

Proposed Changes to Current Management Direction

This section describes the proposed changes to current management direction as articulated in the alternatives. As stated in Chapter 2, current management direction comes from four main sources:

- 1988 Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) as amended by the 1991 Kings River Wild and Scenic River and Special Management Area Implementation Plan (KRSMA), the 2001 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001 SNFPA) and the 2007 Sierra Nevada Forests Management Indicator Species amendment (2007 SNF MIS);
- 1990 Sequoia National Forest Land Management Plan Mediated Settlement Agreement (MSA);
- 2000 presidential proclamation establishing the Monument (proclamation); and
- 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Supplemental Record of Decision (2004 SNFPA).

Several resource specialists proposed revisions to the current set of standards and guidelines to

1) better reflect current policy, law or regulation; 2) reduce redundancy that resulted from the change from management areas with associated management emphasis to land allocations when the Forest Plan was amended by the 2001 SNFPA; and/or 3) respond to the MSA and/or to comply with the presidential proclamations.

A number of Forest Plan standards and guidelines are proposed to be deleted; some of them are not needed, because compliance is already required as a matter of law, regulation, or policy; and some of them conflict with current national policy or the proclamation (Clinton 2000). Certain standards and guidelines are recommended for deletion (or not to be included) in the Monument Plan, because they are no longer applicable to the Monument, they set tasks that have been completed, and/or were for time frames that are now out-of-date.

The draft EIS included some standards and guidelines that are duplicative of law, regulation, or policy; those items are not included in the final EIS as standards and guidelines.

Many of the changes proposed for some of the action alternatives (B, C, D, F) are because the information included as standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan would be more appropriate as strategies to guide future actions, rather than as requirements that must be complied with, per current Forest Plan direction.

The MSA proposed wording changes for particular standards and guidelines in particular management emphasis areas. Where those proposed changes are still applicable to the Monument (comply with proclamations), standards and guidelines would apply Monument-wide in Alternatives B, C, D, and F. However, in Alternative E, the standards and guidelines would apply to specific management areas and associated management emphasis, as specified in the MSA (see the following tables and the Alternative E standard and guideline tables in this appendix).

There are a few resources for which the standards and guidelines for the action alternatives do not change from those described under Alternative A. These resources include law enforcement, air quality, invasive species, and research natural areas. However, these may contain minor modifications in the language to better reflect current regulation or policy (generally from Forest Plan).

Standards and guidelines, such as those dealing with wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, OHVs, and uses/ areas outside the Monument, that are not mentioned in the following tables are not addressed in the Monument plan and are deferred to Forest Plan revision.

Vegetation

Vegetation management in the Monument is constrained by the Clinton proclamation. Standards and guidelines from current management direction that are no longer appropriate for management of the Monument are shown in Table 1 of the first section of

this appendix, Alternative A—Current Management Direction. The following revised standards and guidelines for vegetation management apply to all action alternatives.

Table 42 Revised Standards and Guidelines for Vegetation Management

Activity	Standard/Guideline	Comments
Tree cutting or burning snag and down woody material	Retain felled trees on the ground where needed to achieve down woody material standards of 10 to 20 tons per acre in logs greater than 12 inches in diameter.	2004 SNFPA ROD, p. 51, #10. Revised to address desired outcomes. (Fire and Fuels S&G)
Tree cutting or burning snag and down woody material	<p>Manage snag levels for ecological restoration. Within green forests, design projects to provide a sustainable population of medium- and large-diameter snags. Existing medium- and large-diameter snags, as well as medium- and large- diameter living trees that exhibit form and/or decay characteristics regarded as important wildlife habitat (e.g., have substantial wood defect, teakettle branches, broken tops, large cavities in the bole, etc.), will form the backbone snag network over large landscapes.</p> <p>In areas burned by wildfire, including high- and mid-severity patches, manage snag levels to meet ecological restoration objectives, with consideration for the spatial arrangement and density of snags for wildlife needs. Include site-specific considerations such as a wider range of snag sizes and densities, and focal placement of snags and snag patches.</p>	Replaced Old Forest Emphasis Area S&G on p. A-42 (2001 SNFPA ROD, Appendix A). Revised from 2004 SNFPA ROD, p. 51, #11 to focus on ecological restoration and to evaluate areas burned by wildfire. (Wildlife S&G)
Vegetation and fuel treatments	To enhance stand heterogeneity, do not mechanically treat in 25 percent of the stand area.	Modified 2001 SNFPA p. A-26. Eliminate the wording regarding soil biota. We do not plan to fund techniques to measure this quantitatively or qualitatively; it does not reflect natural or managed ecosystem change, and we do not know whether it would be good or bad or neutral. (Fire and Fuels S&G)
Vegetation and fuel treatments in general forests	Design mechanical treatments to achieve the fuels outcomes described above through understory thinning to remove surface and ladder fuels up to 20 inches in diameter. Focus treatments on removing suppressed and intermediate trees. Apply treatments to enhance stand heterogeneity.	Modified 2001 SNFPA p. A-49 by removing the word conifer in the second sentence.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Vegetation, cont’d.

Activity	Standard/Guideline	Comments
	When conducting treatments in dense stands with uniform tree size and spacing introduce heterogeneity into such stands by creating small (typically less than one acre), irregularly-spaced openings. Canopy cover reductions may be needed to meet fuels objectives, but do not exceed a 20 percent reduction in dominant and co-dominant trees. (For example, a stand’s canopy cover may be reduced from a pre-treatment level of 70 percent down to 50 percent to meet fuels objectives.)	
Hardwood tree management	Manage hardwood ecosystems for a diversity of hardwood tree size classes such that seedlings, saplings, and pole-sized trees are sufficiently abundant to replace large trees that die and maintain mast production.	2001 SNFPA p. A-27 and 2004 SNFPA p. 53, #19, modified to manage entire ecosystem and maintain mast production.
Hardwood tree management	During or prior to landscape analysis, spatially determine distributions of existing and potential natural hardwood ecosystems (Forest Service Handbook 2090.11). Identify hardwood restoration and enhancement projects.	2001 SNFPA p. A-27 and 2004 SNFPA p. 53, #25, modified to manage the entire ecosystem.
Hardwood tree management	Allow removal of larger hardwood trees (up to 20 inches dbh) if field inspection supports the need to remove larger trees to maintain and enhance the hardwood stand.	Modified 2001 SNFPA ROD p. A-27 to manage hardwoods ecosystems.

Table 43 Standards and Guidelines Moved to Desired Conditions, Strategies, or Objectives for Vegetation

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Tree cutting for removal and restoration	Design tree stocking levels to develop or maintain stand resiliency. This includes manipulation of tree and shrub densities to accommodate periods of increased heat, drought, insects, and diseases.	Included in the desired conditions for resiliency of forested stands.

Range

Range management policy has changed since both the Forest Plan and MSA were written. In addition, most of the changes proposed for the action alternatives (B, C, D, F) are from the 2001 SNFPA to the 2004 SNFPA. Alternative E utilizes standards

and guidelines for oak management from the 1988 Forest Plan (p. 4-30), including management areas and management emphases, and the 1990 MSA recommendations on pp. 28-34.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Table 44 Revised Standards and Guidelines for Range

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
Oak management range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage hardwood ecosystems for a diversity of hardwood tree size classes within a stand such that seedlings, saplings, and pole-sized trees are sufficiently abundant to replace large trees that die. (p. 53 #19) • During or prior to landscape analysis, spatially determine distributions of existing and potential natural hardwood ecosystems (Forest Service Handbook 2090.11). Assume pre-1850 disturbance levels for potential natural community distribution. Work with province ecologists or other qualified personnel to map and/ or model hardwood ecosystems at a landscape scale (approximately 30,000 to 50,000 acres). Include the following steps in the analysis: (1) compare distributions of potential natural hardwood ecosystems with existing hardwood ecosystems; (2) identify locations where existing hardwood ecosystems are outside the natural range of variability for potential natural hardwood ecosystem distribution; and (3) identify hardwood restoration and enhancement projects. (p. 53 #25) • To protect hardwood regeneration in grazing allotments, allow livestock browse on no more than 20 percent of annual growth of hardwood seedlings and advanced regeneration. Modify grazing plans if hardwood regeneration and recruitment needs are not being met. (p. 55 #50) 	<p>Oak Management/Range is replaced by Hardwood and Grazing Management in 2001 SNFPA.</p> <p>No specific direction is provided in the Forest Plan (LRMP p. 4-30) for utilization of oak by livestock. It only addresses management of oak relating to fuels and timber related projects.</p> <p>The Forest Plan states to apply the standards and guidelines (S&Gs) set forth in the most current version of the Range Environmental Analysis Handbook (R-5 FSH 2209.21). The 1997 Rangeland Analysis and Planning Guide replaced the R-5 FSH 2209.21.</p> <p>Alternatives B, C, D, F: utilize S&Gs in 2004 SNFPA p. 53, #19, #25 (Hardwood Ecosystems S&G); p. 55, #50 (Range S&G). These S&Gs provide the most current direction for proper utilization of oak vegetation by livestock.</p>
Riparian areas (including meadows)	Grazing utilization in annual grasslands will maintain a minimum of 60 percent cover. Where grasslands are in satisfactory condition and annual precipitation is greater than 10 inches, manage for 700 pounds residual dry matter (RDM) per acre. Where grasslands are in satisfactory condition and annual precipitation is less than 10 inches, manage for 400 pounds RDM per acre. Where grasslands are in unsatisfactory condition and annual precipitation is greater than 10 inches,	Alternatives B, C, D, F: utilize the Riparian Conservation Area S&Gs in the 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 56, #51, #52 (Grazing);

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>manage for 1,000 pounds RDM per acre; manage for 700 pounds RDM per acre where grasslands are in unsatisfactory condition and precipitation is less than 10 inches. Adjust these standards, as needed, based on grassland condition. (p.56, #51)</p> <p>Where professional judgment and quantifiable measurements find that current practices are maintaining range in good to excellent condition, the grazing utilization standards above may be modified to allow for the Forest Service, in partnership with individual permittees, to rigorously test and evaluate alternative standards. (p.56, #52)</p> <p>In meadows with occupied willow flycatcher sites, allow only late-season grazing (after August 15) in the entire meadow. (p. 58, #57)</p> <p>This standard and guideline may be waived if an interdisciplinary team has developed a site-specific meadow management strategy. This strategy is to be developed and implemented in partnership with the affected grazing permittee. The strategy objectives must focus on protecting the nest site and associated habitat during the breeding season and the long-term sustainability of suitable habitat at breeding sites. It may use a mix of management tools, including grazing systems, structural improvements, and other exclusion by management techniques to protect willow flycatcher habitat. (p. 58, #58)</p> <p>In willow flycatcher sites receiving late season grazing, monitor utilization annually using regional range analysis and planning guide. Monitor willow flycatcher habitat every 3 years using the following criteria: rooting depth cores for meadow condition, point intercepts for shrub foliar density, and strip transects for shrub recruitment and cover. Meadow condition assessments will be included in a GIS meadow coverage. If habitat conditions are not supporting the willow flycatcher or trend downward, modify or suspend grazing. (p. 58, #59)</p>	<p>p. 58, #57, #58, #59, #60, #63 (Willow Flycatcher);</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>For historically occupied willow flycatcher sites, assess willow flycatcher habitat suitability within the meadow. If habitat is degraded, develop restoration objectives and take appropriate actions (such as physical restoration of hydrological components, limiting or re-directing grazing activity and so forth) to move the meadow toward desired conditions. (p. 58, #60)</p> <p>Evaluate proposals for new concentrated stock areas (for example, livestock handling and management facilities, pack stations, equestrian stations, and corrals) located within 5 miles of occupied willow flycatcher sites. (p. 58, #63)</p> <p>Evaluate new proposed management activities within the Mill Flat Creek critical aquatic refuge (CAR) and RCAs during environmental analysis to determine consistency with the riparian conservation objectives at the project level and the aquatic management strategy goals for the landscape. Ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are enacted to (1) minimize the risk of activity-related sediment entering aquatic systems, and (2) minimize effects to habitat for aquatic- or riparian-dependent plant and animal species. (p. 62, #92)</p> <p>Identify existing uses and activities in the Mill Flat Creek CAR and RCAs during landscape analysis. At the time of permit re-issuance, evaluate and consider actions needed for consistency with RCOs. (p. 62, #93)</p> <p>As part of project-level analysis, conduct peer reviews for projects that propose ground-disturbing activities in more than 25 percent of the RCA or more than 15 percent of the Mill Flat Creek CAR. (p. 62, #94)</p> <p>Prior to activities that could adversely affect streams, determine if relevant stream characteristics are within the range of natural variability. If characteristics are outside the range of natural variability, implement mitigation measures and</p>	<p>p. 62, #92, #93, #94 (Riparian Related);</p> <p>p. 63, #102, #103 (Riparian Related);</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>short-term restoration actions needed to prevent further declines or cause an upward trend in conditions. Evaluate required long-term restoration actions and implement them according to their status among other restoration needs. (p. 63, #102)</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines caused by management activities and resource use (such as livestock and dispersed recreation) from exceeding 20 percent of a stream reach or 20 percent of natural lake and pond shorelines. Disturbance includes bank sloughing, chiseling, trampling, and other means of exposing bare soil or cutting plant roots. This standard does not apply to developed recreation sites, sites authorized under special use permits, or roads. (p. 63, #103)</p> <p>At either the landscape or project level, determine if the age class, structural diversity, composition, and cover of riparian vegetation are within the range of natural variability for the vegetative community. If conditions are outside the range of natural variability, consider implementing mitigation and/or restoration actions that will result in an upward trend. Actions could include restoration of aspen or other riparian vegetation where conifer encroachment is identified as a problem. (p. 64, #105)</p> <p>Assess the hydrologic function of meadow habitats and other special aquatic features during site-specific range management analysis. Ensure that characteristics of special features are, at a minimum, at proper functioning condition (PFC), as defined in the following technical reports (or their successor publications): (1) Process for Assessing PFC, TR 1737-9 (1993); (2) PFC for Lotic Areas, USDI TR 1737-15 (1998); (3) PFC for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas, USDI TR 1737-11 (1994); and (4) Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Fen Areas in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges in California: A User Guide, USDA</p>	<p>p. 64, #105 (Riparian Related);</p> <p>p. 65, #117, #118, #119, #120 (Riparian Related);</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>Forest Service, R5-TP-028 (April 2009). (p. 65, #117)</p> <p>Prohibit or mitigate ground-disturbing activities that adversely affect hydrologic processes that maintain water flow, water quality, or water temperature critical to sustaining bog and fen ecosystems and plant species that depend on these ecosystems. During project analysis, survey, map, and develop measures to protect bogs and fens from such activities as trampling by livestock, pack stock, humans, and wheeled vehicles. Criteria for defining bogs and fens include, but are not limited to, the presence of sphagnum moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.), mosses belonging to the genus <i>Meessia</i>, or sundew (<i>Drosera</i> spp.). Complete initial plant inventories of bogs and fens within active grazing allotments prior to re-issuing permits. (p. 65, #118)</p> <p>Locate new facilities for gathering livestock and pack stock outside of meadows and RCAs. During project-level planning, evaluate and consider relocating existing livestock facilities outside of meadows and riparian areas. Prior to re-issuing grazing permits, assess the compatibility of livestock management facilities located in RCAs with RCOs. (p. 65, #119)</p> <p>Under season-long grazing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For meadows in early seral status—limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to 30 percent (or minimum 6-inch stubble height). • For meadows in late seral status—limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to a maximum of 40 percent (or minimum 4-inch stubble height). (p. 65, #120) <p>Limit browsing to no more than 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) and no more than 20 percent of individual seedlings. Remove livestock from any area of an allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock</p>	<p>Item B under Implementation on p. 35 of the Exhibits from the 1990 MSA, Exhibit D, #7 Forage Utilization, refers to allowable use. The 2004 SNFPA ROD provides the most current direction for utilization of forage in meadows on p. 65, #120, and utilization of woody riparian vegetation on p. 66, #121.</p> <p>p. 66, #121, #122. (Riparian Related)</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation. (p. 66, #121)</p> <p>Recommend restoration practices in (1) areas with compaction in excess of soil quality standards, (2) areas with lowered water tables, or (3) areas with either actively down cutting or that have historic gullies. Identify other management activities (for example road building, recreational use, grazing, and fuels reduction) that may be contributing to the observed degradation. (p. 66, #122)</p>	<p>The 2004 S&Gs provide a more comprehensive set of protection measures to ensure protection of riparian areas and their associated riparian dependent species (see Appendix A—Range, Wildlife, and Hydrological Resources Standards and Guidelines).</p>
<p>Riparian areas/ meadows</p>	<p>The standards and guidelines for the riparian conservation objectives from the 2004 SNFPA ROD pp. 63-64, #100-107 and pp. 65-66, #117-121 replace the 2001 SNFPA ROD standards and guidelines for the riparian conservation objectives No. 2 and No. 5.</p> <p>Cattle will be distributed in a manner consistent with moderate forage utilization within meadows. Use any acceptable method as described in the most current version of the Rangeland Analysis and Planning Guide to monitor the results. (1990 MSA, Exhibit D, Guideline #7, p. 10, C.)</p> <p>Grazing will cease in time to permit regrowth sufficient to store carbohydrates for initial spring growth (as specified in individual allotment plans) (1990 MSA, Exhibit D, Guideline #7, p.10, D.).</p> <p>Determine if the level of coarse large woody debris is within the range of natural variability in terms of frequency and distribution and is sufficient to sustain stream channel physical complexity and stability. Ensure that proposed management activities move conditions toward the range of natural variability for coarse large woody debris.</p>	<p>The MSA proposed incorporating the riparian standards and guidelines (Exhibit D) into NEPA process and plan amendment. (MSA II.A.1 Riparian Areas/ Meadows p. 5)</p> <p>The Forest Plan was amended by the 2001 SNFPA ROD.</p> <p>Using standards and guidelines from the 2004 SNFPA ROD pp. 63-66 reduces redundancy and describes more consistent direction for hydrological resources while maintaining the intent of the aquatic management strategy.</p> <p>Items C and D under Implementation on p. 35 of the Exhibits from the 1990 MSA, Exhibit D, #7 Forage.</p> <p>C. Bring forward the MSA statement, "...cattle will be distributed in a manner consistent with moderate forage utilization within meadows." Delete "Plant height/ weight ratios will be used to monitor the results" and replace with, "use any acceptable method as described in the most current version of the Rangeland Analysis and Planning Guide to monitor the results."</p> <p>D. Bring forward this MSA statement, "Grazing will cease in time to permit regrowth sufficient to store carbohydrates for initial spring growth (as specified in individual allotment plans)."</p> <p>Woody and Herbaceous Vegetation in Riparian and Wetland Ecosystems—The</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
		2004 SNFPA ROD, p. 64, #108 takes a more comprehensive approach than the Forest Plan or MSA to manage and protect these areas.
Grazing and oak management	AUMs allotted will not exceed current levels in the Monument.	Propose changing to "...not to exceed current levels in the Monument." See Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13, Chapter 90 for a discussion on allowable use. This MSA agreement relates to the entire forest, of which the Monument is only a portion. Monument specific—AUMs will not exceed current levels.
Grazing and oak management/ hardwood tree management	Retain the mix of mast-producing species where they exist within a stand.	Allotment management plans will emphasize wildlife use of mast crops. (MSA p. 29) (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA ROD, p. A-27) 2004 SNFPA ROD better addresses this on p. 53, #20 and includes protection of mast-producing species.
Grazing and oak management/ hardwood tree management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt allotment-specific minimum thresholds for oak recruitment. Develop long-term strategies for oak recruitment where allotments are below threshold. (MSA) (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA) 	Recruitment of oaks and oak management is addressed in the 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 53, #19, #21, #25. The University of California study referred to in the MSA on pp. 29-30 is currently used and is expected to continue.

