

Chapter 4, Management Direction



Ch. 4 Management Direction

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Management Direction

Introduction

"Management direction" includes all written policy guiding the actions of Forest land managers. It is intended to provide purpose, clarity, consistency, and full disclosure to the public of all management activity.

The hierarchy of management direction for the PNF includes all relevant Federal law, the Forest Service Manual, the Pacific Southwest Regional Guide, PNF Forest Goals and Policies herein, and all other direction of this Plan. Each successive level is subordinate to that which precedes it.

Forest Goals and Policies are the overall PNF management direction for the Plan period in response to each identified public issue and management concern. The remaining Plan direction is intended to implement these policies and attain these goals.

Implementing direction is comprised of Forest-wide direction and Management Area direction, the latter prescribed for each of the 43 geographical management areas defined within the Forest.

Forest-wide Direction includes Forest Objectives, Forestwide Standards and Guidelines, and Management Prescriptions, described as follows:

Forest Objectives are quantified target land-use allocations, resource-use activities, commodity outputs, and operating costs for the ensuing 50 years.

Forestwide Standards and Guidelines is management guidance applicable to all lands within the Forest wherever and whenever the relevant situations occur. Application areas are not mapped and may change from time to time.

Management Prescriptions are land-use categories to which all Forest lands are allocated for various purposes. Each prescription is comprised of appropriate standards and guidelines that will meet some particular need (such as special habitat protection, recreation quality enhancement, or timber production) while allowing other compatible activities. This direction supplements the Forestwide Standards and Guidelines, which must always be applied.

Management Area Direction is area-specific standards and guidelines as well as quantified objectives for each area. Approximate local acreages committed to each of the prescriptions are included.

"Standards and Guidelines" are used repeatedly to embody management direction. Each is prefaced by a statement of "General Direction", indicating which Forest Goal and Policy is being implemented. Note that guidelines are not explicitly distinguished from standards; the language of each statement indicates the degree of management discretion.

Variance from Forestwide Standards and Guidelines, Prescriptions, or Management Area Direction may occasionally be needed due to on-site conditions or overriding management objectives. However, the Forest will not vary from requirements of law. Variances must be justified in the appropriate project analysis document. The recurrence of variances could result in plan amendment or revision according to Chapter 1, page 1-2.

Forest Goals and Policies

The management direction of this plan is to evolve the Plumas National Forest to a mosaic of:

- intensively-managed, regulated, sustained-yield, and generally even-aged timberland on the most productive sites;
- increasingly-productive and utilized rangeland;
- special interest, semi-primitive, and wild areas; and
- developed recreation centers;

while:

- managing soil productivity and improving water quality,
- encouraging mineral and energy production,
- conserving significant cultural resources, and
- maintaining viability of all wildlife species.

This desired future condition is embodied in the following goals and policies that respond to each identified public issue and management concern (see Chapter 2).



Recreation

- (1a) Provide for a variety of forest-related recreation, and coordinate recreation with other resource use through the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum system.
Encourage growth of privately-operated facilities serving public needs.
Improve and expand developed facilities and trails to meet demand while reducing unit costs and protecting other resources.
Complete acquisition of Wild and Scenic River lands and easements.
Minimize conflicts between various recreational users.
Manage selected unroaded areas to provide for semi-primitive opportunities.
- (1b) Allow use of off-road vehicles wherever user conflicts or unacceptable resource damage are unlikely.
Provide separate ORV routes wherever conflicting uses are substantial.



Visual Resources

- (2a) Allow management activities to dominate the visual landscape of lands committed to intensive timber or other commodity production.
Maintain high visual quality on lands committed to other uses or readily apparent from recreational developments, major travel routes, and other high use areas.



