

## B. ISSUES

### IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Early public involvement concentrated on identification of issues, concerns and opportunities (ICO) and in presenting an overview of the planning process and highlighting how the public could continue to be involved [36 CFR 219.6].

### Public Contact

In the late 1970's the Carson was developing a Forest Plan which included considerable public involvement. The basic approach was to contact all groups, organizations, agencies, and individuals who might be interested in the management of the Carson National Forest. Each was given the opportunity and encouraged to participate. Contacts were made with: 1) Federal, State, County and local governments and agencies, 2) Native American tribes and pueblos, 3) educational institutions, 4) industry and businesses, 5) libraries, 6) conservation, recreation, service and civic organizations, 7) news media, 8) grazing permittees, 9) special use permittees, 10) legislators, 11) churches, 12) water organizations, and 13) numerous individuals. Various means of contact were utilized: interest card, television, pamphlet, newsletter, newspaper, radio, poster, slide-tape show, personal contact, and announcement.

There were 157 ways of managing resources (options) on the Carson presented in a booklet. The options were all possible within existing laws, and displayed a wide range of opportunities for managing eleven resource areas. People's comments enabled the Forest to add new issues, validate existing issues, delete what were previously thought to be issues, and develop a preferred management alternative.

Public responses from the "Option Booklet" were summarized in a second booklet. It combined a more detailed description of each of the eleven resource areas with the results of the comments in the "Option Booklet." It was used as an education and a validation tool. Each section of the second booklet opened with a discussion answering many of the questions raised in the "Option Booklet." The discussions were followed by the comments.

A proposed Forest Plan and draft EIS were prepared and were ready to be sent to the public in September of 1979. However, in that month, the National Forest Management Act Regulations were published. Compliance with these regulations required a revision of much of the planning process.

An eight page newspaper supplement headlining the reason for the delay was published in the local Taos News newspaper. A copy of this supplement, along with a letter was sent to everyone on the Forest planning mailing list.

### Additional Sources

The following additional sources were reviewed for previous public comments that could be useful in highlighting issues and opportunities and coordinate with the different planning levels of the Forest Service.

**Regional Guide:** The Region sent out a booklet asking for public comments on proposed issues/concerns/opportunities and decision criteria for the Regional Guide. Several public meetings were held throughout the Region. The Forest obtained copies of those comments submitted from northern New Mexico. The

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proposed Regional issues, concerns, opportunities and decision criteria developed for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwestern Regional Guide were also reviewed.

**1980-1985 RPA:** The Forest Service requested from the Washington Office comments from the general public concerning the 1980-85 RPA Assessment. The Carson got copies of all comments received from individuals from northern New Mexico.

**Closed Files:** The Forest reviewed all closed files (files more than a year old) that were on-hand. The vast majority of letters were not applicable (requests for information, etc.). Some provided input.

**RARE II:** The Forest utilized the documented RARE II analysis for the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area.

Each resource situation statement from the previous planning process was reviewed by the Interdisciplinary Team for concerns and opportunities. At the same time any new information acquired through personal contacts, or other communications with the public was incorporated. This resulted in a draft of the preliminary issues/concerns/opportunities.

## Booklet

A booklet outlining the planning process, and listing the preliminary issues/concerns/opportunities and decision criteria, was sent out to the public for review and comment.

## Newspapers, Radio, Open Houses

During the review period there was extensive coverage by the local newspapers and radio stations. Open houses were held at six Ranger Districts to answer people's questions concerning the booklets. The comment period was extended and notices were distributed in English and Spanish inviting people to comment. The Forest also offered to sit down and talk (English or Spanish) with any person or group and translate any or all of the booklet.

Formal and informal levels of consultation were maintained with Federal, State, and local government entities. A concerted effort was made to coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to incorporate their wildlife and fish comprehensive planning objectives into the Forest planning process. The same level of coordination has taken place with the State Parks Board regarding natural areas.

Because of the impact of land and resource allocation and management of National Forest System lands in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties, both County Commissions were contacted throughout the planning process.

