

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

**AMENDMENT NUMBER 17**

January, 1989

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Chapter III, Page III-84 (Table III-3)	1	1
Forest Plan Map	1	1

Reason For This Amendment:

The Forest Plan assignment of a 7D Management Area Prescription (Emphasis Is On Wood Fiber Production And Utilization For Products Other Than Sawtimber) in the Babcock Hole area, San Carlos District, San Isabel National Forest, needs to be changed.

The Forest Plan Map (Babcock Hole 7D Management Area, Sections 30 and 31, T.21S., R.68W.; Sections 3 through 10 and 15 through 22, T.22S., R.68W., 6th P.M.) should be changed to permit more suitable management activities regarding wildlife habitat improvement opportunities and tree stand management.

Field examination and study has determined that the Babcock Hole Management Area should be changed to a 5B Management Area (Emphasis Is On Big Game Winter Range), primarily because this area is more suitable for big game winter range and additional acreage managed for big game winter range is necessary in the area.

An additional reason for the needed change is the low value timber resources in the Babcock Hole area and the current lack of suitable public access to utilize available wood fiber products. Only 733 acres of timber (out of the 9,021 acre management area) within Babcock Hole are classified as "suitable for timber fiber production". All 733 acres are in unroaded areas on slopes steeper than 40 percent. Contacts with all interested parties have shown that all those contacted will readily accept this change in management emphasis.

Amendment Number 17:

This Forest Plan amendment changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in two management areas. Management Area 5B acreage increases by 9,021 acres. Management Area 7D acreage decreases by 9,021 acres.

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

Potential environmental, social and economic effects of implementing Forest Plan permitted activities to achieve the management emphasis of all Management Area Prescriptions as disclosed on the Forest Plan Map was documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined that categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assesement or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

1/3/89  
Date