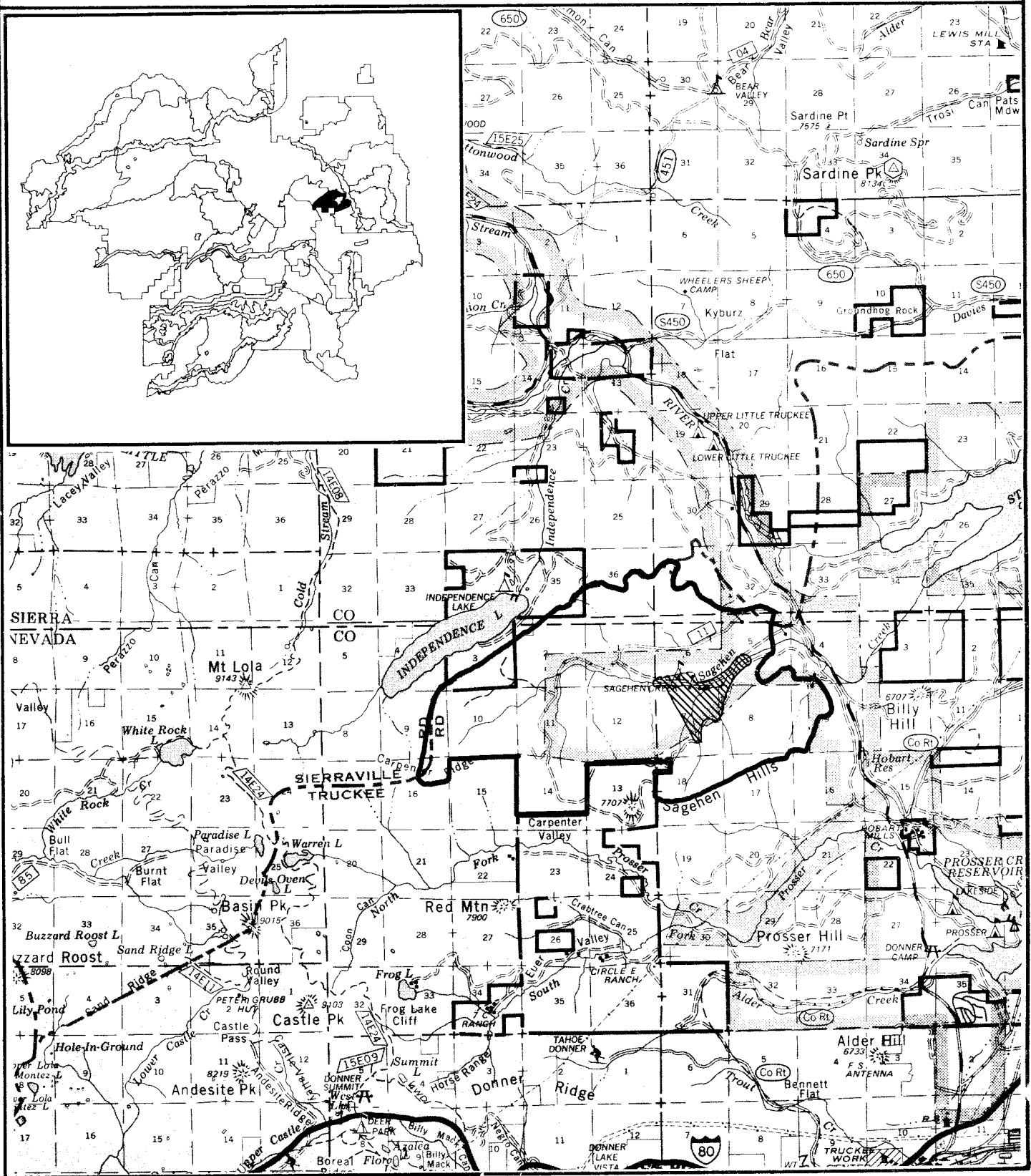
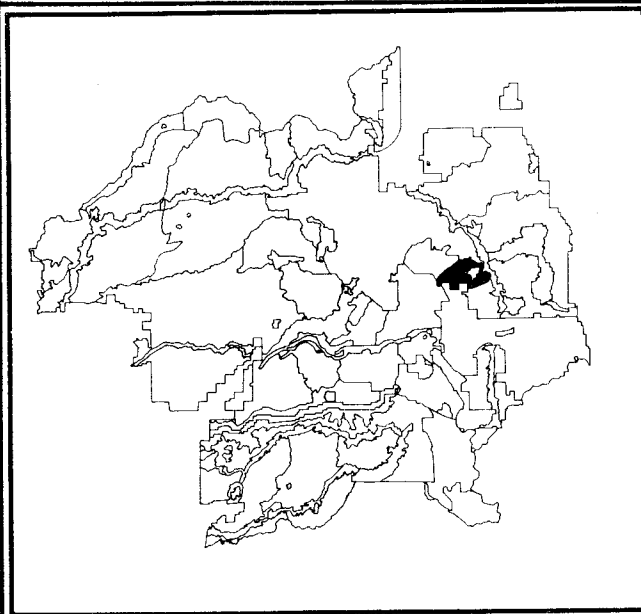


