

Eldorado National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan

1988

Pacific Southwest Region

USDA Forest Service



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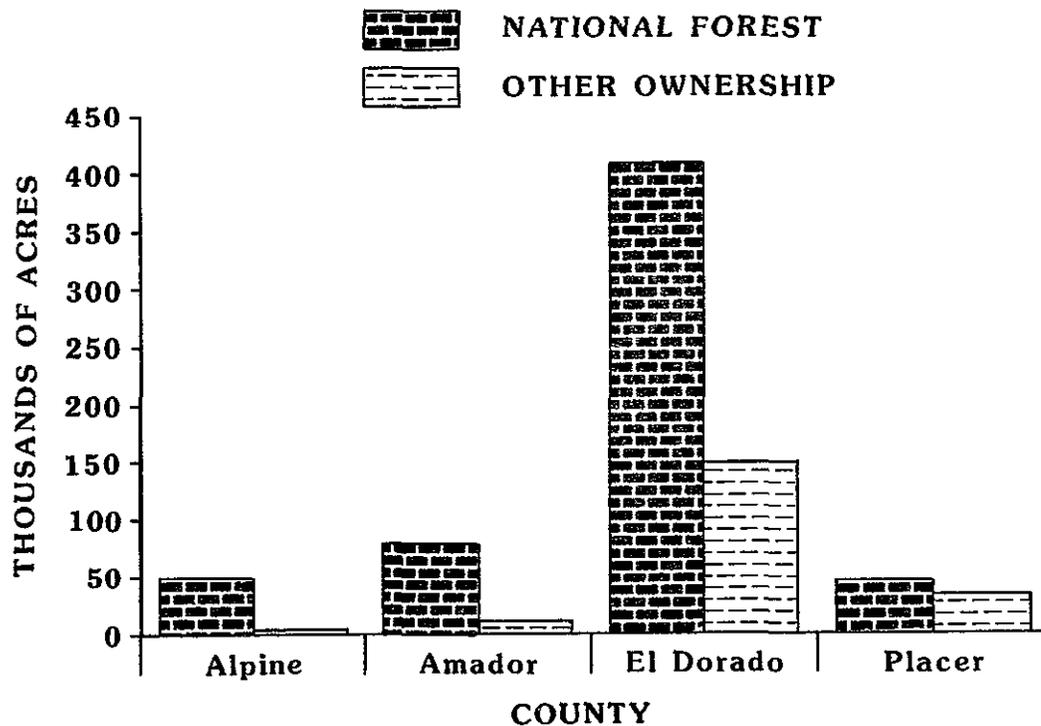
This is a Plan for managing the Eldorado National Forest for the next 10-15 years, after which it must be revised. If the need arises, it will be revised or amended earlier.

