

## **.43 Forest Products**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)	Paradise-Denio
Activity	Forest Products
Objective Number	F-1

Objective:

Preservation and enhancement of curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, limber pine, whitebark pine, willow, alder and chokecherry stands as components of the natural landscape.

Rationale:

Stands of curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood and limber pine are unique to the planning area. According to .43 Forest Products section of the Unit Resource Analysis only 6,150 acres of mahogany, 7,100 acres of aspen and cottonwood and 2,000 acres of limber and whitebark pine occur in the planning area. Most stands of mahogany are presently only in fair condition. Indicators of fair condition are the absence of mahogany seedlings, a preponderance of old age trees and a short "shrubby" growth form caused by excessive browsing by livestock and/or wildlife or wild horses. Aspen and cottonwood appear to be primarily impacted by livestock grazing. As a result of past grazing use, many aspen and cottonwood stands are composed largely of mature trees with few intermediately aged and seedlings present. As the mature trees die and subsequent generations are suppressed, stands will be lost. Limber and whitebark pine are especially unique since no other population of either species occurs within 100 miles of the population existing within the planning area. Willow, alder and chokecherry are being adversely impacted by livestock both from browsing and trampling actions. As important components of the natural landscape the stands of curlleaf mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, and whitebark and limber pine have been identified as potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the URAs. Mahogany, aspen, and cottonwood should be afforded management consideration to attain satisfactory seedling establishment, replacement of old trees with younger ones and normal growth. Due to mahogany's intolerance to fire, stands should be protected from fire. Limber and whitebark pine should be afforded protection from fire to assure preservation. Consideration should be given to willow, alder, and chokecherry to provide for normal growth.

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Recommendation: F-1.1

MFP 1  
By FY 1982 adjust utilization by livestock, wild horses and/or wildlife on curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder and chokecherry to proper use as recommended in the proper use tables referred to in NSO Memorandum 76-167 and used in conjunction with the 1978 range survey. In allotments with pastures containing a significant amount of aspen and/or cottonwood (100 acres or more) design and implement livestock grazing management systems to meet the physiological requirements of these species. That's design systems which provide for those pastures at least three consecutive years of complete rest during each grazing cycle (usually a period of 12 to 15 years) or sufficient rest to grow out of reach of cattle or sheep (48" and 36", respectively).

Develop livestock grazing management systems in allotments where mahogany exists which provide for at least one grazing season of rest preceded by one season of deferment (rest until after seed dispersal date; phenology data collected locally indicates this date to be around September 10) in each grazing cycle. This will be accomplished by FY 1983.

Rationale:

The assumption is made that adjustment of utilization to proper use will enable individual plants to retain sufficient foliage to support normal physiological processes and provide for the preservation and enhancement of the physical condition of mahogany, willow, alder and chokecherry. Aspen and cottonwood require additional protection through a specialized grazing system because new sprouts on the average require three-five years in order to reach a height at which livestock are unable to damage them by nipping off the terminal bud. This treatment of continuous rest is required every 12 to 15 years to allow release of a new generation of trees within the stand. In this way healthy stands can be preserved and poor stands enhanced without adverse impact.

The system for mahogany will permit seed to be produced during the year of deferment and be deposited on the soil. The following year of rest will protect the emerging seedlings from injury due to browsing and permit them to gain growth and vigor during that year.

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F 1.1

Multiple Use Analysis

No Conflicts

Complements:

- Range Management 1.4 Revise Management Systems
- Range Management 1.5 Use Phenological Requirements of key species
- Watershed 3.2 Use Proper Use Factors
- Wilderness 2.2 Use Management Plans to maintain WSA values

These tree species (curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder and chokecherry) are important for livestock, wild horses, wildlife and recreational values. Healthy stands of these species promote diversity of habitat and a varied landscape. To achieve the goal of proper utilization on these species, the stocking rate must be adjusted to the available forage and grazing systems must be developed in which these species are a key species used in the design of the grazing system. Also, wild horse herd management plans must be developed.

