

Chapter 3. Management Areas & Designated Areas

This chapter of the plan contains direction for management areas that have specific management direction that differs from the general forest. In some cases, there may appear to be a conflict between direction presented at larger and finer scales. If there is an apparent conflict, the direction at the finer scale takes precedence. There are two types of management areas:

Management Areas (MAs) are delineated to provide plan direction for areas to meet specific management needs. They have a corresponding common set of plan components that differ from the general forest. Some management areas apply to more than one area on the Cibola NF such as [TBD by final Forest Plan decision]. Other areas, such as [TBD by final Forest Plan decision] are geographically specific. Management areas will be determined in the final Forest Plan decision, and the proposed, preliminary management areas by alternatives are available in Appendix D.

Designated Areas is an area or feature identified and managed to maintain its unique special character or purpose. These areas may be designated administratively or by Congress. Examples of administratively designated areas are experimental forests, research natural areas, scenic byways, botanical areas, recommended wilderness areas, and significant caves. Examples of congressionally designated areas are national heritage areas, national recreational areas, national scenic trails, wild and scenic rivers, and designated wilderness areas. Areas designated by Congress (or by the Secretary of Interior) are withdrawn from the operation of the U.S. Mining Laws, subject to valid existing rights.

This chapter contains plan direction for existing designated areas, and plan direction for proposed management areas [TBD by final Forest Plan decision] are currently available in Appendix D.

Management Areas

This represents a placeholder for content that has not yet been developed. This section will contain descriptions of management areas and the specific management direction that applies to those areas.

Designated Areas

Background and Description: General

Current types of designated areas on the four mountain districts include wilderness, research natural areas, inventoried roadless areas, national historic landmarks, critical habitat for federally threatened and endangered species, State or nationally designated scenic byways, eligible wild and scenic rivers, recommended wilderness areas, and national scenic trails.

Desired Conditions for all Designated Areas

Designated areas on the Cibola National Forest are managed to maintain the unique special character or purpose for which they were designated, including wilderness areas; research natural areas; eligible wild and scenic rivers; national historic, scenic, and recreation trails; inventoried roadless areas, critical habitats, and scenic byways.

1 **Designated Wilderness**

2 **Background and Description**

3 The Cibola National Forest manages four designated wilderness areas; the Sandia Mountain
4 Wilderness (37,877 National Forest acres), Apache Kid Wilderness (44,626 National Forest acres),
5 Withington Wilderness (19,000 National Forest acres), and Manzano Mountain Wilderness (36,875
6 National Forest acres). Designated wilderness provides places where natural processes dominate and
7 the impacts of humans are minimized. Congress preserved these places to pass on to future
8 generations. Wilderness provides large areas for the study of nature and unique scientific and
9 educational opportunities.

10 **Sandia Mountain Wilderness, Sandia Ranger District.** Congress designated Sandia Mountain
11 Wilderness under the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 (16 USC §1132). The area lies
12 primarily on the western slope of the Sandia Mountains, but it crosses over the crest to the eastern
13 side of the mountain at the north and south ends. Spruce and fir dominate the high country, with
14 stands of mixed conifers just below.

15 Many raptors migrate through these mountains in spring and fall. Mule deer and black bear inhabit
16 the area. A major recreation feature, the Crest Trail, runs along the main ridge of the Sandia
17 Mountains for 26.54 miles, at an elevation averaging 10,000 feet. There are 117 miles of trails in
18 varied condition. The wilderness can be accessed from a number of trailheads on the west side from
19 Cibola National Forest lands and City of Albuquerque Open Space land, as well as the crest near the
20 tram, or the Sandia Crest Scenic and Historic Byway on the east side.

21 Management emphasis is to provide quality wilderness experience opportunities, including heavy
22 day use, through maintenance of wilderness character and values. Dispersed recreation managed
23 within established capacities and compatible with the needs of important wildlife species is the key
24 objective. Livestock grazing is not permitted.

25 **Apache Kid Wilderness, Magdalena Ranger District.** Congress, under the New Mexico
26 Wilderness Act, designated the Apache Kid Wilderness in 1980. The wilderness is named for the
27 Apache Kid, an Apache Indian scout employed by the U.S. Army who was a legendary outlaw of the
28 late 19th century in this area. His gravesite is located and marked in San Mateo Canyon.

29 This is a remote wilderness where visitors can experience a high degree of solitude. However, there
30 are number of trailheads that provide access to the wilderness from all sides. The trailheads are
31 accessible by forest roads outside the wilderness boundary. There is a developed campground,
32 Springtime, to the south in Nogal Canyon. Narrow, steep canyons bisect the peaks of the southern
33 San Mateo Mountains where elevations exceed 10,000 feet. The vegetation is typical of the region,
34 with pinyon-juniper woodland at lower elevations; spruce, fir and aspen at higher elevations; and
35 ponderosa pine in between.

