Plan Amendment 14, 8/1/98
1.2	Recommended Wilderness	No comparable area(s)
1.31	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use	3A Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation 3B Primitive Recreation

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

New Management Area Prescriptions		Management Areas in the 1985 Plan
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	3A Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation 3B Primitive Recreation
1.33	Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	No comparable area(s)
1.5	National River System – Wild Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
2.2	Research Natural Areas	10A Research Natural Areas
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use	2A Semi-primitive Motorized Recreation
3.4	National River System – Scenic Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
3.5	Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Unsuited Timber)
4.2	Scenery	2B Rural/Roaded Natural Recreation
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	No comparable area(s)
4.4	National River System – Recreation Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
5.11	Forest Vegetation Emphasis	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Suited Timber)
5.12	Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	6A Livestock Grazing, Improve Forage Composition 6B Livestock Grazing, Maintain Forage Composition
5.13	Forest Products	7E Wood Fiber Production
5.4	Plant and Wildlife Habitat	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Suited Timber)
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	5A Non-Forested Wildlife Winter Range 5B Forested Wildlife Winter Range
5.5	Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	No comparable area(s)
8.22	Ski-based Resorts – Existing/Potential	1B Winter Sports Sites
MW	Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity	10C Special Area

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

The following tables list the activities allowed under each management area prescription, including road construction, timber harvest, firewood cutting, grazing, motorized recreation, and developed recreation. The chart indicates the activities that are generally allowed in the different areas. It is not a substitute for the actual standards and guidelines for the management area prescriptions.

Table 2-2. Principle activities (biological and resource production) in management area prescriptions.

Management Area	Biological Elements					Resource Production					
	Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing
1.11 Pristine Wilderness	N	N	Ltd	Ltd	N	N	N	N	N	NAA	Y
1.13 Semi-Primitive Wilderness	N	N	Ltd	Ltd	N	N	N	N	N	NAA	Y
1.2 Recommended Wilderness	Ltd	N	Ltd	Ltd	Y	N	N	N	Y	NSO	Y
1.31 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Ltd	Ltd	Y	NSO	Y
1.32 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Ltd	Ltd	Y	NSO	Y
1.33 Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Ltd	Ltd	Y	NSO	Y
1.5 National River System - Wild Rivers	Y	Y	L	Y	Y	N	Ltd	Ltd	Y	NSO	Y
2.2 Research Natural Areas	Ltd	Ltd	Ltd	Ltd	Ltd	N	N	N	Y	NSO	N <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> To be determined with establishment record.

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Area	Biological Elements					Resource Production					
	Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing
3.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
3.4 National River System – Scenic Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	NSO	Y
3.5 Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.2 Scenery	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.4 Recreation Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
5.11 Forest Vegetation Emphasis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.12 Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.13 Forest Products	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.21 Increase Water Yield, Vegetative Management (3)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.4 Plant and Wildlife Habitat	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Ltd	Y	Y	TL	Y
5.5 Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Area		Biological Elements					Resource Production						
		Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing	
8.22	Ski-Based Resorts, Existing/Potential	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	NSO	Y	
MW	Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N <sup>2</sup>	NSO	Y	
N - No Ltd - Limited Activity Y - Yes		NAA - Not administratively available NSO - No surface occupancy CSU - Controlled surface Use SLT - Standard lease terms TL - Timing limitation			VH - Very high H - High M - Moderate L - Low								

<sup>2</sup> Only includes National Historic Landmark, not entire Historic Preservation Plan (HPP).

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Table 2-3. Principle activities (recreation, transportation, lands) in management area prescriptions.

Management Areas		Recreation							Transportation & Lands			
		ROS Class (Max)	Motorized Use (Summer)	Motorized Use (Winter)	Nonmotorized Use (Summer)	Nonmotorized Use (Winter)	Developed Facilities	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	Road Construction	Trail Construction	Admin. Construction	Special Uses (Facilities)
1.11	Pristine Wilderness	P	N	N	Y	Y	N	VH	N	N	N	N
1.13	Semi-Primitive Wilderness	SPNM	N	N	Y	Y	N	H	N	Y	N	N
1.2	Recommended Wilderness	P/SPNM	N	N	Y	Y	N	VH/H	N	Y	N	N
1.31	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use	P/SPNM	N	N	Y	Y	Ltd	H	N	Y	Ltd	N
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	P/SPNM	N	Y	Y	Y	Ltd	H	N	Y	Ltd	N
1.33	Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	P/SPNM/SPM	Ltd	Ltd	Y	Y	Ltd	H	Ltd	Y	Ltd	N
1.5	National River System - Wild Rivers	P	N	N	Y	Y	Ltd	H	N	Y	N	N
2.2	Research Natural Areas	P/SPNM	N	Ltd	Y	Y	N	H	N	N	N	N
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use	SPM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Ltd	Ltd
3.4	National River System – Scenic Rivers	SPM/SPNM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	H/M	Ltd	Y	Y	Ltd
3.5	Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	SPM/SPNM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Ltd	Ltd	Ltd	Ltd
4.2	Scenery	R/RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	H/M	Y	Y	Y	Y

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Areas		Recreation							Transportation & Lands				
		ROS Class (Max)	Motorized Use (Summer)	Motorized Use (Winter)	Nonmotorized Use (Summer)	Nonmotorized Use (Winter)	Developed Facilities	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	Road Construction	Trail Construction	Admin. Construction	Special Uses (Facilities)	
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	SPM/RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Ltd	Y
4.4	Recreation Rivers	RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.11	Forest Vegetation Emphasis	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.12	Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.13	Forest Products	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.4	Plant and Wildlife Habitat	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	SPM/RN	Ltd	N	Y	Ltd	N	M	M	Ltd	N	N	Ltd
5.5	Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
8.22	Ski-Based Resorts, Existing/Potential	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ltd	Y	Y	Y	Y
MW	Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity	See HPP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	See HPP	Ltd	Y	Y	Y
ROS – Recreation Opportunity Spectrum P – Primitive SPNM – Semi-primitive nonmotorized SPM – Semi-primitive motorized		NM – Nonmotorized R – Rural RN – Roaded natural RM – Roaded modified		VH – Very high H – High M – Moderate L – Low		HPP – Historic Preservation Plan		N – No Ltd.– Limited activity Y – Yes					

## Category I

In Category 1, ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Vegetation composition and structure results from predominantly natural succession and natural disturbance processes, while non-native vegetation is rare. People who use Category 1 areas must be self-reliant and should expect little contact with others. Few, if any man-made facilities and structural improvements are present. With few exceptions, travel is nonmechanized. Typically, Category 1 areas are designated as wilderness, roadless, and backcountry lands. A small amount of motorized use may be required to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas.

### 1.11 Pristine Wilderness

**Theme** – Pristine wilderness areas are managed to protect and perpetuate their near-pristine conditions. Natural processes and conditions are not measurably affected by human use. Opportunities for solitude and self-reliance predominate.

**Setting** –The areas are managed to provide opportunities for primitive recreation. Forage for wildlife and livestock may be available.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes, and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Evidence of the effects of natural fire may be present and persist. Lightning-caused fires are allowed to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role in wilderness. The risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness are reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to sustaining the wilderness characteristics that are dependent upon the role of wildfire in addition to the fire's proximity to high value areas on the Forest.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Recreation opportunities are primarily those compatible with the most primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum (e.g., hiking). Users can expect a high degree of solitude with only very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. These areas offer the chance to travel cross-country in an environment where success or failure is directly dependent on ability, knowledge, and initiative. Roads or trails are not present.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area appear to be exclusively the result of natural forces. Management activities have no perceptible effect on scenery.

- ◆ **Timber:** Timber management does not occur in this area, either scheduled or unscheduled.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>3</sup> flora and fauna.

### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the wilderness setting.

### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Do not construct or reconstruct trails.
- Guideline 1. Prohibit man-made structures and facilities.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities.

### Recreation

- Standards 1. Prohibit open fires in alpine, krummholz, and meadow areas and in riparian areas and lake basins where the dead and down or woody material is less than 95% of a naturally occurring amount in campsite areas.
2. Prohibit open fires when the occurrences of fire-rings exceed Frissell Class 1 site conditions on 10% or more of the known campsites within the management area.
3. Include nonguided visitors and outfitter/guide operations in calculations of level-of-use capacities.

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<sup>3</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies MOU.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guidelines
1. Manage use to provide very infrequent contact with other groups or individuals.
  2. Limit the maximum trail encounters from Memorial Day to Labor Day and during the fall hunting season to an average of less than two other parties per day.
  3. Set trail and areawide use capacity at 0.001-0.002 PAOT (people at one time) per acre for open land, meadow, and alpine areas.  
Set trail and area-wide use capacity is set at 0.003 – 0.007 PAOT per acre for forested lands and shrub lands.  
Reduce the above use levels where unacceptable changes to the biophysical resource are likely to occur.
  4. Limit specially permitted parties to not more than one per 2,500 acres.
  5. Manage outfitter-guide operations in the same manner as other visitors. The activities of non-guided visitors and outfitter/guide should not be in conflict.
  6. Eliminate impacts resulting from camping use (e.g., hardened bare ground, litter, etc.).
  7. Manage for a recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class of Primitive. [New]

### Scenery

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of very high.

### Soils

- Guideline
1. Restore human-caused soil disturbances (past mining, grazing, trail construction and use, camping, etc.) to levels commensurate with the natural ecological processes for the area.

### Special Uses

- Standard
1. Do not permit “assigned sites” in outfitter/guide base camps.
  2. Do not allow caches of equipment or supplies under outfitter/guide permits.
- Guideline
1. Permit only those uses authorized by wilderness legislation, which cannot be reasonably located on non-wilderness lands.

### 1.13 Semi-primitive Wilderness

**Theme** – Semi-primitive (or transition) wilderness areas are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to primitive or pristine areas of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Past human use of the area is evident.

**Setting** – The long-term intent of this prescription is to mitigate those features inconsistent with the *Wilderness Act*. These areas are commonly found adjacent to primary access points such as developed trailheads or heavily used recreation areas. They may also be found along major trails where the topography limits the ability to disperse use. These areas feature natural environmental conditions and offer a moderate degree of solitude, where the natural processes and conditions have not been significantly affected by human use. They are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to other segments of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Human use and activities within the area are evident.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Evidence of the effects of natural fire may be present and persist. Lightning-caused fires are allowed to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role in wilderness. The risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness are reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to sustaining the wilderness characteristics that are dependent upon the role of wildfire in addition to the fire's proximity to high value areas on the Forest.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Recreation opportunities are primarily those which are compatible with the most primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum (e.g., hiking). Users can expect a moderately high degree of solitude with very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. Travelers on system trails are likely to encounter other recreationists. These areas offer the chance to travel cross-country in an environment where success or failure is directly dependant on ability, knowledge, and initiative.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Timber management, either scheduled or unscheduled, does not occur in this area.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>4</sup> flora and fauna.

#### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the wilderness setting.

#### Infrastructure

- Standards
1. Maintain trails in accordance with standards in the Trail Handbook. Close or sign system trails when not maintained to the safe standard of the specified use.
  2. Construct or reconstruct trails only when needed to meet objectives of the wilderness transportation system. Follow standards specified in FSH 2309.18.
  3. Prohibit construction of new administrative facilities or structures. If a substantial portion of the existing administrative facility and/or structure is destroyed, do not replace the facility/structure.
  4. Use signs of unstained wood with routed letters and mounted on unstained posts. Follow standards cited in FSM 2324.33f.
- Guidelines
1. Construct bridges to only the standard necessary to accommodate the specified class of user. Construct bridges only where no safe opportunity exists to cross a stream or gorge during periods of normal stream flow. A safety hazard is a physical condition of a trail that may cause injury, is unusual or unexpected, and not readily identifiable by the trail user. It is not a condition that is easily identifiable and normally encountered for the type or location of the trail involved. The following examples illustrated this distinction:
    - a. Hazard – a rotten bridge decking or handrail.  
No hazard – a stream crossing where no bridge is provided and where the user would expect this based on the type and location of the trail.

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<sup>4</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- b. Hazard – a stable-appearing loose rock in a constructed treadway where all other rocks are stable.  
No hazard – A trail treadway made up of rocks in a near-natural position, many of which are loose.
  - c. No hazard – an intermittent bog hole that will dry up by early summer or within a few days following a rainstorm.
  - d. Hazard – a section of trail treadway supported by rotten cribbing.  
No hazard – a section of trail where the treadway is obviously slippery.
  - e. Hazard – a marked ford with holes deeper than the normal channel.  
No hazard – a deep ford with a consistent streambed.
2. Schedule trail maintenance in accordance with meaningful measures and infrastructure guidelines.
  3. Use corduroy and/or puncheon treads across bogs where no safe and feasible bypass opportunity exists.
  4. Provide signs at trail terminals and trail junctions only. Include only trail identification and identification of terminal points.

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Guideline 1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

### **Mineral and Energy Resources**

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-distributing oil and gas activities.

### **Recreation**

- Standards 1. Prohibit open fires in alpine, krummholz, and meadow areas and in any lake basin where dead and down woody material is less than 90 percent of the naturally occurring amount in the campsite areas.
2. Include outfitter/guide operations in calculations of level of use capacities.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guidelines
1. In key lake basins, restrict bare ground due to human use to no more than 3% of the lake basin acres suitable for camping or other human impacts such as horse restraint areas with no human-caused bare ground campsites larger than 500 square feet. Key areas which historically receive the heaviest visitor use are: West Tensleep Corridor, Lost Twin Lakes, Lake Solitude, Cliff Lakes loop area, Stull/Coney Lakes, Lake Geneva, Highland Lake group, Seven Brothers Lakes area, and Sherd Lake.
  2. Concentrate use on already impacted legal campsites. Do not close the legal heavily used sites.
  3. Locate campsites at least 300 feet apart.
  4. Manage summer use within area-wide capacities:

<b>Vegetation Type</b>	<b>Area-Wide Capacity (PAOT/ 1000 Acres)</b>
Alpine, krummholz	4
Rock, mountain grass	8
Forest and shrub lands, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, riparian areas, white pine	50
Spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen	80

5. Limit trail encounters from Memorial Day to Labor Day and during hunting season to an average of less than 10 other parties per day.
6. Limit the maximum trail capacity to 2-3 PAOT/mile in open country and 9-11 PAOT/mile in forested terrain.
7. Manage to meet the following guidelines for the maximum number of campsites occupied at one time:

<b>Setting Type</b>	<b>Maximum Sites Occupied at One Time</b>
Lakes less than five acres in size	2
Lakes from five to twenty-five acres in size	3
Lakes larger than 25 acres in size	4
Open areas	3 sites per square mile
Forested areas	6 sites per square mile

8. Manage for a recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) of semi-primitive nonmotorized.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

9. Manage outfitter-guide operations in the same manner as other visitors. The activities of non-guided visitors and outfitter/guide should not be in conflict.

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high.

### Soils

- Guideline 1. Restore human-caused soil disturbances caused by human use (past mining, grazing, trail construction and use, camping, etc.) to levels commensurate with the natural ecological processes for the area.

