



Forest Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Stanislaus
National Forest



April 2002

Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction

Stanislaus National Forest



Stanislaus National Forest

Emigrant Wilderness

Management Direction

Tuolumne County, California
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Pacific Southwest Region

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Cover Photo:
Lily Pad Lake
Emigrant Wilderness

Abstract

The Stanislaus National Forest issued an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Record of Decision (ROD) and Forest Plan Amendment for the Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction on April 8, 1998. As a result of subsequent administrative appeals, the Regional Forester later issued an appeal review decision. This document, the "Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction" presents the current Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction, based on the original Forest Plan Amendment as modified through the appeal review process.

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Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction

Stanislaus National Forest

Introduction

The Stanislaus National Forest issued an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Record of Decision (ROD) and Forest Plan Amendment for the Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction (Emigrant Direction) on April 8, 1998. As a result of subsequent administrative appeals, the Regional Forester later issued an appeal review decision. This document, the “Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction” presents the current Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction, based on the original Forest Plan Amendment as modified through the appeal review process.

The Emigrant Direction:

1. Adds Emigrant Wilderness Goals to Forest Plan Goal 20, Wilderness.
2. Adds Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Classes to Forest Plan Management Practice 20-B, Wilderness Management.
3. Adds Emigrant Wilderness management area prescription to Forest Plan Management Area 1, Wilderness and Proposed Wilderness.
4. Adds Emigrant Wilderness monitoring requirements to the Forest Plan monitoring requirements.
5. Adds Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class Map to Forest Plan Maps.

Direction specific to Wilderness is covered in Forest Plan Wilderness and Proposed Wilderness Management Area.

The goal of this Emigrant Direction process is to provide specific, adequate and consistent management direction, including standards and guidelines to prevent significant degradation of the Emigrant Wilderness, in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

The following sections prescribe management direction; establish resource monitoring methods; and, include the Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class Map.

Management Direction

The following sub-sections (Forest Goals; Management Practices; Forestwide Standards and Guidelines; and, Management Area Direction) provide additional management direction for the Emigrant Wilderness.

Forest Goals

The following Goals for the Emigrant Wilderness are in addition to Forest Plan Goal 20, Wilderness.

- a. Within the Emigrant Wilderness:
 1. Maintain and perpetuate the enduring resource of wilderness as one of the multiple uses of National Forest System land.
 2. Maintain wilderness in such a manner that ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.
 3. Minimize the impact of those kinds of uses and activities generally prohibited by the Wilderness Act, but specifically excepted by the Act or subsequent legislation.
 4. Protect and perpetuate wilderness character and public values including, but not limited to, opportunities for scientific study, education, solitude, physical and mental challenge and stimulation, inspiration, and primitive recreation experiences.
 5. Gather information and carry out research in a manner compatible with preserving the wilderness environment to increase understanding of wilderness ecology, wilderness uses, management opportunities, and visitor behavior.

Management Practices

The following management practice for Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Classes is in addition to Forest Plan Management Practice 20-B, Wilderness Management.

Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Classes

Every acre of the Emigrant Wilderness treated by this Emigrant Direction fits into one of the four (I-IV) Opportunity Classes described in Table 1. Opportunity Classes represent land areas with a common management emphasis and similar resource concerns. Each Opportunity Class represents an opportunity for Wilderness purposes that is generated by a particular combination of social, resource and management conditions.

The term “unnoticeable” does not convey an expectation that these areas would be unused, but that the impacts from use would be barely noticeable to the average user (observer).

Table 1 **Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class Desired Condition Objectives**

	Opportunity Class IV	Opportunity Class III	Opportunity Class II	Opportunity Class I
Natural Environment	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2). Localized human uses may have limited effects in some areas.	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2). Localized human uses may have limited effects in few areas.	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2). Localized human uses may have limited effects in very few areas.	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2). No noticeable effects from human uses.
Aquatic	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are minimal.	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are unnoticeable in most areas.	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are unnoticeable.	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are unnoticeable.
Riparian and Terrestrial	Human influences on soils, vegetation and woody debris accumulation are minimal. Wildlife use patterns may show seasonal, temporary alterations due to human influences but are not permanently altered.	Human influences on soils, vegetation and woody debris accumulation are unnoticeable in most areas. Wildlife use patterns may show brief, temporary alterations due to human influences but are not permanently altered.	Human influences on soils, vegetation and woody debris accumulation are unnoticeable. Wildlife use patterns show no noticeable alterations due to human influences.	Human influences on soils, vegetation and woody debris accumulation are unnoticeable. Wildlife use patterns show no noticeable alterations due to human influences.
Atmospheric	Class 1 airshed standards of the Clean Air Act are met, air quality related values are protected and no significant deterioration is allowed.			
Human Environment	The imprint of human influences is substantially unnoticeable. The opportunity for solitude is low to outstanding.	The imprint of human influences is substantially unnoticeable. The opportunity for solitude is moderate to outstanding.	The imprint of human influences is unnoticeable in most areas. The opportunity for solitude is high to outstanding.	The imprint of human influences is unnoticeable. The opportunity for solitude is outstanding.
Recreation	The opportunity for a primitive, unconfined recreation experience is low to outstanding.	The opportunity for a primitive, unconfined recreation experience is moderate to outstanding.	The opportunity for a primitive, unconfined recreation experience is high to outstanding.	The opportunity for a primitive, unconfined recreation experience is outstanding.
Challenge	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of skill and self-reliance, while experiencing risk and challenge is low to outstanding.	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of skill and self-reliance, while experiencing risk and challenge is moderate to outstanding.	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of skill and self-reliance, while experiencing risk and challenge is moderate to outstanding.	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of skill and self-reliance, while experiencing risk and challenge is outstanding.
Trails	Trails may be common, consisting of non-system historic ways, and primary and secondary system trails.	Trails are few, consisting of non-system historic ways, and secondary system trails.	Trails are rare to non-existent, consisting of historic ways.	Trails are rare to non-existent, consisting of historic ways.
Facilities, Structures and Signing	Facilities, structures and signing may be utilized for resource protection, administration or Wilderness purposes.			Facilities, structures and signing may be utilized for resource protection when other less obtrusive measures have been exhausted.
Cultural Resources	Prehistoric sites may be evaluated but not disturbed (outside the evaluation). Contemporary Native American sites are not impacted by non-native activities. Management of Historic structures will be consistent with opportunity class objectives.			
Resource Interpretation	Off-site information is readily available for the enjoyment and education of visitors. Prehistoric and cultural sites are not interpreted.		An element of discovery is maintained for the enjoyment of visitors. Prehistoric and cultural sites are not interpreted.	
Management Objectives	Administrative activities are the minimum necessary to ensure compliance with Class IV objectives. Education is conducted on site as well as off site. Scientific uses and monitoring must be Wilderness dependent and consistent with Class IV objectives.	Administrative activities are the minimum necessary to ensure compliance with Class III objectives. Education is conducted on site as well as off site. Scientific uses and monitoring must be Wilderness dependent and consistent with Class III objectives.	Administrative activities are the minimum necessary to ensure compliance with Class II objectives. Education is conducted off site. Scientific uses and monitoring must be Wilderness dependent and consistent with Class II objectives.	Administrative activities are the minimum necessary to ensure compliance with Class I objectives. Education is conducted off site. Scientific uses and monitoring must be Wilderness dependent and consistent with Class I objectives.

Management Area Direction

The following management area prescription applies to the Emigrant Wilderness. This direction is in addition to the direction contained in the Forest Plan Forestwide Standards and Guidelines and in the Forest Plan Management Area, Wilderness and Proposed Wilderness.

