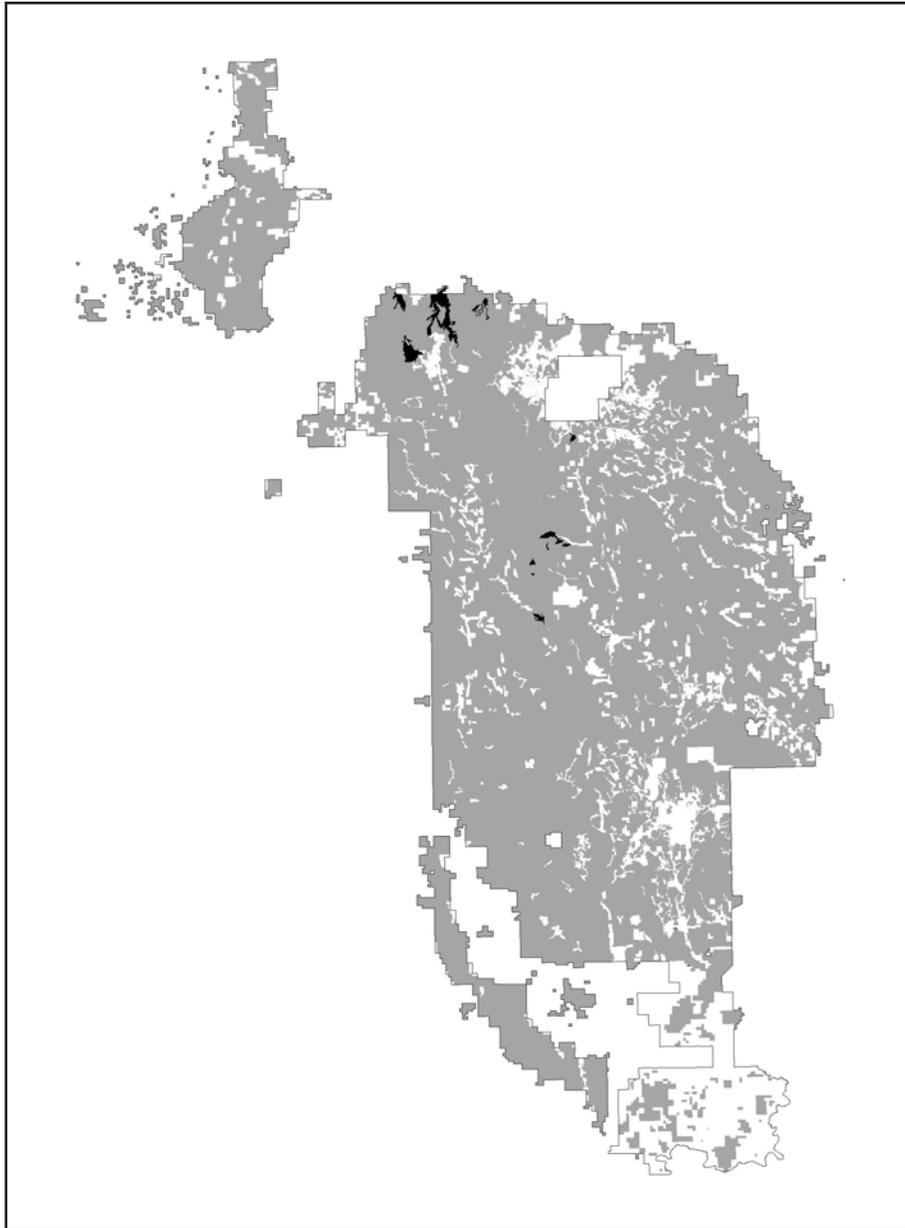


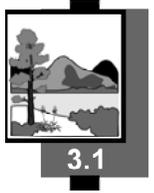
Management Area 3.1 Botanical Areas

Theme: This area is managed for protection of unusual or special characteristics.





<p>Management Area 3.1 7,348 Acres Less than 1 percent of Forest</p>	<p>Botanical Areas Upper Sand Creek Dugout Gulch Bear/Beaver Gulches Higgins Gulch Englewood Springs Black Fox Valley North Fork Castle Creek McIntosh Fen</p>
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Setting: Botanical management areas or rare natural communities may be located in a number of places throughout the Forest. The environmental conditions in which they exist may differ from each other, such as site-specific climatic conditions, soil types, elevations and precipitation zones; however, the thread common to all of them is that they exhibit plant communities, associations and/or individual species of particular interest

Activities and Opportunities:

Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	No, except administrative
Timber Harvesting	Minimal
Livestock Grazing	Yes
Mineral Development	Potential Mineral Withdrawal

Desired Future Condition: Management emphasis is on conserving or enhancing areas of botanical interest and, where appropriate, developing and interpreting these areas for public education.