## Indian Tribes and Pueblos

Native American tribes located adjacent to and within the Carson were contacted for information about uses and religious or symbolic significance of lands within the Forest (36 CFR 219.8 and PL 95-341, American Indian Religious Freedom Act).

## Issues and How They Were Addressed

These are the final public issues, concerns of the Forest managers, and management opportunities that are addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement and the Forest Plan. They establish the scope of the EIS [40 CFR \*II. A, C.1501.7 and 1508.25]. The numerical outline is used for reference. The notations in ( ) mean: (d) = ICO treated differently in alternatives; (s) = ICO treated the same in all alternatives; (o) = Deferred, to be handled outside the forest planning process.

Following each ICO is a quantitative and qualitative description of how the Forest Plan (Proposed Action) addresses that ICO.

### 1. COMMERCIAL TIMBER

- 1.1 Timber Harvest (d)
- 1.2 Cost (d)
- 1.3 Visual (d)
- 1.4 Erosion/Sedimentation (d)
- 1.5 Wildlife Habitat (d)
- 1.6 Spruce/Ponderosa Pine (d)
- 1.7 Insect and Disease Control - Pesticide (d)
- 1.8 Thinning (d)

(1.1) There are means and/or a scientific basis of increasing harvest of commercial sawtimber, cordwood products, posts, poles, and vigas through intensive management, cable harvesting, expanding markets for aspen, and increasing the allowable harvest on the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit (VFSYU) to at least a level equal to the annual growth capacity. (1.2) At the highest harvest levels these could cause higher timber harvesting cost, (1.3) effects on the visual resource through the roads and clearcuts, (1.4) increases in on-site erosion and stream sedimentation, (1.5) adverse effects on the size and quality of wildlife habitat, (1.6) increases in the quantity of spruce harvest while decreasing ponderosa pine, and the (1.7) controversial use of pesticides to manage insects and diseases which reduce growth and yields. (1.8) There is an opportunity to accomplish precommercial and sanitation thinning through fuelwood sales.

Table B-1. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Commercial Timber Issue

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Allowable Sale Quantity	MMCF	7.0
Sawtimber	MMBF	35.0
Products	MMBF	32.0
VFSYU <sup>1</sup>	MMBF	3.0
Spruce	MMBF	7.6
Ponderosa Pine	MMBF	4.0
Commercial Thinning	acres	10.8
		1940

<sup>1</sup> Figure represents total volume to be harvested on the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit. This volume includes 6.5 MMBF sawtimber plus 1.1 MMBF products.

Timber management will be applied through integrated resource management to meet a combination of multiple-resource objectives. Increased emphasis will be placed on maintaining or improving quality of

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wildlife habitat. Visual quality will be maintained or improved. Through application of "best management practices" soil erosion and stream sedimentation will be maintained within accepted limits.

A mix of species will be harvested to balance timber costs against product values and other multiple-resource values. By volume, most sawtimber harvest will be in the mixed conifer (17.2 MMBF/YR) followed by ponderosa pine (10.8 MMBF/YR) and spruce (4.0MMBF/YR). This combination will help provide an effective sale program, and will help prioritize treatment of the mixed conifer type to reduce potential for future damage from western spruce budworm. Within the spruce and mixed conifer types, harvests will be designed to maintain an aspen component for wildlife habitat and visual quality objectives.

Insect and disease conditions will be monitored yearly, and problems dealt with through integrated pest management procedures. A range of treatment alternatives will be considered based on specific Management Area objectives.

Harvest on the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit will be increased, but still held below the annual growth potential. Product volume has been included and provisions have been made for local residents to start a small business venture.

Intermediate harvests will help provide commercial and personal-use wood products; and will help improve wildlife habitat, reduce insect and disease problems, and improve timber growth.

