Long Prairie Fire Management Unit

The Long Prairie FMU is a total of 55,575 acres. The majority of the FMU (110,819 acres) is within the Klamath National Forest boundary.

Protection Responsibility	Acres	Percent of FMU
Cal Fire	14,762	27%
KNF	40,813	73%
Wildland Urban Interface	**Acres**	**Percent of FMU**
Community @ Risk	15	0%
Defense Zone	745	1%
Threat Zone	9,411	17%

3.2.2 Guidance

LMP guidance for Management Areas in this FMU is listed below.

Management Area	Acres	Percent of FMU
Forage	11,563	21%
Riparian Reserves	316	1%
Partial Retention	1,193	2%
Winter Range	19,245	35%
General Forest	4,268	8%
Private (may include BLM) inside FS boundary	4,205	8%
Private outside Forest Boundary	14,785	27%

Winter Range

Description

Located entirely on the Goosenest Ranger District, this 82,900 acre management area encompasses areas identified by the CDFG as important mule deer and pronghorn habitat. Elk habitat within this area occurs west of Highway 97. This management area includes areas supporting grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, and shrubs in various ecological states. Both forested and non-forested sites occur in the area and provide forage and habitat for deer, pronghorn, and domestic ungulates. Much of the area is marginal for timber production. Intensive range management practices and structural improvements have been used to optimize forage production on these lands. Depending on forage conditions and weather patterns, the use of this area and adjacent management areas by big game will vary. Wild horses occupy a portion of this area.

Management Goals

Improve habitat for deer, elk, and pronghorn. Manage to provide high quality habitat as described in the Mule Deer, Elk and Pronghorn Habitat Capability Models (refer to Appendix I of the EIS). Livestock management actions within the area should be designed to maintain or enhance deer and pronghorn habitat as described in the habitat capability models. Consult with CDFG on herd objectives and wildlife use patterns within the area.

Desired Future Condition

Most of the area consists of well-distributed, patchy mosaics of big game cover and forage habitat. Browse species, particularly bitterbrush and mountain mahogany, are maintained in a young, vigorously growing condition providing high quality nutrition for wintering big game. Ultimately 50 to 80% of the area provides foraging opportunities. Openings in the forest occur so the interior of the opening is no more than 300 yards from an edge of the unit. Pronghorn use openings.

Water sources are available and well-dispersed.

Domestic livestock use the area at sustainable levels. Big game winter forage and cover for deer, elk, and pronghorn is plentiful.

Big game cover provides protection against winter weather, predation and reduces the effects of human-caused disturbances, especially from vehicle traffic. Hiding cover is provided along human travel routes. Vehicle traffic is limited at certain times of the year. Ponderosa pine vegetation in many different stages of development and with varying canopy closures provides hiding and thermal cover for wildlife.

Pronghorn habitat is more open than mule deer areas, with less than 40% canopy closure. Forbs and grasses are abundant and support expanding antelope herds during the spring and summer.

Standards and Guidelines

MA14-20 Prescribed fire may be used to reduce fuel build-ups, improve the vigor and production of forage species and to maintain conditions within stands, conducive to animal movement.

Partial Retention Visual Quality Objective

Description

This prescription applies to those areas identified with a Partial Retention VQO. It encompasses 188,500 acres. Refer to the Forest VQO map (in the Final EIS map packet). These areas typically are either in the foreground of moderate visual sensitivity roads, trails, etc., or the middleground of high sensitivity roads.

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas are primarily in the middle distances (1/2 to 3 miles) from selected roads and trails.

Management Goal

Provide an attractive, forested landscape where management activities remain visually subordinate to the character of the landscape. Manage human activities so they are subordinate to the character of the landscape.

Maintain stand health as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage.

Desired Future Condition

Areas managed to meet a Partial Retention VQO may show evidence of management activities but are visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape in form, line, color, or texture of

landscape elements. Views from visually important roads and trails appear forested and provide a nearly natural looking landscape.

Lands capable of growing coniferous vegetation are forested.

Standards and Guidelines

MA15-15 Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA15-16 Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

Forage

Description

Located entirely on the eastern portion of the Goosenest Ranger District, the 54,700 acre Forage Management Area encompasses areas identified by CDFG as transitory mule deer habitat. CDFG has also identified a portion of this area as being important habitat for pronghorn. This management area includes areas supporting grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, and shrubs. Both forested and non-forested sites occur in the area and provide forage and habitat for deer, pronghorn, and domestic ungulates. Much of the area has marginal timber productivity. Intensive range management practices and structural improvements have been used to optimize forage production on these lands. Depending on forage conditions and weather patterns, the use of this area and adjacent management areas by big game will vary. Wild horses occupy a portion of this area.

