CHAPTER THREE
Management Area Direction

INTRODUCTION

Management areas define where differing kinds of resource and use opportunities are available to the public and where different management practices may be carried out. They are closely analogous to zones and zoning ordinances in county or city land-use plans. Management areas may not be contiguous geographically. A very important function of delineating a management area is to define spatially where differing types of resource-use opportunities are available to the public in each alternative. Management areas are delineated on the *management area maps* by alternative.

This chapter has two sections: **Management Area Categories**, which is a summary of management area characteristics, and **Management Area Direction**, which is a detailed description of each management area.

MANAGEMENT AREA CATEGORIES

The prescriptions are divided among eight categories and are the same categories used throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

The summary section contains a brief description of each management area category and a table showing generally allowed activities. The table conveys what activities and outputs can generally be expected in these management areas. However, there are exceptions in some areas of the Forests or Grassland due to more detailed management direction contained in geographic areas or resource maps such as timber suitability or travel management strategy. For example, the table entry for management area 3.5 - Forested Flora and Fauna indicates that timber harvest is generally allowed. However, there are areas that have this allocation where timber harvest will not be allowed because it would not help accomplish management objectives or may cause unacceptable resource damage.

Category 1. Ecological processes such as fire, insect infestation, and disease are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates, and nonnative vegetation is rare. Users must be self-reliant and should expect low levels of contact with other people. Few, if any, human-made facilities are present. With rare exceptions, travel is nonmotorized. Typical area designations are wilderness and backcountry lands. A minor amount of motorized use may be allowed to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas. Prescription numbers and names within Category 1 are:

1.1 Wilderness
1.2 Recommended for Wilderness
1.3 Backcountry Recreation
1.41 Core Area Habitats - Existing
1.42 Core Area Habitats - Restoration
1.5 National Rivers System - Wild Rivers (both designated and eligible)

Table 3.1. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 1

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing[a]
1.1	Wilderness	No	No	Limited or No	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.2	Recommended for Wilderness	No	No	Limited or No	Available	No Lease by Decision
1.3	Backcountry Recreation	No	Some snowmobile	Yes	Available	Leaseable
1.41	Core Habitats - Existing	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.42	Core Habitats - Restoration	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.5	Wild Rivers	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

[a]See the leasing analysis in the *FEIS* for details.

Category 2. These areas provide for conservation of representative, or particularly rare and narrowly distributed, ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible, but are sometimes evident. Types of human use vary, but generally are not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas help provide a "natural" benchmark to compare with areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. The only prescription number and name within Category 2 is:

2.2 Research Natural Areas

Table 3.2. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 2

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
2.2	Research Natural Areas	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn if needed	Leaseable

Category 3. Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given to both. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally predominate. Although these areas are characterized by predominantly natural-appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological process. This results in some evidence of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary from area to area or season to season. Prescription numbers and names are:

3.1 Special Interest Areas
3.21 Limited Use Areas
3.3 Backcountry Motorized Recreation
3.5 Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats
3.55 Corridors Connecting Core Areas
3.61 Prairie Woodlands

Table 3.3. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 3

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
3.1	Special Interest Area	No	Limited	Limited	Withdrawn if needed	Leaseable
3.21	Limited Use Areas	Limited	Yes	Limited	Available	No Lease by Decision or Leaseable
3.3	Backcountry Motorized Recreation	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
3.5	Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	Yes	Limited	Yes	Available	Leaseable
3.55	Corridors Connecting Core Areas	Limited	Limited	Yes	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
3.61	Prairie Woodlands	NA	Limited	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable

Category 4. Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use, but are maintained well within the levels necessary to safeguard overall ecological functioning systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Sights and sounds of people are expected, and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

4.2 Scenic Areas
4.3 Dispersed Recreation
4.4 National Rivers System - Recreation Rivers (both designated and eligible)

Table 3.4. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 4

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
4.2	Scenic Areas	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
4.4	Recreation Rivers	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Category 5. These areas are primarily forested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions will be maintained, with emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities and evidence of vegetation manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses and motorized transportation are both common. Prescription numbers and names are:

5.11 General Forest and Rangelands - Forest Vegetation Emphasis
5.13 Forest Products
5.31 Experimental Forest
5.5 Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation

Table 3.5. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 5

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
5.13	Forest Products	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
5.31	Fraser Experimental Forest	Limited	Limited	Limited	Withdrawn	Leaseable
5.5	Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Category 6. These areas are primarily nonforested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions will be maintained, with emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities and evidence of vegetation manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

6.4 Mid-Composition - High Structure: Native Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem
6.6 Mid-Composition - Low Structure: Grassland Resource Production

Table 3.6. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 6

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
6.4	Mid-Composition—High Structure: Native Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable
6.6	Mid-Composition—Low Structure: Grassland Resource Production	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable

Category 7. Public lands are intermingled with private lands to such an extent that ecosystem management objectives for National Forest System lands must be tempered by other landowners' uses and objectives. Human activities have altered the natural appearance of these landscapes in most areas on both the public and private lands. Sights and sounds of people predominate. Private land use is often residential. Resource use is not planned on a sustainable basis, but may occur in concert with surrounding private land values. Motorized transportation is common. The single prescription category is:

7.1 Intermix

Table 3.7. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 7

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
7.1	National Forest—Residential Intermix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Not Analyzed

Category 8. Ecological conditions, including processes, are likely to be permanently altered by human activities to levels beyond those needed to maintain natural-appearing landscapes and ecological processes. These areas are generally small. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines or other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature, and directly or indirectly provide jobs and income. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

8.21 Developed Recreation Complexes
8.22 Ski-Based Resorts - (Existing and Potential)
8.3 Designated Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites (Existing and Inventoried)

Table 3.8. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 8

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
8.21	Developed Recreation Complexes	Limited	Yes	No	Withdrawn	Leaseable
8.22	Ski-based Resorts	Limited	Yes	No	Withdrawn	Leaseable
8.3	Designated Utilities	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION

Each management area delineated on the map has a detailed management prescription to guide its management. The prescription specifies:

1. Management Area Theme: short description of the management emphasis for the area.

2. Management Area Desired Condition: further specifics to the forestwide goals.

3. Management Area Standards and Guidelines: standards and guidelines that apply to a particular management area in addition to, or in a more restrictive way than, the forestwide standards and guidelines. When there is a conflict, the more restrictive direction applies.

Management area direction is applied in addition to forestwide and geographic area direction. Where there is conflict, the more site-specific direction applies.

The following sections explain in detail each of the management area prescriptions.

1.1 WILDERNESS

Theme: Wilderness areas are managed to protect and perpetuate their natural conditions while providing opportunities for solitude and self reliance.

Desired Condition

Specific management for each wilderness will be described in a Wilderness Implementation Schedule (WIS) for that wilderness. The WIS will incorporate the direction described below.

Physical/Biological

The physical and biological attributes will be managed to allow natural processes to perpetuate the included ecosystems. Vegetation consists of a variety of plant community types and structural stages maintained primarily through ecological processes. Evidence of human activity, both past and present, is limited to that necessary to protect wilderness resources, features of historical significance or results from a prior existing right.

Fire is one of the primary natural processes serving an integral role in the maintenance of the wilderness ecosystem. The wilderness ecosystem is allowed to be highly dynamic, evolving naturally over time. The pattern of fire disturbance over time is expected to resemble the historic range of variability present prior to European settlement. Many plant communities indigenous to the wildernesses are well represented and have evolved and maintained with fire. However, the amount and location of various seral stages is very dynamic, changing with each fire and other natural ecological processes.

Table 3.10 describes the differences in expectation and desired future conditions for the various wilderness opportunity classes.

Social

The areas are managed to provide opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, featuring solitude and crosscountry travel in an environment where success or failure depends directly on ability, knowledge, and initiative. Unique nonmotorized hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing opportunities may exist in these areas.

The setting appears natural. Areas with evidence of unacceptable levels of past use are restored to natural conditions. Contacts with others and evidence of use will vary by wilderness opportunity class as shown in the table.

Administrative

Administrative actions to maintain the desired condition of wilderness are to develop and implement *limits of acceptable change programs* and *wilderness implementation schedules,* as funding and resources allow. Other needed actions are to actively acquire inholdings; retain all lands within the designated area; acquire rights-of-way to meet resource-management goals and objectives; and to allow compatible special uses. Evidence of management will vary by opportunity class as described in the table below.

Table 3.9 Wilderness Opportunity Class Description

Description	Pristine	Primitive	Semiprimitive	Transition
Physical	Unmodified natural environment.	Unmodified natural environment.	Unmodified natural environment.	Predominately unmodified environment.
Social	No contact with other users. No evidence of use.	Minimum contact with other users. Minimum evidence of use.	Low to moderate contact with other users. Moderate evidence of use.	Highest contact with other users. Greatest evidence of use.
Management Action	Virtually no management.	Minimum management presence.	Low management presence.	Moderate management presence.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Implement a permit system (for either day use or overnight use) or other measures (such as area closures) to manage use-levels and use-patterns when conditions are outside the standards and guidelines established for the management area prescription. **(RO-Soc-RecWildernessRes-St-Rec-02)**

2. **(ST)** Limit maximum party size to 25 (any combination of people and recreational stock), except as permitted. Establish smaller party-size limits for people and stock where biological, physical, and social capacities cannot support a higher level of use. (RO-Soc-Rec-Wilderness-St-Opt-6)

3. **(ST)** Prohibit open wood campfires in the Indian Peaks Wilderness on the east side of the Continental Divide. RO-Soc-RecWildernessRes-St-Opt-02)

4. **(ST)** Prohibit recreational livestock in wilderness within 100 feet of lake shores and streambanks except for watering and through travel.

5. **(ST)** Where forage is limited, require overnight campers with recreational livestock to provide processed feeds that are free of viable noxious weed seeds. (RO-Soc-RecWildernessRes-St-Opt-03)

6. **(ST)** Prohibit rock collecting in designated wilderness areas.

