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Record of Decision

Land and Resource Management Plan

Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland

Caring for the Land...

RECORD OF DECISION

FOR THE
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST
CROOK, GRANT, HARNEY, AND WHEELER COUNTIES, OREGON

AND

CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND
JEFFERSON COUNTY, OREGON

USDA FOREST SERVICE
AUGUST 1989

APPROVAL PAGE

RECORD OF DECISION
For The
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST
Crook, Grant, Harney, and Wheeler Counties, Oregon
and
CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND
Jefferson County, Oregon

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

The decision represents a selection, and forthcoming implementation of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland, pursuant to regulations of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Title 36, CFR Pt. 219 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council of Environmental Quality , Title 40, CFR Pts. 1500-1508. The Plan approved and adopted by virtue of this decision document is Alternative I which is identified as the preferred alternative in the Final Environmental Statement.

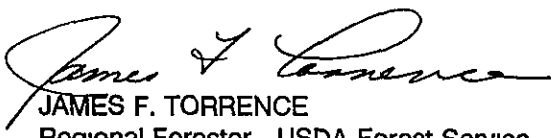
The Plan decision(s) represents a series of interdependent, but separable, judgements, which are generally of a complex, technical or political nature. The decisions relate primarily to programmatic land and resource management allocations and accompanying standards and guidelines, which when viewed in total comprise the Forest and Grassland Plans.

Basic elements of the process and resultant decisions are summarily set forth herewith as a Record of Decision (ROD). These include:

- planning process, authorities, and requirements
- issues, including public responses
- identification of decision(s) and the decision rationale
- alternatives considered
- modification of final alternatives
- rationale for nonselection of alternatives
- compatibility with other agency goals and plans
- implementation schedules
- mitigation and monitoring processes for plan change or amendment
- appeal rights

A decision may be subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Notice of appeal and statement of reasons must be in writing and submitted to the Chief of the Forest Service within 90 days from the date of publishment of Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on September 15, 1989.

I encourage anyone who is concerned about the Ochoco National Forest or Crooked River National Grassland Plan, or decisions contained therein, to first see if concerns or misunderstandings may be resolved with the Forest Supervisor in Prineville, Oregon (Phone 503 447-6247) before submitting an appeal.



8-1-89
Date

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document, the Record of Decision (ROD), summarizes the decisions, pertinent information, and rationale for the selection of a Land and Resource Management Plan for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. It is required under the National Environmental Policy Act regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508. Its purpose is to clearly identify the decisions and intended action.

The development of Plans for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland has progressed over a considerable amount of time. The completion of comprehensive land and resource management plans under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) is a significant and important event in the administration of the Forest and Grassland The decisions represented therein were arrived at through a deliberative process in which available information, data, alternatives, and public comments were carefully weighed and analyzed.

After consideration of pertinent information, my decision is to implement Plans for the Forest and Grassland which are represented by Alternative I The Plans will guide the management of the Forest and Grassland for the next 10-15 years. They will be amendable as described herein (pg ROD-2). Alternative I is described by the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and by the Plans themselves.

PROCESS AND CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE FOREST AND GRASSLAND PLANS

YEAR	PROCESS
1980	Notice of Intent Published in the Federal Register
1981	Preliminary Identification of Issues and Concerns
1982	Forest Inventory Completed
1984	Analysis of Management Situation
1985	Formulation and Analysis of Alternatives
	Evaluation of Alternatives
	Draft Preferred Alternative Selection
1986	Draft Environmental Statement Published
	Public Comment Period
1988	Supplement to DEIS Published
1989	Public Comment Period for Supplement
	Evaluation of Public Comment
	Formulation, Analysis and Modification of Final Alternative
	Validation with Public
	Final Plan Published
1990	Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

PURPOSE AND NEED

AUTHORITIES AND PURPOSE

The Plans provide for the coordinated multiple-use management of the various resources and uses, including recreation, wildlife and fish, range, timber, watershed, minerals, and wilderness. The Forest and Grassland Plans and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were developed under the implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500-1508 (40 CFR 1500-1508); and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219 (36 CFR 219).

The Plans are part of the framework for long-range planning established by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA), as illustrated below under tiering.

TIERING

Forest Service planning is a continuous, interactive process tiered (CFR 40 CFR 1508 28) to and carried out on organizational levels within the National Forest systems These levels are·

1 **National**	Resource Planning Act Assessment and Program
2 **Regional**	Regional Guide.
3. **Forest**	National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) for National Forest System lands. Tiered to Regional Guide.
4. **Project**	Site or project specific plans, generally at Ranger District level Tiered to Forest Plan.

WHAT THE FOREST AND GRASSLAND PLANS ARE

The Plans are strategies for managing the Forest and Grassland in an environmentally sound manner to produce goods and services in a way that maximizes long-term public benefits

The Plans are part of the 50-year framework for long-range resource planning established by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA), and establishes general resource management direction for the next 10 to 15 years These decisions are given on pp. ROD 20-39 Information about outputs and effects beyond this time are projected only to indicate the anticipated consequences over time. The Plans will ordinarily be revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. The Plans may be revised sooner if the Forest Supervisor determines that environmental conditions or resource demands have changed significantly, or if national policies, goals, or objectives have changed in a way that would require Forest Plan revisions.

Once adopted, the Plans supersede or bring into compliance all previous resource management plans prepared for the Forest and Grassland, subject to existing rights, contracts, and specific direction for areas such as Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Recreation Areas, and National Trails. This will generally be done within three years (see Table 1, pg ROD-4) Congressional land designations, catastrophic events, or major new management or production technologies may require the Plans to be amended or revised

All activities, many of which are interdependent, may be affected by annual budgets The Plans are implemented through various site-specific projects, such as the building of a road, the development of a campground, or the sale of timber. If the budget changes for any given year, the projects scheduled for that year may have to be rescheduled However, the goals and land activity assignments described in the Plans would not change unless the Plans themselves were changed If budgets change significantly over a number of years, the Plans may have to be amended and consequently, would reflect different target outputs and environmental conditions. The significance of budget-related or other changes is determined in the context of the particular circumstances

The decision to adopt these Plans authorizes their implementation During implementation, all specific projects and activities will be evaluated with respect to Plan direction and with appropriate public involvement. Schedules of proposed and possible projects are contained in the Plans, Appendices A. Public involvement and participation will continue as the Plans are implemented, because responsiveness to changing public issues will continue. These Plans and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement are for the most part programmatic. During implementation, when the various projects are designed, site-specific plans and analyses are performed. These analyses may result in environmental assessments, environmental impact statements, or categorical exclusions, and possibly an amendment or revision of the Forest or Grassland Plan Any resulting NEPA documents are to be tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for these Plans, pursuant to 40 CFR 1508 28.

AMENDMENTS

The Plans can be amended at any time. Amendments can be either "significant" or "non-significant" depending on the timing or location of the proposed change, and whether the change alters the goals, objectives, outputs, or management prescriptions. Amendments may be made to respond to changing needs, opportunities, monitoring, Congressional land designations, or catastrophic events (such as major floods or fires), or to take advantage of major new management or production technologies If the change is not significant, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment following appropriate public notification and satisfactory compliance with environmental policies and procedures If the change is significant, the Plan must be revised by the same process used to develop and approve the original Plan (see Amendment and Revision Process, p. ROD-59).

WHAT THE PLANS ARE NOT

The Land and Resource Management Plans are not plans for the various administrative activities needed to carry on the Forest Service's day-to-day internal operations. For example, the Plans do not address personnel matters, law enforcement, fleet equipment, or internal organization changes.

The emphasis of the Plans is not on site-specific decisions or specific resource outputs. Instead, the emphasis is on applying various general management practices and intensities (standards and guidelines) to different land areas (allocations) to achieve multiple use goals and objectives in a cost-efficient manner.

While all the outputs in the Plans can be accomplished from a physical, biological, economic, social, and legal perspective, there is no guarantee that these levels will be accomplished. The outputs proposed by the Plan are estimates based on available inventory data and assumptions, and their accomplishment is subject to the annual budget received by the Forest. For example, the actual timber quantity sold or cut can depend on external factors beyond the scope of the Forest Plan. Local demand for raw material, timber imports and exports, national housing starts, and home mortgage rates are among the factors which may influence the annual timber volumes actually harvested or sold in any one year.

CONSISTENCY

The National Forest Management Act requires that all resource plans, permits, contracts, and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands be consistent with the Forest Plan (16 U.S C. 1604(i)). All administration activities affecting the National Forest must be based on the Forest Plan (36 CFR 219 10(e)).

All outstanding permits, contracts, cooperative agreements and other instruments for occupancy and use of lands included in the Forest Plan will be brought into agreement with this Forest Plan, subject to the valid existing rights of the parties involved; this will be done as soon as practicable, and generally within three years of the date of this Plan (see Table 1, pg ROD-4).

Likewise, timber implementation plans such as the Forest Tree Improvement Plan, Seed Orchard Management Plan, and Tree Seed Inventory Plan will be brought into compliance with the direction contained in the Forest Plan within three years of Plan approval.

The schedule of timber sale offerings in Appendix A-10 of the Forest Plan will be updated at least annually. All timber sales offered and all stand management contracts issued after approval of the Forest Plan will be in compliance with direction contained in the Plan Changes to existing contracts, including timber sales and other stand management projects, may be proposed on a case-by-case basis where overriding resource considerations are present Otherwise, all existing contracts will be administered in accordance with original provisions.

RELATIONSHIP OF OTHER PLANS TO THE FOREST AND GRASSLAND LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS (LRMP)

The Plans serve as the primary land and resource management direction for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland. All other land, resource, or functional plans are replaced or must be consistent with the direction in these Plans A list of plans superseded or requiring modification by the LRMP's are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1
REVISED OR SUPERSEDED PLANNING DOCUMENTS

PLAN/AGREEMENT TITLE	SUPERSEDED	UPDATE/REVISE 1/	Prepare
1979 Timber Resource Plan	X		
1978 Silvies Malheur Unit Plan	X		
1979 Ochoco Crooked River Unit Plan	X		
1980 Crooked River National Grassland Unit Plan	X		
1978 South Fork Planning Unit Land Management Plan	X		
1982 Round Mountain Electronics Site Management Plan		X	
Transportation Plan		X	
Fire Management Plan(s)		X	
Residue Management Plan		X	
Special Use Permits		X	
Memoranda of Understanding		X	
Co-op Agreements		X	
Allotment Management Plans		X	
Tree Improvement Plan		X	
Land Adjustment		X	
Recreation Development Plans		X	
Summit Trail Management Plan	X		
Statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Plan		X	
1977 Off-Road Vehicle Plan	X		
Facilities Management Plans		X	
Site Development Plans		X	
Seed Orchard Management Plan		X	
Tree Seed Inventory Plan		X	
Timber Sale Harvest Schedules		X	
Gray Butte Electronic Site Plan		X	
Dry Mountain Electronic Site Plans		X	
Highway 26 Corridor Plan		X	
Wild and Scenic River Plans			X
Wilderness Plans		X	
Wild Horse Management Plan		X	
Forest and District Multiple Use Plans		X	
Cove Palisades Cooperative Agreement		X	
Bald Eagle Recovery Plan		X	
Capital Improvements Plan		X	
Hazardous Materials Plan		X	
Recreation Development Site Plans (Haystack, et al)		X	X
1983 Law Enforcement Plan		X	

1/ These existing plans will be examined and updated or revised as necessary to be brought in conformance with the Forest Plan, or simply incorporated into the Forest Plan if no change is needed

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

In Autumn of 1980, the Forest began the task of identifying issues to be addressed in Forest planning Six meetings with key interest group leaders and individuals were held In the meeting, 125 preliminary issues, concerns and opportunities (ICO's) were identified By an iterative process with the public, and through mailings, media and meetings over the course of several months, these were consolidated into 12 major issues or "planning problems," which are (for more detail see FEIS Appendix A)·

1. Timber supply and Forest management
2. Social and economic wants and needs of local communities
3 Livestock grazing and allotment management
4 Riparian area management
5 Transportation system
6 Big game habitat
7. Roadless areas and wilderness study areas

8. Scenic or visual resources
9 Old growth forest
10. Fuelwood supply
11 Snag dependent wildlife
12. Winter sports

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ON THE DRAFT EIS/PLAN

Notice of availability was published in the Federal Register on September 12, 1986 Over 1,000 copies of the documents were distributed. Each document package contained a "Reviewer's Guide" and "Summary." See Table 2 for the summary of public involvement efforts for the DEIS.

By the end of the 90-day review period, approximately 2,150 responses were received All responses were acknowledged with reply cards. Table 3 gives the number of respondents favoring particular alternatives, and Table 4 shows the number of comments by subject area (for more detail see FEIS Appendix I).

TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF AGENCY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Action	Occurrence
Forest Plan Reports Issued	3
News Releases	7
Public/Informational Meetings	6
Interest Group/Organizational Meetings	33+
Legislative Contacts	5
Display at Harney County Library	1
Extended Office Hours	-
Radio	over 20 interviews on seven stations
TV	3 interviews- on two stations
Newspapers	51+ articles- in four papers
Fliers	3 printed by special interest groups

TABLE 3
RESPONDENTS PREFERENCE FOR PARTICULAR ALTERNATIVES*

ALTERNATIVE	TOTAL
A	19
B	25
C	164
D	5
E	8
F	2
G	2
H	2
B - Departure	0
E - Departure	45
H - Departure	6
B+- (Industry)	1,142

* Respondents either preferred a particular alternative or a certain aspect of a particular alternative Respondents who favored a new alternative other than those presented in the Forest Plan or by the timber industry totaled 65

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF COMMENTS BY RESOURCE OR ISSUE

RESOURCE/ISSUE	TOTAL
Timber	1,974
Roadless Areas	1,903
Wildlife	829
Planning	804
Range	476
Social Considerations	437
Recreation	347
Fuelwood	339
Old Growth	298
Riparian Management	269
Multiple Use	208
Wilderness	206
Transportation	154
Special Interest Areas	115
Research Natural Areas	113
Scenic Resource	73
Wild and Scenic Rivers	56
Fire	44
Water	43
Wildlife MR's	40
Archeology/History/Cultural Resource	31
Fish	24
Soil	23
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species	22
Budget	19
Energy	14
Minerals	10
Air	10
Special Land Uses	6
Plants - Native/Introduced	5
Land Status	4
Economics	3
Protection	3
Pesticide Use	3
Law Enforcement	2
Indian Rights	1

INTEREST GROUP METHODS

It appeared that the majority of respondents received their information primarily from fliers, media, or individuals rather than by reading the documents.

The forest products industry printed and distributed a leaflet entitled, "Ochoco Forest Plan to Take Millions of Dollars In Income from County Residents." On one side of the leaflet was a summary of industry's view of the Proposed Plan, including discussion of an industry-supported alternative, "B-plus " On the backside was a response form, consisting of seven multiple-choice options and a

space to write in a short comment The form was preaddressed to the Ochoco National Forest, allowing a respondent to comment on the Plan by simply checking a few blanks and affixing a postage stamp. Mill managers held meetings in which employees were asked to fill out the form An individual was contracted by industry to conduct meetings and distribute materials representing their viewpoint This individual conducted 25-30 meetings, personally distributed 3,000 industry leaflets, and 700 copies of his speech. Other timber industry representatives also conducted meetings or presented information at local civic, business, and other organizational meetings.

Early in the process, analysts from the Northwest Forest Resources Council (NFRC) and timber industry lobby group, met with the Ochoco's planning analyst Disagreeing with how job multipliers were expressed, they charged that job losses were understated. They used the potential yield from the Forest's 1980 timber plan as the basis for their economic arguments A letter requesting withdrawal of the DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan was sent to the Regional Forester by a representative of the NFRC

The Central Oregon Economic Development Council contracted Brian Long, an Economist from Seattle, to review the Forest's economic analyses and Impact Planning (IMPLAN) modeling and data Long prepared a report in which he showed a loss of 317 jobs and 6 5 million dollars due to the Draft Preferred Plan. Long's findings, displayed in a 38-page report entitled "Economic Impact Analysis of the United States Forest Service Proposed Plan for the Ochoco National Forest in the Central Oregon Area," were presented to local community leaders and organizations

A coalition of eight environmental groups published and distributed 8500 copies of a flier entitled, "There Is Still Time to Save the Ochoco." The flier included information on the planning process and issues, and offered suggestions on how to respond to the issues Environmentalist's views of the Proposed Plan were also presented at a public meeting in Bend, on radio and television talk shows, and in newspaper articles.

Two other special interest campaigns included: a statewide drive by snowmobile organizations to keep the Forest open to snowmobiles (particularly Lookout Mountain), and the elderly citizen's desire to re-open the road to the summit of Lookout Mountain

The Northwest Forest Resources Council filed two appeals in May 1986, requesting that the management requirements incorporated into planning processes be reviewed, and that a no action alternative representing current management plans be included in the EIS The Forest responded by preparing and issuing a supplement to the DEIS in the fall of 1988 addressing those issues

The environmental community continued to prepare and circulate brochures and articles in recreation guides on Lookout Mountain. One such brochure appeared in April 1989, by "Friends of Lookout" entitled, "Accept an Invitation...Lookout Mountain Special Management Area." The purpose of this brochure was stated, "to protect the Lookout Mountain Area "

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE DEIS

The responses received on the Supplement to the DEIS were predominately local in origin. Ninety percent were form letters which came from local mills or mill owners The form letters stated that they had "no major comments on the Supplement to the DEIS itself," but went on to repeat issues the mills and timber industry emphasized concerning the Draft - timber supply and jobs. Over 95% of the comments received on the Supplement to the DEIS did not respond to the issues addressed by the Supplement Of those comments received on the NFMA management requirements incorporated by process, about half indicated the procedure was appropriate, while the others (from the timber industry, whose issue it was) disagreed with the process and cost of the requirements in terms of timber supply. The no change alternative was recognized by most commentators as not meeting the requirements of law, particularly NFMA, and therefore not being a viable implementable alternative.

ISSUE AND PUBLIC RESPONSE SUMMARY

TIMBER SUPPLY AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sub-issues relating to timber supply and forest management have been identified and are discussed separately:

Timber Supply and Sustained Even-flow Yield

Forest products manufacturing is the major industry of the area Timber accounts for over 95% of the National Forest receipts The Forest has 6.3 BBF of standing crop, approximately 49% of which is comprised of mature ponderosa pine.

There are 533,177 acres of forest land tentatively identified as suitable for timber production The Forest Plan allocates 496,850 acres to general forest, 92,200 acres to nontimber use such as wildernesses, roadless areas, old growth, and 255,590 acres to other management areas.

Large fine-grained ponderosa pine is the most commercially valuable tree in central Oregon Open, park-like stands of mature ponderosa pine are also what people identify the Ochoco National Forest with and seek out for recreational purposes. Local mills are tooled for large material, although some modification has begun. Ponderosa pine may occur in relatively pure stands generally on relatively low productivity sites, or associated with other conifer species. The latter are referred to as mixed conifer stands and generally occupy the better sites, but existing mixed conifer stands have a high incidence of insect and disease damage, which reduces value and silvicultural options.

The 1979 Forest Timber Resource Plan established a potential yield of 136.5 MMBF The programmed harvest for the Forest, under that plan, has been 129 8 MMBF. The present planning effort developed alternative first decade allowable sale quantities, for the DEIS, ranging from 13 9 MMCF (82 MMBF) to 24 4 MMCF (146 MMBF) Three of the alternatives, including the draft preferred with an ASQ of 123 MMBF, plus an additional 5 MMBF in salvage sales, were departures Yield or an ASQ exceeding 100 MMBF is not sustainable in BF measure over time Because FORPLAN yields were all calculated in cubic feet, sustained yield in board feet was not readily determinable The current net annual growth estimated in board feet for the Forest is about 80 MMBF. The harvest on the Forest has been at a historic high, e g 153 MMBF in 1985 This high level of harvest was a result of the combination of timber availability and a strong market.

Mill capacity of Crook and Harney Counties alone is estimated to be 385 MMBF annually Demand for timber currently exceeds supply The Forest has sold an average of 137 MMBF per annum over the past decade, and cut 110 MMBF of which 75% was ponderosa pine Silvicultural systems applied have been predominately even-aged Intensive timber management and resultant industrial activity on the Forest has potential to conflict with or impact other resources. Conversely, land allocations for other purposes compete with timber interests, and other management requirements can constrain timber management activities and reduce potential yields.

What the respondents said:

Timber industry wanted an allowable sale quantity of 137 MMBF, which was the original, 1979 Timber Resource Plan potential yield They also asked for at least 100 MMBF of the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) to be in ponderosa pine. They attempted to show that the "commercial forest" landbase had been decreased through the suitability determinations and other land allocations in the Draft Plan. Timber industry also wanted a larger salvage program The conservation community, on the other hand, thought the ASQ for the Forest should be about 90 MMBF. Both industry and the conservationists agreed on the desirability of a sustained even-flow yield, but disagreed on the level of yield feasible on a sustained basis.