Preface

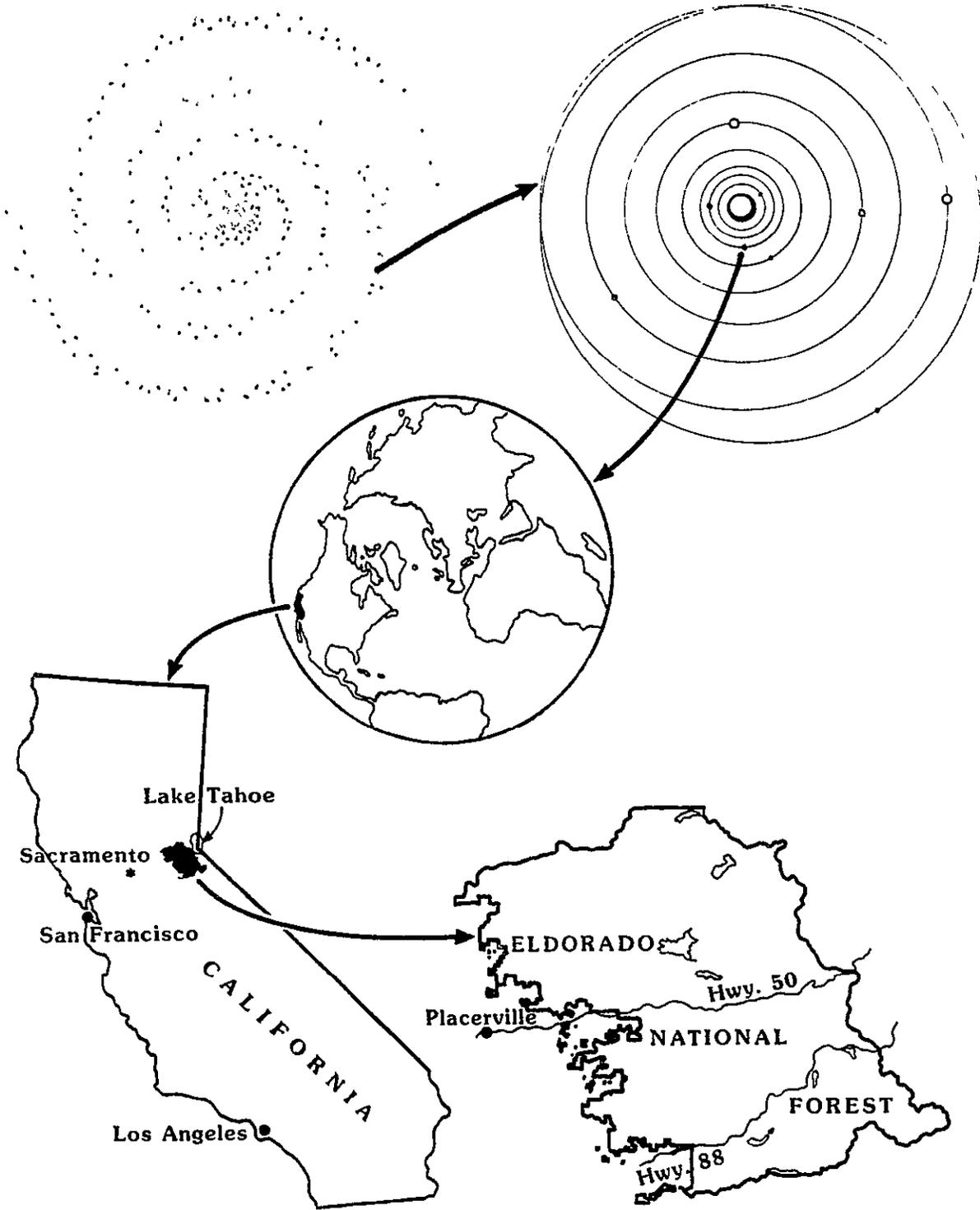
The Eldorado National Forest lies in the central Sierra Nevada. Forest land is situated entirely on the western slope of the mountain range between the foothills of the Mother Lode and the Sierra crest. Forest vegetation changes from chaparral brush and oak woodland at lower elevations to alpine growth and barren rock near the summit. Dense pine, mixed conifer, and red fir timber stands dominate the mid-elevation landscape. The Eldorado is a highly diversified, productive Forest.

Parts of Alpine, Amador, El Dorado and Placer Counties are covered by the Forest Plan. An acreage summary follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>National Forest</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alpine	50,278	3,774	54,052
Amador	77,849	12,033	89,882
El Dorado	417,448	140,896	558,344
Placer	51,149	33,567	84,716
	596,724	190,270	786,994



