

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS
AND
COMANCHE AND CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

AMENDMENT NO. 13

December, 1988

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter II, Page II-44	1	1
Chapter II, Page II-78	1	1
Chapter III, Page III-84 (Table III-3)	1	1
Chapter III, Page III-241	1	1
Management Area Map	1	1

Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) is necessary to assign a 373-acre area on Hoosier Ridge in the northern South Park District (northern Park County, Colorado), Pike National Forest, to Management Area 10A, for management as part of the Hoosier Ridge Research Natural Area, and to propose to the Chief of the Forest Service that he designate the area as a Research Natural Area (RNA). An adjacent, 322-acre area of the Arapaho National Forest, Dillon District (administered by the White River National Forest) will be included in the RNA and added, by amendment of the White River National Forest Forest Plan, to the area on this National Forest to complete the RNA at a total of 695 acres. Upon approval of both Forest Plan amendments, the identified National Forest system lands on Hoosier Ridge, comprising acreage of both National Forests, will be submitted to the Chief for designation as a research Natural Area.

The National Forest System lands covered by this RNA on the Pike National Forest were discussed in the Forest Plan (Chapter II, Page II-44), which stated that "further study and assessment is required prior to a recommendation for protection under the Colorado Natural Areas Program." According to a Memorandum of Understanding (1979) with the Colorado Natural Areas Program, the Forest Service first undertakes a study as to whether a candidate area is suitable. The suitability study was completed in 1984, which found the area suitable for establishment as a Research Natural Area.

Amendment Number 13:

This amendment of the Forest Plan and Forest Plan Map recommends establishment of the 373 acre Hoosier Ridge Research Natural Area on the South Park District, Pike National Forest.

The last paragraph under "Colorado Natural Areas", Forest Plan, Chapter II, Page II-44, is changed to read:

Hoosier Ridge Area. This area is identified for its excellent examples of alpine plant associations in good condition, and four rare plant

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species (Eutrema penlandii, Saussurea weberi, Armeria scabra ssp. sibirica, and Ipomopsis globularis), as well as several other rare or unusual plant species, several of which are candidate species for listing by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After a suitability study, the area is now found suitable for establishment as a Research Natural Area (RNA), and allocated to management area 10A, prior to its designation as a Colorado Natural Area. Part of the RNA is on the adjacent White River National Forest.

The last paragraph under "Research Natural Areas", Forest Plan, Chapter II, Page II-78, is changed to read:

The Forest Plan Map shows three additional areas in Management Area 10A (Provides for Research Natural Areas). These are the proposed Cimarron RNA (K-70 Sandsage-bluestem prairie) on the Cimarron National Grassland, the proposed Campo RNA (K-65 Grama-buffalo grass) on the Comanche National Grasslands, and the proposed Hoosier Ridge RNA (K-45 Alpine meadows and barren). These National Forest System lands are all recommended for establishment as Research Natural Areas.

Change the line under "Other Municipal Watersheds" (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-241), to read:

Fairplay Watershed (Beaver Creek), partially included in the Hoosier Ridge RNA, a management area in which the watershed values are even more protected.

This Forest Plan amendment, upon designation of the RNA, changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in the acreage in three management areas. Management Area 10A (Provides For Research Natural Areas) acreage increases by 373 acres. Management Area 2B (Emphasis Is On Rural And Roded-Natural Recreation Opportunities) acreage decreases by 169 acres and Management Area 10E (Provides For Municipal Watershed And Municipal Water Supply Watersheds) acreage decreases by 204 acres.

Maps displaying these Management Area changes and the establishment report for the Hoosier Ridge Research Natural Area are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Effects of this Amendment. The Management Area map (before this Amendment) shows the area covered by this Amendment in two Management Areas. The portion of the RNA in the Beaver Creek drainage (the east portion of the area, approximately 204 acres) is part of the Municipal Watershed for the town of Fairplay, and is currently in Management Area 10E. This amendment would have no effect on management of this area, since the watershed is now managed to protect it from access and disturbance; that management would continue after the Amendment.

The portion of the RNA in drainages flowing westward into the Middle Fork of the South Platte River (the west portion of the area, approximately 169 acres) is currently in Management Area 2B, emphasis on Rural and Roaded Natural Recreation. In fact, there is no vehicle access for the public from this side, since the only exit from Highway 9 goes a few hundred feet to a private home, about 1.5 miles south of the RNA.

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Vehicle access to the RNA from this side is blocked from the highway and also blocked by rugged terrain and dense forests. The private road is controlled by the owner with locked gates and in any case does not afford access to the RNA due to the rugged terrain.

There is no evidence of past vehicle use on any of the National Forest portion between State Highway 9 and the Continental Divide. This amendment will have no effect on this management, since this is inaccessible to vehicles and unused.

In accordance with the implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219.10 (f)) and Forest Service Manual 1952.2, I have determined that this amendment will not result in a significant change in the Forest Plan and is not a significant amendment.

Therefore, I have determined that categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate completion of NEPA procedures.

/s/ Jack Weissling

12/9/88

JACK WEISSLING
Forest Supervisor

Date