Cultural Resources

- (3a) Continue the cultural resources inventory within and adjacent to resource-use projects prior to activity, according to a schedule that will result in Forest-wide inventory within the legislated period.
Protect or evaluate all cultural properties and manage, according to law, all significant cultural properties.
Consult with the appropriate interested parties regarding disposition of discovered resources.
Interpret for the Forest visitor selected historical and National Register sites that typify cultures, lifestyles, and events of the northern Sierra.
Locate and manage/protect important Native American religious and gathering areas and other traditional ethnic use areas.



Wildlife, Fish, and Sensitive Plants

- (5a) Maintain habitat to support viable populations of all native and desired non-native vertebrate species.
Provide habitat leading to viable populations of endangered species.
Improve and protect habitat for designated emphasis and harvest species.
Manage portions of the Middle Fork Feather River, Nelson Creek, and Yellow Creek environments to protect Wild Trout fisheries through Wild and Scenic River, Semi-Primitive Area, and Visual Quality Objective allocations.

Provide diversity of plant and animal communities and tree species by assuring the continuous and viable presence of all seral stages of all native plant communities occurring on the forest.



Range

- (6a) Use both permanent and transitory range for livestock grazing. Suspend potential use on selected vacant allotments highly valued for other uses. Maintain use in open-range areas where land subdivision is occurring. Acquire lands where needed to improve range condition on existing Forest landbase.
- (6b) Allocate forage to wildlife sufficient to satisfy Goal 5a. Do not limit grazing use in allotments due to dispersed recreational uses.
- (6c) Improve ranges and implement grazing systems to protect riparian areas and restore them where needed. Maintain or expand grazing use and range productivity of all active range allotments on a sustained-yield basis as demand and economic feasibility warrant.



Timber

- (7a) Consider the following lands suitable for forest regulation and scheduled timber production:
- forest lands capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year;
 - not withdrawn from timber production by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service;
 - capable of producing timber without significant or permanent impairment to productivity of the land;
 - capable of being adequately restocked within five years of harvest;
 - cost-efficient in producing timber over the planning horizon; and
 - not committed herein to other uses incompatible with scheduled timber production.
- (7b &c) Manage the timber resource to maintain timberland productivity by selecting silvicultural practices from the full range available on an individual stand basis, in accordance with biological requirements, economic efficiency, and management direction for other resources. On suitable timberlands (see 7a) capable of producing at least 50 cubic feet per acre per year, progress toward a regulated forest condition through scheduled yields from

use of both uneven-age and even-age silvicultural systems where each is optimum. Disperse harvest openings. Schedule future harvests when regenerated stands have generally reached culmination of mean annual increment. On such suitable lands also of importance to the attainment of other resource goals herein, use longer rotations and smaller openings as necessary. On the less productive suitable timberlands, maintain a generally continuous forest cover through uneven-age silvicultural systems that provide scheduled yields. On lands of primary importance to the attainment of other resource goals herein, harvest no timber or use appropriate special cutting methods to provide unscheduled yields without forest regulation. For each harvest opportunity, consider use of all appropriate logging technology, and base selection on silvicultural needs, resource protection, feasibility, and cost. Offer a range of sale types and sizes.

- (7d) Adhere to the principle of non-declining flow (no scheduled departure). Temporarily exceed the base sale schedule only if high mortality losses could be significantly reduced.
- (7e) Use a site-specific approach to control competing vegetation, employing mechanical, cultural, biological, and/or chemical methods based on effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and protection of human health and environmental quality.



Christmas Trees

- (8a) Harvest Christmas trees only where timber productivity is enhanced or maintained.
Continue commercial Christmas tree sales.
Continue the individual Christmas tree program on the Milford, Beckwourth, Greenville, and Quincy Districts until local commercial sources are sufficient to meet demand.



Riparian Areas

- (9a) Protect riparian areas and water quality by limiting disturbance in streamside management zones according to ground slope and stability, stream class, channel stability, fishery, and other beneficial uses, and favor riparian-dependent resources in cases of competing resource demands.

Encourage natural protective processes.

Inventory streams, streamside areas, and other wetlands in deteriorating condition and restore on a priority basis.



