

CHAPTER IV
FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

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INTRODUCTION

The future management direction for the Ashley National Forest is expressed in this chapter in terms of the Management Prescriptions, Goals and Objectives to be accomplished, and the Standards and Guidelines for their accomplishment. This direction and guidance will be used by forest personnel to achieve the outputs and results the plan proposes. This chapter will further inform the public, other agencies, and cooperators of the planned future program direction and management activities within each designated management area on the Forest.

A. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

This section is a description of the desired future condition of the Forest resulting from implementation of the preferred alternative described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

B. COMPARISON OF MANAGEMENT AREAS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Each alternative in the Environmental Impact Statement is displayed in terms of different combinations or mixes of management prescriptions. In the Forest Plan, management prescriptions have been equated to specific management areas for the preferred alternative. The similarities and differences of the management areas and the associated prescriptions are displayed in this section. This information served as the basis for the development of the goals, objectives, and standards and guidelines contained in the next section.

For additional information regarding the management prescriptions, see Appendix B of the Environmental Impact Statement.

C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Forest management goals define the direction of Forest-wide management. They are broad definitions of what will be achieved.

The objectives further define and specify the management activities to be accomplished.

The standards and guidelines define and specify the conditions to be maintained or achieved through the management activities. Should conflicts occur between standards and guidelines, the conflict will be resolved in favor of the direction which produces the greatest degree of multiple use value.

The standards and guidelines are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional standards and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and other applicable laws and regulations. All applicable Federal and State laws will be met. Laws outlining quality

standards and/or procedures for adequately protecting the resources will also be followed. The procedures that will be used to monitor compliance with quality standards are specified in Chapter V, Section B Monitoring and Evaluation.

D. OTHER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

This section includes several management principles and guidelines that will be considered in all management activities during the implementation of the plan.

E. PROJECTED ANNUAL OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES, AND COSTS FOR THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This section displays the projected annual outputs, activities and costs for the preferred alternative.

F. MANAGEMENT AREA MAPS AND SCHEDULING OF ANALYSIS AREA ENTRIES

The Forest has been divided into 14 management areas based on the prescriptions that most nearly maximized the public benefits. In this section the management areas are displayed on maps according to Ranger District boundaries. There are four Ranger Districts and two of the Districts have two subdivisions. Most management areas have only one prescription but a few areas have two prescriptions due to the mixture of lands within that area.

The prescriptions that most nearly maximized public benefits were developed in the preferred alternative. Therefore, some of the management area headings are not included.

A matrix showing management areas, by Ranger District and acreage, and a schedule of acres impacted within each analysis area for each decade, is also included in this section. An explanation of the process for formulation of the analysis areas is contained in Appendix E.

G. SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED AND PROBABLE PRACTICES

This section lists the proposed and probable management activities scheduled for accomplishment during the first ten-year period after plan implementation.

A. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

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By the end of the next 50 years there will be a change in the overall appearance of the Ashley National Forest. Timber stands will change from predominately mature and overmature to younger age classes. Approximately half of those acres currently stocked with the mature and overmature stands will be converted by the end of the fifth decade because of the pine beetle and proposed management activities.

Even age management will be practiced in all species except in special areas where the objective for management necessitate other management practices. Uneven age management will be applied to portions of stands where practical to improve or maintain diversity. Visual quality objectives will be maintained according to management area direction.

Development of areas as a result of timber harvest activities and associated roading will occur at about the same rate as in the past. Many of these roads will be temporary and will be closed upon completion of timber activities. About the same number of miles of roads will be open for public use, but access will be more uniformly distributed across the Forest, that at present. Several arterial routes serving the Forest and other public lands will probably transfer to County/State jurisdiction. Criteria for the Forest Travel Map has been incorporated into the Forest Plan and will be updated annually.

Special emphasis for recreation is provided because of this Forest's unique characteristics, public demand, and management direction. Recreation facilities, including the trail system as dispersed areas and developed sites will be upgraded and maintained at acceptable standards and new improvements added to provide for meeting public resource needs. The present mix of various recreation activities and opportunities that exist today are expected to continue into the future. Developed site and dispersed area recreation demand will be met even though FORPLAN outputs shown in various locations of the Forest Plan and FEIS are slightly less than estimated demand figures. Management of the High Uintas Wilderness will be emphasized. Research Natural Areas are being evaluated for their suitability and special management needs.

The Forest will be managed to maintain vegetative diversity, providing wildlife habitat for a large variety of wildlife species. Special emphasis will be given to habitat such as winter range, riparian zones, reproductive areas, cliff habitat, talus, caves, snags, aquatic systems, and old growth timber. Winter foraging areas for big game will begin to show an increase in the amounts of shrubs and other plants available for forage.

The Forest will maintain a quality range program, managed to optimize the production and use of forage on all suitable range to the extent it is cost effective and in harmony with other resource uses.

The quality of water yield will be consistent with current standards set by law. The water resource improvement and rehabilitation backlog of 1,031 acres will be completed by the year 2000. High mountain reservoirs which are replaced by other storage projects will be stabilized at optimum levels for fisheries and recreation use.

The number of buildings will be further reduced from present inventory where they are seldom used or uneconomic to maintain. Housing will be provided only at remove locations, or where suitable quarters are not available in the private section for employee purchase or rental.