

Chapter 4. Draft Standards or Guidelines that Apply to all of the Prescott NF

Introduction

Standards and Guidelines provide sideboards and guidance for project and activity decision making to help achieve Desired Conditions and Objectives. Standards must be followed and can only change with a Forest Plan Amendment. Guidelines must be followed, but may be modified somewhat for a specific project if the intent of the guideline is followed and the rationale and possible effects are included during site specific environmental analysis or are otherwise documented (e.g. fire emergency).

Management direction is also found in numerous laws, regulations, executive orders, Forest Service policies, and additional guidance documents. These documents are listed in Appendix A.

The following standards and guidelines apply to all parts of the Prescott National Forest. In Chapter 5, Management Areas, standards and guidelines are listed that apply only to a sub set of the Forest—that is an individual management area.

Maps are attached in Appendix XX.

	Scenic Value (See also: Forest Health Guidelines-3.4.5.6.7.8; Wildland Fire Guidelines 7,8,12,13; and Minerals Guideline-5)
Guide-Scenic-1	Scenic Integrity Objectives (See Map A) should be met or exceeded, and areas with low scenic integrity should be improved.
Guide-Scenic- 2	All improvements, including permanent structures, vegetation manipulation, ground-disturbing activities and/or construction, should be compatible with the Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) for the area and should be designed to complement the character of the surrounding natural landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider ways to disguise or minimize visual effects of constructed features by use of colors and materials which blend with the existing landscape. • Structures would generally be below the height of vegetation, and vegetation that screens views to features should be protected or enhanced.
Guide Scenic 3	For projects needed to protect or enhance forest health, the Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIO's) may be modified by one level during and immediately following project implementation, providing that scenic effects do not exceed 3 years in duration.
	Watershed Integrity (See also Range Guidelines-1,7and Std.-2; Minerals Guidelines-2.3.4.12; Wildland Fire Guidelines-10,15; and Transportation Guidelines-1,2,3,4,5,10)
Guide-WS-1	Land disturbing projects should be designed so as not to alter the long term hydrologic regime within the appropriate second or third order watershed (generally a 7 th field HUC). Level of disturbance, type of activity, and probable recovery curve should be considered in addition to sensitivity of the watershed based on soil, geologic, and streamflow characteristics as cumulative effect of land disturbing projects on stream channel condition and water quality is determined.
Guide-WS-2	Design and implement watershed restoration projects in a manner that promotes

	long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems and conserves genetic integrity of native species. Give priority to those watersheds that provide surface water for municipal use and that support threatened, endangered, or Region 3 sensitive species habitat.
Guide-WS-3	Manage riparian dependent resources to maintain and improve productivity and diversity of riparian dependent species. Manage riparian communities to provide for or enhance habitat for aquatic species and riparian plants.
Guide-WS-4	Appropriate buffers along stream channels should be identified based on site specific geomorphology or vegetation, and should be used to avoid adverse impacts to stream channel features (e.g. stream banks, obligate riparian vegetation, and vegetation occurring due to existence of moisture within riparian influence area).
Guide-WS-5	Given natural potential, ground cover sufficient to filter run-off and prevent detrimental erosion should be retained.
Guide-WS-6	New infrastructure or facilities (roads, parking lots, trailheads, energy transmission lines, etc.) should be located outside of riparian corridors.
Guide-WS-7	As opportunities arise during improvement or reconstruction, infrastructure or facilities (roads, parking lots, developed recreation sites, powerlines, etc.) should be relocated outside of riparian corridors.
Guide-WS-8	Fuels and other toxicants should not be stored within riparian corridors: Refueling or servicing equipment should not take place within riparian corridors unless there are no other alternatives.
Guide-WS-9	Equipment operation in stream channels and groundwater dependent ecosystems should normally be avoided. If use of equipment in such areas is required, develop site specific design features to minimize impact, and complete restoration/stabilization immediately following disturbance.
Guide-WS-10	Construction and other activities affecting stream channels should be limited to those periods when such activities will have the least detrimental effect on riparian and aquatic environments, unless emergency conditions deem otherwise.
Guide-WS-11	Livestock use on herbaceous vegetation within riparian corridors should retain sufficient stubble height for bank protection, plant and root health, and to trap overbank sediment. Livestock use on woody riparian species (cottonwood, willow, ash, alder, etc.) should provide for maintenance and recruitment leading to a diverse age class of woody riparian species where the potential exists.
Guide-WS-12	Riparian communities and sensitive sites should be retained by providing off-site water for livestock to minimize impact on riparian communities and sensitive sites
Guide-WS-13	Exclosures should be constructed to protect riparian and adjacent areas to mitigate recurring unacceptable impacts to riparian corridors, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and aquatic habitat.
Guide-WS-14	When applying for instream flows, give consideration to mimicking natural stream discharges by incorporating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer and winter base flows to sustain and enhance habitat for aquatic species and riparian plants, • A peak flow component to maintain aquatic species habitat, channel capacity (including the ability to transport sediment load), and riparian plant regeneration, Additional flood flows for maintenance of floodplains.
Std-WS-1	Construction or maintenance equipment service areas shall be located so as to

