
Chapter Three:

Management Areas

Introduction

Management areas spatially define where differing kinds of resource and use opportunities are available to the public and where different management practices may be carried out. They are approximately shown in this chapter for each management area and on the map accompanying this document at 1:200,000 scale. Management area lines are more accurately displayed on maps accompanying the Resource Information System (RIS) database.

Each management area delineated on the map has a multiple-use management prescription to guide management of the area. This management prescription contains the following for each management area:

- (1) Management Area Theme -- A short description of the management direction.
- (2) Management Area Setting -- A short description of the location of the management area.
- (3) Management Area Activities and Opportunities -- Information about the availability of some of the major activities and opportunities within the Forest.
- (4) Management Area Desired Future Condition -- A description of the management area environment as the Forest Plan is implemented. (Forest-wide desired future condition is included in the discussion under each Forest-wide goal.
- (5) Management Area Goals and Objectives -- These are goals and objectives that describe desired resource conditions for the management areas. The other type of objective, which describes levels of goods and service, is only listed on a Forest-wide basis.
- (6) Management Area Standards and Guidelines -- These are standards and guidelines that apply to a particular management area in addition to the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Goals and objectives and standards and guidelines that changed in the Phase II Amendment are noted with an asterik (*). Appendix D in the Final EIS explains these changes with Alternative 2 being the current Forest Plan and Alternative 6 being the Phase II Amendment Forest Plan.

Management area direction is applied in addition to Forest-wide direction. Where there is conflict, the more site-specific direction applies, either Forest-wide or management area direction.

Management Area Categories

Eight general categories, further subdivided into prescriptions are used to display management area direction. The eight categories more or less range along a continuum from little use by humans to extensive use by humans. The categories coincide with those used throughout the Rocky Mountain Region as well as other Regions.

Category 1: Ecological processes are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates and non-native vegetation is rare. Late-successional vegetation is common along with earlier seral stages resulting from natural processes and disturbance regimes. Users must be self-reliant and should expect low levels of contact with other people. Few, if any, man-made facilities are present. Travel is non-motorized with rare exceptions. Typical types of areas are designated wilderness and backcountry lands. A minor amount of motorized use may be needed to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas.

1.1A Black Elk Wilderness

Category 2: These areas provide for conservation of representative or particularly rare and narrowly distributed ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible, but are sometimes evident. Type of human use varies, but generally is not intensive. Travel is generally non-motorized. Some of these areas help provide an important role under an adaptive management philosophy by providing “natural” reference areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are formally designated 2.2 Research Natural Areas.

2.2 Research Natural Areas

Category 3: Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given to both. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally predominate. Although these areas are characterized by predominantly natural-appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological progress. This will result in some evidence

of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary from area to area and from season to season.

3.1 Botanical Areas

3.2A Inyan Kara Mountain

3.31 Backcountry Motorized Recreation Emphasis

3.32 Backcountry Non-motorized Recreation Emphasis

3.7 Late-successional Forest Landscapes

Category 4: Ecological values are managed through a full range of management options to provide recreation use, but are maintained well within the levels necessary to maintain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is emphasized where compatible with recreation use, and with little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation-oriented. Sights and sounds of people on the site are expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

4.1 Limited Motorized Use and Forest Product Emphasis

4.2A Spearfish Canyon

4.2B Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway

Category 5: These areas are primarily forested ecosystems that are managed through a full range of management options to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions will be maintained, while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions considering the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities, and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource users are common. Motorized transportation is common.

Intensive management is often necessary to move the systems towards the range of natural variability. This management is usually a combination of prescribed fire and timber harvest treatments. These lands would appear similar to natural-appearing landscapes if left to function under natural disturbance processes.

5.1 Resource Production Emphasis

5.1A Southern Hills Forest and Grassland Areas

5.2A Fort Meade VA Hospital Watershed

5.3A Black Hills Experimental Forest

5.3B Sturgis Experimental Watershed

5.4 Big Game Winter Range Emphasis

5.43 Big Game and Resource Production

5.4A Norbeck Wildlife Preserve

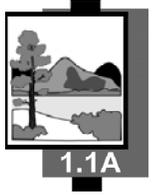
5.6 Forest Products, Recreation and Big Game Emphasis

Category 6: Non-forested ecosystems (grasslands). This category is not used in this plan.

Category 7: Specific intermingled public and private lands. This category is not used in this plan.

