



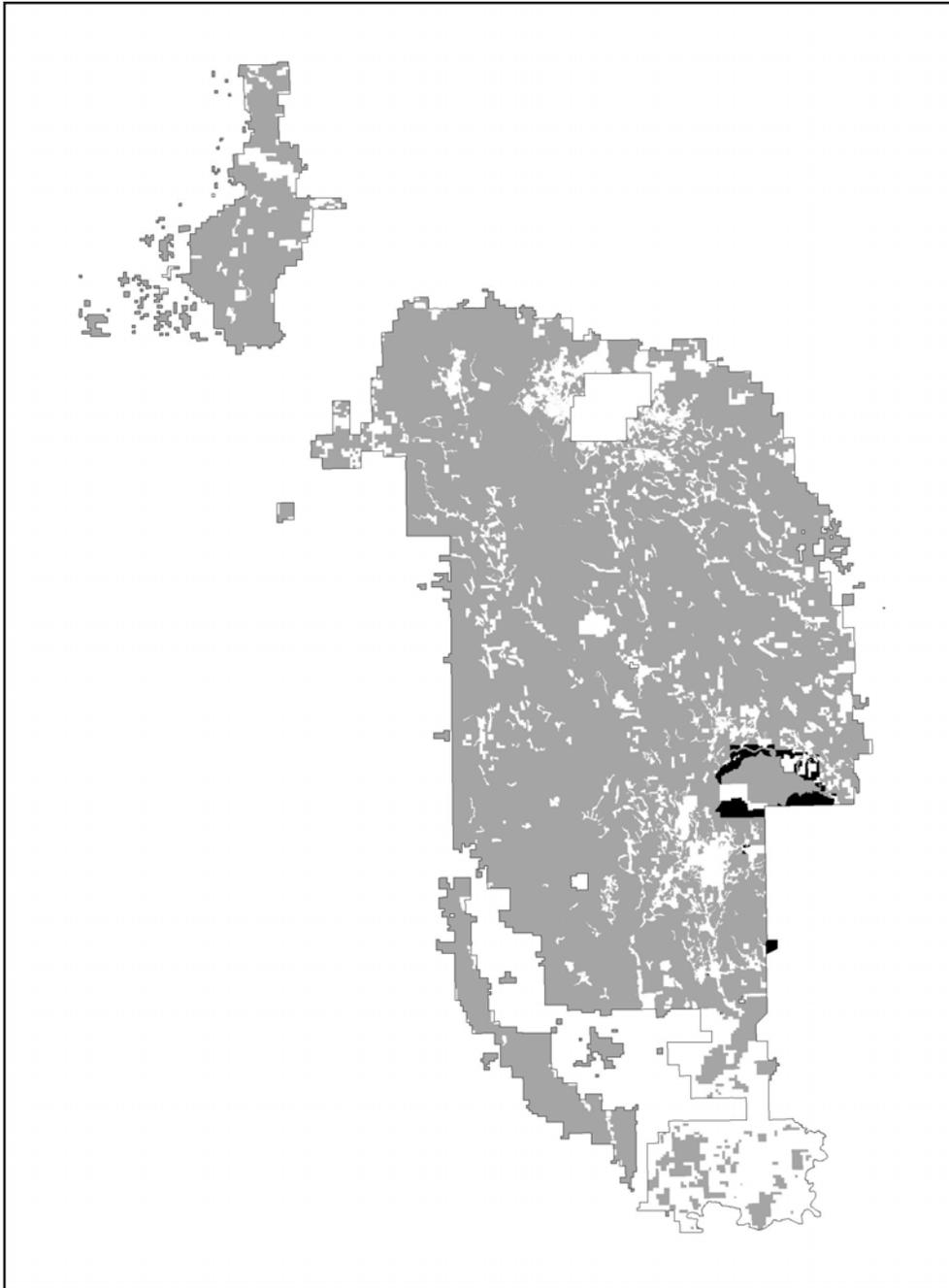
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## Management Area 5.4A Norbeck Wildlife Preserve

**Theme:** This area is managed to provide habitat for game animals and birds. Some human activities are allowed, consistent with wildlife needs.





