

*My interest is in the future because I am going to  
spend the rest of my life there.*  
~Charles F. Kettering

## INTRODUCTION TO AMENDMENT 12

### WHAT IS AMENDMENT 12 AND HOW IS IT ORGANIZED?

The Amendment to the Forest Plan for the Sedona Area - Amendment 12, describes the future vision and direction for the National Forest lands in the Sedona/Oak Creek area. (Refer to Map 1 - Planning Area) The Amendment:

- ◆ replaces some portions of the Forest Plan,
- ◆ provides more detail for management direction, and
- ◆ provides some new management policies.

The Sedona/Oak Creek Area Amendment is part of the Coconino Forest Plan. Some of the Forest Plan's management direction remains in effect for the Sedona area, so the entire Plan and all of its other amendments must be used together.

Amendment 12 has Sedona area-wide direction, which applies to the entire Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem. This information is followed by more specific direction for the newly created Management Areas (MAs): Dry Creek Basin (MA 21) through Transition (MA 29), and modified management direction for three existing MAs: Wilderness (MA 1), Oak Creek Canyon (MA 14) and Special Areas - Research Natural Areas (MA 17)\* (Refer to Map 4 - Management Areas).

Within Amendment 12, information is arranged from general direction (area-wide direction) to more specific information (MA). Each of the MAs includes a brief description of the physical location and a list of the MA emphases.

The text is grouped by goals, objectives, standards and guidelines†. The goals and objectives set the overall focus/direction for the types of activities that are consistent with the overall vision developed for the Sedona area. Though all of

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\* The three existing MAs whose direction has been changed and/or clarified are: Wilderness (MA 1), Oak Creek Canyon (MA 14) and Special Area (MA 17). The Wilderness direction has been modified for three Congressionally designated wildernesses: Red Rock-Secret Mountain, Munds Mountain and Sycamore Canyon. The modified direction replaces existing direction in the Forest Plan, while the rest of the wilderness direction remains unchanged. The Amendment replaces all direction for Oak Creek Canyon. The direction for the Special Area has changed for the West Fork of Oak Creek and Casner Canyon RNAs.

† A goal is a concise statement describing a desired end result and normally expressed in broad general terms. Objectives describe measurable desired resource conditions, or ranges of conditions, intended to achieve Forest Plan goals. Standards are limitation on management activities that are within the authority and ability of the agency to meet or enforce. Guidelines describe a preferred or advisable course of action.

the management direction needs to be applied to subsequent site-specific projects, the standards have the force of law and/or regulation behind them and will require a Forest Plan amendment

If future change is needed. Guidelines may be varied from without a Forest Plan amendment if subsequent site-specific NEPA analysis provides adequate reasoning for variance from the guidelines. However, this should be the rare exception and not the rule.

Amendment 12 has been published in two forms: as punched replacement pages for a three-ring binder version of the Forest Plan and as a separate document for people focusing on Amendment 12.

The accompanying Decision Notice describes the logic behind the final choices for the management direction. This information will be useful for people implementing the Amendment, especially those who were not involved in its creation.

The Forest Plan Additional Replacement Pages section contains pages from the Plan that have minor adjustments. Most of the adjustments are changes in acreage due to the changing of existing MAs. Changes are indicated as bolded text. All of the changes for the Forest Plan are summarized in the following Digest.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

~ William Shakespeare

## VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### A SHARED VISION FOR THE REDROCK COUNTRY

In the redrock country surrounding Sedona and in Oak Creek Canyon, one can see in remarkable form and color how the natural world appeared millions of years ago. Monumental buttes, soaring multi-hued cliffs, fantastic towering spires and rugged canyons bombard the eye and the senses; vast sweeps of greenery refresh and inspire our spirit and fill us with expectation.

Unified by Oak Creek, the vital riparian link between the Mogollon Rim and the Verde Valley, the landscape is a museum of life, a living crossroads connecting us in time and space. There is no other region on earth exactly like it.

With its intriguing human history and remarkable natural environment rich with plants and wildlife, redrock country offers individuals and families the gifts of discovery, inspiration and solitude. When wandering the Sedona/Oak Creek ecosystem, we are free to imagine, to explore and to reconnect with the land. Through this landscape we can experience a rebirth of awe and a renewal of spirit.

We appreciate that the area has been cherished by people for the past 10,000 years. Remarkably, in spite of heavy human impacts in recent years, the landscape remains alive with the spirit of the past. New strategies and actions to protect, enhance and interpret scenic, biological and cultural values will help sustain this special place for the next 10,000 years.

### Guiding Principles

We recognize the national and international importance of the Sedona/Oak Creek ecosystem. We respect the links between ourselves, all human activities and the natural world, and realize that the environment is a sensitive and limited living system in need of actions to sustain and enhance it. We will not regard the area as a potential theme park for commercial exploitation at the expense of nature. We will not sell the day to profit the hour.

There is cause  
for hope.  
Opportunities  
abound.  
The challenge  
can be met.

Our actions will reflect a variety of interests and will be based on honest dialogue and responsible, creative partnerships with the community and with local and state governments. Together with the Forest Service, these partners will endorse and take actions to improve the stewardship of the land. We will honor the need to act collaboratively in order to preserve the area's values for future generations.

The world we have created today, as a result of our thinking thus far, has problems which cannot be solved thinking the way we thought when we created them.

~ Albert Einstein

## **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE ENTIRE SEDONA/OAK CREEK PLANNING AREA**

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air, and Water**

#### **Goals**

1. The biological, physical and human elements of the landscape sustain ecological processes, functions and structures within a natural range of variability and conditions appropriate to the Sedona/Oak Creek ecosystem. Natural ecosystem disturbance patterns are conserved or restored consistent with human health and safety.
2. Habitats support diverse, healthy populations of native plants and animals. A natural variety of plant species, age classes and structure is present.
3. Natural elements of the landscape are restored and protected. Threatened, endangered and sensitive species are recovering. Appropriate actions are taken to minimize impacts to these species.
4. Riparian communities have adequate in-stream flows and adequate plant cover to protect stream banks and dissipate energy during high flows. Channel characteristics and water support natural biodiversity.
5. Soil function and long-term productivity are sustained so that the soil can resist erosion, recycle nutrients and absorb water.
6. Fire should continue to play a natural ecological role within the constraints of human health and safety. The mosaic of vegetative patterns and conditions reduces the occurrence of catastrophic fires.
7. The impacts of non-native plant and animal species are controlled and the introduction of new non-natives is discouraged.

**Objectives**

1. Improve and protect water quality and long-term soil productivity and restore critical soil functions through such methods as:
  - ◆ improving the rate of water infiltration, thereby reducing on-site soil loss and minimizing surface runoff and sedimentation;
  - ◆ enhancing soil organic matter content to improve physical condition and increase nutrient cycling;
  - ◆ reducing flood potential and securing favorable conditions of water flow;
  - ◆ increasing and improving the distribution of vegetative ground cover and coarse woody debris;
  - ◆ setting livestock capacities to levels that maintain and/or improve soil stability, soil productivity and water quality;
  - ◆ locating new trails away from riparian communities, steep grades and sensitive soils;
  - ◆ hardening trail and road surfaces and providing sanitation facilities at key places; and
  - ◆ improving road and trail maintenance.
2. Seek out, use and share information from researchers, agencies and other individuals with knowledge about the southwestern willow flycatcher, brown-headed cowbird parasitism, predation and other related issues. Keep current on new information and make changes in the management of southwestern willow flycatcher habitat and populations accordingly.
3. Engage in activities that will maintain or enhance south western willow flycatcher habitat.
4. Eliminate unneeded roads and redesign or relocate poorly located roads and trails to lessen impacts on such resources as cultural sites, soil, water and wildlife and to reduce user conflicts. Restore areas heavily damaged by vehicle or foot traffic using such methods as obliteration, barriers, closures and visitor information.
5. Manage *Hedeoma diffusum* by the direction presented in the "*Hedeoma diffusum* Management Plan (1984)" adopted by the Forest Plan.
6. Protect occupied *Cimicifuga Arizona* habitat. Restrict ground-disturbing activities within the habitat and provide shade needed for perpetuation of the species. Relocate trails where necessary to protect occupied habitat. Implement conservation actions recommended by the "*Cimicifuga Arizona* Conservation Plan (1995)."

7. Expand the use of prescribed fire along with other mechanical methods to achieve area goals.
8. Fire management activities should:
  - ◆ protect resource values, such as property and riparian and scenic elements;
  - ◆ reduce natural and activity-generated fuels to lessen the risk of catastrophic fire; and
  - ◆ restore ecosystem functions.
9. Maintain adequate plant cover/security for wildlife habitat needs. Retain dead and down woody materials, such as logs, limbs and flood debris, in riparian communities for prey base habitat.
10. Forest product removal, both personal and commercial, such as firewood gathering, Christmas tree cutting and livestock grazing, should be designed to maintain or restore ecosystem health and meet Sedona/Oak Creek Planning Area goals.
11. Work with air tour companies and rock climbers to eliminate disturbing activities near occupied eyries during the peregrine falcon breeding season (March 1 to August 31) and to protect other raptor species.
12. Work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Sedona Airport Administration and air tour operators to minimize the effects of aircraft on threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species. Consider implementing special flight rules, particularly over suitable peregrine falcon nesting habitat and big game winter ranges such as on Schnebly Hill rim, Munds Mountain, Lee Mountain, Casner Mountain and Black Mountain.