## 2. FUELWOOD

- 2.1 Pinon (s)
- 2.2 Demand (d)
- 2.3 User Priority (o)
- 2.4 Livestock (d)
- 2.5 Logging Residue (o)
- 2.6 Availability (o)

(2.1) On some individual Ranger Districts demand exceeds supply for pinon, the preferred fuelwood species. (2.2) The demand is increasing for other species and could exceed the supply in the foreseeable future, caused by availability and accessibility problems. (2.3) Some local residents feel they should have first, or sole, priority for fuelwood. (2.4) Some areas suited for growing pinon are being maintained for livestock forage. (2.5) Some logging residues may not be available for personal use fuelwood. (2.6) There is an opportunity to increase fuelwood availability by managing low productivity timber lands (less than 20 cu. ft./acre/yr.) for small diameter material on a sustained yield basis.

Table B-2. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Firewood Issue

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Green Pinon/Juniper	MMBF	4.6
Slash	MMBF	36

Pinon-juniper firewood supply will exceed demand forestwide but continue to be scarce on some individual Ranger Districts, particularly those on the east side of the Forest. The pinon-juniper area will be managed to maintain the present harvest level on a sustained basis; existing range revegetation areas will be maintained as grasslands.

Timber sale and thinning slash will be available in adequate supply through the decade. In addition to volume shown in the table, natural downfall will contribute to the supply of dead/dry firewood.

Opportunity exists to expand green firewood sales for other species on "unsuitable" lands, particularly for aspen in Management Area 6.

### 3. WILDERNESS

#### 3.1 Trails (d)

#### 3.2 Litter (d)

#### 3.3 Overuse (d)

(3.1) Within the wilderness trails are not maintained to provide protection. Some trail segments are poorly located and inadequately signed. (3.2) Heavily used camping areas are often littered. (3.3) Most heavily used campsites are near lakes and streams. The repeated use is causing vegetation damage, soil compaction, and water quality deterioration.

Table B-3. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Wilderness Issue

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY [Ave. annual for years 1-10]
Use	MRVD	12
Demand Satisfied	%	12
Trails Maintained	miles	113
Wilderness Management Funding	\$	50,000

The primary management emphasis is to provide dispersed recreation and range and watershed condition compatible with wilderness values. Trail maintenance is improved and there is a reduction in litter in the high use zone. Trail and trailhead construction for the proposed Columbine/ Hondo Wilderness should improve distribution and use patterns in existing wildernesses.

### 4. COLUMBINE-HONDO

#### 4.1 Timber (d)

#### 4.2 Minerals (d)

#### 4.3 Recreation Use Conflicts (d)

Columbine-Hondo was classified a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in the New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980. The Forest Plan must recommend this area (or a portion of it) for wilderness or other uses.

(4.1) Approximately half of the WSA consists of lands capable, available and tentatively suitable for timber production. Harvest of this timber would benefit the local community economies. (4.2) Some parts of the WSA have potential for location of various minerals. Wilderness designation would prohibit mineral extraction on those areas that do not have valid mining claims when wilderness designation is made. (4.3) In the Goose Lake watershed the motorized recreation uses conflict with the opportunities for primitive recreation. The motorcycles and fourwheelers want more trails, while the primitive recreationists prefer to be isolated from mechanical sights and sounds.

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Table B-4. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Columbine-Hondo Issue

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY
Wilderness	acres	30,500
Dispersed Motorized	acres	0
Opportunity		
Sawtimber	MCF	0

The Forest Plan assigns subunits 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10,11; small portions of 4 and 13 and the majority of 15 and 16 to wilderness. (See Appendix C of the EIS). The area proposed for wilderness meets the requirements of wilderness suitability, availability, need and manageability as outlined in FSM 2320. It also possesses the inherent qualities of wilderness. The acres that are not proposed for wilderness are available for the location of minerals and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Present characteristics of the areas not selected will be maintained so the areas can be reevaluated for wilderness or multiple use when the plan is redone in 10-15 years.