Vicinity Map

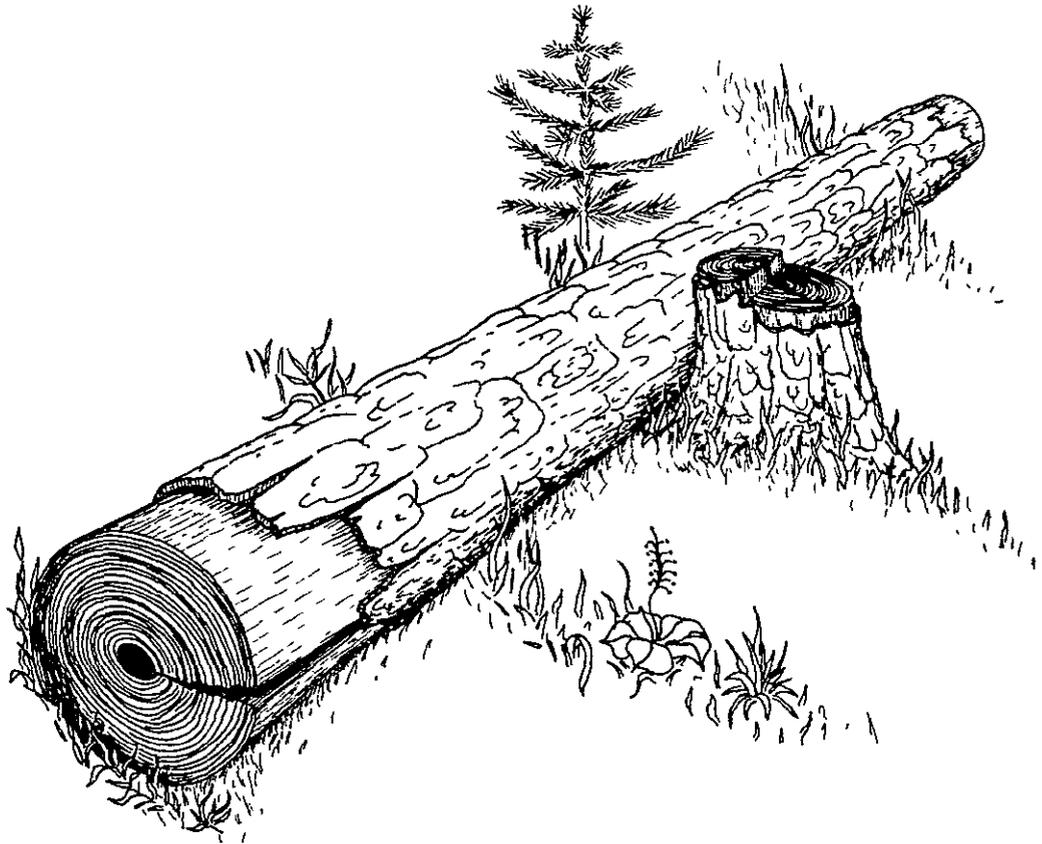


Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Preface</u>	i
Vicinity Map	ii
Contents	iii
List of Tables and Figures	vii
 <u>Chapter I - Introduction</u>	
A. Purpose of the Plan	1-1
B. Relationship to Other Plans	1-2
C. Implementation	1-4
D. Amendment	1-4
E. Revision	1-4
F. Public Review and Appeal	1-5
G. Organization of the Plan	1-5
 <u>Chapter II - Public Issues and Management Concerns</u>	
A. Energy	2-1
B. Mining	2-4
C. Outdoor Recreation	2-6 —
D. Timber	2-9
E. Lands	2-11
F. Fish and Wildlife	2-13
G. Fire	2-15
H. Transportation System	2-17 —
I. Range	2-20
J. Water Quality and Quantity	2-21
K. Roadless Areas	2-23

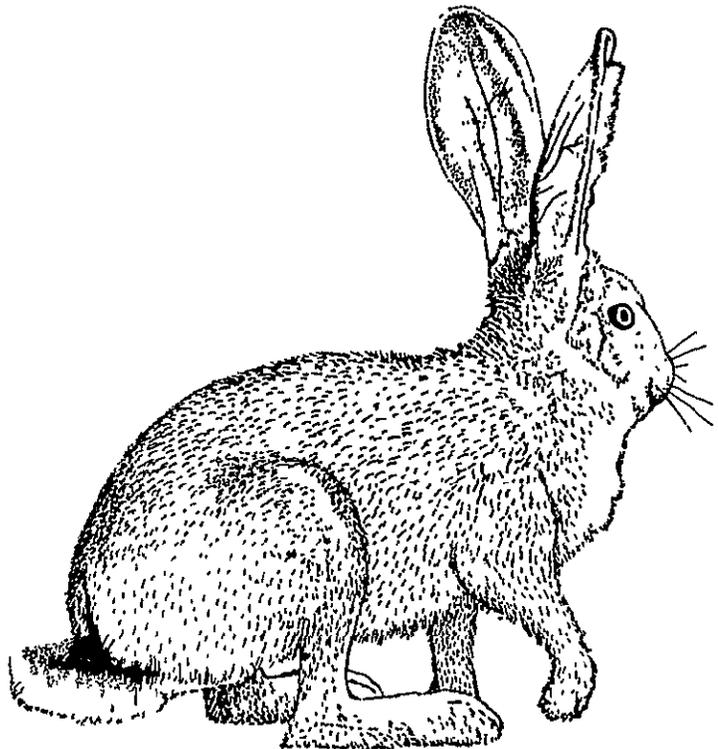
	<u>Page</u>
<u>Chapter III - Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation</u>	
A. Existing Situation	3-1
1. Social and Economic Setting	3-1
2. Physical and Biological Setting	3-4
B. Supply/Demand Situation	3-18
C. Resource Uses and Opportunities	3-33
<u>Chapter IV - Management Direction</u>	4-1
A. Introduction	4-1
1. Concept of Management Direction	4-1
2. Plan Implementation	4-1
3. Direction Components	4-2
B. Goals and Objectives	4-2
1. Goals	4-2
2. Objectives	4-6
C. Future Condition of the Forest	4-18
D. Management Emphasis	4-25
E. Management Areas	4-28
F. Forest Practices	4-30
1. Criteria	4-33
2. Descriptions	4-34
Element A - Recreation	4-34
Element B - Wilderness	4-43
Element C - Fish and Wildlife	4-43
Element D - Range	4-48
Element E - Timber	4-50
Element F - Water and Soils	4-61
Element G - Minerals and Geology	4-64
Element J - Lands	4-66
Element L - Facilities	4-67
Element P - Protection	4-70
G. Standards and Guidelines	4-73
1. Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines	4-73
2. Management Area Standards and Guidelines	4-118

