

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

AMENDMENT NUMBER 24

(April, 1992)

| <u>Page Code</u> | <u>Superseded</u> | <u>New</u> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Chapter III, Page III-8 (Table III-1) | 1 | 1 |
| Chapter III, Page III-10 (Table III-2) | 1 | 1 |
| Chapter III, Page III-84 (Table III-3) | 1 | 1 |
| Forest Plan Map | 1 | 1 |

Reason For This Amendment:

Pursuant to Public Law 101-510, Section 2825, administrative jurisdiction of certain lands at the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colorado, have been transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion into the Comanche National Grassland. The transferred lands are to be known as the Picket Wire Canyonlands (PWC).

The estimated acreage is 16,354 acres; the exact acreage and legal description of the property shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture.

The law requires a management plan to be developed for those parcels of lands in the Purgatoire River Canyon (approximately 11,507 acres). The management plan will be developed in consultation with the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office after notice and opportunity for public comment. Upon completion of the management plan, a determination will be made as to whether or not another Forest Plan amendment is needed.

Amendment Number 24:

This Forest Plan Amendment assigns the portion of the Picket Wire Canyonlands that are in the Purgatoire River Canyon to Management Area 10C (Special Interest Areas). The emphasis in Management Area 10C is on management of areas of unusual scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics to protect and where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of these areas. This is in line with the language of Public Law 101-510, Section 2825, directing us to administer the Purgatoire River Canyon portion of "the transferred lands so as to conserve and protect the paleontological, archeological, wildlife, vegetative, aquatic, and other natural resources of the area".

The parcels situated at the top of the Purgatoire River Canyon are assigned to Management Area 4B (Wildlife Habitat for Management Indicator Species). A distinct combination of open grassland and pinon-juniper areas serve as important habitat and a travel corridor for a number of wildlife species. Indicator species include deer, great horned owls, turkey, Lewis woodpecker, and Bewick's wren. There are numerous other wildlife species that prefer this type of habitat, including bobcats, coyotes, fox, raptors, and antelope. The U.S. Army manages the rim area located on the adjacent Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site as a wildlife corridor. The 4B designation complements the Army's management.

The Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84) is changed to show an acreage increase of 4,847 acres to Management Area 4B and 11,507 acres to Management Area 10C.

The Projected Average Annual Outputs Table III-1 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-8) is changed to add the estimated miles of landline location surveys. When averaged over the 10-year period of 1991-2000, this added figure is 6 miles per year.

The Projected Average Annual Expenditures, Costs, and Returns Table III-2 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-10) is changed to add estimated management costs for the additional land. When averaged over the 10-year period of 1991-2000, this added figure is \$610,000 per year.

The newly-acquired lands are located in Otero and Las Animas Counties along the north and east sides of the U.S. Army Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. They are located in portions of Sections 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, and 35 of Township 27 South, Range 55 West; portions of sections 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of Township 27 South, Range 56 West; portions of Sections 33, 34, and 35 of Township 27 South, Range 57 West; portions of Section 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 29, 30, 31, and 32 of Township 28 South, Range 55 West; portions of Section 13, 14, 23, 25, 26, and 35 of Township 28 South, Range 56 West; portions of Sections 5 and 6, Township 29 South, Range 55 West; portions of Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, and 18 of Township 29 South, Range 56 West; and portions of Sections 9, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 30 of Township 30 South, Range 57 West.

The map displaying this management area assignment is on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

I have determined that, according to 36 CFR Part 219.10(f), this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan .

/s/ Jack Weissling
JACK WEISSLING
Forest Supervisor

4/9/92
Date

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pike and San Isabel
National Forests

1920 Valley Dr.
Pueblo, CO
Comanche and Cimarron **81008-1797**
National Grasslands

Reply to: 1920

Date: April 9,

1992

Dear Forest Plan Holder:

I have approved Amendment Number 24 to the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands. The Amendment was needed as a result of Public Law 101-510, Section 2825, which directed the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain lands at the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion into the Comanche National Grassland. See the enclosed Amendment for more detailed information.

Forest planning regulations (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 219.10 (f) and 219.12 (k)) allow the Forest Supervisor to amend the Forest Plan when necessary. In accordance with the implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act, I have determined that Amendment Number 24 will not result in a significant change in the Forest Plan.

If you have any questions regarding Amendment Number 24, please contact Linda Blubaugh, Planning Staff Officer, at (719)545-8737.

Thank you for your continued interest in management of these National Forests and National Grasslands.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jack Weissling

JACK WEISSLING
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure (2 pages)

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pike and San Isabel NFs
Comanche and Cimarron NGs

1920 Valley Dr.
Pueblo, CO

81008-1797

Reply to: 1920

Date: April 10, 1992

Subject: Forest Plan Amendment Number 24

To: District Rangers, All Districts

I have approved Amendment Number 24 of the Forest Plan.

Amendment Number 24 places the Picket Wire Canyonlands in Management Areas 10C (Special Interest Areas) and 4B (Wildlife Habitat for Management Indicator Species).

Copies of Amendment Number 24 are enclosed.

Please ensure that a copy of this amendment is placed in all of your employees' copies of the Forest Plan.

/s/ Linda E. Blubaugh (FOR)

JACK WEISSLING
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Deb Dandridge, Comanche National Grassland, La Junta Office