

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/6/2019 7:04:26 AM

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Comments: The proposed Forest Plan does not include enough specific direction for the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. I recommend adding the following statements as plan components to the Flaming Gorge NRA management area. Most are taken from Appendix A of the 1986 plan or emphasize the three purposes of the NRA as legislated by congress.

It is quite frustrating that the Ashley NF has not been fully complying with the 1986 plan as it applies to the Flaming Gorge NRA. As I read through the Appendix A, I realized that the Forest is not complying with more than half of the requirements. There needs to be specific direction in the new plan to ensure the NRA is used for its legislated purpose.

I recommend adding back the following introduction from the Appendix A of the 1986 plan.

"The legislation establishing the NRA specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, the Secretary of Agriculture is directed "to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for (1) public outdoor recreation benefits; (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment; and (3) such management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources as in his judgment will promote or are compatible with , and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area is established." Reference the legal citation.

In general, the plan should strongly emphasize and more closely align with the legislated language of the purposes for the NRA, which are.

1. Provide for public outdoor recreation benefits
2. Provide for conservation of (a) scenic values, (b) scientific values, (c) historic values, and (d) other values contributing to public enjoyment
3. Provide for management of other natural resource to promote and not impair the purposes above.

The plan should have plan components that address each of these specific issues.

I recommend moving the second Sentence of Desired Condition 02 into its own desired condition -

"03 Conflicts between resources will be resolved in favor of the purposes for which the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area was established."

I recommend adding the following as plan components for the FGNRA (taken from Appendix A) to more specifically align with the purposes of the NRA.

1. Restore scenic values in areas where they have been deteriorated or destroyed by direct human actions or fire.
2. Minimize adverse effects on esthetic and scenic values from existing or proposed power and telephone lines and gas or water pipelines.
3. Design recreational improvements to maintain as much as practical the scenic values of the immediate area.
4. Manage for well-stocked forest stands that will maintain or improve the recreational and scenic values. Encourage the growth of trees in previously burned, timbered, or harvested areas to increase scenic values.
5. Encourage tree growth across the NRA for aesthetic and scenic values and enjoyment.

6. Give priority to scenic values and protection of natural beauty when deciding to allow any activity which will affect air, water, or land resources. Complete a visual resource inventory and analysis prior to initiating any land use activity which may have significant visual effects.

7. Manage timber stands for public outdoor recreation benefits and conservation of scenic, scientific, historic values rather than for timber production or sales.

8. Manage forests to simulate the natural ecologic processes which protect outdoor recreation benefits and conserve scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment.

9. Implement appropriate livestock management systems to correct adverse effects upon recreation, scenic, scientific, historic, and other resource values that have been affected by grazing.

10. Schedule range livestock use during pre and post tourist seasons, in areas of heavy public use where conflicts exist. Normally, livestock will not be allowed in designated recreation sites.

11. Fence for livestock control and public safety along roads and highways in favor of recreation, scenic, and public enjoyment values.

12. Conflicts between grazing and the purposes for which the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area was established will be resolved in favor of the latter.

13. Locate, inventory, and protect values which have educational, cultural, historical, or interpretive potential until such time as they can be developed and managed.

14. Correct features of existing special land use permits that are in conflict with the purposes for which the NRA was created.

15. Conflicts special use permits the purposes for which the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area was established will be resolved in favor of the latter.

16. Mineral Use. Permit only those mining and related activities that will avoid undesirable impacts upon the values for which the NRA was created.

17. Do not allow above-ground processing or refining of minerals.

18. Do not allow open pit mining operations, gravel pits, rock quarries, or soil extraction within the NRA.

19. Do not allow oil or gas well pads or facilities within the NRA.

20. Work with the Bureau of Reclamation and other Federal, State and local agencies in the planning and appropriation process for water uses.

21. Work cooperatively with the Bureau of Reclamation to manage recreation, visitation, and public enjoyment of the Flaming Gorge Dam, Visitor Center, and Boat launch area.

22. Locate, inventory, document, and protect cultural resources within the NRA that have educational, cultural, or interpretive potential.

23. Complete cultural resource inventory of the entire NRA land area.

24. Historic Properties with potential for classification on state or national historical registers or with significant cultural values will not be transferred, sold, demolished, or altered.

25. Revegetate and stabilize firelines and fire access roads to prevent accelerated erosion and improve scenic, recreational, scientific, and historic values.

26. Rehabilitate and replant burns resulting from wildfire and prescribed burning to provide soils stability and restore scenic, recreational, scientific, and historic values.

27. Design and execute prescribed burning operations in a manner and under conditions which will minimize the adverse effects of smoke as an air pollutant.

28. Develop adequate hiking and riding trails to access scenic view where they can be provided without damaging the resource for which the NRA was established

29. Fence for livestock control and public safety along roads and highways.