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Placeholder for Figure 2.23
Estes Poudre Ranger District Geographic Areas

Placeholder for Figure 2.23a Estes Poudre Ranger District
Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Placeholder for Figure 2.24
Buckhorn Geographic Area

BUCKHORN GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

This area encompasses all of the National Forest System lands draining into Buckhorn Creek plus a small area draining north into Harlan Gulch. Vegetation is a mix of foothills shrub-grass at lower elevations, ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir at mid-levels and aspen and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Elevations vary from 6,500 to 10,000 feet. There is big game habitat potential. Moose are beginning to migrate into areas along the Buckhorn Road.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small sales. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Wildland fires of stand-replacement severity have occurred in the lodgepole pine-type affecting areas in excess of 1,000 acres. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. There are six livestock grazing allotments, five of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year and continues to increase. There are a few developed facilities such as parking areas within the management area. Approximately one-third of the area is in non-federal ownership. Primary and second home development on private lands is increasing.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are Larimer County Roads 44H and 27. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of system trails and roads located primarily in the Crystal Mountain area and Buckhorn corridor.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading. Timber harvest is probable in the Crystal Mountain and Pennock Pass areas to increase habitat potential, complete previous silvicultural treatments and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Create conditions which make insect and disease epidemics unlikely. Implement prescribed fire (nonlethal understory or mixed-variable fire) in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine-types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Maintain healthy willow communities in areas used by moose.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control except for areas adjacent to development where it is direct control. Details are shown on the *wildland fire management strategy map* enclosed with this document.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in the management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Crystal, Lower Sheep, Upper Sheep, Milner and Fish Creek grazing allotments, now vacant, because of lack of public access in those areas.

Reduce or eliminate environmental or visual impact problems by closing or designating dispersed sites.

Provide for day-use areas in the Buckhorn Road Corridor.

Do not allow outfitters to operate along the road corridors to reduce conflicts between camping and motorized vehicles.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closing roads and trails that cause resource damage or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system.

Manage recreation, grazing uses, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Management Area 2.2

Emphasis is on Research Natural Areas.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Prepare a fire management plan for the Research Natural Area to design and implement specific prescribed fires (nonlethal understory and mixed-variable fires).

Discourage additional recreational use.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system.

Travel Management Strategy, Buckhorn Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
2.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L
3.5	4WD	Y	N	Y	L	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N

(corrected via Errata #2, October 1998)

Placeholder for Figure 2.25 Cache la Poudre Wilderness Geographic Area

CACHE LA POUFRE WILDERNESS GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is congressionally designated wilderness south of Cache la Poudre Canyon and north of the Flowers Road. Seven miles of Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River flow in this area. The area is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities, juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes, and Douglas-fir on north slopes. There are stands of lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Elevations vary from 6,200 to 8,300 feet. Greenback cutthroat trout may be present in some streams.

The area is administratively withdrawn from timber harvest. The area experiences frequent nonlethal understory and mixed/variable wildland fires. Fire exclusion and insect-caused mortality in the Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine have resulted in areas of very high fuel loading. The Cache la Poudre Wilderness is a Class II area with respect to air quality. Livestock grazing occurs in the area on four active grazing allotments.

The primary transportation access route is U.S. Highway 14. The Mount McConnell Trail is the primary trail within the area.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize protection of wilderness processes and attributes while providing for reasonable public visitation to a pristine wilderness setting.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect vegetation mix and structure.

Cooperate with the Division of Wildlife (DOW) to maintain self-sustaining wild trout populations by recommending Wild Trout Water Designation and appropriate DOW regulations.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback cutthroat trout in area streams.

Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem by preparing a fire management plan identifying conditions in which wildland fires may be managed by prescription control and to design specific prescribed fires. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape and conditions that naturally occurred before human intervention. Use prescribed fire to manage lodgepole pine to prevent catastrophic fire, create openings and maintain a natural landscape; and to manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old growth and conditions that occur without human intervention.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments and in wilderness management plans. Manage grazing administration actions to meet wilderness guidelines.

