

Chapter 3 - Geographic Areas

Introduction

A geographic area is a piece of land, 100,000 acres or less, in which management is directed toward achieving a specified desired condition.

Relationship to Forest Plan Direction

Analyses at the geographic area level provide a framework for short and long-term projects, for monitoring the effectiveness of forest-wide and management area standards and guidelines, and for achieving forest-wide goals and objectives. At this level, landscape or watershed issues are identified and other long-range management activities are planned to implement the forest plan.

Geographic areas help recognize interactions between management area prescriptions and monitor the effects of management activities, locally and forest-wide. Aggregation of management area prescriptions to the geographic area level ties land management activities to the landscape scale.

Desired Condition

Geographic area desired condition is based on the unique combination of ecological and social processes inherent to the defined area. The direction needed to respond to these unique conditions is provided in the Geographic Area Desired Condition and Geographic Area Guidelines sections. Application of the management area prescriptions and associated standards and guidelines will move specific portions of each geographic area towards the desired condition.

Purpose of Geographic Areas

- Geographic areas will be the focal point for implementing forest plan decisions based on ecological assessments at various levels in collaboration with other land managers.
- Geographic areas link the forest plan to management at a landscape or watershed scale.
- Geographic areas provide flexibility to respond to unique resource situations.
- Geographic areas provide a tool for better communication with the various publics.

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Description of Geographic Areas

Twenty-nine geographic areas have been established on the Routt National Forest. They vary in size from 9,906 acres to 94,702 acres. The location of each geographic area is shown in Figure 3-1. Geographic areas are also mapped on Alternative C found in the accompanying map packet. As background to better understand each geographic area, information is provided for:

Motorized travelway densities: Motorized travelways include both roads and motorized trails. Motorized travelway densities were calculated for each area. Categories of low, medium, and high open road density were established based on Lyons' work (1983) with open road density and percent of potential elk use. Motorized travelway density categories are as follows:

- Low motorized travelway density: 0-1 miles per square mile.
- Medium motorized travelway density: 1-3 miles per square mile.
- High motorized travelway density: more than 3 miles per square mile.

Desired condition travelway density levels were estimated using the existing road density levels and management area prescriptions applied to the area. These are to be used as relative guides only. Motorized travelway densities are variable within each geographic area depending on the mix of management area prescriptions applied.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Visitors come to the Forest seeking different settings for different recreation activities, and they expect a certain level of satisfaction from the associated experiences. A primary objective of outdoor recreation management is to provide visitors with a quality outdoor experience by supplying a wide range of settings, activities, and opportunities. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides the framework for defining the combinations of activities and opportunities visitors may have, within a range of outdoor settings. Opportunities are separated by season; summer and winter.

Summer ROS corresponds to recreation activities not requiring snow cover. There are seven summer ROS classes on the Routt National Forest: primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, roaded modified, rural, and urban. The summer ROS helps identify areas with high recreational values during a season when other management activities are also occurring.

During the winter, recreation use is less widespread but requires just as much management. The winter ROS classes are motorized and nonmotorized. They can be used to identify areas of high recreation value for motorized versus nonmotorized use and as a guide for managers where there is an identified need to zone winter uses. Winter motorized use is currently restricted in five management area prescriptions (see Chapter 2, Table 2.2). In the future, use may be restricted in other areas at the discretion of the District Ranger or Forest Supervisor. Both summer and winter ROS classes can be used to describe existing conditions or desired future conditions, to estimate consequences of management decisions, or to analyze effects of other resource activities.

The setting in which an experience occurs is central to the ROS. It is defined by the combination of physical, social, and managerial components that give the area its recreational value. The physical component includes the presence or absence of human activity and amount of environmental modification resulting from that activity (opportunities for solitude, exposure to noise, air, or water pollution). The social component includes the amount and type of individual or group contacts (crowding, documented conflicts among uses). The managerial

component includes the amount and type of restrictions placed on activities (required permits, physical barriers). These criteria are used to measure the level of satisfaction a recreationist could achieve in a given area.

Desired condition vegetation: Desired conditions for vegetation are expressed in terms of cover types (dominant species) and the relative amount of different successional stages present in each area. The amount of late successional forest in the desired condition is dependent upon the relative amount of late successional forest present and the mix of management area prescriptions within the geographic area. Existing late successional levels were calculated and are displayed for each geographic area. The Forest is slowly converting to later successional stages. The absence of major disturbance events are resulting in a greater percentage of later successional cover types such as spruce/fir and lesser percentage of earlier successional, disturbance-associated species like lodgepole pine and aspen.

Geographic areas were categorized, as described below, based on the relative ability of the management area prescription to influence cover type and the structure of vegetation:

- Areas in which management area prescription 5.11 is applied will have a diversity of seral stages due to increased management, including commercial timber production. These areas will include late successional forests because of longer rotation ages. In addition, the extended rotation ages may produce some cover type changes from current conditions, resulting in increased percentages of spruce/fir.
- Lands under management area prescription 5.13 will also have a great diversity of seral stages present. However, rotation ages used in this prescription are below the stand ages required to achieve late successional forests and the associated attributes. Late successional forests could be present on lands not suited or entered for timber production within this prescription. Cover type changes from current conditions will be rare except where late successional stands occur.
- In the remaining management area prescriptions, future forests will contain a higher percentage of late seral stages than at present. This move toward late seral conditions may, in some cases, include cover type changes that result in a higher percentage of spruce/fir and less lodgepole pine and aspen. However, major disturbance events, both natural and human-caused, will move them toward early or mid seral stages, resulting in an increase in lodgepole pine and aspen.

Geographic Areas on the Parks District

Arapahoe Creek (formerly Indian Creek)

Big Creek Lakes

Chimney Rock

Corral Peaks (formerly Granite Mountain)

Encampment River

Grizzly Creek (formerly Rabbit Ears and Newcomb Creek)

Lower Williams Fork

Owl Mountain (formerly Michigan Moose)

Pinkham Mountain

Red Canyon (formerly Newcomb Creek and West North Platte)

Troublesome

Upper Williams Fork

Willow Creek

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Arapahoe Creek Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (43%), spruce/fir (26%), and aspen (17%) dominate this 27,310-acre area. Grass, forbs, and shrubs make up 9%, which is high compared to surrounding areas. Within the forested area, 54% is considered late successional. The northeast corner provides elk winter range. Moose are found in the area.

Unique features include:

- Intense recreation use in the summer and fall; Hyannis Peak trail, Arapaho Ridge trails, and extensive aspen areas for fall color viewing.
- A medium motorized travelway density system. Primary access to the Indian Creek area via Forest Road 700.
- Interesting geologic features including Dennis Hump, Little Haystack Mountain, Arapaho Ridge, and numerous kettle ponds.
- A high-quality developed gravel source, several irrigation ditches and an electronic site on the Continental Divide.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Arapahoe Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Arapahoe Creek Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	7,568	28
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	5,245	19
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	7,100	26
5.13	Forest Products	7,397	27
Total		27,310	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, aspen, grass and forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Aspen will be maintained as a major component. Forests on 54% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will contain more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (19%) or 5.13 (27%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than 5.13. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

Natural vegetation patterns and processes will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in the areas allocated to general forest and rangelands, big game winter range, and dispersed recreation.

High-quality dispersed recreation opportunities will be available. Visitors should expect to see other recreationists in the area. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail will be developed.