### 5. FISH AND WILDLIFE

- 5.1 Use Conflicts (d)
- 5.2 Elk/Deer Winter (d)
- 5.3 Predation (o)
- 5.4 Type Changes (d)
- 5.5 Old Growth (d)
- 5.6 Roads (d)
- 5.7 Cutthroat (d)

The requirements of different wildlife species conflict with each other and with domestic livestock. (5.2) Elk and deer concentrate during severe winters, resulting in overuse of key areas. (5.3) Coyote predation can contribute to declines in deer, antelope, and livestock numbers, while control methods are controversial.

Human activities may harass wildlife especially during winter months and the elk calving season from May to July. Some of those activities are: (5.4) vegetative type changes which enhance or restrict the suitability to support specific species; (5.5) harvest of old growth timber which can reduce habitat for some species; (5.6) road locations, densities, and seasons of use displace wildlife, especially elk; (5.7) stocking streams with rainbow trout is reducing Rio Grande cutthroat trout populations.

Table B-5. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Wildlife and Fish Habitat Issue

HABITAT COMPONENT	UNIT	QUAN- TITY
Forested Land	acres	1,147,000
...allocated to old growth <sup>5</sup>	acres	486,000
	percent	42
Unsuitable Timberland	acres	396,000
...allocated to old growth	acres	396,000
	percent	100

Table B-5. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Wildlife and Fish Habitat Issue (continued)

HABITAT COMPONENT	UNIT	QUAN- TITY
Suitable Timberland ...allocated to old growth	acres acres percent	380,000 23,000 6
Pinon-Juniper ...allocated to old growth	acres acres percent	371,000 67,000 18
Minimum Old Growth Characteristics Identified		Yes
<i>Snags</i> Suitable Timber Land <sup>1</sup>	No./100 acres	300
<i>Forage/Cover Ratio</i> (Big Game Summer Range) Suitable Timberland Managed to Provide 60/40 Ratio Minimum Thermal Cover Minimum Hiding Cover Minimum Cover Requirements Identified	Percent Percent Percent --	100 10 10 yes
<i>Forage/Cover Ratio</i> (Primary Big Game Winter) Suitable Timberland Managed to Maintain Cover Component	Percent	100
<i>Turkey Roosting Habitat Management</i> Suitable Timberlands Summer Range Winter Range Total	Number Number Number	297 594 891
<i>Squirrel Nest Tree Management</i> Suitable Timberlands	Percent Rating	30 <sup>2</sup> Mod- High
<i>Openings</i> (Clearcuts) Suitable Timberlands	Maximum Acres	40
<i>Raptor Nesting Habitat Management</i> Forest-wide	Area Managed	10-20 acres
<i>Spotted Owl Nesting Habitat Management</i> Forest-wide	Area Managed	300
<i>Vegetative Diversity</i> Suitable Timberlands	Percent	70
<i>Edge Contrast</i> (Horizontal Diversity) Suitable Timberlands	Amount	Medi- um

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Table B-5. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Wildlife and Fish Habitat Issue (continued)

HABITAT COMPONENT	UNIT	QUAN- TITY
<i>Dead/Down Log Management</i> <sup>3</sup> Conifers	Linear Feet/100 acres	5000
Aspen	Linear Feet/100 acres	3300
<i>Active Logging Period Guideline</i> Suitable Timberlands	Years	3
<i>Talus Rock Habitat Management</i> Forest-wide	Percent	100
<i>Wildlife Forage Allocation</i> Suitable Range	Percent	<sup>4</sup>
<i>Diversity Edge Index</i> Forest-wide	Index	1.41

<sup>1</sup>Assumes 60 percent of suitable timberland can be managed to protect desired snag quantities.

<sup>2</sup>Based on direction to provide a balanced age class and canopy coverage distribution over time on suitable timberlands. Sapling pole and mature (greater than 70 percent canopy coverage), and old growth will provide this habitat component.

<sup>3</sup>To be provided on 75 percent of suitable timberlands.

<sup>4</sup>Forage allocation to wildlife to be based on mutually agreed-upon population goals and objectives of the Forest Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

<sup>5</sup>Excludes oak and PJ.

