

# Forest Goals and Objectives

## Introduction

This chapter describes management direction that will guide administration and use of the San Bernardino National Forest until the Forest Plan is amended or revised. Direction is the guidance Forest personnel will use to achieve the desired or anticipated results. It also informs the public and other agencies of planned programs, facilitating their understanding and cooperation.

At the National level, laws passed by Congress provide direction for varying aspects of forest management. The Resources Planning Act (RPA) gives broad direction. At the Regional level, the Regional Guide gives direction for management as well as target outputs for various resources on each National Forest.

In addition, the Forest Service has developed regulations and policies for the management of resources in response to legislation or management needs. This direction is contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and in Forest Service manuals (FSM) and handbooks (FSH), and covers a wide range of direction for managing Forest resources.

The San Bernardino National Forest will continue to be guided by the laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines mentioned. This Forest Plan supplements, but does not replace the direction from these sources. The Plan generally does not restate this direction, except for Manual or policy statements where it was felt necessary to clarify treatment of an issue or concern.

Forest goals (Section B) are the first level of direction in the Plan. Goals provide the broad, overall direction for the type and amount of goods and services that the Forest will provide in the future. The Forest goals are followed by a discussion of the expected future condition of the Forest with the implementation of the Forest Plan (Section C).

Section D describes the various management emphases which will be used in the application of prescriptions and general management of the Forest. Tables in Section E show commodity outputs and costs by time period.

Section F describes the management areas, the number of acres involved, the management emphases and prescriptions for the area, and a summary of direction for each management area.

Forestwide Standards and Guidelines (Section G), more specifically describe how the Forest goals will be achieved, and set the minimum conditions that must be maintained while achieving the goals and adhering to policies and regulations.

Management prescriptions (Section H) state the mix of integrated management practices and activities that will be conducted on Forest management areas, and provide area-specific program direction statements.

## AIR QUALITY

Emphasize protection of air quality in a manner consistent with State and Federal air quality objectives.

## CHAPARRAL MANAGEMENT

Manage chaparral lands to create and maintain age-class mosaics to support Forest resource management objectives and protection needs.

## DIVERSITY

Manage for at least ten percent of each seral (successional) stage well distributed in each vegetation type.

Maintain natural diversity by emphasizing the use of native trees and shrubs for revegetation.

Manage vegetation to maintain and improve habitat diversity for wildlife. Maintain the current distribution of plant and animal species.

Enhance diversity of wildlife through transplants of desirable species to suitable habitat.

## FACILITIES

Provide a Forest transportation system for administrative access and a variety of public uses.

Provide support facilities to meet Forest management requirements.

## FIRE AND FUELS

Emphasize both a fuel reduction and resource improvement program through vegetation management and an efficient fire organization to minimize wildfire losses.

## FOREST PESTS

Apply integrated pest management techniques in a timely manner to avoid significant pest damage to forests and woodlands.

## HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Inventory, protect, evaluate and enhance historical and cultural resources in accordance with legislative and administrative direction.

## LANDS

Acquire, through purchase or exchange, private lands necessary to meet National Forest resource objectives. Retain lands which can be managed primarily for National Forest purposes.

Dispose of National Forest lands that do not support Forest Service programs, are significantly impacted by private development, or do not otherwise contribute to efficient National Forest management.

Consolidate ownership and improve management efficiency through purchase or exchange of private land.

Acquire rights-of-way across private land in order to meet resource management needs and provide public access.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Provide a level of law enforcement that ensures compliance with laws and regulations, and provides for the protection of Forest employees, Forest resources, and the public.

Maintain cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

## MINERALS

Allow energy and non-energy mineral development while protecting other resource values; through restoration, reclamation and/or mitigation measures.

## RANGE

Utilize grazing as a method to meet vegetation and wildlife management goals in harmony with other Forest resources.

## RECREATION

Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities with a shift toward day use activities.

Expand interpretive services program and activities.

Increase alpine ski opportunities through expansion of existing ski areas. Improve cross-country opportunities through management of motorized vehicles in winter.

Provide off-highway vehicle opportunities compatible with other recreation activities and resources through development of a designated system of trails.

Protect and enhance riparian areas, giving emphasis to riparian dependent resources.

Manage existing uses and activities in riparian areas to reduce conflicts with riparian dependent resources.

Inventory and monitor riparian areas to identify and quickly correct problems.

Maintain water flow needed to support aquatic and riparian areas and dependent uses.

## SOILS

Maintain long-term soil productivity and prevent permanent degradation of soils.

## SPECIAL AREAS

Provide recognition for unique features on the Forest such as representative samples of particular ecosystems, unusual geologic features, and major archaeological sites, by acknowledging existing designations and recommending classification for additional sites that meet CFR criteria.

## TIMBER

Manage conifer forest and woodland vegetation types to achieve natural-appearing, all-age stands while maintaining and enhancing the health and vigor of the trees.

Manage to achieve favorable conditions for wildlife and fish, recreation and fuels management, and utilize the byproducts to provide wood products for commercial and individual use.

## VISUAL RESOURCES

Meet adopted Visual Quality Objectives in all areas.

## WATER

Maintain or enhance water quality to meet or exceed beneficial use (see GLOSSARY) requirements.

Coordinate with appropriate agencies to improve water yield on Forest.

Acquire water rights where necessary to support National Forest management.

Correct watershed improvement needs within two decades.

## WILDERNESS

Manage wilderness areas to maintain wilderness character.

## WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

Provide for diverse and viable fish, wildlife and plant communities.

Protect and enhance fish habitat, through multiple use conservation and wise management of forest resources. Follow guidelines in “Rise to the Future” action plan for National Forest fisheries program.

Protect and improve habitats of threatened and endangered plants and animals to aid in the recovery of the species in cooperation with the State and other Federal agencies.

Manage other sensitive species habitat to maintain population viability (health) and to avoid future listing as threatened or endangered.

Encourage recreational use of the fish, wildlife and plant resources of the Forest in a manner that maintains a healthy, functioning ecosystem for future generations.

Maintain and improve habitats of emphasis species.

### **Expected Future Condition of the Forest**

## ECONOMIC ELEMENT

The Plan will not change the future economic base of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Dollar returns to the Treasury will not increase significantly over the planning period.

Expansion of ski areas will result in increased revenue to local economies. The expansion will also create demands on local facilities and services.

## SOCIAL ELEMENT

Implementation of the Forest Plan will affect the full-time and part-time residents of mountain communities, local businesspeople, recreationists, and foothill community residents. While there will probably be little change in lifestyle for most of these people, the quality of life will be improved in several ways. Chaparral management will result in greater protection of lives, property, and resources. Millions of Southern California recreationists will enjoy quality leisure time from the wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Population projections for Southern California indicate a trend toward increased cultural diversity. The current 82 percent white majority of both Riverside and San Bernardino counties will substantially decrease. In addition, it is expected that the percentage of elderly will increase. Non-traditional forest users, such as the elderly, handicapped, and some

minority groups, will be attracted by the expansion in developed recreation and interpretive services. The increase in recreation use will result in increased business activity and job opportunities in mountain communities. The influx of large numbers of people into the mountains may increase existing problems of traffic congestion, as well as possible reduced opportunities for solitude and incidents of trespassing on private land.

## RESOURCE ELEMENTS

### AIR QUALITY

Planned Forest management activities will have no significant effect on air quality. As population growth continues, air quality will continue to be impaired until technology becomes available to improve the existing situation.

### CHAPARRAL

Three-quarters of the chaparral on the Forest will be in an early to middle-aged condition if treatment of 5,500 acres per year is continued for 50 years. The resulting mosaic of age classes will benefit wildlife and range. Coordinated resource management plans and coordination with other agencies on greenbelt implementation in chaparral will increase where National Forest System and private lands are intermixed, and at urban interfaces.

### DIVERSITY

Diversity in the chaparral will increase significantly during the planning period. Treatments will increase the number of age classes, creating a multi-age-class mosaic. This will temper the adverse ecological effects of large wildfires.

Structural diversity within the woodland and conifer types will be improved through silvicultural treatments that combine even-aged and uneven-aged treatments. These will provide small openings in the existing continuous cover type, allow for early successional species and reduce stocking levels to more closely approximate the stand's carrying capacity. Diversity of native trees and shrubs will be maintained through an emphasis on revegetation with native species.

Diversity provided by riparian sites will be maintained or improved by reducing fuel loads in adjacent vegetation types. The management of non-dependent uses of riparian sites will minimize conflicts in this type.

### ENERGY

Traditional energy sources and supplies will continue to be used as long as supply meets the demand. Non-traditional energy sources such as solar, wind, and utilization of chaparral biomass can be expected to be continually investigated and explored within the National Forest.

Exploration for oil and natural gas, and geothermal energy sources will continue. As demand for non-traditional or alternative energy sources increases, the National Forest System land base for multiple resources is

expected to be affected, especially in the Front Country and Cajon management areas where the potential for alternative energy sources and facilities is the greatest.

### FACILITIES

Forest Roads and Trails. Most Forest roads have already been built. About 30 percent of the roads are arterial/collector and 70 percent are local. Some increase in the total transportation system mileage is expected. This will generally consist of local roads constructed for specific resource outputs and recreation use. Some collector and local roads will be reconstructed over time to make needed improvements in alignment, grade, width and drainage.

The amount and intensity of road maintenance will increase during the plan period, since more areas will be open to public use for longer periods during the year. Road management and control of commercial and public use are expected to be emphasized more than at present.

Increasing emphasis in dispersed recreation and wildlife programs will result in an expanded trails program. Trail maintenance will increase to meet the increased public demand and use. The trail development program will meet the projected demand. It will include completion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) to the Riverside/San Diego county line; new designation proposals for National Recreation Trails (NRT's); regional trails such as the Santa Ana River trail; reconstruction of existing high-use trails to standard; feeder trails from developed sites branching out to disperse Forest users; and numerous trailheads.

Administrative Facilities. The Forest total workforce will remain about the same or increase slightly over time. The need for new administrative facilities, Forestwide, is limited. Those identified include a new Arrowhead Ranger District headquarters and possibly some new fire stations.

Health and safety items will receive priority, with routine maintenance to protect and preserve the investments, taking about 2 to 3 percent of the replacement value of buildings and utility systems. A minor construction program should replace or rehabilitate outdated facilities within the first decade.

## FIRE AND FUELS

Urban encroachment into the chaparral areas and along the desert front will increase, as will the development of private lands inside the Forest boundary. There will be more fire starts because of the projected increase in population and resulting human activity in chaparral. Prescribed fire will be used to a greater extent, increasing from 1,200 to 5,500 acres per year. Implementation of the prescribed fire program will create mosaics extensive enough to reduce the intensity of wildfires, and reduce resource losses. (See discussion of mosaics under CHAPARRAL.)

The Forest will continue to provide a balanced fire management organization with the approximate distribution of 16 percent prevention, 1 percent

detection, 64 percent presuppression, 12 percent aviation, and 7 percent fuels. Fire prevention efforts will be directed toward high value and high risk areas. The Fire Management Effectiveness Index is 7139. There will be more interaction with groups and agencies that can work to change building codes and standards, as discussed in Chapter III of the FEIS, so that large fires will be less devastating in interface areas.

A fire suppression program will be implemented to control all wildfires burning at intensity levels 1 to 3 between 30 and 250 acres (see Appendix C for direction by management area). The allowable fire size objective for intensity levels 4 to 6 is 10 acres. This objective can be achieved 90 percent of the time.

Mutual aid agreements with local fire service agencies will be continued to assure adequate responses of suppression resources, which will help to meet the fire size objectives. Mutual aid responses by Forest Service resources will help to prevent fires originating outside the protection boundary from burning onto National Forest System lands

With fixed detection becoming less and less a part of the fire program, fewer lookouts will be needed. Automatic lightning detection systems and similar systems will be used to augment verbal communication for detection.

### FOREST PESTS

The impacts of insects and disease pests will continue to affect Forest stands, especially during periods of drought. Adverse effects will be much less severe in stands that have been thinned. Fomes annosus root disease will continue to be a major pest within present infection centers for at least another 40 to 50 years. The adverse effects of air pollution will continue to weaken trees, particularly the ponderosa-jeffrey pine, unless ozone levels are reduced. The Forest will continue to use an integrated pest management (IPM) approach in forest management.

### HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL

An increased schedule of vegetation treatments will accelerate the rate of inventory. There will be a regular program of site evaluation using National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria. More recent historic properties, such as CCC administrative sites, and recreation residence tracts will have greater significance over time. Sites will be enhanced and protected through monitoring, research, interpretation, closures, physical barriers, and other mitigation measures.

### LANDS

Communities will continue to expand along the interface between the National Forest and urbanizing foothill and mountain areas. This expansion will lead to increased competition between single purpose users (flood control, water systems,) and the general public for the use of National Forest System land. Pressure will increase to dedicate lands to a single use under special use permits. Land purchase activities, if funded, will be high in the early periods as key parcels to meet management objectives are acquired. The purchase program will probably be completed by the end

of the 4th period after most of the necessary properties have been acquired. Land exchange activities will be high for the first decade, then remain fairly constant but at a reduced level throughout the planning period. The acquisition of rights-of-way will probably continue at about the current rate. New mineral withdrawals will be needed for newly-created wilderness areas and Research Natural Areas. Most resources will be protected through the surface mining regulations and improved rehabilitation programs.

The futures of the Rights-of-Way (Rs/W) and Land Line Location (LLL) programs are expected to be about the same as the present level. Rs/W and LLL program emphases will be to meet the needs of ongoing resource programs such as timber and recreation, and resolve suspected encroachments on National Forest System lands caused by rapid and continued development of foothill and mountaintop communities.

Utility Corridors. Major utilities will continue to be brought into Southern California through the Cajon Pass utility corridor. National Forest System land on either side of Banning Pass was designated wilderness in the 1984 California Wilderness Act, thereby precluding the use of National Forest land as part of a utility corridor.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

There will be an increased emphasis on law enforcement. Visitors to the Forest are expected to increase as new sites are developed and dispersed camping is encouraged. Increased emphasis and facilities for hiking, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicle use are also likely to increase need for enforcement of laws and regulations. Fuelwood demand and associated law enforcement needs will continue to increase.

## MINERALS

Oil or gas discovery on currently-leased lands could create a significant impact on management activities in the Cajon Pass area from the development of producing fields and increased exploration. Limestone mining on the slopes of the San Bernardino mountains will probably increase to meet demand. Areas with limestone deposits will be managed for multiple use, and sensitive plant species endemic to limestone deposits will be conserved through the identification of refugia. Although there are no producing operations for graphite or tungsten on the Forest, there may be increased activity as the nation's needs increase for these strategic minerals. Requests for mineral materials will increase and may exceed the supply as the adjacent communities continue to grow. Other mining activities will likely continue at current levels although mining for "recreation" may increase. Much of the limestone area of the Forest is under mining claims. Efforts to withdraw lands for the protection of sensitive plants or for other reasons, will not be effective on claims with previous rights.

## RANGE

The demand for grazing on National Forest System land will increase in the future, as surrounding private lands are developed. Increased forage production should result from vegetation management activities. This will provide additional grazing opportunities and help promote stable livestock operations.

## RECREATION

Developed Recreation. Facilities will be developed to meet demand for developed sites. Existing facilities will be rehabilitated in the first decade. New facilities will support day-use activities over camping. As the diversity of Forest users increases, the Forest will attempt to provide a full spectrum of recreational opportunities, recognizing the increased use by non-traditional users. Existing organizational camps will be in demand by a wide variety of urban users. Facilities will be designed and maintained to the standards appropriate for the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class where they are located.

The North Shore Recreation Area at Big Bear will be completed in the first decade. Planned facilities in addition to the existing picnic area include campgrounds and hiking trails. Some camping facilities in conjunction with OHV trails may be completed if funding from other sources becomes available. Use on the San Jacinto District will increase as the remainder of the Forest becomes more crowded and recreationists search for less congested areas. Recreation facilities will be developed in Garner Valley in conjunction with the land acquired with Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Information services will be emphasized to increase the public's awareness of opportunities and resource management activities in the National Forest. The main information centers will be in the Lake Arrowhead area, at the North Shore of Big Bear, at Barton Flats, and in Garner Valley. Participation by interpretive associations, historical societies, and other volunteer groups will be

encouraged in these areas and in others such as the Heaps Peak Arboretum and the National Children's Forest.

Private enterprise and local government entities will be encouraged to increase their role in supplying recreation opportunities, particularly where costly facilities are needed or where users will be predominantly from local communities.

Dispersed Recreation. Recreationists will be provided with a broad range of dispersed recreation experiences. Use of designated remote camping opportunities will be encouraged. New trails will provide increased opportunities for hikers and horseback riders.

#### Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)

The Forest will develop an integrated OHV system of staging areas and loop trails for vehicles 50 inches and under in width. Staging areas will be tied together where compatible with Forest Plan management objectives to provide the opportunity for longer distance touring. Vehicles and drivers not licensed for highway use will be restricted to this system. Low standard roads on the Forest transportation system will provide additional opportunities for OHV's licensed for highway use.

Illegal use and conflicts with other recreationists and resources will be reduced through education, improved administration and law enforcement.

Winter Sports. Expansion of existing ski areas will be favored over development of new areas. Timing for expansion will depend on resolution of potential traffic and parking problems associated with additional development, availability of water for snowmaking, market conditions, and the ability of permittees to attract capital for investment.

Recreation Residences. No new recreation residence tracts or organization sites are planned during the plan period. Existing sites which have had future use determinations completed during the past five years, and no higher use identified, will be offered 20-year permits if they do not already have them. Other tracts will have future use determinations made during the first decade.

#### RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

Five candidate Research Natural Areas (RNAs) will be recommended to the Chief for designation within the first decade. A sixth potential RNA, representing interior live oak within the San Geronio Wilderness additions, has been proposed by the Forest for consideration by the RNA committee.

#### RIPARIAN AREAS

Riparian conditions will improve over time due to the implementation of fish, wildlife and watershed improvement projects. Riparian areas will be managed more intensively, with a greater effort toward maintaining and enhancing riparian dependent resources. Riparian vegetation will be less vulnerable to wildfire in areas where chaparral is actively managed.

#### SOILS

Soil productivity will be managed over the long term. Watershed and soil improvement programs will improve past watershed impairments, beginning with the highest priority areas.

## SPECIAL AREAS

Existing designated special areas, such as the Black Mountain Scenic Area and the Arrowhead landmark, will continue to be managed to enhance their unique characteristics. Two additional areas will be proposed by other agencies for special area designation: the San Jacinto escarpment and biotic area, and the Mojave and Colorado Desert Biosphere Reserve. The North Baldwin Lake and Holcomb Valley Special Interest Area will be established to recognize its' unique botanical, zoological and historical values. Management of all of these areas will be compatible with proposed and existing special designations.

## TIMBER

Forest stands on slopes generally under 35 percent will continue to be brought into a managed condition to produce healthy, vigorously growing trees. These stands will be natural-appearing, with an uneven-aged structure, having diversity in species and size classes. Healthy old-growth trees, snags and down logs will continue to be an important component of these stands.

