

MGT AREA 3 -- MIXED CONIFER UNDER 40%

A VISION

This is a healthy and 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 hairy woodpecker, turkey, elk, turkey, and red squirrel.
- The Forest environment is maintained to provide opportunities for recreation.

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

Recreation, timber harvest, and wildlife are the major uses of this area. There is approximately one mile of road for each square mile of land. Dry and wet meadows are interspersed throughout the area and provide an important source of food for wildlife and domestic livestock. Douglas-fir mistletoe and spruce budworm are prevalent and are responsible for many small concentrations of snags.

The size and distribution of aspen patches (management area 6 or aspen overstories with stocked understories of conifer - management areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) provide a living map of fire history or other catastrophes. Wildfires have played an important role in the history of this area. Man has been controlling wildfire for approximately 70 years and natural mortality has resulted in fuel loading of 10 tons to 50 tons per acre. Logging and precommercial thinning have created concentrations of fuel that vary between 20 tons and 80 tons per acre. Grasses and forbs are quick to take over a burned area and vegetative succession begins again.

The woody vegetative composition of this unit is variable and consists of overstories and understories of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, white fir, Engelmann spruce, and aspen in a wide variety of mixtures. The lower elevational range borders the pure ponderosa pine type (management area 4 and 5) and the upper range borders the spruce/true fir type (management areas 1 and 2). This area is capable, suitable, and available for timber production and harvest.

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.

TIMBER... All timber management standards and guidelines are included under the Forest-wide prescriptions.

ROADS... Construct roads for timber sales using Best Management Practices with the following guidelines: 3.1 miles per square mile for construction first entry; 0.9 miles per square mile for reconstruction first entry; 4.0 miles per square mile for reconstruction second entry.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT REPLACEMENT... Replacement of structural improvements will be planned in a 25-30 year interval and will take priority over new structures if needed for prescribed management intensity.