

# Metolius Conservation Area

The Metolius Basin is truly unique in the quality and diversity of its natural resource and spiritual values. The River's headwaters well from the ground in scenic springs, ensuring pristine water quality and excellent fisheries. Abundant rainfall and rich soils have combined to produce luxuriant forests of fir, cedar, larch and Ponderosa pine which have contributed greatly to the demand for forest products locally and regionally. Big, yellow-barked Ponderosa pine trees are a highlight of the Basin. The Metolius ecosystem provides habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species.

The upper basin of the Metolius River is an inspiring forest setting. For decades people have found the Metolius to be a special place where they are relieved from the stresses of everyday life amidst a unique natural beauty that exists in few other places. In many families, a tradition of recreation use and love of the Metolius has been handed down over several generations.

Outstanding natural scenery exists throughout the Basin and attracts visitors who seek a variety of recreation pursuits. Black Butte has been a landmark since the first settlers arrived and continues today as a scenic beacon to travelers and residents. The Metolius is outstanding in the abundance of its resources and depth of feeling with which they are held by all who visit this special place.

Recognizing these special qualities of the Metolius, and wishing to preserve its outstanding values for future generations, the Metolius Conservation Area is established in this plan. This 86,000 acre area encompasses Black Butte, the Metolius Basin between the wilderness boundary on the west and Green Ridge on the east, and the "Horn of the Metolius".

This part of the Deschutes National Forest is set apart and will be managed differently from other lands. The Metolius Conservation Area contains ten management areas, many of which are unique, each having a specific goal and theme which describes the direction for management in the foreseeable future. Detailed standards and guide-

lines written for each management area support the goal and theme. Any project or initiative undertaken in the Metolius Conservation Area must conform in design and application to the appropriate standards and guidelines.

It is of utmost importance that the Metolius "community" participate with the Forest Service in every aspect of plan implementation. Community participation involves intensive, continuous communication on a local and regional level. A partnership of mutual communication, teamwork, and respect, with joint expectations of successful results, is necessary to successfully implement the direction that has been established.

Standards and guidelines cannot be written to cover all possible interpretations or circumstances which may arise. Thus, a very important part of implementation will be to promote mutual understanding of the standards and guidelines where they are not clear. This clarifies and sets the stage for mutual support as the project proposal makes its way through the NEPA process and is implemented. Community participation also encourages more active volunteerism by individuals and groups to propose, fund and participate in the implementation of projects.

Management of the Metolius Conservation Area will require a unique blend of arts and sciences applied with creativity. Often, classic silviculture, landscape architecture, or recreation management is found lacking in addressing the sensitive resource and social issues found here. New techniques and applications must be developed which are specific to the Metolius. Forest Service managers and specialists must be creative and open to designing solutions which deviate from the standard approach or process. Forest Service Research scientists should be enlisted to explore possibilities for a Research, Development and Application Program for the Metolius Conservation Area similar to that recently established in the Blue Mountains.

Another Conservation Area-wide initiative to be undertaken as soon as priorities permit is the

inventory of all dispersed camp sites and camping spots used regularly. Good inventory data will provide a much clearer picture of the total recreation use than is currently available, and will permit integration of this data into planning for total recreation needs.

Existing activities which support the philosophy of the Metolius Conservation Area will continue. The Water Resource Monitoring Plan for the Metolius Basin is a comprehensive water quality monitoring effort which encompasses most management areas in the Metolius Conservation Area. The monitoring methods are continuous long-term activities supplemented with site specific evaluations when needed. The Monitoring Plan's objectives are to evaluate the existing condition of water resources and to monitor the effects of management activities on water resources. Baseline data from this study will be an important foundation to use to evaluate changes in the Metolius Basin.

The creation of the Metolius Conservation Area and adoption of the Management Area standards and guidelines signal a significant change in Forest Service posture. A smaller quantity of commercial wood products will be removed than has been past practice. Commensurate reductions in planting, site preparation, and slash burning will be noticeable as well. An increase in prescribed burning to simulate natural ecosystem function will be seen. Forest observers will be left with the impression of natural forests, with large trees growing in a healthy conditions.

There will be a slower pace of all resource development. Restrictions will be placed on land area available to geothermal leasing and use of off-highway vehicles. Scenery and visual quality will be perpetuated on Black Butte and other visually sensitive landscapes. Recreation development will be carefully planned, with consideration of the recreation resource on a Basin-wide basis in addition to site-specific concerns. The overall effect will be to maintain the Metolius Conservation Area in a more natural-appearing condition for the future.

## Management Area 19 Metolius Heritage Area

### Goal

To perpetuate a unique ecosystem represented by large yellow-belly Ponderosa pine and spring-fed streams; one that is part of Oregon's heritage. Significant historical character is found in this area and should be perpetuated. This ecosystem is an integral part of the Metolius Basin as a whole, and should be managed with that consideration.

### General Theme and Objectives

The goal of this Management Area is to perpetuate peaceful, park-like forests of Ponderosa pine and western larch. Generations of families have come here in search of the peace and solitude afforded by the forest beauty, to watch wildlife, and to participate in recreation activities. This historical experience will be perpetuated.

The visitor will see mature and overmature forests having large trees, snags, and dead downed material. Stands with two or more canopy levels will be seen, but will highlight the largest trees in the stands.

Recreational activities have generally been of a dispersed nature. Opportunities for participation in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities will be available. Support facilities for dispersed recreation activities, such as developed campgrounds and day use areas, may be located here in order to sustain the overall integrity of the basin.

This Management Area contains a total of 24.3 M acres. 1.5 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 24.3 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M19-1** Visitor use and activities will be managed to prevent degradation of the Heritage resource.

#### ROS Category

**M19-2** The recreation setting and opportunities provided include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Categories of Roaded Natural, Semi-primitive Non-motorized, Semi-primitive Motorized, and Semi-primitive Motorized-Winter. (See Appendix 2 for an explanation of these categories).

#### Publicly Managed Recreation Opportunities

**M19-3** Day use facilities such as picnic areas, parking facilities, and interpretive sites may be constructed to provide a wide spectrum of recreation use within the Management Area. These facilities will be designed consistent with the goals of protecting the resource. The type of day use facilities may also change over time to reflect the changing recreation need of the public.

**M19-4** Additional developed campground capacity may be constructed. A major consideration in new development will be to relieve recreation use pressure on the adjacent Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Area (MA 28). This campground development must be consistent with the goals of protecting the resource. Reconstruction of existing campgrounds will emphasize restoration of over-used areas.

**M19-5** Facility complexes will be constructed and maintained to Development Levels 1 through 3 (see Appendix 3 for an explanation of the levels.)

#### Trails

**M19-6** New trails may be constructed in this Management Area and will emphasize walking, bicycle riding, and hiking opportunities. Bikeways which separate bikes from heavy motor vehicle traffic will be considered. Interpretive trails may be used to promote an understanding of the "big-tree" character of the area.

**M19-7** The Metolius Windigo National Recreation Trail is located within this Management Area and is used primarily by horses. Additional horse trails may be constructed within this Management Area, and should be located in a manner which will minimize conflicts with hikers.

**M19-8** Off-highway vehicles will not be permitted. Over-the-snow vehicles may be permitted when the depth of continuous snow cover is adequate to protect other resources from adverse impacts. Some roads or trails may be designated for nonmotorized winter activities such as cross country skiing.

#### Dispersed Recreation

**M19-9** The use of traditional informal campsites, hunter camps, or areas where concentrated recreation use occurs will be promoted as recreational opportunities, consistent with other resource management objectives.

#### Timber

**M19-10** There will be no programmed harvest in this Management Area.

**M19-11** Silvicultural treatments necessary to promote stand health in order to sustain a large-tree Ponderosa pine forest are permitted.

**M19-12** Thinning and selected tree removal may be undertaken to promote stand health and vigor, so that replacement trees are available to perpetuate the Ponderosa pine forest. The intent of these activities is to perpetuate a "big-tree" environment. Vegetative management activities may be undertaken to meet specific visual and recreational objectives.

**M19-13** Salvage harvest of dead or nearly dead trees is permitted after satisfying 100% of wildlife snag needs. In addition, trees or snags determined to be a safety hazard in developed recreation areas and along roads and trails may be topped or removed.

**M19-14** Diversity in species is desirable. Species such as vine maple, aspen, and occasional stands of fir, cedar, and lodgepole pine are desirable for

added visual interest and biodiversity. Shrubs and groundcover species are also a desirable visual component.

**M19-15** Timber removal is permitted where it is necessary for the construction of approved recreational facilities including roads and trails.

**M19-16** A site within this Management Area has been selected as an Un-even Aged Management Study Plot as part of a study involving four National Forests. Timber removal which is necessary for conducting this study is permitted.

## Range

**M19-17** Existing grazing allotments will be permitted within this Management Area. No increase in grazing use from the existing will be permitted. No additional allotments will be permitted.

## Wildlife

**M19-18** Emphasis will be on habitat improvement for watchable wildlife and maintaining or improving fish habitat. If significant changes in recreation use are planned because of changes in facilities or access, they will be coordinated with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**M19-19** Snags, and the live trees needed for future snags, will be maintained at 100 percent of the maximum potential population of cavity-nesting species. Snags determined to be safety hazards should be topped or removed. Nestboxes should be placed in campgrounds and other places of concentrated public use to allow observation opportunities of cavity-nesting wildlife.

**M19-20** Selective closure of roads no longer needed will be undertaken with a guideline of 1.5 miles of open road per square mile. Roads to traditional dispersed use sites will generally remain open.

**M19-21** A portion of this Management Area is identified as a key elk area. Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines WL-42-50 will be priority within this identified area.

## Minerals and Special Uses

**M19-22** These areas are currently open to mineral entry for mining claims for locatable minerals. Areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry for mining claims when it is determined that mining will not be compatible with recreational, scenic, or wildlife values.

**M19-23** No new geothermal leases will be granted within this Management Area. Existing leases will be managed to minimize conflict with recreation and wildlife uses. Existing leases which are withdrawn or otherwise relinquished will not be reissued.

**M19-24** Existing pits and quarries for common variety materials are permitted. No new quarries and pits will be constructed.

**M19-25** Existing special uses are permitted. Additional special uses may be authorized if the Management Area objectives are met.

## Desired Visual Condition

**M19-26** A continuous forest canopy will be maintained. Natural openings, or small natural-appearing openings will be permitted. Large diameter Ponderosa pine, with old-growth characteristics such as yellow, deeply fissured bark, are desirable.

Visual changes will not be noticeable to the casual forest visitor. The casual forest visitor is the recreation-oriented person or motorist traveling through a portion of the Forest. The casual forest visitor related to the visual environment based on the context of a landscape viewed, rather than focusing on an individual acre within the landscape.