The Forest Plan will over time provide high amounts and quality of most habitat components within suitable timberlands and Forest-wide. Requirements for management of old growth, big game cover, vegetative diversity, raptor nesting habitat, and many other habitat components receive high emphasis. Populations of all management indicator species, with the possible exception of certain rare animals, will be managed at levels greatly exceeding minimum viable populations. Rare plants and animals will receive high management emphasis.

Table B-6. How the Forest Plan Addresses Fish & Wildlife Issue - Road Density

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY
FS Mgt. Activities	miles/ sq mile	3.1
Public access	miles/ sq mile	Approximately 0.1-1.0 depend- ing on habitat importance

Road densities per square mile for the Forest will result in an average of approximately 1.0 mile distance between roads open for public travel. All other roads will be closed permanently or seasonally to public use. Additional roads within big game winter ranges will be closed seasonally. Management areas will have no more than one mile of road per square mile of area with the exception of the riparian areas where it is not feasible to reduce density to this level because of the presence of numerous collector and arterial roads.



Table B-7. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Fish & Wildlife Issue --  
Cutthroat Trout.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY
Fishery Improvement Structures	#/decade	1000 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Approximately 450 to be established in other trout fisheries also.

Management of cutthroat trout will be consistent with the State Comprehensive Plan. The use of pesticides will require an environmental assessment prior to authorization. Many structures to be constructed.

## 6. RANGE

- 6.1 Forage (d)
- 6.2 Conflicts (d)
- 6.3 Capacity (o)
- 6.4 Soil/Vegetation (d)
- 6.5 Time Impacts (o)
- 6.6 Revegetation Areas (d)
- 6.7 Type Conversion (d)
- 6.8 Wildhorse (d)
- 6.9 Pesticides (d)
- 6.10 Prescribed Burning (d)

(6.1) Forage production on about 30 percent of the range can be increased through better management and construction of improvements. Demand exceeds supply for cattle forage and supply exceeds demand for sheep forage in some areas. (6.2) On some areas capable of meeting these demands, grazing conflicts with other resource uses, such as timber and wildlife. (6.3) Numbers of livestock exceed grazing capacity on some allotments, and vice versa. (6.4) Soil damage and a decline in the condition of some range have been caused by overstocking, continuous grazing, poor distribution, and/or lack of management. (6.5) Lack of time has been a dominant factor preventing implementation of improved grazing systems. It is difficult for some permittees to spend the required time and money to implement intensive management systems. (6.6) Revegetated areas are being invaded by woody plants. (6.7) Some people are opposed to converting pinon-juniper to grass, (6.8) regulating wildhorse herds, (6.9) using pesticides, and (6.10) prescribed burning.

Table B-8. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Range Issue.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY
Range Mgt. Intensity at 2030		
...Level A	acres	804
...Level B	acres	95,483
...Level C & D	acres	690,925
...Level E	acres	1,591
Permitted Use	MAUM	120
...Demand Satisfied	%	83

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Increases in permitted livestock use occurs gradually to 2030 by intensifying management and range improvement investments. Impacts on permittees are greater under higher levels of management intensities. Long term productivity and ground cover improves with better livestock management and pesticide use. Wildlife habitat is improved by increasing plant diversity, forage production, water development and cover. Wildhorse populations are maintained at levels consistent with carrying capacities.

### 7. DEVELOPED RECREATION

7.1 More Facilities (d)

7.2 Overuse (d)

7.3 Ski Areas vs. Wilderness (d)

7.4 Ski Area Economic Benefits (d)

(7.1) Future demand exceeds supply for developed picnic grounds (adjacent to Questa, Taos, and Penasco), ski areas, group and individual campsites, trailheads, and parking areas and sanitation facilities for cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. (7.2) Overuse in Forest Service campgrounds is resulting in damage to vegetation, soil compaction, and stream sedimentation. (7.3) The proposed Sangre de Cristo ski area could detract from the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. (7.4) This ski area would be economically beneficial to the surrounding communities.

