

**MANAGEMENT AREA 20B (9,045 acres) - UTLEY BUTTE WILDLIFE EMPHASIS AREA (WITH SCHEDULED TIMBER HARVEST)**

**1. Description** Management Area 20B consists of the former Utley Butte roadless area. The manageable boundary for this area is 9,945 acres, 900 of those acres overlap with old growth and are covered under Management Area 13. The area is located in the southwestern corner of the Forest on the Grant-Harney County line. The area is drained by Spoon, Alder, Utley, Rail, and Corral Creeks, all tributaries to the South Fork John Day River. Snow Mountain on the western edge of the area is the predominant landmark in the area. The topography of the area can be described as steep, primarily north-facing slopes and flat-topped ridges. Elevation of the area ranges from 5,000 to 7,163 feet. This area is approximately 77% forested. Vegetative distribution on this north-facing area is characterized by trees in the bottoms, on sideslopes, and on gentle flat-topped ridges. Grass and low shrubs are found on steeper sideslopes and rock areas. Ridges and south slopes support ponderosa pine and juniper with a mountain-mahogany understory. Ground cover is usually sagebrush and bunchgrasses. Conifers are primarily confined to north slopes and drainages. Overstories consist of ponderosa pine and fir with some larch; understories are mainly white fir and Douglas-fir with grass and forbs as ground cover. Streamside vegetation generally consists of alder, willow, and some scattered mountain ash. This vegetation is mainly confined to upper drainages since lower drainages have little or no streamside vegetation. Wildlife species of high public interest include Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer.

**2. Goals** Manage to provide for high quality wildlife and fish habitat and water quality, while allowing for scheduled timber harvest. Provide opportunities for high quality semiprimitive dispersed recreation.

**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management direction included in Chapter IV, Section E, of this Plan applies to this management area except where superseded by the following standards: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 semiprimitive motorized recreation on designated roads and trails. Manage for semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation on the remainder of the area.

**Visuals** 2. Meet visual quality objectives ranging from retention to modification depending on the visual quality objective of adjacent lands.

**Fish and Wildlife** 3. Provide necessary habitat to contribute to Forest-wide maintenance of viable populations of management indicator species and featured species. Develop strategies to promote a variety of species including those dependent upon old growth, riparian, and solitude.

**Big Game** 4. Manage elk and mule deer habitat to provide for 40% cover and an elk habitat effectiveness index (HEI) of 0.7.

The HEI model provides a means of balancing cover quality, cover spacing, forage and open road densities. If these minimums are not attainable due to natural conditions (e.g., extensive nonforest areas), insect and disease conditions, or past management activities, then the highest possible cover percentage and index value will be maintained or created. Site-specific project analysis will address both short-term and long-term effects, particularly in the case of cover where short-term options to treat stands for insects and disease will improve forest health in the long-term. The Forest Supervisor will review and approve all recommendations to drop below cover and HEI standards as well as a strategy to reach standards within a reasonable length of time (see Forest-wide Standard No. 3).

Cover and habitat effectiveness determinations for site-specific projects will be calculated on a subwatershed basis. Calculations will include both forested and nonforested lands regardless of their suitability for timber production.

**Habitat Effectiveness Index (HEI) Model**

The model to be used to calculate elk habitat effectiveness on summer and winter range is:

$$HEI = (HE_c \times HE_s \times HE_r \times HE_f)^{1/4}$$

where:

HE<sub>c</sub> = habitat effectiveness derived from the quality of cover

HE<sub>s</sub> = habitat effectiveness derived from the size and spacing of cover

HE<sub>r</sub> = habitat effectiveness derived from the density of roads open to vehicular traffic

HE<sub>f</sub> = habitat effectiveness derived from the quality and quantity of forage

Below is displayed the cover and elk habitat effectiveness standards:

Forest Area	HEI	Minimum <sup>1/</sup> Values For Variables				Minimum Amount <sup>2/</sup> of Area in Cover		
		HE <sub>c</sub>	HE <sub>s</sub>	HE <sub>r3/</sub>	HE <sub>f</sub>	Satis.	Marginal	Total
MA 20B	.7	.5	.6	.6	.5	20%	20%	40%

<sup>1/</sup>The interactions between sizing and spacing, road density, forage and cover quality are compensatory to a limited extent, that is, variables with low values tend to be compensated by those with high values. Because elk tend to respond primarily to habitat variables of relatively low value, minimum values have been established for each variable in the habitat effectiveness model. While it is desirable to meet or exceed the minimum value for each variable it may not be possible to do this in every case due to site condition or potential. However, if all the variables are met at only the minimum values, the minimum standard for HEI will not be met. Therefore, to meet the HEI standard, if one or more variables are at the minimum or below, other variables must be met at higher levels in order to achieve the HEI standard. Calculate HE<sub>r</sub> in winter range only.