## Fuelwood

**M19-27** Fuelwood gathering will normally be limited to cleaning up residual wood materials resulting from management activities. Wood will be available first for use in public recreation facilities. No commercial firewood or personal use permits will be issued unless needed to meet a recreational objective.

## **Transportation**

**M19-28** Roads to developed recreation sites will be reconstructed, operated, and maintained to encourage passenger car access. To maintain compatibility, emphasis will be placed on matching the road design and maintenance standard with the service level of the developed site and will be in accordance with the Public Highway Safety Act.

**M19-29** Commercial timber hauling will be restricted (limitations on haul during weekends, holidays, etc.) as needed to reduce conflict with recreation activities; however, when restrictions are not practical, short-term closures of public access may be necessary to meet the timber objectives of this Management Area and adjacent Management Areas.

**M19-30** Unneeded roads and skid trails will be closed and returned to natural vegetative conditions.

**M19-31** Some roads may be closed by entrance treatment, or by obliteration and revegetation. Temporary closure may be used to limit access during sensitive nesting or migratory times.

## **Fire Management**

### **Wildfire**

**M19-32** All wildfires should be aggressively controlled by using low impact methods as much as practicable. Firelines constructed by hand will

be favored over firelines constructed by heavy equipment except where high intensity fire situations may exist.

### **Prescribed Fire**

**M19-33** Prescribed fire may be used to reduce hazardous fuel concentrations and to form fuel-breaks adjacent to high use, high fire occurrence areas.

**M19-34** Prescribed burning may be done to enhance stand health and to perpetuate the Ponderosa pine stands and for other ecological reasons. Burning will be planned to have the minimum impact on recreation use or appearance of the area.

### **Fuel Treatment Options Other Than Prescribed Fire**

**M19-35** Treatment methods that will not be visible over a long period of time should be emphasized. Treatment should occur outside the normal recreation season.

### **Fuel Loadings**

**M19-36** Fuel loadings will be determined at the time a proposal is made.

**M19-37** Fuel treatment must be appropriate to the goals and objectives for the Heritage Management Area and must be adequate to meet the fire suppression objective. Fuel reduction will be achieved through intensive utilization of material to the extent possible.

# Management Area 20 Metolius Wildlife - Primitive

## Goal

To protect and perpetuate a predominantly unmodified natural environment where natural ecological process can continue. To provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species, and to specifically maintain or enhance habitat for bald eagles. To provide an opportunity for primitive dispersed recreation within this undeveloped forest environment.

## General Theme and Objectives

This Management Area will provide nesting and foraging areas for a variety of wildlife species. Bald eagles are known to inhabit a portion of this Management Area. Suitable nesting and foraging habitat for this species will be provided on a continuing basis. Portions of the Management Area are identified as deer winter range and key elk habitat. Species which require large expansive home ranges, such as cougar and bear are also known to inhabit the area. The predominantly unmodified character of this Management Area will provide habitat for these species.

This environmental setting will provide an opportunity for primitive recreational opportunities that are attainable in large undeveloped areas. It will provide a feeling of vastness and remoteness and will have no irreversible evidence of humans. It will be in a predominantly unmodified or natural state. The environmental setting will often include a wide diversification of vegetation, terrain, and visible landform.

This area will be managed to provide limited social contact and interaction among visitors. Primitive facilities, such as shelters and small camps, signing, and a transportation system for visitor access and use may be established. Management will provide recreation opportunities that occur in a primitive

environment, but restrictions will be less than in Wilderness areas.

This Management Area contains a total of 13.1 M acres. 3.2 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 13.1 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M20-1** Visitor use and activities will be managed to prevent degradation of the wildlife/primitive resource.

### Facilities

**M20-2** Areas will be managed to provide dispersed recreation opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, and hunting that are compatible with maintaining desired populations of wildlife species in the area.

**M20-3** Primitive facilities may be installed to protect resources, provide for user safety, distribute use, and to meet Management Area goals.

**M20-4** Seasonal and locational restrictions on recreational activities such as hunting and off-highway vehicles may be needed, but will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Developed recreation, such as campgrounds and resorts are not compatible with the goals of this Management Area, and will not be authorized.

### ROS Category

**M20-5** The recreation setting and opportunities provided include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum categories of Roaded Natural, Semiprimitive Motorized and Semiprimitive Nonmotorized. (See Appendix 2 for an explanation of the categories.)

## Trails

**M20-6** Existing horse and hiker trails will be maintained. New horse and hiker trail systems may be developed. Locations of new trail systems will be planned so that they do not conflict with wildlife needs in the area.

## Timber

**M20-7** Timber harvest will not be programmed within this Management Area.

**M20-8** Timber harvest will be allowed in catastrophic situations. Efforts will be made to protect or create suitable wildlife habitat during any harvest activities.

**M20-9** Timber harvest will be allowed for the purpose of meeting the following wildlife objectives within the portions of the management area identified for emphasis of each species:

**Bald eagle:** To initiate long-term stand management to achieve eagle habitat objectives. Emphasis will be on maintaining forest stands dominated by Ponderosa pine and/or Douglas-fir. Depending on site-specific conditions, either uneven-aged or even-aged timber management may be appropriate to maintain desirable tree species and stand structure composition. Precommercial thinning under existing and selected future nest trees is an acceptable practice in maintaining tree vigor and reducing the threat of unacceptable bark-beetle damage. Proposed harvest must be analyzed with a biological evaluation in a long-range management plan within the NEPA process.

## Range

**M20-10** Range management practices (except predator control using baited traps and poison) may be allowed in this Management Area, provided they do not conflict with wildlife needs. Structural range improvements such as fences and water may be allowed and will be constructed of native materials whenever possible.

## Wildlife

The following items apply to that portion of this Management Area Identified as Bald Eagle emphasis:

**M20-11** Protect all existing nest, roost, and perch trees. Provide large overmature trees that are potentially useable as nest sites and perch trees. Suitable trees should be available at any point in time to provide for the needs of the desired population, and widely distributed through the area to minimize territorial competition.

**M20-12** Suitable nest and perch trees should exceed 110 feet in height and be 40 inches or greater diameter at breast height (dbh). An average density of 3 such trees per acre is satisfactory. Preferred trees have an open, flat-topped form of large limbs, and are usually Ponderosa pine or Douglas fir. Sufficient smaller-sized trees of various diameters will be needed to perpetuate these larger trees.

**M20-13** Snags, and the live trees needed for future snags, will be maintained for 100 percent of the maximum potential population of primary cavity-nesting birds, except where eagle management goals would be jeopardized. This would be accomplished using the Deschutes National Forest Wildlife Tree Implementation Plan. Large-diameter snags are especially desirable as both nesting habitat for cavity-nesting animals and perch trees for eagles.

**M20-14** Active nest sites will be protected from disturbing human activities during the nesting season, and key feeding areas or roosts may also require activity restrictions.

**M20-15** Disturbing activities within 1/4 mile (1 mile for the use of explosives) of an active bald eagle nest will be restricted between January 1 and August 31. A bald eagle nest site will be considered inactive if not occupied by May 15.

### Other Wildlife Species:

**M20-16** Portions of this Management Area have been identified as key elk habitat. Refer to the Forest-wide standards/guidelines WL-42-50 for

management guidelines for this portion of the Management Area.

**M20-17** The predominately unmodified character of the majority of this Management Area will provide adequate habitat for a wide variety of species. Enhancement opportunities may be approved if they support the wildlife values of the area.

## Minerals

**M20-18** This Management Area is open to mineral entry for mining claims for locatable minerals.

**M20-19** Geothermal leases will be issued with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations.

**M20-20** Seasonal operation restrictions may be placed on mining activities in pits and quarries.

## Visual

**M20-21** Management activities and facilities will meet Partial Retention or a higher objective. These activities and facilities may include trailheads, trail construction, bulletin board and sign construction, artificial nest construction, and vegetative management. Activities will be visible, but will blend in with the natural surroundings.

## Transportation

**M20-22** Trails and roads will be designed, constructed, and maintained to the minimum standard needed to achieve objectives and goals of this Management Area.

**M20-23** Roads management strategies will generally be "accept" or "encourage" use by dispersed recreationists. On some logging roads, dispersed recreational use may be "discouraged" or "eliminated" (See Forest-wide standards/guidelines for explanation of road management strategies).

**M20-24** Some roads may be closed by entrance treatment, or by obliteration and revegetation. Temporary closures may be used to limit access during sensitive nesting or migratory times.

**M20-25** Unneeded roads and skid trails will be closed and returned to a natural vegetative condition.

## Fire Management

### Wildfire

**M20-26** Within the bald eagle portion of this Management Area:

Protection of bald eagle nest trees and adjacent snags will be the highest priority in the bald eagle emphasis portion of this Management Area. Suppression efforts, if within 1/4 mile of an active bald eagle nest during the nesting season, will be based on minimizing the disturbance time to the nesting species. The use of mechanized equipment such as chain-saws and pumps to reduce the exposure time is acceptable, however, the use of helicopters and aerial retardants should be undertaken with caution near active nest sites.

Low intensity fires outside the nesting season do not conflict with the habitat objectives. In high intensity fire situations the objective will be to minimize acres burned. The use of heavy equipment and retardant aircraft is acceptable. Fire camps should be located at least 1 mile from active nests.

Standard suppression efforts may be used during the *non-nesting* season but with increased emphasis on saving large snags.

The maximum low intensity burn acre objectives are 10 acres/year and 1 acre per occurrence. Maximum high intensity burn acre objectives are 5 acres/year and 1 acre per occurrence.

**M20-27** Within the remainder of this Management Area, fire is considered to play a natural role in the ecology of the area. In order to assure that the natural role of fire is allowed, all fires accidentally started by human activity will be declared a wildfire and suppressed. However, lightning caused fires that meet preplanned prescription parameters, outlined in the Fire Management Action Plan, may be managed as prescribed fire.

### **Prescribed Fire**

**M20-28** Prescribed burning may be used to improve or maintain wildlife habitat or for other ecological purposes. Burns during the bald eagle nesting season should be restricted to areas at least one quarter mile away from active nests.

### **Fuel Loading**

**M20-29** Natural fuel loading will normally be the standard within the Management Area.

**M20-30** Fuel treatment must be appropriate to the goals and objectives for this Management Area and must be adequate to meet the fire suppression objective. Fuel reduction will be achieved through intensive utilization of material to the extent possible.

### **Special Uses**

**M20-31** Special Uses will be allowed if they do not negatively affect the wildlife values in this Management Area.

# Management Area 21 Metolius Black Butte Scenic

## Goal

To perpetuate the unique scenic quality of Black Butte.