Understocked stands will be planted when the site potential indicates that the area can be adequately regenerated to maintain forest diversity. The treatment will be cost effective considering recreation, watershed and wildlife values. Overstocked stands will be treated under all-aged management silvicultural systems. The salvage program will be limited to an estimated average of 2 mmbf annually.

Pine and mixed conifer stands on slopes greater than 50 percent will continue to be in an unmanaged condition. Limited opportunities exist to treat stands on 35 to 50 percent slope with appropriate harvesting equipment. Generally, most of the stands treated will be in areas where slopes are less than 35 percent. There will be continued emphasis on treating pinyon-juniper woodlands to reduce their susceptibility to catastrophic wildfire.

Fuelwood. Fuelwood will be a by-product of stand treatments. The Forest Service will continue to offer a mix of timber sales to meet the demand for Forest products; however, public demand for fuelwood will continue to exceed the supply. The disparity between demand and available supply may continue to increase due to increasing population and higher heating costs.

## TRANSPORTATION

State Highways. Current and future demands on the State highway system will exceed or have already exceeded the capacity of the highways within the Highway 18 - Highway 330 corridors to and within Big Bear basin. Priority for development of State highways to increase carrying capacities will not be in the mountain areas in the foreseeable future. The public can continue to expect delays in its travels to and from the Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead areas, especially during summer holidays, weekends, special events, and the winter ski season.

The future may present an opportunity for an interagency-coordinated transportation plan for the San Bernardino mountain area involving alternative modes of transportation in addition to standard highways. San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) is undertaking a major transportation study in the area in cooperation with local agencies, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Forest Service. The outcome may involve several coordinated programs at all levels such as the Forest Highway and Public Lands Highway programs at the federal level, Caltrans highway programs, local county/city transportation programs, and private sector participation in transportation (see Appendix G for the analysis on transportation).

## VISUAL

Visually sensitive landscapes seen from travel corridors, scenic view points, and developed sites will appear natural or almost natural with minor evidence of vegetation or landform changes. Some landscapes which are less visible will undergo alteration but will meet the visual quality objectives (VQO's). Mining activities accompanied by rehabilitation and reclamation plans will meet the adopted VQO's.

## WATER

Quantity. Quantities of surface water will remain relatively constant, subject primarily to annual climatic variations. Vegetation management and other water yield improvement techniques will produce localized increases in water yield or changes in timing of unknown duration. These effects may be undetectable downstream. Water yield management will be primarily to enhance Forest Service management activities. Demand for surface water will be greater than supply.

Groundwater will play an increasingly important role in the supply of domestic water for public and private uses within the Forest. The recharge areas and safe yields of groundwater basins will be known; however, consumption will exceed safe yield in some areas.

Quality. Water quality will generally meet the standards set for beneficial uses. Exceptions will be due to storms, spills of hazardous materials, or other natural or accidental events beyond the control of the Forest Service. One objective of management in the chaparral zone is the controlled release of sediment. The mosaic of age classes will lessen the effects of wildfires and will result in some reduction of sedimentation following wildfire.

## WILDERNESS

San Gorgonio and San Jacinto wilderness additions will be managed under the guidelines of the existing management plans until the plans are revised to incorporate the new areas. Additions to the Cucamonga Wilderness and the portion of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness on the San Bernardino are managed by the Angeles National Forest. The Santa Rosa Wilderness will be managed to protect its wilderness character while a management plan is developed.

User capacities in the older wilderness areas will continue to allow for social encounters between wilderness users at a higher level than the ideal based on ROS analysis for primitive and semiprimitive areas. Use in the 1984 additions to the wilderness system will be managed to meet ROS guidelines. User limitations may be established to protect the vegetation and quality of the recreation experience. These limits will be lower on the wilderness additions than on the wilderness areas established before 1984 in order to provide a broad range of wilderness experiences on the Forest. Some new trails and trailheads may be constructed to provide access into the newer wilderness areas.

Planned ignition prescribed fire will be used to reduce threats to values outside the wilderness and to meet wilderness fire management objectives inside. Fires have historically been suppressed at minimum acreage; therefore, fuel accumulations have developed so that unacceptable risks to adjacent values are present.

During this planning period, unplanned ignitions and all other wildfires will be suppressed. Control will be the suppression strategy used. Over time, the intent is to remove the high hazard fuel accumulations where threats from wildfire to high values outside the wilderness areas exist.

When this is accomplished, the Forest will modify its direction to allow the use of unplanned ignitions.

#### WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

There will be an increase in demand for fish and wildlife. Hunters, fishermen and other nature interests will be working closely with the Forest to protect plants and animals.

Spotted owls will be maintained at their current levels. As additional pairs are located, the nesting area and associated habitat will be protected.

Bighorn sheep habitat will be improved slightly through the use of prescribed burning. There will be increased coordination with the Department of Fish and Game as sheep are used for transplant stock from the Forest.

Mule deer habitat will be improved through the use of prescribed burning in chaparral and the creation of small openings in conifer and hardwood-pinyon juniper stands. Management of activities within important mule deer habitat will minimize unnecessary disturbance. There will be a loss of some mule deer habitat in the next twenty years, due to an increase in recreation activities and private land influence.

There will be an increase in riparian dependent species due to a slight increase in water yield, management of use in riparian areas, and reduction of high fuel loads in adjacent areas.

Habitat for species dependent on dead and down logs, such as the southern rubber boa, will be slightly improved. Downed log standards will be met as part of timber management activities and retained naturally in areas managed as wilderness, custodial, or non-motorized recreation. Habitat for snag-dependent species will also increase on the Forest due to increased control of their removal.

There will be an increase in the number of streams that are managed as wild trout streams on the Forest. Put-and-take trout fisheries will satisfy demand for this activity in the early decades; however, demand may exceed supply late in the planning period. Fisheries habitat for wild fish will increase.

There will be increasing emphasis to manage habitats for threatened, endangered and sensitive Species. The Big Bear bald eagle wintering populations will be sustained over time, but patterns of use may shift to the less congested east end of the Big Bear Basin. Baldwin Lake and Garner Valley will become more important as waterfowl habitat, providing the prey base for the eagle population. A small wintering population at Lake Hemet will be sustained, but the Lake Arrowhead population appears to have declined and may disappear, due to intensive development on private land.

A successful cooperative hacking program for peregrine falcons will reintroduce this species to the Forest through an active management program. Reestablishment of peregrines will require that conflicting uses be carefully regulated within their habitat.

Sensitive fish, wildlife and plant species will become increasingly dependent upon National Forest habitats. Implementation of the Plan should insure viable populations of sensitive species on the Forest due to increasing habitat management emphasis.

Sensitive Plants. The ecosystems of the San Bernardino National Forest support a large number of rare and endemic plant species. As surrounding private lands are developed, the Forest will

eventually become a wildland “island”. This, and increasing visitor use will result in a greater emphasis on the Forest’s ability to support sensitive plant populations. The Forest is likely to become the sole sanctuary for many sensitive plant species. Areas with limestone deposits will be managed for multiple use, and sensitive plant species endemic to limestone deposits will be conserved through the development of refugia.

Overall, conditions for sensitive plants will improve through the development of species management guides and implementation of habitat protection and improvement projects.

Two endangered plants in the Big Bear Basin, Thelypodium stenopetalum and Sidalcea pedata will maintain and perhaps increase their numbers due to the establishment of preserves on National Forest lands, and through efforts to maintain existing flows into Baldwin Lake and surface hydrology within the plant habitat. In addition, two endangered plants in the alluvial scrub community, Centrostegia leptoceras and Eriastrum densifolium ssp. sanctorum will be conserved through efforts to maintain and improve existing and potential habitat.

#### D. MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS ZONES

Management Emphasis Zones (MEZs) are used to define areas that will receive particular emphasis in management when any treatments or activities are applied. The definitions of the various emphases are listed below and the geographic areas to which they apply are shown on the Management Plan Map.

Each Management Area contains one or more MEZ, which defines more specifically what the general emphasis of management will be. Individual prescriptions (integrated practices and activities that will be applied on the ground) contain more detailed resource direction and are used to help carry out the emphasis for the MEZs within each Management Area. The complete Prescription package used in this Plan can be found in the blue pages at the end of this chapter.

If an area on the Plan Map is located within a wildlife MEZ, it does not mean that wildlife management is the only activity that will take place. It identifies that, in general, activities or treatments that take place will enhance or support wildlife goals. It is possible to have various prescriptions being applied in a single MEZ. A comparison between prescriptions and MEZs can be found in table 4-3-3 section “H-11-1, Preaerizs—vage-Rx-3-of-tfteblue (need to look this up to see what didn’t scan)

#### Proposed Emphases and Associated Definitions

##### Wildlife

The descriptions are for presently existing lands and facilities. Appropriate land acquisitions could occur under any emphasis.

##### Recreation

Optimize the recreation resource on the Forest by intensively managing for the variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities while meeting the appropriate Standards and Guidelines for other resources. Provide greater administrative controls on dispersed use to help ensure a high quality recreation experience and resource protection. Manage vegetation to maintain and enhance structural and species diversity with emphasis on large and mature trees in the conifer and hardwood types.

## Watershed

Manage to maintain and enhance watershed integrity, to protect onsite and downstream values, and to sustain land productivity. Enhance watershed viability and health through sediment management. Use vegetation management to maintain health of stands, provide for protection through fuels management : ~d increase water yield, as appropriate. Other resource management is limited. Emphasize non-motorized (non-consumptive) recreation activit<sup>4</sup>es such as hiking and equestrian use.

## Range/Wildlife

Manage for an intensive resource program with emphasis on wildlife habitat improvement for emphasis species. Vegetation management is designed to create a diversity of ages, size classes and species composition. Provide for recreation use compatible with and in support of the wildlife emphasis.

Manage to emphasize forage production and habitat enhancement and provide for utilization by both livestock and wildlife species. Create small openings and reduce tree canopy closures to increase herbaceous and shrub understory while providing for vertical and horizontal diversity.

Manage for recreation use that does not conflict with this forage creation and emphasis.

## Watershed/Fisheries/Wildlife

Manage to maintain or enhance watershed integrity and health through an active sediment management program. Provide for high levels of habitat for emphasis species through vegetation management activities, instream improvements for fisheries and other habitat improvements. Manage for increased water yields as opportunities become available. Emphasize a variety of recreation activities to be compatible with watershed, fish and wildlife objectives.

## Custodial

Manage to provide protection of existing facilities and resources. Actively manage to the extent laws, regulations and legal agreements are met. Conduct projects and vegetation management activities to provide for protection (fuels management) and to maintain or improve habitat conditions for Sensitive, Rare, Threatened, Endangered and other wildlife species.

# Forestwide Standards and Guidelines

## PHYSICAL

### Air Resources

1. Follow requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, and the State of California Agricultural Burning Guidelines.
2. Coordinate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to develop guidelines to facilitate implementation of management programs and activities.
  - a. Submit quarterly to SCAQMD the Agricultural Burning Report Card: include the location, fuel type, acres treated, and total tons of fuel consumed.
  - b. Coordinate with SCAQMD for issuance of variances from local burning restrictions.

3. Protect values related to air quality in Class I areas.
  - a. Prescribed fire will be carried out only during atmospheric conditions that promote the dispersal of smoke.
  - a. b. Participate in EPA Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit process reviews of proposed major stationary generating facilities that may affect Class I areas.
4. Coordinate with SCAQMD to adhere to policy, regulations, and procedures administered by the California Air Resources Board.

## **Geology, Mineral, and Energy Resources**

### **Geology**

1. Do not construct facilities or implement land-disturbing activities that may reasonably be expected to initiate or aggravate a geologic hazard, unless effective mitigation measures are provided in the project plan and implemented on the ground.
2. Complete a detailed site-specific geologic analysis to order II GRI standards (FSM 2881) before approving major construction projects, such as roads or ski resorts, in areas subject to landslides, seismic activity, or other geologic hazards.
3. Perform geologic studies to determine the existing or potential hazard from surface fault rupture prior to building facilities within the Alquist Priolo Special Study Zones\*, as delineated by the State of California.
4. Complete landslide inventory to order III CR1 standards.

Complete inventory by the next planning period.

5. Construct facilities that must be located in areas of geologic hazard to withstand the forces exerted by the anticipated hazards.

\*California Division of Mines Special Publication #42.

### **Minerals and Energy**

1. Allow the production of minerals and energy with the assurance of adequate protection of other surface resources and resource values. Permits, leases and Plans of Operation are to assure that adverse environmental effects are minimized or mitigated, and that mined lands are reclaimed in a timely manner to regain surface production and use.
2. Allow reasonable access to mineral operations.
3. Administer mining in conformance with Federal laws and regulations.

### **Locatable Minerals**

1. Act in a timely manner on notices of intent and plans of operation for locatable minerals.
2. Require reasonable conditions including surface reclamation plans and bonds to insure compliance with 36 CFR 228.8(g), Reclamation and 36 CFR 228.13, Bonds.
  - a. Through an approved operating plan.
  - b. Base cost of bonds on cost to government.

- c. Reclamation of spent, abandoned or unused areas within National Forest mining claims will begin as the areas become spent, abandoned or unused. Annual reclamation plans will outline reclamation areas and treatments for the areas.

3. Perform validity examination for all patent applications.
4. Encourage mining claimants to reclaim older operations (pre-1974).
5. Approved plans of operation for mining within wilderness will, to the greatest extent possible, be compatible with wilderness management practices and objectives.
6. Determine validity of all mining claims which (1) are operating or propose to operate within wilderness, or (2) ~~which operate or propose to operate in areas of sensitive plant or animal habitat.~~
7. Withdrawals - see Land Use Coordination.

#### Leaseable Minerals

- ~~1. Review all lease applications submitted by the Bureau of Land Management and make recommendations necessary to protect surface resources.~~
- ~~2. Make recommendations to BLM for leaseable operating plans and require mitigating measures for protection of surface resources.~~
3. Conduct periodic inspections in cooperation with BLM of operations for conformance with plan of operations.

#### Other Mineral Materials

1. Authorize extraction of other mineral materials only if the on-site or downstream damage to lands and resources can be mitigated and the extraction does not interfere with other uses already occurring on the lands.
2. Make a Forestwide inventory and assessment of sand and gravel sources before entertaining any large scale commercial sand and gravel operation proposals.
3. Sand and gravel processing plants will not be permitted on the Forest System.

#### Withdrawals

1. Review all existing withdrawals except wilderness and National Trails in conjunction with USDI Bureau of Land Management, by FY 1991.
2. Review all new mineral withdrawals within 20 years of withdrawal designation.
3. Investigate the need for mineral withdrawal or other suitable alternatives where mining significantly conflicts with unique resource values or major capital improvements. Refer to specific resource for additional direction for withdrawal.

#### Energy

1. Consider energy conservation in Forest management practices with emphasis on efficient use of energy-consuming equipment.

Alternative energy designs and procedures will be considered when energy consumption is an aspect of project development and is cost-effective.

2. Be responsive to energy yield project proposals such as fossil fuels, hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, vegetation biomass, wind, etc., following established policies and regulations, on a case-by-case basis.

Special use permits will be issued after the environmental process determines that the use is appropriate.

1. An area will not be opened for use if it is:

- a. Within existing or proposed wilderness.
- b. Major considerations for mitigation will include, but not be limited to:
  - Air traffic hazards.
  - Developed areas such as campgrounds.
  - Resource damage on-site such as soil erosion, nutrient depletion, cultural, etc.
  - Water quality and quantity.
  - Wildlife disturbance.
  - Visual quality.

## **Paleontological Resources**

### **Soils**

1. When implementing ground disturbing activities that may cause surface erosion, compaction, mass wasting, or reduce the productivity of the land, apply appropriate erosion control, compaction and geologic practices. Use Region 5 Erosion Hazards and Soil Compaction Guidelines, appropriate erosion control BMPs and geologic recommendations. See Appendix I.

2. Conduct detailed soil resource inventories in support of other functions.

- a. Use FSH 2509.18, chapter 1 (10/87), and coordinate with the Soil Conservation Service.
- b. Prior to implementing reforestation/revegetation activities, field-verify the accuracy of the Order III SRI to insure success of the project.

3. See Ecological Minimums, Geologic Hazards and Water Quality for additional direction.

## **Water and Aquatic Resources**

### **Water Quality**

1. Ensure that Forest Service activities meet State and Federal water quality laws and water quality objectives.

- a. In sensitive watersheds, management activities should not increase sediment yields more than 10% above existing levels.
- b. In other watersheds, management activities should not increase sediment yields more than 20% above existing levels.

2. Implement Best Management Practices (BMP) to meet water quality objectives and maintain and improve the quality of surface water on the Forest (see Appendix I).

Methods and techniques for applying the BMP will be identified during project level environmental assessments and incorporated into the associated project plan and implementation documents (see Appendix I).

3. Develop and maintain contingency plans for response to spills or dumping of hazardous substances.

4. Implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) in all projects to protect and improve water quality and to meet State and federal objectives. (Ref. "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California.")

Monitor selected projects to evaluate the use and effectiveness of BMP's and other recommendations in achieving soil and water quality goals.

5. Use the Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory to identify and correct specific problem areas needing treatments.

- a. Update annually.
- b. Watershed improvement plans will be done on a priority basis by the Forest Hydrologist or Soil Scientist.
- c. Criteria for planning and treatment priorities will include the following factors:
  - Water quality and beneficial uses,
  - Riparian areas,
  - Health and safety,
  - Other management activities,
  - Rate of erosion,
  - Public awareness or support and
  - Visibility.

5. Maintain all watershed improvement projects in working order.

Inspect all projects annually to determine maintenance needs.

6. Survey all burned areas greater than 300 acres to determine rehabilitation needs. Smaller burns will be examined on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of District Rangers.

Field investigations and analysis will be conducted in accordance with instructions in FSH 2509.13 – Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook, and FSM 2512.21.

#### Water Availability

1. Evaluate and quantify current and future consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs for National Forest multiple use purposes.

Quantify instream flow needs.

2. Evaluate requests by non-Forest Service agencies and individuals for water developments on lands administered by the Forest Service on a case-by-case basis.

- a. Water needed for National Forest resources and Forest Service uses will be a primary consideration.
- b. If it appears that there is no water in excess of National Forest resource needs or Forest Service uses, applications to appropriate water will be protested and special use permits will be denied.
- c. If water is available from other sources, a special use permit should be denied.

- d. Proponents of water developments must provide information data which will assist the Forest Service in evaluating water uses and needs, and water supplies on an on-site and basin-wide basis.
3. Maintain an inventory of Forest Service and non-Forest Service water rights.
  4. Identify and quantify future water needs.
    - a. Acquisition of water to meet National Forest consumptive and non-consumptive uses will be in compliance with State and Federal law.
    - b. Water rights necessary for Forest Service uses will be acquired according to State or federal law and will be in the name of the United States of America.
    - c. Valid prior rights will be considered in all Forest Service water development proposals and the acquisition of water rights.

#### Riparian Areas and Wetlands

1. Manage riparian areas primarily for resources dependent on a high-quality aquatic system and habitat (dependent resources). Other resource uses may be accommodated when they do not significantly impact dependent resources, such as aquatic flora and fauna, riparian wildlife species and water quality.