Motorized travelway density will be medium in areas where timber management and dispersed recreation are emphasized. In areas allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation, roads

will not exist. Forest Roads 700 and 103 will continue to provide access for sedans and commercial vehicles.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Big Creek Lakes Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (48%), spruce/fir (32%), and minor amounts of aspen and shrubs (7%) cover the majority of this 34,990-acre area. Within the forested area, 48% is considered late successional. Occurrence of water (4%) and rock and rubble (6%) are high compared to surrounding areas. The area contains diverse habitat for populations of sensitive species such as the sundew, boreal toad, wood frog, and osprey.

Unique features include:

- Kettle Lakes Research Natural Area.
- Big Creek Lakes Macro and Micro Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- Cultural resource sites from old mining and tie hacking activities.
- Low motorized travelway density.
- Developed recreation at Big Creek Lakes Campground.
- A wide range of year-round dispersed recreational opportunities.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Big Creek Lakes Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Big Creek Lakes Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	5,369	15
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	2,478	7
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	1,790	5
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	862	2
2.2	Research Natural Area	375	1
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	6,256	18
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	17,210	49
	Nonfederal Land	649	2
	Total	34,990	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 51% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (49%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages, including late successional, will be present. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

The areas seen from Forest Roads 80 and 600 and frequently used recreation points will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible from the Mount Zirkel Wilderness, Kettle Lakes Research Natural Area, and backcountry nonmotorized recreation areas.

High-quality developed and dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Developed and motorized recreational activities will occur around the Big Creek Lakes Campground and in the northern part of the geographic area. Dispersed nonmotorized activities

will be available in the southern portion within the wilderness area prescription. Recreational use will be dispersed along roads and trails, with concentrations of visitors inside the Big Creek Lakes Campground.

Overall, the area will have a low motorized travelway density. The southern and western portions will not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation.

Wetlands will provide habitat for the boreal toad, wood frog, osprey, and wildlife species.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Big Creek Lake Geographic Area.

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Chimney Rock Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (26%), spruce/fir (35%), aspen (22%), and shrubs (6%) cover the majority of this 15,622-acre area. Within the forested area, 54% is considered late successional. The area contains diverse habitat for elk calving, as well as productive amphibian and raptor habitat.

Unique features include:

- Chimney Rock and Red Slides geologic features.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Kettle hole topography.
- Portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in the northern part of the area.
- A wide range of year-round dispersed (motorized and nonmotorized) recreation.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Chimney Rock Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3. Chimney Rock Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	15,607	100
5.13	Forest Products	15	<1
Total		15,622	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests in this area will have a variety of tree sizes and seral stages, including late successional. The kettle lakes will remain shaded to provide amphibian habitat. Riparian vegetation in Indian Creek and other watersheds in the area will meet forest plan objectives, providing healthy riparian vegetation, stable stream banks, shaded open water, and quality wildlife habitat.

The areas seen from Forest Road 103 and certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance but with common evidence of management activities. Dispersed motorized recreation opportunities will be available. Dispersed activities will be available along a well-signed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Visitor interaction will be common along roads and trails. A low motorized travelway density of forest roads will provide access primarily for dispersed recreation and timber and grazing uses.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Chimney Rock Geographic Area.

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Corral Peaks Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (64%), spruce/fir (17%), and aspen (8%) cover the majority of this 11,195-acre area. Grass and shrubs make up 8% of the area, which is high compared to surrounding areas. Within the forested area, 37% is considered late successional. The area contains winter range for big game animals, habitat for amphibian breeding, and a bald eagle migratory route.

Unique features include:

- Dense lodgepole pine stands.
- Forested stands composed of seedlings and saplings or mature trees with few intermediate age classes.
- An electronic site.
- Medium motorized travelway density of low standard roads. Primary access provided by Forest Roads 12 and 112.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Corral Peaks Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-4.

Table 3-4. Corral Peaks Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	9	<1
5.13	Forest Products	9,654	86
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,355	12
	Nonfederal Land	179	2
	Total	11,195	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Aspen, shrubs, and grass make up a very important component for diversity and will be maintained. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.13 (86%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Timber management activities will be evident across much of the area.

Portions of the Corral Creek Cattle and Horse Allotment will be rehabilitated to allow watershed and plant recovery. Riparian vegetation in the area will meet forest plan objectives, providing healthy riparian vegetation, stable stream banks, shaded open water, and quality wildlife habitat.

The areas seen from Forest Road 112 and recreation-use points will have a natural appearance but with common evidence of management activities.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Effects of heavy hunting activity will be monitored and mitigation measures developed, if necessary, to deal with any adverse effects to the resources. Visitor interaction will be frequent during hunting season and less frequent during other seasons. A medium motorized travelway density will provide access primarily for dispersed recreation and timber and grazing uses. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from sedans to commercial vehicles.

Big game winter range in the southeast corner will be consistent with winter range management on BLM-administered lands to the south. Winter range in the northwest corner will be managed to be consistent with the Troublesome Geographic Area winter range.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Encampment River Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (50%), lodgepole pine (38%), grass and forbs (7%), and minor amounts of aspen cover the majority of this 39,218-acre area. Within the forested area, 61% is considered late successional. The area contains diverse habitat for populations of sensitive species such as the boreal toad, wood frog, and osprey.

Unique features include:

- Very old, late successional stages of lodgepole pine .
- Intense fall and winter recreation use.
- The Encampment River, a proposed Wild and Scenic River.
- Numerous heritage sites connected to historical tie hacking, mining, and prehistoric activities.
- Low motorized travelway density exists in the north portion, with low or no density in the remainder of the area.
- The Encampment River Special Interest Area.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Encampment River Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5. Encampment River Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	9,884	25
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	10,493	27
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	7,247	18
1.5	National River System	709	2
2.1	Special Interest Area	629	2
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	5,384	14
5.13	Forest Products	4,873	12
Total		39,218	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir and lodgepole pine will continue to be the dominant cover types, with minor amounts of grass and forbs also present. Forests on 69% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (12%) or 5.13 (19%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than 5.13. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

The areas seen from Forest Road 80 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible from the Encampment River corridor or the special interest area. Scenic quality along Ellis Trail will reflect minimal human impacts.

High-quality dispersed recreation opportunities will be emphasized, with motorized trail use, hunting, fishing, and hiking being the dominant uses. Dispersed nonmotorized activities will be available in the wilderness, the special interest area, and along the Encampment River. Motorized recreation activities will be available outside the wilderness. Winter recreation opportunities will be available.

A medium motorized travelway density in the north part of the area will provide access for timber management, grazing, and wilderness and dispersed recreational activities.

Interpretive opportunities at historic sites will be developed.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

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Grizzly Creek Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (57%), aspen (14%), and lodgepole pine (10%) cover the majority of this 46,943-acre area. Within the forested area, 58% is considered late successional.

Unique features include:

- Large aspen stands in all age classes.
- The Rabbit Ears geologic feature.
- Intense year-round recreation use.
- Low motorized travelway density. Colorado State Highway 40 and Forest Road 60 cross the area.
- Many ponds and lakes with high waterfowl productivity; bogs that support several sensitive species and moose.
- A high tension powerline crossing the area.
- Grizzly Guard Station, the oldest federal structure on the Forest.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Grizzly Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-6.

Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	5,405	12
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	3,687	8
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	2,982	6
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	7,419	16
3.23	Municipal Watershed	13	<1
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	6,228	13
4.2	Scenery	3,362	7
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	6,438	14
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	10,205	22
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	9	<1
	Nonfederal Land	1,015	2
	Total	46,943	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 78% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (22%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late successional.

Areas seen from Colorado State Highway 4, Forest Road 60, and Forest Road 20 will have a natural appearance with little or no evidence of human-caused disturbances. Activities such as timber harvest and road building will be visible in areas allocated to general forest and rangelands.

