MANAGEMENT AREA 14 (186,682 acres) - VISUAL CORRIDORS

1. Description

Management Area 14 consists of the visible and potentially visible landscapes along major travel routes and the wild and scenic rivers where the traveling public has a high-to-medium sensitivity to the scenery. The following corridor viewsheds have been identified for management as scenic viewsheds and are shown on the management area maps:

Sensitivity Level 1: U.S. Highways 395 and 26, State Highway 7, Wilderness Loop, and Strawberry roads; portions of the Malheur and North Fork Malheur Wild and Scenic River corridors.

Sensitivity Level 2: Canyon Creek, Roads End, Izee, Forest Service Road 16, Yellowjacket, Emigrant, Magone, County Road 20, Forest Service Road 18, Glacier Loop, Skyline, Table, and portions of the Malheur and North Fork Malheur Wild and Scenic River corridors.

2 Goals

These corridor viewsheds are identified in the corridor viewshed plans and the TRI data base. Manage corridor viewsheds with primary consideration given to their scenic quality and the growth of large diameter trees. Visual quality objectives of retention, partial retention, and modification will be applied while providing for other uses and resources.

3. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS
	The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area except where superseded by the following standards:
Recreation	1. Manage for roaded natural recreation.
Visuals	2. Meet a visual quality objective of retention, partial retention, or modification for the visible and potentially visible areas (see Appendix L). Site-specific visual quality objectives will be identified and recorded in the corridor viewshed plans and the TRI data base.
	3. For the Malheur and North Fork Malheur rivers meet a visual quality objective of retention in the foreground and partial retention in the middleground.
	4. Manage the background in the wilderness loop corridor that is viewed when looking at the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness as partial retention middleground.
Fish and Wildlife	5. Maintain visual corridors that overlap with big game winter range maintenance to achieve a minimum Habitat Effectiveness of 60% for elk. Refer to Management Area 4A for standards.
	6. Design and implement fish and wildlife improvement/maintenance projects to meet visual quality objectives.
Range	7. Permit livestock grazing in accordance with Forest-wide Standards.

8. Design both structural and non-structural improvements to meet the visual quality objective of the given area.

Timber

9. Schedule timber harvest on portions of the management area classified as "suitable" for timber management Design timber harvest and related activities to accomplish visual resource management objectives.

10. Harvest timber under the guidance of a Corridor Viewshed Plan, on a scheduled basis, utilizing standard silvicultural treatments

11. Emphasize uneven-aged timber management in the foreground distance zones. The overall affect will vary from natural appearing to slightly altered. Manage foregrounds to meet a retention visual quality objective in Sensitivity Level 1 corridors to result in a natural appearing visual condition. Manage the foreground distance zones in Level 2 corridors to meet a partial retention visual quality objective to result in a slightly altered visual condition (see Appendix L for a list of the visual quality objective for each corridor viewshed).

12. No harvest will occur in foregrounds of Sensitivity Level 1 or 2 corridors until viewshed corridor plans have been completed Exceptions to this will be considered for insect and disease conditions and sanitation salvage needs on a case-by-case basis, with visuals being the driving factor in decision making (see Forest-wide Standard #3).

13. A created opening is no longer an opening when trees in the stand reach a height of 20 feet. Consider terrain, species composition, and unit size when insuring that a created opening is closed. Objective is for opening to remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

14. When utilizing even-aged management in the middleground, use the shelterwood regeneration method in the ponderosa pine type, shelterwood and clearcut regeneration in the mixed conifer type, and clearcut regeneration in the lodgepole pine type Manage middlegrounds as slightly altered (partial retention visual quality objective) in Sensitivity Level 1 corridors and modified (modification visual quality objective) in Sensitivity Level 2 corridors.

15. Standards are to be calculated for viewshed corridor areas. Until viewshed corridor plans are completed, standards are to be applied to specific planning areas.

16. Emphasize horizontal diversity of vegetation by developing a sequence of visual experiences to be viewed as one moves through the corridor Apply uneven-aged management by utilizing group selection harvest techniques on small treatment units (1/4 - 2 acres) in foregrounds Apply even-aged management in treatment units up to 10 acres in partial retention middlegrounds. The desired effect is to have a multi-aged appearance in the corridor (both Sensitivity Levels 1 and 2) emphasizing uneven-aged timber management (group selection) in the foreground distance zones and even-aged timber management in the middleground distance zones.

