

Figure 2.8

James Peak Geographic Area

23,300 NFS Acres 803 Non-NFS Acres 24,103 Total Acres

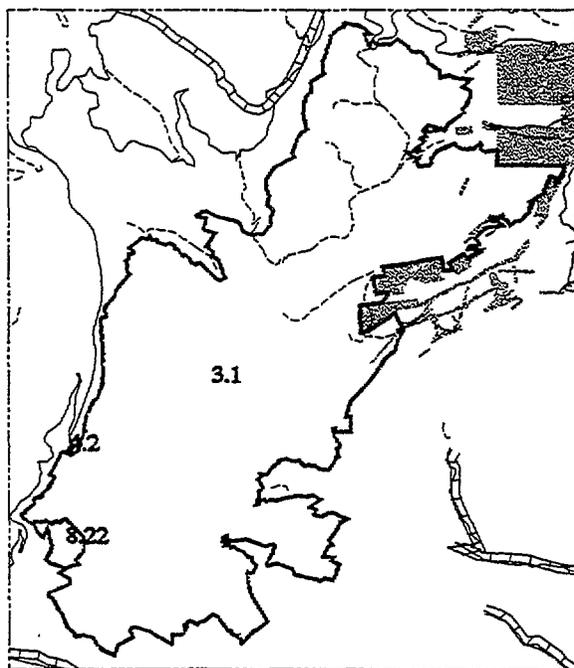
Management Area Prescription Allocation

- 3.1 - Special Interest Areas - Emphasizing Use or Interpretation
- 4.2 - Scenery
- 8.22 - Ski Based Resorts - Existing and Potential

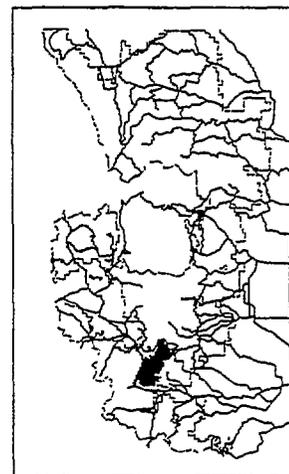
NFS Acres
23,032
5
262

Legend

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



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



JAMES PEAK GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between Rollins Pass and Berthoud Pass along the Continental Divide. It contains a mix of upper montane, subalpine and alpine plant communities consisting of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, lodgepole, limber, and bristlecone pine, aspen, krummholz, meadows, tundra, willow carrs, wet areas, glacial lakes and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 9,200 to 13,391 feet. Mount Eva, Mount Flora, and James and Parry Peaks are the prominent geographic features.

The area currently provides excellent opportunities for semiprimitive and primitive backcountry nonmotorized recreation. Cattle grazing occurs in the vicinity of Mammoth Gulch and on Nebraska Hill which is part of the Mammoth Allotment.

Access into and through the area is provided on a limited trail network that includes the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Maintain natural conditions while providing opportunities for year-round recreational use.

Maintain or expand mountain grassland and early successional lodgepole pine communities on an opportunity basis. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Allow fire to play as natural a role as possible in the area. This includes using prescribed fire to alter vegetative conditions, particularly in the southern portion of the geographic area where habitat improvement for the resident bighorn sheep herd is an important goal. The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Insects and disease outbreaks are generally allowed to run their course. Rehabilitate disturbed areas where unacceptable resource damage is occurring to restore habitat quantity and quality for native plant and animal species. Timber harvest and road construction are not allowed.

Provide year-round recreational opportunities on a trail system designed for four-season use. Emphasis is on providing opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and crosscountry skiing. Mountain biking is permitted on designated routes. Protect current access on trails in the area by pursuing a right-of-way for the Ute Trail. Retain most of the existing trail system but consider some closures and obliterations. An increase in trail mileage is expected as existing trails are relocated and reconstructed to meet management area objectives and construction of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is completed.

In managing the area for year-round backcountry use, prevent degradation of riparian areas, alpine lakes, and fragile alpine ecosystems by initiating such actions as limiting camping to designated sites in specific areas and prohibiting campfires on an as-needed basis. Current area

of concern where designated campsites may be necessary are Forest, Arapaho, Crater, Clayton, Iceberg, Heart, Rogers Pass, and James Peak lakes. Campfires are of the highest concern in the South Boulder Creek and Mammoth Gulch areas. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management implementation.

Consolidate landownership patterns with priority given to acquiring isolated mineral patents and State Land Board lands.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine the presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback and Colorado River cutthroat trout in the area streams. Manage pure populations of cutthroat trout that may be identified so that habitat and viability are protected and recovery efforts are enhanced.

Standards and Guidelines

1. (GL) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of all lakes shores, streambanks, and trails.
2. (GL) Prohibit recreational livestock within 100 feet of lake shores and streambanks except for watering and through travel.

Travel Management Strategy, James Peak Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/ Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	M	M
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	M	M