

CHAPTER III

PLAN RESPONSES TO ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

This chapter shows how the proposed Plan addresses and responds to the planning problems that were identified during the planning process.

A discussion of the process used to identify the issues to be resolved in this Plan is found in Appendix A of the Environmental Impact Statement. Additional information may be found in the public involvement records at the Supervisor's office in Richfield.

The specific methods for resolving and implementing management actions for the 10 problems dealt with are found in Chapter IV of this Plan. In that chapter the Forest's multiple-use goals and objectives are listed, as is each management area.

This plan's responses to the ten planning problems are:

#1. RECREATION SITES AND FACILITIES

The plan calls for increasing recreation funding to maintain and reconstruct existing sites. This includes upgrading water systems to meet state standards. There will be construction of new sites, including facilities to meet local community and large organized group needs. Limited funding during the first decade will be used first to maintain or replace existing facilities and then, if sufficient, to construct additional sites.

Trails and trailheads will be maintained, reconstructed or constructed to provide the best combination of desired recreation opportunities. Some roads will be closed to mitigate adverse soil and watershed impacts.

#2. MANAGING RECREATION USE

The planned action is to provide desired recreation opportunities and manage use now and as it increases. More funding will improve management and conformance with laws and regulations. Better managed use will reduce conflicts and mitigate resource damage. Opportunities for ORV use are provided, as are opportunities for nonmotorized recreation.

The four recreation opportunity spectrum classes that the forest can provide are Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural and Rural. These will be managed to accomodate projected increase in demand. A reserve of Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized acres will be retained for the future.

#3. MINERAL AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Mineral management stipulations for lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service are found in Appendix H of this plan. They establish requirements for conducting all operations to sustain good land management. Approximately 97 percent of the Forest will be open to mineral exploration and development under the mining and leasing laws. Appendix O lists the coal bearing lands within the Forest that are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.

#4. LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE FORAGE RESOURCE

Grazing capacity will decrease to 131,400 AUM's by 2000. Permitted use would be made compatible with grazing capacity. An upward trend will result from improved administration and range improvements. Common use of winter game range by wildlife and livestock will continue. Adequate forage will be available to meet big game needs.

#5. WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT FOR GAME AND NONGAME SPECIES

Current habitat of threatened and endangered species will be maintained. No adverse effects from management activities will be allowed. Fisheries habitat will be significantly improved. Big game winter range will be enhanced. Non-game habitat improvement will be emphasized in some management areas. Hunted and fished management indicator species will increase in numbers over current levels.

#6. ROAD SYSTEM EXPANSION AND CLOSURES

Expansion of the arterial and collector road system will be minimal in future decades. The only significant expansion of the local road system will be to accommodate timber sales and mineral activities. However, the present system will be systematically improved with road betterment funds.

Area closures will be implemented yearlong on 108,00 acres and seasonal road closures will be applied where resource damage could be sustained. In addition, seasonal area closures will be implemented on some 67,000 acres of big-game winter range.

Accomplishment of planned road improvements, area closures, and road closures will satisfy this planning problem.

#7. COMMERCIAL AND FUELWOOD TIMBER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Timber sales will remain at 3.0 MMBF annually over the first decade. Beginning in the second decade, sales will increase to 8.3 MMBF annually. These sale programs both include 60 to 70 acres per year of aspen. If an aspen market develops, the forest potentially could harvest approximately 2350 acres of aspen annually.

The largest percentage of firewood will come from chainings, residual logging debris, and standing dead trees. Slightly over 38,500 cords (19,280 MMBF) of firewood can be harvested annually in the first decade. Personal and commercial use sales can increase to 51,200 cords (25,600 MMBF) for the balance of the planning period.

#8. WATERSHED CONDITION, WATER QUALITY, AND WATER PRODUCTION

About 300 acres per year of watershed improvement projects will be accomplished through the first decade. This will increase to 414 acres per year in later decades. Water yield may increase by 177 acre feet per year through timber harvest. About 20 percent of this will be delivered to the Colorado River drainage. Over the long term, soil loss will decrease as goals of management activities are met. This will improve water quality and watershed condition. Short term impacts will result from road construction and timber harvest. Existing riparian habitat will be maintained and conditions improved.

#9. MIXED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERSHIP

Lands to be considered for acquisition and disposal have been identified in the Land Adjustment Plan, Appendix K to this plan. Needed rights-of-ways are identified in the Right-of-Way Plan, Appendix N to this plan. Accomplishment of the action items in the above plans will resolve this issue.

#10. WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS

Public Law 98-428, The Utah Wilderness Act of 1984, resolved this planning problem for the Forests in Utah. No further evaluation will be conducted of released lands until the plan is revised in the next iteration, about 10 years after implementation. No Wilderness areas were designated on the Fishlake by the Utah wilderness Act. Much of the existing roadless area will remain in an undeveloped state at the time of the next planning sequence and will be reconsidered for wilderness proposals at that time.