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Chapter V - Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements</u>	5-1
A. Purpose	5-1
B. Monitoring System	5-1
C. Evaluation	5-2
D. Monitoring Element Display	5-4



Appendix

- A. Needed Resource Implementation Plans
- B. Research and Technical Planning Needs
- C. Tentative 10-Year Timber Sale Action Plan and Timber Management Tables
- D. Lands Adjustment Summary
- E. Transportation Summary
- F. Water Quality Management



Tables		<u>Page</u>
III-1	BACKGROUND GRAZING SUPPLY	3-18
III-2	GRAZING SUPPLY INDUCED BY TIMBER ACTIVITIES	3-19
III-3	INCREASE IN FORAGE SUPPLY FROM RANGE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	3-19
III-4	CURRENT AND POTENTIAL RECREATION SUPPLY	3-20
III-5	EXISTING SITUATION BY ROS CLASS	3-21
III-6	QUANTITY DEMANDED OF RECREATION VISITOR DAYS	3-21
III-7	PROJECTED RECREATION DEMAND	3-22 _____
III-8	POTENTIAL RECREATION CAPACITY AND DEMAND	3-22 _____
III-9	EXISTING COMMERCIAL CONIFER INVENTORY BY STRATA	3-23
III-10	COMMERCIAL CONIFER VOLUME BY STRATA	3-23
III-11	PERCENT SPECIES COMPOSITION	3-24
III-12	BACKGROUND WATER SUPPLY	3-25
III-13	INDUCED WATER YIELD FROM TIMBER ACTIVITIES	3-26
III-14	INDUCED WATER YIELD FROM INTENSIVE PRACTICES	3-26
III-15	ANNUAL MAXIMUM WATER SUPPLY FOR THE 50-YEAR HORIZON	3-26
III-16	WILDERNESS SUPPLY ESTIMATE	3-27
III-17	WILDERNESS SUPPLY UNDER VARIOUS ASSUMPTIONS	3-28
III-18	PAST WILDERNESS USED	3-28
III-19	MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES - SUPPLY/DEMAND, DIRECTION, CONFLICTS, OPPORTUNITIES	3-30

		<u>Page</u>
IV-1	AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTPUTS BY DECADE	4-7
IV-2	ELDORADO MANAGEMENT AREAS	4-29
IV-3	FOREST PRACTICES	4-30
C-1 to 10	TENTATIVE 10-YEAR TIMBER SALE ACTION PLAN (Fiscal Years 1986 to 1995)	C-2
C-11	SUMMARY BY FISCAL YEAR - TENTATIVE 10-YEAR ACTION PLAN (Fiscal Years 1986 to 1995)	C-12
C-12	FIRST DECADE REGENERATION HARVEST BY STRATA	C-13
C-13	ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST LAND CLASSIFICATION	C-14
C-14	VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	C-15
C-15	TIMBER PRODUCTIVITY CLASSIFICATION	C-16
C-16	ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY AND TIMBER SALE PROGRAM QUANTITY	C-17
C-17	PRESENT AND FUTURE FOREST CONDITIONS	C-18
C-18	COMPARISON OF GROWTH, HARVEST, INVENTORY AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINED YIELD	C-19
C-19	COMPARISON OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO THE 1978 TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLAN	C-20
C-20	TENTATIVELY SUITABLE LANDS	C-21
C-21	C.A.S. ACREAGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DRAFT AND FINAL PLAN	C-22
E-1	ROAD AND TRAIL MILES	E-1
E-2	FOREST HIGHWAYS	E-1
E-3	DELETED 4-WD ROADS	E-2
E-4	DELETED 2-WHEEL CYCLE TRAILS	E-2
Figures		
V-1	MONITORING PROCESS FLOW CHART	5-3

I. Introduction

A. Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to direct the management of the Eldorado National Forest. The Plan prescribes compatible sets of Forest practices for the land and the resources. Acres are assigned to different resource uses, and targets are set for the production of market and nonmarket goods and services. The Plan shows the government's cost of doing business and the value to society of performing a planned program.

