

MGT AREA 16 -- RECREATION SITES

A VISION

All the developments are high quality and well maintained. They fill the needs of the users.

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

- High quality campgrounds, trailheads, and picnic areas.
- In areas adjacent to the facilities, retain the form, line, color, and texture which are characteristic of the landscape (retention visual quality objective) or any activities and uses remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape (partial retention VQO).
- Trails meet at least priority 2 standards (correct unsafe conditions, minimize unacceptable resource and trail damage).
- Ghost Ranch Living Museum is an expanding interpretive site and environmental education center.
- There is a "Gateways to the Past" at Pot Creek Interpretive Resource Center and at the Ghost Ranch Living Museum.

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

These are areas of concentrated recreation use. People have been and will continue to be attracted to these areas because:

- There is a scarcity of water in the Southwest and thus people are attracted to water environments.
- The areas provide climatic relief and a high degree of scenic quality.
- Campgrounds attract people and roads provide access.

This management area is strips of land, of varying widths along the bottoms of major canyons and around lakes and steep ski slopes. It is adjacent to perennial streams, major and secondary highways, and Forest roads.

The vegetation is typical riparian species, plus aspen, pinon/juniper, spruce, fir, and ponderosa pine. This area contains the recreation developments on the Forest and receives the majority of the recreation use. Recreation developments vary from severely overused "throw-down" sites immediately adjacent to streams, to highly developed sites.

The area contains three alpine and one nordic ski areas. In all of the ski areas, the majority of the lifts and/or the ski trails are on National Forest land and under special use permit.

- The Sipapu Ski Area is located adjacent to State Highway 3 approximately five miles east of the junction with State Highway 75.
- Taos Ski Valley began in 1956 at the old mining location of Twining. Taos Ski Valley has become a nationally known ski area.

D. Management Area Prescriptions

- The Red River Ski Area is closely associated with the town of Red River. Since its start in 1958 the area has served a clientele coming largely from west Texas.
- Enchanted Forest Nordic is located just off NM38 near Bobcat Pass. It has over 30 kilometers of ski trails.

Summer homes on National Forest land have occurred by one of two methods:

- In the past the Carson granted term permits to private individuals for summer home construction. This practice was stopped in the 1950's.
- The Carson acquired lands through exchange that had existing commitments for summer homes.

The Camino Real Ranger District has two summer homes areas; Tres Ritos and La Junta. The La Junta summer homes are located on a bench overlooking La Junta Creek just above Upper La Junta Campground. There are nine developed sites within the area. The Tres Ritos unit is located near the junction of La Junta Canyon and Rio Pueblo on State Highway 3. Most of the buildings were built by the Santa Barbara Tie and Pole Company and were not required to be removed at the time the Government acquired the Santa Barbara Land Grant. There are nine permits issued within the unit.

The Questa Ranger District has twenty-two summer homes located in the Bitter Creek Summer Home Area. This area is a long established summer home group and is quite heavily used during the summer season. It is located approximately one quarter mile from the town of Red River on a gravel road.

An area immediately adjacent to the Angostura Campground, just off State Highway 3, is under permit to the South Plains Boy Scout Council.

CAMPGROUNDS, TRAILHEADS AND PICNIC AREAS¹

SITE NAME	TYPE	DISTRICT	El Nogal	PG/TH	Camino Real
Canjilon Creek	CC	Canjilon	Tierra Azul	PG	Camino Real
Canjilon Lakes	CG/PG	Canjilon	Rio Chiquito	CG	Camino Real
Trout Lakes	CG	Canjilon	US Hill Vista	Obs.	Camino Real
Echo Amphitheater	CG/PG	Canjilon	SITE NAME	TYPE	DISTRICT
Ghost Ranch			Trampas	TH	Camino Real
Living Museum	Interp	Canjilon	US Hill	TH	Camino Real
El Rito	CG	El Rito	Amole	TH	Camino Real
Buzzard Park	CG	Jicarilla	La Jara	TH	Camino Real
Cedar Springs	CG	Jicarilla	OK Canyon	TH	Camino Real
Gasbuggy	Interp	Jicarilla	Garcia Park	TH	Camino Real
Duran Canyon	CG	Camino Real	Comales	TH	Camino Real
Agua Piedra	CG	Camino Real	Tio Maes	TH	Camino Real
South Agua Piedra	CG/TH	Camino Real	Hopewell Lake	CG	Tres Piedras
Angostura	CG	Camino Real	Lagunitas	CG/TH	Tres Piedras
Hodges	CG	Camino Real	Rio de Los Pinos	CG	Tres Piedras
Upper La Junta	CG	Camino Real	Laguna Larga	CG	Tres Piedras
Comales	CG	Camino Real	Cruces Basin	TH	Tres Piedras
Santa Barbara	CG/TH	Camino Real	Elephant Rock	CG	Questa
Flechado	CG	Camino Real	Cabresto Lake	CG	Questa
Trampas Medio	CG	Camino Real	Columbine	CG/TH	Questa
Trampas Dramante	CG	Camino Real	Twining	CG/TH	Questa
Pot Creek Interpretive			Upper Cuchilla	CG	Questa
Resource Center	Interp	Camino Real	Lower Cuchilla	CG	Questa
La Sombra	CG	Camino Real	Lower Hondo	CG	Questa
Las Petacas	CG	Camino Real	Goat Hill	CG	Questa
Capulin	CG	Camino Real	Junebug	CG	Questa
La Vinateria	PG	Camino Real	Fawn Lakes	CG	Questa

