

TERRESTRIAL DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION STATEMENTS

Desired Future Condition: 1a2 *Mule deer winter range will contain a vegetative composition of species that: 1) provide sufficient nutritional value to sustain wintering mule deer and insure that fawns are born in good condition; 2) provide sufficient thermal and hiding cover; (Create a mosaic of seral stages mimicing what was present 300 years ago.) (Provide adequate quality winter range to achieve deer population objectives.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Existing conditions of mule deer winter range are not adequate in quantity or quality to support a healthy deer herd.	UP, USFS, BLM - Land management agencies are responsible for managing habitat	1a2, 1a4, 1a12, 4d33, 1h6

Desired Future Condition: 1b1 *Vegetation management activities, livestock grazing, road use, maintenance and development will occur on the Uncompahgre Plateau in ways that do not result in habitat fragmentation that negatively impacts wildlife species or their habitat. (Opportunity for lots of specifics on size and densities of activities, maintenance level, design, timing of use, etc.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Human uses such as roads, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, fire suppression, etc. can result in habitat fragmentation. Fragmentation of habitat can affect wildlife species ability to effectively use the land.	USFS, BLM, UP	1b1, 1b5, 1b8, 1b9, 1b12, 1b13, 1b14, 1b15, 1b16, 1b17
Increasing development in the area (roads, subdivisions) are having a negative impact on wildlife populations.	USFS, BLM, UP, CDOW, LOCAL COUNTY	1b14
The increase in recreation activities has resulting in habitat fragmentation and is having negative effects on wildlife.	USFS, BLM, UP, CDOW, LOCAL COUNTY	1b15
Elk appear to be resilient to human uses provided they can find food and shelter.	USFS, BLM, UP, CDOW, LOCAL COUNTY	1b16, 1b17

Desired Future Condition: 1b6 *Large blocks of habitat and connecting corridors are maintained on the landscape to provide habitat for those species that require this type of habitat. (Lots of opportunities for different alternatives on areas, size of areas, target wildlife species, different levels of commodity production/human use.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Large blocks of undisturbed habitat should be maintained to provide refuge for wildlife and allow for migration.	USFS, BLM, Private Landowners?	1b6, 1b2, 1b3

Desired Future Condition: 1b7 *Vegetation conditions on the Uncompahgre Plateau will be managed to provide sufficient habitat to maintain viable populations of all native and desired non-native species of wildlife.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Data is needed on what types of habitat for different wildlife species is provided by existing conditions. Do existing conditions provide all the habitat needed for the different species found on the Uncompahgre Plateau?	USFS, BLM, UP, CDOW	1b7, 1b10, 4b17
Data is needed on species occurrence on the Uncompahgre Plateau.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	1b10
Management practices should include the historic range of variation in plants and animals .	USFS, BLM, UP	4b17

Desired Future Condition: 1c1 *Populations of large predator species (bear, coyote, mountain lion) and their habitat will be maintained on the Uncompahgre Plateau. Predator populations will be balanced with desired population levels of desired prey species.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Biodiversity had been lost because we no longer have a predator dominated wildlife population on the Uncompahgre Plateau.	CDOW, USFS, BLM, UP	1c1
We need predator control of bears, coyotes and mountain lions.	CDOW, Wildlife Services (WS), Wildlife Commission, voters?	1c2

Desired Future Condition: 1c3 *Animal damage control, or the control of specific individual predator animals causing livestock loss, will be allowed. (could have alternatives on conditions under which it can occur, methods that can be used, and locations where it can be done.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Predator species negatively impact livestock operations.	CDOW, WS, USFS, BLM	1c3

Desired Future Condition: 1c4 *Priority bear habitat is managed so that it continues to provide habitat for bear over time. See also 1b1.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
1) Human/bear encounters have been increasing as more humans uses occur in bear habitat and as bear populations increase. 2) The north end of the Uncompahgre Plateau has good bear habitat.	1) CDOW, Wildlife Commission, voters? 2) USFS (habitat)	1c4
Acorns are an important part of bears diet.	USFS, BLM	1c5