### **Standards**

1. Enforce native plant protection laws and prohibit plant collection without appropriate permits. Require special use permits to collect plants for commercial activities, such as landscape and ornamental purposes. These permits are granted only for locations in the Savannah MA (MA 27).
2. Restrict aircraft activities related to commercial filming to protect threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

3. Protect the water quality of Oak Creek to assure public safety and meet State water quality standards.
4. For the southwestern willow flycatcher:
  - ◆ conduct site visits to identify suitable and potential habitat;
  - ◆ inventory suitable habitat to locate nesting flycatchers;
  - ◆ monitor sites currently and previously occupied;
  - ◆ maintain and enhance suitable and occupied habitat;
  - ◆ ensure that potential habitat progresses toward suitable habitat; and
  - ◆ minimize disturbance to nesting birds.

#### **Guidelines**

1. In general, the following guidelines (1 through 8) should be applied to threatened, endangered and sensitive species. If analysis or new information suggests a modification of these guidelines is needed, consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must occur.
2. Communicate and cooperate with the USFWS and the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AG&FD) on efforts related to all threatened and endangered species.
3. Maintain riparian pasture and riparian exclosure fences to prevent livestock trespass, which can result in the degradation of threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat.
4. Apply the "Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan" and Addendum\*. In addition, apply the following modifications, which reflect new information:
  - ◆ locate new trail and trailhead developments at least a quarter but preferably a half mile from known peregrine falcon eyries;
  - ◆ limit maintenance and construction of trails and trailheads located within half a mile of eyries during the breeding period from March 1 to August 31;
  - ◆ prohibit blasting within one mile of an eyrie during the breeding season;
  - ◆ survey all suspected peregrine falcon nest sites for occupancy prior to any new Forest Service activity occurring within half a mile of the nest;

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\* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan (Rocky Mountain/Southwest Population). Prepared in cooperation with the American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Draft Addendum to the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain/Southwest American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plans.



- ◆ conduct any construction associated with closing roads located within 0.5 mile of an eyrie during non-breeding seasons;
  - ◆ conduct any construction, reconstruction or maintenance of roads located within 0.5 miles of an eyrie during non-breeding seasons;
  - ◆ conduct prescribed burning only if prevailing winds will avoid inundating active peregrine falcon nests with smoke; and
  - ◆ restrict fuel reduction activities that use motorized equipment such as vehicles, chain saws or chippers to at least a quarter mile from active peregrine falcon nests during the breeding season.
5. Personnel conducting inventory or monitoring for threatened, endangered or sensitive species must obtain permits and attend inventory and monitoring training prior to conducting these activities.
  6. Compile, map in GIS and file in an electronic corporate database information obtained from threatened, endangered or sensitive species site visits, inventory and monitoring efforts.
  7. Evaluate recreational impacts at sites with occupied, suitable or potential southwestern willow flycatcher or Mexican spotted owl habitat. Actions to minimize or remove adverse impacts may include, but are not limited to, area closures (seasonal or year-long), limits on group-use size, road closures, interpretation and education, fencing, special use permit requirements and trash management.
  8. Southwestern willow flycatcher:
    - ◆ Activities in occupied or suitable habitat must not reduce the suitability of the habitat nor disturb nesting birds during the breeding season.
    - ◆ Coordinate with the USFWS, AG&FD and any other agency or organization involved in ongoing research to determine monitoring needs for occupied southwestern willow flycatcher sites. information needs and site-specific considerations are important to determine the monitoring intensity/frequency and implementation strategy for monitoring occupied sites.
    - ◆ Exclude livestock grazing in occupied southwestern willow flycatcher habitat to avoid direct impacts to flycatchers and their habitat. Allow grazing in occupied southwestern willow flycatcher habitat outside of its critical season only where flycatcher research is occurring under a research plan approved by USFWS and other project cooperators.

- ◆ Implement brown-headed cowbird control programs based on USFWS consultation requirements and site-specific determination of need.
  - ◆ Occupied and suitable habitats should be inventoried annually to determine the presence of southwestern willow flycatchers. If inventory does not occur, the guidelines for occupied habitat apply.
  - ◆ Site visits to potential habitat should be conducted every few years in order to document the area's progression toward suitable habitat characteristics.
  - ◆ Activities in southwestern willow flycatcher potential habitat should not slow or prevent potential habitat from progressing toward suitable habitat conditions.
  - ◆ Coordinate with fire management personnel to develop a strategy for responding to wildfires that could threaten occupied, suitable or potential southwestern willow flycatcher habitat.
9. Use Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey (TES) information to determine capability, suitability, potentials and limitations of soils for different land management uses and desired conditions and to predict the behavior and performance of soils.
10. The following riparian standards are repeated here for clarity but have not changed from the existing Forest Plan direction:
- ◆ maintain at least three age classes of woody riparian species, with at least 10 percent of the woody plant cover in sprout, seedlings and saplings;
  - ◆ retain snags in riparian communities if they are not a safety hazard.
11. Collaborate as needed with Federal or State agencies for the reintroduction and maintenance of native plant and wildlife species.
12. Encourage use of certified exotic- and weed-free pelletized feed or hay, especially in Wildernesses, to reduce the spread of undesirable plants.
13. Restrict National Forest visitor activities from any area as needed to support soil and plant restoration efforts.

## **Scenery**

### **Goals**

1. Provide and maintain high-quality opportunities for people to enjoy the Sedona area's many scenic and aesthetic qualities.

2. Cultural and historic features are recognized for their inherent scenic values.
3. Evidence of human activities and developments such as roads, trails and facilities, is visually subordinate to the natural-appearing landscape.
4. Except in the Neighborwoods, Oak Creek Canyon and Redrock Frontcountry MAs, visitors see a landscape that appears to be largely unaltered by human influence and where natural elements and the visible effects of natural processes predominate.
5. Long-term soil and plant productivity, properly functioning ecosystems and clean water are considered important components of scenic quality.
6. Scenic quality meets public expectations.
7. Views of dramatic natural features are protected and enhanced.
8. Views of the night sky remain unaffected by human light sources.

**Objectives**

1. Activities by National Forest visitors protect the scenic quality of the Sedona/Oak Creek Planning Area. This includes activities conducted by other agencies such as the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), local governments, and land use activities conducted by commercial or private entities.
2. Facility design and location retain and enhance the traveler's sense of arrival at a special place.
3. The design of National Forest developments such as trailheads and campgrounds is consistent with the appropriate ROS setting objectives. (Refer to Map 3 - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Objectives)
4. Commercial tours blend visually into the landscape and do not draw attention to the activity or equipment.
5. Developments such as roads, trails, camping and day-use sites and trailheads borrow from local materials and landscape characteristics to blend with the adjacent naturalappearing landscape. Management activities such as firewood harvest and prescribed fire result in alterations that appear natural to most visitors.

### **Guidelines**

1. Achieve scenic quality recovery in the shortest possible time.
2. Complete scenic resource assessments for developments and projects on National Forest lands that could affect scenic quality. Include evaluation of cumulative effects.
3. Follow scenic management guidelines established under the Forest Service Scenery Management System (SMS) and Guidelines for Highways on National Forest Land (ADOT and USFS, 1994).
4. Protect native plants to the extent possible by site design and mitigation measures during construction. Develop native plant rehabilitation measures for disturbed areas to speed scenic quality recovery. Use methods that result in a natural vegetative composition and pattern.
5. Avoid placement of new structures where they will interfere with scenic views from primary viewing areas such as highways, recreation sites, trails and residential areas. Use natural land forms and vegetation to the extent possible to screen facilities from important viewing locations.
6. Bury utility lines such as pipelines, power lines, fiber optic lines and telephone lines unless there are overriding environmental or technical concerns that would prevent burial. Existing utility or road corridors should be used for the placement of new utilities.

### **Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology**

#### **Goals**

1. Contemporary American Indian values are respected and considered in Forest Service management.
2. Human uses support the stewardship of cultural resources. Visitors and residents understand and respect the fragile cultural resources of the Verde Valley. People know and act within the laws that apply to archaeological sites and resources.
3. National Historic Register resources are protected, enhanced, interpreted and available for research and/or visitation. The Sedona/Oak Creek Planning Area is recognized as an outdoor museum and classroom for the study of historic, prehistoric and contemporary cultural heritage.

**Objectives**

1. Ensure appropriate protection measures are in place at cultural interpretive sites.
2. Allow for a “sense of discovery” at cultural interpretive sites.
3. Archaeological site etiquette information is readily available to National Forest visitors.
4. Encourage partnerships with American Indians, commercial ventures, volunteers and universities for documenting, preserving, interpreting and managing sites and to evaluate and develop creative management opportunities.
5. Identify Traditional Cultural Properties and consult on their management with the appropriate American Indian communities. Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) are recognized, respected, preserved and managed for continued traditional uses.
6. Identify and retain evidence of valued historic/prehistoric landscape elements, such as orchards, fields, ditches, buildings and ruins.
7. Inventory distinctive historic features and recognize their interpretive potential.
8. Inventory historic trails and wagon roads and determine their feasibility for use as non-motorized trails. Include the Old Munds Highway, the Old County Road and the Lime Kiln Road.
9. Complete cultural surveys of all Forest system trails in order to facilitate maintenance and reconstruction activities.
10. Implement stabilization and conservation programs at damaged sites.
11. Eliminate unofficial trails that lead to archaeological sites to protect sites from damage.
12. Eliminate effects of aircraft on cultural resources.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit uses on archaeological or historic sites that cause site damage and/or that are inconsistent with the protection and use of Traditional Cultural Properties.