Water

- (10a) Maintain or improve water quality to protect beneficial uses and meet or exceed State objectives.

Inventory existing water uses affecting the Forest and regulate or recommend regulation of future uses to assure an adequate supply for PNF and instream needs.

Realize feasible increases in the quantity of water yield and delays in the timing of runoff by including water yield modification as an objective in the design and manipulation of commercial and non-commercial vegetation.

Reduce sediment yields from watersheds in deteriorating condition and those tributary to eroding channels or hazardous floodprone areas.

- (10b) Ensure public safety and property protection from the hazards of flooding by minimizing occupancy and modification of floodplains.

Avoid water quality degradation by using Best Management Practices during land management activities, and reduce sedimentation, and channel erosion by rehabilitating deteriorating watersheds.



Soil

- (11a) Continue to identify areas subject to significant erosion, loss of organic matter, and compaction damage to prevent or eliminate significant productivity losses associated with them. Allow activities on these areas only to the degree that erosional processes are not materially accelerated.

- (11b) Reduce soil loss and compaction where timber or range site is degraded.
Retain sufficient logging residue for erosion and fertility protection, and allow no significant or permanent impairment of soil productivity.
Enhance soil productivity on selected sites.



Air Quality

- (12a) Adjust burning programs and other Forest activities as needed so that Federal, State, and local air pollutant standards are not violated.



Minerals and Materials

- (13a) Encourage mineral and materials development throughout the Forest except in specified areas withdrawn to protect sensitive resources or substantial investments that cannot otherwise be protected.
Maintain a material source inventory for Forest uses.
Approve mining plans of operation contingent upon reasonable protection of surface resources and reclamation of disturbed land.



Geology

- (14a) In areas identified as susceptible to slope failure, analyze risks of management activities so as to avoid initiation or acceleration of failure and to protect human safety and Forest resources.
- (14b) Prevent degradation of groundwater quality and use groundwater supplies only on a long-term, sustained yield basis.



Energy

- (15a) Encourage biomass use for energy production where more cost-efficient than other fuel treatment methods, if site protection is not diminished.
Facilitate permitting of hydroelectric and other new energy development that reasonably protects all resources.
Maximize energy efficiency in new Forest facility construction, reconstruction, and fleet operation.
- (15b) Reserve fuelwood suitable for home heating in quantities sufficient to meet demand of local Forest communities. After meeting site protection and wildlife needs, give preference to individual domestic use of woody forest residue over commercial utilization.



Lands

- (16a) Accomplish ownership adjustments that maintain total timber productivity and that consolidate PNF lands within the Forest boundary, conform to the PNF Wild and Scenic River Acquisition Plan, or result in acquisition of Threatened or Endangered Species habitat, Wild Trout Stream watershed, critical deer range, essential watering sources on range allotments, or areas crucial to recreation management.
Designate those Forest lands suitable for disposal, particularly those essential to community expansion.
Acquire road and trail rights-of-way needed to meet the other management goals herein.
Mark sufficient Forest boundary line to avoid uncertainty in timber and other resource management and to resolve occupancy trespass.
- (16b) Authorize non-Federal use of PNF lands only if compatible with Management Area direction, use of other land is not feasible, conditions of issuance will mitigate all significant environmental impacts, and the public interest is protected.



Facilities

(17a) Provide roads and trails necessary to achieve goals herein.

Upgrade arterials and selected major collectors.

Construct or reconstruct roads to minimum standards achieving maximum road economy and resource protection. Transfer to the counties maintenance responsibility for routes serving subdivided private lands.

Determine the most efficient routes between locations served by multiple routes and confine higher-level maintenance thereto.

Reduce new road impact by use of former roadways and disturbed areas and by revegetation and other sediment control where appropriate.

Eliminate, close, or obliterate unneeded roads.

Maintain, reconstruct and construct other facilities necessary to support Forest activities in the most cost-efficient manner, compatible with resource protection needs.