## General Theme and Objectives

Black Butte is a unique and dominant landform in the Central Oregon landscape. The Butte is seen from many travel routes and from many residential areas throughout Central Oregon. It's dominant shape and color have been recognized by travelers and local inhabitants, dating back to pre-historic times. Landscapes in this Management Area will be managed to protect and perpetuate the unique and widely recognized appearance of Black Butte. To the casual observer, results of activities will not be evident or will be visually subordinate to the natural landscape.

Vegetation will be managed to maintain or create a continuous forest canopy of mature or overmature tree stands having large trees, and in many cases two or more canopy levels to provide for replacement trees. Where possible, the emphasis will be on perpetuating or increasing the component of Ponderosa pine. Areas in which white-fir and other coniferous species are replacing Ponderosa pine due to the elimination of fire, will be managed to emphasize Ponderosa pine. Areas that are true mixed conifer stands will be maintained in that species composition.

A range of recreational and interpretive opportunities will be available within this management area.

This Management Area contains a total of 10.6 M acres. .3 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using

the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), .3 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M21-1** New recreational developments and changes to existing developments are permitted as long as they are consistent with the Management Area objectives. Modest interpretive facilities and activities will be provided for the recreational visitor.

**M21-2** Parking facilities, structures, and other recreational facilities will be sensitively designed to blend with the elements found in the natural landscape and will remain subordinate to the overall visual strength of the surrounding landscape.

**M21-3** The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) standard in Black Butte Scenic Management Area will normally be Roaded Natural, but may also include; Semi-primitive Non-motorized, Semi-primitive Motorized, and Semi-primitive Motorized Winter Only standards.

### Trails

**M21-4** Hiking and horse trails will be retained, kept in condition, and relocated as necessary. Bicycle trails may be established and maintained to meet the Management Area objectives.

**M21-5** New trail proposals or proposals for relocation must meet the objectives of the Management Area and protection of the natural landscape.

**M21-6** Off-highway vehicles will not be permitted. Over-the-snow vehicles may be permitted when the depth of continuous snow cover is adequate to protect other resources from adverse impacts. Some roads or trails may be designated for nonmotorized winter activities such as cross country skiing.

## Desired Visual Condition

**M21-7** A continuous forest canopy will be maintained. Natural openings, or small natural appearing openings will be permitted. Large diameter Ponderosa pine, with old growth characteristics, such as yellow, deeply-fissured bark, are desirable. Visual variety will be provided by leaving occasional gnarly, old over-mature "character trees."

**M21-8** Diversity in species, where biologically possible, is desirable. Species such as vine maple, aspen, and occasional stands of fir, cedar and lodgepole pine are desirable for added visual interest. Shrubs and groundcover species are also a desirable visual component.

**M21-9** Visual changes will not be noticeable to the casual forest visitor. The casual forest visitor is the recreation-oriented person or motorist traveling through a portion of the Forest. The casual forest visitor relates to the visual environment based on the context of a landscape viewed, rather than focusing on an individual acre within a landscape. For the occasional pedestrian who wanders off a designated trail and views an individual acre where a management activity has recently taken place, visual changes will be noticeable.

**M21-10** Within the Black Butte Scenic Management Area, the area seen from Forest Roads 11, 12, and 14 and State Highway 20 will be managed to a Visual Quality Objective of Retention Foreground.

**M21-11** Vegetation along Roads 1110 and 1110-700 will be managed in such a way as to blend in with the visual characteristics of the Black Butte Special Interest Area (Management Area 23) designated above these roads. The objective is to not create a distinct visual line separating the two Management Areas.

**M21-12** Areas that do not currently meet the desired visual condition because of past management activities should be reviewed by a landscape architect to determine management strategies needed to achieve the desired visual condition. Recovery by plantings should be emphasized as one method of rehabilitation. Landscapes containing negative visual elements, such as skid roads, activity residue, or cable corridors, are identified as a high priority for rehabilitation.

## Timber

**M21-13** Scheduled timber harvest is permitted to achieve the desired future condition and is included in the programmed harvest base subject to the Management Area standards/guidelines.

**M21-14** Management emphasis will focus on sustaining a healthy forest of large diameter trees which appear as a continuous forest canopy. Emphasis will be on Ponderosa pine, where appropriate.

**M21-15** Any proposed activity will be reviewed by an Interdisciplinary Team, which will include a landscape architect. Analysis done by the Team should include:

What treatment is necessary to achieve or retain the desired visual condition.

If cleanup activities can realistically be completed within the specified time limits.

What measures may be necessary to meet the desired visual condition, such as winter logging, helicopter logging, special slash treatment, etc.

What the predicted visual condition will be following the activity.

**M21-16** In Ponderosa pine stands and suitable uneven-aged mixed conifer stands, timber harvests will remove a maximum of 10 percent, every 20 years, of trees in each of the 18-24, 24-30, 30-36, and 36-42 inch diameter classes from each acre. Trees over 42 inches in diameter will not be harvested unless they are an imminent safety hazard. The target tree size for Ponderosa pine stands is 36 inches in diameter. The objective is to maintain at least two trees per acre over 36 inches in diameter at all times. In the uneven-aged mixed conifer stands the objective is to maintain at least two trees over 30 inches in diameter at all times. Stocking goals are to maintain the stand at 70 to 100 percent of each site's maximum capability at all times.

**M21-17** High risk salvage should be emphasized as part of the treatment described in the above paragraph. Trees considered a "high risk" are those that would probably die within the next

decade. High risk trees are considered to be those which rate 8 points or higher, using the Oregon/Washington Risk Rating System (R-6-5220-45, 12/11/63).

**M21-18** Immature trees will be thinned (pre-commercial and commercial) to maintain sustainable health and vigor, and to provide adequate replacement trees. Removal of white fir under Ponderosa pine overstories is a high priority. Except in root rot pockets, thinning from below will have a higher priority than creating openings for treating mixed conifer stands. The thinning may be designed to either create a stand suitable for uneven-aged management or an even-aged stand which will eventually have small openings. The objective of thinning the smaller trees in mixed conifer stands is to remove the white fir which is creating insect and disease problems. Landscape architects will be consulted and involved in determining the shape of thinning units.

**M21-19** In mixed conifer stands not suitable for uneven-aged management the priority for treatment will be:

A. Treatment of root rot infection centers. This will be accomplished by removing the most susceptible species in the root rot center. Less susceptible species such as Ponderosa pine will be retained where possible to provide stocking. In areas without suitable leave trees, small openings will be created. No more than 5 percent of the area can be in openings for a given decade.

B. Commercial thinning of even-aged stands. Emphasis will be given to maintaining the mixed conifer character of the stand. Harvest will favor leaving, (in order of priority), Ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas fir, spruce, white fir, cedar and lodgepole pine.

**M21-20** Along major roads, slash from a thinning, tree removal activity, or other visible results of management activities, will not be visible to the casual forest visitor one year after the work has been completed.

**M21-21** Residual material from management activities will be made available for personal use firewood gathering.

**M21-22** Management practices will normally not focus on maximum growth, due to the emphasis on visual quality. As a result, stand densities may be heavier or lighter than what would be considered necessary for optimum growth.

**M21-23** Openings will be created by the following activities:

In the Ponderosa pine type, openings will result only from management activities which harvest natural mortality (dying or severely diseased trees which occur in scattered pockets).

In the mixed conifer type openings may be created, but within the openings healthy Ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas fir and spruce should be retained. Openings not visible from the sensitive viewer locations should be kept as small as possible and no greater than 5 acres. The maximum area which may be in openings in any decade is 5 percent.

## Range

**M21-24** Livestock grazing is permitted when it is consistent with the Management Area Objectives.

**M21-25** Structural range improvements such as fences, water developments, and access roads may be visible from sensitive viewer locations, but will remain subordinate to the overall strength of the landscape viewed, or designed to compliment scenic quality.

**M21-26** Salt blocks, water developments, or other improvements which attract livestock and result in a trampled appearing setting should be avoided in highly sensitive scenic areas. New corrals and loading chutes will be made of native materials and will be designed to be visually pleasing.

**M21-27** Vegetation manipulation such as brush removal, reseeding, and prescribed burning will be designed to meet visual objectives.

## Wildlife

**M21-28** Wildlife snags and snag replacement trees will be maintained to meet 100 percent of

maximum population potential for cavity nesting species. Snags determined to be safety hazards in areas of concentrated public use will be topped or removed.

**M21-29** Where consistent with the desired visual condition, wildlife habitat improvements will focus on watchable wildlife.

**M21-30** When managing vegetation along major roads which have deer migration routes crossing them, consideration will be given to minimizing risks of vehicular-deer collisions.

## **Minerals**

**M21-31** The area is currently open to mineral entry for mining claims for locatable minerals. Areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry for mining claims when it is determined that mining will not be compatible with recreational, scenic, or wildlife values.

**M21-32** Geothermal leases will be issued with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations.

## **Special Uses**

**M21-33** Special Use permits will be allowed if they are compatible with other uses. Additional special uses may be authorized if the Management Area objectives are met.

**M21-34** Trees may be removed within the Black Butte Scenic Management Area where necessary to permit access to electronic sites, utilities, and other special use sites.

## **Fuelwood**

**M21-35** Fuelwood gathering is permitted when it is consistent with the Desired Visual Condition and with wildlife objectives.

## **Transportation**

**M21-36** New roads will be located and designed to meet the objectives for the area. Routes likely

to be popular with Forest visitors will be designed and maintained to enhance the forest's scenic qualities.

**M21-37** Road alignments should fit the Forest landscape with a minimum of landform modifications and should present a cross-section of the area's landscape character. Road alignments should capitalize on opportunities that will create pleasant visual experiences.

**M21-38** Signs should only be used where necessary for the user's safety and enjoyment of the Forest. They should be located and designed to blend with the elements found in the characteristic landscape wherever possible.

**M21-39** Helispots, disposal sites, and borrow areas will be located out of sight of sensitive viewer locations.

## **Fire Management**

### **Wildfire**

**M21-40** The primary objective in foreground areas is to suppress any wildfires that could potentially become high intensity fires as quickly as possible. Restoration efforts will be made where fire suppression activities do not meet the desired visual condition.

**M21-41** Wildfires can be suppressed using standard techniques. Control strategies will be developed to minimize impacts from suppression activities on the landscape. Visual contrasts will not be created through suppression techniques unless absolutely necessary.

**M21-42** An Interdisciplinary Team which includes a landscape architect should be consulted for recommended restoration measures following wildfire suppression activities in Scenic Views Management Areas.