**Guidelines**

1. Consider a full range of methods to mitigate or minimize impacts on cultural sites, such as:

- ◆ redesign or cancellation of a proposed project;
  - ◆ site avoidance, data recovery, interpretation or adaptive reuse;
  - ◆ fill on top of sites;
  - ◆ relocation of a resource;
  - ◆ fencing, barriers, restricted access and site closures;
  - ◆ interpretation and documentation; and
  - ◆ discouraging commercial marketing of archaeological sites.
2. Prohibit commercial filming at cultural sites.

## **Community**

### **Goals**

1. Harmony exists between residents and visitors. Residents have a sense of safety and security concerning National Forest lands directly adjacent to residential development.
2. Land ownership patterns of private holdings and National Forest meet the needs of the community and achieve National Forest goals.
3. The community shares National Forest stewardship goals. Community members understand their stake in ecological health and collaborate in National Forest decisions that are mutually beneficial to the National Forest and the community.
4. The Forest Service provides leadership in planning efforts that involve National Forest/community interface issues and multiple-agency jurisdictions.

### **Objectives**

1. **Refer to Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan pages 84-88 for additional land acquisition policy direction.**
2. Acquire priority private parcels from willing sellers, when possible, through methods other than land trades within the planning area.

3. Cooperate with local governments to identify and maintain appropriate trail access on private lands through the private land development process.
4. Protect community values by reducing fire hazard and risk. Update the Fire Prevention Strategy and address the fire risk and hazard that exist in the urban interface.
5. Ensure that residents adjacent to National Forest lands understand the natural environment and are partners in managing the neighboring Forest lands for public use and resource protection.
6. Collaborate with local governments, agencies and residents to protect resources and address residents' concerns.
7. Work with land owners and local and regional governments to encourage private land uses that are compatible with National Forest goals for the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
8. Collaborate with local and regional governments and transportation agencies to meet future local and regional transportation needs, including the design and location of roadway improvements and routes and alternative modes of transportation.
9. Collaborate with local and regional governments in regional planning efforts to achieve land use patterns and land development consistent with community and National Forest goals.

10. Work with local and regional governments and road agencies to develop transportation solutions that reduce traffic and vehicle impacts on National Forest lands. Consider solutions that:
  - ◆ restrict recreation site access to shuttle only;
  - ◆ provide land for park-and-ride solutions;
  - ◆ create incentives for the use of shuttles and other high-occupancy vehicles;
  - ◆ place limits and fees on parking; and
  - ◆ encourage alternative modes of transportation.

**Standards**

1. Land exchanges that dispose of National Forest in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem will occur only if they result in acquisition of National Forest lands in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
2. Base-for-exchange lands are National Forest lands located at:
  - ◆ Brewer Road (approximately 21 acres, Neighborwoods MA),
  - ◆ Chapel of the Holy Cross (approximately 11 acres, Neighborwoods MA),
  - ◆ Slide Rock area (approximately 13 acres, Oak Creek MA),
  - ◆ Village of Oak Creek Golf Course (approximately 5 acres, Neighborwoods MA) and
  - ◆ The Dells (up to 800 acres, Gateway and Savannah MAs).
3. Land exchanges that dispose of National Forest land in The Dells area will occur only if they result in acquisition of high-priority private parcels elsewhere in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem. High priority private parcels total approximately 783 acres. (Refer to Map 2 - Base-for-Exchange/Priority Acquisition Lands) High-priority land acquisition parcels include:
  - ◆ Lincoln Canyon,
  - ◆ Woo Ranch,
  - ◆ Hancock Ranch,
  - ◆ Bradshaw Ranch,
  - ◆ Tree Farm,
  - ◆ Cockscomb and
  - ◆ Tucker Property.



4. Secondary priority land acquisition parcels include: Johnston, Bill Gray Ranch, Windmill Ranch, Thompson, Deer Pass and Long Canyon (Seven Canyons).
5. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the appropriate level of environmental analysis and public involvement will be conducted for any land exchange or disposal.

**Guidelines**

1. Consider the effects of potential land development on infrastructure (such as transportation and sewer); utilities (such as water and power); and adjacent National Forest, private lands and other public lands in all land exchange proposals.
2. Discourage new utility corridors on National Forest lands. When no other alternative exists, combine new utilities with existing utility corridors or road/trail corridors.
3. Encourage open space designations on private land between private development and National Forest lands as a buffer to minimize conflicts between residents and other National Forest users.
4. Encourage local governments to consider transportation and energy efficiency, recycling, water conservation and increased environmental sensitivity when working with local and regional governments and concessionaires on National Forest lands.
5. National Forest parcels less than or equal to 10 acres in size could be disposed of under the Small Tracts Act, Townsite Act or General Exchange Act to resolve encroachment issues or provide lands needed for public purposes.
6. Encourage local governments and private parties to use such methods as deed restrictions, development agreements, joint planning authority and master planning to mitigate effects from future land exchanges on the community and National Forest.
7. Encourage local governments or agencies, private landowners and/or other appropriate entities (e.g. Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, local land trust) to protect the resources and character of National Forest surrounding high priority private parcels through methods such as, conservation easements, land trust management, deed restrictions, or public acquisition.

## **Recreation**

### **Goals**

1. Offer exceptional day-use recreation activities. National Forest camping continues to be an important recreation experience, but day-use opportunities are more abundant.
2. There is a range of nature-based recreation opportunities that provide a wide array of benefits by meeting people's needs and preferences while sustaining the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
3. Appropriate degrees of natural quiet are restored and maintained.
4. Emphasize opportunities for individuals, families or small groups and opportunities for experiencing solitude, scenic beauty and natural quiet. Recreation opportunities are primarily nature based. Both short and long visits are available.
5. Recreation activities and facilities meet visitor needs and are consistent with ecological goals and recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) objectives.
6. Recreation user conflicts are minimal and the recreation experience is healthy and safe.
7. Recreation activities and facilities protect water quality and the aquatic/riparian community.
8. Visitors have access to high-quality trail experiences.
9. **Recognize the strong demand for inspirational and contemplative benefits in the natural landscape and provide settings that contribute to these benefits.**

### **Objectives**

1. Manage some places for high levels of visitation and to meet the demands of day-use activities that emphasize scenic viewing, hiking and experiencing and learning about the natural environment and cultural resources. Manage some places for an uncrowded setting.
2. Provide leadership to coordinate recreation and visitor information planning among major recreation providers, such as Red Rock State Park, Crescent Moon Ranch Recreation Site, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Sedona, Big Park Coordinating Council and the Cultural Park.
3. Increase opportunities for Semi-primitive and Primitive ROS experiences to better meet the high demand for this type of recreation setting.
4. Ensure that most National Forest visitor activities occur at developed sites and on trails designed for high levels of use.

5. Ensure that recreation site fees are reasonable to enable low- and moderate-income families to access recreation in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
6. Identify a network of roads at various challenge levels for off-highway vehicle touring. Focus OHV activity in the Savannah and Schnebly Rim MAs, although opportunities may be available in other management areas. Limit this activity in the Neighborwoods, Oak Creek Canyon, Transition and Redrock Frontcountry MAs, consistent with ROS and resident concerns. Exceptions include Casner Powerline Road, Broken Arrow and Soldier Pass four-wheel-drive roads.
7. Eliminate, redesign or relocate unneeded or poorly located roads and trails to lessen impacts on such resources as cultural sites, soil, water and wildlife and to minimize user conflicts.
8. Expand opportunities for scenic viewing along roads and trails.
9. Ensure that aircraft operations are conducted so as to eliminate or reduce noise impacts on visitors and restore and protect appropriate levels of natural quiet.
10. Protect sensitive archaeological and biological sites by reducing public access and informing visitors more thoroughly.
11. Reduce the need for and impacts from parking areas and traffic on National Forest land by expanding opportunities for biking, ride sharing and alternate types of transportation, such as shuttles or other mass transit.
12. Improve National Forest trailheads and develop additional trailheads as identified in Appendix B - Trailhead List.
13. Consolidate multiple-trail plans that apply to the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem into one plan called The Redrock Trail Plan. (Refer to Map 6 - Redrock Trail System and Appendix B - Trailhead List) The Plan should:
  - ◆ complement the transportation and other goals of the community and Forest Service;
  - ◆ include a variety of non-motorized trails such as: narrow rugged Wilderness trails, high-use trails to allow access to popular areas, wide gentle and hard-surfaced ``pathways," and a variety of loops and neighborhood links;
  - ◆ disperse users to areas designed to accommodate trail use while protecting resources and community values;

- ◆ offer a variety of opportunities for day trips;
  - ◆ provide effective connections between nearby resorts, residential areas and National Forest;
  - ◆ define criteria for National Forest user satisfaction and schedule periodic surveys to monitor user satisfaction to minimize impacts on Wilderness values;
  - ◆ promote shared trails, not single-use trails;
  - ◆ provide outstanding trail experiences that help people experience the diverse environment of the redrock country; and,
  - ◆ locate trails to take people where they want to go.
- 14. Some forest sites are a destination for visitors with interest in the spiritual landscape, including, but not limited to, locations at Bell Rock, Boynton Canyon, Cathedral Rock, Schnebly Hill and Table Top Mesa. Where possible provide access to these sites with opportunities for contemplative reflection and scenic vistas, and provide access for older people and people with disabilities seeking opportunities for regenerative reflection.**

#### **Standards**

1. Camping and campfires are prohibited in the Neighborwoods, Oak Creek Canyon, Redrock Front- country, Gateway, Red Cliff, Dry Creek Basin, Special Area and Transition MAs except in designated places.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Limit dispersed camping to locations that protect resources, provide neighborhood security and protect the National Forest visitor's quality of experience.
2. Additional camping and campfires restrictions may be needed, depending on the results of future monitoring.
3. Until such time as monitoring or new information provides improved methods to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting natural quiet in the planning area, the following actions are recommended.
  - ◆ Prohibit all landing of commercial aircraft on National Forest lands within the planning area, except for emergency or management needs.
  - ◆ Adjust the activities of Forest Service permitted hot air balloon companies to reduce the impact of their activities on residences and wildlife.