Manage recreational use to protect the wilderness ecosystem. Construct no new trails. Protect soil and water resources by rehabilitating any human-caused disturbances. Prohibit camping and other uses where such uses unduly impact soil, water and wilderness resources.

Maintain the primitive character of the Wild River. Do not construct trails along the river. Stabilize areas that may be impacted by high use at the more accessible points along the river.

Manage search-and-rescue efforts in accordance with Forest, national and regional policy.

Travel Management Strategy, Cache la Poudre Wilderness Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L

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Placeholder for Figure 2.26
Cedar Park Geographic Area

CEDAR PARK GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located east of the Storm Mountain ridge and north of U.S. Highway 34. The area is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities, juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes, and Douglas-fir on north slopes. Elevations vary from 5,400 to 9,918 feet. A resident bighorn sheep herd is present in the Big Thompson Canyon.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily for small sales. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all cover types. Wildland fires of small scale, nonlethal and mixed/variable severity occur frequently. Fires of stand-replacement severity are infrequent but have occurred in the recent past. There are 10 livestock grazing allotments in the area, seven of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year, except for winter, and continues to increase. The primary trails in the area are Round Mountain, Jug Gulch, and Storm Mountain. Other landownership comprises almost one-third of the lands within the geographic boundary including the Drake community and several major subdivisions. Development on private lands of both year-round and seasonal housing continues to increase.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 34, Larimer County Road 27, Cedar Park Road (Larimer County Road 43, FDR 248). Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading, especially near subdivisions. Timber harvest is probable in the Galuchie Meadows, Hyatt Hill and Stringtown Gulch areas to increase habitat potential and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention.

Maintain and improve bighorn sheep habitat in the Big Thompson Canyon because of past fire control and current vegetation mosaic.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the Big Thompson Canyon where it is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented in conjunction with timber harvest to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential, assist in ponderosa pine old-growth recruitment and retention and control fuels accumulations.

Limit new infestations of noxious weeds.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Fish Creek, Milner, Lower Sheep, Upper Sheep, Storm Mountain, Green Ridge and Lower Cedar Creek grazing allotments, now vacant, because of lack of public access.

The majority of motorized uses will be accommodated on the existing transportation system. Short road segments or reroutes will be added to connect existing travelways.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Use some temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Manage recreation, including camping and rock climbing, and grazing uses to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas, watershed conditions and aesthetic resources.

Acquire private lands from willing sellers in the Big Thompson River corridor to protect and enhance recreational opportunities and visual aesthetics.

Travel Management Strategy, Cedar Park Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent Obliterations
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	H
	MTR	N	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.2	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N

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Placeholder for Figure 2.27
Comanche Peak Wilderness Geographic Area

COMANCHE PEAK WILDERNESS GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area consists of Congressionally designated Wilderness north and east of Rocky Mountain National Park. Vegetation consists of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, lodgepole pine at mid-levels, Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher elevations and alpine above 10,500 feet. Elevations vary from 8,000 to 12,702 feet. The main stem of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River flows through this area. Moose populations are increasing. Greenback cutthroat trout habitat may exist in some streams.

The area is administratively withdrawn from timber harvest. Comanche Peak Wilderness is a Class II area with respect to air quality. The area is infrequently burned by wildfire but has experienced fires of large-stand-replacement severity in the past. There are six livestock grazing allotments, four of them vacant. Primary trailheads used to access the area are the Big South, Corral Creek, Zimmerman and Dunraven. A network of National Forest System trails provides good access to the area. Less than 100 acres of this area is in non-federal ownership.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 14, Crown Point Road (FDR 139), and Long Draw Road (FDR 156).

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize protection of wilderness processes and attributes while providing for reasonable public visitation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect vegetation mix and structure.

Reintroduce fire into the ecosystem by preparing a fire management plan identifying conditions in which wildland fires can be managed by prescription control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape and conditions that naturally occurred before human intervention. Use prescribed fire to manage lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir to prevent catastrophic fire, create openings and maintain a natural landscape; and to manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old growth and conditions that occur without human intervention.