D. Management Area Prescriptions

Cebolla Mesa	CG/TH	Questa	Manzanita	TH	Questa
Upper Red River	TH	Questa	Gavilan	TH	Questa
Italianos	TH	Questa	Cabresto	TH	Questa
Yerba	TH	Questa	Goose Lake	TH	Questa

CG = Campground; PG = Pinicground; TH = Trailhead; Interp = Intrepretive Site; Obs. = Observation Site.

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.

CONCESSIONAIRES... Continue concessionaire management of the Red River complex campgrounds.

EXISTING CAMPGROUNDS/PICNICGROUNDS...

- Rehabilitate campgrounds and picnic areas to correct public safety problems, replace sub-standard improvements and bring soil loss and vegetative damage to an acceptable level. Consideration will be given to retrofitting these sites to make some of the facilities "barrier free" to allow for use by the elderly, handicapped, and children.
- Develop 6 existing sites to meet fee criteria by adding water. These sites are Upper La Junta (D-4), Capulin (D-4), Hopewell Lake (D-6), Elephant Rock (D-7) Agua Piedra (D-4) and Junebug (D-7). All sites will be full service. Maintain facilities at condition Class 1.

GATEWAYS TO THE PAST...Develop the "Gateways to the Past" at the Ghost Ranch Living Museum and the Pot Creek Interpretive Resource Center..

GHOST RANCH LIVING MUSEUM...

- Operate Ghost Ranch Living Museum as an interpretive site and environmental education center for northern New Mexico.
- Expand the facilities. Add additional interpretive services. Reconstruct outdated facilities and improve living conditions for the animals.
- Provide access for the handicapped and elderly by implementing "barrier free" design in rehabilitation and new construction projects.
- Provide for user safety and annual maintenance of improvements.

HAZARD INSPECTIONS... Hazard inspections will be made on developed sites each spring. Serious hazards which hinder public safety will be corrected immediately. Other hazards will be corrected prior to opening the site to the public.

HOSTS... Provide a campground host where feasible at camping areas. Provide them with training, supervision and incidental expenses.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE... Operate fee campgrounds at full service and others at reduced service. Maintain all facilities at condition class I.

D. Management Area Prescriptions

PACK-IN, PACK-OUT... Apply Pack-in, Pack-out trash policy where feasible.

RECYCLE... Provide receptacles for recyclable materials where feasible.

ROADS...

- Maintain roads in full service developed recreation and visitor sites with a guideline of 4.7 miles at level 4.
- Maintain roads in reduced service sites with a guideline of 6.6 miles at level 3.

SKI AREAS...

- Administer the existing ski areas in accordance with the direction in the Master Development Plan for each area.
- Plan and monitor watershed treatments and conditions.
- Conduct administrative studies relating to watershed management.

SUMMER HOMES... Administer Bitter Creek, Tres Ritos and La Junta summer home areas per the terms of their permits.

TRAILHEADS... Provide trailhead parking areas for dispersed recreation users to meet the demand.

VEHICLE USE... Restrict vehicle use in developed sites to hardened areas through the use of signs, barriers and surfacing.

VISUAL QUALITY... Manage for the visual quality objective of retention or partial retention adjacent to developed sites. Use a definition of characteristic landscape which includes manmade features. Extend perimeter to five chains around developed recreation sites.