- ◆ Adjust the operations of Forest Service and management flights of other agencies, such as the AG&F, as feasible to reduce noise impacts.
  - ◆ Develop a monitoring program to determine if goals and objectives are being met.
  - ◆ Consult with local governments to gain their cooperation in helping to ensure that aircraft operations do not adversely affect natural quiet on National Forest lands.
  - ◆ Seek assistance from the Sedona Airport Administration to inform pilots about "noise-sensitive" areas, such as Wilderness, Cathedral Rock and Oak Creek Canyon and to request that pilots avoid hovering, circling or overflying these areas below 7,500 feet or 2,000 feet AGL, whichever is higher.
  - ◆ Work with the Department of Defense to eliminate military air operations below 7,500 feet MSL or 2,000 feet above the canyon rim, whichever is higher.
  - ◆ Gain cooperation from the aviation community, including air tour operators and general aviation pilots, to achieve the restoration and protection of natural quiet in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
  - ◆ Request the FAA to gain pilot compliance with existing flight rules and advisories and to determine the need for a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) or other airspace management plan that achieves the restoration and protection of natural quiet in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
5. Close trails and roads where impacts on cultural and biological resources are unacceptable.
  6. Complete ROS assessments for projects on National Forest lands that could change recreation settings. Use the ROS as a tool to adjust management and protect and restore the recreation experience. Use the matrix on Map 3 - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Objectives as a guide for setting and managing encounter levels.
  7. In some areas, such as at Bell Rock, provide more intense management than may be generally consistent with ROS objectives.
  8. Limit road maintenance and road improvement activities in order to conserve Semi-primitive Motorized ROS characteristics. Provide road maintenance consistent with MA emphasis/ROS objectives. (Refer to Appendix C - Road Maintenance Objectives)
  9. Develop a "host" program at designated camping locations to reduce resource impacts, encourage proper camping etiquette and provide information to National Forest visitors.

10. Discourage large group events in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem except in suitable developed places, such as Crescent Moon Ranch Recreation Site or in the Savannah MA.
11. Discourage proliferation of unneeded trails by:
  - ◆ providing well-defined trails that encourage people to stay on designated routes;
  - ◆ designing trails that provide a reasonable degree of access; and
  - ◆ installing trail markers and defining trail edges;
  - ◆ providing orientation maps;
  - ◆ obliterating social trails that duplicate system trails or cause damage, such as erosion or plant loss.
12. National Forest management activities should demonstrate the concepts of reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim to National Forest visitors.
13. Recreation developments should incorporate universal design features to the extent possible, given the terrain and the overall level of development.
14. Implement and use the "meaningful measures" system to develop quality standards for recreation facilities and user satisfaction.

## **Commercial Uses**

### **Goals**

1. Commercial activities occur during times and in locations consistent with the needs of National Forest users and area residents. Commercial activities are consistent with Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem goals.
2. Commercial tours are consistent with each management area's emphasis, ROS objectives and community goals.
3. Permitted commercial tour businesses are capable and willing to invest in the stewardship of natural resources and the infrastructure of the National Forest within which they operate. Permitted commercial tours participate in resource protection and monitoring.
4. Commercial tours support the Forest Service mission by providing high-quality outdoor recreational, educational and interpretive opportunities consistent with Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem goals.
5. Commercial uses are conducted in a way that sustains long-term soil productivity, properly functioning ecosystems and riparian functions.

**Objectives**

1. Provide a commercial guide training program. Training should focus on National Forest goals and regulations, Leave-No-Trace etiquette and natural and cultural history. Training should occur annually or when new guides are hired. Collaborate with guides to develop and implement the training program.
2. Eliminate as soon as feasible existing permitted commercial aircraft landings on the National Forest.
3. Evaluate new applications for commercial tours based on the willingness and ability of the applicant/permittee to meet the vision and goals of the Forest Plan. This review will consider overall recreation use rather than focusing on commercial tours only.
4. Adjust the use of commercial tours as a solution to traffic and resource impacts.
5. Permitted commercial tours invest in such infrastructure as roads, trails, scenic turnouts and signs in areas where they operate.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit helicopter landings and takeoffs on National Forest lands except for emergencies and rare maintenance support activities.
2. Limit new commercial tours to activities that have significant demand, promote transportation services or public safety, or substantially increase protection of cultural or natural resources.
3. Any new commercial tour services will be solicited by the Forest Service and a prospectus process will be used to select new operators. Unsolicited proposals will generally be rejected.
4. Limit travel associated with commercial uses to system roads and trails, or to sites designated in an operating plan for such use.
5. Require Forest Service-approved training for permitted commercial guides and their employees on such topics as cultural and natural history, site etiquette and Forest Service missions and goals for the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.
6. Delegate approval authority for Statewide commercial tours for the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem to the Sedona Ranger District. This will ensure compatibility with Forest Plan direction and appropriateness of the activity for the sensitive Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.

7. Removal of commercial National Forest products is by permit at designated locations only.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Apply guidelines for commercial filming that protect National Forest resources and recreational uses and benefits. Discourage commercial filming using aircraft in all management areas except the Savannah MA and limited places in the Gateway MA.
2. Review and adjust existing commercial tours to meet Forest Plan direction, ROS objectives and community goals and to address residential concerns.
3. Commercial tour activities must not allow livestock to access unsuitable range.
4. Encourage commercial tours to use private land for their activities when their proposed use is not consistent with National Forest goals and can be accommodated on private land.

#### **Interpretation and Communication**

##### **Goals**

1. Forest Service communication and interpretive messages show respect for the diverse backgrounds and needs of visitors. The Forest Service communicates accurately and honestly and conveys a land ethic to visitors.
2. National Forest visitor information achieves orientation, safety, educational and resource protection goals as well



as recovery of threatened and endangered species. Visitors and residents:

- ◆ know where to get information about National Forest opportunities and regulations;
- ◆ learn about the cultural and natural features of the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem;
- ◆ understand the role of fire, know how to minimize risk and accept some temporary changes in air quality to accommodate prescribed fire activities;
- ◆ consider potential impacts when choosing recreation activities and know how to minimize their impacts;
- ◆ understand the legal and ethical limitations on their activities and the reasons for these restrictions;
- ◆ know about the unique and sensitive resources in the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem and are stewards of these resources; and
- ◆ are aware of when they are entering or leaving the National Forest.
- ◆

#### **Objectives**

1. Collaborate with the community, local governments, agencies, and service and volunteer organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, National Park Service and Arizona State Parks, to develop and implement an effective visitor information plan.
2. Coordinate National Forest information disseminated through other sources, such as chambers of commerce, resorts, concessionaire fee booths, State parks, national monuments and museums, into a consistent and accurate message that promotes stewardship.
3. Develop visitor welcome centers in cooperation with the community, other agencies, and private partners.
4. Provide interpretive information at trailheads and designated camping and parking areas explaining heritage and Wilderness philosophy and etiquette.
5. Provide information for OHV tourists and trail users, including maps and signs that provide road and trail information and explain National Forest regulation for such activities as OHV travel and camping and trail opportunities.
6. Implement the Sedona Ranger District Interpretive Strategy.
7. Provide interpretation and information for the local community and National Forest users regarding wildfire. Make efforts to educate homeowners and builders about risk-reduction practices.

8. Provide orientation information and interpretation at sites that receive high levels of visitation.

**Guidelines**

1. At Wilderness access points, provide directional guidance and information on minimum impact and archaeological site etiquette.
2. Use a consistent design style for interpretive and information signs and kiosks, allowing for individual site distinctiveness.
3. Information should direct visitors to places that can sustain visitor use.
4. Information about the location of sensitive, cultural and biological sites is not provided to visitors.
5. **At selected popular destination sites provide interpretation to encourage visitors to protect the natural surroundings and to respect the introspective and contemplative experiences of others.**

It is hard to be pessimistic about the West. This is the  
native home of hope...cooperation not rugged individualism  
is the pattern that preserves it.

~ Wallace Stegner

## **ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION BY MANAGEMENT AREA**

This chapter contains the more specific direction that applies to each unique management area. Information in this chapter augments the information found in previous chapters and in the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. This chapter includes a description of each management area and the management emphasis. This is followed by the goals, objectives, standards and guidelines that apply.

