

A9 SPECIAL INTEREST AREA

GOAL

MANAGE, PRESERVE, AND INTERPRET AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, GEOLOGICAL, BOTANICAL, OR OTHER SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND PUBLIC ENJOYMENT PURPOSES.

DESCRIPTION

Several unique areas (generally small in size) have been identified for their special features. The areas may be classified under 36 CFR 294.9, and managed to protect the special features in their natural condition, and to foster public use and enjoyment of those features. Special features which fall within this description are:

Cultural-Historical Areas - Lands possessing historical sites, buildings, or objects of National Register significance related to a theme group, or those having special cultural association to the Native American Community.

- Greenhorn (NFJD)
- Olive Lake - Fremont Powerhouse (NFJD)
- Target Meadows (Including Burnt Cabin Overlook)(Walla Walla)

Geological Areas - Lands having unique geological features or significance.

- Big Sink (Walla Walla)

Botanical Areas - Lands containing specimens, groups of plant colonies, or plant communities which are significant because of form, color occurrence, habitat location, life history, ecology, variety, or other features.

- Charley Creek (Pomeroy)
- Ruckel Junction (Walla Walla)
- Sheep Creek Falls (Pomeroy)
- Shimmiehorn Canyon (Walla Walla)
- Teal Spring (Pomeroy)
- Woodward Campground (Walla Walla)

Viewpoints - Sites affording opportunities for viewing forest activities and landscape settings.

- Bald Mountain (Overlooking Lookingglass Canyon)(Walla Walla)
- Big Creek Meadow (Overlooking the North Fork of the John Day River)(NFJD)
- Big Hole (Overlooking the Wenaha River)(Walla Walla)
- Bridge Creek (Overlooking Bridge Creek Wildlife Area and the confluence of Camas Creek with the North Fork of the John Day River)(NFJD)
- Gray Rock (Overlooking Mt. Emily and Elgin)(Walla Walla)
- Lookout Mountain (Overlooking Alder Creek and Bear Creek drainages of the Grande Ronde River)(Walla Walla)
- Potamus Point (Overlooking Potamus Creek)(NFJD)
- Table Rock (Overlooking Mill Creek and the Walla Walla River valley) (Walla Walla)

- Umatilla Breaks (Overlooking the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness)(Walla Walla)

Other Areas—Includes lands containing significant flora and fauna or fossils for zoological or paleontological interpretations.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

The special attributes for which the areas are recognized shall provide a variety of unique recreation opportunities for public use and enjoyment. The areas and features will remain in a substantially undisturbed condition. Fences, signs, viewpoints, and other facilities may exist if needed to protect the features or to provide for public use and enjoyment. Evidence of management activities will be subordinate to these special points of interest. Various methods of interpretive services are to be provided to enhance understanding and appreciation of them.

MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

General

Management plans may be developed for individual areas and may supplement direction provided for the management area. Any such plans will be amended to the Forest Plan.

RECREATION

Manage the special interest features, sites, and areas to provide Semi-primitive or Roaded Natural ROS Settings.

Access will relate to features being managed: activities will be mostly road oriented with some access through walk-in or horseback opportunities in a few areas.

Visitor use and activities will be managed to prevent degradation and enhance features of the Special Interest Area. Onsite controls and restrictions may be used to protect resources and promote use and enjoyment of the area.

Interpretive services will be emphasized.

Site development and facilities will be designed and located to protect or enhance the special features. Facilities may be provided for visitor use, environmental interpretation, safety of visitors, and to protect or enhance resource values. Facilities may be included inside the area where not in conflict with the overall purpose of the special interest area.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use will be restricted to designated routes.

Trails may be developed and maintained to meet the objective of the Special Interest classification, especially for onsite interpretation.

VISUAL

Manage for Retention visual quality objective.

CULTURAL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife habitat improvement and maintenance are permitted within the objective of the area. Emphasis is on habitat improvement for viewing wildlife.

FISH

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

RANGE

Domestic livestock may be permitted to utilize existing forage without changing overall natural Characteristics or conflicting with the purpose of the area. Structural improvement,

development, and maintenance is permitted where livestock use is allowed; structural improvements may be used to exclude domestic livestock.

TIMBER

Timber harvest will not be scheduled or programmed. Tree cutting and vegetation management may be permitted in order to maintain or enhance the special features of the interest area, to provide for public safety (in areas of concentrated use), to construct or maintain improvements, or in a catastrophic situation. When tree cutting is employed, systems will be designed to protect the resource and meet SIA goals. Firewood cutting shall not be allowed.

WATER AND SOIL

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MINERALS

Protection of SIA areas will be required during mineral exploration and development activities.

An area may be recommended from withdrawal for mineral entry in situations where mitigation measures do not adequately protect management area values, and all values (including minerals) have been evaluated.

Removal of common mineral material within the management area will not be permitted.

LANDS

Retain all Special Interest Areas in public ownership. Honor existing private access rights-of-way.

For historic-cultural and other resources, special use authorizations are acceptable, provided management objectives are met, area values are protected, and use is guided by, and conforms with, an approved management plan.

Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines apply to other lands and land uses.

TRANSPORTATION/FACILITIES

Roads are generally not permitted unless they exist prior to classification or they facilitate the recreation use, enjoyment, and interpretation of the area. Facilities may be developed and maintained to meet the objective of the special interest classification. Roads, walkways, gates, signs, and other facilities will meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects in Cultural-Historical areas.

FIRE

The wildfire suppression response strategy of confine, contain, and control is consistent with area objectives. Wildfire suppression efforts will utilize low-impact control methods. Use of heavy equipment on cultural resource properties is prohibited.

FUELS

Fuel treatments should emphasize maintenance of the natural character of the area. For cultural/historical areas, fuel treatments will be planned and implemented to avoid negative impacts. Loadings should be reduced to minimize potential of high-intensity fires. Acceptable treatments on cultural-historical areas will include hand piling, hauling material away, etc. Prescribed fire may be used to manage other types of SIA's where it aids in maintenance and protection of the feature.

PESTS

Utilize integrated pest management (IPM) principles and strategies to prevent unacceptable vegetation losses due to pests. Emphasize prevention and early detection measures.

Suppress pest outbreaks with a minimum of disturbance to protect users and/or resources. Favor biological and silvicultural treatments where possible. Remove hazardous trees as identified in vegetative management plans.