

# AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST PLAN



Pike and San Isabel National Forests and the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

This document contains information on amendments to the Land and Resource Plan for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, which was approved in 1984. Included in this document are:

- summary table of the amendments, and
- explanatory descriptions of each amendment.

For some amendments, additional documentation is contained in other referenced documents.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary of Forest Plan Amendments .....	3
Amendment No. 1 .....	6
Amendment No. 2 .....	7
Amendment No. 3 .....	9
Amendment No. 4 .....	11
Amendment No. 5 .....	13
Amendment No. 6 .....	15
Amendment No. 7 .....	17
Amendment No. 8 .....	19
Amendment No. 9 .....	21
Amendment No. 10 .....	23
Amendment No. 11 .....	25
Amendment No. 12 .....	28
Amendment No. 13 .....	30
Amendment No. 14 .....	34
Amendment No. 16 .....	36
Amendment No. 17 .....	39
Amendment No. 18 .....	41
Amendment No. 19 .....	43
Amendment No. 20 .....	45
Amendment No. 21 .....	47
Amendment No. 22 .....	51
Amendment No. 23 .....	53
Amendment No. 24 .....	56
Amendment No. 25 .....	59
Amendment No. 26 .....	60
Amendment No. 27 .....	61
Amendment No. 28 .....	62
Amendment No. 29 .....	76
Amendment No. 30 .....	77
Amendment No. 31 .....	85
Amendment No. 32 .....	87
Amendment No. 33 .....	90

Amendment No 34..... 109

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Summary of Forest Plan Amendments

Number	Date	Summary
<a href="#"><u>1</u></a>	9/23/1985	Clarifies intent of Plan implementation schedules (Appendices A, C & D) prepared as part of annual Forest Plan of Work. Note: <u>Rescinded by Amend. No. 9</u>
<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>	7/24/1987	Corrects omission and indicates that bridge construction and reconstruction activities under Management Activity L16 - L18 (Local Road Construction and Reconstruction) are included
<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>	7/24/1987	Revises boundary of the Comanche Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Zoological Area (designated a Colorado Natural Area February 13, 1987), Comanche National Grassland.
<a href="#"><u>4</u></a>	7/24/1987	Includes in the Forest Plan assessment of suitability and capability of Quail Mountain for proposed ski area development. Note: <u>Rescinded 10/5/87</u>
<a href="#"><u>5</u></a>	7/24/1987	Incorporates modified stipulations and supplements contained in FSM 2800 5/86 R-2 Supp. No. 25 for leases and permits issued on National Forest System land.
<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>	7/24/1987	Replaces fire management standards and guidelines with Regional fire management requirements that have been changed to provide greater flexibility to land managers.
<a href="#"><u>7</u></a>	7/24/1987	Corrects a Forest Plan Map error to more accurately reflect Management Area Prescription application and changes acreage totals in Management Area Summary Table.
<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>	7/24/1987	Corrects information in Forest Plan Appendix B; fuelwood products are not a part of the Allowable Sale Quantity.
<a href="#"><u>9</u></a>	7/24/1987	Rescinds Amendment No. 1
<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>	7/24/1987	Assigns Management Area Prescription 1D (Provides For Utility Corridors) for certain lands within the Comanche National Grassland and changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 to show a change in the acreage of four Management Areas.
<a href="#"><u>11</u></a>	8/20/1987	Replaces Appendix A (the Ten-Year Timber Sale Schedule) and establishes a three year schedule of planned vegetation treatment projects.
<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>	10/5/1987	Replaces Appendix C (the Ten-Year Road Construction and Reconstruction Schedule) and establishes a three year schedule of planned road construction/reconstructuion projects.
<a href="#"><u>13</u></a>	12/9/1988	Recommends establishment of the 373 acre Hoosier Ridge Research Natural Area, South Park District.
<a href="#"><u>14</u></a>	12/9/1988	Assigns Management Area Prescriptions 2B and 4B to 10,290