## **Dry Creek Basin (MA 21) – 5,508 acres**

Premier hiking trails crisscross this expanse of rolling hills, piñon-juniper forest and astonishing redrock vistas around Dry Creek. This MA is celebrated for Long Canyon and Vultee Arch - from which one can enter the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness - and for the area west of Dry Creek to Doe Mountain and Boynton Pass Road.

### **Management Emphasis**

Opportunities abound for outstanding trail-oriented day use within a Non-motorized, Semi-primitive ROS setting.

High-profile visitor orientation and interpretation tells people about the recreation opportunities in Dry Creek Basin, the adjacent Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness and points west.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air and Water**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Eliminate vehicle crossings of Dry Creek unless appropriate water quality protection measures can be used.
2. Protect sensitive plant populations by placing trails and trailheads out of sight of sensitive plants, such as Verde Valley sage and Delmaters agave.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. People experience a predominantly natural appearing and sounding environment away from the main travel-ways.

### **Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology**

#### **Objectives**

1. Focus archaeological surveys on Long Canyon, Boynton Pass, the Cockscomb and Doe Mountain.
2. Renovate Van Deren Cabin to its historic condition. Protect and operate it as a "living museum" to reflect ranching history and to function as a cultural interpretive site. Provide sanitation facilities, interpretation and access consistent with Semi-primitive ROS objectives.

### **Community**

#### **Objectives**

1. Acquire properties whose development could detract from scenic and Wilderness values or impact historical/cultural values, such as Tucker property, Tree Farm and Cockscomb.

2. If acquisition is not possible and development occurs, establish partnerships with owners/developers of isolated parcels, such as Enchantment, Seven Canyons, Cockscomb and Tree Farm, to reduce and control the impacts of private development on surrounding National Forest land.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. Achieve, in general, a Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS setting away from roads and Semi-primitive Motorized along Dry Creek Road. Recognize ROS setting inconsistencies expected along Dry Creek Road, at or within half a mile of trailheads, where encounters with other people are expected to be high and in the areas near private lands, such as Cockscomb/Tree Farm/Long Canyon.
2. Maintain the Dry Creek Road (FR152) in a rough condition that keeps the challenging and narrow character of the roadway but allows access by the careful driver in a standard low clearance vehicle. Emphasize trail access, picnicking and scenic viewing along the Dry Creek Road.
3. Design a campground that provides:
  - ◆ a Semi-primitive camping experience for tent campers with emphasis on a quiet, natural, rustic, uncrowded setting;
  - ◆ a jump-off point to the Wilderness;
  - ◆ staging site for day hikes;
  - ◆ camping and trail access for equestrians; and
  - ◆ up to 60 campsites.
4. Emphasize non-guided, day-use recreational activities, featuring high-quality hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, scenic viewing, contemplation and opportunities to experience nature and solitude.
5. Expand non-motorized trail opportunities outside of Wilderness that provide a variety of challenge levels with emphasis on moderate to difficult access levels as defined in ROS accessibility guidelines.
6. Establish a ``hub" trailhead to:
  - ◆ accommodate a variety of trail users;
  - ◆ centralize access away from sensitive areas; and
  - ◆ provide a trail link with popular trailheads on Dry Creek Road where parking cannot be expanded such as Devil's Bridge, Brins Mesa, Secret Canyon and Vultee Arch.

7. Rehabilitate areas that have been damaged by dispersed camping and parking. Give priority to Dry Creek, Fay Canyon South, Dry Creek Road, Long Canyon and Van Deren Cabin.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit camping and recreation fires except in designated areas.

**Commercial Uses**

**Objectives**

1. Develop partnerships with commercial tour operators to maintain the Dry Creek Road and to renovate and protect Van Deren Cabin.

**Guidelines**

1. Limit permitted commercial tours to system roads and trails, with most use occurring at Van Deren Cabin and on Dry Creek Road and arterial roadways.

**Interpretation and Communication**

**Objectives**

1. Develop a ``gateway" information facility to orient and inform visitors about the recreation opportunities and regulations for the Dry Creek Basin, Savannah and Red Cliff MAs. Evaluate this facility to determine if it can be consolidated with the area's trailhead ``hub."

## **Gateway – Management Area 22 – 3,179 acres**

The Gateways - on State Highways 179 and 89 - are where millions of visitors experience their first exhilarating views of the redrock country and start to wonder where they can find accurate information to guide them. These highways are the gateways to the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.

### **Management Emphasis**

Visitors are welcomed and oriented to the area.

A sense of arrival at a special place that encourages stewardship is conveyed.

People entering or leaving the redrock landscape enjoy an outstanding scenic corridor.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. Provide a high-quality experience for visitors enhanced by unaltered vistas of the distant redrock cliffs.

#### **Standards**

1. Coordinate with the Arizona Department of Transportation, local governments and private land owners to encourage protection of the scenic quality along entry highways.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Maintain scenic parkway characteristics. Consider scale and alignment in the design of roadway improvements. Also consider roadway features such as signs, guardrails and landscaping, that contribute to the desired scenic character.
2. Roadside facilities are designed and placed to provide safe scenic viewing and photo opportunities. They blend with and complement the surrounding landscape. Strategically locate and consolidate parking and access areas to minimize disturbance and visual clutter associated with signing, parking areas and trailheads.

### **Community**

#### **Standards**

1. Base-for-exchange at The Dells (up to 800 acres) is intended to allow for acquisition of high-priority private parcels only.

**Guidelines**

1. Exchange proposals will consider methods such as development agreements, joint planning authority and master planning to mitigate impacts on the National Forest and the community.

**Recreation**

**Objectives**

1. Manage generally for a Roded Natural ROS setting. Recognize the inconsistencies of the future development of State highways 179 and 89A south of Sedona to make them both four-lane highways within five years and manage for a Rural ROS setting classification immediately adjacent to the roadway.
2. Facilitate alternative forms of transportation, such as shuttle buses and bicycle paths.

3. At Woods Canyon Trailhead:

- ◆ improve signing and parking for Wilderness access;
- ◆ discourage casual Wilderness use resulting from roadside parking along the highway;
- ◆ eliminate vehicle access across Jacks Creek; and
- ◆ restore damaged sites using erosion control and revegetation.



4. Work with the Arizona Department of Transportation to determine safe pullout/facility locations along State highways. Combine these pullouts with opportunities for scenic viewing, trail access, interpretation, transit stops and other National Forest access.
5. Locate and design welcome centers to enhance community values and provide National Forest visitor parking and orientation. Work toward private/public partnerships to accomplish this objective, possibly on National Forest lands under appropriate authorization.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit camping and recreation fires.

**Commercial Uses**

**Objective**

1. Management of the suitable timber lands is guided by the direction for the Sedona/Oak Creek area, with additional detail from MA 3 as appropriate.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit commercial tours, except on State Highways 179 and 89A.

**Interpretation and Communication**

**Objectives**

1. Provide general area information, especially about roads, trails, camping, community services, points of interest and sensitive features of the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem. Visitor information developments should offer a "self-service" format with little on-site assistance needed. However, on-site hosts are encouraged. Do not limit the information to the National Forest only, but consider and provide the broad range of information visitors require. Seek partnerships to provide this information.
2. Visitors are welcomed and oriented to the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem and are directed to locations that are best suited to the type of activity they are seeking.
3. Interpret Lime Kiln and Chavez Wagon roads and Stage Stop.

## **Lower Oak Creek (MA 23) – 785 acres**

This portion of Oak Creek is a five-mile stream corridor that extends from Lower Red Rock Loop Road to Hidden Valley southwest of Sedona. This MA is characterized by steep canyon slopes, clear water and an uncrowded, quiet environment. Along the north side of the Creek are private developments and homes, while the south side has no developments or roads. Here, one can escape crowds and enjoy a quiet natural setting.

### **Management Emphasis**

Opportunities for non-motorized, uncrowded, dispersed recreation are common.

Wildlife habitat, water quality and a healthy stream environment are protected.

Opportunities are provided for solitude and isolation from sights and sounds of human activity across a range of settings from streamside to canyon to mesa top.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air and Water**

#### **Objectives**

1. Collaborate with the AG&FD and the USFWS to reintroduce the round-tailed chub into Lower Oak Creek if, after a review of the potential habitats, methods and economics, it is a viable project.
2. A native fish community exists and functions naturally within the lower reaches of Oak Creek. There is an appropriate range of spawning, rearing and overwintering habitat to support native fish. Increase angler awareness of and demand for native fish.
3. Research is conducted to further define the habitat requirements of the native fish community and to identify actions to protect and/or restore habitat conditions and increase native fish populations.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. Retain elements of prehistoric agricultural landscapes and historic ranching.

### **Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology**

#### **Objectives**

1. Survey and record the Lime Kiln Road and the old county highway that linked Clarkdale to Sedona during settlement days. Evaluate these routes as non-motorized additions to the National Forest trail system.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. Though close to the City of Sedona and Page Springs, this MA is still relatively undeveloped and should be managed for a Semi-primitive Motorized ROS setting on the northside of Oak Creek. Manage the south side of the creek for a Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS setting. The expected number of encounters on the north side reflects the level of private development and the road use from visitors accessing Oak Creek. The south side is non-roaded and the expected encounter level is measured in encounters per day rather than per hour.
2. Provide a network of trails linked to other trail systems and designed for non-motorized use such as biking, equestrian activity and hiking.
3. Add commercial use trails in the Kachina area to the Redrock Trail System where appropriate. Close and rehabilitate unneeded trails and roads in the Kachina area. Continue partnerships with equestrian commercial tours and volunteer groups to maintain these trails.
4. Provide angling opportunities at remote sites and in a natural landscape.
5. Expand opportunities for wildlife viewing.
6. Implement such measures as vehicle barriers to restrict vehicles from driving in Oak Creek. Maintain National Forest road access to Elmersville.
7. Provide for dispersed camping that is consistent with protection of riparian values.

