

Chapter IV

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Chapter IV

Management-Area Prescriptions

INTRODUCTION

Management Areas (MAs) are defined as parts of the Forest that are managed for a particular emphasis or theme. Management Areas are called Prescriptions or Management-Area Prescriptions in this Plan. Each Management Area has a Prescription that outlines the setting, the Desired Conditions, and the Standards and Guidelines that apply to it (in addition to the Forestwide Standards and Guidelines). The Prescriptions have been broken into eight major categories based on a continuum from least evidence of disturbance to most. This approach was developed in conjunction with Regions 1 and 4 of the Forest Service.

Each category description is followed by a chart that shows the Prescription numbers that fall within that category. The chart has a list of "Activities Allowed," which include timber harvest, motorized recreation, grazing, mineral development, and oil and gas leasing. This chart is not intended as a substitute for the actual Standards and Guidelines found within each Prescription. It is intended to be used as a quick reference, for the reader to see what activities are generally allowed within the category. For example, an activity may just say "limited," which means there is some type of restriction on the activity. The reader would need to look at the Standards and Guidelines to see what that restriction is.

For this revision, linear, point, and small MAs were combined into other MAs, or will be handled through Standards and Guidelines. This includes campgrounds and picnic grounds (developed recreation sites), utility corridors, and riparian areas. MAs devoted to a particular wildlife species were consolidated into "special" wildlife areas. Also new for this revision effort are Prescriptions for Scenic Byways and Special Interest Areas (SIAs).

There has been a lot of discussion on how to handle old-growth areas. The determination has been made, with input from Regional Office and Forest biologists, ecologists, and planners, that drawing lines around small old-growth patches and calling them Management Areas is not productive, as these areas are too small to be managed for long-term retention. These areas will be managed as parts of larger MAs.

The Management-Area Prescriptions described in this chapter are those used in the Selected Alternative (G), which will be implemented over the next 10 - 15 years.

PRESCRIPTION CATEGORY 1

Category 1 includes Wilderness Areas and the various Prescriptions used within them, and the Wild component of the Wild and Scenic River system.

Ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are essentially allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates, and non-native vegetation is rare. Users must be self-reliant and should expect little contact with other people. Few, if any, man-made facilities are present. With rare exceptions, travel is nonmotorized. Typical area designations are Wilderness and Wild Rivers.

Table IV - 1. Activities Allowed in Category 1.

RX No.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber ¹ Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
1.11	Wilderness - Pristine	No	No	Limited	No	Legally Unavailable
1.12	Wilderness - Primitive	No	No	Yes	No	Legally Unavailable
1.13	Wilderness - Semi-Primitive	No	No	Yes	No	Legally Unavailable
1.5	Eligible Wild Rivers	No	No	Yes	No	Depends on location

¹ Refers to planned commercial harvest only (i.e., cutting on suitable and scheduled lands). Some cutting may occur in these areas for purposes other than commodity outputs, like wildlife habitat improvement or opening up a vista.

Management-Area Prescription 1.11

WILDERNESS -- PRISTINE

THEME: Pristine Wilderness Areas are managed to protect and perpetuate their natural ecological processes and conditions. Natural ecological processes and conditions are not measurably affected by human use.

SETTING: These areas feature pristine environmental conditions. Natural processes and conditions have not been, and will not be, measurably affected by human use. A range of ecological types exists. The opportunity exists for a high degree of solitude, risk, and challenge. Self-reliance is the norm.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Natural succession occurs in all existing vegetative species, and is influenced by natural processes and disturbances. The structure, composition, function, and spatial distribution of vegetative types are the result of natural-successional processes. Vegetation is mostly mature-to-late-successional, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, or disease. Plant species are native and indigenous to the immediate area, with exotic plants being extremely rare. Evidence of the effects of fire, insects, or disease may be present. Forage for wildlife and livestock is available in meadows and natural openings, although availability may be limited due to topography and the short growing season. Fire is reestablished as a natural ecological force. Human influence on vegetation is minimal.

Visibility is generally unimpaired. There could be periodic smoke from natural fire. Human influences on aquatic life and riparian areas are unnoticeable. The composition, structure, and function of aquatic ecosystems are undisturbed by human use. Stocking is used as a tool to enhance TES species, and acts to enhance recreation. Wilderness managers work with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) on stocking of non-indigenous species.

Wildlife species are buffered from human influence. No additional non-indigenous species have been introduced. Human influence on physical features such as soil and geologic materials is unnoticeable.

These areas are managed for solitude; visitors are expected to use primitive skills often, in an environment which offers a high degree of risk and challenge. Success or failure is directly dependent on the ability, knowledge, and initiative of the visitor. Contact with other users or FS Wilderness personnel is infrequent. Encounters with large groups are rare, and infrequent with small groups or individuals. There is no lasting evidence of commercial activities; these areas are used primarily as pass-through travel zones for commercial groups. There is no lasting evidence of camping activity or human impacts on Wilderness conditions. An element of discovery is maintained. There are no interpretive signs, markers, or posts, just historical cairns. Evidence of cultural and historic sites may exist, but is not signed. Structures or facilities may be present only as necessary for resource protection, when less obtrusive measures have been unsuccessful.

Constructed trails are absent. User-created trails or game trails may exist, but are not maintained or designated on maps or trail guides. Travel is primarily cross-country.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription, except where delineated.