Maintain healthy willow communities in areas used by moose.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback cutthroat trout in area streams. Manage activities to protect greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and to enhance recovery.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments and in wilderness management plans. Manage grazing to meet wilderness guidelines.

Close the Crown Point, May and Comanche sheep-grazing allotments, now vacant, because of steep topography, limited water sources and limited forage production for cattle.

Manage recreation to protect the wilderness ecosystem by managing trail networks and camping locations to enhance scenic views, reduce erosion, prevent deterioration of watershed conditions, riparian conditions and soils through relocation, restoration or closing of trails; and establish designated campsites and campstoves-only orders in heavily-used travel corridors.

Acquire non-federal lands from willing sellers.

Manage search-and-rescue efforts in accordance with Forest, national and regional policy.

Travel Management Strategy, Comanche Peak Wilderness Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L

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Placeholder for Figure 2.28 Crosier Mountain Geographic Area

CROSIER GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is north of U.S. Highway 34, east of Rocky Mountain National Park, and west of the Storm Mountain ridge. Vegetation consists of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, lodgepole pine at mid-levels and Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher levels. Elevations vary from 6,400 to 10,606 feet. Bighorn sheep habitat exists on Crosier Mountain and the upper Big Thompson Canyon. Critical winter range for the Rocky Mountain National Park elk herd occurs in this area.

Vegetation management has occurred on limited portions of the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Only very limited-scale harvesting has occurred in the area in the recent past. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality. Small-scale, nonlethal and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently. Stand-replacement-severity, wildland fires are infrequent. Large-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable prescribed fires have been utilized to enhance big game habitat and reduce fuels accumulations on Crosier Mountain. Early and late seral stages are underrepresented in all tree cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. There are five livestock grazing allotments, four of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year, except for winter, and continues to increase. The Glen Haven, Lower North Fork Thompson and Upper North Fork Thompson picnic areas and Big Thompson Fishing Pier is the only developed recreational facilities. Non-federal landownership comprises almost half the lands within the geographic boundary including several major subdivisions. Development on private lands of both year-round and seasonal housing continues to increase.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 34, Larimer County Road 43, and Larimer County Road 51B. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of National Forest System nonmotorized trails located within the area.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Management Area 1.2

Emphasize maintaining wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control. Prescribed fire (including

nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape and control fuels accumulations.

Manage the Miller Fork drainage as semiprimitive wilderness with no new trails. Rehabilitate existing human-caused disturbances to the landscape.

Management Areas 3.5 and 4.2

Emphasize wildlife habitat and scenery.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading, especially near subdivisions. Limited timber harvest is tentatively suitable to increase habitat potential and control fuel buildups but is not available. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention.

Develop management strategies to provide habitat for the Rocky Mountain National Park elk herd. Elk numbers are increasing in the National Park and a limited amount of critical habitat exists on private land.

Maintain and improve bighorn sheep habitat.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control on Crosier Mountain, perimeter control in the Storm Mountain area and direct control in Devils Gulch/Glen Haven areas. Prepare a fire management plan identifying conditions in which wildland fires may be managed by prescription control on Crosier Mountain. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Saddle Notch, Dunraven West, Crosier Mountain, and Eagle Rock grazing allotments, now vacant, because of lack of public access.

Prohibit camping where uses impact soil, water and aesthetic resources.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

The existing transportation system for motorized uses is adequate.

Rehabilitate the Crosier Mountain trails and trailheads.

Travel Management Strategy, Croiser Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	N	L	L
4.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

(Corrected via Errata #2, October 1998)