## **Interpretation and Communication**

### **Guidelines**

1. Interpret the Molina Homestead.

## **Neighborwoods (MA 24) – 15,203 acres**

This management area is "Sedona's Backyard." It is next to many residential areas, urbanized sections of Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek, sections of State Highways 170 and 89A and a several-mile stretch of Oak Creek south of Sedona. The boundaries of Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness from Capitol Butte to Steamboat Rock are the area's northern perimeter. This area is heavily used by visitors and residents, who cherish the natural landscape so close to Sedona and frequently use the honeycomb of trails.

### **Management Emphasis**

Strong community partnerships for stewardship of "Sedona's backyard" support resident health, safety and quality of life.

Relatively quiet, easily accessed National Forest supports wildlife, scenic viewing and experiencing nature.

### **Community**

#### **Objectives**

1. Collaborate with the AG&FD to educate residents about urban wildlife, such as deer, snakes, raccoon, skunk, coyotes and javelina.
2. Provide information about introduced noxious plants and the problems they can create for the native Ecosystem.
3. Fire management activities are intense and focus on protection of life and property. These activities include:
  - ◆ identifying places of high fuel buildup and potential wildfire problems in the wildland/urban interface;
  - ◆ providing interpretation and information to residents and National Forest users regarding wildfire;
  - ◆ educating homeowners and builders on risk-reducing practices; and
  - ◆ updating the Fire Prevention Strategy to address the risk and hazard in the urban interface.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Base-for-exchange at Chapel of the Holy Cross is intended for church acquisition only; base-for-exchange at VOC Golf Course is intended for golf course acquisition; base-for-exchange at Brewer Road Ranger Station is intended to facilitate a new ranger station and/or welcome center location.

2. Encourage local governments to ensure appropriate trail access on private lands through the private land development process. Use the Redrock Trails Plan and the Sedona Urban Trails and Pathways Plan as guides for future trail planning efforts. (Refer to Map 6 - Redrock Trails Plan)
3. Manage access at neighborhood National Forest trailheads to discourage visitor parking along residential streets and to encourage alternative forms of transportation.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. Due to the level of adjacent development and the ease of access, manage generally for Rural or Roaded Natural ROS settings, except where there are remnant pockets of Semiprimitive ROS settings such as in the Soldier Pass area. Soldier Pass should be managed as Semi-primitive Motorized. This location is less accessible and more primitive than most of the MA. Maintain the rough and primitive condition of the four-wheel-drive road in this area.
2. A system of trails and pathways surrounds the City of Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek and provides trail recreation opportunities and a means of non-motorized travel off busy streets. Design trails and trailheads to:
  - ◆ direct visitors through residential areas and onto National Forest lands in an efficient manner with minimal inconvenience for residents and visitors;
  - ◆ provide convenient trail access for residents and visitors;
  - ◆ prevent damage to vegetation and soils;
  - ◆ encourage residents to use designated trails, neighborhood links and trailheads and discourage user-created paths.
3. Expand partnerships with neighborhoods to promote trail and resource stewardship and to obtain assistance in trail maintenance and planned trail construction.
4. Collaborate with the AG&FD, The Yavapai and Coconino County Sheriff's and City of Sedona Police Department , to develop special hunting and shooting regulations.
5. Restore damaged sites, with priority given to Sedona North Urban Interface, Airport Saddle, Soldier Pass, Jordan Road, Broken Arrow, Upper and Lower Red Rock Loop Roads, the Sedona Gun Range and Chavez Crossing.

6. Work toward private/public partnerships that provide National Forest visitor access and orientation facilities, especially trailheads and parking. These facilities might be located on National Forest lands under appropriate authorization.
7. Address local neighborhood concerns about the impacts of visitor use on residential quality of life. Use such methods as night-time closures, improving signs and limiting motorized access and the number of visitors.

**Standards**

1. Camping and recreation fires are prohibited except in designated sites at Chavez Group Campground.

**Commercial Uses**

**Objectives**

1. Modify commercial activities as needed to address resident concerns for safety and to minimize disturbance from commercial activities that access National Forest lands through neighborhoods.

**Guidelines**

1. Work with commercial tours, filming groups and homeowners to resolve user and neighborhood safety and quality of life conflicts such as concerns about noise, safety and facilities maintenance needs.

**Interpretation and Communication**

**Objectives**

1. Work with partners in the community to encourage residents' stewardship of National Forest resources. Volunteer partnerships have high resident participation and provide opportunities for exciting stewardship with a strong learning component.
2. Collaborate with Red Rock State Park as a partner in environmental education and stewardship.

## **Red Cliff (MA 25) – 3,624 acres**

This narrow MA follows the stately red cliffs between Boynton Canyon and Nichol's Well near Casner Mountain and includes such canyons as Boynton, Red, Hartwell and Fay. The Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness forms the MA's northern border, while its southern border generally follows Boynton Pass Road. The Red Cliff MA is becoming increasingly popular for trail hiking, scenic drives, archaeological site exploration and accessing Wilderness beyond.

### **Management Emphasis**

American Indian Tribes and the Forest Service are partners in management of cultural sites. Cultural resources are preserved and interpreted for the enjoyment of all visitors.

Day-use activities emphasize discovery, learning and scenic viewing.

Wilderness access and information are provided.

### **Scenery**

#### **Guidelines**

1. Facilities that provide access to the cliffs or occur near the cliffs should remain visually subordinate to cliffs and to the surrounding landscape.
2. Maintain or enhance views of the cliffs from the travel corridors through various means such as:
  - ◆ acquisition of intervening private properties with emphasis on undeveloped parcels; and
  - ◆ limiting the use of intervening areas for parking, camping and/or utilities.

### **Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology**

#### **Objectives**

1. Develop management strategies for Honanki and Palatki, addressing all facets of visitor use. Management strategies should identify the amount and type of visitation that is consistent with maintaining a high-quality experience and site integrity.
2. Participate in partnerships with American Indians, including but not limited to development strategies for management, stabilization, interpretation, collection of ethnographic information and involvement with resorts and Wilderness programs.

3. Provide cultural interpretation at Palatki, Honanki and Boynton Canyon.
4. Collaborate with the Nature Conservancy and Archaeological Conservancy to protect cultural and biological resources in the vicinity of Hartwell Canyon.
5. Document cliff dwellings and rock art sites.
6. Inventory cultural areas of distinctive prehistoric and historic features (e.g., orchards) and recognize their natural and interpretive potential.

#### **Standards**

1. Prohibit dogs at developed interpretive sites in Honanki and Palatki and in Boynton Canyon.

#### **Community**

##### **Objectives**

1. Acquire primarily undeveloped private parcels, particularly the Hancock Ranch, Woo Ranch and Lincoln Canyon properties.
2. If acquisition cannot occur, collaborate with private land owners and county governments in the land development process to protect unique resources such as scenery, adjacent Wilderness, archaeological values and threatened and endangered species habitat.

#### **Recreation**

##### **Objectives**

1. Management should be consistent with a Semi-primitive Motorized ROS setting in the part of the Management Area west of Red Canyon, allowing for specific ROS setting inconsistencies, such as cultural interpretive sites like Palatki, the influence of the main road (FR152c) and access to private lands. Although the ROS objectives at Palatki and Honanki are the same as those of the surrounding MA, the maximum desired number of encounters is three to four groups per hour because of the lower capacity of these sites to handle visitation without damage to cultural values.
2. Provide adequate trailhead facilities for hikers and equestrians to serve Loy Canyon and Mooney Trails and to serve hikers at Boynton Canyon and Bear Mountain trails. Expand loop trails, such as Mooney and Loy Canyon. Work to provide more parking, avoid impacts on archaeological sites and reduce private land conflicts at the Loy Canyon trailhead and trail.



3. Restore damaged sites, with priority given to Boynton Canyon, Honanki, Fay Canyon Trailhead, Loy Canyon and Palatki.

**Standards**

1. Prohibit camping and recreation fires.

**Guidelines**

1. Maintain roads in the lowest standard possible consistent with safety and the desired primitive recreation experience.
2. Discourage the construction of additional trails to limit access to unprotected cultural sites.

**Commercial Uses**

**Objectives**

1. Expand partnerships with commercial tours to protect, enhance, restore and monitor Honanki in compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act and to provide accurate interpretation and site etiquette for visitors.

**Standards**

1. Limit commercial tours at Honanki consistent with site protection and visitor experience objectives.

**Interpretation and Communication**

**Objectives**

1. Expand the level of personal contact between interpreters and visitors at cultural interpretive sites. Provide a high level of interpretation and one-on-one contact to accomplish the following:
  - ◆ opportunities for interactive learning through protection, documentation and restoration projects at archaeological sites;
  - ◆ appropriate access to site etiquette information;
  - ◆ appreciation of archaeological conservation, native cultures and history; and
  - ◆ visitor education about archaeology and historic resources that fully protects those resources.
2. Provide full-time hosts at Honanki, Palatki, Boynton Canyon and other significant cultural interpretive sites.

