

8/1995

Elko Resource Area/Wells Resource Area

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Status/Review

August 1995

**ELKO RESOURCE AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
STATUS/REVIEW
AUGUST 1995**

DATE RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED: MARCH 11, 1987

The Elko Resource Area Management Plan was designed for a 20 year implementation period. The RMP has been in place through approximately forty percent of the life of the plan.

The sources of information are all District files unless otherwise identified.

1. LANDS

Objective:

Allow disposals, land tenure adjustments, and land use authorizations to accommodate the overall goal of this alternative.

1. Make available, primarily through sale, up to 8,340 acres of public lands that are difficult and uneconomic to manage and 5,900 acres to meet community expansion needs.

STATUS

As of July 26, 1995, a total of 1,151.070 acres have been disposed of through sale and R&PP conveyance.

**Sales - 661.070 acres
R&PP Sale - 490.000 acres**

2. Identify for transfer, primarily through exchange, 243,200 acres.

STATUS

As of July 26, 1995, a total of 42,013.620 acres have been transferred via exchange.

Source: ALMRS

2. CORRIDORS

Objective:

Identify designated corridors and planning corridors in coordination with other multiple-use objectives.

1. Designate 243 miles of right-of-way corridors including 109 miles of low visibility corridor along Interstate 80 and identify 130 miles of planning corridors for future facilities.

STATUS

Corridors were designated as a result of the completion of the RMP.

3. ACCESS

Objective:

Initiate procedures to acquire legal access for routes which would enhance opportunities to use public resources and provide for public land administration.

1. Acquire legal access for 60 roads (242 miles) considered high priority for management of all resources.

STATUS

As of July 26, 1995, legal access has been acquired for a total of 20 roads, containing 4.85 miles.

Source: ALMRS

4. RECREATION

Objective:

Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities.

1. Designate 98 percent of the planning area open to off road vehicles, and the remaining 2 percent, consisting of Special Recreation Management Areas and preliminary suitable portions of Wilderness Study Areas, limited to designated roads and trails.

STATUS

Designation resulted from the completion of the RMP and Wilderness EIS. RMP maintenance occurred in July 1993 to limit off-road vehicle use in all portions of six WSAs to designated roads and trails. This change was necessary to comply with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review update document, dated November 10, 1987.

2. Designate the following five Special Recreation Management Areas to enhance camping and water based recreation: South Fork Owyhee River (3,500 acres); Wilson Reservoir (5,440 acres); Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir (800 acres); South Fork Canyon (3,360 acres); Wildhorse (5,760 acres). Manage the remainder of the planning area for dispersed recreation activities.

STATUS

Management of three SRMAs (South Fork Owyhee River, Wilson Reservoir, and Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir,) designated prior to the RMP on-going. Designation of the South Fork Canyon and Wildhorse SRMAs resulted from completion of the RMP. Management of the remainder of the Resource Area for dispersed recreation activities is on-going. One Watchable Wildlife site designated. One interpretive site under development. Public information, byway development, FACT SHEETS, District Recreation Guide Map development, and signing are on-going. RAMPs for the South Fork Owyhee River and Wilson Reservoir SRMAs were completed prior to the RMP.

The Zunino/ Jiggs Reservoir RAMP completed in 1988. RAMPs for the South Fork Canyon and Wildhorse SRMAs are in progress. A projected implementation date is 2007.

The sign and information program as required is on-going.

Project planning complete for Wilson Reservoir SRMA. (No project plans have been done for Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir SRMA, only the RAMP). No \$\$'s to implement. Projected to be done by 2007, but at a much lesser level than proposed in Recreation 2000 Plan. Need to redefine "minimal development and access" for these areas. Construction \$\$'s will be limited to non-existent, so we will need to develop with our own resources (force account) primarily.

5. *WILDERNESS*

Objective:

Manage as wilderness those portions of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) that are manageable as wilderness and where wilderness values are capable of balancing other resource values and uses which would be foregone.