Desired Future Condition: 1d4 *Manage big game winter range on public land to provide sufficient forage and habitat for wintering animals, so animals will remain on public lands.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Elk on private lands are creating economic impacts to land owners by eating forage intended for livestock.	Landowners, CDOW, HPP	1d4
Elk are spending more and more time on private lands where they are not accessible to hunters and cannot be harvested.	Landowners, CDOW, Wildlife Commission	1d5, 1d2, 1d1, 1d3, 1d4, 1d6, 1d7, 4b33
The pinyon-juniper cover type is not providing adequate winter forage for elk, causing elk to move to and winter on private lands.	USFS, BLM, UP, HPP	1d7

Desired Future Condition: 1e2 *Desired populations for deer and elk herds on this landscape are established and maintained within the carrying capacity of the land, including consideration of the livestock numbers that are also grazed on the Uncompahgre Plateau.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Elk and deer compete with each other for forage and habitat.	CDOW, Wildlife Commission	1e2, 1e1, 1e10
Large concentrations of elk can be harmful to the land and should be distributed.	CDOW, USFS, BLM, UP	1e3
Elk populations have increase causing deer populations to decrease and resulting in overuse of available forage in combination with deer and livestock use. More elk licenses need to be sold to bring elk populations down.		1e5
Cattle are being managed in lieu of managing elk, consider managing both.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, Wildlife Commission	1e10

Desired Future Condition: 1e4 *Vegetation conditions will be managed to provide forage and habitat for both desired big game populations (see 1.e.2) and permitted livestock numbers, Vegetation conditions will be consistent with 1.h.3 and 4.b.2.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Domestic and wild animals use the same lands and compete for the same vegetation.	CDOW, USFS, BLM, UP	1e4, 1e5, 1e6, 1e7, 1e8, 1h2
Cattle are being managed in lieu of managing elk, consider managing both.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, Wildlife Commission	1e10

Desired Future Condition: 1e8 *See 1e4. NOTE: The Wilderness Act allows livestock grazing in designated Wilderness areas. Livestock and human use can be prohibited from other specially designated areas, such as Research Natural Areas.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Reduce livestock numbers to favor elk and deer. Livestock grazing should not be allowed where human use is not allowed.	USFS, BLM	1e8

Desired Future Condition: 1f1 *Habitat for threatened, endangered and sensitive species will be protected and improved where possible to insure species conservation.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Habitat should be improved for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, or species with declining population trends.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	1f1, 1f2, 1f3, 1f4

Desired Future Condition: 1g5 *Provide areas that are conducive to big game hunting.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Road closures have an effect on hunter success and elk populations.	USFS, BLM, CDOW	1g5
Additional wilderness could limit hunting.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, Congress	1g6
There are areas on the plateau that provide good scenic photographic opportunities as well as prosperous hunting.	USFS, BLM, CDOW	1g7

Desired Future Condition: 1h3 *Wildlife habitat/ vegetation will be managed to maintain a diversity of habitats for associated plant and animal species across the landscape, over time. (This could be narrowed with specifics on ways to measure this diversity.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Manage wildlife habitat for sustainable populations of all species.	USFS, BLM, UP	1h3, 1h4, 1h5, 1i3, 4b4, 4b22
Each land management action has some net affect on wildlife and habitat (positive or negative).	USFS, BLM, UP	1h5
All wildlife species have value.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	1i1, 1i2
Viewing wildlife on the Uncompahgre Plateau is a desirable activity.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	1i3

Desired Future Condition: 1h7 Down woody debris will be managed in ways to provide habitat for those species that require it (e.g. Canada Lynx, American marten), and not be allowed to accumulate in ways that would be detrimental to other species (e.g. windrowing or slash accumulation that precludes big game movement).