Past mining activity may be evident but is rare.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Existing trails are primitive and maintained to minimize resource damage. The following actions will be taken where needed: reduce evidence of trails, eliminate duplicate routes, and remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
 2. New signs should not be installed and existing ones should be removed as funding allows.
 3. Do not permit base camps for outfitter-guides.
 4. Timber harvest is prohibited.
 5. These areas are legally unavailable for oil and gas leasing.
 6. These areas are legally withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry.
 7. The Scenic Integrity Objective is Very High. The ROS class is Primitive.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Campsites should be maintained in Frissel-Cole Class 1 or 2.
 2. Consider management options regarding the status of allotments during the environmental-assessment and Allotment Management Plan (AMP) process.

Management-Area Prescription 1.12 WILDERNESS -- PRIMITIVE

THEME: Areas designated as Primitive Wilderness are managed to protect natural ecological conditions and provide a high degree of solitude. The area's natural processes and ecological conditions are not manipulated by human influences.

SETTING: These areas of Wilderness feature natural ecological conditions and processes that are not manipulated by human influences, and offer a degree of solitude. A range of ecological types exists. Human uses may have localized or limited effects in a few areas.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Natural succession occurs in all existing vegetative species and is influenced by natural processes and disturbances. The structure, composition, function, and spatial distribution of vegetative types result from natural-successional processes. Plant species are predominately native and indigenous to the immediate area. There are no increases in non-indigenous species composition from an *established* baseline. Fire is reestablished as a natural ecological force. Human influence on vegetation is minimal.

Visibility is generally unimpaired. There could be periodic smoke from natural fire. Human influence on aquatic life and riparian areas and processes is not noticeable in most areas. The composition, structure, and function of aquatic ecosystems are undisturbed by human use. Stocking is used as a tool to enhance native species. Wildlife species are buffered from human influence. No additional non-indigenous species have been introduced. Human influence on physical features such as soils and geologic materials is unnoticeable in most areas.

These areas are managed for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience, with a high degree of solitude. There is little contact with individuals or groups when traveling cross-country. When on trails, encounters with large groups are infrequent, with some encounters with small groups or individuals. Campsites are dispersed, with minimal sight and sound effects from adjacent campsites. There is evidence of established campsites. Established commercial base camps may exist. Permits for day-use activities are limited for high-use areas. There are signs at trail intersections to indicate trail routes, but no destination signs or mileage markers. Management-information and administrative signs are used when necessary for resource protection. Evidence of cultural and historic sites may exist, but is not interpreted on the ground. Structures and facilities exist for resource protection and administration of the Wilderness.

Trail systems are maintained to minimize damage or loss of the trail tread. Cross-country travel occurs. User-established trails are evident. Bridges may be present, when needed for resource protection or user safety.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Area.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Signs are restricted to trail intersections. Bridges and other reminders of management control are limited to those needed for resource protection.
 2. Eligible or listed historic structures are managed to be compatible with the Wilderness setting.
 3. The following actions should be taken where needed and as funding allows: reduce evidence of trails, eliminate duplicate routes, and remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.
 4. Timber harvest is prohibited.
 5. These areas are legally unavailable for oil and gas leasing.
 6. These areas are legally withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry.
 7. The Scenic Integrity Objective is Very High. The ROS class is Primitive.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Campsites should be maintained as funding allows in at least Frissel-Cole Class 2 or 3.
 2. Bridges may be necessary for user safety, but are not built solely for user convenience. Native materials are used to construct bridges.
 3. Consider management options regarding the status of allotments during the EA and AMP processes.

Management-Area Prescription 1.13
WILDERNESS -- SEMI-PRIMITIVE

THEME: These areas are managed for natural processes and ecological conditions not manipulated by human influences, and provide access to Primitive and Pristine areas (see above). A moderate to low degree of solitude is more difficult/elusive to achieve.

SETTING: These areas are adjacent to primary access points, such as developed trailheads or heavily used recreation areas. Encounters with other users are frequent. These areas lend themselves to day-use activities and pass-through travel by overnight groups.

DESIRED CONDITION: The long-term intent is to mitigate impacts that are inconsistent with the Wilderness Act.

The structure, composition, function, and spatial distribution of vegetative types are influenced and sustained by natural processes. Plant species are predominately native and indigenous to the immediate area. There are no increases in non-indigenous species from the *present* baseline. Fire is reestablished as a natural ecological force. Human influence on vegetation is minimal.

Visibility is generally unimpaired. Periodically there could be smoke from natural fire. Human influence on aquatic life and riparian areas and processes is minimal in most areas. The composition, structure, and function of aquatic ecosystems are minimally disturbed by human influence. Stocking is used as a tool to enhance T&E species.

Wildlife species are buffered from human influences. No additional non-indigenous species have been introduced. Human influence on physical features such as soil and geologic materials is minimal.

Contact with other users or FS Wilderness personnel is frequent. Encounters with large and small groups are likely. Campsites are limited and may be designated. There is evidence of established campsites. Sites may be visible or audible from adjacent sites.

There are no established commercial base camps. Permits for day-use activities are limited to high-use areas. These areas are primarily used as pass-through travel zones for commercial groups. There are signs at trail intersections to indicate trail routes. Boundary signs, trailhead signs, and other information are appropriate to educate and inform Wilderness users. Evidence of cultural and historic sites may exist, but is not interpreted on the ground. There are structures and facilities for resource protection and administration of Wilderness.