**Management Area 5.4A**  
12,236 Acres  
1 Percent of Forest  
44.6 Percent of Norbeck Wildlife Preserve  
(Remainder in Management. Areas 1.1A and 4.2B)



**Setting:** Norbeck Wildlife Preserve was established by Congress in 1920 for the “protection of game animals and birds and to be recognized as a breeding place therefor.” Although it does not prohibit other uses, the law leaves little doubt: Norbeck is to be managed for the benefit of wildlife.

Norbeck is home to a variety of wildlife, including elk, deer, mountain goats, small mammals and birds. It contains rugged granite formations and small streams. The predominant vegetation is ponderosa pine, but there are also stands of spruce and hardwoods, and small open meadows.

The Preserve covers about 35,000 acres. Approximately 28,000 acres are within the Black Hills National Forest. The remaining land is privately owned or under the jurisdiction of Custer State Park. Black Elk Wilderness (see Management Area 1.1A) lies within Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, as does the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway (see Management Area 4.2B).

## Activities and Opportunities:

Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	Restricted
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	No, except administrative
Timber Harvesting	As needed for wildlife habitat.
Livestock Grazing	Yes
Mineral Development	Restricted

**Desired Future Condition:** Habitat is provided for game animals and birds. To provide for a variety of wildlife species, Norbeck contains a variety of habitat including open areas; shrubs; tree stands of different ages, densities and species; and healthy streamside areas.

Norbeck contains stands of ponderosa pine of different ages and heights, with scattered stands of white spruce and hardwoods. Some stands consist of young trees. Late-successional stands are distributed across the landscape. A higher portion of tree stands in Norbeck are in late succession than in most of the forest. Late-successional stands are connected by stands of mature trees. Scattered throughout Norbeck are some openings and meadows of various sizes and shapes. There are also massive, bare, rock outcrops.

Streamside areas support a variety of vegetation, including shrubs and forbs, as well as pine, spruce, aspen, and birch.

Activities are undertaken to create or maintain wildlife habitat diversity. There are tree stumps, slash and disturbed soil in some areas. Where tree cutting



has occurred recently, there may still be a canopy of older trees. Boundaries of cut areas follow natural landscape patterns. Prescribed burning is used as a management tool to maintain forage for wildlife, to rejuvenate hardwood and shrub species, or to reduce fuels.

Some areas may show signs of recent wildfire. Some stands may contain many dead trees, a result of insect infestation or disease.

In most areas, motorized travel is limited to highways, a few gravel roads, and access to private land and recreational sites. Most low-standard roads are permanently closed to provide wildlife security. These roads often have barriers, gates and/or signs explaining the reason for the closure. Closed roads have been seeded to native species and may have trees growing in them.

Recreational activities are not detrimental to wildlife. Non-motorized activities, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, occur along a system of trails. Some closed low-standard roads are part of the trail system. Trails may be closed seasonally to provide wildlife security.

There is some evidence of old mining, but active mining is rare. Fuelwood gathering is prohibited, except by special permit. Hunting and trapping may occur. Livestock grazing is allowed.

## **Management Area Goals and Objectives**

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(See Appendix E for more specific direction for the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.)

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

#### **Biological Diversity**

5.4A-201. Manage tree stands for wildlife habitat and vegetative diversity. **GOAL**

5.4A-202. Manage forest cover types to provide variety in stand sizes, shape, crown closure, edge contrast, age structure and interspersion. **GOAL**

5.4A-203. Manage for the following conifer successional stages:

15 to 20 percent to provide forage

25 to 50 percent in the young and mature stage

20 to 25 percent in natural succession (late-successional landscape)

#### **OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-204. Enhance shrub productivity. **OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-205. Retain or restore acres of aspen and birch within Norbeck. **OBJECTIVE**



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5.4A-206. Retain or restore acres of oak and white spruce within Norbeck.

**OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-207. \*DELETED

5.4A-208. In conifer-dominated portions of a planning unit, provide 5 to 10 tons per acre of down and dead woody material at least 3 inches in diameter, where biologically feasible and not in conflict with fire management objectives. Total tonnage will include 2 to 3 logs per acre (including existing deadfall and/or cull logs) at least 6 inches in diameter and at least 20 feet long. **OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-209. Emphasis on species commonly hunted, fished, or trapped will follow species priorities established by the State of South Dakota. Maintain habitat needed to support population goals agreed upon in consultation with the State.

**OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-210. Provide wildlife cover and forage.

- a. Provide thermal cover for big game on at least 30 percent of the planning unit.
- b. Manage for 5 to 10 percent of each 640 acres in 1- to 10-acre openings to provide forage.

**OBJECTIVE**

## **Social Elements**

### **Scenery Management**

5.4A-401. Consistent with wildlife needs, emphasize vista openings, rock outcroppings and hardwood stands along roads open year-long or seasonally, and along trails. **GOAL**

## **Administrative Elements**

### **Real Estate**

5.4A-501. If buyer and seller are willing, use any available legal authority to acquire isolated tracts of private land which contain perennial streams and/or contribute to wildlife protection. (See Appendix E.) **OBJECTIVE**

5.4A-502. Consolidate ownership of lands generally east of the Iron Mountain Highway under any available legal authority. (See Appendix E.) **OBJECTIVE**



## **Management Area Standards and Guidelines**

(See Appendix E for more specific direction for the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve.)

### **Physical Elements**

#### **Water**

5.4A-1201. At a minimum, the following will be identified as protected stream courses:

Pine Creek	Grizzly Bear Creek
Iron Creek	Spokane Creek
Sunday Gulch	Toll Gate Creek
Battle Creek	Lost Cabin Creek
Palmer Creek	

The lower portions of Willow and Nelson Creeks

**STANDARD**

#### **Minerals**

5.4A-1202. Issue no mineral material permits for commercial development of common variety minerals. **STANDARD**

5.4A-1203. Prohibit mining activities in portions of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve as specified by the Regional Forester's July 28, 1989, prohibition found in the Record of Decision for the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve EIS, and in accordance with PL-747. (See Appendix E.) **STANDARD**

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

#### **Biological Diversity**

5.4A-2101. \*DELETED

(See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for guidance concerning snag distribution, creation, replacement and soft snag retention.)

5.4A-2102. \*DELETED

5.4A-2103. Allow natural succession to occur where habitat is needed for wildlife associated with late-successional stands. Clear-cut or burns of up to one acre (group selection) are permitted within late-successional stands to enhance late-successional characteristics. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-2104. Fell or remove trees killed or damaged by fire, insect, disease or



windstorm if they constitute hazards on roads open year-round or seasonally, in developed recreation sites and along designated trails. (In summer home groups, this is the responsibility of the permittee with authorization from the District Ranger.) Otherwise, remove trees killed or damaged by fire or natural causes if such removal is consistent with wildlife habitat needs. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-2105. Methods available for management include, but are not limited to timber harvest, non-commercial tree cutting and/or thinning, and prescribed burning. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-2106. Suitable lands are available for timber production and contribute to the allowable sale quantity. **STANDARD**

5.4A-2107. Do not offer more than 5.4 million cubic feet of sawtimber and 1 million cubic feet of products other than logs (POL) on suitable lands in Norbeck in the decade from fiscal year 1997 to 2006. **STANDARD**

### **Rangeland**

5.4A-2501. Existing livestock grazing may continue; permits may be reissued to existing or new permittees. Do not permit any increase in livestock numbers (animal months). **STANDARD**

5.4A-2502. Take advantage of opportunities to transfer forage use from livestock to wildlife. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-2503. Prevent habitat degradation adjacent to water sources. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-2504. The Spokane Allotment is designated unsuitable for livestock grazing. **STANDARD**

5.4A-2505. Livestock grazing may be used intermittently as a management tool (even in areas designated unsuitable for livestock grazing) to improve habitat conditions, e.g., to control noxious weeds. **GUIDELINE**

## **Biological Elements -- Fauna**

### **Wildlife**

5.4A-3201. **DELETED**

5.4A-3202. **\*DELETED**

5.4A-3203. **\*DELETED**

(See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for additional direction regarding goshawk nest stands and fledgling habitat.)