# MANAGEMENT AREA 036

## SAGEHEN BASIN

T18N, R15E



## 036 SAGEHEN BASIN

6,975 GROSS ACRES

6,818 NFS ACRES

### I. DESCRIPTION

This management area (MA) is bounded by the Truckee-Sierraville Ranger District boundary on the north, Highway 89 on the east, Carpenter Ridge on the west, and the Sagehen Hills on the east. Elevations range from 6,100 feet to 8,700 feet. Railroad logging, grazing, and fur trapping have occurred throughout historic times. The Donner and Carpenter Ridge fires occurred during the 1960's and are being reforested. Recent National Forest timber activity has included the Independence, Sagehen, and Golden Timber Sales and several small salvage sales.

Vegetation is mostly mixed conifer with true fir at the higher elevations. Scattered fields of shrubs and plantations occur in the burned-over areas. The drainages are composed of wet meadows with lodgepole stringers. There are 170 acres of wetlands. There are 26 acres of unsuitable productive forest land. This area lies within the Sagehen Watershed. The Sagehen Range Allotment occurs within the unit. Management Area 043, Sagehen Station, lies inside this MA, most of which is under special-use permit to the University of California, Berkeley (UCB). One small campground is located along Sagehen Creek. There is a long-term study under special-use permit to the University to study the effects of the Donner Burn. The Sierra County Road to Independence Lake skirts the northern end of the area. The Sagehen bypass road is a cooperative Forest collector road that provides the major access for the area.

This MA contains the 79 acre Sagehen Headwaters Special Interest Area (SIA).

### II. SUMMARY OF ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

The University of California, Berkeley, has shown interest in expanding their research in the entire Sagehen Basin to include validation of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships database system. This could conflict with public use and resource commodity outputs associated with multiple use management. Increased OHV use may conflict with research projects.

This MA contains an area identified by U.C. Berkeley as a potential Special Interest Area (Sagehen Headwaters).

Visual quality is a critical resource management concern within this management area. This concern focuses on lands seen as middleground from Highway 89. This highway is included in the Master Plan of State Highways Eligible for Official Scenic Highway Designation and thus requires special consideration to preserve the character of its scenic backdrop.

The opportunity exists to continue rehabilitation of the burned areas through coordinated timber management and visual quality management. Both scenic and watershed damage can be improved by special cutting and revegetation efforts.

Dispersed camping within the Basin conflicts with research efforts, therefore, camping is restricted in the southeast 1/4 of Section 2, east half of Section 11, Section 12, portions of Section 7, south half of Section 1, south half of Section 6, and in Section 5. In the above areas, camping is allowed only in the one developed campground.

There is an opportunity to reduce monotypical stands and to increase vegetation diversity for wildlife, aesthetics, wildfire protection, insect protection, and other silvicultural objectives.

There is an opportunity to manage this area more intensively for wildlife by protecting and improving habitat in the key fawning areas.

### III. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

The resource management emphasis is to provide two alternative types of stand structure typified by even-age openings and stands managed to produce and maintain mature forest structure. This will allow the evaluation of the relationships between stand structure, timber yields, wildlife habitat and other resource values.

The even-age structure will be developed by conventional intensive management including clearcutting and planting. The uneven-age stands will be developed by identifying wildlife stand management objectives and feature older aged trees (up to 300 years). They will have their structures controlled through partial cutting. All timber sales in both stand types will be marketable and timber harvests managed to attain full regulation. Coordinate resource management in the Highway 89 middleground to maintain the natural scenic quality. Sacrifice some short-term visual quality objectives to enhance long-term visual objectives. Timber harvest is regulated and features long rotation, even-aged timber consisting of various age classes from 0 to 150 years. Reforest old burns and maintain them to optimize timber growth.