Table 45 Range-related MSA Agreements Superseded by the 2004 SNFPA (Alternatives B, C, D, F)

MSA Agreement	Superseded Interim MSA	Proposal/Rationale
II.C.2.a(1) grazing and oak management amend LRMP prescription BO6	Give priority to maintaining and enhancing blue oak.	2004 SNFPA ROD p. 53, #18-21, #25; provide for management of the whole ecosystem and maintenance of hardwoods.
II.C.2.a(3) grazing and oak management amend LRMP prescription BO6	Retain 700 lbs residual dry matter (RDM).	Replaced with 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 56 #51, which takes a more comprehensive approach to required RDM levels.
II.C.2.a(4) grazing and oak management amend LRMP prescription BO6	Winter grazing allotments limited to a change of no more than 15 percent of preferred browse or 5 percent of staple species in heavily browsed condition.	This recommended utilization level comes from the obsolete FSH 2209.21 and was intended to address all browse range (not just winter grazing allotments); still good guidance and should carry forward for the Monument areas; the SNFPA

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

MSA Agreement	Superseded Interim MSA	Proposal/Rationale
		does not adequately address utilization of browse range.
II.C.4 black oak amend LRMP prescription OW6	Livestock grazing will be emphasized in black oak woodlands. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	Replaced with SNFPA 2004 ROD p. 55, #50 because it provides more direction to protect oaks.
II.C.4 black oak amend LRMP prescription OW6, fish and wildlife d.	Ensure a stable and upward supply of oaks. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	Replaced with 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 53, #18-20, #25 because they provide more direction to protect oaks.
II.C.4 black oak amend LRMP prescription OW6, fish and wildlife e.	Distribution of all age classes of oaks. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	Replaced with 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 53, #18-20, #25 because they provide more direction to protect oaks.
II.C.4 black oak amend LRMP prescription OW6, range c.	Winter grazing allotments will limit browse utilization to a change of no more than 15 percent of preferred browse or 5 percent of staple species in heavily browsed conditions.	This recommended utilization level comes from the obsolete FSH 2209.21 and was intended to address all browse range (not just winter grazing allotments); still good guidance and should carry forward for the Monument areas; the SNFPA does not adequately address utilization of browse range.
II.C.4 black oak LRMP prescription OW6, range d.	Allotment management plans will emphasize wildlife use of mast crops. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	Replaced with 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 53, #20 which includes protection of mast-producing species. Note: utilization of mast crops by livestock was never used to calculate forage availability.
II.C.5 livestock grazing of burned mixed chaparral modify LRMP prescription MC6, fish and wildlife b.	Consider wildlife needs for cover and edge in vegetation manipulation projects.	Replaced by 2004 SNFPA ROD, pp. 53-54, # 27-28. Both standards and guidelines require minimizing and assessing fragmentation and connectivity. Proposed standard and guideline from MSA, Exhibit N, p. 4, E. 3 (p. 57) is included in all alternatives. It reads as follows: <i>Design vegetation treatments to provide for edge corridors of cover and enhancement of special habitat features such as meadows for wildlife.</i>
II.C.5 livestock grazing of burned mixed chaparral amend LRMP prescription MC6, range b.	Implement vegetative manipulation on slopes less than 40 percent when crown cover of browse species is greater than 70 percent or average height exceeds 5 feet.	The current objective for chaparral-live oak is to manage vegetation to change approximately 6 percent of the chaparral vegetation types to an early seral phase outside of groves per decade. The MSA reference is replaced by SNFPA 2004 ROD, p. 56, #51 which discusses utilization standards and the minimum percent of cover appropriate for a satisfactory grassland condition.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Table 46 Standards and Guidelines Moved to Desired Conditions, Strategies, or Objectives, or Superseded by Policy

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Riparian areas/ meadows	Livestock will not be permitted to graze in meadows until Kentucky blue grass heads begin to emerge; and/or Nebraska sedge flowers are almost open (BMP 8.2).	For grazing, in the MSA, Exhibit D, #7 Forage Utilization, Implementation: A. This statement refers to range readiness, which is a standard requirement for any grazing allotment. Current direction is to utilize the most current version of the Rangeland Analysis and Planning Guide for range readiness standards. (No standard and guideline needed.)
II.C.4 black oak amend LRMP prescription OW6, range a.	Develop water, fences, trails, etc. to facilitate optimum use of forage.	This is determined at project level NEPA and is incorporated into an Allotment Management Plan. Policy from FSM 2240.3.
II.C.5 livestock grazing of burned mixed chaparral modify LRMP prescription MC6, fish and wildlife a.	Provide wildlife adaptations in all water developments.	Forest Service Manual 2240.3, effective 9/9/05, requires the Forest Service to ensure that range improvement design and location reflect forest land and resource management plan direction. Change MSA wording to “provide wildlife adaptations, where possible, in all water developments.”
II.C.5 livestock grazing of burned mixed chaparral amend LRMP prescription MC6, range a.	Use prescribed fire as a primary method to accomplish age class management.	Changed to a strategy in Fire and Fuels. <i>Manage fire and fuels to produce a vegetation mosaic of age classes, tree sizes, and species composition...</i> All alternatives use fire (prescribed burning or managed fire) as a management tool to promote resiliency in Monument ecosystems.
II.C.5 livestock grazing of burned mixed chaparral amend LRMP prescription MC6, range d.	Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) will be used to prescribe management strategies for the first 3 growing seasons following prescribed fire.	AMPs are intended to implement a NEPA decision. Annual Operating Instructions are used to manage grazing after prescribed fire and are determined using range readiness standards to protect soil and vegetation.
II.C.8 changes to prescription MC6, range c.	c. More than 50 percent of the prescribed fires are to occur in the late summer and fall. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	Replaced with a Fire and Fuels strategy: <i>Conduct prescribed burning at various times of the year...</i>
II.C.9 Type Conversion	References to type conversions are to be deleted from the Plan. II.C.9, a-e.	Replaced by an objective for chaparral–live oak: <i>Manage vegetation to change approximately 6 percent of the chaparral vegetation type to an early seral phase outside of groves per decade.</i>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Range, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
II.C.10.a allotment Plans and effectiveness, range a.	a. Adds requirements to include AMP content on p. 4-30, forest-wide standards and guidelines. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	The MSA was developed when NEPA was not required for issuance of grazing permits; therefore, the AMP was used guide management of the permits. Current policy directs the FS to develop the AMP to implement a range NEPA decision. Policy.
II.C.10.c allotment plans and effectiveness	Include allotment management plan revision on project planning schedule. (Forest Plan amended by 2001 SNFPA)	An AMP implements a NEPA decision and is not subject to NEPA by itself. Current policy.

Fire and Fuels

Table 47 Revised Standards and Guidelines for Fire and Fuels

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Comments
Vegetation and fuels treatments in shrubfields	Design treatments in brush and shrub patches to remove the material necessary to achieve the following outcomes from wildland fire under 90th percentile fire weather conditions: (a) wildland fires would burn with an average flame length of 8 feet or less; (b) the fire's rate of spread would be less than 50 percent of the pre-treatment rate of spread; and (c) fire line production rates would be doubled. Treatments should be effective for more than 5 years.	Revised from 2001 SNFPA ROD p. A-25 to apply to all treatments.

Table 48 Deleted Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Fire and Fuels

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Comments
Fire management	Plan for a fire management program with an average efficiency index of \$6.70/acre each decade.	Deleted from 1988 LRMP p. 4-38 because it is no longer applicable.
Fire prevention	Focus fire prevention program on commercial timber harvesting activities.	Deleted from 1988 LRMP CF7, p. 4-89 because the Monument is no longer recognized as commercial forest land.
IPM (integrated pest management)	Implement IPM with emphasis on developed recreation sites.	Deleted from 1988 LRMP p. 4-39. Replaced with a strategy for pest management in Vegetation.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Fire and Fuels, cont'd.

Table 49 Standards and Guidelines Moved to Strategies or Objectives, or Superseded by Policy

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Fire management	Meet at least once annually with cooperating agencies to coordinate prescribed burning plans for projects located on adjacent lands and to coordinate fire protection activities.	Revised from 1988 LRMP and moved to an objective for Fire and Fuels.
Fuel treatment priorities	Locate fuel treatments to interrupt wildland fire spread and reduce fire severity. Typically locate treatment areas on the upper two-thirds of the slope, on south and west aspects, in mid- and lower elevation vegetation types. Conduct fuel treatments in areas of high fire hazard and risk with human safety and the Wildland Urban Intermix Zone as the first priority.	Revised from 2001 SNFPA ROD p. A-25 and moved to Fire and Fuels strategy #10.
Unplanned ignitions	Follow Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (February 13, 2009).	Removed from 1988 LRMP management direction. This is Forest Service policy.
Fire prevention program	Focus fire prevention program on recreation use and residential areas.	Revised from 1988 LRMP and moved to a strategy in Fire and Fuels.

Wildlife

Most of the changes proposed for the action alternatives (B, C, D, F) are from the 2001 SNFPA to the 2004 SNFPA.

Table 50 Standards and Guidelines Moved to Wildlife Desired Conditions, Strategies, or Objectives

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Wildlife: general	Maintain habitat to insure all native fish, wildlife and plant species will have adequate population levels and distribution to provide for their continued existence throughout their current range. (LRMP p. 4-27)	Provided for in strategy #1.
Wildlife: general	Provide a diverse range of habitats with riparian areas, montane meadows and late successional forest areas of particular emphasis. (Modified from LRMP p. 4-28)	Provided for in desired conditions.
Wildlife: general	Protect sensitive, proposed for listing, and California species of special concern with the long-term objective for removal from Federal listing or to prevent them from being listed. (LRMP p. 4-28)	Provided for in strategy #1.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Wildlife, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Wildlife: general	Utilize management techniques which will minimize charring of downed woody material left for wildlife cover and habitat. (MSA p. 91)	Provided for in objective #2.
Wildlife: general	Promote shade intolerant pine species (sugar pine and ponderosa pine) and hardwoods in westside forest types. (2001 SNFPA ROD p. A-28)	Provided for in strategy #10 in vegetation.
Wildlife: general	The Starvation Grove Nest Site and the Breckenridge Mountain Roost Site are managed to maintain condor habitat. The Basket Peak and Lion Ridge roost sites receive modified management to minimize possible conflict with the recovery needs of the condor.	Provided for in strategy #6.

Table 51 Deleted Standards and Guidelines for Wildlife

Standard/Guideline
Wildlife: general
Focus on habitats outside the planned timber sales when funding habitat improvement projects from sources other than timber sales. (LRMP p. 4-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer applicable due to the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Leave 10 percent of the area of each regeneration unit with untreated slash for wildlife habitat. (MSA p. 91)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer applicable due to the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Seek funding for restoration projects that improve wildlife habitat. Give high priority to meadows and riparian areas when funding fish and wildlife habitat projects. (Modified from LRMP p. 4-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is Forest Service policy.
Use approved cooperative deer herd management plans as a guide to deer habitat management. (LRMP p. 4-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is Forest Service policy.
Furbearers
a. The Sequoia National Forest will manage habitats and activities for threatened and endangered species to achieve recovery objectives, and for sensitive species, to insure that they do not become threatened or endangered because of Forest Service actions (as specified in FSM 2670). (MSA p. 55)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is existing Forest Service policy for all TES species.
d. The Forest acknowledges the need to determine the distribution, status and trend of these species and their habitats within the Forest for biological evaluations, interim management, and the Forest Plan amendment. The Forest will request adequate funding through the annual budgeting process to accomplish this in an expeditious manner. The Forest will negotiate with the Region to locate funds if possible for the 1990 field season to commence a systematic, intensive track plate survey of the Forest. In any event, the Region shall provide funds necessary to conduct the survey by the end of the 1991 field season. (Track plate survey will be used unless the Forest Service determines in consultation with Dr. Reg. Barrett that another survey method would provide better data.) The track plate survey should include as many other species as practicable. The Forest Service will consult/confer with Dr. Reg. Barrett of U.C. Berkeley in designing this survey. (MSA p. 57)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These studies were completed.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Wildlife, cont'd.

Standard/Guideline
Vegetation management guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> References to eastside pine in the 2001 SNFPA guidelines were deleted. There is no eastside pine within the Monument.
Old forest emphasis areas
<p>Strategically placed area fuel treatments may be needed in old forest emphasis areas to minimize risks to human life and property, sensitive resources, or the old forest emphasis area from loss to wildfire. When treatments are necessary, prescribed fire is the first priority for achieving fuels objectives. When prescribed fire will not achieve fuels objectives, use mechanical thinning as described in the preceding paragraphs to achieve the fuels objectives. When this treatment will not achieve fuels objectives due to existing stand conditions, mechanical thinning of trees up to 20 inches dbh and canopy reduction of up to 20 percent (refer to mechanical (refer to mechanical treatment standards and guidelines for the threat zone) may be conducted in CWHR 4M and 4D stands to meet fuels reduction objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This standard and guideline is redundant. Limitations on canopy cover reduction are addressed in several standards and guidelines. <p>Conduct an analysis of suitable owl habitat before applying mechanical treatments that remove trees up to 20 inches dbh and reduce canopy cover up to 20 percent in old forest emphasis areas. This type of treatment may only be used when sufficient suitable owl habitat exists within 1-1/2 miles of a California spotted owl nest site or activity center to satisfy the requirements of a home range core area, as described in the standards and guidelines for delineating California spotted owl home range core areas. This type of treatment may not be applied within 1-1/2 miles of the nest site or activity center if the requirements for delineating a home range core area cannot be met. Document this site-specific analysis in the environmental analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This standard and guideline is redundant. Limitations on canopy cover reduction are addressed in several standards and guidelines. Analysis and documentation of spotted owl suitable habitat is required.
California condor management guidelines in the MSA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These “requirements shall apply until such time as the revised Condor Recovery Plan is implemented.” The Condor recovery plan was revised in 1996.