7. **(ST)** Campsites may be designated in all but "pristine opportunity class" areas to protect resources and to disperse camping or opportunities for solitude.

8. **(ST)** Manage the various wilderness opportunity class areas according to the following standards:

Table 3.10 Wilderness Opportunity Class

	Pristine	Primitive	Semiprimitive	Transition
Physical	No evidence of campsites.	1 camp per square mile.	2-3 camps per square mile.	Many sites per square mile, mostly not visible from one another.
Social	1 or fewer encounters per day. No camps within sight.	1-2 encounters per day. No camps within sight.	3-4 encounters per day. 1 camp within sight.	Encounters not regulated. Camps within sight of one another not regulated.
Unnatural Disturbed Areas Including Campsites	Rehabilitate all unnatural ground disturbances	1 lightly used site per square mile (lightly used means most people would not notice it).	2-3 noticeable sites per square mile. Close sites if in undesirable location or if heavily damaged.	Manage sites to protect resources.

9. **(GL)** Do not grant new or renew existing outfitter-guide or large-party permits in wilderness areas where use will create conditions that exceed established limits of acceptable threshold values or result in unacceptable resource damage.

10. **(GL)** Manage campsite use to maintain sites within Frissell Class 1-3. Designated sites may be Frissell Class 4. Frissell Class 5 sites must be rehabilitated and may be closed.

11. **(GL)** Permit prescribed fire.

12. **(GL)** Control natural insect and disease outbreaks in wilderness only when justified by predicted loss of resource values outside the wilderness.

13. **(GL)** Minimize human impacts in wilderness by considering:

    a. limiting the number of private and outfitter/guide camps
    b. encouraging the use of self-contained stoves and discouraging the use of wood-fueled fires
    c. use of a permit system
    d. limitations on party size and pack animals
    e. prohibiting dogs or requiring all dogs to be on a leash
    f. implementing minimum-impact suppression tactics when managing wildland fires

1.2 RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

Theme: Areas which the Forest Service has or will recommend to Congress for inclusion in the Wilderness System are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congressional action is taken. Nonconforming activities may be limited or restricted.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Manage physical and biological attributes to protect and perpetuate ecosystems native to the Central Rocky Mountain biophysical region. Vegetation consists of a variety of plant community types and structural stages maintained primarily through ecological processes. Natural biological processes are not adversely or artificially changed over time by human use. Areas have limited site-specific evidence of past human activities. Plant and animal species native to the area occur, or may be restored in conjunction with the agencies responsible for species reintroduction, where feasible, with emphasis on endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Soil structure and productivity, and water flows and quality are managed within the range of natural variation. The size and distribution of fire and insect and disease disturbances vary depending on the risk of the fire or the outbreak affecting adjacent areas.

Social

The setting appears natural. Unique nonmotorized hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing opportunities may exist in these areas that are away from major travelways where seclusion and cover areas exist. Areas with evidence of unacceptable levels of past use are rehabilitated. Incompatible uses may continue but are phased out as opportunities arise. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance. This is an area where the natural processes and conditions are protected from unacceptable change by human use.

Manage more heavily used areas to provide moderate to high opportunity for semiprimitive and unconfined recreational experiences featuring short-trip day use or longer overnight trips. Provide information to make users aware of the purposes of recommended wilderness management. Contacts with others and evidence of use will vary by area.

Manage more primitive areas to provide moderate to high opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreational experiences featuring solitude and crosscountry travel in an environment where success or failure depends on ability, knowledge and initiative. Expect some contact with others, primarily on the travelways open for use.

Administrative

Most facilities are removed and areas rehabilitated to match surrounding conditions. Administrative actions are geared to aggressively converting areas to wilderness condition, prior

to designation if possible. Few new improvements are permitted; when permitted, they are designed to be minimally intrusive.

Campsites are generally not designated and are scattered and not visibly or audibly identifiable from adjacent campsites. Primitive trails have some improvements and may provide a variety of challenges. Bridges and other reminders of management control are present.

Actively acquire inholdings. Retain all lands within the designated area. Allow compatible special uses. Acquire rights-of-way to meet resource management goals and objectives and improve access for recreational visitors.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Prohibit use of heavy ground-disturbing equipment for wildland fire management unless authorized by the Forest Supervisor.

2. **(GL)** Do not initiate stocking of vacated allotments.

1.3 BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION

Theme: Backcountry areas are managed to provide nonmotorized recreational opportunities in a natural appearing landscape.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

A variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. The variety and arrangement depends on the timing of natural disturbances (fire, insects and diseases, and storms) and prescribed fire. The amount and arrangement of successional stages varies greatly depending on the amount and timing of disturbances and how openings revegetate.

Openings vary in size and are generally the result of the natural disturbances described above. Openings may be utilized to provide scenic views and add to the diversity of the landscape. New human-caused changes to vegetation that may occur are limited in scale and are not visually evident. For short time periods in small areas, some vegetation manipulation may occur that is noticeable; however, it resembles natural patterns.

Social

Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational opportunities. Unique nonmotorized hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing opportunities may exist in these areas that are away from major travelways where seclusion and cover areas exist. Other compatible activities may occur in the area.

Encounters between individuals or parties are most common on travelways. Seasonal restrictions for resource protection may occur. Fewer contacts and improved opportunities for solitude occur away from trails. Sounds from people may be common near travelways. Sounds from outside the area may be common near the area's edge. Farther away from travelways or the area's edges, sounds diminish into the background.

Use subtle on-site regulations and controls. Prohibit motorized travel, including over-snow use except as shown on the *Winter Travel Strategy Map* endorsed with this document. Limit directional, regulatory, and informational signs to those necessary to foster safe use and resource protection. Contacts with Forest Service personnel are generally initiated by visitors.

Administrative

Limit facilities to those necessary to protect resources, provide for safety, or to enhance recreational experiences. Existing improvements such as trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed. Existing primitive roads will be converted to trails or obliterated. New trails may be constructed

to enhance recreational experiences, prevent damage to resources or provide access. Managed trails provide for a variety of use and challenge levels. Most routes are designed for a variety of uses and will loop, run point-to-point, or seek to link with other management areas or developed sites.

Acquire inholdings or adjacent lands as opportunities arise to maintain or improve backcountry nonmotorized recreational opportunities or to prevent development that would diminish experience levels on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Retain all NFS lands in the management area. Acquire rights-of-way where needed to meet resource goals and objectives and enhance recreational opportunities. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Do not construct new roads.

1.41 CORE HABITATS - EXISTING

Theme: These areas are managed to maintain existing habitats which are shaped primarily through natural processes.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Natural ecological processes will be the principal dynamic forces which serve to maintain and restore ecosystem characteristics in conditions which reflect little modification by humans. Management will maintain and restore physical and biological attributes within each area to conditions characteristic of natural forest ecosystems native to the Central Rocky Mountain biophysical region. Vegetation will consist of a variety of plant community types and structural stages. Plant and animal species native to the area will be maintained and restored, where feasible, with emphasis on endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Management manipulation of forests and nonforest terrestrial vegetation and aquatic systems will be limited to that necessary to maintain and restore habitat quantity and quality for native plant and animal species.

Social

The setting is natural. Scenic quality should be maintained at relatively high levels. The sights and sounds of people as well as other management activities within the area will be encountered with low frequency. Human use is managed to minimize effects on ecosystem composition, structure or processes. Use will generally not be encouraged and will be regulated in a nonobtrusive and subtle manner, emphasizing minimal visual evidence of management restrictions and controls.

Administrative

Generally, no facilities will exist. Travelways will be reconstructed or relocated in a manner consistent with the aims of ecosystem maintenance and protection. Travelways will be closed by gating or blocking and where obliterated, will be revegetated with local native species. Structures will be removed, except as authorized by statute, regulation or policy. Removal will occur with minimal environmental impact and the site restored to natural conditions.

Acquire parcels that provide key or essential habitat or contain unique or critical ecosystems or parcels where development would reduce habitat effectiveness of National Forest System lands. Retain parcels that are required to meet management objectives or where potential development would reduce habitat effectiveness. Dispose of parcels that do not currently provide effective habitat *and* would not reduce habitat effectiveness if developed by others. Dispose if offered lands would increase net habitat effectiveness in

the same area or if they contain key or essential habitat in a different area. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses that do not jeopardize the integrity of the area.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Close areas to camping or other use when native vegetation has been unacceptably impacted.

2. **(ST)** Prohibit motorized use.

3. **(GL)** Designate campsites where necessary to protect ecosystem resource values.

4. **(GL)** Do not construct new roads and trails.

1.42 CORE HABITATS - RESTORATION

Theme: These areas are being restored to conditions similar to those that would exist if the area had been shaped primarily through natural processes.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Natural ecological processes will be the principal dynamic forces which serve to restore and maintain ecosystem characteristics in conditions which reflect little modification by humans. Management will restore and maintain physical and biological attributes within each area to conditions characteristic of natural forest ecosystems native to the Central Rocky Mountain biophysical region. Vegetation will consist of a variety of plant community types and structural stages. Plant and animal species native to the area will be restored and maintained where feasible, with emphasis on endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Management manipulation of forests and nonforest terrestrial vegetation and aquatic systems will be limited to that necessary to restore and maintain habitat quantity and quality for native plant and animal species.

Social

The setting is natural. Scenic quality should be maintained at relatively high levels. The sights and sounds of people as well as other management activities within the area will be encountered with low frequency. Human use will be managed to minimize effects on ecosystem composition, structure or processes. Use will generally not be encouraged and will be regulated in a nonobtrusive and subtle manner, emphasizing minimal visual evidence of management restrictions and controls.

Administrative

Generally, no facilities will exist. Travelways will be reconstructed or relocated in a manner consistent with the aims of ecosystem restoration and protection. Travelways will be closed by gating or blocking and, where obliterated, will be revegetated with local native species. Structures will be removed, except as authorized by statute, regulation or policy. Removal will occur with minimal environmental impact and the site restored to natural condition.