36 Human visitors are few, but wildlife is abundant here including Coue's white-tailed deer, mule deer,
37 elk, black bear, bobcat, cougar, antelope, javelina, coyote, rabbit, squirrel, and quail. There are 68
38 miles of maintained and unmaintained trails. The Crest Trail, which leads to the Apache Kid's
39 gravesite, follows about 13 miles of mountain crest. Water is limited to less than a dozen semi-
40 dependable springs, most of which dry up in summer.

41 **Withington Wilderness, Magdalena Ranger District.** Congress designated Withington Wilderness
42 under the New Mexico Wilderness Act in 1980. This wilderness is located in the northern extreme of
43 the San Mateo Mountains and almost entirely on the eastern slopes. Elevations range from 6,800 feet

1 to 10,100 feet atop Mount Withington, which marks the center of the western boundary. Mixed
2 conifers grow in the shady bottoms of steep-walled canyons here, giving way to a woodland of
3 pinyon and juniper as the ground becomes more open and drier and the vistas stretch eastward
4 toward the Rio Grande. In the lowest land near the eastern boundary, there are small stands of
5 ocotillo.

6 Many of the Withington trails are seldom used, and promise solitude for the adventurous. Winters
7 bring snow, and summers are often hot and dry. During the desert monsoon season (July and
8 August), rainwater may flood the narrow canyons, but most of the year there is no water. The
9 wilderness is accessible from trailheads located along the west, south, and east sides. Beartrap and
10 Hughes Mill Campgrounds provide developed camping facilities on the west side in Bear Trap
11 Canyon.

12 **Manzano Mountain Wilderness, Mountainair Ranger District.** Congress designated the Manzano
13 Mountain Wilderness under the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 (16 USC § 1132). In
14 the early 1700s, explorers visiting a small village on the eastern edge of these mountains discovered
15 very old manzanos (apple trees), hence the area's name. Spread out across the western slope of the
16 Manzano Mountain range, this wilderness varies in elevation from about 6,000 feet to 10,098 feet
17 atop Manzano Peak. Pinyon and juniper grow at lower elevations, gradually submitting to ponderosa
18 pine and then spruce, fir, and aspen higher up. This is mostly steep and rugged terrain, cut with
19 canyons and marked with outcroppings of rock.

20 Thousands of raptors migrate along the Manzano Mountains in spring and fall as they work their
21 way between Canada and Mexico. More than 64 miles of a well-developed trail system provide
22 access to the wilderness. The wilderness can be accessed from numerous trailheads along the
23 wilderness boundary, and there are six developed campgrounds on Mountainair District near the east
24 side of the wilderness.

25 **Desired Conditions**

- 26 ■ Wilderness provides opportunities in accordance with the Wilderness Act. Social encounters are
27 infrequent and occur only with individuals or small groups in order to provide opportunities for
28 solitude and primitive, unconfined recreation. Self-reliance is required.
- 29 ■ Wilderness represents an environment that is essentially an unmodified and natural landscape.
30 Constructed features are rare and provided primarily for resource protection. When present, they
31 reflect the historic and cultural landscape and utilize natural or complementary materials.
- 32 ■ Natural processes are maintained within wilderness. Fires function in their natural ecological
33 role. Wilderness areas have minimal to no nonnative invasive species.
- 34 ■ Wilderness character and values are enhanced and maintained.

35 **Standards**

- 36 ■ In wilderness, group size limit shall be 15 persons and livestock (combined) per group, except as
37 determined under special use permit, formal agreements (such as when participating or
38 volunteering), and management activities for maintaining wilderness character.
- 39 ■ Outfitter-guide operating plans in wilderness shall include appropriate wilderness practices, such
40 as Leave No Trace principles, and incorporate awareness for wilderness values in their
41 interaction with clients and others.

- 1 ■ Human-caused disturbed areas (for example, compacted sites) in wilderness that do not
2 complement wilderness characteristics shall be rehabilitated to a natural appearance using
3 species or other materials native to the area.
- 4 ■ Research conducted in wilderness shall not have adverse effects to wilderness character.

5 Guidelines

- 6 ■ Wilderness character should be maintained or improved in wilderness. This includes
7 untrammeled, natural, and undeveloped qualities, as well as opportunities for solitude or
8 primitive and unconfined recreation.
- 9 ■ Fire operations within wilderness areas should not compromise wilderness character.
- 10 ■ Management activities should be consistent with the scenic integrity objective of “very high” in
11 designated wilderness.
- 12 ■ The most current version of the minimum requirements decision guide should be utilized when
13 considering new activities and instances authorizing non-conforming uses in wilderness.
- 14 ■ Nonnative, invasive species should be treated in a manner consistent with wilderness character in
15 order to allow natural processes to predominate in wilderness.
- 16 ■ Nonnative species should not be introduced into any wilderness area.
- 17 ■ Human controls should not be applied to native insect and disease life cycles in order to maintain
18 wilderness character.
- 19 ■ Trail designation and/or construction should be considered if the purpose is enhancement of the
20 wilderness character (such as to control overuse or limit resource degradation) in wilderness.
- 21 ■ Trails should be designed and maintained in a sustainable manner to minimize impacts on
22 wilderness, including trails leading into wilderness.
- 23 ■ Firelines and spike camps (a remote camp usually near a fireline) should not be constructed
24 adjacent to trails or camp areas in wilderness to protect wilderness values.
- 25 ■ Signage in wilderness should be limited to those essential for resource protection and user safety,
26 to retain the wilderness character of self-reliance and challenging recreation.
- 27 ■ Commercial activity should not be permitted in wilderness areas, unless the activity is wilderness
28 dependent and the activity cannot be conducted or replicated outside of wilderness. This would
29 include activities by organizational groups and/or training classes.

