

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT 1
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT
ON
FISH LAKE MOUNTAIN

Sevier County, Utah

USDA FOREST SERVICE
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

Lead Agency:

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ABSTRACT: On July 28, 1986, the Utah Congressional Delegation appealed the travel management portion of the prescription for managing Fish Lake Mountain in the Fishlake National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan. The appeal was settled by a negotiated compromise between the appealants, an intervenor, and the Forest Service. Appellants withdrew their appeal on January 5, 1987. This Environmental Assessment documents the analysis conducted in the negotiations and discloses the settlement reached for travel management on Fish Lake Mountain. Alternatives considered are 1) existing plan - no motorized recreation, 2) a designated route to Pelican Canyon trailhead, but no snowmobiles, 3) a designated route across entire top, but no snowmobiles, 4) pre plan status - open year-round to motorized travel, 5) a designated route to Tasha Spring and snowmobile use in winter, 6) a designated route across entire top and snowmobile use in winter, 7) a designated route across entire top, closed during big game hunts, and snowmobile use in winter, 8) a designated route across entire top open only during big game hunts and snowmobile use in winter, and 9) a designated route to Tasha Spring, closed during big game hunts, and snowmobile use in winter. Comparison of the alternatives includes effects on big game, diversity of recreation, and erosion from the road. Rational that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared is included.

DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT 1
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT
ON
FISH LAKE MOUNTAIN

Sevier County, Utah

USDA FOREST SERVICE
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

An environmental Assessment evaluating alternative travel management strategies on Fish Lake Hightop is available for public review at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Richfield, Utah. This assessment was necessitated by an appeal of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Fishlake National Forest by the Utah Congressional Delegation. Specifically, the Delegation appealed the decision to not allow motorized recreation on Fish Lake Mountain (Hightop). Thus this Assessment is restricted to analyzing alternatives to that specific decision. The remainder of the Land and Resource Management Plan including management decisions for other uses of the Hightop area were not appealed, thus are being managed as described in the Plan.

Nine alternatives for travel management on Fish Lake Mountain were considered. They are: 1) existing plan - no motorized recreation, 2) a designated route for motor vehicles to the Pelican Canyon trailhead, but no snowmobiles, 3) a designated route for motor vehicles across entire top, but no snowmobiles, 4) pre plan status - open year-round to motorized travel, 5) a designated route for motor vehicles to Tasha Spring and snowmobile use in the winter, 6) a designated route for motor vehicles across entire top and snowmobile use in winter, 7) a designated route for motor vehicles across entire top, closed during big game hunts, and snowmobile use in winter, 8) a designated route for motor vehicles across entire top open only during big game hunts and snowmobiling in winter, and 9) a designated route for motor vehicles to Tasha Spring, closed during big game hunts, and snowmobile use in the winter.

It is my decision to implement alternative 5 for travel management in the Fish Lake Mountain Management Area. This decision will be implemented by creating management prescription 3C for this management area. Management prescription 3C shall be formulated by modifying the travel management portion of management prescription 3A to allow travel along a designated route to Tasha Spring and snowmobiling in the winter. Other items from prescription 3A not applicable to Fish Lake Mountain shall be deleted. A copy of prescription 3C is attached. Further, the route to Tasha Spring shall only be maintained to allow passage by high clearance vehicles and will arrest the erosion occurring on the steep pitch near the south end of the route.

This decision results from the compromise reached between the Utah Congressional Delegation, the Utah Wilderness Association and the Forest

Service for the travel management of Fish Lake Mountain Management Area. Designating a travel route to Tasha Spring satisfies the Delegation's desire to allow recreationists to drive onto the Hightop to picnic and view the scenery. Restricting summertime motorized travel to the designated route to Tasha Spring satisfies the Utah Wilderness Association's desire to preserve much of the area, and specifically the Tasha Creek and Pelican Canyon trails, for nonmotorized recreation. Further it will provide resting areas for big game during the hunting seasons at the north end of the management area. Repair of the steep pitch near Na Gah Flat and closure of the route when throughly wet meets the Forest Service's desire to prevent resource damage.

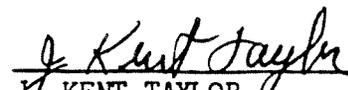
Permitting snowmobile use of the area will not conflict with other uses while meeting a desire expressed by the public and the Delegation. Snowmobile use of the area will not cause harassment of big game since the area is high elevation and not winter range. Further, the relief and distance from existing trail heads severly limits cross country ski use, unless skiers enter the area by motorized travel (snowmobiles).

This amendment is in accordance with Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1922.33. It is an amendment done to resolve an administrative appeal. I have determined that this is a nonsignificant amendment based upon the following considerations. The action is an adjustment of a management area prescription that will not significantly change the long-term output of goods or services from the Forest. The action will effect only one area, Fish Lake Mountain, and the action will not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

I have determined that this action will not significantly effect the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This determination is based upon the following factors: 1) The travel route already exists on the ground; 2) Permitting motorized recreation travel on the designated route returns to a practice well established prior to implementation of the Forest Plan; 3) Prior to the stay, the Forest Plan permitted motorized travel on the designated route for non-recreation purposes such as tending livestock; 4) Use of snowmobiles in the area will not conflict with wintering wildlife or nonmotorized winter recreation; and 5) The only part of the Management Prescription for Fish Lake Mountain that is being considered for change is the travel management. All other portions of the prescription applicable to Fish Lake Mountain remain unchanged.