Table 52 Standards and Guidelines for Wildlife Only Applicable to Alternative E

Standard/Guideline
Management area: (MC1) mixed chaparral—emphasis: general dispersed recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Regional coordination guidelines for wildlife habitat improvement on chaparral management projects. (LRMP p. 4-47)
Management area: (CF1) conifer forest—emphasis: general dispersed recreation and (CF3) emphasis: developed recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect fisheries and wildlife through compliance with Riparian and Meadow Guidelines. (LRMP p. 4-52)
Management area: (CF3) conifer forest—emphasis: developed recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage wildlife habitat and diversity to enhance recreation. (LRMP p. 4-62)
Management area: (WF4) wilderness with the natural role of fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize prescribed fire for wildlife habitat improvement work. (LRMP p. 4-65)
Management area: (OW5) wildlife and dispersed recreation in oak woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider fish and amphibians in habitat improvement projects. (LRMP p. 4-67)
Management area: (MC5) mixed chaparral—emphasis: wildlife and dispersed recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop water supplies on intensively treated lands. (LRMP p. 4-69) (1990 MSA, p. 36, c.) Follow regional wildlife coordination guidelines for burning prescriptions. (LRMP p. 4-70)

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Wildlife, cont'd.

Standard/Guideline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider fish and amphibians in habitat improvement projects. (LRMP p. 4-67)
Management area: (CF5) conifer forest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an average of 3-5 snags per acre. (LRMP p. 4-75) Protect fisheries and wildlife through compliance with riparian and meadow guidelines. (LRMP p. 4-75) Construct permanent water chances with built-in safeguards to protect the aquatic and wildlife communities. (LRMP p. 4-75) Create and/or maintain a vegetative buffer strip along OHV trails and areas designated for OHV use to reduce effects on wildlife. (LRMP p. 4-75) (1990 MSA, p. 105)
Management area: (BO6) blue oak savanna—emphasis: grazing of livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a minimum of 20 square feet of basal area of blue oak where it presently exists. (LRMP p. 4-77) (1990 MSA, p. 30, 3a.) Maintain snags where possible. (LRMP p. 4-77)
Management area: (OW6) oak woodland—emphasis: grazing of livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for 1.5 snags per acre. (LRMP p. 4-80) (1990 MSA, p. 89, b.[1]) Maintain at least 20 square feet basal area per acre of oaks where it currently exists. (LRMP p. 4-80) (1990 MSA, p. 30, 3a.) Maintain understory vegetation to provide horizontal and vertical diversity. (LRMP p. 4-80) (1990 MSA, p. 32, c.) Provide continual supply of oaks. (LRMP p. 4-80) (1990 MSA, p. 32, d.)
Management area: (MC6) mixed chaparral—emphasis: grazing of livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide wildlife adaptations in all water developments. (LRMP p. 4-82) (1990 MSA, p. 34, 3a.; p. 37, 8a.) Consider wildlife needs for cover and edge in chaparral type conversions and vegetation manipulation projects. (LRMP p. 4-82) (1990 MSA, p. 34, 5b.; p. 37, 8b.)
Management area: (CF6) conifer forest—emphasis: grazing of livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an average of 1.5 snags per acre. (LRMP p. 4-86) (1990 MSA, p. 89, b.[1]) Protect fisheries and wildlife through compliance with riparian and meadow guidelines. (LRMP p. 4-86)

Hydrology

Alternative B would embrace the Aquatic Management Strategy (AMS) and the Ecosystem Management Strategy of the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment in conjunction with the 1990 riparian and wetland standards and guidelines

documented in Exhibit D of the MSA, provided in Alternative E. The 2004 SNFPA reduces redundancy and provides more consistent direction with respect to existing laws and executive orders, while maintaining the intent of the 2001 AMS.

Table 53 Revisions to Standards and Guidelines for Watershed and Wetlands

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
Standards and Guidelines for Riparian Conservation Areas and Critical Aquatic Refuges (not in Alternative C)		
91. Designate riparian conservation area (RCA) widths as described in Part B of the SNFPA ROD appendix A. The RCA widths	Designate riparian conservation area (RCA) widths as listed. RCA widths may be adjusted at the project level if a landscape	No change in wording.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
displayed in Part B may be adjusted at the project level if a landscape analysis has been completed and a site-specific RCO analysis demonstrates a need for different widths.	analysis has been completed and a site specific RCO analysis demonstrates a need for different widths.	
92. Evaluate new proposed management activities within CARs and RCAs during environmental analysis to determine consistency with the riparian conservation objectives at the project level and the AMS goals for the landscape. Ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are enacted to (1) minimize the risk of activity-related sediment entering aquatic systems and (2) minimize effects to habitat for aquatic- or riparian-dependent plant and animal species.	Evaluate new proposed management activities within CARs and RCAs during environmental analysis to determine consistency with the riparian conservation objectives at the project level and the AMS goals for the landscape. Ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to (1) minimize the risk of activity-related sediment entering aquatic systems, and (2) minimize effects to habitat for aquatic- or riparian-dependent plant and animal species.	No change in wording.
93. Identify existing uses and activities in CARs and RCAs during landscape analysis. At the time of permit reissuance, evaluate and consider actions needed for consistency with RCOs.	Identify existing uses and activities in CARs and RCAs during landscape analysis. Evaluate existing management activities to determine consistency with RCOs during project level analysis. Develop and implement actions needed for consistency with RCOs.	2004 SNFPA provides a time frame for evaluation of existing condition "...at time of permit re-issuance"; other than this detail there is no change in direction.
94. As part of project-level analysis, conduct peer reviews for projects that propose ground-disturbing activities in more than 25 percent of the RCA or more than 15 percent of a CAR.	Use peer review process for vegetation treatments or other activities proposed within CARs and RCAs that are likely to significantly affect aquatic resources. Conduct peer review for projects that propose ground-disturbing activities in more than 25 percent of the RCA or more than 15 percent of a CAR.	2004 provides peer review timing "...as part of project-level analysis." The intent of this S&G remains the same.
Standards and guidelines associated with Riparian Conservation Objective (RCO) 1: <i>Ensure that identified beneficial uses for the water body are adequately protected. Identify the specific beneficial uses for the project area, water quality goals from the Regional Basin Plan, and the manner in which the standards and guidelines will protect the beneficial uses.</i>		
Not in 2004 S&Gs	Implement project appropriate Best Management Practices and monitor their effectiveness following protocols outlined in "Investigating Water Quality in the Pacific Southwest Region: Best Management Practices Evaluation Program." (USDA Forest Service 1992)	The need to do BMP monitoring is required by other authority: Agreement with RWQCB, Sections 208 and 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act (PL92-500), US EPA

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		guidance to the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment, State Water Quality Control Board Basin Plans, FSH 2509.22, and 1981 State Water Quality Management Plan with Forest Service. The direction in 2001 S&Gs is redundant and not needed as an S&G.
Not in 2004 S&Gs	Implement soil quality standards for soil loss, detrimental soil compaction, and organic matter retention to minimize the risk of sediment delivery to aquatic systems from management activities. Ensure that management-related activities, including roads, skid trails, landings, trails, or other activities, do not result in detrimental soil compaction on more than 5 percent of the RCA or 10 percent of the area in CARs.	The need to follow Soil Quality Standards is required by other authority: Region 5 Soil Quality Standards provides this direction in FSH Chapter 50, R-5 FSH 2509.22. The direction in 2001 S&Gs is redundant.
Not in 2004 S&Gs	Conduct project-specific cumulative watershed effects analysis following Regional procedures or other appropriate scientific methodology to meet NEPA requirements.	The need to do CWE is required by other authority: FSH 2509.22Chapter 20, R-5 as well as NEPA, 40 CFR, Sec. 1508.7 & 1508.25; Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 1977, Sec. 208(2) (F)a. The direction in 2001 S&Gs is redundant.
95. For waters designated as “Water Quality Limited” (Clean Water Act Section 303(d)), implement appropriate State mandates for the water body, such as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) protocols.	For waters designated as “Water Quality Limited” (Clean Water Act Section 303(d)), implement appropriate State mandates for the water body, such as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) protocols.	No change.
96. Ensure that management activities do not adversely affect water temperatures	Ensure that management activities do not adversely affect water temperatures	No change.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
necessary for local aquatic and riparian-dependent species assemblages.	necessary for local aquatic- and riparian-dependent species assemblages.	
97. Limit pesticide applications to cases where project level analysis indicates that pesticide applications are consistent with riparian conservation objectives.	Limit pesticide applications to cases where project level analysis indicates that pesticide applications are consistent with riparian conservation objectives. Prohibit application of pesticides to livestock in RCAs and CARs.	The intent of this S&G remains the same. The addition of prohibiting application of pesticides to livestock in RCAs and CARs is prohibitive and without necessity as the application would need to be consistent with RCOs.
98. Within 500 feet of known occupied sites for the California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, and mountain yellow-legged frog, design pesticide applications to avoid adverse effects to individuals and their habitats.	Avoid pesticide applications within 500 feet of known occupied sites for the California red-legged frog, Cascade frog, Yosemite toad, foothill yellow-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, and northern leopard frog unless environmental analysis documents that pesticides are needed to restore or enhance habitat for these amphibian species.	The intent of this S&G remains the same. Removed the species not in the Monument.
99. Prohibit storage of fuels and other toxic materials within RCAs and CARs except at designated administrative sites and sites covered by a special use authorization. Prohibit refueling within RCAs and CARs unless there are no other alternatives. Ensure that spill plans are reviewed and up-to-date.	Prohibit storage of fuels and other toxic materials within RCAs and CARs except at designated administrative sites. Prohibit refueling within RCAs and CARs unless there are no other alternatives. Ensure that spill plans are reviewed and up-to-date.	Added “and sites covered by a special use authorization.”
Standards and guidelines associated with RCO 2: <i>Maintain or restore: (1) The geomorphic and biological characteristics of special aquatic features, including lakes, meadows, bogs, fens, wetlands, vernal pools, springs; (2) streams, including in stream flows; and (3) hydrologic connectivity both within and between watersheds to provide for the habitat needs of aquatic-dependent species.</i>		
Not in 2004 S&Gs.	During re-licensing of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydroelectric projects, evaluate modifications by the project to the natural hydrograph. Determine and recommend in stream flow requirements and habitat conditions that maintain, enhance, or restore all life stages of native aquatic species, and that maintain or restore riparian resources, channel integrity, and fish passage. Provide written and timely	The need to provide hydrologic analysis during re-licensing is redundant as it is required by other authority and is covered in S&G 106.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
	license conditions to FERC. Coordinate re-licensing projects with the appropriate State and Federal agencies.	
100. Maintain and restore the hydrologic connectivity of streams, meadows, wetlands, and other special aquatic features by identifying roads and trails that intercept, divert, or disrupt natural surface and subsurface water flow paths. Implement corrective actions where necessary to restore connectivity.	Maintain and restore the hydrologic connectivity of streams, meadows, wetlands, and other special aquatic features by identifying roads and trails that intercept, divert, or disrupt natural surface and subsurface water flow paths. Implement corrective actions where necessary to restore connectivity.	No change.
101. Ensure that culverts or other stream crossings do not create barriers to upstream or downstream passage for aquatic-dependent species. Locate water drafting sites to avoid adverse effects on stream flows and depletion of pool habitat. Where possible, maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows, wetlands, and other special aquatic features.	Ensure that culverts or other stream crossings do not create barriers to upstream or downstream passage for aquatic-dependent species. Locate water drafting sites to avoid adverse effects to in stream flows and depletion of pool habitat. Where possible, maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows, wetlands, and other special aquatic features.	No change.
102. Prior to activities that could adversely affect streams, determine if relevant stream characteristics are within the range of natural variability. If characteristics are outside the range of natural variability, implement mitigation measures and short-term restoration actions needed to prevent further declines or cause an upward trend in conditions. Evaluate required long-term restoration actions and implement them according to their status among other restoration needs.	Prior to activities that could affect streams, determine if relevant geomorphic characteristics, including bank angle, channel bank stability, bank full width-to-depth ratio, embeddedness, channel-floodplain connectivity, residual pool depth, or channel substrate, are within the range of natural variability for the reference stream type as described in the Pacific Southwest Region Stream Condition Inventory protocol. If properties are outside the range of natural variability, implement restoration actions that will result in an upward trend.	The intent of this S&G remains the same. The 2001 direction references the use of the Pacific Southwest Region Stream Condition Inventory (SCI) Protocol, while the 2004 references the components of the SCI protocol.
103. Prevent disturbance to streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines caused by management activities and resource use (such as livestock and dispersed recreation) from exceeding 20 percent of a stream reach or 20 percent of natural lake and pond shorelines. Disturbance includes bank sloughing, chiseling, trampling, and other means of exposing bare soil or cutting plant roots. This standard does not apply to developed recreation sites; sites authorized under special use permits or roads.	Prevent disturbance to meadow-associated streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines caused by resource activities (for example, livestock, off-highway vehicles, and dispersed recreation) from exceeding 20 percent of stream reach or 20 percent of natural lake and pond shorelines. Disturbance includes bank sloughing, chiseling, trampling, and other means of exposing bare soil or cutting plant roots. This standard does not apply to developed recreation sites and designated off-highway vehicle routes.	The intent of this S&G remains the same. Minor edits made to reflect applicable Monument management and uses.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
<p>104. In stream reaches occupied by, or identified as “essential habitat” in the conservation assessment for the Little Kern golden trout, limit streambank disturbance from livestock to 10 percent of the occupied or “essential habitat” stream reach (conservation assessments are described in the 2004 SNFPA ROD, p. 10; see http://www.tucalifornia.org/cgtic/GTCAssessmnt&Strategy9-04.pdf). Cooperate with state and federal agencies to develop streambank disturbance standards for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Use the regional streambank assessment protocol. Implement corrective action where disturbance limits have been exceeded.</p> <p>Maintain width to depth ratios for A and E channels of values less than 14 on streams affected by management activities. Maintain width to depth ratios for B, C, and F channels of values greater than 10 on streams affected by management activities. Encourage G channels to trend towards width to depth ratios greater than 12.</p>	<p>In stream reaches occupied by, or identified as “essential habitat” in the conservation assessment for, the Lahonton and Paiute cutthroat trout and the Little Kern golden trout, limit streambank disturbance from livestock to 10 percent of the occupied or “essential habitat” stream reach. (Conservation assessments are described in the record of decision.) Cooperate with State and Federal agencies to develop streambank disturbance standards for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Use the regional streambank assessment protocol. Implement corrective action where disturbance limits have been exceeded.</p>	<p>Minor changes: deleted the species not in the Monument and added a website address for the Little Kern golden trout conservation assessment.</p>
<p>105. At either the landscape or project-scale, determine if the age class, structural diversity, composition, and cover of riparian vegetation are within the range of natural variability for the vegetative community. If conditions are outside the range of natural variability, consider implementing mitigation and/or restoration actions that will result in an upward trend. Actions could include restoration of aspen or other riparian vegetation where conifer encroachment is identified as a problem.</p>	<p>Determine if the age class, structural diversity, composition, and cover of riparian vegetation are within the range of natural variability for the vegetative community. If outside the range of natural variability, implement restoration actions that will result in an upward trend. Actions could include restoration of aspen or other riparian vegetation where conifer encroachment is identified as a problem.</p>	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same. The 2004 direction indicates this inventory/ determination may be done “at either the landscape or project-scale.”</p>
<p>106. Cooperate with federal, tribal, state and local governments to secure in-stream flows needed to maintain, recover, and restore riparian resources, channel conditions, and aquatic habitat. Maintain in stream flows to protect aquatic systems to which species are uniquely adapted. Minimize the effects of stream diversions or other flow modifications from hydroelectric projects on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.</p>	<p>Cooperate with Federal, Tribal, State and local governments to secure in stream flows needed to maintain, recover, and restore riparian resources, channel conditions, and aquatic habitat. Maintain in stream flows to protect aquatic systems to which species are uniquely adapted. Minimize the effects of stream diversions or other flow modifications from hydroelectric projects on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and essential habitat as identified in</p>	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same. According to the 2001 SNFPA ROD, conservation assessments for the foothill and mountain yellow-legged frogs; Cascades frog, Yosemite toad,</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
	conservation assessments. (Conservation assessments are described in the record of decision.)	northern leopard frog, and willow flycatcher were to have been done by 2002. Assessments are still on going and are discussed in section 2004 SNFPA ROD p. 10.
<p>Standards and guidelines associated with RCO 3: <i>Ensure a renewable supply of large down logs that: (1) Can reach the stream channel and (2) provide suitable habitat within and adjacent to the RCA.</i></p>		
Not in 2004 S&Gs.	In plantations within RCAs or CARs, determine if the plantation will be able to provide a sufficient supply of standing trees suitable for large wood recruitment. If there is not sufficient wood for recruitment, develop a restoration program that will provide standing trees of the appropriate size in the RCA or CAR. In developing the restoration program, ensure that proposed activities are consistent with the riparian conservation objectives.	This S&G, specific to plantations, is redundant. Large woody material is required in all areas not just in plantations. The 2004 SNFPA ROD discusses this in S&G 108 on p. 65.
<p>108. Determine if the level of coarse large woody debris (CWD) is within the range of natural variability in terms of frequency and distribution and is sufficient to sustain stream channel physical complexity and stability. Ensure proposed management activities move conditions toward the range of natural variability for coarse woody debris.</p> <p>Maintain woody material in and adjacent to stream courses. Where fire is responsible for removal of woody material, replace at levels associated with pre-fire conditions if possible. Evaluate the amount of wood necessary for maintenance of stream stability, sediment reduction, and aquatic species habitat.</p>	Determine if the level of coarse large woody debris (CWD) is within the range of natural conditions in terms of frequency and distribution and is sufficient to sustain stream channel physical complexity and stability. If CWD levels are deficient, ensure proposed management activities, when appropriate, contribute to the recruitment of CWD. Burning prescriptions should be designed to retain CWD; however short-term reductions below either the soil quality standards or standards in species management plans may result from prescribed burning within strategically placed treatment areas or the urban wildland intermix zone.	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same. 2004 is less prescriptive.</p> <p>Large wood can store and/or sort sediment, reduce erosion, increase connectivity of the stream channel with the floodplain, and create habitat suitable for a variety of fish and other aquatic and terrestrial species.</p>
<p>Standards and guidelines associated with RCO 4: <i>Ensure that management activities, including fuels reduction actions, within RCAs and CARs enhance or maintain physical and biological characteristics associated with aquatic- and riparian-dependent species.</i></p>		
109. Within CARs, in occupied habitat or “essential habitat” as identified in conservation assessments for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, evaluate the appropriate role, timing, and extent of	Within CARs, in occupied habitat or “essential habitat” as identified in conservation assessments for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, evaluate the appropriate role, timing, and extent of	No change.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
prescribed fire. Avoid direct lighting within riparian vegetation; prescribed fires may back into riparian vegetation areas. Develop mitigation measures to avoid effects to these species whenever ground-disturbing equipment is used.	prescribed fire. Avoid direct lighting within riparian vegetation; prescribed fires may back into riparian vegetation areas. Develop mitigation measures to avoid effects to these species whenever ground-disturbing equipment is used.	
110. Use screening devices for water drafting pumps. (Fire suppression activities are exempt.) Use pumps with low entry velocity to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles.	Use screening devices for water drafting pumps. (Fire suppression activities are exempt.) Use pumps with low entry velocity to minimize removal of aquatic species, including juvenile fish, amphibian egg masses and tadpoles, from aquatic habitats.	No change. Removed redundant wording.
111. Design prescribed fire treatments to minimize disturbance of ground cover and riparian vegetation in RCAs. In burn plans for project areas that include, or are adjacent to RCAs, identify mitigation measures to minimize the spread of fire into riparian vegetation. In determining mitigation measures, weigh the potential harm of mitigation measures, for example fire lines, against the risks and benefits of prescribed fire entering riparian vegetation. Strategies should recognize the role of fire in ecosystem function and identify those instances where fire suppression or fuel management actions could be damaging to habitat or long-term function of the riparian community.	Design prescribed fire treatments to minimize disturbance of ground cover and riparian vegetation in RCAs. In burn plans for project areas that include, or are adjacent to RCAs, identify mitigation measures to minimize the spread of fire into riparian vegetation. In determining which mitigation measures to adopt, weigh the potential harm of mitigation measures, for example fire lines, against the risks and benefits of prescribed fire entering riparian vegetation. Strategies should recognize the role of fire in ecosystem function and identify those instances where fire suppression or fuel management actions could be damaging to habitat or long-term function of the riparian community.	Added “ (e.g., fire lines)” to the third sentence to identify a mitigation measure.
112. Post-wildfire management activities in RCAs and CARs should emphasize enhancing native vegetation cover, stabilizing channels by non-structural means, minimizing adverse effects from the existing road network, and carrying out activities identified in landscape analyses. Post-wildfire operations shall minimize the exposure of bare soil.	Post-wildfire management activities in RCAs and CARs should emphasize enhancing native vegetation cover, stabilizing channels by non-structural means, minimizing adverse effects from the existing road network, and carrying out activities identified in landscape analyses. Post-wildfire operations shall minimize the exposure of bare soil.	No change.
113. Allow hazard tree removal within RCAs or CARs if it is clearly needed for public safety. Allow mechanical ground-disturbing fuels treatments, or fuelwood cutting within RCAs or CARs when the activity is consistent with RCOs and it is clearly needed for ecological restoration and maintenance or public safety. Utilize low-ground-pressure equipment, helicopters, or other non-ground-disturbing actions off	Allow mechanical ground disturbing fuels treatments, hazard tree removal, salvage harvest, or commercial fuelwood cutting within RCAs or CARs when the activity is consistent with RCOs. Projects providing for public health and safety, such as the felling of hazard trees or fuel reduction activities within the defense zone of the urban wildland intermix zones, are permitted. Utilize low ground pressure equipment,	The intent of this S&G remains the same. Instead of describing hazards associated with the need for public safety and allowing for felling of trees these are simply referred to as