High-quality developed and dispersed recreation opportunities will be emphasized. Interpretive opportunities, backcountry trailhead access, and developed opportunities will be available. Conflicts between cattle grazing and recreational use will be eliminated or mitigated where possible. Visitor interaction will be frequent in developed recreation areas and along major travelways and less frequent in other areas.

A low density system of forest roads will provide access primarily for dispersed and developed recreation and for timber and grazing uses. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from sedans to commercial vehicles.

Wetlands will be protected to provide suitable breeding habitat for waterfowl and amphibians.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Grizzly Creek Geographic Area.

Lower Williams Fork Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (52%), spruce/fir (21%), and grass and forbs (5%) cover the majority of this 73,958-acre area. Within the forested area, 48% is considered late successional. Fifteen percent of the area is in non-Forest Service ownership. The north end of the area provides important winter range for elk which migrate through the area from the high peaks in the south during the winter. Goshawks, boreal toads, marten, and other sensitive species inhabit the area.

Unique features include:

- Contiguous blocks of lodgepole pine and spruce/fir at higher elevations.
- Scattered small pockets of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir.
- Numerous nonmotorized trails and a few barrier-free trails.
- Nine recreation residences located in the center of the area.
- Logging and an associated system of roads east of the Williams Fork River. Few roads west of the river, except the Ute Pass, Prairie Mountain, and Williams Mountain Roads. Low motorized travelway density, overall.
- Henderson Mill located in the center of the area on a very large private inholding. Two other small inholdings and mining claims on Copper Mountain.
- The Blue Ridge Electronic Site and numerous power lines located along the Williams Mountains.
- A gas pipeline crossing the center of the area from Ute Pass to Church Park.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Lower Williams Fork Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-7.

Table 3-7. Lower Williams Fork Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	7,205	10
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	1,574	2
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	3,736	5
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	9,349	13
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	39,485	53
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,164	4
	Nonfederal Land	9,446	13
	Total	73,958	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, aspen, and grass and forbs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 47% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (53%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late

successional. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

An upgraded road system will provide a safe and pleasant user experience. The areas seen from Forest Roads 132 and 138 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible from within the wilderness and backcountry nonmotorized portions of the geographic area.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Visitor interaction will be frequent along major travelways and in developed campgrounds and less frequent away from roads. The nonmotorized dispersed recreational character of the east slope of Williams Mountain will be maintained.

Most of the area will provide for multiple uses, including timber management, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation. Eastern and western portions will not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation in the primitive and semi-primitive wilderness and backcountry nonmotorized prescriptions.

Land ownership patterns will be consolidated to facilitate improved on-the-ground management and public access opportunities.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Lower Williams Fork Geographic Area.

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Owl Mountain Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (44%) and spruce/fir (34%) cover the majority of this 57,239-acre area. Within the forested area, 34% is considered late successional. Occurrence of rock and rubble (6%) is high compared to surrounding areas. The western part of the area contains big game winter range. Otter, moose, darters, goshawks, and other species can be found in the area.

Unique features include:

- A diverse vegetative mix of species, structure and size class growing on highly productive soils.
- South Fork Michigan River and Cameron Pass Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- Year-round recreation.
- Low motorized travelway density. Forest Road 740 provides a travel route through the area from Rand to Gould and Granby. Several residential/forest interface areas are located along this route.
- Two old gold and silver mining towns, Teller City and Park City, that have been designated as special interest areas.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Owl Mountain Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-8.

Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	4,622	8
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	2,075	4
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	9,654	17
2.1	Special Interest Area	294	1
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	3,568	6
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	1,871	3
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	10,156	18
5.13	Forest Products	19,504	34
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,941	7
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	776	1
	Nonfederal Land	777	1
	Total	57,239	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, aspen, grass and forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 48% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (18%) or 5.13 (34%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than those allocated to 5.13. Vegetation management in this Geographic area will emphasize big game habitat. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full

spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents. Riparian areas will have healthy vegetation, stable stream banks, and shaded open water and will provide wildlife habitat.

The areas seen from Forest Road 740 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in and around the backcountry nonmotorized areas.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Visitor interaction will be frequent along major travelways and less frequent away from roads.

A low motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation in the northern and western portions. The southern and eastern portions will not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation in the wilderness and backcountry nonmotorized prescriptions.

Interpretive opportunities, including historical, will be emphasized in the special interest areas.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Wildlife

1. In Management Area 5.13 for this Geographic Area, habitat effectiveness in forested ecosystems will be maintained at 60% or greater.

Pinkham Mountain Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (53%), spruce/fir (12%), aspen (10%), and shrubs (15%) cover the majority of this 28,832-acre area. Within the forested area, 22% is considered late successional. The geographic area provides winter range for elk and deer. Bighorn sheep may be seen in the Platte River Canyon.

Unique features include:

- Vegetation dominated by lodgepole pine interspersed with sagebrush parks; minor components of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine.
- Recreational opportunities provided by the Platte River along the western edge of the geographic area.
- Off-highway vehicles and mountain bikes use outside the wilderness.
- Medium motorized travelway density. Gentle slopes allow a well-developed transportation system that provides access to much of the area.
- Evidence of historic fluorspar mining activity.
- A high tension powerline crossing the area.
- Camp Creek Special Interest Area.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Pinkham Mountain Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-9.

Table 3-9. Pinkham Mountain Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	766	3
1.5	National River System	998	3
2.1	Special Interest Area	1,207	4
5.13	Forest Products	19,739	68
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	5,362	19
	Nonfederal Land	760	3
	Total	28,832	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, aspen, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 32% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.13 (68%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine components will be maintained.

The areas seen from Colorado State Highway 127, Forest Road 125, and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Mixed stands of forest and range vegetation will create a mosaic representing a range of ages, classes, and sizes. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible from within the wilderness, the North Platte River corridor, and the special interest area.

High-quality dispersed recreation opportunities will be available. Most of the area will emphasize motorized recreation. Recreational activities such as motorized travel, mountain biking, and hunting will be dominant. Recreational activities, such as seasonal rafting, kayaking, fishing, and hiking, will occur on the North Platte River and within the Platte River Wilderness.

A medium motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, minerals management, grazing, and dispersed recreational activities. The western portion will not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation in the wilderness and wild and scenic rivers prescriptions.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

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Red Canyon Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (32%), rock and rubble (29%), and lodgepole pine (24%) dominate this 57,105-acre area. Within the forested area, 69% is considered late successional. Peregrine falcons have historically nested in this area. There is high potential to support pine marten.

Unique features include:

- Remote area with high elevation glacial lakes, small kettle lakes, and beaver ponds. Scattered road access from the eastern boundary leading to trailheads.
- Big Creek Lakes Macro Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Intense recreation use during the summer and fall.
- The Kettle Lakes Research Natural Area.
- Intense dispersed camping use.
- Steep, sheer walls and some very old, wind-sculpted limber pine in Red Canyon.
- Low motorized travelway density.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Red Canyon Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-10.

Table 3-10. Red Canyon Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	15,754	28
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	19,362	34
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	5,002	9
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	11	<1
1.5	National River System	188	<1
2.2	Research Natural Areas	1,645	3
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	13,072	23
4.3	Dispersed recreation	347	1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	1,591	3
	Nonfederal Land	133	<1
	Total	57,105	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, rock and rubble, and grass and forbs will continue to dominate the area. Forests in this area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. Vegetation will provide habitat for wildlife dependent on later successional stages of vegetation. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (3%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Opportunities for viewing cliff-nesting raptors, including peregrine falcons, will be maintained.