These areas are protected to maintain their botanical interest values. Botanical areas (BAs) provide protection for threatened, endangered or sensitive species, and other elements of biological diversity, or for their scenic and/or public property values. Botanical areas can vary in size from small sites to fairly large sites.

Botanical areas should be studied to try to identify what factors have led to the area's characteristic habitat. This information can be used to conserve and enhance the area.

A management strategy may be developed for botanical areas.

Vegetation, habitat, soil productivity and water quality are usually unaffected by humans. The setting is usually natural, but varies from site to site. Facilities may be present to the extent needed to maintain the area or to facilitate visitor use of the area. Recreational use of these sites is primarily intended for interpretation and educational activities.

Many of the botanical management areas include various recreation opportunities. In addition to activities of flora observations, interpretation and photography, these areas may provide for such opportunities as fishing, hunting, picnicking, birdwatching, and hiking.

Renewable and extractive uses are restricted or prohibited. Livestock grazing is allowed if it does not conflict with the values for which the botanical area was designated. These sites may be closed to public use when needed to protect



Management Area 3.1

botanical attributes from disturbances. No new roads are permitted in these areas, and new trails are not constructed, unless they are needed for interpretive or educational purposes or to correct resource damage currently occurring.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

3.1-201. *Maintain or enhance the botanical features of these areas. Monitor to determine if botanical features are being maintained. **OBJECTIVE**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

General

3.1-1001. *Protect the unique biological, geological, historical, paleontological, or additional botanical values that may continue to be discovered, along with the botanical values for which the botanical area was designated. No new mineral material permits will be issued for this area. **STANDARD**

Physical Elements

Minerals

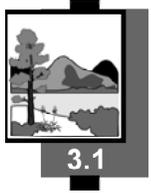
3.1-1501. Withdraw this area from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579) when withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the botanical area was designated. **STANDARD**

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

3.1-2101. Allow logging and wood gathering activities only when necessary to maintain, restore or enhance values for which the botanical area was designated. **STANDARD**

3.1-2102. Tentatively suitable lands within these areas do not contribute to the allowable sale quantity and are not part of the suitable timber land base. **STANDARD**



Rangeland

3.1-2501. Allow livestock grazing if it does not conflict with the values for which the botanical area was designated. **STANDARD**

3.1-2502. Allow new improvements only when they are necessary to maintain, restore or enhance the values for which the botanical area was designated.

GUIDELINE

3.1-2503. *Restrict access of domestic livestock to protect the R2 sensitive and species of local concern plant occurrences in designated botanical areas. **STANDARD**

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

3.1-4101. *Manage fire and fuels through control practices and prescribed fire to protect the values for which the botanical area was designated. Use minimum impact suppression tactics when suppressing wildfire. **STANDARD**

3.1-4102. Consider opportunities for prescribed natural fire (PNF) and cover under an approved PNF strategy if appropriate. **GUIDELINE**

Social Elements

Recreation

3.1-5101. Allow recreation use with emphasis on interpretation and education when it does not threaten the values for which the botanical area was designated.

STANDARD

3.1-5102. Protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use. Utilize closures under 36 CFR 261.53 Subpart B when necessary. **STANDARD**

3.1-5103. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes are listed below.

- a. Upper Sand Creek - Semi-primitive Non-motorized.
- b. Dugout Gulch - Semi-primitive Non-motorized.
- c. Bear/Beaver Gulches - Semi-primitive Non-motorized.
- d. Higgins Gulch - Roaded Natural.
- e. Englewood Springs - Semi-primitive Non-motorized.
- f. Black Fox Valley - Roaded Natural
- g. North Fork Castle Creek -- Semi-primitive Motorized
- h. McIntosh Fen - Semi-primitive Non-motorized (except snowmobiles operating on snow).

GUIDELINE



Management Area 3.1

Scenery Management

3.1-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objectives (SIO) is high. **GUIDELINE**

Administrative Elements

Special Uses

3.1-8501. Allow authorization that protects or enhances the area. **STANDARD**

Transportation and Travel Management

(Exceptions to travel restrictions/prohibitions may be allowed for administrative uses.)

3.1-9101. *Travel is restricted to designated routes except for emergency and administrative use. **STANDARD**

3.1-9102. *Off-road motorized travel is prohibited except for emergency and administrative use. **STANDARD**

3.1-9103. *Over-the-snow motorized travel is restricted to designated routes and areas except for emergency and administrative use. **STANDARD**

3.1-9104. Construct new roads or trails only when they are necessary for interpretive or educational purposes or when they will correct resource damage occurring from existing roads, trails or other uses. Roads may also be constructed if they are needed to maintain, restore or enhance the values for which the botanical area was designated. **STANDARD**

3.1-9105. Do not construct any new System roads in the Upper Sand Creek Botanical Area. **STANDARD**