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Title:

Comments: Re: Directives for updating Forest Service Handbook & Manual
After reviewing the directives it appears that changes do need to be updated for the times we are now living in. Because of the many different regions that makeup the US Forest, it is hard to understand how one set of directives can make decisions fairly for the entire country. There are so many different requirements for each region and the districts of those regions, that they cannot be managed the same. Yes, there does need to be a set of basic guidelines, but they do have to take into account the requirements of the different entities of each region and make concessions that best work in each area. Each region has differing climates to deal with and changes appear to be taking place sooner than they did in the past. What is happening in the desert southwest with the extreme drought conditions, is far different than back East, where more adequate moisture prevails. Seasons are different all over the country, which controls how the grazing can be approached. More water development and better management needs to be a concern in the western and southwestern states. There needs to be more control on the use of dirt bikes and ATV's, especially in our area, as the damage to roads, parks and trails, will now require years to repair itself. They damage ponds, by running through and breaching the pond banks, that are so vital for wildlife, as well as cattle and for the health of the surrounding environment of each area. This is done by many thoughtless ATV operators, without concern or consequences for their actions. Where the forest Service has closed roads, the ATV people just fan out and make more, disrupting more land. We are a family owned cattle ranch, that has been in operation on the same permit, for 101 years. The fifth generation is now preparing and learning to take part in the operation. We only hope they will have a future with this lifestyle. We have been stewards for this land and made many improvements over the years and now we see the lack of concern by others, that are damaging a special way of life.