

A5 ROADED NATURAL

GOAL

PROVIDE DISPERSED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN AN AREA CHARACTERIZED BY A PREDOMINANTLY NATURAL TO NEAR NATURAL APPEARING ENVIRONMENT WITH MODERATE EVIDENCES OF THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF MAN. SUCH EVIDENCES USUALLY HARMONIZE WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

DESCRIPTION

The strategy may be applied to all or portions of areas currently inventoried as Semi-primitive or Roaded Natural in the Umatilla National Forest ROS inventory. Areas currently inventoried as Roaded Modified may be allocated if they are identified as needed for this recreation opportunity.

The following areas are included in the management area:

- Relay Station Area (Spout Springs); and
- North Mt. Emily Roadless Area.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

An attractive natural to slightly altered appearing landscape will be created and/or maintained over a large area. Recreation opportunities of all types will be abundant and available throughout the area, with emphasis on motorized use and some trail and cross country opportunities in a natural appearing environment. The natural setting will have modifications which may be noticed within the area, but which will remain unnoticed or visually subordinate from selected travel routes and use areas. Activities will be done with average sensitivity to people's concern for scenic quality (Level 2). The forested area will appear as a mosaic of different sized trees with many small created openings throughout. Through special design efforts, structural improvements (including range), roads, trails, and created openings will blend with the natural environment. Discordant visual elements shall be rehabilitated. The Forest will be logged regularly so that long-term stand health and vigor can be maintained and growth of big trees be encouraged throughout the area.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

Manage dispersed recreation in the area to a Roaded Natural physical and social setting as described in the ROS User's Guide (USDA Forest Service n.d.). Encourage dispersed activities that meet the goal.

Recreation site modification and facility development should be Level 2 or less (see Glossary), and will be designed to blend with the natural landscape character. Facilities will include those needed to meet safety and sanitary needs.

Emphasize interpretive services to enhance understanding and appreciation of the area and forest management.

Provide for mostly road oriented opportunities and for walk-in or horseback activities in a natural to slightly altered environment.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance shall be permitted including trails for OHV use. The trail system will be designed and maintained to disperse use, provide varying but challenging difficulty levels, and to meet area objectives.

Trailhead facilities will be designed, constructed, and maintained to meet visual quality objectives.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is permitted. Motorized use may be limited to trails and roads: snowmobile use is acceptable on an area-wide basis.

VISUAL

Activities in the area will meet the visual quality objective of Partial Retention as the standard. Activities may repeat or borrow from form, line, color, and texture which are frequently found in the characteristic landscape. Changes of landscape should be of such size, amount, intensity, direction, and pattern that they continue to provide a natural appearing or slightly altered appearance, except for short-term changes to meet long-term objectives.

Principles of visual management will be applied so that positive attributes of a managed forest can be enjoyed while negative visual aspects of activities will be minimized.

Landscapes containing negative visual elements will be rehabilitated. Landscapes will be enhanced by opening views to distant peaks, unique rock forms, unusual vegetation, or other features of interest.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Dead and down tree habitat will be managed to provide or maintain 60 percent of the potential population level for all primary cavity excavators.

Habitat improvement projects for wildlife and fish are encouraged, provided they meet the foreground partial retention visual quality objective and the goal for the roaded natural setting.

RIPARIAN

For all Class I, II, and III streams and associated riparian areas within the management area, anadromous fish habitat will be managed to produce at least 90 percent of potential smolt habitat capability index (SCHI) by meeting standards (for fish) shown in Management Area C5.

RANGE

Livestock grazing is permitted; all range management strategies are available consistent with visual and recreation goals. Openings created by management of timber stands are available for management as transitory range.

The full range of development and maintenance of structural and nonstructural improvements is permitted while consistent with meeting visual goals. Seeding of forage species is permitted where tree establishment and growth are not restricted.

Permit increased domestic livestock and/or big game grazing to capture increases in transitory range. Utilize available forage at 80 percent or less.

TIMBER

Timber will be managed on a scheduled basis. All timber management practices and intensities shall be permitted consistent with achieving the primary visual quality goals.

Uneven-aged management is the preferred and most commonly used silvicultural system in the foreground; even-aged management techniques may also be used to meet objectives. Both systems are available in the middle and background zones.

Scheduling of treatments and timber harvest, logging systems, debris disposal, reforestation, and stand improvement practices will be designed and implemented to accomplish visual management objectives.

1. Manage the area for an overall mix of age classes of trees. The following mix of age class types should be achieved as the overall long-term objective of the area:

Percent	Foreground Age Classes
	Partial Retention
20	0-36
20	37-72
20	73-108
20	109-145
20	146-181

2. Emphasis will be on viewing large diameter trees and multi-age stands; both vertical and horizontal diversity will also be emphasized. The large tree component should be dispersed as necessary to give the overall character of large trees to the area.
3. The standards in Tables 4-28 and 4-29 will be used in achieving desired visual conditions.
4. A created opening is defined as an opening developed through management activities where the tree heights are less than 20 feet. Created openings will be shaped and blended with the natural terrain. Created openings will normally be limited as shown in the following tables and will be subordinate to the characteristic landscape.
5. Exceptions to created opening size and maximum percentage in openings at one time are permitted under catastrophic occurrences such as blow down, insect and disease attacks, wildfire, and others. Landscapes will be rehabilitated under these conditions.
6. Thinnings and plantings in the area will leave irregularly spaced trees. Mixed conifer stand regeneration will be planned for at least two species with no more than 65 percent in a single species.