Ponderosa Pine Management

Large ponderosa pine trees are an economically important forest resource They are more valuable and important than other species or second growth Wood product remanufacturing has been increasing and relies primarily on the high quality lumber milled from ponderosa pine This industry is dependent on large pine (20-inch DBH or larger) that is relatively free of knots The majority of pine grows on relatively low productivity sites producing less than 58 cubic feet/acre/year A quality versus quantity situation exists Current forestry practices include rapid liquidation of old growth pine stands, even-aged management, and emphasis on fiber (quantity) production. Strategies in the DEIS were designed to produce either maximum cubic foot timber volume on available lands or maximum PNV These strategies resulted in harvesting stands at 90 to 100 years and producing trees no larger than 14 to 16 inches DBH.

What the respondents said·

Large ponderosa pine were viewed as a unique product of central Oregon Small diameter second growth trees were not. The stumpage value of large ponderosa pine is many times greater than second growth Some segments of the wood

products industry would like to know what the supply of pine will be over time in order to plan their business operations. Both industry and other publics do not like even-aged management in ponderosa pine Both want "selection" harvests, but for different reasons. Intensive management on low productivity pine sites is said not to be appropriate. It was thought that ponderosa pine, because of its uses and the sites involved, should be managed on a board foot (not cubic foot) basis It was suggested ponderosa pine be inventoried and managed separately, with a separate ASQ established for pine. The timber industry asked for a ponderosa pine ASQ of 100 MMBF annually.

Uneven-aged vs. Even-aged Silviculture

The use of clearcutting as a silvicultural system on the Forest has increased in the past decade. This is due to prescriptions in mixed conifer that favor more clearcutting, and increases in harvest levels as the economy recovered from the recession of the early 1980's. Overstory removal has been applied extensively in ponderosa pine. Clearcut acres under the Proposed Plan would start increasing in the second decade as overstory removal opportunities continue to be reduced and management intensity increases.

The harvest methods employed in FORPLAN modeling and yield tables in the Proposed Plan and alternatives were based on even-aged management. Uneven-aged management of ponderosa pine appears to be a viable alternative with offsetting advantages and disadvantages. Some limited uneven-aged management was programmed for certain management areas in the Proposed Plan

What the Respondents Said

There was strong support for uneven-aged management by the public and forest industry (albeit, for different reasons) and support for incorporation of uneven-aged management into an alternative Some publics see overstory removal as clearcutting Uneven-aged management was perceived as a method to avoid clearcutting (see Clearcutting, this page) and to reduce conflicts with other resources

Departure

This issue stems from the Draft Plan (Alternative E-Departure) proposal for an ASQ of 123 MMBF in the first decade, declining to 118 MMBF in the second decade, and 89 MMBF by the fifth decade (20.6 MMCF to 16.1 MMCF). This amounts to a 25 percent reduction over 5 decades The intent of the departure was to maintain a high timber supply to support community stability during the first decade The issue is, however, larger than that alone. None of the alternatives are sustainable in board feet over time (See Ponderosa Pine Management issue for importance of board feet versus cubic feet, p. ROD 7-8.) It is apparent that the current harvest level in board feet will decline over time and a decision as to the rate and to what level over time is needed, i e. a "glide path" or "stepping down."

What the Respondents Said

None of the respondents liked the idea of departure Industry said they needed a dependable (and higher) supply of timber, especially to encourage new business to central Oregon Conservationists said departure was a euphemism for rapid liquidation of old growth The public, for the most part, asked for a "sustained yield" which they seem to equate with nondeclining even-flow. Some felt we were remiss in proposing anything but sustained yield (nondeclining even-flow).

Clearcutting

Of the approximately 35,000 to 40,000 acres currently under contract on the Forest, only about 15 percent are to be clearcut However, the Forest program in near future years contains substantial acreages of clearcutting in mixed conifer stands The Draft Plan proposed harvesting 1,444 acres (nine percent of total harvested acres), increasing to 2,208 acres (39 percent of total harvested acres) by the year 2030 Root rot and other insect and disease problems, plus slash disposal needs, make any type of partial removal impractical for most of the mixed conifer stands

What the Respondents Said

There was almost unanimous opposition to clearcutting from industry, conservation groups, and members of the general public. Reasons cited included the adverse effects it has on other resources, the waste of fast-growing, younger stock and potential crop trees, and the destruction of advanced regeneration The issue was posed as "clearcutting vs selection " Some publics perceived overstory removal as clearcutting Clearcutting ponderosa pine was simply not considered appropriate Acceptance for clearcut-

ting in mixed conifer was conceded by industry. The uneven-aged issue is related to this issue.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WANTS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Central Oregon's economy is primarily based on its natural resources. Employment levels, community stability, ability to attract new industry and maintain the present, have been linked by some to timber supply levels. Our analyses show that the Forest can not continue to concurrently provide the same amount of timber and amenities over time as is currently provided As a result, there is likely to be socioeconomic conflict under any alternative

The issue, however, is not as direct as timber supply alone. Other factors, such as remanufacturing, material (log) transport into and out of the area, automation, market conditions, rate of liquidation of old growth, and ponderosa pine management affect jobs, employment levels, county receipts, community stability, and other businesses and industries that contribute significantly to the economic well-being of the communities.

What the Respondents Said

The forest products industry and many individuals were adamant in demanding a high timber supply to maintain the local economy and jobs. Others pointed out the short-sightedness of this viewpoint and suggested that the rapid conversion of old growth and shift to second growth/fiber management might not be positive in the long run. They believe the important resource is large ponderosa pine. Second growth pine is worth $40-60/MBF, old growth $100-300/MBF, so that even if the cut is significantly reduced, management for larger pine could contribute more to the economy The issue is also interrelated with the departure, uneven-age, and ponderosa pine issues. Still others felt that the high harvest levels would result in the loss of amenity resources that are the reason many people choose to live, work, and recreate in central Oregon Nearly all thought that a departure was extremely short-sighted

LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Forest and Grassland provide summer grazing for about 14,000 cattle and 3,500 sheep, or 75,000 AUM's annually, involving 105 permittees. Changes in public perception about management of the Forest and Grassland in recent years have raised questions of possible conflict between livestock and big game, water quality, riparian conditions, fisheries recreationists and reforestation. Grazing permit administration is tied by law to allotment plans, not the Forest or Grassland Plans

What the Respondents Said

Strong criticism was expressed concerning our past performance in administering the grazing program. The public doubts that riparian conditions can be improved and livestock numbers increased simultaneously.

Some said that any significant reduction in livestock grazing would have an adverse effect on the socio-economic base of Crook, Harney, and Jefferson counties and eliminate currently viable ranching units, and still other respondents suggested that full utilization be made of all available forage

Some respondents requested that additional data about current conditions be presented and that more detailed descriptions of the impacts of livestock use on other resources be provided.

RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

Approximately 20,240 acres, including 815 miles of streams, of the Forest and Grassland are considered the riparian influence zone. Riparian areas receive a disproportionate amount of recreation and grazing use. Our most productive timber sites also occur along stream bottoms Approximately 6,650 acres of riparian area are considered to be in "poor" condition Public attention for riparian area management and condition is increasing.

The Draft Plan proposed to manage 9,400 acres of streamside to achieve "excellent" conditions. Structural improvements were proposed to enhance these areas as follows: fencing, 255 miles; large woody debris placement, 14 miles; log weir construction, 300 acres, rock structures, 50 acres; and shrub plantings, 50 acres The remaining 9,600 acres would be managed for "good" or "fair" condition

What the Respondents Said

The public is concerned about the impact that grazing, timber harvest, and road building has on

riparian areas. Of particular concern is the proposed increase in livestock use of forage and skepticism over the Forest's ability to adequately manage riparian vegetation The view was presented that all riparian areas should be managed in "good" or better condition. There seemed to be a perception that if riparian areas were in "good condition," there would not be much concern over whether the vegetation was used by livestock or not Some livestock users recommended that where fencing is employed to manage riparian vegetation, the fenced units should be large enough to be managed as riparian pastures; others wanted more specifics on the proposed riparian program

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The transportation system on the Forest and Grassland totaled 4,554 miles of roads in 1985 About 833 miles (18 percent) are maintained for passenger car use, with the remainder maintained for high clearance vehicles. In the past, roads were constructed to relatively high standards. Recently, economic pressures and more rigorous analysis led the Forest Service to adopt lower road standards

Under the Draft Plan, the number of miles of road maintained on the Forest and Grassland would decrease nominally in the future Roads would be closed when needed to protect soil and water, prevent disturbance of big game, and limit investment loss Closures may be seasonal or yearlong

What the Respondents Said

There is strong opinion that road standards and road density are too high Seasonal road closures for protection of big game, and road closure after completion of timber sales are generally supported by the public

The timber industry suggested that the conflicts between roads and big game result from roads being open to use, rather than roads per se. They contend that the needs of big game could be served as well by closing roads as by leaving areas roadless

BIG GAME HABITAT

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) assigned management objectives of 2,600 elk and 22,600 deer to the Forest and Grassland. The Forest and Grassland have potential habitat to support larger populations of big game than these objectives

The Draft Plan proposed management for big game habitat would be the primary emphasis on 227,700 acres (approximately 25 percent) of the Forest and Grassland In these areas, open road density and cover would be managed for high quality big game habitat.

What the Respondents Said

Most desired a larger big game population than what the Draft Plan allowed. They would like more seasonal and permanent road closures They felt all of the big game winter range should be managed for that purpose, and an increase in the cover-forage ratios for the general forest should be made.

ROADLESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

The Draft Plan proposed managing Cottonwood Creek, most of Rock Creek, part of Silver Creek, and a small portion of Lookout Mountain for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation (25,249 acres total). Green Mountain (7,000 acres) was proposed to be managed for semiprimitive motorized recreation.

The Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 required the Forest Service to review the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and make a recommendation in the Forest Plan. The Draft proposed a 5,200-acre wilderness (2,500 acres National Grassland, 2,660 BLM). The total WSA was 18,402 acres. Also, the portion of the Deschutes River flowing through the wilderness study area was being studied for classification under both state and federal wild and scenic river systems. The North Fork Crooked River WSA (1,125 acres) was identified as being part of a larger area over which the BLM had the lead.

What Respondents Said

Public response on this issue was very polarized. Many of those favoring maintaining areas as unroaded on the Forest requested that acreage in each be increased over what was proposed in the Draft Plan. Lookout Mountain was most strongly supported to remain roadless, followed by Rock Creek and Cottonwood Creek areas (Ochoco Canyons)

Those opposing roadless area management for recreation cited single-use management as the basis for their opposition, and grouped roadless areas with what they felt were other single-use areas, i e. wilderness, research natural areas, and old growth.

Those commenting on the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls WSA favored expanding the wilderness to include more area if we were going to recommend wilderness There were few comments received on the NF Crooked River WSA.

SCENIC OR VISUAL RESOURCES

The Draft Plan proposed managing 3,000 acres in the Bandit Springs area and a 7,000 acre area encompassing Crystal Creek, Walton Lake, Round Mountain, Lookout Mountain, Mount Pisgah, and East Point to protect the natural appearance of the landscape Scenic corridors proposed totalled 52,000 acres, or about 50 percent of the potential roadside viewing of 106,700 acres.

What the Respondents Said

There were relatively few comments from the public on this issue. Most comments favored retaining Highway 26 as a scenic corridor Some people felt that scenic corridors were just another means of reducing the timber base. The State of Oregon expressed strong concern over maintaining the visual character of the Ochoco Forest over time.

OLD GROWTH FOREST

The Draft Plan proposed to provide 26,340 acres specifically allocated (dedicated) to old growth management. Approximately 23,500 more acres of old growth were thought to be available in wilderness and unroaded areas.

The size and distribution of the areas managed for old growth habitat were designed to meet habitat requirements for the pileated woodpecker, a management indicator species

What the Respondents Said

A great majority of those responding desired a larger allocation for old growth. Some also expressed interest in preserving old growth juniper habitat

FUELWOOD SUPPLY

The Forest currently supplies about 10,000 cords of fuelwood per year. This is expected to decrease after a few decades as harvesting is done in younger stands that provide less cull material. There is a large amount of material currently not used because of poor access (distance from road, distance from town) and because of small size The availability and location of fuelwood is related in part to the timber sale program. Fuelwood gathering often conflicts with leaving an adequate number of snags for wildlife.

What the Respondents Said

The people who use fuelwood for heating (which includes a majority of local residents) favored the continued availability or increase in availability of fuelwood.

SNAG DEPENDENT WILDLIFE

The Draft Plan proposed providing 55 percent of the potential snag habitat. Snag levels vary by management area, ranging from 40 percent in areas managed for timber production to 100 percent in wilderness and roadless areas. Fuelwood cutting and timber sales may not be leaving adequate supplies of snags

What the Respondents Said

Most of the respondents on this issue wanted snags reserved for wildlife. There was concern that the Forest Plan did not adequately protect snag habitat and that too many snags would fall prey to woodcutters and commercial timber sales. Conversely, timber industry strongly requested an expanded salvage program, which could conflict with leaving snags or snag replacement efforts

WINTER SPORTS

At present, most of the Forest, except for the cross-country ski trails at Bandit Springs, is open to winter recreation, including snowmobiles The Draft Plan proposed closing the summit of Lookout Mountain (2,950 acres) to snowmobiling.

The greatest limitation to winter recreation on the Forest is the lack of access, which at present is provided almost entirely by roads plowed to access timber sales.

What the Respondents Said

The proposal to close Lookout Mountain to snowmobiling was strongly opposed by snowmobilers This appeared to be the major issue concerning winter sports that surfaced in the public comments In contrast, there was little support by cross-country skiers for closing Lookout Mountain, or other areas of the Forest, to snowmobiling. Staff observations of winter use of Lookout Mountain indicate that the conflict between skiers and snowmobilers is normally minimal, and that at present levels, both uses can be accommodated in the area One suggestion was that separate trails to the top of Lookout Mountain be provided for skiers and snowmobilers.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES NOT IDENTIFIED IN THE ORIGINAL ICO'S

ANADROMOUS FISH

Anadromous fish were not identified as an issue in development of the DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan Anadromous fish were identified as a concern by several individuals and groups, including a lengthy, technical response from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRIFC) Primary concerns included protection and enhancement of spawning habitat, and the adequacy of the monitoring schedule. Native American groups noted that treaties guarantee protection for anadromous fish habitat.

HISTORIC TRAIL PRESERVATION - SUMMIT TRAIL

This issue developed out of a separate study conducted during the interim between issuance of the DEIS/Plan and Final.1/ The Forest coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on details contained in the Final. This trail has been related also to other groups' proposals for an east-west intertie to a cross-state trail system.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) USE

This issue re-emerged during the Issue/Final Plan validation phase. It was not evident as an issue in the Draft Plan phase It is being addressed under Transportation System (pg ROD-26).

ROUND MOUNTAIN

The Oregon Natural Resources Council in comment on the Draft Plan asked that a recreation unit be established for the Round Mountain area. This issue was brought up again by one individual in the validation process (see Other Multiple Use Decisions, pg. ROD-38).

VALIDATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Incorporation of public involvement into the decisions being reached in the Final Forest and Grassland Plans has been an integral step as we have progressed from the draft documents released in September 1986. Significant steps were taken during the last year of final document preparation to insure that direction in the Final Plans responded accurately to comments received on the Draft. Meetings were held, and contacts made with selected groups, individuals, agencies and political leaders in order to:

- Validate public responses received during the process;
- Insure that we correctly interpreted what was said; and
- Insure that we did not miss something or overlook stumbling blocks
  towards successful implementation

This networking followed our efforts in seeking broad public review of our draft documents. During the past year, meetings have been held with groups, agencies, citizens, and internally within the Forest Service organization

In response to this effort, where it appeared appropriate, changes were made in the final planning documents This was intended to strengthen the Plan decision and build a base of support for effective implementation (see pp ROD 40-49 for summary of changes)

1/ Gowan, A 1986 The Summit Trail A History, Comprehensive Survey, and Evaluation USDA For Serv , Ochoco N F Repts 1 & 2

III. DECISIONS

SUMMARY OF THE DECISION

My decision is to approve and adopt the Forest and Grassland Plans which accompany the Final EIS; this decision is referred to as Alternative I for the management of the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland

In arriving at this decision, I reviewed the environmental consequences of the Plans and their alternatives I gave particular attention to the responsiveness of the selected plans to the public issues and management concerns identified in development of the Final Plans Land allocations and standards and guidelines developed through interdisciplinary team analysis and review, reflect public comment, inherent land and resource capabilities, and the laws and regulations under which the National Forest and Grassland are required to be administered In my judgement, Alternative I represents an equitable treatment of all resource considerations, and provides for both monetary and non-monetary outputs in a balanced and environmentally sound manner. In that sense, Alternative I maximizes net public benefits over time

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST AND GRASSLAND MULTIPLE USE GOALS

The Forest and Grassland Plans (Chapters 4) establish multiple use goals, objectives and desired future condition. The goals represent a summary of the standards and guidelines on page ROD 15 and are listed below.

The Grassland is administered under different laws than the National Forest, and in addition to the multiple use goals, has legislated primary goals which are.

1 Administer the National Grassland under sound and progressive principles of land conservation and multiple use, and promote the development of grassland agriculture and sustained-yield management of the forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, and recreational resources

2 Manage the National Grassland resources to maintain and improve soil and vegetative cover, demonstrate sound and practical principles of land use, and exert a favorable influence for securing sound land conservation practices on associated private lands.

In addition, the goals and objectives for the Grassland differ from those of the National Forest for the management of old growth and recreation. For those resources, the Grassland goals deal only with juniper, and desert and canyon environments respectively

SUMMARY LISTING OF MULTIPLE USE GOALS FOR FOREST AND GRASSLAND

Air Quality - Comply with air quality laws and regulations and coordinate with appropriate regulatory agencies.

Biological Diversity - Maintain native, historic, and desirable introduced plant and animal species and communities, including those that may be threatened, endangered, or sensitive

Maintain or enhance ecosystem function to provide for long-term productivity of forest resources and biological communities.

Cultural Resources - Locate, evaluate, protect, and mitigate if necessary, significant archaeological sites Enhance and interpret selected sites for public education and enjoyment. Promote opportunities for academic research

Facilities - Plan, construct, maintain, and manage Forest and Grassland facilities to provide maximum economy, investment protection, user safety, and resource protection.

Fire - Control wildfire aggressively (particularly in urban-Forest interface areas), and in a cost-effective manner (minimize suppression cost plus loss)

Provide for the ecologically sound use of prescribed fire as a cost-effective management tool for achieving resource management objectives.

Forage - Provide forage for wildlife and domestic livestock, in a manner consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints, while maintaining or improving ecological condition and plant community stability

Forest Health - Maintain health of the Forest for present and future uses. Forest health is defined as "a desired condition where biotic and abiotic influences on the Forest (i.e. insects, diseases, atmospheric disposition, silvicultural treatments,

harvesting practices) do not threaten management objectives either now or in the future "

Forest Residues - Manage Forest residues (woody biomass), resulting from either natural or man-caused processes, as a separate resource. Provide this resource (on-site) for the benefit of other resources such as soil, water, wildlife, and timber, as well as for the social and economic benefits associated with firewood gathering and other family oriented endeavors centered around residues (Regional Policy - FSM 2403).

Fuelwood - Provide fuelwood for personal and commercial use, consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints

Lands - Permit special land uses that have been evaluated in relationship to land management objectives, are harmonious with other resource objectives and environmental considerations, and are in the public interest.

Minerals and Energy - Provide for and facilitate the exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources in coordination with other resource objectives, environmental considerations, and mining and leasing laws.

Old Growth - Provide stands of old growth throughout the Forest for wildlife habitat, ecosystem diversity and aesthetic diversity

Recreation - Emphasize the National Recreation Strategy.

Provide for a variety of recreational experiences across all areas of the Ochoco National Forest, consistent with other resource objectives and environmental constraints.

Protect unique natural and recreational features.

Scenic Resources - Participate in the "National Forest Scenic Byways" program through nomination of Forest roads that exhibit exceptional qualities and meet national selection criteria.

Provide natural-appearing scenery along major travel ways, at developed and dispersed recreation sites, and at certain recreation areas

Integrate visual quality management into all resource activities which have potential negative impacts on scenery

Social and Economic - Manage the Forest to lend support to the social and economic viability of local communities, as well as to the nation as a whole.

Provide equal opportunities to people regardless of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, handicap, religion, or national origin

Soil - Manage soil to maintain, restore, or improve its natural productive potential, balanced with resource demands over the long term

Timber - Provide for the optimum production of quality wood products, consistent with other resource objectives, environmental constraints, and economic efficiency.

Transportation System - Plan, design, operate and maintain a safe and economical transportation system providing efficient access for the movement of people and materials involved in the use and protection of the National Forest lands.

Water - Maintain or improve water quality and quantity, and timing of run-off.