### **Prescribed Fire**

**M21-43** Low intensity prescribed fires may be used to meet and promote the desired visual condition within each stand type. Prescribed fire and other fuel management techniques will be

used to minimize the hazard of a large high intensity fire. In foreground areas, prescribed fires will be small, normally less than 5 acres per block, and shaped to appear as natural occurrences. In areas not foreground, prescribed fires will be designed to be natural appearing and will normally be more than 5 acres in size.

**M21-44** If at any time during the course of a prescribed burn it appears that the objectives for the burn are not being met, all burning will cease.

#### **Fuel Loadings**

**M21-45** Fuel treatment must be appropriate to the goals and objectives for this Management Area and must be adequate to meet the fire suppression objective. Fuel reduction will be

achieved through intensive utilization of material to the extent possible.

#### **Forest Health**

**M21-46** Monitoring and vegetative management will emphasize the control or prevention of major insect and disease problems. Minor insect infestations or root rot centers may not require immediate treatment, as long as they are consistent with the desired visual condition for the species in which they occur. Insect and disease problems in the Black Butte Scenic Management Area will be monitored to determine their rate of spread and degree of risk to the visual and recreational resources.

# Management Area 22 Metolius Special Forest

## Goal

To rehabilitate and sustain a healthy forest with an emphasis on timber production, while maintaining a near-natural appearance, and providing a range of recreational opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

## General Theme and Objectives

Promoting healthy and vigorous forest stand conditions will be the highest priority management goal. Timber management activities will be conducted in a manner which provides a sustained yield of wood products, while minimizing disruption of a continuous forest canopy. The aim of a managed forest is to have stands in a variety of age classes with all stands utilizing the site growth potential. This is achieved through stand treatments which address forest health issues, emphasize uneven-aged management as a preferred silvicultural treatment where appropriate, emphasize stocking sites with Ponderosa pine either by planting openings or utilizing existing large trees, and requiring reduced size of created openings.

Opportunities for dispersed recreation activities will be emphasized, particularly those associated with roads, trails, and streams. Dispersed camping is an important use of this area. Developed site recreation opportunities such as camping or picnicking occur on a limited basis throughout the area. Several roads within the management area provide access to the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness trailheads.

This Management Area contains a total of 18.4 M acres. 1.8 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M22-1** The majority of campgrounds and picnic areas will be managed at development Level 2. (See Appendix 3 for a description of the various levels.) Some will be managed at Level 3, but none will exceed Level 3. Stands on these sites will be treated to retain the character that contributes to the value of the site for recreation.

**M22-2** Traditional dispersed campsites, hunter camps, or areas where concentrated recreation use occurs will be recognized as being significant in producing and utilizing dispersed recreation opportunities. Prescriptions for harvesting, cleanup, site preparation, and thinning will consider the environmental setting that contributes to the attraction of these sites for recreation purposes. The attempt will be made to retain this attractive character during and after treatments.

**M22-3** Additional campground capacity and day use facilities may be constructed. A major consideration in new development will be the balance of recreational facilities in adjacent Management Areas.

**M22-4** This management area will be managed to provide the recreation activity, setting, and experience of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum category of Roaded Natural or Roaded Modified, Semi-primitive motorized, and Semi-primitive Non-motorized. (See Appendix 2 for an explanation of the categories.)

**M22-5** Generally, off-highway vehicle use is allowed. Closures and restrictions will be established where off-road vehicle use will threaten or damage other resource values, such as plantations, soils, and wildlife. Over-the-snow vehicles may be permitted when the depth of continuous snow cover is adequate to protect other resources from adverse impacts. Some roads, trails, or areas could be closed to motorized vehicles.

## **Timber**

**M22-6** Programmed timber harvest is scheduled for this Management Area.

**M22-7** Uneven-aged management is the preferred silviculture system in the Metolius Special Forest Management Area and should be prescribed within the mature and overmature Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer community types where stand and site conditions are appropriate and no other resource objectives which preclude the use of uneven-aged management have been identified and documented during the project planning process.

**M22-8** Within this Management Area created openings will normally be 10 acres or less in size. Created openings will not exceed 10% of the Management Area within any decade. An area is no longer considered a created opening when the majority of tree seedlings are greater than 4 1/2 feet in height. Management Standard and Guideline 2-1 in Pacific Northwest Regional Guide of May 1984 which permits exceptions to the created forest opening size of 40 acres when natural catastrophic situations occur will apply.

**M22-9** Conifer stands will be managed to maintain or create the appearance of a continuous forest canopy dominated by large trees and a variety of species. Small openings will be created by natural mortality or treatment of disease centers. Thinnings from below which create an open park-like appearance and which mimic natural understory fires are allowed. Uneven-aged conifer stands will be managed to maintain uneven-aged structure where feasible.

**M22-10** Managed stands of both even-aged and uneven-aged structure will have a target tree size of 24 inches in diameter.

**M22-11** Management of the forest as it relates to forest health issues will receive a high priority. Forest pests and diseases such as root or stem rot, bark beetles, defoliators, and dwarf mistletoe can seriously reduce options for management in these stands. Stands will be prioritized for entry, based on the risk of existing conditions. Highest risk stands will be highest priority for treatment. Management will focus on treating high risk stands

through methods that include commercial thinning, salvage, pre-commercial thinning, uneven-aged management, site species conversion, and small created openings.

**M22-12** Immature trees will be thinned (pre-commercial and commercial) to maintain sustainable health and vigor and to provide adequate replacement trees. Removal of white fir under Ponderosa pine overstories is a high priority management goal.

**M22-13** Cleanup activities:

Slash from a thinning or tree removal activity, or other visible results of management activities, will not be visible to visitors traveling on major roads one year after the work has been completed.

Following the completions of site preparation activities, residual material will be made available for personal use wood gathering, or left for soil biomass.

**M22-14** Harvest is not scheduled within any riparian zones or any perennial streams or springs. Harvest on these sites may occur to meet site-specific riparian resource needs.

## **Range**

**M22-15** Allotments will be managed to achieve or maintain a forage condition rating of fair or better or to the site's capability.

**M22-16** Range allotment management plans will be written to reflect the management direction for all range lands within this management area.

**M22-17** Annual permittee plans will provide for livestock distribution and use patterns to protect newly established tree plantations. Plantations can be further protected by fencing, caging trees, or use of repellents. Salt and water should be placed one-half to one mile away from new plantations. Where conflicts cannot be resolved using the above techniques, establishment of new allotments and relocation of livestock should be considered.

**M22-18** Transitory range will be managed in conjunction with timber management to achieve higher levels of forage production and the desired level of forage utilization. Livestock grazing on transitory ranges will take place under the following situations:

Where forage occurs as a result of site disturbance and/or timber canopy removal on a continuing basis.

Where disturbed sites and/or areas under timber management can be seeded with species which improve forage production and do not restrict tree establishment and growth.

On forest plantations when livestock will not damage the young trees. Success will require close and continuous coordination between grazing and reforestation to integrate these two activities.

## **Wildlife**

**M22-19** Management of deer summer habitat should be designed to provide a mosaic of forested conditions which incorporate the concepts of escape and hiding cover, thermal cover, travel corridors, visual screens, and harassment potential from other activities, e.g. roads, hunting pressure, and other recreation use. The area of consideration should be large enough (e.g. Forest Plan Implementation Unit) so that meaningful cover arrangements can be determined. Normally, this would be between 4,000 and 10,000 acres in size.

**M22-20** More specific habitat needs should be identified at the project level through the interdisciplinary process. Further inventories or surveys may be required to validate the extent and importance of deer summer habitat.

**M22-21** Minimum standards for wildlife habitat will be the Forest-wide standards and guidelines.

## **Minerals**

**M22-22** In general the entire area is open for mineral entry for mining claims for locatable minerals.

**M22-23** Geothermal leases will be issued. Conditional Surface Use and Seasonal Restrictions Stipulations will be used to protect wildlife habitat and recreation areas that are included in the Metolius Special Forest Management Area.

**M22-24** Mining activities for common materials are permitted in pits and quarries.

## **Visual**

**M22-25** To the extent possible, the highest inventoried visual quality level will be provided unless it requires a reduction of timber outputs. In that case, the minimum allowable visual quality objective is Modification. Created openings will be shaped and blended to the natural terrain, to the extent practical.

## **Transportation**

**M22-26** Long-term local roads for resource access will be planned, constructed, maintained, and operated to be economically efficient. During commercial hauling activities, public access will be discouraged or prohibited on some roads through appropriate signing. High clearance vehicles may be accepted during post sale activities, and all low clearance motorized traffic (passenger cars) will be discouraged or eliminated.

**M22-28** Selective closure of roads will be conducted utilizing an interdisciplinary team approach. Generally, within an implementation unit, road density shall not exceed 2.5 miles of open road per square mile.

## Fire Management

### Wildfire

**M22-29** Suppression practices will be designed to protect the investment in managed tree stands and to prevent losses of large acreages to wildfire.

**M22-30** Snags that do not present a hazard to life or a threat to successful suppression action should not be felled.

**M22-31** In Ponderosa pine stands (except for reproduction stands) emphasis should be placed on burning out from existing roads and natural barriers rather than constructing new firelines.

### Prescribed Fire

**M22-32** Prescribed fire may be used to protect, maintain, and enhance timber and forage production. Criteria for utilizing fire are as follows:

To reduce risk of conflagration fire.

To increase soil productivity by cycling bound nutrients.

To prevent encroachment of less desirable, competing tree species.

To increase palatability and cover of desirable forage species.

To prepare sites for reforestation.

### Fuel Treatment Other Than Prescribed Fire

**M22-33** The lowest cost option of fuel management techniques which meets all resource objectives should be selected.

### Fuel Loadings

**M22-34** Slash will be treated to reduce the chances of fire starts and rates of spread to acceptable levels, but will not be cleared to the point that the forest floor is devoid of all slash and logs. Some slash and larger dead material will be left for ground cover for soil protection, microclimates for establishment of trees, and small mammal habitat.

Optimum fuel loadings should be guided by the following photo series.

	PP	LP	MC-MH
Thinning	1-MC-3-PC 4-PP-1-TH	1-MC-3-PC 1-PP-1-TH	1-MC-3-PC 1-PP-1-TH
Partial Cut	4-TF-4-RC 2-LP-3-PC	2-LP-3-PC	2-MC-4-PC 2-TF-4-RC
Created Opening	2-MC-4-RC 1-LP-3-PC	1-LP-3-CC	3-TF-4-RC 2-MC-4-RC

These are found in *Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues*, a cooperative publication by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. These fuel loadings will be revised when new data, methods, or research indicate that a new profile would improve resource management programs.

