

Table 2.1.27 Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Woodlands and Forest Resources

PROPOSED RMP	Alternative A (Preferred Alternative)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D Current Management (No Action)	Alternative E
<b>WOODLANDS AND FOREST RESOURCES —MAP FIGURES 48 AND 49</b>					
<p><b>GOALS AND OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow national BLM Forest Health and Forest Management Standards and Guidelines to assess conditions and guide management actions for the forest and woodland resource.</li> <li>Allow public utilization of forest and woodland species before/after vegetative treatments that would be conducted to achieve desired future conditions. Allow the utilization of forest and woodland species as a tool for vegetative treatments.</li> <li>Manage forests and woodlands for long-term healthy habitat for animal and plant species, forest and woodland health, and riparian restoration and enhancement. Provide for timber production where feasible and compatible with forest health and other resource management objectives.</li> <li>Restore productivity and biodiversity in forest, woodland, and riparian areas. Allow for the harvest of pinyon/juniper for fuel wood, biomass, posts, pinyon nuts, Christmas and ornamental live trees, and special forest products. Manage pinyon/juniper to control encroachment and to improve wildlife habitat, woodland health, and watershed conditions.</li> <li>Manage oak by sustaining and enhancing some of the trees in the older age classes in areas that are suitable for maintaining and increasing acorn yields. Manage aspen to maintain diversity of age classes and to allow for species reestablishment.</li> <li>Encourage utilization of woodland products, including biomass, from lands that would be converted to other resource uses and salvage of woodland products where compatible with other resource management objectives.</li> <li>Pursue partnerships to provide social and economic benefits to local residents, businesses, and future generations. Encourage stewardship contracting in some areas to achieve various resource management objectives.</li> <li>Identify, maintain, and restore forest and woodland old-growth stands to a pre-fire suppression condition. The VFO would adopt the USFS old-growth definitions and identification standards as per the USFS document “Characteristics of Old-Growth Forests in the Intermountain Region (April 1993).” In instances where the area of application in the previous document does not apply to specific species (for example, <i>Pinus edulis</i>), use the document, “Recommended Old-Growth Definitions and Descriptions, UDSA Forest Service Southwestern Region, (Sept.1992).”</li> </ul>					
<p><b>MANAGEMENT COMMON TO THE PROPOSED RMP AND ALL ALTERNATIVES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a forest and woodland management plan incorporating the goals and objectives listed below:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for reforestation of forest and woodland sites after disturbances, where needed for stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, and succession of ecosystems; restoration of native species; and seed sources lost in a stand replacement fire or other stand replacing events.</li> <li>Areas determined to need re-seeding would be treated with a variety of plant species that are desirable for wildlife habitat, livestock, and watershed management, while maintaining vegetation species diversity. The use of site adapted native plant species is encouraged.</li> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed using timber harvest and/or woodcutting in conjunction with pre-commercial thinning, prescribed fire, chaining and other techniques to achieve site-specific objectives of restoring and maintaining forest health, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat; insect and disease control; as a tool for hazard fuel reduction and WUI projects; riparian restoration and; and other resource management goals.</li> <li>Forest and woodland treatments and harvests would continue to be designed in accordance with silvicultural prescriptions. Irregular boundaries of treatment and harvest areas would be required to reduce the detrimental impacts to the scenic values.</li> <li>Pinyon / juniper and oak management would be implemented to maintain commodity production, enhance resource values, and reduce pinyon/juniper dominance. Priority areas for pinyon/juniper treatments would be aspen stands, productive grasslands, forested areas, and shrublands where loss of vegetative diversity is likely. The treatments would be conducted to provide a mosaic pattern to meet wildlife habitat requirements.</li> <li>Oak stands on suitable sites would be managed to maintain and increase the size, vigor and productivity of individual trees to increase acorn yields. Methods may include cutting, pruning, and burning.</li> <li>Aspen stands would be managed to maintain or enhance distribution, density, regeneration and sustainability, and to favor regeneration of aspen where deemed appropriate. Stands would be managed for maintenance or enhancement using a variety of methods, including harvest cutting or burning.</li> <li>Allow for the harvesting, cutting, and pruning, of forest and woodland species that are a hazard to public safety, private property, structures, and cultural resources.</li> <li>Allow for the collection of common native seed and non-barrel cacti, except in periods of low vegetative or seed production.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Allow for the maintenance and enhancement of relict stands, picnic areas, and other stands of special significance by methods such as chemical, mechanical, and prescribed fire.</li> <li>Allow for the management of cottonwood and other species to restore, enhance, and maintain riparian vegetation.</li> </ul>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed to maintain and restore ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved and occurrences of fire, insects, disease and other disturbances would not exceed levels normally expected in healthy forests and woodlands.</li> <li>Relict stands would be maintained for biological and genetic diversity.</li> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment; use of</li> </ul>	<p>Same as the Proposed RMP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public utilization of forest and woodland species before and after vegetative treatments would be allowed to achieve desired future conditions.</li> <li>The utilization of forest and woodland species as a tool for vegetative treatments would be allowed.</li> <li>Public harvesting of forest and woodland species would be allowed to achieve the greatest output of forest and woodland products. This would be achieved by harvesting stands that have reached culmination of mean annual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed to maintain and restore ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved and occurrences of fire, insects, disease and other disturbances do not exceed levels normally expected in healthy forests and woodlands.</li> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment; use of forest, woodlands and certain</li> </ul>	<p>Unspecified in the current management plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed to maintain and restore ecosystems to a condition in which biodiversity is preserved and occurrences of fire, insects, disease and other disturbances do not exceed levels normally expected in healthy forests and woodlands.</li> <li>Relict stands would be maintained for biological and genetic diversity.</li> <li>Forests and woodlands would be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment; use of</li> </ul>