30 Management Approaches

- 31 ■ Wilderness management is guided by the elements outlined in the Forest Service Wilderness
32 Stewardship Performance Guidebook, or most recent comparable document.
- 33 ■ Complete and implement wilderness management plans, wilderness use capacity studies, and
34 comprehensive vegetation inventories for each designated wilderness.
- 35 ■ Consider adaptive management and corrective measures if overuse causes unacceptable resource
36 damage. Overuse can be determined from limits of acceptable change studies, other resource
37 analyses, wilderness management plans, or professional judgment.
- 38 ■ Wilderness boundaries are clearly identified through signage at official entry points and needed
39 locations (such as informal access points), with trail maps, and boundary markers, and signage is
40 consistent.

- 1 ■ The Congressional Grazing Guidelines (Forest Service Manual 2320–Wilderness Management,
2 section 2323.22–exhibit 01) are used to manage livestock grazing in wilderness areas.
- 3 ■ Evaluate trails for their need and impact on wilderness character to support decisions to
4 decommission unused trails or realign/reconstruct needed trails.
- 5 ■ Priorities for trail reconstruction are based on potential for impacts to wilderness character and
6 recreation opportunities, and the trails which receive the greatest use.
- 7 ■ Consult a wilderness resource advisor or wilderness specialist during all fires that enter or start
8 within wilderness areas, and for any fires with the potential to enter wilderness areas or affect the
9 character of an adjacent wilderness area.
- 10 ■ Work with local partners to maintain wilderness, including trails maintenance and construction.
- 11 ■ Partner with other Federal agencies to ensure management is as consistent as possible for
12 contiguous wilderness areas.
- 13 ■ Utilize education and trail design to discourage bicycle use in wilderness.
- 14 ■ Regularly publish up-to-date trail maps for all wildernesses, in a variety of formats, including
15 digital.
- 16 ■ Consider providing regular wilderness ranger patrol in wilderness areas to the degree necessary
17 to meet the levels of acceptable change or other appropriate standards for each area. If funding is
18 limited, use volunteers or seasonal workers employees to accomplish as much of this work as
19 possible.
- 20 ■ Coordinate law enforcement activities with wilderness managers to ensure that any evidence of
21 illegal activities is removed.
- 22 ■ Coordinate with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on management of native
23 species within wilderness to maintain wilderness character during project implementation.

24 **Recommended Wilderness**

25 **Background and Description**

26 Recommended wilderness lands are lands that have the potential to become designated as official
27 wilderness through legislation. The Forest Service only recommends these lands to the United States
28 Congress for consideration. Congress, and ultimately the President, must establish legislation to
29 officially designate wilderness areas.

30 **Desired Conditions**

- 31 ■ Recommended wilderness areas are managed to protect and enhance the wilderness character
32 that exists at the time of recommendation.

33 **Standards**

- 34 ■ For permitted livestock grazing activities in recommended wilderness areas, annual operation
35 instructions shall be updated to reflect any motorized or mechanized use which may be required
36 to administer terms and conditions under the term grazing permit (such as repair or
37 reconstruction of fences, water developments) that may have been approved under exceptions
38 outlined in Forest Service Manual 2320–Wilderness Management, section 2323.22.
- 39 ■ When motorized use associated with grazing allotments is authorized, it shall be limited to that
40 needed to carry out management activities of practical necessity and reasonableness, following

1 the rationale of Forest Service Manual 2320–Wilderness Management, section 2323.2, and shall
2 not degrade the wilderness character of the area.

