



Reply To: 1920

Date: January 24, 1992

FILE

Dear Interested Public:

In an effort to keep you informed of the changes to the Gila National Forest Land Management Plan, we are enclosing a copy of Amendment #7 with accompanying Decision Notice. This amendment reflects the inclusion of recommendations made as a result of the Air Quality Related Value Workshop held in Silver City, New Mexico in December 1989.

Also enclosed is a copy of Correction Notice Number 2 to the Plan and the accompanying replacement pages for the Plan. This correction reflects opportunities to improve access to National Forest lands and improve management efficiencies.

The overall goals and objectives of the Plan remain the same and these changes will help us meet them.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN K. KELLY

MAYNARD T. ROST
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

RESOURCE	ACTIVITY	STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
	L23	Trail blazing and reblazing will be accomplished using blazing irons or other tools which will provide uniform quality. The standard will be a four by four inch square over a four by eight inch rectangle separated by two to four inches of undisturbed material.
	L23	Trail directional signs will be limited to trail junctions only.
	L23	Use of untreated oak trail signs will be required.
	L25	Helispots approved as part of the transportation plan will be maintained to provide for safe emergency helicopter use.
FIRE MANAGEMENT	P01	Prescribed fire implementation plans (unplanned and planned ignition) will be initiated on vegetative types where the natural role of fire has been identified.
	P01	Complete fire management analysis planning and designate fire management areas within the first decade.
	P01	Update fire management implementation plans on a five year interval.
	P01	Continue to collect information on and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented prescribed fire prescriptions during the first decade.
	P02	Accomplish fire prevention activities by continued participation in public education, personal contacts, and regulated use.
	P04	For emergency wildfire suppression, restrict use of helicopters, powersaws, small motorized pumps not mounted on motorized vehicles, dropping from airplanes and/or helicopter supplies and equipment slurry and men to approval by Forest FMO. The use of motorized equipment for non-emergency fire suppression activities in classified areas must be approved by the Forest Supervisor. Tractors or bulldozers must be approved by the Regional Forester or Director of Aviation and Fire Management under any condition.
	P12	When Fire Management Planning is completed on a Management Area, utilize planned and unplanned ignitions when within established prescriptions to accomplish wilderness management goals.
	P12	A decision to use prescribed fire in wilderness shall not be based on benefits to wildlife, maintenance of vegetation types, improvements in forage production, or enhancement of other resource values. These can be additional benefits which may result from a decision to use prescribed fire but are not objectives for managing fire in wilderness.
	P12	The number of fires exceeding ten acres will be designated in approved wilderness fire management implementation plans.
	P12	Utilize prescribed fire to achieve wilderness objectives.
AIR	P16	Prepare air quality and smoke management plans, and review and make recommendations for proposed sources that may impact the Forest's Class I and Class II wilderness areas.
	P16, P17	Review and make recommendations for state air quality redesignations for State Implementation Plans (SIPs), Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permits (PSDs), and other air quality issues.
	P16, P17	Develop and initiate, within the first decade, a Forest air resource monitoring plan to evaluate future impacts.

RESOURCE

ACTIVITY

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

SEARCH AND RESCUE P26, P27 Use of mechanized equipment (helicopters landing, long lead line, helicopter winch lines, ground vehicles, etc.) requires Forest Supervisor's approval.

INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT P34 Detect and monitor insect and disease activities. Chemical, biological, or mechanical control of epidemic populations will only be recommended if a thorough analysis shows that wilderness values are directly threatened or if resource values adjacent to wilderness will be severely impacted.

The following Standards and Guidelines apply only to class I wilderness areas of the Gila National Forest. The class I wilderness on the Gila National Forest is all of the Gila Wilderness.

AQUATIC RESOURCES P16, P17 **Air Quality related values: Water quality; Habitat for Gila trout; Riparian areas.**

Indicators or sensitive receptors: For water quality - acid neutralizing capacity (ANC), pH, and base cations; For Gila trout habitat - Mayflies, Stoneflies, clams and snails; For riparian areas - vegetative diversity and biomass, leaf area index, and Gooding onion.

Levels of acceptable change:

ANC level (based on current level of sensitivity):

<u>Current level</u>	<u>Levels of acceptable change</u>
Sensitive <200 ueq/e	No decrease
Moderately sensitive 200 - 400 ueq/e	10 percent decrease, but not less than 200 ueq/e

pH (levels based on current values):

<u>Current level</u>	<u>Level of acceptable change</u>
less than 6.6 SU	No decrease
6.6 to 7.0 SU	No decrease greater than 0.1 SU.
greater than 7.0 SU	No decrease greater than 0.5 SU, and not below 6.8 SU).

For base cations, the recommendation is to adopt and use the relationship from Fox.

Gila trout habitat: In existing and potential Gila trout habitat, pH of the water shall not be below 6.5. No limits recommended for biological indicators, but collection of information is recommended to protect the food base of trout.

Riparian areas: No decrease in Gooding onion population density and population distribution

Vegetative diversity - no decrease in riparian-dependent vegetative diversity in riparian areas that have a management objective of attaining late seral vegetation.

RESOURCE**ACTIVITY****STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES****TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES**

P16, P17

Air quality related values: Threatened and endangered species; Sub-alpine meadows; Specific habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Indicators or sensitive receptors: Lichen of the genera Usnea; Soils (base saturation and cation exchange capacity) in sub-alpine meadows; Conifer needle longevity; Ozone injury to Ponderosa pine.

Limits of acceptable change:

Lichens - no specific level; periodic monitoring.

Soils - base saturation: a change of 10 percent; - cation exchange capacity; a 10 percent deviation from normal range.

Conifer needle longevity - 25 percent change in needle retention.

Ozone injury to Ponderosa pine - concentrations recommended by Fox.

Recommendations: Periodic monitoring of lichens to detect sulfur and metal accumulations. Attempt to determine existing ozone levels in the wilderness.

VISIBILITY

P16, P17

Air quality related value: Visibility throughout the wilderness, year round.

Indicators: Layered haze and uniform haze.

Levels of acceptable change: Layered haze - a two percent change in contrast; Uniform haze - a Just Noticeable Change (as measured by extinction).

Recommendations: Supplement the existing visibility data by monitoring in other parts of the wilderness and by collecting particle data.

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