Comply with the objectives of the "Clean Water Act" and Oregon State water quality standards

Provide water of consistently high quality to users and dependent resources

Wildlife and Fish - Provide, manage and improve fish and wildlife habitats to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate species, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species

ESTABLISHMENT OF MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES) AS LISTED IN CHAPTERS 4, FOREST AND GRASSLAND PLANS

Specific direction for the management areas is provided for in Chapters 4 of the Plans as desired condition statements (prescriptions) and as Forest- and Grassland-wide and management area standards and guidelines. A summary of this information for the Forest and Grassland Plans follows:

NATIONAL FOREST

Management Area Prescriptions
(Forest Plan, Chapter 4 - Section 2)

F1. Black Canyon Wilderness
F2. Bridge Creek Wilderness
F3. Mill Creek Wilderness
F4. North Fork Crooked River Wilderness Study Area
F5. Research Natural Areas
F6. Old Growth
F7. Summit Historic Trail
F8 Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Area
F9. Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Unroaded-Helicopter Area
F10 Silver Creek Area
F11 Lookout Mountain Recreation Area
F12. Eagle Roosting Areas
F13. Developed Recreation
F14. Dispersed Recreation
F15. Riparian
F16. Bandit Springs Recreation Area
F17. Stein's Pillar Recreation Area
F18. Hammer Creek Wildlife/Recreation Area
F19 Deep Creek Recreation Area
F20. Winter Range
F21 General Forest Winter Range
F22 General Forest
F23. North Fork Crooked River Recreation Corridor
F24. North Fork Crooked River Scenic Corridor
F25 Highway 26 Visual Corridor
F26 Visual Management Corridors
F27. Round Mountain National Recreation Trail
F28. Facilities

Forest-wide and Management Area Standards and Guidelines
(Forest Plan, Chapter 4 - Section 3)

Air Quality
Biological Diversity
Cultural Resources
Facilities
Fire
Forage
Forest Health
Forest Residues
Fuelwood
Lands
Minerals and Energy
Old Growth
Recreation
Scenic Resources
Social and Economic
Soil
Timber
Transportation System
Water
Wildlife and Fish

NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Management Area Prescriptions
(Grassland Plan, Chapter 4 - Section 2)

G1. Antelope Winter Range
G2. Metolius Deer Winter Range
G3. General Forage
G4. Research Natural Areas
G5. Juniper Old Growth
G6. Crooked River Scenic River
G7. Deschutes River Recreation River
G8. Squaw Creek
G9. Riparian
G10. Rimrock Springs Wildlife Area
G11. Haystack Reservoir
G12. Cove Palisades State Park
G13. Lake Billy Chinook View Area
G14. Dispersed Recreation
G15. Gray Butte Electronic Site
G16. Utility Corridors

Grassland-wide and Management Area Standards and Guidelines
(Grassland Plan, Chapter 4 - Section 3)

Air Quality
Biological Diversity
Cultural Resources
Facilities
Fire
Forage
Fuelwood
Grassland Health
Lands
Minerals and Energy
Recreation
Scenic Resources
Social and Economic
Soil
Transportation System
Water
Wildlife and Fish

LAND ALLOCATIONS AND PLAN STRUCTURES

The Plans establish land allocations which apply to specific uses, resource considerations, natural features or legislatively designated areas. The

allocations are mapped (see Alternative I maps depicting management areas) and have had preliminary ground truthing.

The management area allocations for the Forest and Grassland are summarized in Tables 5 & 6. Summary of percent area by resource emphasis is presented in Tables 7 & 8. Objectives and desired future condition have been described by management area in Chapters 4, Forest and Grassland Plans, and in the FEIS Chapter 2 and Appendix B The management areas are individually described in summary form on pages ROD 18-20 (see also Alternative I maps).

TABLE 5
OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AREAS

Allocations and Resource Emphasis By Area

Management Area	Acres	% Total	Resource Emphasis
MA-F1 Black Canyon Wilderness	13400	2	Wilderness
MA-F2 Bridge Creek Wilderness	5400	<1	Wilderness
MA-F3 Mill Creek Wilderness	17400	2	Wilderness
MA-F4 North Fork Crooked River Wilderness Study Area	1125	<1	Wilderness
MA-F5 Research Natural Areas	4400	<1	Research
MA-F6 Old Growth 1/	19570	2	Wildlife
MA-F7 Summit Historic Trail	9560	1	Recreation
MA-F8 Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek	11820	1	Recreation
MA-F9 Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Unroaded-Helicopter	2480	<1	Timber/Range
MA-F10 Silver Creek Area	3110	<1	Recreation
MA-F11 Lookout Mountain Recreation	15660	2	Recreation
MA-F12 Eagle Roosting Areas	570	<1	Wildlife
MA-F13 Developed Recreation	1810	<1	Recreation
MA-F14 Dispersed Recreation	1970	<1	Recreation
MA-F15 Riparian	18130	2	Riparian
MA-F16 Bandit Springs Recreation	1580	<1	Recreation
MA-F17 Stein's Pillar Recreation	1070	<1	Recreation
MA-F18 Hammer Creek Wildlife/ Recreation	2560	<1	Wildlife
MA-F19 Deep Creek Recreation	770	<1	Recreation
MA-F20 Winter Range	64130	7	Wildlife
MA-F21 General Forest Winter Range	107360	12	Timber/Wildlife
MA-F22 General Forest	496530	59	Timber/Range
MA-F23 North Fork Crooked River - Recreation River Corridor	1830	<1	Recreation

Management Area	Acres	% Total	Resource Emphasis
MA-F24 North Fork Crooked River - Scenic River Corridor	830	<1	Recreation
MA-F25 Highway 26 Visual Corridor	6850	<1	Visuals
MA-F26 Visual Management Corridors	33260	4	Visuals
MA-F27 Round Mountain National Recreation Trail	1000	<1	Recreation
MA-F28 Facilities	460	<1	Facilities
TOTAL FOREST ACRES	844640	100	

1/ Includes 8 old growth units within wilderness, unroaded, and WSA

TABLE 6
CROOKED RIVER NATIONAL GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AREAS

Allocations and Resource Emphasis By Area

Management Area	Acres	% Total	Resource Emphasis
MA-G1 Antelope Winter Range	22700	20	Wildlife
MA-G2 Metolius Deer Winter Range	12740	11	Wildlife
MA-G3 General Forage	59440	53	Range
MA-G4 Research Natural Areas	110	<1	Research
MA-G5 Juniper Old Growth	*740*	*1*	*Wildlife*
MA-G6 Crooked River-Recreation River Corridor	720	1	Wild/Scenic River
MA-G7 Deschutes River-Scenic River Corridor	650	1	Wild/Scenic River
MA-G8 Squaw Creek	7840	7	Recreation/Wildlife
MA-G9 Riparian	2110	2	Riparian
MA-G10 Rimrock Springs Wildlife Area	430	<1	Wildlife
MA-G11 Haystack Reservoir	150	<1	Recreation
MA-G12 Cove Palisades State Park	*2690*	*2*	*Recreation*
MA-G13 Lake Billy Chinook View Area	560	1	Visuals
MA-G14 Dispersed Recreation	90	<1	Recreation
MA-G15 Gray Butte Electronic Site	80	<1	Facilities
MA-G16 Utility Corridors	460	<1	Facilities
TOTAL GRASSLAND ACRES	111510	100	

TABLE 7
RESOURCE EMPHASIS BY ACRES AND % OF FOREST

RESOURCE EMPHASIS	# MGMT AREAS	ACRES	% OF FOREST
TIMBER/FORAGE	2	499,330	59%
WILDLIFE	3	174,620	21%
OLD GROWTH	1	19,570	2%
RECREATION	10	48,350	6%
SCENIC/VISUAL	3	40,110	5%
WILDERNESS	4	37,330	4%
RIPARIAN	1	18,130	2%
RESEARCH	1	4,400	<1%
WILD & SCENIC	2	2,660	<1%
FACILITIES	1	460	<1%
TOTAL		844,640	

TABLE 8
RESOURCE EMPHASIS BY ACRES AND % OF GRASSLAND

RESOURCE EMPHASIS	# MGMT AREAS	ACRES	% OF FOREST
RANGE/FORAGE	1	59,440	53%
WILDLIFE	3	35,870	32%
RECREATION	4	9,400	10%
RESEARCH	1	110	<1%
RIPARIAN	1	2,110	2%
SCENIC/VISUAL	1	560	<1%
WILD & SCENIC	2	2,740	<1%
OLD GROWTH	1	740	<1%
FACILITIES	2	540	<1%
TOTAL		111,510	

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF DIRECTION FOR MANAGEMENT AREAS

MA-F1 BLACK CANYON WILDERNESS - Protect the wilderness ecosystems Manage use to maintain a natural setting and preserve solitude

MA-F2 BRIDGE CREEK WILDERNESS - Protect the wilderness ecosystems Manage use to maintain a natural setting and preserve solitude

MA-F3 MILL CREEK WILDERNESS - Protect the wilderness ecosystems. Manage use to maintain a natural setting and preserve solitude

MA-F4 NORTH FORK CROOKED RIVER WILDERNESS STUDY AREA - Management will maintain the existing conditions of the area for potential wilderness designation pending a decision by Congress or until released from further consideration.

MA-F5 RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS - Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological benchmarks in naturally occuring ecosystems where natural processes are maintained.

MA-F6 OLD GROWTH - Provide habitat for wildlife species dependent on old growth stands and protect old growth itself.

MA-F7 SUMMIT HISTORIC TRAIL - Protect the integrity of the Summit Trail. Enhance and interpret significant segments for public enjoyment and education. Pristine segments will be managed to protect, interpret, and preserve their historic qualities.

MA-F8 ROCK CREEK/COTTONWOOD CREEK ROADLESS AREA - Provide for protection of soil, water, and fisheries, and for opportunities for nonmotorized recreational use and enjoyment Maintain vegetation on steep slopes to prevent erosion, and to protect water quality and the anadromous fishery.

MA-F9 ROCK CREEK/COTTONWOOD CREEK UNROADED HELICOPTER AREA - Allow timber harvest while protecting the anadromous fishery, sensitive soils on steep slopes, and big game habitat

MA-F10 SILVER CREEK ROADLESS AREA - Protect and enhance the roadless qualities and provide nonmotorized recreational use

MA-F11 LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA - Maintain a natural setting, providing continued opportunities for high quality, semiprimitive recreational activities, and wildlife habitat, while maintaining healthy forests.

MA-F12 EAGLE ROOSTING AREAS - Provide winter roosting habitat for migrating bald eagles during the period December through April, annually.

MA-F13 DEVELOPED RECREATION - Provide safe, healthful, and esthetic facilities for people to utilize, within a relatively natural outdoor setting, while pursuing a variety of recreational experiences.

MA-F14 DISPERSED RECREATION - Provide and maintain a near-natural setting for people to utilize while pursuing outdoor recreation experiences.

MA-F15 RIPARIAN - Manage streamside vegetation and habitat in order to maintain or improve water quality, meeting temperature and turbidity levels as required by state standards under the Clean Water Act.

MA-F16 BANDIT SPRINGS RECREATION AREA - Dispersed, nonmotorized recreational opportunities, within a setting where management activities are generally not evident to the casual observer. The recreational activities and opportunities will be expanded beyond winter recreation to year-round activities.

MA-F17 STEIN'S PILLAR RECREATION AREA - Maintain a scenic, natural or natural-appearing setting associated with unique geologic formations, particularly Stein's Pillar. Provide roadless nonmotorized recreation, with various opportunities to enjoy nature.

MA-F18 HAMMER CREEK WILDLIFE/RECREATION AREA - Provide and maintain habitat diversity for a variety of wildlife species where open road density is minimal, and a scenic, semi-natural or natural-appearing setting for nonmotorized recreational opportunities exists.

MA-F19 DEEP CREEK RECREATION AREA - Provide a near natural setting, where management activities are not visually evident or subordinated to the surrounding landscape, for recreational pursuits within the area

MA-F20 WINTER RANGE - Manage for big game winter range habitat

MA-F21 GENERAL FOREST WINTER RANGE - Manage for timber production with measures taken to maintain habitat effectiveness for big game. Management activities will be designed and implemented to recognize big game habitat needs.

MA-F22 GENERAL FOREST - Production of timber and forage while meeting the Forest-wide Standards and Guides for all resources

MA-F23 NORTH FORK CROOKED RIVER RECREATION CORRIDOR - Management will maintain the appearance of a natural landscape in the foreground view from Road 42 to enhance recreational and scenic values Management activities will protect and enhance public use and enjoyment of the river segment

MA-F24 NORTH FORK CROOKED RIVER SCENIC CORRIDOR - Management will maintain and enhance a natural appearing landscape and protect the scenic river designation.

MA-F25 U.S. HIGHWAY 26 VISUAL CORRIDOR - Maintain and enhance the scenery for travelers along U.S. Highway 26

MA-F26 VISUAL MANAGEMENT CORRIDORS - Maintain the natural appearing character of the Forest along major travel routes, where management activities are not evident, or are visually subordinated to the surrounding landscape.

MA-F27 ROUND MOUNTAIN NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL - Protect and manage for scenic qualities which make the trail corridor an attractive recreational setting

MA-F28 FACILITIES - Provide a safe, efficient, and healthful working environment where structure design and layout of the site blend with the surroundings.

MA-G1 ANTELOPE WINTER RANGE - Manage for optimum winter range conditions for antelope in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

MA-G2 METOLIUS DEER WINTER RANGE - Manage for big game winter range habitat.

MA-G3 GENERAL FORAGE - Manage for forage production and utilization in a manner consistent with Forest-wide Standards and Guides for other resources

MA-G4 RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS - Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological benchmarks in naturally occuring ecosystems where natural processes are maintained

MA-G5 JUNIPER OLD GROWTH - Provide habitat for wildlife species dependent on old growth stands.

MA-G6 CROOKED RIVER RECREATION RIVER - Management will maintain the appearance of a natural landscape to enhance and protect recreational values

MA-G7 DESCHUTES RIVER SCENIC CORRIDOR - Manage for scenic quality and natural appearance of the landscape

MA-G8 SQUAW CREEK - Provide opportunities for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation in a pristine canyon setting while protecting and enhancing the deer winter range habitat and fisheries Includes a 1,370 acre segment of Lower Squaw Creek recommended for designation as a "scenic river" in the Wild and Scenic River System.

MA-G9 RIPARIAN - Manage streamside vegetation and habitat in order to maintain or improve water quality, meeting temperature and turbidity levels as required by state standards under the Clean Water Act.

MA-G10 RIMROCK SPRINGS WILDLIFE - Provide unique habitat (wetlands, ponds, springs) within the juniper-sagebrush steppe, characteristic of Central Oregon's high desert Provide for nonconsumptive (viewing, photography) wildlife uses in a natural setting.

MA-G11 HAYSTACK RESERVOIR - Provide users with a system of quality facilities that are safe and environmentally sound Continue to emphasize camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, and swimming

MA-G12 COVE PALISADES STATE PARK - Manage for developed campgrounds and water related recreational activities.

MA-G13 LAKE BILLY CHINOOK VIEW - Maintain the natural appearing character of the viewshed from Lake Billy Chinook, where management activities are not evident or are visually subordinated to the surrounding landscape

MA-G14 DISPERSED RECREATION - Provide and maintain a near-natural setting for people to utilize while pursuing outdoor recreation experiences

MA-G15 GRAY BUTTE ELECTRONIC SITE - Accomodate electronic transmission facilities. The site is limited to low power output electronic equipment

MA-G16 UTILITY CORRIDORS - Accommodate energy-transmission facilities.

DECISIONS RELATED TO PLANNING ISSUES (ICO'S) AND THEIR DECISION RATIONALE

Decisions relating to each planning issue (see pp ROD 6-12 for summary description of issues) are listed and followed here by brief rationale for the decisions.

TIMBER SUPPLY AND FOREST MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

DECISIONS.

1. There will be no scheduled or chargeable timber harvest for the National Grassland

2. The suitable land base for forest management activities within this planning period is determined to be 533,177 acres (as shown in FEIS Chapter 2, Table 2-8, and Appendix G in the Forest Plan)

3. Ninety percent or more of the physically suitable Forest acres will have a scheduled or chargeable timber harvest, based on the allocations described in FEIS Chapter 2, and displayed on the Forest plan map.

4. The estimated scheduled timber volumes, harvest type, rotation age or size, and estimated potential contribution to ASQ by management area grouping are

Group I
92,200 Acres - 11%
No scheduled treatment
- 1 Black Canyon Wilderness
- 2 Bridge Creek Wilderness
- 3. Mill Creek Wilderness
- 4 N.F.C R. Wilderness Study
- 5 RNA's
- 6 Old Growth
- 7 Summit Trail (preservation)
- 8. Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Unroaded
- 10. Silver Creek Unroaded
- 11. Lookout Mountain
- 28. Facilities

Group II
18,130 Acres - 2%
Silviculture - Even- or uneven-aged
Rotation Age - 200 years
Diameter 20"+
Average annual cu ft volume - 0 3 MMCF
- 15 Riparian

Group III
3,240 Acres - <1%
Silviculture - Even- or uneven-aged
Rotation age - 300 years
Diameter 30"
Average annual cu ft yield - <0 1 MMCF
- 12. Eagle Roosting

17. Stein's Pillar
19. Deep Creek
24 N F.C.R. Scenic River

Group IV
28,110 Acres - 4%
Silviculture - Even- or uneven-aged
Rotation age - Pine 250 years, mixed conifer 200 years
Average annual cu.ft. yield - 0.4 MMCF
7 Summit Trail (retention)
13. Developed Recreation
14. Dispersed Recreation
16. Bandit Springs
25. Hwy 26 Corridor
26. Visual Management (retention)
27. Round Mountain National Recreation Trail

Group V
32,140 Acres - 4%
Silviculture - Even- or uneven-aged
Rotation age - Pine 200 years, mixed conifer 150 years
Diameter - Pine 27", mixed conifer 22"
Average annual cu.ft. yield - 0.6 MMCF
7. Summit Trail (partial retention)
18. Hammer Creek
23. N F.C.R Recreation River
26. Visual Management (partial retention)

Group VI
64,130 Acres - 8%
Silviculture - Even-aged
Rotation age - Pine 125 years, mixed conifer 90 years
Diameter - Pine 16", mixed conifer 15"
Average annual cu ft. yield - 0.9 MMCF
20. Winter Range

Group VII
606,690 Acres - 72%
Silviculture - Even- or uneven-aged
Rotation age - Pine 130 years, mixed conifer 90 years
Diameter - Pine 18", mixed conifer 16" (uneven-aged 20")
Average annual cu ft yield - 16.8 MMCF
9. Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Helicopter
21. General Forest Winter Range
22. General Forest

5 The ASQ will be 19 0 MMCF per year which is sustainable in perpetuity. This translates to 115 MMBF average ASQ over the first decade of which an estimated 71 percent, or 82 MMBF, will be comprised of ponderosa pine volume.

6. The Forest will conduct a timber salvage program within the limits of requirements for other resource objectives, such as snags for wildlife habitat, dead and down material as it relates to site productivity and healthy stream ecosystems, and prevention of excessive soil compaction. The annual volume estimated to be available for salvage over the planning period is four MMBF annually of which three MMBF is ponderosa pine.

7. The Forest will employ appropriate silvicultural systems in Forest management based on project analysis of stand structures, stand conditions, species composition and management objectives (see FEIS, Appendix E). Either even-aged or uneven-aged systems may be prescribed Clearcutting will be done where forest conditions, such as disease and insect infestation, allow no other silviculturally acceptable alternative Such situations generally occur in mixed conifer stands or where ponderosa pine is heavily infected with dwarf mistletoe. Approximately 100,000 acres of ponderosa pine stands in the General Forest (MA-F22) will be managed under uneven-aged systems.

8. Ponderosa pine rotation age in the General Forest Management Area (MA-F22) will be 130 years with a tree diameter of 18 inches; for mixed conifer it is 90 years and 16 inches. Stands selected for uneven-aged management will have an average rotational diameter of 20 inches. Rotation ages in other management areas range from 90-300 years and are based on resource objectives (recreation, wildlife, visual emphasis - see item 4 under Decisions, p. ROD-20).

9. Changes in ASQ will be done gradually over time. Table 9 shows the proposed schedule.

TABLE 9
Planned Harvest For 1990-1999
(Glide Path)
(MMBF not including salvage)

	YEAR				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
ASQ	124	121	118	114	113
	YEAR				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
ASQ	112	112	112	112	112

RATIONALE

The intent is to maintain relatively high and sustainable level of allowable sale quantity and salvage program over the next decade in view of dependent communities and wood product demand; however this must be accomplished within the law and regulations, as well as requirements for other resources established by this Plan. In my judgement the combined ASQ and salvage of 119 MMBF annually, when all things are taken into consideration, is reasonable and attainable for the Ochoco National Forest for this planning period.

I have given particular attention to the amount of ponderosa pine that can comprise that volume on a sustainable basis and find it to be approximately 71%, or 82 MMBF for the first decade. Because of product value, considerations, and other resource objectives involved, I have elected to vary rotation ages (diameters) by species and situations in order to insure the continuation of high value products from the Forest, and perpetuation of the aesthetic forest character of the Ochoco National Forest The decision to apply uneven-aged management also relates to those reasons.