The recommendation calls for three consecutive years of rest on aspen and cottonwood and one year rest preceded by deferment for mountain mahogany. This will not be followed exclusively. Grazing systems with the use of projects will provide for the phenological requirements of the species and insure satisfactory reproduction.

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F-1.1 (continued)

A standard one-year rest grazing system has been considered as an alternative, but is not appropriate for aspen and cottonwood because of the unusual physiology of these species. This alternative was selected because it will satisfactorily provide for the growth and reproduction requirements of the species to meet Objective F-1. No other alternative was considered for mahogany.

Economically the recommendation would adversely affect livestock grazing because additional rest, and therefore, nonuse of pastures is required.

Support:

Support will be necessary from Range Management in special design of the management systems and incorporating proper use tables into the forage allocation process. Range studies will be necessary to monitor use levels to determine if proper use is exceeded.

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F 1.1 (continued)

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Reason

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Adjust stocking rate for livestock and wild horses to the estimated stocking level.   | To achieve proper utilization, the stocking rate must first be in accord with the estimated stocking level and then grazing management systems and range management facilities can be utilized to obtain proper distribution of the grazing animals. |
| 2. Design and implement grazing management systems and wild horse herd management plans with those tree species as a key species based on their phenological requirements. |  |

Support Needs

Range - Design grazing management systems, and herd management plans reduce wild horse numbers through gathering plans to the estimated stocking level, issue decisions to change livestock stocking rate to the estimated stocking level.

Operations - Range management facility construction, road maintenance.

Palomino Facility - horse gathering

Time Frame and Funding Requirements

Start adjustments in 1982 - 1984 (livestock and wild horses)  
Grazing systems in 1982

Funding for activity plans - Range and Range Management  
Facilities and Gatherings

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

In the design, implementation, or revision of grazing management systems, plans for horse use areas, consider aspen, cottonwood, and mahogany as "critical" management species.

Specific management objectives will be designed for these critical species and these objectives will be used in the activity plans developed on an area.

Rationale

Coordinated planning efforts on an area should develop realistic objectives for these critical management species that will be part of a grazing management plan, horse management plan, or habitat management plan.

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MFP 1

Recommendation: F 1.2

Preserve the existing 6,150 acres of curlleaf mountain mahogany and 2,000 acres of limber and whitebark pine through an active fire suppression program and by prohibiting the harvesting of these species for wood products.

Rationale:

Refer to objective rationale. Due to the significance of this resource no other alternative was considered.

Support:

Support for this recommendation is from fire management in minimizing occurrence of fire in these areas and law enforcement to prevent unauthorized harvesting.

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Multiple Use Recommendation

Preserve the existing 6,150 acres of curleaff mountain mahogany and 2,000 acres of limber and whitebark pine through an active fire suppression program and by prohibiting the harvesting of these species for wood products.

Rationale:

Stands of these species are ecologically unique in the resource area and have a greater value in such nonconsumptive uses such as recreation or sightseeing and habitat for wildlife.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Develop and implement a fire management plan for the resource area.

Rationale

Fire can be damaging to resource values at critical times and should be suppressed. Fire equipment can also be damaging and often times more so than the original fire. A management plan is needed so that fire fighters know the resource values at stake and can therefore select the proper balance of tactics and equipment to lessen resource damage.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Do not issue permits for the harvesting of wood products from these species. Allow the use of downed wood for campfires on site. Dead trees still standing and not a safety hazard should be allowed for wildlife trees.

Rationale

The stands are so small that harvesting would certainly be detrimental and the one time economic gain would be negligible compared to the social and recreational values.

Downed wood would be useful for campfires but should only be allowed on site.

Dead standing trees provide nesting habitat for a variety of wildlife species and should be allowed unless a safety hazard.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Pending a fire management plan, permission must be obtained from the area manager or District Manager to use mechanized fire equipment on fires involving these species.