### Special Uses

**M22-35** Special Use permits will be allowed if they are compatible with other uses in the area.

### Forest Health

#### Prevention

**M22-36** Monitoring and vegetative management will emphasize prevention of damage or loss of resource production because of pests.

Pest and disease control, where determined necessary, will favor biological and silvicultural techniques over chemical treatments.

#### Suppression

**M22-37** Take immediate suppression action utilizing principles and techniques that reduce damage and losses, minimize the risk of future

pest problems from occurring, and meet management objectives.

# Management Area 23 Metolius Special Interest

## Goal

To preserve and provide interpretation of unique geological, biological, and cultural areas for education, scientific, and public enjoyment purposes.

## General Theme and Objectives

Unusual geological or biological sites and areas are preserved and managed for education, research, and to protect their unique character. Facilities and opportunities may be provided for public interpretation and enjoyment of the unique values of these sites and areas. The primary benefiting uses of these areas will be for developed and dispersed recreation, research, and educational opportunities. These areas will be designated by Regional Forester authority.

The Black Butte Special Interest Area and the Castle/Cathedral Rocks Special Interest Area are included in this Management Area.

This Management Area contains a total of 1.7 M acres. 1.7 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 1.7 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M23-1** Visitor use and activities will be managed to prevent degradation of the special interest resource.

**M23-2** Facilities may be provided for protection of resource values, visitor use, environmental interpretation, or safety of visitors.

**M23-3** Off-highway vehicles will not be allowed. Snowmobiles may be permitted where the depth of continuous snowcover is adequate to protect other resources from adverse impacts from this activity.

**M23-4** The Metolius Special Interest Management Area will provide the recreation activity, setting, and experience opportunities of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum category of Semiprimitive nonmotorized.

The Black Butte Lookout Trail is located within the Black Butte Special Interest Area. Other trails may be provided as long as they are compatible with this Management Area's interests.

Modest interpretive facilities may be provided for the recreational visitor.

### Timber

**M23-5** There will be no programmed timber harvest. Firewood cutting is normally not permitted but may be allowed as directed in individual special interest area plans.

**M23-6** Unneeded roads and skid trails will be closed and returned to a natural vegetative condition.

### Range

**M23-7** The Green Ridge Sheep Allotment is adjacent to the Castle/Cathedral Rocks Special Interest Area. Entry of sheep into this Special Interest Area will be prohibited.

Range allotments will not be approved within this Management Area.

## **Wildlife**

**M23-8** Manipulation of the game and fish habitat will be allowed as long as it maintains a natural appearance and does not conflict with the purpose or objectives of the area.

**M23-9** Emphasis will be on habitat improvement for watchable wildlife.

## **Minerals**

**M23-10** This Management Area will be recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry for mining claims when it is determined that mining will not be compatible and cannot be mitigated to preserve the values of this Area.

**M23-11** Geothermal leases will not be issued within the Black Butte Special Interest portion of this Management Area. Geothermal leases will be issued with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations within the Castle Rocks Special Interest portion of this Management Area.

## **Visual**

**M23-12** To the extent possible, the visual quality level indicated on the Visual Quality Objective Map will be met.

## **Transportation**

**M23-13** Roads will be constructed only as needed to serve the management objectives of the Metolius Special Interest Area. Some roads may be closed to protect resource values. Helispots are not normally compatible.

## **Fire Management**

**M23-14** Special Interest Areas are divided into two classes: (1) one which primarily protects the

vegetation and (2) one which is primarily geologic in nature and in which the vegetation may be treated the same as in the surrounding area. They are listed below:

Class 1: Black Butte

Class 2: Castle/Cathedral Rock

## **Wildfire**

**M23-15** All suppression entries should use low impact methods that are consistent with the Management Area direction.

Group 1:

This area should receive aggressive suppression in all areas.

Group 2:

This area should receive suppression emphasis which is compatible with the adjacent Management Area.

## **Prescribed Fire (Groups 1 & 2)**

**M23-16** Prescribed fire may be used to attain the desired characteristics of the Special Interest Area and to reduce fuels to their natural conditions. Any burning would be designed to create minimum impacts on the appearance or use of the area for its intended purpose.

## **Fuel Treatment Other Than Prescribed Fire (Groups 1 & 2)**

**M23-17** Fuels treatment methods should emphasize maintenance of the natural characteristics of the area.

Fuel loadings should be low enough to eliminate the possibility of high intensity fires while maintaining the natural characteristics of the area.

## **Special Uses**

**M23-18** Special uses may be authorized if they do not detract from the values for which this Special Interest Area is managed.

# Management Area 24 Metolius Research Natural Area

## Goal

To preserve an example of a naturally occurring ecosystem in an unmodified condition for nonmanipulative research and education.

## General Theme and Objectives

Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are managed to preserve the natural ecological succession. All Establishment Reports for these areas must be approved by the Chief of the Forest Service.

Research on the Metolius Research Natural Area must be essentially nondestructive in character; destructive analysis of vegetation is generally not allowed nor are studies requiring extensive forest floor modification or extensive soil excavation. Collection of plant and animal specimens should be restricted to the minimum necessary for provision of vouchers and other research needs and in no case to a degree which significantly reduces species population levels. Such collection must also be carried out in accordance with applicable State and Federal agency regulations. In consultation with the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger, the Director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station is responsible for approving management implementation plans and for overseeing and coordinating approved research on all research natural areas. The District Ranger administers, protects, and manages the Metolius Research Natural Area and reports through the Forest Supervisor to the Station Director any planned activities on, or immediately adjacent to, Metolius Research Natural Area.

The purpose of the Metolius RNA is to provide:

1. Baseline areas against which effects of human activities can be measured.
2. Sites for study of natural processes in undisturbed ecosystems.

3. Gene pool preserves for all types of organisms.

This Management Area contains a total of 1.3 M acres. 1.3 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M24-1** No physical improvements for recreation purposes such as campgrounds or buildings will be permitted.

**M24-2** Picnicking, camping, collecting plants, gathering cones and herbs, picking berries, and other public uses will be allowed, though not encouraged, as long as they do not modify the area to the extent that such uses threaten impairment of research or educational values.

**M24-3** The area will be closed to all off-highway motorized vehicles.

### Timber

**M24-4** Timber harvesting is not allowed in the Metolius Research Natural Area. No control of insect or disease should be instituted.

**M24-5** Firewood cutting is not permitted.

**M24-6** Timber harvesting will not be allowed in catastrophic situations.

### Range

**M24-7** Grazing will only be allowed when the Regional Forester and Director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station authorize such a management practice to preserve some representation of the vegetation for which the natural area was originally created.

**M24-8** The Green Ridge Sheep Allotment is located adjacent to the east boundary of the Metolius Research Natural Area. Entry of sheep into this RNA will be prohibited.

**M24-9** Vegetative manipulation will not be allowed in catastrophic situations.

## **Wildlife**

**M24-10** The Regional Forester and the Director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station may authorize management practices to control excessive non-game animal populations. This would only be done in cases where these populations threaten the preservation of some representation of vegetation for which the natural area was originally created.

## **Minerals**

**M24-11** The Metolius RNA will be withdrawn for mineral entry for mining claims.

**M24-12** Geothermal leases will be issued with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations.

**M24-13** Pits and quarries will require approval of the Experiment Station Director and the Forest Supervisor.

## **Visual**

**M24-14** Management activities and research facilities should meet the visual quality level on the Visual Quality Objective Map.

## **Transportation**

**M24-15** No new roads or trails will be permitted within the Metolius RNA, except those considered essential to research, protection, or educational uses.

**M24-16** Any transportation facilities such as roads and trails provided for in this Management Area will have minimum impacts on the ecosystems and must be located and managed to best fulfill the Area's management objectives. Management of the transportation facilities could include closing facilities to all but the designated research person-

nel. Helispots and special uses such as telephone lines are not allowed.

## **Fire Management**

### **Wildfire**

**M24-17** Unless plans approved by the Station Director provide for letting natural fires burn, aggressive containment using low impact methods should be used. High impact methods will be used only to prevent a total loss of the Research Natural Area. Mop up should be minimized with natural burnout being the preferred method.

### **Prescribed Fire**

**M24-18** Prescribed fire will be used only as specified in approved Research Natural Area management goals.

### **Fuel Loading**

**M24-19** Fuels will be allowed to accumulate at natural rates.

## **Special Uses**

**M24-20** Special Uses will be allowed if they support the management objectives of the Area and are approved by the Experiment Station Director and the Forest Supervisor.

## **Forest Health**

**M24-21** Monitor the Area to detect pest problems which could destroy the Research Natural Area or cause damage to adjacent lands. Reintroduction of fire should be considered to reduce possible insect epidemic conditions.

**M24-22** Action should be taken when the damage has the potential to modify ecological processes to the point that the Area has little value for observation and research.

**M24-23** Follow Forest-wide standards/guidelines for Forest Health.

# Management Area 25 Metolius Spotted Owls

## Goal

Manage habitat to enhance the carrying capacity for Northern Spotted Owls.

## General Theme and Objectives

Nesting habitat and foraging areas will be protected and enhanced. Suitable nesting sites will be provided on a continuing basis and spaced to prevent territorial competition. Old growth stands with large trees will be emphasized. Human disturbance will be minimal during the nesting season.

This Management Area contains 4 spotted owl habitat areas. Ten SOHAs, which are also part of the Forest Network, are addressed in Management Area 4, Spotted Owls.

This Management Area contains a total of 5.4 M acres. 1.6 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 5.4 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M25-1** Areas will be managed to provide dispersed recreation opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, and hunting that are compatible with maintaining desired populations of these wildlife species.

**M25-2** Seasonal restrictions on recreational activities such as hunting, boating, and off-highway vehicles may be needed, but will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Developed recreation,

such as campgrounds and resorts, is not compatible with the goals of this Management Area, and will not be authorized. Existing sites may continue operation, but will not be expanded.

**M25-3** This Management Area will generally provide the recreation opportunities of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum category of the major adjacent Management Area. The appropriate category will be limited to either Semiprimitive Nonmotorized, Semiprimitive Motorized, or Roaded-Natural. (See Appendix 2 for an explanation of the categories.)

### Timber

**M25-4** There will be no programmed timber harvest. Timber harvesting will be allowed as a result of catastrophic situations as long as spotted owl habitat is the primary consideration in carrying out such activities.

### Range

**M25-5** Vegetative manipulation for livestock forage improvement will not be allowed in these areas.

**M25-6** Grazing, which is currently allowed due to existing allotments, will be allowed as long as it remains compatible with the primary objectives of the Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHAs). The use of existing allotments is minimal because the forage characteristics found in the SOHAs are not of high value to livestock.