Management Goals

Improve habitat for deer and pronghorn. Manage to provide high quality habitat as described in the Mule Deer and Pronghorn Habitat Capability Models (refer to Appendix I of the EIS), commensurate with the time of use by deer. Livestock management actions within the area should be designed to maintain or enhance deer and pronghorn habitat as described in the habitat capability models. Consult with CDFG on herd population objectives and wildlife use patterns within the area. Maintain ecosystem health.

Desired Future Condition

Most of the area consists of well-distributed, patchy mosaics of vegetation suitable for big game cover and forage habitat. Browse species, particularly bitterbrush and mountain mahogany, are vigorously growing in varying age classes and provide high quality nutrition for big game. Ultimately, 50 to 80% of the area provides foraging opportunities. Pronghorn use openings. Water sources are available and well-dispersed.

Domestic livestock use the area. Forage utilization levels provide the optimum level of forage and cover for deer and pronghorn.

Big game cover is sufficient and provides protection against weather, predation and reduces the effects of human-caused disturbances, especially from vehicle traffic. Continuous hiding cover along human travel routes is maintained where potential exists. Vehicle traffic is limited at certain times of the year. Relatively dense canopies in ponderosa pine, or mixed conifer

stands of various ages, provide for wildlife hiding and thermal cover. Vegetation is thrifty, vigorous and resilient to environmental factors, such as wildland fires and insect and disease attacks.

Pronghorn habitat is more open than mule deer areas with less than 40% canopy closure. Abundant forbs and grasses support expanding pronghorn herds during the spring and summer.

Standards and Guidelines

MA16-21 Prescribed fire may be used to reduce fuel buildups, improve the vigor and production of forage species and to maintain conditions within stands, conducive to animal movement.

General Forest

Description

Scattered throughout the Forest, these areas make up about 11% (262,000 acres) of the Forest land base. They are lands that are capable, available, and suitable to be managed for a host of resource conditions, including structural component and commercial outputs. They currently support a variety of vegetation including shrubs, hardwood species, and various tree species in varying sizes and densities. They are areas where timber outputs, consistent with Forest-wide management goals, are of a high priority.

Management Goals

Provide a programmed, non-declining flow of timber products, sustainable through time. These levels may vary from year to year, based on ecological processes. Maintain conifer stocking levels and high growth rates commensurate with the capability of the site to produce wood fiber. Intensively manage young regenerated stands to maximize growth potential.

Maintain stand health, as well as resilience to wildland fire, insect, disease, and other damage. Emphasize salvage and restoration from catastrophic events. Reforest capable, but currently non-stocked, lands.

Emulate ecological processes and stand and landscape patterns where possible. Within harvest units, maintain appropriate structure, composition, and ecological functioning of the area.

Provide for snags and hardwood habitat to help maintain viable populations of wildlife species that require these structural components.

Meet the VQOs. Achieve less modified visual conditions when possible.

Develop a transportation system to transport Forest commodities efficiently to available markets.

Where possible, adjust planting levels to reduce pre-commercial thinning and fuel hazard costs in the future.

Desired Future Condition

The mosaic of healthy forest stands is comprised of a variety of vegetative species. The composition of individual stands varies considerably depending on forest type and seral stage development. Although openings with hardwoods, shrubs, grasses, and forbs are apparent, forest stands consist primarily of conifers. In some areas, the conifer component of the

vegetation is sparse (due to vegetative manipulations or natural conditions). All areas maintain some structural components of older stands. Some areas support mature forest stands. The oldest stands are between 80 and 120 years old. Generally, this portion of the forest has younger trees than the surrounding areas. Stand sizes vary with topography and the landscape pattern of surrounding areas.

Regeneration openings have clumps of green trees on at least 15% of the area. Existing seed tree and shelterwood stands retain their residual trees (3 to 12 trees/acre) for structural diversity.

Stocking control maintains healthy, vigorously growing stands.

Reforestation, timber harvesting, and stand tending activities are commonplace. A network of roads provides access throughout these areas.

Habitat for species, which use early and mid-seral stages, is abundant.

Standards and Guidelines

MA17-15 Use prescribed fire to reduce natural fuel buildups, to treat post harvest fuels and to influence vegetative development or composition when there is no market for the slash or down wood.

MA17-16 Design fuelbreaks to mimic the natural characteristics of the area. On steep ground, design units that are operationally feasible and effective to treat fuels.

Goosenest Adaptive Management Area

Description

The Goosenest Adaptive Management Area (AMA) is located on the eastside of the Forest (161,500 acres). AMAs are landscape units designated to encourage the development and testing of technical and social approaches to achieving desired ecological, economic, and other social objectives.

The purpose is to explore localized approaches that may achieve the conservation objectives. These approaches rely on the experience and ingenuity of resource managers and communities rather than traditionally derived and tightly prescriptive approaches that are generally applied in management of forests.