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<p>forest, woodland, and certain vegetation products in areas specified for this use, and other areas would be allowed to meet RMP goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Healthy Forest Initiative would be implemented.</li> <li>The National Fire Plan would be implemented by conducting treatments to reduce fuel loadings, fire severity, and restoring historical disturbance regimes.</li> <li>Materials from such treatments, including those from hazard fuel reduction projects and wildland urban interface projects would be utilized.</li> </ul>		<p>increment (growth begins to decrease).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stands would thereafter be grown and thinned to approximately 80-90% of "normal (maximum) basal area" until the culmination of mean annual increment, at which time the stand(s) would be cut again.</li> </ul>	<p>vegetation products in areas specified for this use, and other areas to meet RMP goals would be allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public utilization of forest and woodland species would be allowed as one tool for vegetative treatments to achieve desired future conditions.</li> <li>Relict stands would be maintained for biological and genetic diversity.</li> <li>The National Healthy Forest Initiative would be implemented.</li> <li>The National Fire Plan would be implemented by conducting treatments to reduce fuel loadings, fire severity, and restoring historical disturbance regimes.</li> </ul>		<p>forest, woodlands and certain vegetation products in areas specified for this use, and other areas to meet RMP goals would be allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public utilization of forest and woodland species would be allowed as one tool for vegetative treatments to achieve desired future conditions.</li> <li>The National Healthy Forest Initiative would be implemented.</li> <li>The National Fire Plan would be implemented by conducting treatments to reduce fuel loadings, fire severity, and restoring historical disturbance regimes.</li> <li>The salvage of forest and woodland species would not be allowed in non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics (277,595 acres).</li> <li>On portions of ACECs outside of non-WSA lands with wilderness characteristics, the salvage of forest and woodland species would be allowed when a threat to forest and woodlands or other resources exists.</li> </ul>
<p>A proactive program of woodland management would be initiated for the salvage of forest and woodland products that are dead and/or dying due to fire, disease, insect-kill, or other disturbance with the management intent of promoting healthy forest and woodlands.</p>	Same as the Proposed RMP.	Same as the Proposed RMP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The salvage of forest and woodland species would be allowed only when a threat to forest and woodlands or other resources within proposed ACECs (242,760 acres) exists.</li> <li>Salvage of forest and woodland for other resources on up to 343,110 acres outside of proposed ACECs would be allowed.</li> </ul>	Unspecified in the current management plans.	Salvage of forest and woodland products for other resources on up to 242,602 acres outside of proposed ACECs would be allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 546,152 acres of forest and woodland would have treatments or be harvested.</li> <li>No vegetation removal would occur in WSAs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Acreage figures for the Proposed RMP may reflect different sum totals, as calculations were determined using different technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 552,152 acres of forest and woodland would have treatments or be harvested.</li> <li>Approximately 13,606 acres within WSAs would not have vegetation removal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 554,108 acres of forest and woodland would have treatments or be harvested.</li> <li>Approximately 13,606 acres within WSAs would not have vegetation removal.</li> </ul>	Same as Alternative A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 88,200 acres of forest and 200,100 acres of woodlands would have treatments or be harvested.</li> <li>Approximately 13,606 acres within WSAs would not have vegetation removal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 421,133 acres of forest and woodland would have treatments or be harvested.</li> <li>Approximately 330,573 acres within WSAs and non-WSA lands wilderness characteristics would not have vegetation removal.</li> </ul>
<p>Special management actions for the old-growth pinyon area in Bitter Creek would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a research/monitoring program</li> <li>Restricting wood-cutting around old-</li> </ul>	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the Draft EIS.	Unspecified in the current management plans.	Same as Alternative C.

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growth pinyon • NSO for old-growth pinyon (160 acres).					

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