Acquire parcels that provide key or essential habitats or that contain unique or critical ecosystems or parcels where development would reduce habitat effectiveness of National Forest System lands. Retain parcels that are required to meet management objectives or where potential development would reduce habitat effectiveness. Dispose of parcels that do not currently provide effective habitat *and* would not reduce habitat effectiveness if developed by others. Dispose if offered lands would increase net habitat effectiveness in the same area or if they contain key or essential habitat in a different area. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses that do not jeopardize the integrity of the area.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Close areas to camping or other use when native vegetation has been unacceptably impacted.

2. **(ST)** Public motorized vehicle use is prohibited except where firewood gathering could be used to reduce slash piles, and where such activity is considered necessary and/or desirable for restoration.

3. **(ST)** Construct no new roads and trails except for administrative use, and only then after at least an equal number of road miles have been obliterated.

4. **(ST)** Roads no longer needed to perform active restoration work shall be obliterated as funds and personnel permit.

5. **(GL)** Designate campsites where necessary to protect ecosystem resource values.

6. **(GL)** Permit administrative use of existing roads for active restoration.

1.5 DESIGNATED AND ELIGIBLE WILD RIVERS

Theme: Wild rivers are managed to protect and perpetuate designated wild river segments.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

A variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife are present in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. The variety and arrangement of plant communities and structural stages depend on natural disturbances such as fire, insects and diseases, and storms, and therefore are random in timing and location. Most of the time, forested landscapes are composed of plant communities in middle to late successional stages. Within grassland ecosystems, plant communities are generally in late successional stages. The amount and arrangement of other successional stages vary greatly depending on the amount and timing of disturbances and the manner in which openings revegetate. Riparian communities and aquatic ecosystems are healthy, with little to no evidence of disturbance. Emphasize the health and wild nature of riparian and aquatic resources to enhance their value as components of the experience.

Openings in forested landscapes are generally the result of the natural disturbances described above. Opening size may vary from less than an acre to several hundred acres and are most desirable in areas where they provide scenic views, add to the diversity of the landscape, or highlight other scenic features. The size and distribution of fire and insect and disease disturbances vary depending on the risk of the fire or the outbreak affecting adjacent areas. Where there is little risk of the fire or outbreak leaving the boundaries of an area, a wide variety of disturbance patterns and sizes is acceptable. Where there are risks to adjacent lands or if an opening would be created which is larger than desired, an appropriate management response will be taken.

Social

Provide a variety of nonmotorized recreational opportunities. Other compatible activities may occur in the area. Recreational opportunities vary across the area, depending on their compatibility with values designated as "outstandingly remarkable."

The setting created by vegetation continues to appear natural. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance. Evidence of human activities or habitation due to mining, milling, or grazing, if present, will generally diminish in the future. Existing improvements such as trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions are removed except where needed. Few new improvements are anticipated. Those which occur are designed to be minimally intrusive into the landscape.

Encounters between individuals or parties are generally infrequent except on the few travelways open for use. Contacts away from trails and sounds from people are infrequent.

Visitors rely on their own resources or the transportation facilities provided for use of the area. Directional, regulatory and informational signs are minimal to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area and provide route information. Personal contacts by Forest Service personnel are common and are generally for the purpose of providing information.

Administrative

No new facilities are constructed. Existing facilities are phased out unless allowed by enabling legislation. Any management activities must maintain resources to protect outstandingly remarkable values.

Actively acquire inholdings that are within the wild river classification. Retain all parcels that are in the wild and scenic river designated boundary. Acquire lands or rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow only compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Do not modify the waterway for aquatic habitat purposes.

2. **(ST)** Adhere to adjacent wilderness management direction for wild rivers flowing through designated wilderness.

3. **(ST)** Manage use in adopted primitive settings to not exceed seven *people at one time (PAOT)* per thousand acres.

4. **(ST)** Manage use in adopted semiprimitive settings to not exceed eight *PAOT* per thousand acres.

5. **(ST)** Do not authorize new water-development projects.

6. **(GL)** Existing structures may be retained as long as they are compatible with the primitive nature and naturalness of the area.

7. **(GL)** Construct bridges only where no safe opportunity exists to cross streams or gorges on trail routes.

8. **(GL)** Do not place bridge piers in the waterway.

9. **(GL)** Designate campsites only when there are limited opportunities for dispersion.

2.2 RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

Theme: Research Natural Areas (RNAs) form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for nonmanipulative research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. This prescription is applicable to both designated RNAs and areas which are proposed for RNA designation.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain natural (relatively pristine or presettlement) conditions by allowing ecological processes to prevail with minimal human intervention. Vegetation, habitat, soil productivity, water quality, and ecological processes are in a natural condition (within the range of natural variability). Vegetation manipulation may be utilized in limited circumstances to maintain the ecosystem or unique features for which the RNA was established or to reestablish natural ecological processes, such as a natural fire regime.

Populations of exotic (nonnative) plant and animal species are controlled where feasible using methods which minimize threats to native species. Allow natural outbreaks of native insects and diseases to proceed without intervention, unless they are a substantial threat to the characteristics for which the RNA was created.

Develop specific management area direction (use of prescribed fire, grazing, etc.) for each RNA as part of the Establishment Record or in a separate Management Plan.

Social

Recreational use is allowed unless special values are threatened. Use of the area for interpretation and education can be emphasized. Avoid publicity that attracts the general public to the area.

Administrative

Prohibit buildings and developed recreational sites, unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as historic sites listed in the National Registry) which do not threaten the values for which the RNA was established. Prohibit motorized use, except when necessary to provide research, administrative, or educational access.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels if needed to achieve area objectives or if imminent development would be inconsistent with the fulfillment of the objectives of the remaining National Forest System lands. Acquire mineral estates and lands or rights-of-ways that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Retain all NFS lands.

There may be some evidence of research or study activities which are conducted using methods that are nondestructive and nonmanipulative. Limit activities other than research and study to nondestructive activities without roads or facilities unless provided for in the Establishment Record or in the individual RNA Management Plan.

Allow no surface extractive uses except those arising from existing federal leasing and private subsurface mineral rights.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Prohibit habitat manipulation for wildlife, unless it is part of a management plan to perpetuate natural conditions or when it is necessary for the protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

   Exception: Prescribed fire and the appropriate management response of prescription control may be used on the North St. Vrain RNA to improve habitat for bighorn sheep. In this area habitat improvement is compatible with perpetuating and restoring natural conditions by helping to correct for the results of past fire suppression.

2. **(ST)** Withdraw the area from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576) when withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the RNA was established.

3. **(ST)** Permit special uses only when they do not conflict with the values for which the RNA was proposed.

4. **(ST)** Prohibit the construction of new roads and trails, except when new trails are necessary to correct resource damage occurring from existing trails.

5. **(ST)** Prohibit motorized and mechanized use, except when they provide necessary access for scientific, administrative, or educational purposes.

   Exception: Snowmobile and mountain bike use will be allowed on that portion of the Bowen Gulch RNA that occurs outside Wilderness and inside the Congressionally designated Bowen Gulch Protection Area in accordance with the regulations governing the use of the Protection Area. Snowmobile and mountain bike use will also be allowed on maintained Forest Service trails in that portion of the RNA outside Wilderness. These exceptions are made in recognition of existing use and federal law governing the Protection Area. Because of dense forest and few trails, use is expected to be light.

6. **(ST)** Prohibit logging, wood gathering, and other types (herbs, mushrooms, etc.) of gathering activities.

7. **(GL)** Prohibit livestock grazing, except when it is used to approximate a natural grazing regime for maintaining the native vegetation.

8. **(GL)** Close or obliterate existing roads, except where they provide necessary access for scientific, administrative, or educational purposes.

9. **(GL)** Limit wildland fire management techniques to those which minimize disturbance. Do not use heavy ground-disturbing equipment unless approved by the Forest Supervisor. Use natural barriers to confine or contain fire where possible.

Mount Goliath RNA

The Mount Goliath RNA contains a large old-growth stand of bristlecone pine which is easily accessible and visited by thousands of people yearly for its scenic and educational values. The management emphasis is on protecting the natural conditions of the bristlecone pine stand while providing opportunities for interpretation, enjoyment, and study of the area.

Hell Canyon RNA

This 18,312-acre area is located on the Sulphur Ranger District west of the Continental Divide; 17,067 acres lie within the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The area is bounded on the north by Rocky Mountain National Park and is adjacent to the Paradise Park Research Natural Area within the National Park. These two areas would enhance each other's values and would provide an opportunity for interagency cooperation in management, research, data-gathering, and monitoring. The area includes 27 ponds and lakes and the complete watersheds of six small creeks. The diversity of ecosystem types is very extensive, including good representation of lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forests and subalpine grasslands. The forests occur over a broad range of elevations, slopes, aspects, and successional stages. Areas of alpine tundra, sagebrush-bitterbrush shrublands, and montane, subalpine and alpine wetlands are also found in this site. Pleistocene glaciation has produced a landscape of peaks, high-elevation cirques, and U-shaped canyon bottoms typical of the Front Range in Colorado.

Bowen Gulch RNA

This 10,126-acre area is located on the Sulphur Ranger District west of the Continental Divide near the southern end of the Never Summer Mountains. The area is contained within portions of the Never Summer Wilderness and the Bowen Gulch Protection Area and includes the complete watershed of Bowen Gulch. This proposed RNA contains one of the largest and most outstanding areas of old-growth Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forest in Colorado. Smaller areas of lodgepole pine forest and alpine tundra are also found within the site.

Boston Peak Fen RNA

This 550-acre area is located on the Redfeather Ranger District in the upper Laramie River

valley. The site contains a unique wetland ecosystem supporting outstanding examples of rare plant populations and unusual fen and willow carr plant communities. The wetland is also noteworthy for its deep deposits of peat and lake sediments. The complete watershed of this wetland is contained within the proposed RNA and is primarily lodgepole pine forest with small areas of limber pine and aspen.