	prevent gas, oil, or other contaminants from washing or leaching into streams.
Std-WS-2	Equipment working in open water and wetlands shall be cleaned prior to entry into such areas to remove gas, oil, and other contaminants.
Std-WS-3	Appropriate containment measures shall be employed for storage of fuels and other toxicants.
	Soils—
Guide-Soils-1	Long-term soil productivity and hydrologic function of the soil should be maintained or improved by limiting activities that would cause excessive soil disturbance. Excessive soil disturbances consist of severely burned soils, disproportionate loss of ground cover, or detrimental soil displacement, erosion, puddling, or compaction, as defined in Region 3 Soil Management Handbook.
Guide-Soils-2	As a project design feature, long-term soil productivity should be maintained on at least 85 percent of each project area, where possible.
Guide-Soils-3	Severely disturbed sites should be revegetated where feasible.
Guide-Soils-4	In choosing materials to use for revegetation, the following should occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native plant or seed materials should be used that are appropriate to the site and capable of becoming established. • Certified weed free seed should be used or seed should be tested to ensure absence of invasive species before acceptance and mixing. • Seed should be tested to ensure viability • Local material or locally collected seed should be used when possible
Guide-Soils-5	To enhance and maintain soil productivity, down logs and coarse woody debris should be retained. At minimum, down logs and coarse woody debris should be maintained at the appropriate tonnage per vegetation type as outlined in the vegetative desired condition sections.
Guide-Soils-6	Projects should be designed to minimize impacts to soil and water resources in all ground-disturbing activities. Where disturbance cannot be avoided, develop project-specific soil and water conservation practices.
Guide-Soils-7	Range improvements or (re)construction of improvements should consider soil & watershed limitations.
	Vegetation—Native Plants, Non-Native Invasive Plant Species, Forest Health, Range, Fire
	Native Plant Species (See also Range Guidelines-5,6; Minerals Guidelines-11,13,14,15; Lands Guidelines-4,10; and Rec Guideline-5)
Guide plants-1	When conditions are highly disturbed within the vicinity of occupied sensitive plant species habitat, restore vegetation to its near natural condition to avoid invasion of non-native invasive plant species and noxious weeds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native, weed-free plant material should be selected to restore natural species composition and ecosystem function to the disturbed area. • This may include seeding one mixture of species soon after disturbance, monitoring, and adding other species material over time.
Guide plants 2	When available and not cost-prohibitive, seed and plants used for revegetation projects should originate from genetically local sources. Seed should be collected in accordance with seed zones or breeding zones. Consider using

	long-term storage facilities for collected seeds such as the seed banks with the Colorado Plateau Native Plant Initiative
Guide plants 3	In cases where plant collection permits are issued, collecting seeds or cuttings should be encouraged, and digging or physically removing whole plants should be discouraged.
Guide plants 4	For projects or activities that include application of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, or rodenticides, minimize potential adverse impacts on Region 3 Sensitive Plant Species.
Guide plants 6	Conservation and recovery of plant species with high risks to viability should be emphasized where quantity and quality of habitat needed to support viability is a concern.
Std plants1	Collection of Region 3 Sensitive Plants shall occur for research or scientific purposes only.
Std plants 2	Storage of fuels and other toxicants shall be located away from known populations of Region 3 Sensitive Plant Species.
Non-native invasive species (See also Guideline Native Plant Species 1)	
Guide-NNIS-1	Introduction of Non-native invasive species (NNIS) due to management activities should not occur and new populations as well as the spread of NNIS should be detected and treated at an early stage. Applicable design features in Appendix B of the FEIS (2004) for integrated treatment of noxious and invasive species should be followed in treating non-native invasive plant species.
Guide-NNIS-2	Measures to avoid weed establishment and spread should be included with proposed management actions near R3 sensitive plant species locations
Std-NNIS-1	When treating noxious or invasive weeds to protect endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate wildlife and plant species and their habitats, design features in Appendix B of the FEIS (2004) must be followed.
Forest Health	
Guide-F.H.-1	Manage treatment timing and residual green slash accumulations in all tree cutting activities on ponderosa pine sites to minimize opportunities for Ips beetle populations to increase.
Guide-F.H.-2	Within grasslands, scattered single or groups of trees should be present in the landscape to provide shading and structure for wildlife.
Guide-F.H.-3	Along Concern Level 1 and 2 roads found in areas with a High Scenic Integrity Objective, activity slash should be piled and burned or removed within the visible area up to 50' from edge of the road or from developed recreation sites.
Guide-F.H.-4	When management activities require cutting trees in piñon-juniper vegetation within the viewshed of Concern Level 1 Roads, cut trees should be treated so that pieces lie no higher than 2 feet above the ground.
Guide F.H.-5	If possible, log landings should be out of sight of Concern Level 1 Roads and developed recreation areas.
Guide F.H.-6	Within the viewshed of Concern Level 1 and 2 roads, timber markings should be located so that they are not visible from the road.
Guide F.H.-7	Where feasible, when located within the viewshed of Concern Level 1 roads or within developed recreation sites, log landings and skidding areas should be reclaimed and slash treatments completed as quickly as possible after timber harvest has been completed.
Guide F.H.-8	Flagging visible from Concern Level 1 roads and trails should be removed within one year after project completion to avoid impacting the viewshed.
Range (See also Guidelines Soils-7 and Watershed Integrity- 11,12,13)	

