

San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Administrative Change 2

Administrative changes, as defined at 36 CFR 219.13(c), are not plan amendments or revisions, do not require the preparation of a document under Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, and may be made at any time following public notice (219.16(c)(6)). Administrative changes include the following:

- Corrections of clerical errors;
- Changes to ensure conformance with new statutory or regulatory requirements; and
- Changes to other content in the plan (219.7(f)).

Administrative Change 2

Research Natural Areas: As the San Juan National Forest has embarked on establishing Research Natural Areas identified in the 2013 San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), several errors and omissions have been identified in Section 3.12 (Research Natural Areas) and on associated maps. The following errors described below are being corrected through this administrative change:

1. Description: On page 203, in the second paragraph under Section 3.12, Research Natural Areas (RNA) are described as being “established” through the Forest Plan. This is incorrect as RNAs are only established upon final approval of an establishment record and designation order (Forest Service Manual 4000, Chapter 4060 – Research Facilities and Areas; see Section 4063.03). The RNAs proposed in the Forest Plan for establishment were analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Forest Plan.

Change: Page 203, second paragraph under Section 3.12, strike the word “established” in two instances and replace with the word “recommended.”

2. Description: On page 203, Table 3.12.1, the Needle Mountains area is listed as a new RNA. The Needle Mountains area was considered for RNA designation only under Alternative C in the EIS for the Forest Plan (see page 37 of the EIS); however, the Forest Plan is based on Alternative B, so the Needle Mountains area was erroneously included in the table. Another minor correction on this table is the heading for the first column which should read “RNA” and not “NA.”

Change: Page 203, Table 3.12.1, strike the header “NA” in first column and replace with “RNA”; strike the entire Needle Mountains row.

3. Description: On page 205, Figure 3.12, the proposed Piedra RNA is not shown. The boundary for the Grizzly Peak RNA is also in error; the western boundary overlaps with Forest Trail 638 for 931 feet. This is a mapping error that was created between the Draft

and Final Forest Plan when the boundary of the Grizzly Peak RNA was modified. The Draft boundary did not overlap with Forest Trail 638 and when the Final boundary was drawn it was meant to buffer along the trail so as to avoid conflicts with motorized use but was mistakenly buffered at approximately 50 meters along the East Fork of the Dolores River. The modified boundary will buffer along the trail at 50 feet and result in a two-acre decrease in the total acreage of the Grizzly Peak RNA as proposed in the Forest Plan.

Change: Page 205, Figure 3.12, add the Piedra RNA polygon to the map; revise the western boundary of Grizzly Peak RNA to buffer along Trail 638 where it comes within 50 feet of the trail.

4. Description: On page 18, Figure 2.1.1, the existing Narraguinnep and Williams RNAs are not shown.

Change: Page 18, Figure 2.1.1, add the Narraguinnep and Williams RNA polygons to the map.

Revised pages to the Forest Plan are attached below.

3.11.12 **Old Spanish National Historic Trail:** A literature search and/or Class III cultural resources survey should be conducted within 0.5 mile of either side of the centerline of the congressionally designated Old Spanish National Historic Trail in high potential segments, prior to authorization of ground-disturbing activities or activities that could substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trail.

Additional Guidance

- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan (USFS 2009c)
- USFS Decision Notice, Colorado Trail Management Direction and Route Selection EA, Region 2 (USFS 1998b)
- USFS Master Plan for the Colorado Trail (USFS 1998c)
- FSM 2300, Chapter 2353, National Scenic and Historic Trails (USFS 2009d)
- BLM Manual 6250, National Scenic and Historic Trail Administration (BLM 2012c)
- BLM Manual 6280, Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Trails and Trails under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation (BLM 2012d)
- Public Law 90-543, National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended 2002, (this amendment created the Old Spanish National Historic Trail)
- Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (National Park Service 2001)
- Calico Trail Establishment Report (USFS 1979)

3.12 Research Natural Areas (San Juan National Forest)

RNAs are national forest lands designated in perpetuity for non-manipulative research and education, and for the preservation of biodiversity. They are part of a long-term national network of ecological reserves managed to allow natural ecological processes to proceed with minimum human intervention. RNAs represent relatively natural, unaltered ecosystems that serve as reference areas to assess the consequences of management actions on similar lands.