Category 8: Ecological conditions, including processes, are likely to be permanently altered, beyond the level needed to maintain natural-appearing landscapes and ecological processes, by human activities. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines or other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature directly or indirectly providing jobs and income. Motorized transportation is common.

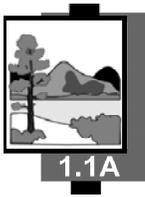
8.2 Developed Recreation Complexes



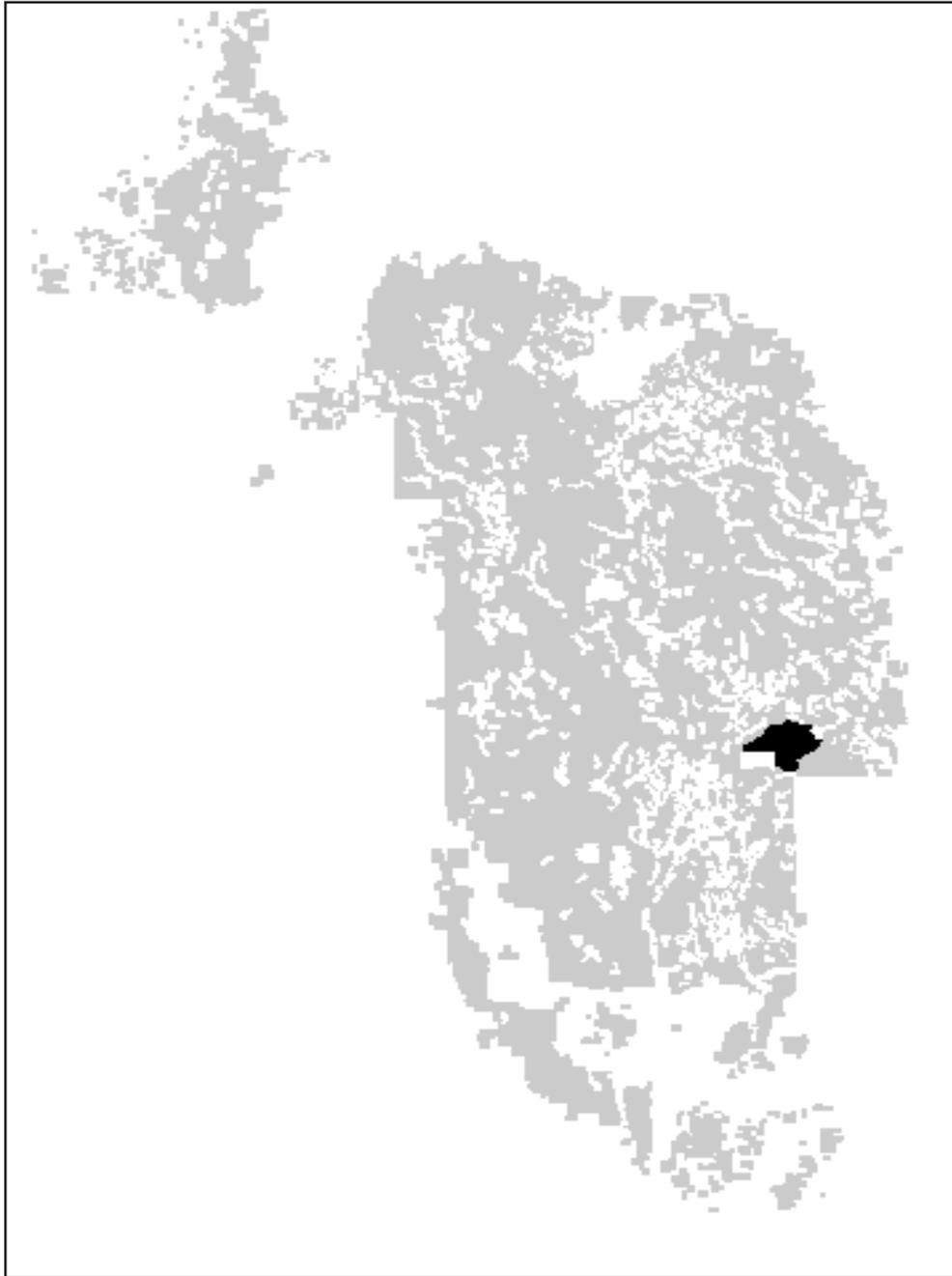
Management Area 1.1A Black Elk Wilderness

Theme: This area is managed to protect and perpetuate natural processes while providing opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.