- a. Relocate conflicting uses from riparian areas on a planned basis and as opportunities present themselves.
- b. Adverse impacts from uses and activities will be fully mitigated.

2. Manage wetlands, with their accompanying aquatic and/or riparian ecosystems, as riparian areas on the Forest. (Refer to GLOSSARY: also E.O. 11190 and FSM 2526.11 for definition and explanation of aquatic and riparian ecosystems.)

Riparian areas include the lands within 100' of perennial streambanks and natural bodies of water, as well as all wetlands.

3. Manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance overall distribution of multi-layered, multispecies stands of vegetation, consistent with site potential.

4. In riparian systems capable of supporting fish, vegetation canopy will not be reduced below 70% throughout the riparian system by Forest Service management activities.

Exceptions are allowed only when it is recommended by a silviculturist that a short term (less than 5 years) reduction is necessary in order to meet the 70% cover objective over the long term.

5. Do not reduce vegetation canopy below 50% in riparian systems not capable of supporting fish.

Exceptions are allowed only when a silviculturist and biologist recommend that a short term (less than 5 years) reduction in canopy cover will benefit the long-term cover objective.

6. Maintain herbaceous cover in good to excellent condition in riparian areas.

FSM 2209.21 (Range Handbook).

7. Comply with State and Federal laws on all management activities resulting in streambed modification. Activities will be appropriately documented.

8. Do not remove naturally occurring organic debris from stream channels unless it is a threat to life, property, significant resource values, or otherwise covered by legal agreement.
9. Locate new designated, dispersed area campsites at least 200' away from source of water (seeps, springs, ponds, etc.) and riparian habitat.
10. Retain all snags in riparian areas under normal conditions.  
Exceptions are allowed when a wildlife biologist recommends removal, or if the snags are identified as a threat to life and/or property.
11. Control management activities and other uses in riparian areas to reduce streambank and lakeshore damage and maintain areas in a stable condition.
12. Conduct periodic inventory to determine the condition and trend of riparian areas.
13. Rehabilitate streambanks which have deteriorated.
14. Do not allow occupancy of National Forest System lands for water diversions, withdrawals or other unnatural routing or dispersal of surface waters that remove quantities of water beyond that needed for maintaining beneficial instream uses. Protest water rights applications as appropriate. Water quality will not be reduced below that required by aquatic organisms.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

1. Manage those stream segments determined to be eligible for suitability study so as to retain the attributes which make them eligible for study.
  - a. Deep Creek
  - b. Lytle Creek
  - c. Santa Ana River
  - d. Whitewater River (See Appendix L.)
2. Perform suitability studies at plan revision or if proposed activity affects attributes.

### **BIOLOGICAL**

#### **Biodiversity**

##### Special Interest Areas (other than RNAs)

1. Manage as special interest areas (SIA) lands which display special or unique values that clearly merit recognition and special management direction beyond that provided in multiple-use planning and management.
  - a. Allow for scientific and educational exploration and research of the area.
  - b. Where possible, encourage public use and enjoyment of the area without damage to its integrity.
  - c. Where practical, enhance recreational values through interpretation or other measures.
  - d. Consider mineral withdrawal when mining would potentially conflict with management direction.

## **Proposed, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species**

1. Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during preparation of environmental assessments and plans having significant effects on fish and/or wildlife habitat.

Coordination will begin as needs are identified, and will continue through development and implementation.

2. Cooperate with private land developers, citizen group, local government and agencies to achieve goals for fish and wildlife habitat management, and to maintain species viability.

3. Coordinate with other agencies, Southern California Forests, PSW, local universities and conservation groups developing management guides for TE&S species and emphasis species.

Priority will be given to threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

4. Participate with land ownership adjustment and rights-of-way programs to achieve fish and wildlife management goals.

Actively pursue land acquisitions for TE&S species and important habitat areas for other emphasis species.

5. Manage habitat for TE&S species to enhance populations and to permit their timely removal from designated lists. Manage for genetic and geographic diversity and long term viability of the species on the Forest.

Conduct all Forest Service management activities and regulate uses to support the needs of TE&S species.

1. Strive to maintain at least the current distribution of all TE&S species.
2. Inventory and monitor TE&S species and their habitats where appropriate.
3. Prepare a biological evaluation on every Forest project with the potential to impact TE&S species.
  - a. Reconnaissance will be done by qualified personnel.
  - b. Surveys will be completed before management activity takes place.
4. Attempt to re-establish species in unoccupied suitable habitat.
5. Fully mitigate for unavoidable impacts to TE&S species and riparian habitat.
6. Mitigate for other species, as appropriate for the emphasis area.
7. Develop species management guides to identify population goals and compatible management activities that will maintain viability.
  - a. Species management guides will function as recovery plans defining activity opportunities and constraints in essential and important habitat and the need to monitor land allocation and habitat management.
  - b. The development of such guides will proceed according to a priority which recognizes the rarity and uniqueness of the species, as well as the degree to which they are affected by management activities.

6. Emphasize sensitive species habitat protection and improvement in all forest management activities.

Restrict uses and activities to protect sensitive fish and wildlife where needed.

7. Re-evaluate and modify habitat management direction, if necessary, when a TE&S species is listed.

#### Bald Eagles and Ospreys

1. Implement closures at recreation facilities where needed to eliminate disturbance to bald eagles. (Dec. 1 to April 1).

2. Discourage dispersed recreation in bald eagle perching, roosting and nesting areas.

3. Improve habitat for preferred prey species of bald eagles.

4. Improve perching and roosting habitat for bald eagles.

5. Integrate the habitat needs for bald eagles into water and other management plans for the Big Bear Basin.

- a. Take a lead in a coordinated resource management plan for Baldwin Lake.
- b. Cooperate in the development of a coordinated resource management plan for Big Bear Basin.
- c. Advocate retention of water in Baldwin Lake, except in flood years.

6. Continue implementation of the Management Plan for the Sensitive Biota of Big Bear Valley.

#### Sensitive Cliff Nesting Raptors (golden eagle, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon)

1. Select the site(s) most suitable for peregrine falcon introduction on the Forest and establish at least two pairs.

2. Protect cliffs occupied by TE&S cliff-nesting raptors during the nesting season.

- a. Survey to determine which cliffs are occupied.
- b. Avoid disturbance of occupied nest sites. Disturbance includes blasting, operation of heavy equipment or concentrated recreation use.

3. Maintain suitable habitat for sensitive raptors within one mile of occupied or recently occupied cliffs.

#### Peregrine Falcon

1. Select site and strive to establish at least one pair of peregrine falcon.

Strive to select a site with I&E potential for large numbers of Forest visitors and yet provide for safety for the birds.

2. Maintain suitable habitat within one mile of cliffs suitable for peregrines.

3. Provide an eyrie guard on all occupied peregrine eyries until it is determined to be unwarranted.

#### Riparian-Dependent Species, including least Bell's vireo

1. See Riparian Area direction.

2. Fully mitigate for reductions in habitat capability resulting from uses and activities.
3. Survey potential least Bell's vireo habitat periodically to determine occupancy.
4. Improve habitat for these emphasis species.

#### Spotted Owl

All identified territories will be protected. Develop territory management plans to insure protection of territories.

Sensitive Forest Raptors (sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, zone-tailed hawk, goshawk, etc.)

1. Manage suitable habitat within known territories (comprised of nest site and one-mile radius of surrounding forested land) to perpetuate sufficient high quality habitat over time.

Fully mitigate for losses in habitat capability when development must take place in nest stands.

2. Avoid disturbance within occupied nest stands from March to mid-July.
3. Locate high-use dispersed recreation and developed recreation sites outside nest stands.
4. Avoid the creation of openings larger than one acre in nest stands.

Exception allowed when wildlife biologist and silviculturist recommend larger openings for long-term maintenance.

5. Manage to protect habitat from wildfire by treating fuels in adjacent areas (thinning).

Avoid treatments during the nesting season.

#### Southern Rubber Boa

1. Strive to maintain a minimum of 9 down logs of all age and decay classes per acre over time in rubber boa habitat. (Minimum log size = 12" diameter and 20' long.)

- a. Create and strive to retain a minimum of 3 class 1 down logs/acre at each timber harvest entry.
- b. Institute measures such as area closures and permit limits to restrict public fuelwood gathering when monitoring indicates a significant departure from the desired state.

2. Retain rock outcrops and areas with significant surface rock in their natural state in rubber boa habitat.

3. Continue inventory of potential habitat for rubber boa.

#### Peninsular Mountain Sheep

1. Coordinate with BLM and CDF&G to manage the Santa Rosa Mountain Sheep population in accordance with the habitat management plan.

2. Establish seasonal closures as necessary to protect important habitat for Peninsular mountain sheep.

3. Manage domestic sheep and goat grazing to prevent disease transfer to mountain sheep.(A minimum of a 2-mile buffer is recommended).

## Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants

1. Manage sensitive plant species to avoid future listing as threatened and endangered. Ensure maintenance of genetic and geographic diversity and viable populations.

Inventory and monitor TE&S plant species. Protect as needed to maintain viability.

2. Develop species management guides to identify population goals and compatible management activities that will maintain viability.

- a. Species management guides will function as recovery plans defining activity constraints in essential habitat and the need for monitoring land allocation and habitat management.
- b. The development of such guides will proceed according to a priority which recognizes the rarity and uniqueness of the plants as well as the degree to which they are affected by management activities.

3. Integrate management direction for sensitive plants endemic to limestone into mining operation and reclamation plans.

4. Establish refugia to protect limestone plant habitat in areas such as: Blackhawk Mountain, Helendale Fault, Rattlesnake Canyon, and all habitat for *Lesquerella kingii* ssp. *bernardina* north of Big Bear Lake.

Request mineral entry withdrawal for limestone plant refugia. Coordinate with mining companies and other appropriate agencies in the establishment of refugia.

5. Emphasize sensitive plant species habitat protection and improvement in all forest management activities.

Restrict uses and activities to protect sensitive plants where needed.

6. Prepare a biological evaluation on every forest project with the potential to impact TE&S plants.

- a. Reconnaissance will be done by qualified personnel.
- b. Surveys will be completed before management activity takes place.

7. Work cooperatively with surrounding landowners and appropriate agencies to ensure the development of compatible land management objectives through joint planning efforts.

8. Establish meadow refugia for all populations of *Sidalcea pedata* and *Thelypodium stenopetalum* on National Forest System lands.

9. Establish habitat refugia for all populations of *Centrostegia leptoceras* and *Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum* on National Forest System lands.

10. Permit no activities which may adversely alter surface or subsurface hydrology or meadow habitats where sensitive plants are present.

11. Advocate retention of water flow into Baldwin Lake, except during flood years when water level will exceed 100-year floodplain level.

12. Establish refugia for pebble plain species which best represent the pebble plain endemics and also contain good representation of other sensitive plant species that are associated with pebble plain habitats (Baldwin Lake, Gold Mountain, Arrastre Flat and Holcomb Valley).

13. Encourage land ownership adjustments to acquire lands with important habitat for TE&S plant species.
14. Attempt to re-establish TE&S plant species in historic or suitable habitat.
15. Provide information and education for TE&S plants to optimize public enjoyment while providing adequate protection to the resource habitat enhancement.

**Range**

1. Develop, maintain and administer allotment management plans for all allotments in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the grazing permittee and adjacent landowners and other agencies.

- a. Use R-5 FSM 2209.2 guidelines. Update annually with permittee consultation.
- b. Retain the following residual forage, well distributed throughout the grazed areas:

Vegetation Type	Residual Forage (air dry weight)
Chaparral, Pinyon-Juniper	300 to 400 lbs/ac and Hardwoods
Conifer	400 to 600 lbs/ac

2. Maintain structural range structures in serviceable, safe and attractive condition. Remove obsolete range improvements.
3. Manage wild burros in accordance with provisions of the Wild Horses and Burros Protection Act of 1971 (85 Stat. 649); with principles of multiple use (FSM 2203.1); and the approved burro management plan.
4. Actively manage for proper livestock distribution via structural and nonstructural range improvements and with other proven management techniques.
5. Utilize grazing as a vegetation management tool where compatible with other resources.
6. Manage grazing in meadow/riparian areas to maintain herbaceous cover in good to excellent condition; minimize streambank and lakeshore damage; and maintain water quality.
7. Explore the use of livestock to reduce fuels in interface areas; attempt to halt rapid type conversion of chaparral and woodlands.
8. Integrate range resources on all ownerships into logical management units through coordinated resource planning (FSM 2203.1).
9. Coordinate where needed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate State and county wildlife and plant agencies, for animal damage and plant control.

**Silviculture**

1. Modify stand treatments, especially of conifers, in areas where air pollution is one of the major environmental factors controlling growth and survival of trees.
  - a. The stand management prescription procedure will be used to develop treatments for smog-damaged stands. Within the general moderate to severe injury areas, the oxidant injury class of individual stands will be determined as the basis for treatment (maps available in Planning records).

- b. Where feasible, oxidant-tolerant species such as sugar pine, incense cedar, black oak or Jeffrey pines will be allowed to regenerate naturally. Soil surface scarification will be practiced near tolerant trees, where feasible, to enhance natural seedling establishment.
- c. In plantings where soil and climatic conditions permit, oxidant-tolerant native tree species will be favored over ponderosa or Jeffrey pine.
- d. Where ponderosa or Jeffrey pine must be used, planting stock will be grown from seed collected from oxidant-tolerant trees. The use of non-indigenous or exotic species as substitutes for ponderosa and Jeffrey pine in moderate to severely smog-damaged areas is not recommended until it has been determined that native species cannot be grown.
- e. Test planting of both exotic tree species and progeny from smog-tolerant ponderosa pines should be made in polluted areas.
- f. Oxidant-tolerant native tree species and oxidant-tolerant individuals within the ponderosa and Jeffrey pine populations will be retained when thinning smog-injured stands.
- g. Sanitation treatment will not be used for old growth trees in moderately and severely smog-damaged areas as determined by smog damage appraisal of individual stands in unmapped areas. (Exceptions can be made if a silviculturist determines that declining old growth trees will contribute to increased stress or increased susceptibility for insect or disease damage to younger, apparently smog-resistant, healthy trees.)
- h. Sanitation reduces stand mortality by removing unhealthy trees that are predisposed to attack by insects or diseases, especially bark beetles.
- i. Salvage cutting (removal of dead or dying trees only) will be used in lieu of sanitation treatment. However, snags will be left as required to meet snag retention requirements for wildlife.

2. Maintain hardwoods as a component of conifer stands where they exist, and wherever climatic, edaphic and physiographic conditions permit.

Stand-specific prescriptions shall be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist.

3. Develop the silvicultural knowledge and techniques needed to maintain woodlands in a vigorous, healthy state as required to meet resource management goals.

#### Chaparral

1. Maintain watershed stability by maintaining adequate plant cover and deep rooted plant species on slopes >30%.

~~2. Type conversions may be permitted on slopes <30%. On slopes >30%, type conversions will be limited to fuelbreaks.~~

3. Adequacy of plant cover will be determined at the time of EA preparation and documented in the project plans. Adequacy will be based on the erosion hazard rating, presence or absence of landslides downstream and on-site values and the regenerative capacities of the plant species providing stability.

## Dead & Down Dependent

Strive to maintain a minimum of six down logs of all age and decay classes per acre over time (minimum log size > 12" DBH and 20' long, where possible), for species dependent on dead and down logs.

- a. Create and strive to retain a minimum of two new class 1 down logs/acre in managed woodland and conifer stands at each timber harvest entry.
- b. Institute measures such as area closures and permit limits to restrict public fuelwood gathering when monitoring indicates a significant departure from the desired state.

## Reforestation

1. Apply silvicultural treatments that develop fire-resistant stand structures, in both new and existing stands and plantations.
  - a. Reduce fuels or construct firebreaks a minimum of 100 feet wide adjacent to plantations.
  - b. Maintain less than 30% shrub cover within plantations.
  - c. Maintain 3 to 5 feet between edges of tree crowns within plantations.
2. Continue reforesting stands that have few seedlings and saplings, when there is a reasonable probability of planting success, to maintain diversity.
3. Conduct reforestation activities on sites determined by silvicultural prescription to be capable of meeting acceptable levels of stocking five years after planting.
4. Design plantation clearings to discourage illegal OHV activities. Maintain vegetative screening between plantations and OHV routes.

## Sale Preparation and Administration

1. Use trees removed as a result of stand treatments for sawlogs, fuelwood, posts, poles or other useful forest products.
  - a. Timber treatments will generally be designed with fuelwood as a product.
  - b. Tractors will normally operate on slopes < 35% and on short pitches up to 50%. Cable or aerial systems may be used on sustained slopes > 35%.
  - c. Close skid trails following timber sales to prevent illegal vehicle travel.
  - d. Close access roads following harvest activities unless needed to meet other management objectives.
  - e. Create only those fuelwood opportunities which do not result in increased long-term illegal OHV conflicts and subsequent resource damage.
2. Vegetation management in the conifer, hardwood and pinyon types will generally be on slopes of 0%-35%. When vegetation in the forested type must occur on slopes of 35%-50%, it will be for maintenance of health and vigor, to minimize the adverse effects of insects and disease, or other specific resource need.
3. Retain all visible nest trees and acorn storage trees unless they are a significant safety hazard or threat to adjacent forest stands.

## **Special Forest Products**

### **Wildlife and Fish**

Coordinate planning and implementation of OIW activities to accommodate the needs of wildlife and fish.

Maintain existing structural improvements for fish and wildlife.

Require appropriate mitigation measures (including off-site) where fish and wildlife habitat are affected.

Coordinate with CDF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to introduce desirable wildlife species into selected locations.

- a. Establish at least one pair of peregrine falcons through a hacking program.
- b. Cooperate in transplanting mountain sheep to other suitable locations.

Coordinate in managing the transportation system to minimize disturbances in important emphasis species habitat.

- a. Consider road obliteration where roads are not needed for administrative purposes or public access.
- b. Consider seasonal closures or restrictions on roads where there are significant conflicts with wildlife.

Manage public use of waterfalls to maintain plant and animal communities and provide compatible recreation use.

Provide for information, education and interpretation of the fish and wildlife and sensitive plant resources to optimize public enjoyment while providing adequate protection.

Avoid introducing barriers to movement of deer, bear, mountain lion and bighorn sheep.

- Fully mitigate to movement.

Strive to maintain low motorized road and trail densities in wildlife emphasis areas.

### **Snag-Dependent Species**

1. Retain 5-10 hard snags/5 acres in managed stands (minimum size is 12" DBH and 40' tall, where possible), for snag-dependent species.

- a. Where deficient, create sufficient snags to meet the desired state during each timber entry.
- b. Sign snags for their protection where appropriate.
- c. Institute measures such as area closures and permit limits to restrict public fuelwood gathering when monitoring indicates a significant departure from the desired state.