Guide-Range-1	The placement of salt, minerals, and/or other supplements for the purposes of livestock management should be located further than ¼ mile from riparian areas or seasonally present water that is not overland flow.
Guide-Range-2	As range structural improvements (including fencing) are constructed or reconstructed, wildlife friendly design should be incorporated.
Guide-Range-3	As construction or reconstruction of improvements takes place, discarded material should be removed where feasible.
Guide-Range -4	After occurrence of fire or mechanical activity that removes most vegetation, a time period for recovery, establishment and regrowth of grasses and forbs should be determined and applied to meet site specific objectives.
Guide-Range -5	New water developments, corrals, and other handling or loading facilities should be located away from known locations of Region 3 Sensitive Plant Species unless it can be demonstrated these facilities do not adversely affect occupied sensitive plant habitat.
Guide-Range -6	Livestock salting should be located away from known locations of Region 3 Sensitive Plant Species so that plants are not adversely affected by associated trampling
Guide-Range- 7	Minimize trampling and compaction along stream channels, steep banks, springs and seeps, and other hydrologically sensitive areas to prevent soil movement and allow re-vegetation.
Std- Range-1	Water developments shall incorporate escape devices to prevent animal entrapments
Std-Range-2	Year-long livestock grazing in riparian areas (areas with perennial or intermittent surface flow including springs and seeps) shall be avoided to protect changes in conditions that may lead to changes in species health and water quality in those areas.
Forest-wide Wildland Fire Management (See Also Wilderness Fire Guideline-1,2,3,4,5 and Stds.-1,2)	
Guide-Wildland Fire-1	Setting priorities for protection of human communities, community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources should be based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
Guide-Wildland Fire-2	Strategies to manage wildland fire (wildfire and prescribed fire) that restores and maintains the natural fire regime where safe and possible, should be encouraged. For the Prescott National Forest, this includes areas displayed in Map B with the exception of the Desert Communities PNVT.
Guide-Wildland Fire-3	Preference should be given for natural ignitions to be managed in meeting the role of fire as an ecological process in those vegetation types where fire is an essential component. For the PNF this includes the area shown in Map B with the exception of the Desert Communities PNVT.
Guide-Wildland Fire-4	Mechanical or manual treatment of hazardous fuels should be considered where the use of wildland fire (wildfire and prescribed fire) may cause unacceptable damage to other resources or pose an unacceptable risk to life and private property.
Guide-Wildland Fire-5	Emergency stabilization of burned areas should be conducted as needed to prevent further harm to affected ecosystems and public safety.
Guide-Wildland Fire-6	Prescribed fire treatments within the Interior Chaparral PNVT should provide diversity of burn intensity within burn units. At the landscape scale, burn unit locations should be rotated to provide habitat diversity.
Guide-	Amount of scorch and char should be minimized on trees in areas of High SIO

Wildland Fire-7	that are visible from Concern Level 1 and 2 roads.
Guide-Wildland Fire-8	Slash piles should not be placed in sensitive areas and should be located in places and burned at times that will minimize scorching of adjacent trees and shrubs.
Guide-Wildland Fire-9	Prescribed fires within riparian areas or streamside zones should be conducted under conditions that encourage fire behavior that is of low intensity unless extenuating circumstances exist. Generally, prescribed fire would spread up-wind or downslope (e.g. backing fire) in those areas. Consider probable direct effects to riparian and streamside resources when determining ignition patterns.
Guide-Wildland Fire 10	Prescribed fire treatments within chaparral should provide diversity of burn intensity within burn units to provide desired structure for wildlife. At the landscape scale, burn unit locations should be rotated to provide habitat diversity.
Guide-Wildland-Fire 11	Amount of scorch and char should be minimized on trees in areas of High Scenic Integrity Objective that are visible from Concern Level 1 and 2 roads.
Guide–Wildland-Fire-12	Slash piles should not be placed in sensitive areas and should be located in places and burned at times that will minimize scorching of adjacent trees and shrubs..
Guide-Wildland-Fire-13	Broadcast burning should be excluded from all developed recreation sites including a 100 to 300-foot no treatment buffer around sites using existing fire barriers when possible.
Guide Wildland Fire 14	Project specific design features should be used if fire is implemented within riparian areas or streamside zones.
Guide Wildland Fire 15	Within areas shown on Map B a suppression strategy will generally be applied for wildfires to lower risk of damage to structures and provide for safety to citizens.
Std-Wildland Fire-1	Risks to firefighters and the public shall be mitigated during implementation of all fire management strategies and tactics. Protection of human life overrides all other priorities.
Std - Wildland Fire-2	Every wildland fire shall be assessed using a decision support process that examines the full range of responses and considers the following: coordination among involved jurisdictions, potential ecological benefit or risks due to the fire event including spatial and temporal components of the fire regime, risk of fire spread to private property, impacts to unique cultural resources, wildlife habitat, wilderness character and watershed integrity.
Std-Wildland Fire 3	Fire shall be excluded (suppressed and prevented) from the Potential Natural Vegetation Type called Desert Communities.
Wilderness Fire Management	
Guide-Wilderness Fire-1	To the extent possible, Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) should be used when managing both wildfire and prescribed fire within wilderness.
Guide-Wilderness Fire-2	A Resource Advisor should be assigned to all fires occurring within wilderness or when there is a high likelihood that fire will spread into a wilderness area.
Guide-Wilderness	The use of established helispots, spike camps and water sources outside of wilderness should be considered whenever possible.