Management Emphasis

Management emphasis, within the Emigrant Wilderness is to move the Wilderness as a whole toward a more pristine condition by maintaining some areas and moving others to a more pristine Opportunity Class (Class) designation. Management direction moves the Long Lake, Yellow Hammer Lake, Blue Canyon Lake, and the Chewing Gum trail corridor to Class II. The travel corridor from Coyote trail head through Horse and Cow Meadow, Hay Meadow, Whitesides, Upper Relief and Lower Relief, and Kennedy Creek and Kennedy Lake, move from Class IV to Class III. The double corridor between the Crabtree Trail and the Bell Meadow Trail, including Piute, Deer, Long, Kole, Leighton, Gem and Jewelry Lakes moves to Class III. The corridor between Mosquito Pass and the upper end of Emigrant Lake also moves to Class III.

Description

This Management Area (1a) contains the 112,000 plus acre Emigrant Wilderness. Located in Tuolumne County, the Wilderness is characterized by bare glaciated granite, sub-alpine vegetation types, numerous glacial lakes, high quality scenery and excellent Wilderness recreation opportunities. Recreation use, which includes backpacking, horse packing, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing and rock climbing increased rapidly throughout the seventies and early eighties then dramatically declined in the mid 1980's. Use has shown a steady increase since 1989 and now averages around 75,000 recreation visitor days (RVDs) of overnight use and an estimated 20,000 RVDs of day use per year. The Emigrant Wilderness can be found approximately 140 air miles east of San Francisco and 50 miles south of Lake Tahoe.

Opportunity Class Allocations

The Emigrant Wilderness is subdivided into the four (I-IV) Opportunity Classes described in Table 1. Table 2 shows Opportunity Class allocations by destination area. The Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class Map also shows the allocations. The direction takes precedence in cases of disagreement between the direction and the maps.

Table 2 Opportunity Class Allocations by Destination

Destination	Mngt Unit	Opp Class	Destination	Mngt Unit	Opp Class	Destination	Mngt Unit	Opp Class
Adele Lake	D	IV	Grouse Lake	D.2	III	Piute Meadow	D.2	III
Bear Lake	D	IV	Hay Meadow	D.2	III	Powell Lake	D	IV
Big Lake	B	II	High Emigrant Lake	C.6	II	Pruitt Lake	A	I
Bigelow Lake	C.6	II	Hollywood Basin	C.6	II	Red Bug Lake	C.6	II
Black Bear Lake	B	II	Horse and Cow Mdw.	D.2	III	Red Can Lake	B	II
Black Hawk Lake	A	I	Horse Meadow	C	III	Relief Reservoir	D	IV
Black Bird Lake	C	III	Huckleberry Lake	C	III	Ridge Lake	B	II
Blue Canyon Lake	C.5	II	Hyatt Lake	B	II	Rosasco Lake	C.3	II
Buck Lakes	C	III	Iceland Lake	B	II	Rose Lake	A	I
Camp Lake	D	IV	Jewelry Lake	D.2	III	Salt Lick Meadow	B	II
Chain (Dutch) Lakes	C.2	III	Karl's Lake	D.2	III	Sardella Lake	B	I
Chewing Gum Lake	D	IV	Kennedy Lk/Ck/Soda Cyn	D.1	III	Saucer Meadow	D	IV
Coolidge Meadow	A	I	Kole Lake	B	II	Shallow Lake	B.2	II
Cooper Meadow	D.2	III	Leighton Lake	D.2	III	Sharon Lake	A	I
Cooper Pocket	D.3	II	Leopold Lake	B	II	Sheep Camp	D	IV
Cow Meadow Lake	C	III	Lertora Lake	C	III	Snow Lake	C.3	III
Coyote Lake	B	II	Long Lake	C.4	II	Spring Meadow	C	III
Deadman Lake	A.1	II	Lord Meadow	C	III	Star Jordan Lake	A	I
Deer Lake	D.2	III	Lost Lake	B.2	II	Starvation Lake	C	III
Douglas Lake	A	I	Louse Canyon	D.2	III	Studhorse Meadow	A	I
Emigrant Lake	D.2	III	Lower Lewis Lake	B	II	Summit Meadow	C.3	III
Emigrant Mdw. Lake	C.6	II	Lower Relief Valley	D.3	II	Toejam Lake	C	III
Estella Lake	A	I	Lunch Meadow	D	IV	Tom's Canyon	B	II
Fisher Lakes	B.2	II	Maxine Lakes	B.2	II	Upper Lewis Lake	A	I
Five Acre(Edna) Lake	B	II	Maxwell Lake	C	III	Upper Relief Valley	D.3	II
Fraser Lakes	B.2	II	Mercur Lake	A	I	W Lake	B.2	II
Frog Lake	C	III	Mid. Emigrant Lake	C.6	II	Waterhouse Lake	D	IV
Gem Lake	D.2	III	Mid. Lewis Lake	B	II	Whitesides Meadow	D.2	III
Granite Lake	C	III	Mosquito Lake	B.3	I	Wilson Meadow Lake	A	I
Grizzly Meadow Lake	C.1	III	Olive Lake	A	I	Wire Lakes/Banana Lake	C	III
Groundhog Meadow	D.2	III	Pingree Lake	C.3	II	Wood Lake	D.2	III
Grouse Creek	A	I	Pinto Lakes	C.6	II	Y Meadow	C	III
Grouse Creek Lake	A	I	Piute Lake	D.2	III	Yellowhammer Lake	C.5	II

Indicators, Standards and Activities

When standards are not met, management actions may be implemented to assure attainment. The least obtrusive effective measures to ensure standards are met will be employed. Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. Reaching these thresholds will not require stepping up to the next level of action, but will allow for the stronger response should specific site conditions warrant them. When level 2 or 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective. (See Monitoring and Evaluation Section)

1. Crowding

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	The opportunity for solitude is...	I - outstanding
	The opportunity for a primitive or unconfined recreation experience is...	II - high to outstanding III - moderate to outstanding IV - low to outstanding

There is no single indicator that can reflect the quality of the Wilderness experience, but because campsite crowding is a major factor, it can be used as an indicator for opportunity for solitude. Most destination areas have been inventoried, providing baseline information on the number, location, distribution and condition of established and potential campsites. Using the existing campsite information and the type and degree of natural screening in the area, the estimated number of groups that could use the area and still achieve a level of solitude as described in the opportunity class objectives was determined and is displayed in Table 1.1 in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

This estimate establishes the opportunity class IV standard for each destination area. To meet opportunity class III, II, and I objectives, a decrease of 25% for each class is used. User surveys will be conducted to determine if the number of groups camped within site and sound estimated is what visitors actually experienced. Enough information is not currently available to estimate the standard for every destination area, but all destinations will be field verified to confirm the appropriate Class IV standard.

Standards and Guidelines

Crowding Indicator	Implement the standards, possible actions and thresholds shown in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.
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2. Campsite and Stock Holding Area Condition

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	The imprint of human influences is...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable
	Human influences on aquatic life, hydrologic processes, soils (and) vegetation are...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - minimal IV - minimal

Standards and Guidelines

Pack and saddle stock are appropriate in all opportunity classes except as necessary to protect wilderness resources as determined through site-specific analysis.

Continue monitoring the condition of larger areas, such as large meadows where stock are grazed, through range condition and trend analysis as undertaken for cattle allotments.

Campsite Condition Indicator Implement the ratings, standards, possible actions and thresholds shown in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

Stock Holding Area Condition Indicator Implement the ratings, standards, possible actions and thresholds shown in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

When a particular category of stock user (commercial, private, alternative stock) can be distinguished as the primary cause of the problem at a given destination, then tailor actions to that particular category when possible.

3. Campfire Wood and Campfires

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	The imprint of human influences is...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable
	Human influences on soils vegetation and woody debris accumulation are...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - minimal IV - minimal

Standards and Guidelines

A campfire is defined as any controlled fire set by humans in association with camping activities for various purposes such as cooking, burning garbage, warmth, aesthetics, or social activities. Firewood is considered any down woody debris between one inch in diameter and 4 inches in diameter.