Lone Pine RNA

This 4,558-acre area is located on the Redfeather Ranger District and borders the western boundary of the Lone Pine State Wildlife Area. This site includes a large trailless area of low-elevation ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forests in gently rolling terrain. There are also several small canyons and excellent examples of Parry's oat-grass montane meadows. The site would also offer added protection to an extensive occurrence of a Region 2 endemic sensitive plant species, the branched cinquefoil.

Pennock Creek RNA

This 6,330-acre area is located on the Estes-Poudre Ranger District and borders the northern boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park. This site provides a good representation for high-elevation limber pine forest. The north-facing drainage basin of this site includes the complete watershed of Pennock Creek and contains one of the larger examples of Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forest east of the Continental Divide in Colorado. Much of this spruce-fir forest is old growth. Most of this area (5,698 acres) is located in the Comanche Peak Wilderness.

Sheep Creek RNA

This 1,250-acre area is located on the Estes-Poudre Ranger District approximately 12 miles west of Fort Collins. This area is notable for its dense riparian vegetation along a perennial stream in a foothills canyon of the Front Range. A variety of eastern woodland relict species such as the beaked hazelnut are found on this site. The south-facing slopes of this canyon also contain the Colorado wildrye/wax currant plant community, which is endemic to the northern Front Range of Colorado. The uplands are predominately ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

West Creek RNA

This 2,997-acre area is located on the Estes-Poudre Ranger District and lies within the Comanche Peak Wilderness. This area adjoins the West Creek Research Natural Area in Rocky Mountain National Park. These two areas would enhance each other's values and would provide an opportunity for interagency cooperation in management, research, data-gathering, and monitoring. The area is primarily Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forest, with a particularly large occurrence of the Douglas-fir/waxflower plant community.

North St. Vrain RNA

This 4,793-acre area is located on the Boulder Ranger District and includes approximately 6 miles of North St. Vrain Creek, one of the major streams that have cut deep canyons as they flow east out of the Front Range. In addition to the diverse and high-quality examples of riparian vegetation, the area also contains the largest known expanses of the endemic shrubland plant community, antelope bitterbrush/mountain muhly, and stands of old-growth ponderosa pine. The north-facing slopes of the canyon are Douglas-fir forest and the south-facing slopes and uplands are mostly a mixture of shrublands, grasslands, and open ponderosa pine stands. The area also offers protection to populations of the Colorado aletes, a rare plant species that is on the Region 2 sensitive species list.

Indian Caves RNA

This 386-acre area is located in the northeast portion of the Pawnee National Grassland near the Logan County line. The northern part of this area is a relatively flat upland dominated by blue grama-buffalo grass prairie containing many small depressions in which spike-rush grows. Small amounts of needle-and-thread blue grama prairie and little bluestem-sideoats grama prairie are also found on the site. The uplands fall away to the south in a band of cliffs and steep slopes that are dominated by shrublands that include chokecherry and skunkbush.

Little Owl Creek RNA

This 1,108-acre area is located in the western portion of the Pawnee National Grassland about 6 miles northeast of the town of Nunn. The area includes good examples of short-grass prairie on soils derived from the Laramie Formation. Most of the short-grass prairie is the blue grama-buffalo grass type, with smaller areas of plant communities containing varying mixtures of sideoats grama, needle-and-thread, fourwing saltbush, sand dropseed, and yucca. The area also contains riparian and lowland plant communities along intermittent streams and nearby perennial ponds, including inland saltgrass-alkali sacaton-western wheatgrass and alkali sacaton-blue grama. The area provides habitat for two Region 2 sensitive species, the ferruginous hawk, the Iowa darter, and the mountain plover, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Category bird species.

Keota RNA

This 827-acre area is located in the central portion of the Pawnee National Grassland about 3 miles southeast of the town of Keota. The area includes good examples of short-grass prairie on soils derived from the White River Formation, with a good representation of fourwing saltbush shrublands as well as the more common blue grama-buffalo grass prairie. The area provides small rock outcrops that provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife. This proposed RNA also has known occurrences of three Region 2 sensitive species, the ferruginous hawk, swift fox, and mountain plover, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Category bird species.

3.1 SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS

Theme: Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are managed for public education, interpretation, recreation or development while protecting or enhancing areas with unusual characteristics.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

These areas are managed to maintain their special interest values. Typically, SIAs have been designated as botanical, geological, historical, paleontological, scenic, and zoological areas. SIAs can be designated to protect and manage threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and other elements of biological diversity, or for their scenic values, or public popularity. SIAs can vary from small to fairly large areas. In addition, places such as caves, hot springs, cultural resource sites, 14,000-foot peaks, significant views, state-designated historic sites, and potential developed sites could be considered for SIAs.

Vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality usually, but not always, appear near natural (relatively pristine or presettlement). Maintain or restore the natural (or near-natural) conditions and protect threatened, endangered, or sensitive species habitat and the values for which the SIA was established. Insect and disease losses are generally accepted.

Develop specific management direction in a separate management plan for each SIA to protect the values for which the SIA was developed.

Social

Evidence of human activities or habitation is consistent with the characteristics for which the area was established. Encounters between individuals or parties depend on the objectives for designation. A variety of methods to communicate direction, regulation and information are used in a manner consistent with the characteristics of the area.

Administrative

Facilities are present to the extent needed to maintain the area or to facilitate visitor use. New facilities may be constructed to enhance the values for which the SIA was designated, for interpretive or educational purposes or to correct resource damage.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels if needed to achieve area objectives if development would prevent achievement of area objectives. Retain all real property. Special uses may be allowed if compatible with SIA values.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Withdraw this area from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579) when withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the SIA was designated.

Stuck Creek Splash Dam SIA

The area around the dam on Stuck Creek is designated as an SIA because of the dam's historical significance. There are only four known dams remaining from the tie-cutting era in logging history. The dam structure's two towers are still intact, although much of the support structure has deteriorated. The structure is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The surrounding area also contains remains of what is thought to have been a logging hamlet.

Rist Canyon SIA

This area provides habitat for many plant and animal species including neotropical migrant birds, orchids and other species that depend on open space. It is important because it is surrounded by highly developed private lands. Management emphasis is on preserving this unique foothills environment.

Homestead Meadows SIA

The Homestead Meadows area is designated as an SIA because of the historical significance of the old homesites. Management emphasis is on preserving and interpreting the National Register of Historic Places sites within the area's boundaries.

Todd Gulch Fen SIA

This area contains the unusual characteristics typical of quaking fens throughout the Central Rockies biophysical region. Management emphasis is on preserving and enhancing the character of the area.

Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve SIA

The Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve is part of the National "Man-and-the-Biosphere" Project sponsored by the United Nations. Management emphasis is on providing opportunities for ongoing research while providing for compatible recreational uses.

James Peak SIA

The James Peak SIA was designated because it contains unusual opportunities for recreation in an undeveloped area. Management emphasis is on protecting or enhancing the undeveloped character of the area while providing for public education and compatible recreational

opportunities. Natural ecological processes are the principal dynamic forces at work in this area; management activities will be limited to maintaining and restoring the area to conditions characteristic of natural forest ecosystems. Motorized recreational use is prohibited all year.

Arapaho National Recreation Area SIA

This area was Congressionally designated and directed to be administered primarily for public recreation. Management emphasis is on recreation and interpretation with water-based recreation as a key attraction.

Bowen Gulch Protection Area SIA

This area was Congressionally designated as the Bowen Gulch Protection Area in 1992 because of its unique blend of historical recreational use and pristine character. Management emphasis is on retaining its pristine nature, while providing opportunities for moderate to heavy winter motorized use and summer use that have occurred historically and are specified in the Bowen Gulch legislation.

Prairie Ecosystem Demonstration Areas SIA

These are actually two areas on the Grassland that are designated for the same reasons and will be managed the same way. Management emphasis is on providing representative native shortgrass prairie ecosystems that provide habitat for associated plant and animal species, to permit trial application of research in the shortgrass, and to emphasize information and education.

Pawnee Buttes SIA

The Pawnee Buttes on the Grassland were designated as an SIA because of the area's unique combination of characteristics. Management emphasis is on protecting and interpreting the special wildlife, recreational, scenic, and geological features.

Grays Peak SIA

The Grays Peak SIA contains two peaks over 14,000 feet tall, Grays Peak and Torreys Peak, that are hiked by thousands of people yearly. Hiking trails in the area include the Grays Peak National Recreation Trail and a portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Management emphasis is on providing opportunities for a high level of nonmotorized recreational use and protecting the high-quality scenic and recreational values of the area while maintaining important habitat for bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

West Stoneham Archaeological District SIA

This area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. Significant

evidence of Native American habitation from 8,500 years ago to the mid 1800s occurs in this shortgrass prairie area of the Pawnee National Grassland. Management emphasis is on protecting and interpreting the nonrenewable heritage resources.

3.21 LIMITED USE

Theme: These are general forest areas managed to insure long-term viability of adjacent cores and corridors by preventing intrusion of exotic species and human disturbance and by providing supplementary habitat. The primary management objectives are to insulate against high-intensity land use and to protect cores and corridors from edge effects, but to allow limited extractive uses.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Increase or maintain plant communities and structural stages which provide quality foraging areas, cover, and areas of solitude in patterns across the landscape. Provide for a variety of forest and nonforest plant communities and successional stages through predominantly natural processes, but human manipulation may occur. Insect and disease losses are generally accepted. A variety of fire sizes and shapes results from wildland and prescribed fires.

Social

Allow only uses that are consistent with protection of adjacent cores and corridors and that promote maintenance of biological diversity. These should generally be light and of minimal impact. Seasonal restrictions and other controls are noticeable. Motorized vehicles are to be used on roads only (defined for Alternative H only, as greater than 48" and more than one track). Restrict snowmobile use in winter to high-use areas, such as designated groomed trails. Mountain bicycles are restricted to designated travelways. Resolve conflicts with all other uses in favor of maintaining native plant and animal species.