Placeholder for Figure 2.29 Crown Point Geographic Area

CROWN POINT GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

This area is generally south of the Cache la Poudre River and north of the Comanche Peak Wilderness. Vegetation is a mix of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, lodgepole pine at mid-levels, and Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. The area has excellent old-growth characteristics and stands. There is alpine vegetation above 10,500 feet. Elevations vary from 7,000 to 11,463 feet. Important elk calving areas occur in the area. There are existing greenback cutthroat trout populations and suitable habitat streams in the area. The area provides winter and transitional range for big game.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Moderate levels of harvesting continue to the present. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Early structural stages are underrepresented in lodgepole pine cover type. The aspen cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. Noxious weed infestations are increasing. Small-scale, nonlethal and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently. There is one active livestock grazing allotment. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during the summer and increases significantly during big game hunting seasons. The Browns and Zimmerman Lake Trailheads and Bennett Creek Picnic Area are the only developed recreational facilities.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are Pingree Park Road (Larimer County Road 131), and Forest Development Road 139. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. A network of System trails serves the area. Winter motorized and nonmotorized use is sporadic due to inconsistent snow conditions.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage activities to protect existing and known greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations, and to enhance recovery. Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback cutthroat trout in area streams.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments and in wilderness management plans. Manage grazing to meet wilderness guidelines.

Manage recreational uses, grazing, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Prohibit camping where uses impact soil, water and aesthetic resources.

Do not allow outfitters to operate along the road corridors to reduce conflicts between camping and motorized vehicles.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

The existing transportation system is adequate.

Management Area 1.2

Emphasize maintaining wilderness characteristics.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control. Prescribed fire (including mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

Manage as primitive, with no new trails. Rehabilitate existing human-caused disturbances to the landscape.

Management Area 1.3

Emphasize nonmotorized backcountry dispersed recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

Maintain and enhance the signage along existing trail systems. The existing nonmotorized trail system is adequate.

Management Areas 3.5, 4.3, 5.5

Emphasize wildlife habitat and dispersed recreation.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading.

Timber harvest is probable in the East Fork of Sheep Creek, Black Hollow, Salt Cabin Park areas to increase habitat potential, complete previous silvicultural treatments and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Create conditions which make insect and disease epidemics unlikely. Manage existing old-growth spruce-fir habitat and associated wildlife species.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages. Use some temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and to improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

The majority of motorized uses will be accommodated on the existing transportation system. Short road segments or reroutes will be added to connect existing travelways.

Enhance scenic vistas to provide opportunities for education about multiple use of F S lands.

Develop watchable wildlife programs to provide educational opportunities.

Travel Management Strategy, Crown Point Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
1.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	L	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	N	N	N

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
4.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
4.4	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
5.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

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Placeholder for Figure 2.30Elk Ridge Geographic Area

ELK RIDGE GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located east of U.S. Highway 36 and south of U.S. Highway 34. It is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities, juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes, and Douglas-fir on north slopes. Some lodgepole pine occurs at higher elevations. Remnants of old-growth ponderosa pine occur in the area. Elevations vary from 6,200 to 9,284 feet. This area has excellent year-round habitat for mule deer. Historically, the area may have provided elk winter range.

Vegetation management has occurred throughout the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been very limited due to limited access. Most of the vegetation in the area is second growth. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. Noxious weed infestations are increasing in the area. There are two livestock grazing allotments, one of them vacant. Recreational use (motorized) is moderate during most of the year, except for winter, and increases during the hunting season. Non-federal landownership comprises almost one-fourth of the lands within the geographic boundary. Development on private lands of both year-round and seasonal housing continues to increase.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 36 and Colorado Highway 34. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize wildlife habitat and nonmotorized recreation.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading, especially near subdivisions. Timber harvest is probable in accessible portions of the area to increase habitat potential and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime, to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention and to reduce fuels.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

Offset losses in big game habitat due to development in the Estes Valley.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control. Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownership or cause unacceptable resource damage. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific grazing allotments.

Close the Little Elk grazing allotment, now vacant, because of lack of public access.

Use some temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Motorized and nonmotorized travel systems will be accommodated on the existing transportation system. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Manage grazing, recreation, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to aquatic and riparian ecosystems during travel-management planning; manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions.

Improve public access by emphasizing land adjustments. This may be accomplished by acquiring private lands from willing sellers or acquiring rights-of-way.

Travel Management Strategy, Elk Ridge Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	M
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	L
4.2	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L

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Placeholder for Figure 2.31 Lion Gulch Geographic Area

LION GULCH GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located west of U.S. Highway 36, east of Colorado Highway 7, and north of the Johnny Park Road. The area is a mix of meadows and forested areas with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine at lower elevations and lodgepole pine at higher elevations. Important big game migration corridors and winter range are present. Elevations vary from 6,800 to 11,413 feet.

