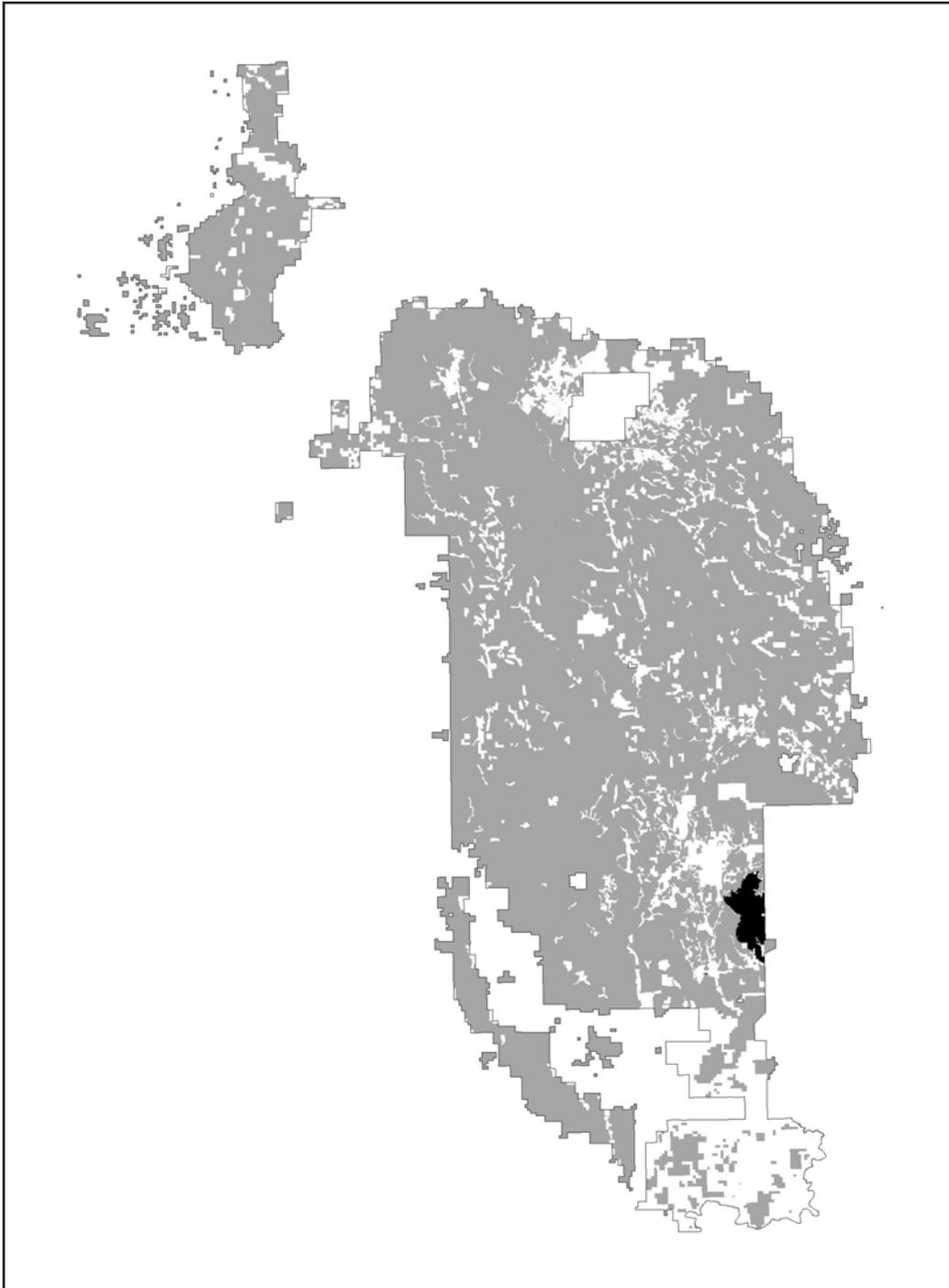
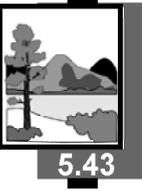


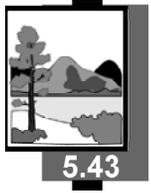
Management Area 5.43 Big Game and Resource Production

Theme: These areas are managed for wildlife and timber production, and include low open road densities and optimum forage/cover ratios.





Management Area 5.43
10,162 Acres
0.8 Percent of Forest



Setting: This area contains important elk habitat, including winter range. This area also provides opportunities for non-motorized recreation, while allowing timber harvesting and livestock grazing. Evidence of human activity is present for wood-fiber production. Roads used for timber harvesting often provide access for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and other non-motorized travelers and hunters.

