

DECISION MEMO
LRMP Amendment #3
Musser-Jarvis Watershed
Management Area 3
Carson Ranger District
Toiyabe National Forest

A portion of the Musser-Jarvis Watershed is located in Management Area 3, Alpine County, California. General Management Area Direction for this watershed states:

"Vegetative manipulation will be conducted to enhance watershed, range, wildlife, aesthetic and vegetative vigor; and to minimize the potential for catastrophic wildfire and insect and disease infestations" (LRMP IV-87).

Specific direction for this watershed states:

"Continue to manage the Musser-Jarvis municipal watershed as follows:
Allow no livestock grazing, no road or trail construction, and no timber cutting".

Management direction for this area dates back in the 1950's and 60's under the old Multiple Use (MU) Plans. Management direction under those MU plans for this watershed has been to allow no land uses which would adversely affect watershed conditions or water quality.

This watershed has long been an important source of irrigation and domestic water for the Markleeville area. A special use permit, dated September 30, 1910, to the Markleeville Ditch Company authorized the maintenance and operation of a ditch. A permit, dated June 4, 1962, to the Markleeville Water Company authorized another system of diversion for municipal water to the communities of Markleeville and Markleevillage. The protection of the watershed has for sometime now been the highest and best use of this piece of National Forest System lands.

Local concern has developed recently for some type of treatment to address a bark beetle infestation and concurrent fuel build-up in an area adjacent to private residential areas. Local residents fear, due to the fuels situation, the area has the potential for a conflagration. Any type of ignition poses a threat to private property and the municipal watershed.

The Carson Ranger District initiated a review of this situation in 1990 under the Forest Monitoring and Evaluation process and concluded that the current management direction was too restrictive to accomplish the overall management area direction. A change in wording from "no timber cutting" to "no timber production" would allow sufficient management flexibility to apply mechanical vegetative manipulation without compromising the specific management intent of protecting this municipal watershed. Therefore, the

proposed word change would amend the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) from:

"Continue to manage the Musser-Jarvis Municipal Watershed as follows: allow no livestock grazing, no road or trail construction and no timber cutting"

TO

"Continue to manage the Musser-Jarvis Municipal watershed as follows: allow no livestock grazing, nor road or trail construction and no *timber production*". (See definitions in glossary of LRMP).


What this word change would do, is allow timber to be manipulated through, but not limited to cutting or chopping or burning for purposes other than the purposeful growing, tending, harvesting and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts or other round sections for industrial or consumer use. Vegetation in this watershed could be cut for the purposes of fuelwood or one-time harvesting to accomplish non-timber production objectives.

I have determined that this action is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as this action falls within the scope of analysis completed in the Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. Specifically, direct and indirect effects would not change as displayed on pages IV-49 through IV-55 of the LRMP EIS. I have determined this after a review of the literature and after an environmental analysis had been performed.

This word change will not have a significant affect on the quality of the human environment and no extraordinary circumstances exist that might cause the action to have significant effects.

This is a non-significant amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan and is consistent with the management direction in Management Area 3, including Standard and Guidelines.

This decision is subject to administrative review in accordance with 36 CFR 217. Any appeal of this decision must include the information required by 36 CFR 217.9 (Content of a notice of appeal), including the reasons for appeal. Two (2) copies of the Notice of Appeal must be filed with Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401 within 45 days of the date of publication in Reno Gazette-Journal. This decision may be implemented 7 calendar days after the legal notice of the decision is published in the newspaper. For further information concerning this amendment, you may contact Robert M. Larkin, Planning Staff Officer, Toiyabe National Forest.

for 
R.M. "JIM" NELSON
Forest Supervisor

12/10/41
Date: