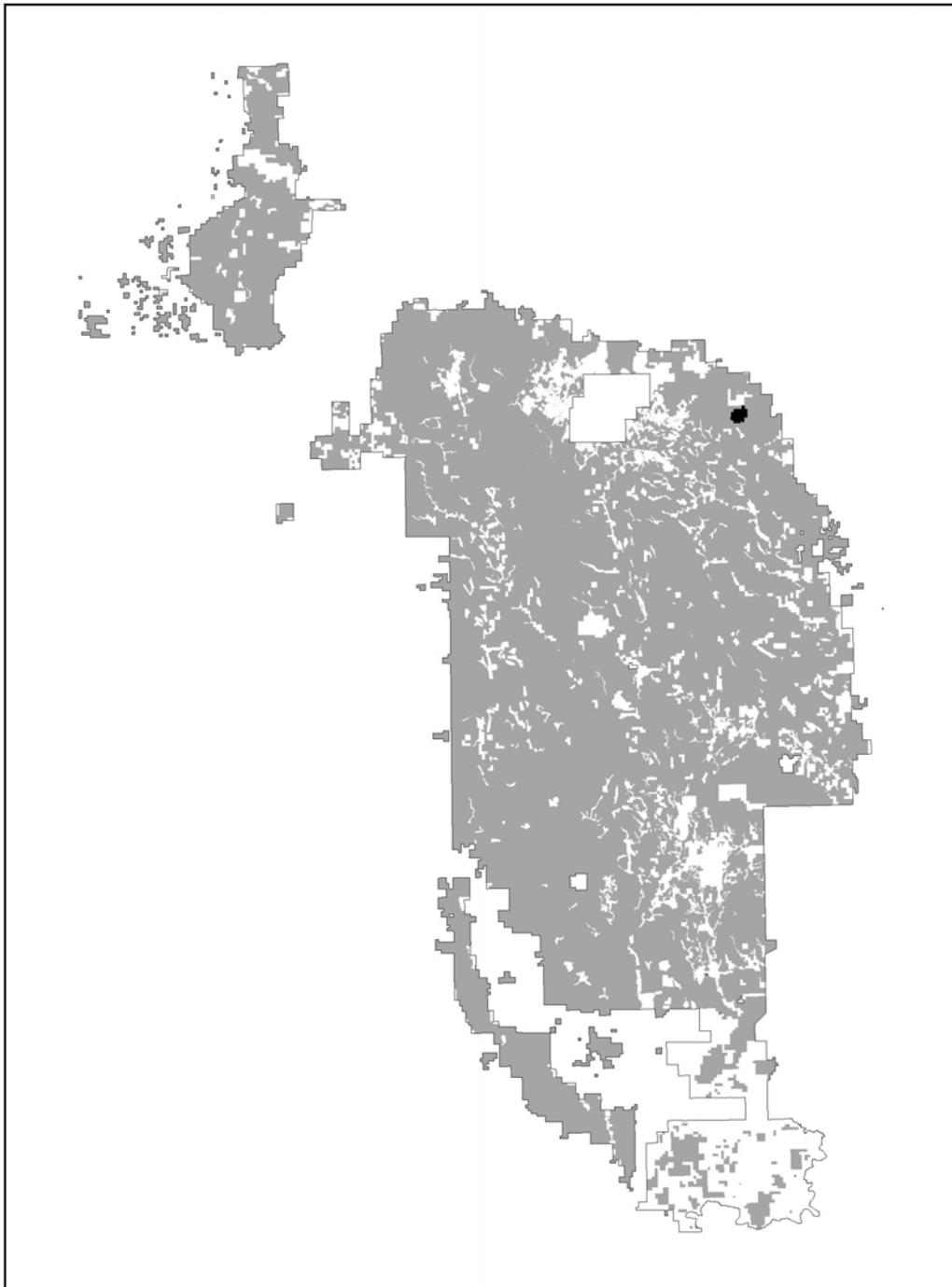
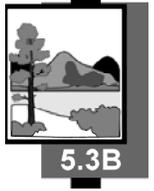




## Management Area 5.3B Sturgis Experimental Watershed

**Theme:** This is an area managed to provide for experiments, tests and other activities that obtain, analyze, develop, demonstrate and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing and utilizing watershed resources.