3 Guidelines

- 4 ■ Activities in recommended wilderness areas should maintain or improve the wilderness character
5 until such time as Congress acts on the recommended area, either making it designated
6 wilderness or releasing it for other management.
- 7 ■ Recommended wilderness areas should be managed to preserve or enhance a very high scenic
8 integrity objective.
- 9 ■ Recommended wilderness areas should be managed for primitive recreation opportunity
10 spectrum classes.
- 11 ■ Minimum tool requirements should be considered for all instances authorizing non-conforming
12 uses (including administrative actions) in recommended wilderness areas.
- 13 ■ Improvements or facilities should not be constructed or provided, except to provide resource
14 protection and to maintain existing wilderness characteristics in recommended wilderness areas.
- 15 ■ In recommended wilderness areas, existing structures should be maintained, but not expanded, to
16 protect the area’s wilderness character. Maintenance of existing structures should be carried out
17 in a manner that does not expand the evidence of motor vehicle and mechanized equipment use
18 beyond current conditions within the recommended wilderness area.
- 19 ■ In recommended wilderness areas, new trails should only be designed for activities that normally
20 would be allowed in wilderness. Existing trails designed for other uses (such as bicycling or
21 motor vehicle use) should be rehabilitated to meet more appropriate trail standards for
22 recommended wilderness areas.
- 23 ■ Nonnative, invasive species should be treated within recommended wilderness areas in order to
24 allow natural processes to dominate and to maintain wilderness characteristics.
- 25 ■ Competitive events should not be permitted in recommended wilderness areas to maintain
26 wilderness characteristics of solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.
- 27 ■ Timber harvest should not be permitted in recommended wilderness areas.
- 28 ■ Gathering of forest products for sale should not be permitted in recommended wilderness areas.
- 29 ■ Mechanized or motorized trails should not be designated in recommended wilderness areas.
- 30 ■ New roads should not be constructed in recommended wilderness areas.
- 31 ■ Only non-motorized recreation should be authorized or permitted in recommended wilderness.
- 32 ■ Prescribed fire should be considered to reduce the risks and consequences of uncharacteristic
33 wildfire if necessary to meet fire management objectives in recommended wilderness areas.
34 Naturally occurring fires should be allowed to perform, as much as possible, their natural
35 ecological role.
- 36 ■ Fire camps, helispots, and other temporary facilities should be located outside the recommended
37 wilderness to protect wilderness character within the recommended wilderness area.

1 Management Approaches

- 2 ■ Use the minimum requirement analysis as a framework to evaluate the potential effects of
3 projects on wilderness character within the recommended wilderness area and to develop
4 alternatives for projects within recommended wilderness.
- 5 ■ Develop and implement management plans for any newly designated wilderness areas if
6 designation occurs.

7 Inventoried Roadless Areas

8 Background and Description

9 The Cibola National Forest manages five inventoried roadless areas on the Mount Taylor District and
10 eight inventoried roadless areas on the Magdalena Ranger District. Inventoried roadless areas
11 provide clean drinking water and function as biological strongholds for populations of threatened and
12 endangered species. They provide large, relatively undisturbed landscapes with high scenic quality
13 that are important to biological diversity important to wildlife habitat and the long-term survival of
14 many at-risk species. Inventoried roadless areas provide opportunities for dispersed outdoor
15 recreation, opportunities that diminish as open space and natural settings are developed elsewhere.
16 They also serve as buffers against the spread of nonnative invasive plant species and provide
17 reference areas for study and research.

18 The Chief of the Forest Service reviews all projects involving road construction or reconstruction
19 and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in inventoried roadless areas, with the exception of the
20 following activities, which are reviewed by the regional forester:

21 Any necessary timber cutting or removal or any road construction or road reconstruction in
22 emergency situations involving wildfire suppression, search and rescue operations, or other
23 imminent threats to public health and safety in inventoried roadless areas.

24 Timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas incidental to the implementation of
25 an existing special use authorization. Road construction or road reconstruction is not authorized
26 through this re-delegation without further project-specific review.

27 The cutting, sale, or removal of generally small-diameter timber when needed for one of the
28 following purposes:

29 To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat;

30 To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to
31 reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects within the range of variability that would
32 be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period; or

33 For the administrative and personal use, as provided for in 36 CFR 223, where personal use
34 includes activities such as Christmas tree and firewood cutting and where administrative use
35 includes providing materials for activities such as construction of trails, footbridges, and
36 fences.

37 Desired Conditions

- 38 ■ The roadless character of inventoried roadless areas is protected and conserved.

1 **Standards**

- 2 ■ A road shall not be constructed or reconstructed in inventoried roadless areas unless the
3 responsible official determines that a road is needed according to the circumstances allowed for
4 in the Roadless Rule, section 294.12. Review authorities shall be followed.
- 5 ■ Timber shall not be cut, sold, or removed in inventoried roadless areas, unless the responsible
6 official determines that activities meet the circumstances provided in the Roadless Rule, section
7 294.13. Review authorities shall be followed.
- 8 ■ Also see the “Vegetation” and “Roads” sections of this Plan for standards related to inventoried
9 roadless areas.

10 **Guidelines**

- 11 ■ Activities should maintain or improve the roadless character of the inventoried roadless area.
- 12 ■ Inventoried roadless areas should be managed for “semi-primitive non-motorized” and “semi-
13 primitive motorized” recreation settings.
- 14 ■ Management activities should be consistent with the scenic integrity objective of “high” in
15 inventoried roadless areas.

16 **Management Approach**

- 17 ■ Prioritize Forestwide decommissioned road targets within inventoried roadless areas to maintain
18 roadless character where possible.