1. Preliminarily recommend the Rough Hills Wilderness Study Area (6,685 acres) and a portion of the Little Humboldt River Wilderness Study Area (29,775 acres) suitable for wilderness designation.
2. Preliminarily recommend the Cedar Ridge and Red Spring Wilderness Study Areas and a portion of the Little Humboldt River Study Area, a total of 30,294 acres, nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

STATUS

Elko Resource Area Wilderness EIS completed in 1987. Owyhee Canyon Wilderness EIS completed in 1989. Elko District Wilderness Study Report completed in 1991. Interim management of all portions of the WSAs will continue until Congressional action is taken to either designate wilderness or release areas to multiple use. No Congressional action taken to date.

In addition, the Owyhee Canyon and South Fork Owyhee River WSAs were evaluated in the Owyhee Canyonlands EIS. The recommendations are: Owyhee Canyon - 13, 525 acres recommended suitable for wilderness; 8350 acres recommended as nonsuitable and South Fork Owyhee River - 5180 acres recommended suitable and 2662 acres recommended non-suitable.

6. *LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT*

Objective:

Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland values.

1. Initially license livestock use at the three to five year (1979-1983) average licensed use level of 305,247 AUMs. Over the long-term increase the availability of livestock forage to 402,096 AUMs. There would be no change in active preference unless adequately supported by monitoring.

STATUS

The allotment evaluation process has been completed on 35 allotments (32.4% of scheduled allotments) within the Elko Resource Area (through FY'94). Table 1 summarizes adjustments to active grazing preference as a result of these completed allotment evaluations.

Table 1. Adjustments to Active Grazing Preference Through FY'94.

Type of Adjustment	Number of Permits Adjusted
Increase	8
Decrease	1
Status quo	26
Net Adjustment in Preference	+1.015 AUMs

2. Treat or seed 120,978 acres; construct 258 miles of fence; drill 28 wells; lay 132 miles of pipeline; install 24 storage tanks; develop 97 spring sources and 97 reservoirs to improve livestock distribution, utilization of the range, provide additional livestock forage and enhance other multiple-use values.

STATUS

Accomplishments from FY'87 through FY'94 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Rangeland Improvement Accomplishments Through FY'94.

Type of Project	Proposed Units	Accomplished To Date (% Complete)
Fence	258 miles	90 (34.9%)
Wells	28 each	4 (14.3%)
Reservoirs	97 each	17 (17.5%)
Springs	97 each	3 (3.1%)
Pipeline	132 miles	3 (2.3%)
Land Treatment	120,978 acres	3,186.5 (2.6%)
Cattleguards	37 each	8 (21.6%)
Culverts	1 each	0 (0%)
Water Storage Tanks	24 each	1 (4.2%)

3. Develop allotment management plans on 22 Category I allotments and 6 Category M allotments.

STATUS

Activity Plans and/or multiple use decisions have been implemented on 4 "I" category allotments and 5 "M" category allotments through FY'94. By the end of FY'95, 3 more multiple use decision are expected to be completed in "M" category allotments. Tables 3 and 4 summarize allotment evaluation actions completed through FY'94.

4. Implement a rangeland monitoring program to determine if management objectives are being met and adjust grazing management systems and livestock numbers as required.

STATUS

On-going. Tables 3-5 summarize completed allotment evaluation actions through FY'94.

Table 3. Allotment Evaluation Decision Summary.

YEAR	Documentation to the File	Multiple Use Decision	Grazing Agreement
1986			
1987	3		1
1988	6		13
1989			
1990	1	1	2
1991		3	
1992			
1993		4	
1994		1	
Totals	10	9	16

Table 4. Completed Allotment Evaluation Actions.

Allotment Category												Total
I				M				C				
DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	
5	4	9	18	5	6	16		1	1			35
30.5%				34%				50%				32.4%

DOC=Documentation to the file. Existing data is inconclusive &/or does not support a change in current management

MUD=Multiple Use Decision

AGR=Grazing Agreement

TOT=Total

%=percentage of scheduled allotments completed.

Table 5. Allotments Scheduled for Evaluation.