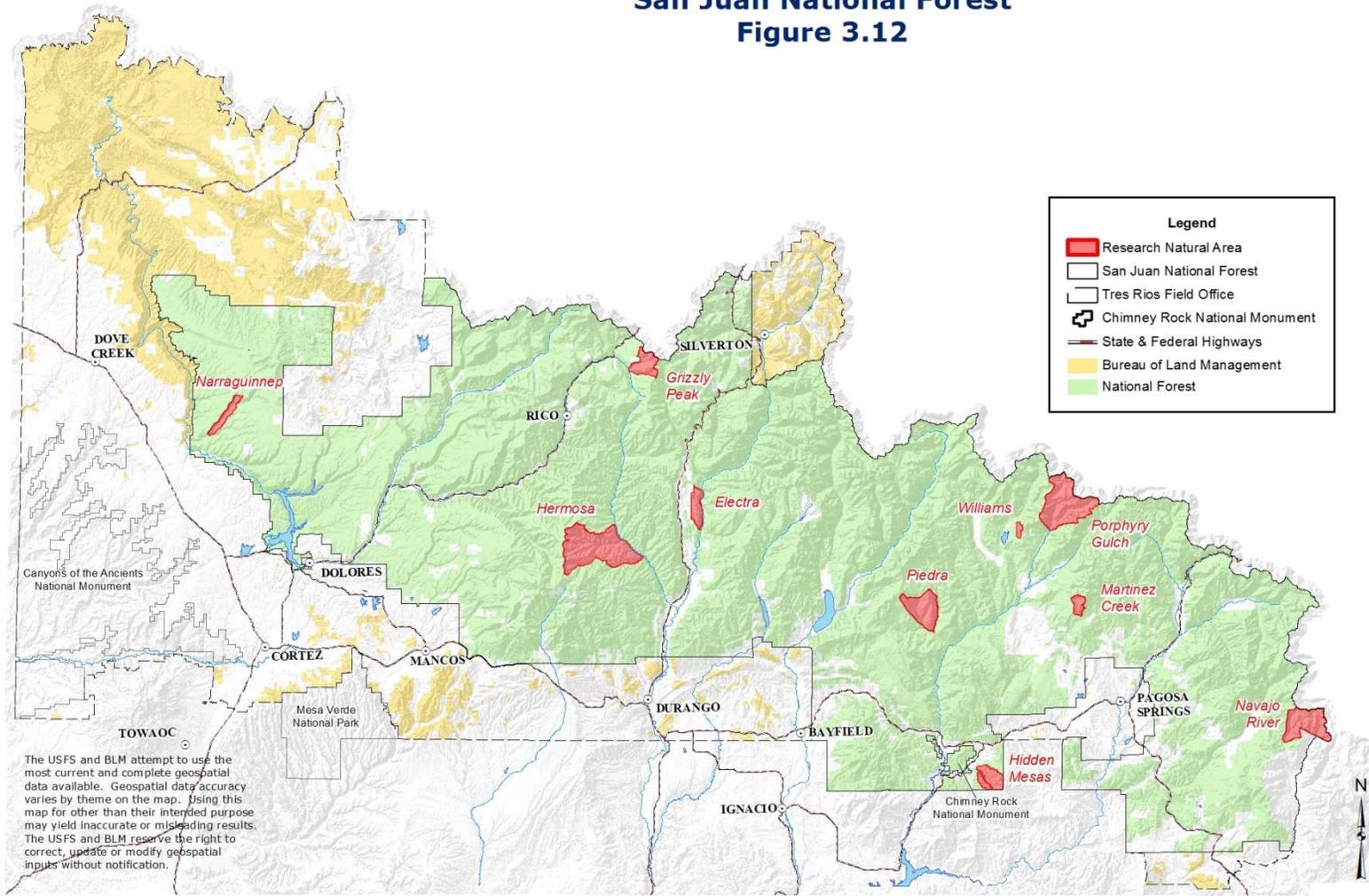
Desired conditions and objectives in the LRMP apply to RNAs in general. Specific desired conditions and objectives for individual RNAs recommended through the revised LRMP will be developed when the management plans for individual RNAs are developed. Table 3.12.1 lists existing RNAs and those that are recommended through this LRMP, as well as key features of each area. Figure 3.12 displays the location of the RNAs.

Table 3.12.1: Existing and New Research Natural Areas on San Juan National Forest Lands

RNA	Key Features
Narraguinnep*	Old growth ponderosa pine forests, canyon topography
Williams Creek*	White fir-dominated cool-moist mixed conifer forests
Electra	Glacial topography, old growth ponderosa pine forests
Grizzly Peak	Alpine, fens, willow carrs
Hermosa	Ponderosa pine forests, mixed conifer forests, aspen forests, spruce-fir forests, wetlands, Thurber fescue grasslands
Hidden Mesas	Old growth ponderosa pine forests, mesa topography
Martinez Creek	Old growth spruce-fir forests unburned for centuries
Navajo River	Thurber fescue grasslands, volcanic geology, Colorado cutthroat trout, riparian areas
Piedra	Old-growth mixed conifer forests
Porphyry Gulch	Alpine, spruce-fir forests, wetlands

* Existing RNA.

