

MGT AREA 13 -- Oak

A VISION

This is a healthy, stable environment.

This looks into the future, although some of it may be happening now. It is stated in the "present tense" as if it is already that way. This gives a feel of where we are heading. It paints a general picture with a broad brush.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

- There is quality habitat for the turkey and elk.
- Activities and uses remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (partial retention visual quality objective) or may visually dominate the original characteristic of the landscape. However, they must borrow from the form, line, color, and texture of the landscape (modification VQO).

This table snaps a more detailed picture of what this management area will look like in the future. Since much depends on natural cycles, which need time, these conditions may take many years to achieve. Some of it may be in this condition now.

DESCRIPTION

Shallow rocky soils, steep slopes and south to west exposures are typical of this area. Primary uses are big game winter feeding and scenic viewing. Many of the areas are considered as primary big game winter habitat.

Natural fires have played an important role in maintaining this vegetative type. Portions of the area could eventually return to ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir if fire or other site disturbances were eliminated. Prescribed fire for management purposes is difficult to achieve due to a lack of ground fuels. Fire, either natural or man caused, is a desired occurrence in this management area.

Gambel oak, like aspen, is a result of fire killing other species of trees and stimulating sprouting of the oak and aspen. Large sections of the Carson were burned in the 1880's, and relatively pure stands of oak remain today. These stands have had few fires since the 1880's due to a lack of fuels, and if maintained in oak will serve as natural fire breaks during periods of low and medium fire danger.

Gambel oak exists in other management areas (4 and 5) but is usually an understory or co-dominant species.

The oak in this management area is dominant to an understory of primarily forbs and grasses. Climax vegetation would probably be Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, or Engelmann spruce.

This area provides food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife.

Oak has the highest energy content of all the tree species found on the Carson. It produces approximately 30 percent more heat than pinon and Douglas-fir.

D. Management Area Prescriptions

Standards and Guidelines

This section contains the standards and guidelines against which activities and uses are to be compared. It focus on and provides more details about the "Desire Future Conditions." In some cases it gives the long term 'where and when.' The Forest Plan Implementation Schedule is the tool used for all short-term planning and scheduling. The Implementation Schedule provides the operational perspective [making the commitment -- asking for the dollars and scheduling what year it will be done in.] The tactical perspective [the execution] is the actual implementation on the ground. This is done after we get the funding. It is also documented as accomplishments in the Forest Plan Implementation Schedule.

BROWSE... Inventory and manage browse (oak, mountain mahogany, willow, and other palatable species) to maintain or improve browse conditions, especially on big game winter ranges.

- During 10-year period inventory browse component forestwide.
- Identify priority areas needing improvement.
- Treat browse stands only where they can reasonably be protected from the detrimental effects of livestock and big game overuse.
- Treat no more than 25 percent of browse acres within each diversity unit every 10 years unless it has been determined necessary to maintain the browse component and/or to meet desired big game population goals.

REPLACING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS... Replacement of structural improvements will be planned in a 30-40 year cycle and will take priority over new structures if needed for prescribed management intensity.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT... Stands may be treated, and sawtimber and products may be harvested to meet specific Management Area objectives. Volume does not contribute to the Forest ASQ.

SALVAGE SALES... Salvage timber when compatible with Management Area objectives or when needed to prevent or reduce insect and disease conditions within the Management Area or adjacent Management Areas.

NON-CONVERTIBLE PRODUCTS... Prepare and Administer permits for non-convertible products when compatible with Management Area objectives.

FIREWOOD... Prepare and Administer sale permits or free-use permits for dead and down firewood.

WILDLIFE... Timber inclusions will be managed for snag retention, wildlife over and escape routes and general habitat diversity.

WIDTH & SIZE OF TREATMENTS... Maximum width and size of vegetative treatments will follow Forest-wide standards and guidelines.