Manage the vegetation using techniques to rehabilitate or enhance the potential character where the vegetation has been damaged by fire or biological forces. Convert wildfire-related brushfields and understocked plantations to fully stocked timber stands, particularly on the Donner Burn.

Use vegetative diversity and forest stand structure to protect wildlife habitat. Allow validation of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships database. Continue range forage use in nonriparian open areas. Continue to provide primitive overnight camping experiences at Sagehen Creek Campground. Additional facilities, including marked trails, may be provided for snowmobile use and off-track Nordic skiing as appropriate. Prohibit commercial or competitive event OHV activities within this management area.

Identify the boundaries for the Sagehen Headwaters SIA and include in the SIA Implementation Plan.

#### **IV. MANAGEMENT AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES 1/**

- A. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum - Roaded natural.
- B. Visual Quality Objectives - Retention for Sagehen Headwaters SIA; partial retention for areas viewed from Highway 89 north; enhancement within the old burns; modification in remainder of management area.
- C. Transportation Management Policy - Forestwide Standards and Guidelines apply.
- D. Off-Highway Vehicle Restrictions - Designated routes only, summer. Suggested routes winter (Open).
- E. Forestwide Standards and Guidelines - All apply.

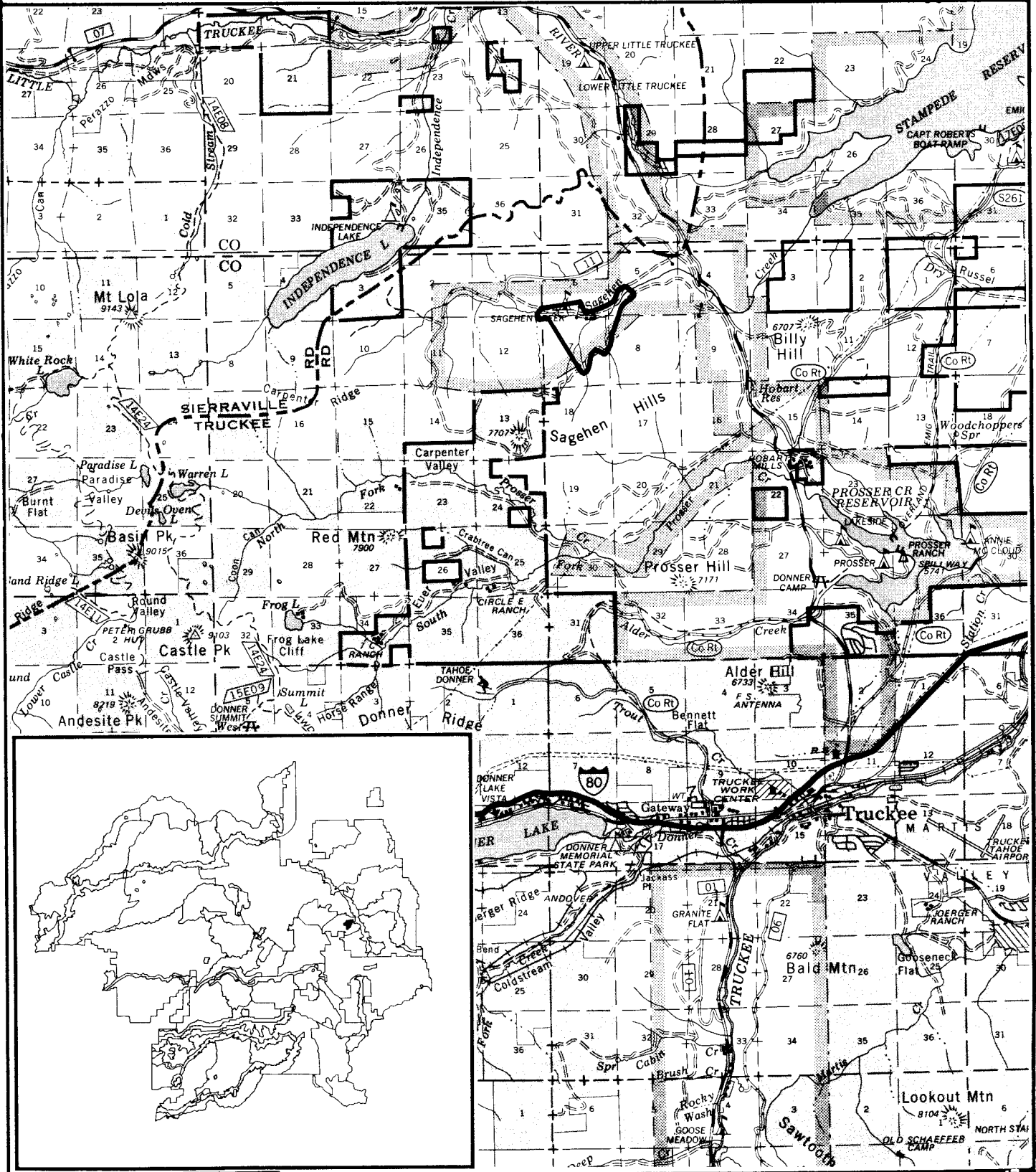
#### **V. AVAILABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES 2/**