Fire and Fuels

(18a) On natural fuels in areas of high risk, use prescribed fire, fuel utilization, and other fuel management as needed to reduce wildfire hazard.

Treat harvest-generated fuels both to reduce wildfire hazard and/or to facilitate cost-efficient timber production.

Treat selected grasslands and brushlands by prescribed fire to improve range conditions where cost-effective or to enhance wildlife habitat.

Allow unplanned ignition of prescribed fire in Wilderness if determined appropriate in the Wilderness management plan and approved prescriptive conditions are met.

(18b) Reduce preventable human-caused wildfire.

Provide wildfire protection by timely detection and suppression responses with appropriate forces. Use special suppression strategies where unique resources are involved.

Limit structural fire suppression to situations that either threaten Forest resources or endanger life where local structural protection forces do not yet exist or are inadequate.



Forest Pests

- (19a) Use a site specific, integrated pest management approach to control forest pests, employing mechanical, cultural, biological, and/or chemical methods based on effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and protection of human health and environmental quality.

Rely on natural processes in natural areas where adjacent resources are not threatened.



Special Areas

- (20a) To protect unique botanical values for research purposes, continue procedures to establish Research Natural Areas at Mt. Pleasant (Red Fir) and Mud Lake (Modoc Cypress).
- (20b) Establish formal Special Interest Area status for the Soda Rock geologic area, the Valley Creek old-growth mixed conifer stand, and the Little Last Chance Canyon scenic area.

Maintain the Butterfly Valley Botanical Area and Feather Falls Scenic Area.

Protect other areas of unique geologic, scenic, or ecologic value with appropriate management guidelines.

Forest Objectives

The following tables present target Forest land-use allocations, commodity outputs, resource management activities, and operating costs, that would accomplish or be compatible with the Forest Goals and Policies.

Table 4-1 presents the approximate Forest-wide acreages allocated to each Management Prescription. Table 4-2 states the target commodity outputs and resource-management activities for the next two decades. Table 4-3 provides additional objectives for timber management on an annual basis. Table 4-4 states wildlife habitat objectives for the planning period. Table 4-5 lists those areas closed to ORV use.

Table 4-1

Land Allocation to Management Prescriptions

<u>Prescription</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>% of PNF</u>
Rx-1. Wilderness	21,000	1.7
Rx-2. Wild and Scenic River	19,000	1.6
Rx-3. Feather Falls Scenic Area	15,000	1.2
Rx-4. Challenge Experimental Forest	3,400	0.3
Rx-5. Recreation Area	48,500	4.1
Rx-6. Developed Recreation Site	1,000	0.1
Rx-7. Minimal Management	133,000	11.3
Rx-8. Semi-Primitive Area	53,000	4.5
Rx-9. Riparian Area	33,000	2.8
Rx-10. Visual Retention	115,000	9.8
Rx-11. Bald Eagle Habitat	9,000	0.7
Rx-12. Spotted Owl Habitat	63,000	5.3
Rx-13. Goshawk Habitat	3,000	0.2
Rx-14. Visual Partial Retention	202,000	17.2
Rx-15. Timber Emphasis	460,000	39.3
Rx-16. Intensive Range Management	15,000	1.2
Rx-17. Research Natural Area	1,400	0.1

See the 24" x 30" map of the Preferred Alternative accompanying the EIS for the approximate distribution of these prescriptions Forest-wide.

Table 4-2 (1 of 4)