The opportunities for solitude, risk and a challenging environment are less prevalent in these areas than those managed for more primitive recreational experiences. Because management activities occur in these areas, users are likely to encounter people associated with timber harvesting, livestock management or other activities. Forest Service employees may be seen preparing areas for management activities.

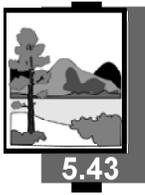
Activities and Opportunities:

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

Desired Future Condition: An extensive road system is present, but, except for the major routes, is usually closed to motorized vehicles. Most roads have native surfaces. Most of the local road surfaces are covered with grasses or other vegetation, unless they have been recently used to haul logs. In such a case, the vegetation may be worn down.

Ponderosa pine is probably the most conspicuous tree species, although areas of aspen and other hardwoods occur. Natural and created openings or meadows of various sizes and shapes occur as well. Many areas consist of mature to over mature trees, particularly when compared to more intensely managed areas on the forest. There may be many areas that are open and park-like, with large diameter trees. Forested areas appear managed, without much evidence of damage by insects and diseases.

Timber harvesting and prescribed burning are primary management tools used to improve habitat for wildlife in the area. Tree groups of different ages and heights are present. Some recently cut areas exhibit stumps, slash and disturbed soil. Disturbed soil is only evident for a few years after timber harvests. Vegetation



quickly reclaims the areas. Other recently cut areas still have a partial canopy of older trees. The boundaries of these cut areas appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

Older cut areas show tree saplings, poles or young trees up to 45 feet and show little disturbance to the forest floor. Occasionally, large patches of late-successional trees occur. Scattered dead trees appear in openings and in older tree stands. Vegetation is managed to provide healthy plant communities with a variety of species present for food and cover.

Non-motorized recreational opportunities are provided, such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting and cross-country skiing. Wildlife representative of the Black Hills may be seen. Livestock may also be encountered in the summer and fall.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities (FC)

5.43-201. Emphasize wildlife habitat and wood-fiber production. **GOAL**

5.43-202. *DELETED

5.43-204-FC. *NEW. Manage for the following percentages of structural stages in ponderosa pine across the management area in a variety of sizes and shapes.

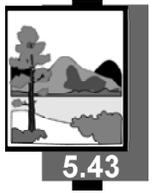
OBJECTIVE

SS1	5%	SS4A	25%*
SS2	5%	SS4B	25%*
SS3A	10%	SS4C	5%*
SS3B	15%	SS5	5%**
SS3C	5%		

*10% of the structural stage 4 ponderosa pine acreage in the management area will have an average tree size of "very large". Seek opportunities to increase understory shrubs in open-canopy structural stages.

**Active management is allowed, and may be necessary, to provide desired late-successional characteristics.

5.43-205-FC. *NEW. Manage for an open-road density of 1 mile of road per square mile or less from December 1 to May 15. **OBJECTIVE**



Rangeland

5.43-203. Improve forage on range areas. **GOAL**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

5.43-2102. Suitable lands are available for timber production and contribute to the allowable sale quantity. **STANDARD**

Rangeland

5.43-2501. Feature big game use of forage increases that result from the vegetative improvements, while also allowing for livestock increases. Follow the Forest-wide proper allowable use guidelines or residual levels designated in AMPs or AOIs for combined forage use by wildlife and livestock. **GUIDELINE**

Biological Elements -- Fauna

Wildlife

5.43-3201. Temporary openings in the grass/forb stage should be between 1 to 10 acres. **GUIDELINE**

5.43-3202. *DELETED

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

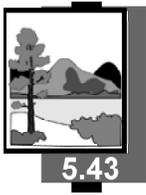
5.43-4101. Utilize appropriate fuel treatment practices, including prescribed fire, to achieve resource management objectives. **GUIDELINE**

5.43-4102. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire to increase the density, vigor and nutritional value of important forage plants for improved health of wintering big game animals. **GUIDELINE**

Social Elements

Recreation

5.43-5101. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural, non-motorized. **GUIDELINE**



Management Area 5.43

Scenery Management

5.43-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objectives are:

High = 104 Acres

Moderate = 6,739 Acres

Low = 3,171 Acres

GUIDELINE

Transportation and Travel

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

5.43-9101. Off-road motorized travel is normally prohibited unless an area is specifically designated as open through a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.43-9102. Motorized road travel is restricted to designated routes. **GUIDELINE**