- A1 Nordic Cross-Country Skiing
- A4 Open OHV
- A5 Restricted OHV
- A8 Developed Recreation & Interpretive Service Sites Management, Public Sector
- A11 Recreation or IS Site Construction or Rehabilitation
- A15 Special Interest Area Investigation and Management
  
- C1 Stream Fisheries - Nonstructural Improvement and Maintenance
- C2 Stream Fisheries - Structural Improvement and Maintenance
- C5 Early Succession Vegetation Management
- C6 Midsuccession Vegetation Management
- C7 Late Seral Stage Vegetation Management
- C8 Structural Habitat Improvement and Maintenance
  
- D2 Range Management - Permanent Range Type (Extensive Management)
- D5 Range Management - Transitory Range Type (Extensive Management)
- D7 Range Improvement - Nonstructural (Permanent and Transitory)
- D8 Range Improvement - Structural (Permanent and Transitory)
  
- E1 Clearcut Cutting Method
- E2 Seed Step Cutting Method
- E3 Overstory Removal Cutting Method
- E4 Intermediate Cutting - Existing Stands
- E5 Commercial Thinning - Regenerated Stands
- E6 Seed Tree Cutting Method
- E7 Special Cutting
- E8 Uneven-Age Cutting Method
- E10 Artificial Stand Reestablishment
- E11 Natural Stand Reestablishment
- E13 Release and Weeding
- E14 Precommercial Thinning
  
- F3 Flow Timing Improvement
  
- G1 Minerals Management - Locatables
- G2 Minerals Management - Locatable Withdrawals
- G3 Minerals Management - Leasables

# MANAGEMENT AREA 043

## SAGEHEN STATION

T18N, R16E



## 043 SAGEHEN STATION

350 GROSS ACRES

350 NFS ACRES

### I. DESCRIPTION

This management area (MA) is within the Sagehen Creek drainage and surrounded by Management Area 036 (Sagehen Basin). It is located approximately one-half mile west of State Highway 89. Elevations range from 6,300 to 6,700 feet with a north/south aspect. The area was railroad logged at the turn of the century. Grazing and trapping have occurred throughout historic times. The Donner Burn of 1960 borders the southern portion of the unit.

Numerous fens border Sagehen Creek with stringers of lodgepole pine. There are 107 acres of wetlands, and 350 acres of unsuitable productive forest land. Mixed conifer stands occupy the drier sites. Two perennial streams flow into Sagehen Creek within the unit. The Sagehen Road, 11-4, located north of Sagehen Creek, bisects the unit, and a portion is under permit to the University of California at Berkeley. This road is closed to motorized use by the public. A bypass route, 11, constructed as part of the Golden Timber Sale, will provide motorized public access to the upper portion of the Sagehen drainage. A forest development road, 11-10, accessing the Sagehen Hills, forms the southern boundary of the Sagehen Unit. U.C. Berkeley has a special-use permit developed in the 1950's to conduct aquatic ecosystem research in this area. A field station with numerous facilities is occupied year around. The MA lies within the Sagehen Range Allotment.

The selected wildlife emphasis species are rainbow and brown trout, and the riparian and meadow groups.

This MA contains the 30 acre Mason Fen Special Interest Area (SIA).

### II. SUMMARY OF ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Visual quality is a resource management concern within this management area. This concern focuses on lands seen as middleground from Highway 89. This highway is included in the Master Plan of State Highways Eligible for Official Scenic Highway Designation and thus requires special consideration to preserve the character of its scenic backdrop.

Dispersed camping along Sagehen Creek has conflicted with research efforts. As a result, camping is prohibited.

U.C. Berkeley has shown interest in expanding their research special-use area to include the entire Sagehen Basin (MA 036). There are opportunities to continue the existing long-term research program.