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Down woody debris is considered to be detrimental to some wildlife species.	USFS, BLM, UP	1h7, 5a3

Desired Future Condition: 4a2 Forest vegetation is managed to perpetuate desired native plant species and to eliminate noxious weeds. (All tools including mechanical, cultural and chemical are used.) (Invasive species are aggressively treated and controlled. Native vegetation is encouraged as a means of preventing spread of invasives.)

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Invasive or noxious weed species are impacting rangelands and water courses.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties	4a1
There is a need to control the spread of noxious weeds.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties	4a2
Noxious weed infestations are increasing over time.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties	4a3
Noxious weeds are difficult to control and can alter the native vegetation.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties, Landowners	4a4, 4a7, 4a8, 4a9, 4a13, 4a15, 4a17, 4a18, 4a20, 4a21
Native plants should be used to reseed treatments or disturbed areas.	USFS, BLM, UP	4a22

Desired Future Condition: 4a12 Riparian areas along streams and rivers will be managed for desirable native plant species.

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Tamarisk and Russian olive are negatively altering riparian areas.	BLM, The Nature Conservancy, San Miguel County	4a12, 4a5, 4a6, 4a14

Desired Future Condition: 4a16 *Human activities will be managed to prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Human activities are often the source of non native weed seed.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties	4a16, 4a10, 4a20, 4a21
Rock and gravel used on the Forest needs to come from sources located on the Forest to prevent introduction of noxious weeds.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties, Landowners	4a11

Desired Future Condition: 4a19 *Forest users are informed on noxious weed issues. (See also DC# 12a)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Education and awareness can help with the "war on weeds"	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties, Landowners	4a19

Desired Future Condition: 4b1 *Pinyon-juniper and sagebrush cover types on the landscape are in conditions where plant species are in good condition, a diversity of structural stages are present, there is a diversity of species, vegetation production is high and a diversity of habitats are provided for many animal species.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Diversity and productivity of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush ecotypes have declined over time.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	4b1, 4b3, 4b8, 4b14, 4b23, 4b25, 4b26, 4b27, 4b28, 4b29, 4b32
Extremely hot fires can temporarily sterilize surface soils. See also 2b14	USFS, BLM, UP	4b14

Desired Future Condition: 4b2 *A variety of cover types are present on the landscape where plant species are in good condition, a diversity of structural stages are present, vegetation production is high and diversity of habitats are provided for many animal species.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
A landscape diverse in plant species and ecosystems is desirable.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	4b2, 4b13, 4b15, 4b17, 4b19, 4b21, 4b24, 4b31, 5a8, 5a11
Diverse habitat is provided by a full range of vegetation age classes, snags and old growth.	USFS, BLM, UP	4b7
Too much of the aspen, pinyon-juniper and scrub oak cover type is in a uniform mature stage.	USFS, BLM, UP	4b8
There are a variety of tools that can be used to manipulate the forest vegetation to achieve a healthy ecosystem.		4b9
Existing forest conditions have less openings in the forest canopy, biodiversity and forest health is compromised, leading to increased fire and insect risk.		4b10
Transitional shrubland and grassland are important land types.		4b19
Maintain some large trees on the landscape.		5a8

Desired Future Condition: 4b5 *The land is managed to minimize loss of forest vegetation resulting from fire or insect and disease infestation.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Fire, insect and disease hazards need to be reduced.	USFS, BLM, UP, Counties	4b5, 4b10, 4b18, 4b29, 4b30
Pine plantations on the south end of the Plateau need to be thinned to reduce threat of insect infestations.	USFS	4b18

Desired Future Condition: 4b6 *(More effort to allow fires to burn whenever possible. More timber harvest, especially clearcut aspen.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
<i>(Over management of fires, undermanagement of old growth timber)</i>	USFS	4b6

Desired Future Condition: 4b12 *The land remains in a natural state. (Prioritize natural healthy but use management techniques. Allow human uses up to the threshold of degrading the "natural state". Choose health over economic or other human interests.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Management should favor the land and its natural processes over accommodating man and his uses of the land.	USFS, BLM, UP	4b12

