

# **Chapter 3**

## **Congressionally Reserved Areas**



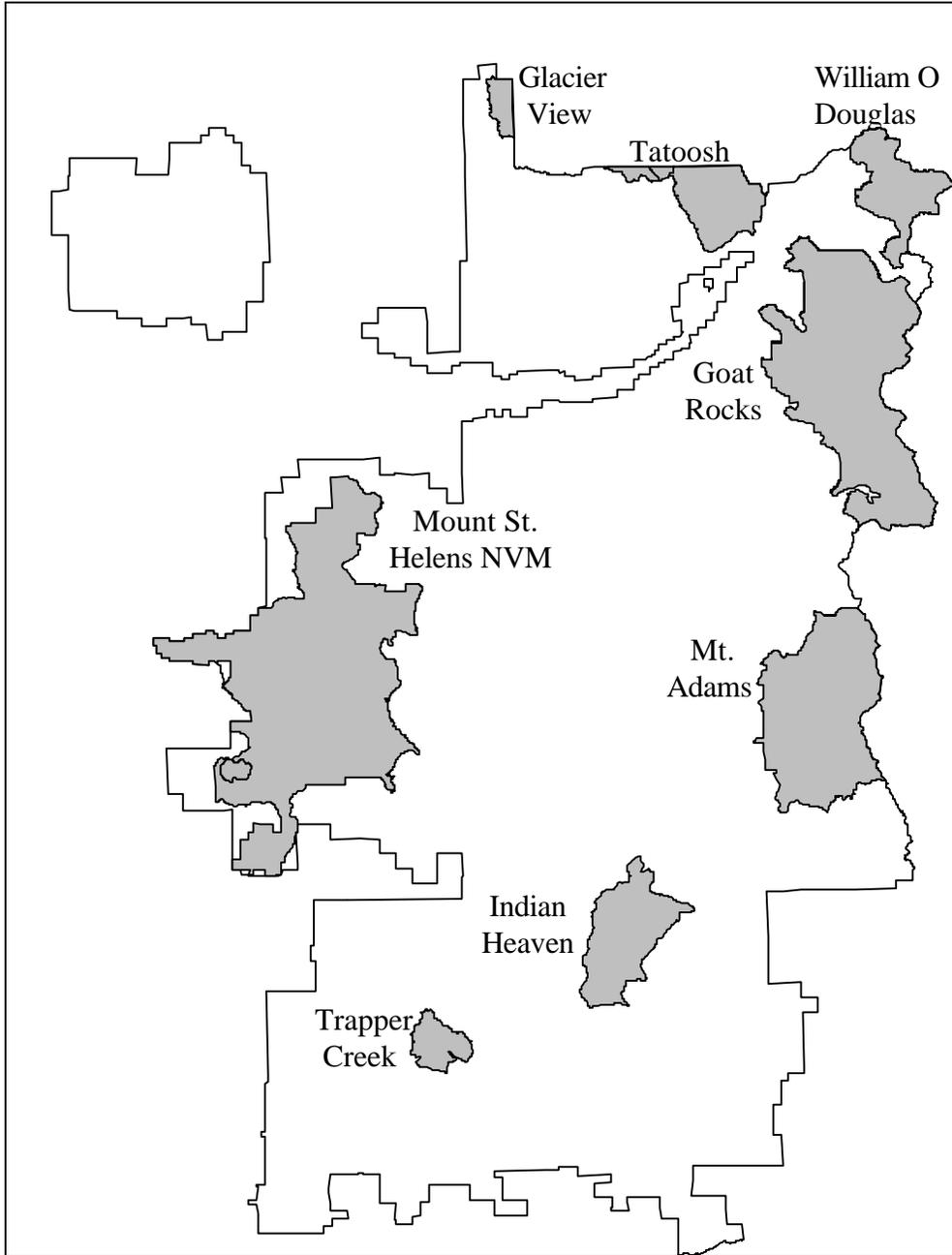
# Chapter 3

## Congressionally Reserved Areas

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***Congressionally Reserved Areas Map***  
*Gifford Pinchot National Forest*



# Chapter 3

## Congressionally Reserved Areas [ROD C-8>

Key and non-Key Watersheds are specified for all areas, and therefore overlay all other land allocations. Where Key Watersheds occur within Congressionally Reserved Areas, standards and guidelines for Key Watersheds apply to the extent they are consistent with the legislated direction for the Congressionally Reserved Area.