Research Natural Areas San Juan National Forest Figure 3.12



The USFS and BLM attempt to use the most current and complete geospatial data available. Geospatial data accuracy varies by theme on the map. Using this map for other than their intended purpose may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USFS and BLM reserve the right to correct, update or modify geospatial inputs without notification.

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NAD 83, Polyconic Projection
November 16, 2015 (Admin Change #2)

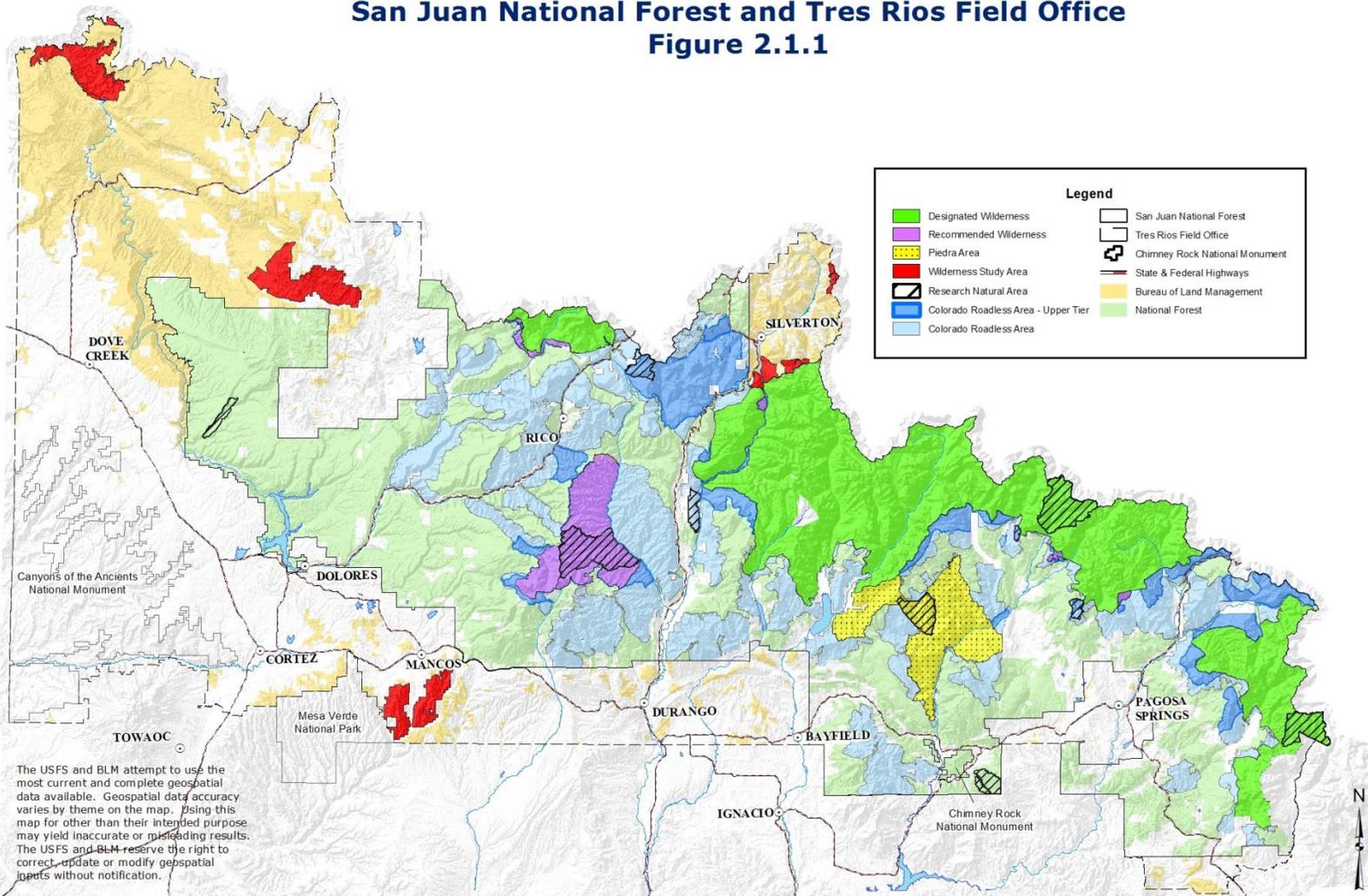


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Protected Areas

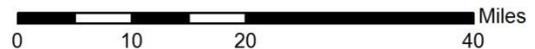
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Figure 2.1.1



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