Travel is primarily along trails. Trail systems are predominately maintained. Bridges may be present when needed for resource protection, or where no safe opportunity exists to cross a stream during periods of normal water flow.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

- STANDARDS:**
1. NRHP-eligible or listed historic structures are managed to be compatible with the Wilderness setting.
 2. The following actions should be taken where needed and as funding allows: reduce evidence of trails, eliminate duplicate routes, and

remove trails from maps where repeated travel over the same route is to be discouraged.

3. Timber harvest is prohibited.
4. These areas are legally unavailable for oil and gas leasing.
5. These areas are legally withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry.
6. The Scenic Integrity Objective is Very High. The ROS class is Primitive.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Consider management options regarding the status of allotments during the EA and AMP processes.
 2. Campsites should be maintained as funding allows in at least Frissel-Cole Class 3.
 3. Trail signing is used for dispersing users throughout the area.
 4. Bridges may be necessary for user safety, but are not built just for user convenience. Native materials are used to construct necessary bridges.

Management-Area Prescription 1.5

ELIGIBLE WILD RIVERS

THEME: Wild Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate eligible river segments.

SETTING: These areas have been identified as being eligible for Wild River designation due to the presence of one or more "outstandingly remarkable" features, including scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values, but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the stream.

The eligible Wild Rivers are: North Fork Conejos River, Middle Fork Conejos River, El Rito Azul, Tothe Creek, Hansen Creek, and Saguache Creek.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The landscape is predominantly natural appearing. Vegetative composition and structure are influenced by biological processes and

conditions. Because of the proximity to streams, there is a greater than average diversity of plant and animal species.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

Road construction is not allowed.

The amount of management activity allowed depends on the projected future designation: Wild. Each stream's outstanding features are protected until such time as a suitability study is completed and final recommendation regarding Wild and Scenic River designation is made.

STANDARDS: These Standards will not affect existing impoundments. Eligibility was based on conditions which include those imposed by existing impoundments.

1. When significant action may threaten the river values, a suitability study will be initiated to determine recommendation for the National Wild and Scenic River System.
2. Management actions, proposed new uses or new facilities on National Forest System lands will not be allowed if they alter the Wild and Scenic characteristics of the land and physical resources, or affect the eligibility, classification, or potential suitability of the area.
3. Timber harvest is prohibited.
4. Cutting of trees is allowed only if needed to meet other management objectives (i.e., trail clearing or fire control).
5. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, the free-flowing characteristics of the study river cannot be modified by new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined.
6. Current water-use and stream-protection agreements made through negotiation with local water users would continue. (See the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* P.L. 90-542, as amended SEC. 10. (e), SEC. 12. (b), and SEC. 13. (b) for additional information.)
7. No roads or overland motorized travel are allowed within one-quarter mile of the river.
8. These areas are either legally withdrawn (if in Wilderness) or scheduled for withdrawal (if outside Wilderness).
9. These areas are either legally unavailable (if in Wilderness) or administratively unavailable (if outside wilderness) for oil and gas leasing.
10. The Scenic Integrity Objective is Very High. The ROS class is Primitive.

PRESCRIPTION CATEGORY 2

These areas are intended to conserve representative (or particularly rare and narrowly distributed) ecological settings or components. They help protect ecosystems or ecosystem components that may have important functions, ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes.

Human influences on ecological processes are limited as much as possible, but are sometimes evident. Types of human use vary, but generally are not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. They help play an important role under an adaptive-management philosophy by serving as a "natural" reference for areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are formally designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs).

Table IV - 2. Activities Allowed in Category 2.

RX NO.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
2.2	Research Natural Areas	No	No	By Exception	No	NSO *

* "NSO" means these areas are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing with a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation.

Management-Area Prescription 2.2

RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

THEME: The management emphasis is on protecting or enhancing unique or exemplary ecosystems designated for non-manipulative research, monitoring, education, and/or maintenance of biodiversity.

SETTING: This Prescription applies to established RNAs.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: RNAs preserve representative areas that typify important forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, aquatic, geological, or other natural environments; and/or areas that have special or unique characteristics of scientific importance.

RNAs contribute to the preservation and maintenance of key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, and landscape levels.

Use these locations as baseline areas for measuring ecological changes, and as control areas for evaluation and monitoring.

Develop comprehensive management plans for RNAs as needed.

Control populations of exotic (non-native) plant and animal species, where feasible.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Timber harvest is prohibited. RNAs will not be included in the Suitable timber land base. Logging and wood-gathering activities are not permitted.
 2. An RNA will be withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry when necessary to protect the values for which the RNA was established.
 3. Current levels of horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping, and related low-impact uses by the public are allowed to continue. Increases in recreational use will be restricted if they threaten or interfere with the objectives or purposes for which the RNA is established. Prohibit motorized and mechanized use, except when necessary for research or educational access.
 4. Buildings and developed recreation sites are not allowed, unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as historic sites eligible for or listed in the National Register) which do not threaten the values for which the RNA was established.
 5. Allow outbreaks of native insects and diseases to proceed without intervention, unless they are a substantial threat to important

resources outside of the RNA. Use control methods for insect and disease outbreaks which minimize disturbance.