Implementation of this amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Fishlake National Forest will take place immediately.

This decision is subject to administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 211.18. A Notice of Appeal, Statement of Reasons, and request for oral presentation must be postmarked within 45 days of the date of this decision.



J. KENT TAYLOR
Forest Supervisor
Fishlake National Forest

3-11-87
Date

PURPOSE AND NEED

On June 16, 1986 Regional Forester Stan Tixier signed the Record of Decision for the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Fishlake National Forest. On July 28, 1986 the Utah Congressional Delegation appealed the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Fishlake National Forest. Their stated reason for the appeal was "...to preserve the opportunity to review the Forest Service's decision to close the Fish Lake Mountain area to motorized recreational use..."

In giving reasons for the appeal they stated that:

"We wish to reemphasize the concerns previously expressed by the Congressional Delegation that this area was considered for wilderness and was specifically omitted with agreement that the existing roadway across Fish Lake Mountain (Hightop) should be left open for motorized travel, including recreation.

"...Fish Lake Mountain was eliminated from the wilderness designation in order to leave the Hightop road open."

On September 3, 1986 the Chief of the Forest Service granted a stay of the portion of the Forest plan. He stated:

"Since your appeal and request for stay of the Forest Plan is based on direction affecting only a small portion of the Forest, we believe it is inappropriate to stay implementation of the entire Forest Plan. It is our decision, however, to stay that portion of the Forest Plan which deals with motorized travel in the Fish Lake Mountain (Hightop) area."

Management of the Hightop is directed by prescription 3A. This prescription prohibits motorized travel in the area for recreation but permits use of motorized equipment for resource development uses such as timber harvest, mineral exploration, and grazing management. As shown by the quotes from the appeal letter from the Utah Congressional Delegation and the Chief's stay letter, the only portion of the prescription being contested is that dealing with motorized recreation. Consequently this Environmental Analysis will also be limited to the issue of motorized recreation in the Fish Lake Mountain (Hightop) Management Area.

Subsequent to the filing of the appeal, the Utah Wilderness Association requested to intervene on behalf of the Forest Service on August 12, 1986 in order that they might respond to the appeal and to be kept informed on it's progress. In their letter they state that:

"Since the appeal by the Utah Congressional Delegation cites the Utah Wilderness Act, we want to note our involvement at every step of both RARE II and the roadless re-evaluation conducted by the Forest Service in November 1983. And, of course we participated with both the Forest Service and the Utah Congressional Delegation during the discussions and enactment of the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984."

Consequently the Utah Wilderness Association participated in two negotiating sessions that were held between the Forest Service and the Utah Congressional Delegation. The first session was held on October 30 in Richfield, and the second meeting was on November 17 in Salt Lake City.

One result of an appeal action by a Congressional Delegation is that there is a great deal of public interest in the matter under review. This public interest served as the public involvement for this Environmental Assessment. During August and September, 1986 there were several newspaper articles on the subject in the Richfield Reaper and Salina Sun, and some stories made it into the Salt Lake City newspapers. Two public meetings were held by Ron Crittenden, Congressman Howard Nielson's Field Manager. The first, on October 10, was held in Salina with about 75 people attending. The second, on November 11, was held in Richfield with about 45 people attending. Forest Service representatives were present at both meetings. In addition to the meetings, the Fishlake Forest received several letters from individuals and organizations expressing their concerns and thoughts about Fish Lake Hightop.

Consideration of the input received from the public by the means described above resulted in the following list of issues and concerns about travel management on Fish Lake Mountain.

1) SOIL EROSION: Since the jeep trail across the Hightop was never designed or constructed, but rather grew through use, there are several stretches where soil erosion is occurring.

2) WILDLIFE RESTING: Big game, especially elk use the area for calving in the early summer and as a migration route in the fall. Travel across the Hightop could disturb these uses and put added pressure on the animals during hunting seasons.

3) RECREATION DIVERSITY: All but a few acres of the Fishlake Forest are within three miles of a road. One of the planning problems addressed in the planning process was to determine the mix of motorized and nonmotorized recreation to provide. One of the goals in the plan was to provide nonmotorized recreation opportunities. The Hightop helped to provide for this use.

4) PROTECT HIGHTOP: Conservationists believe that since the Hightop was recommended for wilderness in RARE I and RARE II it has unique properties that should be protected. Other unique properties are suggested by the Severn mile Cirques, at the north end of the Hightop, being inventoried for consideration as a National Natural Landmark. This protection, they believe, would best be done by maintaining natural values by having nonmotorized recreation on the area. Further they do not want to see a use pattern maintained that would be difficult to overcome if the area were to be considered for for wilderness designation in the future.

