

## **Appendix B: Proposed and Probable Management Practices**

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### **Introduction**

This appendix describes proposed and probable practices that may subsequently take place on the Grasslands at the project or activity-level to help maintain existing conditions or achieve the desired conditions described in the Plan. Included are items such as program strategies; inventories, assessments, resource analyses, and other planning needs; and ongoing work with partners and cooperating agencies anticipated during the next 15 years.

The listed proposed and probable practices are not intended to be all-inclusive, nor are they intended to be decisions. They are simply projections of what actions may take place in the future. A plan amendment is not required to change or modify any of the proposed and possible actions. The list of these actions can be updated at any time through an administrative correction of the Plan.

### **Scenery**

- Development of mitigation measures for existing and new man-made sites, features, and facilities using the information from the scenic class and existing scenic integrity maps from the scenery management system prepared for the Grasslands.
- Creation of an inventory of existing structures that do not meet Plan desired conditions and guidelines from photopoint monitoring.
- Modification of structures resulting in adverse scenery impacts to meet desired conditions and guidelines.

### **Recreation**

- Vegetation management in developed recreation sites, including periodic reviews of vegetation health, and opportunities for vegetation to provide screening or manage recreation site concerns. Following the protocol for removing hazard trees, where needed. Continuation of active tree planting or a regeneration program where old, diseased, or damaged trees exist, to provide shade and scenic quality.
- Improvement of operating efficiency and sustainability of facilities through new construction and repairs. Consideration of energy efficiency through the implementation of recycled or renewable resources aimed at producing a smaller carbon footprint.
- Accessibility assessments on developed recreation sites.
- Trails maintenance according to development level and managed use.
- Development of interpretive plans for each Grassland
- Outdoor classrooms from school groups and other opportunities to partner with local schools.
- Active participation in all cooperative interpretive initiatives.
- Education and outreach programs and/or signs to help reduce user conflicts, such as conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.

- Where gates are in use, installation of appropriate signs to remind users to close them.
- Coordination with partnering agencies or organizations at least annually and identification where new partnerships may exist to enable working with other landowners to expand hiking or other dispersed recreation opportunities, including interpretation.
- Improvement of field presence of agency personnel and Maintenance or development of agreements with local law enforcement. Working toward having the level of presence of law enforcement (either Forest Service or Partner Agency) be sufficient to address public and community concerns.
- Coordination with state wildlife agencies to manage habitat and impacts associated with hunting and partnerships with wildlife and hunting organizations to meet agency wildlife habitat and hunting management goals.
- Management actions to discourage illegal activity and/or creation of unauthorized routes.
- Management strategies to reduce user conflicts and address resource concerns.
- Rehabilitation, closure or reconstruction of motorized routes that are causing resource damage or have issues that may negatively impact health and safety.
- In areas of high public recreation, replacement of gates with cattle guards.

#### **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek MA**

- Monitoring areas of designated-dispersed recreation (dispersed parking areas) to look for opportunities to add new sites when they are desirable on the Black Kettle and McClellan Creek Ranger District.

#### **Natural Tourism**

- Development of interpretive sites as opportunities become available and in conjunction with partners.
- Development of interpretive services appropriate to the features of the area and the surrounding landscape.
- Maintenance of interpretive signs and exhibits
- Creation of standalone signs to provide interpretive material for off-hours tourists.

#### **Heritage Resources**

- Stabilization of historic structures as funds become available.
- Completion of heritage resource project that involves the public.
- Off-site educational/enrichment product such as classroom programs, heritage celebrations, publications, and field trips
- Creation of a Cultural Resources overview for each Grassland approval.

- Creation of a historic homestead interpretive site on the Black Kettle McClellan creek National Grasslands
- Establishment of a site steward program for the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands

### **Roads and Access**

- Maintenance of ownership boundaries.
- Acquisition of legal access, as opportunities arise.
- Decommissioning of roads that are no longer needed for the administration of NFS lands.
- Enforcement of decisions made under the 2005 Travel Management Rule.

