

Figure 2.33

# Poudre Canyon Geographic Area

9,738 NFS Acres    1,210 Non-NFS Acres    10,949 Total Acres

## Management Area Prescription Allocation

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

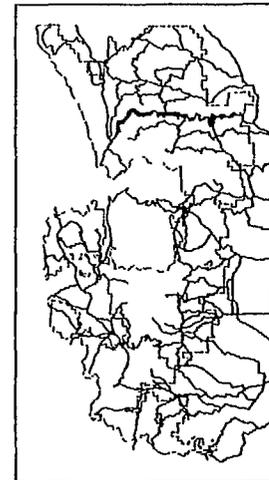
## NFS Acres

- 400
- 1,500
- 872
- 6,966

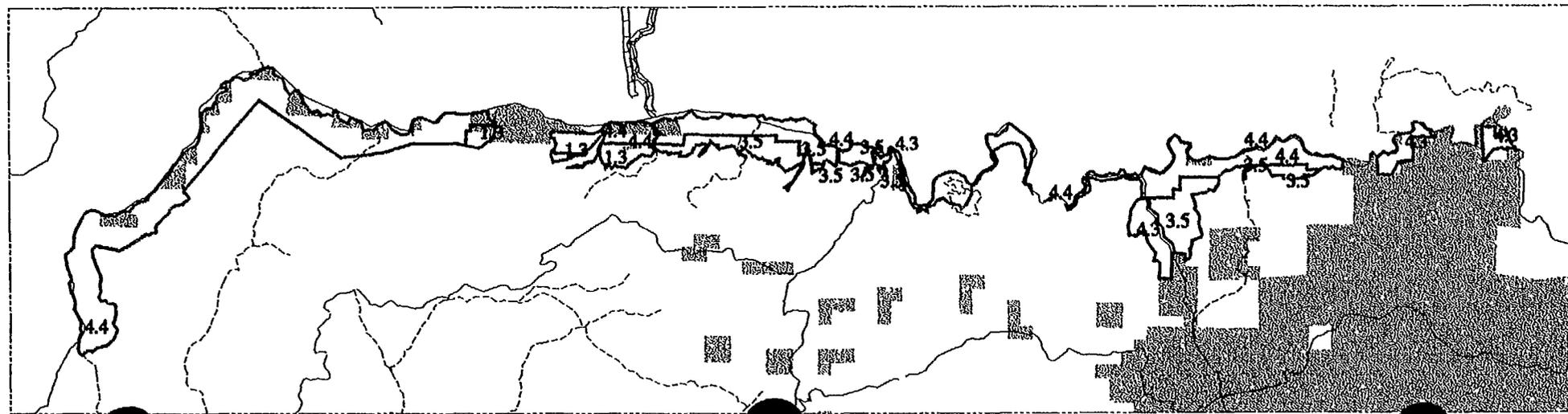
### Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.60 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites

### Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000  
0 1  
Miles



## POUDRE CANYON GEOGRAPHIC AREA

### Setting

The area is located along the Cache la Poudre Canyon from the eastern Forest boundary to where the Cache la Poudre River (aka the “Big South”) intersects Joe Wright Creek. At lower elevations vegetation is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities with juniper- ponderosa pine communities on south slopes and Douglas-fir on north slopes. At higher elevations slopes are forested with lodgepole pine. Elevations vary from 5,400 to 8,438 feet. This area provides critical big game winter habitat. Greenback cutthroat trout habitat exists in some of the drainages feeding into the Cache la Poudre River. The riparian corridor provides habitat for numerous wildlife species. This area is the major bighorn sheep habitat on the Front Range of Colorado.

Limited vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads, resorts and ranches. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Stand-replacement-severity wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine type affecting areas in excess of 1,000 acres. Noxious weed infestations are scattered throughout the corridor. There are two livestock grazing allotments and numerous trailheads and developed sites in the area. Thirty-eight miles of the Cache la Poudre National Wild and Scenic River corridor highlight this area. Approximately one-tenth of the area is in non-federal ownership. Primary and second-home development on private lands is increasing.

The current transportation system’s primary access route is U.S. Highway 14. There is a network of National Forest System trails located throughout the area.

### Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize developed recreation in accordance with the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat, to reduce fuel loading and to preserve and enhance aesthetic conditions. Limited timber harvest is acceptable to increase habitat potential, control fuel buildups and manage visual characteristics, but is not scheduled. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention.

Maintain and improve big-game winter habitat.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback

cutthroat trout in the drainages feeding into the Cache la Poudre River. Manage activities to protect greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and enhance recovery efforts.

Continue to implement bighorn sheep habitat management program to provide naturally occurring mix of vegetation.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the upper canyon, west of the Big Bend area, where it is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory or mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

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

Consider construction of facilities to meet future recreational demands.

Cooperate with agencies and communities in the Poudre Canyon area to improve recreational opportunities and visual aesthetics. This may be accomplished by acquiring private lands from willing sellers or acquiring rights-of-way.

Limit issuance of special-use permits to minimize conflicts among users.

Manage developed recreational facilities, potential land acquisition, river-access needs, commercial rafting use, special-use permits for river-outfitter guiding and potential trails within the guidelines of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Final Management Plan.

Prohibit camping and campfires outside of developed sites for resource protection.

The existing transportation system is adequate.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Manage recreational uses, grazing, mining, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve public safety along Highway 14.

**Travel Management Strategy, Poudre Canyon 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	N	N	N	N	N
3.5	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	N	N	N	N	L
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	N	N	N	N	L
4.4	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	N	Y	L	L