19 **Research Natural Areas**

20 **Background and Description**

21 Research natural areas are administratively designated by the regional forester, and managed to
22 maintain the natural features for which they were established. Because of the emphasis on natural
23 conditions, they are excellent areas for studying ecosystems or their component parts and for
24 monitoring succession and other long-term ecological change. The Cibola National Forest manages
25 one research natural area on the Sandia Ranger District, the Bernalillo Watershed. The Bernalillo
26 Watershed Research Natural Area was ultimately designated for its grassland ecosystem natural
27 features and comprises 299 acres of juniper grassland and 731 acres of semi-desert grassland.

28 **Desired Conditions**

- 29 ■ Visitor access, use, and management activities maintain the natural features of the research
30 natural area.

31 **Standards**

- 32 ■ Salable minerals extraction shall not be allowed in research natural areas.
- 33 ■ Removal of special forest products for commercial purposes and personal use (including
34 firewood) shall not be permitted or authorized in the research natural area, unless it helps meet
35 the research natural area desired conditions.
- 36 ■ To minimize impacts to ecological values, recreational activities (other than use on designated
37 trails) including special-use permits shall not be authorized or permitted in research natural
38 areas.
- 39 ■ Campfires shall not be authorized or permitted in the research natural area.

1 Guidelines

- 2 ■ Management activities should be consistent with the scenic integrity objective of the research
3 natural area.
- 4 ■ Management measures and controls should be used (such as fencing and controls to prohibit
5 cross-country travel) to protect unique features of the research natural area.
- 6 ■ Research special-use authorizations should limit harm to sensitive resources, unique features,
7 and species within the research natural area.
- 8 ■ Vegetation manipulation should be allowed only when necessary to achieve or maintain the
9 ecological conditions for which the area is being studied in research natural areas.
- 10 ■ Unplanned fires should be extinguished as soon as possible if they pose a danger to the research
11 natural area, using means that would cause minimal damage to the area (FSM 4063.41). Natural
12 fires should be allowed to burn only within a prescription designed to accomplish objectives of
13 the specific natural area (FSM 4063.2).
- 14 ■ Mineral withdrawal on the Bernalillo Watershed should be maintained. Mineral leasing may be
15 permitted in the research natural area, but surface occupancy should be excluded.
- 16 ■ Withdrawal of research natural areas from mineral entry should be proposed, but not from
17 mineral leasing.

18 Management Approaches

- 19 ■ Encourage partnerships with site stewards to provide onsite interpretation and monitoring for the
20 research natural area.
- 21 ■ Include signage educating the public about the research natural area purpose, its boundary, and
22 permitted and prohibited activities.
- 23 ■ Advise appropriate agencies and universities of scientific opportunities of research natural areas
24 on the Cibola National Forest.

25 Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

26 Background and Description

27 There are no designated wild, scenic, or recreational rivers on the Cibola National Forest. In 2016,
28 all rivers on the Forest were evaluated to determine their eligibility as wild or scenic rivers. This
29 evaluation resulted in seven eligible wild and scenic rivers on the Forest. Each river found to be
30 eligible was assigned a preliminary classification, based on the condition and development level in
31 and around the river at the time it is deemed eligible. The outstandingly remarkable values and
32 preliminary classifications for the seven eligible wild and scenic rivers on the Cibola National Forest
33 are as follows:

34 **Agua Remora, Mount Taylor Ranger District:** Eligible for fish population outstandingly
35 remarkable values, “wild” and “scenic” classification.

36 **Little Water Canyon, Mount Taylor Ranger District:** Eligible for botanical outstandingly
37 remarkable values, “wild” and “scenic” classification.

38 **Water Canyon #1, Mount Taylor Ranger District:** Eligible for geology and scenery
39 outstandingly remarkable values, “wild” classification.

1 **Rinconada, Mount Taylor Ranger District:** Eligible for wildlife population and habitat
2 outstandingly remarkable values, “wild” and “scenic” classification.

3 **West Red Canyon, Magdalena Ranger District:** Eligible for historic and cultural outstandingly
4 remarkable values, “recreational” classification.

5 **Tajique Canyon, Mountainair Ranger District:** Eligible for botanical, scenery, and recreation
6 outstandingly remarkable values, “recreational” classification.

7 **Las Huertas Creek, Sandia Ranger District:** Eligible for historic and cultural and scenery
8 outstandingly remarkable values, “recreational” classification.

9 Desired Conditions

- 10 ■ Eligible wild and scenic rivers are managed to protect or enhance existing outstanding
11 remarkable values and classifications until designated or released from consideration.

12 Standards

- 13 ■ The classification and outstandingly remarkable values for eligible wild and scenic rivers shall
14 be maintained when implementing projects.
- 15 ■ Activities in eligible wild and scenic river corridors shall comply with interim protective
16 measures outlined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, 84.3, or most current version.
- 17 ■ In eligible rivers with “wild” classifications, cutting of trees and other vegetation shall not be
18 allowed except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect
19 users (including hazard tree removal or trail maintenance), or to protect identified outstandingly
20 remarkable values.
- 21 ■ Existing or new mining activity in eligible wild and scenic rivers must be conducted in a manner
22 that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment.
- 23 ■ When management activities are proposed that may compromise the outstandingly remarkable
24 values, potential classification, or free-flowing character of an eligible wild and scenic river
25 segment, a suitability study shall be completed for that eligible river segment prior to initiating
26 activities.
- 27 ■ Rivers found unsuitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System shall be
28 released from further consideration and restrictions of this section.