Fire-3	
Guide-Wilderness Fire-4	Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) should only be considered in wilderness if (1) necessary to prevent an unnatural loss of the wilderness resource, or (2) to protect life, property, and other resource values outside of wilderness.
Guide-Wilderness- Fire-5	Within wilderness, the use of water to slow the spread of wildfire is preferred over the use of chemical retardants.
Std-Wilderness Fire-1	All fire management actions (wildfire and prescribed fire) within wilderness shall be conducted in a manner compatible with overall wilderness desired conditions including the character and values associated with each individual wilderness area.
Std-Wilderness Fire-2	The authority to approve the use of chainsaws, pumps and helicopters for emergency fire management operations within wilderness areas is limited to the Forest Supervisor or their designee. Tractor use shall be approved by the Regional Forester. Emergency use approvals should be limited to: (1) the necessary and required action for administration of wilderness, and (2) the action that has the least adverse effects on wilderness.
Minerals (See also Guideline Wildlife-7)	
Guide-Minerals-1	Provisions/stipulations should be provided for gold panning/dredging mining activities.
Guide-Minerals-2	Adverse effects to aquatic and other riparian dependant resources from mineral operations should be minimized or avoided.
Guide-Minerals-3	Structures and support facilities should be located outside riparian areas. Where no alternative to locating facilities in riparian area exists, develop site-specific design features to minimize impacts.
Guide Minerals-4	Locate mine waste that has the potential to generate hazardous material outside of riparian areas. If there is no reasonable alternative, apply design features to minimize impacts
Guide-Minerals-5	All mining activities should meet the Forest Scenic Integrity Objectives for the area of activity. Visual impact assessments should accompany all new mineral material pit proposals.
Guide-Minerals-6	Approval of mining activities with “significant surface disturbance”, should include the use of operating plans and reclamation bonds to protect and restore surface resources.
Guide-Minerals-7	Mineral material sites for public use and those only available for Forest Service use should be identified and this information should be available to the public.
Guide-Minerals-8	Mineral material development should balance private and community needs with potential resource impacts while providing for sustainable administrative use.
Guide-Minerals-9	Mineral material activities should not be permitted in designated or recommended Special Areas.
Guide-Minerals-10	Abandoned mine lands should be closed and reclaimed.
Guide-Minerals-11	Mitigation measures should be used for R3 Sensitive Species to avoid impacts to populations due to mineral exploration or extraction activity.
Guide Minerals-12	Watershed protection and mitigations should be incorporated to avoid degradation of aquatic systems including water quality during mineral extraction.
Guide Minerals13	In new and existing permitted sandstone or dolomitic limestone quarry projects, equipment and activities should avoid occupied R3 sensitive species plant