2. Retain soft snags and acorn storage trees where they are not a public safety hazard.

### Nelson's bighorn sheep

1. Manage vegetation to correct habitat deficiencies in important sheep habitat. Chaparral stands should be less than 30 percent crown cover. Increase grasses and forbs where lacking to greater than five percent cover.
2. Manage domestic sheep and goat grazing to prevent disease transfer (a minimum of a 2-mile buffer is recommended).
3. Establish seasonal closures as necessary, to minimize disturbances in lambing areas and at mineral licks.

### Mule Deer

1. Provide a cover to forage ratio of 50:50.
2. Manage oak stands to provide acorns and ground cover that is greater than 30 percent grass and forbs.
3. Develop a minimum of one water source per square mile where water is limited.
4. Avoid creating barriers to movement and mitigate where possible.
5. Manage road and trail density and use to avoid conflicts in important habitat.

### Fish

1. Apply Riparian Standards and Guidelines. Implement Best Management Practices.
2. Minimize stream sedimentation that results from Forest Service activities.
3. Encourage and cooperate with appropriate agencies to maintain instream flows during low-water periods.
4. Cooperate with the California Department of Fish and Game and citizen groups in stocking and managing trout streams.
5. Strive to improve the distribution and productivity of fish through stocking or habitat enhancement.
6. Provide protection for native fish populations.

## **DISTURBANCE PROCESSES**

### **Fire**

#### Fire Management, Planning and Analysis

1. Implement and maintain a fire protection system that permits the attainment of management objectives.
2. Provide a trained fire management organization to implement Safety First standards in the mission of fire suppression.
  - a. Implement and maintain the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIMS) for Forest and Regional fire support through training, physical fitness, and planned firefighting programs.

- b. Plan and conduct specialized training to implement Regional Plan direction for structural fire protection.
- c. Provide training for all engine crews to recognize and respond appropriately to the presence of hazardous materials in fire response situations.

3. Participate in community and development planning in interface areas to provide input into zoning, Greenbelt standards and fire prevention measures.

Use “Foothill Community Protective Greenbelt Program” as a basis for input into development planning.

4. Develop and maintain cooperative agreements for fire protection and prevention.

#### Fire Prevention

1. Apply a fire prevention philosophy which combines resource values, hazards, and risks to focus efforts on prevention of unacceptable resource damage and loss.
  - a. Use cooperative fire prevention programs e.g. red flag patrol, school prevention programs, arson task forces, and information and education.
  - b. Cooperate with local agencies to enforce regulations for adjacent private development that would enhance fire prevention capabilities in the urban interface areas.
  - c. Enforce Federal, State and local fire laws within the boundaries of the Forest.
  - d. Increase implementation and enforcement of fire closures when fuel, weather and/or fire suppression capability create a condition in which burned acre objectives cannot be met.
  - e. Consider prevention programs in areas of concentrated nighttime public use.

#### Fire Detection

Provide detection and reporting systems that will enable rapid discovery and reporting of wildfires.

- a. Use fire lookouts to provide discovery and radio repeater capability.
- b. Use aerial detection on high use days, extreme fire conditions and during lightning concentrations.
- c. Use volunteer organizations and clubs for fire patrol during high use, high fire danger days.

#### Primary Initial Attack Forces

1. Provide initial attack capability responsive to resource objectives, protection of life and property and downstream values.
  - a. Implement an engine organization to be five-person effective.
  - b. Provide pre- and post-manning capability utilizing key personnel as defined in the Safety First activity review.
  - c. Use the closest available tactical resource when there is a threat to life, property or natural resources, regardless of agency.

2. Consider co-location of suppression facilities with other fire services. Develop agreements with compatible agencies where a positive economic value can be achieved and initial attack response will not be compromised.

#### Secondary Attack

1. Provide a trained work force of regular non-fire personnel to supplement fire management forces in emergency incident management.

- a. Use a needs assessment to identify the numbers and kinds of positions necessary to support an incident management organization.
- b. Train personnel to qualify for positions identified in the needs assessment.

2. Provide training, supervision, and personal protective equipment to maintain industrial road crews (IRC).

Maintain cooperative agreements for the supervision and use of IRC crews.

3. Provide training, supervision, and personal protective equipment to maintain a minimum of two Regionally - recognized casual firefighting crews.

#### Fire Reinforcements

Provide secondary reinforcements that will augment initial attack forces during suppression of escaped fires.

- a. Maintain 20-person hotshot crews for the dates established in the Regional Forester's annual budget letter.
- b. Use hotshot crews to accomplish resource and fire objectives to the extent that fire readiness is not compromised.
- c. Incorporate Forest Service dozers and water tenders into the expanded dispatch plan.
- d. Establish agreements for contract dozers and water tenders prior to May 15 annually.

#### Fire Support and Facilitating Services

1. Provide fire support equipment capability necessary to support on-scene incident management.

- a. Maintain fire support equipment including engine support unit, helitack support units, and food dispenser units.
- b. Maintain incident management units including trailers for command, planning, logistics, finance and communications.
- c. Make all support equipment available to other agency fire services on request.
- d. Establish agreements for contract support equipment (i.e.. shower units, food services, lighting and sanitation services) prior to May 15 annually.
- e. Upgrade existing and acquire new equipment to maintain compatibility with current technology.

2. Provide facilitating services necessary to support the fire pre-suppression organization and incident management.

- a. Maintain a communications system with subordinate support equipment to facilitate the fire management mission.
- b. Use computer hardware and software systems to support pre-suppression and suppression management.
- c. Maintain a dispatching service responsive to increased fire, recreation and law enforcement.

#### Escaped Fire Suppression

1. Favor fire control techniques in wilderness that leave a natural appearing burn pattern.
  - a. Use natural breaks between vegetation for line location.
  - b. Use retardants which utilize short-term fugitive color dyes.
  - c. Fell only those snags which present a direct threat to control fires.
2. Discourage illegal OHV use on roads, firebreaks and forest areas opened through fire suppression activities.
  - a. Rehabilitation measures shall consider the reestablishment of effective OHV barriers destroyed by suppression activities before equipment is removed from the site.
  - b. Firebreaks, roads and trails constructed for fire suppression will be effectively rehabilitated to prevent illegal OHV use.

#### Treatment of Activity Fuels

Treat activity fuels to reduce fire behavior to a level commensurate with protection capabilities and to meet management objectives.

- a. Make activity fuels available for fuel wood prior to disposal, when appropriate.
- b. Treatment standards for activity fuels will consider both existing conditions and the anticipated future condition that will result from management activities in the larger area surrounding the project site.
- c. Maintain vegetative screening and leave dead and down material along OHV routes.

#### Fuelbreak Construction

Create a fuelbreak system that divides continuous natural fuels into smaller units. This will aid in confining fires to small and moderate sizes, in creating visual variety, and in protecting communities, recreation areas, or other areas of high value.

- a. Construct fuelbreaks using the priorities established in the Forest Fuelbreak Plan.
- b. Construct fuelbreaks at a minimum of 300 feet in width and to less than three tons of fuel per acre.
- c. Develop visual resource and erosion control plans prior to construction.
- d. Use activity fuels for fuelwood as a conservation method when appropriate.
- e. Where fuelbreaks cross-designated OHV routes, leave screening or provide other barriers adjacent to the OHV route.

## Fuel Treatment Area Maintenance

Maintain fuelbreaks only as long as they are needed to support the vegetation management program or to provide protection to communities. Fuelbreaks with diminished value to resource and fire management programs will be considered for abandonment.

- a. Use the adjective maintenance program (considering cubic feet per acre, average plant height and diameter, number of plants per acre, and percent of ground cover) contained in the Forest Fuelbreak Maintenance Handbook to determine fuelbreak maintenance schedules.
- b. Maintain fuelbreaks at a level commensurate with the original design characteristics.
- c. Select the treatment method that is most cost-effective and environmentally sound.

## Vegetation Treated by Prescribed Fire

Provide a prescribed fire program that responds to multiple resource, fire management, and wilderness objectives.

- a. Incorporate fire management objectives in other resource program designs.
- b. Develop prescribed fire objectives that can be attained by utilization of the current state-of-the-art.
- c. Use qualified fire management personnel in the key positions of the prescribed fire organization.
- d. Refer to the SBNF Prescribed Fire Guidebook for policies and procedures as they apply to planning, implementation and monitoring of prescribed fire projects.
- e. The project proponent will monitor project objectives. Fire management personnel will monitor prescribed fire objectives (fuel reduction by size class).
- f. Prescribed burning in timber stands will require a silvicultural prescription defining the objective that this management technique will accomplish.
- g. Assure that visual quality standards are met in control line construction with feathered edges to give a natural appearance to the project.

## Aerial Transportation of Personnel and Materials

Support national and regional mobilization plans by providing aircraft services for the transportation of personnel and goods, and application of materials.

- a. Provide helicopter and air tanker support including administration of contract, support personnel, facilities and equipment.
- b. Maintain cooperative agreements or contracts with CDF and Riverside County for the operation of Hemet-Ryan air tanker base.
- c. Augment the private contract air tanker program with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) when approved by the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC).
- d. Maintain liaison with Norton Air Force Base for MAFFS operational support.
- e. Provide a pre- and post-season contract for one helicopter to be utilized for prescribed fire transport of personnel and equipment for projects.

- f. Plan the helitack organization to be five-person effective.
- g. Plan the air tanker ground support organization to be 5 person effective, or contract for this service with CDF.
- h. Use and implement the CALAVCO (California Aviation Committee) Action and Accomplishment Report.
- i. Establish agreements for call when needed (CWN) aircraft services for transportation of personnel and materials.
- j. Make aircraft available for hire to other agencies.

#### Aerial Application of Materials

1. Consider economics of air program in strategy and tactics of suppression management. When appropriate, use short-term retardant in light fuels and in direct support of ground forces.
2. Avoid application of retardants to standing water of known stream courses.

#### Aerial Platform

Provide air attack super-vision services to support the aerial application of materials.

- a. Utilize agency-owned aircraft or contract for fixed wing aircraft, suitable for air attack needs.
- b. Schedule the availability of air attack supervision to coincide with air tanker contract periods.
- c. Make air attack supervision services available for hire to other agency fire services.

#### **Insects and disease**

1. Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods in vegetation management. All applicable guidelines will be followed.
  - a. Mechanical, prescribed fire, biological and chemical methods will be used as determined by site specific project analysis.
  - b. Strive to maintain wildlife habitat capability in IPM operations.
2. Emphasize use of silvicultural methods to prevent or reduce pest-caused losses.
  - a. Thinning is effective in minimizing the effects of dwarf mistletoe.
  - b. Overstory removal is useful in removing infestations of dwarf mistletoe when young susceptible trees are growing nearby.
  - c. Thinning is an effective stand treatment for the prevention of bark beetle caused damage.
  - d. In order to prevent the spread of *Armillaria mellea*, some oaks should be retained in conifer stands.
3. Treat cut conifer stumps (live or recently dead) with borax to reduce the spread of *Fomes annosus*.

Consider species conversion to hardwoods within *Fomes annosus* infection centers.

4. Cooperate with appropriate organizations and individuals in pest management programs.

## **Revegetation with Native Plants**

1. Use native trees and shrubs for revegetation whenever possible.
  - a. Exceptions may occur only under the following conditions:
    - 1) Revegetation is desired in an area which is not a suitable site for the successful establishment of native trees or shrubs.
    - 2) The desired native species are not commercially available within the time allotted for treatment.
    - 3) When the management objective cannot be met by native species.
  - b. When non-native species of seed or seedlings are used, they shall be adapted to the proposed site and free from significant undesirable characteristics.

## **Undesirable species**

## **SOCIAL**

### **Developed recreation**

#### Developed Sites

1. Use concessionaires to operate Forest Service developed sites where cost savings can be achieved, public needs met and resources maintained or enhanced.

Services will be compatible with those normally provided by the Forest Service.

2. Design camping and picnic facilities consistent with capacity guidelines and experience levels appropriate to ROS classes.

Recommended capacities are as follows:

DEVELOPED ROS CLASS	USE CAPACITY
Semi-primitive Non-motorized	4-12 PAOT/Ac.
Semi-primitive Motorized	4-12 PAOT/Ac.
Roaded Natural	13-25 PAOT/Ac.
Rural	25-75 PAOT/Ac.

3. Repair or close down any unsafe or hazardous water systems to meet Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
4. Consider the special needs of non-traditional Forest users in the design and management of facilities.

#### Recreation Residences

1. Continue to authorize existing recreation residences under a 20-year term special use permit unless a future use determination identifies a higher public use. If this higher public use is a National Forest program, permittees will be given a minimum of 10 years notice.

A recreation residence tract future use determination will be made whenever there is an apparent higher public use.

2. Approve no new recreation residence tracts per existing national Forest Service policy.

3. Include a clause in permits for recreation residences within a 100-year floodplain stating that if they are substantially damaged by a flood, as determined by the deciding officer, the permit will be revoked. Permittees will be so notified.

Additions to existing structures that encroach on floodplain will not be permitted.

4. Complete historical evaluations on each recreation residence tract prior to 1990.

#### Organization Camps

1. Approve no new organization camp sites as long as suitable private land is available to reasonably meet this need.

Make a future use determination if there is an apparent higher public use.

2. Do not allow expansion of organization camps outside permit boundaries when the expansion can be reasonably accommodated within existing boundaries or on private land.

- a. Modifications or expansions, except for health and safety, will conform to approved Development Plans.
- b. Development Plans will be reviewed and revised as necessary whenever there is a change in use or ownership.

#### Downhill Skiing

1. Continue to provide downhill skiing opportunities and help meet increasing demand.

- a. On potential expansion and new ski area sites, the permittee shall consider mass transit as an alternative in the transportation analysis.
- b. Adequate water sources for snowmaking must be available for new developments and expansion.
- c. A study of the water budget in the Big Bear Basin must be completed prior to development of new ski areas.
- d. Parking facilities must be adequate to accommodate additional use associated with expanded and new ski areas.
- e. Impacts to TE&S species must be mitigated.

2. Continue to limit the summer use of winter sports sites to activities that are compatible with National Forest management and resources.

3. Maintain the retention of the natural quality of the area, while providing for an economically feasible ski area development.

4. Interpret the unique resource values for summer and winter users.

#### **Dispersed recreation**

Monitor dispersed use. Modify use if necessary to prevent resource damage.

## Equestrian and Hiking Trails

Increase opportunities for riding and hiking. Priority for construction is as follows:

- a. National trails or trails which are a part of a larger trail network (Santa Ana Trail) or that will aid in protecting sensitive areas.
- b. Trails that are in high use areas or that lead to major points of interest.
- c. Trails that provide other opportunities.

## Off-Highway Vehicles

1. Administer routes and staging areas open for OHV use to promote the use of vehicles, protect resources and minimize conflicts.

2. Allow off-highway vehicle use on designated routes when it has been determined through the environmental process that the use is appropriate.

- a. Forest roads and trails open to OHV use will be signed appropriately.
- b. Criteria for designating OHV trails and staging areas require that the following are mitigable:
  - a. Potential conflicts with wildlife or livestock.
  - b. Potential for significant off-site damage to soil and water resources.
  - c. Potential for safety problems.
  - d. Potential conflicts with private land.
  - e. Potential conflicts with Class I & II cultural resource properties.
  - f. Potential damage to TE&S species.
- b. Designations must be administrable on the ground, with the ability to contain OHV use within boundaries or on trails.

3. Close roads and trails immediately when use is causing or is likely to cause unacceptable effects. Criteria for seasonal or year long closure of OHV roads and trails:

- a. Damage to TE&S plant and wildlife habit.
- b. Safety hazards which cannot be mitigated.
- c. Inability to protect adjacent resources.
- d. Unacceptable soil or water quality damage that cannot be mitigated.
- e. Unacceptable impacts on wildlife or livestock that cannot be mitigated.
- f. Unacceptable conflicts with other uses or adjacent to the Forest that cannot be mitigated.
- g. Damage to Class I & II Cultural Resource property that cannot be mitigated.
- h. Unacceptable damage to the roadbed.

4. Design and construct trails and staging areas to minimize adverse impacts on other resources.
  - a. Avoid crossing equestrian and hiking trails where possible.
  - b. Control illegal use of R&H trails by signing or other appropriate measures.
  - c. Maintain vegetative screening along roads and trails to discourage illegal OHV use and avoid harassment to wildlife.
  - d. Favor loops over dead end routes.
  - e. Avoid riparian areas where possible. Cross at right angles where necessary and discourage illegal use of riparian areas through screening or other methods.
  - f. Where OHV traffic is mixed with other traffic, design and maintain routes to reduce speeds, while still meeting fire and administrative needs.
  - g. End routes before reaching private land unless the Forest Service or another agency has obtained the necessary rights-of-way to cross the land.
  - h. Include means to close routes if funding levels fall below that necessary to protect adjacent resources.
  - i. Use the following criteria for trail and staging area construction priorities:
    1. Facilities that will help resolve adverse environmental effects.
    2. Short segments of trail which will allow incorporating large segments of existing routes into the designated OHV system.
    3. Trails which tie use areas together and provide for longer distance touring.
    4. Facilities which increase opportunities and user satisfaction.
5. Designate no open OHV areas.
6. Annually update the OHV Implementation Plan
  - a. Maintain interim routes to provide for an integrated trail system pending construction of new trails.
  - b. Delete interim OHV routes as new routes are constructed.
  - c. Review the OHV Plan annually as part of the normal plan of work using the following process and update the OHV Plan as necessary:
    - Phase I - public input on changes to be considered (e.g. routes for addition/deletion).
    - Phase II - Forest Service determines routes to be analyzed in the update and notifies the public.
    - Phase III - The environmental analysis.
    - Phase IV - Forest Service notifies the public of changes and prepares for the new season.
7. Develop special categories in the transportation system plan for trail bike/ATV trails and 4WD roads. Maintain off-road character of roads and trails designated to be in the OHV system.

- a. Specify special maintenance guidelines.
- b. Where a higher level of maintenance is necessary for fire or administrative access, provide the minimum level sufficient for this use.
- c. Insure that roads upgraded for administrative or other resource projects are not upgraded beyond the minimum necessary for the projects, and allow the road to revert to off-road character on completion of the project.

8. Where compatible with Forest Plan management objectives, cooperate with the State, other agencies, and user groups to identify and develop segments of trail that support the concept of a statewide trail system, connecting use areas and providing the opportunity for long distance trail touring.

9. Allow over-snow vehicle travel on snowmobiles where appropriate. Criteria for allowing snowmobile use:

- a. Within designated areas on routes specifically designated for snowmobile use.
- b. Snowmobile tracks do not touch mineral soil.
- c. One foot or more of snow is present in the area on the designated routes.
- d. Impacts to wildlife and plants can be mitigated.

10. Vehicle closures for snowmobile or X-country skiing opportunities will be activated based upon snow conditions.

Areas closed to provide X-country skiing opportunities will be activated when twelve inches or more of snow accumulates.

#### Off Road (Mountain) Bicycles

Allow mountain bikes to use forest trails except for the Pacific Crest Trail and trails within wilderness. Individual trails may be closed if safety or resource problems cannot be mitigated.