29 Guidelines

- 30 ■ In eligible wild and scenic rivers classified as “recreational” or “scenic,” timber harvest should
31 be allowed to maintain or restore the values for which the eligible river was identified.
- 32 ■ Management activities should be consistent with the scenic integrity objective of “very high” in
33 eligible wild and scenic rivers classified as “wild,” “high” in eligible rivers classified as
34 “scenic,” and “moderate to high” in eligible rivers classified as “recreational.”
- 35 ■ Management activities should be consistent with the recreation opportunity spectrum class of
36 “semi-primitive non-motorized” in eligible wild and scenic rivers classified as “wild,” “semi-
37 primitive non-motorized” to “semi-primitive motorized” in eligible rivers classified as “scenic,”
38 and “semi-primitive” to “roaded natural” in eligible rivers classified as “recreational.”

1 Management Approaches

- 2 ■ Where eligible wild and scenic rivers corridors occur within other management areas, the most
3 restrictive management direction applies.
- 4 ■ Opportunities for enhancing outstandingly remarkable values may be considered in all project
5 management activities within an eligible wild and scenic river corridor.

6 National Scenic and Historic Trails

7 Background and Description

8 The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) is a quiet, continuous, mountain path that
9 traverses 3,100 miles along the spine of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Canada. The
10 Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is the highest and most rugged national scenic trail,
11 reaching the 14,270-foot summit of Grays Peak in Colorado, and connecting the Chihuahuan Desert
12 of New Mexico to majestic coniferous forests, remote valleys, and wild, snow-capped mountains and
13 glaciers. It is one of the most spectacular and rugged trails in the United States.

14 Motorized vehicle use by the general public is prohibited on the CDNST, unless such use is
15 consistent with the applicable policy set forth in the comprehensive plan. In general, established
16 motorized uses, both summer and winter, are allowed to continue, but new motorized uses will not
17 be designated on the Trail.

18 Desired Conditions

- 19 ■ The location, setting, and management of the CDNST comply with the Continental Divide
20 National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan and other Forest Service policies for national scenic
21 and recreation trails.
- 22 ■ Viewsheds from the CDNST are consistent with desired conditions for scenery, and have “high”
23 scenic values. The foreground of the trail (up to 0.5 mile on either side) of the trail is natural-
24 appearing, and generally appears unaltered by human activities.
- 25 ■ The CDNST is managed to provide high-quality scenic, primitive hiking, and pack and saddle
26 stock opportunities and to conserve natural, historic, and cultural resources along the Trail
27 corridor. Other activities and opportunities are allowed when compatible with the nature and
28 purposes of the CDNST.
- 29 ■ Visitors are aware of the CDNST corridor and the nature and purposes of the Trail designation.

30 Guidelines

- 31 ■ Management projects and activities within the CDNST corridor should be compatible with the
32 original intent for the Trail’s national designation.
- 33 ■ To retain the character for which the Trail was designated, management actions, including
34 special use authorizations, should be consistent with the recreation opportunity spectrum classes
35 of the CDNST.
- 36 ■ To maintain and protect scenic qualities of the CDNST, management activities planned and
37 implemented within the foreground of the trail (up to 0.5 mile on either side) should be
38 consistent with the scenic integrity objective of “high” to “very high.”
- 39 ■ If forest health projects result in impacts to the scenic integrity objectives of the CDNST,
40 mitigation measures should be included, such as screening, feathering, and other scenery

- 1 management techniques to meet the scenic integrity objectives within and adjacent to the trail
2 corridor (at minimum, up to 0.5 mile on either side of the Trail).
- 3 ■ Hauling, skidding along, or using the CDNST for landings or temporary roads should not be
4 permitted in order to preserve the nature and purposes of the Trail.
 - 5 ■ Heavy equipment line construction within the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor
6 should not be allowed unless necessary for emergency protection of property and safety.
 - 7 ■ To maintain the outstanding features of the CDNST and be compatible with the surrounding
8 environment, all facilities should blend in with the surrounding environment.
 - 9 ■ Special-use authorizations for new communication sites, utility corridors, and renewable energy
10 sites should not be allowed in the CDNST corridor foreground (up to 0.5 mile) and
11 middleground viewshed (up to 4 miles) to protect the Trail's scenic values.
 - 12 ■ Linear utilities and rights-of-way in the CDNST corridor should be limited to a single crossing
13 unless additional crossings are documented as the only prudent and feasible alternative.
 - 14 ■ New road or motorized trail construction across or adjacent to the CDNST should be avoided
15 unless needed for resource protection or protect public health and safety.
 - 16 ■ Unplanned fires in the foreground (up to 0.5 mile) of the CDNST should be managed using
17 minimum impact suppression tactics, or other tactics appropriate for the protection of values and
18 resources for which the trail was designated.
 - 19 ■ Competitive events and other special uses should only be allowed if compatible with the nature
20 and purposes of the CDNST.
 - 21 ■ In the CDNST corridor, the minimum trail facilities necessary should be provided to protect
22 resource values and for health and safety, not for the purpose of promoting user comfort.