Management Area 1.1A



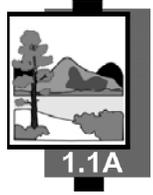
Management Area 1.1A

(Includes Upper Pine Creek RNA of 850 acres)

13,543 acres

1.1 percent of Forest

48.9 Percent of Norbeck Wildlife Preserve



Setting: The 13,543-acre Black Elk Wilderness is in the center of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Named for Black Elk, a famous Oglala holy man, this area became a designated Wilderness in 1980. Originally 9,831 acres, an additional 3,712 acres were added in 2002 (P.L. 107-206, Sec. 706(n)). Harney Peak, at 7,242 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. From a historic lookout tower atop Harney Peak, one has a panoramic view of four states (South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana), as well as the spectacular granite formations and cliffs of the Black Elk Wilderness. About 38 miles of hiking trails are located in the Wilderness; they lead to the top of Harney Peak from almost every direction. This area includes the Upper Pine Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) which was administratively designated in 1932, and contains 883 acres within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and Black Elk Wilderness. The area also has 2.5 miles of boundary in common with Mount Rushmore National Memorial and 7.2 miles of boundary in common with Custer State Park.

Activities and Opportunities:

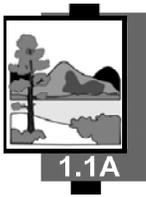
Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	No Roads
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	No
Timber Harvesting	No
Livestock Grazing	Yes, Uses Established Prior to Wilderness Designation
Mineral Development	Valid and Existing Rights Only

Desired Future Condition: Most people travel along the major trails leading to Harney Peak Lookout. Away from trails and camping areas, signs of people are almost non-existent. Primitive trails are available and cross-country travel is allowed. Encounters on primitive trails are extensive during peak-use seasons but are limited during off-use seasons.

In some areas there is a high chance of seeing the effects of insect and disease infestations. In most areas, forested areas appear mature, though some loss of shrubs and other forage species occurs in the understory as canopies close. In yet other areas, recent burns or blowdowns may dominate the landscape.

Plant communities indigenous to the Black Elk Wilderness are well represented and have evolved under fire disturbance. Primary natural processes are allowed to serve an integral role in the maintenance of the Wilderness ecosystem to the extent possible considering effects to lands outside of the Wilderness.

The most conspicuous tree species is the ponderosa pine. Other areas will exhibit stands of white spruce, aspen and other hardwoods. Some natural openings and meadows interrupt forested stands. Perhaps the most pervasive and dominant



features throughout the Wilderness are the massive granite outcrops and precipices.

Those visiting the area should experience solitude and primitive conditions. Primitive recreational opportunities are emphasized, which require a high degree of isolation, solitude, self-reliance and challenge. Livestock may be seen grazing in parts of the Wilderness. Pets are allowed on the trail system. Recreational stock, like horses and mules, are also allowed in the Wilderness.

Wilderness areas will be managed “to secure the benefits of an enduring resource of Wilderness” as called for in the Wilderness Act. These areas will serve as a foundation for healthy, diverse ecosystems where biodiversity and natural values are protected. They will be places where spiritual and psychological values are maintained and opportunities are provided for people who desire solitude and want primitive recreation in places of primeval character and wilderness influence. Wilderness visitors will have a shared understanding of the role and value of wilderness to society and practice minimum impact recreation activities.

The Black Elk Wilderness will continue to be managed to protect and perpetuate its Wilderness character and values. Although the Wilderness will be available for recreational opportunities, human use may be limited if it impedes the free play of natural forces or interferes with natural successions in the ecosystem. Based upon past use in Black Elk, it appears that the maximum recreation carrying capacity will be reached toward the end of this decade. Recreational use in the Upper Pine Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) will be discouraged, and no managed trails exist or will be built through the area. It is designated unsuitable for livestock grazing and is closed to this use.