Even-aged Management Visual Resource Standards

TABLE 4-28. EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Umatilla National Forest

Standards		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated	Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Partial Retention	Partial Retention
Maximum % Harvest per Decade	Foreground	5	5
	Middleground ²	10	10
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time ¹	Foreground	10	10
	Middleground ²	20	20
Target Tree Diameter (inches DBH)		24	12
Number of Target Trees at Final Removal (Per Ac.)		3-5	10
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.) ¹	Foreground >500 ft. ³	5	5
	Middleground ²	10	10

¹ Applies to regeneration harvests. Not applicable to intermediate or overstory removal harvests except where an opening is created.

² Modification will be the visual standard for middleground; where partial retention is assigned to the middleground, the above standards apply.

³ Applies to key roads, trails, and use areas.

Uneven-aged Visual Management Resource Standards

TABLE 4-29. UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT VISUAL RESOURCE STANDARDS

Umatilla National Forest

		Ponderosa Pine Working Group North & South Associated	Lodgepole Pine Working Group
Factor		Partial Retention	Partial Retention
Maximum % of Area in Created Openings at One Time ¹	Foreground	10	10
	Middleground ²	20	20
Target Stand Diameter (inches DBH)		20	12
Maximum Unit Size (Ac.) ¹	Immediate foreground	1.5	2
	Foreground >500 ft. ³	2	2
	Middleground ²	2	2

¹ Applies to group selection harvests. Not applicable to single tree or intermediate harvests except where an opening is created.

² Modification will be the visual standard for middleground; where partial retention is assigned to the middleground, the above standards apply.

³ Applies to key roads, trails, and use areas.

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet the visual quality objectives within the intent of the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for minerals and energy.

Utilize existing access routes to developments where possible.

Provide for reclamation upon completion of all projects within the area.

LANDS

Special use sites will be permitted in these areas, provided they can be designed and located to blend with the characteristic landscape.

Existing special use sites will be reviewed for meeting visual management requirements at established permit renewal dates. If a special use fails to meet standards, it will be brought into compliance.

Land Classification II (acquisition) will generally apply to meet special public needs.

Lands may be exchanged in cases of demonstrated positive net public benefit.

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for lands and land uses.

TRANSPORTATION

New roads shall be permitted and will be designed and constructed to blend with the natural characteristics of the landscape. Cut and fill slopes will be revegetated with species less palatable to livestock to minimize visual effects. Maintenance of roads shall be permitted.

Road maintenance activities will be conducted to minimize adverse visual impact by the retention of the maximum amount of existing vegetation, by encouraging the most rapid revegetation of disturbed areas outside of the surfaced roadway, and by reducing earthwork to the minimum.

Road closures in the foreground, such as gates and berms, should be designed and constructed to blend with the natural characteristics of the landscape. Gravel pits, borrow areas, etc., will meet the partial retention visual quality objective.

Signs needed for traffic regulation and information should be designed and located to meet aesthetic objectives and be in accord with safety regulations.

FIRE

For moderate to high intensity wildfires, the appropriate suppression response will emphasize control and/or contain strategies.

Wildfire suppression efforts should utilize low impact methods. Use of heavy equipment may require restoration efforts to mitigate visual impacts.

FUELS

Prescribed low intensity fire with minimal scorch is acceptable. A 1 year or less recovery period is most desirable, if conditions are suitable.

Acceptable visual quality, including fuel loadings, are depicted by the following photos from the Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (Technical Report PNW-52) (USDA Forest Service 1976b):

	Ponderosa Pine	Lodgepole Pine	Associated Species
Natural Fuels	1 -PP4	1 -LP3	3-PP and Assoc.3 1-PP and Assoc.4
Thinning Fuels	(No acceptable photos)	(No acceptable photos)	1 -DF-1 -TH
Clearcut	2-LP-3-PC	2-LP-3-PC	1-DF-4-CC
Selection Harvest	I -PP4-PC	2-LP-3-PC	7-PP and Assoc. 4-PC

Fuel treatments should be planned, timed, and implemented to avoid being highly visible and to minimize adverse visual effects. Handpiling, hauling material away, utilizing it for fuelwood, etc., are methods preferable to machine piling and crushing. Treatments should be completed prior to the next high human-use period.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles to manage insect and diseases in meeting management area objectives. All treatment strategies may be utilized. Emphasize strategies that improve visual quality, aesthetics, and safety. Treatment of bark beetles and root rots is emphasized.

Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten users and/or managed resources. Use suppression methods that minimize site disturbance.