### Special Uses

- Standards
1. Allow camps for permittees only in sites specified in special-use permits.
  2. Restrict outfitter/guide assigned sites to the current number permitted.
  3. Do not allow caches of equipment or supplies under outfitter/guide permits.
- Guidelines
1. Issue permits for parties larger than the established limit when their presence can be adequately screened from the sights and sounds of other parties in the area.
  2. Require outfitters/guides to be certified in "Leave No Trace" techniques.

## 1.2 Recommended Wilderness

**Theme** – Areas which the Forest Service has recommended or will recommend to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness System are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congressional action is taken. Non-conforming activities may be limited or restricted.

**Setting** – These are areas that the Forest Service has found suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. These areas meet the wilderness characteristic criteria—they are on the roadless inventory and are capable, available, and suitable for wilderness designation—and will be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is an identified need for the additional wilderness area designation.

These areas will be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics and are not available for any use or activity that may reduce the area's wilderness potential. Currently permitted activities may continue, pending designation, if the activities do not compromise wilderness values. Uses, levels of use, and management actions may vary among the areas recommended for wilderness designation.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is allowed. The effects of wildfire may be evident and persist. The risks and consequences of wildfire within this area are reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to the resource benefits and wilderness characteristics derived from fire on the landscape as well as proximity to high value areas on the Forest.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding or cross-country skiing, are provided, with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Users can expect a moderately high degree of solitude with only very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. Dispersed campsites may be evident. A variety of nonmotorized recreational opportunities is provided, depending on historic uses and use patterns. Any existing motorized uses, except for emergency purposes, will be discontinued.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Timber harvest, either scheduled or unscheduled, does not occur in this area.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>5</sup> flora and fauna.

### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the Wilderness setting.

### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Prohibit motorized travel except when authorized by special permit or for administrative or emergency use.
- Guidelines 1. Minimize construction of facilities and structures.
2. Install directional trail signs if necessary. New or replacement signs will be limited to directional signs of unstained wood with routed letters.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Prohibit mineral material removal.
2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities.

### Recreation

- Standard 1. Allow recreation uses and activities only if they do not degrade the wilderness characteristics of the area.
- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized.

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high or very high.

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<sup>5</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies MOU.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Special Uses

- Standards
1. Prohibit new utility corridors.
  2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
  3. Manage surface occupancy activities authorized prior to wilderness designation to reduce impact on wilderness values consistent with the intent of the occupancy authorization.
  4. Permit only those uses authorized by wilderness legislation, which cannot be reasonably met on non-wilderness land.
- Guideline
1. Allow compatible special uses.

### 1.31 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use

**Theme** - Backcountry, nonmotorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape.

**Setting** - These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. They are important for providing nonmotorized recreation near the primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind, or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding or cross-country skiing, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Dispersed campsites may be evident. Facilities, if present, are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, summer homes, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Prohibit construction of permanent roads in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed, provided they can be decommissioned.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> **Decommission** – reclaim and/or restore the land occupied by a road using a variety of different techniques that include, but are not limited to, restoring contours for a portion or the entire length of road, physical blockage of the road to prevent vehicular traffic, ripping, and seeding.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Prohibit motorized travel except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes.
- Guidelines 1. Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted.
2. Prohibit mineral material removal.
  3. Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases.
- Guideline 1. Use portable techniques for off-road geophysical surveys.

### Recreation

- Standard 1. Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters.
- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized.

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high.

### Silvicultural

- Guideline 1. Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership.

### Special Uses

- Standards 1. Prohibit new utility corridors.
2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
- Guideline 1. Discourage competitive contest and group events. Such events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

### 1.32 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use

**Theme** – Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Summer use is nonmotorized. Over-snow vehicles are allowed during the snow season.

**Setting** – These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. They are important for providing nonmotorized recreation; however there is over-snow motorized travel in the winter.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist.
- ◆ **Summer Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Dispersed campsites may be evident. Facilities, if present, are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Winter Recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized, over-snow recreation opportunities are provided (e.g., cross-country skiing and snowshoeing). In addition, some areas are open to snowmobiles. Off system snowmobile routes, there will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, and tranquility. Near system snowmobile routes, the sights and sounds of snowmobile travel may be evident. Facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- Standards
1. Prohibit construction of permanent roads in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed provided they can be decommissioned.
  2. Prohibit motorized travel except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes.
  3. Allow over-snow vehicles during the snow season.
- Guideline
1. Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character.

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted.
  2. Prohibit mineral material removal.
  3. Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases.
- Guideline
1. Require use of portable techniques if access for geophysical surveys is not feasible by off-road travel.

#### Recreation

- Guidelines
1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized. During the winter, manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized.
  2. Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters.

#### Scenery

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high.

#### Silviculture

- Guideline
1. Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership.

**Special Uses**

- Standards
1. Prohibit new utility corridors.
  2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
- Guideline
1. Discourage competitive contest and group events. Such events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

### 1.33 Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use

**Theme** – Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Summer use may include motorized trail travel. Winter use may be motorized.

**Setting** – These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. In the summer, these areas provide nonmotorized recreation opportunities along with motorized recreation opportunities on existing primitive trails. In the winter, they provide motorized recreation opportunities.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure is primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Summer Recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities are provided where existing system trails are found. Dispersed campsites may be evident. If present, facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Winter Recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized, over-snow recreation opportunities are provided such as snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. In addition, some areas may be open to snowmobiles. Off system snowmobile routes, there will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature and tranquility. Near system snowmobile routes, the sights and sounds of snowmobile travel may be evident. Facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.

- ◆ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Standard  | 1. Prohibit road construction in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed provided they can be decommissioned.                        |
| Guideline | 1. Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities, and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character. |

### Livestock Grazing

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Guideline | 1. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock. |
|-----------|--|

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Standards | 1. Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted. |
|           | 2. Prohibit mineral material removal.   |
|           | 3. Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases.   |

### Recreation

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Standard   | 1. Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters.   |
| Guidelines | 1. In the summer, manage for an the adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized except on motorized system trails shown on the travel map which will have a semi-primitive motorized setting. During the winter, manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. |
|            | 2. Manage for no net gain or loss of motorized system trail routes until site specific management decisions have been made.   |

### Scenery

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high. |
|-----------|---|

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### **Silviculture**

- Guideline 1. Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership.

### **Special Uses**

- Standards 1. Prohibit new utility corridors.  
2. Prohibit new special-use facilities.
- Guideline 1. Discourage competitive contest and group events; however, they may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

## 1.5 National River System - Wild Rivers

**Theme** – Wild rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated and eligible river segments.

**Setting** – Wild rivers, or segments of rivers, with their immediate environments are managed to maintain, enhance and protect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable features, including scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values.

Wild river areas are characterized as having watersheds or shorelines that are essentially primitive. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is always at least ¼-mile on either side of the stream.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Natural processes such as fire, insects, wind and disease are allowed to influence vegetative composition and structure as long as they enhance or are compatible with wild river values. A higher proportion of old structural stages may be found here than in managed forest areas. Fish habitat improvement projects are uncommon, primarily due to the lack of access to the management area and the current pristine condition of the habitats and are limited to small in-stream structures designed to mimic naturally occurring features.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool. The effects of fire, insects, and disease may be visible, evident, and persistent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Existing motorized access routes to the area are available, however there is no motorized travel within the corridor, and no new roads constructed. A wide variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities would be available, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and fishing. Existing cabins, trails, and range improvements are maintained.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Any forest vegetation treatments, when necessary, do not adversely impact the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated. These lands are not part of the suited timber base. There will be little evidence of stumps, landings and other signs of logging activities.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present. Livestock grazing will be managed to maintain the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Aquatic Resources

- Standards
1. Do not authorize new water development projects including hydroelectric and dams or diversions.
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, do not modify the free-flowing characteristics of the study river with new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined.

