

Chapter 1 - Introduction

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Chapter I - Introduction

Purpose and Need

This proposed National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) has been prepared to guide all natural resource management activities and establishes management standards and guidelines for the Klamath National Forest (Forest). It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management.

A goal of this Forest Plan is to integrate a mix of management activities that allow for the use, management and protection of Forest resources. Other goals are to meet the needs of guiding legislation and respond to local, Regional and National issues.

To accomplish these goals, the proposed Forest Plan does the following:

1. Establishes the management direction and associated long-range goals and objectives (targets) for the Forest;
2. Specifies the standards and the approximate timing and vicinity of the practices (land allocations) necessary to achieve that direction;
3. Establishes the monitoring and evaluation requirements needed to ensure that the direction is carried out;
4. Provides information for the development of program and budget proposals; and
5. Provides a source of resource inventory data for Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act (RPA) assessments.

This Plan contains management direction to guide the Forest for the next 10 to 15 years (the planning period). It also considered the long-range (50 years) Forest objectives and is consistent with meeting those objectives.

The Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the implementing regulations and other guiding documents. Land use determinations, prescriptions and standards and guidelines constitute a statement of the Plan's management direction. However, the projected outputs, services and rates of implementation are dependent on the annual budgeting process.

Preparation of the Forest Plan is required by the RPA, as amended by the NFMA. Assessment of its environmental impacts is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the implementing regulations of NFMA. This assessment of environmental impacts is contained in an accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Relationship of the Forest Plan to Other Plans

This Forest Plan sets forth the preferred alternative for managing the land and resources of the Klamath National Forest. The Forest Plan results from extensive analysis and considerations addressed in the accompanying EIS. The planning process and the analysis procedures used to develop this Forest Plan are described or referred to in the EIS. The EIS also describes other alternatives considered in the planning process.

The Record of Decision (ROD) for *Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, signed April 14, 1994, amends the Regional guide and provides management direction for this Forest Plan.

Specific activities and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in this Forest Plan. The Forest will perform environmental analysis on these projects and activities. This subsequent environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in this Forest Plan and EIS as its basis. Environmental analysis of projects will be tiered to the EIS accompanying this Forest Plan.

Existing plans superseded by this Forest Plan include the following:

- Multiple-Use Management Plans for the 6 ranger districts: Oak Knoll (May 1972); Happy Camp (May 1972); Ukonom (April 1972); Salmon River (April 1972); Scott River (June 1972); and Goosenest (June 1972).
- Timber Management Plan (August 1974, amended May 1985).

Medicine Lake Planning Unit Plan (January 1979).

King Planning Unit Plan (April 1977).

Marble Mountain Wilderness Management Plan (September 1976)
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Interim Management Plan for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (June 1981). Osprey Habitat Management Plan (revised October 1977).

Existing plans incorporated by reference are described in Appendix A. These plans will be brought into conformance with the Forest Plan where necessary.

In addition to superseding or incorporating existing plans, there are resource and implementation plans that need to be developed during the planning period. These special area management plans and implementation plans for specific resources or programs, which rely upon the Forest Plan for a broad "umbrella" of direction, are listed and described in Appendix A. These plans will be modified to comply with this Forest Plan and incorporated into the Forest Plan when completed.

Future site-specific projects will have environmental analyses conducted and will be consistent with the Forest Plan. The environmental analyses may tie to the Final EIS.

Plan Implementation Process

The Forest Plan provides 2 levels of direction: (1) Forest-wide management direction and (2) direction specific to each management area land allocation.

The plan implementation process provides the framework for translating management direction into actual projects or activities consistent with the environmental and administrative objectives of the Forest Plan. After approval of the Forest Plan, the Forest Supervisor will insure that, subject to valid existing rights, all outstanding and future permits, contracts, cooperative agreements and other instruments for occupancy and use of affected lands will conform to the Forest Plan.

If a proposed project is determined to be incompatible with the direction in the Forest Plan, one of three things may occur. The action will be revised to make R compatible with the Forest Plan, the project will be voided or the project will be implemented after the Forest Plan has been amended to allow for the proposed activity. Recurring conflicts may result in review of the relevant plan direction through the monitoring and evaluation process (Chapter 5) to determine whether a plan amendment or revision to the Forest Plan is needed.

The Forest Plan will be implemented on each of the 6 ranger districts as soon as the Record of Decision (ROD) is issued. Projects will continue to be planned and evaluated through the interdisciplinary (ID) process. District and Forest staff will conduct specific-specific environmental analyses for projects and document them in appropriate environmental documents.

Forest Plan Amendments and Revisions

In accordance with NFMA, the Forest Plan will normally be revised every 10 years (or at least every 15). The Forest Plan may also be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that conditions or demands, including RPA policies, have changed enough to affect Forest Plan implementation or when triggered by monitoring results (Chapter 5). For the above reasons, the Forest Supervisor is required to review conditions of the lands covered by this Forest Plan at least every 5 years.

The Forest Plan is intended to be a "working document," kept up-to-date with the most current information. Forest Plan amendments may occur whenever monitoring indicates a need for change. As the need for changes to the Forest Plan are identified, the Forest Supervisor will determine the appropriate process to be used. Procedures for modifying the Forest Plan may include:

1. *Addendum* - If clarification of the Forest Plan is necessary, the clarification may be made in the form of an addendum. Addendums are not intended to change management direction or emphasis, but merely to clarify the intent of the existing information. Addendums will be used as they become necessary.
2. *Amendments* - Amendments are appropriate to update portions of the Forest Plan to incorporate new research knowledge, project-level information and new management strategies. These changes are generally very limited in scope and do not constitute significant modifications to the Forest Plan.

Amendments will be used to keep the Forest Plan current. They may include many course corrections that result in slight changes in management emphasis or direction. The Forest Supervisor will be responsible for non-significant Forest Plan amendments. The Regional Forester will be responsible for significant amendments.

3. Revisions - Revisions are necessary when significant new information is discovered, where there is significant change to the physical character of the Forest or when significant new issues are identified that would vastly modify how the Forest is being managed.

The need for Forest Plan revisions should be infrequent, assuming the Forest Plan is kept current by using amendments. Forest Plan revisions will require Regional Forester approval.

Forest Plan Organization

This Forest Plan has 5 chapters:

Chapter 1 - Introduction: This chapter describes the purpose and need for the development of the Forest Plan.

Chapter 2 - Response to Issues: This chapter states the issues established at the start of the planning process and shows how they are resolved.

Chapter 3- Summary of the analysis of the Management Situation: This chapter summarizes the affected environment. It describes the management situation, supply and demand, and resource uses and development opportunities.

Chapter 4 - Management Direction: This chapter is the heart of the Forest Plan. It contains the Forest goals, Program Emphasis, Forest-wide standards and guidelines, and management area direction. The management area maps in this chapter show general locations.

Chapter 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements: This chapter sets the requirements for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Forest Plan.

The planning records for this Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.11 (g)) are available for review at the Klamath National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office in Yreka, California. The planning records are incorporated by this reference into this Forest Plan.

Appeal Rights

An administrative appeal of the Regional Forester's decision to approve the Forest Plan and select an alternative from the EIS can be filed according to Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR Part 217). Decisions made during the Forest planning process, before the Regional Forester signs the Record of Decision, are not subject to administrative appeal.



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