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# Appendix B

Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components

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# Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components

## Introduction

40 CFR 1505.1 requires agency procedures to encompass a reasonable range of alternatives to manage Forest Service-administered lands on the Ashley National Forest. The following tables illustrate the differences in plan components between alternatives. The full text for Alternative B (draft revised Land Management Plan) is included in Appendix E and should be used when comparing the proposed alternative language in Tables B-2 through B-10. Alternative B (in Appendix E) is the core document upon which language for other alternatives should be compared. Language in Alternative B is the proposed language for the Forest Plan except where alternative language and figures are provided in Tables B-2 through B-10. Only differences in plan components are shown; all other plan components or management approaches as written in the Forest Plan apply to the range of action alternatives unless stated otherwise.

Table B-1 provides the planning component and acronym coding key for the subsequent individual tables. Table B-2 provides a comparison of differences in planning components for forest-wide direction, while Table B-3 provides a comparison of planning components for management area and designated area direction. Table B-4 to Table B-10 provide projected forestwide vegetation management practices under each action alternative.

Plan components are provided in a standardized format as follows:

The forest plan contains a specific coding system to identify desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines and where they apply using a pattern like this: AA-BB-CCC. The series of letters before the first dash references the level of direction (for example, FW = forest wide and DA = designated area). The middle series of letters reference plan component types (for example, DC for desired condition, OB for objectives, GL for guidelines, ST for standard, and GO for goals). The resource area is the third series of letters (such as WTR for watershed and SO for soil). See Table B-1 for resource area acronyms.

**Table B-1. Planning Component and Acronym Coding Key**

Acronym	Full Phrase
<b>Level of Direction</b>	
FW	Forestwide
DA	Designated Area
MA	Management Area
<b>Plan Component Type</b>	
DC	Desired Condition
ST	Standard
GL	Guideline
OBJ	Objective
SU	Suitability
GO	Goal

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-1. Planning Component and Acronym Coding Key)

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Phrase</b>
<b>Resource Area</b>	
AQ	Air Quality
SO	Soils
RMZ	Watershed, Aquatic, and Riparian Ecosystems
TL	Terrestrial Ecosystems
TVAR	Terrestrial Vegetation, At-Risk Plant Species
FV	FV: Forested Vegetation
FVA	FVA: Forest Vegetation, Aspen
FVPJ	FVPJ: Forest Vegetation, Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands
FVCF	FVCF: Forest Vegetation, Coniferous Forest
NFV	NFV: Non-forest Vegetation
NFVA	NFVA: Non-forest Vegetation, Alpine
NFDS	NFDS: Non-forest Vegetation, Desert Shrub
NFVS	NFVS: Non-forest Vegetation, Sagebrush
RUH	RUH: Rare and Unique Habitats
FI	Fire
ACC	Adapting to Climate Change
CS	Carbon Storage and Sequestration
WA	Watersheds and Aquatics
WL	Wildlife
SE	Social and Economic Sustainability
ATI	Areas of Tribal Importance
CHR	Cultural and Historic Resources
TI	Timber
LGR	Livestock Grazing
LU	Land Special Uses
EM	Energy and Minerals
GRH	Geologic Resources and Hazards
IN	Transportation Infrastructure
FAC	Facilities Infrastructure
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RECDEV	Developed Recreation Sites
RECDIS	Dispersed Recreation
RECSU	Recreation Special Uses
RECOG	Outfitters and Guides
RECRES	Recreation Residences
RETEC	Emerging Recreation Technology
RECEV	Recreation Events
RECNCG	Non-Commercial Group Use
VEI	Visitor Education and Interpretation
SEC	Scenic Resources
FGNRA	Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
HUW	High Uintas Wilderness
AKNGRA	Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers
NSB	National Scenic Byways
IRA	Inventoried Roadless Areas

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-1. Planning Component and Acronym Coding Key)

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<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Phrase</b>
RNA	Research Natural Areas
SW	Swett Ranch
UML	Ute Mountain Fire Lookout Tower
HRS	Historic Ranger Stations
CMR	Carter Military Road
RMADRA	Destination Recreation Area
RMAGRA	General Recreation Area
RMABRA	Backcountry Recreation Area
PHVRA	Protection High Value Resource Area
WIL	Recommended Wilderness Area

