

FOREST PLAN



for

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOREST SERVICE

PREFACE

This Land and Resource Management Plan has been developed for the Ashley National Forest. For information pertaining to the development of this plan, details can be obtained by contacting.

Forest Supervisor
Ashley National Forest
1680 W. Highway 40 - Ashton Energy Center
Vernal, UT 84078

A. Applicable Laws and Regulations

The principal acts providing direction in developing this Land and Resource Management Plan are:

1. Organic Act of 1897
2. Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960
3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969
4. Forest Planning and Resource Planning Act (RPA) of 1974
5. National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976
6. Utah Wilderness Act 1984

B. Public Review and Appeal

If any particular provision of this proposed action, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the proposed action and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

The provisions of 36 CFR 211.18 apply to any administrative appeal of the Regional Foresters decision to approve the Forest Plan. Decisions to disapprove a plan and other decisions made during the forest planning process prior to the issuance of a record of decision approving the plan are not subject to administrative appeal.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

i.	Preface	i
ii.	Table of Contents	ii
iii.	List of Maps, Tables, and Figures	iv
iv.	Key to Abbreviations	v
I. FOREST PLAN INTRODUCTION		
A.	Purpose of the Forest Plan	I-1
B.	Relationship of the Forest Plan to Other Documents	I-1
C.	Plan Structure	I-2
D.	Forest Description	I-4
II. ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION SUMMARY		
A.	Forest Setting	II-1
1.	Socioeconomic Setting	II-1
2.	Physical and Biological Setting	II-3
3.	Recreation	II-4
a.	Developed Recreation	II-4
b.	Dispersed Recreation	II-5
c.	Trails	II-6
d.	Cultural Resources	II-6
e.	Research Natural Areas	II-6
4.	Wilderness	II-7
5.	Wildlife and Fish	II-8
6.	Range	II-9
7.	Timber	II-10
8.	Water	II-12
9.	Minerals	II-16
10.	Support Elements	II-17
a.	Lands	II-17
b.	Special Uses	II-18
c.	Soils	II-20
d.	Facilities	II-21
e.	Protection	II-22
B.	Supply Conditions	II-25
C.	Demand Conditions	II-27
D.	Need to Establish or Change Management Direction	II-27
E.	Research Needs	II-29
III. PLAN RESPONSES TO ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES		
		III-1
IV. FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION		
	Introduction	IV-1
A.	Desired Future Condition	IV-3
B.	Management Area Prescriptions	IV-5

C.	Forest Management Goals, Objectives, Standards and Guidelines	
	Recreation	IV-14
	Wilderness	IV-21
	Wildlife and Fish	IV-28
	Range	IV-32
	Timber	IV-34
	Soil and Water and Air	IV-37
	Minerals and Energy	IV-43
	Riparian	IV-45
	Lands	IV-47
	Facilities	IV-50
	Protection	IV-54
D.	Other Management Principles and Guidelines	IV-56
E.	Projected Annual Outputs, Activities and Costs for the Preferred Alternative	IV-58
F.	Administrative Unit Descriptions, Management Area Maps, and Scheduling of Analysis Area and Entries	IV-60
	Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area	IV-61
	Flaming Gorge Ranger District outside NRA	IV-65
	Vernal Ranger District	IV-72
	Roosevelt Ranger District	IV-79
	Duchesne Ranger District (North Unit)	IV-86
	Duchesne Ranger District (South Unit)	IV-92
G.	Schedule of Proposed and Probable Practices	IV-96

V. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

A.	Implementation Direction	V-1
B.	Monitoring and Evaluation	V-2
C.	Revision and Amendment	V-18

APPENDICES

A.	FGNRA Supplemental Direction	A-1
B.	Stipulations for Minerals Activities	B-1
C.	Limits of Acceptable Change (Developed Recreation Sites)	C-1
D.	Limits of Acceptable Change (Dispersed Recreation Area)	D-1
E.	Formulation of Analysis Areas	E-1