The proposed Plan contains specific management actions for the plan period. The plan period is comprised of the next 10-15 years only. The plan period is defined by the NFMA regulations as one decade (36 CFR 219.3, 1982), while the law permits a 15-year maximum (16 USC 1604 (f) (5)). Conditions on the Forest will be reanalyzed within the plan period and a revised Plan developed (36 CFR 219.10 (g), 1982 and 16 USC 1604 (f) (5)).

Environmental protection is gained by applying management requirements to approved Forest activities. The Plan also meets legal requirements and deals with local, state, and national issues. To accomplish its purpose, the Plan:

1. Names Forest long-range goals and objectives for a 10-year period;
2. Schedules the location and occurrence of forest practices by management areas;
3. Establishes standards and guidelines for forest practices; and
4. Ties management activities directly to the Forest Service budgeting system, linking them with the periodic assessments and programs developed at the national level under the Forest and Rangeland Resources Planning Act (RPA).

Preparation of a comprehensive, integrated Forest Plan fits into a larger network of regional and national planning direction that establishes resource production quantities for National Forest System lands. The RPA program is built on continual assessments of land capability and suitability, which flow up to Washington D.C. from each Forest Service region. The RPA data are analyzed on a national scale, and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is written for a proposed service-wide program. When the current RPA program is approved, targets are distributed downward. Each region receives a share of national production quantities for further distribution to the forests of that region. These targets are real targets based on site specific information reported earlier by the forests. The planning cycle is then completed.

B. Relationship to Other Plans

All of the existing land and resource management plans were reviewed by the Forest's interdisciplinary team during the planning process. The team determined that several plans will remain consistent with or complement this Forest Plan. Existing plans that are still valid include the following:

Desolation Wilderness Management Plan
Mokelumne Wilderness Interim Management Guidelines
Round Top Recreation Composite Plan
State Route 88 Recreation Composite Plan
Highway 88 Landscape Management Plan
Soda Springs-Riverton Landscape Management Plan
Eldorado Fisheries Habitat Management Plan
Wrights Lake Grazing Allotment Plan
Rondoni and Tells/Gerle Units Grazing Allotment Plan
Liddicoat Grazing Allotment Plan
Pyramid Grazing Allotment Plan
Indian Valley Grazing Allotment Plan
Cody Meadow Grazing Allotment Plan
Bear River Grazing Allotment Plan
Pearl Lake Grazing Allotment Plan
Chipmunk Grazing Allotment Plan
Corral Flat Grazing Allotment Plan
Pardoe Grazing Allotment Plan
Old Pino Grazing Allotment Plan
Bryan Meadow Grazing Allotment Plan
Big Hill Grazing Allotment Plan
Cat Creek Grazing Allotment Plan
Sopiago Grazing Allotment Plan
Nevada Point Grazing Allotment Plan
Silver Lake Unit/Cody Meadow Grazing Allotment Plan
Y Meadow Grazing Allotment Plan
Sherman Grazing Allotment Plan
Soldier Creek Grazing Allotment Plan
Morrison Grazing Allotment Plan
Leak Spring Grazing Allotment Plan
Caldor Grazing Allotment Plan
Rockbound Grazing Allotment Plan
Eldorado Interpretive Plan
Crystal Basin Interpretive Plan
→ Forest Development Transportation System Plan
Emigrant Summit Trail Management Plan
Pony Express Trail Management Plan
Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan
SOFAR Comprehensive Cultural Resources Plan
Mokelumne River Project Cultural Resources Plan
Forest Fire Prevention Plan
Forest Aviation Plan
Forest Fire Qualifications and Standards Plan
Species Management Guide - Navaretia prolifera ssp. lutea

The 1979 Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Plan will remain in effect, with some additional closures and restrictions, until January 1990. At that time, a new Forest ORV Plan will become effective.

