

## DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST

- 11 Protect and enhance identified, outstandingly remarkable values and free flowing condition of Wild and Scenic Rivers.
12. Protect the values and character of designated Wildernesses.
- 13 Provide firewood for personal use in a fair and equitable manner
- 14 Inventory and interpret significant prehistoric and historic cultural resources.
- 15 Plan, design, operate, and maintain a safe and economic transportation system to provide efficient access for the movement of people and materials involved in the use and protection of National Forest Lands.
- 16 Protect and enhance resource values through cost-effective fire and fuels management programs, emphasizing fuel treatment through the utilization of prescribed fire
- 17 Protect resource values through the practice of integrated pest management.
18. Facilitate mineral exploration and development while protecting surface resources and environmental quality
19. Meet or exceed state and Federal requirements which provide protection to the air, water, and cultural resources of the Forest.
20. Provide water of sufficient quality and quantity for local and downstream beneficial uses.
21. Maintain health and function of riparian ecosystems (including stream channel stability) for the protection or enhancement of riparian-dependent resources
22. Provide administrative sites and facilities that effectively and safely serve the public and accommodate the workforce.
23. Provide for biological diversity and long-term productivity by maintaining ecosystem function, maintaining large woody material, and minimizing adverse impacts to the soil resource.
24. Perpetuate Port-Orford-cedar as a functioning part of the Forest vegetation throughout its natural range and maintain it for economic and noneconomic uses.

## DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF THE FOREST

The present condition of the Forest is detailed in Chapter III of the FEIS. As the Forest Plan is implemented, the condition of the Forest will change over time. This section summarizes the physical changes which are anticipated to result from carrying out planned management practices at two points in time: at the end of 10 years and at the end of 50 years (the RPA planning horizon).

### THE FOREST IN 10 YEARS

At the end of the first decade, there will be a perceivable change in the overall character of the landscape within the Forest boundary. The landscape in the parts of the Forest managed for commodity production will be modified by new roads and harvest units. Sensitive viewsheds will be in a natural or near natural visual condition. By the end of the first 10 years, many of the unroaded areas allocated to General Forest objectives would be entered.

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Areas with no timber harvest, such as Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, Botanical Areas, Supplemental Resource Areas, and dedicated habitats will remain essentially unchanged, modified only by natural processes.

Areas in those viewsheds undergoing identified rehabilitation work will be approximately 50 percent recovered.

The Project Opportunity Analysis system will be fully implemented for timber planning. Areas with programmed timber harvest will have new harvest units distributed through the mature forest. Existing harvest units and plantations will continue to develop through sapling and pole stages with some stands reaching large pole to small sawtimber size. Trees will be somewhat uniformly spaced and the species present will be representative of the natural diversity in the local areas.

Opportunities for roaded recreation will increase. Recreational capacity will keep pace with demand as some new sites are developed and others are expanded. The National Recreation Strategy will be fully implemented, and the Forest will actively seek partnerships to accomplish a variety of recreation projects. Access to wilderness areas will be enhanced by the construction and maintenance of several access trails.

Habitat to support threatened and endangered species will be protected in accordance with recovery plans. Designated mature and old-growth habitat areas will remain essentially unchanged. Seral stages of terrestrial and aquatic plant associations will be provided in a distribution to maintain native and desired non-native plant and animal species and communities. Habitat for species favoring early seral stages will begin to be distributed through areas where timber harvest is programmed. New harvest units will continue to provide high quality forage for deer and elk. Riparian ecosystems in harvest areas would have been managed to maintain water quality and a diverse vegetative condition for the rich variety of wildlife utilizing riparian and aquatic areas.

Habitat for species utilizing dead or downed trees will be provided throughout the Forest. Snags and trees for replacement snags will be left in areas where timber harvest is occurring. Dead logs will be left on the ground for species utilizing such material as habitat and to provide woody material for nutrient cycling.

Salmonid rearing, spawning, and migration habitat capability will improve Forest wide. Streamside management prescriptions will maintain or lower summer water temperatures, with additional protection of the fisheries habitat occurring in designated Special Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat areas. Habitat improvement projects will increase habitat diversity and maintain stream channel stability.

Forest soil productivity will have been maintained. Water yield and quality will not be substantially altered.

Mineral development on the Forest in 10 years will increase. The most active mining activity will probably continue to be for gold, although interest in nickel-laterites and chromite areas may be increasing. Physical and biological impacts will have been minimized; however, short-term effects on water quality will continue to be a concern. New discoveries of minerals will bring additional demands for access into the unroaded portions of the Forest.

