

Figure 2.5

Caribou Geographic Area

4,629 NFS Acres 13,181 Non-NFS Acres 17,810 Total Acres

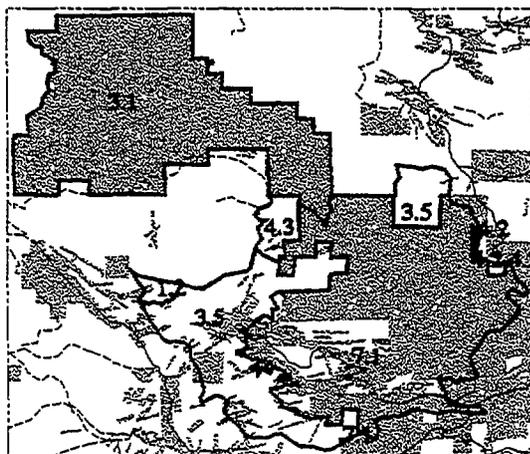
Management Area Prescription Allocation

1.2 - Recommended for Wilderness	
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management	
4.2 - Scenery	
4.3 - Dispersed Recreation	
7.1 - Intermix	

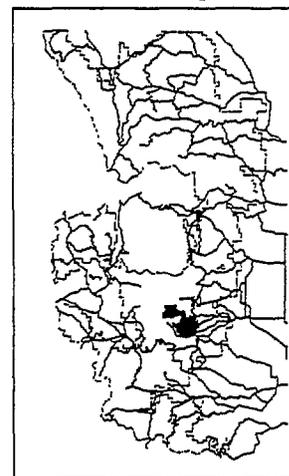
NFS Acres
131
3,007
57
345
1,089

Legend

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



Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



CARIBOU GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located between the town of Eldora on the south and the City of Boulder's municipal watershed on the north. It contains a mix of upper montane and subalpine plant communities consisting of aspen, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, limber pine, ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, meadows, krummholz, willow carrs, alpine tundra, and rock outcrops. Elevations range from 8,330 to 11,000 feet. Bald Mountain, the Caribou Flats willow carr, Nederland, the old Caribou Townsite and Rainbow Lakes Campground are the key geographic features.

The majority of the land in the geographic area (13,181 acres) is not National Forest System Land. A large portion of this non-federal land is the City of Boulder's municipal watershed which consists of one large block of land that does not allow public access. In addition, the City of Boulder and Boulder County own about 2,500 acres of open space lands, purchased from Caribou Ranch in 1996. Landownership patterns in the remainder of the area are extremely fragmented.

The area contains extensive wetland and riparian habitats that are significant ecological features. Cattle grazing occurs in the southern and western portions of the geographic area which is part of the Caribou Allotment.

Primary access into the area is via the Caribou and Rainbow Lakes Roads. These are both county roads suitable for passenger car travel. The major through-route from Eldora to Rainbow Lakes Campground is the Caribou Flats 4WD road. This road and the 4WD roads to the Pandora, Anchor, and Canadian mines are also county roads. There are many other two-track roads in the area, the highest concentration being between Caribou Hill and Rainbow Lakes Campground.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize protection of native flora and fauna while providing summer motorized recreational opportunities except in that portion of the area proposed for addition to the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

Restore, enhance, or maintain the mountain grassland, willow/wetland and aspen communities. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Manage vegetation to meet flora and fauna needs. The wildland fire management strategy for management area 1.2 is prescription control and for management areas 3.5, 4.3 and 7.1 direct control or perimeter control. See the *wildland fire management strategy map*.

Manage the area for year-round recreational use. Maintain passenger-car access to the Rainbow

Lakes Campground and Trailhead via the Rainbow Lakes road. Consider the reconstruction or relocation of the Rainbow Lakes and Glacier Rim Trailheads and the reconstruction of Rainbow Lakes Campground. Resolve access issues associated with the Caribou Flats road network.

The travel management strategy for the area will be to maintain the road network that allows through travel from Eldora to the Rainbow Lakes Road; a significant portion of this network will probably be composed of existing county roads. There may be significant road closures and obliterations in the geographic area to help rehabilitate and restore important meadows and wetland habitats, particularly between Caribou Hill and the Rainbow Lakes Road (see the travel management strategy table below). Most decisions on the specific roads and trails to keep or close will be made during travel management implementation.

Consolidate landownership patterns. Priorities for consideration are disposal of isolated tracts of National Forest System lands in the area from Caribou Hill east towards Nederland and possible acquisition of isolated patented mining claims in the Bald Mountain, Caribou Flats and Caribou Park areas.

Manage recreational uses and road and trail networks to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions. Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel management planning. Manage activities to protect existing greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and to enhance recovery.

Management Area 3.5

Minimize damage to riparian areas, other sensitive habitats, and known historic sites by considering the implementation of designated dispersed campsites in the Caribou Park and Caribou Flats areas and by discouraging additional recreational use of the Bald Mountain and Horseshoe Creek portions of the area.

Provide primitive motorized recreational opportunities on the road system through the core of the area during the summer and fall. Minimize human-wildlife conflicts and potential for resource damage during snowmelt by closing this road system to motorized vehicles in the winter and spring.

Standards and Guidelines

Management Areas 3.5 and 4.3

1. (ST) Prohibit camping within 100 feet of all lake shores, streambanks, and trails.

Travel Management Strategy, Caribou 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
3.5	4WD	R	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	Y	N	L	N
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	N	N	N	N	N
4.3	4WD	R	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
7.1	4WD	R	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