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
<p>of existing roads when needed to achieve RCOs. Ensure that existing roads meet best management practices (BMPs). Minimize the construction of new roads into RCAs for access for fuel treatments, fuelwood cutting, or hazard tree removal.</p>	<p>helicopters, over the snow logging, or other non-ground disturbing actions to operate off of existing roads when needed to achieve RCOs. Prior to removing trees within RCAs or CARs, determine if existing down wood is sufficient to sustain the stream channel physical complexity and stability required to maintain or enhance the aquatic- and riparian-dependent community. Ensure that existing roads, landings, and skid trails meet Best Management Practices. Minimize the construction of new skid trails or roads for access into RCAs for fuel treatments, salvage harvest, commercial fuelwood cutting, or hazard tree removal.</p>	<p>hazard tree removal in the 2004 document. The 2001 goes on to discuss the need for down wood which is already covered in RCO 3 S&G 108.</p>
<p>114. As appropriate, assess and document aquatic conditions following the regional stream condition inventory protocol prior to implementing ground disturbing activities within suitable habitat for California red-legged frog, Cascades frog, Yosemite toad, foothill and mountain yellow-legged frogs, and northern leopard frog.</p> <p>(a) Maintain average stream surface shade at or above 60 percent on streams affected by management activities. Assess meadow environments and other streams with limited overhead vegetation for site-specific projects.</p> <p>(b) Maintain width to depth ratios for A and E channels of values less than 14 on streams affected by management activities. Maintain width to depth ratios for B, C, and F channels of values greater than 10 on streams affected by management activities. Encourage G channels to trend towards width to depth ratios greater than 12.</p> <p>(c) Evaluate streams affected by management activities to detect shifts in mean particle size toward fine material in stable channel types (A, B, C, or E) to the extent that a change in channel type occurs. Mean particle size would be expected to change in impaired systems or following restoration activities. Evaluate stream courses with special circumstances on a site-by-site basis at the project level.</p>	<p>Prior to implementing ground disturbing activities within suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog, Cascade frog, Yosemite toad, foothill yellow-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, and northern leopard frog:</p> <p>Assess and document aquatic conditions using the Pacific Southwest Region Stream Condition Inventory protocol, and develop mitigation measures (such as timing of activities, limited operating seasons, avoidance) to avoid affecting these species.</p>	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same. 2004 indicates to assess and document as appropriate, which is not included in 2001. 2001 requires the development of mitigation measures for the noted species. The direction for mitigation would be redundant to management practices already in place for dealing with these special species.</p> <p>(a) Stream shade is beneficial to these species in summer because it reduces heat input and water temperatures. The removal of shading vegetation is the major mechanism by management activity can increase summertime temperatures of small streams.</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
<p>(d) Maintain 85 percent of any waterbodies affected by management activities at no less than very good water quality based on the Hilsenhoff biotic index or similar indices. Evaluate waterbodies outside of this range for site-specific effects. Indices would be less than 4.50 on Hilsenhoff biotic index or indicate very good water quality with similar indices. A biotic index or other index of this value should indicate no apparent to possible slight organic pollution. Evaluate waterbodies outside of this range for site-specific projects.</p> <p>(e) Manage for specific components of the Pfankuch channel and stream stability indices that might be affected by management activities. Evaluate special conditions at the project level (see table above).</p>		<p>Existing and target shade levels have been determined from other studies as starting at 60 percent. This value is supported by site specific stream side data from Monument lands.</p> <p>(b) Width/depth ratio is a relative index of channel shape. Width is the total distance across the channel and depth is the mean depth of the channel. Both of these measurements are taken relative to bankfull elevation. The width/depth ratio is determined by dividing the bankfull width by the mean bankfull depth. Ratios below 12 are considered low for B, C, and F channels and could indicate a trend toward vertical erosion, an unstable state such as a G channel, and an increase in entrenchment which disconnects the stream from its floodplain. High ratios could indicate excessive sedimentation resulting in overheating and loss of habitat for A and E channels; for F channels high ratios suggest</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		<p>development of a floodplain; and for G channels would signify reduction in vertical erosion and a trend toward lateral erosion and a trend toward a more stable state. Channels with high w/d ratios tend to be shallow and wide. Channels with low w/d ratios tend to be narrow and deep.</p> <p>(c) Stream succession scenario suggests that A, B, and C streams are morphologically stable. A number of factors provide indication of stream stability and provide information on maintenance of stability. Stability indices include: Meander Patterns, Debris and Channel Blockage, Streambank Cutting, Vegetative Bank Stability, Depositional Features (deposition and scour and deposition). Most of these indices may be found in Pfankuch and are collected during Stability Evaluations. Streamflow changes, sediment budget changes, and many other causes lead to</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		<p>channel change that result in stability shifts. These shifts and adjustments lead to stream channel morphological changes culminating in a stream type change.</p> <p>Stream channel instability induced by management activities or natural events can be described and quantified through an evolution of stream types. Rosgen (2001, 2009) has observed at least 12 separate evolutionary scenarios involving stream type succession progression scenarios; nine of which are displayed in Figure 9 from Rosgen 2001. Stream succession scenarios suggest that streams depicted in the first and last frames of Figure 9 are morphologically stable. As long as streams are trending toward morphological stable systems riparian conditions would be in an upward trend.</p> <p>(d) Based on forest water quality data as indicated by</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis–2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis–2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		<p>aquatic insects 50% of Monument streams have a biotic index of excellent; 35% have an index of very good; 10% have an index of good and 5% of fair. Aquatic Insects are currently considered management indicators for biologic species.</p> <p>(e) Pfankuch, 1978, developed a channel stability procedure to systematically measure and evaluate the resistive capacity of mountain streams. Five of the fifteen indicators used in Pfankuch are selected to evaluate the function of riparian ecotypes. The five indicators selected are those most affected by disturbance. These indicators are used to evaluate stream reaches that have been classified using Rosgen, 1985.</p>
<p>115. During fire suppression activities, consider effects to aquatic- and riparian-dependent resources. Where possible, locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots, and other centers for incident activities outside of RCAs or CARs. During pre-suppression planning, include guidelines for suppression activities that avoid potential adverse effects to aquatic- and riparian-dependent species.</p>	<p>During fire suppression activities, consider effects to aquatic- and riparian-dependent resources. Where possible, locate incident bases, camps, helibases, staging areas, helispots, and other centers for incident activities outside of RCAs or CARs. During pre-suppression planning, determine guidelines for suppression activities, including avoidance of potential adverse effects to aquatic- and riparian-dependent species as a goal.</p>	<p>No change.</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
<p>116. Identify roads, trails, staging areas, developed recreation sites, dispersed campgrounds, areas under special use permits or grazing permits, and day use sites during landscape analysis. Identify conditions that degrade water quality or habitat for aquatic and riparian-dependent species. At the project level, evaluate and consider actions to ensure consistency with standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Assess roads, trails, OHV trails and staging areas, developed recreation sites, dispersed campgrounds, special use permits, grazing permits, and day use sites during landscape analysis. Identify conditions that degrade water quality or habitat for aquatic and riparian-dependent species. At the project level, determine if use is consistent with other standards and guidelines or desired conditions. If inconsistent, modify the use through redesign, rehabilitation, relocation, closure, or re-directing the use to a more suitable location.</p>	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same.</p>
<p>Standards and guidelines associated with RCO 5: <i>Preserve, restore, or enhance special aquatic features, such as meadows, lakes, ponds, bogs, fens, and wetlands to provide the ecological conditions and processes needed to recover or enhance the viability of species that rely on these areas.</i></p>		
<p>117. Assess the hydrologic function of meadow habitats and other special aquatic features during site-specific range management analysis. Ensure that characteristics of special features are, at a minimum, at proper functioning condition (PFC), as defined in the appropriate technical reports (or their successor publications): (1) “Process for Assessing PFC” TR 1737-9 (1993), “PFC for Lotic Areas” USDI TR 1737-15 (1998); (3) PFC for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas, USDI TR 1737-11 (1994); and (4) Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Fen Areas in the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges in California: A User Guide, USDA Forest Service, R5-TP-028 (April 2009).</p> <p>Assess the hydrologic function of at-risk meadow habitats. Ensure that characteristics are, at a minimum, at PFC as defined in the Process for Assessing PFC, TR 1737-9 (1993); PFC for Lotic Areas, USDI TR 1737-15 (1998); or PFC for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas, USDI TR 1737-16 (Rev. 2003).</p>	<p>Assess the hydrologic function of meadow habitats and other special aquatic features during range management analysis. Ensure that characteristics of special features are, at a minimum, at proper functioning condition, as defined in the appropriate technical reports: (1) “Process for Assessing PFC” TR 1737-9 (1993), “PFC for Lotic Areas” USDI TR 1737-15 (1998) or (2) “PFC for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas” USDI TR 1737-11 (1994).</p>	<p>No change except for the addition of more current reference documents.</p>
<p>118. Prohibit or mitigate ground-disturbing activities that adversely affect hydrologic processes that maintain water flow, water quality, or water temperature critical to sustaining bog and fen ecosystems and plant species that depend on these ecosystems. During project analysis,</p>	<p>Prohibit or mitigate ground-disturbing activities that adversely affect hydrologic processes that maintain water flow, water quality, or water temperature critical to sustaining bog and fen ecosystems and plant species that depend on these ecosystems. During project analysis, survey, map, and</p>	<p>No change.</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
<p>survey, map, and develop measures to protect bogs and fens from such activities as trampling by livestock, pack stock, humans, and wheeled vehicles. Criteria for defining bogs and fens include, but are not limited to, the presence of sphagnum moss (<i>Spagnum</i> spp.), mosses belonging to the genus <i>Meessia</i>, or sundew (<i>Drosera</i> spp.). Complete initial plant inventories of bogs and fens within active grazing allotments prior to re-issuing permits.</p> <p>Maintain temperature at a daily average of no more than 20°C on streams affected by management activities. Evaluate stream courses with special circumstances or conditions, such as those affected by hot springs, for site-specific projects.</p>	<p>develop measures to protect bogs and fens from such activities as trampling by live-stock, pack stock, humans, and wheeled vehicles. Criteria for defining bogs and fens include, but are not limited to, presence of sphagnum moss (<i>Spagnum</i> spp.), mosses belonging to the genus <i>Meessia</i>, or sundew (<i>Drosera</i> spp.) Complete initial plant inventories of bogs and fens within active grazing allotments prior to re-issuing permits.</p>	
<p>119. Locate new facilities for gathering livestock and pack stock outside of meadows and riparian conservation areas. During project-level planning, evaluate and consider relocating existing livestock facilities outside of meadows and riparian areas. Prior to re-issuing grazing permits, assess the compatibility of livestock management facilities located in riparian conservation areas with riparian conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Locate new facilities for gathering livestock and pack stock outside of meadows and riparian conservation areas. During landscape analysis, evaluate and consider relocating existing livestock facilities outside of meadows and riparian areas. Prior to re-issuing grazing permits, assess the compatibility of livestock management facilities located in riparian conservation areas with riparian conservation objectives.</p>	<p>The intent of this S&G remains the same. 2004 requires this action to apply at the project-planning level where the 2001 gives the direction at the larger landscape analysis.</p>
<p>120. Under season-long grazing: For meadows in early seral status: limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to 30 percent (or minimum 6-inch stubble height). For meadows in late seral status: limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to a maximum of 40 percent (or minimum 4-inch stubble height).</p>	<p>Under season-long grazing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For meadows in early seral status: limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to 30 percent (or minimum 6-inch stubble height). • For meadows in late seral status: limit livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants to a maximum of 40 percent (or minimum 4-inch stubble height). 	<p>No change. Separated into three standards and guidelines. Season-long grazing is in the Range standards and guidelines.</p>
<p>Determine ecological status on all key areas monitored for grazing utilization prior to establishing utilization levels. Use Regional ecological scorecards and range plant list in regional range handbooks to determine ecological status. Analyze meadow ecological status every 3 to 5 years. If meadow ecological status is determined to be moving in a downward trend, modify or suspend grazing. Include ecological status</p>	<p>Determine ecological status on all key areas monitored for grazing utilization prior to establishing utilization levels. Use Regional ecological scorecards and range plant list in regional range handbooks to determine ecological status. Analyze meadow ecological status every 3 to 5 years. If meadow status is determined to be moving in a downward trend, modify or suspend grazing. Include ecological status data in</p>	