#### Infrastructure

- Standards
1. Do not allow new road or facility construction.
  2. Do not permit roads or trails for motorized use within ¼-mile of the riverbank.
  3. Construct trail bridges only where no safe opportunity exists to cross-streams or gorges on trail routes. Do not place bridge piers in the waterway.
- Guidelines
1. Retain existing structures that are compatible with the undeveloped nature and naturalness of the area.
  2. Install minimal directional, regulatory, and informative signs to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information.
  3. Allow trails and trail bridges for nonmotorized use, as long as they are in keeping with the undeveloped nature of the area.

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guidelines
1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts in riparian corridors to retain the outstandingly remarkable values of the area.
  2. Implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock in areas not used by permitted livestock.

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing.
  2. Prohibit mineral material removal.

**National River System**

- Standard 1. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands if they alter the wild characteristics of the land and physical resources or affect the classification of the river.
- Guideline 1. Allow minor existing structures if compatible with the values of the river corridor. Do not allow new structures except in rare instances for management objectives such as fisheries enhancement programs or range improvements.

**Recreation**

- Standards 1. Allow all existing facilities, management actions, and uses to continue until a decision is made on inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, provided they do not alter the wild and scenic characteristics.
2. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities if they could be the basis for not recommending an area for designation.
- Guidelines 1. Provide only simple facilities such as fireplaces or shelters or facilities needed for resource protection.
2. Consider designating campsites when there are limited opportunities.
3. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive.

**Scenery**

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high in the foreground and the middleground of the viewshed from the wild river.

**Silviculture**

- Guideline 1. Conduct forested vegetation treatments to maintain the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated.

**Special Uses**

- Standard 1. Do not approve special uses that could preclude the area from designation.
- Guideline 1. Discourage new utility lines. Where no other reasonable alternative is available, restrict new facilities to existing rights-of-way.

## Category 2

These areas provide for conservation of representative, or particularly rare and narrowly distributed, ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible but are sometimes evident. Types of human use vary, but generally are not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas help provide an important role under an adaptive management philosophy by providing “natural” reference areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are often formally designated. Research Natural Areas and heritage and geologic resources are typically included in Category 2.

### 2.2 Research Natural Areas

**Theme** – Research Natural Areas (RNAs) form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for non-manipulative research and education and the maintenance of biological diversity. This prescription is applicable to both designated RNAs and those that are proposed for designation.

**Setting** –Research Natural Areas were selected for the following reasons:

- ◆ To serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments.
- ◆ To protect and maintain representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels.
- ◆ To serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession.
- ◆ To serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

The sights and sounds of people or management activities within the area are infrequent, though they may be common in adjacent areas. There may be some evidence of research or study activities. Rare plants, plant communities, and animals may be present.

**Desired Condition**

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forest and non-forest vegetation, and the associated processes (succession, insects/disease, fire, etc.) are in a natural condition, within the historic range of variability. Forest and non-forest vegetation change in the RNAs are made by fire, insects and disease, wind, and other change agents that occurred historically in the RNA. The Establishment Record provides site-specific structural stage range targets, by covertype, for each RNA. It also defines the role that these change processes had on the historic landscape. The size, age, and spatial location of the naturally occurring plant communities vary over time, as dictated by natural disturbance processes. Non native, non-desirable plant and animal species (as defined by the Establishment Record) do not exist within the RNAs by 2040.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable management tool. The Establishment Record defines the role that these change processes had on the historic landscape.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing, is allowed only when it is not a threat to the values for which the RNA was proposed or established.
- ◆ **Timber:** Timber harvest is not allowed, unless it is for scientific purposes or to restore natural conditions, as defined in the Establishment Record.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Presence of domestic livestock is determined in the establishment record for the individual RNA. Evidence of historic livestock use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present. Livestock grazing is managed to maintain desired species composition, function, and processes as defined in the Establishment Record.

**Standards and Guidelines**

**Biological Diversity**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Standard  | 1. Protect the natural condition of the ecosystem, its processes, and any species or values for which the RNA was established. |
| Guideline | 1. Use vegetation manipulation only to restore natural conditions and processes.   |

**Infrastructure**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | 1. Prohibit buildings and developed recreation sites, unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as a listing in the National Register of Historic Places) that do not threaten the values for which the RNA was proposed or designated. |
|-----------|--|

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Prohibit construction of new roads and trails, except when they are necessary to correct resource damage occurring from existing travelways or unless needed for administrative purposes consistent with RNA establishment objectives.

Guideline 1. Prohibit motorized travel unless it provides necessary access for scientific or administrative purposes.

### Insects and Disease

- Guidelines
1. Allow natural outbreaks of native insects or disease to proceed without intervention, unless they pose a substantial threat to important resources inside or outside the boundaries of the RNA.
  2. Use control methods that minimize disturbance.
  3. Control exotic plants (noxious weeds and other plant species) as they represent threats to native plants and animals. The presence of exotic plants is contrary to reasons for establishing new RNAs.

### Livestock Grazing

Guideline 1. Manage grazing by livestock to maintain a desired condition as described in the RNA establishment record.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576).
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted.
  3. Prohibit mineral material removal.

### Recreation

- Standards
1. Allow nonmotorized recreation, except when it is a threat to the values for which the RNA was proposed or established.
  2. Restrict recreational use if it threatens or interferes with the objectives or purposes for which the RNA is established.
- Guidelines
1. Use restrictions or closures under 36 CFR 261 Subpart B when necessary to protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use.
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized.

**Scenery**

- Guideline 1. Manage for the scenic integrity objective of high.

**Silviculture**

- Standard 1. Don't allow forested vegetation treatments except for scientific purposes.

**Special Forest Products**

- Standard 1. Prohibit personal and commercial use of special forest products.

**Special Uses**

- Guidelines 1. Permit special uses if they do not conflict with the values for which the RNA was proposed or established.
2. Allow existing outfitter-guide permitted use to continue, subject to normal permit processes, within RNAs as long as it is compatible with the establishment objectives.

## Category 3

Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy, and consideration is given for both. Resource management activities occur, but natural ecological processes and patterns will normally predominate. Ecosystems are allowed to function naturally while resource use may change over time to accommodate the ecological factors. Although these areas have predominantly natural appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological progress. This will result in some evidence of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary by area and season.

### 3.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use

**Theme** – Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These backcountry areas provide motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails. The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance and is relatively undisturbed by human activity. Vegetation may be altered through timber harvest or fire (prescribed or wildland fire use) to enhance recreation opportunities, to provide vistas for people to view surrounding areas, or to meet objectives for wildlife habitat.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A variety of plant communities, structural stages and associated wildlife occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. In or near high value areas, vegetative manipulation results in less fuel load, vegetative density, and amount of dead and downed trees.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of fire may be evident in the landscape. Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A wide variety of recreational activities take place in this area, both motorized and nonmotorized. There is a moderate level of opportunity to experience solitude as well as challenge and risk. Motorized trails are managed for motorcycles or ATVs as well as nonmotorized recreation, but may not always be clear of debris. Both snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are allowed. Skiers should expect to encounter snowmobiles. Improvements to enhance recreation opportunities may include parking areas and informational, interpretative and directional signs, but improvements are minimal.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance and is relatively undisturbed by human activity. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Timber:** While these lands are not part of the suited timber base, unscheduled timber harvest may occur provided it is compatible with the recreational settings found here.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts to be compatible with recreation use.

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing with Controlled Surface Use (CSU) stipulations.

#### Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Conduct resource management activities which are compatible with and which minimize impacts to recreational resources and opportunities.
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized.

#### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

#### Special Uses

- Guideline 1. Permit competitive and group events on a case-by-case basis.

### 3.4 National River System – Scenic Rivers (Outside Wilderness)

**Theme** – Scenic Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated or eligible scenic river segments. They are managed to be free of impoundments. Shorelines are still largely primitive and undeveloped but may be accessible by roads in some places.

**Setting** – These areas have been identified as being eligible for Scenic River designation due to the presence of one of more outstandingly remarkable features which include scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values, but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the stream.

#### Desired Conditions

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A variety of plant communities, structural stages and associated wildlife occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. The pattern of communities is largely set by natural disturbance forces. In or near high value areas, vegetative manipulation results in less fuel load, vegetative density and amount of dead and downed trees.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of fire may be evident in the landscape. Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A wide variety of recreational activities take place in this area, both motorized and nonmotorized. Roads occasionally bridge the river area and large campgrounds are screened from the river. Existing improvements include primitive roads, trails, bridges, and signs. Encounters between individuals or parties are generally frequent on the travelways open for use.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character.
- ◆ **Timber:** Any forest vegetation treatments, when necessary, maintains the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Standards
1. Do not authorize new water-development projects including hydroelectric dams or diversions.
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, do not modify the free-flowing characteristics of the study river with new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined.

### Fire

- Guideline
1. Allow fuel treatments and pre-suppression activities, provided such practices do not degrade the outstandingly remarkable values of the river or the corridor landscape.

### Infrastructure

- Standard
1. Allow road construction and reconstruction only if consistent with scenic river values and necessary for administrative purposes.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guidelines
1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts in riparian corridors to prevent conflict with other uses, and to retain the outstandingly remarkable values of the area.
  2. In areas not used by permitted livestock, implement a maximum allowable forage use level of 30% (percentage utilization by weight of annual production) by recreational stock.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing.
  2. Withdraw these areas from mineral entry.

### National River System

- Guideline
1. Allow minor existing structures if compatible with the values of the river corridor. Allow new structures, such as fisheries enhancement programs, if they meet the management objectives.

### Recreation

- Standard
1. Allow developed recreation facilities as long as they are visually compatible with the landscape and screened from the river.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized.

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high in the foreground and middleground within the river corridor (the management area boundary) is high. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the viewshed beyond the river corridor.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Allow forested vegetation treatments within the river corridor, provided such practices do not degrade the outstandingly remarkable values of the river or the corridor landscape.

### Special Uses

- Standard 1. Authorize special uses only if they are compatible with the scenic river values.

### 3.5 Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management

**Theme** – In these areas, management emphasis is to provide areas where plant and animal species diversity is maintained. Existing habitat integrity is to be protected by minimizing permanent loss of habitat resulting from road or facility development.

**Setting** – Native insect and disease losses are generally accepted unless they threaten communities that are providing important habitat components. Natural and human-caused ignitions create a variety of fire sizes and shapes. Disturbances may be fairly evident and the scale may vary from small to large. There are few developed or designated recreational facilities.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Plant communities and habitats (structural stages) are managed to provide foraging areas, denning, cover, and areas of solitude in patterns across the landscape. The amount and distribution of various habitat conditions are decided during project level planning, and determined in an interdisciplinary manner based upon the physical and biological capabilities of the landscape, and by which species, including rare plants, are present in the landscape. The size, shape, and scale of management activities emulate natural patterns. The size and scale of activities vary from individual trees to thousands of acres, depending upon the forest cover type and position on the landscape. Existing corridors and areas of late successional forests may be retained, and habitat connectivity (linkages between these areas) may be emphasized in project design. Immature and mature forest stands may be managed to provide a current and future mix of cover and large-diameter forests, considering the need of overall habitat diversity. The size of aspen clones and the distribution of aspen on the landscape are maintained at current levels or increased. A variety of stand ages and tree sizes occur to provide for species habitat, forage, and scenic enjoyment.

Management of the area is coordinated with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Elk security areas are retained and deficient areas improved.

Native insect and disease losses that provide or improve important habitat components (such as snags and coarse woody debris) are generally accepted, unless they threaten communities or other high value areas. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc., has a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

- ◆ **Fire:** Disturbances from fire are visible, and the scale varies from individual trees to thousands of acres. A variety of fire sizes and shapes result from natural and human caused ignitions. Fire is a tool to achieve the habitat conditions described above, and as determined by project level planning. Fire is managed to protect communities, facilities, and other high value areas.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape appears slightly altered. Deviations may be present but are mostly unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character. Evidence of human activities may be present.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Motorized recreation activities may exist, although the amount and distribution is subordinate to species and habitat objectives. Typical recreation activities include hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback, dispersed camping, and wildlife viewing. Existing recreation facilities exist but are subordinate to species and habitat objectives. No new developed recreation facilities occur.
- ◆ **Timber:** A full range of management tools, including mechanical timber harvest, is available to achieve diversity in vegetation patterns and successional stages. Utilization opportunities occur if they can be designed to meet habitat objectives. In areas where timber harvest occurs, the sights and sounds (landings, skid trails, logging equipment) of logging operations are evident. Tentatively suited forest lands are not part of the suited timber base, and timber harvest outputs do not contribute towards the Allowable Sale Quantity.
- ◆ **Roads:** There is no net gain in open road densities in these areas, and new developments of roads, trails, and facilities is discouraged.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present. Livestock grazing is conducted to allow the desired species composition, function and processes as defined by the project level planning (allotment management plans).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Do not construct new forest system roads or facilities, except when they contribute to improving habitat or providing legal access.
  2. Decommission any temporary roads within one year following intended use.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576).
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing with Controlled Surface Use (CSU) stipulations.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### **Recreation**

- Guidelines
1. Manage so that recreation is subordinate to habitat and species needs.
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized.

### **Scenery**

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

## Category 4

Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use but are maintained well within the levels necessary to sustain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation-oriented. Sights and sounds of people are to be expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

### 4.2 Scenery

**Theme** – Areas are managed for scenic values and recreation uses of designated scenic byways and other heavily used scenic travel corridors.

**Setting**– These areas occur where scenic features are a management focus. They are scenic byways, high quality scenic areas, travel corridors, vistas, or other areas noted for outstanding physical features. The landscape provides high quality scenery, through time, incorporating management activities such as timber harvest, prescribed fire, recreation, and livestock use.

Developments such as roads, recreation facilities, and rangeland improvements may be evident, but appear to be in harmony with the natural environment. Recreation facilities such as scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, trailheads, campgrounds, and rest areas may occur.

Evidence of human activities or habitation due to mining or grazing may be present now and in the future. Frequent contact with other users is acceptable in most cases. Both motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities occur. Many uses and their interactions are interpreted for the visitor.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A mix of structural stages, including created openings, maintain or enhance the scenic resource. To achieve this, a balance of short term and long-term changes are reflected in the vegetative pattern through a diversity of age classes. Aspen is healthy and regenerating. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on scenic values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. has a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns.

- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of recreation opportunities are available, ranging from nonmotorized (such as hiking, horseback and cross-country ski areas) to motorized (auto travel, ATV and motorcycle riding), both in the summer and winter. Access is provided to natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide recreational opportunities. Interpretation and conservation education are provided for visitors. Use may be concentrated or dispersed, depending on the need to protect an area from degradation. Facilities may be present to enhance viewing or recreational opportunities. Developed recreation sites are common and are often emphasized in these travel corridors. Trailheads are easily accessible.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character and consistent with the desired landscape character. Evidence of human use may be present.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management will be used to enhance the scenic resource and is done in a way that blends with the landscape.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Construct and maintain facilities to levels needed to support recreation activities.
  2. Construct facilities that are consistent with the BEIG (Built Environment Image Guide) and the desired recreation opportunity spectrum class for the area.
  3. Design proposed roads and trails to blend with the landscape.
  4. Sign roads and trails to enhance recreation.

