

## **A8 SCENIC AREA**

### **GOAL**

PROTECT OR ENHANCE THE UNIQUE NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DESCRIPTION LANDSCAPES NOTED FOR THEIR SCENIC BEAUTY.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Scenic areas are areas of natural variety where unique physical characteristics give viewing pleasure and dispersed recreation opportunities to the forest user. The strategy applies to all or part of the current scenic areas and other identified selected forest areas with high scenic values.

The following defined areas are included in the management area:

- The Grande Ronde Roadless Area outside of the Wild River corridor (Walla Walla); and
- the Greenhorn Mountain Roadless Area plus Lost Lake, Olive Lake, and north of the Greenhorn Townsite and the Jumpoff Joe Roadless Area.

### **DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

Areas of unique natural beauty and high scenic quality will remain mostly unmodified. Opportunities to experience the scenic values, feelings of vastness and isolation from sights and sounds of human activity, sense of independence, closeness to nature, and self-reliance shall be maintained and enhanced. Around the edges or through parts of the area, existing roads are to be retained so that motorized users will have an opportunity to experience the unique beauty and sense of vastness. Trail systems featuring nonmotorized recreation will be fully developed to encourage and disperse use. In a few cases, vegetative manipulation shall be used to enhance the scenic and other resources in the area.

### **MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

#### **RECREATION**

Semi-primitive Nonmotorized settings (ROS) will be provided within the area, except for intrusions of Semi-primitive Motorized or Roaded Natural settings through edges or parts of the area or to vantage points. Areas will be managed to maintain opportunities for visitors to get away and achieve a feeling of remoteness from sights and sounds of others.

Recreation site modification and facility development should be level 2 or less (see Glossary), with facilities generally being limited to meeting safety and sanitary needs. A minimum of onsite controls and restrictions should be utilized to protect resources and promote safe use of the area.

Emphasize interpretive services to enhance understanding and appreciation of the area's special features. In order to do this, use self-discovery, augmented by books, guides, and maps, and a few minimal onsite facilities.

Nonmotorized use will be favored. Access will be mostly for remote walk-in or horseback activities in an area generally absent of roads; designated existing roads will provide motorized opportunities. Snowmobile use may be permitted on designated routes or areas.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance will be permitted. The trail system will be the primary travelway and designed to take advantage of scenic opportunities, encourage and disperse use, provide varying (mostly easy, but some challenging) opportunities, and meet area objectives. Motorized equipment may be permitted in trail development and maintenance. Rustic road and trail signs within the area may be provided with directions, destination distances, feature names, and interpretation.

Based on limits of acceptable change criteria, if needed, implement limits on group size, number of animals, or other measures to meet social encounter criteria for semi-primitive recreation.

## VISUAL

Retention is the visual quality objective (VQO) for the area including intrusions of Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) and Roaded Natural (RN) areas; activities will meet retention VQO standards. The short-term goal of rehabilitation is used to upgrade landscapes as necessary.

Landscapes may be enhanced by opening views to distant scenery, unique landforms, unusual vegetation, or other features of interest.

## CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

## WILDLIFE AND FISH

Habitat improvement and maintenance projects for wildlife and fish are acceptable, provided they meet the Retention visual quality objective and goals for semi-primitive settings.

Wildlife habitat improvement projects are permitted in the Grande Ronde Scenic Area including Elbow, Bear, and Alder creeks and other drainages.

Dead and down tree habitat will be managed to provide or maintain 80 percent of the potential population level for all primary cavity excavators.

Identified old growth units within the management area will be retained as part of the dedicated old growth system.

## RANGE

Light grazing is permitted with a B range management strategy. The emphasis for forage allocation is to wildlife.

Where range improvements are needed, design and implement improvements to be compatible with scenic area objectives.

## TIMBER

Timber will be managed on a nonscheduled basis. Trees will only be cut to meet or enhance scenic area objectives (i.e., catastrophic occurrences, trails, vistas, rehabilitation of discordant views, etc.).

## WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

## MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. Operating plans are to include reasonable, operationally feasible requirements to meet scenic area objectives.

Provide access to valid mining claims and private lands.

Access proposals will be analyzed for stage of operations, adequacy of existing routes, and feasibility and reasonableness of alternative routes, with an emphasis on use of existing routes. Roads to be constructed will be done to minimum standard needed for the proposed use, will meet scenic area objectives, and will be obliterated to the extent feasible following completion of activities.

## LANDS

National Forest System lands within a designated scenic area will be maintained in public ownership.

Where the opportunity exists, private land within a designated scenic area will be acquired. The area will be managed as an "Avoidance Area" for utility and transportation corridors. Other lands and land uses Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines apply.

#### TRANSPORTATION

Existing roads that contribute to the viewing experience, or that serve as access to valid mining claims, will be retained and maintained. Parking areas within or adjacent to the area will be located and designed to prevent noise and visual disturbances to users.

New roads will not be constructed or roads reconstructed (see Minerals and Energy for exceptions).

Close all roads except those needed as access to private lands, valid mining claims, or which are designated open to meet Scenic area and public use objectives.

#### FIRE

The appropriate wildfire suppression response will emphasize a control strategy for moderate to high intensity fires. Under appropriate fire prediction conditions, low intensity wildfires (0-2 foot flame length) may be permitted to play a natural role within the setting when resulting in a 1 to 2-year vegetative recovery.

Low impact wildfire suppression methods should be used; rehabilitation may be used to mitigate wildfire impacts in conflict with visual quality objectives.

#### FUELS

Prescribed fire may be used as a tool to manage ecosystems that are dependent on fire as part of their natural succession, or to enhance thrift and vigor of native vegetation.

Prescribed low intensity fire with a 1 to 2-year recovery period is acceptable. A less than 1 year recovery is most desirable if conditions are suitable.

#### PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles to manage insects and diseases in meeting scenic area objectives. Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten scenic area objectives or resources in adjacent areas. Favor biological methods when available. Control of defoliators may be accomplished by spraying following approval of an environmental analysis. Use of salvage harvest is limited to catastrophic events.