#### Recreational Target Shooting (not including hunting)

1. Allow target shooting except in areas closed by Forest Supervisor Order.
  - a. Target materials will be established by Forest Supervisor Order.
  - b. Close areas to target shooting if unacceptable effects are occurring:
    1. Safety hazards that cannot be mitigated.
    2. Resources and property that cannot be protected.
    3. Conflicts with other Forest users that cannot be mitigated.
  - c. Coordinate Forest shooting closure orders with the county shooting ordinance for consistency.

2. Shooting ranges may be allowed under special use permit where there is a demonstrated need. The following criteria will be met before granting a permit:

- a. Non-availability of private land.
- b. No other shooting ranges within reasonable distance, or full utilization of those within reasonable distance.
- c. Potential conflicts with other resources can be mitigated.
- d. Ranges will be open to the public during normal operating hours of the range.

#### Competitive Events

Evaluate on a case-by-case basis.

- a. Timed events are acceptable only if they are not races and speed is controlled.
- b. Events for OHV's not licensed for highway use will be confined to routes designated for their use in the OHV Plan or transportation system roads designated for the event.
- c. Trials may be allowed in undesignated areas if determined appropriate by an EA.

#### Adventure Games

Do not issue permits for adventure games (war/survival games) to individuals or private organizations.

### **General Recreation**

#### Interpretive Services

1. Develop multi-lingual signing, brochures, and personnel in areas heavily used by non-English speaking populations.
2. Use programs, displays, and publications which interpret Forest Service resource management programs as well as environmental interpretation.
3. Keep all elements of the I.S. program (signs, interpretive trails, brochures, information stations, etc.) in character with the Forest environment where they are found.
4. Maximize use of information facilities which do not require staffing.
5. Use volunteers in visitor service activities and programs where possible.

#### Conservation Education

Actively support school district conservation education programs.

### **General Recreation**

#### **Heritage Resources**

##### Inventory

1. Complete cultural resources inventory of 85 percent of Forest acreage, according to legislative or management directives, as determined by RPA updates.
  - a. Inventory will include cultural resource properties, extent of inventoried land area, created and archived collections and oral histories.

- b. Inventory will be done in conjunction with project work or post-wildfire rehabilitation.
2. Complete a sample inventory of the Forest to aid in identifying general cultural resource potentials for the Forest for land management purposes and to address research questions forwarded in the Forest Overview.
  3. Prepare a documented Archaeological Survey Report with appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) consultation as required input to environmental analyses for management activities.
    - a. Inventory will be done in conjunction with project work or post-wildfire rehabilitation whenever feasible. Some inventory may be required outside project or rehabilitation areas.
  4. Complete paleontological evaluation in conjunction with proposed projects that include land-disturbing activities.
    - a. Reconnaissance will be done by qualified personnel (FSM 2361.4).
    - b. This will occur concurrently with initial studies for land disposal actions. Any development or land use which may alter, damage, destroy, or remove from management any cultural resource shall have a documented archaeological reconnaissance report.
  5. Keep the Cultural Resource Overview and inventory current.
    - In the event of outside agency proposal, the proponent is responsible for evaluation.

#### Evaluation

Evaluate a set number of identified cultural resource properties for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places each fiscal year.

- a. Evaluation will be made by qualified personnel.
- b. Eligibility will be determined in consultation with the SHPO using National Register of Historic Places criteria for significance and existing or future statewide cultural resources plan.

#### Protection& Enhancement

1. Assess significant properties to determine conflicts with present or proposed land uses. Minimize or eliminate conflicts where possible. Similarly assess and manage properties showing effects of vandalism.

- a. Consult with SHPO and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as necessary to resolve cultural resource/multiple use management conflicts. Consider the following programs:
  1. Administrative closures
  2. Physical protection measures per Advisory Council for Historic Preservation procedures and USDI standards for maintenance, rehabilitation, stabilization, restoration and protection.
  3. Monitoring/patrolling
  4. Impact mitigation

5. Adaptive re-use
  6. Site specific and aerial research
  7. Interpretive services
  8. Special cultural resource areas or zones (FSM 2361.14)
  9. Uses within other protective management zones (RNAs. etc.)
  10. Accept adverse impact
- b. Until proper assessment occurs, all known cultural resource properties shall be classified as Class II properties and shall be afforded the same consideration as Class I cultural resource properties, regardless of activity.
  - c. Confidentiality of cultural resource site locations will be maintained to aid in their protection.
  - d. Coordinate with proponent to perform protection and recovery plan for paleontological resources in event of projects that include land-disturbing activities.
2. Maintain significant historical properties in accordance with appropriate cultural resource legislation.

### **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**

1. Meet ROS objectives for the classes shown on the ROS map. When physical, social, and/or managerial settings do not fall into one ROS class, the class shown on the ROS map will be the one that best reflects management direction.

NOTE: Activity opportunities listed under each class are not meant to be all-inclusive.

- a. Primitive: Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted. Extremely high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk. Activity opportunities include viewing scenery, photography, hiking, horseback riding, camping, mountain climbing, nature study, hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, and snow play.
- b. Semi-primitive Non-motorized: Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. The presence of roads is tolerated, provided: they are closed to public use; they are used infrequently for resource protection and management; and the road standards and locations are visually appropriate for the physical setting. High, but not extremely high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, tranquility and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Activity opportunities include viewing

scenery, photography, hiking, horseback riding, camping, mountain climbing, nature study, hunting, fishing, swimming, snow play, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

- c. Semi-primitive Motorized: Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted. Moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area. Activity opportunities include viewing scenery, photography, hiking, horseback riding, OHV use (motorcycles, ATV's and 4-wheel drives), camping, picnicking, mountain climbing, nature study, hunting, fishing, swimming, snow play, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- d. Roaded Natural: Area is characterized by predominantly natural-appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities. About equal probability to experience affiliation with other user groups and for isolation from sights and sounds of humans. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities associated with more primitive type of recreation are not very important. Practice and testing of outdoor skills might be important. Opportunities for both motorized and non—motorized forms of recreation are possible.
- e. Activity opportunities include viewing scenery, photography, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, automobile touring, OHV's (motorcycles, ATVs, 4-wheel drives), camping, picnicking, organization camps, recreation residences, resorts, lodges, gathering forest products, nature study, interpretive services, hunting, fishing, swimming, canoeing, boating, snow play, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing.
- f. Rural: Area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available. Probability for experiencing affiliation with individuals and groups is prevalent, as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. These factors are generally more important than the setting of the physical environment. Opportunities for wildland challenge, risk-taking and testing of outdoor skills are generally unimportant except for specific activities like downhill skiing, for which challenge and risk-taking are important elements. Activity opportunities include viewing scenery, photography, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, automobile

touring, OHV's (motorcycles, ATV's, 4-wheel drives), camping, picnicking, organization camps, recreation residences, resorts, lodges, gathering forest products, nature study, interpretive services, hunting, fishing, swimming, canoeing, sailing, power boating, snow play, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and snowshoeing.

### **Scenery Management**

1. Maintain the adopted visual quality objectives for all management activities.
  - a. See VQO map.
  - b. Deviations from or exceptions to the mapped VQO's must be evaluated through the EA process and approved by the Forest Supervisor.
2. On any vegetation treatment, insure visual variety through random mosaic patterns by varying vegetation densities, age classes, and distribution of treatments. Design vegetation treatments to provide natural-appearing mosaics, patterns and shapes. Boundaries or edges of project work should be feathered.
3. Provide a variety of designs and materials to simulate natural colors and textures of soil, rock and vegetation, when undertaking facility design.
4. Prioritize and schedule the rehabilitation of sites and areas that do not meet visual quality objectives within 2 years of Plan completion.
5. Assure that plans and designs for Special Use facilities or improvements meet quality objectives.
6. Avoid treatments that lessen the visual quality of the Forest below Retention level within the foreground or middle ground of Scenic Highway corridors established by the State.

### **Wilderness Resources**

1. Manage and administer each wilderness to promote and perpetuate wilderness character and values for scientific study, solitude, physical and mental challenge and stimulation, inspiration, spiritual refreshment and primitive recreation opportunities.
2. Recognize both climax and successional biotic communities as natural and desirable and permit ecological processes to operate naturally.
  - a. Recognize the natural process of healing as the preferred method of handling adverse features. Under unusual circumstances, structural or vegetation assistance may be considered, but only as a last resort with proper justification.
  - b. Prescribed fire will be used where necessary to meet wilderness objectives and to reduce risks and consequences of wildfire within or escaping from wilderness. Planned ignitions may be used to meet wilderness fire management objectives and to reduce threats to values outside. Fire control techniques that leave a natural-appearing burn pattern will be utilized where necessary. The effects of past fire suppression activities will be analyzed and specific objectives, standards and guidelines for the use of prescribed fire (planned and unplanned ignitions) will be developed in each wilderness management plan.
3. Maintain a natural setting for native plants and animals.
  - a. Maintain native plant and animal species with special emphasis on the preservation of TE&S species and their habitat.

- b. Permit sport hunting, trapping and fishing under state laws. Encourage primitive forms of hunting. No hunting will be allowed within the State Game Reserve located in the San Jacinto Wilderness.
  - c. Coordinate with Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game in order to ensure maintenance of the wilderness resource.
  - d. Discourage action to control predators, except where control is necessary to protect TE&S species.
  - e. Action to control insects and plant or animal diseases may be taken as necessary to prevent unnatural loss of the wilderness resource or unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent lands, or any threat to continued lawful uses and activities of the area.
4. Conduct measures designed to improve watershed values after obtaining appropriate approval. Schedule activities based on Watershed Improvement Needs priorities.
5. Cut no trees except:
- a. When necessary for prospecting and for the development and operation of mining claims.
  - b. As authorized for control of insects, disease, or wildfire.
  - c. As authorized for restoration, improvement and administration.
6. Provide for public use and enjoyment and understanding of the wilderness.
- a. Visitor information services including interpretation will be provided only outside the wilderness.
  - b. No buildings, nature trails, tours, guided walks, etc., will be appropriate inside a wilderness area.
7. Provide a liaison to work with county law enforcement agencies to coordinate and improve communications relating to search and rescue missions.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Infrastructure**

#### Transportation System

1. Plan, develop, and operate a network of transportation facilities to accomplish the land and resource management objectives of the Forest Service, and coordinate with national and Statewide transportation needs.

Participate with San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and other local government entities in comprehensive studies to provide access into the National Forest.

2. Allow short-term highway improvements that increase capacity to meet demand to the year 2000 subject to project environmental analysis constraints. Typical improvements may include higher standard sections, passing lanes, and turnouts.

Support environmentally acceptable solutions which decrease congestion. Criteria for Forest Service approval of short-term solutions are:

- Proponent prepares environmental assessment for facilities constructed on National Forest System lands.

3. Encourage long-term plans that emphasize the best mix of transportation modes, mass transit, traffic controls, routing, and public information programs; and which accommodate local community concerns such as dispersion of visitors inside the Forest, water quantity, sewage disposal, local economy and growth.

Support environmentally acceptable long-term solutions which decrease congestion problems. Criteria for Forest Service approval of long range plans are:

- a. Comprehensive transportation study be completed by SANBAG or other appropriate agency. Study should include other issues besides transportation, such as economic and population growth/limitations, water availability, sewage disposal, political and public support, terminal facilities, geologic hazard risk areas, etc.
- b. Development proposals will require appropriate environmental analysis assessing the environmental, economic and social aspects of the proposal. The proponent of the proposal will be responsible for preparing the assessment following the NEPA process.
- c. Appropriate federal regulations and Forest Service policy on easements and permits will be followed in project development.
- d. Proposal has general support from public agencies, organizations and the public. Proposals should not conflict with other proposals, which might reduce the chances for or produce an unacceptable level of environmental impacts.

4. Support improvements needed for public safety and mobility on State and County two-lane highways.

#### Forest Roads and Trails

Operate and maintain Forest system roads and trails according to maintenance levels and objectives appropriate to the planned use, and considering costs and effects on land and resources.

In general, asphalt paved roads within open recreation and administrative sites will be maintained at level 5. Access to recreation sites will be maintained at a minimum of level 3, providing for passenger cars at low speeds. Other roads will be maintained at a minimum of level 2, closed roads at level 1. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to perpetuate and protect the investment, except as noted in prescriptions 14, 16, 17, 20, 23, 24, and 27.

#### System Operations

Control public and administrative use on the Forest transportation system by closures. Closures may be instituted for:

- Fire restrictions and closures.
- Fish, wildlife, or plant mitigation or enhancement.
- Adverse weather and sub-grade conditions.
- Safety hazards on the facility.
- Watershed protections.

## Facilities

1. Implement and maintain a program to provide facilities. Assess facility needs and provide facilities needed to meet Forest requirements.
  - a. Continue program of rehabilitation and minor improvements needed by the fire and resource organizations.
  - b. Complete facilities master planning and construct or replace highest priority structures.
2. Implement and maintain a program to reduce total annual maintenance needs to about 3% of the current replacement value.
  - a. Eliminate the inventoried maintenance backlog and all condemnable facilities.
  - b. Give priority to and eliminate inventoried health and safety problems in Forest Service and leased facilities.
3. Reduce energy consumption at existing buildings and facilities to the lowest economically feasible level. Retrofit buildings and facilities for energy conservation.

## Dams

1. Maintain Forest Service-owned dams. Require inspection of those under special use permit to the degree necessary to safeguard downstream life and property, or have them withdrawn.
  - a. Maintain, operate and/or inspect on a scheduled basis Forest Service-owned dams.
  - b. Require systematic inspection of dams under special use permit. Monitor inspections.
  - c. Coordinate with State on dams under State jurisdiction for inspection.

## Real Estate

### Adjustments to Land Base

1. Encourage donations of land or interests in land within or adjacent to the National Forest that can logically be managed as part of the Forest to meet ongoing resource management and protection programs.
2. Acquire lands through purchase and exchange from willing landowners.
  - a. Priority for acquisition is as follows:
    - Priority 1. Lands necessary to protect resources or meet key objectives in resource programs; e.g., lands with important habitat for TE&S species, lands with water frontage and riparian habitat and lands needed to prevent development of isolated new communities in areas lacking structural fire fighting departments and other community services.
    - Priority 2. Tracts not urgently needed but which will promote effective resource management e.g., meet general resource objectives, eliminate trespass occupancies, consolidate ownership, etc.
  - b. Water rights will normally accompany all lands acquired. They should not be reserved, severed, or in any way encumbered.

### 3. Identify National Forest System lands that may be considered for disposal.

The following types of land may be disposed of through exchange:

- a. Parcels isolated from other National Forest System lands which are difficult to manage.
- b. Parcels partially or completely surrounded by developing communities, or land that is appropriate for community expansion.
- c. Lands intermingled with private land, particularly if they meet one of the following criteria:
  - 1) Involve an occupancy trespass with substantial improvements.
  - 2) Would serve a greater public need in some other public ownership.
  - 3) Involve special uses with substantial improvements that do not benefit National Forest programs.
  - 4) Would be exchanged for Priority 1 acquisition lands.
  - 5) Improve effectiveness in overall land management.
  - 6) Are impacted by nearby private development to the extent that they have lost their National Forest character and have become difficult to manage for National Forest purposes.
- d. Lands significantly impacted by long-term, irreversible uses; i.e. sanitary landfills.

### Landline Location

The priorities for the landline location program will be to:

- a. Prevent future problems in occupancy trespass or improper title claims.
- b. Maintain landlines previously established to standard.
- c. Establish land lines necessary for ongoing resource programs.
- d. Complete the backlog of occupancy trespass cases and all other landlines to standard.

### Special Uses

1. Respond to special use applications in a timely manner.
2. Issue special use permits for National Forest System land use only when the following conditions are met:
  - a. The uses are compatible with Forest Service management objectives including those identified in the Forest Service Manual, the Forest Land Management Plan and subordinate documents.
  - b. The opportunity does not exist on non-Federal lands.
  - c. Impacts to Forest resources can be mitigated.
3. Special uses should, wherever feasible, enhance fire protection, public recreation opportunities and other Forest Service programs.
4. Meet FSM requirements for inspections and fee revisions.

## Electronic Sites

1. Accommodate electronic site permit applications through full utilization of existing and expanded existing sites.
  - a. For long distance electronic site proposals, analyze permit issuance in coordination with agencies and landowners involved with links on either side.
  - b. Consider development of new electronic sites only if existing sites are incapable of satisfying electronic needs.
  - c. Users will share maintenance costs of site-access roads commensurate with use.
  - d. Permit applications must be accompanied by site plans that consider circulation patterns, facility location, colors, heights, expansion areas, etc.

## Transportation and Utility Corridors

### Utility Corridors

1. Confine the Cajon corridor to its present limit, and utilize the corridor to the maximum extent possible. Upgrading and enlargement of existing facilities will be preferred to construction of new facilities that may further congest the corridor.
2. New transportation and utility facilities will be located adjacent to existing utilities whenever possible to minimize impacts on other resources.

Bury new or reconstructed telephone lines and powerlines 35KV or less unless an environmental assessment shows this to be undesirable.

3. Designate additional transportation and utility corridors only if the need arises. Corridors will conform to Regional guidelines.

### Rights-of-Way

Acquire the necessary easements for road and trails to support appropriate National Forest activities. Follow current 5-year ROW Action Plan and update plan annually.

## Coordination

### Coordination with Other Agencies and Private Land Owners

1. Grant reasonable access across National Forest System lands to private landowners within the National Forest boundary.
2. Coordinate with local government agencies in order to meet local community needs while protecting National Forest resources.
3. Develop multi-resource management plans through coordinated resource planning, utilizing cooperative funding opportunities.
  - a. Develop plans on a watershed basis.
  - b. Give priority to watersheds with multiple large private ownerships or inholdings.
4. Work with private landowners and planning agencies to gain appropriate access to National Forest resources.

5. Encourage local jurisdictions to require developers to incorporate landline survey needs and green-belt concepts such as contained in the “Foothill Communities Protective Greenbelt Program” for projects adjacent to National Forest System lands.

#### Law Enforcement

1. Support all functions to minimize resource/property damage and conflicts on the Forest.
2. Assist all functions in preparing site specific or general use plans that may require law enforcement support or input.

#### Legal Agreements

Honor all existing legal agreements. They will be revised to conform to the Forest Plan at the time of renewal, transfer, or review, under the terms of the agreement.

#### Planning

Participate in State and local comprehensive land management planning and provide input for planning of specific projects.

## **SBNF Management Area Direction**

### **Management Area 1**

#### **Developed Recreation - High Intensity**

##### **Theme**

Manage for a variety of developed recreation opportunities such as overnight camping, day use, picnicking, and interpretive services at a high level. Other resource activities aid in the maintenance and enhancement of these opportunities. The maximum size of any developed site is 40 acres.

##### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types, slopes 0-8% classified as suitable for developed recreation.

##### **Desired Condition**

##### **Standards and guidelines**

##### Planning and Inventory

Inventory potential sites for small dams and reservoirs by 1990.

##### Wildlife and Fish

Manage habitat to enhance the recreational experience where possible.

##### Developed Site Construction

1. Provide developed recreation and interpretive service facilities within resource capabilities of the Forest for maximizing recreation.

2. The priority for development including new picnic grounds, campgrounds, and group campgrounds is the development of new sites in areas of high demand.