Administrative

Manage the minimum road system, at a density of 1 mile per square mile or less, needed to provide public access and access for management activities and fire protection. Do not encourage increased road use. Discourage road and trail construction; use it primarily for obliteration or relocation of travelways that are causing damage. Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels as opportunities arise to maintain or increase the integrity of the adjacent cores and corridors. Allow compatible special uses that do not jeopardize the integrity of the adjacent cores and corridors.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Allow timber operations only in one confined place in each limited-use area at any given time.

2. **(ST)** Do not permit grazing of domestic livestock in riparian areas.

3. **(GL)** Manage dispersed site use and occupancy to maintain sites within Frissell condition class 1 through 3 except for designated sites which may be class 4. Close or restore class 5 sites.

3.3 BACKCOUNTRY MOTORIZED RECREATION

Theme: Backcountry, motorized recreational areas are managed to provide recreational opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a natural-appearing landscape.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

A variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. The variety and arrangement depends on the timing of natural disturbances (fire, insects and diseases, and storms) or prescribed fire.

The amount and arrangement of successional stages vary greatly depending on the amount and timing of disturbances and how openings revegetate.

Openings vary in size and are generally the result of the natural disturbances described above. Openings may be utilized to provide scenic views and add to the diversity of the landscape. New human-caused changes to vegetation that may occur are limited in scale and are not visually dominant. For short time periods, some vegetation manipulation may occur which may be noticed; however, it resembles natural patterns.

Social

Provide a variety of motorized recreational opportunities. Unique hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities may exist in these areas that are away from major travelways where seclusion and cover areas exist. Other compatible activities, including nonmotorized recreation, may occur.

Encounters between individuals or parties are common on most travelways. Seasonal restrictions for resource protection may occur. Fewer contacts occur away from travelways. Expect sounds from people or motorized recreational activities near travelways. Sounds from outside the area may be common near the area's edge. Farther away from travelways or the area's edges, sounds diminish into the background.

Use subtle on-site regulations and controls. Restrict motorized travel to designated routes. Limit directional, regulatory and informational signs to those necessary to foster safe use and resource protection. Contacts with Forest Service personnel are generally initiated by visitors, except for contacts necessary to maintain the setting.

Administrative

Limit facilities to those necessary to protect resources, provide for safety, or to enhance recreational experiences. Existing improvements such as primitive roads, trails, bridges,

fences, shelters, signs or water diversions blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed. New travelways may be constructed to enhance motorized recreation, prevent damage to resources, or provide access. Marked travelways provide for a variety of motorized use and challenge levels. Most routes are designed for a variety of motorized vehicle uses and will loop, run point-to-point, or seek to link with other management areas or developed sites.

Acquire inholdings or adjacent lands as opportunities arise to maintain or improve semiprimitive motorized recreational opportunities or to prevent development that would diminish semiprimitive experiences on NFS lands. Retain all NFS lands. Acquire lands or rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource management goals and objectives and enhance access to recreational opportunities. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Manage dispersed site use and occupancy to maintain sites within Frissell condition class 1 through 3 except for designated sites which may be class 4. Close or restore class 5 sites.

3.5 FORESTED FLORA AND FAUNA HABITATS

Theme: Management emphasis is on providing adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, escape terrain, solitude, breeding habitat, and protection for a wide variety of wildlife species and associated plant communities.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Provide quality, all-season habitat for wildlife species. Increase or maintain plant communities and structural stages which provide quality foraging areas, cover, and areas of solitude in patterns across the landscape. Provide for a variety of forest and nonforest plant communities and successional stages through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Retain all existing lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old growth, except for natural losses that are not human caused, and provide like amounts in the future. Provide for rapid development of future lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old-growth conditions. Protect areas and communities that are providing important habitat components such as wintering areas, birthing areas (especially for calving, fawning, lambing and kidding), rearing areas, and migration routes. Manage and protect healthy forested and nonforested riparian areas to retain their value as quality habitats for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

Insect and disease losses are generally accepted unless they threaten communities which are providing important habitat components. A variety of fire sizes and shapes result from wildland and prescribed fires. Plant communities with a shrub component are protected from fires and livestock grazing during times when damage to the shrub component occurs. Schedule and implement management activities including prescribed burning, livestock grazing, timber harvesting, thinning, and travel access management to gain the greatest benefit to wildlife habitat possible.

Disturbances may be fairly evident and the scale may vary from small to large. Design vegetation changes to resemble natural patterns.

Social

Provide dispersed recreational opportunities outside critical periods for wildlife. Restrict recreational use to the extent necessary to protect the values for which the area is designated. Frequent encounters between individuals or parties are acceptable along primary travelways during noncritical times. Discourage motorized recreation away from primary travelways, but allow or provide access to existing areas of high use. Prohibit motorized use in some areas and limit seasonally in others. Allow or restrict snowmobile use on primary travelways on a case-by-case basis. Do not encourage nonmotorized use during critical wildlife periods. Restrictions and controls are noticeable.

Administrative

There are very few developed or designated recreational facilities. Structural and nonstructural range improvements are compatible with wildlife needs. Design new habitat improvements to be minimally intrusive into the landscape and to harmonize with the natural environment. Provide simple information facilities. Directional, regulatory, and informational signs are minimal to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information.

Manage the minimum road system to provide access for management activities, recreational access and fire protection. Road and trail construction activities rarely occur and are primarily for obliteration or relocation of travelways that are causing resource damage.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to maintain or increase habitat effectiveness or where imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives of NFS lands. Retain NFS lands if parcel is being used as winter range or development would decrease habitat effectiveness on the remaining NFS lands, or if it contains key or essential habitat or a unique or critical ecosystem. Dispose of NFS lands if the offered lands provide a net increase in habitat effectiveness in the same area and *one* of the following: (1) the parcel neither meets management area objectives nor other NFS purposes compatible with management area objectives; or (2) its development would not decrease the effectiveness of remaining habitat. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow special uses that do not disrupt wildlife.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Exclude vegetation treatment of inventoried spruce-fir or lodgepole pine old growth.

2. **(ST)** Maintain or increase habitat effectiveness, except where new access is required by law.

3. **(ST)** Discourage or prohibit human activities and travel, where needed, to allow effective habitat use during season of primary use by elk, deer and bighorn sheep (at least the minimum periods of May 15 through June 30 for elk calving, June 1 through June 30 for deer fawning, May 15 through June 30 for bighorn lambing, and December 1 through March 31 for wintering deer, elk and bighorn).

4. **(ST)** Discourage or prohibit human activities and travel, where needed, to allow effective habitat use by other wildlife species, especially during the seasons of birthing and rearing of young.

5. **(ST)** Do not construct new roads except when they contribute to improving habitat or providing legal access. Obliterate any temporary roads within one year following intended use.

6. **(ST)** Adjust livestock grazing to meet wildlife habitat objectives.

7. **(GL)** Allow, through vegetation protection, or encourage, through vegetation treatments, the development of future lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old-growth conditions.

3.55 CORRIDORS CONNECTING CORE AREAS

Theme: Areas are managed to protect migration and dispersal areas for wildlife. These areas provide safe connections between core areas.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain wildlife migration and dispersal areas to ensure the connection between core areas. Corridors assist with the preservation of habitat for all native species of plants and animals, especially TES species. The landscape is predominantly natural appearing. Vegetation composition and structure are largely influenced by biological processes and conditions, with minimal human influence. All existing lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old growth is retained and like amounts are provided in the future. Future lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old growth conditions are provided for. Prescribed fire is used where appropriate, to create or renew habitat and may be used to mimic natural disturbance regimes. Activities within and adjacent to riparian areas are managed to retain their value as corridors between core areas. Grazing of domestic livestock is allowed only where there is assurance that no reduction in wildlife capability and function will occur and where native plants flourish.

Corridors are unsuitable for timber production, but light thinning or selection cuts are allowed to reduce unnaturally high fuel loads for the purpose of reestablishing the natural fire regime.

Inventory and monitoring data on the movements of wildlife will be continually gathered in corridors.

Social

Connecting corridors offer a very high to high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature and tranquility, as well as a high degree of self-reliance, challenge and risk. Facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreational use, such as signing, may be present within the area, but are of a rustic nature. Dispersed camping may occur throughout the area. Allow motorized vehicles on open roads or designated trails only.

Administrative

Close and obliterate unneeded roads and those impairing wildlife are as soon as funds become available. Consider allowing use of roads going to private inholdings by only the inholders. Construct new roads or reconstruct roads only for safety or to reduce resource damage. Prohibit off-road motorized vehicle use, except for emergencies.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to maintain or increase habitat effectiveness or where imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives of NFS lands.

Retain NFS lands if parcel is being used as winter range, if development would decrease habitat effectiveness on the remaining NFS lands or if it contains key or essential habitat or a unique or critical ecosystem. Dispose of NFS lands if the offered lands provide a net increase in habitat effectiveness in the same area and *one* of the following: (1) the parcel neither meets management area objectives nor other NFS purposes compatible with management area objectives; or (2) its development would not decrease the effectiveness of remaining habitat. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow special uses that do not disrupt wildlife.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Maintain or increase habitat effectiveness, except where new access is required by law.

2. **(ST)** Discourage or prohibit human activities and travel wherever necessary, to allow effective habitat use during season of primary use by elk, deer and bighorn sheep. Minimum periods are May 15 through June 30 for elk calving, June 1 through June 30 for deer fawning, May 15 through June 30 for bighorn lambing, and December 1 through March 31 for wintering deer, elk and bighorn.

3. **(ST)** Discourage or prohibit human activities and travel wherever necessary to allow effective habitat use by other wildlife species, especially during the seasons of birthing and rearing of young.

4. **(ST)** Do not construct new roads except when they contribute to improved habitat or provide legal access. Obliterate any temporary roads within one year following intended use.

5. **(ST)** Adjust livestock grazing to meet wildlife habitat objectives.