6. Allow habitat manipulation only for the protection of Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species, or where it is necessary to perpetuate or restore natural conditions.
7. Permit special uses only when they do not conflict with the values for which the RNA was established. Require approval of proposals for non-manipulative research by the Rocky Mountain Station Director (or representative) and the District Ranger.
8. Prohibit livestock grazing.

Exception: Recreational livestock grazing is allowed where this use does not threaten the values for which the RNA was established.

Exception: The Hot Creek RNA is a part of the larger Hot Creek Allotment, which is under a valid grazing permit. The current grazing permittees have agreed to continue to avoid grazing the area inside the RNA boundary.

9. Allow trails that prior to RNA establishment to be used for recreation and scientific or educational access, except when they are a threat to the values for which the RNA was established. The construction of new trails is prohibited unless necessary to correct resource damage occurring from existing trails.
10. Activities will meet the inventoried Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing with a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation.
 2. Existing outfitter-guide permitted use is allowed to continue within RNAs, subject to the normal permit processes that apply to all National Forest System lands. Permits for new use might not be issued in the future.
 3. Close or obliterate existing roads, except where they provide necessary access for scientific or educational purposes.
 4. Allow prescribed natural fires to burn.
 5. Control human-caused fires that are a substantial threat to developments outside the boundaries of the Research Natural Area, and all fires where excessive fuel build-up due to past fire suppression threatens the RNA.
 6. Use fire suppression techniques which minimize disturbance.
 7. Where feasible, use natural barriers to confine or contain fire.

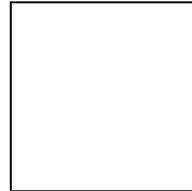
8. Use management-ignited prescribed fire when necessary to restore a natural fire regime or reduce unnatural fuel loadings.

PRESCRIPTION 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 normally predominate. Although these areas are characterized by predominately 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.

Table IV - 3. Activities Allowed in Category 3.

RX NO.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing*
3.1	Special Interest Areas Emphasis on Use or Interpretation	No	Yes	Yes	Limited	NSO
3.3	Backcountry	No	Limited	Yes	Yes	NSO/ Closed
3.4	Designated and Eligible Scenic Rivers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CSU



* These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing with STD(Standard), NSO(No Surface Occupancy, or CSU(Controlled Surface Use) Stipulations.

Management-Area Prescription 3.1 SPECIAL INTEREST AREA USE AND INTERPRETATION EMPHASIS

THEME: Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are managed to protect or enhance their unique characteristics. Typically, SIAs contain unique botanical, geological, historical, scenic, or cultural values. The management emphasis may be on developing and interpreting these areas for public education and recreation.

SETTING: This Prescription will be applied to unique natural areas.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Management emphasis is to protect the values which made these areas unique.

Where appropriate, develop and interpret the area for public education and recreation.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

STANDARDS:

1. Timber Harvest is prohibited.
2. Activities will meet the Adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Semi-Primitive Motorized.

GUIDELINES:

1. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing with a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation.
2. Withdraw these areas from locatable-mineral entry as necessary to protect the resources for which the SIA was designated.
3. Develop facilities to meet management objectives.
4. Allow vegetation treatment only to maintain or enhance the areas' unique values.
5. Allow livestock grazing if it does not conflict with the values for which the SIA was designated.
6. Authorize scientific or educational activities that are compatible with the SIA's values, with a special-use permit.
7. Allow uses emphasizing education and recreation, where the use does not conflict with the values for which the SIA was established.

Management-Area Prescription 3.3

BACKCOUNTRY

THEME: These areas are managed to maintain plant and animal habitats that are shaped primarily through natural processes, and to provide backcountry experiences to the public in areas where there is little evidence of human activities.

SETTING: These areas are generally undeveloped parts of the Forest that are 5,000 acres or larger, in a variety of settings at different elevations.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The landscape is predominantly natural appearing and relatively undisturbed by humans. Natural processes within the context of the range of natural variability (insects, disease, fire) are generally allowed to occur with minimal human intervention. Prescribed natural fire plans should be developed and Confine/Contain strategies and minimal-impact suppression techniques emphasized on wildfires. Management-ignited fires may be used to mimic natural disturbance regimes.

There is a high probability of experiencing solitude. There is the opportunity for a high degree of self-reliance, challenge, and risk. Facilities are minimal and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signs, may be present, but are rustic in style. Trailheads providing access to these areas are outside the area and offer information and directional signing. Cross-country motorized travel is limited to snow machines in the winter (where restrictions do not apply).

Trails provide a full range of challenging recreation opportunities. These include biking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorized travel on designated trails. Hunting and fishing opportunities are available for those seeking a more remote experience. No road building occurs within the area, and new trail construction is rare.

The Desired Condition for the allocation of miles of motorized or non-motorized travelways is that the classification of trails (motorized or non-motorized) identified in the Forest Plan will not substantially change over the planning period. While individual travelways might change from non-motorized to motorized or vice versa, the ROS will stay Semi-Primitive.

Generally, non-recreational special uses such as electronic sites and utility corridors are excluded from Backcountry areas.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Timber harvest is prohibited.
 2. These areas are available for locatable-mineral entry.
 3. Areas with high potential are available for oil and gas leasing, with the NSO Stipulations. All other areas are administratively unavailable.
 4. ATV game retrieval off designated trails is prohibited.
 5. Travel restrictions are posted at trailheads.
 6. The inventoried Scenic Integrity Objective will be achieved. The ROS classes are Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and Semi-Primitive Motorized.
 7. Motorized travel is limited to designated roads and trails.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Roads, unless designated for vehicular access, are incorporated into the trail system or rehabilitated.
 2. Restrictions on snowmobile use are posted at trailheads.
 3. Motorized equipment is allowed for fire management, range management, and trail construction and maintenance.

