

Desired Conditions – Mixed Conifer Forests

(from draft Forest Plan)

<i>pg</i>	<i>section/heading</i>	<i>dc</i>	<i>comments</i>
31	DC's – General Terrestrial Ecosystems	6.2 Natural ecological processes (including succession, fire, insects, disease, wind events, and flooding) contribute to maintenance of sustainable ecosystems; they shape the composition and structure of the vegetation communities and the landscape pattern found throughout most of the planning area	
		6.3 The major vegetation types found within the planning area are sustainable, resistant to change, resilient, and dominated by desirable native plant species.	"resistant to change" – in conflict?? (see "shape..composition & structure" above)
		6.4 All development stages of all major vegetation types within the planning area are represented and distributed across the SJPL.	short on younger age classes, especially in c-m; short on old growth in w-d
		6.6 Aspen and aspen-conifer forests display larger patches of young-development stage.	short on "larger patches"
		6.8 Ecosystems that provide goods and services remain productive and able to provide these goods and services over the long-term.	ecosystem goods & services; or socially-oriented goods/services
		6.13 Lands in the WUI display stand structures and fuel conditions that reduce the rate of wildfire spread and make wildfire intensity less severe. This may result in ecological conditions unlike those that occurred during the reference period (HRV conditions).	WUI needs to be well defined.
		6.14 Where practical, lands in the WUI display stand structure and ecological conditions similar to those that occurred during the reference period (HRV conditions).	For MC, especially c-m, this may conflict with 6.13 (as noted)
		6.15 The major vegetative types display a FRCC of 1.	Estimate that much of w-d MC is FRCC 2/3; most c-m is FRCC 2.
32	DC's – Disturbance Processes	6.17 Wildfire behavior in the WUI is relatively easy to control with conventional suppression methods and does not result in major destruction.	"destruction" of what? property; forest resources?
		6.18 Fire frequencies and severities associated with the natural fire regimes of the major vegetative types found within the planning area are maintained or restored (except for some lands in the WUI).	very difficult to maintain historical fire frequencies; historical severities in c-m is probably socially unacceptable
		6.19 Insect and disease processes and cycles are similar to those that occurred during HRV conditions. Epidemic outbreaks are rare.	epidemic outbreaks may shift back to rare once we reduce dominant older class forests to younger classes
		6.20 Human-initiated disturbances (including tree harvesting, fuels treatments, prescribed burns, recreation, restoration sites, etc.) mimic natural disturbances on the most of the SJPL.	

	DC's – by Major Vegetation Type	6.22 <u>Warm-Dry MC Forests</u> – ..display variable stand structures and species composition. Most have open canopies with widely spaced trees and multiple canopy layers. Some are dense with closed canopies; others have a clumped structure where trees occur in groups surrounded by shrub and/or herb-dominated openings. Tree species composition includes an abundance of PP and DF (ranging from young to old). White fir are present but not dominant. Snags and large wood (down) are common in late successional stages, as well as in young stands, following disturbance. Low-intensity surface fires occur in most w-d MC. All development stages of these forests are well-represented, including the old-growth stage that is currently under-represented.	Fire description too much like PP.
		6.23 <u>Cool-Moist MC Forests</u> – display variable stand structures and species composition. Most are dense with closed canopies and multiple canopy layers. Tree species composition includes an abundance of DF (ranging from young to old). Patches of c-m MC, ranging from small to large, are distributed across the landscape. Snags and large wood (ground) are abundant in late-successional stages. High-intensity, stand-replacement fires occur in most c-m MC. All development stages of these forests are well-represented, including the young- and mid-stages that are currently under-represented.	Fire description too much like spruce-fir; better to speak to range from low-intensity to high
33		6.25 <u>Aspen and Aspen-Conifer Forests</u> – display variable stand structures, with most having high stem densities and high canopy cover. Some stands are even-aged with one or two canopy layers; others are uneven-aged with multiple canopy layers. Patches of aspen and aspen-C forests, ranging from small to large, are distributed across the landscape. Snags and large wood (ground) are abundant in late successional stages. Fires occur in most aspen and aspen-conifer forests. All development stages of these forests are well-represented, including the young-stage that is currently under-represented.	Fire description vague; better to speak to generally infrequent, low-intensity in aspen and of mixed conditions in aspen/MC