	habitat, where feasible, so that plants are not adversely affected by associated activity.
Guide – Minerals-14	Mineral material activities should avoid occupied R3 sensitive species plant habitat.
Guide- Minerals-15	Operating plans for locatable minerals should include mitigation measures for occupied R3 Sensitive Species plant locations
Std Minerals-1	<p>For Private Mineral Rights (includes oil, gas, and minerals outstanding or reserved in deeds):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface disturbance shall be limited to the minimum necessary for extraction of minerals, as stipulated by the Secretary's Rules and Regulations governing reserved minerals or by case law concerning outstanding mineral rights. (Land management decisions must not preclude the ability of private mineral owners to make reasonable use of the surface, as defined by deed and public law.) • The Forest Service shall protect the rights of the federal government, respect private mineral rights, and ensure that private mineral owners and operators take reasonable and prudent measures to prevent unnecessary disturbance to the surface. • Forest Service administration of outstanding and reserved mineral rights shall be in accordance with deeds, mineral reservations, and state and federal laws.
Std- Minerals-2	Restoration plans shall be prepared before development and use of all new mineral material sources. Existing pits that have not been utilized as a source for mineral materials for 2 years shall require a restoration plan before approval will be granted to new applicants.
Std- Minerals-3	Key heritage sites, administrative sites, and recreation sites that have an investment in facilities shall be requested for withdrawal from mineral entry and location.
Std-Minerals 4	Use of closed roads or routes that are not on the motorized vehicle use map for mining activity must be authorized. This is usually done through the plan of operations or notice of intent approval process.
Aquatic-related Species (See also Guideline Minerals 11, 12 and Guidelines Transportation-4,6,8,9)	
Guide Fish/ Aquatics 1	Design features, mitigation, and project timing considerations should be incorporated into ground disturbing projects that may affect R3 Sensitive Species' occupied habitat near streams and groundwater dependent ecosystems, to meet species' needs. Examples include but are not limited to: undisturbed buffers, timing restrictions, adjusted intensity of use, avoiding use of large equipment,
Guide Fish/ Aquatics 2	Water developments (such as a diversion or well) should be avoided near streams or near groundwater dependent ecosystems where there is sensitive species occupied habitat.
Guide-Fish/ Aquatics- 3	Mechanized equipment and tools used for projects on the forest should be cleaned of plant, animal, and mud material before coming onto the forest to prevent the spread of invasive species. Equipment (including suction dredges and hoses) should be drained and cleaned prior to leaving the project site. Watercraft, boating equipment, and personal gear (e.g. personal flotation devices, waders, wading boots/shoes) used for projects, surveys, or permitted activities such as events should be cleaned of plant, animal, and mud material before coming onto the forest to prevent the spread of invasive species. Items

	should again be cleaned at takeout.
	Lands, Energy and Communication sites, Permits, Recreation Residences—
Std Lands-1	Heights of towers shall be less than 200 feet above natural ground level. An exception to the height limitation may be granted by the Forest Supervisor, if allowing an increase in height would result in placement of fewer towers, or if a greater height is necessary for emergency services or homeland security. The applicant must prove that the requested height is the minimum necessary to provide communication services. Design features to minimize impacts to bats and birds should be incorporated.
Guide-Lands-2	Easement rights of way should help provide adequate access to the PNF. When responding to requests for new access permits or easements; grant easements in reciprocity if appropriate, to ensure administrative and public access to Forest Land.
Guide-Lands-3	When responding to land exchange proposals as presented, consider effects to open space values; visual characteristics; cultural resources; recreational opportunities; threatened, endangered or sensitive species impacts; and community vision statements. Proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria should be entertained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands within designated wilderness • Lands that contain vital threatened and endangered species habitat or vital wildlife habitat (i.e. eagle nesting sites) • Lands providing services to the public (i.e. developed and dispersed recreation) • Wetlands, riparian areas and other water-oriented lands • Lands that contain unique, natural or cultural values • Lands that will improve public land management, meet specific administrative needs, or benefit other national forest programs • Lands that provide needed access, protect public lands from fire or trespass, or prevent damage to resources • Lands that meet programs prescribed or endorsed by acts or reports of Congress or the Department of Agriculture.
Guide-Lands-4	Lands offered by the United States in land exchange will generally meet one or more of the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands needed to meet the needs of communities and the public • Provide for improved public land management • Improve management, benefit specific resources, or increase management efficiency • Have lost their wildland characteristics
Guide-Lands-5	Acquisition programs should be achieved through purchase, exchange and donation authorities. Generally, lands should be acquired as feasible and available using criteria from section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (L&WCFA).
Guide-Lands-6	The following guidelines should apply to communication sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help fulfill the public & government need for adequate communication sites. • Communication site management plans, including site boundaries, are implemented at each communication site. • Maximize use of existing facilities, where appropriate, prior to authorizing