Management-Area Prescription 3.4 DESIGNATED AND ELIGIBLE SCENIC RIVERS

THEME: Scenic River corridors are managed to protect and perpetuate river segments that are either eligible for Scenic River designation, or are already so designated.

SETTING: On the RGNF, no rivers have yet been designated as Wild or Scenic Rivers. These areas have been identified as being eligible for designation, however due to the presence of one or more “outstandingly remarkable” features, which may include scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values, but is at least 1/4 mile on either side of the stream.

The eligible Scenic Rivers are Archuleta Creek, West Fork Rio Chama, East Fork Rio Chama, Lower Rio de los Pinos, Portion of Medano Creek, Little Medano Creek, Portion of South Fork Rio Grande, Rio Grande (Box Canyon), and West Bellows.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The landscape is predominantly natural appearing. Vegetative composition and structure are influenced by biological processes and conditions. Because of the proximity to streams, there is a greater than average diversity of plant and animal species.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

STANDARDS: These Standards will not affect existing impoundments. Eligibility was based on conditions that include those imposed by existing impoundments.

1. When significant action may threaten the river values, a suitability study will be initiated to determine recommendation for the National Wild and Scenic River System.
5. These lands are not part of the Suitable or Scheduled timber base.
2. Management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands are not allowed if they alter the Scenic characteristics of the land and physical resources, or affect the eligibility, classification, or potential suitability of the area.
3. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, the free-flowing characteristics of the study river cannot be modified by new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined.
5. Current water-use and stream-protection agreements made through negotiation with local water users will continue. (See the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* P.L. 90-542m as amended SEC. 10. (e), SEC. 12. (b), and SEC. 13 (b) for additional information.)
6. Activities will meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS is Semi-Primitive Motorized.

GUIDELINES: 1. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use Stipulation.

2. Locatable-mineral activities are allowed, but should minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation, and pollution, and maintain the visual character.

3. Silvicultural practices are allowed within the river corridor, provided such practices do not cause substantial adverse effects on the river or the corridor landscape.
4. Motorized travel is restricted to designated roads.

PRESCRIPTION CATEGORY 4

Ecological values are managed to be compatible with recreation use, but are maintained well within the levels necessary to maintain overall ecological 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.

Table IV- 4. Activities Allowed in Category 4.

RX NO.	RX NAME	Activities Allowed				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
4.21	Scenic Byways or Railroads	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CSU
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CSU
4.4	Designated and Eligible Recreation Rivers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	CSU

Management-Area Prescription 4.21

SCENIC BYWAYS AND SCENIC RAILROADS

THEME: These areas are managed to protect or preserve the scenic and recreation values and uses within designated Scenic Byways and Scenic Railroad Corridors, while managing the multiple-use values of the landscape.

SETTING: These areas are found where outstanding scenic features draw attention and use. This Prescription will be applied to the Silver Thread and Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic Byways, and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The landscape features high-quality scenery, while allowing multiple-use management such as timber harvest, wildlife management, recreation activities, and mineral extraction. Many of these uses and their interactions are interpreted for the visitor. Facilities may be developed to enhance opportunities for viewing scenery and wildlife. Because scenic quality is emphasized, all activities and interactions maintain the scenic beauty for which the area is designated.

Opportunities for solitude are limited. There are frequent contacts with other visitors, due to the associated travel corridor. Developments such as roads, recreation facilities, and range improvements are evident, but appear to be in harmony with the natural environment. There may be recreation facilities such as scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, and rest areas. Developed campgrounds may exist, but they should be situated off the main travelway. Trailheads are easily accessible, but are also off the main travelway.

The road system is well signed, with a maintained-gravel or paved surface. The area has access for motorized-recreation activities outside the main travelway. Nonmotorized activities such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding are generally available on trails and roads.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

STANDARDS:

1. These areas are included in the Suitable timber base.
2. Activities will meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Modified Roded.

GUIDELINES:

1. Fires are controlled using minimal-impact suppression techniques.
2. Vegetative treatments may be used to enhance or maintain viewing opportunities.

3. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use Stipulation.

Management-Area Prescription 4.3

DISPERSED AND DEVELOPED RECREATION

THEME: These areas are managed with emphasis on a wide range of recreation settings and opportunities within various landscapes.

SETTING: This Prescription is applied mostly along road corridors (travel routes) where both undeveloped- and developed-recreation opportunities may be found and managed as an integrated resource. These areas have relatively easy access to a water feature or other natural attraction where activities may occur year-round. Because of the amount and type of use, these areas will offer a more social recreation experience. Visitor contacts are frequent.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Vegetation composition and structure are managed to meet the recreation objectives for the area, maintain vegetation cover for wildlife, and protect soil stability. Fuels will be managed commensurate with the risk of human-caused ignitions. Insects and disease will be managed to maintain the recreation resource.