See “Hierarchy of Standards and Guidelines” in Chapter 1, and “Key Watersheds” in Chapter 2.

These standards and guidelines retain initial land allocations for Congressionally Reserved Areas. These include lands with congressional designations that normally preclude timber harvest.

Management of these lands follows the direction written in the applicable legislation or plans. Direction from these standards and guidelines also applies where it is more restrictive or provides greater benefits to late-successional forest related species, unless the application of these standards and guidelines would be contrary to legislative or regulatory language or intent. <ROD C-8]

## Management Area Category Standards and Guides

[FP IV-91>

National Forest land within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is assigned to various Management Area Categories (MACs). Each Management Area Category has a goal, or management emphasis. Each Management Area Category includes one or more management areas. Each management area has a set of standards and guidelines and other management practices designed to achieve multiple use goals and objectives. The direction given in this section applies only to the management areas that are Congressionally reserved. The Management Area Categories are shown on the Amendment Map. <FP IV-91]

*Table 3-1 Management Area Categories within Congressionally Reserved Areas.*

Management Area Category	Code	Acres*
Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument	AA	111,845
Goat Marsh RNA & Mount St. Helens NVM	A8	1,306
Wilderness Area	WW	179,018
Butter Creek RNA in Tatoosh Wilderness	W6	532
<b>Total Congressionally Reserved Area</b>		<b>292,701</b>
<small>* Includes Riparian Reserves</small>		

# Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

## Management Area Category A

Includes Management Areas AB, AD, AL,  
A8 (Goat Marsh RNA), and A7 (Wild River) [FP IV-113>

### **Goal**

Manage the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument to protect the geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources, allowing geologic forces and ecological succession to continue substantially unimpeded. Permit scientific study, research, recreation, and interpretation, consistent with the provisions of the Act.

### **Description of Lands Where This MAC is Applied**

This MAC applies to all lands within the boundaries of the National Volcanic Monument as identified in Public Law 97-243. Management areas AB, AD, AL and A7 are shown on the Amendment Map as “AA.”

The purpose of this MAC is to link the direction found in Public Law 97-243 to the Forest Plan. This Act calls for the protection of the natural and cultural resources, while allowing the geologic forces and ecological succession to continue substantially unimpeded. The Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) provides the basic direction for this area; where direction is absent, however, these prescriptions and the Forest-wide standards and guidelines will apply. See Chapter 4, “Research Natural Area,” prescription A8, for additional direction concerning the Goat Marsh Research Natural Area. See Chapter 4, “Wild and Scenic Rivers,” prescription A7 and the Forest Plan *Final Environmental Impact Statement*, Appendix E, for additional direction on Wild Rivers.

### **Desired Future Condition**

Emphasis is given to allowing the natural geologic and ecologic processes to occur for study and research. The blast zone provides the general public with a very dramatic picture of the effects of the 1980 eruption; these will become less notable as time passes. Facilities such as roads and viewpoints will be constructed to facilitate appreciation of the area.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

#### Planning and Inventory

1. Recreational and interpretive facilities shall be provided for public use.
2. The Visual Quality Objectives and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes assigned to these Management Areas are:

Management Prescription	VQO	ROS
AB	Retention	Primitive
AD	Retention	Semi-primitive Non-Motorized
A7	Retention	Semi-primitive Non-Motorized
AL	Retention	Roaded Natural
A8	Preservation	Roaded Natural

Prescription A8 is applicable only to the Goat Marsh Research Natural Area  
 Prescription A7 is applied only to Wild River corridors within the Monument.  
 During the winter, approximately 30,000 acres of the area assigned  
 Prescription AD is assigned the Semi-Primitive Motorized ROS class. This  
 assignment is made so that oversnow machines may be allowed if snow depth  
 and other considerations permit.

3. All new developments should be located in areas of low risk from volcanic activity.

### Facility and Site Preconstruction and Construction

Facilities should be developed according to direction found in the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP).

### Use Administration

1. Where appropriate, access within the Monument may be prohibited or limited to protect the significant features of the Monument. These are identified in the CMP.
2. Motorized vehicles are permitted for emergency use, essential administration, and authorized scientific research. Off-road vehicles are not permitted away from roads during the summer. With adequate snow to protect soil and vegetation, oversnow vehicles may be permitted during the winter in designated areas.
3. Mountain bicycles are permitted on trails, unless specifically prohibited to protect selected research and interpretive opportunities, or to eliminate user conflicts.