23 Management Approaches

- 24 ■ Provide consistent signage along the CDNST corridor at road crossings to adequately identify
25 the trail and include interpretation at trailheads.
- 26 ■ Use side and connecting trails to access points of interest or supply points away from the main
27 trail.
- 28 ■ The Cibola National Forest works with the volunteer groups, partners, local governments, and
29 adjacent landowners to maintain CDNST corridors, the condition and character of the
30 surrounding landscape, and to facilitate trail user support that promotes Leave No Trace
31 principles.

32 Scenic Byways

33 Background and Description

34 Seven national scenic byways are within the Cibola National Forest area of influence, three of which
35 were designated by the State of New Mexico. The byways are:

- 36 • Route 66 National Scenic Byway,
- 37 • El Camino Real National Scenic Byway,
- 38 • Sandia Crest Scenic and Historic Byway,
- 39 • Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway,

- 1 • Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway,
- 2 • Abo Pass Trail Scenic Byway, and
- 3 • Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway.

4 **Desired Conditions**

- 5 ■ Viewsheds from scenic byways are consistent with desired conditions for scenery. The
- 6 immediate foreground (300 feet on either side) of these travelways is natural-appearing, and
- 7 generally appears unaltered by human activities.

8 **Guidelines**

- 9 ■ Visual impacts from vegetation treatments, recreation uses, range developments, and other
- 10 structures should blend with the overall scenic character along scenic byways.
- 11 ■ To maintain and protect the scenic quality of scenic byways, management activities planned and
- 12 implemented within the foreground (up to 0.5 mile on either side) should be consistent with the
- 13 scenic integrity objective of “high.”

14 **Management Approaches**

- 15 ■ The Forest promotes roadside interpretive services along scenic byways. Signs, kiosks, exhibits,
- 16 and other educational tools (such as brochures, websites, and social media) may provide
- 17 interpretive, education, and safety information along scenic byways, in adjacent recreation sites,
- 18 and at visitor contact points such as ranger stations.
- 19 ■ Work closely with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and local communities to
- 20 promote and improve services and interpretive opportunities on byways.
- 21 ■ Work closely with New Mexico Department of Transportation and county highway departments
- 22 to manage hazard trees within the immediate foreground (up to 0.5 mile on either side) of scenic
- 23 byways.

24 **National Historic Landmark**

25 **Background and Description**

26 Sandia Cave, National Historic Landmark was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961.

27 National historic landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of

28 the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the

29 heritage of the United States (USDI NPS Sandia Cave 2013). The cave was discovered in 1936 by a

30 University of New Mexico (UNM) anthropology student. From 1937–1941, UNM excavated the

31 cave and found stone arrow and lance points, basket scraps, bits of woven yucca moccasins, and

32 skeletal remains of Ice Age animals such as the mastodon. No human remains were discovered

33 (USFS Cibola Sandia Man Cave 2013).

34

35 It is located in Sandoval County on the steep cliff walls of the Sandia Mountains’ Las Huertas

36 Canyon on the Sandia ranger district. The trailhead is off of SR 165. It is less than a half-mile hike

37 from the parking lot to the cave. The trail leads to a concrete staircase, then to a limestone ledge in

38 the cliff, and finally to a metal staircase that spirals up to the mouth of the cave.

1 Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species

2 Background and Description

3 The Cibola National Forest contains one designated critical habitat for federally threatened and
4 endangered species, Mexican Spotted Owl, as required by the 1995 Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery
5 Plan.

6 Department of Defense, Kirtland Air Force Base Withdrawal

7 Background and Description

8 Kirtland Air Force Base manages 15,891 acres under withdrawal for military purposes while Sandia
9 Laboratories through the Department of Energy and manages a 4,595 acre area withdrawn as a safety
10 buffer for testing in Lurance Canyon. The area will remain under joint control of the Forest Service,
11 U.S. Air Force, and Department of Energy. The feasibility of conducting a limited number of
12 activities (specified in the standards and guidelines) in this area will be studied. If these activities are
13 acceptable to the Air Force and the Department of Energy, they will be conducted in coordination
14 with these agencies.

15 Management emphasis will be to improve wildlife habitat diversity and decrease the threat of
16 escaped wildfire from either entity within intent of established Memorandums of Agreement. All
17 public use of the area will be restricted and enforced by personnel of Department of Defense and
18 Energy.