Summer homes, resorts, and youth camps are present and managed to provide unique recreation opportunities. In developed recreation sites, such as campgrounds and picnic grounds, facilities will be maintained or upgraded to meet customers needs. In dispersed areas, management actions will maintain the natural characteristics which make the area popular.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

- STANDARDS:**
1. These areas are included in the Suitable timber base.
 2. Developed sites will be withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry.
 3. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Modified.
 4. Vegetation treatment must maintain or enhance recreation opportunities (such as creating vistas), or contribute to user safety.
 5. Fenced recreation sites are not suitable rangeland and are not grazed.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. High-use recreation sites are hardened and/or additional restrictions enforced to protect sensitive natural resources, as funds allow.
 2. Timing of vegetation manipulation should be scheduled to minimize recreation conflicts.
 3. Activity fuels (slash) created due to vegetative manipulation are

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4. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use Stipulation.

**Management-Area Prescription 4.4
ELIGIBLE RECREATION RIVERS**

THEME: Recreation Rivers are managed to protect and perpetuate designated or eligible Recreation River segments.

SETTING: These areas have been identified as being eligible for Recreation River designation due to the presence of one or more “outstandingly remarkable” features that include scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values, but is at least 1/4 mile on either side of the stream. Existing diversion structures, rip-raps, or flood-control structures may be present, but the stream corridor must remain natural in appearance and the structures must be maintained.

The eligible Recreation Rivers are Medano Creek, South Fork Rio Grande, Lower Rio Grande River, and Conejos River.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The landscape is predominantly natural appearing. Vegetative composition and structure are influenced by biological processes and conditions. Because of the proximity to streams, there is a greater than average diversity of plant and animal species.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

STANDARDS: These Standards will not affect existing impoundments. Eligibility was based on conditions which include those imposed by existing impoundments.

1. When significant action may threaten the river resources, a suitability study will be initiated to determine recommendation for the National Wild and Scenic River System.
2. These lands are not part of the Suitable or Scheduled timber base.
3. Management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands are not allowed if they alter the Recreation characteristics of the land and physical resources, or affect the eligibility, classification, or potential suitability of the area.
4. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, the free-flowing characteristics of the study river cannot be modified by new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined.
5. Current water-use and stream-protection agreements made through negotiation with local water users continue. (See the *Wild and Scenic River Act* P.L. 90-542, as amended SEC. 10. (e), SEC. 12. (b), and SEC. 13 (b) for additional information.)

6. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Modified.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use Stipulation.
 2. Locatable-mineral activities are allowed, but should minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation, and pollution, and maintain the scenic character.
 3. Silvicultural practices are allowed within the river corridor, provided such practices do not have substantial adverse effects on the river or the river-corridor landscape.

PRESCRIPTION CATEGORY 5

These Forest areas are managed for a mix of forest products, forage, and wildlife habitat, while protecting scenery and offering recreation opportunities. Ecological sustainability will be protected, while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions which consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative treatment. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

Table IV - 5. Activities Allowed in Category 5.

RX. NO.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
5.11	General Forest and Intermingled Rangelands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	STD+
5.13	Forest Products	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	STD+
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	TL
5.42	Special Wildlife Areas -- Bighorn Sheep	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NSO

Management-Area Prescription 5.11

GENERAL FOREST AND INTERMINGLED RANGELANDS

THEME: The intent of this Prescription is to allow a variety of management options, such as livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation, exploration and/or development of minerals and energy resources, and timber harvest. Management emphasis is on a balance of resource uses.

SETTING: These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities, and managed with a multiple-use emphasis to achieve a variety of goals. When timber harvest is employed to achieve management goals, a full range of silvicultural prescriptions may be employed; however, uneven-aged-management systems are more likely to occur. In areas where timber harvest is planned, rotation periods will be longer and entries less frequent than in 5.13 (Forest Products) areas. Timber management activities focus on what is retained in the stand, not on wood production. The area has a well-developed transportation system. Visitors can expect to see managed but natural-appearing stands of trees. Recently cut areas will show tree stumps, slash, skid trails, and soil disturbance.

Wildfires are suppressed and insect and disease populations are maintained at endemic levels, to protect commercial forest products.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Management actions ensure that there is sufficient habitat for wildlife dispersion between undeveloped areas of the Forest.

Management allows the perpetuation of natural-landscape diversity (composition, structure, and function). This includes consideration within a spatial context (what species, what kind of stand structure, and what kind of landscape patterns are natural, by ecosystem) and a temporal context (which seral stages and how many are natural, by ecosystem).

In areas of the Forest where past management has reduced resource effectiveness, watersheds, scenic resources, and wildlife habitat are restored.

Appropriate settings are offered that are suitable for a broad range of recreation opportunities. Recreation facilities are improved based on user demand.

There are adequate old-growth components in forested stands. Mature stands are identified for future old growth.

Opportunities exist for mineral- and energy-resources exploration and development exist.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

STANDARDS: 1. These areas are included in the Suitable timber base.

2. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Modified Roded.

GUIDELINES: 1. Use landscape spatial analysis in timber sale design and layout to assist in selecting which existing and future old-growth stands are retained, maintaining habitat composition and structure, and providing habitat connectivity. Spatial analysis allows a project area to be compared with reference areas, and considers a variety of attributes (e.g., composition, structure, patch-size distribution, etc.). The intent is to use the reference areas as baseline information to guide project design. The project interdisciplinary team will suggest how quickly or closely to approximate reference areas. The analysis and resulting decision will document the rationale for choosing to deviate from reference conditions.

