

CHAPTER IV

FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

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INTRODUCTION

The future management direction for the Ashley National Forest is expressed in this chapter in terms of the Management Prescriptions, Goals and Objectives to be accomplished, and the Standards and Guidelines for their accomplishment. This direction and guidance will be used by forest personnel to achieve the outputs and results the plan proposes. This chapter will further inform the public, other agencies, and cooperators of the planned future program direction and management activities within each designated management area on the Forest.

A. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

This section is a description of the desired future condition of the Forest resulting from implementation of the preferred alternative described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

B. COMPARISON OF MANAGEMENT AREAS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Each alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement is displayed in terms of different combinations or mixes of management prescriptions. In the Forest Plan, management prescriptions have been equated to specific management areas for the preferred alternative. The similarities and differences of the management areas and the associated prescriptions are displayed in this section. This information served as the basis for the development of the goals, objectives, and standards and guidelines contained in the next section.

For additional information regarding the management prescriptions, see Appendix B of the Environmental Impact Statement.

C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Forest management goals define the direction of Forest-wide management. They are broad definitions of what will be achieved.

The objectives further define and specify the management activities to be accomplished.

The standards and guidelines define and specify the conditions to be maintained or achieved through the management activities. Should conflicts occur between standards and guidelines, the conflict will be resolved in favor of the direction which produces the greatest degree of multiple use value.

The standards and guidelines are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional standards and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and other applicable laws and regulations. All applicable Federal and State laws will be met. Laws outlining quality

standards and/or procedures for adequately protecting the resources will also be followed. The procedures that will be used to monitor compliance with quality standards are specified in Chapter V, Section B Monitoring and Evaluation.

D. OTHER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

This section includes several management principles and guidelines that will be considered in all management activities during the implementation of the plan.

E. PROJECTED ANNUAL OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, AND COSTS FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This section displays the projected annual outputs, activities and costs for the preferred alternative.

F. MANAGEMENT AREA MAPS AND SCHEDULING OF ANALYSIS AREA ENTRIES

The Forest has been divided into 14 management areas based on the prescriptions that most nearly maximized the public benefits. In this section the management areas are displayed on maps according to Ranger District boundaries. There are four Ranger Districts and two of the Districts have two subdivisions. Most management areas have only one prescription but a few areas have two prescriptions due to the mixture of lands within that area.

The prescriptions that most nearly maximized public benefits were developed in the preferred alternative. Therefore, some of the management area headings are not included.

A matrix showing management areas, by Ranger District and acreage, and a schedule of acres impacted within each analysis area for each decade, is also included in this section. An explanation of the process for formulation of the analysis areas is contained in Appendix E.

G. SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED AND PROBABLE PRACTICES

This section lists the proposed and probable management activities scheduled for accomplishment during the first ten-year period after plan implementation.