

GREYROCK GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located at the lower end of the Cache la Poudre Canyon, along the Colorado State Highway 14 corridor. The area is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities, progressing to juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes, and Douglas-fir communities on north slopes. Elevations range from 5,240 to 7,613 feet. The Cache la Poudre River and Greyrock are the dominant features in the area. Important big-game migration corridors and wintering areas for resident winter elk are present.

Past vegetation treatments have been limited due to poor access. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. Nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand replacement wildfire occurrence is very frequent, often affecting areas in excess of 500 acres. Noxious weed infestations are increasing throughout the area. There are two active livestock grazing allotments in the area. Nonmotorized recreational use is heavy in the southern half of the area along the river corridor and on the National Recreation Trail. Use occurs year-round but is most intense during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The only developed recreational facility is the Greyrock Trailhead. Rock climbing occurs on Grey Rock Mountain. Approximately one-third of the land within this area is in state or private ownership. Intermingled private lands in the northern half complicate land management.

The primary transportation access is by Colorado Highway 14. There is a limited number of secondary roads in the northern half, but public access is limited due to private lands.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species and associated plant communities. Manage vegetation to provide the needed mix of wildlife habitats or to reduce fuels loading. Maintain the current composition of the foothills shrub-grass type. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime. Reduce Douglas-fir encroachment by favoring ponderosa pine and aspen. Increase the amount of aspen in the lodgepole pine type, where appropriate, using timber harvest and prescribed fire. Emphasize old-growth recruitment of ponderosa pine to compensate for earlier losses of this component from insect and disease infestations and from past fire management practices.

Limited timber harvesting is tentatively suitable and not available. Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownership or cause unacceptable resource damage. Implement nonlethal understory and mixed/variable prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat, or assist in the recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant community and management objectives as in the management plans for specific allotments.

Eliminate motorized use of existing roads and trails, except for administrative access.

Use temporary access roads where necessary to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Management Area 3.5

Emphasize wildlife habitat.

Manage backcountry recreation to minimize wildlife-human conflicts. Maintain solitude for wildlife species by discouraging additional recreational use of the area north of Greyrock and Seaman Reservoir.

Develop no additional trails.

Management Areas 4.3 and 4.4

Emphasize dispersed recreation and Designated and Eligible Recreation Rivers

Designate or close dispersed recreational sites to eliminate visual and environmental impacts. Improve recreational use and dispersion by providing connecting and loop trails for mountain biking and hiking in the Hewlett Gulch area and hiking in the Greyrock area.

Manage trails for nonmotorized use. Resolve access issues and construct trailhead on the south end of Hewlett Gulch Trail.

Standards and Guidelines

Management Areas 4.3 and 4.4

1. (ST) Limit camping to designated sites.
2. (ST) Prohibit horses and mountain bikes on the Greyrock Trail and connector trails.

Travel Management Strategy, Greyrock Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.5	4WD	N	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
4.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
4.4	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	Y	Y	L	N