



United States
Department of
Agriculture



LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



TOIYABE

NATIONAL FOREST

Level III). Wilderness trails will be managed to achieve wilderness management objectives.

- 15 Maintain other trails to a level and at a frequency commensurate with use and management objectives. (See Trail Maintenance Guide, Table II-2.)

FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

- 1- Use the National Fire Analysis (FSH 5109.19) to determine the most cost efficient level of attack forces and detection and prevention programs.
- 2- All wildfires will receive an appropriate suppression response. Appropriate responses are confinement, containment, or control.
- 3- Suppression responses to wildfire are documented in the appropriate preplanned dispatching guides (Carson-Bridgeport, Central Nevada, and Las Vegas) except for specific areas for which Fire Management Area action guides are yet to be prepared. Fire Management Area action guides will determine response in sensitive areas such as wilderness. (See Management Area discussions on those areas for which such action programs are appropriate.)
- 4- Response to wildfire which escapes initial action will be determined in an Escaped Fire Situation Analysis which considers land management objectives, costs, damages, safety, and reinforcement capabilities.
- 5- Natural fuel treatment projects will meet multi-resource objectives.
- 6- Vegetation manipulation may be required to meet protection objectives.
- 7- Use planned, prescribed fire to improve or enhance resource outputs where appropriate.
- 8- Use planned and unplanned ignitions to restore natural ecosystems in wilderness and other areas where appropriate.
- 9- Cooperate with other agencies and adjacent landowners to encourage treatment of hazardous fuel accumulations where cost effective and where fuels present a threat to public lands.
- 10- Implement the Action Program for reducing the risk of wildfire damage on the Sierra Front (see Fire Action Program in Chapter V - Implementation).
- 11- Utilize interagency cooperation and the closest available forces to reduce costs of all emergencies.
- 12- Design prevention efforts to prevent human-caused wildfires and to minimize unacceptable resource loss.
- 13- Standards for planning timber sale slash treatment for all activity fuels except pinyon/juniper follow: To determine if treatment is needed use standards in Table IV-1. Use the slope class of the unit or stand, then

WILDERNESS

- 1- Prepare a specific operations guide for each designated wilderness. Action programs for year-to-year or day-to-day operation will provide guidance for wilderness management personnel and district rangers. Action programs will be prepared only as needed and in a manner and format best suited to meet such need.
- 2- Education will be our most important tool. Districts with wilderness responsibilities will emphasize no-trace camping.
- 3- Administratively control use of motorized equipment and mechanized transport to sustain optimum characteristic wilderness values while managing for purposes of the Act. To the extent feasible, exclude the sight, sound, and other tangible evidence of motorized equipment and mechanical transport.
- 4- Travel shall be by foot or horse, or other nonmechanical means consistent with the primitive character of wilderness.
- 5- Strive to rehabilitate areas damaged by human activities.
- 6- Wilderness trail systems will be designed for resource protection and not necessarily for hiker convenience.
- 7- Signing in wilderness will be minimal and confined to trailheads, trail junctions, regulatory messages, and safety warnings. The Forest will phase out all other signs.
- 8- Evaluate all permanent improvements for compatibility with policy and regulations.
- 9- Cultural resource properties are compatible with wilderness values and will be managed accordingly.
- 10- Fires in wilderness will be managed in accordance with the fire policy of 1985 as follows:
 - A. Permit lightning-caused fires to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness.
 - B. Reduce to an acceptable limit the risks and consequences of wildfire to life and property within wilderness; and to life, property, and natural resources outside of wilderness.
- 11- Criteria under which lightning fires would be permitted to burn will be established in wilderness fire action programs.
- 12- Prescribed fire may be used in wilderness to meet wilderness objectives when they cannot be met through lightning-caused fires.
- 13- The Forest may use planned or unplanned ignitions to provide the role of fire in natural ecosystems.

- 14- Use fire retardant in wilderness only when fires pose an imminent threat to human life or property, or will cause unacceptable resource damage outside wilderness.
- 15- Fire suppression practices will have minimal impacts on the wilderness resource. Fire fighters will return fire lines to as close to a natural state as possible. Use of natural barriers and low impact suppression techniques will be emphasized.
- 16- Aircraft may be used for the duration of emergencies such as fire, search and rescue, and when life or property are threatened. Whenever possible, natural openings will be used for helispots. Helispots will be constructed only when no feasible natural opening can be found. Constructed helispots will be rehabilitated to promote rapid healing of the site.
- 17- Mining operating plans will address wilderness values and ways to protect them. Reclamation efforts will serve to return the land as closely as possible to its natural condition.
- 18- A validity examination will be conducted for all proposed mining operations in wilderness.
- 19- Managers will determine the recreation carrying capacity for each wilderness and keep each wilderness in high ecological condition.
- 20- The Forest will coordinate the Toiyabe's wilderness management with that of adjacent forests.
- 21- A self-service wilderness permit system will be implemented for the California wildernesses.

TIMBER

- 1- Use even-aged silvicultural systems in all forest types except for modifications needed to realize management objectives in special areas.