Allotment Category			Total
I	M	C	
59	47	2	108

7. **WILDLIFE**

Objective:

Conserve and enhance terrestrial, riparian and aquatic wildlife habitat.

1. Manage wildlife habitat to provide 34,513 AUMs of forage for mule deer, 1,215 AUMs for pronghorn antelope, and 140 AUMs for bighorn sheep.

STATUS

Being implemented through allotment evaluations.

2. Construct 20 guzzlers, 40 spring protection facilities, 40 water developments, and 189 miles of fencing to improve habitat. Implement 500 acres of vegetation treatment and modify 20 miles of fence within crucial big game habitat.

STATUS

All guzzlers, vegetation treatment, and fence modification have been completed. Six spring protection and water developments have been completed. Fifty-two miles of protection fence have been constructed to improve habitat.

3. Monitor the interaction between wildlife habitat conditions and other resource uses and make adjustments to season-of-use for livestock to improve or maintain essential and crucial wildlife habitats.

STATUS

Ongoing through the allotment evaluation and decision making process.

4. Jointly evaluate and analyze availability and condition of habitat areas identified by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to provide for the reestablishment, augmentation, or introduction of bighorn sheep and other wildlife species.

STATUS

On going. Habitat evaluations and bighorn releases have been completed for the Snowstorm and Sheep Creek Ranges.

5. Apply restrictions on leasable and/or salable mineral developments to protect crucial deer winter range, sage grouse strutting and nesting habitats, and antelope kidding areas.

STATUS

Ongoing as leases are initiated. Restrictions are also identified in the Elko Oil and Gas RMP Amendment.

6. Manage 117 miles (3,480 acres) of high priority riparian/stream habitat to provide good habitat condition for wildlife and fish.

STATUS

Forty-six miles of high priority riparian/stream habitat have riparian exclosures or pasture fences in place with management being instituted to achieve good habitat condition. Twenty additional miles of streams are in progress of having management changes made through grazing evaluations in FY95.

8. **WILD HORSES**

Objective:

Manage wild horse populations and habitat in the established herd areas consistent with other resource uses.

1. Manage the four existing wild horse herd areas with an appropriate management level of 330 horses. ?

STATUS

A series of decisions by IBLA were interpreted to mean that the numbers of horses to be managed for in the RMP, were set for administrative convenience and therefore are invalid. The ERA is establishing AMLs through the allotment evaluation process. To date one large evaluation is almost complete which will establish AML for the Rock Creek HA. The ERA has not yet completed the formal RMP amendment process. This would need to be done to formally recognize the herd areas as herd management areas and to adjust any boundaries. At this time there are no time frames for an amendment to the RMP. The horse populations are being monitored by aerial census and ground observations. Habitat conditions are being monitored in conjunction with vegetation monitoring for allotment evaluations. At this time, almost all of the monitoring is being done by ERA range specialists. Aerial census data as of March 1995 is summarized in Table 2:

TABLE 2

Herd Area	Current Herd Size
Rock Creek	650
Owyhee	197
Little Humboldt	206
Diamond Hills	125
TOTAL	1178

2. Construct two water development projects.

STATUS

No water developments (catchment type) have been constructed.

3. Conduct wild horse gatherings as needed to maintain numbers.

STATUS

Horse gathers were conducted until the 1988 IBLA rulings. No gathers have been conducted since (one emergency gather was conducted in 1994 in the Rock Creek Allotment as a result of wildfire) and the horse population has increased.

9. WOODLAND PRODUCTS

Objective: Manage woodland areas to provide as wide a variety of products and services as possible to both the general public and commercial users.

1. Implement intensive management of Christmas Tree cutting on the approximately 23,000 acres of woodlands.

STATUS

The entire resource area (with the exception of the WSA's) is open to domestic harvest with an annual sustained yield harvest limit. Because of the limited resource within this area, there are no commercial sales. To keep from exceeding the annual sustained yield harvest limit, people are referred over to the Wells Resource Area to harvest trees.