**Table B-2. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Forestwide Direction**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Forest Vegetation</b>			
<p>Site preparation for natural regeneration (annual basis for first decade: 1,100 acres. This acreage involves lodgepole pine stands, which can be improved through silvicultural treatment. These areas include stagnated stands (usually under 3” diameter), large pole sized stands (6”-7” in diameter) that are 80 percent or more dead from mountain pine beetle attack, and partial cut stands that do not have enough remaining basal area alive to recover.)</p> <p>Standards and guidelines related to treatments are Management Area-specific<sup>1</sup>, and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan one precommercial thinning by age 15 (Management Areas b, d, e, f, l)</li> <li>• Plan one or more commercial thinning (Management Areas b, d, e, f, l)</li> <li>• Plan two or more commercial thinnings (l)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FVC)</b> Complete forested vegetation management treatments (such as timber harvest, thinning, and planting) on 1,500 acres (1,200 in the second decade) of the Ashley annually, measured on a decadal basis, to maintain or move toward achieving desired conditions for forested ecosystems. Tables B-4 and B-5 display the projected annual vegetation management practices.</p>	<p><b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FVC)</b> Complete forested vegetation management treatments (such as timber harvest, thinning, and planting) on 1,000 acres (800 acres in the second decade) of the Ashley annually, measured on a decadal basis, to maintain or move toward achieving desired conditions for forested ecosystems. Tables B-6 and B-7 display the projected annual vegetation management practices.</p>	<p><b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FVC)</b> Complete forested vegetation management treatments (such as timber harvest, thinning, and planting) on 1,600 acres (1,300 acres in the second decade) of the Ashley annually, measured on a decadal basis, to maintain or move toward achieving desired conditions for forested ecosystems. Tables B-8 and B-9 display the projected annual vegetation management practices.</p>

<sup>1</sup> For a full description of each Management Area, refer to the 1986 Forest Plan, page IV-5 (Forest Service 1986)

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precommercially thin only 40 percent and commercial thin only 12 percent of harvested acres (n and n1)</li> </ul>			
<b>Timber</b>			
<p>Opening limits are identified for specific Management Areas in the 1986 Forest Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearings up to 20 acres are permitted (Management Areas e and l)</li> <li>• Clearings up to 40 acres are permitted (Management Areas b, f, k, n, n<sub>1</sub>, p, and r)</li> <li>• Clearings up to 60 acres are permitted (Management Areas d and k)</li> </ul> <p>Standards and guidelines that address harvesting trees adjacent to openings are Management Area specific and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stands may be harvested adjacent to openings that are 90 percent stocked with trees that have survived for a minimum of 2 years (Management Area b and d)</li> <li>• Stands may be harvested adjacent to openings that have reached an average height sufficient to provide hiding cover for the Management Indicator</li> </ul>	<p><b>Standard (FW-ST-TI)</b> Openings created by clearcutting, seed-tree cutting, shelterwood seed cutting, or other cuts designed to regenerate an even-aged stand of timber in one harvest operation shall not exceed 40 acres. This standard applies to new, individual harvest proposals on National Forest System lands only and need not consider existing openings on National Forest System land, adjacent private land, or other agency lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openings will no longer be considered openings once a new crop of trees meeting minimum stocking requirements becomes established.</li> <li>• There may be exceptions to the 40-acre maximum opening size when determined necessary to achieve desired ecological conditions for the plan area, such as those associated with forest patterns, patch sizes,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Standard (FW-ST-TI)</b> Openings created by clearcutting, seed-tree cutting, shelterwood seed cutting, or other cuts designed to regenerate an even-aged stand of timber in one harvest operation shall not exceed 40 acres. This standard applies to new, individual harvest proposals on National Forest System lands only and need not consider existing openings on National Forest System land, adjacent private land, or other agency lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openings will no longer be considered openings once a new crop of trees meeting minimum stocking requirements becomes established.</li> <li>• Harvest openings created as a result of a single harvest operation that exceed the maximum opening size require a 60-day public review and regional forester approval.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Standard (FW-ST-TI)</b> Same as Alternative B</p>