Desired Future Condition: 4b16 *See 2.b.15, move to aquatics*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Naturally occurring soil fungi plays an important role(s) in nutrient cycling, water relations and plant pathology.	USFS, BLM, UP	4b16

Desired Future Condition: 4c17 *One definition of ecosystem approach (or management) is a method for sustaining or restoring natural systems and their functions and values. It is goal driven, and it is based on a collaboratively developed vision of desired future conditions that integrates ecological, economic and social factors. It is applied within a geographic framework defined primarily by ecological boundaries. (Cortner, Gordon, Risser, Teegarden, Thomas, 1999)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
A landscape approach to ecosystem management should be used.	USFS, BLM, UP	4c7, 4c1, 4c2, 4c5, 4c8, 4c9
Agencies should work together in an ecosystem approach.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP, Congress	4c3, 4c4, 4c6

Desired Future Condition: 5a4 *Timber management is done using scientifically accepted methodologies specific to the different timber species. Timber management for timber production will only occur on lands designated as suited for timber production. Timber management for other reasons may occur on lands designated as not suited for timber production. Timber harvest will be sustainable over time and compatible with other desired conditions to provide a diversity of habitats.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Timber management should be done with scientifically accepted techniques.	USFS, BLM, CDOW, UP	5A4, 5A1, 5A2, 5A3, 5A4, 5a7, 5a12-5a17, 5b1, 5b2, 5b3, 5b4, 5b5, 5b6, 5c1, 5c2, 7b9
Selective timber harvest should be used to remove old growth aspen, pinyon/juniper and oak.	USFS, BLM	5a2
Selective harvest is an appropriate silvicultural tool.	USFS	5a7
Thinning and prescribed fire are tools for managing ponderosa pine.		5a17
Timber harvest should be sustainable, only occur on areas determined to be suitable and acceptable, using techniques that result in the least impacts to other resources.	USFS, BLM, Colorado State Forest Service	5b1, 5b4, 5b5, 5b6
Past USFS planting activities resulted in negative impacts to soils and aesthetics.	USFS	5a12
Clearcuts should be outlawed. Associated roading has additional impacts.	USFS, Landowners, Congress	5c1
Note: Current USFS policy does not allow converting one forest cover type to another cover type.	USFS	5a6

Desired Future Condition: 5a6 *Powerline corridors will be maintained to ensure reduced fire hazard. Cleared wood materials will be removed and utilized in some approved way. (Cooperative management objectives between utility companies and land management agencies to the overall benefit of the ecosystem, forest product utilization, public safety, utility reliability and local and national economies.)*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Vegetation cleared/felled under powerline corridors should be removed and wood products should be utilized. <i>(Integrate utility maintenance issues of utility corridors with goals and objectives of land management agencies and UP so all parties benefit.)</i>	USFS, WAPA, power companies	5a6

Desired Future Condition: 5a9 *Wood fiber / lumber is produced in a sustainable manner.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Trees should be used as a lumber resource.	USFS, BLM, UP?	5a9, 5a10

Desired Future Condition: 5a18 *Market opportunities exist for small diameter material which allows thinning operations to occur under stewardship contracts.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Ponderosa pine stands need to be thinned to improve growing conditions and reduce risks of fire and insect infestations. There is a need to develop market opportunities that use small diameter material so it is economical for operators to bid on thinning contracts.	USFS, UP, county economic development, loggers	5a18, 5a19, 5a21

Desired Future Condition: 5d1 *Opportunities to collect firewood will continue to be provided. These opportunities could be used to reduce risks of fire and insect/disease.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Firewood should be free when collection thins and reduces the threat of insect infestations,	USFS, BLM	5d1, 5d2, 5d3
Driving access to firewood should be allowed. There should be no limitations on the material that can be taken for firewood.	USFS, BLM	5d2

Desired Future Condition: 5e1 *Projects will be economically viable. See also 3s.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Timber sales should not cost the government money.	USFS	5e1

Desired Future Condition: 5e1 *A small sales timber program is viable and feasible. See also 3d.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Small timber operators require a consistent supply of sales in order to remain a viable business.	USFS	5e2

