MGT AREA 12 -- SAGEBRUSH

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

- 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).
- There is quality habitat for the elk and Brewer's sparrow.
- There is a seral grassland on allotments designated for level D management and primary big game winter ranges.

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

Big Sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata*, is the climax species. However, it exists in a seral stage on a portion of this area. The old seral stage is a result of overgrazing and topsoil loss in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The more recent seral stage is occupying sites that are rated medium to high in grass production.

The area is valuable for livestock grazing and big game winter range and year long habitat for many species of small game.

Two track unmaintained roads are numerous and useable only during dry periods of the year.

Dry arroyos are common and sediment production is extreme during high intensity summer rain storms. Erosion is a serious threat to soil productivity.

Black sagebrush, *Artemesia nova*, occupies sites with shallow, rocky soils that are derived from basalt. The slopes are relatively flat and rolling.

Sheet erosion is apparent on many sites.

Other vegetation is sparse, but western wheatgrass, snakeweed and blue grama grass are found. Ponderosa pine, pinon pine, and juniper can be found scattered throughout the area.

The primary use of the area is by wintering big game animals and livestock grazing.

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.

RANGE...

- 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.

- On allotments designated for level D management, and big game winter ranges treat sagebrush to reduce density and create a seral grassland community. Reseed if ground cover prior to treatment is less than 30%. Do not treat black sagebrush (Anemesia nova). Treatment Methods: Burn: When sagebrush cover is at least 20% density (herbaceous fuel is at least 600 lbs. per acre).
  Herbicides: When conditions aren't suitable for burning.
  Mechanical: When neither burning nor herbicides are feasible.