Five existing land and resource management plans will be superseded when the Forest Plan is approved. Superseded plans include the following:

- Eldorado National Forest Multiple Use Plan
- Eldorado Land Adjustment Plan
- Forest Initial Attack and Mobilization Plan
- Volcanoville Unit Plan
- 1978 Eldorado Timber Management Plan

Seven cooperator plans supplement this Forest Plan. They are also consistent with proposed management of the Eldorado National Forest. These cooperator plans were prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and include the following:

- Rubicon Wild Trout Stream Plan
- Grizzly Flat Deer Herd Plan
- Pacific Deer Herd Plan (except overlap with the Peavine RNA)
- Blue Canyon Deer Herd Plan
- Salt Springs Deer Herd Plan
- Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, 1986
- Recovery Plan for Peregrine Falcon (Pacific Population), 1982

The analysis that supports the Forest Plan is contained in an approved EIS. The Record of Decision for the EIS is signed by the Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service. The Forest Plan and associated EIS become combined documents, whereby the EIS discloses the environmental consequences of the alternatives considered in reaching the approved Forest Plan. The selected plan is derived from the preferred alternative of the EIS.

The EIS for the Forest Plan also serves as a tiered document under the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1502.20 and 1508.28) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Environmental assessments (EA) for Forest projects and other activities affecting the environment will be tiered to the EIS for the Forest Plan. Project approvals will be given through Decision Notices signed by the Supervisor. Relevant project issues already addressed in broader terms in the EIS may be summarized in the project EA, and discussions are incorporated by reference from one document to the other. The tiered EA then can be focused on site specific issues related to particular project activities.

C. Implementation

The Forest Supervisor shall, upon implementation of the Forest Plan, make sure that all outstanding and future permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments for the occupancy and use of affected lands are consistent with the Plan, subject to valid existing rights. Subsequent administrative activities affecting such lands, including budget proposals, shall be based on the Plan. The Forest Supervisor may change implementation schedules to reflect differences between proposed annual budgets and funds actually appropriated by Congress. Schedule changes shall be considered an amendment to the Forest Plan, but no change shall prompt the preparation of any EIS unless it significantly alters the long-term relationship between production levels of goods and services projected under planned budgets compared to those projected under final appropriations.

D. Amendment

The Forest Supervisor may amend this Forest Plan. Based on an analysis of the objectives, standards and guidelines, and other contents of the Forest Plan, the Forest Supervisor shall decide whether a proposed amendment would result in a significant change in the Plan. However, if the change resulting from the proposed amendment is judged to be significant, the Forest Supervisor shall follow the same EIS procedure initially used for the development and approval of the Forest Plan. If the change resulting from the amendment is determined not to be significant for the purpose of the planning process, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment following appropriate public notice and satisfactory completion of NEPA procedures.

E. Revision

The Forest Plan shall routinely be revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. The plan may also be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that conditions or demands in the area covered by the plan have changed substantially -- or when changes in RPA policies, goals, and objectives would have a significant effect on forest level programs. The Eldorado interdisciplinary team, in their monitoring and evaluation role, may recommend a revision to the Forest Supervisor at any time during the normal life of the Plan. Revisions are not effective until they are considered and approved in accordance with requirements for the development and approval of a Forest Plan. The Forest Supervisor shall periodically review conditions on the land covered by the Plan to determine whether those conditions or demands of the public have changed significantly.

F. Public Review and Appeal

The Regional Forester will approve the final Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Approval will occur when the Regional Forester prepares and signs a concise public Record of Decision. The approved Plan will not become effective until at least 30 days after the publication of the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the Federal Register.

The Regional Forester's decision may be appealed in accordance with provisions of 36 CFR 211.18. Certain decisions are not appealable, including decisions to disapprove a Forest Plan and preliminary process decisions made prior to completion of final plans.

G. Organization

The Plan is divided into five chapters. Chapter I gives an introduction to the Forest. Chapter II tells how the Plan deals with public issues and management concerns. Chapter III summarizes the analysis of the management situation in terms of current outputs, supply-demand trends, production potential, and resource opportunities.

Chapter IV is the working part of the Plan. Specific direction for Forest managers is stated in this section. The direction is linked to land management areas, output schedules, and program budgets. Compatible forest practices are applied to distinct parts of the Forest under detailed sets of standards and guidelines.

