

*[Text in brown italics has been added to the original 1986 document for clarification]*

## VALLECITOS FEDERAL SUSTAINED YIELD UNIT:

The Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit was established on January 1, 1948, on the El Rito Ranger District in accordance with section 3 of the Sustained Yield Forest Management Act of March 29, 1944. The Unit includes about 73,400 acres of National Forest, of which, about 61,400 acres is classed as suitable timber land.

In addition to providing multiple-use benefits as derived from the National Forest as a whole, the purpose of the unit is to maintain a stable community or communities where such maintenance is primarily dependent upon the sale of timber or other forest products from federally owned or administered lands. To help maintain community support through a stable timber industry, exceptions to competitive bidding may be authorized within the VFSYU; timber is then sold at appraised value. Additional support is provided by requirements specifying primary manufacturing be performed with the Unit, and by specifying most employees be local residents.

Primary management direction for the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit (VFSYU) is provided by standards and guidelines established for the Management Areas *[forestwide plan components under the 2021 Land and Resource Management Plan]*. Standards and guidelines listed in this subsection relate more specifically to administration, and are intended in support of existing law and Forest Service policy regarding Federal Sustained Yield Units. Appropriate references include FSM 2410; and as specified there, the following laws:

- Sustained-Yield Act of March 29, 1944, (16 USC 583-583i).
- 36 CFR 223.117, Administration of Cooperative or Federal Sustained-Yield Units.
- 36 CFR 221.3, Disposal of National Forest Timber According to Management Plans.

While it is appropriate to incorporate the VFSYU Policy Statement into the Forest Plan, and to review and revise both on a 10-year time frame; the intent of the Forest Plan is to establish the Policy Statement (and related standards and guidelines) within the framework of authorities defined in the aforementioned references. As prescribed, additional reviews and subsequent changes to the Policy Statement may be made by the appropriate authority; these will not constitute a major amendment or revision to the Forest Plan. *[This Policy Statement is separate and distinct from plan direction included in the 2021 Land and Resource Management Plan.]*

The following standards and guidelines form the Policy Statement for the continuation of the VFSYU.

**PROVISIONS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT...** The primary purpose for establishment of the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit is to provide the maximum feasible, permanent support to the Vallecitos community and nearby areas from forest products industries obtaining a wood products supply from the national Forest Lands of the Unit. Wood products from the Unit will, therefore, be sold under conditions designed to promote the following objectives:

- Provide local residents with an opportunity to establish a wood products business.
- Maintenance of steady employment opportunities in the Vallecitos community and nearby areas both within each year and from year to year.
- Employment of local resident work force.
- Opportunity for those living within and near the Unit to obtain lumber for their local requirements.
- Efficient operation and maintenance of plant facilities; and, as supported by the economics of the Unit and Northern New Mexico area, additions to plant facilities to keep them in step with technical advances in forest products utilization and manufacture.

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Individual timber sale agreements will contain such provisions as are deemed advisable by the Regional Forester to attain these objectives. The Chief may designate an approved responsible operator or operators to whom wood products may be sold without competition and may, within his discretion, rescind such designation or designations.

**HARVEST LEVEL...** The harvest level for the VFSYU is defined as part of the Forest-wide allowable sale quantity and has been set at an average 7.6 MMBF/YR. The intent is to split this into 6.5 MMBF/YR sawtimber and 1.1 MMBF/YR products. Allocation to approved responsible operators is defined in subsequent paragraphs. The harvest level is based on a suitable timber land base of approximately 61,400 acres.

Harvest levels for the next decade will be made following a Forest-wide inventory and in conjunction with revision of the Forest Plan.

**EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS...** The following standards and guidelines relate to employment of persons engaged in harvesting, transporting material to manufacturing sites, and manufacturing material from the VFSYU.

Employment areas shown are generally defined as follows:

- Area "A" includes areas around the communities of Vallecitos, La Petaca, Las Tablas, La Madera, Canon Plaza, and Servilleta Plaza.
- Area "B" reaches out farther and includes communities of El Rito, Ojo Caliente, Canjilon, and Tres Piedras.
- Outside - All areas not included in areas A and B.

These employment areas are more specifically defined on a map on file in the Carson National Forest Supervisor's Office and at the El Rito District Ranger's Office.

Provided qualified applicants are available and except as specifically noted in subsequent paragraphs the following employment requirements apply to all responsible operators on the VFSYU.

Percent of Employees That Must Be Residents of the Employment Area	Employment Area
66%	A
95%	A & B
5%	Outside

A resident of employment Areas A and B shall be defined as a person who actually resides in this area for nine (9) months of any calendar year.

Exceptions to the employment requirements include:

- Specialists employed temporarily for not more than two weeks.
- Owners and supervisory positions approved as exempt by the Forest Service.
- Non-residents, if local applicants are not available as described in subsequent paragraphs. These cases must be fully supported by documentation.