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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		acres of the Cimarron River corridor, Cimarron National Grassland.
15		This number was reserved for an amendment addressing the cover needs of deer and elk, but the amendment was not finalized.
<a href="#">16</a>	1/3/1989	Establishes 3-Year Timber Sale and Road Construction/Reconstruction Schedules (revises Appendices A & C). (FSM 1920, R-2 Supp. No.8, 3/86)(FSH 1909.12, R-2 Supp. No.1, 8/88).
<a href="#">17</a>	1/3/1989	Assigns Management Area Prescription 5B to Babcock Hole, San Carlos District (9,021 acres).
<a href="#">18</a>	1/3/1989	Assigns Management Area Prescription 1D to Methodist Mountain, Salida District (53 acres).
<a href="#">19</a>	3/2/1989	Assigns Management Area Prescription 5B (Emphasis Is On Big Game Winter Range) in the Dry Union Gulch area, Leadville Ranger District. Change from a 7D Prescription (5,114 acres).
<a href="#">20</a>	12/6/1989	Replaces 3-Year Timber Sale and Road Construction/Reconstruction Schedules (revised Appendices A & C). (FSM 1920, R-2 Supp. No.8, 3/86)(FSH 1909.12, R-2 Supp. No. 1, 8/88).
<a href="#">21</a>	6/11/1990	Establishes Scenic Highway of Legends as a Scenic Byway on the San Carlos Ranger District. Incorporates new management direction for Scenic Byways in the Plan. Scenic Byways Plan Direction (WO 2370/7700 12/07/88 ltr. requires signed "Designation Sheet" as Plan Appendix).
<a href="#">22</a>	10/4/1990	Replaces 3-Year Timber Sale and Road Construction/Reconstruction Schedules (revises Appendices A & C).
<a href="#">23</a>	2/12/1992	Oil & Gas Leasing - Incorporates decision made 2/92 to consent to oil and gas leasing. See EIS and ROD.
<a href="#">24</a>	4/9/1992	Adds Picket Wire Canyonlands per PL 101-501. ID's management area direction.
<a href="#">25</a>	9/1994	Revises Forest Plan map to establish a utility corridor for the Divide Power Line between Divide and Lake George.
<a href="#">26</a>	3/2000	Changes VQO within Ski Cooper permit area to Modification
<a href="#">27</a>	2/2001	Establishes Stanley Canyon expansion to the Northfield Multi-User Communications Site
<a href="#">28</a>	8/2001	Amends suitable timber base and certain standards and guidelines in the area of the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project.
<a href="#">29</a>	6/2002	Amends the Forest Plan to establish the Dick's Peak Communication Site.
<a href="#">30</a>	8/2005	MIS amendment

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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<a href="#"><u>31</u></a>	6/2004	Establishes a new management area embracing the eligible segments of the South Platte and North Fork rivers.
<a href="#"><u>32</u></a>	6/2008	Designates additional areas where fire managers may use naturally-ignited wildland fires to achieve management objectives.
<a href="#"><u>33</u></a>	10/28/2008	Lynx amendment adding standards and guidelines
<a href="#"><u>34</u></a>	01/14/2009	Designation of energy corridors on NFS lands in 10 Western States

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 1

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III, Page III-3,	None	None (add paragraph)

### Reason For This Amendment:

Due to changes in annual budgets and other administrative or external causes, planned management activities might not be conducted according to the schedules displayed in Appendices A, C, and D of the Forest Plan. Actual schedules for activities will be identified annually as part of the Forest Plan of Work.

### Amendment Number 1:

To clarify the intent of the implementation schedules (Appendices A, C, and D) in the Pike/San Isabel National Forests and Comanche/Cimarron National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan, insert the following paragraph after the second paragraph, Page III-3, Chapter III.

Changes in annual budget allocations, changes in assigned targets, insect and disease epidemics, and administrative or other external causes may result in adjustments in scheduled management activities. Projects will sometimes be scheduled into different years than those displayed in the appendices. All activities scheduled will be in conformance with direction in the Forest Plan. Schedules for planned management activities will be identified annually as part of the Forest Plan of Work.

This amendment is classified as a non-significant amendment and does not require additional environmental documentation.

/s/ Karl L. Tamerl  
KARL L. TAMELER  
Forest Supervisor

Sept. 23, 1985  
DATE

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 2

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III, Page III-76	None (Handbook Codes)	None

### Reason For This Amendment:

Due to an oversight in preparing the management requirements of Chapter III of the Land and Resource Management Plan, some management activities that may be necessary to carry out management direction for bridge construction and reconstruction were inadvertently omitted.

Listed under the heading of Management Activities is Local Road Construction and Reconstruction (Chapter III, Page III-76) and a number of Management Information Handbook codes describing the activities associated with Local Road Construction and Reconstruction. Management Information Handbook codes L16 through L18 for Bridge Construction and Reconstruction were omitted from the activities listed.