## **Redrock Frontcountry (MA 26) - 5,270 acres**

This MA features many of the memorable vistas that draw millions of visitors annually: dramatic red rock cliffs that startle the eye, such as Cathedral Rock, and such popular destinations as Bell Rock Pathway, Broken Arrow, Schnebly Hill and Back O'Beyond. This MA is conveniently accessed from main paved roads.

### **Management Emphasis-**

There is a strong emphasis on visitor orientation and information.

Nature-based day-use recreation activities occur, including easily accessed trail opportunities and scenic viewing.

The area meets initial needs of visitors for up-close views and orientation while managing crowds to protect the environment.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air and Water**

#### **Objectives**

1. Rehabilitate locations that have been damaged by off-highway vehicle driving and camping with priority given to Broken Arrow, Schnebly Hill, Cathedral Rock and Carrol Canyon.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. Facilities that provide access to or occur near the cliffs remain visually subordinate to the cliffs and to the surrounding landscape. Maintain or enhance views of the cliffs from the travel corridors through various means such as:
  - ◆ limiting the use of intervening areas for parking, camping and/or utilities.

### **Community**

#### **Objectives**

1. Develop transportation improvements such as scenic turnouts to provide orientation and information for visitors and to provide first impressions from the highways of the redrock landscape. Encourage use of alternative transportation such as shuttles and other high-occupancy vehicles.

2. Fire management activities are intense and focus on protection of life and property.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. Recreation management is consistent with a variety of ROS settings, including:
  - ◆ Semi-primitive Non-motorized between Submarine Rock and the Wilderness boundary;
  - ◆ Semi-primitive Motorized for the remainder of the Devil's Dining Room/Broken Arrow area;
  - ◆ Semi-primitive Motorized with Roaded Natural inconsistencies (size too small and adjacent to Urban or Rural developments) for Scheurman Mountain, Carrol Canyon and the Cathedral Rock area; and
  - ◆ Roaded Natural for the remainder of this MA. (Refer to Map 3 - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Objectives)
2. In areas away from parking, roadway and staging sites, manage Schnebly Hill for Semi-primitive characteristics with no motorized access, while recognizing the ROS inconsistencies in existing social encounters and road access. Maintain the Semi-primitive character of Schnebly Hill Road with an unpaved surface to promote slow to moderate vehicle speeds and the desired recreation character. Retain minimum standards for Schnebly Hill road width, horizontal and vertical alignment, vegetation clearing, ditch definition and surfacing. Discourage improvements to Schnebly Hill Road as an alternative commuter route between I-17 and Sedona. The character of development and use should remain low-key, unhurried and rustic; auto traffic speed should be consistent with this character.
3. Manage Broken Arrow Basin, away from the parking and staging area, for Semi-primitive Motorized ROS settings while recognizing the inconsistencies in social encounters that can be expected. Manage parking and staging areas at Broken Arrow Basin for Roaded Natural ROS settings because of the area's high level of use. The level of use on the main four-wheel-drive road is higher than generally desired for SPM areas, but the physical setting and maintenance level of the road should be managed as SPM.
4. Encourage a variety of primarily self-directed, day-use activities emphasizing hiking, scenic viewing and learning about the natural and cultural history of the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem.

5. Collaborate with the AG&FD, The Yavapai and Coconino County Sheriff's and City of Sedona Police Department, to develop special hunting and shooting regulations.
6. Facilities should serve large numbers of people at main vista/trail access points while conserving the natural environment and providing views of outstanding scenery in an atmosphere where the natural environment prevails and opportunities exist for quiet and contemplation.
7. A network of primarily non-motorized trails provides diverse opportunities for hikers, OHV recreationists, mountain bikers and equestrians while helping protect fragile natural resources and community relationships. Expand opportunities for loop hikes that provide access to the landscape and opportunities for scenic viewing. Expand access to overlooks and trails for persons with disabilities. Provide trail links to uptown Sedona, consistent with the Redrock Trail System as identified in this Amendment and with the City of Sedona Trails and Urban Pathways Plan. (Refer to Map 6 - Redrock Trails System)
8. On Schnebly Hill Road, develop a trailhead to serve the Margs Draw, Old Munds, and Huckaby trails and develop Schnebly Hill Vista as a viewpoint, interpretive site and possibly a trailhead.
9. Map the Old Munds Trail and evaluate the possibility of adding it to the Redrock Trail System as a non-motorized trail.
10. Provide opportunities for motorists to stop along main roads to view the spectacular scenery and experience the redrock country. Orientation, information and interpretation opportunities should be available for visitors on State Routes 179 and 89A and at popular trailheads.
11. At Bell Rock, take special actions so that visitors will have an awareness of, and sensitivity to, the Munds Mountain Wilderness.

#### **Standards**

1. Camping and recreation fires are prohibited.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Discourage direct Wilderness access from State Highway 179. Limit this access to sites at Bell Rock and the Little Horse, Bell Rock Pathway and Woods Canyon trailheads.

2. In many locations, site management should be intensive to accommodate very high levels of visitation, protect plants and soil and minimize user conflicts.

## **Commercial Uses**

### **Objectives**

1. Develop partnerships with commercial tours for maintaining the Schnebly Hill Road and other roads and adjacent facilities used for commercial tour activities.

### **Guidelines**

1. Focus commercial tour activities on the main roadway and vista areas and recreation facilities.

## **Interpretation and Communication**

### **Objectives**

1. Encourage the development of roving and guided interpretive activities in areas of high visitor use. Provide interpretation to enhance short-duration day-use experience with emphasis on natural history.
2. Manage the area as a gateway into the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem, providing key visitor information.
3. Provide outstanding interpretive opportunities to increase understanding of and appreciation for the Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem with emphasis on geology and natural history.

## **Savannah (MA 27) – 39,391 acres**

This MA, with its open grassland punctuated by groves of trees and shrubs, is prime habitat for antelope. Views are of the redrock cliffs to the east and the Verde Valley to the south and west. The northern boundary swings around the base of Casner Mountain and the red cliffs to the north, to south of Boynton Pass Road and over to House Mountain

### **Management Emphasis**

Ecosystem processes such as fire and flood play a natural role.

High-quality grassland supports a diversity of wildlife.

Low-density human uses occur, including scenic viewing, OHV touring, hunting, wildlife viewing and firewood cutting.

A wide variety of Semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized trail uses are provided.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air and Water**

#### **Objectives**

1. Acquire certain private parcels to reduce habitat fragmentation and otherwise improve antelope and grassland species habitat.
2. This MA is characterized by an open vegetation structure. Use prescribed fire and other mechanical treatments to improve forage conditions for wildlife, particularly birds and antelope. Increase the area occupied by grasses and forbs while decreasing the area occupied by shrubs and trees in comparison to recent historic levels.
3. Where piñon/juniper woodland is maintained in a grassland condition, eliminate invading vegetation through mechanical and prescribed fire treatments as needed. Consult with AG&FD on the design of these treatments. (Refer to Map 7 - Prescribed Fire Project Areas)
4. Develop conditions that:
  - ◆ provide high-quality habitat for upland game birds and deer;
  - ◆ improve and expand antelope and grassland bird habitat through such means as fence, road, fire and human access management;
  - ◆ provide adequate cover/security for animal shelter and foraging; and
  - ◆ improve forage conditions for wildlife, particularly quail.

5. Identify and protect antelope fawning areas.
6. Work together with the AG&FD to develop hunting regulations for antelope below the Rim in Game Management Unit 6B to protect and enhance the antelope population there.

#### **Guidelines**

1. To minimize restriction of antelope movement, locate fences one eighth mile from roads if road right-of-way fencing is required. Remove fences that are no longer needed; use smooth-bottom wires and meet the wildlife standards as stated in FSH 2670 and 2240 for all existing or new fences.
2. Locate roads to maintain adequate cover for animal shelter and foraging between roads, especially in locations with high road densities.
3. Use commercial and personal use firewood sales and Christmas tree cutting areas to reduce encroachment of invasive tree species and maintain open grassland habitat for antelope.
4. Low-intensity fire is acceptable unless life and property are threatened. Low-intensity prescribed burns are desired.

#### **Scenery**

##### **Objectives**

1. There are few roads in the House Mountain area. Existing roads are primitive, with only native surfacing and no road prism development.
2. Visitors see a landscape characterized by uncluttered panoramic vistas of scenic features. Reduce miles of road where feasible and locate remaining roads so that, except for road junctions, the sight of other roads is rare to the traveler.
3. Facilities such as roads and powerlines exist but are not prevalent and are subordinate to the natural landscape features, especially when seen from a distance greater than a half mile. Minimize evidence of "administrative presence" to a level consistent with a Semi-primitive ROS setting.

