

## CHAPTER IV FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

### A. INTRODUCTION

This Forest Plan establishes the direction for the Malheur National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years, when used in conjunction with Forest Service manuals and handbooks and the Pacific Northwest Regional Guide. This Forest Plan is based on the preferred alternative (Alternative I) described in the Malheur National Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement. The goals and objectives of that alternative are the basis for the Forest management goals, objectives, and standards described in this chapter. The projected resource outputs for the next 50 years are also displayed.

### B. FOREST GOALS

The goals for the Malheur National Forest are to:

#### Recreation

1. Provide a range of opportunities and settings which are consistent with public demand for a variety of activities, both motorized and nonmotorized.
2. Provide for a distribution and variety of developed recreation facilities that are consistent with public demand for activities and experiences and are compatible with a forest environment.
3. Provide safe, well maintained developed facilities for the public's enjoyment.
4. Ensure high quality recreation experiences through facility location and design. Assure reasonably safe and accessible facilities to as many people as possible, including the handicapped.
5. Provide a diverse system of trails for the enjoyment of all users and to meet administration and resource management needs.
6. Encourage public participation in the development of partnerships with recreation users of the Forest.
7. Provide interpretation, information, and education on ecological principals and resource uses to enhance recreation and promote understanding of land management principals.

#### Cultural Resources

8. Provide for the identification, protection, interpretation, and management of significant cultural resources to preserve their historical, cultural, archaeological, and/or architectural values.

#### Visual Resources

9. Maintain and enhance the scenic character of the Forest through integration of the principles of landscape architecture and environmental design arts into forest land management practices.
10. Provide and maintain pleasant visual experiences for Forest visitors consistent with public demand and natural landscape capabilities.

#### Wilderness

11. Manage designated wilderness to preserve and protect their wilderness character in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984.

## FOREST GOALS

12. *Manage to minimize user impacts while providing for spontaneous use as free from regimentation as possible.*
13. **Manage air quality to remain within standards set by the State of Oregon.**
14. **Provide a spectrum of opportunities for wilderness recreation consistent with preservation of wilderness values.**
- Fish and Wildlife  
15. **Assist in the identification, protection and recovery of threatened, endangered and sensitive species.**
16. **Coordinate fish and wildlife management activities with other agencies and organizations to achieve mutual resource goals and utilize project cost share opportunities.**
17. **Provide for the maintenance and enhancement of big-game habitat so as to sustain elk and deer populations at the state management objective level.**
18. **Provide for improved fish habitat conditions to support increased populations of anadromous and resident fish.**
19. **Provide a diversity of habitat sufficient to maintain viable populations of all species.**
- Range  
20. **Provide a sustained production of palatable forage for grazing by livestock and dependent wildlife species.**
21. **Manage rangelands to meet the needs of other resources and uses at a level which is responsive to site-specific objectives.**
22. **Permit livestock use on suitable range when the permittee manages livestock using prescribed practices.**
- Wild Horse Habitat  
23. **Conduct livestock management on the Murders Creek Wild Horse Territory to ensure the maintenance of a wild horse herd averaging 100 head.**
- Timber  
24. **Provide a sustained flow of timber for lumber, fiber, and/or associated wood products at a level that will contribute to economic stability, while providing for regional and national needs.**
25. **Provide and utilize wood fiber in the form of sawtimber, fiber, and/or associated wood products in a manner which will minimize losses and maximize outputs in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the various resource objectives and environmental standards.**
26. **Provide an economic return to the public.**
- Water, Soil, and Air  
27. **Provide a favorable flow of water (quantity, quality, and timing) for off-Forest users by improving or maintaining all watersheds in a stable condition.**
28. **Maintain or enhance water quality to meet State of Oregon standards, considering downstream uses and protection of other riparian and floodplain values.**

- 29. Secure water rights when needed, and assert reserved rights where applicable to assure an adequate supply of water for the protection and management of the Forest.
- 30. Manage the soil resource of the Forest by using management practices that will maintain or enhance its productive properties.
- 31. Rehabilitate degraded sites that pose a hazard or threat to public health and safety.
- 32. Cooperate with other Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies to meet the standards required in the Clean Air Act regulations and State of Oregon Implementation Plan.

Minerals

- 33. Facilitate orderly exploration, and development of mineral resources.

- 34. Facilitate the inventory, exploration, and development of domestic energy sources and encourage conservation of energy in Forest activities.

Facilities

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

- 36. Plan, design, construct and maintain roads to the minimum level necessary to meet resource objectives including, but not limited to, objectives for timber harvest and removal, big-game habitat needs (including security needs), high quality recreation opportunities and firewood cutting opportunities.

- 37. Provide adequate and cost effective facilities at administrative sites to perform the required work

Lands

- 38. Allow uses which are consistent with Forest management objectives.

- 39. Provide energy and transportation corridors adequate to meet regional and national needs.

- 40. Use land adjustment to accomplish resource management objectives and to improve management efficiencies on both public and private lands.

- 41. Acquire the access needed to serve both administrative and public user needs.

Human and  
Community  
Resources

- 42. Contribute to the social and economic health of communities which are significantly affected by National Forest management.

- 43. Protect civil rights, promote public safety, and be a good host in providing assistance to forest users.

- 44. Protect and preserve for Native Americans their reserved treaty rights according to the applicable treaties.

- 45. Provide an information program to assist the public in understanding management of the various resources and to assist them in their search for a variety of challenging and pleasing experiences.

## DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION - 1999

- Integrated Pest Management 46. Protect resource values through the practice of integrated pest management.
- Research Natural Areas 47. Protect existing and recommended areas for the research natural areas System to provide: (a) baseline areas against which effects of human activities can be measured, (b) sites for study of natural processes in undisturbed ecosystems, and (c) gene pool preserves for all types of organisms; especially rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- Fire 48. Initiate initial suppression action that provides for the most reasonable probability of minimizing fire suppression costs and resource damage, consistent with probable fire behavior, resource impacts, safety and smoke management considerations.
49. Identify, develop and maintain fuel profiles that contribute to the most cost-efficient fire protection program consistent with management direction.

### C. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST

This section describes what the future Malheur National Forest should be like if the management direction contained in this Forest Plan is implemented. It summarizes the anticipated physical changes which would result from carrying out planned management practices at two points in time: at the end of 10 years and at the end of 50 years (RPA planning horizon).

#### 1. The Forest in 1999

##### Pacific Northwest Strategy

Opportunities for the Forest to help enhance the vitality of surrounding communities will occur through a Regional initiative called the Pacific Northwest Strategy. It is envisioned that the Pacific Northwest Strategy will be a new focus of operation for many people, one that empowers Forest Service people and local citizens to look and work beyond the traditional boundaries. At the same time, it reaffirms and emphasizes working with other government agencies, local businesses, and the communities themselves in a spirit of interdependency and cooperation that has always existed at the local Ranger District level. As the strategy becomes an integral part of doing business, its central focus will be to foster and enhance communication, cooperations, and partnerships.

##### Recreation

There will continue to be a variety of recreation settings in which activities and experiences can be enjoyed. The area in which unroaded experiences can be gained outside wilderness will have decreased from 180,836 acres to 101,330 acres. Wilderness acres will remain the same as today at 81,320 acres.

Dispersed recreation opportunities will be emphasized on approximately 5% of the Forest outside the wilderness. Of this, 14,578 acres will be managed for semiprimitive motorized recreation opportunities and 62,392 acres will be managed with emphasis on semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation opportunities.