The combined ASQ and salvage volume of 119 MMBF is greater than the average annual historic volume of 110 MMBF cut over the past decade. However it is eight percent less than the volume sold, or 10 8 MMBF less than the programmed harvest allowed under the 1979 Timber Resource Plan. The differences in projections may be attributed to new inventory information; improved yield tables, and new allocations, laws, regulations and requirements affecting resource decisions. It is my intention to make these changes in timber availability in a gradual manner so as to cause minimal social or economic affects (see Table 9).

I have considered the potential for providing a higher ASQ should economics or demand continue to improve. Some additional ASQ (<3 MMBF) might be theoretically captured by further increases in management intensity and investment, but this is not presently cost efficient, as demonstrated by the PNV of Alternative B-Modified vs Alternative I (Table 31). Because the forested lands on the Ochoco are for the most part "suitable" and cost-efficient under current economics, changes in demand do not affect ASQ by bringing more acres or situations into solution. In short, there is little potential for increasing ASQ on this particular National Forest due to improved economics at this time. Any such opportunities would contribute insignificantly to the ASQ as calculated and do not appear to be cost effective at this time.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WANTS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

DECISION

The decisions relating to this issue are addressed under the other issues and aspects of the Plan(s). These include, but are not limited to.

1. Allocations which recognize and protect important natural features, recreational attractions, wildernesses, and wildlife habitat.

National Forest - MA - 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11, 12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,23,24,25,26,27

National Grassland - MA - 1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14

2 Allocations, decisions, and standards and guidelines (direction) which perpetuate the character of the National Forest and Grassland over time, e.g .

a Larger harvest tree diameters than those required to maximize timber outputs.

b Application of uneven-aged management.

c Roadside visual corridors.

d Protection of recreational features or attractions (Deep Creek, Stein's Pillar, N F.C R Scenic River, et al)

3. Timber supply level of 119 MMBF (including salvage) in the first decade, with long-term sustained yield of 19 0 MMCF.

4. Consideration of product value in Forest management decisions; decision for larger rotational diameter for ponderosa pine and approximately 71 percent of the ASQ comprised of ponderosa pine.

5. Decisions affecting range allotments made on a case-by-case basis.

RATIONALE

Decisions under the issue of Timber Supply have the potential to have the greatest and most immediate effects on local communities. The importance of timber harvest levels to jobs is recognized, but decisions by industry (e.g automation) also effect the number of jobs. The decision made in the plan purposefully provides a relatively high level of timber supply, with attention to the amount of ponderosa pine Large ponderosa pine has the greatest value and its sale and manufacture potentially generates the greatest number of jobs and economic returns. The decision to plan for a smaller diameter for other species relates to current product demands, as well as silvics of the species My decisions will provide a sustained, even-flow, of high value timber from the Forest on a decadal basis, while maintaining, protecting, or enhancing wildlife, recreation, water quality and visual resources. In my judgement, Final Plan decisions contribute to a balance between nonmonetary and monetary resources in a manner that can assist the economic stability of dependent communities, and allow the character and recreational settings relating to rural lifestyles carried on near the National Forest and Grassland to be maintained over time.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

DECISIONS.

1. Forage utilization standards for riparian and primary range are established as described in Table 10.

2 A prioritized program for improvement of riparian areas on an allotment-by-allotment basis has been developed (see Forest and Grassland Plans Appendix A) All riparian areas will have necessary action initiated within this planning period (10 years) to begin improvement of their condition to "excellent."

3 Range allotment plans will be updated and tiered to the above program. Adjustments in permitted stock numbers will be made through the allotment planning process.

4. Fall green-up in Winter Range (MA-F20) and General Forest Winter Range (MA-F21) will be reserved for big game.

5. No domestic stock grazing will be permitted in lower Squaw Creek (MA-F8) from the power line crossing downstream to confluence of the Deschutes River, or on the Island RNA (MA-F4).

6. Interior portions of Rimrock Springs Wildlife Area (MA-F10) are not programmed for planned, recurrent grazing.

7. The current grazing program of 75,000 AUM's for the Forest and Grassland could be reduced by up to 10 percent during this planning period. This reduction would not be an across the board cut, but vary by the condition of the riparian areas within each allotment on a case-by-case basis. Over time, AUM's may increase depending on the effectiveness of the riparian improvement program

RATIONALE

With the establishment of forage utilization standards it is my intent to assure that grazing levels on the National Forest and Grassland do not exceed the carrying capacity of plant communities, and to prevent deterioration of rangelands. I have established a program for updating allotment plans and dealing with conflicts and conditions of overuse on an allotment-by-allotment basis over the next three years On winter ranges where availability of forage is critical to big game, I am reserving fall green-up for the exclusive use of big game. Prohibition of domestic stock grazing on lower Squaw Creek and Island RNA is designed to maintain benchmark areas that have experienced little or no grazing in the past. Lower Squaw Creek represents one of the best examples of excellent riparian conditions on the Forest and Grassland In my judgement the decisions relating to the administration of the grazing program described in the Plans allow each situation to be considered on its merits at a project analysis level This approach is an equitable one, in my opinion. Those permittees which have over the years practiced good range management will have their

TABLE 10
RIPARIAN FORAGE UTILIZATION
Allowable Use of Available Forage 1/

	Maximum Annual Utilization (%) By Existing Range Condition			
	Grassland Communities 2/		Shrubland Communities 3/	
Range Resource Management Level	Sat *	Unsat *	Sat.	Unsat
B - Livestock use managed within current grazing capacity by riding, herding, salting, and cost-effective improvements used only to maintain stewardship of the range	40	0-30	30	0-25
C - Livestock managed to achieve full utilization of allocated forage Management systems designed to obtain distribution and maintain plan vigor include fencing and water development	45	0-35	40	0-30
D - Livestock managed to optimize forage production and utilization Cost-effective culture practices improving forage supply, forage use and livestock distribution may be combined with fencing and water development to implement complex grazing systems	50	0-40	50	0-35

1/ This will be incorporated in annual operating plans and Allotment Management Plans Allotment Management Plans may include utilization standards which are either higher or lower than associated with intensive grazing systems and specific vegetation management objectives which will meet objectives for the riparian dependent resources Includes cumulative annual use by big game livestock.
2/ Utilization based on percent of total annual forage production removed by weight.
3/ Utilization based on percent of the current years growth removed Example measure length of current years growth of browsed and unbrowsed leaders and determine incidence of use Calculate percent of current years growth removed
* For satisfactory and unsatisfactory condition see Glossary in FEIS

TABLE 11
PRIMARY RANGE (Except Riparian)
Allowable Use of Available Forage 1/

	Maximum Annual Utilization (%) 2/					
	Forested Communities		Grassland Communities		Shrubland Communities	
Range Resource Mgmt. Level	Sat	Unsat	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat
B - Livestock use managed within current grazing capacity by riding, herding, salting, and cost-effective improvements used only to maintain stewardship of the range	40	0-30	50	0-30	40	0-25
C - Livestock managed to achieve full utilization of allocated forage Management systems designed to obtain distribution and maintain plant vigor include fencing and water developments	45	0-35	55	0-35	45	0-30
D - Livestock managed to optimize forage production and utilization Cost-effective culture practices improving forage supply, forage use and livestock distribution may be combined with fencing and water development to implement complex grazing systems	50	0-40	55	0-40	50	0-35

1/ Incorporate into annual operating plans and allotment management plans Allotment management plans may include utilization standards that are either higher or lower when associated with intensive grazing systems and specific management objectives that meet other resource objectives
2/ Utilization based on percent by weight of total annual forage production removed for grass, grasslike, and forbs, and percent of current years growth removed for shrubs See example in riparian table for shrubs
* For satisfactory and unsatisfactory condition see Glossary in FEIS

efforts rewarded. Where there have been abuses, actions will be taken to correct the situation (see Riparian Area Management discussion which follows).

RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

DECISIONS

1. See also Decisions and Rationale under Livestock Grazing (pp. ROD 23-25), and Anadromous Fish (p. ROD-39).

2. Adopt as guidance the Best Management Practices (BMP's) described in USDA Forest Service PNW 1988 publication, "General Water Quality Best Management Practices."

3. Allocation of an average 200-foot streamside management unit (average 100 feet each side) for all perennial and intermittent streams (to which standards and guidelines for protection of riparian areas and water quality have been applied).

4. Application of even-aged or uneven-aged silviculture systems where appropriate

5. Establishment of watershed sensitivities and Forest-wide threshold guidelines of no more than 25-35% of the Forest vegetation removed (harvested) in a watershed at any one time as shown in Table 12.

6. Development of a program for structures, instream devices and woody debris for riparian area and channel condition improvement (see project schedules, Forest Plan, Appendix A).

7. Compliance with Oregon State Water Quality Standards (OR Adm. Rules 340-41-205).

8. On approximately 40 miles (1,000 acres) of selected streams, the streamside management area will average 200 feet on each side to provide "connective habitat."

RATIONALE

The Forest Service is required by law to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. In addition, fisheries and fish habitat are important Forest resources, particularly anadromous fish. With national focus on riparian area management and water quality, as well as increased recognition of the importance of anadromous fish habitat, the Forest Service can no longer tolerate nor allow uses or practices which favor individual interests at the expense of riparian areas and water quality. The decisions I've outlined above are a forward step in providing correction and improvement in conditions where necessary, and in assuring that the Forest Service meets its obligations in respect to requirements of law, regulations and objectives for riparian management established by this Plan.

TABLE 12
WATERSHED SENSITIVITIES AND THRESHOLD GUIDELINES

35% Harvest Threshold *Low Sensitivity*	30% Harvest Threshold *Moderate Sensitivity*	25% Harvest Threshold *High Sensitivity*
Middle Fork Crooked River	North Fork Crooked River	John Day
Dry/Stinger	Marks Creek	Trout Creek
Beaver Creek (east)	Emigrant Creek	Bridge Creek
Beaver Creek (west)	McKay Creek	Deep Creek
Bear/Camp Creek	*Howard/Porter*	*Wolf Creek*
Keeton Creek	Ochoco Creek	Nicoll/Sawmill
	Mill Creek	Badger Creek
	Silver Creek	Bear Creek
	Deschutes River	Rock Creek
	Willow Creek	

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

DECISIONS

1. Road standards, design and densities (transportation planning) will be related to allocations and management area objectives in the Final Plan.

2. Average open road densities in General Forest (MA-F22) will be 3 mi./sq.mi.; for Winter Range (MA-F20) it will be 1 mi./sq.mi. on a seasonal basis. This decision relates to big game habitat needs.

3. The use of off-road vehicles (ORV's) on the Forest and Grassland will be controlled in respect to management area objectives and resource protection needs as specified in the Forest and Grassland Plans (Standards and Guidelines, Chapters 4), and summarized in Tables 13 and 14.

TABLE 13
MOTORIZED USE ON FOREST MANAGEMENT AREAS

Management Areas

Decisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No Motorized Use Allowed	X	X	X	X	X								X														X	
Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes and Prohibited From Dec. 1 to May 1.												X																
Motorized Use Restricted to Over-snow Use Only, and from Dec. 1 to May 1.						X		X	X	X	X																	
Over-snow Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes Form Dec. 1 to March 30.																X												
Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes. Over-snow Use Prohibited From Dec. 1 to May 1.																		X		X	X							
Motorized Use Encouraged on Designated Routes														X								X						
Motorized Use Prohibited Except For Over-snow Use On Designated Routes																	X											
Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes															X								X	X				X
Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes Except Snowmobiles Over Snow							X												X						X	X		

TABLE 14
MOTORIZED USE ON GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AREAS

Management Areas

Decisions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No Motorized Use Allowed				X	X	X	X	X								
Encourage ORV's on Designated Routes, Allow No Cross Country Travel Except For Admin Use and By Permit Only, Provide Designated Trails For ORV Use.			X													
Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes									X							
No Motorized Use From Nov. 15- March 31. Motorized Use Restricted to Designated Routes April 1- Nov. 14.	X	X									X		X			
Allow No Vehicles Off Roads, Except For Permittee or Admin Use										X						

* Management Area G12 is administered by the State.

RATIONALE

Decisions related to the transportation system are primarily based on the need to develop and maintain road systems which meet the particular management objectives for an area. Cost-effectiveness and safety are integral in the documents.

In order to minimize motorized use conflicts on the Forest and Grassland, I am adopting a set of restrictions based on existing authority and regulations, that limits or authorizes use of ORV's in a manner compatible with the management objectives of this Plan.

BIG GAME HABITAT

DECISIONS

1. Potential big game winter ranges have been identified on the National Forest and Grassland. To meet ODFW objectives 64,130 acres are allocated to big game winter range on the National Forest (MA-F20), 12,740 acres on the Grassland (Metolius Deer Winter Range MA-G2), and 22,700 acres of antelope winter range on the Grassland (MA-G1).

2. Available winter range on the Forest that is not needed to meet State of Oregon population goals for elk is 107,360 acres (MA-F21). Cover objectives for General Forest (MA-F22) will apply to MA-F21, but other factors such as road densities and vegetation manipulation practices may be altered on a project specific and opportunity basis to benefit big game.

3. No areas are specifically allocated for big game summer range, but big game habitat requirements, and protection of habitat features, will be incorporated into all project analysis on a case-by-case basis.

4. Management areas with seasonal road access restrictions specifically to provide big game habitat and security are, but may not be limited to:

Grassland:

Antelope Winter Range (MA-G1), Metolius Deer Winter Range (MA-G2) - Control access as needed to enhance big game winter range and support other resource objectives.

General Forage (MA-G3) - Close roads seasonally in specific areas: deer hunting season, Sept. 20 - Oct. 30.

Juniper Old Growth (MA-G5) - Control access to protect old growth habitat

Rimrock Springs Wildlife Area (MA-G10) - Allow only administrative and permittee traffic.

National Forest:

Eagle Roosting (MA-F12) - Except for constant service through routes, use will be restricted to administrative use and use by permit only during Dec. 1 to May 1.

Hammer Creek Wildlife/Recreation (MA-F18), Winter Range (MA-F20), General Forest Winter Range (MA-F21) - Except for constant service through routes, use will be restricted during the periods of Dec. 1 to May 1 Access routes will be limited to one mile per section during that period, and three miles per section on the average the remainder of the year.

Old Growth (MA-F6) - Constant service roads will remain open Use on all other roads across the management areas will be eliminated

5 Establishes Hammer Creek MA-F18 (2,560 Acres) in the Maury Mts which feature big game and wildlife habitat management

6 Establishes habitat effectiveness indices guidelines for MA's -F18, 20, 21 & 22 (see Table 15)

7 Open road densities on the National Forest in General Forest (MA-F22) will not exceed, on the average, three mi /sq.mi , on Winter Range (MA-F20) the open road density from Dec 1 - May 1 will not exceed one mi /sq mi. on the average

RATIONALE·

In the establishing requirements for big game habitat on the National Forest and Grassland, I have attempted to recognize the regional and local importance of this resource. The decisions incorporated into the Plans for big game habitat are significant, yet they have been accomplished with very little effect on other resource outputs. They will place additional restrictions on motorized use of some areas of the Grassland and Forest at certain times. With more people, better access, and motorized technology this is necessary to provide habitat security for big game, and to achieve population objectives established by ODFW

ROADLESS AREAS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS (WSA's)

DECISIONS

1 Designates nonwilderness, multiple use allocations for those roadless areas that were reviewed under 36 CFR 219 17 and not recommended for wilderness designation under the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984. (See Tables 16-18.)

TABLE 15
HABITAT EFFECTIVENESS OBJECTIVES

	Habitat Effectiveness Index (HEI) 1/ (By Decade)				
Allocation	1	2	3	4	5
MA-F18 Hammer Creek Wildlife/Recreation	5	6	8	8	32
MA-F20 Winter Range	5	6	8	8	32
MA-F21 General Forest Winter Range	5	6	8	8	21
MA-F22 General Forest	32	28	28	24	21

1/ See Forest wide Standards and Guidelines for an explanation of HEI Management objectives are based on achieving habitat effectiveness over time The quality and quantity of cover and open road density are the main factors influencing HEI and should be designed in concert to achieve the desired HEI shown in the table by management area.

TABLE 16
SUMMARY OF ROADLESS AREA ALLOCATIONS

	RARE II Acres	Draft (Alt. E) Allocated to Remain Unroaded	Final (Alt I) Allocated to Remain Unroaded
Broadway	8,680	0	0
Green Mountain	6,630	7,000	0
Rock Cr /Cottonwood Cr.	20,340	19,070	11,820
Silver Cr	11,670	3,230	3,110
Lookout Mountain	15,260	2,950	15,660 1/
Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls WSA	FS 10,000 BLM 3,240 2/	2,500 2,660	5,100 3/
North Fork Crooked River WSA	1,300	1,125	1,125
Total Unroaded Acres	73,880	38,535	39,555

1/ Some roading could occur in the MA-F11B portion (8,110 acres) MA-F11A will remain unroaded

2/ BLM WSA, which was not recommended for wilderness, will remain roadless until Congress acts.

3/ An additional 2,740 acres of uninventoried roadless area was added to equal 7,840 acres fro the Squaw Creek Management Area (see Table 6, ROD-17).

TABLE 17
SUMMARY OF PERCENT AREA ALLOCATED TO WILDERNESS OR ROADLESS NATIONAL FOREST AND NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Total Unroaded Area *Total Wilderness Area*	4 1% 3 7%
Total Unroaded or Wilderness	7 9%

TABLE 18
ACRES OF ROADLESS AREA ALLOCATED TO MANAGEMENT AREAS

	Forest Management Areas (See description, pp ROD 18-19)													
Roadless Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Broadway						500	390							0
Green Mtn.						300								0
Rock Creek						540	80	5,680	670					10
Cottonwood Creek						690		6,140	1,810					0
Silver Creek					590	290				3,110				20
Lookout Mtn						600					14,450			
North Fork Crooked River 1/				1,125										

	Forest Management Areas (See description pp ROD 18-19)													
Roadless Area	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Broadway								7,550				240		
Green Mtn							4,650	1,590				90		
Rock Creek								2,240				70		
Cottonwood Creek								2,300				110		
Silver Creek								7,570				90		
Lookout Mtn							10	100				100		
North Fork Crooked River 1/														

	Grassland Management Areas (see description pp ROD 19-20)															
Roadless Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Deschutes River Canyon 2/		3,600	600		20		650	5,100				20		10		

1/ North Fork Crooked River Wilderness Study Area
2/ Deschutes River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (Forest Service ownership only, Mgmt Area comprised of area outside WSA)

2. Recommended no wilderness for Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls, a study area designated by the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984; instead allocates 7,840 acres, part which contains portions of the WSA designated for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation (see also, Decision 4, this page) Other portions of the WSA are included in the Deschutes Scenic River as classified under the Oregon Rivers Act of 1988 Maintains options on the North Fork Crooked River Wilderness Study Area, on which the Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency preparing the environmental documentation and has recommended nonwilderness in a draft EA, until Congressionally decided

3. Establishes a Lookout Mountain Management Area (MA-F11 A&B) and management concept which incorporates the entire Lookout Mountain area, including existing access roads into Brush Creek and Independent Mine Designates 7750 acres (MA-F11A) for unroaded semiprimitive recreation, and the remainder of the area (MA-F11B) for recreational and wildlife habitat purposes. Vegetation management activities and access development would be done only if they can be demonstrated at the project planning level to benefit recreation and wildlife interests No entry for purpose of stand treatment is scheduled or programmed for this planning period unless site-specific analysis is completed and plans approved otherwise Any timber removed through vegetation manipulation projects would be on a nonscheduled or nonchargeable basis

4 Establishes an 7,840-acre Squaw Creek Management Area (MA-G8) on the National Grassland and provides specific decisions for access, recreation, and wildlife habitat management in the area (see Livestock Grazing and Allotment Management, p ROD-23). Identifies the eligibility and suitability of lower Squaw Creek for scenic river classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers System and recommends designation as a Scenic River.

RATIONALE

1 Roadless Areas

The Green Mountain roadless area was proposed in the Draft Plan/EIS preferred alternative for motorized semiprimitive recreation. There was little, if any, support for that designation in the public comments. In addition, the suitability of the area for such use,

and the details for implementing that type of management, were not convincing based on information available. I have therefore allocated the area to other (multiple) uses as shown by Table 18, pg ROD-29

Silver Creek Roadless Area (MA-F10) is proposed to remain essentially as described in the Draft preferred with some minor adjustments to assure a more manageable boundary There appeared to be general public support for the area as proposed in the Draft.