Jeffery pine, lodgepole pine, and mixed conifer species will be managed using a seed-tree cut, two-step shelterwood, three-step shelterwood, selection, or sanitation cut (salvage), as determined by a certified Silviculturalist. Precommercial and commercial thinning will also be used as called for in the written silvicultural prescriptions.

- 2- Standards for planting, seeding, and reforestation are in Forest Service Handbook 2409.26b. Cone collection is a part of the reforestation process; standards are in Forest Service Handbook 2409.26-F.
- 3- Develop area transportation analysis for zones of influence for each timber sale at least five years prior to sale date.

USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region
and Intermountain Region

Eldorado, Stanislaus and
Toiyabe National Forests



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Mokelumne Wilderness Management Guidelines

Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment



4. Trail Name and Destination Sign

- Purpose: Identifies trail name and major destinations (mileage and directional arrows optional).
- Location: Along trails leading into wilderness, within 1/4 mile of trailhead.
- Design Recommendations: Same as Standard Trail Directional Signs found in FSH 7109.11 (5-41). Sign board is natural wood 1", size variable depending on number and length of lines. Letters routed 1" high. Trail name at top underlined. Sign mounted on 4"X4" or 6"X6" post the top of which is approx. 3 1/2' above ground. National Trail symbol can be mounted on post below sign where applicable. (See Appendix C)

5. Interior Trail Junction Sign

- Purpose: Provides destination direction at major system trail junctions within wilderness.
- Location: At major system trail junctions.
- Design Recommendations: Sign consists of a single unfinished wood 4"X4" or 6"X6" post, the top of which is chamfered. Top of post is approximately 3 1/2' above ground. Trail destination is routed in 1" (unpainted) letters vertically on post with vertically-oriented arrow. Destinations are routed on as many sides as needed. Post is oriented so visitor reads correct destination as she/he faces trail leading to this destination. National Trail markers can be placed on post below lettering as needed. (See Appendix C)

IV. FIRE MANAGEMENT

General Direction

The management of fire for the Mokelumne Wilderness will be outlined in specific Forest Fire Management Plans prepared by each Forest. The Fire Management Plans will develop prescriptions for where and when lightning fires will be allowed to burn in the Mokelumne Wilderness, address the need for planned ignitions to remove unnaturally high accumulations of fuel, and identify areas that need protection from fire. When fire suppression strategies are employed, fires will be controlled with a minimum impact to wilderness resources.

Standards and Guidelines

- The objectives for Mokelumne Wilderness in the Fire Management Plans are:
 - To allow lightning fires to assume, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role in wilderness.
 - To reduce, to an acceptable level, the risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness. (FSM 2324.2).
 - To provide a coordinated Wilderness Fire Management Strategy for all three Forests that manage the Mokelumne Wilderness.
- When the Fire Management Plans are completed, monitor fire regime (including frequency, intensity and acres) and compare to historic range of variability.
- Use planned ignitions only to remove any unnaturally high accumulations of fuel.
- Use the appropriate management response, considering least cost, to meet resource objectives.

- Minimum impact suppression tactics and guidelines (such as the MIST guidelines developed in Region 1 and the Light hand Tactics developed in Region 6) will be developed and used in management actions for wilderness fires. Appropriate fire personnel will be trained in these fire management concepts and strategies.
- The responsible line officer will inform wilderness managers of all wilderness fires and appoint a wilderness resource advisor for all Class C fires, or larger (>10 acres), in the wilderness. This advisor will be responsible for ensuring fire management activities have minimum impact on resources and are compatible with wilderness management objectives.
- The emergency use of motorized equipment such as chain saws, portable pumps, helicopters and aircraft (including the use of fire retardant) will be made by the Forest Supervisor or District Ranger on a case by case basis.

V. FISH AND WILDLIFE

General Direction

Natural ecological processes, rather than human actions and influences, determine the presence, abundance, distribution and behavior of wildlife species. The vertical and horizontal diversity of habitats and habitat requirements of indigenous species (including cover, breeding sites, migration routes, and food sources) are protected or restored from human caused impacts and influences. Viable populations of all indigenous species are protected, and management practices are developed and implemented to ensure sensitive species do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions (FSM 2670).

Standards and Guidelines

- Habitat alteration and disruption of wildlife due to recreation use is limited to the extent described in the Opportunity Class objectives.
- At capable sites, the structure of grass/forb habitat in meadows is sufficient to maintain populations of both predator and prey, such as great gray owl and their prey.
- Habitat of sensitive species, such as mountain yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad (including breeding sites and movement corridors) is protected or restored from human caused impacts, including impacts from livestock grazing and fish stocking.
- Forests will assess achievement of these desired conditions and objectives by determining presence, condition and trend of habitat, and assessments of animal populations.

A. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Coordination

General Direction

Direction for the management of fish and wildlife in Wilderness is provided in an agreement, "Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management in National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Wilderness" (in FSH 2309.19). Further direction is provided in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Region 5 of the Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The IAFWA agreement states that different applications of the IAFWA guidelines will be spelled out in National Forest Plans or wilderness management plans.