Do not locate new developed sites adjacent to private land where conflict cannot be mitigated.

3. Include vandal resistant materials and features in site designs.

4. Provide cost effective facilities that meet public needs and mitigate resource conflicts.

#### Developed Site Maintenance

1. Maintain all developed sites at highest maintenance levels.

2. Manage developed sites for resource protection, public safety and within suggested ROS capacity guidelines.

3. Continue fee program. Establish rates and collect annual operation costs consistent with Regional program direction.

4. Maintain the health and vigor of the vegetation in and around developed recreation sites.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide public with full service interpretive opportunities, with information for their health and safety, recreation opportunities and multiple use management of the Forest.

2. Provide interpretive services at designated locations including administrative sites.

#### Roads

Construct/reconstruct Forest roads to complete the North Shore Big Bear Recreation Area project sites.

Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Local roads will generally be a surfaced two-lane road with single-lane loop roads and parking areas.

#### Trails

1. Maintain trails within and between open developed sites at a minimum of level 3. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to perpetuate and protect the investment.

2. Construct/reconstruct Forest trails to complete the North Shore Big Bear Recreation area project and new developed sites.

Emphasis will be placed on interpretive trails and interconnecting trails between developed sites.

#### Land Exchanges

Make exchanges to support key program objectives.

## **Management Area 2**

### **Developed Recreation - Rehabilitation**

#### **Theme**

Manage for a variety of developed recreation opportunities such as overnight camping, day use, picnicking, and interpretive services at a moderate level. Vegetation management by other resources aids in the maintenance and enhancement of these opportunities.

## **Management Area Description**

Applicable Areas: All vegetation types; existing sites.

### **Desired Condition**

#### **Standards and guidelines**

##### Wildlife and Fish

Manage habitat to enhance the recreational experience where possible.

##### Developed Site Rehabilitation

Rehabilitate existing developed sites that are currently included in the Regional rehabilitation program. Rehabilitate sites to condition class 1, within the next 10 years.

##### Developed Site Maintenance

1. Maintain all developed sites at highest maintenance levels.
2. Manage developed sites for resource protection, public safety and within suggested ROS capacity guidelines.
3. Maintain the health and vigor of the vegetation in and around developed recreation sites.

##### Interpretive Services

1. Provide public with full service interpretive opportunities, information for their health and safety, recreation opportunities and multiple use management of the Forest.
2. Provide interpretive services at designated locations including administrative sites.

##### Roads

Reconstruct Forest roads to complete recreation rehabilitation projects. Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Local roads will generally be a surfaced two-lane road with single-lane loop roads and parking areas.

##### Trails

1. Maintain trails within and between open developed sites at a minimum of level 3. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to perpetuate and protect the investment.
2. Reconstruct Forest trails to complete recreation rehab projects. Place emphasis on upgrading trails to standard.

## **Management Area 4**

### **Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation**

#### **Theme**

Manage for a variety of non-motorized dispersed recreation opportunities such as trails, overnight camping sites and equestrian facilities, while maintaining visual quality. Other activities maintain or enhance semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. A baseline level of health and vigor is maintained in timber stands to the extent that vehicular access is not required. Prescribed fire may be used to manage vegetation. \* Motorized vehicles may be used for administrative purposes and mineral development; however, any temporary access will be

obliterated after its' primary use is completed. Non-motorized dispersed areas will be maintained in units of 2,500 acres or larger unless they are adjacent to wilderness or RNAs, or their integrity can be maintained at a smaller scale because of topographic features.

\* For analysis purposes, assume no more than 25 percent of total acres manipulated in chaparral type.

### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types; all slopes in unroaded areas.

### **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Water Resources

Construct snow fences and impoundments where appropriate.

#### Biodiversity

1. Manage to retain meadows and natural grassy openings by preventing overstory encroachment. Retain screening where needed.
2. Maintain a mix of hardwoods and conifer that is consistent with site potential to support hardwoods.
3. Maintain species diversity and access for wildlife by managing the understory.
  - a. Strive to retain at least 25% shrub cover, giving preference to palatable species.
  - b. Dense brush patches should be less than 10 acres in size.

#### Range

1. Install structural range improvements, including fencing and water, to manage distribution and facilitate vegetation management objectives.
2. Utilize livestock to help maintain type conversions and fuelbreaks.
3. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation management objectives.
4. Implement grazing systems that support vegetation management objectives.

#### Silviculture

Maintain the health and vigor of the vegetation to the extent possible, without the introduction of permanent roads. Use uneven-age silvicultural treatments. In timber stands, desired residual basal area is 120 sq. ft. for pine, 140 sq. ft. for mixed conifer.

#### Wildlife and Fish

Manage habitat to maintain or improve conditions for emphasis species.

#### Dispersed Recreation

1. Provide full service dispersed recreation administration.

2. Provide litter clean-up, sanitation facilities, public safety and law enforcement contact as needed.
3. Provide additional dispersed opportunities by constructing trails to accommodate hiking and equestrian use, cross-country skiing and access for primitive camping.
4. Provide additional trailheads and staging areas at locations convenient to access dispersed areas.
  - a. Design multi-purpose parking facilities wherever possible.
  - b. Facilities may include parking, fencing, directional and informational signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide the public with full service interpretive opportunities. Provide health and safety information for Forest Users. Emphasize the dispersed, non-motorized opportunities on the Forest, stressing non-wilderness opportunities.
2. Provide interpretive services at designated locations including all administrative sites.

#### Trails

1. Maintain the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and National Recreation Trails (NRT's) at a minimum of level 3. Other Forest trails will be maintained at a minimum of level 1.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails in support of dispersed recreation opportunities. Emphasis will be placed on completing PCT through BLM lands, upgrading NRT's and other high use trails to standard.

#### Land Exchanges

Make exchanges to support key program objectives.

#### Special Uses

1. Allow for issuance of special use permits for outfitter guides on a case-by-case basis.
2. Administer special use permits for minimum compliance with permit conditions.

## **Management Area 5**

### **Ski Area Development - High**

#### **Theme**

Encourage development of Sugarloaf and Stockton Flat (potential new ski areas). Major alternative transportation modes may be developed to accommodate the increase in traffic. Management of ski areas will allow for an additional of 18,940 skiers at one time (SAOT) over present use.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: Potential development areas: Sugarloaf and Stockton Flat.

## **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Trails

Maintain National Recreation Trails and other Forest trails at a minimum of level 3.

#### Special Uses (Winter Sports Sites)

Provide high level of special use administration. Administer permits with consideration of public safety and resource capability.

## **Management Area 6**

### **Ski Area Development - Moderate**

#### **Theme**

Allow expansion of existing ski areas to a high level. Land-based trams, busing or two-lane highway improvements would accommodate the increase in traffic. Management of existing ski areas at an expanded level will allow for a total of 31,810 skiers at one time (SAOT).

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: Existing ski areas: Snow Summit, Goldmine, Snow Forest, Snow Valley, Green Valley, and Mt. Baldy lifts 5 and 6.

## **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Trails

Maintain trails at a minimum of level 1.

#### Special Uses

1. Encourage existing ski areas to expand within the proposals outlined in their individual approved development plans.

Encourage the development of alternative modes of transportation to the ski areas in lieu of parking lot expansion.

2. Provide high level of special use administration.

Administer permits with consideration of public safety and resource capability.

#### Special Uses

Administer special use permits for public safety.

Monitor for adequate performance.

# Management Area 8

## Wilderness - Moderate - High

### Theme

Manage wilderness areas at a high level to provide for recreation opportunities and to maintain wilderness values at a near-pristine level. Visitor use is managed through a variety of dispersal techniques to prevent unacceptable degradation of wilderness values, including solitude. Trail maintenance and rehabilitation of heavily used areas is at high level.

### Management Area Description

Applicable Area: All Congressionally designated wilderness, further planning areas, and Pyramid Peak Planning Area.

### Desired Condition

### Standards and guidelines

#### Mineral Resources

1. Monitor mineral operations in wilderness possessing valid existing rights prior to December 31, 1983, through an approved plan of operations, compatible to the greatest extent possible with wilderness management practices and objectives. 36 CFR 228.
2. Determine validity of those mining claims within wilderness for which new plans of operations are submitted subsequent to January 1, 1984.

#### Wildlife and Fish

Manage wilderness use to maintain fish and wildlife populations and protect sensitive areas.

#### CLIFF NESTING RAPTORS

If a wilderness site is selected for hacking out peregrine falcons, all wilderness regulations will be observed during the hacking program.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide necessary and appropriate visitor information facilities to interpret the wilderness and impart wilderness ethics to visitors.
2. Design signs used for resource protection and at trail junctions to facilitate public travel and safety. Man-made facilities will blend into surroundings as much as possible, using native materials as the principal source of raw materials.

#### Scenery Management

Meet the Preservation visual quality objective.

#### Wilderness Resources

1. Develop wilderness management plans for all wilderness areas within 2 years of adoption of this plan.

2. Manage wilderness use at full service level. Continue to utilize current quota system.
  - a. Manage level of day use to provide for isolation and solitude.
  - b. Continue to utilize the wilderness permit system.
  - c. Limit the number of overnight permits to ensure a solitude experience.
  - d. Continue to reserve permits for wilderness use up to 90 days in advance. Withhold 25% from advance reservations and issue these on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of entry only.
  - e. Continue to monitor wilderness use to determine if adjustments are necessary to area quotas.
  - f. Allow no more than one party from any organized group to camp in the same general camping locality.
  - g. Continue to install yellow painted iron posts where campfires may safely be built. Rotate these sites as needed.
  - h. Encourage the use of backpack stoves.
  - i. Continue management of areas and trails to existing carrying capacities. Modify carrying capacities only after thorough analysis.
  - j. Continue to limit the maximum size of a party that may travel together or camp at one location to 15 persons (eight persons on an explorer permit).
  - k. To maintain site quality and some degree of solitude, continue to require all campsites to be located a minimum of 200 feet away from springs, streams, meadows, trails and other occupied campsites.
  - l. Continue to contact visitors inside the area to inform them of wilderness resource values and obtain permit compliance.
  - m. Continue to use 'code a site' system to monitor sites and develop action plans to restore/rehabilitate sites that fall into condition classes 4 and 5.
  - n. Continue to implement a pack-it-in/pack-it-out program for wilderness users.
3. Provide a high level of management that will ensure that visitor use is limited. Inform visitors of alternative opportunities outside the wilderness.
4. Maintain recreation use at levels prescribed in wilderness management plans.

#### Trails

1. Maintain high use wilderness trails to level 3 or higher. Maintain moderate and low-use trails at a minimum of level 2. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to protect the investment.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails in support of providing dispersed recreation opportunities. Place emphasis on upgrading PCT and high-use trails to standard.

#### Land Exchanges

Make exchanges to support key program objectives.

### Landlines

Complete property boundary surveys on legal lines for new wilderness areas. Maintain those lines and corners previously established to standard on a scheduled basis.

### Special Uses

Allow for issuance of special use permits for outfitter guides on a case-by-case basis, not to interfere with general public use.

## **Management Area 10**

### **Research Natural Areas (RNAs)**

#### **Theme**

Manage to perpetuate unique resource values (biological, physical, cultural) for research purposes. Vegetation is generally not managed unless necessary to maintain the natural condition.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All areas in conifer and woodland vegetation zones identified as having research value and meeting RNA criteria.

#### **Desired Condition**

#### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Planning and Inventory

1. Manage candidate RNAs and recommended RNAs as though they were designated RNAs during the interim time period while analysis and recommended establishment reports are being completed.
2. Schedule and submit establishment reports for recommended RNAs in this Plan to the Chief of the Forest Service within 5 years.
  - a. Establishment reports will be completed for all recommended RNAs within 2 years following completion of the Forest Plan.
  - b. Fire management plans will be prepared for recommended RNAs as part of the establishment report.
3. Schedule inventories needed for evaluation of deferred RNA elements prior to the next Forest Plan revision. (Chaparral, Parry pinyon, geologic, aquatic)
4. Recommended RNAs will return to previous status if the decision by the Chief of the Forest Service is to deny RNA classification.
5. Forest Supervisor and his designated representative will maintain liaison with the PSW Research Station to coordinate Forest management with research use of any classified RNAs on the Forest.
6. All activities within or adjacent to RNAs will occur at a level that does not degrade, detract from or disrupt the natural character and functioning of the ecosystem within RNA boundaries.

### Dispersed Recreation

Permit dispersed recreation and other activities to the extent that resource values are not degraded.

### Trails

Maintain trails at a minimum of level 3.

### Land Exchanges

Acquire lands to support key program objectives.

## **Management Area 11**

### **Watershed Management in Conifer/Woodland**

#### **Theme**

Manage to maintain or enhance watershed viability and health through sediment management to protect downstream values and sustain land productivity. Emphasize a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities. Other activities maintain or enhance watershed management and dispersed recreation opportunities. Treat conifer and woodland vegetation to achieve a structure which will optimize health and vigor.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: Conifer and woodland vegetation.

Conifer: all slopes.

Pinyon/juniper woodland: 0-50% slopes.

#### **Desired Condition**

#### **Standards and guidelines**

##### Water Resources

Construct snow fences and impoundments where appropriate.

##### Biodiversity

1. Manage to retain meadows and natural grassy openings by preventing overstory encroachment.

Retain screening where needed next to trails and roads.

2. Maintain a mix of hardwoods and conifer that is consistent with site potential to support hardwoods.

3. Maintain species diversity and access for wildlife by managing the understory.

Where possible, retain at least 25% shrub cover, giving preference to palatable species. b. Dense brush patches (>50% canopy cover) should be 5-10 acres in size.

##### Range

1. Install structural range improvements, including fencing and water, to facilitate vegetation management objectives.

2. Utilize livestock to help maintain type conversions and fuelbreaks.
3. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation management objectives.
4. Implement grazing systems that support vegetation management objectives.

#### Silviculture

Manage timber stands under the silvicultural system known as uneven-aged management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Stand-specific prescriptions will be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist.

Stand structure should consist of the following elements: \*

- An all-aged or irregular-size structure. Continuity of Forest appearance and maintaining a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each class.
- Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged groups within all-aged stands should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.
- Desired residual basal area is 100 sq. ft. for pine; 120 sq. ft. for mixed conifer.
- Mixed species composition.
- Healthy, vigorous trees.
- Near-natural appearance.
- Fire-resistant stands.

\* Not all treatment methods would be applied to every stand; only those deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis.

#### Wildlife and Fish

##### WATERFOWL

1. Improve habitat for nesting and wintering waterfowl. Give priority to Garner Valley and Big Bear Basin (important habitats).
2. Manage habitat to maintain conditions for emphasis species.

#### Dispersed Recreation

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a reduced service level.
2. Provide for public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities.
4. Provide dispersed facilities at development appropriate to the ROS class levels.
5. Design multi-purpose parking facilities where needed.

Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.

6. Provide observation points along major scenic highways.
7. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure and enjoyment on State, County and Forest system roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and County road departments.
8. Where feasible, create water impoundments for water-oriented dispersed recreation.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information, and resource interpretation.
2. Provide information for the public's health and safety while using the dispersed areas of the Forest. Emphasize protection and multiple use management.
3. Provide information and interpretive services at all administrative sites.
4. Maintain all facilities at a moderate maintenance level.

#### Roads

1. Reduce roads open to public in important wildlife habitat to an average of not more than two miles of road per square mile of land. Maintain roads needed for administrative use at level 2 with gates or barriers installed.
2. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment and/or closure. Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on roads by the year 2000.
3. Construct/reconstruct additional roads in support of watershed program and to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Collector and local roads will generally be a single lane road and will be stabilized.

#### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs and other high use trails to level 4; moderate and low use trails at a minimum of level 1. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to protect the investment.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Priority will be placed on completing PCT through BLM lands, upgrading NRTs and other high use trails to standard.

#### Land Exchanges

Provide lands support to resource programs at a moderate level. Make some exchanges for land consolidation and trespass elimination.

## **Management Area 14**

### **Program Maintenance and Protection**

#### **Theme**

Timber stands are managed to maintain health and vigor. Changes in the coniferous vegetation structure and large expanses of even-aged chaparral result from wildfire and/or fire management

activities such as active wildfire suppression, fuelbreak construction/maintenance, and other fuels management activities.

### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types, all slopes.

### **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Range

1. Implement grazing systems that support vegetation management objectives.
2. Install structural range improvements, including fencing and water, to manage distribution and facilitate vegetation management objectives.
3. Utilize livestock to help maintain type conversions and fuelbreaks.
4. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation management objectives.

#### Silviculture

1. Treat chaparral vegetation to provide multiple resource benefits and to reduce fuels in areas of high hazard.
  - a. Visual quality objectives will be considered in determining size and shape of openings.
  - b. Treatments are initiated in a stand when greater than 25% dead material accumulates in the crown. On the average the treatment cycle for soft chaparral and chamise is 20 years; all other chaparral is 50 years.
2. Manage timber stands under the silvicultural system known as uneven-age management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Stand-specific prescriptions will be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist.

Stand structure should consist of the following elements: \*

- An all-aged irregular-size structure. Continuity of forest appearance and maintaining a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each diameter class.
- Retention of large-diameter trees until their removal is justified through a stand analysis and a silvicultural prescription.
- Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged stands should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.
- Desired residual basal area is 120 sq. ft. for pine; 140 sq. ft. for mixed conifer; 90 sq. ft. for pinyon-juniper; and 100 sq. ft. for hardwoods.
- In areas managed as shaded fuelbreaks, the desired residual basal area is 70 sq. ft.

- Mixed species composition.
- Healthy, vigorous trees.
- Near-natural appearance.
- Fire-resistant stands.

\* Only those treatment methods deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis would be applied to every stand.

### Wildlife and Fish

Manage habitat to maintain conditions for emphasis species.

### Dispersed Recreation - Reduced Service

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a reduced service level.
2. Maintain visitor contacts at a level that ensures that Forestwide standards are met (resource protection).
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities.
4. Provide cost-effective facilities that meet public needs and mitigate resource conflicts.
5. Provide dispersed facilities at development appropriate to the ROS class levels.

### Interpretive Services

1. Provide reduced service visitor information, and resource interpretation,
  - a. Provide only information necessary for the public's health and safety and basic resource protection.
  - b. Provide information to public at all administrative sites.
2. Maintain interpretive facilities at a low maintenance level.

### Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment and/or closure.

Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on top priority collector road projects first.

2. Construct/reconstruct Forest roads in support of fuelwood small sale program.

Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Local roads will generally be single-lane and stabilized.

### Trails

Maintain Pacific Coast Trail and National Coast Trail to level 3; Forest trails will be maintained at a minimum of level 1.

### Land Exchanges

Make exchanges to support key program objectives.

# Management Area 15

## Watershed/Fire Management in Chaparral

### Theme

Manage for watershed viability and health by creating a vegetation mosaic (within which generally >70% of the vegetation is removed) to manage the effects of hydrophobic soils, resulting from high-intensity wildfire. In most cases the preferred method of treatment will be prescribed fire. Provide dispersed recreation opportunities resulting from watershed activities. Other activities maintain or enhance watershed management activities.