### III. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

The resource management emphasis is to continue the existing special-use permit and manage the area for wildlife research. This area is unsuited for regulated timber production.

Integrate management activities with the natural landscape to maintain the quality of the Highway 89 scenic corridor.

Identify the boundaries for the Mason Fen SIA and include in the SIA Implementation Plan.

### IV. MANAGEMENT AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES 1/

- A. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum - Roaded natural.
- B. Visual Quality Objectives - Partial retention subject to research objectives from within the permitted area and retention for Mason Fen SIA. Partial retention within the developed sites. The management area will, however, meet the partial retention VQO when viewed as middleground from travel routes and other occupancy sites.
- C. Transportation Management Policy - Closed to public motorized vehicles. (Road 11-10 is the boundary between MA 43 and MA 36; it's direction is found in MA 36).

- D. Off-Highway Vehicle Restrictions - Closed.
- E. Forestwide Standards and Guidelines - All apply except S&G #2.

**V. AVAILABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES 2/**

- A6 Closed OHV
- J2 Land Adjustments - Limited
- L9 Transportation Management, Roads - Regulated Use
- L10 Transportation Management, Roads - Closed
- P1 Fire Protection - Continuous Fuels

**VI. PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

The area holds unique research value for implications on future forest management activities. Until a plan is developed addressing future use, restrict those activities that conflict with research. The area is unsuited for regulated forest management. Prohibit OHV use except for research and administrative needs to manage resource values.

Continue to manage this area pursuant to the principles of the Protocol between the University of California, Berkeley and the Tahoe National Forest. The protocols may be revised as a result of the compartment planning process where the Tahoe National Forest will work with UCB to examine mutual needs and objectives.

Continue camping prohibitions.

The partial retention VQO ensures the visual quality of views from Highway 89.

**VII. SPECIFIC MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Coordinate special-use research activities on an annual basis.

Involve the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station as part of the monitoring and evaluation.

- 1/ Refer to Resource Support Element Maps and Forestwide Standards and Guidelines.
- 2/ Refer to complete Descriptions of Management Practices in Chapter V.

- G4 Minerals Management - Leasable Withdrawals
- G5 Minerals Management - Saleables
  
- J2 Land Adjustments - Limited
  
- L1 Timber Access Road Development - Road Construction/Reconstruction
- L2 Multiresource Road Access Development - Road Construction/Reconstruction
- L4 Trail Construction/Reconstruction - Foot & Equestrian Traffic Only
- L5 Trail Construction/Reconstruction - Foot, Equestrian and Trailbike
- L7 FA&O Construction/Reconstruction
- L8 Transportation Management, Roads - Open
- L9 Transportation Management, Roads - Regulated Use
- L10 Transportation Management, Roads - Closed
- L11 Transportation Management, Roads - Obliterated
- L12 Transportation Management, Trails - Open
- L13 Transportation Management, Trails - Restricted Use
  
- P1 Fire Protection - Continuous Fuels

## VI. PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The area is well suited for timber and resource management and research on the effects of forest management on wildlife. The area has a well developed transportation system. Continue to coordinate management of this area pursuant to the Protocols between the University of California, Berkeley and the Tahoe National Forest. These Protocols allow for continued research coordinated with intensive forest management.

Reduce potential adverse impacts from current OHV use and from future increases in OHV use by implementing a more controlled OHV program, as presented in the "Sagehen OHV Project", (Decision Notice/FONSI, 5/08/86).

The partial retention and enhancement VQO's assure the natural character of the Highway 89 scenic corridor is maintained.

Sacrifices of some short-term visual quality objectives will be made to enhance long-term visual quality, as burn scars are rehabilitated.

Continue camping restrictions along Sagehen Creek to the one developed site.

Increase vegetation diversity through regeneration and intermediate harvesting, fuelbreak construction, and other stand management activities including planting of other locally adapted species.

After field evaluation is completed, map the boundaries of the Sagehen Headwaters Special Interest Area (SIA) and include in the SIA Implementation Plan.

## VII. SPECIFIC MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Coordinate special-use research and National Forest System activities on an annual basis.

Monitor willow flycatchers to determine population trends.

Monitor OHV and other dispersed recreation use to further evaluate potential conflicts with research.

Monitor health and vigor of plantations and effectiveness of treatments aimed at increasing vegetation diversity.

1/ Refer to Resource Support Element Maps and Forestwide Standards and Guidelines.

2/ Refer to complete Descriptions of Management Practices in Chapter V..