5) CONSISTANT WITH RELEASE LANGUAGE OF UTAH WILDERNESS ACT: The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 stated in part that roadless areas not designated wilderness shall be managed for multiple use provided that such areas need not be managed for the purposes of protecting their suitability for wilderness... The Senate and House reports on the bill expand upon this and state in part "The emphasis here is that the Forest Service will be able to manage released

lands in the manner determined appropriate through the land management planning process."

6) LEAVE ROAD OPEN: During consideration of the Utah Wilderness Bill, the Utah Congressional Delegation responded to constituent desires to leave the road open. They proposed a "cherry stem" corridor as a solution to the problem, but the whole area was dropped from consideration because of the difficulty of managing a designated travel corridor within a Wilderness. The Utah Congressional Delegation believed that by not making the area wilderness they intended the road should be left open. Thus the intent of the delegation is to leave the road open to maintain historic public access to the Hightop.

7) PERMITTEE ACCESS: The appealants believed that the proposed management for the Hightop would deny motorized access to the sheep permittee and other users with valid permits such as for oil exploration. This is not the case. Motorized access could be authorized for legitimate resource use if an analysis determined the use to be consistent with law and in the public interest.

8) DEFACTO WILDERNESS: The Utah Congressional Delegation was concerned that the proposed management would create defacto wilderness. Since only Congress has the right to create Wilderness they felt that the Forest was usurping the rights and prerogatives of Congress.

9) SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED USE: Prior to implementation of the Forest Plan motorized recreation was allowed on the Hightop. With implementation of the plan the recreation management strategy was for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation. As portions of the area are opened for motorized travel, or seasonal motorized travel is allowed, such as snowmobiles, the amount of area and time of semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation is decreased. During the course of the appeal a subissue developed of using snowmobiles in the area. This use issue was separate from road use as it considered different seasons and was not restricted to the roadway.

ALTERNATIVES

During the course of negotiations on the appeal nine alternatives were developed for the recreation management of Fish Lake Mountain. In all cases management of the other uses and resources would remain as stated in the Fishlake National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. These nine alternatives are:

ALTERNATIVE 1: Manage recreation use as called for in the Forest Plan. This would mean managing for semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation by not allowing motorized recreation use on the Hightop at any time of the year.

ALTERNATIVE 2: Allow motorized recreation on designated route from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat to the junction with the Pelican Canyon trail from June 1 to November 1. The steep portion of the route at the south end would be repaired or realigned to control soil erosion and to allow passage by sedans. Snowmobiling would not be allowed in the area.

ALTERNATIVE 3: Allow motorized recreation on designated route across entire Hightop from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat, on the south, to Daniels Pass, on the north. Snowmobile use would not be allowed within the area.

ALTERNATIVE 4: Return to pre-plan status. This would mean that all the area would be open to motorized use throughout the year. Snowmobile use would be permitted in the area.

ALTERNATIVE 5: A designated route from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat to Tasha Spring would be open for motorized travel subject to seasonal restrictions. The steep portion of the route, at the south end that is eroding, would be repaired to halt the erosion and to allow passage by high clearance vehicles. Wheeled vehicles would not be allowed off the designated route for recreation purposes. These seasonal closures would be for the winter and spring months similar to other Forest roads to prevent undue damage. Snowmobile use would be permitted in the area.

ALTERNATIVE 6: A designated route from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat to Daniels Pass would be open for motorized travel subject to seasonal restrictions. Wheeled vehicles would not be allowed off the designated route for recreation purposes. Seasonal closures during the winter and spring months would be imposed similarly to other Forest roads to prevent undue damage. Snowmobile use would be permitted in the area.

ALTERNATIVE 7: A designated route from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat across the entire Hightop to Daniels Pass would be open from the time the road dries out in the spring to the weekend before the start of the elk season. Wheeled vehicles would be restricted to the designated route. The area would be closed to motorized travel from the weekend before the start of the elk season to the end of the deer season, which is approximately the month of October. Snowmobile use would be permitted throughout the area during the winter.

ALTERNATIVE 8: A designated route would be open across the entire Hightop from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat to Daniels Pass only during the elk and deer seasons, approximately the month of October. Wheeled vehicles would be restricted to the designated route. Snowmobile use would be permitted in the area during the winter.

ALTERNATIVE 9: A designated route from the vicinity of Na Gah Flat to Tasha Spring would be open from the time the road dries out in the spring to the weekend before the start of elk season. The steep portion of the route, at the south end that is eroding, would be repaired to halt the erosion and allow passage by high clearance vehicles. Wheeled vehicles would be restricted to the designated route. The area would be closed to motorized travel from the weekend before the start of elk season to the end of deer season, which is approximately the month of October. Snowmobile use would be permitted in the area during the winter.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

In reviewing the alternatives against the issues and concerns, the following effects were found for the alternatives. These effects are summarized in table 1.

ROAD EROSION: Alternatives 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 would continue the erosion of the road at approximately the present rate. This is because traffic would continue at about the present rate. Alternatives 2, 5 and 9, with only permittee traffic allowed north of Tasha Spring, would significantly reduce erosion in that area. Erosion of the segment south of Tasha Spring would be reduced by repair of the short, steep eroding segment in that area. Alternative 1, which prohibits recreation traffic, would have the largest reduction in erosion. However it would not eliminate it since permittee traffic is still permitted.