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
data in a spatially explicit Geographical Information System database.	a spatially explicit Geographical Information System database.	
Under intensive grazing systems (such as rest-rotation and deferred rotation) where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow-associated species are not being affected. Degraded meadows (such as those in early seral status with greater than 10 percent of the meadow area in bare soil and active erosion) require total rest from grazing until they have recovered and have moved to mid- or late seral status.	Under intensive grazing systems (such as rest-rotation and deferred rotation) where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow-associated species are not being affected. Degraded meadows (such as those in early seral status with greater than 10 percent of the meadow area in bare soil and active erosion) require total rest from grazing until they have recovered and have moved to mid- or late seral status.	
121. Limit browsing to no more than 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs and no more than 20 percent of individual seedlings. Remove livestock from any area of an allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation.	Limit browsing to no more than 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) and no more than 20 percent of individual seedlings. Remove livestock from any area of an allotment when browsing indicates a change in livestock preference from grazing herbaceous vegetation to browsing woody riparian vegetation. Herd sheep away from woody riparian vegetation at all times.	The intent of this S&G remains the same. Regardless of the presence of sheep, the S&G would still be required and has no bearing on the implementation of the standard.
Standards and guidelines associated with RCO 6: <i>Identify and implement restoration actions to maintain, restore, or enhance water quality and maintain, restore, or enhance habitat for riparian and aquatic species.</i>		
Not in 2004 S&Gs.	Reclaim abandoned mine sites that are degrading aquatic riparian and meadow ecosystems. First priority is to reclaim sites with hazardous or toxic substances located within CARs and RCAs.	The need for mine reclamation is required by other authority: Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and Associated Regulations, 1975; Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), 1986; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 1980; 42 USC 9604A, National Contingency Act; Executive Order 12580, Su-

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		perfund Implementation, 1987.
<p>122. Recommend restoration practices in: (1) areas with compaction in excess of soil quality standards, (2) areas with lowered water tables, or (3) areas with either actively down cutting or that have historic gullies. Identify other management practices, e.g., road building, recreation use, grazing, and fuels reduction, which may be contributing to the observed degradation.</p> <p>Use water-dependent vegetation as a surrogate to evaluate riparian soil moisture condition.</p> <p>Maintain width to depth ratios for A and E channels of values less than 14 on streams affected by management activities. Maintain width to depth ratios for B, C, and F channels of values greater than 10 on streams affected by management activities. Encourage G channels to trend towards width to depths greater than 12.</p> <p>For stable streams (A, B, C, or E), maintain or improve the channel as necessary based on stability indices. Take action to maintain or improve stream sites based on successional stage shifts away from stable conditions. For impaired stream reaches (G, F, or D), successional stage shifts from the impaired stream reach would show a trend toward an unimpaired condition.</p>	<p>Recommend and establish priorities for restoration practices in: (1) areas with compaction in excess of soil quality standards, (2) areas with lowered water tables, or (3) areas with either actively down cutting or that have historic gullies. Identify other management practices, e.g., road building, recreation use, grazing, and timber harvests, which may be contributing to the observed degradation.</p>	<p>No change, except for removing “timber harvests” and adding “fuels reduction” to be more in line with Monument direction.</p> <p>Width/depth ratio is a relative index of channel shape. Width is the total distance across the channel and depth is the mean depth of the channel. Both of these measurements are taken relative to bankfull elevation. The width/depth ratio is determined by dividing the bankfull width by the mean bankfull depth. Ratios below 12 are considered low for B, C, and F channels and could indicate a trend toward vertical erosion, an unstable state such as a G channel, and an increase in <i>entrenchment</i> which disconnects the stream from its floodplain. High ratios could indicate excessive sedimentation resulting in overheating and loss of habitat for A and E channels;</p>

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		<p>for F channels high ratios suggest development of a floodplain; and for G channels would signify reduction in vertical erosion and a trend toward lateral erosion and a trend toward a more stable state. Channels with high w/d ratios tend to be shallow and wide. Channels with low w/d ratios tend to be narrow and deep.</p> <p>Stream succession scenario suggests that A, B, and C streams (streams depicted in the first and last frames of Figure 9) are morphologically stable. A number of factors provide indication of stream stability and provide information on maintenance of stability. Stability indices include: Meander Patterns, Debris and Channel Blockage, Streambank Cutting, Vegetative Bank Stability, Depositional Features (deposition and scour and deposition). Most of these indices may be found in Pfankuch and are collected during Stability Evaluations. Streamflow</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Hydrology, cont'd.

Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2004 (Alternatives B, C, D, F)	Riparian Conservation Objective Analysis—2001 (Alternative A)	Justification for Use of 2004 RCO S&Gs/Comments
		<p>changes, sediment budget changes, and many other causes lead to channel change that result in stability shifts. These shifts and adjustments lead to stream channel morphological changes culminating in a stream type change.</p> <p>Stream channel instability induced by management activities or natural events can be described and quantified through an evolution of stream types. Rosgen (2001, 2009) has observed at least 12 separate evolutionary scenarios involving stream type succession progression scenarios; nine of which are displayed in Figure 9 from Rosgen 2001. Stream succession scenarios suggest that streams depicted in the first and last frames of Figure 9 are morphologically stable. As long as streams are trending toward morphological stable systems riparian conditions would be in an upward trend.</p>

Soils

Rationale for Using Soil Standards as Strategies (SNFPA 2004) Instead of as Standards and Guidelines (SNFPA 2001)

The 2001 SNFPA soil standards and guidelines (Appendix F) were a combination of FSH 2509.18-SOIL MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, R5 Supplement No. 2509.18-95-1 modified in part by Region 4 Soil standards and guidelines. Region 4 standards and guidelines language was included because a portion of the Sierra Nevada occurs on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The 2001 FEIS (Appendix F) established these standards and guidelines for the life of that document and therefore does not permit modification or adjustment based upon findings from new science or management direction. As such, the No Action (A) and MSA (E) Alternatives include the soil Standards and Guidelines, as written in the 2001 SNFPA.

Human Use and Recreation

Standards and guidelines that established ROS capacity for developed recreation and dispersed recreation are proposed to be deleted for all of the action alternatives (B, C, D, E, F). For developed sites, capacity is more appropriately determined through site specific analysis. The standards and guidelines for dispersed recreation ROS capacity are impractical to administer. For dispersed recreation activities, people will go where they want to go to pursue their desired activity. No one will check to see if more than 0.055 people per acre, for example, are recreating in a given location at any given time. The intent behind these standards and guidelines is to limit effects to resources and/or to control the social experience. These effects are more appropriately dealt with at the site specific level.

The Forest Plan contained standards and guidelines regarding potential ski area development at Peppermint on the Western Divide Ranger District and Mitchell-Maddox on the Hume Lake Ranger District. Neither project is expected to be pursued in the Monument, as ski area development is neither expected to be economically feasible, nor environmentally desirable.

The 2004 SNFPA states that current policy and management direction should guide soil resource management. This allows current science to help guide management direction and policy concerning the soil resource. Significant soil science findings since 2001 indicate that biomass productivity on coarse textured soil types, like the sandy loam soils that occur in the Monument area, is not decreased due to compaction (Powers et al. 2005). The 2001

SNFPA soil standards and guidelines were used to develop the new strategies for soil conservation and productivity. The use of the 2004 SNFPA direction (to treat soil standards and guidelines as strategies) will provide more flexibility and permit adjustment of soil management practices, within the Monument, based upon the most current science and soil resource management direction.

Alternative E includes the trail plan considerations discussed in the MSA (pp. 102-104). One concern was the imbalance of 4-wheel drive trails compared to trails available to other users. Opportunities to develop more 4-wheel drive trails were to be analyzed in the trail plan, in order to create a better balance among all users. As the proclamation (Clinton 2000) restricts the use of motorized vehicles to designated roads only and 4-wheel drive trails are not allowed, this MSA item is no longer relevant in the Monument.

Another MSA concern (pp. 102-103) was that the forest not take credit for the amount of trails closed when shifting from open riding areas to the use of designated roads and trails only. In the trail plan, “compensation credit” was to be assigned, as trails or trail sections are closed.

“Compensation credit” represents the net benefit or value gained from the closure. One action can provide credit for another action. The credits can be held in check until needed. The banking of credits, in and of itself, does not drive the Sequoia National Forest to seek additional opportunities. The goal is to keep track of gains and losses.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

By the end of 2000, all motorized trail opportunities were eliminated in the Monument, per the proclamation (Clinton 2000), and motorized vehicles are allowed on designated roads only (except in the Kings River Special Management Area). Non-motorized mechanized vehicles (mountain bikes) are allowed only on designated roads and trails in the Monument. This MSA item is no longer relevant in the Monument.

Other MSA concerns (pp. 103-104) were that trail users cooperate and be involved in the development of the trail plan and in site specific trail projects and for long term cooperation among various user groups in identifying trail uses and opportunities, locating OHV routes in some areas and hiking and equestrian trails in others. The Travel Management Rule requires collaboration, and public involvement is part of the project planning process; these requirements address the MSA concern, and no additional direction is needed. The proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires a transportation plan, dealing with both roads and trails; this transportation plan is expected to take the place of a trail plan for Alternative E, as well as all of the other action alternatives. No site specific decisions will be made in the transportation plan.

Alternative E also includes an item from the MSA (p. 107), which says that minor changes to ROS class boundaries could occur in other planning documents. This item would not be included as a standard and guideline for Alternatives B, C, D, E, or F, because the ability exists to make changes to the Forest Plan through “spot” plan amendments in project level environmental analysis decisions; no standard or guideline is needed. Another item on page 107 of the MSA refers to a table (average annual outputs and costs) in the Forest Plan to add, “References to trail mileage such as: miles open to OHV use, miles closed to OHV use, miles with seasonal closures, miles to be constructed/reconstructed/relocated are estimates. Final mileage shall be determined in the Trail Plan being developed by the Forest.” OHV trails are not allowed in the Monument, per the proclamation (Clinton 2000).

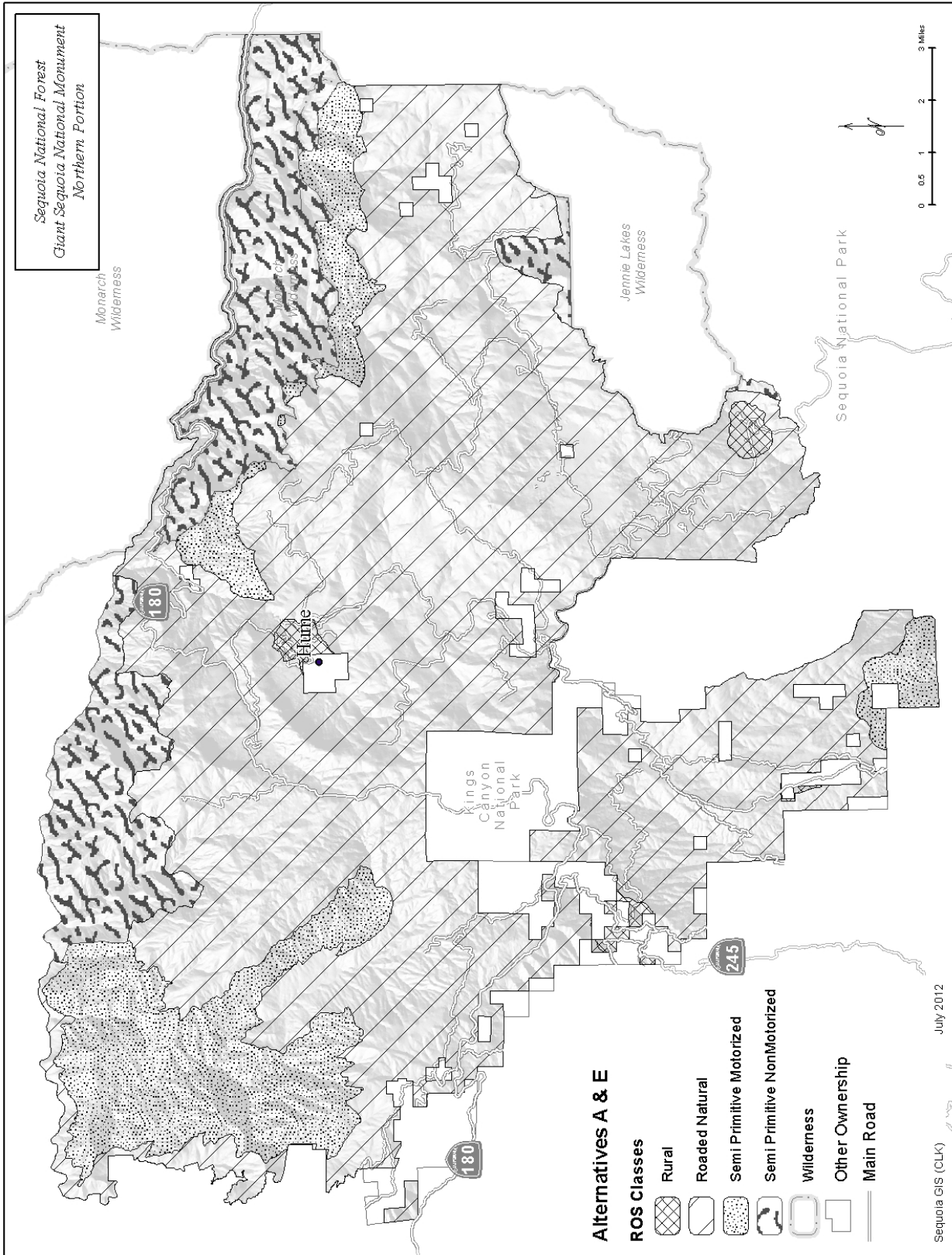
Changes to the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes assigned in the Forest Plan are proposed for most alternatives (B, C, D, F). Areas

classified as semi-primitive motorized (SPM) (39,570 acres) would mostly be reclassified, except in the Kings River Special Management Area (KRSMA) (10,050 acres of SPM). Because the proclamation (Clinton 2000) restricts motorized vehicles, including snowmobiles, to designated roads only, no purpose is served by utilizing the SPM class. The law that established KRSMA allows motorized use on trails to the same extent and in the same location as was permitted before enactment, which takes precedence over the proclamation (Clinton 2000) restriction; consequently, the current SPM designation in KRSMA would remain.

Most of the SPM areas (approximately 30,000 acres) outside of KRSMA are surrounded by or border roaded natural (RN) areas, and most of that acreage (approximately 26,000 acres) would be reclassified as RN for most alternatives (B, C, D, F; 275,760 total RN acres for these alternatives). This forest and Monument have a developed recreation focus, according to the market data (see recreation demand analysis in Appendix D), with more people participating in recreation activities in a developed setting than in other locations. Demand for more developed recreation opportunities, and, in particular, more group opportunities is expected. The RN class is expected to better accommodate projected recreation demand, as RN allows for more flexibility in development and management than the semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) class. Just because an area is designated as RN, however, does not necessarily mean that it would be developed; site specific analysis would be needed before any development project could occur. Many factors, such as topography and potential effects to threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and the objects of interest, are expected to affect whether or not development in any given location would occur. The SPM area that abuts the SPNM area by the South Fork of the Kings River and is within the Agnew Roadless Area would be reclassified as SPNM (approximately 4,000 acres; 39,450 total SPNM acreage for Alternatives B, C, D, and F). No changes in ROS classes are proposed for Alternative E, as the MSA uses the ROS classes that are in the Forest Plan, although the MSA does say that minor changes to ROS class boundaries could occur in other planning documents.