	<p>new facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New authorizations for facility managers should include the requirement that the facility manager provide shared solar generating systems, back-up generators, grounding systems, fuel containers, access ways, and parking areas as needed for all tenants upon request. • Lot plans as previously established should be eliminated. Sites should be allocated only the actual ground space they occupy. • Maintenance of access roads and trails should be carried out jointly through cooperative maintenance payments proportionate to the amount of use or will be maintained by the users. • Clearing of vegetation should be limited to defensible space within a) the communication sites; b) fuel breaks around the perimeter of the sites; and c) areas that pose a hazard to facilities and operational efficiency. • All uses should be designed, operated and maintained so as not to physically or electronically interfere with the senior uses. Senior uses generally take precedence over new uses. High power uses should be physically separated from low power uses by 1 mile or more. The responsibility for correcting interference problems lies with the holder of the communications site authorization for the facility, the user causing the interference, and the affected parties. • New and replacement towers should be self supporting, and should incorporate design features to minimize bat and bird impacts. • All new and replacement microwave radome covers should be dark grey, or as specified by the Forest representative. • Visual resource objectives should be maintained by using design standards that make towers unobtrusive and by utilizing earth tone colors and non-reflective surface material. • New towers and tower additions should not be authorized if they adversely affect the fire tower lookouts line of sight, or present radio frequency radiation hazards to FS employees or general public. • Wildlife movement corridors, such as the Arizona's wildlife linkages, should be considered as energy sources and transmission lines are located.
<p>Guide-Lands-7</p>	<p>Energy sources should be managed according to the guidelines below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When feasible, locate new energy proposals within existing and compatible corridors including the Westwide energy corridor. • Towers for 69 kV lines and above, should be self-weathering with non-reflective lines, and when feasible, located in non-sensitive areas that blend in with the terrain or background. • Low growing plant communities that do not interfere with overhead lines, should be maintained within power line corridors. • Less than 69kV power lines should be placed underground where physically feasible. • Overhead utilities should have approved Corridor Management Plans in place prior to all vegetation treatments. • Oil & Gas pipelines should be located in non-sensitive areas whenever possible. Examples of sensitive areas include important wildlife habitat, waterways, visually unique areas, heritage and recreation areas. Disturbed surface land within the corridor should be rehabilitated with native grasses, plants, and rocks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar and wind power facilities should be co-located within compatible corridors, or located in non-sensitive areas with the least visual impacts, maintaining natural appearing vistas. • When locating new power line corridors, areas in proximity to existing power line corridors or sub-stations should be considered first. • Utility companies and wind power facilities should incorporate design features to minimize bat and avian collisions.
Guide Lands-8	Decisions related to special use authorizations should minimize adverse effects on R3 sensitive plant and animal species.
Guide Lands-9	Roads needed to provide sole access to private land, special uses, or mineral activities should be designed and engineered to minimize resource damage and maintained by the permittee to minimum standards.
Guide-Lands-10	<p>Recreation residences should be managed according to the guidelines below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation residences, decks, outbuildings and other structures should be colored and designed to blend in with the natural landscape. All improvements should be pre-approved by the Forest Service representative. • Recreation residences should be maintained in good condition to prevent vandalism and wildlife access. • Native plants should be used for landscaping. Type of species and placement should be consistent with maintaining a low fire risk. Non-native invasive species should not be introduced; infestations should be removed where they exist
Std. Lands-1	The most recent Utility Vegetation Management Guidelines agreed to by APS and Coconino, Prescott, and Tonto National Forests (12/5/06) shall be used to prepare Corridor Management Plans (operating plans). Such plans shall be submitted prior to all vegetation treatments.
Std Lands-2	New recreational residences shall not be established.
Std-Lands-3	Recreational residences shall be occupied no less than 15 days per year and shall not be used as full time residences.
Recreation/Transportation/Wilderness/Wild-Scenic Rivers	
Recreation	(See also Wildland Fire Guideline 14; Minerals std 3; Lands Guideline 3)
Guide-Rec-1	Projects should maintain experience and settings as classified in the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) inventory and displayed in Map C, Appendix XX.
Guide-Rec-2	Information and customer services should be available in formats, times and locations that meet evolving customer needs.
Guide-Rec-3	Designated dispersed site recreation management should be used to provide a primitive experience and prevent resource damage due to over-use, while meeting the needs of recreation users.
Guide-Rec-4	New developed and designated dispersed recreation sites should be located away from known locations of R3 Sensitive Species unless it can be demonstrated that these facilities do not adversely impact occupied sensitive plant habitat.
Guide-Rec-5	Use of native plant species should be emphasized during planning activities (design of new or improvements of existing sites). Invasive weeds should be removed or treated on existing sites before they become widespread within developed recreational sites.
Guide-Rec-6	Unauthorized travel routes should be returned to natural conditions to discourage continued use.