For timber sales in the Englemann Spruce on Mountain Slopes Landtype Association (LTA 1), a landscape spatial-analysis approach is described in Erhard et al. (1996). To keep within the parameters of the approach, the Analysis Area should contain at least 15,000 acres or more of LTA 1. We recommend that the area boundaries follow watersheds and remain fixed for the duration of the Plan. For those projects in the other forested LTAs, the reference conditions will have to be inferred from the literature, experts, and local knowledge. Comparisons should be made within the same ecological LTA.

2. Fire management emphasizes Contain and Control suppression strategies.

3. These lands are available and authorized for lease under standard lease terms and may include Stipulations for alpine areas, steep slopes, and areas with high or moderate potential for mass movement.

4. Grazing of domestic livestock should be coordinated with timber management activities to ensure adequate regeneration and prevent impacts on range improvements and natural barriers.

5. Forest insect or disease infestations are evaluated against the potential for loss of commercial forest resources, with management emphasis on protecting the commercial resources.

6. Game retrieval is authorized using ATVs from noon to 5:00 pm
(1200 -
1700)

each day,
unless
soil and
water
damage
will occur.

Management-Area Prescription 5.13

FOREST PRODUCTS

THEME: The intent of this Prescription is to allow a full range of activities, with an emphasis on the production of commercial wood products. Numerous open roads offer commercial access and roaded recreational opportunities, while restricted roads offer nonmotorized-recreation opportunities.

SETTING: This Prescription is applied in areas where the potential to grow timber is high, and where the harvest of commercial timber is intended. Operations are focused on wood production. The intent is to maintain suitable forested areas with commercially valuable species at ages, densities, and sizes that allow growth rates and stand health conducive to providing a sustained yield of forest products. The area has a well-developed transportation system. Wildfires are suppressed and insect and disease populations are maintained at endemic levels, to protect commercial forest products.

Forest visitors can expect to see managed stands of trees in a natural or near-natural forest setting. Stands will have evidence of management, including tree stumps, slash, skid trails, and soil disturbance.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Management emphasis is on wood production, while allowing for other uses.

Timber management is accomplished in a manner that allows the perpetuation of natural-landscape diversity (composition, structure, and function). This includes consideration within a spatial context (what species, what kind of stand structure, and what kind of landscape patterns are natural, by ecosystem) and a temporal context (which seral stages and how many are natural, by ecosystem).

Management actions ensure that there is adequate habitat for wildlife dispersion between undeveloped areas of the forest.

There is adequate old growth in forested stands. Mature stands are identified for future old growth.

Opportunities exist for mineral- and energy-resources exploration and development exist.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

GUIDELINES: 1. Use landscape spatial analysis in timber sale design and layout to assist in selecting which existing and future old-growth stands are retained, maintaining habitat composition and structure, and providing habitat connectivity. Spatial analysis allows a project area to be compared with reference areas, and considers a variety

of attributes (e.g., composition, structure, patch-size distribution, etc.). The intent is to use the reference areas as baseline information to guide project design. The project interdisciplinary team will suggest how quickly or closely to approximate reference areas. The analysis and resulting decision will document the rationale for choosing to deviate from reference conditions.

For timber sales in the Englemann Spruce on Mountain Slopes Landtype Association (LTA 1), a landscape spatial-analysis approach is described in Erhard et al. (1996). To keep within the parameters of the approach, the Analysis Area should contain at least 15,000 acres or more of LTA 1. We recommend that the area boundaries follow watersheds and remain fixed for the duration of the Plan. For projects in the other forested LTAs, the reference conditions will have to be inferred from the literature, experts, and local knowledge. Comparisons should be made within the same ecological LTA.

2. Grazing of domestic livestock should be coordinated with timber management activities, to ensure adequate regeneration and prevent impacts on range improvements and natural barriers.
3. These lands are available and authorized for lease under standard lease terms, and may include Stipulations for alpine areas, steep slopes, and areas with moderate or high potential for mass movement.
4. Forest insect or disease infestations are evaluated against the potential for loss of commercial forest resources, with management emphasis on protecting the commercial resources.
5. Fire management emphasizes Contain and Control suppression strategies.
6. Reduction of fire hazards, through fuel treatment, should be done when it is economically justified and consistent with other resource uses and needs.
7. Game retrieval is authorized using ATVs from noon till 5:00pm (1200 - 1700) each day, unless soil and water damage will occur.

Management-Area Prescription 5.41 DEER AND ELK WINTER RANGE

THEME: These areas are managed to supply adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species while on winter range.

SETTING: These areas consist of both forested and non-forested habitats, generally in the lower-elevation fringes of the Forest.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Vegetation will be managed to sustain healthy plant communities with a variety of plants for food and cover.

In winter, manage human activities so that deer and elk can effectively use the area.

Habitat management goals are developed in coordination with the states and owners of intermingled privately owned land, to minimize resource conflicts on and off National Forest System lands and offer recreation opportunities.

Where possible, livestock-grazing systems should be developed in cooperation with state and federal agencies and private landowners, so that all lands can be considered in developing vegetation-management objectives for an area.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Motorized travel, including snowmobiles, is restricted to designated roads and trails, except for ATV big-game retrieval.
 2. These areas are included in the Suitable timber base, with resource constraints.
 3. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Roded Modified.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a Timing Limitation Stipulation.
 2. Operating and reclamation plans for locatable minerals should mitigate impacts on deer and elk winter range.
 3. Livestock-grazing strategies are implemented to achieve goals for deer and elk.
 6. Existing recreation facilities should be closed during the season when deer and elk are present in concentrated numbers.