2. Manage fuelwood harvesting to allocate the full allowable cut on approximately 60,000 acres.

STATUS

A fuelwood management plan has been written in 1988, for the Elko Resource Area with annual sustained yield harvest limits outlined. Greenwood harvest units are open and located near each of the population centers. Salvage sales (mostly burns) are also open throughout the resource area to accommodate deadwood harvest. To keep from exceeding our sustained yield harvest limits within this resource area, people are referred over to the Wells Resource Area. New harvest units will need to be continually opened to meet future demands as our existing units are harvested to prescribed limits.

3. Provide for commercial pine nut sales in years when pine nuts are abundant.

STATUS

The entire resource area is designated open to domestic pine nut gathering and a commercial unit is designated (Sulpher Spring Range) and advertised for sale each year. Native American concerns have reduced the sales (collection) of pine nuts in certain areas from past levels of use.

10. MINERALS

Objective: Maintain public lands open for exploration, development, and production of mineral resources while mitigating conflicts with wildlife, wild horses, recreation, and wilderness resources.

1. Designate the resource area open to mineral entry for locatable minerals, except for an 11 acre administrative site in the City of Elko.

STATUS

The 10.725 acre administrative site was designated for the BLM Elko D.O. office with the approval of the Elko RMP. An administrative site withdrawal was made which withdraws minerals along with other rights.

2. Provide for oil/gas and geothermal leasing as per the map in the Record of Decision.

STATUS

An oil and gas amendment to the RMP has been written and is expected to be finalized this FY. Minor modifications to the RMP will be made as a result of the amendment, including: (1) When the amendment is finalized stipulations will clarify that there will be no surface occupancy in those areas that become upgraded from Wilderness Study Area to Wilderness Area and (2) The buffer zone around sage grouse strutting areas will be reduced from one mile to one quarter mile to more accurately reflect bird use.

**WELLS RESOURCE AREA
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
STATUS/REVIEW
AUGUST 1995**

DATE RECORD OF DECISION SIGNED: JULY 16, 1985

The Wells Resource Area Resource Management Plan was designed for a 20 year implementation period. The RMP has been in place through approximately fifty percent of the life of the plan.

1. LAND ACTIONS

Objective:

To allow disposals, land tenure adjustments, and land use authorizations based on long range goals. These goals are to identify lands to be disposed or retained and administered for multiple use. These identifications are based on land manageability and quality of resource values.

1. Dispose of 90,000 acres.
2. Retain Retention/Consolidation (R/C) lands which are to be consolidated where possible.
3. Retain the Retention/Management (R/M) areas except those suited for exchange for private lands within the R/C areas and suitable for development under the agricultural land laws.

STATUS

As of July 26, 1995, a total of 36,492.59 acres have been conveyed via disposal actions:

- 33,025.130 acres via exchange
- 2,880.000 acres via DLE
- 583.710 acres via sale
- 3.750 acres via R&PP sale

Source: ALMRS

2. CORRIDOR DESIGNATION

Objective:

To determine designated corridors and identified planning corridors in coordination with other multiple use objectives, including visual quality.

1. Designate/identify 566 miles of transportation and utility corridors.

STATUS

Corridors were designated as a result of the completion of the RMP.

3. *PUBLIC ACCESS*

Objective:

To acquire legal access for routes which would enhance opportunities to use public land resources.

1. Acquire legal access for 38 roads (158 miles).

STATUS

As of July 26, 1995, legal access has been acquired for 9 roads, with a total of 10.04 miles.

Source: ALMRS

4. *RECREATION MANAGEMENT*

Objective:

To provide a wide range of recreation opportunities.

1. Upgrade facilities at Ruby Marsh Campground.

STATUS

Transferred to USFS in 1987 under congressional boundary adjustment. (Interchange).

2. Develop facilities at Salmon Falls Creek; Tabor Creek and Marys River.

STATUS

Salmon Falls Creek designated as an SRMA. Tabor Creek and Marys River managed as recreation areas of management concern. No planning completed (RAMP or RPP) for any of these areas. No \$\$\$'s to implement. Plan to be done by 2005, but at a much lesser level than proposed in Recreation 2000 Plan.

