INTEGRATING MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AND RANGE RESOURCES

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Single-use management of resources is directed toward the production of one of several possible products or commodities that have value. Forest managers are primarily interested in wood production. Range managers are primarily interested in forage production for livestock. Other products that can be produced from forest and range resources include wildlife, water, and recreation.

Integrated management of forest and range resources, a form of multiple use, is the simultaneous, harmonious use of land for more than one purpose; it may include the production of wood, water, livestock, wildlife, or recreation in any possible combination. With integrated use, managers must devise plans for the combined resources, such as wood and wildlife or sawtimber, deer, and cattle, rather than for each product separately. Generally, maximum yields of the individual products will not be achieved; however, an overall increase in total value can occur through combined use.

This type of management is complex. In agronomic terms, it is not diversification or multiple cropping. Integrated management is the production of different crops at the same time on the same land; it is almost like the interplanting of different row crops. Problems associated with integrated management not only involves management of separate items simultaneously, but also the many interactions that can exist. For this reason, every management action and interaction must be examined.

Integrated management has become increasingly important because of economic and social demands. Increasingly so, society will not permit the luxury of single-use management of natural resources. The greatest pressures today are apparent on public and large private land holdings where product prices, production costs, taxes, and public demands are forcing managers to attempt multiple-product management. Some of the problems and possible