19 Langmuir Research Site and Magdalena Ridge Observatory

20 Background and Description

21 Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research (Langmuir Research Site)- Title II of the New
22 Mexico Wilderness Act established the Langmuir Research Site on Magdalena ranger district in
23 1980, to encourage scientific research into atmospheric processes and astronomical phenomena, and
24 to preserve conditions necessary for that research. Congress found that the high altitude, freedom
25 from air pollution and night luminosity caused by human activity, make the research site uniquely
26 suited to conduct research probes into thunder clouds and for other atmospheric and astronomical
27 research purposes.

28 This designation authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into an appropriate land use
29 agreement with New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the Langmuir Research Site to
30 establish conditions for use of the national forest land.

31 The research site consists of approximately 31,000 acres and includes a principle research facility of
32 approximately 1,000 acres which operates under a special use permit that authorizes the following:
33 use of rockets, weather balloons, buried monitoring stations, overhead wires, buried utilities,
34 waterlines, improvements, roads, towers, and storage area, and other uses (Langmuir Laboratory for
35 Atmospheric Research 2013). In April and May of 2012, a new special use permit was signed to
36 continue scientific operations at the Lab and associated Magdalena Ridge Observatory, and is valid
37 until December 31, 2031 (USFS Cibola Magdalena 2012).

38 About 72 percent of the Langmuir Site has slopes in excess of 40 percent and vegetation ranges from
39 grassland to spruce-fir. Recreation use is light and there are no developed sites. Hiking is the primary
40 recreation activity. Regulated even-age timber management is planned, but activities will be

1 managed to minimize disturbance to Langmuir Lab. Livestock grazing is permitted and wildlife
2 habitat and species diversity are maintained. There is Mexican Spotted Owl designated critical
3 habitat coincident with the Langmuir site. There are Northern Goshawk post-fledging family areas
4 (PFAs) on the Magdalena District, but the locations are not made public.

5 **T’uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area**

6 Background and Description

7 The T’uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Area) is a
8 special management area, created as a result of a land claim dispute in which the Pueblo of
9 Sandia pursued legislative and legal avenues to recover lands immediately east of its
10 existing reservation boundaries. In December 1994, the Pueblo of Sandia filed a lawsuit
11 against the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, asserting that federal
12 surveys of the Pueblo grant boundaries erroneously excluded approximately 9,980 acres of
13 land from its reservation that are now part of the Cibola National Forest, including the
14 Sandia Mountain Wilderness. In December 1998, all parties involved in the litigation agreed
15 to enter into a negotiated settlement process.

16 In April 2000, the Forest Service, the Pueblo of Sandia, and the Sandia Peak Tram Company
17 reached a settlement agreement, permanently resolving the Pueblo’s land claim to 9,890
18 acres on the western face of the Sandia Mountains. The Agreement of Compromise and
19 Settlement outlines the details of what the parties agreed to. As with most Indian land claim
20 settlements, the agreement had to be ratified by federal legislation. On January 1, 2003,
21 federal legislation ratified the settlement agreement. The legislation is referred to as the **T’uf**
22 **Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area** (Public Law 108-07, the “Consolidated Appropriations
23 Resolution, 2003 Div F, Title IV, Section 401-415).

24 One of the primary purposes of the Act was to establish the Trust Area within the Cibola
25 National Forest and the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. The Trust Area was established to
26 recognize and protect in perpetuity the rights and interests of the Pueblo of Sandia in and to
27 the Area, to preserve in perpetuity the national forest and wilderness character of the Area,
28 and to recognize and protect in perpetuity the longstanding use and enjoyment of the Area
29 by the public. The Act lays out the provisions for management of the Trust Area.

30 The Act specifies that the Trust Area continue to be administered by the Secretary of
31 Agriculture Service as part of the National Forest System, subject to and consistent with the
32 provisions of the Act affecting the management of the Area. It also specified that there
33 should be no restrictions to the traditional or cultural uses by the Pueblo of Sandia and other
34 federally recognized Indian tribes authorized to use the Area by the Pueblo, except for the
35 Wilderness Act and its regulations in effect as of the date of enactment of the Act, and
36 applicable Federal wildlife protection laws. In addition, a federal law, enacted or amended
37 after the date of enactment, that is inconsistent with the Act, does not apply to the Area,
38 unless expressly made applicable by Congress.

39 The Act addresses prohibited uses in the Trust Area; uses prohibited by the Wilderness Act,
40 gaming or gambling, mineral production, timber production, and any new use to which the
41 Pueblo objects. The Act describes the Pueblo rights and interests in the Trust Area; the right
42 to free and unrestricted access to the Trust Area for traditional or cultural uses that are not

1 inconsistent with the Wilderness Act or its regulations, or applicable Federal wildlife
2 protection laws, perpetual preservation of the National forest and wilderness character of the
3 Trust Area, the right to consent or withhold consent to a new use, the right to consultation
4 regarding a modified use, the right to consultation regarding the management and
5 preservation of the Trust Area, the right to dispute resolution procedures, and exclusive
6 authority, in accordance with the customs and laws of the Pueblo, to administer access to the
7 Trust Area for traditional or cultural uses by members of the Pueblo and for other federally-
8 recognized Indian tribes.

9