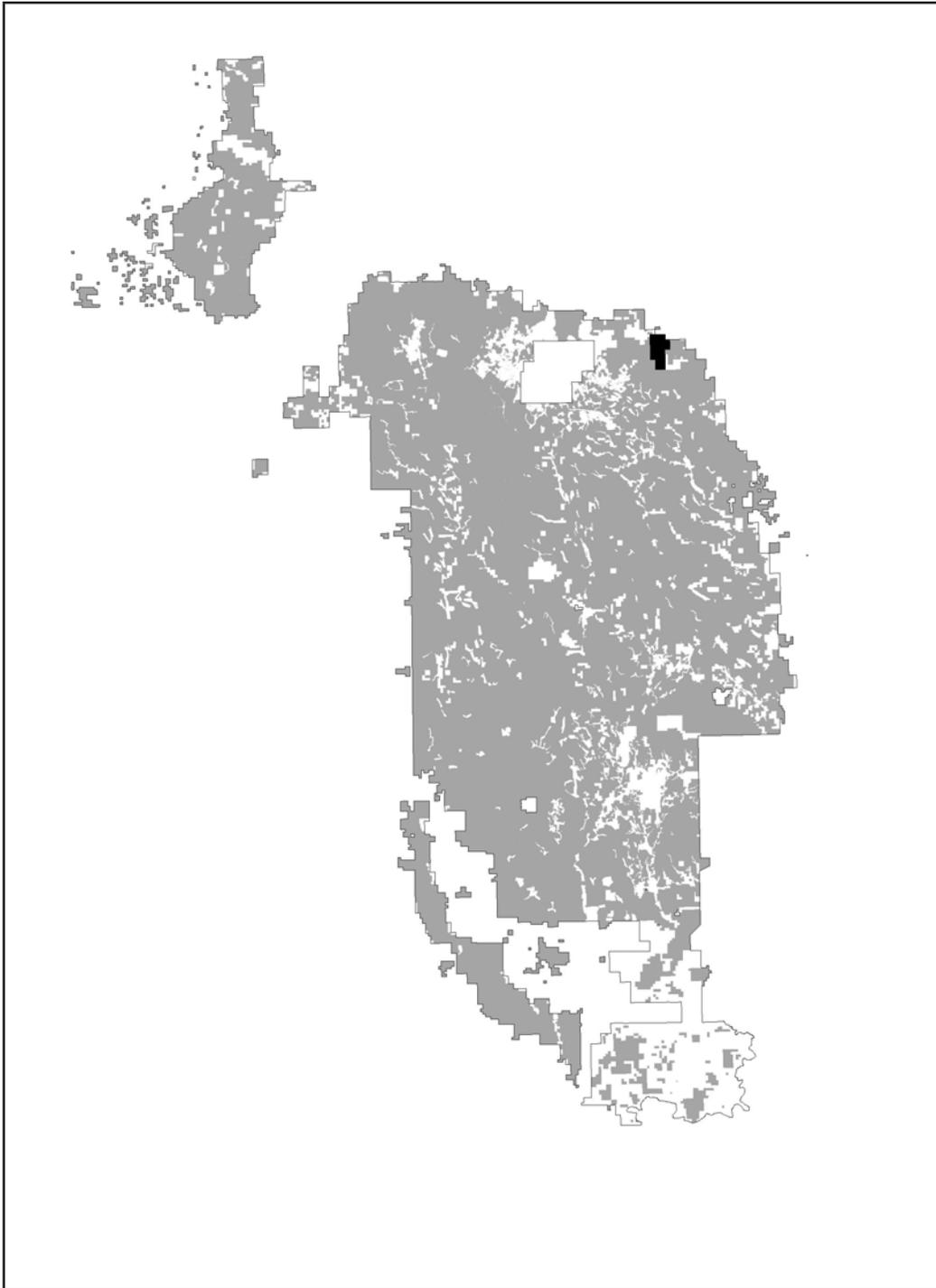




Management Area 5.2A Fort Meade VA Hospital Watershed

Theme: This is an area managed to protect or improve the quality and quantity of water supplies to the Fort Meade Veterans Administration Hospital.