4. Recreational use will be limited in special, unique, and high value habitats such as cliffs, caves, talus, wetlands, deer and elk winter range, riparian corridors, calving areas, and ptarmigan habitat.
5. Management of recreational use will be coordinated with research activity. Use must not substantially affect natural features or impede natural recovery processes.
6. Hunting and fishing are allowed within the Monument. Any restrictions are found in the Monument Fish and Wildlife Management Plan (a cooperative plan with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife).

## **Wildlife And Fish**

### *Planning and Administration*

1. Management requirements for indicator species will also be maintained. Development and management which concentrates recreational activity in these areas should not be permitted. Dispersed recreational use is acceptable.
2. Fish stocking may occur as provided for in the Monument Fish and Wildlife Plan.
3. All snags and down logs will be retained except for those instances where removal is required for human safety or to protect property.

## **Range**

### *Planning and Inventory*

Livestock grazing should not be permitted.

## **Timber**

### *Administration*

Timber harvest will not be scheduled. Harvesting is not permitted except for that necessary to prevent fire, disease, and other agents which endanger irreplaceable features within the Monument. Harvest may also be permitted to prevent damage to significant resources adjacent to the Monument or for public safety. Ordinary timber salvage is not permitted.

## **Lands**

### *Special Use Management and Withdrawals*

1. Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal lands are withdrawn from all forms of entry or appropriations.
2. Nonconforming uses should be discontinued when opportunities arise.
3. Except for valid existing rights, Federal lands within the Monument are withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the United States mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing.
4. Research projects will be by special use permit.

### *Landownership Planning*

Lands should be retained or acquired, Landownership Category I, in accordance with Public Law 97-243.

## **Facilities**

### *Road Operation*

1. Open roads will be limited to those specifically designated as open in the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Other existing roads will be closed or decommissioned .
2. Roads in Deer and Elk Winter Range will be closed from December 1 to April 1, except for the plowing of Road 83 to access the Swift Creek Sno-Park and Highway 504 to Johnston Ridge, to provide recreation access. Parking for winter sports will be located outside of inventoried winter range.
3. Off-road vehicle use on Deer and Elk Winter Range is prohibited from December 1 to April 1, except for a minor portion of Road 81 (on the edge of winter range) where on-trail use is allowed to access higher elevation winter sports areas.

## **Protection**

### *Fire Management*

1. Open campfires are prohibited in all areas of blowdown, standing dead fringe and newly created mudflows year-around.
2. The Suppression Strategy, Confine or Contain, should be used depending on the surrounding values. Suppression Strategy, Control, will be used in the blowdown areas.
3. Modified fire suppression tactics which would minimize surface disturbance in sensitive areas should be considered.

*Law Enforcement*

Closure to public use necessitated by volcanic activity will continue to be jointly established by the Forest Service, State of Washington, and other appropriate agencies.

*Pest Suppression and Prevention*

Catastrophic infestation control actions will be determined by an interdisciplinary process to ensure that methods used are within the intent of the Monument Act.

<FP IV 115]

## Wilderness

### Management Area Category W

Includes Management Areas W2, W3, W4, W5,  
W6 (Butter Creek RNA), and W7 (Wild Rivers) [FP IV 116>

#### **Goal**

Preserve the wilderness character. Allow for natural processes and provide opportunities for solitude, challenge, and inspiration. Within these objectives, and following a policy of nondegradation management, provide for appropriate levels of recreational, scenic, educational, scientific, and in some cases, historical uses.

#### **Description of Lands Where This MAC is Applied**

This MAC is applied to wildernesses classified under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984. Management Areas W2, W3, W4, W5 and W7 are shown on the Amendment map as “WW.”

#### **Desired Future Condition**

The area retains its primeval character without permanent alterations or human habitation. It appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature; evidence of human intrusion is substantially unnoticeable. Vegetation is the result of natural succession, and may vary from none to natural openings to stands of mature and old-growth trees. Wildlife habitat and interactions among species are the result of natural processes. The area contributes to the protection of both natural plant and animal gene pools. No roads are present except as required to serve valid mineral or energy projects initiated prior to December 31, 1983. The area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive-type recreation without motorized activities. Isolation from the sights and sounds of others is likely, as is the experience of independence, closeness to nature, tranquillity, and self-reliance. Subtle differences in the environment may be apparent, depending on which of the following Wilderness Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) class the visitor is in:

*PRISTINE* - The area is characterized as an extensive, unmodified, natural environment.