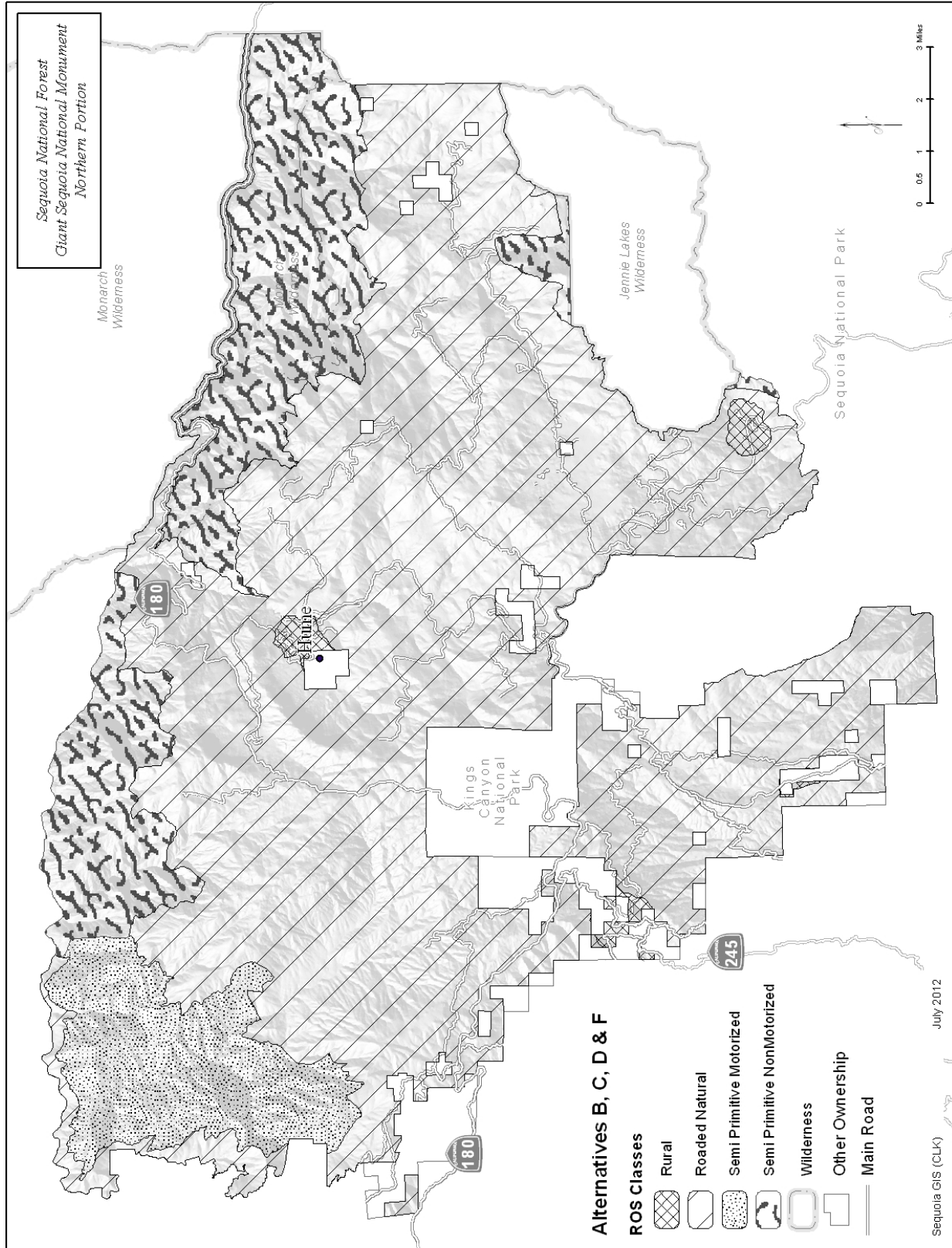
Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Map 1 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes for Alternatives A and E in the Northern Portion of the Monument



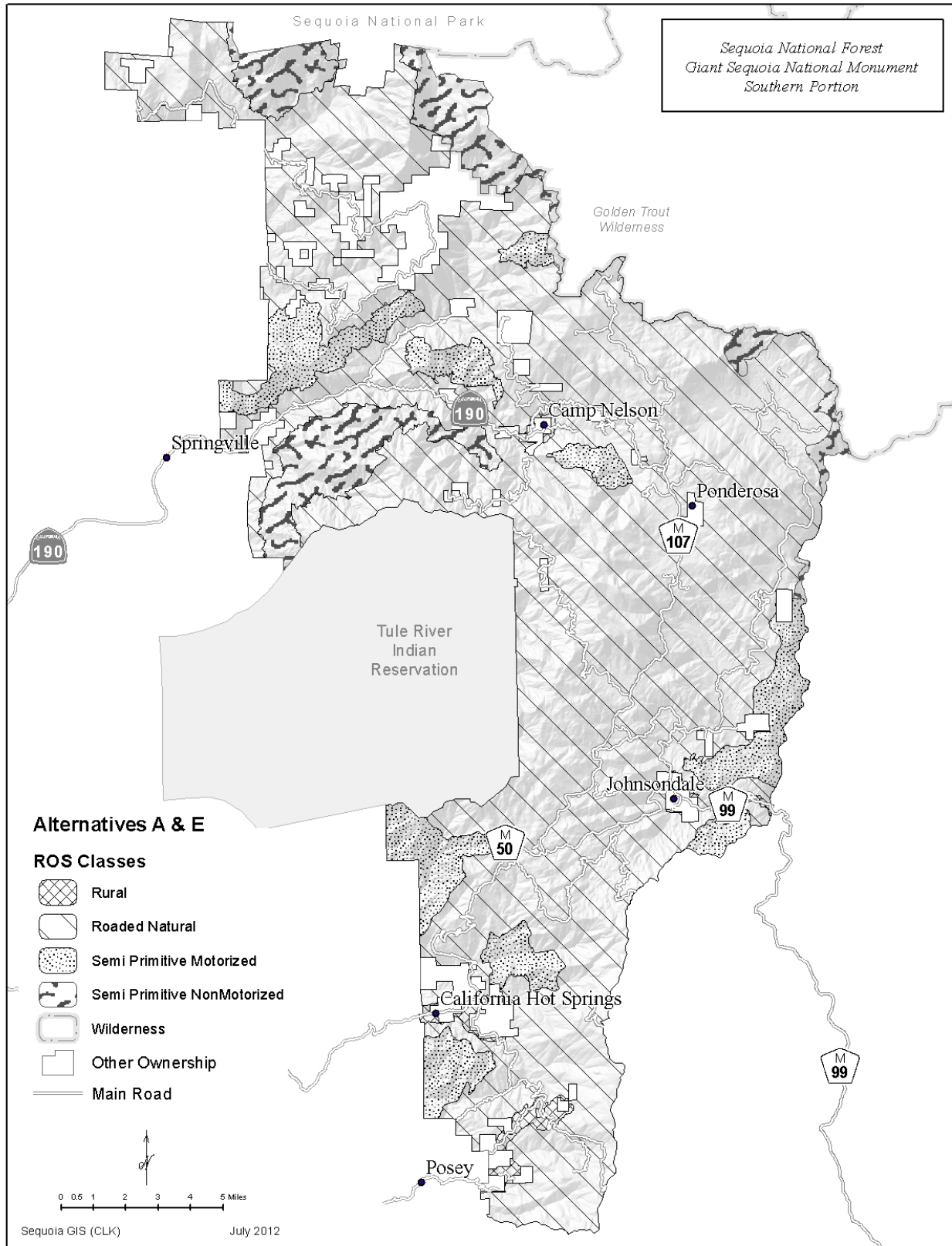
Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Map 2 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes for Alternatives B, C, D, and F in the Northern Portion of the Monument



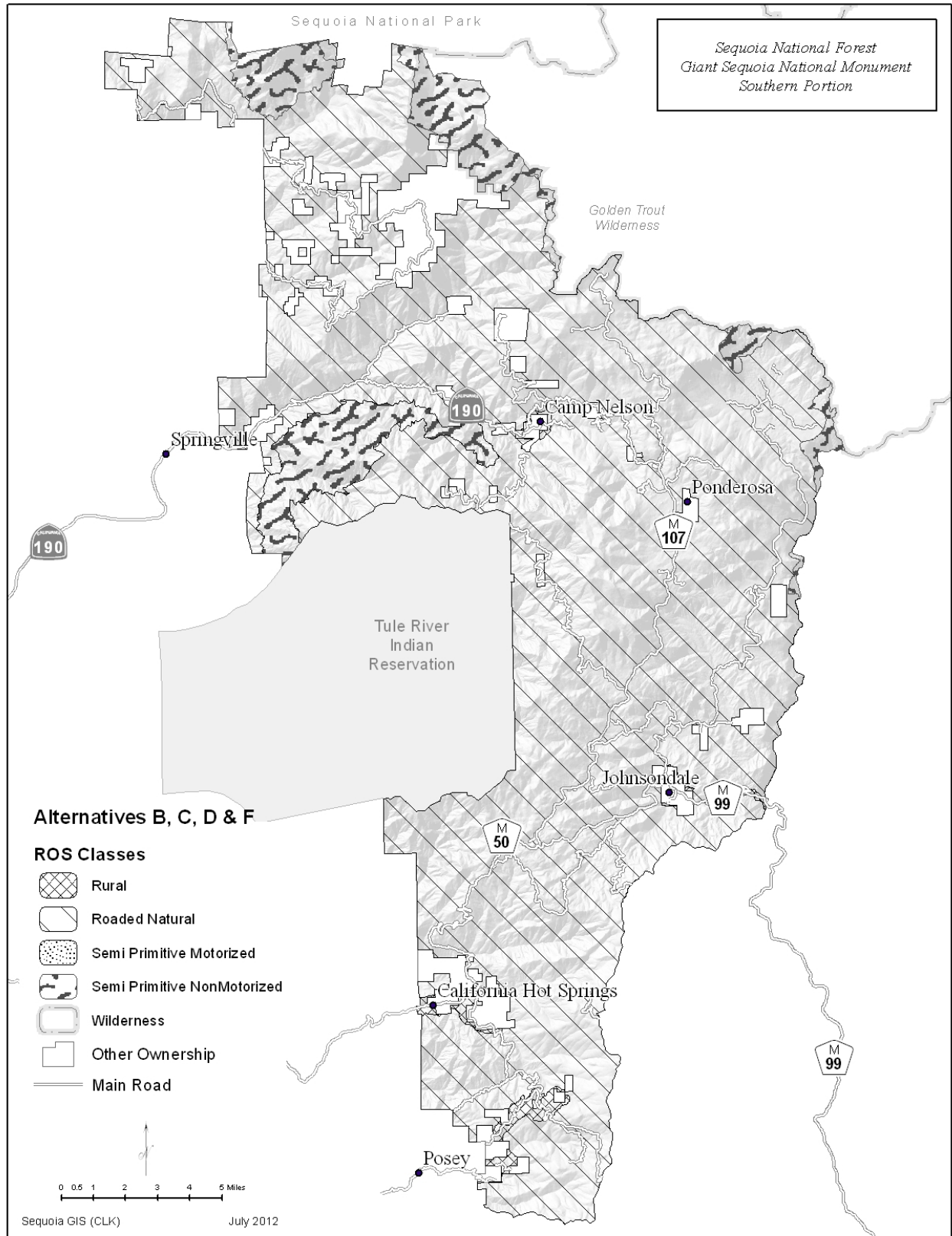
Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Map 3 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes for Alternatives A and E in the Southern Portion of the Monument



Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Map 4 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes for Alternatives B, C, D, and F in the Southern Portion of the Monument



Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

In addition to standards/guidelines and strategies, the following paragraphs contain some considerations in planning for recreation opportunities in the future. These considerations are expected to apply to site specific planning in all of the alternatives. Much of the information comes from the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners’ “Principles of Recreation Resource Planning” (2009).

- Not all types and amounts of people or activities can be accommodated in a particular setting at one time. Recreation niche settings, which focus on the special values and resources of a setting within the larger spectrum of recreation opportunities, are expected to help guide what kinds of opportunities are provided where. ROS settings are expected to guide the type of development provided (amount of development, construction materials, type of access, concentration of use/social encounters, remoteness).
- Some recreation uses are not compatible with other uses. In determining what activities to provide and where, existing activities need to be considered. Strong preferences for specific recreation settings lead to competition for recreation resources among different user groups. Conflict may also be generated by how each user group perceives the others’ actions and values. Potential social effects need to be minimized and mitigated.
- Site specific plans need to determine visitor capacity for the proposed use. Visitor capacity is the prescribed number or supply of available visitor opportunities to be accommodated in a specific location and specific time.
- Consider resource sustainability in recreation project planning. Recreation use needs to be integrated so as to harmonize with, protect, enhance, and sustain natural and cultural resources, including the objects of interest. Potential environmental effects need to be minimized and mitigated. Consider the kind of resource legacy that will be left to the next generation.
- Consider recreation stewardship opportunities in project planning. Site restoration projects are a form of recreation for some people. Opportunities should be designed, managed, and interpreted so as to foster public appreciation, understanding, respect, behaviors, and partnerships that contribute to the stewardship of an area’s natural and cultural resources and special values.
- Ensure that all people have an opportunity to enjoy the Monument without prejudice of race, ethnicity, age, wealth, gender, beliefs, or abilities.
- Ensure that the recreation opportunities which are provided are what the public truly wants, while also ensuring that the natural and cultural resources can support/sustain the use. Do not take the attitude of “if we build it, they will come,” because they might not; resources are too scarce to waste them on developing recreation opportunities that will not be used or that will be used in a manner not intended (misused).
- Promote the environmental, human, and community wellness benefits that accrue from recreation participation, such as improved physical and mental health, child development, family cohesion, civility, social integration, economic stimulation, work productivity, resource stewardship, and a conservation ethic.

Table 54 New Recreation Standards and Guidelines

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
Non-motorized (e.g., horses, hikers—non-mechanized)	Cross-country travel (non-motorized [e.g., horses, hikers—non-mechanized]) may be restricted to prevent resource damage. (MSA p. 107, h.)	This is from the MSA and would apply Monument-wide.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Table 55 Revised Recreation and Energy Standards and Guidelines

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
Dispersed recreation management	For Alternative E only in management areas OW5, MC5, and CF5: Increase opportunities for increasing public enjoyment and benefits. (1990 MSA pp. 104-105, 4. a. (1))	Alternative E retains MSA language and only applies in particular management areas. For the other alternatives (B, C, D, F), this would be a useful strategy to guide recreation management Monument-wide and be flexible to respond to changing recreation demand in the future.
Dispersed recreation management	<p>Alternatives B, C, D, F: Manage dispersed recreation activities by location and period of use based on wildlife needs (e.g., excluding incompatible use from key areas during fawning and nesting). (See LRMP pp. 4-67, 4-69, 4-75 for original wording.)</p> <p>For Alternative E only in management areas OW5, MC5, and CF5: Manage recreation activities by location and period of use based on wildlife needs (e.g., excluding incompatible use from key areas during fawning and nesting). (1990 MSA, pp. 105, (2))</p>	The changed wording would apply Monument-wide in Alternatives B, C, D, F for dispersed recreation. Alternative E retains MSA language and only applies in particular management areas.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes); winter snow dispersed recreation	<p>For Alternatives B, D, E, F: Limit motorized vehicles to designated roads. Limit non-motorized mechanized vehicles (such as bicycles) to designated roads and trails. Limit over-snow vehicles to designated roads.</p> <p>For Alternative C: Limit motorized vehicles to designated roads. Limit non-motorized mechanized vehicles (such as bicycles) to designated roads. Limit over-snow vehicles to only access private property, for administrative use, or for emergencies.</p> <p>(See LRMP pp. 4-18, 4-19, 4-20 for original wording.)</p>	This is changed from LRMP pp. 4-18, 4-19, and 4-20, but is the same as current direction, as required by the proclamation (Clinton 2000). In Alternative C, public use of motorized over snow vehicles is not allowed. In Alternative D, only paved roads would be designated for public use by motorized over snow vehicles.
Energy	<p>Encourage energy development, when sources are available, as long as the development is consistent with other standards and guidelines. (LRMP p. 4-37)</p> <p>Does not apply in Alternative D.</p>	The proclamation (Clinton 2000) withdraws Monument lands from mineral entry and geothermal leasing, but other kinds of energy, such as solar, wind, or other utilities, would be possible, except in Alternative D.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Table 56 Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines to be Changed to Strategies for Recreation and Human Use

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
Dispersed recreation management	<p>Alternatives B, C, D, F: Develop and manage opportunities for public enjoyment (opportunities emphasized will depend on location). (See LRMP pp. 4-43, 4-46, 4-51, 4-54, 4-57, 4-59, 4-62, 4-77, 4-79, 4-81, 4-86 for original wording.)</p> <p>In Chapter 2, the strategy for all alternatives is worded as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Develop and manage opportunities for public enjoyment.</p>	<p>This would be a useful strategy to guide recreation management. The wording is changed from the wording in management areas OW1, MC1, CF1, BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, BO6, OW6, MC6, and CF6, which specified particular activities; the changed wording would apply Monument-wide and be more flexible to respond to changing recreation demand in the future.</p>
Recreation	<p>Recreation opportunity spectrum ROS: Manage the forest to provide recreation opportunities within the parameters established by each ROS class. Follow the “Recreation Opportunity Spectrum User’s Guide” to determine the applicable activities, physical settings, and recreation experiences for each ROS class. ROS classes are displayed on the accompanying map. The ROS classes are: P–Primitive, SPNM–semi-primitive non-motorized; SPM–semi-primitive motorized; RN - roaded natural; R–Rural; U–Urban (LRMP p. 4-16)</p> <p>In Chapter 2, the strategy for all alternatives is worded as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Maintain the assigned Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes (semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, and rural) (see ROS maps).</p>	<p>This information would be useful to guide recreation development, along with the recreation niche settings, but need not be required. Changes to the mapped ROS class area locations would occur for Alternatives B, C, D, F.</p>
General recreation; general developed recreation sites; office of information and interpretive services	<p>Follow forest interpretive plan. (Replace interpretation direction; see LRMP pp. 4-16, 4-22, 4-54, 4-59 for specific wording.)</p> <p>In Chapter 2, the strategy for all alternatives is worded as:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In accordance with the Sequoia National Forest Interpretive Plan (USDA Forest Service 2008a) and the Forest Service conservation education guidance, provide opportunities for interpretation that reflect scientifically-supported scholarship and research data.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Convey clear messages regarding natural and cultural resources</p>	<p>Rather than specifying the types of interpretive services, methods, facilities, and purposes, the forest interpretive plan would be followed, which is expected to evolve over time, in response to evolving technologies, visitor needs and demands, and available resources.</p>

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	<p>and multiple use. Use multi-media interpretation and educational programs to develop stewardship of resources, to ensure their present and future protection, and to enhance public enjoyment of this unique place.</p> <p>b. Promote and integrate awareness of Monument history, appreciation for biological processes, education about past and current human use of the Monument, and education about the distinctive yet interrelated disruptive forces involved with the use and protection of resources.</p>	
Rural community and human resources	<p>Meet human and community needs where feasible by providing employment and training opportunities particularly for the elderly, disadvantaged and minority communities. Volunteers and other human resource programs will help accomplish planned work while meeting budget constraints. (LRMP p. 4-36)</p> <p>In Chapter 2, the strategy for all alternatives is worded as:</p> <p>Continue to support and participate in employment and training programs for youth, older Americans, and the disadvantaged, in response to national employment and training needs and opportunities existing in forest surroundings.</p>	This would be incorporated into the strategy for partnerships and collaboration.