5.4A-3204. Do not introduce bison. **STANDARD**

5.4A-3205. In habitat critical to wildlife, as defined in the Norbeck EIS (7/89), the season of operations for vegetation treatment and other activities is limited to August through November. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-3206. At least 50 percent of any vegetation treatment area will be undisturbed at a given time, providing places for wildlife to escape from human activity. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-3207. To reduce wildlife disturbance, do not log any area more often than every 20 years. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-3208. Fuelwood gathering is prohibited, except under special permit. **GUIDELINE**

## **Disturbance Processes**

### **Fire and Fuels**

5.4A-4101. Manage fire and fuel through control practices and a full array of fuel treatment options to provide the greatest improvements to the wildlife habitat. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-4102. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire to establish and maintain the health of fire adapted vegetation and associated wildlife habitat. **GUIDELINE**

### **Insect and Disease**

5.4A-4201. Control native insect or disease outbreaks only when positive effects to wildlife habitat are outweighed by predicted loss of resource values outside the management area. **GUIDELINE**

## **Social Elements**

### **Recreation**

5.4A-5101. Manage recreational activities so they do not conflict with wildlife needs. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-5102. The predominant recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural non-motorized. Specific areas and travel routes are open year-round or seasonally for motorized recreation. Otherwise, the area is closed to motorized recreation, including snowmobiling. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-5103. Do not expand the recreational trail system; relocate trail segments to correct or prevent environmental damage. **STANDARD**



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5.4A-5104. New recreation facilities and improvements are prohibited except for interpretive or directional signing (including trail closure signs), and measures to protect public health and safety or wildlife, soil or water resources. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-5105. Pets allowed in Norbeck must be under control (either by voice or by physical constraint, such as a leash). **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-5106. Recreational livestock is prohibited within 100 feet of lake shores and stream banks, except during watering and through travel. **STANDARD**

5.4A-5107. Under the Congressional Act establishing Norbeck (41 Stat 986), the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to regulate hunting and trapping in Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Hunting and trapping may be allowed, consistent with negotiated agreements with the State of South Dakota. **GUIDELINE**

### **Scenery Management**

5.4A-5601. Except as wildlife habitat needs dictate otherwise, the adopted scenic integrity objectives are:

High = 10,208 Acres

Moderate = 4,607 Acres

Low = 947 Acres

**GUIDELINE**

## **Administrative Elements**

### **Real Estate**

5.4A-8101. Convey National Forest System land under any available legal authority only if such conveyance meets specific criteria. (See Appendix E.)

**GUIDELINE**

### **Special Uses**

5.4A-8501. Authorize land occupancies only if they are compatible with wildlife needs. **STANDARD**

5.4A-8502. Issue term special-use permits for existing recreational residences. No new recreational residences or additions to existing structures are permitted. (See also Appendix E.) **STANDARD**



5.4A-8503. The three outfitter-guide permits for horseback riding existing in July, 1989, may continue as long as terms of the permits are met and resources can be protected. Do not expand existing permits or allow new outfitter-guide permits for any activities. (See Appendix E.) **STANDARD**

5.4A-8504. Special events may be permitted if they create no adverse effect on wildlife during critical seasons and do not conflict with direction for the Black Elk Wilderness (Management Area 1.1A). (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-8505. Do not permit ranges for firearm target practice. **STANDARD**

## Transportation and Travel

5.4A-9101. Manage road use to provide for habitat needs of wildlife and to maintain habitat effectiveness. Construct new local roads or reconstruct existing local roads needed for management activities. Physically block and revegetate local roads between periods of use. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9102. Retain existing highways, county roads, and roads serving private land and developed recreation sites. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9103. Permit foot, horseback and bike (non-motorized) travel on recreational trails. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9104. Close seasonally or obliterate recreational trail segments found to cause conflicts with wildlife needs. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9105. Prevent conflicts between log hauling and recreation traffic. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9106. Permit only road signs necessary for safety, traffic management, and interpretation. **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9107. Specific areas and travel routes are open year-round or seasonally for motorized recreation. Otherwise, the area is closed to motorized recreation, including snowmobiling. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**

5.4A-9108. Limit motorized administrative travel to emergencies and work which cannot be accomplished by other means. (See Appendix E.) **GUIDELINE**