Specific management for this Wilderness will be described in the Wilderness Implementation Schedule. The Wilderness Implementation Schedule will incorporate the direction described below.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

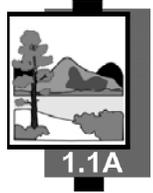
Social Elements

General

1.1A-401. Actively restore Wilderness ecosystems damaged by humans to the degree feasible. Identify the processes needed to access, restore, or mitigate human-induced change. **OBJECTIVE**

1.1A-402. Use Wilderness as a baseline by measuring indicators critical to ecological integrity. **GOAL**

1.1A-403. Restore fire in Wilderness to its natural role in the ecosystem. **GOAL**



1.1A-404. Protect and preserve the social values unique to certain cultures while recognizing them within the context of an enduring resource of Wilderness. **GOAL**

1.1A-405. Permit visitor freedom in Wilderness to the maximum extent feasible while recognizing that restrictions may be necessary to protect the quality of the wilderness experience. Take responsive actions quickly to protect the Wilderness resource. **OBJECTIVE**

1.1A-406. Provide opportunities for solitude in the Wilderness. **GOAL**

1.1A-407. Coordinate with Department of Defense agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration to develop procedures and guidelines to avoid or mitigate low-level flights over the Wilderness. **OBJECTIVE**

1.1A-408. Emphasize opportunities outside Wilderness for recreation activities that are not dependent on a wilderness setting. **GOAL**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

Physical Elements

Water

1.1A-1201. Use natural-appearing techniques to protect wetlands if alternate trail locations are unavailable. **GUIDELINE**

Minerals

1.1A-1501. No recommendations favorable to mineral leasing will be made nor will common variety mineral exploration, development or production be authorized or approved. **STANDARD**

Biological Elements -- Flora

Vegetation

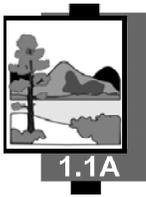
1.1A-2101. Provide for natural plant succession. **STANDARD**

1.1A-2102. Vegetative restoration projects may be needed where human activities have altered natural ecosystems and there is no reasonable expectations of natural revegetation. Species native to the ecosystem should be planted. Where non-native species must be used, they should be selected based on the likelihood that they will not persist beyond the rehabilitation period. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-2103. Manage wilderness within the context of larger landscapes to ensure the protection and integrity of natural and biological processes. **GUIDELINE**

Rangeland

1.1A-2501. Livestock grazing activities shall be permitted in accordance with guidelines in House of Representatives Report No. 96-617. **STANDARD**



Management Area 1.1A

1.1A-2502. Wildlife and livestock habitat will be managed to maintain the desired plant communities. Range improvements are limited to those necessary to maintain the potential natural plant communities and to resolve grazing and wilderness use conflicts. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-2503. Existing livestock grazing may continue. Do not permit any increase in livestock numbers (head or animal months). **STANDARD**

1.1A-2504. The Palmer Gulch Allotment is designated suitable to graze livestock; the remainder of the Wilderness is designated as unsuitable to graze livestock. However, because the unsuitable area is not fenced, occasional livestock use may take place. **STANDARD**

1.1A-2505. Livestock grazing in the area designated unsuitable within the Wilderness may occasionally be used as a tool to achieve management objectives. These uses could include noxious weed control, hazard reduction of fine fuels, and grass/shrub health, etc. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-2506. *See 2.2-2502.

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

1.1A-4101. Manage fire and fuels to promote the fire regime ecosystem. **STANDARD**

1.1A-4102. Emphasize the use of prescribed fires through management and natural ignitions under approved prescribed burn plans to reduce unnatural buildups of fuels and to simulate conditions representative of a ponderosa pine fire regime. A fire management strategy will be prepared to describe the procedures and conditions needed to meet this guideline. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-4103. The use of natural control features and hand tools are the preferred means to confine, contain and/or control wildfires. **GUIDELINE**

Noxious Weeds

1.1A-4301. Control noxious weeds by grubbing, chemicals or biological agents when they threaten lands outside Wilderness or when they are spreading within the Wilderness, provided that it is possible to effect control without causing serious adverse impacts on Wilderness values. **GUIDELINE**

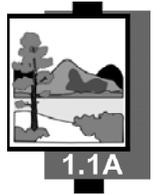
Social Elements

Recreation

1.1A-5101. Human influences will be managed to preserve Wilderness values, physical characteristics and natural processes. **STANDARD**

1.1A-5102. Wilderness will be managed to prevent degradation. Improve conditions in situations where natural processes are not operating freely, and where any of the values for which a wilderness was created are impaired.