Table 57 Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines to be Changed to General Guidance for Recreation

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
General developed recreation sites	Increase occupancy through extended seasons. (LRMP p. 4-17)	This is useful guidance for better utilization of existing recreation opportunities; reduces congestion; avoids the need for new development that would only be used during peak times. (The parenthetical sentence on p. 4-17 refers to RVDs, which are no longer used.)
General developed recreation sites	Emphasize day use opportunities (e.g., overlooks, interpretive signing) to complement existing facilities. (LRMP p. 4-17)	This would be useful to guide recreation site management, but may need to evolve over time, as recreation demand changes in the future.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
General developed recreation sites	Manage existing destination sites to complement dispersed activities. (LRMP p. 4-17)	This would be useful to guide recreation site management, but may need to evolve over time, as recreation demand changes in the future.
General developed recreation sites	Manage vegetation to maintain or improve recreation values. (LRMP p. 4-17)	This information would be useful to guide recreation site management.
General developed recreation sites	Perpetuate large tree cover and revegetate openings when any developed recreation site is capable of growing trees. (LRMP pp. 4-43, 4-45, 4-51, 4-54, 4-56, 4-59, 4-61, 4-66, 4-74, 4-86)	Some version of this appears in management areas OW1, MC1, CF1, BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, OW5, CF5, and CF6. This information would be useful to guide recreation site management Monument-wide. In addition, add: Reduce exotics and promote native species.
General developed recreation sites	Develop picnic grounds and campgrounds when need increases in the priority listed. a. Rehabilitate existing b. Expand existing c. Develop new facilities. (LRMP pp. 4-54, 4-56, 4-59, 4-61, 4-85)	Some version of this priority listing appears in management areas BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, and CF6. This information would be useful to guide recreation site development Monument-wide.
General developed recreation sites	Manage developed sites to increase dispersed recreation opportunities. (LRMP pp. 4-54, 4-57, 4-59)	This appears in management areas BO2, OW2, and MC2 and would be changed to apply Monument-wide to guide recreation management; visitors like to engage in a number of activities during their stays, rather than just sitting in a campground, for example.
Dispersed recreation management	Provide for a variety of dispersed uses (including both summer and winter activities) consistent with resource protection and maintaining recreation opportunities. (LRMP p. 4-18)	This is useful to accommodate diverse visitor preferences and to help respond to changing recreation demand in the future.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Study use and develop monitoring plan to identify and resolve conflicts between mountain bikes and other users. (LRMP p. 4-18)	This is useful guidance when conflicts arise.
Winter snow dispersed recreation	Explore development of commercial opportunities such as overnight/hut system for winter activities. (LRMP p. 4-20)	Incorporate in strategies dealing with commercial development.
Non-motorized (e.g., horses, hikers–non-mechanized)	Establish and maintain public pastures to enhance overnight camping opportunities. (LRMP p. 4-20)	This may be useful guidance for some locations, depending on use and demand.
Recreation management (private permitted uses)	Prepare future use determinations needs assessments for resorts, recreation residence tracts, and organization camps with permits due to expire during the planning period (attempt three year lead	This could be useful guidance for special uses, depending on the circumstances.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Proposal/Rationale
	time) when potential use conflicts are identified when the public need for the use has diminished; when unacceptable resource damage is occurring; or when an alternate use is proposed or has evolved without Forest Service approval. (LRMP p. 4-20)	
Water-oriented use	Hume Lake area: a) Emphasize development of facilities to enhance dispersed day use recreation. Expand no overnight facilities. (LRMP p. 4-21)	This is currently useful guidance, but would not be required, in order to provide flexibility to respond to changing recreation activities and future demand.
Trails (non-motorized)	Develop and maintain trail/transportation system that emphasizes loop trails. (LRMP p. 4-24)	This is useful guidance to enhance visitor experience by not having to travel over the same route both out and back.
Trails (non-motorized)	Enhance present opportunities by emphasizing management actions which will link campground and other sites to existing trails, tie trails together to create loops and multi-day opportunities, and resolve user conflicts (through designation or design to serve the needs of different trail users). Accessing new (not currently accessed) areas will be lower in priority than the above actions. (LRMP p. 4-24)	This information would be useful to help guide trail development, but need not be required.
Trails (non-motorized)	Implement mitigation measures in all projects posing an effect on the long-term forest trail system. Measures will include such items as signing, protection, or scenery values, rehabilitation of trails following project completion and/or relocation of trails around areas where effects dictate. Timing will be such that user inconvenience is minimized. (LRMP p. 4-24)	This information would be useful to help guide trail management, but need not be required. (The wording shown is slightly changed from LRMP p. 4-24.)
Trails (non-motorized)	Create and/or maintain a vegetative buffer strip along trails to reduce effects on wildlife. (MSA p. 106)	This applies to management area CF5 in Alternative E and would apply Monument-wide for Alternatives B, C, D, F; would be more appropriate as guidance, rather than a requirement, as a vegetative buffer strip may not always be possible.

Table 58 Deleted Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Recreation, Human Use, and Lands

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
General	Projects will be started only after following and completing the NEPA requirements. (LRMP p. 4-16)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation/policy.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
General	Contact public land agencies to coordinate management activities. (LRMP p. 4-16)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation/policy.
General	Contact will be made with organizations or groups where proposed actions could affect the management of private lands so that actions can be coordinated and mitigation provided if appropriate. (LRMP p. 4-16)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation/policy.
General recreation	Review and participate in the preparation or state recreation plans. (LRMP p. 4-16)	Not needed; required.
General recreation	Develop special management direction to deal with exceptionally heavy recreation use in areas such as Hume Lake, the lower Tule River canyon, and the Lloyd Meadow area. (LRMP p. 4-16)	Not needed; policy describes how to manage recreation use.
General recreation	Continue coordination with the NPS to help facilitate users and management activities for the benefit of park resources (e.g., permit issuance for park backcountry users where access begins on the national forest. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Not needed. Useful advice to coordinate with the neighboring agency, regarding facilities, personnel, etc., and develop partnerships.
General developed recreation sites; dispersed recreation management	Continue Pack-in, Pack-out policy in lightly used recreation areas. (LRMP pp. 4-17, 4-18)	A version of this appears in both Forest Plan categories. The Leave No Trace program should be emphasized. Pack-in, pack-out may be appropriate in some locations, depending on use levels and services provided.
General developed recreation sites	Establish system trails which provide for access between developed facilities and water/streamside. (LRMP pp. 4-54, 4-57, 4-59)	This appears in management areas BO2, OW2, and is similar in MC2. This is a matter of policy to direct traffic and concentrate pedestrian use where it would most naturally occur and best be accommodated, rather than allowing a proliferation of user created trails.
General developed recreation sites	Pursue development of the Peppermint Mountain Resort as detailed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. (LRMP p. 4-17)	The project is not expected to be pursued, as ski area development is neither expected to be economically feasible, nor environmentally desirable.
General developed recreation sites	Study the feasibility of constructing either Mitchell-Maddox or Sherman Pass ski areas, with potential development of one in decade two with expansion in decade three. Manage these areas to maintain options for future development. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Delete Mitchell-Maddox (Sherman Pass outside the Monument). The project is not expected to be pursued, as ski area development is neither expected to be economically feasible, nor environmentally desirable.
General developed recreation sites	Consider elderly and handicapped standards during construction, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of facilities. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
General developed recreation sites	Rehabilitate developed sites (on an average 20-year cycle) using established forest priority lists. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Process has changed; timeline impractical.
General developed recreation sites	Maintain fee sites at standard level and non-fee sites at the less than standard level. Over time, move the non-fee sites toward standard level with an objective to obtain about 50 percent shift during the first decade. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Conflicts with national direction to maintain all sites to standard.
General developed recreation sites	Evaluate potentials and take opportunities to convert small, underutilized camp and picnic sites to undeveloped occupancy spots. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Conflicts with public recreation demand preference for developed sites.
General developed recreation sites	Emphasize expansion of existing water-oriented sites where use dictates resource protection and average utilization exceeds 40 percent of theoretical capacity. (Apply maximum 10 percent increase or 600 Persons-at-One-Time (PAOT) each decade). (LRMP p. 4-17)	Unnecessarily constricts development and ability to respond to recreation demand. Capacity should be determined through site specific analysis.
General developed recreation sites	Develop new sites during first and second decade only where new water developments and/or licensing actions occur or to facilitate wilderness access. (An objective is an estimated five percent or 300 PAOT increase). (LRMP p. 4-17)	Time frame has passed.
General developed recreation sites	Manage potential developed sites during the first decade to maintain values for future development. (LRMP p. 4-17)	Time frame has passed.
General developed recreation sites	Develop barrier free interpretive trails with emphasis at Indian Basin near Princess campground (Hume Lake District) and Redwood Campground (Hot Springs District) during the first decade. (LRMP p. 4-18)	Completed.
General developed recreation sites	Build and manage new facilities to enhance dispersed recreation opportunities. (LRMP pp. 4-46, 4-50, 4-66, 4-68)	This appears in management areas OW1, OW5, and similar in CF1 and MC5; should not be the reason to construct new facilities; development needed for many purposes to serve the public.
General developed recreation sites	ROS capacity guidelines for developed sites. (See LRMP pp. 4-43, 4-46, 4-51, 4-54, 4-57, 4-59, 4-62, 4-66, 4-69, 4-74, 4-86 for specific wording.)	Some version of this appears in management areas OW1, MC1, CF1, BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, OW5, MC5, CF5; and CF6, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001). Not needed; policy is to determine capacity through site specific analysis.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
General developed recreation sites	Design new constructed or reconstructed facilities to a standard conducive to recreational type vehicles. (LRMP pp. 4-54, 4-59)	This appears in management areas BO2 and MC2. Recreation demand and site specific analysis should guide development at any particular location.
General developed recreation sites	Manage developed recreation facilities to minimize dispersed use effects within the MIZs. (LRMP p. 4-62)	This appears in management area CF3; not needed; policy.
General developed recreation sites	Do not locate new recreation sites where fish habitat cannot be adequately protected. (LRMP p. 4-62)	This appears in management area CF3; not needed; covered by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001).
General developed recreation sites	Limit new development to RN areas where key wildlife habitat will not be affected. (LRMP p. 4-74)	This appears in management area CF5; would be determined through site specific analysis.
General developed recreation sites	Develop new facilities which increase dispersed recreation opportunities and are located at least one-quarter mile from meadows. (LRMP p. 4-74)	This appears in management area CF5; would be determined through site specific analysis.
General developed recreation sites	Do not construct any new campgrounds or picnic sites. (LRMP pp. 4-77, 4-79, 4-81, 4-88)	This appears in management areas CF7, BO6, OW6, and MC6, which have been superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001), and CF7 is also inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000); unnecessarily constricts development and ability to respond to recreation demand.
General developed recreation sites	Fence all developed campgrounds and picnic sites. (LRMP p. 4-86)	This appears in management area CF6, which has been superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001); may be appropriate in some locations, depending on site specific analysis.
General developed recreation sites	Treat existing recreation facilities as inclusions. Maintain and rehabilitate where compatible with recreation demands and objectives. Silvicultural prescriptions will be designed to protect recreation visual needs of existing recreation facilities. (LRMP p. 4-88)	This appears in management area CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Dispersed recreation management	Emphasize opportunities for increasing dispersed recreation. (LRMP p. 4-18)	Not needed; public recreation demand preference is for developed sites, but dispersed recreation can still be accommodated.
Dispersed recreation management	Identify and respond to potential problems created by target shooting with the objective to minimize user conflicts. (LRMP p. 4-18)	Not needed; policy.
Dispersed recreation management	Utilize less than standard level management in lightly used areas including wilderness. (LRMP p. 4-18)	Conflicts with national direction to maintain all sites to standard.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Dispersed recreation management	Provide sanitation facilities in the areas of or during periods of concentrated use, where either increased management presence or resource protection is necessary and/ or potential development exists for which a specific site plan is prepared. (LRMP p. 4-18)	Not needed; policy.
Dispersed recreation management	ROS capacity guidelines for all activities. (See LRMP pp. 4-43, 4-46, 4-52, 4-55, 4-57, 4-60, 4-62, 4-67, 4-69, 4-75, 4-77, 4-79, 4-81, 4-86, 4-88 for specific wording.)	Some version of this appears in management areas OW1, MC1, CF1, BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, OW5, MC5, CF5; BO6, OW6, MC6, CF6, which are superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001); CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000); impractical to administer; effects are more appropriately dealt with at the site specific level, according to policy.
Dispersed recreation management	Restrict or reduce recreation use seasonally to mitigate significant conflicts with grazing. (Management areas BO6, OW6, MC6, and CF6) (MSA p. 106) (See LRMP pp. 4-77, 4-79, 4-82, 4-86 for original wording.)	Management areas BO6, OW6, MC6, and CF6 are superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001), and the proclamation (Clinton 2000) encourages recreation use consistent with the purposes of the Monument.
Dispersed recreation management	Restrict activities during periods of high fire hazard. (LRMP p. 4-81)	This appears in management area MC6, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001); fire restrictions are in effect when needed, according to policy.
Dispersed recreation management	Maintain existing dispersed recreation opportunities within the MIZ. (LRMP p. 4-86)	This appears in management area CF6, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001).
Dispersed recreation management	Develop opportunities including trails which increase public enjoyment and benefits. (LRMP p. 4-88)	This appears in management area CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Dispersed recreation management	Provide limited facilities for dispersed camping. (LRMP p. 4-89)	This appears in management area CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	OHVs may be used on designated routes on the Sequoia National Forest except where closed by law (i.e. wilderness and Pacific Crest Trail) or by Forest Supervisor order to prevent: a) Resource damage	Superseded by the proclamation (Clinton 2000) and travel management rule and is no longer current direction. The strategy is to designate and maintain existing roads appropriate for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs),

