

Chapter I, Introduction



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Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

This Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) directs the management of the Plumas National Forest (PNF) and 15,000 acres of the Lassen National Forest. The purpose is to guide efficient use and protection of Forest resources, fulfill legislative requirements, and balance local, regional, and national needs. To accomplish this, the Forest Plan:

- * establishes management goals and direction for the next 10-15 years (the "planning period") and compatible long-range Forest objectives for the next fifty years (the "planning horizon"),
- * prescribes management practices for specified areas and time periods needed to attain these objectives,
- * establishes monitoring and evaluation requirements that measure implementation success,
- * yields resource inventory data necessary for Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessments, and
- * provides information for the development of program and budget proposals.

Preparation of the Forest Plan is required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA), as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA), and by the implementing Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 219). Assessment of the Plan's environmental impacts is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Regulations (36 CFR 219.10 (b)) and is contained in an accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS describes in detail the existing Forest environment and management, supply and demand factors, and the environmental effects of implementing the proposed Forest Plan or other reasonable alternatives that are presented therein. It also includes a description of the data-gathering, issue-identification, and alternative-formulation that constituted this planning process. The Plan summarizes demand and supply potential, amplifies the selected alternative, and applies its management direction to each management area of the Forest. Both the EIS and the Plan state the public issues and management concerns that guided formulation of the Plan.

B. Relationship to Existing Plumas National Forest Plans

This plan applies to all areas of the Forest and integrates all other Forest planning within it. This plan therefore supersedes all general management plans (e.g. Timber Management Plan, District Multiple Use Plans), all unit plans (e.g. Mohawk and Bucks Lake), and all special area or activity plans where separate plans are not specifically required by law (36 CFR 219.2). Separate plans so required are incorporated by reference into this document, and overall management direction is stated herein. See Appendix A for disposition of all existing plans.

C. The Implementation Process

The management policy of this document will be implemented as soon as the final EIS is approved by the Regional Forester. All subsequent activities affecting the Forest, including management, budget proposals, permits, contracts, and other instruments for the use of the Forest, shall comply with this Forest Plan (36 CFR 219.1(b) and 219.10 (e) and 16 USC 1604 (i)). The Plan will be implemented at all levels of Forest management. Environmental Assessments (EA's) for all Forest projects will be tiered to the EIS for this Plan.

D. Plan Amendments and Revisions

Lands governed by the Forest Plan will be reviewed every five years by the Forest Supervisor to determine whether conditions or demands of the public have changed significantly. The Forest Plan will normally be revised every ten years (at least every 15 years); however, it may be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that changing conditions or demands, including RPA policies, would have a significant effect on the Forest (36 CFR 219.10 (g)), or whenever monitoring results so require (see Chapter 4). Regional Forester approval is required. The Forest Supervisor may amend the Plan at any time if monitoring results indicate a need and the Plan would not thereby be significantly changed.

Management actions, outputs, and environmental and socio-economic effects for several decades beyond the plan period are discussed in the EIS. The purpose of these discussions is twofold:

(1) To present a long term analysis for decision-makers and the public of the management necessary to achieve and maintain, in perpetuity, a high level of regular, periodic outputs of the various resources without impairment to the productivity of the land (16 USC 531), (2) to coordinate the Forest Plan with RPA program development since RPA

requires information for four decades beyond the plan period (16 USC 1602). This linkage is discussed in Chapter 1 of the EIS.

The projection of actions and outputs beyond the plan period, although required by law, does not legally bind the Forest to such action and production action beyond the plan period, since, as noted above, the Forest is required to revise the plan within 15 years and this revision may establish different long-term goals with different future projections.

E. Plan Organization

The Forest Plan is divided into four major parts:

Chapter 2, Public Issues and Management Concerns, states the issues and concerns established at the outset of the planning process and indicates how they are resolved herein.

Chapter 3, Analysis of the Management Situation Summary, summarizes both the Analysis of the Management Situation, the full text of which is in the Planning Records, and the EIS "Affected Environment". It describes demand, supply potential, and the need and opportunity for management change on a resource-by-resource basis.

Chapter 4, Management Direction, presents the selected Forest goals and policies, land allocation, and commodity outputs and costs for the 10-year planning period. In addition, it a) presents Forest-wide management standards and guidelines to attain these goals and objectives and b) defines management prescriptions, special standards and guidelines, and target outputs for each of the 43 "Management Areas" of the Forest. A description and map of each Management Area accompanies the text.

Chapter 5, Monitoring and Evaluation, establishes a procedure to monitor specific Forest outputs and environmental effects of Plan implementation and a framework to generate feedback to the planning process.

The PNF Planning Records for this plan (36 CFR 219.10 (h)), available for inspection at the Supervisor's Office in Quincy, California, are hereby incorporated by reference into this plan.