

Determination of Management Areas for the Valle Vidal

The Valle Vidal was acquired while the Land & Resource Management Plan ([Forest Plan](#)) was being developed for the Carson National Forest. A Multiple Use Area Guide was signed for the Valle Vidal in 1983 that states management of the Valle Vidal will be governed by this document until the Carson Forest Plan is amended or revised after 1985, or this document is amended or revised. In the Carson Forest Plan, which was signed in October of 1986, the Valle Vidal shows up as [Management Area 21](#).

The Valle Unit has its own geographical management area under the Forest Plan. The vision, desired Future Condition were being developed at the time of Forest Plan implementation. Embedded within this geographical area are other “feature based” management areas. Due to the nature of this embeddedness, several management areas may overlay each other. The following management areas occur within the Valle Vidal:

-  [Management Area 7](#) – Unsuitable Timber
-  [Management Area 9](#) – High Elevation Grassland
-  [Management Area 13](#) – Oak
-  [Management Area 14](#) – Riparian
-  [Management Area 16](#) – Recreation Sites
-  [Management Area 18](#) – Wild & Scenic River
-  [Management Area 21](#) – Valle Vidal

Management Area 21 is divided up into various land classifications. Some of these classifications are based upon vegetation types (MA 7, 9, 13), others are defined through associated vegetation and geographic features (MA 14) [\[Vegetation Management Area Map\]](#), and others are socially defined (MA 16, 18,) [\[Social Management Area Map\]](#).

All forested areas of the Valle Vidal were identified as “unsuitable forest lands” in the Forest Plan, thus all forested lands are currently classified as Management Area 7 – Unsuitable Timber.

Table MA-1: Classification of Forest and Non-forest acres for Valle Vidal

Mgt. Area	1.Non Forest	2. Forest	3. Withdrawn	4. Not suitable	5. Tentatively Suitable	6. Not Appropriate	7. Unsuitable Forest Land	8. Total Suitable Land	9.Total Nat. Forest Land
21	21,435	80,359	0	10,359	70,000	70,000	80,359	0	101,794

Derived from Table H-2 Carson Forest Plan (1986).

Proposed Management Area 19 – Special Areas

In addition to the current management areas, a new management area is proposed. The new management area would fall within [Management Area 19](#) – Special Areas as defined in the Carson Forest Plan. Special areas are created to protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archeological, or other special characteristics or unique values [Forest Service Manual 2372.02].

The proposed special area related to this Forest Plan amendment includes an approximate 4,083 acre area that contains a large contiguous stand of bistle cone pine, the Little Costilla Peak, and a series of wetlands near Elk Meadows. The proposed special area would be known as Upper Ponil Botanical Area [[Upper Ponil Botanical Area Map](#)].