6. **(ST)** Withdraw area from mineral entry and designate it as unavailable for oil and gas leasing.

7. **(ST)** Do not encourage snowmobile use and allow use on only a few designated roads.

8. **(GL)** Within existing spruce-fir and lodgepole pine old growth that is known or discovered, exclude vegetation treatments.

9. **(GL)** Allow, through vegetation protection, or encourage, through vegetation treatments, the development of future lodgepole pine and spruce-fir old-growth conditions.

10. **(GL)** Restrict mountain bicycle use to designated routes.

3.61 PRAIRIE WOODLANDS

Theme: Prairie woodlands are managed to maintain or enhance woody vegetation.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Enhance and maintain a full range of natural compositional and successional stages of woody draws and shrubs to provide biologically diverse habitats for endemic wildlife and native plant species. Prescribed fire, wildland fire, and ungulate grazing are components of these ecosystems.

Social

Contacts with other people are infrequent. Recreational activities include hunting, dispersed recreation, camping, hiking, picnicking, nonmotorized travel, and horseback riding. There may be various restrictions to human activity to meet management objectives.

Administrative

A wide range of improvements is present, including fences, water developments, windmills and salt blocks. Roads are present only for access to developments. Existing improvements are removed when the opportunity arises.

Acquire areas necessary to achieve management area objectives or areas in which imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives. Retain lands that enhance achieving the management area objectives. Dispose of lands that are inconsistent with the management area objective *and* where potential development of such lands would be compatible with management area objectives. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Resolve all conflicts between other uses and the desired ecological condition of the prairie woodland in favor of the woodland.

2. **(ST)** Where the woodland falls within a grazing allotment, use range improvements that prevent trampling and browsing to protect trees and shrubs.

4.2 SCENERY

Theme: Areas are managed to protect or preserve scenic values and recreational uses of designated scenic byways and other heavily used scenic travel corridors.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain a variety of successional stages, plant communities, and associated wildlife through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Maintain or improve the communities to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors and to complement the recreational values. Emphasize the health and appearance of these communities to maintain their important scenic qualities. Vegetation alterations may be carried out to enhance viewing opportunities and to maintain long-term vigor and health of the vegetation. Vegetation management activities are, however, kept visually subordinate to the surrounding landscape.

Vegetation varies from background areas which appear natural to foreground and middle-ground areas where modifications may be noticed but do not attract attention. Improve areas to restore the desired appearance. Design new vegetation modifications to resemble natural patterns or to reflect less intrusion onto the landscape. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance.

Social

Opportunities exist to view high-quality scenery that represents the natural character of the Forests and Grassland. Opportunities also exist for viewing a variety of wildlife. Evidence of human activities or habitation due to mining, milling, or grazing may be present now and in the future.

Encounters between individuals or parties vary on most travelways. Expect less frequent contacts on primitive roads or trails, but frequent contact is acceptable in most cases. Limit use where frequent contact is not acceptable. Contacts away from trails are generally infrequent. Contacts are usually common in areas where use concentrates. Sounds from people or motorized recreational activities are usually common, and limit opportunities for solitude or isolation.

Provide a variety of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities. Open roads provide access and roaded recreational opportunities, while closed roads provide nonmotorized opportunities. Provide access to natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide desired recreational opportunities. Use may be concentrated or dispersed, depending on the need to protect an area from degradation. A social type of recreational experience may be provided.

Administrative

Developed recreational sites may be common and are often emphasized in these travel corridors.

Facilities may be present to enhance viewing or recreational opportunities. Improvements such as improved roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, overlooks, signs or water diversions will blend into the landscape where feasible, be removed if no longer needed, or will be designed to be minimally intrusive into the landscape. Private facilities and communities may be present along these corridors.

Actively pursue acquisition of undeveloped inholdings in which development of the parcels would be inconsistent with the management area objectives. Acquire scenic easements. Retain lands that enhance management area objectives or where potential development would be inconsistent with the remaining NFS lands. Dispose of lands that do not contribute to the character of the area and whose potential development would not change the character of the remaining lands. Allow compatible special uses.

Directional, regulatory and informational signs are frequent to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information.

4.3 DISPERSED RECREATION

Theme: Dispersed recreation areas are managed to provide recreational opportunities in natural or nearly natural-appearing landscapes.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain or improve biological communities to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors; complement the recreational values; and provide varied plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife. Emphasize the health and appearance of these communities to maintain their desirability for recreational use. Maintain insect and disease populations at endemic levels. Accomplish vegetation management through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Harvest units and areas affected by fire, insects, and disease may be evident in the landscape.

Social

This is an area where forest visitors can recreate in a relatively natural forest environment. These areas are characterized by relatively easy access and heavy use which may be motorized, nonmotorized, or both. Frequent contact between individuals or parties is acceptable and sounds from people and motorized equipment are common. Opportunities for solitude or isolation are limited.

Undeveloped areas appear to be relatively natural. Blend existing improvements such as improved roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. Design new improvements to resemble natural patterns.

Onsite regimentation and controls are noticeable, but harmonize with the natural environment. Provide simple information facilities. Directional, regulatory and informational signs are present and foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and provide route information.

Administrative

Provide facilities to meet dispersed recreational needs; facilities may include hardened sites with fire rings and tables. Developed facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads, may be provided to meet recreational demands within the area's resource capacity.

A wide spectrum of travelways exist, from primary highways to primitive roads and trails that serve as recreational features themselves. Travelway densities may remain fairly constant. Open roads provide motorized recreational opportunities and restricted roads

provide nonmotorized opportunities. Provide access to natural attractions, water features, and other areas that provide desired recreational opportunities.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to improve and maintain recreational opportunities or to provide access. Acquire lands on which development would diminish the recreational experience of NFS lands. Retain parcels with critical or unique resources or lands where development would be incompatible with achieving dispersed recreational experiences on the remaining NFS lands. Dispose of parcels where a dispersed recreational experience can no longer be provided because of development on private land. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Restrict vegetation management operations during periods of high recreational use (weekends, holidays, high-use seasons, etc.) as needed, to maintain the desired recreational setting or to reduce interference with the recreational activities.

4.4 NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM - RECREATION RIVERS (BOTH DESIGNATED AND ELIGIBLE)

Theme: Recreation Rivers are managed to protect and perpetuate designated recreational river segments.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain a variety of successional stages, plant communities, and associated wildlife through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Maintain or improve the communities to provide an eye-pleasing appearance for visitors and to complement the recreational values. Riparian communities and aquatic ecosystems are healthy with little evidence of disturbance. Emphasize the health and appearance of these ecosystems to maintain their desirability for recreational use.

Maintain insect and disease populations at endemic levels. Damage is only evident in small patches across the landscape, if at all. This is particularly important along major travel routes or other high-use areas. There is little evidence of large-scale, stand-replacement wildfire. There are limited areas of bare soil, scarred trees, compacted soil, erosion, litter, or other associated disturbances.

Social

Provide a variety of nonmotorized and motorized recreational opportunities on marked travelways. Other compatible activities may occur in the area. Recreational opportunities vary across the area, depending on their compatibility with the outstandingly remarkable values.

The settings provided by vegetation vary from background areas which appear natural to foreground and middleground areas where modifications may be noticed but do not attract attention. Improve areas to restore the desired appearance. Design new human modifications to vegetation to resemble natural patterns or to reflect less intrusion into the landscape. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance.

Evidence of human activities or habitation due to mining, milling, or grazing may be present now and in the future. Blend existing improvements such as improved and primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. Design new improvements to be minimally intrusive into the landscape.

Encounters between individuals or parties are frequent on most travelways. Expect less frequent contacts on primitive roads or on trails, but frequent contacts are acceptable in most cases. Use may be limited where frequent contact is not acceptable. Contacts away from trails are generally infrequent.

Contacts are usually common in areas where use concentrates. Sounds from people or motorized recreational activities are common and limit opportunities for solitude or isolation.

Visitors rely on their own resources or the transportation facilities provided for use of the area. Directional, regulatory and informational signs are minimal to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area and to provide route information. Personal contacts by Forest Service personnel are common, and are generally for the purpose of providing information.

Administrative

Facilities may include dispersed and developed campsites, roads, trails, and bridges.

Aggressively acquire inholdings and scenic easements. Retain all lands which meet management plan objectives within recreation river classification. Dispose of parcels which do not meet management plan objectives *and* parcels that do not meet other NFS objectives that are compatible with management area objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Manage recreational use in Roaded Natural ROS areas to less than 2.5 PAOT *(people at one time)* per acre. Manage recreational use in Rural ROS area to less than 7.5 PAOT per acre.

5.11 FOREST AND RANGELANDS - FOREST VEGETATION EMPHASIS

Theme: General forest and intermingled rangeland areas are managed to provide for a mix of forest products, forage, wildlife habitat, visual quality, recreational opportunities, and a variety of other goods and services.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Management focuses on vegetation associated with forest and grassland communities to provide a variety of goods and services. Maintain a variety of successional stages, plant communities, and associated wildlife through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Maintain suitable forested areas with commercially valuable species at ages, densities, and sizes which allow growth rates and stand health conducive to providing a sustained yield of forest products.

Maintain healthy and sustainable grassland communities and forested communities with grass/forb understories to provide livestock grazing, wildlife forage, and vegetation diversity. Maintain natural openings, meadows, riparian areas, and other plant communities to protect soils, water resources, and aquatic habitats; maintain key terrestrial wildlife habitat areas; and maintain vegetation diversity. Manage existing aspen acreage to enhance vegetation diversity. Forested area management gives priority to the conversion of overmature stands to young stands managed at stocking levels which maintain acceptable site occupancy and rates of growth conducive to sustained yield. Management practices include stand regeneration by natural or artificial methods, stocking-level control, and protection of stands from anticipated damage. Wildfires are suppressed in these forested areas to protect commercial forest products. Insect and disease populations are maintained at endemic levels and damage is only evident in small patches across the landscape, if at all. Disturbed areas are evident across the landscape and vary in size and shape.