The principal access roads will be readily identifiable. They have paved or gravel surfaces and look suitable for passenger car use. Signs will assist travelers in finding their destination. Some roads will appear less inviting for use. These less inviting roads will look rough or primitive, but most will be available for use by the more experienced traveler in vehicles with high ground clearances. Continued road system development and improvement will be taking place in areas where resource development activities are planned. Some roads will be closed.

## THE FOREST IN 50 YEARS

By the end of the fifth decade, there will be a very apparent change in the overall character of the landscape within the Forest boundary. The majority of roads needed for resource management will have been constructed. The landscape in parts of the Forest managed for commodity production will have a heavily altered appearance. Sensitive viewsheds will have a natural or near natural appearance. Rehabilitation objectives in some areas of the viewsheds will have been realized and these areas will have returned to a more natural condition.

Areas with no timber harvest, such as Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, and Botanical Areas, would still remain essentially unchanged except for the effects of fire and the slow process of natural succession. Management activities will maintain or restore meadow areas and avert the encroachment by trees and shrubs.

Areas with programmed timber harvest will be a mosaic of stands of various sizes and ages. Some mature stands would remain, but the majority would now be managed young stands ranging from freshly harvested units to plantations that have reached sawtimber size. The desired condition is a regulated forest where the stands exist in age and size class proportions and grow at rates such that a high level of yield can be sustained. Trees will be somewhat uniformly spaced and the species present will be representative of the natural diversity in the local areas.

Habitat to support threatened and endangered species will be protected in accordance with recovery plans. Designated mature and old-growth habitat areas will remain essentially unchanged, although some substitution of areas may have occurred. Contiguous mature and old-growth forests will generally be limited to Wilderness, Research Natural Areas, Botanical Areas, Supplemental Resource Areas, Backcountry Recreation Management Areas, Wild River Corridors, Unique Interest Areas, Designated Wildlife Sites, and Designated Wildlife Habitats.

Habitat for species favoring early seral stages will be distributed throughout areas where timber harvest is programmed. Deer and elk habitat will be approaching a more balanced state as harvest units are distributed through time and space. Riparian ecosystems in harvest areas would have been managed to maintain water quality and a diverse vegetative condition for the rich variety of wildlife utilizing riparian areas.

Habitat for species utilizing dead or downed trees will be provided throughout the Forest. Snags and trees for replacement snags will be left in areas where timber harvesting has occurred. Dead logs will be found on the ground in various stages of decay providing habitat for species utilizing such material as woody debris for nutrient cycling.

Salmonid rearing, spawning, and migration habitat capability will be maintained at a fairly constant level after the second decade. Habitat improvement work will be done primarily to replace failing structures and maintain the gains achieved in earlier decades.

Forest soil productivity will have been maintained. Water yield and quality will not be substantially altered.

Mining for gold will continue to be important in 50 years with increased activity in nickel-laterites and chromite areas. Protection or reclamation of surface resources will continue to be important. Biological impacts will be kept to acceptable levels through improved mining and reclamation technology and competent administration of the activity. Major access requirements needed for the development of minerals on the Forest will have been completed.

The principal access roads will be readily identifiable. They have paved or gravel surfaces and look suitable for passenger car use. A few roads may have State Highway designations. Signs will assist travelers in

finding their destination. More roads appear less inviting for use. These less inviting roads will look rough or primitive, but most will be available for use by the more experienced traveler in vehicles with high ground clearances. Road system development will be nearly complete. Continued improvements will be taking place in areas where resource development activities are planned. More roads will be closed.

By the end of the fifth decade, nearly 90 percent of the planned Forest development road system will be in place and providing efficient travel into and through the Forest. All of the arterial and collector road system will be complete, while some local roads will be needed to complete the overall system. The majority of the 1,000 miles of new Forest development roads built during the last five decades to utilize the timber resource will have been classified as local road facilities.

Because of the continuing need to protect watershed conditions, provide for wildlife needs, and control costs, a portion of the road system will be managed in a self-maintaining state with no vehicle traffic planned. Some of these self-maintaining roads will be in the process of being opened to accommodate future cycles of timber management activities.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### PROPOSED OUTPUTS

This section projects the future outputs and resource activities expected to meet the previously stated goals and desired future conditions.

The projected Forest outputs (Table IV-1) are average values for a year's activities. Actual outputs for individual years may vary from the projected outputs due to fluctuations in conditions, funding, personnel, and priorities.