The Rock Creek and Cottonwood Creek roadless areas were proposed in the Draft to remain unroaded. Public comment and additional analyses supported the idea that portions of these areas might be entered for timber management purposes, and that idea has been incorporated into my final decision (Table 18). Approximately 11,820 acres of the 19,073-acre roadless area will remain unroaded (MA-F8), of which 2,480 acres will be available for helicopter logging (MA-F9), where it is in fact economical and able to be accomplished with no additional roading in MA-F8 or the adjacent old growth areas identified. My decision to retain 11,820 acres in unroaded status is based on several factors. First, the area proposed to remain unroaded (MA-F8) is generally very steep, low in productivity, and has highly erodible soils Both streams have anadromous fish spawning potential There is little assurance, with current economics and technology, that these steep slopes could be logged while still protecting water quality In addition, the difficulty of access afforded by the unroaded area will provide habitat security for big game

What the outcome will be for the Lookout Mountain roadless area has been perhaps the most controversial issue for the Forest Prior, and to an extent concurrent to this planning effort, Congress reviewed the Lookout Mountain Area for incorporation into the National Wilderness system Senate report #98-465 states "This area is presently managed as a 'Special Management Area' for dispersed recreation and backcountry values The area is not presently in the timber base The Committee expects the Forest Service to examine the feasibility of continuing this use in the current National Forest Plan and determine the land allocation in the Forest Plan " This has been done and the decisions described above, and by the Alternative I map It is further described by the rationale below

I do not intend to reopen the 4-wheel drive road from the Independent Mine to the summit of Lookout Mountain This road was closed and rehabilitation work conducted in 1982 The location and grade make this 4-wheel trail unsuitable and unsafe for general public use, with the potential to result in unacceptable resource damage The construction of improved road access to the summit would be in conflict with management objectives for the area Snowmobile use on Lookout Mountain will be allowed to continue At this time, I have not been convinced that the amount of snowmobile and cross country ski use in the area results in any irreconcilable conflicts (see Winter Sports, pg ROD-37) Some separation of snowmobile and ski trails, as planned, should relieve the present concerns. Because the existing roads to Independent Mine and Brush Creek are a part of the management of the Lookout Mountain area, the decisions made regarding these roads affects the Lookout Mountain area I have chosen to incorporate these access routes into the management area I have identified a mountain top subunit (MA-F11A) that is a mosaic of mountain meadow, steep drainage heads, shallow, rocky soil, and low productivity forest This part of the mountain, I have determined is best left unroaded for semiprimitive recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat On the lower elevation subunit (MA-F11B), which is for the most part productive forest land, I am proposing that recreation and wildlife habitat also be emphasized. However, in my judgement, those resources, and the forest setting for related activities, might be enhanced or maintained over time by appropriate vegetation management and access development My decision is that before any activities are initiated in MA-F11B, site specific planning and additional public involvement be completed Project level analysis will be started within the first half (3-5 years) of the planning period to follow. To be consistent with our intentions I have not scheduled the removal of timber products from this area, and it is not part of the Forest ASQ I also intend to pursue opportunities to tie research into this management proposal

2 Wilderness Study Areas

a Deschutes Canyon - Steelhead Falls

The 10,000-acre Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area (WSA) was Congressionally designated in the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 Within the WSA, powerlines, private lands, range allotments and improvements, roads, a pumping station and old homestead sites occur In the Draft Plan/EIS a 5,200-acre area was recommended for wilderness This area centered on the Deschutes River and Squaw Creek canyons It had a minimum of the above nonconforming features

While public comment received generally supported the wilderness designation of this area, serious

question also surfaced on the manageability of the area as wilderness. Questions were raised in respect to the confinements of Squaw Creek canyon's ability to withstand concentrated recreational use and still retain the natural features that occur there. Access for range management activities and power line maintenance, access to private land inholdings for power line maintenance, and the limited size of the proposed area were other nagging questions Meetings were held with a few of the key individuals interested in the area, and contacts with other agency representatives were made in an attempt to seek solutions to the apparent potential problems with wilderness designation and management for this area

In this process the Forest Service attempted to identify what were perceived as the important resources within the area in order to determine if wilderness designation was the best course of action, or if there were better means to protect those resources The resources identified were

- Natural springs, e.g Alder Springs
- Geologic formations
- Solitude in the Canyons
- Metolious deer winter range
- Squaw Creek fisheries
- Squaw Creek riparian area

My conclusion was, the tentative proposal in the Draft Plan/EIS for wilderness did not provide a manageable situation, and in fact would work to the detriment of protection and management of the above resources.

In place of wilderness in the Final, I have identified a 7,840-acre management area (MA-G8) centered on Squaw Creek, the management of which would emphasize the above resources and semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation. Existing road access is planned to be restricted on a seasonal basis and some roads will be permanently closed (see Travel Plan). In order to make a logical management area, and to encompass the resources identified in public consultation, the boundary of MA-G8 takes in portions of Squaw Creek canyon not included in the original inventoried roadless area or WSA. In addition, I have made an eligibility and suitability determination for Squaw Creek and am recommending the lower portion, approximately seven miles, of Squaw Creek for an addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Deschutes River Canyon part of the WSA, involving approximately 650 acres of National Grassland, was classified as a Scenic River under the Oregon Rivers Act of 1988.

The direction and objectives for the management of the Squaw Creek unit (MA-G8) are given in Chapter 4 of the Grassland Plan. In my judgement implementation of the wilderness proposal in the Draft Plan/EIS had not been thoroughly analyzed and would have resulted in an unmanageable situation because of size of area and nature of the terrain, that was not in the best interest of the resources involved The management direction for MA-G8, combined with the river classification for the Deschutes River canyon and Squaw Creek, are decisions which best protect the resources identified, retain options, and is in alignment with interests of all user groups concerned I am therefore recommending no wilderness designation for the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls WSA No actions will be taken that conflict with existing options until Congress either accepts or rejects this recommendation

b North Fork Crooked River

The North Fork Crooked River WSA is described in the BLM "Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement for Oregon" (draft 1985, pp 265-275, and Supplement to the DEIS, pp. 373-379). There are National Forest lands, 1,125 acres, involved in the 10,745-acre WSA The BLM's preferred alternative is "no wilderness" for this area The Forest Service will retain the wilderness option on its 1,125 acres until the wilderness study is complete If the final decision is no wilderness, the land allocations for the National Forest system would be as shown in Table 18, pg ROD-29.

SCENIC OR VISUAL RESOURCES

DECISIONS

1. The canyon slopes viewable from Lake Billy Chinook Reservoir on the National Grassland have been identified as a scenic resource (MA-G13).

2 A visual corridor averaging 1,200 feet (average 600 feet each side) in width along 260 miles of Forest road has been allocated. Of this, 23,960 acres are "partial retention" and 9,300 acres are "retention" (MA-F26).

3 A separate site-specific plan for the management of the Highway 26 corridor has been developed and appended to the Forest Plan (MA-F25).

4. A visual corridor averaging 1,200 feet (average 600 feet each side) in width has been allocated in conjunction with the Round Mtn National Recreation Trail (MA-F27).

5. Segments of the Summit Historic Trail have been allocated on the basis of visual management objectives (partial retention, retention and preservation, MA-F7)

6. Foreground viewing areas around developed recreation sites have been assigned visual management objectives (MA-F13)

7. Certain scenic or concentrated recreational use areas have been allocated for recreational purposes, and protection of the recreation setting, features, or attractions prescribed (MA-F16, 17, 19).

8. All Forest management areas (allocations) have been assigned a visual management objective (see Plans, Chapters 4, Standards and Guidelines)

RATIONALE

The predominant character of the Ochoco Forest is open ponderosa pine interspersed with parklike openings. On north slopes dense stands of mixed conifers occur. The Grassland setting is one of semidesert shrub, grassland and canyon environments The large pine and dense forest which give the Ochoco its characteristic setting are also commercially valuable

It is my intent to maintain the Forest setting and visual character of the Ochoco National Forest to the extent practical over time. The visual settings where people recreate and visit are important to the impressions and experiences they gain. Primary roads and Highway 26 are areas of the National Forest with the greatest amount of public use. The intent in these places is to identify particularly sensitive and visually important areas where forest management will be modified to meet visual management objectives. Where feasible, uneven-aged management, and selective removal of trees or groups of trees, will be practiced to enhance viewing. Assignment of Forest-wide visual objectives by management area emphasizes my commitment to forest management in a manner that protects and retains visual character and diversity over time on the Ochoco National Forest

OLD GROWTH FOREST

DECISIONS

1. The Forest has allocated 72 stands containing 21,970 acres of old growth (MA-F6) to be managed on a "dedicated basis" for its ecological and habitat values Of this amount, 20,700 acres are determined to be "suitable" and 1,270 acres "capable."

2. The distribution, forest types, and acreage of individual stands are listed in Table 19 (see also Mangement Area map).

3. In addition to the above allocations, habitat for old growth dependent species may, in some cases, be provided by management areas which are planned for extended rotations or no scheduled treatment. Includes: MA-F1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11, 12,15,16,17,18,19,23,24,25,26,27.

4. Based on our best data at this time the decisions in the Forest Plan appear to affect the quantity of available old growth over time as is indicated in Table 20.

5. Seven hundred forty acres in areas dispersed across the National Grassland have been identified and will be dedicated as "old growth juniper habitat," to remain in an undisturbed condition.

6 One thousand acres of "connective habitat" have been identified within the Riparian zones (see Decisions, Riparian Area Management, p. ROD-25) which is designed to provide travel ways for old growth dependent species between suitable habitat areas.

RATIONALE

I have elected to dedicate 21,970 acres of old growth stands on the National Forest and 740 acres of juniper on the Grassland (22,710 acres) for the purpose of preservation over the course of this planning period. To the extent feasible these areas have been located in a manner to minimize conflicts with other resource objectives, and to meet the habitat requirements identified for indicator species (see old growth management area map in the FEIS).

TABLE 19
ALLOCATED OLD GROWTH ON NATIONAL FOREST
PLUS UNALLOCATED 300-ACRE STANDS IN WILDERNESS AND RNA'S

DISTRICT	STAND #	PP	MC	SUITABLE	CAPABLE
Big Summit	1	250		250	
	2	380		380	
1/	3	300		300	
	4		300	300	
	5		360	360	
	6		320	320	
	7		300	300	
	8		300	300	
	9		300	300	
	10	240		240	
	11	400		400	
	12	290		290	
	13		300	300	
	14		300	300	
	15	300		300	
	16		50	50	
2/	17		300	300	
3/	18		300	300	
TOTALS	18 STANDS	2,160 AC	3,130	5,290	0 AC
Paulina R D	1	380		380	
	2		310	310	
	3		310	310	
	4	300		300	
	5		300	300	
	6		300	300	
	7		310	310	
	8		300	300	
	9		320	320	
	10		340	340	
	11		320	240	80
	12		320	200	120
	13		300	180	120
	14		300	300	
	15		330	330	
	16		320	320	
	17	330		270	60
4/	18		300	300	
TOTALS	18 STANDS	1,930 AC	3,760 AC	5,310 AC	380 AC
Prineville	1		300	300	
	2		290	290	
	3		300	300	
	4		280	280	
	5		300	300	
	6		260	260	
	7		290	290	
	8	440		440	
	9	300		300	
	10		300	300	
	11	300			300
	12		300	300	
5/	13		300	300	
TOTALS	13 STANDS	1,040 AC	2,920 AC	3,660 AC	300 AC

DISTRICT	STAND #	PP	MC	SUITABLE	CAPABLE
SNOW MTN	1	300		300	
	2		300	300	
	3		300	300	
	4		300		300
	5	160		160	
	6	300		300	
	7	310		310	
	8	300		300	
	9	300		300	
	10	300		300	
	12	300		300	
	13	300		300	
	14	300		300	
	15	300		180	120
	16	300		300	
	17	260		90	170
	18		300	300	
	19		300	300	
6/	21	300		300	
7/	22	300		300	
8/	23	300		300	
	24	470		470	
	25	430		430	
TOTALS	23 STANDS	5,530 AC	1,500 AC.	6,440 AC	590 AC
FOREST TOTALS	72 STANDS	10,660 AC	11,310 AC	20,700 AC	1,270 AC.

* TOTAL PP/OG (10,660) + MC/OG (11,310) = 21,970 ACRES

TOTAL SUITABLE (20,700) + CAPABLE (1,270) = 21,970 ACRES

1/ In N F Cr River WSA
2/ In Bridge Creek Wilderness
3/ In Ochoco Divide RNA
4/ In Black Canyon Wilderness
5/ In Mill Creek Wilderness
6/ In Silver Creek RNA
7/ In Dry Creek RNA
8/ In Stinger Creek RNA

NOTE These acres do not coincide with those shown for Management Area acres in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan, which is 19,570 ac for MA #6 Old Growth 19,570 does not include 300 acres of old growth in the NF Crooked River Wilderness Study Area or old growth assigned to each of the wildernesses and RNA s shown above which adds up to 2,400 acres (2,400 + 19,570 = 21,970)

This figure does not include the old growth which, in addition, occurs in wildernesses and unroaded areas As shown by Table 20, the total amount of old growth in the first decade for the Forest is estimated to be 93,800 acres An estimated 55,100 acres of the total will still remain by the fifth decade In my judgement this should adequately provide for the wildlife habitat needs of dependent species. It also preserves representative old growth forest types for their own purpose

I have not elected to provide old growth by extending rotations in selected stands because of the uncertainties and irreplaceable nature of old growth forest Management direction in some of the allocations (e g MA-F15,16,17,18,23,24) calls for extended rotations and time will show, if in fact, such places provide effective habitat for old growth dependent species

For the National Grassland, I have decided to identify some areas of juniper to remain undisturbed The distribution and size of these areas are based on habitat requirements of the common flicker Juniper habitat is not a rarity in Central Oregon, but because of the extensive use of prescribed fire, clearing, and firewood cutting on the Grassland, it would appear prudent to identify some juniper stands to remain undisturbed over time Grazing would continue in these areas, but the existing juniper woodlands identified would be preserved.

I have considered the question of "island biology" or "isolation of populations" raised by allocating widely dispersed areas of old growth. To address

TABLE 20
OLD GROWTH ALLOCATED AND EXISTING ON THE FOREST AND GRASSLAND

		DECADE				
ALLOCATION/EXISTING	UNIT OF MEASURE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Dedicated Old Growth 1/	Acres	22,390	22,390	22,390	22,390	22,390
Dedicated Old Growth in Wilderness 2/	Acres	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Allocated to Old Growth Management Area 3/	Acres					
Forest		19,250	19,250	19,250	19,250	19,250
Grassland		740	740	740	740	740
Unallocated But Preserved Old Growth 4/	Acres	20,500	20,500	20,500	20,500	20,500
Unallocated Old Growth without Programmed Harvest 5/	Acres	17,100	17,100	17,100	17,100	17,100
Total Existing Old Growth 6/	Acres	93,800	83,900	74,200	64,500	55,100

1/ Dedicated old growth is the sum of old growth blocks on the Forest identified to meet the management requirement for the pileated woodpecker (based on one 300 acre block per 12,000 acres)

2/ Those dedicated old growth acres that fall within wilderness and/or wilderness study areas

3/ Old Growth Management Areas F6 and G5 (includes capable acres)

4/ Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas F1 F2 F3, F4

5/ Existing Old Growth in Unroaded Management Areas without programmed harvest F5 F8, F10 F11A G5

6/ Total Existing Old Growth from 1987 1988 inventory This does not include the 1 270 capable acres allocated for old growth for distributional purposes The total existing old growth for decades 2 through 5 represents that remaining after implementation of the Forest Plan and programmed timber harvest The figures are estimates using the planning process data base and FORPLAN modeling

the question, if in fact time proves it to be relevant, I have introduced the concept of "connective habitat" into the Plan through riparian corridors and extensive blocks of existing old growth in unroaded areas and wilderness.

FUELWOOD SUPPLY

DECISIONS

Standards and guidelines for fuelwood availability are included in the Forest and Grassland Plans.

RATIONALE

It is my decision, that in order to prevent loss of wildlife habitat, only down trees, or standing dead juniper and lodgepole pine will be cut. Standing, signed wildlife trees or snags along roadsides or within old sale areas will not be cut. To avoid conflicts with other uses on the Forest or Grassland, we will continue to designate areas open to firewood gathering and require permits as may be necessary. Firewood cutting will not be allowed in dedicated old growth areas, as it would defeat the purpose for which these areas are established. The Forest and Grassland will continue to meet a share of the fuelwood supply for the local communities, but within requirements necessary to meet other resource objectives as outlined above.

SNAG DEPENDENT WILDLIFE

DECISIONS

1. The Forest will be managed to provide snag habitat at levels appropriate to the resource objectives for the management areas involved (see Table 21)

2. Snag habitat may be provided either through identifiable patches or evenly distributed snags (see Standards and Guidelines, Chapters 4, Plans).

3 The overall Forest snag level of 47 percent is planned to increase over time as shown below:

Decade	1	2	3	4	5
Level	47%	49%	51%	55%	54%

RATIONALE

Past salvage harvest and firewood gathering have made the Forest snag deficient in some areas and forest types

TABLE 21
SNAG LEVEL BY MANAGEMENT AREA

Management Area	Snag Level (%)
MA-F1 Black Canyon Wilderness	100
MA-F2 Bridge Creek Wilderness	100
MA-F3 Mill Creek Wilderness	100
MA-F4 North Fork Crooked River Wilderness Study Area	100
MA-F5 Research Natural Areas	100
MA-F6 Old Growth	100
MA-F7 Summit Historic Trail	80
MA-F8 Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek	100
MA-F9 Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek Unroaded-Helicopter	40
MA-F10 Silver Creek Area	100
MA-F11 Lookout Mountain Recreation	100
MA-F12 Eagle Roosting Areas	80
MA-F13 Developed Recreation	--
MA-F14 Dispersed Recreation	--
MA-F15 Riparian	100
MA-F16 Bandit Springs Recreation	100
MA-F17 Stein's Pillar Recreation	100
MA-F18 Hammer Creek Wildlife/ Recreation	100
MA-F19 Deep Creek Recreation	100
MA-F20 Winter Range	60
MA-F21 General Forest Winter Range	40
MA-F22 General Forest	40
MA-F23 North Fork Crooked River Recreation Corridor	80
MA-F24 North Fork Crooked River Scenic Corridor	100
MA-F25 Highway 26 Visual Corridor	100
MA-F26 Visual Management Corridors	80
MA-F27 Round Mountain National Recreation Trail	100
MA-F28 Facilities	--

Under my decision for snag levels, the number of snags on the Forest are projected to increase over time. Snags will be increased in ponderosa pine forest that presently has less than desirable levels; in mixed conifer areas with currently high levels, the number of snags will decrease In no case are snag objectives for areas, other than where public safety is a concern, set below 40 percent. In my judgement, the varied objectives from 40-100 percent as shown by management area will assure adequate snag habitat occurring across the Forest at any one time.

WINTER SPORTS

1. The Ochoco Divide accessed by Highway 26 will continue to be emphasized for opportunities for winter sports recreation. A 1,580-acre area (MA-F16) at Bandit Springs (north of Highway 26) will be managed exclusively for cross-country

skiing, and nonmotorized snow play activities. The area to the south of the highway will be open for snowmobile use. The sled hill use south of Highway 26 at the juncture of FS Road 2630 (Crystal Springs Road) will continue as an established use area

2. The Bandit Springs winter sports area (MA-F16) will have a visual quality objective of retention

3. Lookout Mountain (MA-F11) will remain open to *motorized over-the-snow use* Established snowmobile routes and play areas in the Lookout Mountain saddle through to the Round Mountain/ Walton Lake area (MA-F22) will continue

4 Backcountry skiing will be available in the Round Mtn (MA-F22) and Lookout Mtn areas (MA-F11) Trails may be designated on Lookout Mtn to separate, at places, snowmobile and cross-country skiing use

5. Restrictions such as over-the-snow motorized use on designated routes only and area closures, may be imposed in big game winter range and eagle roosting areas (MA-F12, 20, 21) Essentially, the remaining general forest (MA-F22) will be open to snowmobile use unless otherwise designated.

RATIONALE

Winter sports activities are established uses on the Forest In my judgement, the above decisions allow the continuation of these activities, and minimize the potential for conflict between motorized and nonmotorized winter sport activities. The decisions also support and provide a basis for the continuing enhancement of winter sports activities on the Forest and minimize potential conflicts with big game utilization of winter habitat.

OTHER MULTIPLE USE DECISIONS

Recreation

Recognizes established dispersed recreation sites on the Grassland and National Forest, and provides direction and objectives for their management (Plans, Chapters 4, Standards and Guidelines; see also Alternative I map).

Maintains and continues the management of developed recreation facilities, including 10 fee campgrounds, 13 non-fee campgrounds, 7 dispersed sites with facilities, 4 developed picnic areas, and 4 boat ramps; provides schedules for development of additional recreation facilities (Plans, Chapters 4, Standards and Guidelines).

Provides schedules for recreation trail and trailhead *development, including those for winter sports.*

Makes the decision that the cooperative agreement for the management of the Cove Palisades State Park, *which is due for renewal in 1990, be amended* to include language in regard to a Forest Service and State partnership for the management of the area.