WILDLIFE RESTING: Alternatives 3, 4, 6, and 8 would not provide wildlife a resting area during the hunting seasons because motorized traffic would be allowed across the entire Hightop during those seasons. Alternatives 2 and 5 would provide big game resting areas on the north part of the Hightop because motorized access would be restricted to south of Pelican trailhead and Tasha Spring respectively. By not allowing motorized recreation on the Hightop during hunting seasons, alternatives 1, 7, and 9 would provide wildlife a resting area. Additionally alternatives 1 and 7 would limit disturbance of elk during their calving season.

RECREATION DIVERSITY: Alternative 1 provides enough acres of the Hightop to meet the Forest-wide goal of about eleven percent in nonmotorized recreation. It also provides a diversity of recreation experiences around the Fish Lake basin. Alternative 8 would maintain this diversity throughout most of the year. However, during the big game hunting seasons and the snowmobile season the area available for nonmotorized recreation would be diminished. With motorized travel restricted to the summer months and to the area south of the Pelican trailhead, alternative 2 nearly meets the Forest goal. By restricting motorized travel to the area south of Tasha Spring and to winter, alternatives 5 and 9 cause some decrease in the recreation diversity proposed in the Forest Plan for the Forest and Fish Lake Basin. Alternative 3 along with alternatives 6 and 7 would cause a significant decrease in recreation diversity during the summer as motorized travel would be allowed along the designated route. During the winter alternative 3 would maintain the diversity proposed in the plan for the rare cross country skier who may reach the area. Alternatives 6 and 7 would be similar to alternative 8. Alternative 4 would provide the least diversity in recreation opportunity since there would be no restrictions on motorized travel.

PROTECT HIGHTOP: Conservationists believe that the best way to protect the Hightop is to prevent motorized use and development of the area. Thus alternative 1 best resolves their concerns by prohibiting motorized recreation. While none of the other alternatives favorably resolves their concerns, numbers 2, 5 and 9 limit the area of motorized use, while 8 limits the use season. Alternatives 3, 6, and 7 allow the practice of motorized use on the designated route to become further entrenched, while alternative 4 is the least desirable since it places no restrictions on where motorized use can become established.

CONSISTANT WITH RELEASE LANGUAGE OF UTAH WILDERNESS ACT: Any alternative arrived at through the planning process meets the intent of the Utah Wilderness Act. The proposed management of the area is thus consistant with the Act. All alternatives listed above should be consistant with the Act since they are being considered through the Land Management Planning amendment process.

LEAVE ROAD OPEN: Alternative 1 does not meet the intent of what the Utah Congressional Delegation thought they were doing when they left the area out of wilderness. Alternatives 2, 5, 8, and 9 partially meet this intent since the road would be open to Pelican trailhead, Tasha Spring, or during the month of October. Alternatives 3, 4, 6, and 7 meet the congressional delegations intent.

PERMITTEE ACCESS: All alternatives provide equal access to users with a valid permit for use of the resources of the area. During the summer of 1986 the sheep permittee was allowed to drive to the area to manage his sheep operation. Mineral exploration or extraction and timber harvest are examples of motorized uses of the area that could be permitted under all alternatives.

DEFACTO WILDERNESS: None of the alternatives would make a defacto wilderness of the area. The Neals Flat timber sale proposed for 1993 is one example of a use permitted in the Hightop area that would not be permitted in a designated wilderness. While it is true that alternatives such as 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 that allow motorized travel to become established would make consideration for wilderness at some future date more difficult, none totally removes the possibility.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED USE: Alternative 1 would maintain the nonmotorized recreation management objective during the summer for the relatively small number of people who visit the area. Alternatives 2, 5, and 9 would maintain the northern and eastern portions of the area in nonmotorized recreation during the summer. Further alternative 2 would permit a hiking loop using the Pelican Canyon and Tasha Creek trails that is entirely within a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation area whereas alternatives 5 and 9 would not. With the area opened to motorized travel only during the hunting seasons, alternative 8 would maintain the area in nonmotorized recreation most of the summer and fall. Alternatives 3, 6, and 7 would crowd nonmotorized recreation to the eastern portion of the area in the summer as the travel route would extend the full north-south length of the area. Alternative 4 would provide only limited nonmotorized use in the area during the summer. During the winter, alternatives 1, 2, and 3 would provide for nonmotorized recreation opportunities in the area while alternatives 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 would not. This is because the latter allow snowmobile use while the former do not. However, because of the distance from and elevation above current trailheads, it is doubtful if there is much if any nonmotorized winter use of the area.