The character of the areas allocated to backcountry recreation and wilderness will be maintained, with little or no evidence of human-caused disturbance. High-quality dispersed

nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available in most of the geographic area. Encounters with other visitors will be infrequent; opportunities for solitude will be numerous.

Motorized travelway density will continue to be low due to wilderness and backcountry allocations. Some roads will exist to provide access to wilderness trailheads and backcountry and dispersed recreation areas. New or existing roads or trails which don't meet management area objectives may be closed or have travel restrictions implemented.

Nesting raptors located in Red Canyon will not be disturbed.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Red Canyon Geographic Area.

Troublesome Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (64%), spruce/fir (12%), grass and forbs, and shrubs (15%) dominate this 57,208-acre area. Within the forested area, 39% is considered late successional. Winter range for big game animals is provided across the southern portion of the area. There is a large amount of riparian habitat which moose are beginning to utilize. Portions of the upper watershed have been affected by historical livestock grazing. This area contains large acreage of lodgepole pine at high risk to loss from mountain pine beetle.

Unique features include:

- Unstable soils.
- Populations, some genetically pure, of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Large area with limited motorized and public access. Intense recreation use in the fall.
- Low motorized travelway density. Access to the interior of the area limited to horseback or foot travel.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Troublesome Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-11.

Table 3-11. Troublesome Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	47,856	84
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	6,080	11
5.13	Forest Products	66	<1
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	2,716	5
	Nonfederal Land	490	1
	Total	57,208	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, grass and forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 89% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (11%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late successional. Vegetation will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in the areas allocated to general forest and rangelands, big game winter range, and backcountry motorized recreation.

In the event of a mountain pine beetle epidemic, measures should be taken to control or salvage tree loss.

There will be high-quality nonmotorized backcountry recreation opportunities in the area allocated to backcountry prescriptions. Motorized recreation opportunities will be available in the area allocated to general forest and rangelands. To maintain the high probability for solitude and challenge, limited public trail access will be provided.

Motorized travelway density will be continue to be low due to the large amount of land allocated to backcountry nonmotorized prescription. In the north portion, timber harvest may necessitate road development.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Forest Health

1. Management Area 1.32 in this Geographic Area may be entered for the purpose of timber salvage or silvicultural treatment to control forest insect epidemics.

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Upper Williams Fork Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (38%), a large component of alpine grass and forbs (38%), and lodgepole pine (16%) cover the majority of this 40,119-acre area. Within the forested area, 85% is considered late successional. Extensive beaver activity occurs in the area. A pure strain of Colorado River cutthroat trout exists in Bobtail Creek. Important elk summer range occurs within the area.

Unique features include:

- Extensive tundra, rocky slopes, and cliffs.
- An old stagecoach road over Jones Pass.
- An extensive trail system through and on much of the area boundary.
- Steelman Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Populations, some genetically pure, of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- All water rights owned by the Denver Water Board; Williams Fork River diverted during part of year.
- Low motorized travelway density.
- Patented mining claims and abandoned mines in the area near Jones Pass.
- A utility corridor running through the area.
- The Vasquez Peak Wilderness located in the northeastern part of the area.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Upper Williams Fork Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-12.

Table 3-12. Upper Williams Fork Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	1,153	3
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	27,434	68
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	2,383	6
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	8,842	22
	Nonfederal Land	307	1
	Total	40,119	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, and grass and forbs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 78% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (22%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late successional. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents. Riparian areas will have healthy vegetation, stable stream banks, and shaded open water, and will provide wildlife habitat. Forested vegetation will be dominated by natural processes in a landscape with a natural appearance. Visual evidence of management activities

from trails and wilderness will be minimal. However, harvest activities may be evident in areas allocated to forest vegetation management

The nonmotorized character of the area will be maintained, except in areas allocated to forest vegetation management. Visitor interaction will be infrequent in management areas designated as backcountry nonmotorized or wilderness. Dispersed motorized recreation will be available in areas around Sugarloaf and South Fork Campgrounds and areas allocated to general forest and rangelands. Visitor interaction will be more frequent along major travelways and less frequent away from roads. A low motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Upper Williams Fork Geographic Area.

Willow Creek Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (62%), spruce/fir (20%), and aspen (8%) dominate this 44,897-acre area. Within the forested portion, 38% is considered late successional. Riparian areas are an important component of the geographic area. The northwest corner provides elk winter range and contains moose.

Unique features include:

- Various size and age classes of vegetation evident due to past timber harvest activities.
- Moderate recreation use in the summer; heavy use in the fall.
- Medium motorized travelway density.
- Private inholdings located along part of the northern boundary.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Willow Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-13.

Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	7,115	16
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	433	1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	17,549	39
5.13	Forest Products	13,102	29
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	5,868	13
	Nonfederal Land	831	2
	Total	44,897	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, spruce/fir, and aspen will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 32% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (39%) or management area prescription 5.13 (29%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents. Vegetation management in this geographic area will emphasize big game habitat. The aspen component in winter range areas will be maintained or increased. Riparian areas will have stable banks and healthy vegetative communities.

Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in the areas allocated to general forest and rangelands, big game winter range, and dispersed recreation. Visual impacts from past management activities will be reduced. The forest along Colorado State Highway 125 and Forest Road 715 will appear healthy and vigorous.

High-quality dispersed recreation opportunities will be available. Visitors should expect to see other recreationists in the area.

Motorized travelway density will be low in areas where timber management and dispersed recreation are emphasized. In areas allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation, roads will not exist. Travel may be restricted, either seasonally or year-round, where such use does not meet management area objectives. The main forest access roads for this area are Colorado State Highway 125 and Forest Road 715. They will continue to provide access for a mix of sedans and commercial vehicles.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Wildlife

1. In Management Area 5.13 for this Geographic Area, habitat effectiveness in forested ecosystems will be maintained at 60% or greater.

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Geographic Areas on the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears District:

Elkhead Mountain

Little Snake

Lower Elk River

Middle Yampa

Sand Mountain

Slater Creek

Upper Elk River

Elkhead Mountain Geographic Area

Setting - Aspen (55%); spruce/fir (23%); and grass, forbs, and shrubs (20%) dominate this 72,303-acre area. Within the forested area, 60% is considered late successional. This area has valuable habitat for marten and goshawk.

Unique features include:

- The Elkhead Mountain Range, Black Mountain, and California Park.
- Some unstable soils.
- North Fork Elkhead and Sawmill Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Highest levels of recreation use in the fall during hunting season. Historic stock driveways located throughout the area.
- An electronic site located along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Slater Creek geographic area.
- Special interest areas, California Park and Black Mountain.
- Low motorized travelway density. Primary access provided by Forest Roads 110 and 150.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Elkhead Mountain Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-14.

Table 3-14. Elkhead Mountain Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	21,428	30
2.1	Special Interest Area	18,234	25
4.2	Scenery	2,188	3
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	2,518	3
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	21,706	30
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	2,801	4
5.13	Forest Products	699	1
	Nonfederal Land	2,728	4
	Total	72,303	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Aspen, spruce/fir, and grass, forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 69% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescriptions 5.11 and 5.12 (34%) or management area prescription 5.13 (1%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. The area will be characterized by large aspen stands. Shrubs, grass, and forbs will continue to provide habitat for wildlife.

The areas seen from Forest Roads 110 and 150, sites within the California Park Special Interest Area, and certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance. Human-caused disturbance will not be apparent in areas allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation. Management activities will be visible in areas allocated to forest products and general forest and rangeland prescriptions.

The area will provide year-round motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities, with the heaviest use in fall and winter. Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. The central portion will provide backcountry nonmotorized opportunities. Visitor interaction will be infrequent in most areas. Nonmotorized winter recreation will be provided in this area.

