

MERA Trail Unit
Union County Board of Commissioners

The following goals, objectives and criteria are developed and adopted to give the community an opportunity to raise funding necessary to purchase two thirds of the timber value on the MERA Trails Unit. These goals, objectives and criteria will expire on February 1, 2010.

Goals:

1. To honor community commitments providing sustainable resource management and meet financial grant assurances.
2. To provide sustainable forest and livestock grazing management with opportunities for high quality, safe recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, birding, cross country skiing, and designated motorized routes.
3. To provide diverse habitat based on mixed age classes of forest overstory that provides habitat for the many native species of wildlife found in the forests of this region.
4. To provide a site for research in areas such as silviculture, botany, ornithology and fire ecology.
5. To serve as a destination for field trips from local schools and universities.

Objectives:

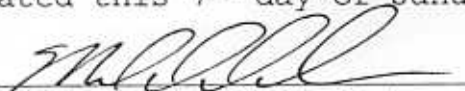
1. To manage the forest to promote uneven-aged, multilayered stands with old growth qualities and with mixed species composition.
2. To use multiple treatment methods to promote and maintain forest health in prescribed areas and to manage for fire resilient structure and species composition.
3. To protect and restore water quality in riparian areas.
4. Non-forest openings should be managed for weed control and re-establishment of native species.

5. Provide opportunities for community involvement in forest maintenance.

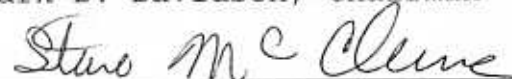
Criteria:

1. A primary requirement for long term sustainable forest management will recognize economically sustainable timber harvest practices.
2. The largest most vigorous trees will be retained in general as conditions warrant.
3. Small trees in overstocked areas may be selectively removed and other trees for sustainable harvest.
4. Trees with poor vigor or damage from insect or disease attack may be selectively removed.
5. Some snags that do not present a safety hazard will be left standing for wildlife habitat.
6. Scattered groups of small trees that do not create dangerous fuel ladders will be retained to provide canopy level diversity and hiding cover for wildlife.
7. Long-term timber management strategies will implement a long-term sustainable timber harvest plan. In some situations, in order to recruit large diameter, old-growth trees, the harvest of larger Ponderosa Pine may facilitate both economic and ecological objectives, while releasing and capitalizing on the growth potential of younger trees.
8. As the stands move toward larger diameter classes, tree spacing should be increased over time.
9. Union County will retain all management decision making authority.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2010.



Mark D. Davidson, Chairman



Steve McClure, Commissioner



R. Nellie Bogue Hibbert, Commissioner