Vegetation management has occurred throughout the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small sales although some moderate-scale sales have been implemented in the more accessible portions of the area. Most vegetation is second growth. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Stand-replacement wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine type, affecting areas in excess of 300 acres. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. There are two livestock grazing allotments, one of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high, except for winter, and continues to increase. The Lion Gulch Trailhead is the only developed recreational facility. The Homestead Meadows area has been added to the National Register of Historic Places and is a significant feature in the central portion of the area. Non-federal landownership comprises almost one-third of the lands within the geographic boundary including parts of the Estes Valley and several major subdivisions. Development on private lands of both year-round and seasonal housing continues to increase.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 36, Colorado Highway 7, Big Elk Meadows (Larimer County 118), Johnny Park (Larimer County 82, FDR 118), and Pierson Park/Fish Creek (FDR 119). Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of System trails located primarily in the Lion Gulch and Homestead Meadows areas. Winter motorized and nonmotorized use is sporadic due to inconsistent snow conditions.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control. Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownership or cause unacceptable resource damage. Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Lion Gulch grazing allotment, now vacant, because of intermingled private lands.

Prohibit camping where uses impact soil, water and aesthetic resources.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Cooperate with agencies and communities in the Estes Valley area to improve recreational opportunities and visual aesthetics. This may be accomplished by acquiring private lands from willing sellers or acquiring rights-of-way.

Limit issuance of special-use permits to minimize conflicts among users.

Manage National Historic Register sites to provide information and interpretive experiences.

Management Areas 3.1 and 3.5

Emphasize wildlife habitat in Management Area 3.5, and nonmotorized recreation in Management Area 3.1.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading, especially near subdivisions. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings, regenerate aspen and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Timber harvest is probable in the Homestead Meadows area to increase habitat potential, control fuel buildups and protect the Homestead Meadows Historic District from wildfire.

Manage existing roads for administrative use and nonmotorized travel by the public.

Use temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Manage trails for nonmotorized use.

Management Area 4.2

Emphasize scenery viewing and dispersed recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Noncommercial vegetation management may occur for fuels reduction and scenic enhancement.

Travel Management Strategy, Lion Gulch Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	H
	MTR	N	N	Y	L	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	N
4.2	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N

Placeholder for Figure 2.32 Pingree Geographic Area

PINGREE GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located along the Pingree Park and Comanche Reservoir Roads and north of Rocky Mountain National Park. The area has foothills shrub-grass communities and ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, lodgepole pine at mid-levels, and Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir at higher elevations. Remnants of old-growth ponderosa pine occur in the area. Elevations vary from 7,600 to 10,400 feet. The Pingree Park Campus of Colorado State University is in the area. Moose are present year-round. Greenback cutthroat trout habitat may occur in some streams.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small sales. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Small-scale nonlethal and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine-type. Stand-replacement-severity wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine-type affecting areas in excess of 1,000 acres. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree cover types. The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. There are three livestock grazing allotments. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during the summer and fall seasons. The Beaver Creek and Stormy Peak Trailheads and Tom Bennett Picnic Area are the only developed recreational facilities. Non-federal landownership comprises approximately one-fifth of the land in this area. Second-home development on private lands is increasing. Comanche, Hourglass and Twin Lakes Reservoirs are located here.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are U.S. Highway 14, Pingree Road (Larimer County Road 131), Buckhorn (Larimer County Road 44H) and Larimer County Road 13. Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed. There is a network of National Forest System trails located primarily in the Pingree Park area.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback cutthroat trout in area streams. Manage activities to protect greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and to enhance recovery.

Maintain healthy willow communities in areas used by moose.

Manage rangelands towards desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Manage trails for nonmotorized use.

Prohibit camping where it unduly impacts soil, water and aesthetic resources.

Provide special-use permitted educational opportunities to students and others attending Colorado State University's Pingree Park campus for academic credit. Manage educational uses to prevent soil compaction and erosion, wildlife disturbances, and habitat degradation.