### Wildlife

**M25-7** For each of 4 locations managed for spotted owls, an area containing approximately 1,500 acres of suitable old growth forest habitat will be reserved to provide an owl pair with the resources required for breeding, feeding, and resting throughout the year. Collectively, these areas are designated the Spotted Owl Habitat Area Network. Some SOHAs contain significantly more than 1,500 acres because they are key links, in terms of their location or above-average owl reproduction rate, in the Network.

**M25-8** This habitat is delineated within a 1.5 mile radius of the known or suspected nest site, or

center of activity if the nest site is unknown. Some Spotted Owl Habitat Areas include suitable habitat outside the 1.5 mile radius because insufficient suitable habitat exists to provide 1,500 acres within this limitation.

**M25-9** Modifications to the Spotted Owl Habitat Area Network may be considered on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the Regional Office.

**M25-10** A network of 4 areas suitable for spotted owl occupancy is established. This network provides habitat for the continued existence of well-distributed breeding pairs throughout their existing range and over time. A large percentage of these 4 areas is intended for occupancy by breeding pairs, with the remaining areas, presumably containing insufficient habitat for successful breeding, being available for juvenile dispersal or adult recruitment from adjacent areas.

**M25-11** One additional pair of spotted owls included in the Forest Network is found within the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness (Appendix 4). Yet another pair is located in the Oregon Cascades Recreation Area (Management Area 14). Ten SOHAs are located on the remainder of the Forest (Management Area 4). Four SOHAs are located in Metolius Management Area 25. The Forest Network totals 14 pairs.

**M25-12** Stand structure identified as providing habitat for spotted owls contains: (1) multiple layers of trees with an overstory, midstory, and understory of moderate to high canopy cover; and (2) large trees with cavities, broken-tops, and platforms of branches holding accumulated organic matter suitable for nesting; and (3) standing dead trees and fallen decayed trees providing habitat for an abundance of prey animals like flying squirrels and wood rats. Vegetation types may include mixed conifer forest (CW, CD, & CR), Engelmann spruce bottom lands (CW-S9-11), and mountain hemlock forest (CM).

**M25-13** Studies should be initiated to validate the extent and importance of habitat actually used by owl pairs. Research should evaluate what management actions are necessary to maintain habitat suitability over the very long-term.

## **Minerals**

**M25-14** These areas will be recommended for withdrawal for mineral entry for mining claims.

**M25-15** Geothermal leases in spotted owl habitat areas will be issued with No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations.

**M25-16** No pits or quarries will be allowed in this management area.

## **Visual**

**M25-17** Management activities will meet Modification or a higher objective. Activities may include timber harvest, trail construction, prescribed burning or artificial nest construction. Activities will be visible, but will blend in with the natural surroundings.

## **Fuelwood**

**M25-18** No fuelwood gathering is permitted.

## **Transportation**

**M25-19** Road networks will be designed to facilitate easy control of access during nesting season. Road closures can be used to limit disturbing human activity.

**M25-20** The right-of-way of existing roads forming the boundary of Spotted Owl Management Areas, may be cleared up to 200 feet from the centerline of the road.

**M25-21** Road management to restrict public access within 1/4 mile of active nests during March 1 through July 31 may be needed (Purpose: to prevent disruption of nesting activities).

## **Fire Management**

### **Wildfire**

**M25-22** Fire suppression activities will meet the following burn objectives.

**M25-23** Maximum annual low intensity burn acre objectives for each area are 1 percent.

**M25-24** Maximum annual high intensity burn acre objectives for each area are .3 percent.

**M25-25** Selection of appropriate suppression techniques for use in designated Wilderness must weigh the sovereignty of Wilderness values against the long-term viability of the spotted owl habitat area network, and should be evaluated in the Escaped Fire Situation Analysis.

#### **Prescribed Fire**

**M25-26** Prescribed burning may be used to treat unacceptably hazardous fuel loading.

#### **Fuel Treatment Other Than Prescribed Fire**

**M25-27** All methods are acceptable.

#### **Special Uses**

**M25-28** Special Uses will be allowed if the spotted owl can be protected.

#### **Forest Health**

**M25-29** Suppress forest pests when they have the potential to, or are, impacting that component of the vegetation which is essential for nesting and rearing habitat.

**M25-30** Follow Forest-wide standards/guidelines for Forest Health.

# Management Area 26 Metolius Scenic Views

## Goal

To provide Forest visitors with high quality scenery that represents the natural character of the Metolius Basin.

## General Theme and Objectives

Landscapes seen from selected travel routes, such as Forest Roads 12, 1230, 1234, and 1292, and visitor use areas will be managed to maintain or enhance their appearance. To the casual observer, results of activities either will not be evident or will be visually subordinate to the natural landscape.

Landscapes will be enhanced by opening views to distant peaks, unique rock forms, unusual vegetation, or other features of interest. Timber harvest is permitted, but only to protect and improve the visual quality of the stands both now and in the future. Landscapes containing negative visual elements, such as skid roads, activity residue, or cable corridors, will be rehabilitated.

The desired condition for Ponderosa pine is to achieve and maintain visual diversity through variations of stand densities and size classes. Large, old-growth pine will remain an important constituent, with trees achieving 30 inches in diameter or larger and having deeply furrowed, yellow bark characteristics.

For other species, the desired condition requires obtaining visual variety through either spatial distribution of age classes and species mixes, through density manipulation, or through a mixture of age classes within a stand.

This Management Area contains a total of 4.8 M acres. .5 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 4.3 M acres were identified as appropriate for timber production for

this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Description

### Scenic Views

The Metolius Scenic Views management area is classified as Retention or Partial Retention based on the Visual Management System, as explained in **National Forest Landscape Management, Vol. 2, Agriculture Handbook Number 462.**

The S&Gs for Metolius Scenic Views management area are oriented primarily towards vegetation management because the visual resource is most often affected by timber management activities. For this reason, the majority of S&Gs deal with vegetative changes in the landscape.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M26-1** New recreational developments and changes to existing developments are permitted as long as they are consistent with the desired visual condition. When viewed from significant viewer locations, recreational facilities will meet the established visual quality standards. For viewer locations within the recreational development being viewed, established visual quality standards may not always be met.

**M26-2** Parking facilities, structures and other recreational facilities will normally be placed where they are not visible from significant viewer locations. Where it is not possible to screen recreational facilities, they will be designed to blend with the elements found in the natural landscape and will remain subordinate to the overall visual strength of the surrounding landscape.

**M26-3** The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) standard in Scenic Views Management Areas will normally be Roded Natural, but may also include Primitive, Semi-primitive Non-motorized, Semi-primitive Motorized and Semi-primitive Motorized Winter Only standards.

## Timber

The following Standards and Guidelines are designed to respond to the Desired Visual Condition for each timber type, as described below.

### Timber/Ponderosa Pine

#### Desired Visual Condition

**M26-4** Ponderosa pine in Scenic Views Management Areas will be managed to maintain or create a visual mosaic of numerous, large diameter, yellow-barked trees with stands of younger trees offering visual diversity and a sense of depth in landscapes viewed from travel routes, recreation use areas and other sensitive viewer locations.

Old growth characteristics, such as yellow, deeply-fissured bark, are desirable.

Diversity in species, where biologically possible, is desirable. Species such as vine maple, aspen and occasional stands of fir, cedar and lodgepole pine are desirable for added visual interest. Shrubs and ground cover species are also a desirable visual component.

Small, natural-appearing open spaces help provide a sense of depth and are a desirable visual component in these landscapes.

In Retention areas visual changes will not be noticeable to the casual forest visitor. The casual forest visitor is the recreation-oriented person or motorist traveling through a portion of the Forest. The casual forest visitor relates to the visual environment based on the context of a landscape viewed, rather than focusing on an individual acre within a landscape. For the occasional pedestrian who wanders off a designated trail and views an individual acre where a management activity has recently taken place, visual changes will be noticeable, even in Retention areas.

In Partial Retention areas management activities may be noticeable to the casual forest visitor. However, visual changes will not be so obvious as to dominate a particular portion of a landscape.

Any area that does not meet the desired visual condition because of past management activities

should be reviewed by a landscape architect to determine management strategies needed to achieve the desired visual condition.

#### Vegetative Management

**M26-5** Where there is an existing mosaic of tree sizes, size class diversity will be perpetuated by managing some of the trees within each size class. Where visual diversity is lacking, diversity will be gradually introduced to ultimately produce the desired mosaic. Although the numbers of trees will change through time, those stands that currently have a large number of large-diameter, yellow-barked trees will continue to have large numbers of the same type of trees. In order to accomplish this, trees may be removed where necessary to:

Perpetuate the desired visual condition.

Control insect and disease problems.

Create vista points or enhance a unique landscape feature, such as a rock outcrop or unique vegetation.

Provide for safety along travel routes and in recreation use areas.

Provide access for special uses, mineral activities, and administrative purposes.

**M26-6** Management emphasis will focus on leaving the largest diameter trees and the healthiest crowns and forms in every stand. Visual variety will be provided by leaving occasional gnarly, old, overmature "character trees." Occasional clumps of large snags are desirable.

**M26-7** Any proposed activity will be reviewed by a landscape architect. An analysis will be developed by the landscape architect to determine:

What treatment is necessary to achieve or retain the desired visual condition.

If cleanup activities can realistically be completed within the specified time limits.

Where existing pockets of dead and dying trees should be enlarged to produce the desired visual condition of small, natural-appearing open spaces.

What measures may be necessary to meet the desired visual condition, such as winter logging, special slash treatment, etc.

What the predicted visual condition will be following the activity.

#### **M26-8 Timing of Cleanup Activities:**

In Retention areas, slash from a thinning or tree removal activity, or other visible results of management activities, will not be visible to the casual forest visitor one year after the work has been completed.

In Partial Retention areas, logging residue or other results of management activities will not be obvious to the casual forest visitor two years following the activity.

#### **M26-9 Stand Densities for Immature Trees:**

In Retention, management practices will normally not focus on maximum growth, due to the emphasis on visual quality. As a result, stand densities may be heavier or lighter than what would be considered necessary for optimum growth.

In Partial Retention, biologically optimal stand densities may be appropriate. In some areas, this means that tree densities will be lower than they presently are.

#### **M26-10 Openings**

In Retention areas visual openings<sup>1</sup> may result from management activities which harvest natural mortality (dying or severely diseased trees which occur in scattered pockets.) In Retention, these openings will range from 1/4 acre to 2 acres.

In Partial Retention areas openings will range from 1/4 acre to 5 acres, and may include additional openings where size class diversity is visually insufficient.

