

**Amendment Transmittal Form
Land and Resource Management Plan
Routt National Forest**

Amendment #05

Date: 07/12/2013

	(Number of Sheets)	
Page Number	Superseded	New
New. (Does not supersede any existing pages)	0	1 plus map

Changes Made:

The Revised Routt National Forest Plan (1997) Management Area 5.41 Recreation Standard 2 reads “Do not allow construction of new recreation facilities.” This standard is amended by waiving the standard entirely to allow for construction of summer trails within the area covered by the Steamboat Ski Area Summer Trails EA (see map).

Reason for Amendment:

A site-specific Forest Plan amendment is required for this action to be implemented because it is inconsistent with a 5.41 MA standard prohibiting the construction of recreation facilities, i.e. trails. The portion of the 5.41 affected by this alternative is not historically used in winter. Trail construction would not occur in winter and the trails are designed to be used only during the summer season. With a site specific Forest Plan amendment for this portion of the 5.41 MA this decision will be consistent with the Forest Plan.

Significance of the Amendment:

The criteria to be analyzed to determine the significance of a forest plan amendment are detailed in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 5.32 (USDA-FS 1992b) and are summarized below. The discussion which follows uses these parameters to evaluate the significance of adopting the proposed Forest Plan amendment.

1. Timing

The proposed amendment would take place following issuance of a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for this EA. Thus, the change in Recreation Standard #2 would occur 14 years after the 1997 Revised Routt National Forest Plan. This change would remain in effect until the next Forest Plan Revision which is expected between 2015 and 2020.

2. Location and Size

Management Area 5.41 – Deer and Elk Winter Range:

This MA lies between the Steamboat Ski Area (MA 8.22) and private lands.

The proposed change would affect 58.2 acres or .001% of the acres in 5.41 in the Middle Yampa Geographic Area. See Figure 4.

MA 5.41 Acres and Percentages

Affected Area	Total Acres	MA 5.41 Acres	Percent of Total Acres in MA 5.41
Middle Yampa GA	95,040	5,402	6
Acres Analyzed	58.2	58.2	.001
Routt NF	1,300,000	54,500	6

3. Goals, Objectives, and Outputs

Supplemental Table S-1 of the Forest Plan EIS lists the summary of key land allocations (management area prescriptions) for the 10-year planning horizon (1997 – 2007) (Forest Plan page S-2). This table indicates that 54,500 acres of MA 5.41 projected for retention during the planning period.

The direct and indirect effects of waiving Recreation Standard #2 in this 5.41 MA prescription for summer non-motorized trail construction is analyzed in the recreation and wildlife specialist reports. Existing trails in the area are used in summer. Any new trail construction would not occur in the winter and the trails are designed to be used only in the summer season. Indirect effects may be an increase in winter users, who will become aware of the areas in summer. Additional public education efforts would be undertaken to prevent this increase to occur.

Table S-2 of the Forest Plan lists activities and outputs anticipated during the planning horizon. This table does not include an “estimated levels and times of implementation” category for dispersed recreation. However, when the impacts of the proposed amendment are applied to other categories, impacts would be negligible to nonexistent. For example, the trails are located away from riparian and wetland areas; consequently, soil, water, and fisheries outputs would not be impacted. No other outputs listed in the S-2 table would be affected by the proposed amendment.

4. Management Prescriptions

This amendment does not propose a change in acres to the 5.41 MA, only waiving Recreation Standard #2 on 58.2 acres of the 5.41 MA, .001% of the acres in the Geographic Area.

Findings and Conclusions

The analysis above documents the significance of the proposed Forest Plan amendment as it relates to timing; location and size; goals, objectives, and outputs; and Management Prescriptions. Both direct and indirect impacts were considered. As identified above, there would be no direct decrease in MA 5.41 acres, only waiving a recreation standard on 58.2 acres allowing construction of non-motorized trails during summer, outside of the critical timing period for this MA. This change would not constitute a significant amendment to the Routt National Forest Plan (1997). In addition, this change is not expected to appreciably alter the long-term relationship between levels of goods and services projected by the Forest Plan. Therefore, when considering these factors, the proposed Forest Plan amendments would be non-significant.