Rationale

Until a fire management plan is prepared which provides the balance of fire tactics and machinery with the resource values at stake, permission from the area manager or District Manager is necessary to minimize damage to this resource.

Support:

Fire Management

Preserve 6,150 acres of curlleaf mountain mahogany, and limber and whitebark pines through an active fire suppression program. Refer to overlays.

Time Frame and Funding Requirements (Manpower)

Complete a Fire Management Plan by FY 1983

MFP III DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Preserve the existing 6,150 acres of curlleaf mountain mahogany and 2,000 acres of limber and whitebark pine through an active fire suppression program and by prohibiting the harvesting of these species for wood products.

Rationale:

Stands of these species are ecologically unique in the resource area and have a greater value in nonconsumptive uses such as recreation or sightseeing and habitat for wildlife.

Mahogany is considered a "critical management species." This species also should be protected from fire as mountain mahogany is a weak sprouter after fire and fire tends to destroy the stand. Where mahogany is adjacent to streams, the use of a retardant and heavy equipment can be eliminated.

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MFP 1  
Recommendation: F 1.3

Utilize prescribed burning and/or clear cutting to enhance deteriorated stands of aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder, chokecherry. Prohibit the harvesting of aspen or cottonwood for wood products except where harvesting has been identified as a management tool.

Rationale:

Refer to rationale for Objective F-1. Fire has been proven to be a relatively inexpensive and useful tool in the stimulation and rejuvenation of fire tolerant plant species. The policy of aggressive fire suppression has in the past has reduced the beneficial impacts which may result to the natural ecosystems. Therefore, fire under a controlled situation should be reintroduced into plant communities where definite benefits will result.

Clear cutting, particularly in aspen stands, may have similar results as prescribed burning but without the risks such as are associated with fire. One other alternative considered was the use of a herbicide to perform the same function as fire or clear cutting. However, it was determined that the recommendation could be adequately accomplished without the use of herbicides.

Support:

Support is required from fire management in the location and design of prescribed burns and from range in providing protection of burned areas from livestock and wild horse grazing until areas have adequately recovered. Due to inadequate data on condition and trend of the subject species, a complete inventory of specific stands is needed to determine the type and location of management action necessary for stand improvement.

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F 1.3

Multiple Use Analysis

Complements:

Wildlife 1.3 Improve 5,800 acres of aspen stands for wildlife by burning and cutting.

Fire 2.1 Develop a fire management plan for the resource area.

Conflicts:

Cultural Resources 1.3 Protect Basque aspen carvings and photo document.

Cultural Resources 1.7 Sites warranting special consideration and may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. (ACEC)

Watershed 3.3 Eliminate all surface disturbing activities from areas having a deteriorating erosion trend or presently in critical or severe erosion condition.

Watershed 2.4<sup>3.4</sup> Prohibit any land treatment or disturbance which would remove or significantly reduce the vegetative cover in areas having high erosion susceptibility or high vegetal soil factor.

Wilderness 1.4 Identify activities that jeopardize wilderness suitability.

Wilderness 2.3 Fire suppression within WSA's be limited to the use of hand tools and fire retardant flying equipment.

These species (aspen, cottonwood, willow, alder and chokecherry) are root sprouters and a disturbance such as fire or cutting stimulates suckering and regeneration. These trees contribute significantly to wildlife and recreational values.

Through a fire management plan, detailing the fire prescription, and following standard Bureau procedures such as environmental analysis, archeological clearances and studies or inventories conflicts can be mitigated.

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F 1.3 (continued)

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

MFP II

1. Develop a fire management plan for the resource area.

1. A fire management plan along with the individual fire prescription for each burn would help to mitigate the conflicts. Historic sites and the Basque carvings can be protected by the use of hand lines or wet lines. Depending on circumstances, the only protections necessary for the Basque carvings could be photo documentation for the carving.