**M26-11** Large diameter trees (24 inches diameter at breast height, or greater) will not be harvested in Retention unless there is a need to remove them for any of the following reasons:

There is a significant insect or disease problem.

They have off-color or fading crowns.

They are already dead.

There is a visual need to provide additional size-class diversity.

There is a need to provide additional visual diversity by releasing pockets of reproduction through activities such as group selection and overstory removal.

They pose a safety threat to forest users.

**M26-12** In Partial Retention, large diameter trees (24 inches d.b.h., or greater) will not be removed unless they meet one of the requirements above, or when:

Trees are considered a "high risk," and would probably die within the next decade. Use the Oregon/ Washington Risk Rating System (R-6-5220-45, 12/11/63). High risk (8 point or higher) are the only trees to be removed.

**M26-13** Adequate snags and replacements will be left to meet wildlife requirements, as long as they contribute to the landscapes' visual quality.

**M26-14** Thin immature trees in Retention and Partial Retention to maintain acceptable health and vigor of stands, with the objective of eventually producing replacement trees of 24 inch diameter and larger. In Retention thin to slightly closer than normal spacing in order to provide full crowns and some screening. In Partial Retention, normal silviculturally prescribed spacings are acceptable.

<sup>1</sup> An opening is visually in an "open" or untimbered condition until trees are an average of 10 feet tall on slopes less than 30 percent, and an average of 15 feet tall on slopes greater than 30 percent.

#### **Timber/Mixed Conifers**

##### **Desired Visual Condition**

**M26-15** Mixed conifer stands in Scenic Views Management Areas will be managed to perpetuate or enhance the characteristic (or natural) landscape. The characteristic landscape normally contains stands that are visually dense, though

not necessarily continuous. Diversity in tree and shrub species and in diameter classes produces the desired visual character when viewed from travel routes, recreation use areas and other sensitive viewer locations.

Small, natural appearing openings are desirable, and are an important visual element of the characteristic landscape in mixed conifer stands.

Large diameter old growth characteristics are an important visual component in these landscapes. Ponderosa pine is a desirable component of these stands, where it either exists or could be introduced.

### **Vegetative Management**

**M26-16** To produce or perpetuate the desired visual condition through time, mixed conifer stands require more frequent management treatment than Ponderosa pine stands. Thinnings and other tree removal practices will be done to maintain species diversity, and to promote the health and visibility of larger old-growth trees.

**M26-17** Where visual diversity is lacking, diversity will be gradually introduced through tree removal, thinnings, creating planned openings and by planting desirable tree and shrub species to ultimately produce the desired visual condition.

**M26-18** In many of the mixed conifer stands on the forest, mature and over-mature trees are in poor condition. For this reason, the number of large-diameter, old growth trees in mixed conifer will gradually decline through the years. However, the presence of large-diameter trees in these areas will continue to be a major visual component, but not at all times on every acre. Replacement large-diameter trees will be provided through actively managing existing younger, more healthy trees.

**M26-19** Trees may be removed from mixed conifer where necessary to:

Perpetuate the desired visual condition.

Control or prevent major insect and disease problems.

Create vistas or enhance unique landscape features.

Provide for safety along travel routes and in recreation use areas.

Provide access for special uses, mineral activities, and administrative purposes.

**M26-20** Management emphasis will focus on leaving trees with the healthiest crowns, deep green foliage (as viewed in the summer months), and that offer the greatest species and size class diversity.

**M26-21** Any proposed activity in will be reviewed by a landscape architect. An analysis will be developed by the landscape architect to determine:

What treatment is necessary to achieve or retain the desired visual condition.

If cleanup activities can realistically be completed within the specified time limits.

What mitigation measures may be necessary to meet the desired visual condition, such as winter logging, special slash treatment, etc.

What the predicted visual condition will be following the activity.

### **M26-22 Timing of Cleanup Activities**

In Retention, slash from a thinning or tree removal activity, or other visible results of management activities, will not be visible to the casual forest visitor one year after the work has been completed.

In Partial Retention, logging residue or other results of management activities will not be obvious to the casual forest visitor two years following the activity.

**M26-23** In mixed conifer foregrounds, management practices will normally not focus on maximum growth. As a result, stand densities will normally be heavier than what would be considered necessary for optimum growth.

**M26-24** Create small, natural-appearing openings, where they are lacking, to achieve the desired visual character. Plant these openings with species that will result in visual variety. Species offering fall color are especially desirable. Large diameter

trees (24 inches d.b.h. or greater) can be removed in these openings.

In Retention, these openings will range from less than 1/4 acre to 2 acres.

In Partial Retention, openings will range from less than 1/4 acre to 5 acres.

**M26-25** Where the opportunity exists, manage for a variety of species, including Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, true firs, incense cedar, western larch, western white pine, lodgepole, aspen, vine maple and various shrub species.

**M26-26** When Ponderosa pine can biologically be a component of the stand, design treatments to maintain or improve the Ponderosa pine component, but not to the exclusion of other species.

**M26-27** Large diameter trees (24 inches d.b.h., or greater) will not be harvested in mixed conifer unless there is a need to remove them for the following reasons:

There is a significant insect, root rot or disease problem.

They have off-color or fading crowns.

They are already dead.

There is a visual need to provide additional size-class diversity.

There is a need to provide additional visual diversity by releasing pockets of reproduction or other species which will add visual diversity through activities such as group selection and overstory removal.

They pose a safety threat to forest users.

Trees are considered a "high risk", and would probably die within the next decade.

**M26-28** Adequate snags and replacements will be left to meet wildlife requirements, as long as they contribute to the landscapes' visual quality.

## Range

**M26-29** Livestock grazing is permitted when it is consistent with the Desired Visual Condition.

**M26-30** Structural range improvements such as fences, water developments and access roads may be visible from sensitive viewer locations, but will remain subordinated to the overall strength of the landscape viewed, or designed to compliment scenic quality.

**M26-31** Utilization standards will be established to avoid an over-sued appearance.

**M26-32** Salt blocks, water developments, or other improvements which attract livestock and result in a trampled-appearing setting should be avoided in highly sensitive scenic areas. New corrals and loading chutes will be made of native materials and will be designed to be visually pleasing.

**M26-33** Vegetation manipulation such as brush removal, reseeding, and prescribed burning will be designed to meet visual objectives.

**M26-34** Allotment management plans will be written to reflect the management direction for this management area. They will include the grazing system to be used, season of use, class of livestock, stocking levels, range improvements needed and forage production and utilization standards.

## Wildlife

**M26-35** Wildlife snags and snag replacement trees will be maintained only where they contribute toward the Desired Visual Condition for the tree species. Where snags and snag replacement trees detract from the Desired Visual Condition, the placement of wildlife trees will be modified to meet visual management objectives.

**M26-36** Snags determined to be safety hazards in areas of concentrated public use will be topped or removed. Grouping snags is generally preferable over even-distribution.

**M26-37** Where consistent with the Desired Visual Condition, wildlife habitat improvements will focus on watchable wildlife.

**M26-38** When managing vegetation along major highways which have deer migration routes crossing them, consideration will be given to minimizing risks of vehicular-deer collisions.

## **Minerals and Special Uses**

**M26-39** Geothermal leases will be issued with Conditional Surface Use restrictions. Mineral developments, utilities, and electronic sites may be located in these areas if the facilities and associated improvements are located, designed, and maintained to blend with the characteristic landscape. Visual quality objectives may not always be met when the viewer is within the special use site itself, due to the usual large scale of these facilities. However, when viewed from travel routes, recreation areas, and other sensitive viewer locations, Visual Quality Objectives should be met.

**M26-40** Trees may be removed within Scenic Views Management Areas where necessary to permit access to geothermal sites, mineral development, electronic sites, utilities, and other special-use sites.

## **Fuelwood**

**M26-41** Fuelwood gathering is permitted when it is consistent with the Desired Visual Condition for the species.

## **Transportation**

**M26-42** New roads will be located and designed to meet the Visual Quality Objectives for the area. Routes likely to be popular with Forest visitors will be designed and maintained to enhanced the Forest's scenic qualities.

**M26-43** Road alignments should fit the Forest landscape with a minimum of landform modifications and should present a cross-section of the area's landscape character. Road alignments should capitalize on opportunities that will create pleasant visual experiences.

**M26-44** Signs should only be used where necessary for the user's safety and enjoyment of the Forest. They should be located and designed to

blend with the elements found in the characteristic landscape wherever possible.

**M26-45** Helispots, new gravel pits, disposal sites and borrow areas will be located out of site from sensitive foreground viewer locations.

## **Fire Management**

**M26-46** Low intensity prescribed fires will be used to meet and promote the Desired Visual Condition within each stand type. Prescribed fire and other fuel management techniques will be used to minimize the hazard of a large high intensity fire. In foreground areas, prescribed fires will be small, normally less than 5 acres, and shaped to appear as natural occurrences. If burning conditions cannot be met such that scorching cannot be limited to the lower 1/3 of the forest canopy, then other fuel management techniques should be considered.

**M26-47** If at any time during the course of the prescribed burn it appears that the objectives for the burn are not being met, all burning will cease.

## **Wildfire**

**M26-48** The primary objective to suppress any wildfires that could potentially become high intensity fires as quickly as possible. Standard suppression techniques may be applied in foreground areas. The method used to suppress wildfires should have the least impact on vegetation and soils possible. Restoration efforts will be made where fire suppression activities do not meet the desired visual condition.

**M26-49** Recommended burn acre objectives will be developed as a part of the Fire Management Action Plan.

**M26-50** A landscape architect should be consulted for recommended restoration measures following wildfire suppression activities in Scenic Views Management Areas.

## **Forest Health**

**M26-51** Monitoring and vegetative management will emphasize the control or prevention of major insect and disease problems. Minor insect infesta-

# Management Area 27 Metolius Old Growth

## Goal

To provide naturally evolved old growth forest ecosystems for (1) habitat for plant and animal species associated with old growth forest ecosystems, (2) representations of landscape ecology, and (3) public enjoyment of large, old-tree environments.

This Management Area will also contribute to the biodiversity of the Forest.

## General Theme and Objectives

This old growth forest will be managed to provide (1) large trees, (2) abundant standing and downed dead trees, (3) single canopy old growth stands, and where appropriate (4) vertical structure (multiple vegetative canopy heights).

Two old growth stands are included in this Management Area. The Lower Black Butte Old Growth Area will emphasize the scenic and social value of Ponderosa pine old growth. The Glaze Meadow Old Growth Area is identified as part of the Forest-wide network of old growth areas designated to be managed for the habitat requirements of indicator species, and will therefore emphasize the wildlife values associated with Ponderosa pine old growth as a primary objective. Because the Glaze Meadow Old Growth area is larger than required for the indicator species network, a secondary objective will be management for the scenic and social values of Ponderosa pine old growth, where they do not conflict or interfere with the wildlife values.