Table B-9. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Developed Recreation Issue.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Use	MRVD	516
...Demand Satisfied	%	100
Ski Areas	SAOT	17,825
Campgrounds & Picnicgrounds	PAOT	3,425

All fee campgrounds will be maintained at a Full Service Level (FSL), other developed site facilities maintained at a Reduced Service Level (RSL) and campgrounds and picnic areas will be rehabilitated. Soil loss and other resource damage is minimized through site rehabilitation.

Additional campground hosts and snow rangers are provided. Land has been allocated for the Sangre de Cristo ski area. Future development plans for the Sangre de Cristo ski area will minimize the impacts on the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. Local communities would benefit financially. Developed recreation management improves.

### 8. DISPERSED RECREATION

8.1 User Conflict (d)

8.2 Trails (d)

8.3 Signs (d)

- 8.4 Litter (d)  
 8.5 Off-Road Vehicles (ORV)  
 8.6 Overuse (d)

(8.1) Use conflicts exist between fourwheelers and hikers, motorcyclists and horseback riders, and between snowmobilers and cross country skiers. (8.2) Trails are not maintained to provide resource protection. (8.3) Some trail segments are poorly located and inadequately signed. (8.4) Some of the heavily used dispersed camping areas are littered and have no sanitation facilities. (8.5) Off-road vehicle use can disturb wildlife and/or cause erosion. (8.6) Most heavily used dispersed camping areas are within the riparian area. In some instances, the recreationists are causing vegetation damage, soil compaction, and stream sedimentation. These popular spots are difficult to close, due to the historic use patterns.

Table B-10. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Dispersed Recreation Issue.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Trails Maintained	miles	176
Use	MRVD	392
...Demand Satisfied	%	85

Dispersed recreation management levels increase. Trail maintenance increases. Heavily used dispersed camping areas (occupancy spots) are rehabilitated and closed or hardened to withstand use. ORV areas are enforced. More visitor contact is provided. Signing and litter control improves.

## 9. WATERSHED

- 9.1 Watershed Condition (d)  
 9.2 Runoff (d)  
 9.3 Soil Loss (d)

(9.1) Past and some present activities cause unsatisfactory watershed conditions which impair the long-term productivity of the site. (9.2) Insufficient quantity and quality of vegetation contribute to increased runoff and (9.3) soil loss. (9.2) There is not enough runoff in the Rio Grande Basin to meet needs. The greatest demand for runoff in Taos and Rio Arriba counties is for domestic and irrigation uses.

Table B-11. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Watershed Issue.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Water Yield	M Acre-Feet	345
Soil Loss <sup>1</sup>	M Tons	1284

<sup>1</sup> This includes geologic and accelerated erosion. These numbers are only relative and should be used for comparison purposes only.

The Proposed Action maintains water yield at the current annual average. Watershed condition would be enhanced even though predicted soil loss does not vary significantly from other alternatives. Watershed enhancement would be accomplished via direct and indirect improvements. Water quality would also be modestly better.

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### 10. RIPARIAN

#### 10.1 Heavy Use (d)

#### 10.2 Conflicting Use (d)

(10.1) Areas along water ways are heavily used . Roads are usually located in the riparian areas because they provide a natural way through the country. Most of the recreation sites are there because people prefer sites near water. Livestock also concentrate around water and shade. Some wildlife species are dependent upon the vegetative types, diversity, and water. This concentrated use results in damage to vegetation, compacted soils, erosion, and stream sedimentation. (10.2) The varied uses within the riparian areas are not compatible. Most recreationists do not like the noise and smell of livestock. Wildlife prefer areas isolated from human use. Livestock competes with the wildlife for forage in the riparian.

Table B-12. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Riparian Issue.

ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY (Ave. annual for years 1-10).
Dispersed Recreation	MRVD	93
Fishing	MFUD	50
Soil Loss	M Ton	27
Permitted Use	MAUM	4
Roads Obliterated	miles	20

The proposed Action does not totally resolve conflicting use and heavy use within the riparian analysis area, but it comes closer to resolving the ICO than the other alternatives. The Forest Plan emphasizes quality within the riparian areas by minimizing and partially resolving conflicts.

### 11. LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### 11.1 Developed Sites (d)

#### 11.2 Cultural/Historical (d)

#### 11.3 Snags (d)

#### 11.4 Livestock (o)

#### 11.5 Pinon (d)

#### 11.6 Occupancy Trespass (d)

#### 11.7 ORV (d)

Many people have expressed the need to increase law enforcement. (11.1) Harassment, vandalism, and theft occur at some campgrounds and trailheads. (11.2) Cultural and historic sites are being vandalized. (11.3) Illegal removal of standing dead ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and pinon trees along roads and in riparian areas is reducing the habitat for snag-dependent wildlife species. (11.4) Unauthorized livestock use reduces grazing capacity. (11.5) Illegal removal of green pinon is causing over-harvesting in some areas. (11.6) Many cases of occupancy trespass are discovered as lands inside the National Forest are surveyed. (11.7) Off-road vehicles using closed roads and trails cause soil loss, increase maintenance costs, and harass wildlife.

Table B-13. How the Forest Plan Addresses the Law Enforcement Issue.

ACTION	EFFECT
Two coop. agreements of Rio Arriba counties, one patrol unit each county. One Forest Service law enforcement officer shared between Carson and Santa Fe Forests. And east and west side full range law enforcement officers.	Dead and down fuelwood supply is slightly increased. Green wood supply will still be a problem requiring law enforcement efforts due to demand exceeding supply. Increased law enforcement will provide for enforcing ORV restrictions and suppressing losses at recreation sites and trailheads. Losses of government property will be investigated. There will be an increase in the monitoring and suppression of cultural resource vandalism. This alternative best satisfies law enforcement needs for handling unauthorized livestock use.

## 12. SUSTAINABLE FOREST

Some have expressed the need to focus on a sustainable forest versus sustained yield -- the total forest cycle versus a product from one phase of the cycle. They want to keep the whole cycle healthy and stable so we can sustain options for the future.

This leads to many questions. Does forest management to develop products lead to conditions which result in unsustainable forests? Can intense management break the ecological cycle? How does old growth fit into this? What are the conditions on the Carson? How intense has been and is the management on the Carson?

The old growth portion of the forest cycle is seen by many as key. They feel that it may be the most jeopardized and it has special importance. The reasons vary: banks of knowledge about the forest ecosystem; blueprints for the natural forest processes; ensure options for future generations; represent a high degree of biological diversity; mirror our feelings, values, ethics, and attitudes toward our environment; important part of our national heritage; a source of inspiration; a living story of nature in balance; produce high quality wood.

**How Addressed in the Forest Plan:** A new section was added in chapter C. Forest-wide Prescriptions entitled "Sustainable Forest." It includes a "Vision," "Management Highlights," "Setting the Stage" and "Standards and Guidelines". They highlight the importance of this concern and set a course correction to proactively deal with it.

## ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

An Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) was prepared and documented in 1983 as a means of determining the productive capacity of the Forest to supply various goods and services. It was updated in March 1984. Copies of the AMS are filed at Ranger District offices, the Forest Supervisor's Office, the Regional Office, and are available in the planning record. The AMS is incorporated by reference for purposes of analysis in the EIS and Forest Plan.

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The AMS is summarized in detail in Chapter 3 of the EIS, The Affected Environment.

Table B-14 summarizes the major conclusions in terms of key outputs from the AMS. The table depicts goods and services produced by the Forest Plan and projects supply and demand.

Supply and demand for various goods and services have been analyzed to identify necessary improvements, resolve the issues, and prevent future conflict. The goal of the Forest Plan is to identify the level and type of Forest uses that would help meet demand while enhancing or maintaining resources in a cost effective, integrated manner.

