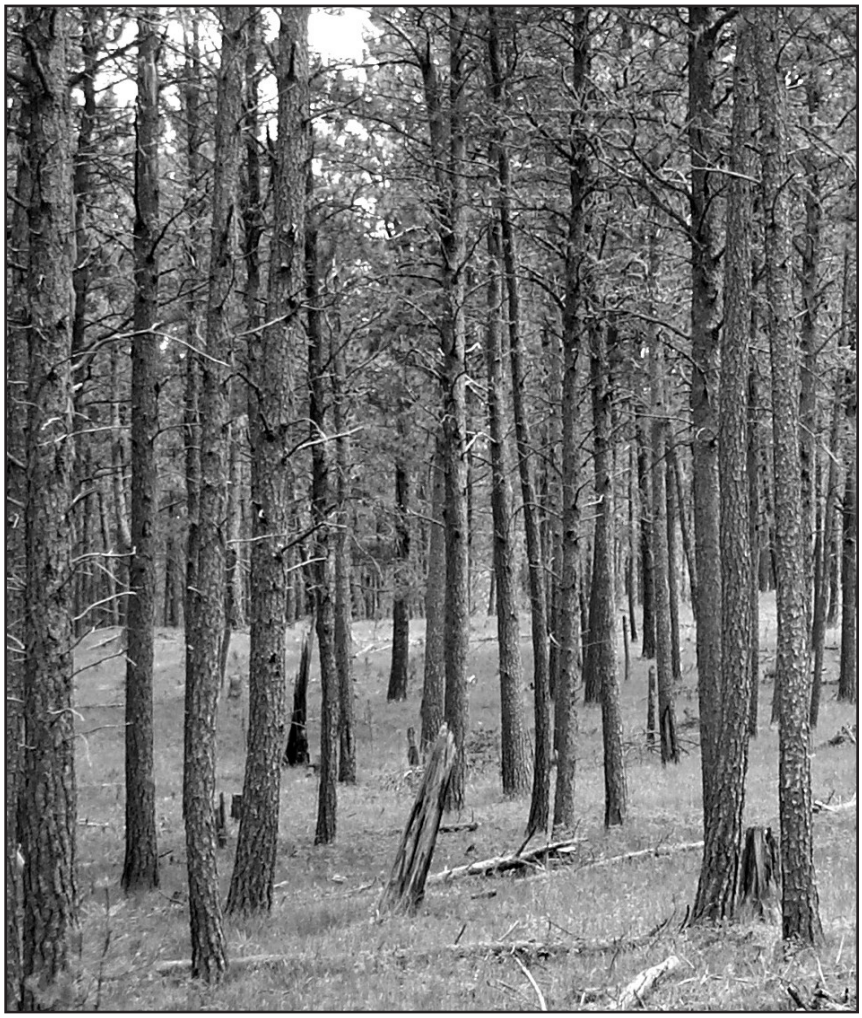
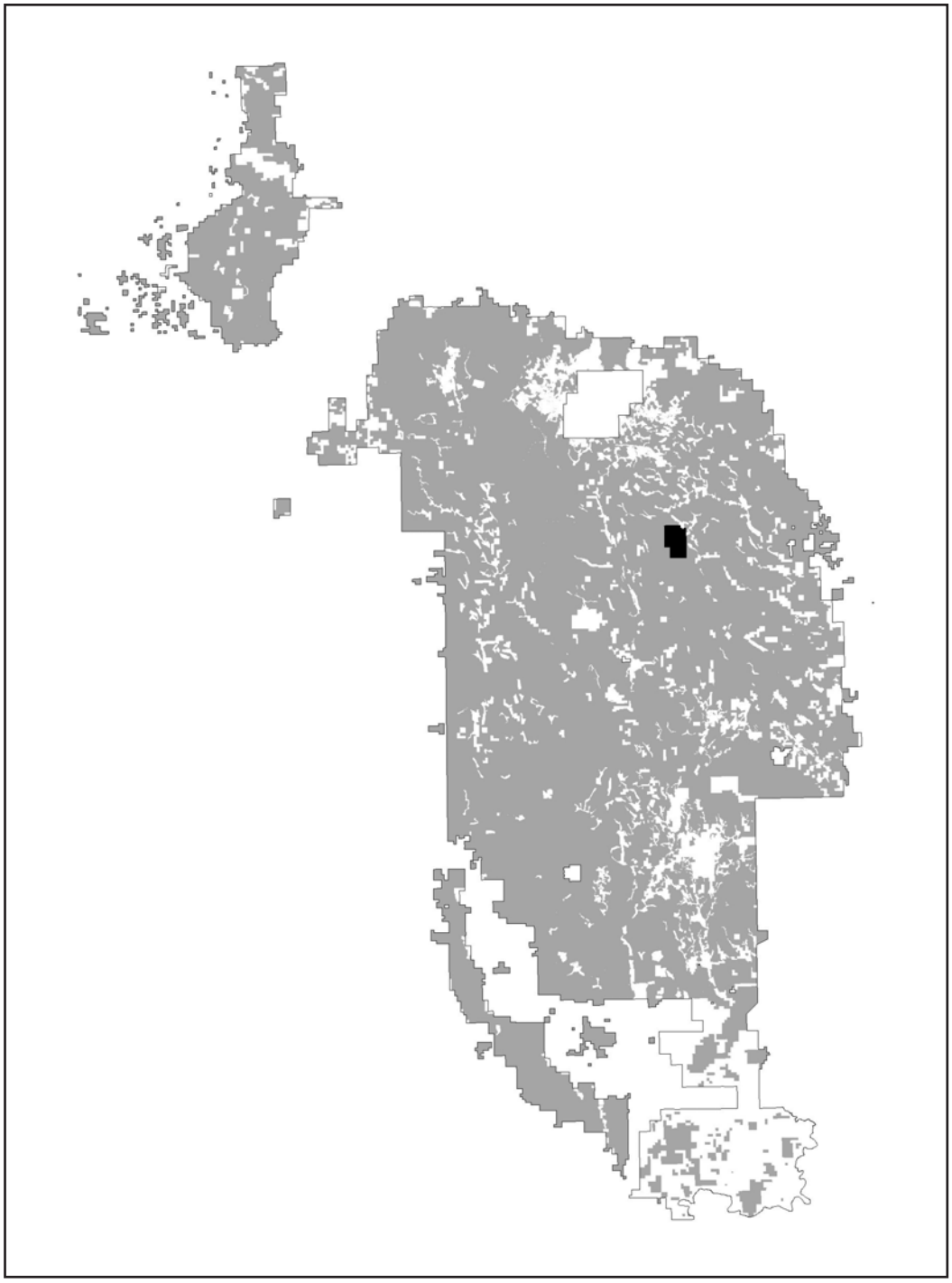
Management Area 5.3A
Black Hills Experimental Forest