Continue current campfire management direction as described in existing Forest Order 36CFR 261.52a, prohibiting campfires above the 9,000-foot contour. Variations above and below this contour will be permitted based on application of site-specific indicators and standards.

Firewood Availability Indicator Implement the ratings, standards, possible actions and thresholds shown in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.

Do not consider areas with less than sparse stand densities for campfire wood gathering.

4. Stream Condition

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Human influences on aquatic life, hydrologic processes, soils (and) vegetation are...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - minimal IV - minimal
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Standards and Guidelines

Evaluate stream condition in the Emigrant Wilderness by the degree to which human uses disturb the natural pattern, profile and dimension of stream channels.

Measure stream condition in stream reaches sensitive to disturbance using the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region Stream Condition Inventory (SCI) protocols (or future similar protocols).

Stream Condition Indicator	Implement the standards, possible actions and thresholds shown in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.
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5. Water Developments

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - no noticeable effects from human uses II - localized human uses may have limited effects in very few areas. III - localized human uses may have limited effects in few areas. IV - localized human uses may have limited effects in some areas.
	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - minimal IV - minimal
	The imprint of human influences is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable
	Facilities Structures and Signing may be utilized for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - resource protection when other less obtrusive measures have been exhausted. II - resource protection, administration or Wilderness purposes. III - same IV - same

Standards and Guidelines

Maintenance of water impoundment structures will be consistent with the USDA Forest Service/California Department of Fish and Game joint strategy.

No maintenance activities will occur until site-specific analysis is completed and a determination is made as to whether the structure is necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area as wilderness.

Dams without a high enough value to warrant retention should be allowed to deteriorate naturally (no maintenance) consistent with FSM direction, rather than removed. If a safety concern dictates removal, conduct the appropriate level of analysis to determine removal method.

6. Dog Control

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives Ecosystem are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2).

Localize human influences may have limited effects in...

I - no noticeable effects from human uses.

II - in very few areas.

III - in few areas.

IV - some areas.

Wildlife use patterns may show...

I - no noticeable

II - brief, temporary

...alterations due to human influences but are not permanently altered.

III - seasonal, temporary

IV - seasonal, temporary

Standards and Guidelines

Opportunity class objectives for degree of wildlife disturbance vary, however potential management actions would be difficult to implement by opportunity class. The following direction applies to all opportunity classes.

Dogs out of Control

An unleashed dog not immediately responsive to commands, or a dog chasing wildlife or livestock (except working cow dogs), digging up burrows, or actions that disturb other visitors.

Education

Educate visitors in the office and the field on Emigrant dog policy and the effects loose dogs have on wildlife, livestock and other visitors.

7. Wildlife Habituation

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals respond to natural forces (see FSM 2320.2).

Localize human influences may have limited effects in...

I - no noticeable effects from human uses

II - in very few areas

III - in few areas

IV - some areas

Wildlife use patterns may show...

I - no noticeable

II - brief, temporary

...alterations due to human influences but are not permanently altered.

III - seasonal, temporary

IV - seasonal, temporary

Standards and Guidelines

Increase the level of visitor education regarding the storage of food. Encourage all Wilderness visitors to store food in bear proof containers. In the absence of bear proof containers, encourage all visitors to store food using current and appropriate methods to protect animals from human foods. Emphasize the methods and rationale for this practice in educational materials.

8. Rock Climbing

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives The imprint of human influences is...

I - unnoticeable

II - unnoticeable in most areas

III - substantially unnoticeable

IV - substantially unnoticeable

Standards and Guidelines

The following direction applies to all opportunity classes to prevent damage to rock faces and visual impacts resulting from rock climbing activities.

Education	Make educational materials readily available with information on low impact rock climbing techniques.
Rock Drills	Prohibit mechanized equipment such as rock drills.
Chalk	Allow chalk use.
Bolts	Prohibit additional climbing bolts.
Pitons	Discourage the use of Pitons through educational materials and visitor contacts.
Chocks	Encourage the use of chocks through educational materials and visitor contacts.

9. Facilities, Structures and Signs

General Direction

Opportunity Class

Objectives

General	The imprint of human influences is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable
	Facilities Structures and Signing may be utilized for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - resource protection when other less obtrusive measures have been exhausted. II - resource protection, administration or Wilderness purposes. III - same IV - same

Standards and Guidelines

Provide facilities and improvements only for protection of the Wilderness Resource. Document and justify conditions for providing facilities and improvements in the forest plan. Install facilities as a last resort...(FSM 2323.13)

Remove existing structures not determined essential to the administration, protection or management of wilderness for wilderness purposes or not provided for in the establishing legislation. (FSM 2320.3(4)).

Maintain structures determined essential for administration, resource protection, special uses or wilderness purposes. Wilderness purposes include recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use (sec. 4(b)). Maintenance activities will be in conformance with all applicable laws, policies and direction.

Do not use interpretive or informational signs. (FSM 2324.33f)

Treatment of existing Facilities, Signs and Structures

Administrative Structures

Limit structures and improvements for administrative purposes or under special use permit to those actually needed for management, protection, and use of the wilderness for the purposes for which the wilderness was established. (FSM 2324.31)

Determine the long-term need of the improvement and its location before authorizing substantial maintenance for administrative or permitted improvements. (FSM 2324.31)

Historical Structures

The Regional Forester may approve stabilization or restoration and subsequent maintenance of National Register eligible sites, buildings and structures in Wilderness if their continued existence is determined essential for administration, protection, special uses or wilderness purposes. All structures determined eligible and deemed necessary will be managed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulation implementing Section

106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Historic Properties.

No maintenance activities will be performed on an historic site, building or structure until a treatment plan is completed and approved.

Fencing	When maintaining or building fencing, place it in the least visible location possible, using the most unobtrusive methods and materials.
Communications Structures	Maintain communication structures only as necessary for administration and protection of the wilderness. Evaluate and document the need for communications structures in the Forest plan. (FSM 2323.33g)
Other Agency and Special Use Permit Structures	Periodically review permits for structures in wilderness to determine whether or not their continued existence is in the public interest. If not, terminate the permits and remove the improvements. (FSM 2324.3)
Snow Measurement Sites	Encourage the transfer of existing wilderness sites to locations outside of wilderness. (FSM 2323.44a)
Range Structures	Construction of new range improvements may be approved if they are necessary for resource protection (range or wilderness) and for the effective management of these resources. Do not approve construction solely to accommodate increased grazing. (FSM 2323.26a)

Table 3 displays the management disposition, using the definitions below, for existing individual facilities, structures and signs.

Maintain	Objective is to maintain structure to all applicable FSM/FSH standards.
No Maintenance	Structure should be allowed to deteriorate over time. If a public safety concern warrants removal, conduct appropriate level of analysis to determine method of removal.
Remove	Physically remove, relocate, and burn if appropriate or scatter if made from natural materials. Structures may be relocated outside of Wilderness.
Temporary	Use as needed on a temporary basis