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D						
<p>Species using the area (Management Area e and n)</p>	<p>and forest resilience in the short and long term. Maximum opening size under this exception is shown in below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="636 423 1031 594"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="636 423 863 508">Vegetation Type</th> <th data-bbox="863 423 1031 508">Maximum Opening Size (Acres)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="636 508 863 565">Persistent lodgepole pine</td> <td data-bbox="863 508 1031 565">200</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="636 565 863 594">Seral aspen</td> <td data-bbox="863 565 1031 594">100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="653 618 1031 846">Harvest openings created as a result of a single harvest operation that exceed the maximum opening size require a 60-day public review and regional forester approval.</li> </ul>	Vegetation Type	Maximum Opening Size (Acres)	Persistent lodgepole pine	200	Seral aspen	100		
Vegetation Type	Maximum Opening Size (Acres)								
Persistent lodgepole pine	200								
Seral aspen	100								
<p>Timber harvest levels are limited to 21 MMBF during the first decade.</p> <p>Projected average annual outputs in million cubic feet (MMCF) are as follows:<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Sawtimber (softwood): 1985-1990: 4.5 1991-2000: 4.5</p>	<p>Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer timber (meeting timber product utilization standards) for sale at an average projected timber sale quantity of 3,806 to 3,833 one hundred cubic-foot [CCF] (1,145 to 1,158 thousand board-feet [MBF], measured on a decadal basis.</p>	<p>Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer timber (meeting timber product utilization standards) for sale at an average projected timber sale quantity of 2,822 to 2,842 CCF (795 to 805 MBF), measured on a decadal basis.</p>	<p>Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer timber (meeting timber product utilization standards) for sale at an average projected timber sale quantity of 3,956 to 3,983 CCF (1,190 to 1,204 MBF), measured on a decadal basis.</p>						

<sup>2</sup> An MBF/CCF conversion factor of 0.466667 was used to match the outputs found on page IV-58 in the 1986 Forest Plan (Forest Service 1986) to the 21 MMBF allowable sale quantity for decade 1. These volumes are not considered achievable due to the reduction of suitable timber base from approximately 490,000 acres to approximately 130,000 acres.



Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>2001-2010: 3.5                      2011-2020: 3.5                      2021-2030: 3.9</p> <p>Sawtimber (hardwood)                      1985-1990: 0                      1991-2000: 0                      2001-2010: 0.7                      2011-2020: 0.7                      2021-2030: 0.3</p> <p>Roundwood                      1985-1990: 0.6                      1991-2000: 0.6                      2001-2010: 0.5                      2011-2020: 0.5                      2021-2030: 0.5</p> <p>Fuelwood                      1985-1990: 10.4                      1991-2000: 9.4                      2001-2010: 9.2                      2011-2020: 6.8                      2021-2030: 5.9</p>			

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Make available a minimum of 12,000 cords of firewood for personal use (Management Areas b, d, e, f, k, l, n, n <sub>1</sub> , p, and r) <sup>3</sup>	Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer wood products, including fuelwood, biomass, and other volumes that do not meet timber product utilization standards, for sale at an average annual projected wood sale quantity of 3,806 to 3,833 CCF (1,145 to 1,158 MBF), measured on a decadal basis.	Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer wood products, including fuelwood, biomass, and other volumes that do not meet timber product utilization standards, for sale at an average annual projected wood sale quantity of 2,822 to 2,842 CCF (795 to 805 MBF), measured on a decadal basis.	Objective (FW-OBJ-TI) Annually offer wood products, including fuelwood, biomass, and other volumes that do not meet timber product utilization standards, for sale at an average annual projected wood sale quantity of 3,956 to 3,983 CCF (1,190 to 1,204 MBF), measured on a decadal basis.
<b>Fire</b>			
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Based on the historical disturbance regimes, use wildland fire and other vegetation treatments to improve or maintain desired vegetation conditions on 6,600 to 32,000 acres per year during the life of the plan (Table B-10). The full range of fuel reduction methods is authorized, consistent with forest and management area emphasis and direction.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Same as Alternative B.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Based on the historical disturbance regimes, use wildland fire and other vegetation treatments to improve or maintain desired vegetation conditions on 10,000 to 40,000 acres per year during the life of the plan (Table B-10). The full range of fuel reduction methods is authorized, consistent with forest and management area emphasis and direction.
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Every 10 years, manage natural unplanned ignitions to meet resource objectives associated with the vegetation types (Table B-10) on at least 10 percent of the ignitions.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Every 10 years, manage natural unplanned ignitions to meet resource objectives associated with the vegetation types (Table B-10) on at least 20 percent of the ignitions.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-FI)</b> Every 10 years, manage natural unplanned ignitions to meet resource objectives associated with the vegetation types (Table B-10) on at least 5 percent of the ignitions.