### Management Area Description

Applicable Area: Chaparral vegetation; all slopes.

### Desired Condition

### Standards and guidelines

#### Water Resources

1. ~~Design and create a vegetation mosaic to limit the effects of high intensity wildfire.~~
  - a. ~~Sustain 30 percent of the vegetation within the treatment area in order to time the gradual movement of sediment off the slope and out of the watershed.~~
  - b. Initiate treatments under controlled fuel and climatic conditions that ensure minimum impact to soil infiltration and permeability.
  - c. ~~Treatment area size will vary depending on downstream values and the beneficial uses of the watershed. The objective will be to create large (3000+ acres) age class mosaics over a 5 year period, with individual treatments generally greater than 500 acres. The intent is to create age class differentials between treatment areas which are meaningful for modifying wildfire behavior.~~ Generally watersheds would not be manipulated in their entirety in any one treatment. However, large treatments may be initiated if mitigated by such actions as debris basins.
  - d. Treatments will be initiated in a stand when greater than 25% dead material accumulates in the crown. On the average, the treatment cycle for soft chaparral and chamise is 20 years; all other chaparral is 50 years.

#### Range

1. Implement grazing systems that support vegetation management objectives.
2. Install structural range improvements, including fencing and water, to manage distribution and facilitate vegetation management objectives.
3. Utilize livestock to help maintain type conversions and fuelbreaks.
4. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation management objectives.

#### Wildlife and Fish

1. Manage habitat to maintain conditions for emphasis species.

2. Increase enforcement of regulations needed to protect wildlife habitat values.

#### Dispersed Recreation - Reduced Services

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a reduced service level.
2. Provide for public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by other vegetation management activities.
4. Provide dispersed facilities at development scales appropriate to the ROS class levels.
5. Design multi-purpose parking facilities where needed. Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.
6. Provide observation points along major scenic highways.
7. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure and enjoyment on State, County and Forest system roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and County road departments.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information and resource interpretation.
2. Provide information for the public's health. Emphasize protection and multiple use management and safety while using the dispersed areas of the Forest.
3. Provide information and interpretive services at all administrative sites.
4. Maintain all facilities at a moderate maintenance level.

#### Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment and/or closure. The backlog of stabilization problems on roads will be treated and corrected by the year 2000.
2. Reduce roads open to public in important wildlife habitat to an average density of not more than two miles of road per square mile of land. Maintain roads needed for administrative use at level 2 with gates or barriers installed. Obliterate excess roads beyond administrative need.
3. Construct/reconstruct additional roads in support of dispersed recreation opportunities and vegetation treatments. Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Local roads will generally be a stabilized single-lane road.

#### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs and other high use trails to level 4; moderate and low use trails at a minimum of level 1. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to protect the investment.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Priority will be placed on completing PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRT's and other high-use trails to standard.

## Land Exchanges

Provide lands support to resource programs at a moderate level. Make some exchanges for land consolidation and trespass elimination.

# Management Area 16

## Wildlife and Range Management in Chaparral

### Theme

Manage for an intensive resource management program that emphasizes range and wildlife with a moderate level of dispersed recreation. In most cases the preferred method of treatment will be prescribed fire. On slopes >30%, create an age class mosaic with up to 70% vegetation removal. On slopes <30%, manage over time to reduce canopy cover to below 50%. Provide opportunities for dispersed recreation through administrative controls and interpretation of integrated resource management to the public.

### Management Area Description

Applicable Area: Chaparral vegetation; slope <50%.

### Desired Condition

### Standards and guidelines

#### Range

1. Use all available technology to manage and utilize the range resource on a sustained yield basis under reasonable management goals in harmony with other uses.
2. Implement grazing systems that encourage other forage utilization by livestock while protecting sensitive resources.
3. Install structural range improvements including fencing and water developments and livestock handling facilities to accommodate complex livestock management systems.
4. Use vegetation treatments to increase suitability for grazing. Potential activities include prescribed burning, mechanical removal, use of herbicides, grazing, and reseeding.
5. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation management objectives.

#### Silviculture

1. Plant islands of conifer and hardwoods on suitable sites within chaparral.
  - a. Tree islands should be 1-10 acres.
  - b. Sites may be made suitable through creating small temporary water impoundments.
- ~~2. Manage to attain age class diversity in chaparral with an optimum acreage of young (<10 years) chaparral to provide forage for wildlife.~~
  - ~~a. Manage chaparral on slopes >30% at specified rotations.\*~~
  - ~~b. Manage soft chaparral and chamise on slopes <30% at a 10 year treatment cycle.~~

- ~~e. In soft chaparral on slopes <30%, retain a shrub density which will provide at least 10%-20% canopy cover when allowed to mature.~~
- ~~d. Manage hard chaparral on slopes <30% at a 20 year treatment cycle, striving for less than 50% canopy cover over time.~~
- ~~e. Priority for treatment is in important habitat for deer, riparian dependent and oak woodland dependent species.~~
- f. Priority for treatment will be on slopes which are generally <50%.
- g. On slopes >30%, manage for a mosaic of cover/forage by removing 50-70% of the canopy within each treatment area.
- h. Strive to limit size of openings to 300' to 600', short axis width.
- i. Maintain at least one 40-acre island of continuous cover/sq. mile.
- j. Maintain 20% of hard chaparral in a mature phase (>50 years).
- k. Maintain strips of shrub cover (>50% canopy cover) approximately 100' wide in intermittent channels and adjacent to riparian vegetation in perennial channels.

\* Rotation age is the age at which a stand is mature and contains 25%-50% dead material in the crown. A rotation age of 20 years will be used in soft chaparral and chamise, 50 years in hard chaparral.

### Wildlife and Fish

Improve habitat for emphasis species:

#### MOUNTAIN SHEEP

1. Coordinate with CDF&G on annual surveys.
2. Coordinate with CDF&G to conduct an intensive survey of San Bernardino mountain herd to identify management opportunities, habitat conditions and herd composition.
3. Develop interpretive sites where Forest visitors could view mountain sheep in their native habitat.

#### DEER

Develop 50-60 water sources on deer range where water is a limiting factor.

Strive for a density of available water at 1 source/sq. mi.

#### WATERFOWL

Improve habitat for nesting and wintering waterfowl.

Priority to Garner Valley and Big Bear Basin (important habitats).

#### FISHERIES

1. Develop small water impoundments without public access roads to support fisheries.

Minimum size of impoundments should be 1-3 surface acres.

2. Improve lake and stream habitat where cost effective through structural and non-structural means.

### Dispersed Recreation - Standard Service

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a low level standard service level.
  - a. Provide opportunities compatible with wildlife objective for the area.
  - b. Locate roads and trails to provide access to enjoy nature and wildlife without adversely affecting wildlife populations.
2. Provide for public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities.
4. Provide dispersed facilities at the development scale appropriate to the ROS levels.
5. Design multi-purpose parking facilities.
  - a. Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.
  - b. Locate recreation associated facilities and accommodate users without detracting from wildlife habitat capability or production.
6. Provide observation points along major scenic highways. Provide interpretive signing to emphasize wildlife, fisheries and sensitive plant values.
7. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure and enjoyment on State, County and Forest system roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and County road departments. Create new roads for public access only when road density averages less than 2 miles per square mile.

### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information, and resource interpretation.
2. Provide information for the public's health and safety while using the dispersed areas of the Forest.
  - a. Emphasize biological resources and multiple use management.
  - b. Develop nature trails and emphasize interpretation of plant and animal communities.
3. Provide information and interpretive services at all administrative sites.
4. Maintain all facilities at moderate maintenance levels.
5. Interpret wildlife and plant species and their habitats for public enjoyment. (Include facilities and programs).
  - a. Priority to areas and species with unique values.
  - b. Priority to areas where interpretation is compatible with other recreation programs.

### Scenery Management

Visual quality objectives will be considered in determining size and shape of openings.

### Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment and/or closure. Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on roads within the plan period.
2. Reduce roads open to public use in important wildlife habitat to an average of not more than two miles of road per square mile of land. Roads needed for administrative use will be maintained at level 2 with gates or barriers installed. Excess roads beyond administrative use will be obliterated.

### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs to level 3; other Forest trails will be maintained at a minimum of level 1.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Place priority on completing PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRTs and other high use trails to standard.

### Land Exchanges

Conduct an active land exchange and purchase program to fully support multiple programs, eliminate trespass occupancies, consolidate ownership, etc. Give emphasis to sensitive and T&E habitats.

### Special Uses

Exceed FSM minimum requirements for permit inspections. Fully administer special use permits to prevent resource damage and permit violations; promptly resolve those that occur. Do not issue special uses in areas where they would significantly impact wildlife without adequate mitigation.

### Coordination

Provide leadership to achieve coordinated resource planning in appropriate areas where wildlife can be benefited.

## **Management Area 17**

### **Custodial**

#### **Theme**

Manage to provide minimum protection to resources. Actively manage only to the extent that laws, regulations, and legal agreements are met. Conduct limited vegetation management activities for protection of resources and to maintain or improve habitat conditions for sensitive, rare, and/or T&E species. Limit access where necessary. Increase the Forest's law enforcement program to provide resource protection.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation; all slopes.

## **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Range

1. Apply range investments only to the extent necessary to maintain the environment at a stewardship level in the presence of grazing.
2. Implement grazing systems that seek to attain livestock control, not distribution.
3. Install only those structural range improvements necessary for resource protection; others are maintained by permittees or removed.

#### Wildlife and Fish

Manage to maintain habitat conditions for emphasis species.

#### Dispersed Recreation - Reduced Service

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a reduced service level.
2. Maintain visitor contacts at a level that ensures that Forestwide standards for resource protection are met.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities.
4. Provide dispersed facilities at development scales appropriate to the ROS class levels.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide reduced service visitor information and resource interpretation.
  - a. Provide only information necessary for public health and safety and basic resource protection.
  - b. Provide information to public at all administrative sites.
2. Maintain interpretive facilities at a low maintenance level.

#### Roads

1. Maintain collector roads at level 2 or higher for fire protection and use in dispersed areas.
2. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment and/or closure.
  - a. Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on top priority collector roads within the first plan period.
  - b. Close roads in riparian areas when they are adversely affecting riparian values.
  - c. Remove roads in dispersed areas that conflict with T&E habitat.

#### Trails

Maintain trails at level 1.

# Management Area 18

## Dispersed Recreation and Watershed Management in Conifer

### Theme

Manage for intensive programs in dispersed recreation and watershed with a moderate emphasis on water yield. This prescription provides greater dispersed recreation opportunities through administrative control and interpretive services, and enhances watershed viability and health through sediment management.

### Management Area Description

Applicable Area: Conifer and woodland vegetation, 0-50% slopes.

### Desired Condition

#### Standards and guidelines

##### Water Resources

Construct snow fences and impoundments where appropriate.

##### Range

1. Apply range investments only to the extent necessary to maintain the environment at a stewardship level where there is grazing.
2. Implement grazing systems that seek to attain livestock control, not distribution.
3. Install only those structural range improvements necessary for resource protection; others are maintained by permittees or removed.

##### Silviculture

Manage timber stands under the silvicultural system known as uneven-aged management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Stand-specific prescriptions will be approved by a certified silviculturist.

Stand structure should consist of the following elements: \*

- 1) An all-aged or irregular-size structure. Continuity of Forest appearance and maintenance of a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each diameter class.
- 2) Retention of large diameter trees until their removal is justified through a stand analysis and a silvicultural prescription.
- 3) Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged groups within all-aged groups should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.
- 4) Desired residual basal area is 120 sq. ft. for pine, 140 sq. ft. for mixed conifer, 90 sq. ft. for pinyon juniper, and 100 sq. ft. for hardwoods.

- 5) Mixed species composition.
- 6) Healthy, vigorous trees.
- 7) Near-natural appearance.
- 8) Fire-resistant stands.

\* Not all treatment methods would be applied to every stand; only those deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis.

### Wildlife and Fish

Manage to maintain conditions for emphasis species:

#### BALD EAGLES

1. Intensify efforts to locate, protect and manage roosting areas on National Forest land.
2. Improve potential habitat to make suitable for eagle use.

#### RUBBER BOA

Correct habitat deficiencies by creating down logs where lacking due to past human use.

### Dispersed Recreation -Full Service

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a standard service level.
2. Provide litter clean up, sanitation, public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities.
4. Design multi-purpose parking facilities wherever possible. Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.
5. Provide observation points along major scenic highways.
6. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure for public benefit and enjoyment on State, County and Forest roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and County road departments.
7. Cooperate with State and County agencies to provide trails and bike-along routes.  
Priorities for bicycle lanes may include: adequate road width, demand and possible connection to other bike trails.
8. Where feasible, create water impoundments for water-oriented dispersed recreation.

### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information and resource interpretation.
2. Provide health and safety information for the public using the dispersed areas of the Forest. Emphasize information regarding resources that may be used or encountered through dispersed use.
3. Provide interpretive services at designated locations, including all administrative sites.

4. Maintain all interpretive facilities at high maintenance levels.

#### Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment.

Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on roads by the year 2000.

2. Construct/reconstruct additional roads in support of watershed program and providing dispersed recreation opportunities.

Follow guidelines in FSM7720 and FSH 7709.56. Collector and local roads will generally be a stabilized single-lane road.

#### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs and other high use trails to at least level 3; moderate and low use trails at a minimum of level 1. Maintenance activities will be scheduled to protect the investment.

2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Priority will be placed on completing PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRTs and other high use trails to standard.

#### Land Exchanges

Provide lands support to resource programs at a moderate level. Make some exchanges for land consolidation and trespass elimination.

## **Management Area 21**

### **Dispersed Recreation - Maximum**

#### **Theme**

Maximize the recreation resource on the Forest by intensively managing for a variety of developed recreation opportunities such as overnight camping, day use, picnicking, and interpretive services while meeting legal minimums for other resources. Vegetation is managed to maintain and enhance structural and species diversity with emphasis on large and mature trees in the conifer and hardwood types.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types, slopes 0-8% classified as suitable for developed recreation.

#### **Desired Condition**

#### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Inventory

Inventory potential sites for small dams and reservoirs by 1990.

#### Range

1. Adjust stocking rates as brush cover becomes greater and land becomes less suitable to graze.

2. Encourage other agencies to administer Forest allotments where the permittee has an adjacent allotment.

3. Reconstruct only those range improvements that are necessary for resource protection. Other improvements would be maintained by permittees or removed.

#### Fish and Wildlife

Manage habitat to enhance the quality of the recreation experience where possible.

#### Developed Site Construction

1. Provide developed recreation and interpretive service facilities within resource capabilities of the Forest for maximizing recreation.

2. Priorities for development including new picnic grounds, campgrounds and group campgrounds are as follows:

- a. Rehabilitate existing.
- b. Expand existing.
- c. Develop new sites in areas of high demand.

#### Developed Site Maintenance

1. Maintain all developed sites at highest maintenance levels.

2. Manage developed sites for resource protection and public safety within suggested ROS capacity guidelines.

3. Continue fee program. Establish rates and collect annual operation costs consistent with Regional program direction.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide public with standard service interpretive opportunities and service. Provide high quality information regarding developed recreation opportunities.

2. Interpretive services will be provided at all administrative sites and existing interpretive sites.

3. Construct new interpretive sites, where appropriate to provide a high level of information to the public.

#### Roads

Construct/reconstruct Forest roads to complete the North Shore Big Bear Recreation Area project, and new developed sites.

Follow guidelines in FSM 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Local roads will generally be surfaced, two-lane with single-lane loop roads and parking areas.

#### Trails

1. Maintain trails within and between open developed sites at a minimum of level 3.

Maintenance activities will be scheduled to perpetuate and protect the investment.

2. Construct/reconstruct Forest trails to complete the North Shore Big Bear Recreation Area project, and new developed sites.

Place emphasis on interpretive trails and interconnecting trails between developed sites.

#### Land Exchanges

1. Acquire threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat through land adjustment plan.
2. Maintain land purchase and exchange program at a minimum level. Accept only those land donations which can be administered without cost.

## **Management Area 22**

### **Dispersed Recreation - Maximum**

#### **Theme**

Maximize the opportunities for dispersed recreation throughout the Forest by intensively managing for a variety of dispersed, day and overnight recreation use. Provide greater administrative controls on dispersed use to help ensure a high-quality recreation experience. Manage vegetation to maintain and enhance structural and species diversity with emphasis on large and mature trees in the hardwood and conifer types.

#### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types, all slopes.

#### **Desired Condition**

#### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Range

1. Adjust stocking rates if land becomes less suitable for grazing (brush cover becomes greater).
2. Reconstruct those range improvements that are necessary for resource protection. Other improvements would be maintained by permittees or removed.

#### Wildlife and Fish

Manage habitat to maintain conditions for emphasis species.

#### Silviculture

Manage conifer and woodland stands under silvicultural system known as uneven-aged management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Woodland stands will be managed by implementing shelterwood treatment methods (even-aged managements) where appropriate. Stand-specific prescriptions will be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist.

Stand structure should consist of the following elements: \*

- 1) An all-aged or irregular-size structure. Continuity of Forest appearance and maintaining a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each diameter class.
- 2) Retention of large-diameter trees until their removal is justified through a stand analysis and a silvicultural prescription.

- 3) Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged groups within all-aged stands should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.
- 4) Desired residual basal area is 100 sq. ft. for pine, 120 sq. ft. for mixed conifer, 90 sq. ft. for pinyon-juniper, and 100sq. ft. for hardwoods.
- 5) Mixed species composition.
- 6) Healthy, vigorous trees.
- 7) Near-natural appearance.
- 8) Fire-resistant stands.

\* Not all treatment methods would be applied to every stand: only those deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis.

#### Dispersed Recreation - Full Service

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a standard service level.
2. Provide litter clean up, sanitation, public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing openings and access created by other resource vegetation management activities.
4. Design multi-purpose parking facilities wherever appropriate.

Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.

5. Provide observation points along major scenic highways.
6. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure and enjoyment on State, county and Forest System roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and county road departments.
7. Cooperate with State and county agencies to provide trails and bike lanes along routes. Priorities for bicycle lanes may include: adequate road width, demand, and possible connection to other bike trails.
8. Where feasible, create water impoundments for water-oriented dispersed recreation.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information and resource interpretation.
2. Provide information for the public's health and safety while using the dispersed areas of the Forest. Emphasize information regarding resources the public may use or encounter through dispersed use.
3. Provide interpretive services at designated locations, including all administrative sites.
4. Maintain all interpretive facilities at high maintenance levels.

## Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by treatment programs.

Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on roads by the year 2000.

2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest roads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities and in support of vegetation treatment programs.

Follow guidelines in FSM 7710, 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Collector and local roads will generally be stabilized, single-lane roads.

## Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs and other high use trails to level 4; moderate and low use trails at a minimum of level 1.

Maintenance activities will be scheduled to protect the investment.

2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities and in support of vegetation treatment programs. Place priority on completing PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRTs and other high use trails to standard.

## Land Exchanges

1. Acquire threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat through land adjustment plan.

2. Maintain land purchase and exchange program at a minimum level.

Accept only those land donations which can be administered without cost.