Table 3 Management of Existing Structures

National Register Eligible	
Cooper Cabin	Maintenance permitted as part of existing grazing permit. Re-evaluate at permit cancellation or AMP revision.
Yellowhammer Cabin	Maintain only to arrest decay and prevent irretrievable deterioration pending completion of site-specific analysis determination for long-term management of the site and structures.
Kennedy Cabin	Maintenance permitted as part of existing grazing permit. Re-evaluate at permit cancellation or AMP revision.
Horse Meadow Cabin	Maintenance permitted as part of existing snow survey permit. Re-evaluate at permit renewal, transfer, cancellation or revision.
Summit Meadow Cabin	No Maintenance
Not Eligible for National Register	
Huckleberry Cabin	Maintenance permitted as part of existing snow survey permit. Re-evaluate at permit renewal, transfer, cancellation or revision.
Buck Lakes Partial Structure	No Maintenance
Hay Meadow Partial Structure	No Maintenance
Other Structures and Facilities	
Cooper Allotment Fencing	Maintenance permitted as part of existing grazing permit. Re-evaluate at time of AMP revision or permit cancellation. Remove unused fences
Kennedy Allotment Fencing	Maintenance permitted as part of existing grazing permit. Re-evaluate at time of AMP revision or permit cancellation. Remove unused fences
Horse Meadow Fencing	Maintain minimum necessary for resource protection using native or visually unobtrusive materials.
Cow Meadow Lake Fencing	Maintain minimum necessary for resource protection using native or visually unobtrusive materials. Remove peninsula fence
Huckleberry Lake Fencing	Maintain minimum necessary for resource protection using native or visually unobtrusive materials.
Buck Lake Meadow Fencing	Maintain minimum necessary for resource protection using native or visually unobtrusive materials.
Mining Structures and Debris	Remove
Bridges	Maintain existing bridges. Do not Build Summit Creek Bridge
Communications	Temporary
Snow Sensors	Temporary - Remove when no longer minimum necessary
Aerial Snow Markers	Remove

10. Trails

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives

General	The imprint of human influences is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable
	Facilities Structures and Signing may be utilized for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - resource protection when other less obtrusive measures have been exhausted. II - resource protection, administration or Wilderness purposes. III - same IV - same
Trails, trail structures and signs	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of skill and self reliance, while experiencing risk and challenge is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - outstanding II - high to outstanding III - moderate to outstanding IV - low to outstanding
	Trails...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - are rare to non-existent, consisting of historic ways. II - are few, consisting of non-system historic ways, and secondary system trails. III - may be common, consisting of non-system historic ways, secondary and primary system trails. IV - same

Standards and Guidelines

Trails

Design, construct, and maintain trails consistent with the opportunity class objectives established in the Forest Plan.

Abolish the trail designation of “un-maintained - Stock use not advised”. Manage trails currently in this category as historic ways. Higher standard trails will be designated as either primary or secondary routes.

Historic Ways are travel routes, which have developed as a result of long-term use. These routes will not be displayed on public maps, leaving them as “routes of tradition and discovery”. Historic ways will be retained as a managed part of the trail system with maintenance activities limited to resource protection needs.

Secondary Trails are shown on public maps and managed to provide resource stable travel ways to destinations or connecting corridors and

generally receive less traffic than primary trails.

Primary Trails are indicated on public maps as the main arteries into the Wilderness and may receive relatively heavy use.

User created trails (not designated as historic ways) are not part of the established Wilderness Trail system and when identified will typically trigger management action to obliterate or discourage use.

Additions of trail to the established system will require site-specific analysis compliant with NEPA.

When the objective for maintenance on a trail is determined, maintain trails to appropriate standards and guidance found in FSH 2309.18. Consider trail re-routes for resource protection needs only. Changes in trail management designation may be considered through site-specific analysis.

Maintain all existing primary and secondary system trails in current designation. In addition, maintain the following trails as:

Historic Ways

- Studhorse Meadow
- Grouse Creek Lake
- Between Cow Meadow Lake and Lord Meadow.
- Blue Canyon
- Waterhouse
- Snow Lake to Bigelow Lake
- Deer Lake to Long Lake
- Golden Stairs to Rosasco and Pingree Lake

Secondary Trail

- Bell Meadow Trail to Big Lake
- Lower Huckleberry

Trail Signs

Place directional signs only at major trail intersections.

Do not provide wilderness signs for the convenience of the visitor... provide a minimum number of signs for either the routing or location of the traveler or the protection of the wilderness resource. (FSM 2324.33f).

Stream Course Crossing Structures and Bridges

Maintain stream course crossing structures and bridges for resource protection. Resource protection needs apply to the stream channel and immediate area of the crossing, as well as, areas affected by the crossing.

11. Fisheries Management

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.	<p>I - no noticeable effects from human uses</p> <p>II - localized human uses may have limited effects in very few areas.</p> <p>III - localized human uses may have limited effects in few areas.</p> <p>IV - localized human uses may have limited effects in some areas.</p>
	Human influences on aquatic life and hydrologic processes are...	<p>I - unnoticeable</p> <p>II - unnoticeable in most areas</p> <p>III - minimal</p> <p>IV - minimal</p>

The IAFWA MOU Policy and Guidelines recognize that specific on-the-ground conditions will have a different application of guidelines. These different applications are spelled out in National Forest Plans. Specific lake by lake fisheries management decisions are reached cooperatively between the administering agency and the state agency in memorandums of understanding (MOU)s specific to each Wilderness.

A new MOU between the Stanislaus National Forest and California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) Region 4 will be negotiated as the site-specific direction for fisheries management.

Standards and Guidelines

The Stanislaus National Forest in consultation with the CDFG Region 4, and in consideration of intensive public involvement developed the objectives, definitions and decision criteria for the Emigrant Wilderness shown in Table 4. Use these criteria, definitions and objectives as direction to guide the Forest in developing initial recommendations when negotiating lake-by-lake stocking decisions with the CDFG. Lake by lake decisions will be agreed to in a local MOU between the two agencies.

The criteria in Table 4 uses the following definitions:

Traditionally Stocked	Stocking was an established, routine practice prior to Wilderness designation.
Human Influences	Any manipulation of the population, individuals within the population, or habitat, whether direct or indirect or intended or not. Examples include angling, stocking, and habitat destruction.

The Forest Supervisor may agree to site-specific variations of the decision criteria in this Direction.

Table 4 Fisheries Decision Criteria

Criteria ¹		Opportunity Class			
		I	II	III	IV
1) Was the lake traditionally stocked with the species before Wilderness designation	Yes	Go to question 2			
	No	Stocking may be considered only with adequate environmental analysis and decision document			
2) Is a TES* species being adversely affected by the fishery? ²	Yes	No measures may be taken to stock or otherwise enhance the fishery without adequate mitigation. If adequate mitigation is feasible and stocking is considered, it must be analyzed using the criteria considered here and in all applicable MOUs.			
	No	Go to question 3			
3) Is a TES* species being positively affected by the fishery? ²	Yes	Fishery may be stocked to benefit the TES species as agreed upon by the joint agencies.			
	No	Go to question 4			
4) Is the fishery naturally reproducing?	Yes	Fishery may be stocked only if human influences adversely affect the population. (Including angling)			
	No	No stocking of the fishery may be considered for recreational purposes.	Only very unique or special fisheries ³ may be considered for stocking with joint CDFG and FS agreement in the local MOU.	Stocking may be utilized to achieve recreational fisheries objectives including those of angler success rates and species diversity.	
<p>¹If the answer to any of the four questions above is unknown for any given fishery, a joint effort will be made to determine the answers in the timeliest manner possible. During evaluation, joint agreement must be reached as to interim management consistent with the local MOU.</p> <p>² When these questions are answered it is assumed the CDFG and the FS have already looked at all the factors (historical presence, current presence, % of populations, connectivity of populations etc..).</p> <p>³Special or Unique Fishery is unique within the Emigrant in terms of species, size, etc.. Golden trout fisheries may fall into this category.</p> <p>Fisheries management actions other than stocking that may be undertaken cooperatively include indirect measures such as recreation use pattern shifts, and education on low impact angling techniques.</p> <p>*TES = Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive</p>					

12. Wilderness Education and Visitor Contact

General Direction

Opportunity Class	Education is conducted...	I - off-site
Objectives		II - off-site
		III - on-site and off-site
		IV - on-site and off-site

Standards and Guidelines

Target ethnic, immigrant and economically disadvantaged groups within the extended service area of the Stanislaus National Forest for Wilderness education. Coordinate this effort with regional Wilderness education projects to assure maximum coverage and efficiency.