A low motorized travelway density will provide access primarily for timber and grazing uses and for dispersed recreation. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from light trucks and utility vehicles to commercial vehicles. No roads will exist in the portion allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Elkhead Mountain Geographic Area.

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Little Snake Geographic Area

Setting - Aspen (35%), lodgepole pine (29%), spruce/fir (18%), and grass and forbs (11%) cover the majority of this 72,459-acre area. Within the forested area, 52% is considered late successional. Occurrence of water (2%) is high compared to surrounding areas. The area contains valuable woody riparian cover types, in comparison to surrounding areas. Non-Forest Service ownership makes up 5% of the area.

Unique features include:

- Diverse vegetation in terms of species and age classes.
- Little Snake Special Interest Area that represents an ecosystem of ponderosa pine which is limited on the Forest.
- Beeler Gulch, Crane Park, Independence Creek, and Little Red Park Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Motorized trails provide year-round motorized recreational opportunities.
- Hahns Peak, a featured attraction in the southern portion of the area.
- High-value dispersed recreation opportunities along roads and trails.
- A steep, rugged, inaccessible canyon.
- Medium motorized travelway density.
- Year-round access provided by two major travel corridors, Forest Road 550 and Routt County Road 129.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Little Snake Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-15.

Table 3-15. Little Snake Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	40	<1
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	6	<1
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	16	<1
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	3,899	5
2.1	Special Interest Area	1,640	2
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	460	1
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	3,114	4
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	30,328	42
5.13	Forest Products	28,297	40
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	466	1
	Nonfederal Land	3,693	5
	Total	72,459	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Aspen; lodgepole pine; spruce/fir; and shrubs, grass, and forbs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 18% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will contain more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (42%) or 5.13 (40%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Damage by insects, disease, and wildfire will be locally restricted. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

Areas seen from Forest Road 550, Routt County Road 129, and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Management activities will be evident in areas allocated to forest products and general forest and rangeland prescriptions.

High-quality dispersed motorized recreation opportunities will be emphasized. Nonmotorized winter recreation will be provided. Visitor interaction in these areas will be frequent along major travelways and less frequent in other areas.

A low to medium motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, grazing, and dispersed recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Lower Elk River Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (42%), aspen (35%), and lodgepole pine (9%) dominate this 55,601-acre area. Within the forested area, 30% is considered late successional. Occurrence of rock and rubble (8%) is high compared to surrounding areas.

Unique features include:

- Research Natural Areas ranging from low elevation oak brush to high alpine ecosystems.
- The Mt. Zirkel Wilderness.
- A small portion of the Elk River Macro Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Nonmotorized, trail-oriented recreation use.
- Quality backcountry recreation within a short distance of Steamboat Springs.
- Wildlife winter range.
- Low motorized travelway density.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Lower Elk River Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-16.

Table 3-16. Lower Elk River Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	14,397	26
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	8,662	16
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	8,747	16
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	5,832	10
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	8	<1
5.13	Forest Products	1,442	3
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	11,053	20
	Nonfederal Land	5,460	10
	Total	55,601	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 97% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure. Vegetation will be managed to provide quality winter habitat for wildlife.

The character of the areas allocated to wilderness and the Mad Creek Research Natural Area will be maintained with little or no evidence of human-caused disturbance. High-quality dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Encounters with other visitors will be infrequent; opportunities for solitude will be numerous.

Motorized travelway density will continue to be low due to wilderness, the research natural area, and big game winter range allocations. Some motorized travelways will exist to provide access to trailheads and winter range areas. Travel may be restricted, either seasonally or year-round, where such use does not meet Management Area objectives.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Lower Elk River Geographic Area.

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Middle Yampa Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (46%), aspen (23%), lodgepole pine (11%), and grass and forbs (10%), dominate this 95,040-acre area. Within the forested area, 57% is considered late successional, with natural ribbon forests present. Willows and other vegetation may be found in the riparian areas, and ferns are present throughout the area. This area has valuable habitat for marten and goshawk.

Unique features include:

- Diverse recreation opportunities.
- Boundary of rural and urban development in the Yampa River Valley.
- Near- capacity winter use along Highway 40.
- Soda Creek and Tributary to Walton Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- A world class downhill ski area, the Steamboat Ski Area.
- Low motorized travelway density. Access provided by U.S. Highway 40, Buffalo Pass Road (Forest Road 60), and Fish Creek Falls Road (Forest Road 320).
- The city of Steamboat Springs domestic water supply provided by the watershed.
- Electronic sites and a major utility corridor running from west (Hayden, Colorado) to east.
- High demand for additional facilities off the highway.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Middle Yampa Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-17.

Table 3-17. Middle Yampa Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	5,539	6
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	653	1
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	30,839	32
3.23	Municipal Watershed	16,151	17
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	27	<1
4.2	Scenery	9,515	10
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	3,662	4
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	7,460	8
5.13	Forest Products	266	<1
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	5,402	6
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	2,379	3
8.22	Ski Based Resorts	8,418	9
	Nonfederal Land	4,729	5
	Total	95,040	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, and grass and forbs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 92% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (8%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late successional forests. Across most of the geographic area, damage by insects and disease will be locally restricted. Willows and riparian areas will provide quality habitat for moose migrating into the area.

Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in areas allocated to general forest and rangelands and ski resorts and within the municipal watershed.

Three Management Area 1.32 prescriptions (nonmotorized backcountry recreation) are visible from the Steamboat Ski Area and Highway 40. In the event of damage by insects, disease, or wildfire, these areas may be entered and trees may be removed to maintain the desired scenic quality.

Recreation opportunities will include high-quality motorized and nonmotorized backcountry (both winter and summer), wilderness, and developed. Encounters with other visitors will range from very common at the ski areas and along major travel corridors to infrequent in the wilderness, backcountry, and research natural areas.

Motorized travelway density will be low. Travel may be restricted, either seasonally or year-round, where such use does not meet Management Area objectives.

The watershed will continue to provide a quality domestic water supply for the city of Steamboat Springs and surrounding areas.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Forest Health

1. Management Area 1.32 in this Geographic Area may be entered for the purpose of timber salvage or silvicultural treatment to control forest insect epidemics.

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Sand Mountain Geographic Area

Setting - Aspen (41%), lodgepole (29%), and spruce/fir (18%) dominate this 43,971-acre area. Within the forested area, 50% is considered late successional. Occurrence of water (3%) is high compared to surrounding areas. Approximately 6% of the area is in non-Forest Service ownership. This area contains valuable marten and goshawk habitat.

Unique features include:

- Steep, scenic ridgelines and a series of mountain peaks.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Flatwater recreation opportunities.
- Low motorized travelway density. Primary access provided by Routt County Road 129 and Forest Road 488.
- An electronic site along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Upper Elk River geographic area.
- Some urban interface and several private inholdings. Year-round access provided by Routt County Road 129.
- Evidence of historic mining activities.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Sand Mountain Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-18.

Table 3-18. Sand Mountain Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	15,063	34
2.1	Research Natural Areas	18	<1
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	394	1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	10,772	25
5.13	Forest Products	10,944	25
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	835	2
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	3,306	8
	Nonfederal Land	2,638	6
	Total	43,971	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Grass and forbs make up a very important component for diversity and will be maintained. Forests on 50% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (25%) or 5.13 (25%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13.

The areas seen from Routt County Road 129 and Forest Road 488 and from backcountry nonmotorized and urban interface sites will have a natural appearance. Management activities will be evident throughout the rest of the area.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized and developed recreation opportunities will be available. The southern portion will provide backcountry nonmotorized recreation opportunities in both the summer and winter. Visitor interaction will generally be frequent along Forest and county roads and less frequent in the rest of the area.