<sup>2/</sup>For cover definitions, see Glossary. Where satisfactory cover is below the minimum standard, retain sufficient hiding cover to mitigate this shortage.

<sup>3/</sup>A closed road is one where use is not physically evident, no greater than one trip/week.

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5. Develop a long-range plan for achievement of wildlife objectives through use of timber harvest that will be the basis of scheduled entries.
  6. Maintain dead and defective tree habitat capable of supporting 60-100% of the potential population of management indicator species for primary excavators.
- Range**
7. Prioritize forage utilization to provide for big game species at levels derived in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
  8. Schedule cost-efficient range improvements to improve range condition when and where needed and consistent with management area objectives.
  9. Design improvements to protect tree regeneration areas and/or to distribute livestock use.
- Timber**
10. Lands in this management area are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. Schedule timber harvest on the portion of the management area classified as "suitable" for timber management.
  11. On lands "suitable" for scheduled timber harvest, silvicultural prescriptions will be designed to maintain and/or improve cover conditions.
  12. When applying uneven-aged management, manage for the following target tree numbers and sizes:
    - (a) Twenty four inch uneven-aged management ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands - Maintain at least 2 trees per acre that are 24 inches in diameter and 5 replacement trees that are 18 to 24 inches in diameter.
    - (b) Twenty inch uneven-aged management ponderosa pine and mixed conifer stands - Maintain at least 2 trees per acre that are 20 inches in diameter and 5 replacement trees that are 16 to 20 inches in diameter.
    - (c) Low site lands (all species) - Maintain at least 1 tree per acre 18 inches in diameter.
    - (d) Manage the stand, including understory, to maintain target tree standards throughout time and to meet regional direction for uneven-aged management (see glossary, uneven-aged management).
  13. When applying uneven-aged management, the size of created openings are to be a maximum of two acres in size. Exceptions will be based on site-specific prescriptions which are responsive to integrated land management objectives.
  14. Limit activities seasonally when needed to reduce wildlife harassment.
- Stand Improvement**
15. Defer precommercial and commercial thinnings when needed to meet elk habitat effectiveness objectives. Base this determination on a site-specific environmental analysis.

**Minerals**

- 16. Stipulate in mineral leases the possible limitation of activity between December 1 through April 1 if necessary to provide for wintering needs of big game. Negotiate reasonable limitations in operating plans for locatable mineral development

**Facilities**

**Roads**

- 17. Minimize road construction when determining access needs for timber management activities. Favor logging systems that require less road construction. Obliterate or close all newly constructed roads once project activities are completed unless road management objectives dictate otherwise. Road management objectives, including design criteria, operation criteria, and maintenance criteria, will be determined primarily by wildlife habitat needs (including security needs). An area transportation plan will be developed.
- 18. To limit disturbance to big game, the open road density will be no greater than 1.5 mi/mi<sup>2</sup> by 1999. Where existing conditions do not meet this goal, project transportation system designs will be developed in order to move toward this goal in the shortest time frame possible. Densities will be monitored on a watershed basis (see Appendix I).
- 19. All roads will be planned, designed and constructed to minimum level standards. No through roads.
- 20. Access management will be identified as an issue during any project level environmental analysis.
- 21. Restrict motorized off-highway vehicles, over-the-snow vehicles, and other motorized traffic use to designated roads and trails on winter range areas when necessary to protect wildlife habitat and minimize harassment to elk and deer.

**Trails**

- 22. Locate, design, and construct trails that accommodate projected recreational use, ensure public safety, and meet management area objectives. Schedule construction work to minimize disruption to wildlife.

**Protection**

**Residue Management**

- 23. Manage residue to maintain or enhance big-game habitat and forage production.
- 24. Use all methods of fuel treatment as prescribed by site-specific analysis to achieve resource management objectives. Use prescribed fire from planned ignition when appropriate.

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4. Schedule of Management Practices

**MANAGEMENT AREA 20B - SCHEDULE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Management Practice	Activity Code	Total Planned for Decade (1990-1999)
<b>TIMBER</b>		
Timber Harvest		
Clearcut	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Shelterwood - Seed Tree Cut	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Selection	ET12	.1 MMBF/66 Ac
Overstory Removal on Existing Stands	ET12	13.2 MMBF/1,348 Ac
Commercial Thinning	ET12	0 MMBF/0 Ac
Salvage/Other Products	ET12	.6 MMBF/Ac N/A
<b>Total Timber Harvest</b>	<b>ET12</b>	<b>13.9 MMBF/1,414 Ac</b>
Reforestation		
Planting	ET24	13 Ac
Natural	ET24	13 Ac
Timber Stand Improvement		
Precommercial Thinning	ET25	848 Ac