Distribution of Cover Type Sp/Fir 23%, 116,400ac; 3%, 15,020ac outside wilderness/roadless  
Aspen 40%, 204,800ac; 9%, 60,000ac outside wilderness/roadless

Distribution age class Mature+ 66% acreage (mature & dense 51%)

North Fork – 481,500ac total

125,200ac wilderness

197,500ac roadless

158,800ac general forest (75,020ac spruce/fir/aspen forests)

**Bald Area**

SBEADMR 1,075 acres

Elevation 9,920-10,920’

Terrain flat to rolling

Spruce age 110-150years

Subalpine Fir age 100-120years

Aspen age ~100years

**Bald Area History**

Timber harvests have occurred in this area over the years. Historically there has been an emphasis on range management, timber harvest, and game management. The Black Mesa Experimental Forest existed in the area which increased timber management in the area.

* Records show timber harvests from 1957-1988 (assuming harvest activities in the area prior but no documentation)
* Multiple small lumber mills existed on the Black Mesa
* Most recently Shelterwood/Commercial Thin harvests and Clearcut harvest are most common with some 2nd entry Sanitation harvest
* All of the SBEADMR analyzed acres have been harvested previously

**Objectives**

In accordance with the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the Organic Act of 1897, the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and many other laws and policies, the Forest Service is directed to ***actively***manage the National Forest System lands where appropriate and feasible to do so.

Ecosystems are dynamic, change and instability are inherent parts of ecosystem function. In the North Fork landscape a large % of land base is in mature, dense stand conditions, susceptible to stand replacing fire and/or epidemic insect/pathogen outbreaks. Because so much area is in relatively uniform conditions natural disturbances have the potential to impact large areas at one time. Historic range of variability includes fine scale structural diversity with some uneven-aged stands with multi-storied structure and small canopy gaps within larger areas of more uniform ages and successional stages.

In the short term the goal is to improve the resiliency of stands at-risk of insect and disease. Create a balance of habitat structural stages, tree species composition, and seral stage distributions that are appropriate for each vegetation type across the geographic areas of the GMUG. Promote existing advanced spruce/fir regeneration and promote the establishment of additional regeneration of spruce, fir and aspen. While providing commercial forest products to local dependent industries at a level commensurate with the GMUG Land and Resource Management Plan direction and consistent with other plan goals.

Bald falls within our Forest Plan Suitable Timber land base as well as in the Timber Management Emphasis and has been analyzed by the SBEADMR EIS. This area has been publicly advertised as planned for timber harvest since 2016.

We plan to use timber harvest to increase stand diversity (specie, age, stand structure, density, size) and reduce susceptibility for high intensity large-scale disturbances as well as deal with spruce beetle, armillaria root disease, heart rot, and western spruce budworm outbreak damaging advanced regeneration.

Original prescription from 1977 – example of the 3 stage Shelterwood.





