SECTION 2

LANDSCAPE OBJECTIVES FOR THE LOOMIS STATE FOREST

The landscape planning process for the Loomis State Forest follows policy number 16 of the Forest Resource Plan, page 30, which states:

> *"The department will develop plans by setting management objectives for timber and non-timber resources for specified landscapes consistent with the Forest Resource Plan."*

The following general and specific management objectives are intended to support the department's trust obligations and policies described in the 1992 Forest Resource Plan as adopted by the Board of Natural Resources.

General Objectives

To generate the most substantial revenue possible, over time, given the legal, biological, and social constraints within which we manage.

To create and maintain healthy, productive forest resources.

To provide habitat that is capable of supporting native fish and wildlife populations or communities.

To provide recreational and other public benefits, consistent with trust obligations.

Loomis Objectives

Listed as follows are specific landscape management objectives and key strategies for the Loomis State Forest. Meeting the objectives will provide a sustainable revenue flow to the trust beneficiaries while providing collateral benefits to public resources and the public on the Loomis State Forest. These objectives are further defined in the Implementation Plan Decadal View in Section 3 and the Guidelines in Section 4.

Revenue Generation

To recover as much value as operationally and economically feasible from timber at risk or killed by the mountain pine beetle and other forest insects and diseases; consistent with legal requirements for protection of other resources.

Key revenue generation strategy:

- Salvage and market timber at risk of being killed, or already killed by mountain pine beetle.

To sustain long term revenue to the trust through sustainable even-flow harvest of timber subject to economic, environmental and regulatory consideration.

Key long-term revenue strategy:

- After the first decade harvest, stabilize to sustainable harvest levels. Maintain a sustainable harvest program that recognizes the need to harvest dead and at risk timber, but does not jeopardize the sustainable yield over time.

- Identify and market other valuable resources in the Loomis State Forest where possible.

Archaeological/Historical

To protect identified archeological and historic sites.

Key archaeological/historical strategies:

- Train selected field foresters to identify archeological and historic sites, and to understand appropriate protection options.

- Work with the Colville Confederated Tribe to identify sites and develop appropriate protection measures.

- Register sites as discovered with the Office of Archeological and Historic Preservation.

Air Quality

To minimize air quality degradation from smoke or particulate matter originating in the forest.

Key air strategy:

- Reduce the risk of major forest fires.

- Maintain a fire suppression plan that is updated as forest conditions change.

Forest Health

(The term forest health is used here in the context of the health status of forest stands and trees with respect to destructive forest insects, diseases and abiotic agents. Abiotic agents, usually created by adverse weather, include drought and winter injury. The broader spectrum of what could be called forest ecosystem health is discussed in Appendix B of this plan.)

To gain control over time of the current mountain pine beetle infestation and other insect and disease problems in the forest, and reduce risk of future insect and disease infestations and the resulting value losses.

To develop biological, economical and environmentally sound general management strategies by forest vegetative zone that will create and maintain a healthy forest.

To restore healthy vegetative communities which will support diversity of wildlife species, and are resilient to insects and disease.

Key forest health strategies:

- First decade primary harvest emphasis on at-risk trees susceptible to mountain pine beetle attack, with concurrent harvest of dead trees where economical in subalpine fir zones.
- First decade secondary harvest emphasis on mistletoe, root rot and other forest health issues in ponderosa pine and Douglas fir vegetation zones.
- Second decade and after, focus on improving all forest health issues in all vegetation zones.

Grazing

To manage rangelands and grazeable woodlands to maintain healthy and desirable plant species and communities.

To identify and maintain the appropriate level of livestock grazing on the Loomis State Forest consistent with the policies stated in the Agriculture and Grazing Land Policy Plan of 1988.

Key grazing strategy:

- Implement guidelines from *"Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land"* December 1994.

Mineral Exploration and Mining

To evaluate the feasibility of mineral exploration and mining and allow such uses when consistent with trust obligations and protection of public resources.

Key mineral strategy:

- Identify and map sensitive areas where mineral extraction activities may deserve additional constraints.

Recreation

To provide recreational opportunities that do not adversely impact trust assets or public resources.

Key recreation strategies:

- Inventory location and levels of recreation use.
- Manage recreation impacts by establishing three zones allowing different impact levels.

Soil Protection

To maintain soil productivity and minimize management induced erosion impacts.

Key soil strategies:

- Conduct a supplemental and more detailed soil inventory.
- Management activities and road construction in areas where soils have a higher estimated mass wasting or compaction potentials will receive higher levels of on site inspection.

Transportation System

To design and construct a road system to allow timber harvest and fire protection that meets appropriate standards for protection of public resources.

Key transportation system strategies:

- Close roads not actively needed for forest management. After decade one, the total number of active roads at any one time should not exceed 310 miles.
- Minimize damage to sensitive wildlife habitats through effective road management measures.

Water and Fish

To maintain current water quality and quantity in each watershed.

Key hydrologic strategy:

- Maintain hydrologically mature forest on a minimum of 60% of the forest land in each Watershed Administrative Unit.

To provide riparian and stream habitat capable of supporting native populations of trout and other fish and aquatic organisms.

Key riparian strategy:

- Actual riparian management zone (RMZ) widths will be determined by field managers and will vary based on site specific characteristics and needs. Generally Type 1-3 waters will have riparian management zone widths averaging 100 feet each side, and allow up to 30% removal of timber by volume; Type 4 streams will normally have a 50 foot RMZ each side and up to 30% removal of timber by volume; Type 5 streams will not have RMZs except as needed to protect slope stability. The department will protect type 5 waters based on site specific evaluation, when necessary for water quality, fisheries habitat, streambanks, wildlife, and other important elements of the aquatic system.

Wildlife

To provide suitable habitat for wildlife species associated with late successional forest habitat, to prevent future listings under the Endangered Species Act.

Key late successional forest strategy:

- Manage approximately 25% of the subalpine (wet and mesic) and Douglas-fir zones as aggregated blocks of stands averaging approximately 2,900 acres each for interior late successional forest characteristics.

To provide suitable habitat for wildlife species, including lynx, associated with mid-successional habitat.

Key lynx strategies:

- Provide forested habitat for lynx that includes foraging and denning components through implementation of the Department's Lynx Habitat Management Plan guidelines.

1) Maintain designated travel routes at least 300 feet wide along major ridges, saddles, and streams as travel corridors for lynx.
2) Create a mosaic favoring young age classes (15-40 years) with pockets of older forests (80+) and patches of blowdown for denning.
3) Maintain at least 70% of the area within each LAU capable of supporting lynx habitat in forested condition (at least 180 trees per acre greater than 1 meter above average snow level), so that only 20-30% is in Future Forage Area.
4) Included as forested lynx habitat, maintain 20-40% of the areas within each LAU that is capable of supporting lynx habitat in Forage habitat, and at least 10% in denning habitat.
5) Adjacent stands will be at least 1 meter above average snow level before new units are harvested within LAU's, so that no more than 200 acres exist as contiguous Future Forage Areas.

To provide habitat capable of sustaining species (including cavity nesting birds) that are dependent on large dead and defective standing trees and down logs.

Key wildlife tree retention strategy:

- Retain approximately 5 standing dead or damaged low value live trees per acre of the largest available, an average of 8 live dominant, co-dominant and large damaged low value live trees per acre (size representative of the stand), and an average of 5 large down logs per acre.