E I TIMBER AND FORAGE

GOAL

MANAGE FOREST LANDS TO EMPHASIZE PRODUCTION OF WOOD FIBER (TIMBER) AND ENCOURAGE PRODUCTION OF FORAGE.

DESCRIPTION

Applies to all or parts of the forest areas classified as tentatively suitable for timber management and to inclusions of grasslands suitable for livestock grazing. The following areas are managed for timber and forage production under the management area:

- The area west of State Highway 207 on the Heppner Ranger District;
- generally, an area east of State Highway 207, and north of the hydrodivide of Stalling Butte, Tamarack Mtn. and Ant Hill; thence, northerly to Forest Road 22;
- nominally, a band or area south of Forest Roads 21, 2104, and 2105 ranging east from Forest Road 22 to the hydrodivide between Wickiup and Little Potamus Creeks, and
- that portion of the Squaw Roadless Area complementing the Wallowa-Whitman NF laying in the Grande Ronde drainage allocation.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Intensive management of forests for timber production and other commodity products will be apparent. The Forest will primarily be a diverse mosaic of even-aged stands of many age classes, with trees somewhat uniformly spaced and well stocked. Regenerated stands will generally range from 20-40 acres. Stands managed using uneven-aged principles will also be apparent, particularly in the ponderosa pine types. A diversity of species will be present in plantations, but seral, more pest free species such as ponderosa pine, western larch, and lodgepole pine will be most evident. Larger trees will average 16-18 inches in diameter with the exception of trees left to meet cavity dependent wildlife needs and for the recruitment of large woody debris. Accumulated fuels will generally be light, and large destructive fire will seldom occur; prescribed fire will be an important management tool.

A variety of native and seeded grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs will be provided for both domestic livestock and wildlife. More of the forested rangelands will be in good forage condition class as the overstory is removed and understories thinned. Forage use will be high with improvements installed to facilitate stock distribution and the effective use of available forage. Fences and water developments will be evident. Recreational opportunities will be available for hunters, fishermen, off-highway vehicle operators, and other motorists.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

RECREATION

A Roaded Modified social and physical setting may result from meeting the goal. Recreation site modification and facility development levels 1 and 2 (Primitive and Semi-primitive) (see Glossary) are permitted. Dispersed recreation activities that meet the goal are permitted.

Provide the opportunity for mostly road-oriented recreation activities. Motorized access may be limited to designated roads, trails, and areas.

Trail and associated facilities construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is permitted. OHV use may be restricted where damage to soil and water resources is occurring and/or public safety is threatened.

VISUAL

Manage areas to meet at least the Maximum Modification visual quality objective.

Provide for rehabilitation where needed to meet the visual quality objective.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

WILDLIFE

Elk habitat will be managed to achieve a habitat effectiveness index of at least 30, including discounts for roads open to motorized vehicular traffic, as described in Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests (Thomas and others 1979). The habitat effectiveness standard will be measured on a subwatershed (allocation zone) basis.

Dead and down tree habitat will be maintained at 40 percent of the potential population level for all primary excavators and maintained for other cavity users.

Structural and nonstructural improvement, development, and maintenance for wildlife are permitted.

FISH

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines. Fish habitat improvement and maintenance projects are permitted.

RANGE

Manage range and livestock through Range Management Strategies C and D with improved management systems. The full range of development and maintenance of structural and nonstructural improvements is permitted.

Seeding of forage species is permitted where tree establishment and growth are not restricted.

Permit increased domestic livestock and big game grazing to capture forage increases on transitory range.

Timber will be managed on a scheduled basis. All timber management practices and intensities will be permitted. Even-aged silviculture will be the most commonly used silvicultural system in the mixed conifer, associated species, and lodgepole pine plant communities. Uneven-aged management would be the preferred silvicultural system in ponderosa pine and mixed pine-Douglas-fir plant communities. Uneven-aged management may also be used where necessary to meet management goals.

The following practices may be employed:

TIMBER

1. Site preparation - by chemical, mechanical, biological, manual means, or prescribed fire,
2. tree improvement - improved growing stock, genetic evaluation plantations, and seed production and seed orchard sites;
3. reforestation - natural or artificial;
4. protection of growing stock from animals, insects, and disease;
5. release and weeding;
6. precommercial thinning;
7. fertilization/pruning - may be permitted on a case-by-case basis;
8. commercial thinning;
9. salvage of mortality as needed: and

10. final harvest - including even-aged management practices of shelterwood, seed trees, and clearcut, and uneven-aged management practices of individual trees and group selection

All types of logging systems are permitted in order to meet resource objectives.

Maintain a blend of tree species with a preference for ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine across the Forest. Shade tolerant species such as grand/white fir, Engelmann spruce, and sub-alpine fir should be maintained as minor stand components. Plant diversity should be enhanced or maintained.

Fuelwood and other miscellaneous forest products should be available for public use.

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

LANDS

Land Classification Group III (available for land adjustment) is applicable.

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

TRANSPORTATION

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for roads and trails.

Roads may be closed to motorized use in order to meet resource objectives and/or to reduce maintenance costs.

FIRE

For all wildfires in the management area, all suppression strategies (appropriate responses) may be used. Suppression practices should be designed to protect investments in managed tree stands and prevent losses of large acreages to wildfire.

Wildfire prevention activities should be emphasized.

FUELS

Fuels should not exceed an average of 9 tons per acre in the 0 to 3-inch size class and an average residue depth of 6 inches.

Desired fuel loadings are depicted by the following (Technical Reports PNW 51, 52):

Treatment/Working Class	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lodgepole Pine
Precommercial Thinning	1-PP-1-TH 4-PP-1-TH	3-DF-1-TH 4-DF-1-TH	1-PP-1-TH
Clearcut	1-PP-4-CC	2-DF-4-CC 3-DF-4-CC	1-LP-3-LL
Shelterwood	3-PP-4-PC	1-DF-4-PC 3-DF-4-PC	--
Commercial Thinning/Removals	2-PP-4-PC	2-DF-3-PC	2-LP-3-PC
Selection	2-PP-4-PC	5-PP&ASSOC-4-PC	2-LP-3-PC

	4-PP-1-TH		

All methods of fuel treatment are appropriate. Utilization of wood residues should be encouraged in order to reduce fuel loadings. When treatment is needed to meet resource objectives, prescribed fire is preferred in fire-dependent ecosystems. In ecosystems where fire is not a useful tool, direct fuel treatment methods should be used in reducing fuel accumulations to meet resource management objectives.

Prescribed burning may be used to accomplish a variety of timber and forage production objectives. Care will be used when using prescribed fire due to high resource values and risk of escape fire.

PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles and strategies in managing insects and diseases to meet management objectives. Monitoring and detection of pest conditions and populations will be done so that corrective treatments consistent with resource objectives can be prescribed at the earliest opportunity.

Protect growing stock consistent with the level of investment by practicing high intensity prevention activities. Emphasis will be on the prevention of stand and fuels conditions that favor pests increases above epidemic levels. Aggressively suppress insects and diseases using the most cost-effective suppression strategies when outbreaks threaten resource management objectives. Use a variety of methods in meeting protection and suppression requirements.