<sup>3</sup> These volumes are not considered achievable due to the reduction of suitable timber base from approximately 490,000 acres to approximately 130,000 acres.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable goals under Alternative A.	N/A	N/A	<b>Goal (FW-GL-FI)</b> The forest seeks to maximize all opportunities with cooperators (including planned and unplanned ignitions) to consistently achieve the higher end of treatment objectives.
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-FI)</b> Within sensitive areas, such as wilderness, fire management tactics will include minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST).	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-FI)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-FI)</b> MIST are only used in wilderness. All tactics and resources are available for suppression tactics.
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-GL-FI)</b> Outside the HVRAs, fuel treatments should promote fire severity consistent with Table B-10 to support ecosystem and other resource outcomes.	<b>Objective (FW-GL-FI)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Objective (FW-GL-FI)</b> All fuel treatments are designed to support protection of developed resources and suppress fire behavior.
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-PHVRA)</b> During the first 5 years of the plan, promote collaboration with private industry and outside interests to increase the percentage of fire resilient landscapes around HVRAs. Annually treat a minimum of 1,000 to 3,000 acres (based on current funding and capacity).	N/A	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-PHVRA)</b> During the first 5 years of the plan, promote collaboration with private industry and outside interests to increase the percentage of fire resilient landscapes around HVRAs. Annually treat a minimum of 5,000 to 10,000 acres.
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-PHVRA)</b> If assurances can be made for public safety, managers should consider using fire to achieve management objectives.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-PHVRA)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-PHVRA)</b> Fire to achieve management objectives is prohibited in HVRAs.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p>No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-PHVRA)</b> In areas where critical values are directly at risk of wildfire, fuel treatments should result in low flame lengths based on 90 percentile weather conditions. This would be done in order to provide protection of highly valued resources and assets and firefighter and public safety. Treatments will focus on reducing fuel loadings that may deviate from other resource requirements to meet the desired fire behavior characteristics. If there is conflict between the need to mitigate hazardous fuels to protect critical values, particularly human improvements, and other natural resource concerns the favor will be to protection of those values. The project level NEPA will further refine the level of protection of values through thorough analysis of tradeoffs, risks and benefits.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-PHVRA)</b> In areas where critical values are directly at risk of wildfire, fuel treatments should result in low flame lengths based on 90 percentile weather conditions in order to provide protection of highly valued resources and assets, and firefighter and public safety. Treatments will focus on reducing fuel loadings that may deviate from other resource requirements to meet the desired fire behavior characteristics. If there is conflict between the need to mitigate hazardous fuels to protect critical values, particularly human improvements, and other natural resource concerns the favor will be to protection of those values.</p>