Social

Provide a variety of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities. Other compatible activities may occur in the area.

The settings depend on proximity to roads and management and are natural, natural-appearing, and/or modified. Improve areas to restore the desired appearance. Design vegetation changes to resemble natural patterns or to be less intrusive in the landscape. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance.

Encounters between individuals or parties on travelways are frequent. Limit use where frequent contact is not acceptable. Contacts away from trails are generally infrequent.

Commonly occurring sounds from people, motorized recreational activities and other resource-use activities are acceptable.

Limit restrictions and controls. Provide simple information facilities. Directional, regulatory and informational signs are minimal and foster safe use and resource protection.

Administrative

Blend existing facilities such as roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. Design new improvements to be minimally intrusive into the landscape.

Facilities are present to aid primarily in product removal and are available for other uses where no conflict exists. The area has a well developed transportation system including roads and trails. Add new travelways for compatible activities when needed.
Design and conduct mineral exploration and operations to minimize impacts on, or to enhance use of, other resources.

Acquire lands that are required to achieve management area objectives. Retain parcels that are part of the suitable and available timber-harvest component or parcels where development would be incompatible with management area objectives. Dispose of parcels which do not meet management area objectives *and* other NFS purposes compatible with management area objectives; and dispose of parcels where potential development of such lands will be compatible with the management of remaining NFS lands. Acquire lands and easements needed to meet resource goals and objectives.
Allow compatible special uses .

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Protect range improvements and maintain natural barriers used to manage livestock movement.

5.13 FOREST PRODUCTS

Theme: Lands are managed to provide commercial wood products. These areas are managed for wood products and water yield while providing for forage production, other commercial products, visual quality, diversity of wildlife, and a variety of other goods and services. Numerous open roads provide commercial access and motorized recreational opportunities, while closed roads provide nonmotorized opportunities.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Management focuses on vegetation associated with forested ecosystems to produce forest products while providing for forage production, visual quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and a variety of other goods and services. While the major vegetation type is conifer forest, the area may contain meadows, natural openings, forested and nonforested riparian areas, and stands of hardwood vegetation. This management area prescription is usually found in lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forest types suited for timber production. Roaded areas where timber management practices have been applied in the past are likely to be the most financially efficient areas for timber production.

Maintain a range of successional stages from seedlings to mature stands to late successional stands. A full array of silvicultural systems may be appropriate to achieve this objective. Maintain suitable forested areas with commercially valuable species at ages, densities, and sizes which allow growth rates and stand health conducive to providing a sustained yield of forest products. Management will give priority to the conversion of decadent and overmature stands to young stands managed at stocking levels which maintain acceptable site occupancy and rates of growth conducive to sustained yield. Management practices include stand regeneration by natural or artificial methods, stocking level control and protection of stands from anticipated damage. Wildfires are suppressed in these forested areas to protect commercial forest products. Insect and disease populations are maintained at endemic levels and damage is only evident in small patches across the landscape, if at all. Disturbed areas are evident across the landscape and vary in size and shape.

Social

Provide a variety of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities, from primitive to paved surface. Open roads provide commercial access and motorized recreational opportunities, while restricted roads provide nonmotorized recreational opportunities. There may be limits on access through the use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

Visitors can expect to see evidence of past and present timber harvesting and management practices. Some recently cut areas will show tree stumps, slash, and disturbed soil. These are only apparent for a few years as vegetation grows back on the disturbed areas.

Management activities remain visually subordinate along arterial and collector roads, and along primary trails. In other portions of the area, management activities may dominate in the foreground and middleground, but harmonize and blend with the natural landscape patterns.

Administrative

Facilities are present to aid primarily in product removal and are available for other uses where no conflict exists. The area has a well developed transportation system including roads and trails. Add new travelways for compatible activities when needed.

Design and conduct mineral exploration and operations to enhance or minimize impacts to other resources.

Dispose of parcels that do not meet the management area objectives, and other National Forest System purposes compatible with 5.13 objectives. Dispose of parcels in which potential development by others would be consistent with management area objectives. Retain parcels that are part of the suitable and available timber-harvest component or parcels in which potential development would not be compatible with management area objectives. Acquire parcels that will help achieve management area objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Manage stands using treatments that maintain acceptable site occupancy and rates of growth, as well as favoring commercially valuable tree species.

2. **(GL)** Manage aspen stands to retain existing acres for enhancement of vegetation diversity.

5.31 EXPERIMENTAL FOREST - FRASER

Theme: Management emphasis is on providing for long-term research and monitoring, experimental manipulation, and related activities to obtain, analyze, and disseminate scientific information about protecting, managing, and utilizing subalpine forest and alpine renewable resources.

Desired Condition

This area will be kept in a condition similar to that now present and found elsewhere on the Forest. Some portions will be kept in near pristine condition to serve as a reference ecological system for other research. Other portions of the area will be managed to a variety of levels as part of that research. Management of the Fraser Experimental Forest is for the express purpose of research on alpine and subalpine ecological systems. A variety of research projects will take place. The area will maintain a road system for access to research and monitoring sites. Evidence of timber harvest and other forms of forest disturbance may be present.

Vegetation will be managed on portions of the area. Habitat qualities will depend on both management alternatives and natural variability. Some planned or discretionary activity will degrade long-term soil productivity or water quality for experimental purposes. Some research activities may alter local (site-specific) soil and water condition for short periods.

Facilities will be minimal and primarily those needed for the conduct of research. Roads, to conduct or access research, will be present and well maintained. Trails available for public use will vary, based on the research objectives for the Experimental Forest. Restricted-use trails may be constructed to access specific research sites.

Resource uses will be limited to those needed to conduct research.

The settings may be natural, natural-appearing, or modified. The presence and evidence of humans will be kept minimal or infrequent.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Limit road construction to that needed for research, education and technology transfer.

2. **(ST)** Prohibit surface-disturbing use and occupancy for mineral-based operations.

3. **(ST)** Do not issue new special-use permits, and discontinue those in existence as opportunity arises.

4. **(GL)** Close existing grazing allotments as opportunity arises.

5. **(GL)** Manage recreational uses based on research plans.

6. **(GL)** Restrict recreation to that defined in the enabling administrative documents and their amendments.

5.5 DISPERSED RECREATION - FOREST PRODUCTS

Theme: Management emphasis is on providing dispersed recreational opportunities and visual quality while also providing wood products, forage production, wildlife habitat, and a variety of other goods and services.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain or improve forested communities to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors, complement the recreational values, and provide varied plant communities, structural stages, and habitat for associated wildlife. Emphasize the health and appearance of these communities, improving or restoring where needed to maintain their desirability for recreational use. Maintain insects and disease populations at endemic levels. Only limited areas of bare soil, scarred trees, compacted soil, erosion, litter, or other associated disturbances are evident. Accomplish vegetation management through a combination of human manipulation and natural processes. Harvest units and areas affected by fire, insects, and disease may be evident in the landscape, depending on their shapes and sizes. Riparian communities and aquatic ecosystems are healthy although evidence of disturbance and human use may be present. Maintain the health and appearance of these ecosystems to preserve their desirability for recreational use.

Social

Provide a variety of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities. Other compatible activities may occur in the area.
Encounters between individuals or parties on travelways are frequent; limit use where frequent contact is not acceptable. Contacts away from trails are generally infrequent. Commonly occurring sounds from people, motorized recreational activities and other resource use activities are acceptable.

Limit restrictions and controls. Provide simple information facilities. Directional, regulatory and informational signs are minimal and foster safe use and resource protection.

Administrative

Develop facilities to meet dispersed recreational needs; facilities may include hardened sites for resource protection. Developed facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads, may be provided to meet recreational demands.
A wide spectrum of travelways exist, from primary highways to primitive roads and trails that serve as recreational features themselves. Travelway densities may remain fairly constant. Open roads provide motorized recreational opportunities and restricted roads provide nonmotorized opportunities. Provide access to natural attractions, water features, and areas that offer desired recreational opportunities.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to improve and maintain recreational opportunities or to provide access. Acquire lands where development would be incompatible with achieving management area objectives on remaining NFS lands. Dispose if a dispersed recreational experience can no longer be provided because of development on adjacent private lands and further development would not affect the achievement of objectives on remaining NFS lands. Acquire rights-of-way that are needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Restrict vegetation management operations during periods of high recreational use (weekends, holidays, high-use seasons, etc.) as needed, to maintain the desired recreational setting or to reduce interference with the recreational activities.

6.4 MID-COMPOSITION - HIGH STRUCTURE: NATIVE SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEMS

Theme: Management emphasis is on providing representative native shortgrass prairie ecosystems as habitat for associated plant and animal species.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Provide representative native ecosystems, including the full range of natural compositional and successional stages to secure biologically diverse habitats for endemic wildlife and native plant species. This area has the potential to provide more of the tall vegetation structural components such as shrubs and native mid-grasses. Prescribed fire, wildland fire, and ungulate grazing are components of these ecosystems.

Social

Contacts with other people are infrequent, with more common contacts occurring on roads. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, dispersed recreation, camping, hiking, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and horseback riding. There may be various restrictions to human activity to meet the management objectives.

Administrative

A wide range of improvements is present, including fences, water developments, windmills, salt blocks, oil wells, and oil and gas production facilities. Roads are primitive two-track with occasional improved ditched and crowned roads.

Acquire lands that are necessary to achieve management area objectives or areas in which imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives. Retain NFS lands which enhance management area objectives. Dispose of lands which are inconsistent with management area objectives *and* where potential development of such lands would be compatible to achieving 6.2 objectives on remaining NFS lands. Acquire rights-of-way needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

6.6 MID-COMPOSITION - LOW STRUCTURE: GRASSLAND RESOURCE PRODUCTION

Theme: Lands classified for grassland resource production are managed to provide healthy and sustainable plant communities dominated by herbaceous and grass species.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Manage vegetation associated with grassland communities to provide a variety of goods and services. Achieve and maintain desired plant communities for livestock, wildlife, and soil protection. Area has the potential to provide more of the short-vegetation structural components dominated by blue gramma and buffalo grass. Prescribed fire, wildland fire and ungulate grazing are components of these ecosystems.