Average Annual Outputs and Activities by Decade

Decade 1 is the period 1986-1995

Resource Elements	Base	'80 RPA Goals		Decades	
	Year 1982	1990	2030	1	2
RECREATION					
Developed Public (M RVD)	750	800	1160	925	1155
Developed Private (M RVD)	225			275	345
Dispersed (M RVD)	855	1360*	1820*	1037	1244
Wilderness (M RVD)	0			30	35
Open, Usable ORV Areas (M acres)					
Summer	66			60	60
Winter (snow areas)	40			40	40
Roads & Trails Open Only to ORV Use (miles)					
Summer	26			26	28
Winter (snow areas)	10			10	10
Roads & Trails Closed to ORV Use (miles)					
Summer	212			236	258
Winter	90			90	90
VISUAL RESOURCES					
Visual Quality Index	71.54			69.92	68.30
WILDLIFE					
Threatened & Endangered Species					
Peregrine Falcon Nest Sites	0			2	2
Bald Eagle Territories	13			26	26
Wildlife--Other Than T&E					
Deer (M animals)	19.1			24.0	24.2
Resident Fish (M lbs)	460			487.4	489.8
Spotted Owls (pairs)	61			69	69
Goshawk (pairs)	100			86	81

* Includes WFUD's

Table 4-2 (2 of 4)

Average Annual Outputs and Activities by Decade

Decade 1 is the period 1986-1995

Resource Elements	Base	'80 RPA Goals		Decades	
	Year 1982	1990	2030	1	2
Wildlife & Fish User Days (MWFUD's)	465			603	716
Direct Habitat Improvement (MWFUD'S)					
Deer	0.1			3.0	3.5
Other Wildlife Species (Except T&E)	0.1			0.6	0.7
Resident Fish	0.6			3.3	3.8
Induced Habitat Improvement (MWFUD'S)					
Deer	1.8			2.6	3.8
Other Wildlife Species (Except T&E)	0.7			1.0	1.5
Resident Fish	0			2.4	2.9
Direct Habitat Improvement					
Deer (acres)	630			750	750
Deer (structures)	22			68	68
Other Wildlife Except T&E (acres)	78			150	150
Resident Fish (acres)	26	0	0	150	150
Total Acre equivalents	2642	10160	4360	8750	8750
<u>RANGE</u>					
Grazing (M AUM)	30.2	30.9	32.6	34 1/	36 1/
<u>TIMBER</u>					
Allowable Sale Quantity (MMBF)	250.5 2/	245.3	267.2	265.5	265.6
(MMCF)	38.5	37.7	41.1	41.1	41.1
Long-Term Sustained Yield (MMCF)				49.6	49.6
Reforestation (M acres)	1.9	6.3	7.4	5.3	4.8

1/ Increased output over draft Plan due to expansion of the grazing land base through land exchange and utilization of transitory range.

2/ Actual sales offered 1982: 187.1 MMBF

Table 4-2 (3 of 4)

Average Annual Outputs and Activities by Decade

Decade 1 is the period 1986-1995

Resource Elements	Base	'80 RPA Goals		Decades	
	Year 1982	1990	2030	1	2
<u>TIMBER (cont.)</u>					
Timber Stand Improvement (M acres)	2.4	5.0	5.1	6.8	11.9
<u>WOOD PRODUCTS OTHER THAN SAWTIMBER</u>					
Fuelwood (M cords)	53			53	53
Biomass (M dry tons)				160	162
<u>WATER</u>					
Quality (MM ac. ft. at standards)		1.8 ^{2/}	1.9	1.8	1.9
Increased Quantity (M acre feet)	0			20	30
Watershed Improvement (acres/year)	0	220	250	1100	1200
<u>LANDS AND MINERALS</u>					
Minerals (Plans of Operation)	100	40 ^{4/}	52	93	117
Land Acquisition (acres)	500	2000	0	1000	1000
<u>HUMAN RESOURCES</u>					
Programs (enrollees)	175	9	9	175	175
<u>FIRE</u>					
Fuel Treatment (acres)					
Total	3100			10,143	10,474
Fire-Related	650	2600	2200	250	150
Timber-Related	2170			8103	7699
Other	280			1790	2625

^{3/} RPA water quality goals adjusted from total amount flowing from and through the Forest to only amount yielded from PNF lands, to allow comparison.

^{4/} Unanticipated mineral activity has occurred since these goals were established.