Supervisory positions approved as exempt for the present single approved responsible operator (5.5 MMBF/YR) include:

Mill Yard Foreman	Logging Manager
Millwright	Logging Superintendent
Shop Foreman or Sawyer	Log Cutting Foreman
Sales Manager	Skidding and Road Construction Foreman

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To facilitate determination of compliance with local labor requirements the Forest Supervisor may designate a work group of local citizens.

The determination of whether qualified applicants are available shall be made by the Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Approved responsible operators will use the services of the ESC to obtain qualified local employees if needed to meet employment requirements.

When required by sale contract or permit provisions, approved responsible operators will submit to the Forest Supervisor, the Chairman of the local work-group, and the office of the Employment Security Commission, a list of employees on his payroll on the last working day of the prior month, with their resident addresses.

**UTILIZATION STANDARDS...** Utilization standards for the VFSYU are the same as defined for the Forest as a whole and specified in FSM 2450.

Conifer sawtimber:	9.0" - DBH to a 6" - d.i.b. top
Aspen sawtimber:	10.0" - DBH to an 8" - d.i.b. top
Products:	5.0 to 8.9" - DBH to a 4" - d.i.b. top
Other convertible products:	<5" - DBH to a usable top diameter [2" top d.i.b. for green firewood]

**ALLOCATION OF THE HARVEST LEVEL, PRICING DETERMINATION, PRIMARY MANUFACTURING REQUIREMENTS, AND APPROVAL OF RESPONSIBLE OPERATORS...** The following standards and guidelines define the harvest allocation to approved responsible operators, specification of competitive or non competitive pricing, location requirements for primary manufacturing facilities, and authority responsible for approving responsible operators (same authority for rescinding designation).

● 5.5 MMBF/YR sawtimber will be allocated on a non-competitive basis to a single approved responsible operator maintaining primary manufacturing facilities within a 1-mile radius of the community of Vallecitos. Primary manufacturing means production of lumber. A planer facility is not required but appraisal will be based on finished lumber. The operator must agree to permit those people living within or near the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit to purchase lumber from the sawmill, at a fair price, in any amount necessary to meet their personal requirement, but not for resale. The operator must also agree not to restrict such local purchases to specific sizes or grades of lumber. People living within and near the Vallecitos Federal Sustained Yield Unit are defined as those people who are residents of the area designated as Area A or B and who actually reside in that area for nine (9) months of any calendar year. As approved by the Chief, the present operator, Duke City Lumber Company Inc., will be continued as the approved responsible operator for the 5.5 MMBF/YR of sawtimber. *[Duke City Lumber Company Inc. is no longer the approved responsible operator.]*

● 1.0 MMBF/YR sawtimber will be allocated on a non-competitive basis in individual quantities ranging from 50 to 500 MMBF/YR to new approved responsible operators, approved by the Chief of the Forest Service or through delegation to the Forest Supervisor. These new responsible operators must establish and maintain primary manufacturing facilities within employment area "A." Primary manufacturing means production of lumber. A planer facility is not required but appraisal will be based on finished lumber. This allocation of sawtimber will be exclusively for smaller-scale operations.

● Non-convertible products and 1.1 MMBF of products (trees 5 to 8.9"DBH) will be allocated on a competitive basis to new responsible operators approved by the Forest Supervisor. Approval will be based on meeting "provisions for community support," "employment requirements," and specific manufacturing requirements. Manufacturing requirements for this material are:

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- No facility is required for sales that produce a product directly in the woods, but employment requirements must still be met. Examples might be Christmas trees, wildings, and in some cases firewood or viga.
  - A facility within employment area "A" is required for sale of material that may require a wood yard for splitting, viga peeling plant, or similar plant facility.
  - The following materials may be sold or otherwise provided, on an equal basis, to the public for their personal use:
    - small amounts of the 1.0 MMBF/YR sawtimber and 1.1 MMBF/YR products,
    - convertible products from trees less than 5-inch DBH,
    - non-convertible products,
    - green firewood from non-commercial species, and
    - dead/dry firewood.
- Exceptions can be made for salvage unanticipated timber losses, National emergencies or other significant factors.
- The Regional Forester can provide exception to manufacturing requirements and associated employment requirements for salvage material which cannot be given primary manufacture within the unit before the material deteriorates.
  - The harvest level for the unit may be changed at any time due to unanticipated timber losses, National emergencies or other significant factors upon recommendation of the Regional Forester and approval of the Chief.

**OTHER STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES...** All new road construction will be local-terminal and designed for closure after harvest, treatments (TSI and Reforestation) and firewood slash cleanup are completed.

Forest Rds. 244 and 44 (existing) will be improved to single lane with turnouts commensurate with user safety, resource protection, and efficient maintenance.