Theme: This area is managed for research conducted by scientists assigned to the Rocky Mountain Research Station.





Management Area 5.3A
3,393 Acres
0.3 Percent of Forest

5.3A

Setting: The Black Hills Experimental Forest is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Rapid City and encompasses 3,402 acres of ponderosa pine woodland. It was designated as an outdoor laboratory in 1961.

Activities and Opportunities:

Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Timber Harvesting	Experimental
Livestock Grazing	Yes
Mineral Development	Withdrawn

Desired Future Condition: Experiments in this management area are designed to determine how alternative forest management programs affect forest resources.

Vegetation appears managed in this area. Groups of trees exhibit different heights and ages, and the forest floor usually appears fairly undisturbed, with grasses and forbs covering the ground. In recently cut areas, tree stumps, slash and disturbed soils are evident. Fire suppression and fuel treatment activities are conducted with an emphasis on complementing rather than compromising ongoing research projects. Some natural or created openings of various shapes and sizes exist.

Vegetation is managed consistent with current or planned research projects, assuring that the integrity of these projects is protected. Interpretive opportunities and signing are provided for research and forest management projects.

The area is highly roaded, with gravel and native surfaces. Motorized recreation is allowed. Hiking and hunting may occur. Livestock grazing is allowed and cattle may be seen. Wildlife habitat research is encouraged. The occurrence of some wildlife species may be associated with the habitat conditions created through experimentation.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

General

5.3A-701. Cooperate with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to accomplish research objectives. **OBJECTIVE**

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

5.3A-201. Apply harvest practices, including untested experimental practices, to meet the needs of designed experiments. **OBJECTIVE**

Rangeland

5.3A-202. Perform range restoration work in association with research projects. **OBJECTIVE**

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

5.3A-203. Reduce the threat of wildfire damage to researach projects. Provide fuel treatment recommended by research staff. **OBJECTIVE**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

Physical Elements

Minerals

5.3A-1501. Protect surface resource conditions to prevent alteration of research projects. **STANDARD**

Biological Elements -- Flora

5.3A-2101. Tentatively suitable lands within this area do not contribute to the allowable sale quantity and are not part of the suitable timber land base. **STANDARD**

Rangeland

5.3A-2501. Permit livestock grazing that is compatible with research activities. **GUIDELINE**

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

5.3A-4101. Permit prescribed fire in association with research projects. **GUIDELINE**

Social Elements

Recreation

5.3A-5101. Provide interpretive signs on experimental plots and develop brochures. **GUIDELINE**

5.3A-5102. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural. **GUIDELINE**

Scenery Management

5.3A-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objective is very low. **GUIDELINE**

Administrative Elements

Special Uses

5.3A-8501. Issue no new special-use permits. **GUIDELINE**

Transportation and Travel

5.3A-9101. Off-road motorized travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.3A-9102. Motorized road travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.3A-9103. Over-the-snow motorized travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**