Carson National Forest Service
Wilderness Process Step 1: Inventory
Preliminary Inventory Criteria

The first step in the Wilderness Process for Forest Plan revision is to take an inventory of lands that will be evaluated for wilderness recommendation later in the process. Taking an inventory requires that National Forest System lands on the Carson National Forest measure up to certain criteria. For the purpose of this exercise, inventory criteria fall into three broad categories. These are:

Size

Blocks of land must be 5,000 acres or larger to be included in the inventory. Smaller can be considered, but only with good justification.

Roads

Open roads per the forest's travel management decision are removed from the inventory.

Improvements

Improvements (built features such as structures, etc.) get to be a little tricky. Only those improvements that are not substantially noticeable in the area as a whole are included in the inventory. The Carson National Forest has defined substantially noticeable to mean that the improvements are visually apparent on aerial photographs at a scale of one inch to one mile. The list below includes improvements that would be substantially noticeable and would be removed from the inventory.

- Surfaced runways or landing pads with permanent structures.
- Clear cut forested areas (ex. Regeneration harvest areas, Unshaded fuelbreaks, and PJ chaining)
- Vertical structures over 20' tall that (1) require regular access for maintenance, (2) the associated ground disturbance is 1 acre or greater, and (3) occur in a complex with a density of 3 or more per 500 acres (remove entire complex-affected area).
- Water developments with windmills that are over 20 feet tall, that (1) have associated ground disturbance of 1 acre or greater, and (2) occur in a complex with a density of 3 or more per 500 acres (remove entire complex-affected area).
- Gas extraction wells that occur in a complex with a density of 3 or more per 500 acres (remove entire complex-affected area).
- Areas of active commercial open pit mining or open pit mines.
- Developed recreation sites (for example ski areas, campgrounds, or interpretive sites) as defined by management areas or special use permit boundaries.
- Powerlines or other utilities with cleared rights-of-way, permanent above ground pipelines over 6" in diameter.
- Railroad tracks that are active.
- Functional non-earthen dams that require maintenance, post-fire flooding control improvements (i.e., filter dams made of non-natural materials), and terraced areas.
- Complex of permanent building structures (remove entire complex-affected area). A complex is defined as at least three buildings per 25 acres.

(over please)

We want to know what you think

Please let us know what you think of the criteria. Specifically:

1. Is this the right list of criteria?
    a. Are there additional improvements that should be included?
    b. Should some of these improvements be removed from the list of criteria?
2. Is there another way you would like to see us apply this list of criteria?

We would like to have your feedback on the criteria by **Jan 22, 2016** so that we can complete the final criteria and create an inventory map (which will be available for public comment in the near future). Please submit your comments at any of the public meetings, via e-mail (carsonplan@fs.fed.us), or U.S. mail.

CARSON NATIONAL FOREST -- FOREST PLAN REVISION

Questions, Comments, Input?

Contact us:
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For information and updates on our forest plan revision process visit our website at:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/carsonforestplan