Do not conduct on-site Wilderness education in opportunity classes I and II, unless invited by the visitor or, in response to an obvious misuse or violation.

Conduct active on-site education contacts with visitors in opportunity classes III and IV.

Prepare a Wilderness Education implementation schedule documenting the specific education needs and priorities, including activities and target audiences.

13. Resource Interpretation

General Direction

Opportunity Class	Prehistoric sites and cultural sites are not interpreted.	(All Opportunity Classes)
Objectives	An element of discovery is maintained...	I - for the enjoyment of visitors II - same
	Off-site information is readily available...	III - for the enjoyment and education of visitors. IV - same

Standards and Guidelines

Provide interpretation information only in response to inquiries, for areas located within opportunity classes I or II.

Produce high quality flyers or brochures to interpret historical and natural resources, for areas located within opportunity classes III or IV.

14. Physically Challenged Access

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	The opportunity to utilize a high degree of risk and challenge is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - outstanding II - moderate to outstanding III - low to outstanding IV - low to outstanding
	Trails...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - are rare to non-existent, consisting of historic ways. II - are few, consisting on non-system historic ways, and secondary system trails. III - May be common, consisting of non-system historic ways, secondary and primary system trails. IV - Same

Standards and Guidelines

Provide the highest level of access without diminishing the Wilderness experience. During trail maintenance or reconstruction, consider universal design features (such as low maximum riser heights when steps are constructed) when they do not negatively affect the environment and are commensurate with the opportunity class allocations.

Conduct an inventory of suitable camping areas that are naturally flat and obstacle free. Develop a trail difficulty rating and mapping system to aid people with disabilities in determining feasible itineraries.

Make trail inventories readily available, but not necessarily displayed. Maintain an element of discovery for those visitors wishing to experience the Wilderness without knowing every detail prior to entering.

15. Range

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - no noticeable effects from human uses II - localized human uses may have limited effects in very few areas III - localized human uses may have limited effects in few areas IV - localized human uses may have limited effects in some areas
	Human influences on aquatic life hydrologic processes, soils (and) vegetation are...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - minimal IV - minimal

The opportunity for solitude is...	I - outstanding II - high to outstanding III - moderate to outstanding IV - low to outstanding
The imprint of human influences is...	I - unnoticeable II - unnoticeable in most areas III - substantially unnoticeable IV - substantially unnoticeable

The grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of the Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture (Sec. 4(d)(4) Wilderness Act of 1964).

FSM Policy 2323.22: (Congressional Grazing Guidelines) - ...there shall be no curtailment of grazing or grazing permits or privileges in an area simply because it is designated as wilderness, nor should wilderness designations be used as an excuse by administrators to slowly "phase out" grazing. Any adjustments to the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness areas should be made as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process, giving consideration to legal mandates, range condition, and the protection of the range resource from deterioration.

Site-specific range management will be determined in allotment management plans and annual operating plans. These plans must tier to FLRMP direction, standards and guidelines for range (IV-65), including the Emigrant Wilderness Management Direction.

Site-specific analysis of existing range improvements (cabins, water sources, fences, etc.) will be incorporated into AMP revisions.

Meadows grazed by recreational stock must comply with all Forest Plan direction for range condition. Site-specific actions may be taken to assure range standards are met in recreation areas. These actions may include such measures as limited grazing seasons, limited numbers of animals, structures when absolutely necessary to protect the Wilderness resource, and other range management actions available.

Strongly discourage the use of cowbells on commercial grazing allotments. Explore methods for reducing or eliminating the use of cowbells in cooperation with the permittees during development of annual operating plans. Re-evaluate the use of cowbells, when permits change hands, including limiting bells to a maximum of 10% of cattle.

Work with the allotment permittees to adjust management practices whenever possible to meet the opportunity class objectives for resources other than range.

16. Outfitting and Guiding

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives No objectives specific to outfitting and guiding are included in the opportunity class objectives. All objectives and standards will apply to outfitted-guided recreation as it applies to all visitors.

Standards and Guidelines

Complete wilderness wide needs assessment to determine appropriate outfitter guide services and levels as special use permits expire or for new permit proposals. Utilize guidelines provided in FSH 27909.11(41.53a) and the Outfitter-Guide Administration Guidebook.

When a specific wilderness dependent public need is identified, issue a formal prospectus to solicit bids for new outfitter-guide permits. Award outfitter-guide permits on the basis of past experience and performance, ability to provide needed services, economic viability, knowledge of wilderness values and "leave no trace" ethics and practices.

Apply all use restrictions and actions to outfitters and private visitors equally.

Require outfitter-guides to provide clients with information on "leave no trace" practices, Wilderness values and regulations. Require outfitters to train all guides and trip leaders to provide the same.

17. Heritage Resources

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Prehistoric sites may be surveyed and evaluated but not disturbed by activities outside the evaluation.	(All Opportunity Classes)
	Contemporary Native American sites (sacred, gathering) are not impacted by non-Native American activities.	

Standards and Guidelines

The Regional Forester may approve stabilization or restoration and subsequent maintenance of National Register eligible sites, building and structures in Wilderness if their continued existence is determined essential for administration, protection, special uses or wilderness purposes. All structures determined eligible and deemed necessary will be managed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulation implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Historic Properties.

Future project specific undertaking implemented through this plan will follow 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implementing section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Adopt the standard of no intentional disturbance (other than that necessary for professional evaluation), vandalism or looting. Implement management actions over and above required law enforcement actions, if vandalism of sites or disturbance of contemporary Native American sites is discovered. Actual selection of appropriate actions will depend on site-specific circumstances.

18. Fire Management

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.	I - no noticeable effects from human uses II - localized human uses may have limited effects in very few areas. III - localized human uses may have limited effects in few areas. IV - localized human uses may have limited effects in some areas.
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Standards and Guidelines

Continue managing Prescribed Natural Fire (PNF) and wildfire under the guidelines of the Stanislaus National Forest, *Forest Fire Management Action Plan* (available at the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office).

In addition:

1. Planned ignitions may be used (after appropriate site specific planning and NEPA analysis) to reduce the hazard associated with vegetative conditions resulting from past human activities, primarily fire suppression. Planned ignitions should only be used when it is determined that a lightning ignited fire in a given area would not meet management objectives. Vegetative conditions and fuel loads will be analyzed to determine the need for planned ignitions. The goal behind these corrective actions is to allow fire to function as a naturally occurring ecological process.
2. As a long-term objective, allow a minimum of 95% of naturally occurring wildland fires to be managed to achieve resource objectives, rather than be suppressed.

19. Administrative Activities

General Direction

Opportunity Class Objectives	Administrative activities are limited to the minimum necessary to ensure compliance with...	I - Opportunity Class I objectives II - Opportunity Class II objectives III - Opportunity Class III objectives IV - Opportunity Class IV objectives
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Standards and Guidelines

Administrative activities are those actions undertaken by the Forest Service and cooperating agencies to implement the Forest plan direction.

The following standards and actions are specific to the Emigrant Wilderness and are in addition to FSM policies.

Permitted Activities	Administrative activities are limited to the minimum necessary to meet the objectives of the opportunity classes.
Mechanized Use	Use the minimum tool necessary to administer the Wilderness consistent with opportunity class objectives.
Administrative Camps	<p>Do not allow administrative camps in Opportunity Class I areas. Allow administrative camps in Opportunity Class II only if no other sites in classes III or IV are available.</p> <p>Locate and manage administrative camps in response to opportunity class standards, utilizing minimum impact techniques.</p>
Wilderness Permits	<p>Maintain an accurate wilderness permit database.</p> <p>Issue permits only from Stanislaus National Forest offices. Permits requested in advance may be picked up at the pack stations or other offices. If a permit is requested at a pack station, the Toiyabe National Forest, or Yosemite National Park with insufficient time to send it by mail, the permit information may be taken over the phone, then FAXed to the requesting location. If for some reason phone or FAX is unavailable, then the permit may be issued manually at the requesting location. Make every effort to ensure timely service to visitors.</p>
Day Use	Collect data to establish more accurate baseline day use levels. Utilize this information in targeting user segments with educational activities and other management actions to ensure standards are met.
Existing Forest Orders	Continue implementing existing regulations unless monitoring shows a need for additional actions or changes.
Monitoring	See Monitoring and Evaluation section.
Accountability	<p>Report Wilderness monitoring activities annually in the Forest Land Management Plan Monitoring Report. This report should contain at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The monitoring activities conducted since the last report, and summary of the results.2. An accounting of why any scheduled monitoring did not take place.3. A listing of areas known to be out of standard and the actions taken or planned to address the situation.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This Section contains monitoring requirements in addition to the Forest Plan monitoring requirements.

The monitoring activities outlined below are designed to answer three questions:

1. Are standards being met?
2. Are management actions effective in correcting conditions exceeding standards?

The District Ranger of the Summit Ranger District is responsible for ensuring that monitoring activities are accomplished. Actual accomplishment of monitoring activities will be subject to a number of factors, including (but not limited to) funding, personnel constraints, and weather conditions. Emigrant Wilderness monitoring activities will be reported annually in the Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Report which report should contain at a minimum:

1. The monitoring activities conducted since the last report, and summary of the results.
2. An accounting of why any scheduled monitoring did not take place.
3. A listing of areas known to be out of standard and the actions taken or planned to address the situation.

Table A **Monitoring Plan**

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Crowding	Table 1.1	Permit Database	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 1.2	Table 1.3
Campsite Condition	Table 2.2	Rate Conditions (Table 2.1)	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 2.3	Table 2.4
Stock Holding Area Condition	Table 2.6	Rate Conditions (Table 2.5)	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 2.7	Table 2.8
Firewood Availability	Table 3.1	Visual Observation	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 3.2	Table 3.3
Stream Condition	Table 4.1	R-5 SCI Protocol	Hydrologist	Every 5 years	Table 4.2	Table 4.3

Indicators and Standards

Indicators and Standards are needed to meet the mandates of the Wilderness Act and other applicable laws, the policy in the Forest Service Manual (FSM) and the objectives of the Opportunity Classes. Some objectives have specific standards (requirements) while others use indicators. An indicator is a measurement chosen to gauge the status of resource and social conditions. The indicators are specific measurements designed to aid in the assessment of some of the desired Wilderness conditions as depicted in the opportunity class descriptions. Each indicator has associated standards set to meet the opportunity class objectives.

Thresholds for Management Action

When standards are not met, management actions may be implemented to assure attainment. Following each indicator and standard is a table showing potential management actions to ensure standards are met. These actions are segregated by *education and prevention*, *indirect* and *direct* actions. Additionally, actions are designated as *Level 1*, *Level 2* or *Level 3*, with management *Level 1* being the least obtrusive to the Wilderness visitor, and management *Level 3* the most. The least obtrusive effective measures to ensure standards are met will be employed. A table indicating the condition thresholds, which will trigger actions at the next strongest level, follows the potential management actions for each indicator. Utilizing this system of thresholds and response will help ensure downward trends are recognized and reacted to as patterns begin to develop. In general, Table B displays the thresholds, which trigger management actions that may be implemented.

Table B **Thresholds for Allowable Management Action**

Conditions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Meeting Standard	Yes	No	No
Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard	Yes	Yes	No
Exceeding Standard	Yes	Yes	Yes

Reaching these thresholds will not require stepping up to the next level of action but will allow for the stronger response should specific site conditions warrant them. If less obtrusive measures than conditions allow for will work for a specific situation, then the more obtrusive measures would not be employed. Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. When level 2 or 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective.

Management actions may be reduced once indicators and standards are met or exceeded. Actual actions employed will depend on site-specific conditions, including factors such as mode of travel of most of the visitors, demographics of visitors, average group sizes and length of stay, timing of peak use, and biophysical characteristics of the area.

Related Issues:
Wilderness Opportunities
Social
Recreation
Economic and Regional

1. Crowding

a. Crowding Indicator

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Crowding	Table 1.1	Permit Database	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 1.2	Table 1.3

Table 1.1 displays the crowding standards by Opportunity Class allocation for each destination.

Table 1.1 **Crowding Standards** (Estimated Maximum Groups Camped Per Night)

Destination	Opp Class	No. Grps	Destination	Opp Class	No. Grps	Destination	Opp Class	No. Grps
Adele Lake	IV	13	Grouse Lake	III	5	Piute Meadow	III	3
Bear Lake	IV	6	Hay Meadow	III	*	Powell Lake	IV	4
Big Lake	II	3	High Emigrant Lake	II	1	Pruitt Lake	I	1
Bigelow Lake	II	2	Hollywood Basin	II	1	Red Bug Lake	II	1
Black Bear Lake	II	2	Horse and Cow Mdw.	III	3	Red Can Lake	II	1
Black Hawk Lake	I	1	Horse Meadow	III	3	Relief Reservoir	IV	*
Black Bird Lake	III	2	Huckleberry Lake	III	8	Ridge Lake	II	2
Blue Canyon Lake	II	1	Hyatt Lake	II	3	Rosasco Lake	II	2
Buck Lakes	III	10	Iceland Lake	II	2	Rose Lake	I	1
Camp Lake	IV	4	Jewelry Lake	III	3	Salt Lick Meadow	II	3
Chain (Dutch) Lakes	III	3	Karl's Lake	III	3	Sardella Lake	I	1
Chewing Gum Lake	IV	4	Kennedy Lk/Ck/Soda Cyn	III	18	Saucer Meadow	IV	4
Coolidge Meadow	I	*	Kole Lake	II	2	Shallow Lake	II	1
Cooper Meadow	III	4	Leighton Lake	III	3	Sharon Lake	I	1
Cooper Pocket	II	*	Leopold Lake	II	2	Sheep Camp	IV	4
Cow Meadow Lake	III	4	Lertora Lake	III	4	Snow Lake	III	3
Coyote lake	II	1	Long Lake	II	4	Spring Meadow	III	3
Deadman Lake	II	1	Lord Meadow	III	5	Star Jordan Lake	I	1
Deer Lake	III	5	Lost Lake	II	1	Starvation Lake	III	2
Douglas Lake	I	1	Louse Canyon	III	6	Studhorse Meadow	I	*
Emigrant Lake	III	7	Lower Lewis Lake	II	2	Summit Meadow	III	3
Emigrant Mdw. Lake	II	1	Lower Relief Valley	II	2	Toejam Lake	III	3
Estella Lake	I	1	Lunch Meadow	IV	3	Tom's Canyon	II	*
Fisher Lakes	II	*	Maxine Lakes	II	2	Upper Lewis Lake	I	1
Five Acre(Edna) Lake	II	2	Maxwell Lake	III	4	Upper Relief Valley	II	4
Fraser Lakes	II	1	Mercur Lake	I	1	W Lake	II	1
Frog Lake	III	2	Mid. Emigrant Lake	II	1	Waterhouse Lake	IV	4
Gem Lake	III	2	Mid. Lewis Lake	II	1	Whitesides Meadow	III	5
Granite Lake	III	3	Mosquito Lake	I	1	Wilson Meadow Lake	I	1
Grizzly Meadow Lake	III	2	Olive Lake	I	1	Wire Lakes/Banana Lake	III	6
Groundhog Meadow	III	2	Pingree Lake	II	3	Wood Lake	III	5
Grouse Creek	I	1	Pinto Lakes	II	1	Y Meadow	III	3
Grouse Creek Lake	I	1	Piute Lake	III	2	Yellowhammer Lake	II	2

* Standards not yet established

Table 1.2 displays possible management actions that can be taken to ensure compliance with crowding standards.