A low to medium motorized travelway density in the northern portion will provide access primarily for timber and grazing uses and for dispersed recreation. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from light trucks and utility vehicles to commercial vehicles. No motorized travelways will exist in the portion allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Slater Creek Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (43%), aspen (34%), and lodgepole (8%) dominate this 65,525-acre area. Within the forested area, 60% is considered late successional. Grass, forbs, and shrubs make up 13% of the area, which is high compared to surrounding areas. This area includes valuable late successional habitat for marten and goshawk.

Unique features include:

- Slater Park Macro Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Populations, some genetically pure, of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Historic grazing use. The California Park Road follows the route of the "Old Beef Trail," a major cattle drive route to Wyoming prior to 1900.
- An electronic site along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Elkhead Mountain geographic area.
- Slater Falls.
- Low motorized travelway density of lower standard roads. Primary access provided by Forest Roads 116, 118, and 133.
- Intense recreational use with packstock in dispersed sites.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Slater Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-19.

Table 3-19. Slater Creek Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	14,518	22
2.1	Special Interest Areas	5,620	9
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Motorized	3,580	5
4.2	Scenery	3,089	5
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	1,760	3
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	26,662	41
5.13	Forest Products	8,981	14
	Nonfederal Land	1,316	2
	Total	65,525	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, and lodgepole pine will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 45% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (41%) or 5.13 (14%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. The Little Snake River drainage will continue to provide habitat for Colorado cutthroat trout.

The areas seen from Forest Road 116, 118, and 133 and from certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance. Human-caused disturbance will not be apparent in areas allocated to

backcountry nonmotorized recreation. Management activities will be readily apparent in areas allocated to forest products and general forest and rangeland.

The area will provide year-round motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities, with the heaviest use in fall and winter. High-quality dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available year-round. The northeastern and northwestern portions will provide backcountry nonmotorized opportunities. Visitor interaction will be infrequent.

A low to medium density system of forest roads will provide access primarily for timber and grazing uses and for dispersed recreation across most of the area. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from light trucks and utility vehicles to commercial vehicles. No roads will exist in the portion allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

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Upper Elk River Geographic Area

Setting- Spruce/fir (50%), lodgepole pine (16%), aspen (13%), and rock and rubble (8%) cover the majority of this 88,089-acre area. Within the forested area, 55% is considered late successional. The Elk River is lined with willow and there are highly productive timber sites in the area. The late successional vegetation provides valuable goshawk and martin habitat .

Unique features include:

- Year-round heavy recreation use.
- Middle Fork Elk River, South Fork Elk River, and small portion of Elk River Macro Preliminary Conservation Planning Areas.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- An electronic site along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Sand Mountain geographic area.
- Low motorized travelway density. Routt County Road 129 and Forest Road 400 (Seedhouse Road) provide access into the area.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Upper Elk River Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-20.

Table 3-20. Upper Elk River Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	11,015	12
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	15,682	18
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	9,657	11
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	9,772	11
1.5	National River System-Wild Rivers, Designated and Eligible	2,256	3
3.4	National River System-Scenic Rivers, Designated and Eligible	3,666	4
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	533	1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	17,674	20
5.13	Forest Products	12,208	14
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,694	4
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	1,104	1
	Nonfederal Land	1,878	2
	Total	88,089	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 66% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (20%) or 5.13 (14%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

The areas seen from Routt County Road 129, Forest Road 400, and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Areas allocated to forest product and general forest and rangelands will have frequent evidence of management activities.

High-quality developed recreation opportunities will be emphasized at the campgrounds along the Forest Road 400 corridor. Dispersed nonmotorized activities will be available in the wilderness and backcountry nonmotorized areas, and along the Elk River corridor. High-quality motorized recreational activities will be available on motorized trails throughout the area.

A well-developed motorized travelway system will serve developed recreation sites and provide access to areas suitable for timber harvest, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Geographic Areas on the Yampa District:

Bear River

Dunckley

Gore

Green Ridge

Morrison Creek

Pagoda

Pyramid

Red Dirt

Sarvis

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Bear River Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (51%); grass, forbs and shrubs (22%); and aspen (10%) dominate this 34,026-acre area. Within the forested area, 33% is considered late successional. Occurrence of rock and rubble (10%) is high compared to surrounding areas. The area provides high-quality spring elk calving habitat, potential peregrine falcon nesting habitat, and valuable marten and goshawk habitat.

Unique features include:

- A high-use developed recreation corridor with several reservoirs providing flatwater fishing, campgrounds, and hiking trails.
- Bear River at Moore Park Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- The Flat Tops Mountains geologic formations.
- The Devils Causeway, a popular formation/attraction in the area.
- Main access to the Flat Tops Wilderness on the east side.
- Excellent examples of Pleistocene glacial geology.
- Elk calving area near Gardner Park Reservoir.
- Low motorized travelway density.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Bear River Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-21.

Table 3-21. Bear River Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	5,490	16
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	6,350	19
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	3,159	9
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	6,006	18
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	8,212	24
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	3,371	10
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	962	3
	Nonfederal Land	476	1
	Total	34,026	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir; grass, forbs, and shrubs; and aspen will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 76% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 and 5.12 (34%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present including late successional. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

Visual management objectives will be emphasized. The areas seen from Forest Roads 900 and 915 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities.

Developed recreation opportunities within the Forest Road 900 corridor will be evident. Use will be managed to maintain the integrity of the wilderness and backcountry areas contiguous to the Bear River Corridor.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Visitor interaction will be frequent along major travelways and developments and less frequent away from roads.

A low motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation in the eastern portion. The western portion will be not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation in the wilderness prescription.

Multiple-use management activities will be interpreted.

Wildlife and fisheries habitat will be enhanced by acquiring water rights when opportunities arise. Elk will continue to utilize the high-quality spring calving habitat. Disturbance from human activity will be minimized in these areas.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Special-Uses

1. New nonrecreation special-use authorizations are not allowed.

Range

1. Livestock and recreation use conflicts will be avoided by timing of management activities, such as livestock trailing and use periods.

Dunckley Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (44%); aspen (28%); and grass, forbs, and shrubs (16%) cover the majority of this 53,513-acre area. Within the forested area, 45% is considered late successional. Nine percent is in nonfederal ownership. The area provides quality spring elk calving habitat, potential peregrine falcon habitat, and valuable marten and goshawk habitat.

Unique features include:

- An electronic site.
- Upper Oak Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- The Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway (Forest Highway 16).
- Low motorized travelway density.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Dunckley Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-22.

Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	5,527	10
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	97	<1
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	2,794	5
4.2	Scenery	2,388	4
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	3,040	6
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	31,135	58
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,601	7
	Nonfederal Land	4,931	9
	Total	53,513	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir; aspen; and grass, forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 42% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (58%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present including late successional. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for a full spectrum of fauna, from elk to rodents.

The areas seen from Forest Roads 16 and 925 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Mixed stands of forest and range vegetation will create a mosaic, representing a range of ages, classes, and sizes. Little evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible within the wilderness portions of the geographic area.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Nonmotorized winter recreation will be provided. Visitor interaction will be frequent along major travelways and less frequent away from roads. Vistas or viewpoints will be available for travelers along the scenic byway. Nonrecreation special-use authorization needs (such as domestic water, private land access routes, and underground transmission lines) may be apparent along the rural-residential interface.

Accessible trail opportunities will be available near the scenic byway. High-quality developed facilities, including camping, interpretive signs, and pull outs, will also be available.