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Grazing</b>			
Limit forage utilization by livestock of key browse species on big game winter range to 20 percent.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LGR)</b> To ensure sustainability and resiliency of forage resources, limit utilization of key forage species to no greater than 50 percent of current year’s growth, unless long-term monitoring demonstrates a different allowable use level is appropriate.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LGR)</b> To ensure sustainability and resiliency of forage resources, limit utilization of key forage species to no greater than 40 percent of current year’s growth.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LGR)</b> Utilization of key forage species meets desired conditions for soils and terrestrial vegetation.
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LGR)</b> To ensure sustainability and resiliency of forage resources in riparian areas leave a four-inch or greater stubble height of palatable herbaceous species at the end of the grazing season between greenline and bank full of stream systems, unless long-term monitoring demonstrates a more appropriate stubble height.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LGR)</b> To ensure sustainability and resiliency of forage resources in riparian areas leave a four-inch or greater stubble height of palatable herbaceous species at the end of the grazing season between greenline and bankfull of stream systems.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-LRG)</b> Stubble height meets desired conditions for riparian and terrestrial vegetation.
<b>Cultural and Historic Resources</b>			
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Increase the ability of the Ashley National Forest to preserve cultural and historic resources by completing at least 200 acres of cultural surveys to identify and document five cultural resource sites each year for the life of the plan.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Increase the ability of the Ashley National Forest to preserve cultural and historic resources by completing at least 400 acres of cultural surveys to identify and document ten cultural resource sites each year for the life of the plan.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Increase the ability of the Ashley National Forest to preserve cultural and historic resources by completing at least 100 acres of cultural surveys to identify and document two cultural resource sites each year for the life of the plan.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable objectives under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Enhance public understanding and increase awareness of cultural and historic resources by evaluating five cultural resources each year for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Enhance public understanding and increase awareness of cultural and historic resources by evaluating ten cultural resources each year for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-CHR)</b> Enhance public understanding and increase awareness of cultural and historic resources by evaluating one cultural resource each year for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.
<b>Wildlife</b>			
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> When a domestic sheep or goat grazing permit for an allotment is voluntarily waived without preference, and if the allotment does not provide separation from bighorn sheep, then authorized use of the allotment should provide separation of domestic sheep and bighorn sheep by either: 1) provide separation that would mitigate the threat of pathogen transfer from domestic sheep/goats to bighorn sheep consistent with the most current State Big Horn Sheep Management Plans 2) adjustment of time and/or dates domestic sheep are on the allotment, 3) potential conversion to a cattle and horse allotment, 4) utilization as a cattle and horse forage reserve, or 5) potential closure of all or a portion of the allotment to domestic sheep/goats.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> When a domestic sheep or goat grazing permit is voluntarily waived without preference, and if the allotment does not provide separation from bighorn sheep, then the allotment will be closed to provide separation between domestic sheep/goats and bighorn sheep.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> When a domestic sheep or goat grazing permit for an allotment is voluntarily waived without preference, and if the allotment does not provide separation from bighorn sheep, then authorized use of the allotment should either provide separation of domestic sheep/goats from bighorn sheep or mitigate the threat of pathogen transfer from domestic sheep/goats to bighorn sheep or mitigate the threat of pathogen transfer from domestic sheep/goats to bighorn sheep.

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> New permitted domestic sheep or goat allotments should not be authorized unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of domestic sheep or goats from bighorn sheep can be demonstrated, or</li> <li>• Research demonstrates risk of respiratory pathogen transfer from domestic sheep or goats to bighorn sheep can be avoided in another way, or research demonstrates respiratory pathogen transfer from domestics to bighorn sheep is no longer an issue</li> </ul> <p>This guideline does not apply to the use of pack goats or existing domestic sheep/goat grazing permits waived with preference.</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> New permitted domestic sheep or goat allotments should not be authorized unless separation of domestic sheep/goats from bighorn sheep can be demonstrated. This Guideline does not apply to the use of pack goats for recreational use, or existing domestic sheep allotments waived with preference.</p>	N/A
	N/A	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-WL)</b> When opportunities arise, close domestic sheep/goat allotments that overlap a bighorn sheep core herd home range (CHHR).</p>	N/A
<b>Land Status and Ownership</b>			
No comparable guidelines under Alternative A.	N/A	N/A	<p><b>Goal (FW-GO-LSO)</b> Work with organizations to maintain and represent current individual inholdings.</p>

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Lands Special Uses</b>			
No comparable goal under Alternative A.	<b>Goal (FW-GO-LU)</b> The Forest will encourage the formation of user associations in lieu of individual special-use permits and rights-of-way in common-use facilities, uses, or areas. Multiple permits to the same organization should be incorporated into one permit if this facilitates permit administration.	Same as Alternative B.	<b>Goal (FW-GO-LU)</b> The Forest may prioritize organizations that represent multiple permittees during the permitting process.
No comparable objective under Alternative A.	N/A	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-LU)</b> Every five years, consider and prioritize easements identified and agreed upon by state and county governments and private landowners, for providing access to the national forest.	<b>Objective (FW-OBJ-LU)</b> Annually consider and prioritize easements identified and agreed upon by state and county governments and private landowners, for providing access to the national forest.



Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Soils</b>			
<p>No comparable guideline under Alternative A.</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Areas occupied by landings, temporary roads, and main skid trails in timber projects and timber sales should establish in post-project reclamation a minimum of 60 percent effective ground cover for distances needed on those surfaces (project-specific) to protect soil resources from erosion and prevent recreational use. For soil inventory purposes, effective ground cover is expressed as a percentage of material, other than bare soil on the land surface. It includes coarse woody debris, litter, duff, surface rocks (large gravels, cobbles, stones, boulders, and rock outcrop), biological crusts, and vegetation in contact with the soil. This estimate of ground cover differs from other resource protocols.</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Areas occupied by landings, temporary roads, and main skid trails in timber projects and timber sales should establish in post-project reclamation a minimum of 85percent effective ground cover for up to 500 feet on those surfaces (project-specific) to protect soil resources from erosion and prevent recreational use. For soil inventory purposes, effective ground cover is expressed as a percentage of material, other than bare soil on the land surface. It includes coarse woody debris, litter, duff, surface rocks (large gravels, cobbles, stones, boulders, and rock outcrop), biological crusts, and vegetation in contact with the soil. This estimate of ground cover differs from other resource protocols.</p>	<p><b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Same as Alternative B</p>

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable guideline under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Ground-based mechanical equipment for vegetation management should not operate in areas where sustained grades exceed 40 percent. This is to minimize the likelihood of soil compaction, displacement and erosion. Exceptions can be made in specific harvesting, felling, skidding, and yarding operations where soil, slope, and equipment types and harvest methods are determined appropriate to maintain soil quality.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Ground-based mechanical equipment for vegetation management should only operate on slopes less than 40 percent in order to minimize the likelihood of soil compaction, displacement and erosion.	<b>Guideline (FW-GL-SO)</b> Ground-based mechanical equipment should avoid use on slopes greater than 40 percent and mitigate potential impacts by the use of protective slash and coarse woody debris cover on slopes.
<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>			
No comparable goal under Alternative A.	N/A	N/A	<b>Goal (FW-GO-IN)</b> Consider adding additional loops and routes for motorized activities.
<b>Facilities Infrastructure</b>			
No comparable goal under Alternative A.	N/A	N/A	<b>Goal (FW-GO-FAC)</b> Consider expanding existing campgrounds to accommodate larger trailers and OHV users.

**Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction**

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Backcountry Management Areas</b>			
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMABRA)</b> Improve 5 miles of existing non-motorized National Forest System trails for mountain bike use every 5 years over the life of the plan if user groups are available to assist in improvement work.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMABRA)</b> Improve 10 miles of existing non-motorized National Forest System trails for mountain bike use every 5 years over the life of the plan if user groups are available to assist in improvement work.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> The Backcountry Recreation Area is suitable for wheeled motorized travel consistent within desired recreation opportunity spectrum settings as assigned and on designated roads, trails, and areas.	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> The Backcountry Recreation Area is not suitable for wheeled motorized travel.	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> The Backcountry Recreation Area is suitable for wheeled motorized travel consistent within desired recreation opportunity spectrum settings as assigned and on designated roads, trails, and areas.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> <b>02</b> The backcountry recreation area is suitable for mechanized travel (such as mountain bikes).	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> <b>02</b> The backcountry recreation area is suitable for mechanized travel (such as mountain bikes) on existing trails.	<b>Suitability (MA-SUIT-RMABRA)</b> <b>02</b> The backcountry recreation area is suitable for mechanized travel (such as mountain bikes) on existing trails.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	N/A	<b>Standard (MA-ST-RMABRA)</b> <b>01</b> Timber harvest shall not occur in the Backcountry Recreation Area	N/A

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction)

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>General Recreation Area</b>			
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Provide five new dispersed camping docks on the shoreline of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir within 10 years of plan approval if funding is available.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Provide seven new dispersed camping docks on the shoreline of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir within 10 years of plan approval if funding is available.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> To expand recreational opportunities, construct 10 miles of designed use mountain bike over the life of the plan if local user groups or partnerships are identified to conduct annual trail maintenance.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> To expand recreational opportunities, construct 20 miles of designed use mountain bike over the life of the plan if local user groups or partnerships are identified to conduct annual trail maintenance.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Improve 1 mile of road to dispersed camping sites every 3 years.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Improve 4 miles of road to dispersed camping sites every 3 years.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> To expand recreation opportunities, construct two off-highway vehicle loop trails (no more than 60 inches wide) within 10 years of plan approval if local user groups or partnerships are identified to conduct annual trail maintenance.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> To expand recreation opportunities, construct two off-highway vehicle loop trails within 10 years of plan approval if local user groups or partnerships are identified to conduct annual trail maintenance.