Monitoring is essential to the success of any plan and to an adaptive management program. Hence, development and demonstration of monitoring and training of the workforce are technical challenges and should be emphasized.

Management Goals

The overall objective is to learn how to manage on an ecosystem basis in terms of both technical and social challenges, and in a manner consistent with applicable laws.

The primary technical objectives of the AMAs are development, demonstration, implementation and evaluation of monitoring programs and innovative management practices that integrate ecological and economic values. (Refer to Attachment A of the ROD for FSEIS for a partial listing of technical topics.)

The primary social objective of AMAs is the provision of flexible experimentation with policies and management.

The specific goal for the Goosenest AMA is the development of ecosystem management approaches including use of prescribed burning and other silvicultural techniques for management of pine forests, including objectives related to forest health, production and maintenance of late-successional forest and riparian habitat, and commercial timber production.

The AMA is intended to contribute substantially to the achievement of well-distributed late-successional habitat outside of reserves, retention of key structural elements of late-successional forest on lands subjected to regeneration harvest, and restoration and protection of riparian zones as well as provision of a stable timber supply.

Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition for the AMA will be determined through the adaptive management process.

Hierarchy of Standards and Guidelines

Management activities in the AMA will be conducted to achieve the objectives described in the Forest Plan. Standards and guidelines for LSRs must be followed when they occur within AMAs and management around these areas will be designed to reduce risk of natural disturbances. Unmapped LSRs are specified for spotted owl activity centers and for certain Protection Buffers.

Flexibility is provided to meet objectives for RRs. Standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan need to be considered during planning and implementation of activities within AMAs and they may be modified in AMA plans based on site-specific analysis. Otherwise, standards and guidelines are to be developed to meet the objectives of the AMA and the overall strategy. Coordination with the REO through the Regional Interagency Executive Committee is required.

Standards and Guidelines

AMA-11 Actively explore and support opportunities to research the role and effects of fire management on ecosystem functions. Cooperation across agency and ownership boundaries should be emphasized.

AMA-12 Standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan for hazard reduction should be followed until approved AMA plans are established. Fire management experts will participate on the local Interdisciplinary Technical Advisory Panel on all AMAs.

AMA-13 While management of AMAs is intended to be innovative and experimental, wildfire suppression actions should use accepted strategies and tactics, and conform to specific agency policy.

AMA-14 Site treatments should be prescribed, which will minimize intensive burning, unless appropriate for certain specific habitats, communities or stand conditions. Prescribed fires should be planned to minimize the consumption of litter and CWD.

3.2.3 FMU Characteristics

Completion of this section is ongoing

3.2.3.1 Safety

Hazards and Safety Concerns

Fiber Optics Lines
Collapsed lava Tubes
Stay on main road systems during spring time do to soft soils
Power Lines
Lodge pole stands have a heavy dead down component
Bug tree mortality

3.2.3.2 Physical

Agency Administrator for FMU and major stake holders

- The FMU Agency Administrator is the Goosenest District Ranger
- Land Ownership/ Contact Info:

Goosenest Ranger District- District Fire Management Officer Mike Powell (530) 398-5701
Fruit Growers- Terry Salvestro (530) 475-3453 (ext 117)

Sierra Pacific- Robert Hoover (530)335-3681 office
(530)200-6487 cell

3.2.3.3 Biological

Sensitive Species:
The Goosenest is home and migratory range for a wide variety of sensitive species. It is important to coordinate with local Wildlife Biologist to find out areas of concern within the FMU. Please contact Christy Cheyne at the Goosenest District Office (530)398-5791.

3.2.3.4 Resources

Wildland Urban Interface:
Structures are scattered within this FMU and have been assessed by local fire prevention. A structure map may be obtained from the Goosenest Ranger District Fire Management. Within this plan the structures have been clustered into geographic areas due to the high number. For more information on these areas please contact the Fire Prevention Battalion at (530) 398-5725. Areas are listed below:

- Long Prairie
- Cedar Well
- Robinson Technor
- Red Rock
- Three Sisters
- Garner Butte
- Sheep Mtn.
- La Honda Well

Cultural and Historic:

The Goosenest has a high volume of cultural and historic sites within the FMU. Pay special consideration to areas along Three Sister, Sharp, and Wild horse Mtns. Please take extra precaution in any area of this FMU. Please contact Jeanne Geotz (530)398-5742 at the Goosenest Ranger District for further information.

Grazing Allotments:

Allotment:	Permittee:	Acres	Location	Season of Use:
Red Rock	Larry Criss, Russell and Roberta Criss	17791	LaHonda/Cedar Well	5/16 to 8/31

3.2.4 FMU Fire Environment

Completion of this section is ongoing

3.2.4.1 Fire Behavior

3.2.3.2 Weather