2. Accept the recommendation and follow standard Bureau procedures.

2. Standard Bureau procedures must be followed to mitigate the mentioned conflicts.

Studies such as the Phase I soil surface factor and inventories such as soils will provide important information for the development of the fire prescription or indicate that a particular site cannot safely be burned because of the potential damage to the resource but perhaps a cutting can then be used to achieve the desired objectives.

3. When cutting is used as a management tool, make the wood available for fuel wood and campground use. Also, leave a portion of the cut wood in place to protect the soil mantle.

3. An inventory of these stands requiring treatment should be conducted so that fire management can prepare a the prescription, and EAR's and archeological clearances can be obtained. Then when the weather and other factors the prescription calls for are right, treatment can start.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

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F 1.3 (continued)

Reasons

4. If these stands are cut as a management tool, the wood could be made available for fuel wood or for campground use. This would have a very slight social or economic value but would provide a good use for this resource. Some of the wood should be left in place to protect the soil mantle from erosion and provide shade to retain the moisture content and maintain the micro climate.

Support Needs

Fire Management - management plan and fire prescription and EAR

Forestry - inventory sites needing treatment and EAR

Archeology - site specific clearances or photo documentation of Basque carvings and EAR

Soils - inventory site specific and EAR

Wildlife - wildlife values in prescription plans and EAR

Recreation - recreation values in prescription plan and EAR

Time Frame and Funding Requirements

Conduct the forestry inventory by <sup>FY</sup>1983.

Develop the Fire Management Plan by <sup>FY</sup>1983.

Conduct soil, wildlife, archeology and recreation studies by <sup>FY</sup>1983.

MFP III  
DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Where feasible and practical utilize prescribed burning, fencing, clear cutting, and/or herbicides to enhance deteriorated stands of aspen, willow, alder, chokecherry, and cottonwood. Prohibit the harvesting of aspen or cottonwood for wood products except where harvesting has been identified as a management tool.

Rationale

Recommendation lists methods of stand improvement, herbicides should not be excluded as a possible treatment method.

Standard procedures would be followed in implementing this recommendation, EA, coordinated resource planning, etc. This would insure that important cultural/historical concerns are protected/mitigated prior to implementation.

Support

1. Fire Management Plan
2. Cultural Input on EAs

Prescribed  
Fire

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Recommendation: F 1.4

MFP 1

Establish all curleaf mountain mahogany, limber pine, whitebark pine, aspen, and cottonwood stands as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. Prevent irreparable damage and loss of these stands from the natural landscape.

Rationale:

The total acreage of these tree species is extremely small as stated in the rationale for Objective F-1 and in .43 Forest Products section of the URAs. The uniqueness of these natural ecosystems in the planning area causes them to be in need of the special designation of ACEC to prevent irreparable damage and loss from the natural landscape.

It is Bureau policy to inventory public lands as specified under subsection 201 (a) of FLPMA and identify areas requiring special management consideration to prevent irreparable damage.

Support:

Support is necessary from mining to refrain from irreparable damage or loss of these stands by exploration and development activities. Support from range, fire management and forest products is necessary as discussed in Rationale for Recommendations F 1.1, F 1.2, and F 1.3.

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F 1.4

Multiple Use Analysis

Complements:

Wildlife 1.1 Officially designate all crucial wildlife use areas as areas of critical environmental concern. (ACEC)

Wildlife Aquatic 1.3 Designate all riparian/stream areas as ACEC.

Recreation 6.3 Designate all riparian areas, Pine Forest Range and North Fork of the Little Humboldt River Gorge as ACEC.

Conflicts:

Minerals 1.1 Make no land-use decisions that would interfere with mineral development in areas of significant current and past mining activity.

Minerals 1.2 Make no decisions which would interfere with mineral development in T. 40 N., R. 32 E., and T. 40 N., R. 33 E. (a portion of Jackson Mountains).