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline
1. Focus management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting the scenic quality of the area.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with scenic values of the area.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. When necessary to meet the objectives of the management area, withdraw these areas from mineral entry.
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing with the appropriate stipulations to meet the objectives of the management area.

### Recreation

- Guideline
1. Manage for an adopted ROS Class of rural or roaded natural.

### Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high for focal landscapes, scenic overlooks, and named landmarks.
  2. In areas other than those stated in the guideline above, manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

### Wildlife and Botany

- Guideline
1. Encourage improvement projects that increase opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, interpretation, habitat management, fishing, and hunting.

### 4.3 Dispersed Recreation

**Theme** – Dispersed recreation areas are managed to provide undeveloped recreation opportunities in landscapes that are natural or have a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by having relatively easy access to a water feature or other natural attraction where dispersed camping, picnicking, and other activities occur. These areas are often heavily used because of inherent natural features that provide a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors. Developed recreation sites may occur in this area. Generally, these areas appear as a natural landscape over large areas, but modifications on a small scale are acceptable and blend with the area's natural features.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation is mostly mature, with natural and human vegetative treatments apparent. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on recreation values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. has a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of nonmotorized and motorized trail opportunities are provided. The potential for contact with other users is high. The areas offer few conveniences for users but may have toilets, fire grills, hardened sites and vehicle barriers if needed to protect resources. Management actions attempt to maintain the natural characteristics that make the area popular. Opportunities for solitude are limited. These areas may be used by large groups.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character and consistent with the desired landscape character. . Evidence of human use may be present.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management is an acceptable activity. When it occurs, it is used to enhance the recreation resource and is done in a way that blends with the landscape.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- Guideline 1. Limit facilities to what is necessary to protect or enhance the resources.

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with recreation use.

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Allow oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation.
2. When necessary to meet the objectives of the management area, withdraw these areas from mineral entry.

#### Recreation

- Guidelines 1. In high-use recreation sites, harden the sites and/or enforce additional restrictions to protect sensitive natural resources.
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural.

#### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

#### 4.4 Recreation Rivers

**Theme** – Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These backcountry areas provide challenging motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails.

##### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation is mostly mature, with natural and human vegetative treatments apparent. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on recreation values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. has a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities are provided. The potential for contact with other visitors is high. There may be parallel roads to the river and several motorized access points to the river. Developed recreation facilities are acceptable within the river corridor.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character. Evidence of human use may be present.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management is an acceptable activity. When it occurs, it is used to protect the values which make them eligible for designation as recreation rivers.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, water developments) may be present.

##### Standards and Guidelines

###### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with recreation use.

###### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Prohibit mineral entry in these areas.
2. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### National River System

- Standards
1. Don't allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands if they alter the recreation characteristics of the land and physical resources or affect the suitability of the river.
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, don't modify the free-flowing characteristics of the river with new structures that were not part of conditions when suitability was determined.

### Recreation

- Guideline
1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural.

### Scenery

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

## Category 5

These areas are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. They are often characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. A wide variety of vegetative structure and composition is present. Some show the effects of past management activities; others are affected by predominantly natural forces such as fire, insects, and diseases. Ecological conditions are maintained, while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions considering the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

In some ecosystems, intensive management is necessary to restore the systems to their range of natural variability. This management is usually a combination of livestock grazing, prescribed fire, and timber harvest treatments.

### 5.11 Forest Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** – General forest and intermingled rangeland areas are managed to provide for a mix of wildlife habitat, forest products, and forage, while providing for visual quality, recreational opportunities, and a variety of other goods and services.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities. The major vegetation type is coniferous forest, with open parks, meadows, shrub communities and aspen. Uses in these areas include grazing, wood production, mineral exploration and development, hunting, driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, and winter sports. Management emphasis is on a balance of resource uses. Thinning is commonly encountered, except in lynx habitat.

Visitors to this area can expect to find a full range of improvements. Road quality varies from primitive roads to hard-surfaced. There may be fences, corrals, water developments, trails, timber harvest operations, rangeland revegetation projects, or evidence of other human activities or improvements. Visitors can expect dispersed recreation opportunities including both motorized and nonmotorized. Access may be restricted, at times, through the use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

There may be developed camping opportunities. Opportunities for multiple-use trails exist. Existing facilities (roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions) blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation exists in a range of successional stages to meet wildlife, structural stage diversity, rangeland vegetation and timber objectives. Forest vegetation on suited lands is managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands is managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine is generally managed for even-aged structure while spruce-fir is generally managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands are maintained or increased. Insects and diseases are managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Non-forested vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plan.

Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities has a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities are those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including an extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape appears moderately altered, with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape. In the foreground of identified high-concern areas, the landscape appears only slightly altered; deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. These areas have active timber management that contributes to the scheduled ASQ. There is evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment. Openings in the forest canopy are created to provide for a wide range of structural stages as well as for the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas so insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

### Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified.

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4 to 1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails, and use areas. The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, is available.
2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” for timber production to produce wood fiber.

## 5.12 Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** – These areas are managed for sustainability of the physical, biological, and visual values associated with areas of woody vegetation and open grassland. Vegetation is managed to achieve and maintain the desired conditions for wildlife, livestock, and vegetation.

**Setting** – Open grasslands and areas of woody vegetation dominate this management area. Many of these areas produce substantial forage for wildlife and livestock needs. The areas also provide resource values such as wildlife habitat and recreation. A variety of management options are available, including wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, minerals management, and timber harvest. Management emphasis is on a balance of resource uses. Thinning is commonly encountered, except in lynx habitat.

Vegetative diversity includes grassland species, shrubs, aspen, and conifers. Signs of motorized travel, hunting, hiking, timber harvest, mining, and livestock grazing may be evident. Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with rangeland vegetation and other management activities of the area. Dispersed camping opportunities are plentiful.

Structural and nonstructural forage improvement practices, livestock management, and integrated resource management are used to maintain desired condition. Structural improvements benefit, or at least do not adversely affect, wildlife. Livestock and related rangeland improvements such as ponds, fences, developed springs, stock tanks and stock pipelines are designed to improve livestock distribution. Nonstructural restoration and forage improvement practices such as seeding, planting, burning, fertilizing, and spraying may be used. Cutting of encroaching trees may also occur.

Roads vary from primitive to gravel surfaced. Some roads are closed seasonally to protect road surfaces, reduce maintenance, and reduce disturbance to wildlife.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forest vegetation on suited lands is managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands is managed for more late successional characteristics such as multi layered canopies, snags and down woody material. Insects and disease are managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels.

Lodgepole pine is generally managed for even-aged structure, while spruce-fir is generally managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands are maintained or increased. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans.

Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities has a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities are those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum, including a extensive road and trail system. Opportunities for more primitive recreation exist. Recreational activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape appears moderately altered, with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape. In the foreground of identified high-concern areas, the landscape appears only slightly altered, and deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Active timber management occurs on the suited timber base. There is evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas suited for timber production so insect and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted.

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified.

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4-1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails, and use areas. The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, is available.
2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

### Silviculture

- Guidelines 1. Manage to enhance and maintain isolated islands of forest within the grass/shrub ecosystems.
2. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” for timber production to produce wood fiber.

