

Figure 2.62

Ranch Creek Geographic Area

15,059 NFS Acres 7,614 Non-NFS Acres 22,673 Total Acres

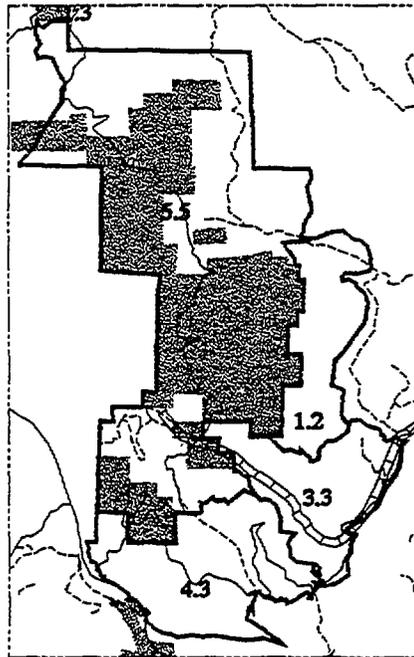
Management Area Prescription Allocation

- 1.2 - Recommended for Wilderness
- 3.3 - Backcountry Recreation - Motorized
- 4.3 - Dispersed Recreation
- 5.5 - Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation

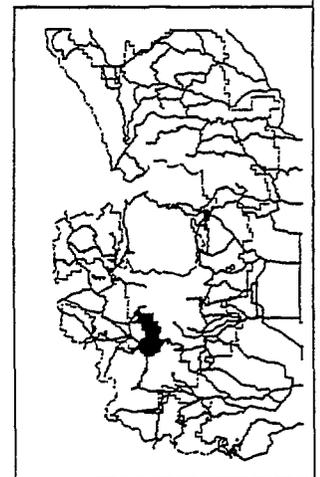
Management Area Prescription	NFS Acres
1.2 - Recommended for Wilderness	2,232
3.3 - Backcountry Recreation - Motorized	2,716
4.3 - Dispersed Recreation	3,653
5.5 - Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation	6,459

Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (5.64 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



RANCH CREEK GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located approximately 4 miles east of the Town of Fraser and consists of 24,202 acres; 7,608 acres are in private ownership and 5,669 acres are recommended for addition to the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Elevations vary from 12,251 feet along the Continental Divide to 8,400 feet near Ranch Creek. Most of the area is forested with aspen, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. The major streams in the area are Hurd, Hamilton, Little Cabin, Cabin, and Ranch Creeks. Corona Lake and several small ponds are found near timberline.

The area provides recreational opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, dispersed camping, crosscountry skiing, snowmobiling, and sightseeing along the Moffat Road which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The area has a history of extensive logging, dating back to the 1920s, and has historical significance because of old railroad activity.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Seek opportunities to improve conditions in the Fraser River watershed, which was rated Class III (non-functional) in the watershed-condition assessment. Manage activities to protect existing Colorado cutthroat trout habitat and populations and to enhance recovery. Emphasize land-line boundary management.

Fire management prescriptions for the geographic area are shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map* included with this document.

Management Area 1.2

This area is recommended for addition to the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Management will emphasize retaining its current pristine character; timber harvest, roading, and additional improvements will not occur.

Management Areas 3.3 and 4.3

Manage for emphasis on dispersed and motorized recreation. Manage for heavy recreational use along the Moffat Road (FDR 149) and the Waterboard Road (FDR 128), including dispersed camping, snowmobiling, mountain biking, and summer motorized vehicles. Protect cultural and historical sites in the area, especially along the Moffat Road. Verify and update campgrounds to comply with *Forest Plan* standards.

Maintain the pristine character of Deadman, Corona, and Pumphouse Lakes.

Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownership or cause unacceptable

resource damage. Timber harvest is not compatible with the recreational emphasis of the areas and is not likely to occur.

Management Area 5.5

Manage emphasis on dispersed recreation and forest products. Manage the High Lonesome Trail for heavy mountain bike and hiking use. Reconstruction of portions of the Devil's Thumb Trail is likely to support heavy hiking use and to reduce resource damage.

Manage vegetation to provide the needed mix of wildlife habitats, reduced fuel loadings, timber products, scenic enhancements, and rehabilitation of landscape elements. A full range of silvicultural and harvest practices is likely to occur within the areas during the planning period.

Maintain lodgepole and spruce-fir representation on the landscape. Recruit and retain old growth where practicable. Create conditions that make insect and disease epidemics unlikely by thinning dense trees, maintaining a variety of tree species, and removing dead and diseased trees. Suppress insect and disease infestations to prevent epidemics.

Travel Management Strategy, Ranch Creek Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
3.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
4.3	4WD	N	N	Y	L	N
	MTR	Y	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	Y	M	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	M	N

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
5.5	4WD	N	N	Y	L	M
	MTR	Y	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	N