Management Area 1.2

Emphasize primitive uses with no new trails. Rehabilitate existing human-caused disturbances to the landscape.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control, with details given on the *wildland fire management strategy map*. Prescribed fire (including mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations. .

Management Area 1.3

Emphasize nonmotorized backcountry dispersed recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

The existing trail system is adequate.

Management Area 3.3

Emphasize motorized backcountry dispersed recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Natural processes will be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control, except for the area adjacent to Poudre Springs subdivision where it is direct control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed variable fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuels accumulations.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year.

Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Management Areas 3.5 and 4.3

Emphasize wildlife habitat in management area 3.5, and motorized recreation in management area 4.3.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading. Timber harvest is probable in the Bedsprings Springs, West White Pine and Pennock Pass areas to increase habitat potential, complete previous silvicultural treatments and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings, regenerate aspen, and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Increase the amount of aspen represented in the landscape. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Create conditions which make insect and disease epidemics unlikely.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the West White Pine area where it is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory or mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine-type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Use temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Management Area 4.4

Emphasize nonmotorized recreation on existing trails.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed to rehabilitate landscape elements, provide for public safety and reduce fuel loading. Limited timber harvest is acceptable but not scheduled. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, enhance the scenic characteristics and provide for user safety. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Accept insect and disease losses unless they threaten other ownership or cause unacceptable resource damage.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, or mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Use some temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Accommodate motorized uses on the existing transportation system. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Travel Management Strategy, Pingree Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
1.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L
1.5	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
3.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
4.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.4	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

(Corrected via Errata #2, October 1998)

Placeholder for Figure 2.33 Poudre Canyon Geographic Area

POUDRE CANYON GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located along the Cache la Poudre Canyon from the eastern Forest boundary to where the Cache la Poudre River (aka the “Big South”) intersects Joe Wright Creek. At lower elevations vegetation is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities with juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes and Douglas-fir on north slopes. At higher elevations slopes are forested with lodgepole pine. Elevations vary from 5,400 to 8,438 feet. This area provides critical big game winter habitat. Greenback cutthroat trout habitat exists in some of the drainages feeding into the Cache la Poudre River. The riparian corridor provides habitat for numerous wildlife species. This area is the major bighorn sheep habitat on the Front Range of Colorado.

Limited vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads, resorts and ranches. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Stand-replacement-severity wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine type affecting areas in excess of 1,000 acres. Noxious weed infestations are scattered throughout the corridor. There are two livestock grazing allotments and numerous trailheads and developed sites in the area. Thirty-eight miles of the Cache la Poudre National Wild and Scenic River corridor highlight this area. Approximately one-tenth of the area is in non-federal ownership. Primary and second-home development on private lands is increasing.

The current transportation system’s primary access route is U.S. Highway 14. There is a network of National Forest System trails located throughout the area.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Emphasize developed recreation in accordance with the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat, to reduce fuel loading and to preserve and enhance aesthetic conditions. Limited timber harvest is acceptable to increase habitat potential, control fuel buildups and manage visual characteristics, but is not scheduled. Manage lodgepole pine to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention.

Maintain and improve big-game winter habitat.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback

cutthroat trout in the drainages feeding into the Cache la Poudre River. Manage activities to protect greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and enhance recovery efforts.

Continue to implement bighorn sheep habitat management program to provide naturally occurring mix of vegetation.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the upper canyon, west of the Big Bend area, where it is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory or mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Consider construction of facilities to meet future recreational demands.

Cooperate with agencies and communities in the Poudre Canyon area to improve recreational opportunities and visual aesthetics. This may be accomplished by acquiring private lands from willing sellers or acquiring rights-of-way.

Limit issuance of special-use permits to minimize conflicts among users.

Manage developed recreational facilities, potential land acquisition, river-access needs, commercial rafting use, special-use permits for river-outfitter guiding and potential trails within the guidelines of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Final Management Plan.

Prohibit camping and campfires outside of developed sites for resource protection.

The existing transportation system is adequate.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Manage recreational uses, grazing, mining, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Transportation to improve public safety along Highway 14.