3. Limit off road vehicles (ORV) activity to designated roads and trails on 160 acres in Ruby Marsh Campground; remainder of resource area designated "open" for ORV activity.

STATUS

Designations completed. Ruby Marsh Campground transferred to USFS in 1987.

4. Segregate 160 acres in Ruby Marsh Campground from mineral entry.

STATUS

Not applicable. Transferred to USFS.

5. Extensively manage remainder of Resource Area for dispersed recreation.

STATUS

On-going. Public information, byway designations, FACT SHEET, development of District Recreation Guide Map, signing, etc. has been completed.

5. WILDERNESS

Objective:

To manage as wilderness those portions of the WSAs which are manageable as a wilderness area and for which wilderness is considered the best use of the lands.

1. Recommend portions of four Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) totaling 145,287 acres as preliminarily suitable for wilderness designation.

STATUS

Completed recommended portions in 1987 with the Wells Wilderness EIS.

2. Recommend portions of the four WSA's totaling 30,664 acres as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

STATUS

No Nevada Wilderness Bill introduced yet. No designations yet.

6. LIVESTOCK GRAZING USE

Objective:

To provide for livestock grazing consistent with other resource uses resulting in an increase in 4,912 AUMs from the 3-5 year average licensed use of 288,934 AUMs to a level of 293,846 AUMs. Range improvements will be provided primarily in I Category allotments.

STATUS:

The allotment evaluation process has been completed on 24 allotments (33.4% of those scheduled) within the Wells Resource Area (through FY'94). Table 1 summarizes adjustments to active grazing preference as a result of these completed allotment evaluations.

Table 1. Adjustments to Active Grazing Preference Through FY'94.

Type of Adjustment	Number of Permits Adjusted
Increase	6
Decrease	2
Status quo	16
Net Adjustment in Preference	+374 AUMs

1. Develop activity plans on 24 Category I allotments and grazing systems on Category M and C allotments as needed.

STATUS:

Activity Plans and/or multiple use decisions have been implemented on 2 "I" category allotments and 12 "M" category allotments through FY'94. By the end of FY'95, one more multiple use decision (implementing 2 AMPs) is expected to be completed in "I" category allotments. There have been 20 grazing agreements or multiple use decisions implemented for "M" category allotments through FY'94. By the end of FY'95, two more are expected to be completed. Tables 4 and 5 summarize allotment evaluation actions through FY'94.

- 2/3. Construct 265 miles of fence; drill 65 wells; construct 5 reservoirs; develop 30 springs; install 80 miles of pipeline; seed 37,500 acres; prescribe burn (without seeding) 27,000 acres; spray (without seeding) 1,500 acres.

STATUS:

Accomplishments from FY'85 through FY'94 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Range Improvement Accomplishments Through FY'94.

Type of Project	Proposed Units	Accomplished To Date (% complete)
Fence	265 miles	205.2 (77.4%)
Wells	65 each	19 (29.2%)
Reservoirs	5 each	11 (220%)
Springs	30 each	12 (40%)
Pipeline	80 miles	27.2 (34%)
Seeding	37,500 acres	9,136 (24.4%)
Prescribe Burn (no seeding)	27,000 acres	2,384 (%8.8%)
Spray (no seeding)	1,500 acres	-0- (0%)

SOURCE: RIPS

4. Monitor and adjust grazing management systems and livestock numbers as required.

STATUS:

On-going. Tables 3-5 summarize completed allotment evaluation actions through FY'94.

Table 3. Allotments Scheduled for Evaluation.

Allotment Category			Total
I	M	C	
24	45	2	71

Table 4. Allotment Evaluation Decision Summary.

YEAR	Documentation to the File	Multiple Use Decision	Grazing Agreement
1986			2
1987			1
1988	1		4
1989			
1990			1
1991		5	
1992		4	1
1993		1	
1994		4	
Totals	1	14	9

Table 5. Completed Allotment Evaluation Actions.

Allotment Category										Total		
I			M				C					
DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	DOC	MUD	AGR	TOT	
2	1	3		1	12	8	21					24
12.5%				46.7%								33.4%

DOC=Documentation to the file.