Table 4-2 (4 of 4)

Average Annual Outputs and Activities by Decade

Decade 1 is the period 1986-1995

Resource Elements	Base	'80 RPA Goals		Decades	
	Year 1982	1990	2030	1	2
Expected Wildfire (acres)					
Intensity Class 1	36			32	34
Intensity Class 2	291			265	279
Intensity Class 3	288			262	276
Intensity Class 4	701			343	677
Intensity Class 5	1624			704	1354
Intensity Class 6	0			0	0
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>					
Trail Construction/Reconstruction (miles)	0	11	10	17.8	17.8
Road Construction/Reconstruction (miles)	149	22	15	221	174
Road Maintenance (miles)	3692			3777	3842
<u>FACILITIES</u>					
Dams and Reservoirs (number)					
Forest Service	10			10	10
Other Federal	3			3	3
State/Local	4			4	4
Private	38			35	40
Administrative Sites (number)					
Owned	24			26	27
Leased	5			3	2
<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u> (MM\$)	22.3	27.1	29.5	29.9	35.6
<u>TOTAL COST</u> (MM\$)	24.4			31.1	36.8

Table 4-3

Timber Management Schedule Outputs and Activities
(Annual Average in First Decade)

<u>Management Practice</u>	<u>Acres/Year</u>	<u>Allowable Sale Quantity</u> (MMCF/yr) (MMBF/yr)	
<u>Regeneration Harvests</u>			
Clearcutting	4000	22.33	144.0
Shelterwood (1st Step)	600	2.84	18.3
Shelterwood (2nd Step)	600	2.01	13.0
Group Selection	800	3.41	22.1
<u>Intermediate Harvest</u>			
Stand Maintenance (Sanitation and selection)	5286	6.62	42.7
Commercial Thinning	5000	3.83	25.4
Total	16,286	41.04	265.5
<u>Other Practices</u>		<u>Acres/Year</u>	
Timber Stand Improvement			
Release	5666		
Precommercial Thinning	1192		
Total	6858		
Reforestation <u>1/</u>			
Regeneration Harvest	5400		
Brush & Hardwood Conversion	400		
Total	5800		

1/ includes natural and artificial

Table 4-4

Wildlife Habitat Objectives

The following are minimum management objectives for the planning period. Numbers in the preceding Table 4-2 may be larger than those given below, since Table 4-2 reports predicted habitat based on the planning models.

Bald Eagle

Provide suitable habitat for 13 known bald eagle territories and 13 potential territories over the next decade, pending results of the Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. Provide sufficient foraging and roost sites for wintering bald eagles.

Peregrine Falcon

Provide suitable habitat for two peregrine falcon nest sites.

Prairie Falcon

Provide suitable habitat for at least seven prairie falcon territories.

Osprey

Provide suitable habitat for at least 32 osprey territories.

Golden Eagle

Provide suitable habitat for at least nine golden eagle territories.

Goshawk

Provide suitable habitat for a Forest-wide network of 60 goshawk territories.

Spotted Owl

Provide suitable habitat for a Forest-wide network of 54 spotted owl habitat areas.

Deer

Provide summer and winter range habitat to meet the PNF share of objectives of approved deer herd plans.

Other Species

Quantified objectives are not established, but management standards and guidelines are prescribed. See following section.

Table 4-5

ORV Closures

	<u>Acreage</u>
Bucks Lake Wilderness Area	21,000
Wild Zone of the Wild and Scenic River (except the Deadman Springs, Stag Point, Cleghorn Bar, and Little California 4WD Trails which remain open.)	10,400
Challenge Experimental Forest	3,400
Semi-Primitive Areas (9)	75,400
Butterfly Valley Botanical Area	500
Feather Falls Scenic Area	15,000
Recreation Areas (11)	48,500
Developed Recreation Sites Outside of Recreation Areas	200
Pacific Crest Trail	170
Quincy Junction Archaeological District	30
Unstable/Damaged Watersheds:	
Diamond Mountain Closure	4,450
Snake Lake Closure	50
Riparian Areas, Meadows, and Wetlands	Unknown
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Total	179,100 +