Desired Future Condition: 6b4 *Revegetation efforts will emphasize the use of native species.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Recovery plans need to be developed to determine what revegetation needs will result from a given project and/or natural disturbance.	USFS, BLM	6b4

Desired Future Condition: 6a6 Fire management (use of prescribed and natural fires) activities are used to protect people, property and forest areas. These activities are also used to attain resource management objectives (I.e. improve forage and habitat). Activities are conducted in a manner that considers environmental, social and economic criteria. (Use fire in conjunction with other disturbances to create a mosaic of vegetative age classes in the various plant communities on the Plateau.) (Determine the dynamic range of landscapes and utilize active management to restore/retain processes.)

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Natural disturbance regimes have been altered by man and National Fire Plan projects are not an easy cure to correct the lack of disturbance.	USFS, BLM, UP	6a2, 6a12
Prescribed fire can be used as a tool to prevent catastrophic fire occurrence and to improve habitat for wildlife.	USFS, BLM, UP	6a6, 6a1-6a20, 6b1-6b3, 6c1-6c7
Current ecological conditions in fire dependent cover types are the result of fire suppression.	USFS, BLM, UP	4b21
Natural frequent low intensity fires thinned and reduced understory vegetation in ponderosa pine.		6a11
Prescribed fires can contribute smoke to air pollution and affect global warming.	USFS, BLM	6a13
The natural disturbance regimes need to be determined so that treatments can be designed to mimic these disturbances. Treatments must be monitored and adjustments made as needed.	USFS, BLM, UP, universities	6a18
Communication between private landowners and public land managers needs to be improved during planning and implementation of projects so all parties understand each other's concerns.	USFS, BLM, UP	6b3
Private lands need to be protected from wildfires that originate on public lands.	USFS, BLM, Colorado State Forest Service, Counties, Landowners	6a3
Fire science must be tailored to the specific site.	USFS, BLM, UP	6a1
Clearcuts do not mimic the effects of fires.	USFS, BLM	5c3

Desired Future Condition: 7a3 Livestock grazing is allowed on public land under permit. Grazing is done in a sustainable manner that promotes native plant species and ecosystem health. Livestock grazing will be managed in combination with wildlife habitat needs. (Healthy, robust rangelands that protect watersheds, enhance wildlife habitat and provide forage for local dependent livestock operations.)

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Livestock (cattle and sheep) grazing should be continued on the Uncompahgre Plateau.	USFS, BLM	7a3, 7a1-7a17, 7b1-7b9, 7c1
Poor Forest Service management has resulted in poor grazing management and poor rangeland condition.	USFS, livestock permittees	7a7, 7a8, 7b8
Providing livestock grazing opportunities on public lands will help keep livestock operators in business and keep open space (ranches) intact.	USFS, BLM, livestock operators	7a9
Range management has been improved as new allotment management plans are implemented which change: pasture configuration, length of stay in pastures, etc.	USFS, livestock permittees	7a10, 7a11, 7a12, 7a13
Vegetation treatments need to be done on a large enough scale that grazing does not negate the benefits and result in invasive species taking over.	USFS, BLM, UP, livestock operators	7a17
Livestock grazing should be done in ways that result in improved watershed health.	USFS, BLM, UP, livestock operators	7b3, 7b6
Livestock grazing on open ranges results in negative impacts to riparian areas	USFS, BLM, UP, livestock operators	7b4
Livestock grazing can result in damage to aspen regeneration.	USFS, BLM, UP, livestock operators	7b5
Use cattle, sheep and logging as management tools.	USFS, BLM, UP, livestock operators	7b9
A baseline capacity for grazing should be determined	USFS, BLM, livestock operators	7c1

Desired Future Condition: 7b10 *Riparian areas will contain healthy vegetation and produce quality water.*

What I heard you say...	Responsible Agency	Original Comment ID
Move cattle away from the riparian zones.	USFS, BLM, livestock operators	7b10