Guide-Rec-7	Management tools (education, engineering, and enforcement) should be used to prevent resource damage due to recreational activities where needed and feasible. Examples of such tools include but are not limited to: traffic control devices, designation of campsites, time limits, site rotation, group size limitation, registration, public contact, written information, permits, seasonal closures, fencing, and current information posted on the Internet.
Guide-Rec-8	Redesign, restoration or rehabilitation of recreation sites should be carried out where recreation activities have caused unacceptable natural and social resource impacts.
Guide-Rec-9	Developed campgrounds and designated dispersed campsites should be located away from riparian areas, floodplains (need defined in glossary) and other environmentally sensitive areas.
Guide-Rec-10	Accurate, understandable signs should be used in effective locations to help discourage encroachment of motorized vehicles into non-motorized areas.
Guide-Rec-11	Engineering tools should be used to minimize recreation and livestock grazing conflicts. Tools could include but are not limited to: trail design that avoids stock tanks, incorporation of self-closing gates, or use of ATV cattle guards. Tools should be matched to intended use, such as providing gates around cattle guards for horseback riders.
Guide-Rec-12	Tree cutting in campgrounds should be limited to those that are diseased or a safety hazard. If possible, tree-cutting should take place outside of the primary use season.
Std-Rec-1	All camping shall not exceed a period of 14 days within a 30 consecutive day period within the PNF outside Prescott Basin Management Area. (see Prescott/Drake Management Area for Prescott Basin guidance.)
Std-Rec-2	Only designated roads, motorized trails, and motorized use areas as depicted in the Motorized Vehicle Use Map are open to public motorized vehicle use.
Transportation	
Guide-Trans-1	New motorized or non-motorized routes (designated roads or trails provided by the Prescott National Forest) should not be constructed in wetlands, riparian areas, and along stream bottoms. Design and reconstruct roads to minimize disruption of natural hydrologic flow paths including diversion of stream flow and interception of surface and subsurface flow. When crossing such features is unavoidable, design features should be used to maintain hydrologic function..
Guide-Trans-2	Where feasible, motorized roads or trails in riparian areas and in proximity to other water courses should be closed or relocated, hydrologically restored, and vegetation reestablished.
Guide-Trans-3	Temporary roads should be eliminated and rehabilitated when related projects and administrative activity are complete.
Guide-Trans-4	Roads and trails removed from the transportation network should be rehabilitated as soon as possible. Treatments may include re-shaping travelways, removal of stream crossing structures, restoring and armoring natural drainages, stabilizing ground surface , revegetation, and maintenance or restoration of fish passage.
Guide-Trans-5	Road, trail, and trailhead construction and maintenance activities should be designed to minimize sediment transport to streams (e.g., water bars, sediment traps). Outsloping of the roadway surfaces is preferred, except where outsloping will increase sediment delivery to streams or where outsloping is unsafe.
Guide-Trans-6	Roads and trails should be designed so as not to impede terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species movement and habitat connectivity.

Guide-Trans-7	Seasonal road and trail closures or other management methods should be used to manage and protect resources and infrastructure.
Guide-Trans-8	Where feasible, road and trail locations should avoid habitat required by R3 Sensitive Species (including seasonal migrations).
Guide-Trans-9	Construction and maintenance of roads, trails, and facilities, and use of heavy equipment in R3 Sensitive Species habitat areas should be conducted outside of critical periods.
Guide-Trans-10	To avoid unintended entrapment, wildlife friendly design for cattle guards should be incorporated for new and replacement installations.
Guide-Trans-11	When system roads are constructed, reduce cumulative watershed effects. This could include but is not limited to design features that minimize sedimentation, reduction of number or length of system roads, or rehabilitation of unneeded system roads and user-created routes.
Wilderness (See also Minerals Guideline 9 and Wilderness Fire Guidelines-1,2,3,4,5 and Stds.-1,2)	
Guide-Wild-1	Natural ecological processes shall be allowed to occur freely in wilderness to the extent that they retain the wilderness character, except where public safety is put at risk. Activities allowed in wilderness should be managed to preserve the wilderness character and value.
Guide-Wild-2	Wilderness areas should be managed for a Scenic Integrity Objective of Very High.
Guide-Wild-3	The existing ROS classification should be maintained or enhanced to trend toward Primitive settings.
Guide-Wild-4	Where agency or applicant objectives can be met outside of designated wilderness, special use permits should not be issued in wilderness.
Guide-Wild-5	Wilderness maximum group size should be limited to 15 people except for occasional Forest Service maintenance activity or organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of official duties.
Guide-Wild-6	Unless otherwise approved under permit, the maximum size of a party traveling or camping at one location with riding or pack animals should be limited to 10 animals
Guide-Wild-7	Wilderness boundary posting should be maintained in areas where non-conforming use is likely to occur.
Guide-Wild-8	Wilderness restoration activities should be carried out in areas that become degraded as a result of human activities where active intervention is warranted to preserve the wilderness character.
Guide-Wild-9	Certified weed-free feeds for recreational livestock should be used in wilderness and at wilderness trailheads. Information on the use of weed free feed should be provided where visitor contact takes place, including trailheads.
Guide-Wild-10	Facilities at wilderness trailheads should be consistent with level of use and with the ROS setting.
Std-Wild-1	Resolve conflict between wilderness values and recreation uses by favoring wilderness values.
Wild/Scenic Rivers	
Std-W&S-1	The Verde River Management Plan shall be implemented for the Verde River designated wild and scenic segments.
Std-W&S-2	Within river segments that are eligible for Wild/Scenic Rivers designation, identified outstandingly remarkable values shall be afforded adequate protection, subject to valid existing rights, until the eligibility determination is superseded (i.e., the segment is determined not suitable for designation, or Congress makes