17. Apply the following standards while managing foreground retention areas:

Factor	WORKING GROUP		
	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lodge-pole Pine
Percent of area open at one time	10	10	10
Percent cut in any 10 year period1/	3-7	3-7	3-7
Target Diameter (Inches)	36+	36+	10
Number of trees dedicated in 26" to 36" diameter class at time of final harvest	3-5 per acre	3-5 per acre	N/A
Maximum created opening1/	2 acres	2 acres	2 acres
Lineal feet of road frontage in an open condition per mile1/	Maximum 300 foot at 1 location or 600 feet per mile		

1/Applies to regenerated harvest. Not applicable to intermediate cuts or overstory removals as long as an opening is not created

At target age, stands will be reduced to 10-15 large diameter trees per acre for regeneration purposes; in foreground retention, the target tree age is 250 years.

18. Apply the following standards while managing foreground partial retention areas:

Factor	WORKING GROUP		
	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lodge-pole Pine
Percent of area open at one time	14	14	14
Percent cut in any 10 year period1/	5-9	5-9	5-9
Target Diameter (Inches)	26+	26+	10
Number of trees dedicated in 26" to 36" diameter class at time of final harvest	3-5 per acre	3-5 per acre	N/A
Maximum created opening1/	5 acres	5 acres	5 acres
Lineal feet of road frontage in an open condition per mile1/	Maximum 450 foot at 1 location or 800 feet per mile		

1/Applies to regenerated harvest. Not applicable to intermediate cuts or overstory removals as long as an opening is not created

At target age, stands will be reduced to 10-15 large diameter trees per acre for regeneration purposes; in foreground partial retention, the target tree age is 180 years.

19. Apply the following standards while managing middleground partial retention areas·

Factor	WORKING GROUP		
	Ponderosa Pine	Mixed Conifer	Lodge-pole Pine
Percent of area open at one time	20	20	20
Percent cut in any 10 year period1/	8-10	8-10	8-10
Maximum created opening1/	10 acres	10 acres	10 acres

1/Applies to regeneration harvest Not applicable to intermediate cuts or overstory removal as long as an opening is not created

Minerals

20. Design operating plans to meet visual quality objectives to the extent reasonable.

21. Utilize existing access routes to developments wherever possible.

22. Design new motorized access routes to minimize impacts and provide for reclamation on completion of the operation.

Lands

23. Permit special-use sites that can be designed and located to blend with the landscape.

24. Review existing special-use sites to see how well they meet visual objectives; if not meeting standards, bring into compliance.

Facilities

Roads

25. Locate and design roads to meet the stated visual quality objective.

Utility Corridors

26. Manage this area as a Category 1 Avoidance area for the location of utility corridors.

Protection

Residue Management

27. Manage residues to provide a natural-appearing landscape in visual corridors.

28. Plan and time treatments in foreground distance zones to minimize adverse visual effects.

29. Prescribe low intensity fire with minimal scorch when appropriate.

30. Manage residues in middleground and background distance zones to meet visual resource objectives which are compatible with reforestation and wildlife objectives.

31. Manage to achieve residue profiles in foreground distance zones as depicted by photos in the *Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (PNW-51, PNW-52, and PNW-105)*:

	Ponderosa Pine	Lodgepole Pine	Associated
Natural Fuels	1-PP-4	1-LP-3	3-PP & Assoc. -3 1-PP & Assoc. -4
Thinning Fuels (No acceptable photos) Partial Cut	1-PP-4-PC	2-LP-3-PC	1-DF-1-TH 1-PP & Assoc.-4-PC
Clearcut	2-LP-3-PC	2-LP-3-PC	2-DF-4-CC

4. Schedule of Management Practices

MANAGEMENT AREA 14 - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Management Practice	Activity Code	Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999)
RECREATION Corridor Viewshed Plans	AV112	19 Plans
TIMBER Timber Harvest Clearcut Shelterwood - Seed Tree Cut Shelterwood - Removal cut Selection Overstory Removal on Existing Stands Commercial Thin Salvage/Other Products **Total Timber Harvest** Reforestation Planting Natural Timber Stand Improvement Precommercial Thinning	 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 ET12 **ET12** ET24 ET24 ET25	 50.9 MMBF/4,743 Ac 37.0 MMBF/5,592 Ac 1.7MMBF/626 Ac 55.8 MMBF/15,089 Ac 77.6 MMBF/6,356 Ac 36.5 MMBF/8,290 Ac 12.5 MMBF/Ac N/A **272 MMBF/40,696 Ac** 7,602 Ac 10,769 Ac 17,243 Ac