MUD=Multiple Use Decision

AGR=Grazing Agreement

TOT=Total

%=percentage of scheduled allotments completed.

7. **WILD HORSE NUMBERS**

Objective:

Continue management of the six existing wild horse herds consistent with other resource uses.

1. Monitor wild horse populations and habitat conditions; maintain populations within a range of 550 to 700 animals.

STATUS

Implementation as of 1995:

Wild horse populations are monitored in each HMA. Monitoring consists of aerial census and ground observations. Habitat conditions are monitored in the form of vegetation and water monitoring on a regular basis. Much of the monitoring is done in conjunction with the range allotment evaluation schedule.

A series of decisions by IBLA were interpreted to mean that the numbers of horses to be managed for in the RMP, were set for administrative convenience and therefore are invalid. The Wells RA completed an amendment to the RMP in August 1993, in which initial herd sizes were set forth for each HMA, and these numbers were based on monitoring.

The RA is attempting to hold numbers to those set in the amendment, but due to statewide funding and priorities for horse gathers, numbers are over initial herd sizes at this time.

HMA	Initial Herd Size	March '95 Census	Excess Numbers
Antelope Valley	240	310	70
Maverick-Medicine	332	375	43
Spruce-Pequop	82	61	0
Goshute	160	281	121
TOTAL	814	1027	234

2. Construct six water development projects. 7

STATUS

The Wells RMP amendment identified 8 waters sources to be developed. The Amendment did not specifically identify the location of these additional waters and four sites are currently under review by the staff specialist. The feasibility and location of the two catchments originally identified in the Rangeland Program Summary need to be re-examined.

The development of critical springs to provide reliable yearlong water should be a higher priority.

Basically, no progress has been made on the construction of water developments. Two springs have been slightly improved for the benefit of horses.

3. Remove wild horses from private land if required.

STATUS

Horses are removed from private lands when requested. By deleting the checkerboard land patterns from management, through the amendment, this will rarely be an issue like it was prior to the amendment.

8. **TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT**

Objective: To conserve and/or enhance wildlife habitat to the maximum extent possible while eliminating all of the fencing hazards in crucial big game habitat, most of the fencing hazards in noncrucial big game habitat, and all of the high and medium priority terrestrial riparian habitat conflicts in coordination with other resource uses.

1. Modify 650 miles of existing fences within big game habitats.

STATUS

Approximately 100 miles modified so far with an additional 200 miles having been inspected and determined not to require modification.

2. Protect, enhance or develop 250 spring sources.

STATUS

Approximately 30 have been completed.

3. Designate 6,200 acres as Salt Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

STATUS

Completed as a result of the RMP decision.

4. Manage 3,600 acres (2,600 acres of nonaquatic riparian aspen and 1000 acres of mountain mahogany) to improve deer and elk habitat.

STATUS

Undeterminable, some of this type of habitat is now being addressed through allotment evaluations and decisions by including woodland objectives.

5. Improve habitat in areas identified as potential reintroduction sites for native species of wildlife.

STATUS

Partially implemented for the Pilot and Badlands bighorn reintroductions. No habitat improvement has been conducted for the remainder of the sites identified. Monitoring is being initiated to determine needs of improvement.

6. Chain, burn and seed 5,500 acres to improve crucial big game habitat.

STATUS

500 acres from the Paris Fire was seeded in 1987.

7. Identify 50,000 acres of crucial winter habitat for deer for improvement.

STATUS

Completed as a result of the RMP decision.

8. Monitor wildlife habitat conditions and adjust livestock seasons of use as necessary.

STATUS

Ongoing and being implemented through the allotment evaluation process.

9. Apply time of year restrictions on leasable/saleable minerals development to protect crucial winter range for deer and sage grouse strutting and nesting habitats.

STATUS

Ongoing

10. Maintain all existing wildlife projects.

STATUS

Ongoing. Maintenance and inspection of riparian exclosures and water catchments are generally conducted annually. Transferring maintenance from BLM through Allotment Evaluation process.