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction)

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> To expand recreation opportunities, convert 10 miles of National Forest System 50-inch-wide or narrower off-highway vehicle trails to no more than 60 inches wide within 5 years of plan approval, through cooperation with local motorized use groups to identify trails that have the highest use by side-by-side off-highway vehicles and identified trails can be converted without resulting resource issues.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Same as Alternative B
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Improve 2 miles of motorized trails every 3 years if local user groups are available to assist in improvement work.	N/A	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMAGRA)</b> Improve 6 miles of motorized trails every 3 years if local user groups are available to assist in improvement work.
Destination Recreation Areas			
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Chip seal or slurry seal 2 miles of roads within the Destination Recreation Area every 5 years, if road conditions warrant maintenance.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Chip seal or slurry seal 6 miles of roads within the Destination Recreation Area every 5 years, if road conditions warrant maintenance.
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Improve facilities and infrastructure at five developed campgrounds every 10 years for the life of the plan, emphasizing areas with higher use and in a deteriorated condition.	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Same as Alternative B	<b>Objective (MA-OBJ-RMADRA)</b> Improve facilities and infrastructure at eight developed campgrounds every 10 years for the life of the plan, emphasizing areas with higher use and in a deteriorated condition.

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction)

<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
No comparable management area under Alternative A.	N/A	<b>Standard (MA-ST-RMADRA) Grazing</b> Grazing is excluded from destination recreation areas.	N/A
<b>Research Natural Areas</b>			
No comparable suitability plan components Alternative A.	N/A	<b>Suitability (DA-SU-RNA)</b> New rights-of-ways are unsuitable within RNAs.	N/A
<b>Recommended Wilderness Areas</b>			
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Preliminary administrative recommendation of wilderness areas maintain their existing ecological and social wilderness characteristics, so as to preserve opportunities for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Preliminary administrative recommendation of wilderness areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and impacts from visitor use do not detract from the natural setting.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction)

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Preliminary administrative recommendation of wilderness areas are characterized by a natural environment where ecological processes - such as natural succession, wildfire, avalanches, insects and disease - function as the primary forces affecting the environment.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> System trails support wilderness experiences and preserve wilderness characteristics.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Outfitter and guide recreation special uses support identified public need and provide service to the extent necessary for realizing the recreational purposes of of the preliminary administrative recommendation of wilderness areas.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (DA-GL-WIL)</b> New range improvements associated with existing allotments should be authorized only for the purpose of improving wilderness characteristics or for resource protection.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-3. Plan Component Differences Between Action Alternatives: Management Area and Designated Area Direction)

<b>Alternative A</b>	<b>Alternative B</b>	<b>Alternative C</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Guideline (DA-GL-WIL)</b> Restoration activities (such as prescribed fire, active weed management) should protect and/or enhance the wilderness character of these areas.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> New commercial communication sites shall not be allowed.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> Construction of new roads, temporary roads, access routes, and motorized trails shall not be allowed.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B.	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> Timber harvest shall not be allowed.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B.	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> New energy/utility corridors shall not be allowed.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> New recreation events shall not be allowed.	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A
No comparable recommended wilderness areas under Alternative A.	<b>Standard (DA-ST-WIL)</b> New recreation developments shall not be allowed, aside from needed trails infrastructure	<b>Desired Condition (DA-DC-WIL)</b> Same as Alternative B	N/A



**Table B-4. Alternative B- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres First Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	16	57	0	187	43	18
Engelmann Spruce	0	3	0	29	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	107	32	178	428	7
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	33	0	12
Ponderosa Pine	203	1	0	79	127	829
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	28
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	229	175	32	506	598	893