Natural processes and conditions dominate. This area provides the most outstanding opportunities for isolation, solitude, risk, and challenge. Encounters with other visitors will usually be infrequent. There are no system trails in this class. Areas in this class are of sufficient size to assure a remote experience away from sights and sounds of human activity. (A minimum of 5,000 acres can be used as a starting point for establishing whether or not an area is of sufficient size to be considered pristine).

*PRIMITIVE* - The area is characterized by an essentially unmodified, natural environment.

Concentrations of visitors are low and evidence of human use is minimal. Trail density is low. The area has a high opportunity for isolation, solitude, exploration, risk, and challenge. A high degree of outdoor skill is often needed.

*SEMI-PRIMITIVE* - The area is characterized by a predominantly unmodified environment.

System trails and campsites are present and there is evidence of human use.

A moderate to high degree of opportunity exists for exploring and experiencing isolation, independence, and self-reliance in a natural environment.

*TRANSITION* - This area is characterized by a predominantly unmodified environment, however, the concentrations of visitors may be moderate to high at various times. The highest number of encounters with other users and the most evidence of human use is in these areas. "Day Use" activities are typically a large component of total use in these areas. Opportunities for exploration and experiencing isolation are reduced and there is a reduced challenge and risk as compared to other WROS classes.

*SPECIAL AREA* - These include such areas as those congressionally acknowledged as having significant cultural or historic value, and those with special wildlife values. recreational use is not encouraged in these areas.

### Standards and Guidelines

The following direction applies to all management areas in MAC W unless otherwise indicated. See Chapter 4, "Research Natural Area," MAC Y, for additional direction concerning the Butter Creek Research Natural Area in the Tatoosh Wilderness, prescription W6.

### Recreation

#### Planning , Inventory, and Use Administration

The Visual Quality Objectives and Wilderness Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes assigned to these management areas are:

Management Prescription	VQO	WROS
W2	Preservation	Pristine
W3	Preservation	Primitive
W4	Preservation	Semi-Primitive
W5	Preservation	Transition
W6 and W7	Preservation	Special Area

Prescription W6 is applicable only to the Butter Creek RNA. Prescription W7 applies only to wild river corridors within wilderness.

1. The following standards and guidelines summarize the Limits of Acceptable Change, and apply to specific WROS classes. Refer to Figure B-1 in Appendix B of the Forest Plan for a more complete display of the Limits of Acceptable Change:
  - a) *PRISTINE* (Prescription W2): The maximum number of Recreation Visitor Days use (RVDs) permitted should not exceed 0.25/acre/year. Encounters between parties should be limited to an average of one per day. Party size, including stock animals, should not exceed six. Livestock are not encouraged in Pristine

areas. Party size may be increased to a combination of 10 by written permit. There should be no vegetation loss at campsites, and no mineral soil exposed by visitor use.

- b) *PRIMITIVE* (Prescription W3): RVDs permitted should not exceed 0.001/acre/year. Encounters between parties should be limited to an average of two per day. Party size, visitors, and stock should not exceed 12, but can be up to 30 by written permit. Vegetation loss at campsites should not exceed 200 square feet, or less than one percent of any acre. Mineral soil exposed should be less than 20 square feet.
  - c) *SEMI-PRIMITIVE* (Prescription W4): RVDs permitted should not exceed 5/acre/year. Encounters between parties should be limited to an average of five per day. Party size, visitors, and stock should not exceed 12, but can be up to 30 by written permit. Vegetation loss at campsites should not exceed 400 square feet, or one percent of any acre. Mineral soil exposed should be less than 50 square feet.
  - d) *TRANSITION* (Prescription W5): RVDs permitted should not exceed 15/acre/year. Encounters between parties should be limited to an average of eight per day. Party size, visitors and stock, should not exceed 12, but can be up to 30 by written permit. Vegetation loss at campsites should not exceed 600 square feet, or one percent of any acre. Mineral soil exposed should be less than 75 square feet.
  - e) *SPECIAL AREA* (Prescriptions W6 and W7): Each of the areas is assigned a secondary management prescription which is fully compatible with the wilderness classification. Example, the Butter Creek Research Natural Area is a Special Area within the Tatoosh Wilderness. In addition to the secondary standards and guidelines applicable to Special Areas, visitor use capacities and standards for protection of resources such as soil and vegetation will be established for each area. Refer to Appendix B of the Forest Plan for the capacities and standards established for the Butter Creek RNA and wild rivers within wilderness.
2. An Annual Implementation Schedule will be prepared for each wilderness to ensure that Forest Plan direction and objectives are met.
  3. If user impacts exceed standards such as those for vegetation loss or soil exposed, limitations on use may be applied to specific use areas.
  4. If active measures are required to meet the WROS standards, measures such as: pulling back vehicle access points, lowering standards of access roads, trailheads, and trails, or diverting use should be considered prior to implementing a use permit system.

