

**NON-SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENT TO
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

Amendment #8

During the development of the Forest Plan, the relationship between the ongoing Special Use permitted helicopter skiing and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class was unclear. The Forest Plan is being amended to clarify this relationship.

After considering the objectives, guidelines, and other contents of the Forest Plan, it has been determined that this is a non-significant amendment, in accordance with Forest Service regulations (36 CFR 219.10(f)).

**Forestwide Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines
Forest Plan Page IV-18**

Amend ROS and VQO Management Direction to read: Manage for ROS as inventoried unless described more specifically in Management Area specific direction elsewhere in this Chapter.

**Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines for the Mountain City
Management Area Forest Plan Page IV-101**

Amend the Forest Plan to add a MA specific practice & Management Direction for ROS

Practice	Management Direction	S&G
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	Helicopter skiing conducted under a valid Special Use Permit is permitted during the time period as specified in the special use permit within the Semi-Primitive areas.	Activities other than helicopter skiing under a valid special use permit which are not consistent with the inventoried ROS Class should not be authorized.

(Over)

Management Direction, Standards and Guidelines for the Ruby Mtns. Management Area Forest Plan Page IV-107

Amend the Forest Plan to add a MA specific practice & Management Direction for ROS

Practice	Management Direction	S&G
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Management	Helicopter skiing conducted under a valid Special Use Permit is permitted during the time period as specified in the special use permit within the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Primitive ROS areas.	Activities other than helicopter skiing under a valid special use permit which are not consistent with the inventoried ROS Classes should not be authorized.

The significance of forest plan amendments for NFMA purposes is evaluated, not on the basis of environmental consequences, but on whether the changes significantly alter the long term relationship between levels of goods and services originally projected in the Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.10 (e) and FSM 1922.52). Four factors guide the Forest Service “when determining whether a proposed change to a forest plan is significant or not significant” under NFMA (FSH 1909.12—5.32 (3):

- *Timing* – the Forest Service Handbook states “the later the change, the less likely it is to be significant to the current Forest Plan”. This amendment is being made 16 years into a 10- to 15-year planning period.
- *Location and Size* – This amendment does not change existing management direction for the project, it simply clarifies the the intended relationship between ongoing helicopter skiing and the ROS classification. Regardless, this amendment applies to less than one percent o of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- *Goals, Objectives, and Outputs* – Accomplishments of Forest Plan goals and objectives are supported by this change. The Forest Plan and subsequent Wilderness Amendments to the Plan anticipated that Special Use permitted helicopter skiing would continue under the Forest Plan. This amendment does not change the outputs projected in the Forest Plan FEIS.
- *Management Prescriptions* – The management prescriptions delineated in the Forest Plan are not changed by this amendment.