### **Land Adjustments**

- Land adjustments where feasible and advantageous to the National Grassland.

### **Minerals and Energy Development**

- Rehabilitation of common variety mineral sites and oil and gas sites no longer in use.

### **Special Uses**

- Rehabilitation of existing special use sites that do not meet the scenery guidelines, as they are brought up for reauthorization or are no longer required.

### **Wind Energy Development**

- Coordination and participation in research on the effects of wind farms on wildlife.
- Engagement in community discussions on the future of wind energy development in the region.
- Coordination with federal and State wildlife agencies on the development of wind energy guidelines and policies.

### **Vegetation Management**

- Use of livestock grazing as a tool to manage vegetative conditions and wildlife habitat.
- Coordination of planned fire activities with State agencies, Federal agencies, and private land owners to achieve landscape scale objectives.
- Use of planned fire and herbivory on the landscape at varying intervals and intensities, determined by vegetative and climatic conditions, to resemble natural processes.
- Treatment of WUI areas to reduce fire hazard to communities and the National Grasslands.
- In appropriate ecosystems, retention of patchy shrub cover component across the landscape to provide cover for wildlife.

- Burning and/or thinning piñon-juniper to maintain open savanna type conditions and increase understory components in the piñon-juniper woodland.

### **Soil, Water and Air**

- Where adequate groundwater or surface hydrology exists, and if natural recruitment is not sufficient, Supplementation of natural recruitment with planting to re-establish riparian areas with young cottonwood and willow trees years to provide shading, bank cover, and streambank stability.

### **Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants (Natives)**

- Management of habitat and assessment of opportunities to create wildlife habitat improvement plots to meet the high public use demand for important game species that occur on the grasslands.
- Collaboration with other federal and state biologists and researchers in determining if the Lesser Prairie Chicken could be expected to return to the Grasslands and successfully fledge young and what management activities would benefit their recovery if they returned.
- Evaluation of trees and tall human-made structures for removal in areas important for recovery of Lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat and where windbreaks and erosion control shelterbelts are no longer needed for soil stability.
- Marking fences in potential lesser Prairie-Chicken habitat to minimize collisions.
- Inventory and evaluation of fenced exclosures and wildlife habitat improvement plots, for effectiveness and ecological functionality.
- Rio Grande Turkey
  - Maintenance of large cottonwood and other trees along stream sides for roosting and escape cover.
  - Maintenance and release of mast producing trees and shrubs such as oaks and plum, as needed.
  - Re-introduction of prescribed burning as a tool, as needed, to increase available green forage in the spring, open the understory in shrub stands, and increase forb production in rangeland.
- Northern Bobwhite
  - Management techniques that are important in developing quail habitat, as needed, including prescribed burning, disking, mowing, planting of food plots, legume seeding, and shrub planting.

### **Invasive Plants and Animals (Native and Nonnative)**

- Monitoring and management of populations of invasive species that occur within their boundaries. There is a working interagency plan to manage and eradicate these species at a landscape scale.

- Control of native invasive plants, such as cholla, eastern red cedar and mesquite, to the extent practical.
- Treatment of areas with salt cedar to restore native riparian vegetation.

### **Mills Canyon**

- Creation of signs and barriers to prevent camping immediately outside of developed sites and areas of past disturbance within 200 feet of developed sites would be rehabilitated.
- Construction of non-motorized trails in Mills Canyon.
- Continued stabilization of the Mills Canyon Orchard and Ranch site.
- Rehabilitation of closed and user-created routes that are causing resource concerns.
- Prescribed fire to rejuvenate browse component on the canyon lowlands and side-slopes.

### **Special Areas**

- Maintenance of signage that links the Santa Fe National Historic Trail interpretive site to the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway.
- Closure or discontinued use of Forest Service roads that cross or impact the Santa Fe National Historic Trail not necessary for administrative uses.
- Construction of a sign and an interpretive site to link mills Canyon and the La Frontera del Llano Scenic Byway.
- Closure or rehabilitation of all unauthorized motorized vehicle stream crossings on the Eligible Scenic River.