Table 1.2 Potential Management Actions to Achieve Crowding Standards

	Level 1 Actions	Level 2 Actions	Level 3 Actions
Indicator	Education and Prevention	Indirect Measures	Direct Measures
Crowding	Voluntary dispersal in destination or time of visit through information about use patterns.	Discourage publication of cross country routes and publicity about problem destinations	Length of stay restrictions
		Publicize under used areas or times to visit.	Reassess Opportunity Class designation
		Modify trailheads or trails to improve access in other areas or decrease access in problem area.	Implement a quota system for trail heads or individual destinations
		Restrict campfires	
		Restrict recreational stock grazing	
	Restrict number of stock per group		
		Group size restrictions	

Table 1.3 indicates specific crowding conditions, which may trigger the next strongest level of action.

Table 1.3 Crowding Thresholds for Management Action

Meeting Standard <i>Level 1 Actions OK</i>	Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard* <i>Level 2 Actions OK</i>	Standard Exceeded* <i>Level 3 Actions OK</i>
Standard not exceeded in past three years	Standard exceeded, but not by more than 10 days per season in at least 2 out of past 3 seasons. OR Standard exceeded by more than 25%, but not by more than 5 days per season in at least 2 out of the past 3 seasons.	Standard exceeded by more than 10 days per season in at least 2 out of past 3 seasons. OR Standard exceeded by more than 25% more than 5 days per season in at least 2 out of past 3 seasons.

*Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. When level 2 or level 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective.

Related Issues:
Wilderness Opportunities
Social
Recreation
Ecosystems
Economic and Regional

2. Campsite and Stock Holding Area Condition

a. Campsite Condition Indicator

Campsite condition reflects the visual imprint of human uses as well as impacts to soil and vegetation, and often hydrologic processes and water quality.

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Campsite Condition	Table 2.2	Rate Conditions (Table 2.1)	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 2.3	Table 2.4

Table 2.1 shows the campsite condition rating system developed for the Emigrant Wilderness.

Table 2.1 **Campsite Condition Class Rating**

Parameter	Condition Class I	Condition Class II	Condition Class III	Condition Class IV
Summary	Ground disturbance none to light. Site barely recognizable as a campsite.	Ground disturbance moderate.	Ground disturbance high.	Ground disturbance extreme.
Ground Vegetation	Ground vegetation may be flattened but will recover quickly.	Ground vegetation reduced or worn away in a small area (<25%) around the center of activity.	Ground vegetation reduced or worn away on much (25%-50%) of the site.	Ground vegetation worn away on most (>50%) of the site.
Soil Litter and Duff	No new bare areas created.	Organic litter still present on entire site.	Organic litter still present on all but a few places (<25%) on site.	Organic litter worn away on most of the site. Extensive areas (>25%) of exposed mineral soil.
Trees	No new damage or tree root exposure.	No new damage or tree root exposure.	Tree roots may be exposed on the surface.	Tree root exposure may be pronounced.

Table 2.2 displays the standards for campsite condition.

Table 2.2 **Campsite Condition Standards**

Opportunity Class	Standards
I	Campsites may be in Condition Class 1 only.
II	Campsites may be in Condition Class 1 or 2 only.
III	Campsites may be in Condition Class 1,2 or 3, but no more than 50% of sites per destination may be in a Condition Class 3.
IV	Campsites may be in Condition Class 1,2 or 3 only.

Table 2.3 displays the possible actions that can be employed to meet campsite condition standards.

Table 2.3 **Potential Management Actions to Achieve Campsite Condition Standards**

	Level 1 Actions	Level 2 Actions	Level 3 Actions
Indicator	Education and Prevention	Indirect Measures	Direct Measures
Campsite Condition	<p>“Leave no Trace” education in the office, the community, at trailheads, and in the field where appropriate.</p>	<p>Implement campfire restrictions. Implement group size restrictions. Rehabilitate without closure</p>	<p>Implement length of stay restrictions. Reassess Opportunity Class designation</p>
	<p>Have groups, especially large groups, designate a “leave no trace coordinator”, responsible for the group’s campsite selection, and use. Increase patrol levels in problem areas.</p>	<p>Designate campsites, especially for larger groups.</p>	<p>Close and rehabilitate problem campsites.</p>

Table 2.4 displays the thresholds in condition for the next strongest action.

Table 2.4 **Campsite Condition Thresholds for Management Action**

Meeting Standard <i>Level 1 Actions OK</i>	Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard* <i>Level 2 Actions OK</i>	Standard Exceeded* <i>Level 3 Actions OK</i>
Standard not exceeded	Up to 25% of campsites at the destination area are exceeding the standard.	<p>26% or more of the campsites at the destination area are exceeding the standard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>One or more campsites are in Condition Class 4</p>
*Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. When level 2 or level 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective.		

b. Stock Holding Area Condition Indicator

A stock holding area is a place where recreational stock have been confined, tied or congregated.
Meadows grazed by recreational stock as well as commercial stock must comply with all Forest Plan direction for range condition.

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Stock Holding Area Condition	Table 2.6	Rate Conditions (Table 2.5)	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 2.7	Table 2.8

Table 2.5 shows the stock holding area condition rating system developed for the Emigrant Wilderness.

Table 2.5 **Stock Holding Area Condition Class Rating**

Parameter	Condition Class I	Condition Class II	Condition Class III	Condition Class IV
Summary	Ground disturbance none to light. Site barely recognizable as a stock area.	Ground disturbance moderate.	Ground disturbance high.	Ground disturbance extreme.
Ground Vegetation	Ground vegetation may be flattened, clipped or lightly grazed, but will recover quickly.	Ground vegetation may be flattened, clipped, or moderately grazed.	Ground vegetation reduced or worn away on much (25%-50%) of the site but will recover by next season.	Ground vegetation denuded or worn away on most of the site.
Soil Litter and Duff	Surface litter or duff disturbed.	Soil surface scraped, hoof marked, or indented.	Minor pawing, displaced sod or compaction.	Major pawing, chiseling, or erosion.
Trees	No new damage or tree root exposure.	Minor rubbing or gnawing not severe enough to damage the tree. No tree root exposure.	Obvious rubbing or gnawing but not severe enough to permanently damage the tree. Tree roots visible on surface.	Trees exhibit severe stock induced damage such as rubbing or gnawing which causes breaks in the bark through to the cambium, defoliation or multiple branches broken or removed, and may be dead or dying. Tree roots exposed.

Table 2.6 displays the stock holding area condition standards.

Table 2.6 **Stock Holding Area Condition Standards**

Opportunity Class	Standards
I	Stock areas may be in Condition Class 1 only.
II	Stock areas may be in Condition Class 1 or 2 only.
III	Stock areas may be in Condition Class 1,2 or 3, but no more than 50% of sites per destination may be in a Condition Class 3.
IV	Stock areas may be in Condition Class 1,2 or 3 only.

Table 2.7 displays the possible actions that can be employed to meet stock holding area condition standards.

Table 2.7 **Potential Management Actions to Achieve Stock Holding Area Condition Standards**

	Level 1 Actions	Level 2 Actions	Level 3 Actions
Indicator	Education and Prevention	Indirect Measures	Direct Measures
Stock Holding Area Condition	<p>“Leave no Trace” education in the office, the community, at trailheads, and in the field where appropriate directed at low impact stock handling techniques.</p> <p>Encourage fewer animals per person through education about lightweight gear and stock impacts.</p> <p>Increase patrol levels in problem areas.</p>	<p>Provide drift fencing to encourage letting stock roam.</p> <p>Implement stock group size restrictions.</p> <p>Implement “no tie” zones or no “overnight tie” zones.</p> <p>Require the use of portable electric fencing.</p> <p>Rehabilitate without closure.</p> <p>Restrict entry dates for stock until soils have dried out.</p>	<p>Implement stock length of stay restrictions.</p> <p>Close and rehabilitate holding areas.</p> <p>Designate holding areas, especially for larger groups</p> <p>Provide hitch rails at designated holding areas.</p> <p>Limit animals per group.</p> <p>Reassess Opportunity Class designation</p>
			<p>Institute stock quota system by total number of animals per year or at any one time at a destination.</p> <p>Close destinations to total or overnight stock use.</p> <p>Implement foot travel only trails to destinations not capable of meeting standards.</p> <p>Lower the group size number of stock/people.</p>

Table 2.8 displays the thresholds in conditions for the next strongest action.