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
	(e.g. soil compaction, vegetation damage, wildlife disturbance, fire; b) Facility damage (e.g. roads, trails, signs, fences); and c) User conflicts (e.g. motorized and non-motorized use) to maintain specific recreation opportunities/experiences. (LRMP p. 4-18)	four-wheel drive vehicles, and snowmobiles, providing for user safety and minimum effect on the environment. Design and maintain all trails and trail systems, for user safety, minimum effect on the environment, and for specific uses, such as biking, foot traffic, and pack and riding stock or other non-vehicular uses.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	OHVs are legitimate uses of the national forest. The forest will increase opportunities for OHV vehicles through development of OHV trail facilities. (See LRMP pp. 4-18, 4-19 for remainder of wording.)	Superseded by the proclamation (Clinton 2000) and travel management rule and is no longer current direction in the Monument, where OHV trails are not allowed.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Following are vehicle use zones: Zone A Closed; Zone B Restricted: Wheeled vehicle use, including OHVs, is limited to designated routes only. (See LRMP p. 4-19 for remainder of wording.)	Superseded by the proclamation (Clinton 2000) and travel management rule and is no longer current direction.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Use location and design criteria for OHV trails that will hold down the speed of vehicles. (LRMP p. 4-19)	OHV trails are not allowed by the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Obtain public involvement whenever changes to the OHV management action Plan are necessary based on trail standards and guidelines. (LRMP p. 4-19)	Not needed; public involvement is required by NEPA and the travel management rule.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Enforce state laws for noise control the use of approved spark arresters and green sticker registration as part of overall OHV administration activities. (LRMP p. 4-19)	Not needed; matter of law.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Consistent with the Forest Plan, identify (in cooperation with the state, other agencies, and user groups) opportunities to develop segments of trail that support the concept of a statewide trail system. An objective of this system is to connect use areas and provide opportunities for long distance trail touring. (LRMP p. 4-20)	Precluded by the proclamation (Clinton 2000) restriction to motorized use on roads only.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Forest Trail Plan: a) 4WD trails; b) open riding and compensation credit; c) trail plan involvement; d) cooperation among user groups in identifying trail uses and opportunities. (MSA pp. 102-104)	Not applicable as standards/guidelines; see narrative discussion in this section of Appendix A.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Item f refers to wording with a trail mileage table, that numbers are estimates and final would be in trail plan. (MSA p. 107)	No longer applicable, as the proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires that 0 miles of trail are open to OHV.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Item g says that minor ROS boundary changes could occur in other planning documents. (MSA p. 107)	Not needed; if ROS changes are needed, a spot plan amendment can be done in environmental analysis documents without this standard/guideline.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Emphasize providing and maintaining a comprehensive network of OHV trails in Roded Natural ROS class areas. (LRMP p. 4-43)	This appears in management area OW1; OHV trails are not allowed by the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Emphasize providing and maintaining a comprehensive network of OHV trails. (LRMP p. 4-46)	This appears in management area MC1; OHV trails are not allowed by the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Direct OHV use to areas away from concentrations of people (e.g., campgrounds and other heavily used areas). (LRMP pp. 4-55, 4-57, 4-60, 4-62)	This appears in management areas LRMP in BO2, OW2, CF3, and is similar in MC2; the proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires that motorized vehicles be used on designated roads only.
Wheeled off-highway vehicles (OHVs) (including mountain bikes)	Enhancement of recreational opportunities will be considered in timber sale planning, where appropriate. (MSA p. 107) (This would have replaced language in LRMP p. 4-89: Provide OHV recreational opportunities when compatible with timber activities.)	This would apply to management area CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Winter snow dispersed recreation	Manage over snow vehicles and cross-country ski opportunities recognizing the need for segregating conflicting uses. (LRMP p. 4-20)	The proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires that motorized vehicles, including over snow vehicles, be used on designated roads only.
Winter snow dispersed recreation	Undertake planning effort to identify the specifics of winter recreation activities including motorized and non-motorized uses. (LRMP p. 4-20)	The proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires that motorized vehicles be used on designated roads only. For non-motorized uses, future trail development to be guided by recreation need and resource protection needs, to be addressed in site specific environmental analysis.
Non-motorized (e.g., horses, hikers—non-mechanized)	Keep open the entire planning area. (LRMP p. 4-20)	Not needed; future trail development to be guided by recreation need and resource protection needs, to be addressed in site specific environmental analysis.
Recreation management (private permitted uses)	Prepare future use determination needs assessments for resorts and organization sites prior to issuing new permits, when existing facilities are sold, and new termination dates are requested and the criteria listed above is applicable. (LRMP p. 4-20)	Not needed; policy.
Recreation management (private permitted uses)	Encourage development of recreation uses on private lands. Permit uses and/or activities on National Forest System lands only after full consideration of the	Not needed; regulation/policy.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
	opportunities provided by others, both public and private. (LRMP p. 4-20)	
Water-oriented use	North Fork Kern River: a) Lloyd Meadow Road: designate and manage sites for day and overnight use including regulated parking during the managed season throughout the first decade. (LRMP p. 4-21)	Time frame has passed; being implemented.
Water-oriented use	Maintain current mix of dispersed/developed, night/day use along the Tule River. (LRMP p. 4-21)	Need more flexibility to respond to changing recreation demand in the future.
Water-oriented use	Hume Lake area: b) Complete recreation action plan for the Hume Lake basin during the first decade. (LRMP p. 4-21)	Time frame has passed.
Trails (non-motorized)	Allow changes and increases to the existing trail system on the forest (new trail construction). Project specific EAs will be used to determine if some new trails need to be constructed in popular areas; to possibly replace trails causing resource and facility damage and/or receiving low use (these types of trails will be abandoned); to prevent user conflicts; and/or to meet other needs. (LRMP p. 4-23, 4-24)	Not needed; policy.
Trails (non-motorized)	Maintain, relocate, or reconstruct 50 percent of the trail system during the first decade. Emphasize preventing resource damage, including signs to facilitate use. (LRMP p. 4-24)	Time frame has passed. Managing resource damage is addressed by policy.
Trails (non-motorized)	Maintain trails consistent with ROS concepts at levels determined by the trail system analysis procedures, with priority given to dispersing users and preventing further deterioration of the resources. (LRMP p. 4-24)	Not needed; policy.
Trails (non-motorized)	Relocate system trails out of meadows where unacceptable damage is occurring. (LRMP p. 4-24)	Not needed; covered by Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001).
Trails (non-motorized)	Maintain and develop trails to meet user needs and protect resource values. (LRMP pp. 4-24, 4-43, 4-46, 4-51, 4-54, 4-57, 4-59, 4-62, 4-66, 4-69, 4-74, 4-77, 4-79, 4-81, 4-86)	This appears (in some cases the wording is slightly different) on p. 4-24 and in management areas OW1, MC1, CF1, BO2, OW2, MC2, CF3, OW5, MC5, CF5; BO6, OW6, MC6, and CF6, which are superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001); not needed; policy.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont’d.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Trails (non-motorized)	Retain and maintain needed trails. Allow development of new trails where compatible with timber management activities. (LRMP p. 4-88)	This appears in management area CF7, which is superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001) and is inconsistent with the proclamation (Clinton 2000).
Trails (non-motorized)	Remove trails from meadows, wherever necessary to protect meadow resources. (Management area CF6) (MSA p. 106)	Superseded by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (2001).
Rural community and human resources	Provide where feasible an environment that promotes the active participation of all segments of the public in the management of the forest. a) Promote the use of symbol signing for the hearing impaired. b) Utilize bilingual personnel, brochures and signing in areas heavily used by the Hispanic community. (LRMP pp. 4-36, 4-37)	Not needed; item “a” is a matter of law/regulation; item “b” would be addressed in the civil rights impact analysis.
Rural community and human resources	Ensure over time that forest service facilities are responsive to the design needs of the physically challenged. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation.
Rural community and human resources	Ensure that federally conducted and assisted programs administered by the Forest Service (including contracting opportunities and special-use permits) are responsive to the needs of minority groups. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; matter of law/regulation.
Lands	Survey mark and post all property lines to Forest Service standards. Give priority to those lands needed for management activities and where high potential for encroachment exists. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; policy (FSM 7150).
Lands	Grant new non-recreation special-use permits or easements only when suitable private land is not available and they would not conflict with forest management objectives. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; policy/regulation (FSM 2700; 36 CFR 251).
Lands	Continue minimum level of administration of special uses that meet current direction except where higher levels are warranted on case-by-case basis. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; policy (FSM 2700) covers special uses administration.
Lands	Acquire available private land and dispose of public land only where needed to reduce administrative costs, foster resource programs, or resolve administrative problems; and have a favorable benefit-cost ratio. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; acquiring available private land from willing sellers/donors is policy (FSM 5400); the proclamation (Clinton 2000) requires that disposing of public land can only occur to further the protective purposes of the monument; cost requirements are a matter of law/regulation.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Human Use and Recreation, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Lands	Acquire rights-of-way needed for management activities and to provide public access to national forest system lands. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; policy (FSM 5400).
Lands	Respond to interagency transfer proposals, as needed. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed; required process.
Lands	Review existing withdrawals to determine if they should be continued and for how long. (LRMP p. 4-37)	Not needed for the Monument, which has been withdrawn, as required by the proclamation (Clinton 2000).

Scenery Management

In 1995 national forests were directed to change from the Visual Management System to the Scenery Management System. This involves changes in

terminology and inventory and analysis processes. These changes are reflected in new, revised, and deleted standards and guidelines.

Table 59 New Standards and Guidelines for Scenery

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Scenic resources	Include mitigation measures for activities that alter the landscape beyond the adopted minimum scenic stability (MSS).	MSS is a new indicator added to scenery analysis and inventory process with the change from VMS to SMS.

Table 60 Revised Standards and Guidelines for Scenery

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Scenic resources	Design management activities to meet and exceed when practical the specified Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO).	Changes in procedure from Appendix J of the Scenery Management System (SMS) replaces VQO of the Visual Management System (VMS) and SIO with MSI.
Scenic resources	Meet scenic integrity objectives with the following exceptions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept occasional short-term departure from adopted minimum scenic integrity that will lead to long-term desired scenic character if disclosed in a site-specific NEPA decision, and 2. Temporary drops of one minimum scenic integrity level may be made during and immediately following project implementation providing they do not exceed 3 years in duration. 	Wording from Forest Plan was adjusted to reflect the SMS process.

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Scenery Management, cont'd.

Table 61 Deleted Standards and Guidelines for Scenery

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Visual resources	Manage Highway 180, Highway 190, Highway 178, Sierra Way (SM99), the Western Divide from Quaking Aspen to the Ponderosa, the Generals Highway, and heavily used trails that lead directly into wildernesses as Sensitivity Level 1. (LRMP p. 4-23)	This information would be useful as part of a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guide. The proclamation increased the sensitivity of scenic resources along trails and roads within the Monument. sensitivity level was replaced with concern levels with SMS.
Visual resources	Manage about 270 miles of roads and 200 miles of trail as sensitivity level 2. (LRMP p. 4-23)	This information would be useful as part of a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guide. The proclamation increased the sensitivity of scenic resources along trails and roads within the Monument. sensitivity level was replaced with concern levels with SMS.
Visual resources	Manage the remainder of the forested land as either sensitivity level 2 or 3. Exceptions occur in the following ROS classes where the greatest visual effect allowed will be: SPNM=PR, SPM=M, RN and R=MM, with M as the primary VQO. (LRMP p. 4-23)	ROS information would be useful to guide recreation and scenic vista development, along with the recreation niche settings, but need not be required. Changes to the mapped ROS class area locations would occur for Alternatives B, C, D, F.
Visual resources	Manage the remainder of the non-forested lands according to ROS classes. The recommended maximum visual effect allowed will be: SPNM=R, SPM=PR, RN and R=MM, with M as the primary VQO. (LRMP p. 4-23)	ROS information would be useful to guide recreation development, along with the recreation niche settings, but need not be required. Changes to the mapped ROS class area locations would occur for Alternatives B, C, D, F.
Visual resources	Initiate corrective action to meet adopted VQO when landscape rehabilitation is needed. (LRMP p. 4-23)	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Visual resources	Consider visual concerns of individual landowners and agencies within and adjacent to national forest system lands when planning national Forest management activities (see timber management, silvicultural systems). (LRMP p. 4-23)	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Visual resources	Manage activities to reflect where ever possible the form, line, color, texture of natural occurrences when viewed from middle ground and Background distances. (LRMP p. 4-23)	This information is contained in guidance for managing scenic resources. Does not need to be restated in the standards/guidelines.
Management area: OW1, CF1, BO2, OW2, CF3, CF5	Protect large or unique tree character in foreground (FG) R and PR zones (VQO classes).	This information would be useful as a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: OW1, MC1, BO2, MC2, CF3, OW5, MC5, CF5	Use M as minimum VQO with emphasis on R and PR (VQO classes).	This information would be useful as a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guideline.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Scenery Management, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Management area: MC1	When corrective action is to be taken, landscape rehabilitation requirements are: Adopted VQO/field season after action R first PR third M fifth	This information would be useful as a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: MC1, MC5	Design edges and openings to meet the VQO (VQO classes): R and PR—feather, vary edge density M—feather only	This information would be useful as a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: MC1, MC5	Achieve visual variety through random mosaic pattern by varying: a. vegetation density b. age classes c. distribution of treatments	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: MC1	Introduce landscape enhancement to improve scenic quality.	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: CF1	Use MM as minimum VQO with emphasis on PR (VQO classes).	MM is in conflict with the Monument.
Management area: OW2	Use PR as minimum VQO (VQO class).	No longer applicable for SMS.
Management area: CF1, CF3, CF5	Remove trees selectively to improve visual amenities within high use areas, vista points, and along interpretive trails.	This information would be useful as a strategy but need not be required as a standard/guide applicable to Alternatives B, C, E, but not D.
Management area: CF3	Minimum rotation ages: R = 200 years PR = 140 years M = 100 years	Not applicable; no management for timber.
Management area: CF3	Increase species diversity of native species.	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: WF4	Maintain P VQO (VQO class).	Covered by the Wilderness Act; standard/guide not needed.
Management area: OW5	Open undeveloped vistas for viewing scenery.	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.
Management area: CF5	Specify vegetative clearings less than five acres in R and PR zones (VQO classes).	This information would be useful as a strategy, but need not be required as a standard/guideline.

Roads and Facilities

The following standards/guidelines apply to all action alternatives (unless noted otherwise).

Table 62 Revised Roads Standards and Guidelines

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Roads	Maintain developed trailhead access roads and primary access routes to developed facilities at a minimum of maintenance level 3.	Revised from LRMP pp. 4-44, 47, 53, 55, 58, 60, 63, 67, 70, 76, in BO2, OW1, OW2, OW5, MC1, MC2, MC5, CF1, CF3, CF5.
Roads	Use seasonal closure as a tool to protect key wildlife values, environmental resources, and road investment.	Revised from LRMP p. 4-38, p. 4-76.

Table 63 Deleted Roads Standards and Guidelines

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Roads	Limit road developments in SPM ROS areas to low density, local roads. (LRMP pp. 4-44, 4-47, 4-53, 4-55, 4-58, 4-60, 4-63)	Construct new roads only when required to manage objects of interest or provide necessary public or administrative access.
Roads	Coordinate road construction with range management practices. (LRMP p. 4-78)	Specific to Management Emphasis 6—grazing, which has been eliminated. Construct new roads only when required to manage objects of interest or provide necessary public or administrative access.
Roads	Discourage use of roads not needed for range management. (LRMP pp. 4-78, 4-80, 4-82)	Specific to management emphasis 6—grazing; land allocations with range emphasis are eliminated. Roads are to be managed for the overall benefit of the monument and the objects of interest, not only for range.
Roads	Manage local roads primarily for the timber resource. (LRMP p. 4-89)	Specific to management emphasis 7—timber; proclamation (Clinton 2000) eliminated management for timber production.

Table 64 Roads Standards and Guidelines to be Changed to General Guidance

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Roads	Manage roads to improve range management practices (i.e., seasonal closure) when consistent with the purpose of the Monument. (Modified from LRMP pp. 4-78, 4-80, 4-82, 4-87)	Specific to management emphasis 6—grazing; land allocations with range emphasis are eliminated.
Roads	Maintain selected roads for OHV enthusiasts in accordance with the Travel Management Plan. (Modified from LRMP p. 4-38)	This is useful to enhance visitor experience. Alternatives C & D: no OHV use (street licensed vehicles only), so does not apply.

Appendix A—Standards and Guidelines

Proposed Changes to Management Direction—Roads and Facilities, cont'd.

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Roads	Improve signing of road closures to include the reason for closure. (LRMP p. 4-38)	Useful guidance for safety.
Roads	Conduct an integrated interdisciplinary transportation analysis, following Travel Analysis, as part of landscape analysis. Complete unauthorized road inventories for each national forest within 10 years. (2001 SNFPA ROD p. A-32)	This information is useful to help guide road management.
Roads	<p>Manage the road system to assure resource protection, provide safe access, and accommodate resource management needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Emphasize maintenance on maintenance levels 4-5 and high volume maintenance level 3 roads to provide high degree of user comfort. b. May not maintain for user comfort maintenance level 3 roads with low traffic volumes. c. Open roads to public travel unless closure is necessary to ensure resource protection, road investment protection or for other management reasons. <p>(LRMP p. 4-38)</p>	Useful guidance to manage the road system.
Roads	The management plan shall contain a transportation plan for the Monument that provides for visitor enjoyment and understanding about the scientific and historic objects in the Monument, consistent with their protection. (Clinton 2000)	Required by the proclamation (Clinton 2000) and is useful information to help guide transportation system.

Table 65 Facilities Standards and Guidelines to be Changed to Strategies

Forest Plan Category	Standard/Guideline	Rationale
Buildings and utilities	Rehabilitate, replace, or relocate existing buildings to support management of the Monument. (LRMP p. 4-38)	Useful guidance for safety.
Buildings and utilities	Maintain buildings to at least the minimum level necessary to protect health and prevent building deterioration. (LRMP p. 4-38)	Useful guidance for safety.
Buildings and utilities	Maintain administrative facilities consistent with wilderness values. (LRMP p. 4-65)	Useful guidance for wilderness aesthetics.