5. environment, and (2) are dependent upon the wilderness environment. Other use should be encouraged outside wilderness.
6. Improvements such as primitive toilets must be necessary for the protection of the wilderness resource and not for the convenience of users. Improvements should be constructed of natural materials and designed to harmonize with the environment.
7. Commercial outfitting and guide services may be authorized where compatible with general public use and wilderness management objectives.
8. Install and maintain the minimum number of signs. These should be located only where necessary for protection of the wilderness resource and for basic visitor orientation.
9. Semi-Primitive and Primitive WROS areas should provide for varying levels of difficulty for foot and/or horse travel while minimizing physical and visual impacts on the land. Semi-Primitive and Primitive areas may be designated for use only by hikers or horses where necessary to reduce user conflicts, prevent resource damage, or to provide a variety of recreation experiences.
10. Recreation stock is prohibited on lakeshores, streambanks, and other wet areas except for watering. Such use may not be permitted on particularly sensitive wet areas. Stock should be held overnight out of view outside riparian reserves, and at least 200 feet from water, trails, or camp areas.
11. Motorized and mechanized equipment, including off-road vehicles, bicycles, wagons and carts, is not permitted.
12. Private and commercial aircraft shall be discouraged below 2,000 feet above ground level; military aircraft shall be discouraged from overflight training missions.
13. The landing of aircraft or dropping of supplies within the wilderness is prohibited. Exceptions may be granted for emergencies or administrative purposes.
14. Project work crews, contractors, and other administrative users should abide by the same group size limitation as the public. Work should be scheduled during the low-use season.
15. Party campsites should be separated and be at least 200 feet from trails, lakes, streams, and meadows and outside Riparian Reserves.

### **Resource Protection and Enhancement**

1. Structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or approaching 50 years of age, may be retained if they are:

- a) Necessary for wilderness purposes or administrative needs as provided in Sections 4(b) and (c) of the Wilderness Act.
  - b) Of national, regional, or local significance and are not directly or indirectly resulting in significant degradation of wilderness values.
  - c) Structures not meeting at least one of these criteria may be removed or allowed to deteriorate naturally.
2. Structures ineligible for the National Register, or less than 50 years of age, should be removed or allowed to deteriorate naturally if they are not considered necessary for wilderness purposes or administrative needs as provided for in Sections 4(a) and (b) of the Act.
  3. Cultural resources, or other features of interest, may be interpreted, provided it is done outside the wilderness. Informal verbal interpretation may be permitted in the wilderness. Cultural resources in wilderness will not be signed on the ground for the general public.

## **Wildlife and Fish**

### *Planning and Administration*

Wildlife and fish management will be conducted in accordance with FSM 2323.3 and "Policies and Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Management." in the Forest Service Wilderness Management Handbook, FSH 2323.1.

1. Fish stocking may continue at lakes and streams where it historically occurred. Barren waters may be considered for stocking, if there is mutual agreement that no appreciable loss of scientific values or adverse effects on wilderness resources will occur.
2. Native fish species will be used in the stocking program.
3. Aircraft stocking will be permitted only on those lakes stocked by aircraft prior to wilderness classification. No landing of aircraft is permitted. Stocking should be done before or after the visitor season, if possible.
4. Chemical treatment of waters is permitted for the re-establishment of native species, establishment of Threatened or Endangered aquatic species, or to correct undesirable conditions resulting from the influence of human activity.
5. Management activities and decisions will emphasize maintaining native species, with particular emphasis on the habitat requirements of Threatened and Endangered Species. Manage to protect known populations of Threatened and Endangered Species where necessary for their perpetuation and aid in their recovery in areas of previous habitation. Actions taken to protect or recover Threatened and Endangered Species may include habitat manipulation and special protection measures within wilderness. When alternate areas outside wilderness offer equal or better protection, action should be taken outside of wilderness first. Indigenous