Social

Contacts with other people are infrequent, with more common contacts occurring on roads. Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, dispersed recreation, camping, hiking, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and horseback riding. There may be various restrictions to human activity to meet the management objectives.

Administrative

A wide range of improvements is present including fences, water developments, windmills, salt blocks, oil wells, and oil-and-gas production facilities. Roads are primitive two-track with occasional improved ditched and crowned roads.

Acquire lands required to make logical units to demonstrate sound management practices and parcels whose imminent development would be inconsistent with management area objectives. Retain parcels required to meet management area objectives and parcels where development would be incompatible with management area objectives. Dispose of parcels that do not meet management area objectives; are not capable of demonstrating sound management practices; are currently providing a demonstration of unsound management practices; or whose potential development would be compatible with achieving management area objectives on remaining NFS lands. Acquire rights-of-ways needed to meet resource goals and objectives. Allow compatible special uses.

7.1 RESIDENTIAL - FOREST INTERMIX

Theme: Areas characterized by an interface between residential private lands and National Forest System lands are managed to protect natural resources, provide compatible multiple uses, and maintain cooperative relationships between the landowners and other levels of governmental jurisdiction. Opportunities to consolidate landownership patterns are pursued.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Provide a variety of plant communities, structural stages, and associated wildlife through vegetation manipulation and natural processes. Manage forested areas to attain a natural appearance and minimize the risks of catastrophic fires and epidemic levels of insects and diseases. Maintain natural openings, meadows, and other plant communities to protect soil and water resources and key wildlife habitat areas. Maintain insect and disease populations at endemic levels where damage would only be evident in small patches across the landscape, if at all.

Social

This is an area where developed residential use blends into relatively undeveloped natural environments. Dispersed recreation is not encouraged but access to existing areas of high use is provided. Visitors expect to encounter residential developments on intermingled private lands, and residents may encounter National Forest visitors and management activities. Consequently, recreational use of these areas may be limited to the extent necessary to reduce conflicts between landowners and visitors.

Undeveloped areas appear to be in a relatively natural state. Blend existing improvements such as improved roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs, recreational sites, or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. New improvements are designed to resemble natural patterns and to be less intrusive into the landscape.

Administrative

Manage fire and hazardous fuels in close cooperation with state and county agencies, local fire protection districts and organized homeowners' groups. Aggressively suppress wildfires that threaten life and property. Actively pursue opportunities for land exchange and sales. Retain or acquire lands containing key or essential habitat, unique or critical ecosystems, important recreational values or important access routes to National Forest System lands. Dispose of or acquire parcels to consolidate landownership and to reduce need to authorize occupancy of National Forest System lands. Pursue rights-of-way needed for management purposes.

Manage the minimum road system needed to provide access for management activities, recreational use and fire protection. Coordinate trail systems with other local agencies. Attempt to link trails to other management areas, developed sites and other nearby trails. Locate new facilities (trailheads, parking areas, designated sites, developed sites, etc.) in areas to help minimize conflicts. Boundaries in the vicinity of management activities and along public access routes are identified, well marked and maintained over time. Permit compatible special uses on lands identified for retention. Do not approve land-use authorizations on National Forest System lands identified for disposal if that occupancy may affect disposal action. Bring existing land-use authorizations into compliance on an opportunity basis.

8.21 DEVELOPED RECREATIONAL COMPLEXES

Theme: Areas are managed to provide a variety of recreational opportunities in highly developed, multiple-site recreational complexes.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain or improve biological communities to provide a pleasing appearance for visitors, complement the recreational values, and provide a variety of vegetation structural stages and plant communities. Emphasize the health, sustainability, and appearance of these communities to maintain their desirability for recreational use. This includes manipulating vegetation to accommodate both existing and new facilities. Manage habitat in and around recreational complexes to provide for a variety of "watchable" wildlife species. Control of insect and disease populations is featured. Accomplish vegetation management through human manipulation. Manage riparian communities and aquatic ecosystems to provide safe recreational access and to prevent unacceptable resource damage to water features. Evidence of disturbance and human use may be present, but a healthy and attractive appearance of these ecosystems is maintained because of their desirability for recreational use.

There is little visible evidence of undesirable plant species. Occasional areas of bare and compacted soil, erosion, litter, or other associated disturbances outside of designated use areas and travelways may be evident.

Social

Recreational opportunities occur in an intensively managed, highly regulated environment modified to accommodate a high level of interaction among users. These complexes include combinations of campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, road and trail networks, information stations, entry stations, water-based recreation and other support facilities. Provide access to and parking for sites, natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide desired recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, bicycling, winter use, fishing, and scenic driving. There are few, if any, opportunities for solitude.

Onsite regulations and controls are obvious but harmonize with the natural setting to the extent possible. Multiple information stations or kiosks provide visitors with information about the area. Directional and regulatory signs are widely used to identify requirements for use of the area. Entrance stations may be present and access controlled to an established capacity.

Administrative

Develop facilities to meet recreational needs. Facilities are accessible, highly developed, and may include items such as flush toilets and showers. Provide hardened sites to meet

user needs and to protect resources. Roads and recreational sites may be paved. Trails are generally highly maintained and may be surfaced. Most facilities meet standards for accessibility mandated in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Maintain facilities in a good, clean, sanitary, and safe condition.

Acquire inholdings and adjacent parcels to enhance the current or proposed opportunities. Retain sites that are still functioning as developed sites or still meet other compatible NFS purposes. Dispose of parcels that no longer function as developed sites and do not meet other NFS purposes. Acquire rights-of way needed to meet resource goals and objectives and to enhance recreational opportunities. Allow compatible special uses.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Restrict vegetation management operations during periods of high recreational use (weekends, holidays, high-use seasons, etc.) to maintain the desired recreational setting or to reduce interference with recreational activities.

8.22 SKI-BASED RESORTS (BOTH EXISTING AND POTENTIAL)

Theme: Areas with ski-based resorts or potential for ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreational uses.

Desired Condition

Physical/Biological

Maintain or improve vegetation composition and structure to provide a pleasing appearance, maintain scenic views from the site and provide for sustainable vegetation cover. A variety of tree and associated plant species are present. Arrangement of vegetation and featured species complement the area's appearance, provide for user safety, and minimize maintenance costs.

Manage scenic resources so that the character is one of forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Manage tree stands and islands to provide a variety of species and size classes, stability, longevity, esthetics, and wind firmness to sustain forest cover and complement recreational values. Ski operations that affect water, including snowmaking and other water-depleting activities, will be compatible with maintenance of healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Social

Design new human modifications to vegetation to resemble natural patterns or patterns typical of the particular area. Other ecological changes may affect the appearance.

Encounters between individuals or parties are frequent during winter-use seasons and vary from infrequent to frequent during summer-use seasons. Sounds from people or motorized recreational activities are common and limit opportunities for solitude or isolation.

Recreational opportunities are primarily those at the developed level. The base area is often an urban setting. Views and vistas outside the area, but visible from within, may be featured. Wildlife-viewing opportunities may be available.

Evidence of past human activities or habitation due to mining, milling, or grazing may be present. Blend existing improvements such as improved roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions into the landscape where feasible or remove them if no longer needed. Design new improvements to be minimally intrusive into the landscape.

Administrative

Facilities provided on site vary from rustic to highly developed, depending on the individual site. Directional, regulatory, and informational signs are common to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information.

Personal contacts by Forest Service personnel are common and are generally for the purpose of providing information and administering permits.

Improve areas to restore the desired appearance. Improvements are owned by permittee. Master plans for special-use permits ensure that facilities harmonize and blend with the natural setting. Travelways constructed and maintained under terms of the permit will meet Forest Service standards. Design ski runs to avoid snow scour and to favor snow deposition.

Assess land-adjustment strategies on a case-by-case basis. Allow only special uses that do not interfere with the permittee's business operations of the ski area.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(ST)** Withdraw the area from locatable mineral entry.

2. **(GL)** Retain vegetation for screening around structures where vegetation recovery will be slow.

3. **(GL)** Prohibit cutting trees or locating structures in areas that promote snow loading in avalanche starting zones.

8.3 UTILITY CORRIDORS AND ELECTRONIC SITES

Theme: Areas are managed for utility corridors and electronic sites. These areas include major oil and gas pipelines, electric power transmission lines, and major communication systems, including telephone and microwave.

Desired Condition

Vegetation composition and structure has been altered to meet the needs of the site. Larger trees are removed to allow for a safety area below and to the side of powerlines. Smaller trees are still present. Other areas such as pipelines and electronic sites have been cleared of all trees. The boundaries of the cut areas bordering the utility corridor are blended into the surrounding vegetation.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife are good. Wildlife species that prefer edge habitats, such as deer, are the most common. Raptors are often seen within the corridor although they may not nest there. Habitat for sensitive species may be enhanced where opportunities exist, but the focus is on protection and maintenance of those habitats.

Human development is obvious and may dominate the foreground views. Uses within the corridor are compatible with adjacent management areas. Both motorized and nonmotorized uses occur in the area.

An extensive road system exists throughout most of the area for purposes of allowing access for maintenance of the utility. Most roads have a native surface with water bars to reduce erosion. Road use may be restricted to use by utility maintenance vehicles.

All landownership adjustments must be compatible with the strategy of the management area objective through which the corridor passes.

Standards and Guidelines

1. **(GL)** Design and construction of power transmission and distribution lines will minimize electrocution hazards for raptors and provide nest sites where feasible.

2. **(GL)** Utility Corridors and electronic sites will be located and designed to blend with the landscape. They will be compatible with the scenic integrity objectives of adjacent management areas.

Placeholder for Figure 3.1
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites

Placeholder for Figure 3.2
Pawnee National Grassland
Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites