

## 6.4 MID-COMPOSITION - HIGH STRUCTURE: NATIVE SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEMS

*Theme:* Management emphasis is on providing representative native shortgrass prairie ecosystems as habitat for associated plant and animal species.

### Desired Condition

#### *Physical/Biological*

Provide representative native ecosystems, including the full range of natural compositional and successional stages to secure biologically diverse habitats for endemic wildlife and native plant species. This area has the potential to provide more of the tall vegetation structural components such as shrubs and native mid-grasses. Prescribed fire, wildland fire, and ungulate grazing are components of these ecosystems.

#### *Social*

Contacts with other people are infrequent, with more common contacts occurring on roads. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, dispersed recreation, camping, hiking, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and horseback riding. There may be various restrictions to human activity to meet the management objectives.

#### *Administrative*

A wide range of improvements is present, including fences, water developments, windmills, salt blocks, oil wells, and oil and gas production facilities. Roads are primitive two-track with occasional improved ditched and crowned roads.

Acquire lands that are necessary to achieve management area objectives or areas in which imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives. Retain NFS lands which enhance management area objectives. Dispose of lands which are inconsistent with management area objectives *and* where potential development of such lands would be compatible to achieving 6.2 objectives on remaining NFS lands. Acquire rights-of-way needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

## 6.6 MID-COMPOSITION - LOW STRUCTURE: GRASSLAND RESOURCE PRODUCTION

*Theme:* Lands classified for grassland resource production are managed to provide healthy and sustainable plant communities dominated by herbaceous and grass species.

### **Desired Condition**

#### *Physical/Biological*

Manage vegetation associated with grassland communities to provide a variety of goods and services. Achieve and maintain desired plant communities for livestock, wildlife, and soil protection. Area has the potential to provide more of the short-vegetation structural components dominated by blue gramma and buffalo grass. Prescribed fire, wildland fire and ungulate grazing are components of these ecosystems.

#### *Social*

Contacts with other people are infrequent, with more common contacts occurring on roads. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, dispersed recreation, camping, hiking, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and horseback riding. There may be various restrictions to human activity to meet the management objectives.

#### *Administrative*

A wide range of improvements is present, including fences, water developments, windmills, salt blocks, oil wells, and oil-and-gas production facilities. Roads are primitive two-track with occasional improved ditched and crowned roads.

Acquire lands required to make logical units to demonstrate sound management practices and parcels whose imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives. Retain parcels required to meet management area objectives and parcels where development would be incompatible with management area objectives. Dispose of parcels that do not meet management area objectives; are not capable of demonstrating sound management practices; are currently providing a demonstration of unsound management practices; or whose potential development would be compatible with achieving management area objectives on remaining NFS lands. Acquire rights-of-ways needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.