**Management Area 5.3B**  
1,079 Acres  
Less than 1 percent of Forest



**Setting:** The Sturgis Experimental Watershed is located in the northeastern corner of the Northern Hills Ranger District. Research is given priority over other activities and uses of the area.

The higher elevations are relatively flat. The area gets steeper, however, as elevation decreases. Drainages are highly dissected and steep. The area generally has shallower and rockier soils than other parts of the forest.

### Activities and Opportunities:

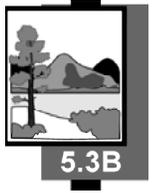
|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation | Yes                       |
| On-Road Motorized Vehicles         | Yes                       |
| Off-Road Motorized Vehicles   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| Mineral Development                | Withdrawn                 |

**Desired Future Condition:** The most conspicuous tree species is the ponderosa pine. Small areas of white spruce, aspen and other hardwoods also exist in this management area. Some natural openings and meadows of various sizes and shapes occur throughout the landscape.

Forested portions of the area exhibit tree groups of different ages and heights. Some recently cut areas show tree stumps, slash and disturbed soil, although signs of disturbed soil are only seen for a few years after harvest. Slash is burned or otherwise disposed of, and vegetation grows back. Other recently cut areas retain a partial canopy of older trees. The boundaries of these cut areas appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

Older cut areas exhibit tree saplings, poles or young trees up to 45 feet. In these areas, the forest floor appears less disturbed than in more recently cut areas. Occasionally, large patches of late-successional trees of various heights appear. Scattered dead trees can be seen in the openings and within the stands of older trees.

Experiments, tests and other activities related to water yield and water quality occur. Prescribed fires may be used in conjunction with experiments. Livestock grazing compatible with research activities may be evident. Management for wildlife habitat is conducted in relation to research activities. Non-motorized recreational opportunities are provided.



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## **Management Area Goals and Objectives**

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### **General**

5.3B-701. Cooperate with the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station to accomplish research objectives. **OBJECTIVE**

### **Biological Elements -- Flora**

#### **Forest Communities**

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

### **Disturbance Processes**

#### **Fire and Fuels**

5.3B-202. Treat natural and activity fuels to established standards with emphasis placed on protection of the watershed. **OBJECTIVE**

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## **Management Area Standards and Guidelines**

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### **Physical Elements**

#### **Minerals**

5.3B-1501. Protect surface resource conditions to maintain water quality. Issue no mineral-material permits for commercial developments of common variety minerals. **STANDARD**

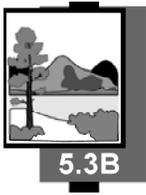
### **Biological Elements -- Flora**

#### **Forest Communities**

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

#### **Rangeland**

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



## Biological Elements -- Fauna

### Wildlife

5.3B-3201. Coordinate wildlife habitat management in relation to research management activities. **GUIDELINE**

## Disturbance Processes

### Fire and Fuels

5.3B-4101. Suppress each wildfire to protect the investments of research projects. **GUIDELINE**

5.3B-4102. Permit prescribed fire in association with research projects. **GUIDELINE**

## Social Elements

### Recreation

5.3B-5101. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized. **GUIDELINE**

### Scenery Management

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

## Administrative Elements

### Special Uses

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

## Transportation and Travel Elements

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

5.3B-9101. Off-road motorized travel is prohibited. **STANDARD**

5.3B-9102. Motorized road travel is restricted to designated routes. **STANDARD**

5.3B-9103. Over-the-snow motorized travel is restricted to designated routes and areas. **STANDARD**