Table 2.8 **Stock Holding Area Condition Thresholds for Management Action**

Meeting Standard <i>Level 1 Actions OK</i>	Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard* <i>Level 2 Actions OK</i>	Standard Exceeded* <i>Level 3 Actions OK</i>
Standard not exceeded	Up to 25% of stock areas at the destination area are exceeding the standard.	26% or more of the stock areas at the destination area are exceeding the standard. OR One or more stock areas are in Condition Class 4
*Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. When level 2 or level 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective.		

3. Campfire Wood and Campfires

a. Firewood Availability Indicator

Related Issues:
Wilderness Opportunities
Social
Recreation
Ecosystems
Economic and Regional

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Firewood Availability	Table 3.1	Visual Observation	Wilderness Personnel	20% of destinations surveyed annually	Table 3.2	Table 3.3

Continue current campfire management direction as described in existing Forest Order 36CFR 261.52a, prohibiting campfires above the 9,000-foot contour. Variations above and below this contour will be permitted based on application of site-specific indicators and standards.

The indicators and standards listed below are experimental and may be modified based on monitoring results or new information if it is determined that adverse resource impacts are not occurring.

Rate firewood availability using the definitions listed below. Firewood is considered any down woody debris between one inch in diameter and 4 inches in diameter.

- None** No dead or down wood suitable for campfires within 200 feet of the campsite (about 2.9 acres per campsite). Broken limbs on green trees, snags pulled over, and larger logs showing signs of being hacked up will often accompany this condition.
- Scarce** Firewood is available, but less than 4ft³ within 200 feet of the campsite.
- Moderate** 4ft³ to 8ft³ of fuelwood is available within 200 feet of the campsite.
- Abundant** More than 8ft³ is available within 200 feet of the campsite.

Standards for firewood availability vary by opportunity class, and an area's natural ability to produce down woody debris. For the purposes of estimating firewood productivity, use the following ranges of stand densities:

- None to Sparse** Less than 10% crown cover
- Sparse** 10% to 19% crown cover
- Poor** 20% to 39% crown cover
- Medium** 40% to 69% crown cover
- Good** 70% to 100% crown cover

Table 3.1 displays the standards for firewood availability by opportunity class for destinations with a sparse or greater stand density. Do not consider areas with less than sparse stand densities for campfire wood gathering.

Table 3.1 **Firewood Availability Standards**

Opportunity Class	Stand Density	Standards
I	Sparse to Poor	All campsites have moderate or more firewood available.
	Medium to Good	All campsites have abundant firewood available
II	Sparse to Poor	No more than 15% of campsites have scarce or less firewood available
	Medium to Good	No more than 15% of campsites have moderate or less firewood available
III	Sparse to Poor	No more than 30% of campsites per destination have scarce or less firewood available
	Medium to Good	No more than 30% of campsites per destination have moderate or less firewood available.
IV	Sparse to Poor	No more than 50% of campsites per destination have scarce or less firewood available
	Medium to Good	No more than 50% of campsites per destination have moderate or less firewood available.

Table 3.2 displays levels of management actions available to implement firewood standards.

Table 3.2 Potential Management Actions to Achieve Firewood Availability Standards

	Level 1 Actions	Level 2 Actions	Level 3 Actions
Indicator	Education and Prevention	Indirect Measures	Direct Measures
Firewood Availability	Education in the office, at trail heads, in the field and in the community regarding low impact campfires and the importance of woody debris.	Limit the size of fire rings.	Limit the season for firewood gathering to the colder periods.
		Require garbage be packed out rather than burned.	Implement “no firewood gathering zones”. Designate gathering areas.
		Require the use of cook stoves for cooking. Require the use of fire pans.	Implement “no campfire” zones.

Table 3.3 displays the thresholds in conditions for the next strongest action.

Table 3.3 Firewood Availability Thresholds for Management Action

Meeting Standard <i>Level 1 Actions OK</i>	Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard* <i>Level 2 Actions OK</i>	Standard Exceeded* <i>Level 3 Actions OK</i>
Standard not exceeded	Within 10% either side of standard	Standard exceeded by more than 10%

*Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situations. When level 2 or level 3 actions are allowable they will not necessarily be implemented if less obtrusive actions will be effective.

4. Stream Condition

a. Stream Condition Indicator

Related Issues:
Recreation
Ecosystems
Range
Fisheries

Indicator	Standard	Monitoring Method	Monitoring Personnel	Monitoring Frequency	Potential Actions	Thresholds for Action
Stream Condition	Table 4.1	R-5 SCI Protocol	Hydrologist	Every 5 years	Table 4.2	Table 4.3

Table 4.1 displays the stream condition indicators and standards. The standards apply to all opportunity classes. Streams will be measured in reaches, which are sensitive to disturbance, by management activity (i.e. recreation, grazing).

Table 4.1 Stream Condition Indicators and Standards

Opportunity Class	Stream Condition Attributes*
I - IV	Achieve at least 90% of the range of reference variability on stream reaches where existing condition is less than 90%. Maintain the existing condition on stream reaches where condition is within range of reference variability. Example: If width/depth ratio reference variability is 18-25, 90% of the range of variability is 16-28. A stream with an existing width/depth ratio of 35 should be reduced to at least 28. If a stream has an existing condition of 20 it should be maintained within 18-25.
* Stream Condition Inventory. USDA Forest Service. Pacific Southwest Region. Version 3.4, June 1996. SCI measures numerous stream and aquatic habitat condition attributes such as stream bank stability, stream bank angle, pool frequency, width-to-depth ratio and water temperatures.	

Table 4.2 lists potential management actions to achieve stream condition standards.

Table 4.2 Potential Management Actions to Achieve Stream Condition Standards

	Level 1 Actions	Level 2 Actions	Level 3 Actions
Indicator	Education and Prevention	Indirect Measures	Direct Measures
Stream Condition	Education in the office, trailheads, field and in the community aimed at reducing trampling in riparian areas.	Reduce or disperse use by imposing the Level 1 actions listed under crowding.	Reconstruct trails, or relocate trails away from riparian areas and meadows.
		Reduce or disperse use by imposing the Level 2 actions listed under crowding. Change grazing requirements for residual biomass, residual stubble height, woody browse, season of use.	Close trails, campsites or stock holding areas directly affecting stream condition. Stream channel restoration through stream channel structures and rehabilitation
		Reduce or disperse use by imposing the Level 3 actions listed under crowding.	Restrict livestock from riparian areas. Restrict off trail travel.

Table 4.3 shows the thresholds for different levels of action, where level 1 is the least obtrusive and level 3 the most.

Table 4.3 Stream Condition Thresholds for Management Action

Meeting Standard	Approaching or Beginning to Exceed Standard*	Standard Exceeded*
Level 1 Actions OK	Level 2 Actions OK	Level 3 Actions OK
Standard not exceeded	Standard exceeded by less than 5%	Standard exceeded by 5% or more
*Actual actions taken will depend on site-specific situation. When level 2 or level 3 actions are allowable it is not necessary that they be implemented if less obtrusive measures will work.		

Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class Map

The Emigrant Wilderness Opportunity Class map contained in this Section is in addition to the maps contained in the Forest Plan. The official map of record is on file as part of the Planning Records.