This Management Area contains a total of 1.8 M acres. .4 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 1.8 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Recreation

**M27-1** Concentrated human activity is not compatible in this Management Area but dispersed recreation is generally acceptable.

**M27-2** The current outfitter-guide use of the horse trail from Black Butte Ranch should not negatively impact the wildlife values of the Glaze Meadow Old Growth area. The trail is currently located near the perimeter of the area and the type of activity is considered to be dispersed. Any proposal for expansion of this use would be evaluated with consideration for the wildlife values of the area.

**M27-3** A moderate level of human activity is acceptable within the Lower Black Butte portion of this Management Area. Entry into the area for the purpose of viewing and experiencing an old growth Ponderosa pine forest is encouraged.

**M27-4** Modest interpretive facilities, parking areas and trails are permitted in the Lower Black Butte portion of this Management Area. This type of facility may be permitted in certain locations within the Glaze Meadow Old Growth area where it does not conflict with wildlife values.

**M27-5** Vegetative manipulation to maintain the old growth character may conflict with recreation use, but such occurrences should be limited in size and number. Restriction of recreation use in some key areas for certain periods of time, to protect animal populations, may be necessary.

**M27-6** Off-highway vehicle use will not be permitted in this Management Area.

### Timber

**M27-7** There will be no programmed harvest or wood removal in these areas during this planning period, however, vegetative manipulation including removal may occur to perpetuate or enhance old growth characteristics.

**M27-8** If the structure of the Glaze Meadow portion of this Management Area is significantly altered through a catastrophic event such as a fire, windstorm, or insect epidemic, another stand

would be substituted that meets the minimum requirements for the indicator species. The original area could then be salvaged and reforested.

An old growth area will be considered significantly altered if it no longer meets the minimum habitat needs for the indicator species.

**M27-9** Firewood cutting and gathering is not permitted.

## Range

**M27-10** Livestock grazing is generally not compatible with old growth areas. The existing Glaze cattle allotment will continue unless found through the Allotment Management Planning Process to be in conflict with wildlife values.

**M27-11** Exotic plants will not be introduced. Vegetative manipulation to enhance forage production or species composition for livestock consumption is not permitted.

## Wildlife

**M27-12** Snags, and the live trees needed for future snags, will be maintained at 100 percent of the maximum potential population of primary cavity-nesting birds using the Deschutes National Forest Wildlife Tree Implementation Plan. Live trees in lodgepole pine stands may not be available over the next few decades due to existing and predicted bark beetle-caused mortality. Dead, down trees will be managed to maximize biological diversity.

## Minerals

**M27-13** This Management Area is open to mineral entry for mining claims for locatable minerals.

**M27-14** Geothermal leases will be issued with No Surface Occupancy Stipulations.

**M27-15** Pits and quarries for common materials are not permitted.

## Visual

**M27-16** Management activities will meet or exceed the inventoried visual quality objective.

## Transportation

**M27-17** Access by road or trail will be limited to the minimum standard and density that meets the objectives of this Management Area. Roads no longer needed will be closed and allowed to revegetate naturally. Helispots and transmission corridors will not be allowed. Trail construction may occur within the Lower Black Butte portion of this Management Area.

## Fire Management

### Wildfire

**M27-18** In Ponderosa pine forest, when existing and predicted burning conditions favor low intensity fires, containment suppression tactics are appropriate. This may include burning out from existing barriers and scratch lines.

**M27-19** High intensity fires will be suppressed.

**M27-20** The low intensity burn acre objective for each old growth area will be the same as the adjacent management area with the lowest burn acre objective.

### Prescribed Fire

**M27-21** In Ponderosa pine stands, prescribed fire may be used to achieve desired old growth characteristics. It may also be used to reduce unacceptable fuel loadings that potentially could result in high intensity wildfire.

### Fuel Treatment Other Than Prescribed Fire

**M27-22** Prescribed fire is the preferred method of fuel treatment. However, if prescribed fire cannot reduce unacceptable fuel loadings, other methods will be considered.

### Fuel Loadings

**M27-23** Natural fuel loading will normally be the standard.

## **Special Uses**

**M27-24** Special uses may be authorized if they do not detract from the values of this Management Area. Transmission corridors and helispots will not be permitted.

## **Forest Health**

**M27-25** Monitor pests normally associated with old growth ecosystems to prevent unacceptable damage to adjacent areas.

**M27-26** See Forest-wide standards/guidelines for Forest Health. Only practices which are compatible with the objectives of this Management Area will be adopted when considering the treatment of insects and diseases.

# Management Area 28 Metolius Wild and Scenic River

## Goal

To protect and enhance those outstandingly remarkable values that qualified segments of the Metolius River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

## General Theme and Objectives

The following S&Gs will ensure that the values which qualified the river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System are preserved until the management planning is completed for the Metolius River. These S&Gs will serve as interim management direction, in conjunction with current interim management direction provided through Regional Policy, until the formal river corridor management plan is completed and the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is amended to include the appropriate direction.

The primary objectives for managing waterways which are components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System will be to protect the outstandingly remarkable values identified for the river and maintaining the free-flowing nature of the river. The difference between a wild, scenic, or recreational section of river is measured by the degree of development, appropriate types of land use and ease of accessibility by roads and trails.

This Management Area contains a total of 4.6 M acres. 1.3 M acres were identified as not suitable for timber production during the analysis of the management situation in accordance with CFR 219.14(a). During the analysis of alternatives using the criteria in 36 CFR 219.14(c), 4.6 M acres were identified as not appropriate for timber production for this Management Area. Review and reconsideration of these findings must be done in accordance with CFR 219.14(d).

## Standards and Guidelines

**M28-1** The following guidelines set forth standards for the Metolius River segments designated as scenic and recreational. These guidelines should be applied to the extent of the Forest Service's jurisdiction over federal lands, federal scenic or access easements, and other interests. They do not apply to privately owned lands.

**M28-2** Forest-wide S&Gs found in Chapter 4 also contain important direction to be implemented within the scenic and recreational river classifications.

### **M28-3 Standards for the Scenic segment of the Metolius River**

This segment of the river begins at Bridge 99 and proceeds 17.1 miles to Lake Billy Chinook.

**Vegetation Management:** Vegetation management activities would be confined to those required to meet health and safety needs and protect resources during catastrophic situations. Vegetation outside the boundary but within the visual seen area should be managed in a manner which retains its visual quality.

**Water Supply:** All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited.

**Hydroelectric Power:** No development of hydroelectric power facilities would be permitted.

**Flood Control:** Flood control dams and levees would be prohibited.

**Mining:** Subject to regulations 36 CFR 228 that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed. However, mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

**Geothermal:** Geothermal leasing will not be permitted in this management area.

**Road Construction:** Few low standard primitive roads presently access this portion of the river

corridor. Those roads and the access they provide would be permitted to remain in place during the interim period in which the river management plan is being developed and prior to amendment of this plan. New roads and access facilities would not be permitted.

**Recreation Development:** New recreational facilities considered would be required to conform with the primitive definitions in the ROS users guide.

**Structures:** Any concentrations of habitations are limited to relatively short reaches of the river corridor. New structures would not be permitted.

**Utilities:** New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. would not be permitted.

**Motorized Travel:** Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted as necessary to protect the identified river values.

#### **M28-4 Standards for the Recreational segment of the Metolius River**

This section of the river begins approximately 2,055 feet north of Metolius Springs and proceeds north to Bridge 99.

**Vegetation Management:** Vegetation management activities would be confined to those which protect the immediate river environment, and its outstandingly remarkable resource values.

Dead or dying trees adjacent to the river and associated recreation facilities should be evaluated for their scenic, wildlife and fisheries (should they fall in the river) values as well as for any safety and disease control risks they may pose.

**Water Supply:** Existing low dams, spring development, diversion works, rip rap, water wheels and other minor structures are permitted to remain in place during the interim planning period, provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. New structures will not be permitted.

**Hydroelectric Power:** Development of hydroelectric power facilities is prohibited.

**Flood Control:** Existing flood control works may be maintained. New structures are prohibited.

**Mining:** Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue. Mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

**Geothermal:** Geothermal leasing will not be permitted in this management area.

**Recreation Development:** Numerous recreation facilities exist in the form of campgrounds picnic areas and various interpretive sites and trails. Additional facilities will not be constructed during the interim planning period unless considered necessary to resolve a health and safety problem, or to reduce resource damage.

**Structures:** Small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures for both habitation and for intensive recreation use will not be permitted during the interim period. Reconstruction, replacement or repair of existing facilities will be permitted if their resulting appearance and use is consistent with the resource values identified for the river in the Metolius River Resource Assessment. Management of existing stream banks and structures close to the river bank, including summer homes, will focus on reestablishing natural riparian vegetation. This is especially important on islands which may have wildlife habitat value.

**Utilities:** New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc., are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, they will be required to protect or enhance the resource values identified for the river.

**Motorized Travel:** Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted, consistent with the resource values identified for the river. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters.

#### **Additional S&Gs for River Classifications**

## **Wildlife and Fish**

**M28-5** Management will emphasize maintenance or enhancement of habitat for watchable wildlife especially in the riparian zone. Retention of snags will be emphasized for dependent species habitat and as a source of large organic debris for the river. Snags which may be a hazard in recreation sites will receive careful scrutiny and will be removed only if they pose a hazard.

**M28-6** Fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects will be permitted but should be natural appearing and be compatible with other important values of the riverine setting. Fish habitat improvements will not create unacceptable hazards to boaters.

**M28-7** Portions of this Management Area have been identified as key elk habitat. Refer to Forest-wide standards/guideline WL-42-50 for management guidelines for this area.

## **Wildfire**

**M28-8** All wildfires will be aggressively controlled by using low impact methods as much as practicable. Firelines constructed by hand will be favored over firelines constructed by heavy equipment,

except where high intensity fire situations may exist.

## **Recreation Residence**

**M28-9** Recreation residence tract objectives will be used as guidelines for management of the recreation residences along the river during the interim management period.

## **Administration**

**M28-10** The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 requires that the 17.1 mile Scenic segment of the river from Bridge 99 to Lake Billy Chinook be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture, through a cooperative agreement between the Secretary of Interior and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. In addition, a variety of County, State, and Federal government entities have responsibilities and interests in the management of the Metolius River corridor. Each has a unique area of expertise and authority, and each can make a contribution in protecting this River. Working cooperatively with these organizations and the public to develop the Metolius River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan will be an essential part of the Forest Service management planning effort.