Table B-14 . Comparison of the key outputs with potential supply and projected future use. (Decades 1 and 5)

OUTPUT	YEARLY UNITS	FOREST PLAN 1987-96	FOREST PLAN 2027-36	SUPPLY 1987-96	SUPPLY 2027-36	DEMAND 1987-96	DEMAND 2027-36
Downhill Skiing	MRVD	230	691	385	1021	230	691
Camp/ Picnic- grounds	MRVD	254	510	318	716	254	655
Existing Wilder- ness Rec.	MRVD	13	23	113	113	13	23
Columbine -Hondo Recom- mended Wilder- ness Rec.	MRVD	5	9	43	43	5	9
Wildlife Rec.	MWFUD	165	244	165	244	159	402
Grazing Capacity	MAUM	127	134	140	167	-	-
Permit- ted Use	MAUM	120	120	120	136	125	185
Sawtim- ber Sales	MMBF	32.0	36.8	47.6	45.0	32.0	55.0
Products	MMBF	3.0	10.1	4.0	7.0	3.0	5.0

OUTPUT	YEARLY UNITS	FOREST PLAN 1987-96	FOREST PLAN 2027-36	SUPPLY 1987-96	SUPPLY 2027-36	DEMAND 1987-96	DEMAND 2027-36
Fuel- wood, Sold & Free	MMBF	8.2	10.8	10.8	10.8	8.2	10.8
Water Yield	MAF	345	345	359	413	1750 <sup>1</sup>	2250 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Figures taken from New Mexico Water Resources, 1976.

### RECREATION:

Demand and planned levels of wilderness recreation are in balance in all decades. The potential supply exceeds these levels based on the potential practical capacity of the wilderness areas, not considering limits of acceptable change.

There is adequate supply potential to meet demand for developed recreation. The planned level is less than demand because of funding limitations over time in the Forest Plan. This represents a development opportunity that could be used if sufficient funding were available. There is an opportunity for this portion of demand to be met by the private sector.

### WILDLIFE:

The human population will become more affluent, have more time to spend in wildlife-oriented recreation and will place more of a demand on wildlife and fish. The lands administered by the Carson National Forest are capable of providing only a finite amount of habitat for wildlife and fish. Even with the emphasis placed on wildlife and fish under the final plan, consumptive and non-consumptive demand for some species may not be met in the future. At the projected final plan funding level, approximately 80 percent of demand will be met by the year 2000 and 60 percent of demand will be met for the time period 2020 - 2030.

### RANGE:

The projected level of grazing is less than the projected demand primarily because of the strong wildlife, watershed and recreation emphasis. There are opportunities to increase the amount of grazing through the implementation of more intensive management and by putting increased funding into range improvement.

Such strategy will maintain and ensure the 120 MAUM's of permitted grazing use Decade 1 thru Decade 5.

### TIMBER:

Demand for firewood is projected to increase through the 5th decade as population increases. The forest should be able to meet firewood demand through a combination of greenwood sales, slash from timber sales and projects, and natural downfall. While demand for pinon exceeds supply on some individual Ranger Districts, Forest-wide the reverse holds true.

## **B. Issues**

Demand for products should be met through the 5th decade. For the 5th decade, the potential supply is shown to be lower than the quantity projected for the Forest Plan. This is because the potential supply (Alt. E) is reduced by outputs in decade 1-4 that are higher than those for the Forest Plan.

Timber demand for the 5th decade is from Regional timber indices in the 1979 RPA assessment. The value for the first decade is an estimate based on recent sale history and comment from industry. Output could be increased to the potential by expanding the suitable timberland base and including some unroaded areas and steep slopes.

### **WATER YIELD:**

The Forest currently cannot meet existing demand for water within the Rio Grande Basin or demand within the basin in the immediate area of the Forest. This condition will continue through all time periods with demand increasing. The potential amount of water the Forest could produce is substantially less than demand within the Rio Grande basin and within the basin in the immediate area of the Forest.