PEOPLE AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

During the course of the appeal the following people and agencies were consulted:

Senator Jake Garn	Sevier County Commission
Senator Orrin G. Hatch	Wayne County Commission
Congressman James V. Hansen	Division of Wildlife Resources
Congressman Howard C. Nielson	Sevier Wildlife Federation
Congressman David S. Monson	The Richfield Reaper
Utah Wilderness Association	Jay Peterson

TABLE 1

Alternatives	NO SNOWMOBILES		WITH SNOWMOBILES AND NORMAL GATING	
	DESIGNATED ROUTE		DESIGNATED ROUTE	
Existing Plan, No Motorized Recreation	To Pelican Trail Heads	Across Entire Top	To Tasha Spring, Subject to Seasonal Closures	Across Entire Top, Open Only in October
Soil Erosion	Some Reduction (Space)	Continues	Some Reduction (Space)	Continues
Wildlife Resting	Some	No	Some	Provides
Recreation Diversity	Approaches Forest Goal (in Space)	Short of Forest Goal	Approaches Forest Goal (in Space)	Approaches Forest Goal (in Space)
Protect Hightop	Some (in Space)	Minimal	Some (in space)	Some (in space)
Const. W/ UT Wild. Act (Release language)	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
Leave Road Open	Partially Meets	Meets	Partially Meets	Partially Meets
Permittee Access	Provides	Provides	Provides	Provides
Defacto Wilderness	No	No	No	No
Sem-primitive NonMotorized Rec.				
Summer	Most of Area Yes	Much of Area Yes	Most of Area Yes	Most of Area Yes
Winter	Yes	Yes	No	No



MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARYTABLE IV-2
MANAGEMENT AREA SUMMARY

Management Area	Emphasis	Acres
1A	Developed Recreation Sites	299
1D	Utility Corridors	(71,084) 1/
2A	Semi-Primitive Motorized Recreation	6,626
2B	Rural/Roaded Natural Recreation	27,855
3A	Non Motorized Recreation with Devel. of Other Resources	69,237
3B	Non motorized Recreation without Devel. of Other Resources	17,691
3C	Management of Fish Lake Mountain	19,044
4A	Fish Habitat Improvement	2,474
4B	Habitat for Management Indicator Species	354,732
5A	Big Game Winter Range in Non Forested Areas	66,720
6B	Livestock Grazing	658,704
7A	Wood-Fiber Production and Utilization	44,104
7B	Wood-Fiber Prod. and Util. Through Selected Planting Stock	6,061
7C	Management of Forested Areas on Steep Slopes	2/
7D	Wood-Fiber Prod. and Util. for Products Other Than Sawtimber	8,564
9A	Riparian Area Management	1,038
9F	Improved Watershed Condition	135,842
10A	Research Natural Areas	4,300
10E	Municipal Watershed	<u>1,179</u>
	Total	1,424,479

1/ Excluded from total because it is applied in conjunction with another prescription.

2/ No acres given since this prescription is to be used in Management Areas 7A and 7B where the slope is over 40 percent.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 3A

(Emphasis is on providing nonmotorized recreation
with development of other resources)

69,237 Acres

A. Management Prescription Summary

1. General Description and Goals:

Management emphasis is for nonmotorized recreation outside of wilderness. Recreation opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting and cross-country skiing are available. Seasonal or permanent restrictions on human use may be applied to provide seclusion for wildlife such as nesting for raptorial birds, big game rearing areas, and mammals (mountain lion, elk) with large home ranges. Visual resources are managed so that management activities are not visually evident or remain visually subordinate.

Investments in compatible resource uses such as livestock grazing and mineral exploration and development occur; but roads are closed to public use. Commercial and noncommercial tree harvest occur. The harvest method by forest cover type is clearcutting in aspen, shelterwood in ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir, and mixed conifers.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 3C

(Provides management direction for Fish Lake Mountain)

19,044 Acres

A. Management Prescription Summary

1. General Description and Goals:

This prescription directs the management of Fish Lake Mountain. Emphasis is on a diversity of dispersed recreation experiences. These vary from motorized recreation on the designated route at the south end of the area to non-motorized recreation at the north end and in the glacial canyons. Recreation opportunities such as driving for pleasure, sightseeing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and snowmobiling are available. Visual resources are managed so that management activities are not visually evident or remain visually subordinate.

Investments in compatible resource uses such as livestock grazing, timber harvest, and mineral exploration and development may occur; but roads, other than the designated route to Tasha Spring are closed to public use.

B. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (A04) 1. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE A VISUALLY APPEALING LANDSCAPE. ENHANCE OR PROVIDE MORE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES.

a. MINIMUM VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVE (VQO) SHALL BE PARTIAL RETENTION

b. FS SYSTEM TRAVEL ROUTES ARE SENSITIVITY LEVEL ONE.

c. APPLY REHABILITATION PRACTICES WHERE THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING MET.

d. MANAGE VISUAL RESOURCES USING THE ABOVE STANDARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FSM 2380.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND USE ADMINISTRATION (A14 AND 15)

1. EMPHASIZE SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES. ALLOW MOTORIZED RECREATION ACTIVITIES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES AND SNOWMOBILING. MOTORIZED TRAVEL ALONG SPECIFIC TRAVEL ROUTES IS PERMITTED TO ACCOMPLISH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

a. MOTORIZED TRAVEL IS ALLOWED FOR WHEELED VEHICLES ALONG DESIGNATED ROUTE FROM THE VICINITY OF NA GAH FLAT TO TASHA SPRING. SNOWMOBILE USE IS PERMITTED ON ADEQUATE SNOW THROUGHOUT THE MANAGEMENT UNIT.