#### **Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology**

##### **Objectives**

1. Survey promontories and major tributaries, including Coffee Creek.

## **Community**

### **Objectives**

1. Acquire large blocks of undeveloped private property to improve antelope habitat and to prevent impacts on National Forest lands from residential and associated infrastructure development. Acquire the Bradshaw Ranch property.
2. Collaborate with Yavapai County and private property owners for appropriate development of the Gray Ranch area that will minimize impacts on National Forest lands.
3. Base-for-exchange at The Dells (up to 800 acres) is intended to allow for acquisition of high-priority private parcels only. Exchange proposals will consider methods such as development agreements, joint planning authority and master planning to mitigate impacts on the National Forest and the community.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. The Savannah MA is relatively remote and should generally be managed for a Semi-primitive Motorized ROS setting. Retain the benefits of quiet and low human impact in the northwest portion of House Mountain by managing this unroaded area as Semi-primitive Non-motorized. Facilities are few and the character of development is rustic and primitive.
2. Opportunities to experience a natural, uncrowded environment prevail, including opportunities to experience solitude and natural quiet.
3. Expand opportunities for viewing wildlife. Enhance outstanding bird-watching opportunities through riparian protection measures at Stage Stop.
4. Establish a hub trailhead in the Black Tank area to serve equestrians and provide access to Sycamore Canyon, Casner Mountain, Mooney Mountain and Loy Canyon. Establish a trailhead to serve recreationists who use the Lime Kiln Trail.
5. Create a network of roads and trails to serve OHV, mountain bike and equestrian use. Provide loops and connections with trails outside the area. Expand spring and fall trail recreation opportunities using existing roadways as much as feasible.
6. Complete the connection trail from Turkey Creek to House Mountain.



7. Provide recreation opportunities associated with personal firewood gathering and mineral collection consistent with management area goals.
8. Provide opportunities for dispersed camping and hunting.
9. Record and map the Lime Kiln Trail and evaluate the entire portion from Dead Horse State Park to Sedona as an addition to the Forest Service Trail System, State Trail System and the National Historic Trail System. Map and record the Chavez Stage Road and evaluate the possibility of adding it to the Forest Trail System and the National Historic Trail System. Coordinate this effort with adjacent trail sections from Chavez Pass to Jerome.
10. Provide a system of OHV recreation routes through the area that offer scenic and wildlife viewing, moderately rugged road conditions and dispersed camping. Provide route markers, road signs and maps as needed to guide people along the routes.

#### **Guidelines**

1. Road and trail locations must consider antelope protection goals. Recreation goals are subordinate to antelope protection.
2. Use only native surfacing and do not use road prism development for lateral roads (off of main access roads) unless increased use and development of private property require improvement for resource protection.

#### **Commercial Uses**

##### **Objectives**

1. If the demand can be demonstrated, allow commercial tours to provide opportunities for scenic viewing, natural history education, wildlife viewing and other activities that are compatible with antelope protection and Savannah MA goals.

##### **Guidelines**

1. Livestock grazing and collection of minerals, firewood and native plants are consistent with other Sedona area-wide goals.

#### **Interpretation and Communication**

##### **Objectives**

1. Provide a minimum of orientation and interpretation consistent with the ROS setting. Information should emphasize visitor orientation, natural history and etiquette pertinent to visitor activities in the Savannah MA.
2. Provide information boards (kiosks) at main road junctions with pertinent OHV recreation information.

## **Schnebly Rim (MA 28) – 5,081 acres**

This management area provides seasonal access to the redrocks from Schnebly Hill Road and critical winter habitat for elk and deer. This MA lies above the Mogollon Rim on Schnebly Hill and follows the Rim south to Committee Stock Pond, then on to Jacks Point, east along the rim of Woods Canyon, north to Fox Tank and then west back to Schnebly Hill Vista. This Semi-primitive ROS setting is rich in ponderosa pine and alligator juniper interspersed with Gambel oak and grasses. This mixture of woodland and grassland offers awesome vistas over the redrocks and superb opportunities for solitude, wildlife viewing and hunting.

### **Management Emphasis**

Opportunities abound for solitude and contemplation with outstanding vistas.

Schnebly Hill Road serves as a seasonal gateway for visitors entering the redrock landscape from Interstate 17.

Seasonal, low to moderate levels of Semi-primitive recreation are offered, including camping, hunting, scenic viewing and opportunities for discovery and solitude.

Conserve wildlife habitat, especially winter range for deer, elk and turkey.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air, and Water**

#### **Objectives**

1. Protect key elk, peregrine falcon, turkey and deer winter habitat. Protect turkey roosts from recreational activities, especially dispersed camping and motor vehicle traffic.
2. Use prescribed fire to rejuvenate wildlife browse/forage areas.
3. Close access to Schnebly Hill Road during wet periods when heavy tread rutting could occur.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. Restore the rock pit located west of Schnebly Hill Road so that the pit site blends in visually with the surrounding natural landscape.
2. Discourage use of lateral roads. While visitors are likely to see other visitors on the primary access road, they are unlikely to see other visitors on lateral roads.

### **Community**

#### **Objectives**

1. Discourage improvements to Schnebly Hill Road as an alternate commuter route between Flagstaff and Sedona/

Village of Oak Creek in order to maintain a more primitive roadway and recreational experience.

## **Recreation**

### **Objectives**

1. Manage, in general, for a Semi-primitive Motorized ROS setting, with seasonal closure of the southern portion to motor vehicles, and a Semi-primitive Non-motorized ROS setting above the Rim and west of the road corridor, between the Wilderness and the road. Recognize the relatively high level of use and encounter levels along Schnebly Hill Road, but maintain the road character as appropriate for the Semi-primitive motorized ROS setting.
2. Visitor activities should be consistent with and benefit from a Semi-primitive ROS character that provides opportunities to experience quiet, solitude and a sense of exploration, hunting, hiking, equestrian use, camping, mountain biking and off-highway vehicle touring.
3. Develop an integrated road and trail system that provides non-motorized and motorized access to scenic Rim view points; allows for scenic and wildlife viewing opportunities, hunting and camping access; and expands mountain biking and equestrian opportunities. Use existing low standard roads to the extent possible for this system.

### **Guidelines**

1. Limit recreation activities to locations and times that do not conflict with wildlife goals.
2. Restrict camping along Schnebly Hill Road if needed to protect wildlife or watershed values. Consider the use of designated camping areas accessed from the road and provided with sanitation.

## **Commercial Uses**

### **Objective**

1. Management of the suitable timber lands is guided by the direction for the Sedona/Oak Creek area, with additional detail from MA 3 as appropriate.

## **Interpretation and Communication**

### **Objectives**

1. Provide a minimum of interpretation, education and orientation. Generally limit this information to visitor orientation, natural history and etiquette.
2. Provide visitor information on FR153 near I-17.

## **Transition (MA 29) – 2,886 acres**

This MA includes parts of Woods Canyon, Jacks Canyon and the rugged ridge between the Red Rock-Secret Mountain Wilderness and Sycamore Wilderness. These places are adjacent to Wilderness where there are few or no developments and access is difficult. Although they are outside the Wilderness, they are recognized as locales of little human presence and minimal impact to the land. As such, these areas function as a transition into Wilderness beyond.

### **Management Emphasis**

Ecosystem processes such as fire and flood play a natural role.

Recreation is Semi-primitive and low density with an emphasis on non-motorized trail use.

### **Plants, Wildlife, Soil, Air, and Water**

#### **Objectives**

1. Fire has a natural role. Prescribed fire is used to improve wildlife habitat; decrease fuel to natural levels; promote grass, forbs and shrub growth in a natural mosaic; and rejuvenate wildlife browse/forage.
2. Provide winter wildlife and resident habitat primarily for elk but also for white-tailed deer, mule deer and turkey.

### **Scenery**

#### **Objectives**

1. An unaltered, natural-appearing landscape predominates.

### **Recreation**

#### **Objectives**

1. Manage for a Semi-primitive ROS setting. This should generally be non-motorized except along the Casner Powerline Road where motor vehicles are allowed and where trailhead access provides parking and orientation to the area.
2. Discourage heavy recreational use. Protect quiet, uncrowded characteristics.
3. Except for motor vehicle use along the Casner Powerline Road, management and public use is consistent with goals for Wilderness and provides a transitional experience. Provide opportunities for Primitive Non-motorized trail-oriented activities, including opportunities to enjoy the natural environment, quiet and to access Wilderness.

4. Emphasize foot, bike and horse trail use. De-emphasize motorized use due to the effects of noise on the opportunities for solitude and natural quiet and due to proximity to Wilderness.
5. Provide a trail connection to link Munds Canyon to the Mogollon Rim from Oak Creek.
6. Design trails to discourage bicycle access into adjacent Wilderness and to otherwise minimize impacts on the Wilderness.
7. Allow four-wheel-drive use along the Casner Powerline access road through a special use permit system consistent with ROS goals for the Transition MA and adjacent Wilderness MA, wildlife objectives and soil protection and where such use does not interfere with APS powerline access needs.

#### **Standards**

1. Camping and recreation fires are prohibited in Jacks Canyon Transition MA due to the proximity to Neighborwoods. Due to limited space, four-wheel-drive groups are not allowed to camp along the Casner Powerline Road between the two gates.
2. Non-motorized ROS settings are the objective except for the Casner Powerline Road.

#### **Commercial Uses**

##### **Objectives**

1. Do not permit commercial tours on the Casner Powerline Road.
2. Continue to support Wilderness-dependent recreation opportunities, such as backpacking, horse packing and hunter guiding, where these activities are consistent with resource and WOS/ROS objectives.

##### **Guidelines**

1. Commercial tour activities should be limited to trails or sites designated for such use.

*Chapter 4 – Management Direction*  
*Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem – Transition – Management Area 29*