A10 WENAHA-TUCANNON SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

GOALS

MANAGE THE WENAHA-TUCANNON SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA FOR MULTIPLE-USE PURPOSES AS SET FORTH IN:

The Conference Report of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 (HA. Report No. 95-861) (US. Laws, Statutes, etc. 1978c) recognized both the Wilderness Act and special conditions in two areas. The report emphasized the traditional big game hunting use and the desire to maintain fish and wildlife populations and habitat.

DESCRIPTION

Two areas are originally identified. In the Forest Plan, the management area applies to that part of the Upper Tucannon Roadless Area east of Bear Creek (Pomeroy) and south of the Tucannon River.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Elk habitat management is to be emphasized in order to provide the opportunity for traditional hunting. The Forest will be seen as a variety of vegetative patterns creating a mosaic of forage and cover for big game. Although management activities such as timber harvest and road construction will be evident, clearcuts will be absent. Narrow roads that follow the contour of the land will allow access to the area, but shall be closed to motorized use at the conclusion of logging and reforestation activities. High quality water is to be produced from the areas. Dispersed recreation of all types shall be available but access will remain limited.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

A Roaded Modified social and physical setting may result from meeting the goal; Roaded Natural or Semi-primitive settings may occur along boundaries near wilderness. Most dispersed recreation activities are available and emphasized, but hunting and fishing will be featured.

Recreation site modification and facility development levels 1 and 2 (see Glossary) are permitted. Developed recreation is not permitted.

Access will be mostly for walk-in or horseback opportunities on roads and trails closed to motorized use.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted. Protection and improvement of existing trails is emphasized.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is not permitted.

VISUAL

Visual quality objective emphasis is middleground Partial Retention, but may include some Modification.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE

Manage habitat to maintain or enhance resident and migratory elk populations, as follows:

Elk habitat will be managed to achieve a habitat effectiveness index of no less than 60, including discounts for roads open to motorized vehicular traffic, as described in Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests (Thomas and others 1979). Marginal cover, satisfactory cover,

and forage areas will be managed to meet size and spacing criteria as described in Habitat Effectiveness for Elk on Blue Mountain Winter Ranges (Thomas and others 1988).

The potential habitat effectiveness standard will be measured on a subwatershed (allocation zone) basis. Potential habitat effectiveness may fall below the 60 percent level on an individual project so long as the subwatershed (allocation zone) objective is met. In such cases, the project objective is long-term (20 years) improvement in cover.

Cover

A minimum range of 15 percent of the area will be managed as satisfactory cover (20 percent is desired). If this is not attainable because of low natural potential, the highest percentage of satisfactory cover potentially attainable will be created or maintained. A minimum of 30 percent of an area will be managed as total cover.

Stands managed for satisfactory cover will meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 40 feet in height, with a canopy closure of at least 70 percent in mixed conifer/lodgepole pine types, and no less than 50 percent in the ponderosa pine type,
- should be 1,200 to 1,850 feet in width (larger cover areas are preferable). Exceptions may be made by wildlife biologists based on an on-the-ground assessment of the stand(s) value for elk; and
- satisfactory cover should generally appear as a multi-layered timber stand.

Marginal cover will be no less than 10 feet in height with a canopy closure of at least 40 percent, and should be 600 to 1,200 feet wide. Exceptions may be made by wildlife biologists based on an on-the-ground assessment of the stand(s) value for elk.

All cover areas will be managed to provide sufficient vegetation to obscure 90 percent of a standing elk at a distance of 200 feet or less.

Forage

Available forage will be allocated to meet big game management objectives. Available excess forage may be allocated to domestic livestock.

Big game forage improvement projects such as seeding, browse planting, and fertilization may be used. Structural improvements may be used to protect these investments. Prescribed burning may be practiced in order to maintain a static or upward trend in fair or better range condition.

Other

Emphasis should be placed on retaining and protecting big game, key use areas, and habitats such as migrational corridors, calving/fawning areas, wallows, springs, seeps, and bogs.

Management activities will not create barriers to impede movement of big game animals.