A 74-mile Summit Historic Trail, involving a 1,200-foot corridor with visual management objectives assigned by trail segments, is designated. This trail is also intended to serve as part or all of the East-West Interstate trail across the Ochoco N.F

For Round Mountain, I have considered the need for a "special management area" for recreation as proposed by Oregon Natural Resource Council (ONRC). At this time I do not see that the uses occurring there demand such an allocation. The mountain top electronic site, road(s), skiing and snowmobiling, and national recreation trail (see Winter Sports, pg ROD-37) all take place as part of the multiple uses in General Forest (MA-F22) and are addressed in the standards and guidelines, as well as other multiple use coordination decisions within the Plan. However, I will take the need for a recreation management area on Round Mtn. under advisement and propose to consider it through further planning (see also "Changes....General Recreation," pg. ROD-44).

Research Natural Areas

Identifies and recommends establishment of five new research natural areas (RNA's), and continuation of the one RNA already established on the Forest (see Table 22, p ROD-39)

TABLE 22
PROPOSED RNA'S

RNA Name	NF or NG *	Total NF or NG Acres
Island	NG	39
Dry Mountain	NF	1,187
Silver Creek	NF	844
Haystack	NG	58
Stinger Creek	NF	453

* National Forest or National Grassland

Anadromous Fish

Approximately two percent of the National Forest and Grassland are identified for riparian area management (see Riparian, pg ROD-25). Streamside management areas are increased in width to 400 feet on some anadromous fish streams to provide additional protection for riparian areas, and to serve as "connective habitat." Anadromous fish streams are identified as "sensitive" and equivalent harvest areas (EHA's) were established that reflect their sensitivity in the conduct of cumulative effects analyses (see also p. ROD 54)

I will make it a point that the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) be contacted early in the scoping phase of analysis for any projects located in anadromous fish drainages on the Forest or Grassland In addition, when the Inter-regional agreements with the Forest Service and CRITFC, which are presently being studied are finalized, this Plan will be amended within such time as is practical to incorporate those policies.

Eagle Roosting Areas

Six eagle roosting areas, 570 acres, have been allocated An additional two roosting areas fall within old growth units These areas were identified through contract study and are part of an eagle recovery plan under the Federal Endangered Species Act

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Determines that 7 5 miles of lower Squaw Creek on the National Grassland, 1,370 acres, is eligible and suitable for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System as a scenic river Incorporates rivers legislatively designated in the 1988 Oregon River Act, and sets the stage for further planning required under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Grassland	
Crooked River - Recreational	720 acres
Deschutes - Scenic	650 acres
Forest	
North Fork Crooked River (two segments)	
Recreational	1,830 acres
Scenic	830 acres

ORV Use

Off-road vehicle use has been addressed under transportation system (pg ROD-26) Only trails historically established for ORV use are being designated at this time Any others will be accomplished in the plan implementation phase through site-specific analysis and further planning. Restriction guidelines by management areas have been outlined in the Travel Plan and Appendix D, and are summarized herein

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER AGENCY GOALS AND PLANS

The goals of other agencies, which could be affected by National Forest system management, were considered early in the planning process and used to develop alternatives in the DEIS and FEIS Public agencies expressed their view during the comment period on how well the Draft Plan met their objectives. (See FEIS, Appendix I for a list of the public agencies comments on the DEIS and Proposed Plan; and Appendix A for a list of agency's contacted early in the planning process)

Alternative I has been carefully coordinated with goals and objectives of the State of Oregon and other agencies, particularly the Bureau of Land Management and Indian Tribes The Plan integrates the recreation and visual resource opportunities and needs identified by the State and meets the wildlife habitat management objectives and places emphasis on economic stability in respect to timber yield and industry associated jobs and income

IV. Changes From Draft Preferred and Rationale

PLAN STRUCTURES AND ALLOCATIONS

Draft

The Plan for the National Forest and National Grassland was one document.

The National Grassland had eight management areas in the Draft, and the National Forest had 14

Final

Two separate Plans were developed, one each for the National Grassland and the National Forest, covered by one Environmental Impact Statement

In the Final, the Grassland has 16 management areas, the Forest 28

Grassland Draft

Emphasis	# Mgmt Areas	Acres	%
Timber/Range	1	73,510	65%
Wildlife	1	34,527	31%
Wilderness	1	2,500	2%
Wild/Scenic Riv	2	734	<1%
Research	2	87	<1%
Riparian	1	559	<1%
Total		111,379	

Grassland Final

Emphasis	# Mgmt Areas	Acres	%
Range/Forage	1	55,440	53%
Wildlife	3	35,870	32%
Old Growth	1	740	<1%
Visual	1	560	<1%
Wild/Scenic Riv	2	1370	<1%
Research	1	110	<1%
Recreation	4	10,770	10%
Riparian	1	2,110	2%
Facilities	2	540	<1%
Total		111,510	

Forest Draft

Emphasis	# Mgmt Areas	Acres	%
Timber/Range	1	491,257	58%
Wildlife	2	190,686	22%
Old Growth	1	26,337	3%
Visual	3	51,773	6%
Wilderness	4	38,529	4%
Wild/Scenic Riv	2	1,930	<1%
Research	1	4,519	<1%
Recreation	3	32,990	4%
Riparian	2	15,484	2%
TOTAL		843,721	

Forest Final

Emphasis	# Mgmt Areas	Acres	%
Timber/Forage	2	499,010	59%
Wildlife	3	174,620	21%
Old Growth	1	19,570	2%
Visuals	3	40,110	5%
Wilderness	4	37,325	4%
Wild/Scenic Riv	2	2,660	<1%
Research	1	4,400	<1%
Recreation	10	48,350	6%
Riparian	1	18,130	2%
Facilities	1	460	<1%
TOTAL		844,640	

Summary of Changes

Separate plans for National Grassland and the National Forest; treated under one DEIS.

Refinement in management area allocations.

Changes in resource emphasis.

Reasons For Change

National Grassland management and direction was overshadowed by the National Forest. The public requested they be separated into two plans.

Additions and changes in management areas (allocations) resulted from responses to public comments, incorporation of new information, new policies, improved understanding of processes related to implementation, and congressionally designated rivers.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FORPLAN MODELING

Forest Management

Forest Draft

Even-aged Silvicultural System
General Forest rotation dia. 14-16"
Rotation age 90-100
Departure (by vol first decade).

ASQ Decade	All Spp Cu Ft.	All Spp Bd Ft	PP Bd Ft
1	20 6	123	87
2	19 7	118	82
3	17 8	99	56
4	16 9	93	52
5	16 1	89	55

Forest Final

Even- and Uneven-aged Silv System (uneven-aged systems applied to approx 100,000 acres ponderosa pine). Diameter for even-aged ponderosa pine=18", mixed conifers=16", uneven-aged=20"; Rotation age for ponderosa pine=130 years, mixed conifer=90 years, sustained yield, even-flow (by cu ft vol.), declining volume in ponderosa pine after first decade.

ASQ Decade	All Spp Cu.Ft.	All Spp Bd Ft	PP Bd Ft
1	19 0	115 0	82 0
2	19 0	-	-
3	19 0	-	-
4	19 0	-	-
5	19 0	-	-

Forplan Modeling

The changes from "draft" to "final" have resulted in differences in FORPLAN modeling. The changes in allocations and related management guidelines have resulted in the development of new yield streams for timber and other resources, silvicultural systems, rotation ages, and decade harvest limitations

a New Prescriptions and Yield Streams Applied in FORPLAN Model

Uneven-aged timber management applied to ponderosa pine on general forest (20-inch target size).

Uneven-aged timber management applied to ponderosa pine in special areas with 30-inch DBH target size: Lookout Mountain, Stein's Pillar, Deep Creek, North Fork Crooked River

Uneven-aged timber management (group selection) applied to mixed conifer in some areas

Extended rotation ages and new thinning cycles for ponderosa pine in general forest.

Extended rotation and stricter decade harvest limitations for certain areas.

Changes in the percent thermal cover required by allocation.

More reliance on mixed conifer to produce thermal cover vs. ponderosa pine.

b Acres and Timber Yield Tables

Acres - Condition classes (i e. the amount of pine sawlogs, saplings, etc.) have been updated from the 1983 information used in the Draft. This was done to more accurately assess timber harvest scheduling and resultant associated outputs and effects

Timber Yield Tables - Yield tables were updated to reflect the growth that has occurred in the last five years in order to more accurately determine outputs and effects.

Summary of Changes

Incorporation of uneven-aged management in ponderosa pine where stand structure, condition, and management objectives allow.

Larger tree at rotation for general forest ponderosa pine 18"-20" vs 14"-16" (wood quality).

Sustained even-flow in cu.ft.vol vs. departure (on total volume basis).

Maintains relatively high volume of ponderosa pine first decade, but less than in the Draft Plan

Large target diameters (27"-30+") for recreation, wildlife and visual emphasis management areas

FORPLAN model yield tables, acres, prescriptions and assumptions changed to reflect updated information (see above)

Reasons For Change

Response to public comment for uneven-aged management, growing larger trees, maintaining historic harvest levels in ponderosa pine, sustained yield even-flow vs. departure, improved and updated information and scheduling over time.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Changes in schedules, outputs, allocations, effects, assumptions and new information results in different economic effects and outputs in the Final

Incorporation of additional resources into the economic analysis overlooked in the Draft (mineral leases, anadromous fisheries)

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Forest Draft

Segments of North Fork Crooked River, Crooked River, and Deschutes River eligibility studies completed and management units developed to preserve options for river classification.

Forest Final

Segments of North Fork Crooked, Crooked, and Deschutes Rivers classified under the Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Lower Squaw Creek eligibility determination completed

Summary of Changes

Rivers Designated by Congress

Lower Squaw Creek evaluated and determined eligible for Wild River designation

Reasons for Change

Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation Lower Squaw Creek evaluation conducted based on public comment and legislative hearings related to above Act

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Forest Draft

Proposed recommending 5,200 acres (2,500 FS, 2,700 BLM) in the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area for wilderness classification.

Forest Final

No additional wilderness proposed.

A 7,840-acre Squaw Creek management area emphasizing semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation, protection of natural features, and vehicle access management incorporates core of previously recommended wilderness; the majority of the remainder of the draft proposed wilderness was included in the Deschutes Scenic River Corridor classified by the Oregon Wild Rivers Act in 1988 A 7 5 mile segment of Squaw Creek has been determined to be eligible and suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System as a scenic river

Summary of Changes

From 5,200 acres recommended for wilderness which was centered on Squaw Creek and the Deschutes River Canyon, to a 7,840-acre management unit centered on Squaw Creek; classification of the Deschutes River and canyon portion under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, recommendation that a 7 5 mile segment of Squaw Creek be designated as a scenic river.

Reasons For Change

Because of small size and topography which would concentrate use, the manageability and clasification under the Wilderness Act was questioned The Deschutes River canyon portion was classified and protected under Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The public expressed interest for classification of Lower Squaw Creek under Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

ROADLESS AREAS

See Tables 16-18, pg ROD-29

Summary of Changes

Green Mountain proposal for semiprimitive motorized recreation (the area remaining roadless) was dropped for reasons of no apparent public interest or support. Soil erodibility and slopes found not to be suitable for that use.

Rock Creek/Cottonwood Creek area to be managed as unroaded was decreased. A portion of the area which was determined to be economical for timber management was allocated to general forest and unroaded helicopter. Steeper areas were reserved for roadless area management, or helicopter logging, to protect watershed, anadromous fisheries, recreation, and wildlife values.

Silver Creek area to remain roadless was adjusted to a more manageable boundary along canyon rim

Lookout Mountain area to remain unroaded was increased from 2,950 acres to 15,660 acres. The entire roadless area, plus road corridor, is treated as a separate management unit. Planning for stand treatments for recreation and wildlife will begin in first decade, and no entry will be scheduled until project planning is completed and approved 2/

A portion of the Deschutes River Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area, and an additional area outside the WSA in Squaw Creek, are combined to form a 7,840-acre management area emphasizing semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat management. The 5,200-acre draft wilderness proposal is dropped 2/

Reasons For Change

Response to public comments Effort to address the resource values involved in a more specific manner Implementation concerns.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Draft

2,950 acres to be managed for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation, 11,323 acres allocated to general forest and scheduled timber harvest, the remainder to old growth areas. The top of the mountain is closed to snowmobiling.

Final

A 15,660-acre Lookout Mtn. area treated as one management area within which there is a 7,550-acre mountain top unit, and two old growth areas. The 8,110 acres remaining are to be managed in a manner that emphasizes recreational and wildlife habitat values and maintains the character of the Forest over time Additional site-specific project planning is required Road access corridors (Brush Creek and independent mine roads) are incorporated into the management unit No scheduled timber harvest. The entire area is open to snowmobiles during specific periods

Summary of Changes

Treatment of entire Lookout Mountain and access corridors as a management area.

No entry planned in the first decade prior to completion of site-specific planning

An increase in unroaded mountain top management area from 2,950 to 7,550 acres.

The lower part of the mountain also managed with recreation and wildlife emphasis

No scheduled or chargeable timber harvest

Open to snowmobiling during specified periods.

Reasons For Change

Public comment. Address resource values involved in a more specific/responsive manner

2/ Discussed separately See Wilderness, pg ROD-42 for Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and this page for Lookout Mountain

VISUAL or SCENIC RESOURCES - Trails, Roads, Recreational Developments

Tables 23 and 24 detail the extent of change in visual resource management allocations between the Draft and Alternative I. Table 23 shows the changes in visual resource allocations between the Draft and Alternative I and Table 24 the acres of visual quality objective by allocation for Alternative I.

TABLE 23
CHANGES IN VISUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION ACRES

	Draft	Final *
Preservation	0	170
Retention	15,211	36,540
Partial Retention	31,238	27,720

* Does not include the Grassland

TABLE 24
SUMMARY OF FINAL VISUAL RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR FOREST AND GRASSLAND

	ACRES		
Forest Roads	**Retention**	**Partial Retention**	**Total**
Visual Management Corridors	16,150	23,960	40,110
Round Mountain Trail	1,000		1,000
Highway 26	6,850		6,850
Deep Creek	770		770
Bandit Springs Recreation Area	1,580		1,580
Dispersed Recreation Sites	2,060		1,970
Developed Recreation Sites	1,810		1,810
Summit Historic Trail	5,770 1/	3,790	9,560
Lake Billy Chinook View	560		560
Total Acres	36,550	27,750	64,300

1/ Includes 170 acres which were allocated to Preservation

Summary of Changes

Immediate/foreground viewing area around recreational developments (campgrounds) allocated and assigned a visual management objective

The acres with visual management objectives increased from 46,449 in the Draft to 64,300 in the Final. The width of the viewing corridor used in calculations was changed from >2640' to 1200'.

Entire Summit Historic Trail corridor was assigned a visual management objective relative to cultural aspects of the particular trail segment.

Round Mountain National Recreation Trail management corridor reduced in width from >2640' to 1200'.

Added 560 acres of viewing area from Lake Billy Chinook reservoir on the National Grassland

No middle ground viewing areas allocated as management areas.

All Forest management areas assigned a visual quality objective

(See other management areas which have visual management objectives)

Reasons For Change

To incorporate visual management considerations in important foreground viewing areas in a more balanced manner. New information. State of Oregon oral communication Emphasis on maintaining character of the Forest.

GENERAL RECREATION

Draft

No allocation of dispersed recreation site management. Discussed in general

Bandit Springs winter recreation sports area identified.

Restricted all motorized use from Lookout Mountain summit.

No recognition of special features or recreational attractions (other than roadless areas, developed recreation, and wildernesses).

General discussion of significant historic trails. Interpretation of Summit Trail for public enjoyment; management of Round Mountain Trail discussed.

Recreational attractions and developments on the National Grassland generally discussed. Expansion at Haystack Reservoir noted

Final

New horse camps designated

Allocation of 665 sites (@3.1 acres/site) across the Forest and Grassland for dispersed recreation - based on Coda-A-Site and other inventories on file with specific management direction.

Bandit Springs recreation management unit (1,580 acres) allocated; deals with all-season recreational activities instead of only winter

Lookout Mountain open to snowmobile use in winter

Allocation of additional areas emphasizing recreational features or attractions and dispersed recreational opportunities, Stein's Pillar (1,070 acres), Hammer Creek (2,560 acres), Deep Creek (770 acres), Lookout Mtn. (15,660 acres), and recognition of Round Mtn for possible further planning.

Identifies and allocates the Summit Trail National Historic Route, with three different levels of management intensity per various segments. (See Visual/Scenic Resources, p. ROD-44)

Management areas identified (allocations) for Haystack Reservoir, Rimrock Springs Wildlife Viewing area, and Cove Palisades State Park.

(For additional information relating to recreation see Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Roadless Areas, Travel Plan, Summit Trail, Visual, and Lookout Mtn. which are addressed separately herein.)

Summary of Changes

Increased recognition of importance of dispersed recreational activities and sites on the Forest and Grassland.

Incorporation of existing recreational attractions, developments, cultural resources and special features overlooked or for which information wasn't available in the Draft.

Lookout Mtn. continuing to remain open to snowmobiles.

Reasons For Change

Improved and more complete information and public comment. National emphasis - recreation strategy.

WILDLIFE

OLD GROWTH

Draft

26,400 acres allocated; approximately 58% "suitable," 42% "capable" on National Forest only.

Final

21,970 acres old growth allocated; approximately 94% "suitable," 6% "capable."

1,000 acres of riparian area is recognized as connective habitat between some old growth areas. The connective habitat is allocated in Riparian MA-F15.

740 acres of old growth juniper allocated on the Grassland Recognition of MA's with extended rotation contribution to old growth habitat, as well as other allocations such as wildernesses and unroaded areas.

WINTER RANGE

Draft

76,000 acres of big game winter range to meet Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife management objectives.

Final

99,570 acres of big game winter range (deer & elk) allocated, but redistributed spatially across the Forest and Grassland.

Identified 107,360 acres big game winter range that was not necessary to meet ODFW big game management objectives and therefore, not allocated as winter range, but recognized as a separate

management situation called "general forest/winter range."

Added 22,700 acres to area identified as antelope winter range on the Grassland.

SUMMER RANGE

Draft

154,100 acres were allocated to big game summer range with specified amounts and quality of thermal cover for optimum big game habitat.

Final

No areas specifically allocated for big game summer range. Big game habitat requirements are considered throughout the general forest area.

Recognition that (thinning) bug-proofing of ponderosa pine stands, if done, would reduce big game habitat effectiveness due to the inability of those stands to provide cover.

Adjustments in cover guidelines to better reflect natural vegetation capabilities.

SNAGS

Draft

Specific snag management levels were set by management area, which averaged out to an overall forest average of 55% of the potential population level for snag dependent species.

Final

Specific snag management levels by management area average 47% of the potential population level in the first decade, and reach 54% by the fifth decade.

EAGLE ROOSTS

Draft

Management direction provided to preserve the integrity of actual and potential bald eagle winter roost sites, but none were specifically identified.

Final

Eight bald eagle winter roosts are identified. (Two are not shown on map because they are included within old growth areas which have more restrictive management prescriptions.) Site specific management plans for each eagle roost area will be developed in fiscal year 1989 and 1990.

HAMMER CREEK

Draft

No special management designated in Hammer Creek except for an old growth area.

Final

A 2,560-acre management area is allocated for wildlife and recreation emphasis. It surrounds an old growth stand and includes a variety of habitat types.

ROAD DENSITY

Draft

Open road density averaged four miles per section in timber/range emphasis areas, and two miles per section in big game emphasis areas.

Final

Open road density averages three miles per section in General Forest and one mile per section seasonally in winter range.

MODELING ASSUMPTIONS FOR HABITAT EFFECTIVENESS

Draft

Assumed potential four elk/square mile in ponderosa pine types; 10/sq mile in mixed conifer; average six/sq mile.

Final

Assumed potential six elk/sq mile in ponderosa pine types; 15/sq mile in mixed conifer; average nine/sq mile.

Summary of Changes

Reduction of total area allocated to old growth, but increase in quality ("suitable" vs. "capable") of that dedicated. Application of concept of "connective habitat." Increased recognition of importance of old growth occurring within other management areas (e.g. MA-F1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24).

Allocation of old growth juniper on the National Grassland.

Improved spatial distribution of winter range allocations.

Additional acres of antelope winter range area identified and allocated on the Grassland.

Allocation of general forest/winter range in addition to winter range, resulting in improved maintenance of habitat effectiveness across the Forest.

Elimination of big game summer range allocation and consideration of some big game habitat requirements across general forest.

Snag management level increased on certain wildlife and recreation management areas created since the Draft, but with a minor overall drop in potential population level due to big game summer range allocation change.

Specific identification and management direction for bald eagle winter roosts as part of a recovery plan under the Endangered Species Act.

Allocation of a Hammer Creek Management Area with an emphasis on wildlife habitat management.

Modeling assumptions for habitat effectiveness changed based on new information from ODFW.

More realistic cover requirements relating to forest types involved.

Emphasis on maintaining habitat with quality and quantity of cover and road density comprising the basis for rating habitat effectiveness.

