

Figure 2.28

Crosier Mtn. Geographic Area

24,004 NFS Acres 11,507 Non-NFS Acres 35,511 Total Acres

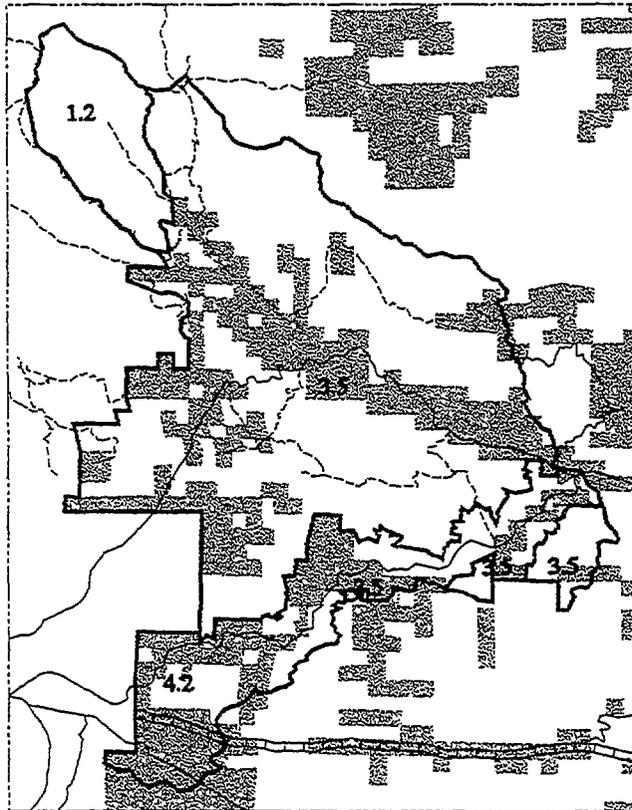
Management Area Prescription Allocation

1.2 - Recommended for Wilderness
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management
4.2 - Scenery

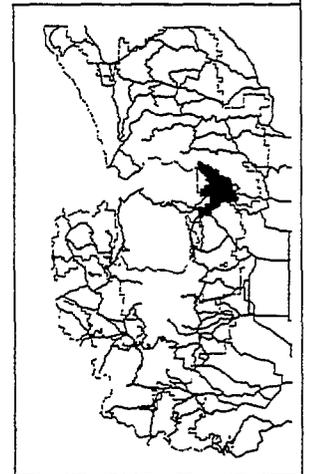
NFS Acres
3,353
17,808
2,843

Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (1.51 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



CROSIER GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is north of U.S. Highway 34, east of Rocky Mountain National Park, and west of the Storm Mountain ridge. Vegetation consists of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, lodgepole pine at mid-levels and Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher levels. Elevations vary from 6,400 to 10,606 feet. Bighorn sheep habitat exists on Crosier Mountain and the upper Big Thompson Canyon. Critical winter range for the Rocky Mountain National Park elk herd occurs in this area.

Vegetation management has occurred on limited portions of the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Only very limited-scale harvesting has occurred in the area in the recent past. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality. Small-scale, nonlethal and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently. Stand-replacement-severity, wildland fires are infrequent. Large-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable prescribed fires have been utilized to enhance big game habitat and reduce fuels accumulations on Crosier Mountain. Early and late seral stages are underrepresented in all tree cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. There are five livestock grazing allotments, four of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year, except for winter, and continues to increase. The Glen Haven, Lower North Fork Thompson and Upper North Fork Thompson picnic areas and Big Thompson Fishing Pier are the only developed recreational facilities. Non-federal landownership comprises almost half the lands within the geographic boundary including several major subdivisions. Development on private lands of both year-round and seasonal housing continues to increase.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 34, Larimer County Road 43, Larimer County Road 51B. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of National Forest System nonmotorized trails located within the area.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Management Area 1.2

Emphasize maintaining wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control. Prescribed fire (including

nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape and control fuels accumulations.

Manage the Miller Fork drainage as semiprimitive wilderness with no new trails. Rehabilitate existing human-caused disturbances to the landscape.

Management Areas 3.5 and 4.2

Emphasize wildlife habitat and scenery.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading, especially near subdivisions. Limited timber harvest is tentatively suitable to increase habitat potential and control fuel buildups but is not available. 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.

Develop management strategies to provide habitat for the Rocky Mountain National Park elk herd. Elk numbers are increasing in the National Park and a limited amount of critical habitat exists on private land.

Maintain and improve bighorn sheep habitat.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control on Crosier Mountain, perimeter control in the Storm Mountain area and direct control in Devils Gulch/Glen Haven areas. Prepare a fire management plan identifying conditions in which wildland fires may be managed by prescription control on Crosier Mountain. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

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

Close the Saddle Notch, Dunraven West, Crosier Mountain, and Eagle Rock grazing allotments, now vacant, because of lack of public access .

Prohibit camping where uses impact soil, water and aesthetic resources.

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.

The existing transportation system for motorized uses is adequate.

Rehabilitate the Crosier Mountain trails and trailheads.

Travel Management Strategy, Croiser 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	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	N	N	N
2.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
3.5	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	N	L	L
4.2	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