

## ELKHORN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

### Setting

The area is located south of Larimer County Road 74E, east of Larimer County Road 162 and north of Colorado Highway 14. Elevations range from 6,000 to 8,800 feet. Most of the area is forested with lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, aspen, and Douglas-fir. Pockets of old-growth ponderosa pine and associated wildlife species are located throughout the area.

Vegetation management has occurred throughout most of the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvest related to settlement in the Red Feather Lakes and Manhattan areas. Recent harvest has been primarily in the form of small sales. Insect activity has created areas with high percentages of dead trees. 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. Noxious weed infestations are increasing throughout the area. Nonlethal understory and mixed/variable wildfire is a frequent occurrence. There are five livestock grazing allotments, two of them vacant. Approximately one-third of the total area consists of non-federal lands. Increased development of year-round and summer homes is occurring on private land. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year, and continues to increase. There are some developed trailheads and campgrounds.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are Colorado State Highway 14, Redfeather Lakes Road (Larimer County Road 74E) and Manhattan Road (Larimer County Roads 162 & 69). An extensive network of secondary roads (both National Forest System and user-created) and some nonmotorized System trails also serve the area.

### Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage vegetation to provide the needed mix of wildlife habitats and associated plant communities or to reduce fuels loading. Maintain the current composition of the foothills shrub-grass type. Maintain the current amount of tree cover on the landscape. 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 to compensate for earlier losses from insect and disease infestations and from past fire management practices.

Limited timber harvest is suitable and available. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to improve wildlife habitat and reduce fuel loadings in conjunction with vegetation manipulation. Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownerships or cause unacceptable resource damage. Suppress insects and diseases in the Bellaire Lake recreational complex.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.  
Increase solitude opportunities and maintain forage for wintering wildlife.

Improve public access for wildlife viewing and other wildlife-related activities.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the steeper slopes of the Poudre Canyon where it is perimeter control.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Currie and Black Mountain grazing allotments, currently vacant, because of lack of access for livestock.

Develop a management plan to reduce resource impacts by selecting designated dispersed sites and determining sites to be closed and rehabilitated along Larimer County Road 162. Increase developed campground capacity to relieve the recreational pressure in this area.

Develop new trails and improve existing trails to provide some solitude for trail users.

Close all roads that are not part of the transportation system. Closed roads may provide opportunities for horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking.

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

Manage recreation, grazing and other uses to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

### *Management Area 1.3*

Emphasize nonmotorized dispersed recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Allow natural processes to be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

### *Management Area 3.5*

Emphasize wildlife habitat management.

Restrict or limit recreational use during critical wildlife periods.

Maintain the mountain bike closure in the Lady Moon area to prevent disruption to wildlife.

Maintain the primary 4WD road (Kelly Flats Road) for motorized use.

**Travel Management Strategy, Elkhorn Geographic Area**

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.3	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
3.5	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	L
4.3	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
4.4	4WD	Y	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	N	L	N
5.5	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	Y	Y	L	N
8.21	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N

Figure 2.41

# Greyrock Geographic Area

12,850 NFS Acres    6,310 Non-NFS Acres    19,160 Total Acres

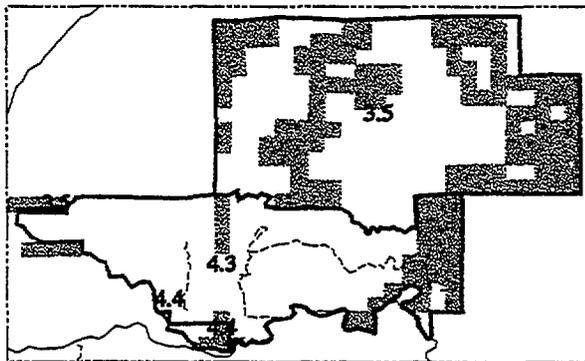
## Management Area Prescription Allocation

- 3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management
- 4.3 - Dispersed Recreation
- 4.4 - Designated and Eligible Recreation Rivers

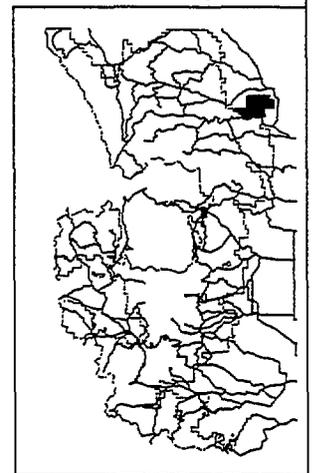
NFS Acres  
6,551  
6,174  
125

### Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.00 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



### Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000  
0 1  
Miles