2. MANAGE USE TO ALLOW LOW TO MODERATE CONTACT WITH OTHER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

a. MAXIMUM USE AND CAPACITY:
-TRAIL AND CAMP ENCOUNTERS DURING PEAK USE DAYS ARE LESS THAN 30 OTHER PARTIES PER DAY.
-TRAIL AND AREA-WIDE USE CAPACITY:

ROS CLASS	SEMI-PRIMITIVE	NONMOTORIZED
USE LEVEL	VERY LOW	MODERATE
ON TRAILS	LOW	HIGH
PACT/MILE	2.0	3.0
	9.0	11.0

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

AREA-WIDE PAOT/ ACRE	.004	.008	.05	.08
REDUCE THE ABOVE USE LEVEL CO-EFFICIENTS AS NECESSARY TO REFLECT USABLE ACRES, PATTERNS OF USE, AND GENERAL ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT AREA TYPE AS DESCRIBED IN THE ROS USERS GUIDE, CHAPTER 25.				
REDUCE THE ABOVE USE LEVELS WHERE UNACCEPTABLE CHANGES TO THE BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES WILL OCCUR.				

CONTINUATION OF:
RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES
AND USE
ADMINISTRATION
(A14 AND 15)

3. PROVIDE FACILITIES SUCH AS FOOT AND HORSE TRAILS, SINGLE LANE LOCAL INTERMITTENT ROADS WITH PRIMITIVE SURFACE USED AS TRAILS, DEVELOPMENT LEVEL 1 AND 2 CAMPGROUNDS, AND NECESSARY SIGNING.

a. SEE FSM 2331, FSM 7732, FSH 7709.12 (TRAILS HANDBOOK), FSH 7109.11A AND 11B (SIGN HANDBOOK).

4. MANAGE SITE USE AND OCCUPANCY TO MAINTAIN SITES WITH- IN FRISSELL CONDITION CLASSES 1 THROUGH 3 EXCEPT FOR DESIGNATED SITES WHICH MAY BE CLASS 4. CLOSE AND RESTORE CLASS 5 SITES.

RECREATION
MANAGEMENT
(PRIVATE AND
OTHER PUBLIC
SECTOR)
(A16)

1. ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR SERVICES SUPPORTING DISPERSED RECREATION.

WILDLIFE
HABITAT
IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
(C02, 04, 05
AND 06)

1. MAINTAIN WILDLIFE HABITAT EFFECTIVENESS. PERMANENT OPENINGS MAY BE EMPLOYED. REDUCE DISTURBANCE TO WILDLIFE SO THAT NO SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM NEGATIVE WILDLIFE EFFECTS RESULT.

2. PROVIDE DEER AND ELK COVER.

RANGE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
(D02)

1. KEEP LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION AND STOCKING RATES COMPATIBLE WITH RECREATION USE. LOCATE STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS TO MEET VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION 03C

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF:
SILVICULTURAL
PRESCRIPTIONS
(E03, 06 & 07)

3. UTILIZE FIREWOOD MATERIAL USING BOTH COMMERCIAL
AND NONCOMMERCIAL METHODS.

WATER RESOURCE
IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
(F05 AND 06)

1. PERMANENT OPENINGS MAY BE EMPLOYED TO ENHANCE
WATER PRODUCTION.

SPECIAL USE
MANAGEMENT (NON
-RECREATION)
(J01)

1. PERMIT SPECIAL USES WHICH ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND
COMPATIBLE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT
AREA AND WHICH DO NOT CHANGE THE ROS CLASSIFICATION.