## Special Uses

Special use permits will be administered for marginal compliance with permit conditions.

# **Management Area 23**

## **Wildlife - Maximum**

### **Theme**

Maximize wildlife-related visitor use on National Forest System lands while meeting legal minimums for other resources. A primary method treatment will be prescribed fire.

### **Management Area Description**

Applicable Area: All vegetation types, all slopes.

### **Desired Condition**

### **Standards and guidelines**

#### Range

1. Adjust stocking rates as land becomes less suitable for grazing (brush cover becomes greater).

2. Encourage other agencies to administer Forest allotments where the permittee has an adjacent allotment.

3. Reconstruct only those range improvements necessary for resource protection. Other improvements would be maintained by permittees or removed.

## Silviculture

Improve wildlife habitat conditions through vegetation management as follows:

### CONIFER / WOODLAND

1. Manage the woodland and conifer zone to optimize early successional vegetation. Provide diversity of age and size classes and species composition.
  - a. Strive for 50%-60% canopy cover over 50% of the area.
  - b. Give priority to slopes <50%.
  - c. Provide one 3-5 acre opening per 100 acres on slopes <50%. Size and shape of openings will be designed to meet VQO's.
  - d. Retain 8-12 down logs/5acres. Minimum log size 12" dbh and 20' long.
2. Improve species diversity and access for wildlife in the understory in woodland and conifer zones through understory treatment. (Includes understory burning, cutting, disking, and seeding or planting forage species).
  - a. Strive for at least 25% shrub cover, giving preference to palatable browse species.
  - b. Dense brush patches should be <10 acres in size.
3. Manage to achieve a mix of hardwoods and conifers that is consistent with the site potential to support hardwoods.
  - a. Strive for 50% hardwoods where the site is capable of supporting them.
  - b. Give priority to slopes <50%.
4. Manage and retain meadows and "natural" grassy openings in conifer and woodland zone by preventing overstory encroachment. (Treatment is thinning)

Retain screening where needed next to trails and roads.

5. Manage conifer and woodland stands under silvicultural system known as uneven-aged management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Woodland stands will be managed by implementing shelterwood treatment methods (even-aged managements) where appropriate. Stand-specific prescriptions will be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist. Stand structure should consist of the following elements (not all treatment methods would be applied to every stand; only those deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis):
  - a. An all-aged irregular-size structure. Continuity of forest appearance and maintaining a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each diameter class.
  - b. Retention of large-diameter trees until their removal is justified through a stand analysis and a silvicultural prescription.
  - c. Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged groups within all-aged stands should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.

- d. Desired residual basal area is 100 sq. ft. for pine, 120 sq. ft. for mixed conifer, 90 sq. ft. for pinyon-juniper, and 100sq. ft. for hardwoods.
- e. Mixed species composition.
- f. Healthy, vigorous trees.
- g. Near-natural appearance.
- h. Fire-resistant stands.

## CHAPARRAL

1. Manage chaparral to enhance habitat capability for deer and small game by achieving age-class diversity and managing public use.

- ~~a. Manage chaparral on slopes >30% at specified rotations.\*~~
- ~~b. Manage soft chaparral and chamise on slopes less than 30% on at least a 10 year treatment cycle to ensure forage/cover goals are met.~~
- ~~c. In soft chaparral on slopes <30%, retain a shrub density which will provide at least 30%-50% canopy cover when allowed to mature.~~
- ~~d. In hard chaparral and soft chaparral, treat small islands of mature brush that remain within previously burned areas on a schedule which will provide a continuous supply of young shrubs for browse (<10yrs. old), well distributed throughout the management unit.~~
- ~~e. Priority for treatment is in important habitat for indicator species.~~
- ~~f. Priority for treatment will be on slopes which are generally <50%.~~
- ~~g. On slopes 30-50%, manage for a mosaic of cover/forage by removing 40-70% of the canopy within each treatment area.~~
- ~~h. Strive to limit size of openings to 300' short axis width.~~
- ~~i. Maintain at least one 40 acre island of continuous cover per square mile.~~
- ~~j. Maintain 20% of hard chaparral in a mature phase (>50 years).~~
- ~~k. Maintain strips of shrub cover (>50% canopy cover) approximately 100' wide in intermittent channels and adjacent to riparian vegetation in perennial channels.~~

~~\* Rotation age – the age at which a stand is mature and contains 25%-50% dead material in the crown. For purposes of analysis, a rotation age of 20 years will be used in soft chaparral and chamise; 50years in hard chaparral.~~

2. Plant islands of conifer and hardwoods on suitable sites within chaparral.

- a. Tree islands should be 1-10acres.
- b. Sites may be made suitable through creating small temporary water impoundments.

## Wildlife and Fish

1. Manage to protect spotted owl and uncommon raptor habitats from wildfire by treating fuels in adjacent areas (prescribed burning in chaparral stands). Avoid treatments during nesting season.

2. Manage habitat to improve conditions for emphasis species:

#### MOUNTAIN SHEEP

1. Cooperate with CDF&G on annual surveys.
2. Coordinate with CDF&G to conduct an intensive survey of San Bernardino mountain herd to identify management opportunities, habitat conditions and herd composition.
3. Manage vegetation and develop water where necessary to correct habitat deficiencies. Techniques include understory burning in conifer, and burning to produce a mosaic of young and old shrubs in chaparral.

#### CLIFF NESTING RAPTORS

Interpret cliff nesting raptors for public education and enjoyment. Select sites where this can be accomplished without adversely affecting the birds' behavior.

#### BALD EAGLES

1. Intensify efforts to locate, protect and manage roosting areas on National Forest System land.
2. Improve potential habitat to make suitable for eagle use.
3. Investigate the feasibility of establishing nesting bald eagles in the Big Bear Basin.

#### RUBBER BOA

Correct habitat deficiencies by providing down logs where lacking due to past human use.

#### DEER

Develop 50-60 water sources on deer range where water is a limiting factor. (Strive for a density of available water at 1 source/sq. mi.)

#### WATERFOWL

Improve habitat for nesting and wintering waterfowl. Priority to Garner Valley and Big Bear Basin (important habitats).

#### SNAG-DEPENDENT SPECIES

Install nest boxes in areas where snag densities do not meet Forest-wide standards.

#### FISH

Develop small water impoundments, where feasible, to support fisheries. Minimum size of impoundments should be 1-3 surface acres.

#### Developed Recreation Site (Reduced Service)

1. Close least cost-effective developed recreation sites.
2. Maintain remaining developed sites at lowest maintenance level.
3. No new developed site construction.
4. No developed site rehabilitation.

#### Dispersed Recreation (Reduced Service)

Provide new dispersed recreation opportunities only as a result of other resource activities.

### Visitor Information Services (Reduced)

1. Provide health and safety information for Forest users or for resource protection.
2. Interpret wildlife and plant species and their habitats for public enjoyment. (Include facilities and programs).
  - a. Priority to areas and species with unique values.
  - b. Priority to areas where interpretation is compatible with other recreation programs.

### Roads

1. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by stabilization treatment programs. Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on roads by the year 2000.
2. Maintain collector roads at minimum of level 2. Local roads will be closed and maintained at level 1.
3. Reduce roads open to public use in important wildlife habitat to not more than two miles of road per square mile of land. Maintain roads needed for administrative use at level 2, with gates or barriers installed. Excess roads beyond administrative need will be obliterated.
4. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest roads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities and in support of vegetation treatment programs. Follow guidelines in FSM 7710, 7720 and FSH 7709.56. Collector and local roads will generally be single-lane and stabilized.

### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRT's to level 3; other Forest trails will be maintained at a minimum of level 1.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities and in support of vegetation treatment programs. Place priority on completing PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRT's and other high use trails to standard.

### Land Exchanges

1. Acquire threatened and endangered and sensitive species habitat through land adjustment plan.
2. Maintain land purchase and exchange program at a minimum level; accept only those land donations which can be administered without cost.

### Special Uses

Administer special use permits for minimum compliance with permit conditions.

### Coordination

Provide leadership to achieve coordinated resource planning in appropriate areas where wildlife can be benefited.

# Management Area 27

## Wildlife Emphasis

### Theme

Manage for an intensive resource program with emphasis on wildlife habitat for key indicator, sensitive, threatened and/or endangered species. Provide moderate levels of range and dispersed recreation with administrative control of both in important habitat areas. Create an age-class mosaic with up to 30% to 70% vegetation removal in chaparral, primarily by the use of prescribed fire. In conifer zones, manage for a diversity of age and size classes and species composition.

### Management Area Description

Applicable Area: All vegetation; slopes <50%, except in bighorn sheep habitats.

### Desired Condition

#### Standards and guidelines

##### Biodiversity

1. Manage and retain meadows and “natural” grassy openings in conifer and woodland zone by preventing overstory encroachment. (Treatment is thinning.)

Retain screening where needed next to trails and roads.

2. Manage to achieve a mix of hardwoods and conifers that is consistent with the site potential to support hardwoods.

Strive for 50% hardwoods when the site is capable of supporting them.

3. Improve species diversity and access for wildlife in the understory in woodland and conifer zones through understory treatment. (Includes understory burning, cutting, disking, and seeding or planting forage species).

- a. Strive for at least 25% shrub cover, giving preference to palatable browse species.
- b. Dense brush patches (>50% canopy cover) should be 5-10 acres in size.

##### Range

1. Implement grazing systems that support vegetation management objectives

Avoid grazing conflicts in key deer fawning areas from May through July. (Riparian, meadow, oak groves) through structural range improvements and/or changes in grazing systems.

2. Install structural range improvements, including fencing and water, to manage distribution and facilitate vegetation management objectives.

3. Utilize livestock to help maintain type conversions and fuelbreaks.

4. Encourage the use of sheep and goats in large areas of 30-50% slope, where needed to meet vegetation objectives.

## Silviculture

1. Manage the woodland and conifer zone to provide diversity of age and size classes composition.

- a. Strive for 50%-60% canopy cover over 50% of the area.
- b. Provide one 3-5 acre opening per 100 acres. Size and shape of openings will be designed to meet VQO's.
- c. Retain 8-12 down logs/5 acres in hardwood, conifer and pinyon juniper. Minimum log size - 12" dbh and 20' long.

2. Manage conifer and woodlands stands under silvicultural system known as uneven-aged management. Cutting method will be selection cutting. Woodland stands will be managed by implementing shelterwood treatment methods (even-aged management) where appropriate. Stand-specific prescriptions will be prepared or approved by a certified silviculturist.

Stand structure should consist of the following elements: \*

- An all-aged or irregular-size structure. Continuity of Forest appearance and maintaining a component of large trees can be done by controlling diameter distributions. Diameter distribution goals can be established using the number of trees and the basal area to be retained in each diameter class.
- Retention of large-diameter trees until their removal is justified through a stand analysis and a silvicultural prescription.
- Controlled stocking levels to maintain adequate growth rates and the health and vigor of the stand. (Basal area will be used as the primary measure of stocking guides for all-aged stands). Even-aged groups within all-aged stands should be thinned using stocking guides based on existing yield table information for even-aged stands.
- Desired residual basal area is 100 sq. ft. for pine; 120 sq. ft. for mixed conifer; 90 sq. ft. for pinyon juniper; and 100 sq. ft. for hardwoods.
- Mixed species composition.
- Healthy, vigorous trees.
- Near-natural appearance.
- Fire-resistant stands.

\* Not all treatment methods would be applied to every stand: only those deemed necessary as a result of stand analysis.

3. Manage chaparral to enhance habitat capability for deer and small game by achieving age-class diversity and managing public use.

- ~~a. Manage chaparral on slopes >30% at specified rotations.\*~~
- ~~b. Manage chaparral and chamise on slopes less than 30% on at least a 10-year treatment cycle until forage/cover goals are met.~~
- ~~c. In soft chaparral on slopes <30%, retain a shrub density which will provide at least 30%-50% canopy cover when allowed to mature.~~

- ~~d. In chaparral on 30-50% slope, treat small islands of mature brush that remain within previously burned areas on a schedule which will provide a continuous supply of young shrubs for browse (<10 yrs. old), well distributed throughout the management unit (watershed group).~~
- ~~e. Priority for treatment is in important habitat for emphasis species.~~
- ~~f. On slopes 30-50%, manage for a mosaic of cover/forage by removing 40-70% of the canopy within each treatment area.~~
- ~~g. Strive to limit size of openings to 300', short axis width.~~
- ~~h. Maintain at least one 40-acre island of continuous cover/sq.mi.~~
- ~~i. Maintain 20% of hard chaparral in a mature phase (> 50 years).~~
- ~~j. Maintain strips of shrub cover (> 50% canopy cover) approximately 100' wide in intermittent channels and adjacent to riparian vegetation in perennial channels.~~
- ~~k. Visual quality objectives will be considered in determining size and slope of openings.~~

~~\* Rotation age is the age at which stand is mature and contains 25%-50% dead material in the crown. For purposes of analysis, a rotation age of 20 years will be used in soft chaparral and chamise; 50 years in hard chaparral.~~

3. Plant islands of conifer and hardwoods on suitable sites within chaparral.
  - a. Tree islands should be 1-10 acres.
  - b. Sites may be made suitable through creation of small, temporary water impoundments.

### Wildlife and Fish

1. Maintain and improve habitat conditions for mountain lion.
  - a. Do not construct facilities which may produce a barrier restricting movement of lions and their prey.
  - b. Reduce or limit traveled road densities in deer range to 2 mi./sq. mi.
2. Manage habitat to improve conditions for emphasis species.

### MOUNTAIN SHEEP

1. Coordinate with CDF&G in annual surveys.
2. Coordinate with CDF&G to conduct an intensive survey of San Bernardino mountain herd to identify management opportunities, habitat conditions and herd composition.
3. Manage vegetation and develop water where necessary to correct habitat deficiencies. Techniques include understory burning in conifer, and burning to produce a mosaic of young and old shrubs in chaparral.

### CLIFF NESTING RAPTORS

Establish at least two pairs of peregrines through a hacking program.

### BALD EALGES

1. Intensify efforts to locate, protect and manage roosting areas of National Forest System land.

2. Improve potential habitat to make suitable for eagle use.
3. Investigate the feasibility of establishing nesting bald eagles in the Big Bear Basin.

#### RUBBER BOA

1. Correct habitat deficiencies by providing down logs where lacking due to past human use.
2. Prohibit cross-country OHV use within key rubber boa habitat.
3. Interpret rubber boas and their habitat in conjunction with recreation use.

#### DEER

Develop 50-60 wildlife water sources on deer range where water is a limiting factor. (Strive for a density of available water at 1 source/sq. mi.)

#### WATERFOWL

Improve habitat for nesting and wintering waterfowl. Priority to Garner Valley and Big Bear Basin (key habitat).

#### SNAG-DEPENDENT SPECIES

1. Install nest boxes in areas where snag densities do not meet Forest-wide standards.
2. Increase enforcement of regulations needed to ensure snag retention.

#### FISH

1. Develop small water impoundments, without public road access, to support fisheries. Minimum size of impoundments should be 1-3 surface acres.
2. Improve lake and stream habitat through structural and non-structural means.

#### Dispersed Recreation (Standard Service)

1. Provide dispersed recreation management at a standard service level.
  - a. Provide opportunities compatible with wildlife objectives for the area.
  - b. Locate roads and trails to provide access to enjoy nature and wildlife without adversely affecting wildlife populations.
2. Provide for public safety and law enforcement contact as necessary.
3. Provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation by utilizing access created by vegetation management activities. Reduce conflicting uses in key fawning habitat from May through July (riparian meadows, oak groves, etc.).
4. Provide dispersed facilities at development scales appropriate to the ROS class levels.
5. Design multi-purpose parking facilities where needed.
  - a. Facilities may include: parking, fencing, direction and informative signing, landscaping, sanitation, trail registration, potable water, hitching rails, bicycle racks and emergency telephones.
  - b. Locate recreation associated facilities to accommodate users but not detract from wildlife habitat capability or production.

6. Provide observation points along major scenic highways.

Provide interpretive signing emphasizing wildlife, fisheries and sensitive plant values.

7. Recognize and enhance opportunities for driving for pleasure and enjoyment on State, county and Forest System roads. Coordinate maintenance and litter pickup with State and county road departments. Create new roads for public access only when road densities average less than 2 miles per square mile.

#### Interpretive Services

1. Provide full service visitor information and resource interpretation.
2. Provide information for the public's health and safety while using the dispersed areas of the Forest.
3. Provide information and interpretive services at all administrative sites.
  - a. Emphasize biological resources and multi-use management.
  - b. Develop nature trails and emphasize interpretation of plant and animal communities.
4. Maintain all facilities at a moderate maintenance level.
5. Interpret wildlife and plant species and their habitats for public enjoyment (include facilities and programs).
  - a. Priority to areas and species with unique values.
  - b. Priority to areas where interpretation is compatible with other recreation programs.

#### Roads

1. Reduce roads open to public in key wildlife habitat to an average of not more than two miles of road per square mile of land. Maintain roads needed for administrative use at level 2 with gates or barriers installed. Obliterate excess roads beyond administrative need.
2. Reduce the impact of roads causing adverse resource conditions by stabilization treatment and/or closure. Treat and correct the backlog of stabilization problems on top priority collector roads within the first plan period.

#### Trails

1. Maintain PCT and NRTs to level 3; other Forest trails will be maintained at a minimum of level 1.
2. Construct/reconstruct additional Forest trails and trailheads to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. Place priority on completion of PCT thru BLM lands, upgrading NRTs and other high-use trails to standard.

#### Land Exchanges

Conduct an active land exchange and purchase program to fully support multiple programs, eliminate occupancy trespasses, consolidate ownership, etc.

Give emphasis to sensitive, and T&E habitats.

### Special Uses

Exceed FSM minimum requirements for permit inspections. Fully administer permits to prevent resource damage and permit violations; promptly resolve those that occur.

Do not issue special use permits in areas where they will significantly impact wildlife without adequate mitigation.

### Coordination

Provide leadership to achieve coordinated resource planning in appropriate areas where wildlife can benefit.

Give priority to Garner Valley, Big Bear Basin, Banning Canyon and front country.

**ERRATA: In the Land and Resource Management Plan, Management Direction, Forestwide Standards and Guidelines, please replace pages SC-i and SG-2 with these correct pages SC-i and SG-2.**

1. Maintain long-term health and vigor, species diversity, and watershed stability, based on reproductive and regenerative potential of vegetation.

a. Conifer, Pinyon-Juniper, Hardwoods:

1. Retain isolated islands of shrubs and hardwoods to maintain spatial diversity.
2. Maintain diversity of ages, size classes and species composition.
3. Use thinning and planting to control stocking levels.
4. Maintain watershed stability by maintaining 30-50% cover on slopes >30% (deep-rooted species).
5. In the conifer type, temporary openings of up to 5 acres are permitted only in areas that are capable of regeneration within 5 years.
- ~~6. Treatment cycles for overstory removal (in which more than 70% of the overstory is removed) will average 150 years for conifer and 200 years for pinyon-juniper.~~
- ~~7. Temporary openings may be permitted in pinyon-juniper and hardwood stands.~~