Reasons For Change

Public comments. Consultation with State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Improved information and intent to improve implementability.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Draft

Forage utilization standards were broken out by slope class and meadows for each management area. They generally were the same, except for those in the Riparian Management Area which were more restrictive.

Allotment improvements were considered in respect to water developments required across Forest to improve utilization and distribution.

Final

Forage utilization standards developed by the Region for eastside Forests are used. There is one set of standards for riparian areas and another set for all other management areas not excluded from grazing. The standards are based on vegetation type, range condition and Forest and Range Environmental Study (FRES) strategies.

A system for prioritizing range allotment planning needs, and a program estimate for riparian improvements is established on an allotment-by-allotment basis for the Forest and Grassland.

Reasons for Change

Public comments. Provides a means to more effectively address the allotment-specific nature of concerns relating to grazing management, and to tier allotment management planning to the Forest and Grassland Plans.

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Draft

All areas on the Forest/Grassland open unless otherwise designated, as determined by other management objectives. The ORV opportunities and closures were outlined on DEIS p.156 and a Travel Plan map published.

Allocated area to semiprimitive motorized recreation.

See road densities under wildlife, pg ROD-46.

Final

Travel access routes and areas designated with respect to management unit objectives. Travel plan map published in FEIS Refers specific designation of ORV trails to project level implementation, identifies closure order requirements

No areas allocated for exclusive ORV use

Summary of Changes

More specificity on area closure and designating of routes or roads within management areas

Refers ORV/OHV trail designation to project level implementation.

Additional emphasis on ORV management and control

Increased emphasis on improved road management with resultant reduction in open road density.

Reasons for Change

Public comment Coordination and attainment of other Forest management objectives, e g improvement of elk habitat effectiveness, reduction of visual and on-site impacts, and other management area objectives

RIPARIAN

Draft

Two allocations or prescriptions "Acceptable" and "Excellent " The latter was assigned to all anadromous fish streams and other to high value fish streams Streams identified for improvement to either "Acceptable" or "Excellent" are listed in Forest Plan Appendix A12 and A15

Final

All streams will be managed under one prescription - "Excellent."

Analysis and scheduling of need for treatment is based on a recently updated (1987) stream condition inventory This inventory aids in setting priorities 3/ when range allotment plans are to be updated. Riparian corridors on approximately 40 miles (1,000 acres) of high value streams have been expanded to offer additional protection to these streams and to enhance "connective" wildlife habitat. (See also Grazing Management, p ROD-47)

Summary of Changes

Provides a simplified and more direct approach - riparian area management planning and analysis priorities will be tied to stream condition and resource values

Allotment management planning will have more detailed direction and objectives.

Provides a system for prioritizing range allotment planning needs on the Forest

Introduces the concept and value of connective habitat.

Reasons for Change

Clarity in communicating planning details. Responsive to public, agency and internal comment. Provides specific information on objectives and impacts affecting allotment management and planning

UTILITY CORRIDORS

Draft

Utility corridors are addressed in general terms in the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines

Final

Existing utility corridors (rights-of-way) are designated as a management area, 460 acres, in the Grassland Plan Incorporates Federal Power guidelines and requirements (Western Regional Corridor Study, 1986)

3/ Prioritization is a guide, riparian improvement projects will also take advantage of funding or timing opportunities outside this schedule if they occur

LAND ADJUSTMENTS

Draft

The land adjustment plan shows four categories of land

"Consolidate ownership of Cove Palisades State Park area" is listed as a land adjustment priority

Final

A fifth category is added: areas where Congress has directed the Forest Service to acquire non-Federal lands for a designated purpose The Deschutes Scenic River and the North Fork Crooked River Scenic Corridor fall into this category

The land adjustment maps are more detailed and based on recent analysis. Lands are placed in adjustment categories according to management area and priority

The issue of ownership patterns for Cove Palisades State Park is deferred and opportunities for recreation management "partnerships" explored.

NATIONAL FOREST OWNERSHIP

Draft

National Forest ownership totaled 955,100 acres: 843,721 acres of National Forest, and 111,379 acres of National Grassland.

Final

National Forest ownership totals 956,150 acres 844,640 acres of National Forest, and 111,510 acres of National Grassland, due to land exchanges which have occurred since the Draft was prepared

MINERALS AND ENERGY

Draft

Oil and gas leasing activity planning was based on the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947

Table IV-6, "Average Annual Outputs by Decade," does not include outputs for minerals activities.

The economic analysis does not include revenues from oil and gas leasing.

The issue of providing a mining mineral inventory was deferred for resolution outside the Forest Plan.

Approximately 80% of the Forest and Grassland were leased for oil and gas.

No leasing would be allowed on administrative sites

Leases would be issued with some restrictive stipulations in old growth areas.

Approval for mining operations will be given when concerns are mitigated in a responsible and responsive manner.

Final

The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 changes the way oil and gas leasing will be administered. Regulations governing leasing procedures are expected to be finalized in late 1989

The economic analysis has been revised to include oil and gas leasing revenues, and mineral production figures have been updated

A mineral potential map and mineral inventory were prepared

Forest and Grassland area available for leasing is similar, but only approximately 10% of the Forest and Grassland are under lease, due to changes in oil prices

Leases will be issued with a "no surface occupancy" stipulation on administrative sites.

Leases will be issued with a "no surface occupancy" stipulation in old growth areas

Under the mining laws, claimants are entitled to access and develop their mining claims Operating plans will include reasonable and operationally feasible requirements for timely and effective coordination with other resources.

V. ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives Analyzed and Resultant Disposition in the Final

In the DEIS, including the supplement, 12 alternatives were analyzed and presented in detail In addition, eight benchmark alternatives were developed and utilized in the analysis process The benchmarks served as analysis reference points to define bounds for comparison purposes only They were not developed with the intent of being implemented In the FEIS, six alternatives are analyzed in detail, the above remainder are treated as "considered, but eliminated from further detailed study" (Table 25). The basis for elimination of the alternatives was lack of public interest or support and relevance to the NEPA process in final analyses and document preparation

A comparison of the acreage allocations (emphasis) by resource and decade outputs related to issues are presented for the six FEIS alternatives, including Alternative I in Tables 26 and 27. A brief description of the final alternatives follows

Summary Description of Final Alternatives

Alternative NC - NO CHANGE:

The "No Change" alternative has been developed as a no-action alternative representing current management plans. It provides for a level of goods and services as defined in unit plans and the 1979 Timber Resource Plan The alternative does not comply with all provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), and could not be implemented or used in future management of the Forest without Congressional and/or Secretary of Agriculture action to change the law (see Supplement to the DEIS).

Alternative A - NO ACTION (CD BNCH in Table 25)·

This is the "no action" alternative required by the National Environmental Policy Act It would continue the present course of action established in plans and policies formulated and approved prior to passage of the NFMA and that have been made consistent with present laws and regulations Relatively high levels of timber production, combined with visual quality objectives, and moderate levels of fish and wildlife, are emphasized in this alternative. In the Draft this alternative was represented by the "Current Direction Benchmark with NFMA "

Alternative B-Modified - FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY PREFERRED

This is the alternative supported by the forest products industry Alternative B-Modified evolved from Alternative B, and B-plus post-Draft discussions Alternative B-Modified was developed by industry by amalgamating selected aspects of Alternative I with Draft B

TABLE 25
DISPOSITION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN THE FINAL

	ALTERNATIVES															
TREATMENT	A	B	B Dep	B Mod 1/	C	C Mod	D	E	E Dep	F	G	H	H Dep	I Pre 2/	NC	CD BNCH 3/
Detailed Alts in DEIS	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
DEIS Alts Detailed in FEIS									X						X	X
DEIS Alts Eliminated in FEIS	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
New Alts Detailed in FEIS				X		X								X		

1/ Alternative B Modified represents evolution and change of Alternative B plus proposed by timber industry Alternative B Modified is a new industry alternative It is different than B plus in the draft, the latter of which was much the same as Alternative B

2/ Preferred Alternative I

3/ Current Direction Benchmark with National Forest Management Act (NFMA) is now Alternative A in this FEIS

The intent is to provide a high level of timber output with some considerations for other resources

Alternative C-Modified - ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE·

Alternative C-Modified emphasizes resources associated with amenity values For example, riparian areas, scenic corridors, retention of roadless areas, recreation and forest management designed to provide big game habitat Old growth and snags would also be provided at high levels. Timber and range resources would be managed at comparatively low levels. This is generally the alternative supported by the conservation community.

Alternative E-Departure - DRAFT PREFERRED:

Alternative E-Departure was the Draft preferred alternative. It emphasizes a combination of timber production, roadless recreation, and big game habitat Timber is scheduled as a departure from nondeclining yield. In other respects, this alternative is the same as Draft Alt. E. Timber harvests are scheduled so that first decade volumes remain close to current levels, and then decline over the next 10 to 50 years. The departure is designed to maintain local economic conditions for the short term All resources are managed or maintained at least at moderate levels.

Alternative I - FOREST SERVICE FINAL:

This alternative represents a new alternative evolved from E-Departure, the Draft Preferred Alternative, in response to new information, recent legislation, and public comment. It is the agency's preferred final. This alternative seeks to maintain a reasonably high level of commodity outputs on a sustained, nondeclining flow. In a complimentary and equitable manner it has also attempted to provide wildlife habitat and recreation resources, as well as preserving the character or setting of the Forest and Grassland over time. Alternative I differs from the Draft preferred E-Departure as described on pp. ROD 40-49.

TABLE 26
RESOURCE EMPHASIS ACREAGES BY ALTERNATIVE

	ALTERNATIVES				
Emphasis	B-Mod	E Dep	I Preferred	A	C-Mod
Wilderness	37,325	39,825	37,325	37,325	47,325
Research Natural Areas	2,145	4,800	4,510	2,230	4,860
Old Growth	18,740	26,340	20,310	36,970	45,030
Cultural	0	0	9,560	0	0
Unroaded Recreation	17,130	27,315	37,060	31,200	40,960
Eagle Roosting	570	570	570	570	570
Developed Recreation	4,650	750	4,650	750	750
Dispersed Recreation	2,060	0	2,060	0	0
Riparian Excellent	18,930	8,260	20,240	3,850	15,550
Riparian Acceptable	0	7,630	0	12,210	0
Special Recreation	3,420	1,580	11,530	0	1,580
Special Wildlife	430	0	2,990	0	0
Big Game Winter Range	35,440	72,310	99,570	32,100	308,150

Emphasis	B-Mod	E Dep	I Preferred	A	C-Mod
Big Game Summer Range	0	154,100	0	61,830	378,775
Timber/Wildlife	171,490	0	107,360	0	0
Timber/Range	603,010	555,020	556,290	649,170	0
Wild & Scenic Rivers	5,400	4,030	5,400	4,030	4,030
Visuals	34,410	46,160	41,670	83,450	101,110
Facilities	1,000	460	1,000	460	460

TABLE 27
INDICATORS OF RESPONSIVENESS OF ALTERNATIVES TO ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

		ALTERNATIVE					
Resource Output or Item	Unit of Measure	NC	B-MOD	E DEP	I-Preferred	A	C-MOD
Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)							
1st Decade	MMCF	N/A	21 8	20 6	19 0	19 3	15 6
5th Decade	MMCF	N/A	21 8	16 1	19 0	19 3	15 6
1st Decade	MMBF	N/A	130 0	123 0	115 0	115 0	94 0
Average Annual Salvage	MMBF		8	1 5	7	1 4	6
Uneven-Age Mgmt	M Acres	0	120	0	100	0	170
PNV	Million $	380	452	471	475	421	395
Estimated County Receipts	M $'s	Un-known	4 5	5 1	4 9	4 3	3 5
Estimated Change in Jobs	#	Un-known	211	196	118	124	-101
Livestock Use 1/	M AUM's/Yr						
1st Decade		77 5	70 0	79 0	70 0	77 5	73 1
5th Decade		77 5	80 0	79 4	80 0	79 1	74 4
Riparian Areas in Excellent Condition							
1st Decade	M Acres	---	10 0	---	10 0	---	10 0
5th Decade	M Acres	5 4	17 5	9 4	17 5	5 4	17 5
Miles of Primary Road Open and Maintained -End of Planning Period	#Miles	4,774	4,800	4,776	4,734	4,774	4,743
Miles of Roads Closed	#Miles						
1st Decade		694	913	890	1558	694	1520
5th Decade		1,734	2,123	2,082	2,185	1,734	3,224
Deer Population							
5th Decade	#	Un-known	17,210	22,600	22,600	22,600	22,600

Resource Output or Item	Unit of Measure	NC	B-MOD	E DEP	I-Preferred	A	C-MOD
Elk Population	#						
1st Decade			3,210	3,170	3,000	3,370	3,740
5th Decade		Un-known	1,700	2,780	2,620	2,690	3,700
Acres Allocated-Unroaded 2/	M Acres	29 1	10 7	27 3	38 4	31.2	41 0
Scenic Resources							
Preservation	M Acres	38 3	39 5	43.3	42 0	38 3	50 9
Retention	M Acres	102 2	60 7	70 7	96 8	102.2	155 6
Partial Retention	M Acres	71.4	28 1	59.4	32 4	71 4	61 5
Allocated 3/	M Acres		34 4	46 2	41 7	83 5	101 1
Old Growth (Allocated) 4/	M Acres	32,860	18,740	26,340	20,310	36,970	45,030
Fuelwood Supply	M Cords						
1st Decade		14 0	15 0	13.1	13 0	14.0	12 0
Snag Habitat for Cavity Nesters	% of Potential						
1st Decade		Un-known	43	46	47	46	51
5th Decade		Un-known	33	55	54	52	69
Area Allocated To Recreation Emphasis 5/	Acres		28,630	35,065	58,120	31,950	48,710
Anadromous Steelhead	SCHI						
1st Decade		26	26	26	26	26	26
5th Decade		126	126	126	126	126	126
Total Miles of ATV Trails	#Miles						
1st Decade		None	95	0	95	0	95
5th Decade		None	190	0	190	0	190
Round Mountain Recreation Emphasis 6/	Acres	N/A	1,000	0	1,000	0	0

1/ Forage production potentials may not be achieved and are at the minimum, directly dependent upon the implementation of the proposed improvements in the first decade It is reasonable to expect that some or all allotments may experience up to a 10% reduction in AUM's during the first decade to allow the accomplishment of riparian management objectives

2/ Total acreage for lands allocated to management areas with unroaded recreation emphasis (D9, F8, F10, F11, G8)

3/ Total acreage for lands allocated to management areas with visual resource emphasis (D5, D6, D7, G13, F25, F26, F27)

4/ Total acreage for lands allocated to management areas with old growth emphasis (D4, F6, G5)

5/ Total acreage for lands allocated to management areas with recreation emphasis (D9, D10, D11, F7, F8, F10, F11, F13, F14, F16, F17, F19, G8, G11, G12, G14)

6/ Acres on Round Mountain with recreation emphasis (applies to Round Mountain National Recreation Trail)

STATE OF OREGON ALTERNATIVE

This alternative was developed by the State of Oregon Governor's Federal Land Planning Team utilizing Forest Service data, and with a public review process separate from that conducted by the Forest Service. The alternative is a result of collaboration between the Forest Service, State agencies, the Governor's staff, and the public.

The analysis of the State's alternative has not been documented in a detailed comparison with other alternatives in the FEIS because of the late date it was received. However, the State of Oregon and Forest Service collaboration involved the former in the final decisions relating to the selection of a plan for the Forest and Grassland.

There were significant differences between the State's alternative and the DEIS preferred Alternative E-Departure. These differences were greatly reduced through the changes I have made between the Draft and Final (pp. ROD 40-49). I now find that the State's alternative is similar to the Forest Service Alternative I. We are together in respect to major and important issues, for example: the level of ASQ, roadless area allocations, disposition of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area, big game winter range allocations, grazing management, snag levels, allocations emphasizing recreation, management and planning for ORV use, and the decisions on snowmobile use on Lookout Mountain.

There was, however, some clarification between the State's recommendations and Alternative I needed which I will list here and then address, for the record, below.

STATE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Apply more stringent riparian management requirements on anadromous fish streams.
2. Further reduce road densities.
3. Limit numbers of dispersed sites and reduce their visual quality objective.
4. Reduce visual management requirements on certain Forest roads and apply uneven-aged management instead.
5. Add the pine marten and the northern three-toed woodpecker as indicator species.
6. Reach a sustained even-flow for ponderosa pine volume within a decade.
7. Provide a stable timber supply for Harney County.
8. Use both CF and BF measurements for planning and management.
9. Increase the amount of uneven-aged management.
10. Add RNA's.

FOREST SERVICE RATIONALE AND FINDINGS RELATING TO STATE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOVE:

1. Riparian Management

My proposal for riparian area management has had substantial changes between the Draft and Final. It is essentially in agreement with the State, and is in line with recommendations from CRITFC. The only point where we disagree appears to be the level of protection for streams within the John Day Basin. The State feels that the anadromous fish runs in this basin warrant extra protection. There is no disagreement on this point. The State further proposes no scheduled harvest from riparian areas along major perennial streams and no scheduled harvest along the lower half of the riparian areas on minor perennial streams. I believe the anadromous fishery in the Trout Creek watershed (Deschutes Basin) is equally as important and should be included in this discussion.

Table 28 indicates the amount of protection afforded by the Forest Service Alternative I which is, in addition to the standards and guidelines, applied to maintain the ecological potential of these fisheries.

At this time, I believe adoption of the State's proposal for the Ochoco National Forest for more stringent protection in the John Day Basin through non-scheduling of harvest for riparian areas would result in insignificant change to the conditions attainable for the Ochoco National Forest under the proposed Forest and Grassland Plans. Here is why. As shown by Table 28, the level of protection which is being provided for anadromous fisheries is substantial. Half of the stream miles with spawning are allocated to no timber harvest and another nine miles to a double-wide 400 foot corridor. This translates into over 70 percent of the riparian areas which support the spawning of anadromous fish having a special emphasis above that proposed for nonanadromous riparian areas. The remaining streams are protected by a 200 foot corridor, standards and guidelines, reduced timber harvest levels, and more stringent requirements relating to cumulative effects (see Table 12). Therefore, I believe that Alternative I will result in attaining the desired future condition for these streams. With intensive monitoring, any problems will be detected and changes can then be made.

2. Road Densities

The State is of the opinion that open road densities in winter range should not exceed one mile per section in the winter and 2.5 miles in summer, and that densities in general forest (MA-F22) and general forest winter range (MAF-21) should be 2.5 miles per section. The only difference between the State's proposal and mine is the recommendation of 2.5 miles per square mile compared to three miles per square mile. I find reducing the road density to 2.5 miles per square mile would have little to no effect on predicted elk numbers and a 0 to 5 percent change in habitat effectiveness. However, the change to the 2.5 mile guideline would significantly increase road management costs. Since we achieve State big game population objectives with the road densities in Alternative I, and the State and the Forest Service are in agreement that we both desire to manage roads effectively to meet wildlife and recreation objectives, I conclude our differences on this point are really insignificant. With monitoring and further studies (e.g., Starky Experiment Station), improved knowledge concerning open roads will allow future opportunity for any needed adjustments.

3. Dispersed Recreation Sites

Nine hundred and fifty dispersed recreation sites were identified by the Forest Service, and 1,970 acres (MA-F14) allocated for this use. The visual quality objective for these sites was decided to be retention. The State supports this approach, but they recommend a visual objective of partial retention. The change to partial retention in my opinion, would not significantly increase the ASQ on the Forest. Further, the State was concerned that the allocation be limited to the originally identified sites and that the implementation of the Plans not set the stage for a proliferation of new sites, thereby increasing the application of retention standards and hence a potential reduction in ASQ across the Forest. It is my intention that the Forest and Grassland Plans be initially implemented with the acreage allocated as in MA-F14 and MA-G14. Dispersed recreation sites may likely be identified or dropped in future project level planning. With appropriate project analysis and documentation, the dispersed recreation sites identified and their management will likely be modified over time.

4. Visual Management

Between the Draft and Final, my staff re-evaluated visual management objectives for road corridors and viewing areas surrounding recreation sites. The resultant changes, with which the State is in agreement, pertain to elimination of partial retention middleground as an allocation and the reduction in average corridor width to 1,200 feet. The reduction in road corridor to a more realistic width has allowed us to manage more miles of travel corridors with a visual objective and with less loss in timber volume than was possible under the draft preferred alternative approach.

However, we have two apparent differences which involve the specific corridors to be protected and the role of uneven-aged management in visual corridor management, especially on Highway 26. First, the State's proposal differs from that of the Forest Service in that they recommend no visual management objective for roads 12, 16, 42, 4155, 4370, 45, 58, and 5840, involving approximately 5,200 acres. Instead they propose using uneven-aged management wherever feasible and extensive slash clean-up. I believe that reducing the visual management objective to less than partial retention would result in unacceptable consequences to the visual character along important routes and would create inconsistency across the Forest in how visual quality travel objectives are being applied.

