

## MGT AREA 19 -- SPECIAL AREAS

### A VISION

The Carson has many special areas that are undergoing reasearch. Also, many are protecting truely unique flora and fauna.

This looks into the future, although some of it may be happening now. It is stated in the "present tense" as if it is already that way. This gives a feel of where we are heading. It paints a general picture with a broad brush.

### DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

- These areas are preserve in unmodified condition for research and education.

This table snaps a more detailed picture of what this management area will look like in the future. Since much depends on natural cycles, which need time, these conditions may take many years to achieve. Some of it may be in this condition now.

### DESCRIPTION

This area includes four Special Areas, 1) the proposed Arellano Canyon Research Natural Area; 2) the Tres Piedras *Haplopappus microcephalus* Botanical Area; 3) the Middle Fork Lake/Sangre de Cristo Pea Clam Zoological Area and 4) other potential research natural areas.

### Standards and Guidelines

This section contains the standards and guidelines against which activities and uses are to be compared. It focus on and provides more details about the "Desire Future Conditions." In some cases it gives the long term "where and when." The Forest Plan Implementation Schedule is the tool used for all short-term planning and scheduling. The Implementation Schedule provides the operational perspective [making the commitment -- asking for the dollars and scheduling what year it will be done in.] The tactical perspective [the execution] is the actual implementation on the ground. This is done after we get the funding. It is also documented as accomplishments in the Forest Plan Implementation Schedule.

#### ARELLANO CANYON PROPOSED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA:

The 620-acre Arellano Canyon Area will be studied for possible designation as a Research Natural Area. This area represents the following vegetative types: blue spruce streamside, and white fir - Douglas-fir - aspen. Additional potential research natural areas may be identified to meet national and regional needs. The studies and possible RNA designation will be completed within 10 years. The following standards will apply until a decision is made about this RNA.

**VISUAL QUALITY...** The Visual Quality Objective for the study area will be maintained as classified in the inventory.

**NATURAL PROCESSESS...** Emphasize natural processes, protect natural features, and preserve exam- ples of naturally occurring ecosystems in an unmodified condition for research and educational purposes.

## **D. Management Area Prescriptions**

**UTILITIES...** Prohibit new utility corridors.

**ROADS...** Allow no new road construction.

**MINERAL WITHDRAWAL...** Process withdrawal action for the withdrawal of the Research Natural Area from Mineral Location and leasing (620 acres).

**GRAZING...** Prohibit livestock grazing. Maintain existing fence surrounding study areas.

### **MOTORIZED RECREATION...**

- Allow nonmotorized dispersed recreation activities provided they do not modify the area or threaten or impair the research or educational value of the study areas.
- Prohibit all off-road vehicle travel within study area.

**NON-DEGRADATION...** Prohibit recreation use if degradation results.

**PACK OUT TRASH...** Require recreation users to pack out all their trash.

**NO CAMPFIRES...** No open campfires will be permitted within the study area. Only butane or gasoline stoves may be used for cooking purposes.

**NO SIGNS...** Prohibit recreation signs or marking within the area

**RESEARCH...** All other research activities will be approved, on a case-by-case basis.

**SPECIAL USES...** Issue no special use permits within areas which would effect RNA status.

**TIMBER...** Allow vegetation manipulation only when necessary to preserve the vegetation for which the area is being studied.

**FIREWOOD...** Prohibit all firewood activities within the study areas.

**WATERSHED...** Do not allow watershed treatment activities within the areas until studies and determination are completed.

## D. Management Area Prescriptions

### HAPLOPAPPUS MICROCEPHALUS BOTANICAL AREA:

*Haplopappus microcephalus* is a small-headed goldenweed that is on the State Endangered Plant list that is known only to occur on the massive granite outcrops northeast and northwest of Tres Piedras. The portion located on the National Forest is the largest of the outcrops and a 60 acre tract is included in this Management Area.

**MANAGEMENT PLAN...** Develop a rare species management plan.

**DO NOT IMPACT PLANT...** Do not allow any activities that will alter the current management of the area or that will impact the plant.

**RESTRICT USE...** Consider fencing or restrictions on use only if necessary to further protect the plant.

### PEA CLAM ZOOLOGICAL AREA:

The Pea Clam, *Pisidium*, sp., undescribed, is on the State's Group 1 Endangered List and is known only from Middle Fork Lake. The lake, its shoreline and immediate surrounding drainage is within the management Area. Management includes:

**MANAGEMENT PLAN...** Develop a rare species management plan.

**EDUCATE USERS...** Educate users on the importance of protection of this site.

**WATER QUALITY...** Do not allow any activity that could cause pollution or change in water chemistry of the lake.

**VEHICLE USE...** Do not allow vehicles in or adjacent to the lake when they could cause negative impacts on the water chemistry.

### OTHER POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS:

Potential Research Natural Areas have been evaluated or suggested. They include Cerro Mojino (pinon-juniper) which was evaluated but not recommended in this plan and several that have been proposed by the New Mexico Natural History Institute. They are areas for *Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus scopulorum* woodland (Tres Piedras or Mesa de Los Viejos). *Agropyron smithii* - *Artemisia tridentata* shrub steppe (between Chino Lake and Los Pinos River northwest of San Antonio Mountain) and spruce-fir forest (Osier Mesa). These areas have not been included on the map since specific sites are not known at this time.

**EVALUATE POTENTIAL...** Continue to explore and evaluate potential areas through the life of this plan.

**POTENTIAL AREAS...** Recognize potential areas when evaluating projects (NEPA process) that may fall within these areas and provide proper evaluation before they are changed or altered.

**PROTECTION...** Provide necessary protection for areas that are identified in the future as having RNA potential.

**D. Management Area Prescriptions**

**YOUR NOTES...**