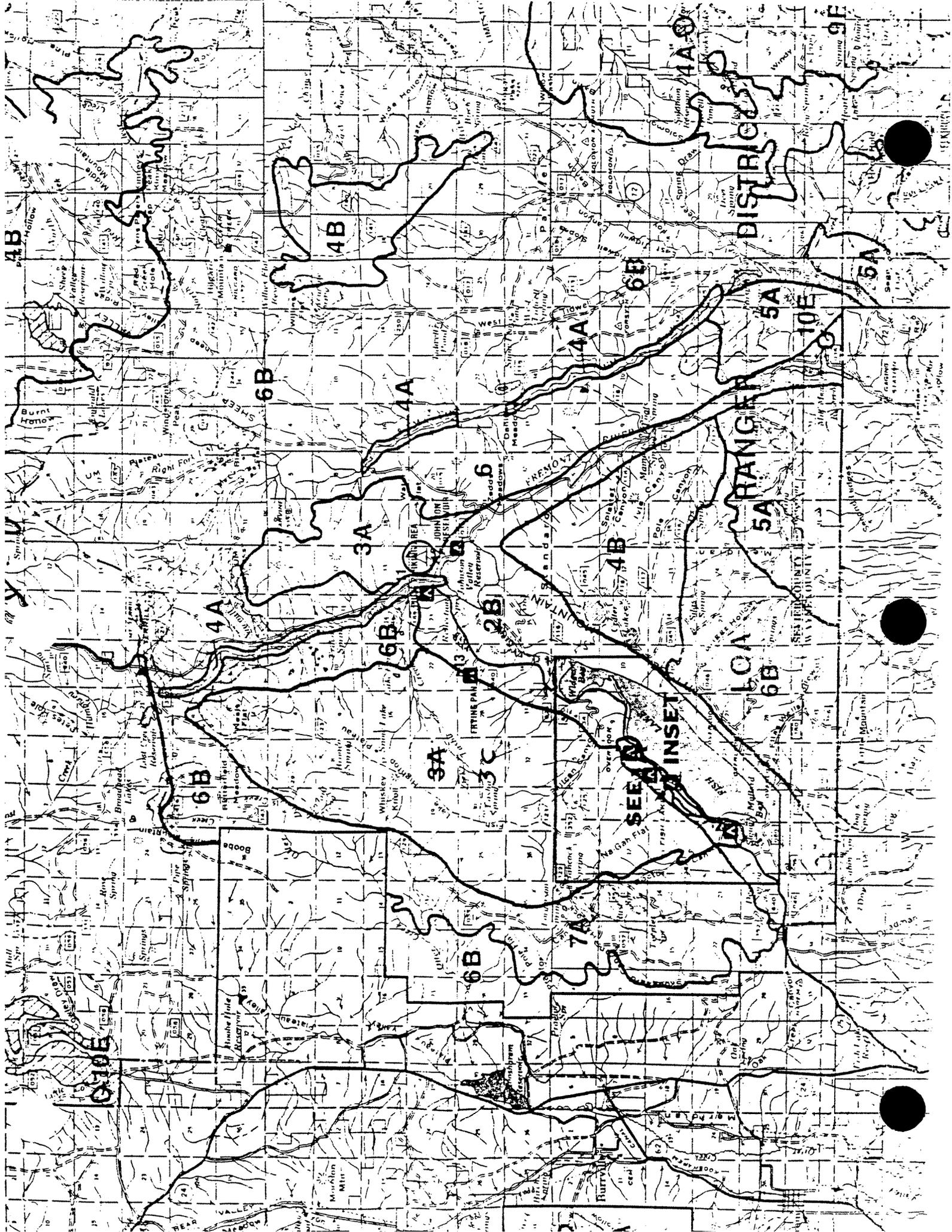
a. REFERENCE THE ROS USERS GUIDE.

LOCAL ROAD
CONSTRUCTION AND
RECONSTRUCTION
(L11, 12, & 13)

1. MAINTAIN THE ROAD TO TASHA SPRING TO LEVEL 2.

2. ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF LOCAL ROADS FOR NON-RECREATION
PURPOSES.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ROAD TO TASHA SPRING CLOSE
LOCAL ROADS TO PUBLIC MOTORIZED USE, AND PROHIBIT
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) USE, EXCEPT SNOWMOBILING.
MAINTAIN LOCAL ROADS TO LEVEL 1 DURING PERIODS
WHEN ACCESS FOR RESOURCE UTILIZATION IS NOT REQUIRED.



4B

4B

4A

DISTRICT

6B

4A

4A

6B

5A

5A

4A

3A

6B

2B

4B

5A

10E

6B

6B

3A

3C

6B

6A

6B

6B

6B

6B

SEE INSET

6A

6B

B. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

GENERAL DIRECTION

STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (A04)

1. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE A VISUALLY APPEALING LANDSCAPE. ENHANCE OR PROVIDE MORE VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES.

a. MINIMUM VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVE (VQO) SHALL BE PARTIAL RETENTION

b. FS SYSTEM TRAVEL ROUTES ARE SENSITIVITY LEVEL ONE.

c. APPLY REHABILITATION PRACTICES WHERE THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING MET.

d. MANAGE VISUAL RESOURCES USING THE ABOVE STANDARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FSM 2380.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND USE ADMINISTRATION (A14 AND 15)

1. EMPHASIZE SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED AND SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES. ALLOW MOTORIZED RECREATION ACTIVITIES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES AND SNOWMOBILING. MOTORIZED TRAVEL ALONG SPECIFIC TRAVEL ROUTES IS PERMITTED TO ACCOMPLISH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

a. MOTORIZED TRAVEL IS ALLOWED FOR WHEELED VEHICLES ALONG DESIGNATED ROUTE FROM THE VICINITY OF NA GAH FLAT TO TASHA SPRING. SNOWMOBILE USE IS PERMITTED ON ADEQUATE SNOW THROUGHOUT THE MANAGEMENT UNIT.

2. MANAGE USE TO ALLOW LOW TO MODERATE CONTACT WITH OTHER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

a. MAXIMUM USE AND CAPACITY:
-TRAIL AND CAMP ENCOUNTERS DURING PEAK USE DAYS ARE LESS THAN 30 OTHER PARTIES PER DAY.