Minerals 1.4 No decisions that would interfere in T. 39 N., R. 42 E.; T. 38 N., R. 42 E.; and T. 37 N., R. 42 E. (portion of Osgood Mountains).

Minerals 1.5 No decisions to interfere with uranium mining in T. 46 N., R. 34 E.; T. 45 N., R. 34 E.; T. 45 N., R. 35 E; T. 46 N., R. 35 E; and T. 47 N., R. 35 E. (portion of Montana Mountains).

These species (curlleaf mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, limber pine and whitebark pine) comprise a very small and limited acreage in the resource area. They are a unique natural ecosystem which is very important in this arid climate.

These areas should be designated areas of critical environmental concern to prevent any irreparable damage or loss. All projects and activities proposed or occurring in these areas should have sufficient stipulations or be so designed as to prevent irreparable damage.

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F 1.4 (continued)

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

1. Designate stands of curleaff mountain mahogany, aspen, cottonwood, limber and white-bark pine as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

1. This designation will serve to flag the manager's attention on any project or activity and special emphasis will be given so as not to cause any irreparable damage to those stands. Additional emphasis will be placed on monitoring their condition and trend and developing projects to enhance these stands.

2. Inventory those areas to establish their condition and monitor trend.

2. An inventory on the number and condition of these stands is necessary to establish trend. Also this information can be used in developing projects such as burning of aspen to enhance the stand by stimulating reproduction.

3. Develop stipulations for activities or projects, on a case by case basis, which will prevent any irreparable damage to them.

3. With Bureau projects/ activities or non-Bureau initiated projects that involve these stands, include stipulations to prevent irreparable damage.

4. Develop a fire management plan for the resource area.

4. A fire management plan is necessary to inform fire suppression personnel on the importance of this resource value and aid them in the selection of tactics and equipment to suppress wild fires. Also a fire management plan with the proper prescription can be very valuable to certain of these tree species for reproduction (aspen and cottonwood).

**MFP II**  
Multiple Use Recommendation

Use these species as a key species when designing grazing management plans.

Rationale

Because of the importance of these species to wildlife, watershed, recreation and livestock, they should be included as a key species in the design of management plans; especially grazing management and wild horse herd management plans.

Support

1. Designation
2. Fire Management
3. Forestry
4. Environmental Coordination
5. Range

Time Frame and Funding Requirements

Plan in AWP for condition and trend studies on those ACEC's to begin in FY 1982.

**MFP III**  
DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Reject the recommendation.

Bureau policy does not provide for areas to become ACECs if management can be obtained through other means. Mountain mahogany stands will be protected through standard bureau procedures and through other recommendations in this Management Framework Plan.

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Objective Number

F-2

Objective:

Provision of fuel wood and posts to satisfy local demand.

Rationale:

.43 Forest Products section of the Denio Unit Resource Analysis identifies healthy stands of juniper available for low quality posts and fuel wood within 30 to 60 miles of Winnemucca. The Planning Area Analysis cites that a small demand for forest products does exist in the planning area. The majority of this demand has been funneled into an isolated portion of the District about 70 miles south of the planning area boundary. Another source of fuel wood only exists on Forest Service lands about 60 miles north of Winnemucca. Due to the energy shortage the stands in the planning area are now more desirable because of their closer proximity to Winnemucca.

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Recommendation: F 2.1

MFP I

By FY 1982 establish juniper post and fuel wood harvesting areas in the Eugene, Blue and Jackson Mountains to satisfy the demands. Make aspen and cottonwood harvested through management action in the planning area available for public use. Establish the Eugene Mountain area as an interim harvesting area with a limitation of no more than 25 cords of fuel wood or 100 posts to be removed annually until such time as a woodland inventory of all three areas is accomplished in FY 1983 and a management plan prepared in FY 1984.