Management Area 5.2A
3,308 Acres
Less than 1 percent of Forest



Setting: This management area is located in the northeastern corner of the Northern Hills Ranger District in the northeastern Black Hills. The major drainage is Deadman Gulch. The management area contains Public Land Order Watershed 360 and provides water to the Fort Meade Veterans Administration Hospital near Sturgis, South Dakota. The higher elevations in this management area are relatively flat. The area gets steeper, however, as the elevation decreases. The drainages are highly dissected and steep. The Fort Meade VA Hospital Watershed generally has shallower and rockier soils than other parts of the forest.

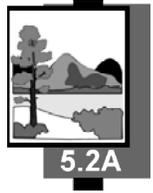
Activities and Opportunities:

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

Desired Future Condition: Roads open for public travel in the Fort Meade Watershed are Forest Development Roads 135 and 170 (as these two roads are paved, they will become Forest Highway 26), and portions of the Forest Development Road 171 system. Non-motorized activities, like hiking and wildlife viewing, are provided.

Ponderosa pine is the most conspicuous tree species, although small areas of white spruce, aspen and other hardwoods also occur. Some natural openings and meadows of varying sizes and shapes are interspersed throughout this management area. Tree groups of different ages and heights are present. Some recently cut areas show tree stumps, slash and disturbed soil, but these areas recover and the forest floor is soon growing with grasses and forbs. Slash is burned or lopped and scattered. A partial canopy of older trees is usually present in recent harvest sites. The boundaries of cut areas conform to natural landscape patterns.

Protection and improvement of the quality and quantity of municipal water supplies is emphasized. Loss of water quality is minimized while keeping vegetative losses to a minimum and by considering costs of suppression. Water quality is maintained and supplies of domestically used water are provided to the Veterans Administration Hospital Complex.



The yield and timing of water flows are consistent with requirements for water quality. Water yield is maintained as is stream-channel stability. Human activities are managed so that water quality is not degraded and complies with the Clean Water Act and state water-quality regulations.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

Physical Elements

Water

5.2A-101. Vegetation will be managed to provide optimum water quantity while meeting state water quality standards. **GOAL**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

Physical Elements

Water

5.2A-1201. Management disturbances posing potential water pollution will be immediately rehabilitated. Monitoring of rehabilitated areas will be inspected annually and maintained to protect water quality. **STANDARD**

Minerals

5.2A-1501. Areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry or provisions will be made for coordination with state public health officials to provide that water quality will not be degraded by mining activities. **STANDARD**

5.2A-1502. Protect surface resource conditions to maintain water quality of the municipal water supply. Issue no mineral material permits for commercial development of common variety minerals. **STANDARD**

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

5.2A-2101. Suitable lands are available for timber production and contribute to the allowable sale quantity. **STANDARD**

Rangeland

5.2A-2501. Manage livestock use to continue protection of water quality for domestic use. **GUIDELINE**



Biological Elements -- Fauna

Wildlife

5.2A-3201. *DELETED

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

5.2A-4101. Manage fire and fuels through control practices and a full array of fuel treatment options which will provide the greatest measure of protection or improvement to the quality and quantity of municipal water supplies. **STANDARD**

Social Elements

Recreation

5.2A-5101. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural on the designated travel routes and semi-primitive non-motorized in the remainder of the area. **GUIDELINE**

Scenery Management

5.2A-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objective is high. **GUIDELINE**

Administrative Elements

Special Uses

5.2A-8501. Only issue special use permits that are compatible with public-land-order watershed objectives. **STANDARD**

Transportation and Travel

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

5.2A-9101. Off-road motorized travel is prohibited. **STANDARD**

5.2A-9102. Motorized road travel is restricted to designated routes. **STANDARD**

5.2A-9103. Over-the-snow motorized travel is restricted to designated routes and areas. **STANDARD**