### 5.13 Forest Products

**Theme** – These lands are managed to provide commercial wood products. In addition to wood products, they also provide for forage production, other commercial products, visual quality, wildlife diversity, and other goods and services. Numerous open roads provide commercial access and roaded recreational opportunities; closed roads provide nonmotorized opportunities.

**Setting** – Vegetation is managed to develop a range of successional stages from seedlings to mature stands to late successional stands. The full array of silvicultural practices and systems are appropriate to achieve this objective. Management practices include stand regeneration by both natural and artificial means, stocking level control, and protection of stands from anticipated damage. Thinning is commonly encountered, except in lynx habitat.

Stands are primarily coniferous, though aspen also occurs. There are some natural openings and meadows of various sizes and shapes. Cut areas show stumps, slash, and disturbed soils. Slash is left to rot, be burned, or otherwise disposed of. Vegetation grows back on disturbed areas. Recently cut areas may have a partial canopy of older trees. The boundaries of cut areas appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

Activities such as hunting, hiking, and bicycling occur along roads closed to vehicular traffic. Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with other multiple uses of the area. There are opportunities for dispersed recreation.

There is an extensive road and trail system, ranging from primitive roads to maintained gravel roads. Road quality varies from primitive to paved surfaces. Some roads are closed seasonally; others are closed after silvicultural treatments are complete. Access may be limited by use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation is managed to develop a range of structural stages. Forest vegetation on suited lands is managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands is managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine is generally managed for even-aged structure; spruce-fir is generally managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands are maintained or increased. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities has a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs. Insects and diseases are managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities are those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including an extensive road and trail system. Opportunities for more primitive recreation exist. Recreational activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape appears moderately altered, with deviations from natural processes dominating the landscape. The foreground of identified high-concern areas appears only slightly altered; deviations from natural processes are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Active timber management contributes to the scheduled ASQ. Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. There is evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment. Slash from timber harvesting is managed to maintain or improve soil productivity and reduce the risk of loss due to fire. Timber harvest units are evident on the landscape though they will generally follow natural landscape patterns and existing stand shapes and sizes.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated.

## **Standards and Guidelines**

### **Insects and Disease**

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect and disease outbreaks are actively controlled.

### **Recreation**

- Guidelines 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified.
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.
3. Manage for and encourage motorized travel opportunities in this area.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. In general, manage for a scenic integrity objective of low. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate along the following critical routes:
- FSR 27, FST 063 and FST 065 – West Tensleep Road and Trails
  - FSR 15 – Burgess Road (i.e., Dayton Gulch Road)
  - FSR 429 – High Park Lookout Road
  - FSR 21 – Tiehack Campground Road
  - FSR 16 – Black Mountain Road
  - FSR 222 and FST 011 – Black Mountain Lookout Road and Trail
- The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, are available.

### Silviculture

- Guidelines 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” for timber production to produce wood fiber.
2. Manage stands using treatments that maintain acceptable rates of growth, as well as favor commercially valuable tree species.

## 5.4 Plant and Wildlife Habitat

**Theme** – These areas are primarily forested ecosystems intermingled with grassland and shrub communities and are managed to provide a mix of ecological and human needs. Plant communities and structural stages are actively managed for biodiversity and ecosystem function. Wood fiber production is a by-product of managing for vegetative diversity and improving wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat improvement is sought where the existing habitat lacks desired vegetation conditions.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities and managed with a multiple-use emphasis that supports habitat needs compatible with wildlife. Uses in these areas include, but are not limited to, active vegetation management, wildlife viewing, hunting, driving for pleasure, grazing, wood production, and winter sports. The major vegetation type is coniferous forest, with open parks, meadows, shrub communities, and aspen.

Visitors to this area can expect to find a full range of improvements. Road quality varies from primitive roads to hard-surfaced. There may be fences, corrals, water developments, trails, timber harvest operations, prescribed burning or evidence of other human activities or improvements. There are dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Motorized access may be restricted, at times, through the use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

Developed camping opportunities may occur. There are opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized trails. Existing facilities (roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs, or water diversions) blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Wildlife Habitat:** Forested vegetation exists in a range of successional stages to meet wildlife habitat and structural stage diversity and are managed to provide more late successional stages as compared to other Category 5 management areas. Lodgepole pine is generally managed for even-aged structure, while spruce-fir is generally managed for uneven-aged structure. In isolated stands less than 250 acres in size, wildlife habitat opportunities are emphasized. Aspen are actively managed to enlarge aspen acreage and to diversify structural stages. Insects and diseases are managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels on suited acres. Snags are more prevalent than in other Category 5 management areas. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities has a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities are those compatible with the less developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum, including a limited road and trail system. Opportunities for more primitive recreation exist. Recreational activities include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping. Road densities are actively managed to benefit wildlife habitat.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape appears moderately altered, with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape. The foreground of identified high-concern areas appears only slightly altered; deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Suited lands in this area contribute to the ASQ but are managed to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat diversity. Elk security habitat is provided in these areas. Opportunity exists to actively rotate security areas on the landscape. There is evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment. There are openings in the forest canopy to provide for a wide range of structural stages as well as the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Do not exceed an average open motorized road and trail (other than snowmobile trails) density of 1.0 mile per square mile within the management area.
  2. For open roaded and motorized trail stream crossings, do not exceed an average density of 0.5 crossings per square mile within the management area.
  3. Decommission unnecessary roads. Ensure closure effectiveness on Level 1 and decommissioned roads. Discourage firewood gathering on short duration use roads. Where feasible, use short duration roads instead of long-term roads.

#### Insects and Disease

- Guideline
1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted on suited acres.

**Recreation**

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified.

**Scenery**

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4 to 1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails, and use areas.
2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

**Silviculture**

- Standards 1. Stands of timber less than 250 acres and greater than 1/4 mile from another stand are not suited, though harvest activities may occur.
2. Forested acres within 300 feet of perennial and ephemeral streams are not suited, though harvest activities may occur.
- Guidelines 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” for timber production to provide habitat diversity for emphasis species.
2. Rotation ages may be longer to meet late successional objectives.
3. Designate old growth on suited and unsuited lands.

### 5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range

**Theme** – Deer and elk winter or transition ranges are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species.

**Setting** – The areas include lands classified as winter range by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, areas used during light winters, spring and autumn transition ranges, calving and fawning areas, and migration routes. There are both forested and non-forested habitats, generally in the lower elevation fringes of the forest. Many areas are south-facing slopes where snow melt and green-up occur earlier in the spring, and snow accumulation does not occur until late autumn.

Openings are common and interconnected with networks of forested habitat that provide thermal and hiding cover for big game. Road systems and trails are relatively undeveloped. Prescribed burning and mechanical or chemical treatments are used as tools to manage habitat.

Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated. Water developments benefit big game and livestock by improving distribution and reducing use of riparian areas.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Wildlife Habitat:** Vegetation will be managed to provide for winter habitat needs of wildlife, including cover, browse, and forage with excellent vigor and to provide a variety of species for food and cover. Habitat mosaics of various types, age classes, and structural stages will be found throughout the area as needed to maintain or enhance winter range. Prescribed fire will be the primary vegetation management tool, although other methods are allowed. Native insects and diseases will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation, unless they threaten winter habitat needs. Management of the area will be coordinated with Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Elk security areas will be retained and deficient areas improved.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** There would be no net gain in road densities in these areas, and new developments of roads, trails, and facilities are discouraged. Certain recreational uses such as motorized travel may be prohibited on a seasonal basis in response to wildlife habitat needs.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural in appearance. Deviations may be present but are unobtrusive or subordinate to the valued landscape character and consistent with the desired landscape character. Evidence of human activities or use may be present.

- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited lands are not part of the suitable timber base. Active timber management will occur for habitat improvement.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock and related rangeland improvements such as water developments and fences may be present where compatible with deer and elk habitat needs.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Biological Diversity

- Guidelines
1. Allow only vegetation management practices where necessary to meet specific resource objectives of maintaining or restoring deer and elk winter range.
  2. Manage shrubs that are important to wintering mule deer toward a diversity of successional stages, approximately one-third early, one-third mid, and one-third late.

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Design and locate new roads to avoid important forage and cover locations.
  2. Do not construct new trails.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Follow established livestock forage use levels (see tables in the Rangeland Vegetation standards and guidelines section of Plan Chapter 1) that leave forage to support wintering deer and elk.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Guidelines
1. Design operating and reclamation plans to minimize or mitigate impacts to deer and elk habitat. Use seasonal restrictions to minimize disturbance.
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing; but minimize ground-disturbing activities. Apply timing limitations.

### Recreation

- Standard
1. Close existing recreation facilities within winter range during the winter and/or spring periods.
- Guidelines
1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized in the winter and spring and semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural in the summer and fall.
  2. Discourage or prohibit human activity during the winter and spring periods when the area is occupied by deer and elk.

## **MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

### **Scenery**

Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

### **Special Uses**

Guideline 1. Limit special use activities during the winter and spring periods.

### **Wildlife**

Guideline 1. Develop habitat management goals in coordination with the state and owners of intermingled privately owned land to minimize resource conflicts on and off National Forest System lands.

## 5.5 Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products

**Theme** – Management emphasizes dispersed recreation opportunities and scenic values while providing for wood products, diversity of structural stages, wildlife habitat, and a variety of other goods and services.

**Setting** – These wood product-producing areas have easy access to a water feature or other natural attraction where recreation activities occur. Harvest units and areas affected by fire, insect, and disease may be evident in the landscape.

Open roads and motorized trails provide access and motorized recreational opportunities, while closed roads provide nonmotorized opportunities. Directional, regulatory and informative signs foster safe use and resource protection. Developed facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads may be provided to meet recreation demands.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation exists in a range of successional stages to meet recreation, wildlife, structural stage diversity and timber objectives. Forest vegetation on suited lands is managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands is managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine is generally managed for even-aged structure while spruce-fir is generally managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands are maintained or increased. Insects and diseases are managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Non-forested vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities has a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires are managed to protect resource investments. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities are those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum, including an extensive road and trail system. Opportunities for more primitive recreation exist. Recreational activities include hiking, viewing scenery, picnicking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape appears moderately altered with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape. The foreground of identified high-concern areas appears only slightly altered; deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. These areas have active timber management that contributes to the scheduled ASQ. There is evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil. Logging equipment is less frequent along concern level one and two roads, becoming more frequent the further one travels from such roads. Openings in the forest canopy are created to provide a wide range of structural stages as well as wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present and should be anticipated.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted, with an emphasis on high-value recreation sites.

#### Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives.
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified.
3. Manage for additional dispersed recreation opportunities such as dispersed campsites and loop trails.

#### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4 to 1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails, and use areas. Minimize signs of active timber management in the foreground along concern level one and two roads.
2. In areas other than those stated above, manage for a scenic integrity objective of low.

#### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” for timber production to produce wood fiber, with concern given to existing and future recreation opportunities.

## Category 8

Ecological conditions are likely to be permanently altered by human activities beyond the level needed to maintain ecological processes and landscapes with a natural appearance. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Ski areas are included in this category. Human activities generally provide jobs and income, either directly or indirectly. Motorized transportation is common.

### 8.22 Ski-based Resorts, Existing/Potential

**Theme** – Areas with existing ski-based resorts or potential ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreation uses.

**Setting** – These areas are primarily designed for downhill skiing. Housing for year-round recreation use may be permitted

**Desired Condition** – Ski runs blend and harmonize with the natural terrain but may still be evident as ski runs. Recreation facilities, such as buildings, lifts and groomed trails, are evident. At the base development, services and facilities are designed to complement the overall forest setting and will serve the needs of forest visitors. Opportunities to experience solitude are very limited during the winter sports season. Opportunities to view wildlife and their habitat are available throughout the year but may be limited by the amount of recreational use.

Changes to vegetation composition and structure result in forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Forested areas are managed for aesthetics and recreation and for their resistance to windthrow, fire and insect and disease infestation.

There is a developed road system. The trail system includes trails designed for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and ski touring. Trail signs are consistent with the ski area sign plan.

Wildfires is managed to protect investments and resources present in the area. Prescribed fire is allowed. Evidence of prescribed fire and active fire suppression may be apparent.

Domestic livestock and evidence of their use and management (e.g., salting areas, fences, and water developments) may be present.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Aquatic Resources

- Guidelines 1. Conduct snowmaking activities and other water depletions to conserve stream pattern, geometry, substrate composition, and aquatic habitat in affected perennial streams.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Conduct snow management activities, including snowmaking and snow farming, to prevent slope failures and gully erosion, as well as bank erosion and sediment damage in receiving channels.

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Retain vegetation to screen facilities from key viewpoints.
  2. Design facilities with an architectural theme intended to blend facilities with the natural environment consistent with the BEIG (Built Environment Image Guide).
  3. Design roads to minimize visual impacts. Plan the location and size of cuts and fills to avoid conflicts with skiers and other recreation users.

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline
1. Use a full range of pest management activities and methods to prevent or eradicate insect and disease outbreaks.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guidelines
1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts to minimize conflicts with recreation and other uses.
  2. Design and implement livestock management activities to protect and manage the watershed, and to prevent erosion. Livestock forage use levels will be established that will assure residue is not removed to a level that may result in accelerated erosion.

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Guidelines
1. Withdraw permitted areas from availability for mineral entry.
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation.

### Recreation

- Guidelines
1. When conducting resource management activities, minimize impacts to recreational resources within existing permitted sites and areas planned for future development.
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of rural.
  3. Consider year-round recreation activities as part of the Master Development Plan.

### Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of low.

2. “Soften” lines and forms indicating past activities and geometric shapes associated with ski trail and lift development as opportunities become available

**Silviculture**

- Guidelines
1. Use vegetation management practices to maintain and improve ski-based resort objectives.
  2. Manage stands and islands to provide a variety of species and size classes, perpetuate forest cover, and complement snow management objectives, scenery and recreational values.
  3. Conduct ski area management activities that compliment age and species diversity.
  4. Retain vegetation for screening around structures where vegetation recovery will be slow.
  5. Restrict cutting trees or locating structures in avalanche zones or areas that may initiate mass wasting.

## Medicine Wheel

### **MW – Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity**

The management area direction for the Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity (Management Area MW) will be the Historic Preservation Plan (HPP). This means that:

- ◆ The Revised Plan Chapter 1 direction (goals/objectives/strategies and standards/guidelines) apply to MA MW. If there are conflicts between the forestwide direction in Chapter 1 and the HPP standards and guidelines, resolution will be through the consultation process described in the HPP.
- ◆ The standards, guidelines, and monitoring plan in the HPP apply to MA MW.
- ◆ The 1985 Forest Plan management area boundaries exist within MA MW, but there is no specific management area direction associated with those boundaries, per the HPP (see following figure).
- ◆ Lands suitable for timber production under the 1985 Forest Plan, as amended by Forest Plan amendment 12, are suited for timber production under the Revised Plan.

The HPP is available at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Sheridan.

The following map displays the Management Area MW boundary with the 1985 Forest Plan management areas.

Map 2-1. Management Area MW with 1985 forest plan management areas