Travel Management Strategy, Poudre Canyon Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L
4.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	L
4.4	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	Y	L	L

Placeholder for Figure 2.34
Poverty Geographic Area

POVERTY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located at the eastern end of the U.S. Highway 14 and Flowers Road corridors. The area is a mix of foothills shrub-grass communities, juniper-ponderosa pine communities on south slopes, and Douglas-fir on north slopes. Remnants of old-growth ponderosa pine occur in the area. Elevations vary from 5,800 to 10,300 feet. Potential greenback cutthroat trout habitat exists.

Vegetation management has occurred in the area for the past 100 years beginning with harvesting for materials for homesteads and ranches. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small sales. Spruce budworm affected much of the Douglas-fir in the 1980s. Fuel loadings are high due to the subsequent mortality in those areas. Small-scale nonlethal understory and mixed/variable-severity wildland fires occur frequently in the ponderosa pine type. Stand-replacement-severity wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine type affecting areas in excess of 1000 acres. There are extensive areas of small-sized lodgepole pine due to past fires. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types.

The aspen-cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. The area includes a special-interest area for the protection of a rare botanical species. Noxious weed infestations are increasing in the area. There are five livestock grazing allotments, two of them vacant. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during the summer and fall seasons. Recreation and grazing conflicts are occurring in the Young's Gulch area. Approximately 77 percent of the area is in other ownership. Primary and second-home development on private lands is increasing

The current transportation system's primary access routes are Rist Canyon Road (Larimer County Road 52E) and Stove Prairie Road (Larimer County Road 27). Most secondary roads and user-created ways have been closed.

Goals and Desired Conditions

Protect rare plant population in Management Area 3.1.

Cooperate with other agencies to determine presence, status, and genetic purity of greenback cutthroat trout in area streams. Manage activities to protect greenback cutthroat trout habitat and populations and enhance recovery efforts.

The wildland fire management strategy is direct control except for the West White Pine area where it is perimeter control. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory or mixed/variable fires) may be implemented in the ponderosa pine type and lodgepole pine types in conjunction with vegetation manipulation to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat or assist recruitment of old-growth structural stages.

Decrease noxious weed infestations and limit new infestations.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Young's Gulch and Hill Gulch grazing allotments to eliminate recreation and grazing conflicts.

Prohibit camping along roads where use impacts soil, water and aesthetic resources.

Evaluate road and trail impacts to riparian areas and watershed conditions. Manage and restore road networks to reduce erosion and prevent deterioration of watershed conditions. Implement seasonal road closures to provide for wildlife habitat and resource protection during critical periods of the year. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage, or are in excess of National Forest System roads.

Manage recreational uses, grazing, mining, mined lands, and timber harvest to reduce erosion or deterioration of riparian areas and watershed conditions.

Management Area 3.5

Emphasize wildlife habitat. Provide for motorized recreation on existing system roads and trails.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed for wildlife habitat and to reduce fuel loading. Timber harvest is probable in the West and East White Pine areas to increase habitat potential, complete previous silvicultural treatments and control fuel buildups. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Create conditions that will make insect and disease epidemics unlikely.

Present use on existing motorized and nonmotorized travel system is adequate.

Use temporary access roads, as needed, to achieve fuels reduction and to improve wildlife habitat; close roads once the activity is completed.

Management Area 4.3 and 4.4

Provide for motorized and nonmotorized uses as currently designated on existing roads and trails.

Manage vegetation to achieve a mix needed to rehabilitate landscape elements, provide for public safety and reduce fuel loading. Limited timber harvest is acceptable but not scheduled. Manage lodgepole pine and spruce-fir to reduce fuels, create openings and maintain thermal and hiding cover. Manage ponderosa pine to emulate conditions representative of a nonlethal understory fire regime and to emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention. Accept insect and disease losses unless they pose a threat to other ownership or cause unacceptable resource damage.

Travel Management Strategy, Poverty Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
3.1	4WD	N	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	N	N	N	N	N
3.5	4WD	Y	N	N	N	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	L
4.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
4.4	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N

(Corrected via Errata #2, October 1998)