4. New roads passing through this area should avoid important forage and cover locations.

Management-Area Prescription 5.42
SPECIAL WILDLIFE AREAS -- BIGHORN SHEEP

SETTING: These areas are characterized by rocky slopes, cliffs, and open grasslands, with scattered stands of trees. Timber cutting may be used to enhance or maintain bighorn habitat.

THEME: These areas are habitat for established bighorn sheep herds on the Forest. Emphasis is on the maintenance and improvement of the habitat on which bighorn sheep depend, to assure their viability.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Herd objectives will be established in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Maintain a buffer between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep, to prevent interaction.

Include interpretive information in established viewing areas.

Develop plans for the use of prescribed natural fire (PNF) and management-ignited fire (MIF) in support of habitat improvement.

Livestock grazing is appropriate and authorized within this Management Prescription.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Domestic sheep allotments that become vacant within the identified buffer shall not be reissued for domestic sheep use, but may be issued for cattle use.
 2. No new travel routes shall be constructed across any lambing grounds.
 3. These lands are not part of the Suitable timber base.
 4. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Roaded Modified.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Operating plans for locatable minerals specify minimal impacts on bighorn sheep.
 2. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation.
 3. Domestic sheep allotments within the buffers are moved to vacant allotments outside the buffers, as opportunities arise.
 4. Grazing strategies should be implemented that include achievement of objectives for bighorn sheep herds.
 5. Recreation activities that disturb bighorn sheep should be discouraged or prohibited.

PRESCRIPTION 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 while emphasizing selected biological (grasses and other vegetation) structures and compositions which consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

Table IV - 6. Activities Allowed in Category 6.

RX NO.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
6.6	Grassland Resource Production	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	STD+

Management-Area -- 6.6

GRASSLAND RESOURCE PRODUCTION

THEME: These areas are managed to produce forage for livestock. This Prescription features management of vegetation associated with grassland ecosystems to achieve and maintain the desired vegetation condition for livestock, wildlife, and/or recreational stock.

SETTING: These areas are characterized by a mix of grassland and forest ecosystems that feature large open meadows and other grasslands, intermixed with stands of aspen and/or conifers.

Visitors can expect to see livestock and associated range improvements.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: The plant communities may be managed in a range of successional stages, to achieve biological diversity of plant and animal species.

- STANDARDS:**
1. Activities will meet the adopted Scenic Condition Objective. The ROS class is Modified Roaded.
 2. These lands are not included in the Suitable timber base.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. These lands are available and authorized for lease under standard lease terms, and may include Stipulations for alpine areas, steep slopes, and areas with moderate or high potential for mass movement.
 2. Game retrieval is authorized using ATVs from noon to 5:00pm (1200 - 1700) each day, unless soil and water damage will occur.

PRESCRIPTION CATEGORY 8

Ecological condition, including processes, is likely to be permanently altered by human activities, beyond the level 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 humans. Human activities are generally commercial in nature, directly or indirectly providing jobs and income. Motorized transportation is common.

Table IV - 8. Activities Allowed in Category 8.

RX. NO.	PRESCRIPTION NAME	ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil & Gas Leasing
8.22	Ski-Based Resorts (Existing and Inventoried)	Yes	Permission Needed	No	No	NSO

Management-Area Prescription 8.22

SKI-BASED RESORTS: EXISTING/POTENTIAL

THEME: These areas are managed for their existing or potential use as ski-based resort sites.

SETTING: This Prescription is applied to the mountainous area composing the existing Wolf Creek Ski Area, and those lands identified for potential expansion. Associated facilities such as trails, lifts, and lodges are included. This is an area of concentrated use. Visitors can expect to see facilities associated with the ski area.

DESIRED CONDITIONS: Four-season recreation resort use, and other winter sports activities such as snowmobile centers and Nordic ski centers, are encouraged and integrated with other Management Objectives.

Insects and disease will be managed to protect the recreation resource and to ensure public safety.

Implementation of this Prescription will maintain the possibility of winter-sports expansion. Any resource management activities within this area will be designed and implemented to maintain or enhance the existing resources.

Development within this area will not occur until a master development plan has been submitted, alternatives and resource impacts have been analyzed, and a decision has been issued.

- STANDARDS:**
1. These lands are not part of the Suitable timber base.
 2. These areas are withdrawn from locatable-mineral entry.
 3. Resort management plans are developed that include action items for vegetation management.
 4. Facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities and blend with the area's natural background features. Lines and forms indicating past activities and geometric shapes associated with ski trail and lift development, are "softened" as opportunities become available.
 5. Activities meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective. The ROS class is Roded Natural.
 6. Grazing is prohibited.

- GUIDELINES:**
1. Year-round recreation activities should be considered as part of the master development plan. Some may be nontraditional uses on

National Forest System lands, but these uses will be in the public interest, if allowed.

2. These lands are available and authorized for oil and gas leasing, with a No Surface Occupancy Stipulation.
3. All fires are suppressed.
4. Game retrieval using ATVs is authorized between noon to 5:00 pm (1200 - 1700) each day, unless soil and water damage will occur.