	a decision regarding designation). Authorized uses shall not be allowed to adversely affect either eligibility or the tentative classification, (i.e., actions that would change a classification from wild to scenic).
	Education/Interpretation and Heritage Values (See also Minerals Std 3 for heritage)
Guide - Interp 1	<p>Opportunities to provide interpretation and education related to the natural world and Prescott National Forest resources should be used to provide information in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Health activities, such as fuels management that leads to reduced risk of intense fire; complexity, risks and benefits of wildland fire management; and the nature of visual changes due to such activities. • Wilderness ethics, values and opportunities • Awareness and appreciation of resource and land stewardship principles • Rationale for limitations on visitor use such as designation of motorized trails and areas or short term restrictions related to wildlife reproduction • Grazing program and the need to respect fences, gates, and vegetation for multiple uses. • Ecological importance of riparian systems • Value of native plant and animal species and awareness of non-native invasive species issues • Cultural Heritage values • Geology • Mineral use
Guide-Her-1	Heritage sites on the deferred maintenance list should be protected from impacts due to erosion or natural weathering as well as potential human activity.
	Wildlife (See also: Wildland Fire Guidelines-2,3,11; Minerals Guideline-11; Lands Guideline-1,3,6,8; Forest Health Guideline-2; Range Guideline-2 and Std-2; Wildland Fire-Guidelines 2-3; and Transportation-Guidelines-4,6,8,9,10)
Guide-WL-1	<p>For Pronghorn antelope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider pronghorn fawning timeframes when scheduling habitat-disturbing treatments. • Within pronghorn habitat, adequate vegetative structure and cover should be maintained for the fawning season. • Consider antelope movement corridors when prioritizing vegetation treatments within the grassland PNVT. • Fencing that allows ease of pronghorn passage should be used.
Guide-WL-2	<p>For Cavity Nesting Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain all classes of snags at appropriate levels and natural recruitment rates. Recommended numbers of dead standing trees can be found in Desired Conditions for PNVTs. • Consider the following features when selecting standing live trees for snag recruitment: those containing cavities; spiked tops; broken tops; sapsucker

	patterned; lightning scarred; nest-quality brooms; and/or “wolfy” crowns.
Guide-WL-3	<p>For Migratory Bird Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management actions should protect, restore, or enhance the habitat of migratory birds and prevent or reduce contamination or detrimental alteration of migratory bird habitats, as practicable. Consider effects on Audubon Society “Important Bird Areas.” Project design and mitigations should be used to minimize adverse impacts on nests and nesting habitat while meeting site specific objectives.
Guide-WL-4	<p>For Raptors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a “nest stand” for raptor nests that meets the requirements of the associated species • For undifferentiated stick nests, the nest stand should be 30 acres in size. • Maintain integrity of raptor nests and nest sites based on species specific requirements. Disruptive activities should be prohibited during the breeding season at nest sites or within the area of influence. The area of influence should be determined on a case-by-case basis. . Exceptions may occur when individuals are adapted to human activity and literature and field evidence support it.
Guide-WL-5	<p>Where known bat populations exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where known bat concentrations occur, human disturbance should be managed. This could include caves, abandoned mines, bridge structures, rock crevasses, or tree snags. Manage to levels meeting requirements of the occupying species (maternity, hibernacula, or summer roosts) (Also see snag provisions and snag requirements Guideline-WL-2) • When closing mines and/or caves occupied by bats, consider bat access. • Disturbance to residing bat populations should not be limiting to populations. Projects should implement timing restrictions and closure designs to meet species needs. • Maintenance and removal of buildings and bridges should be evaluated for use by sensitive species. Project design and maintenance features should be incorporated to avoid impacts to sensitive bat species where appropriate. • Disturbances at occupied sites should be restricted during the following periods: maternity sites (April 15 through September 1); swarming sites (August 15 through October 15, 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise); and winter hibernaculum (October 15 through May 15). Individual activities that may impact cave and mine bat roosts (by altering the vegetative and structural characteristics leading to the entrance of roosts and/or impeding the movement of bats) should ensure a “no-activity” radius outside the cave or mine opening. • Where protection of individual mine sites are necessary in order to ensure conservation of bats, formal area closures should be considered.

Guide-WL- 6	<p>Where Goshawks exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 3 nest areas and 3 replacement nest areas should be located per territory. Goshawk nest and replacement nest areas should generally be located in drainages, at the base of slopes, and on northerly (NW to NE) aspects. Nest areas should generally be 25 to 30 acres in size. • Goshawk PFAs (Post-fledging Family Areas) of approximately 420 acres in size should be designated surrounding the nest sites. • Human presence should be minimized in goshawk nest areas during nesting season of March 1 through September 30. • In goshawk foraging areas and PFAs, groups of 3-5 reserve trees should be retained within management-created openings greater than 1 acre., except where the strong potential for wind-throw prevents the possibility of viable reserve trees, or insect and/or disease prevent the eventual development of regeneration into large trees. • Management activities and human uses for which the Forest Service issues permits (excluding livestock permits) should be restricted within active nest stands during the active nesting period unless disturbance is not likely to result in nest abandonment. • Complete at least 1 year of survey to determine presence of goshawks, but 2 years of survey should be done, if needed, to verify questionable sightings, unconfirmed nest sites, etc. If nesting goshawks are found during the first year of inventory, a second year of inventory is not needed in that territory.
Std –WL-1	<p>Requirements included in current recovery plans and conservation strategies for Federally listed Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Plant and Wildlife Species shall be incorporated into management activities.</p>