9. *RIPARIAN/STREAM HABITAT*

Objective: To improve high and medium priority riparian/stream habitat to at least a good condition and prevent undue degradation of all riparian/stream habitat due to other uses.

1. Improve 2,518 acres/95.5 miles of deteriorated high and medium priority riparian/stream habitat.

STATUS

Approximately 40 miles of stream have had management actions taken to improve habitat conditions.

Twenty-six miles of the forty is associated with the first priority identified in the RMP in the Marys River System.

2. Manage nondeteriorated areas to prevent a decline to less than good condition.

STATUS

Ongoing

10. WOODLAND PRODUCTS

Objective: Lands with woodland products are managed under the principle of sustained yield, maintaining an allowable harvest to provide a permanent source of wood products for future generations. Fair market value is to be received from the sale of all wood products.

1,2,5 Entire program is receiving increased scrutiny from Native American concerns.

1. Implement intensive management of Christmas Tree cutting on the entire 600,000 to 700,000 acres of woodlands.

STATUS

Commercial Christmas tree cutting units are designated with annual allowable sustained yield harvest limits attached to each unit. The entire resource area is open (with the exception of the WSA's) to domestic harvest also with sustained yield limits. The annual allowable harvest is regulated by adjusting the commercial allowable harvest based on previous years sales of domestic permits.

2. Implement management of fuelwood harvesting to meet the present annual demand of approximately 1,300 cords.

STATUS

Greenwood harvest units are open and located near each of the population centers in the resource area. Salvage sales (mostly burns) are also open throughout the resource area to accommodate deadwood harvest. The annual demand for fuelwood harvest is currently being met. New harvest units will need to be continually opened to meet future demands as our existing units are harvested to prescribed limits.

3. Manage salvage cuts where pinyon pine-juniper conversions would occur.

STATUS

No conversions have been completed or planned to date.

4. Promote sale/harvest of up to 75 percent canopy cover removal of woodland products on 50,000 acres of crucial winter habitat for deer.

STATUS

NDF crews are being used to harvest fuelwood and posts from units on the Cherry Creek Range designed to improve crucial winter habitat for deer. Due to funding limitations this program is running slow on the Cherry Creeks and the program has not been able to be expanded on to other crucial winter habitats on other mountain ranges.

5. Open pinyon pine ranges that have good or excellent crops of pine nuts to pine nut collecting.

STATUS

The entire resource area is designated open to domestic pine nut gathering and commercial units are designated and advertised for sale each year. Native American concerns have led to reduced sales (collection) of pine nuts in certain areas from past levels of use.

6. Rejuvenate deteriorating aspen stands.

STATUS

Some deteriorating aspen stands, which are important components of fishery and wildlife habitats, have been protected through livestock exclosures. Aspen planting (with over 14,500 seedlings planted to date) is also taking place within protected areas to speed up the recovery process where the stands have been eliminated or significantly impacted. Acres have been planted to aspen since RMP approval. Funds specifically for aspen stand improvement have been requested but not received to date.

II. MINERALS

Objective: The public lands will be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's needs for domestic sources of minerals.

1. An area encompassing 160 acres at Ruby Marsh Campground would be segregated from mineral entry.

STATUS

The Ruby Marsh campground has been transferred to the US Forest Service in 1987. This is no longer applicable.

2. Wilderness designations could adversely affect mineral development as follows: 22,305 acres having good mineral potential would be recommended as suitable in the Spruce/Goshutes RCA, and 400 acres having good mineral potential would be recommended as suitable in O'Neil/Salmon Falls RCA.

STATUS

Designated Wilderness Study Areas have not changed status. These areas are open to location, however, any work must not impair the WSA for future inclusion as wilderness.

3. Time of year restrictions would be imposed on 170,800 acres in the O'Neil/Salmon Falls RCA, 42,200 acres in the Goose Creek RCA, and 56,300 acres in the Ruby/Wood Hills RCA, all to protect sage grouse breeding activities.

STATUS

Ongoing. Time of year and time of day restrictions are imposed as appropriate to protect wildlife.