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

An average of one unburned slash pile for every 2 acres should be retained on even-aged regeneration harvest units for wildlife cover.

Manage to maintain or establish a high level of vegetative diversity at a minimum level of 15 percent in each of the following five seral stages:

Grass/Forb	Young Sawtimber
Shrub/Seedling	Mature/Overmature
Pole/Sapling	

FISH

Fish habitat improvement projects and their maintenance will be permitted.

RANGE

Domestic livestock grazing is permitted at Range Management Strategy B. All available range and livestock management practices consistent with the primary management goal of maintaining or enhancing habitat for big game and other wildlife species may be used. Range improvements may be permitted to the extent they are compatible with the management goal.

TIMBER

Permit timber harvest on a scheduled basis, and road construction and management within the following constraints:

1. The full range of silvicultural practices and intensities, except clearcutting, will be permitted. The selected silvicultural systems applied to timber stands within suitable forest lands will be based on a site-specific examination and analysis, and will be designed to achieve management goals. Harvest practices may include shelterwood, salvage, removal, and commercial thinnings, as well as group or individual tree selection. Other silvicultural practices may include natural and artificial regeneration, planting genetic stock when available, precommercial thinning, release, and insect, disease, and animal damage protection.
2. Logging and road building should be done with conventional practices.
3. Timber harvest activities are not to be permitted in these areas during the months of October and November, or during elk calving season.

WATER

Provide specified erosion control measures. Install the types and quantities of drainage structures associated with these roads, which will continue to function properly for several years without periodic maintenance.

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

SOIL

Special erosion protection measures will be undertaken to protect the resource.

Roads shall be treated during permanent road closure periods so as to minimize the danger of soil erosion. Erosion control measures to be taken may include, but are not limited to:

1. Revegetation of the roadbed with herbaceous species,
2. outsloping,
3. crossditching,
4. covering with logging slash, and
5. hand maintenance of drainage structures

MINERALS

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines while meeting the intent of the Conference Report (fish, wildlife, soil, and water protection measures).

LANDS

Retain all lands in Federal ownership. Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for lands and land uses.

TRANSPORTATION

All roads built into these areas for the purpose of timber harvesting are to be designed, built, and maintained to minimize soil disturbance and meet objectives for, and minimize impacts on, fish and wildlife.

Roads shall be constructed and maintained at the minimum widths necessary to safely accommodate logging equipment and trucks. The basic running surface width of these roads shall not exceed 12 feet.

Maintain standards of alignment and grade that allow roads to follow, as nearly as possible, the contours of the land with a minimum of excavation and earth movement to accomplish the construction.

The roads built into timber harvest areas shall be closed to motorized vehicles at the conclusion of logging and reforestation activities. During the closure periods, measures (including steel gates with suitable locks with openings adequate for passage of people and horses) shall be taken to ensure that motorized vehicles cannot enter onto or travel upon these roads, unless needed in emergency situations for the protection of life or property. Suitable measures shall be taken to assure their revegetation.

FIRE

For all wildfires in the management area, all suppression strategies (appropriate responses) may be used. Suppression practices will be designed to protect investments in managed forests and to prevent large acreage losses to wildfire.

FUELS

Fuels should not exceed an average of 12 tons per acre in the 0 to 3-inch size class and an average residue depth of 6 inches, as depicted in the Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (Technical Report PNW 52, 1976) (USDA Forest Service 1976b):

Even-aged Management	3-PP-4-PC	4-PP-I-TH	I-PP&ASSOC-4-PC	2-LP-3-PC
Uneven-aged Management	2-PP-4-PC	12-LP-3-PC	4-PP-I-TH	5-PP&ASSOC-4-PC

All types of prescribed fire may be used to accomplish management objectives.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management principles and strategies in meeting management area objectives. Monitoring and detection of pest conditions and populations will be done so that corrective treatments can be prescribed early.

Consistent with resource objectives, protect forest stands (habitat) by practicing prevention activities. Emphasis will be on the prevention of stand and fuels conditions that increase pest populations above epidemic levels. Suppress insects and disease using cost-efficient strategies when outbreaks threaten resource management objectives.