Rationale:

Preliminary field observation indicates that the existing resource in the Eugene Mountains can adequately provide 25 cords of fuel wood and 100 posts without damaging the resource. After a woodland inventory is accomplished and more definitive information on amounts of wood available are known and a management plan prepared, additional areas will be opened for harvesting.

After aspen or cottonwood are harvested through a prescribed clear cutting management action the wood should be made available to public use if consistent with the objectives of the action.

A small economic benefit will be realized by the citizens of Winnemucca since a wood source will be made available within a close proximity to the Winnemucca area.

Support:

Support will be required from the Branch of Cadastral Survey to relocate and reestablish section corners in the Eugene Mountain and Blue Mountain areas due to the complex "checkerboard" land pattern which occurs there. This must be accomplished to ascertain ownership of the forest products.

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F 2.1

Multiple Use Analysis

Complements:

Wildlife 1.10 Restrict firewood cutting to juniper.

Conflicts:

Cultural Resources 1.7 Designate sites which have National Register of Historic Places significance as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. This also includes areas of high lithic scatter.

Wilderness 1.4 Identify activities that jeopardize wilderness suitability (affects Jackson Mountain).

The PAA and public participation has identified the availability of fuelwood as a concern to the community. This recommendation is offered to be responsive to this need.

The establishment of post and fuel wood harvesting areas in close proximity to Winnemucca would have a positive social and economic value but these benefits would be slight.

A woodland products management plan including the standard Bureau procedures would mitigate the mentioned conflicts.

Multiple Use Recommendations

Reasons

1. Prepare a woodland products inventory for Blue Mountain, Eugene Mountain and Jackson Mountain by FY 1983.

1. This inventory is necessary to prepare a management plan. The inventory needs to identify areas that are accessible, suitable quantities and identify potential problems or management concerns.

2. Prepare a woodland products management plan following completion of the inventory.

2. The management plan must state quantities that can be harvested yearly, identify roads to be maintained, and other conditions necessary for implementation and management of the woodland resource.

Note: Attach additional sheets, if needed

(Instructions on reverse)

Form 1600-21 (April 1975)

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Restrict firewood cutting in the planning area by 1982 to juniper types (refer to overlays) to encourage the production of snags in other tree species for wildlife. Clear cutting or thinning of standing timber in the remaining forest types will be accomplished to meet wildlife needs as identified in the Habitat Management Plans.

Rationale

Tree stands consisting of aspen, limber pine, chokecherry, curlleaf mountain mahogany and willow occupy a small percentage of the planning area but receive concentrated wildlife use. They provide a crucial habitat for many wildlife species. Many of these animals are dependent upon snags for at least part of their life cycle. Snags provide cavities for cavity nesters, important feeding places for woodpeckers and thermal, roosting and nesting cover. Snags also contribute to the vertical stratification of the stand which encourages wildlife diversity.

The absence of suitable snags for cavity nesting birds in their normal limiting factor, because of their need for nesting cavities and insects upon which they feed. The majority of snag dependent wildlife are insectivorous.

The encouragement of snag development will increase the number and diversity of wildlife species these vegetative types can support. Public viewing opportunities will be increased thereby helping to satisfy projected public demands for nonconsumptive use of wildlife.

Support

Forestry will be needed to develop a Forestry Plan and draft Environmental Assessment Record for firewood cutting in the planning area.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION

Preserve woodland habitat in the resource area by:

1. Authorizing the harvesting of woodland products only in special situations on a case-by-case basis (no public cutting areas are identified).
2. Responding quickly in fire situations where non-coniferous woodlands are involved.
3. Using the harvesting of woodland products as a management tool.

Rationale

Woodland habitat types account for a minute portion of the planning area. These types, however, have high resource values to multi-activities and therefore should be managed with these resource values in mind. The aesthetic and wildlife habitat value outweigh use as fuel wood unless in specific connection with a habitat management plan. Nevertheless, there may be circumstances whereby woodland products become available for use, e.g., disease, fire, wind, or floods.