

Figure 2.24

Buckhorn Geographic Area

21,866 NFS Acres 10,384 Non-NFS Acres 32,251 Total Acres

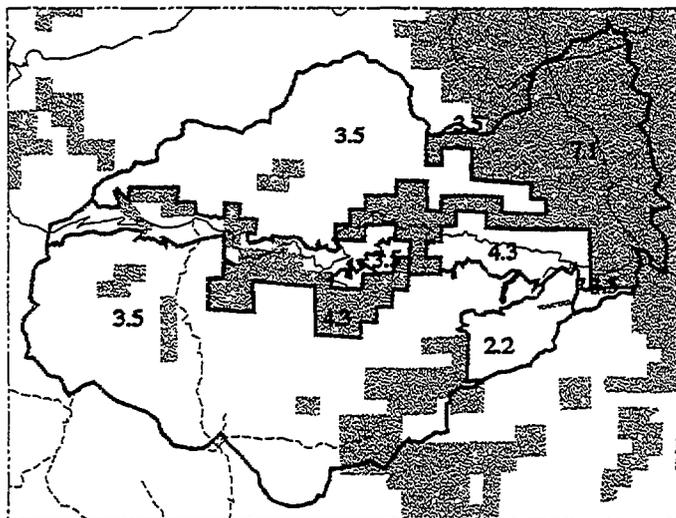
Management Area Prescription Allocation

2.2 - Research Natural Areas
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management
4.3 - Dispersed Recreation

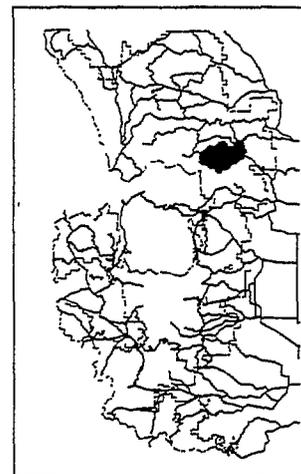
NFS Acres
1,228
18,000
2,638

Legend

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



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



BUCKHORN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

This area encompasses all of the National Forest System lands draining into Buckhorn Creek plus a small area draining north into Harlan Gulch. Vegetation is a mix of foothills shrub-grass at lower elevations, ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir at mid-levels and aspen and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Elevations vary from 6,500 to 10,000 feet. There is big game habitat potential. Moose are beginning to migrate into areas along the Buckhorn Road.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small sales. 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 wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Wildland fires of stand-replacement severity have occurred in the lodgepole pine-type affecting areas in excess of 1,000 acres. 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. There are six livestock grazing allotments, five of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year and continues to increase. There are a few developed facilities such as parking areas within the management area. Approximately one-third 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 routes are Larimer County Roads 44H and 27. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of system trails and roads located primarily in the Crystal Mountain area and Buckhorn corridor.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading. Timber harvest is probable in the Crystal Mountain and Pennock Pass areas to increase habitat potential, complete previous silvicultural treatments and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Create conditions which make insect and disease epidemics unlikely. Implement prescribed fire (nonlethal understory or mixed-variable fire) 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.

Maintain healthy willow communities in areas used by moose.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control except for areas adjacent to development where it is direct control. Details are shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map* enclosed with this document.

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

Close the Crystal, Lower Sheep, Upper Sheep, Milner and Fish Creek grazing allotments, now vacant, because of lack of public access in those areas.

Reduce or eliminate environmental or visual impact problems by closing or designating dispersed sites.

Provide for day-use areas in the Buckhorn Road Corridor.

Do not allow outfitters to operate along the road corridors to reduce conflicts between camping and motorized vehicles.

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 closing roads and trails that cause resource damage or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system.

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

Management Area 2.2

Emphasis is on Research Natural Areas.

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 perimeter control. Prepare a fire management plan for the Research Natural Area to design and implement specific prescribed fires (nonlethal understory and mixed-variable fires).

Discourage additional recreational use.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system.

Travel Management Strategy, Buckhorn 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	N	N	N	N	N
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
2.2	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	N	N	N	N	L
3.3	4WD	Y	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	Y	N	Y	L	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.3	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	N	N	N	N	N