



Rocky Mountain Region

REGIONAL EMPHASIS AREAS

Throughout its history, the Forest Service has had a very diverse and broad mission of multiple use management. The agency implements its mission in a manner prescribed in numerous laws, regulations and policies. However, each of the nine geographic and administrative Regions of the Forest Service possess certain identities that are specifically tied to the occurrence or prevalence of particular National Forest and Grassland resources and opportunities that exist within them. The occurrence of resources and opportunities form a collective niche that is identifiable to each Region. For example, the vast and remote frontier is often one of the niches that the Alaska Region is known for; while many of the National Forests in the Pacific Southwest Region are known for the role they fulfill as a backyard playground in close proximity to several of the most urbanized areas of the country.

The Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service has identified three particular aspects of its land and resource management responsibilities that it has been an integral part of its identity for years: Forest and Grassland Health, Recreation, and Water. They are a significant part of this Region's niche primarily because of the occurrence and prevalence of management activities and opportunities within each of these three areas. The Forest Service has long recognized the importance and value that the public places on these three areas. Residents and visitors to the Region recurrently identify them being important to their quality of life.

The Region wants to more formally recognize the value and importance that the public has placed on these three areas of forest and grassland management, by formally identifying them as Emphasis Areas. Enclosed is a Strategy Paper that addresses each of them. They provide a brief background which describes the reasons why each has been identified as a Regional Emphasis Area. Long term goals and objectives for each have been identified which are designed to guide the Region in land use planning, the implementation of management activities, and its alignment of resources. Lastly, each paper provides a sampling of some of the tactical means that the agency will implement as it strives to meet the goals and objectives for each Emphasis Area over time.