

A1 NONMOTORIZED DISPERSED RECREATION

GOAL

PROVIDE NONMOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN AN AREA CHARACTERIZED BY A PREDOMINANTLY NATURAL OR NATURAL APPEARING ENVIRONMENT WITH MINIMUM SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY.

DESCRIPTION

Applies to all or parts of roadless areas and/or other selected Forest areas [2,500 acres and larger] with essentially natural or natural appearing environments and meeting Semi-primitive Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) settings.

The following areas, or part of areas, are included in the management area:

- Hell's Half-acre (Cutsforth Park) Area (Heppner);
- Upper Tucannon Roadless Area west of Bear Creek (Pomeroy); and
- Wenatchee Creek Roadless Area and area south of Forest Road 4304 (Pomeroy).

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Moderate to large natural or natural appearing areas remain undeveloped (unroaded and unlogged). Recreationists shall be able to enjoy the outdoor opportunities for closeness to nature, self-reliance, and tranquility. Opportunities to enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, and other recreational activities in relatively undisturbed, natural settings, will be made available. Interactions between users will be low, but there will be evidence of other users. Little or no evidence of motorized use, restrictions, and controls will exist. Existing wheel tracks and primitive roads will revert to natural conditions or be used as trails.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

Manage recreation to a semi-primitive setting (ROS Users Guide, USDA Forest Service n.d.) within the area: Roaded Natural settings may occur along the boundaries. Areas will be managed to maintain opportunities for visitors to get away from others and achieve a feeling of remoteness from sights and sounds of humans.

Access will be mostly for remote walk-in or horseback activities in an area generally free of roads. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will not be permitted.

EXCEPTION: In the Cutsforth Park area on the Heppner District, provision will be made to allow a snowmobile access route to Kelly Prairie.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance will be permitted. Trail system will be designed and maintained to disperse use and have varying but challenging difficulty levels to achieve the objectives of the area. Motorized equipment may be permitted in trail development and maintenance.

Recreation site modification and facility development should be level 2 or less (see Glossary). Facilities will be limited to meet safety and sanitary needs.

If needed, utilize limits of acceptable change criteria to implement limits on group size, number of animals, and other measures in order to meet social encounter criteria for semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Utilize a minimum of onsite controls and restrictions to protect resources and promote safe use of the area.

VISUAL

Retention is the visual quality objective provided within the area and along area boundaries.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE AND FISH

Habitat improvement projects are acceptable for wildlife and fish, provided they meet the Retention visual quality objective (VQO) and the goal for the Semi-primitive setting.

Provide habitat to support cavity excavators at 80 percent of potential population.

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

RIPARIAN

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

RANGE

Moderate level of grazing is permitted. Improvement maintenance and development are permitted. Improvement development must not detract from the Semi-primitive setting. The full range of range management strategies (B to D) could apply.

TIMBER

Timber harvest will not be scheduled. Salvage may be allowed where the goal of providing a Semi-primitive Nonmotorized setting can be met.

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

LANDS

Land Classification II (acquisition) will generally be used to meet 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

No roads will be developed. Existing wheel tracks will be closed to motor vehicle use and converted to trails.

FIRE

The appropriate wildfire suppression response should emphasize control and/or contain strategies 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 semi-primitive and visual quality objectives.

FUELS

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 and strategies in meeting management area objectives. Suppress pests when outbreaks threaten recreation objectives or resources in adjacent areas. Favor biological methods when available.

Prescribed fire may be used to help reduce stocking and conditions favorable for bark beetle and dwarf mistletoes. Control of defoliators may also be accomplished by spraying following approval of an environmental analysis. Use of salvage harvest is limited to catastrophic events.