

CHAPTER 9. HERITAGE RESOURCES

Background

Heritage resources are non-renewable resources that include historic and prehistoric artifacts, structures, photographs, and other archival materials important for their scientific value. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act directs the Forest Service to take into account affects of their undertakings (management activities) on cultural resources. Section 110 directs the Forest Service to protect and stabilize cultural sites and to provide them to the public for their benefit and enjoyment.

The heritage resources of the GMUG are generally in stable but declining condition. There is a trend toward providing opportunities for greater public participation in heritage sites to instill a sense of ownership and protective demeanor toward historic and prehistoric artifacts.

A hierarchy of management priorities for heritage resources exists on the GMUG. Each grouping is a subset of the previous category. This step down approach helps to focus the management of heritage sites on those that are most vulnerable to deterioration and most desirable for public enjoyment.

Hierarchy for heritage resources is described as:

- a. All cultural properties on the Forest – includes any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object, artifact, record, and remains related to and located within such properties.
- b. Eligible sites – sites with specific qualities that qualify the site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- c. Key Heritage Assets – sites in good to excellent physical condition or have a need for protection or preservation of significant cultural values. These sites are the Forest’s highest priority for active management and maintenance.
- d. Special Heritage Places – assets that are highly visible, highly accessible, and highly desirable to the public. These sites are generally managed for public benefit and enjoyment.

The following sites are managed as Special Heritage Places:

- a. Alpine Tunnel Historic District
- b. Pie Plant Townsite
- c. Galloping Goose Historic Railroad Corridor
- d. Carson Townsite
- e. San Juan Mining Area (Figure 1)

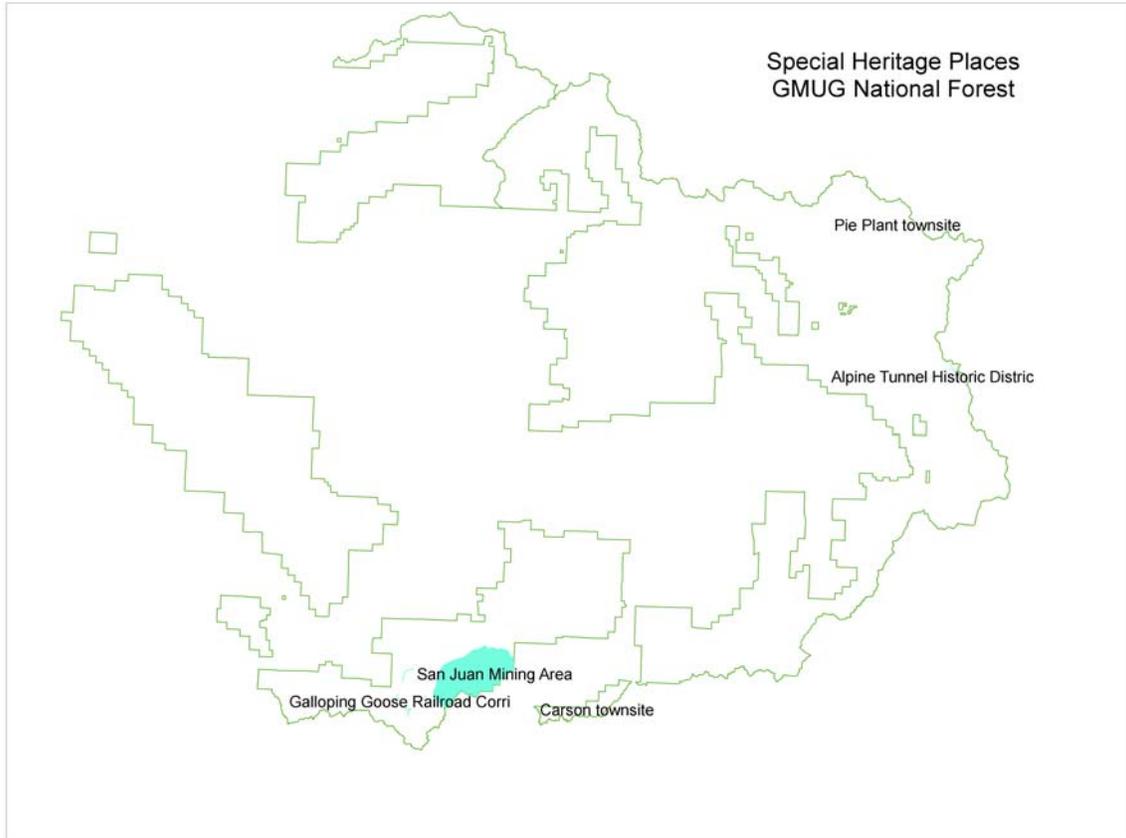


Figure 1. Special Heritage Places