

Figure 2.22

Yankee Hill Geographic Area

27,033 NFS Acres 8,618 Non-NFS Acres 35,651 Total Acres

Management Area Prescription Allocation

- 3.3 - Backcountry Recreation - Motorized
- 3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management
- 4.2 - Scenery
- 4.3 - Dispersed Recreation
- 7.1 - Intermix
- 8.22 - Ski Based Resorts - Existing and Potential

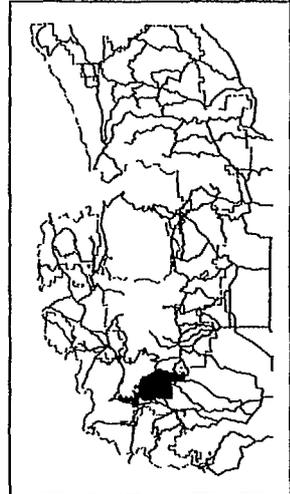
NFS Acres

- 1,714
- 4,137
- 606
- 18,348
- 2,052
- 176

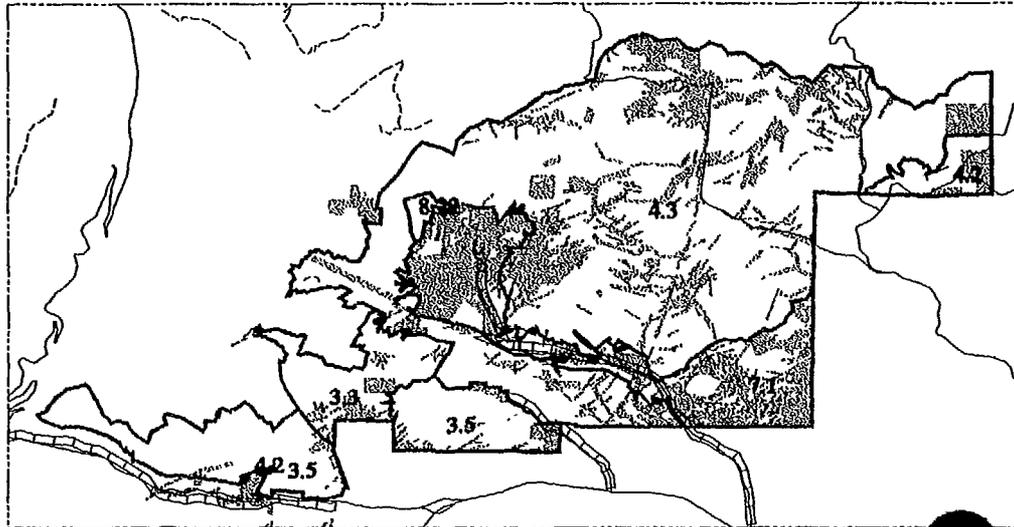
Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (6.93 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites

Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



YANKEE HILL GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area consists of the National Forest lands within the Clear Creek watershed located north of Interstate 70 and U. S. Highway 40 between Idaho Springs and Berthoud Falls and extending north and west to the southeast boundary of the James Peak Geographic Area. The topography is rolling hills and lower slopes of mountains, ranging in elevation from 8,200 to 12,200 feet. This area is located within the Colorado (Front Range) mineral belt, and, consequently, has a high density of roads, numerous mining impacts, and a very fragmented landownership pattern with a significant amount of interspersed private land. Areas of residential development include the Fall River valley, York Gulch, and the Communities of Saint Mary's Glacier and Alice. Significant mining activity in the area has affected many streams and areas of groundwater with chemical loading and excessive sedimentation and turbidity. The vegetation consists of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen in the lower elevations. Above 9,400 feet, the vegetation is predominantly lodgepole pine with stands of spruce and fir, aspen, and bristlecone pine.

The area provides important habitats for bighorn sheep, elk, and mule deer, including elk calving areas. The private lands in the area are being developed residentially, resulting in reduced effective wildlife habitat and displacing wildlife to adjacent National Forest lands. The area contains three active range allotments. Saint Mary's Glacier is an easily accessed permanent snow field in the area, and receives a very high amount of dispersed winter and summer recreational use, including skiing and snowboarding.

The major roads accessing the area are Colorado Highway 119 and several county roads. The area also contains numerous 4WD roads which cross both National Forest and private lands. Currently, the area contains only a few nonmotorized trails. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail will be located through the area once it is constructed. The area has a high level of 4WD and mountain bicycling use.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Provide a well-signed and controlled network of motorized and nonmotorized routes for 4WD, all-terrain vehicles, and mountain bike recreation. Install seasonal closures and close some roads to motorized use where needed to protect important wildlife habitat and soil and water quality. Provide law enforcement, road signing, and closures to prevent off-road vehicular activity. Provide trailhead facilities for motorized and nonmotorized uses. Maintain the Continental Divide National Scenic trail and a few additional trails for nonmotorized use.

Obtain legal access to all developed recreational sites, along system trails, and primary access roads through rights-of-way acquisition and coordination with Clear Creek County and Gilpin County. Encourage county ownership of residential access roads. Consolidate landownership

patterns to improve management efficiency and effectiveness by considering both acquisition of private lands and disposal of isolated tracts of National Forest lands that do not contribute to meeting area goals.

Continue to permit existing recreation residences.

West Fork Clear Creek, Chase Gulch, and Eureka Gulch watersheds were rated Class III (non-functional) in the watershed condition assessment.

Pursue reclamation of closed or abandoned mining sites in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Colorado, Gilpin County, and Clear Creek County, in order to improve water and soil quality and reduce hazards.

Limited timber harvesting is tentatively suitable and not available in this area. Manage vegetation to increase, improve, and sustain winter and transitional wildlife habitat for elk and mule deer. Increase the acreage of aspen and ponderosa stands and create diverse age-classes. Rejuvenate meadows, shrubland, and winter forage species. Vegetation treatments include limited timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and mechanical treatments. Improve the ability to control wildfires in those portions adjacent to residential development through prescribed fire and limited timber harvest. The wildland fire management strategy is direct control and perimeter control, with details shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map*.

Recognize existing water developments and the likely future needs of water developments to serve growing communities of the Front Range and foothills adjacent to the National Forest.

Management Area 3.3

Develop and maintain partnerships with 4WD clubs to maintain the road system.

Protect the Mill Creek Park Subdivision water supply.

Management Area 3.5

Perform vegetation management to improve sheep habitat, including the use of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to create and maintain open timber stands and meadows.

Accommodate motorized uses by maintaining a limited network of existing four-wheel-drive routes. Do not expand motorized opportunities. Install seasonal closures and close some roads to motorized use to protect important sheep habitat.

Provide adequate trailhead parking for nonmotorized access on National Forest lands adjacent to Mill Creek Park.

Protect the Town of Empire's water supply in Mad Creek.

Management Area 4.2

Manage the Colorado Highway 119 (Peak-to-Peak National Scenic Byway) corridor to provide high scenic value. Provide trailhead and day-use facilities. Provide nonmotorized recreational opportunities by developing short nonmotorized trails and loop trails.

Maintain developed camping and picnicking opportunities.

Management Area 8.22

Allow ski-area development as an economic-development opportunity for the Saint Mary's Glacier and Alice community.

Maintain public 4WD use and access to the Kingston Peak area.

Travel Management Strategy, Yankee Hill Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.3	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	N
	MTR	Y	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	L
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
4.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
4.3	4WD	Y	Y	N	H	M
	MTR	Y	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	M	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	M	N
7.1	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	N
	MTR	Y	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N

Geographic Area Direction

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rd/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
8.22	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	Y	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	N	N	Y	L	N