A low motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, oil and gas production, grazing, and wilderness and backcountry recreation in the northern and eastern portions. The southern and western portions will not be accessible to motorized transportation or motorized recreation.

Land ownership patterns will be consolidated to facilitate improved on-the-ground management and public access opportunities.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Dunckley Geographic Area.

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Gore Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (55%); grass, forbs, and shrubs (24%); minor amounts of aspen (10%); and spruce/fir (7%); cover the majority of this 70,209-acre area. Occurrence of water (<1%) and rock and rubble (<1%) is low compared to surrounding areas. Vegetative patterns are characterized by large areas of conifer interspersed with relatively large areas of grass, forbs, or shrubs. Wildlife winter range is present within the area. Late successional forests cover 50% of the forested area.

Unique features include:

- Low open roads density.
- Colorado Highway 134, a scenic corridor, running east/west through the area and across Gore Pass.
- High Rock Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- An electronic site along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Green Ridge geographic area.
- Lower Rock Creek, a potential wild and scenic river.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Gore Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-23.

Table 3-23. Gore Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	83	<1
1.5	National River System	1,284	2
4.2	Scenery	4,692	7
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	1,481	2
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	2,601	4
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	10,617	15
5.13	Forest Products	39,292	56
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	3,808	5
	Nonfederal Land	6,352	9
	Total	70,209	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine will continue to be the dominant cover type. Forests on 40% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 and 5.12 (19%) or 5.13 (56%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Damage by insects, disease, and wildfire will be locally restricted. Vegetation management in this geographic area will emphasize big game habitat. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for game animals, such as elk and deer; for nongame animals, such as raptors, furbearers, and rodents; and for insects.

The areas seen from Forest Roads 134 and 270 and frequently used recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with some evidence of management activities. Management activities will be visible in areas allocated to forest products and general forest and rangeland prescriptions.

High-quality developed and dispersed motorized recreation opportunities will be emphasized. Developed and motorized dispersed recreational activities will occur at campgrounds and along the scenic corridor. Visitor interaction in these areas will be frequent. Away from the scenic corridor, opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation will be available. Visitor interaction will be less frequent in these areas.

A low motorized travelway density will provide access for timber management, grazing, and developed and dispersed recreation. Because of its wild and scenic character, the lower Rock Creek drainage will not be accessible to motorized recreation.

The wild and scenic character of the lower Rock Creek drainage will be maintained.

Stream fishing opportunities will be available on lower Rock Creek and Lagunita Lake.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

Wildlife

1. In Management Area 5.13 for this Geographic Area, habitat effectiveness in forested ecosystems will be maintained at 60% or greater.

Green Ridge Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (49%), aspen (20%), and grass and forbs (20%) cover the majority of this 13,843-acre area. Within the forested area, 34% is considered late successional. The area contains winter range for big game animals.

Unique features include:

- Historical sawmill locations.
- A utility corridor and an electronic site along the boundary common to this geographic area and the Gore geographic area.
- Low motorized travelway density. Primary access provided by Forest Road 285.
- Approximately 26% in nonfederal ownership.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Green Ridge Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-24.

Table 3-24. Green Ridge Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	4,522	33
5.13	Forest Products	3,915	28
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,783	13
	Nonfederal Land	3,624	26
	Total	13,843	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, and grass and forbs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Aspen, shrubs, and grass make up a very important component for diversity and will be maintained. Forests on 39% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (33%) or 5.13 (28%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Healthy shrub stands with a diversity of age classes and a minimum of human disturbance will support wintering big game. Riparian vegetation in the area will meet forest plan objectives, providing healthy riparian vegetation, stable stream banks, shaded open water, and quality wildlife habitat.

The areas seen from Forest Road 285 and from certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with evidence of management activities along the utility corridor. Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available, but not emphasized. Visitor interaction will be infrequent, except during hunting season.

A low motorized travelway density this area will provide access primarily for timber and grazing uses and for dispersed recreation. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from light trucks and utility vehicles to commercial vehicles.

Land ownership patterns will be consolidated to facilitate improved on-the-ground management and public access opportunities.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Green Ridge Geographic Area.

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Morrison Creek Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole (47%), aspen (24%), and spruce/fir (15%) dominate this 25,205-acre area. Within the forested area, 57% is considered late successional. This area has nesting sand hill cranes and valuable marten and goshawk habitat.

Unique features include:

- Highly productive lodgepole pine growing on alluvial fans.
- Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine stands in the area.
- Morrison Creek Ponds Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Low open road density. Primary access provided by Forest Road 270.
- Approximately 9% nonfederal ownership concentrated along the road and occupied by part-year residents.
- The Muddy Slide Trail, the first recreation road on the Forest. It continues to be popular for hunting and riding motorcycles, ATVs, mountain bikes, and snowmobiles.
- Muddy Slide geologic feature.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Morrison Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-25.

Table 3-25. Morrison Creek Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	24	<1
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	4,190	17
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	12,479	50
5.13	Forest Products	2,877	11
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	992	4
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	2,441	10
	Nonfederal Land	2,201	9
	Total	25,205	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine, aspen, and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Aspen, shrubs, and grass make up a very important component for diversity and will be maintained. Forests on 39% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (50%) or 5.13 (11%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Management area prescription 5.11 will include higher levels of late successional forest than areas allocated to 5.13. Healthy shrub stands with a diversity of age classes and a minimum of human disturbance will support wintering big game. Riparian vegetation in the area will meet forest plan objectives, providing healthy riparian vegetation, stable stream banks, shaded open water and quality wildlife habitat.

The areas seen from Forest Road 270 and from certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with evidence of management activities. Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available but not emphasized, except in key areas such as Muddy Slide Trail 1174. The eastern portion will provide backcountry nonmotorized opportunities. Visitor interaction will be frequent in the western portions and less frequent in the eastern portions.

A low motorized travelway density in the eastern portion will provide access primarily for timber and grazing uses and for dispersed recreation. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from light trucks and utility vehicles to commercial and passenger vehicles. No motorized travelways will exist in the portion allocated to backcountry nonmotorized recreation.

Sandhill cranes will utilize the valley bottom for nesting. Winter/transitional range in this area will contribute to the health and productivity of local big game herds.

Land ownership patterns will be consolidated to facilitate on-the-ground management and public access opportunities.

Nonrecreation special-use authorization needs such as domestic water, private land access routes, and underground transmission lines will be provided along the rural-residential interface.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the **Morrison Creek** Geographic Area.

Pagoda Geographic Area

Setting - Aspen (47%), spruce/fir (30%), and grass, forbs, and shrubs (20%) dominate this 64,977-acre area. Within the forested area, 43% is considered late successional. Winter range for big game animals is provided.

Unique features include:

- A large unroaded area containing large contiguous blocks of beetle-killed Engelmann spruce with high fuel loads.
- Poose Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Oak brush and mountain mahogany winter range.
- Large areas of unstable soils.
- Large area with limited motorized and public access.
- Heaviest recreation use during the fall hunting season; extensive outfitter guide use.
- A short segment of the Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway located in the southern part of the area.
- Some oil and gas development potential with existing leases.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Pagoda Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-26.

Table 3-26. Pagoda Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	57,778	89
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, motorized	364	1
4.2	Scenery	1,064	2
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	188	<1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	223	<1
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	1,533	2
	Nonfederal Land	3,827	6
	Total	64,977	100

Source: GIS (ARC/INFO), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Aspen; spruce/fir; and grass, forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on most of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (<1%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for wildlife associated with vegetation in later seral stages. Healthy oak brush and mountain mahogany communities, with a variety of age classes, will provide high-quality winter range for big game.

Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in the small areas allocated to general forest and rangelands, big game winter range, and backcountry motorized recreation.

Motorized travelway density will continue to be low due to large amount of land allocated to backcountry nonmotorized prescription. Restricted travel or closure of new or existing roads or trails which don't meet management area objectives may be implemented.

Effective habitat will be available throughout much of the area for species associated with late successional vegetation. The wildlife community will contain a variety of cliff-nesting raptors and will include the potential for peregrine falcons.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Pagoda Geographic Area.

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Pyramid Geographic Area

Setting - Spruce/fir (48%), aspen (25%), and grass, forbs, and shrubs (18%) dominate this 39,579-acre area. Within the forested area, 44% is considered late successional. Occurrence of rock and rubble (5%) is high compared to surrounding areas. Peregrine falcons and other cliff-dwelling raptors have historically nested in this area.

Unique features include:

- A portion of the Flat Tops Wilderness with mid-elevation forest.
- Upper East Fork Williams Fork Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Large expanses of aspen in the Bunker Basin area.
- Unstable soils
- The Flat Tops geologic formations.
- Outstanding scenery along the Flat Tops Trail Scenic and Historic Byway.
- The influence of summer home development along the northern boundary.
- Low motorized travelway density.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Pyramid Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-27.

Table 3-27. Pyramid Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	1,422	4
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	14,175	36
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	5,230	15
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	11,135	28
4.2	Scenery	1,526	4
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	7	<1
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	5,475	14
	Nonfederal Land	609	2
	Total	39,579	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Spruce/fir, aspen, and grass, forbs, and shrubs will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 86% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.11 (14%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present, including late successional. The area will provide diverse habitat for wildlife associated with vegetation in later seral stages.

Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused

disturbance will be visible in the northern part of the geographic area allocated to general forest and rangelands.

Recreation opportunities will include high-quality nonmotorized backcountry and wilderness recreation outside the scenic corridor and motorized and developed recreation opportunities along the scenic corridor and on the Fish Creek Trail. Encounters with other visitors will be infrequent; opportunities for solitude will be numerous, except along key recreation corridors.

Motorized travelway density will continue to be low due to wilderness and backcountry nonmotorized status. Limited timber harvest and road building could occur in the extreme eastern end of the geographic area allocated to general forest and rangelands. Restricted travel or closure of new or existing roads or trails which don't meet management area objectives may be implemented.

Sheep grazing will be emphasized due to elevation, species composition, and minimal structural improvements.

Geographic Area Guidelines

No additional guidelines have been identified that are specific to the Pyramid Geographic Area.

Red Dirt Geographic Area

Setting - Lodgepole pine (35%), spruce/fir (30%), and aspen (11%) cover the majority of this 49,458-acre area. Within the forested area, 32% is considered late successional. Grass and shrubs make up 16% of the area, which is high compared to surrounding areas. The area contains valuable woody riparian habitat.

Unique features include:

- Wide range of age classes in all timber species. Aspen viewing is popular.
- Upper Muddy Creek Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Populations, one of which is a conservation population (Young, et al. 1996), of Colorado River cutthroat trout.
- Flatwater recreation at Red Dirt Reservoir.
- A utility corridor.
- Archaeological values at the Windy Ridge archeological site, a proposed special interest area.
- Low motorized travelway density exists. Primary access provided by Forest Road 100 and by Forest Road 101.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Red Dirt Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-28.

Table 3-28. Red Dirt Geographic Area			
Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	64	<1
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	1	<1
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	695	1
2.1	Special Interest Area	1,098	2
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, motorized	13	<1
4.2	Scenery	1,849	4
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	2,585	5
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands-Forest Vegetation Emphasis	4,803	10
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	14,226	29
5.13	Forest Products	19,666	40
7.1	Residential/Forest Interface	444	1
	Nonfederal Land	4,015	8
	Total	49,458	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Aspen will be maintained or increased. Shrubs and grass make up a very important component for diversity and will be maintained. Forests on 50% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will contain more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to

management area prescriptions 5.11 and 5.12 (39%) or 5.13 (40%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present.

The areas seen from Forest Road 100 and from certain recreation sites will have a natural appearance, with evidence of management activities. Visual impacts of past timber harvest activities will be reduced where appropriate. Management activities will be designed to reduce visual impacts at frequently used recreation areas.

The scenic corridors along Forest Road 100 and Colorado State Highway 134 will be managed for scenic quality.

Dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Visitor interaction will be infrequent in most of the area. The potential for interaction will increase with proximity to Red Dirt Reservoir. Sanitation facilities at Red Dirt Reservoir will be provided.

A low to medium motorized travelway density in this area will provide access primarily for all-season dispersed recreation and for timber and grazing uses. Road standards will accommodate vehicles ranging from sedans to commercial vehicles.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Late Successional Forests

1. In Management Areas 5.13, late successional habitats should be provided and well distributed so that individuals of species requiring those habitats can interact with others in the planning area.

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Sarvis Creek Geographic Area

Setting - The area is mostly designated wilderness. It is a wilderness in the montane zone, as opposed to the high elevation areas common to many wilderness. Lodgepole pine (49%), spruce/fir (28%), and aspen (15%) dominate this 43,334-acre area. Within the forested area, 57% is considered late successional. Grass and shrubs comprise 5% of the area. Peregrine falcons have historically nested in this area. There is great potential for marten habitat.

Unique features include:

- Historic flume from past timber harvesting operations on the west side.
- Service Creek Trail Preliminary Conservation Planning Area.
- Mid-elevation wilderness.
- Granitic dome outcroppings used for rock and rubble climbing.
- The Silver Creek Research Natural Area.

Management Area Prescription Allocation - The management area prescriptions applied to the Sarvis Creek Geographic Area are listed below in Table 3-29.

Management Area Prescriptions		Acres	Percent of Total Area
1.11	Wilderness, Pristine	5,176	12
1.12	Wilderness, Primitive	33,725	78
1.13	Wilderness, Semi-Primitive	1,488	3
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized	115	<1
5.12	General Forest and Rangelands-Range Vegetation Emphasis	972	2
5.13	Forest Products	259	1
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	364	1
8.22	Ski-Based Resorts: Existing/Potential	32	<1
	Nonfederal Land	1,204	3
	Total	43,334	100

Source: GIS (ARC/Info), allocation and geographic area layers

Geographic Area Desired Condition

Lodgepole pine and spruce/fir will continue to be the dominant cover types. Forests on 99% of the area will appear older and less disturbed and will have more late successional structure than presently occurs. In areas allocated to management area prescription 5.13 (1%), a variety of tree sizes and seral stages will be present. Vegetation diversity will provide habitat for wildlife associated with vegetation in later seral stages. Natural processes and vegetation patterns will be apparent as a result of natural disturbance events or vegetative manipulation to simulate natural events. Some evidence of human-caused disturbance will be visible in the part of the geographic area allocated to the forest products prescription.

High-quality dispersed nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be available. Encounter with other visitors will be infrequent; opportunities for solitude will be numerous.

Motorized travelway density will continue to be low due to wilderness status. Limited timber harvest could occur in the extreme eastern end of the geographic area allocated to general

forest and rangelands. Restricted travel or closure of new or existing roads or trails which don't meet management area objectives will be implemented.

Wetlands will sustain or increase breeding populations of the boreal toad.

Geographic Area Guidelines

Recreation

1. No new permanent climbing protection devices (bolts) will be allowed on the climbing area.
2. The current recreation trail will be maintained in research natural areas.
3. Issuance of new grazing permits will be discouraged due to topography and potential high loss due to predators.

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