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\*Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-5. Alternative B- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres Second Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	16	57	0	187	43	18
Engelmann Spruce	9	1	0	29	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	107	32	178	107	7
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	33	0	12
Ponderosa Pine	203	1	0	79	127	829
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	28
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	239	174	32	506	277	893

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\* Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-6. Alternative C- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres First Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	12	44	0	109	33	0
Engelmann Spruce	0	2	0	17	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	88	26	132	351	0
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	18	0	0
Ponderosa Pine	104	1	0	53	65	739
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	6
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	126	141	26	331	449	746

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\*Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-7. Alternative C- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres Second Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	12	44	0	109	33	0
Engelmann Spruce	7	1	0	17	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	88	26	132	88	0
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	18	0	0
Ponderosa Pine	104	1	0	53	65	739
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	6
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	133	140	26	331	185	746

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\* Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-8. Alternative D- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres First Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	17	60	0	192	45	17
Engelmann Spruce	0	3	0	30	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	111	33	182	444	6
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	33	0	12
Ponderosa Pine	210	1	0	80	131	822
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	28
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	237	183	34	517	620	884

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\*Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-9. Alternative D- Projected Forest-wide Vegetation Management Practices (Annual Average Acres Second Decade)**

Forest Cover Types	Improvement/ Selection (Uneven-aged harvest)	Regeneration* (Even-aged harvest)	Thinning (Intermediate harvest)	Sanitation/ Salvage (Intermediate harvest)	Pre-commercial Thinning (intermediate treatment)	Prescribed Fire
Mixed Conifer	17	60	0	192	45	17
Engelmann Spruce	10	2	0	30	0	0
Lodgepole Pine	0	111	33	182	111	6
Douglas-fir	10	5	0	33	0	12
Ponderosa Pine	210	1	0	80	131	822
Persistent Aspen	0	2	0	0	0	28
Woodland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total**	247	181	34	517	288	884

\* Regeneration harvest treatment includes clearcuts, shelterwoods, shelterwood removal, and seedtree methods.

\*\* Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Table B-10. Potential Number of Acres Burned per Decade and Desired Severity Based on each Vegetation Type\***

<b>Vegetation Types</b>	<b>Dominant Fire Regime Groups</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Fire Frequency in Years</b>	<b>Potential Acres Managed per Decade Based on Historical Fire Regime Groups (acres, low to high)</b>	<b>Percent of Fires in each Severity Class</b>
Ponderosa Pine	I	37,855	6–60	6,309–63,092	Low: 55 Mixed: 39 High: 6
Lodgepole Pine	V	76,786	90–200	3,839–8,532	Low: 19 Mixed: 0 High: 6
Douglas-fir	I, III	47,773	35–200	2,389–13,649	Low: 75 Mixed: 14 High: 81
Mixed Conifer	V	310,807	200–300	10,360–15,540	Low: 0 Mixed: 2 High: 11
Engelmann Spruce	V	144,492	200–400	3,612–7,225	Low: 0 Mixed: 20 High: 98
Miscellaneous	I	12,769	75–290	440–1,703	Low: 79 Mixed: 0 High: 80
Seral Aspen	I, III, IV	117,137	13–70	16,734–90,105	Low: 0 Mixed: 54 High: 21
Persistent Aspen	I	35,480	20–300	1,183–17,740	Low: 0 Mixed: 46 High: 46
Sagebrush	III, IV	120,726	40–100	12,073–30,182	Low: 0 Mixed: 0 High: 100
Pinyon Juniper	III, IV	122,268	150–200	6,113–8,151	Low: 5 Mixed: 65 High: 29

Appendix B. Comparison of Action Alternative Plan Components (Table B-10. Potential Number of Acres Burned per Decade and Desired Severity Based on each Vegetation Type)

<b>Vegetation Types</b>	<b>Dominant Fire Regime Groups</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Fire Frequency in Years</b>	<b>Potential Acres Managed per Decade Based on Historical Fire Regime Groups (acres, low to high)</b>	<b>Percent of Fires in each Severity Class</b>
Desert Shrub	IV	68,823	100-240	2,868--6,882	Low: 0 Mixed: 0 High: 100

\* Based on Utah Fire Groups, LANDFIRE Bps/MFRI, and Ashley Terrestrial Condition Report

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