-TRAIL AND AREA-WIDE USE CAPACITY:

ROS CLASS - SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED

USE LEVEL VERY LOW MODERATE HIGH

ON TRAILS

PAOT/ MILE 2.0 3.0 9.0 11.0

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF:
RECREATION
OPPORTUNITIES
AND USE
ADMINISTRATION
(A14 AND 15)

AREA-WIDE
PAOT/
ACRE .004 .008 .05 .08

REDUCE THE ABOVE USE LEVEL CO-
EFFICIENTS AS NECESSARY TO RE-
FLECT USABLE ACRES, PATTERNS OF
USE, AND GENERAL ATTRACTIVENESS
OF THE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT AREA
TYPE AS DESCRIBED IN THE ROS
USERS GUIDE, CHAPTER 25.
REDUCE THE ABOVE USE LEVELS
WHERE UNACCEPTABLE CHANGES TO
THE BIOPHYSICAL RESOURCES WILL
OCCUR.

3. PROVIDE FACILITIES SUCH AS FOOT AND HORSE TRAILS, SINGLE
LANE LOCAL INTERMITTENT ROADS WITH PRIMITIVE SURFACE USED AS
TRAILS, DEVELOPMENT LEVEL 1 AND 2 CAMPGROUNDS, AND
NECESSARY SIGNING.

a. SEE FSM 2331, FSM 7732,
FSH 7709.12 (TRAILS
HANDBOOK), FSH 7109.11A
AND 11B (SIGN HANDBOOK).

4. MANAGE SITE USE AND OCCUPANCY TO MAINTAIN SITES WITH-
IN FRISSELL CONDITION CLASSES 1 THROUGH 3 EXCEPT FOR
DESIGNATED SITES WHICH MAY BE CLASS 4. CLOSE AND
RESTORE CLASS 5 SITES.

RECREATION
MANAGEMENT
(PRIVATE AND
OTHER PUBLIC
SECTOR)
(A16)

1. ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR SERVICES
SUPPORTING DISPERSED RECREATION.

WILDLIFE
HABITAT
IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
(C02, 04, 05
AND 06)

1. MAINTAIN WILDLIFE HABITAT EFFECTIVENESS. PERMANENT
OPENINGS MAY BE EMPLOYED. REDUCE DISTURBANCE TO WILDLIFE
SO THAT NO SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM NEGATIVE WILDLIFE EFFECTS
RESULT.

2. PROVIDE DEER AND ELK COVER.

RANGE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
(B02)

1. KEEP LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION AND STOCKING RATES
COMPATIBLE WITH RECREATION USE. LOCATE STRUCTURAL
IMPROVEMENTS TO MEET VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES.

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

SILVICULTURAL
PRESCRIPTIONS
(E03, 06 & 07)

1. MANAGE TREE STANDS USING BOTH COMMERCIAL AND
NONCOMMERCIAL METHODS. ENHANCE VISUAL QUALITY,
DIVERSITY, AND INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL.

2. MANAGE FOREST COVER TYPES USING THE FOLLOWING HARVEST
METHODS:
- SELECTION AND SHELTERWOOD CUTS MIXED CONIFER AND
ENGELMANN SPRUCE-SUBALPINE FIR.

a. APPLY HARVEST TREATMENTS TO
FOREST COVER TYPES AS SPECIFIED
BELOW ON AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF
THE FOREST COVER TYPE. UP TO
20 PERCENT OF THE TYPE MAY BE
TREATED USING OTHER HARVEST
METHODS SPECIFIED IN FOREST
DIRECTION.

b. SILVICULTURAL STANDARDS:
(THESE STANDARDS MAY BE EXCEEDED
ON AREAS MANAGED FOR OLD GROWTH)

1. TWO-STEP SHELTERWOOD:
> > > > > > > > > > > > > >
FOREST COVER TYPE

ENGELMANN OTHER
SPRUCE-SUB- FOREST
ALPINE FIR COVER
TYPES

ROTA- 100-180 YRS 100 OR
TION MORE YRS
AGE

GROWING 80-160 60-120
STOCK
LEVEL

THINNING 20-30 YRS 20-30 YRS
CYCLE

FIRST CUT (SEED CUT):
REMOVE 40 TO 70 PERCENT OF THE
BASAL AREA OR
CUT TO: BA 25-60 BA 20-60

SECOND CUT (REMOVAL CUT):
REMOVE ALL OVERSTORY WHEN
REGENERATED STAND MEETS
MINIMUM STOCKING STANDARDS.

MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITIES

GENERAL
DIRECTION

STANDARDS &
GUIDELINES

CONTINUATION OF:
SILVICULTURAL
PRESCRIPTIONS
(E03, 06 & 07)

3. UTILIZE FIREWOOD MATERIAL USING BOTH COMMERCIAL
AND NONCOMMERCIAL METHODS.

WATER RESOURCE
IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE
(F05 AND 06)

1. PERMANENT OPENINGS MAY BE EMPLOYED TO ENHANCE
WATER PRODUCTION.

SPECIAL USE
MANAGEMENT (NON
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