GUIDELINE



1.1A-5103. Utilize a permit system to manage use levels and patterns if needed to protect the Wilderness. The estimated Wilderness carrying capacity is 32,100 recreation visitor days (RVD). **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-5104. Maximum party size in Wilderness is 25 (any combination of people and recreation stock). This size limit will apply yearlong. Smaller party-size limits for people and stock will be established where biological and physical resource capabilities cannot support that level of use. **STANDARD**

1.1A-5105. Pets allowed in the Wilderness must be under control (either by voice or by physical constraint, such as a leash). **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-5106. Recreational livestock is prohibited within 100 feet of lake shores and stream banks, except during watering and through travel. **STANDARD**

1.1A-5107. Require users camping overnight with recreational livestock to provide processed feeds that are free of viable noxious weed seeds. **STANDARD**

1.1A-5108. Evidence of management should vary by opportunity class as described below:

DESCRIPTION	PRISTINE (UPPER PINE CREEK RNA)	PRIMITIVE (IN BETWEEN)	TRANSITION (TRAIL CORRIDORS)
Physical	Unmodified natural environment	Unmodified natural environment	Predominately unmodified environment.
Social	Slight contact with other users. No evidence of use. 80% chance of 2 or fewer encounters per day. Potential for user conflicts is less than 50% on a daily basis.	Minimum contact with other users. Minimum evidence of use. 80% chance of 6 or fewer encounters per day. Potential for user conflicts is less than 50% on a daily basis.	Highest contact with other users. Greatest evidence of use. 80% chance of 20 or fewer encounters per day. Potential for user conflicts is close to 100% on a daily basis.
Management Action	Virtually no management	Minimum management presence.	Moderate management presence.

GUIDELINE

1.1A-5109. The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class is Primitive.

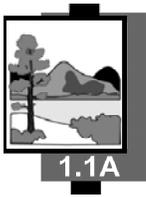
GUIDELINE

Scenery Management

1.1A-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objective is very high. **GUIDELINE**

Heritage Resources

1.1A-6101. Do not provide interpretive facilities at heritage resource sites, and do not restore or enhance heritage resources for recreational purposes; however, authorize continued maintenance of the Harney Peak Lookout Tower, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Management Area 1.1A

- a. The Harney Peak Lookout Tower will be reconstructed to provide public safety and to reduce the threat of vandalism.
- b. One interpretive sign will be placed inside the Lookout Tower, explaining the significance of this National Register of Historic Places site.

GUIDELINE

1.1A-6102. Provide for heritage resource inventory. **GUIDELINE**

Administrative Elements

Lands

1.1A-8101. Maintain the Wilderness boundary location. **STANDARD**

Utility Corridors

1.1A-8301. Prohibit utility corridors. **STANDARD**

Special Uses

1.1A-8501. Permit only those uses authorized by Wilderness legislation that cannot be reasonably met on non-Wilderness lands. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-8502. Keep outfitter/guide activities harmonious with activities of non-guided visitors. Include outfitter/guide operations in calculations of recreation capacities.

- a. Allow picketed grazing of recreation livestock.
- b. Prohibit overnight grazing of recreation livestock.
- c. Prohibit outfitter/guide camps.
- d. Outfitter/guide permits will be limited to two, each with a limit of 200 visitor-days per year.

STANDARD

1.1A-8503. Prohibit the collecting of rocks, minerals, and paleontological materials. **STANDARD**

Transportation and Travel Elements

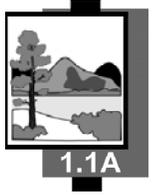
1.1A-9101. Maintain all trails for foot and horse travel unless specifically closed.

GUIDELINE

1.1A-9102. Construct or reconstruct trails when needed as part of the transportation system. Consider the primitive character of the area in project design and analysis. Trail density will not exceed an average density of 2 miles per square mile over the wilderness area. In trail design and planning, minimize visual impacts of trails and eliminate duplicate routes. **GUIDELINE**

1.1A-9103. Control erosion on trails and travel ways. **STANDARD**

1.1A-9104. Only the minimum signing necessary should be provided for resource protection and directional signs at trail junctions. **GUIDELINE**



1.1A-9105. Aircraft flights less than 2,000 feet above terrain will be discouraged.

GUIDELINE

1.1A-9106. Obliterate existing roads or unneeded trails as opportunities exist.

STANDARD

1.1A-9107. Prohibit new road construction or reconstruction of existing roads.

STANDARD

1.1A-9108. Prohibit motorized and mechanized travel. **STANDARD**

1.1A-9109. *If trails are to be constructed or relocated, route them away from R2 sensitive and species of local concern (SOLC) plant occurrences. Do not increase climbing access over what currently exists where R2 sensitive or SOLC plants occur. **STANDARD**