- species may be re-established. Threatened and Endangered Species may be established to correct the undesirable influences of human activities.
6. Visitor activity may be regulated on a seasonal basis to minimize the impact on natural population levels or distribution of native plant and animal species.
  7. Where appropriate, fire should be allowed to play a natural role in maintaining plant and animal diversity to ensure a natural abundance and distribution of native species.
  8. Exotic plants and nonnative animal species will not be introduced.
  9. Trails and camping areas should avoid areas such as critical mountain goat habitat, critical fish spawning habitat, marmot concentrations, and other areas where significant concentrations occur, to reduce harassment of the animals. Existing facilities should be relocated.

## Range

### *Administration and Management*

1. Permanent corrals shall not be permitted.
2. Commercial livestock grazing may be permitted where it occurred prior to passage of the Wilderness Act.
3. Livestock use shall be managed so that native plant and animal species are maintained. Nonnative plant species shall not be introduced. The possibility of accidental introduction will be minimized by prohibiting the use of hay, straw and unprocessed grain as supplemental feed.
4. Pack and saddle stock shall use supplemental feed (certified weed-free) in areas where native forage is not able to recover and maintain its composition and vigor into the next growing season, or where grazing would result in degradation of visual quality.

## Timber

### *Administration*

No scheduled harvest, reforestation, or timber stand improvement activities will occur. Ordinary timber salvage is not permitted.

No physical encroachment into Wilderness will be allowed to facilitate logging, e.g. locating tailholds within wilderness is forbidden.

### *Firewood gathering*

Firewood gathering, except for campfires, will not be permitted.

### *Genetic Forest Tree Improvement Program*

Genetic improvement activities will be limited to cone collection for genetic sampling. All pickers will adhere to the following as a minimum:

1. Trees or areas designated for picking will not be conspicuously marked or cultured.
2. Natural processes must be allowed to continue, i.e., no more than 50 percent of the cones from any tree or area will be removed in any one year.
3. Caution is required in removing cones, i.e., do not unnecessarily damage trees and avoid shooting in areas of popular public use, as during hunting seasons.
4. Pickers will conform to all established wilderness standards, including use capacities.

### **Water, Soil, and Air**

#### *Rights/Use Management*

1. Except as provided for in the Wilderness Act, watersheds shall not be altered or managed to provide increased water quantity, quality, or timing of discharge.
2. Livestock and human use shall be regulated to maintain all water bodies at the Streamside Management Unit Class I standard (nondegradation). Any water body found to be below standard should be restored to the prescribed quality.

### **Minerals And Geology**

#### *Inventory and Development*

Common variety mineral sources will not be inventoried or developed.

#### *Processing of Exploration, Lease Applications, and Site Specific Development Proposals, and Administration*

1. No new mineral or energy leases will be issued.
2. Exploration and development of valid existing claims for locatable minerals or oil/natural gas and geothermal leases will be conducted in a manner which minimizes degradation of wilderness values.

### **Lands**

#### *Special Use Management*

Permits, licenses, easements, and rights-of-way should not be recommended.

### *Withdrawals, Modification, and Revocation*

All lands are withdrawn from mineral entry at the time the area is designated as wilderness, except for claims which are valid at the time of designation.

### *Landownership Planning*

All lands will be placed in Ownership Category I (Retain or Acquire).

## **Facilities**

### *Transportation Planning*

Forest Service roads and other administrative facilities will not be permitted. Any existing road will be returned to a natural condition unless it serves a valid mining claim or lease. Such roads would not be open to the public and all maintenance would be the responsibility of the claimant or lessee.

## **Protection**

### *Fire Management*

1. Use suppression techniques which result in the least possible evidence of human activity.
2. Naturally-occurring fires shall be permitted to burn in specific areas if they meet the prescription parameters for the zone. All naturally-occurring ignitions are considered prescribed until declared wildfire, in which case the appropriate suppression strategies will be used.
3. Under specific conditions as described in the prescribed natural fire plan, prescribed fires may be ignited by forest managers to meet specific Wilderness objectives as described in FSM 2324.22 and the approved prescription parameters for the zone.
4. Detection flights should avoid over-flight of the wilderness.
5. Fuelbreaks will not be constructed.

### *Pest Management and Suppression*

Insects and disease will be controlled only if a significant threat is posed to resources outside the area. Biological methods will be favored. <FP IV-121]