LIST OF MAPS, TABLES, AND FIGURES

I. FOREST PLAN INTRODUCTION

Vicinity Map	I-3
--------------	-----

II. ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION SUMMARY

II-1 Economic Indicators Past Trends and Baseline Projections (Table)	II-2
II-2 Developed Facilities on the Ashley National Forest (Table)	II-4
II-3 Commercial Area by Acres, Species, Type and Age Group (Table)	II-10
II-4 Present and Future Water Uses in the Uintah Basin (Table)	II-15
II-5 Current Outputs, Projected Demand, Supply Potential (Table)	II-26

III. FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Table IV-1 Projected Average Annual Outputs	IV-58
Table IV-2 Projected Average Annual Activities	IV-58
Table IV-3 Projected Average Annual Costs for the Forest Plan	IV-59
Forest Key Maps 3/8" = 1 mile	IV-60
Administrative Unit Maps 1a U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-64
Administrative Unit Maps 1b U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-71
Administrative Unit Maps 2 U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-78
Administrative Unit Maps 3 U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-85
Administrative Unit Maps 4a U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-91
Administrative Unit Maps 4b U.S.G.S. Quads	IV-95

11

11

11

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Many of the terms used in Forest Planning are often abbreviated in tables and text to conserve space and are listed below.

A	-	Aspen
ASQ	-	Allowable Sale Quantity
AC	-	Acre(s)
AMS	-	Analysis of the Management Situation
APD	-	Application for Permit to Drill
AUM	-	Animal unit month
bd. ft.	-	Board foot
BTU	-	British Thermal Unit
CFR	-	Code of Federal Regulations
Cu. ft.	-	Cubic foot
CUP	-	Central Utah Project
DBH	-	Diameter at Breast Height
DEIS	-	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DF	-	Douglas fir
DWR	-	Division of Wildlife Resources (Utah DWR)
EIS	-	Environmental Impact Statement
ER	-	Established Report
ES	-	Engelmann Spruce
FEIS	-	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FERC	-	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FGNRA	-	Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
FIL	-	Fire intensity level
FSH	-	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	-	Forest Service Manual
G.A.	-	General Administration
GAWS	-	General Aquatic Wildlife Survey
ICO	-	Issue, Concerns, Opportunities
ID	-	Interdisciplinary team
lb(s)	-	Pounds
IPM	-	Integrated Pest Management
LPP	-	Lodgepole pine
LTSY	-	Long term sustained yield
M	-	Thousand
MAc/ft	-	Thousand Acre Feet
Max	-	Maximum
MCF	-	Thousand cubic feet
MIS	-	Management Indicator Species
MN	-	Million
MMBF	-	Million board feet
MMCF	-	Million cubic feet
MRVD	-	Thousand recreation visitor days
MVP	-	Minimum viable population
NDSY	-	Non-declining Sustained Yield
NEPA	-	National Environmental Policy Act
NFMA	-	National Forest Management Act
NRA	-	National Recreation Area
NPB	-	Net public benefit
NTL	-	Notice To Leasee
NTU	-	Nephelometer Turbidity Units

NUSSTG - Northern Utah Shared Services Timber Group
ORV's - Off-road vehicles
PAOT - People at one time
PNV - Present net value
PP - Ponderosa pine
PVB - Present value of benefits
PVC - Present value of costs
RAMIS - Range Allotment Management Information System
RIM - Recreation Information Management
RPA - Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act
RMOGA - The Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association
RN - Roaded Natural
RNA - Research Natural Area
ROS - Recreation opportunity spectrum
RVD's - Recreation visitor days
SAF - Subalpine fir
SHPO - State Historic Preservation Officer
SPM - Semi-primitive motorized
SPMN - Semi-primitive nonmotorized
T&E - Threatened and Endangered
TEP - Trade-off Evaluation Process
TMP - Timber Management Plan
TSI - Timber Stand Improvement
VIS - Visitor Information Services
VQO - Visual quality objective
WFUD's - Wildlife and fish user days
WRENS - Water Resources Evaluation of Non-point Silvicultural Sources