Chapter IV is arranged in a format that is keyed to the Forest Plan map. The Eldorado is divided into six major management emphasis zones. Each zone is color-coded both on the map and the management area prescription pages of Chapter IV for cross-referencing.

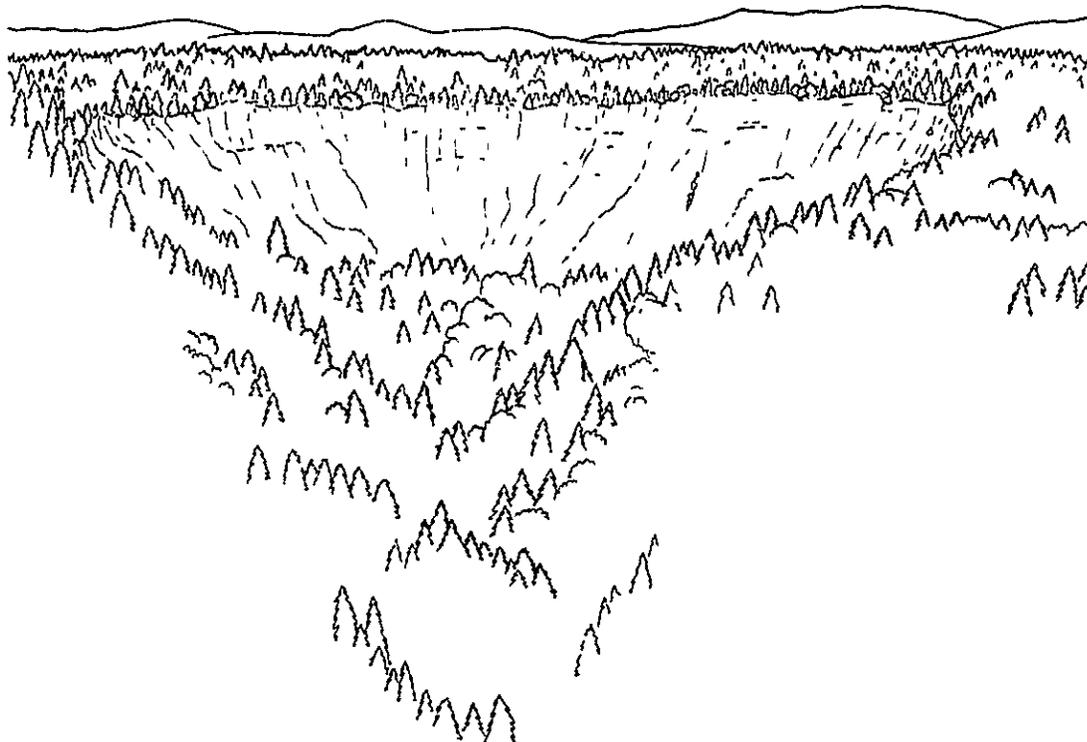
The six emphasis zones in Chapter IV are subdivided into thirty management areas. Each management area is headed by an emphasis statement and detailed description of the land that fits into that category. Each management area is further defined by a combination of Forest practices aimed at meeting objectives. Several practices are common to all management areas. These types are called Forest-wide practices and have related standards and guidelines that apply universally across the Forest. The remaining practices have standards and guidelines that change by management area. These types of practices give individualized direction to each separate management area. The Forest uses 74 Forest-wide practices and 57 variable practices.

Combinations of practices, standards, and guidelines make up a management area prescription for land treatment. Management areas are numbered from 1 to 30. Management areas 17 and 27 are omitted because they are applied in other EIS alternatives than the

preferred alternative. Practical use of the Plan is made by matching the management area prescription to its companion location on the ground. The Plan user may either look for a particular management area first and reference it to the map -- or find a known area on the map (or actual ground location) and reference it to a management area in the plan. The color-code and management area system makes the connection between the Plan and the map.

Chapter V lays out the monitoring and evaluation requirements of the Plan. Monitoring and evaluation provide the means for the Forest to scientifically assess implementation of planning direction contained in Chapter IV and rate the overall effectiveness of the Plan. Forest activities are monitored by objective, technique, precision, validity, frequency, and variability from prescribed standard. Monitoring requirements are grouped by the major program elements currently indexed in the Forest Service Management Information Handbook (FSH 1309.11a).

The appendixes to the Plan contain supporting information.



Big Crater Geologic Special Area