The other difference is a proposal for uneven-aged management as the primary method of management for Highway 26. It is my position that uneven-aged management is only one of the silvicultural systems available to meet visual quality objectives; others may also be appropriate to meet objectives dependent on conditions. My decision is that the silvicultural system which best meets objectives for a given situation will be applied.

The Highway 26 corridor is presently managed under an existing visual corridor management plan which will be revised to bring it into compliance with the Forest Plan. This includes incorporation and utilization of uneven-aged management along Highway 26 where it is appropriate.

5. Additional Indicator Species Suggested

A question regarding indicator species arose--concern was expressed about the preservation of pine marten habitat in old growth lodgepole pine on eastern Oregon forests. The Ochoco National Forest has approximately 10,000 acres of widely scattered lodgepole pine stands, most of which occur below the elevational limits for habitat for pine marten. In short, this particular Forest does not have the natural habitat to support a viable population of pine marten. The same situation exists for the northern three-toed woodpecker.

6. Ponderosa Pine Harvest Level Over Time

The State proposed that ponderosa pine volume be leveled within the first decade versus Alternative E-Departure I have chosen to do this over a two decade period, while attempting to minimize the drop and fluctuation and decline between decades two and five (Table 29).

Ponderosa pine volumes proposed for Alternative I are more stable over time than that of in the draft preferred (see Table 29). This is the result of changes from draft to final I have made involving return to sustained yield vs departure, the addition of uneven-aged management, changes in rotation diameters and extended rotations for some management areas, and the model constraints placed on maximum first decade pine volume. It should be noted that although pine volume is estimated to vary through time as showed by Table 29, combined species volume in Alternative I is on a sustained-yield basis

It is my belief that given the structure of the local economy and the uncertainty of the future that this approach better serves local economy needs and is more realistic given the complexities of controlling species mix, sale scheduling, and changing market conditions The gradual two decade decrease in ponderosa pine also allows more flexibility in working with neighboring National Forests in order to maintain a more stable timber supply for the Burns area

7. Harney County Timber Supply

Concern was expressed over future timber supply in Harney County. Attention was brought to the importance of the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests coordination to insure a relatively stable timber supply. It was asked that I analyze ASQ levels to try to more evenly schedule the ponderosa pine volume over time; including decline in the first decade to a sustainable level As with the ponderosa pine issue above, I have given considerable thought to this question. The same measures used to level Forest-wide pine volume apply to the Snow Mountain District pine volume scheduling Additional constraints were modeled at the District level to help address this concern

The State asked for 34 MMBF in the first decade from the Snow Mountain District with declining volume in decade two and beyond; and, that we, in conjunction with the Malheur National Forest, provide a stable flow of ponderosa pine from the Snow Mountain and Burns Ranger Districts in decades two through five. Table 30 shows that the projected volume from the Snow Mountain District is in agreement with the State's proposal Also, volume from decade two on can be manipulated with no effect on the first decade schedule The Ochoco National Forest volume, combined with a preliminary estimate from the Malheur National Forest, shows only minor deviations from the State recommendation until the fifth decade (third decade for pine volume). I am, however, directing the Malheur and Ochoco National Forests to continue to coordinate and monitor this issue with the intent of assuring the stability of a timber supply, within the extent practicable, in the Harney County area

8. Timber Volume Measurement

The State advocated use of both cubic foot and board foot targets for ASQ. This is simply not practical at this time There is considerable variation from stand to stand within the FORPLAN model classes, and it would be difficult to plan sales by making the board foot/cubic foot ratio of each stand a major decision factor in the selection of areas for harvest

The Regional and National direction (1920 ltr 9/13/88 and FS handbook 1922.15) is to use the actual cubic feet volume scheduled for harvest in the first decade to determine the board feet scheduled for harvest Both CF and BF will be tracked in monitoring The Forest Service expects to make the transition from the use of board feet to the use of cubic feet sometime within the first decade.

9. Uneven-aged Management

The State believes that the Forest should conduct uneven-aged management on more than 100,000 acres of ponderosa pine in the General Forest (MA-F22) in addition to riparian, visual areas, et al Again, I am in agreement in principal, but stand conditions such as mistletoe and stand structure may limit the practicality of this For now, the Plan will include management using uneven-aged management on 100,000 acres of ponderosa pine and ponderosa pine/mixed stands . As part of the implementation and monitoring we will look for additional opportunities to use uneven-aged management and where it will meet management objectives and where stand conditions are conducive it can be applied

TABLE 28
SUMMARY OF THE PROTECTION FOR ANADROMOUS FISH
Streams on the Ochoco National Forest (Miles)

	Total Perennial (P)	Perennial With Spawning (S)
Deschutes System	19	6
John Day System	68	36
Total	87	42

	No Timber Harvest 1/		Four Hundred Foot Corridor		Total (No Harvest & 400 Corridor)		Remaining w/ 200' Corridor Protection	
	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S
John Day Basin	31 5	20 7	12 0	7 8	43 5	28 5	24 5	7 5
Trout (Deschutes)	1 0	3	5 0	1 2	6 0	1 5	13 0	4 5
Total	32.5	21.0	17	9 0	49 5	30 0	37.5	12 0

1/ Includes streams in wilderness, allocated roadless and old growth areas

TABLE 29
ESTIMATED PONDEROSA PINE VOLUME (MMBF)

ALTERNATIVE	DECADE				
	1	2	3	4	5
DEIS - Alternative E-Departure	87	82	56	52	55
State's Proposal	79 (82-70)	70	70	70	70
Alternative I	82	80	70	63	63

TABLE 30
PROJECTED TIMBER SUPPLY VOLUMES 1/
(MMBF)

	Ochoco N F Snow Mountain RD		Malheur N F Burns RD		Total	
Decade	Total Volume	Pine Volume	Total Volume	Pine Volume	Total Volume	Pine Volume
1	35 0	26 0	53 0	29 0	87 0	57 0
2	31 0	26 0	54 0	25 0	85 0	51 0
3	33 0	23 0	49 0	19 0	82 0	42 0
4	21 0	16 0	56 0	24 0	77 0	40 0
5	24 0	18 0	47 0	22 0	71 0	40 0

1/ Includes volume potentially available from the Ochoco and Malheur National Forests in the Burns area (based on available information at this date - Malheur N F volumes subject to change based on outcome of their final plan)

10. Additional RNA's Suggested

The State pointed out they want to meet establishment of the natural areas identified in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan We therefore are in agreement on the five RNA's proposed in Alternative I The State further recommended that the Forest should work with the Oregon Natural Heritage Advisory Council to investigate the possibility of incorporating two potential additions they have identified I have directed the Forest to work with the PNW Experiment Station ecology section and with the Council to determine the significance of these and any other potential additions The Forest will recommend their incorporation into the Plan by amendment if they should so warrant

VI. REQUIRED COMPARISONS OF ALTERNATIVES

PRESENT NET VALUE (PNV) OF ALTERNATIVES

The preferred Final, Alternative I, has the highest PNV (Table 31). While Alternative I does not offer the greatest timber volumes of the alternatives considered, the amount of timber it provides does not exceed the point where discounted benefits equal or exceed discounted costs (marginal rate of return is positive), this, in addition to a high amount of nonmonetary benefits, provides for a relatively high level of economic efficiency Alternative B-Modified, while providing higher levels of timber availability, is actually less economically efficient In short, it exceeds the point where the discounted benefits are rising faster than the discounted costs. Another way of saying this, is that the value of the extra timber in this alternative is lower and the costs to get it are higher. Alternative C-Modified fails to capture economic opportunities and relies heavily on nonmonetary benefits (see FEIS Appendix B)

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE AND NONSELECTION RATIONALE

The "environmentally preferable" alternative is defined by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations as the alternative causing the least adverse impact to the biological and physical environment. This is Alternative C-Modified which emphasizes aesthetic values, wildlife, wilderness, dispersed and unroaded recreation on the Forest. These are nonmonetary resources which generally do not have established market values Economist's inability to express these values satisfactorily in monetary terms may be reflected in the PNV of this alternative, which is 395 million dollars (based on a 50-year period) as compared to Alternative B-Modified at 455 million dollars, which emphasizes commodity resources

TABLE 31
COMPARISON OF PNV BY ALTERNATIVE

(Millions of Dollars)

ALTERNATIVE	PNV
I-Preferred	475
E-DEP	471
B-MOD	455
A	421
C-MOD	395
NC	380

I did not select Alternative C-Modified or B-Modified The former fails to fully recognize demands imposed by local communities, and the economic realities of our society. Another way of expressing this is that Alternative C-Modified does not provide a balance between environmental considerations and economic realities; there are benefits associated with Alternative C-Modified, but implementation could be done only with very high costs and radical change to established local, social and economic settings (see Table 27) The corollary to this is Alternative B-Modified, which while possibly providing the greatest economic benefits in the short term, has potentially undesirable environmental and socio-economic effects over time. It reduces options and increases risk for environmental impacts and socio-economic change that could be irreversible

I believe Alternative I reflects recognition for the landscape and resource diversity of the Forest and Grassland through the allocations or management areas identified While the output of commodity resources from Alternative I is considerably greater than the "environmentally preferable" Alternative C-Modified, the specificity and detail in allocations, and subsequent mitigation through application of standards and guidelines (see Mitigation, p ROD-62) assures a high level of environmental protection and retention of future options

In my judgement, Alternative I provides appropriate environmental safeguards at a minimum direct economic cost This alternative incorporates the perspective that the Forest Service is the trustee of

the environment for succeeding generations An objective of Alternative I is to provide for the proper and continued development of resources in a manner that maintains economic stability, yet retains local natural heritages, such as wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, water quality, scenic qualities and open range.

VII - IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Forest Plan will be implemented through identification, selection, and scheduling of projects to meet the management goals and objectives provided by the Plan (see Plan Appendix A)

The schedule of proposed and possible projects for the first decade is contained in the appendices of the Forest and Grassland Plans Project schedules will be available for review at the Ranger District Offices and Supervisor's Office Schedules of possible projects will routinely change as projects are implemented or are removed from the listings for other reasons, and as new projects take their place. Adjustments to the schedule may be made based on results of monitoring, budgets, and unforeseen events

The Forest Plan provides direction in the form of goals and objectives, standards and guidelines, monitoring requirements, and probable scheduling of management practices It does not cover projects on specific sites except in a broad manner. Each proposed project will be subject to site-specific analysis and documentation in compliance with NEPA. Considerations revealed through this process may result in a decision not to proceed with the proposed project, even though the project may be permissible under the Forest Plan

The Plan's scheduled projects are translated into multiyear program budget proposals The schedule is used for requesting and allocating the funds needed to carry out the planned management direction The Forest's current year tentative annual program of work will be derived from this process Upon approval of a final budget for the Forest, the annual work program will be updated and carried out

The Forest work program will implement the management direction of the Forest Plan Outputs and activities in individual years may be significantly different from those shown in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan, depending on final budgets, new information derived from updated inventories and monitoring, and any future amendments or revisions of the Forest Plan

The Forest Plan supersedes or incorporates all previous land and resource management plans prepared for the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland as described by Table 1, p. ROD-4. Upon implementation of the Plans, management activities will be made to comply with them. Appropriations or budgets may alter the schedule of activities In addition, all permits, contracts, and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System Lands and resource uses must be in conformance with the Forest Plan. Such documents will be revised where needed as soon as practicable, subject to valid existing rights This updating will generally be done within three years

All timber sales offered for sale after issuance of the Forest Plan will be in compliance with direction contained in the Plan. Timber sales now under contract will be administered under provisions of the existing contracts Changes to existing timber sale contracts may be proposed on a case-by-case basis where overriding resource considerations are present. (See also, Consistency, p ROD-3)

AMENDMENT AND REVISION PROCESS

This Forest Plan may be changed either by an amendment or a revision Such changes may come about as a result of the monitoring process or project analysis (Figure 1, p ROD-61). An amendment may become necessary as a result of different situations They can include, for example:

- Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Team based on their review of monitoring results

- The determination that an existing or proposed permit, contract, cooperative agreement, or other instrument authorizing occupancy and use is not consistent with the Forest Plan, but should be approved, based on project level analysis

- Adjustment of management area boundaries or prescriptions

- Changes necessitated by resolution of administrative appeals

- Changes needed to improve monitoring plans or information and assumptions used in the Plan

- Changes to correct minor errors or omissions, including clarification of text and tables

- Changes made necessary by altered physical, social, or economic conditions

Based on an analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other aspects of the Forest Plan, the Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment would result in a significant change to the Plan. If the change is determined to be significant, the Forest Supervisor shall follow the same procedure as that required for development and approval of a plan. If the change is determined not to be significant, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment after appropriate public notice and compliance with the NEPA (Figure 1) The procedure is described by 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), FSM 1922.51-52 and FSH 1909.12

The Regional Forester will approve significant amendments, and the Forest Supervisor "non-significant" amendments. The determination of significance must be documented in a decision notice and would be appealable under 36 CFR 217. A mailing list will be maintained to provide notification and invitation to comment on proposed amendments.

The amendment documentation will include at a minimum:

- A statement of why we are amending the Forest Plan (some possible reasons are mentioned above)

- The actual amendment showing exactly how it will look

- Rationale for the amendment

- A statement of significance related to FSM 1922 51 (This is the NFMA significance and relates to changes to the Forest Plan)

- A statement regarding NEPA compliance (40 CFR 1500-1508, FSM 1950, and FSH 1909 15) regarding effects on the environment and how the effects disclosed in the Plan EIS may change as a result of the amendment

- A statement of the appeal rights.

With respect to revision, the NFMA requires revision of the Forest Plan at least every 15 years. However, it may be revised sooner if physical conditions or demands on the land and resources have changed sufficiently to affect overall goals or uses for the entire Forest If a revision becomes necessary, the procedures described in 36 CFR 219 12 will be followed. The Chief, however, must approve the scheduling of such revision

VIII. MONITORING AND MITIGATION

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

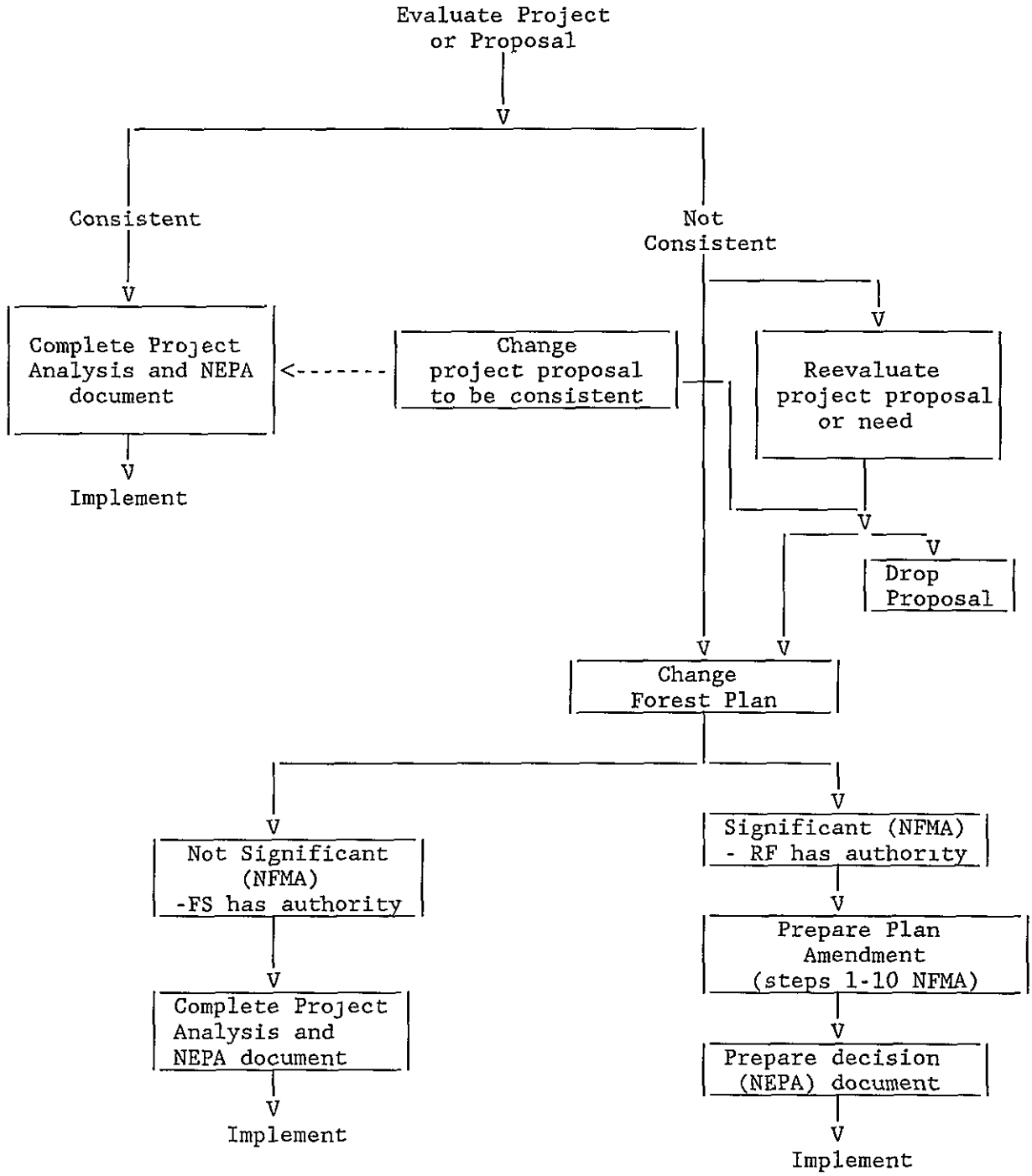
The Monitoring and Evaluation Program is the management control system for the Forest and Grassland Plans. It will be used to provide information on the progress and results of implementation. One of the results of monitoring will be an assessment of the need for amending or revising the Plan The monitoring and evaluation are discussed in more detail in Chapters 5 of the Plans

Monitoring is intended to help keep the Forest Plan dynamic and responsive to changes Monitoring and evaluation each have a distinctly different purpose and scope Monitoring consists of gathering data, observations and information During evaluation, the data and information are analyzed and interpreted This process provides the information necessary to determine if conditions are within the bounds and intent of the Plan direction. Forest Plan monitoring does not replace or substitute other Forest monitoring activities. Many activities are currently being monitored on the National Grassland and Forest to comply with administrative and legal responsibilities (FSM - 1410 Admin Review Procedures)

Monitoring and evaluation will provide information to determine if

- Management prescriptions are producing the predicted or desired environmental effects
- Laws, regulations, and policies are being followed, including Regional Guide and Plan Standards and Guidelines
- The Forest and Grassland Plan is responsive to the issues, concerns, and opportunities

FIGURE 1
AMENDMENT PROCESS AND DYNAMIC NATURE OF PLAN



- Costs of implementing the Plan are as projected.
- Predicted outputs are being produced.
- There are new issues and concerns not adequately addressed by the Plan.

Results of the evaluation will lead to decisions of the following types.

- Continue practice, no change necessary.
- Refer the problem to the appropriate Forest officer for corrective action
- Modify the management practice through Plan amendments
- Modify land allocations through Plan amendments.
- Revise output schedules.
- Revise unit output costs.
- Revise the Plan

MITIGATION

Mitigation measures are intended to minimize or eliminate potential conflicts or adverse effects of implementation. Mitigation measures have been developed through interdisciplinary efforts and incorporated into the Plans at different levels in several different ways

- The standards and guidelines and management area prescriptions in Chapter 4 of the Plan are a fundamental and integral part of these measures, and as such they are a basic and essential part of the Plan.

- The allocations (Tables 5 and 6, pp ROD 16-17) play an important role in mitigation by the separation of incompatible uses, impacts, and conflicts.

- National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requirements were incorporated into the planning process and are reflected in the allocations and standards and guidelines (EIS Appendix B, and SEIS, Pt II)

- "General Water Quality Best Management Practices" (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, November 1988. 86p) are incorporated by reference under requirements of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

- Mitigation measures are developed at the site-specific project level of planning, and projects are "tiered" to other planning level measures above (see p. ROD-1).

IX. APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR 217 by filing a written notice of appeal within 90 days after the publish date of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on September 15, 1989. The appeal must be filed with:

F. Dale Robertson, Chief
USDA Forest Service
P O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090
Reviewing Officer

A copy must simultaneously be sent to:

James F. Torrence, Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region
USDA Forest Service
319 S W. Pine
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
Reviewing Officer

The notice of appeal must include sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why this decision should be changed or reversed (36 CFR 217 9). Requests to stay approval of the Forest Plan under 36 CFR 217 will not be granted

Decisions on site-specific projects are not made in this document. The schedule of proposed and possible projects for the first decade is contained in the appendices of the Forest Plan. Final decisions on these proposed projects will be made after site-specific analysis and documentation in compliance with NEPA.

If you would like more information on the Forest Plan or environmental statement, contact the Forest Supervisor in Prineville. I encourage anyone who is concerned about the Plan(s), or decisions herein, to check first with the Forest Supervisor in Prineville, Oregon, (503)447-6247, before submitting an appeal, to see if concerns or misunderstandings might be resolved.

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