The purpose of this amendment is to correct the omission and indicate that bridge construction and reconstruction activities under the management activity Local Road Construction and Reconstruction are included.

### Amendment Number 2:

To clarify the intent of the management activity "Local Road Construction and Reconstruction (L11, 12, & 13)", as shown on Page III-76, Chapter III, add the Management Information Handbook codes L16 through L18, that describe the activities for bridge construction and reconstruction. The new management activity should read as follows:

Local Road Construction and Reconstruction (L11, 12, & 13, L16 through L18)

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 Plan and is not a significant amendment.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date



# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 3

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III, Page III-84 (Table III-3)	1	1
Chapter III, Page III-231	1	1
Management Area Map	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) revises the boundary of the Comanche Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Zoological Area (Management Area 10C), Comanche National Grassland, following the designation of this area as a Colorado Natural Area and a part of the Colorado Natural Areas System.

Articles of Designation were approved and agreed to by the Forest Service and the State of Colorado, Department of Natural Resources on February 13, 1987.

Designation as a Colorado Natural Area evidences the desire of the Forest Service and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources that the area be managed to avoid impacts adversely affecting the attributes for which the area is now designated.

Revision of the boundaries to enlarge the area by 892 acres reflects a need to align completely the Comanche Lesser Prairie Chicken Natural Area with the boundaries of Range Allotments 1Ae and 1F while ensuring that the area still contains sufficient acreage of habitat for the lesser prairie chicken, a management indicator species for the Comanche National Grassland in the Forest Plan. The revised boundary contains more habitat than the previous boundary did.

### Amendment Number 3:

This Forest Plan amendment changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in the acreage in two management areas. Management Area 10C (Special Interest Areas) acreage increases by 892 acres. Management Area 4B (Emphasis Is On Habitat For Management Indicator Species) acreage decreases by 892 acres.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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In this amendment, the same area has two names: Comanche Lesser Prairie Chicken Habitat Zoological Area (Forest Plan, Page III-231); and Comanche Lesser Prairie Chicken Natural Area (Colorado Natural Areas designation).

Maps displaying these Management Area changes are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

Management direction as described in the articles of designation and other provisions of the articles of designation are completely consistent with the Forest Plan.

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 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

7/24/87

JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 4

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter II, Page II-39	None	9

### Reason For This Amendment:

The Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) and Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) identified that necessary suitability and capability information for a potential ski area development on Quail Mountain (Leadville District) was not yet determined when the Plan was approved, October 18, 1984 (Forest Plan, Chapter II, Page II-91; FEIS, Volume I, Chapter IV, Pages IV-12 through IV-22 and Volume II, Appendix I).

Physical suitability and capability of Quail Mountain for ski area development was assessed in January 1987 with a finding that the mountain has good exposure, size and adequate snow cover with snowmaking to provide the necessary ingredients for a major development. The purpose of this amendment is to include that assessment in the Forest Plan.

### Amendment Number 4:

To include the suitability and capability assessment for ski area development of Quail Mountain in the Forest Plan, insert the attached assessment after the table, "Average Annual Downhill Skiing Use", Page II-40, Chapter II.

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 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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/2487  
Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Note: this amendment was rescinded 10/5/87 (ref 1920-2-2 FS letter dated 10/5/87)

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 5

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Appendix F	None	10

### Reason For This Amendment:

Forest Plan Appendix F, "Stipulations for Lands Under Jurisdiction of Department of Agriculture", provides management requirements to reduce or eliminate surface impacts to Forest resources for leases and permits issued on National Forest System lands.

Appendix F includes stipulations for Further Planning Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers System lands, classified areas, areas for limited surface use, surface disturbance requirements, surface use requirements, activity coordination requirements and conditional no surface disturbance requirements.

Forest Service Manual 2800 Supplement 25 (FSM 5/86 R-2 Supp. No. 25) requires all National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region (Region-2) to incorporate into their Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) the modified stipulations and supplements contained in Supplement Number 25.

This modification and supplement was made necessary under the terms of the June 19, 1984, Interagency Agreement between the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in response to a request from BLM for reports on mineral leasing requests, recommending or consenting to oil and gas leasing in accordance with applicable authority.

### Amendment Number 5:

To incorporate the modified stipulations and supplements contained in FSM 2800 5/86 R-2 Supplement Number 25 into the Forest Plan, insert the attached 10 page supplement after page 10, Appendix F.

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 Plan and is not a significant amendment.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 6

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III, Page III-81	Section P01	1
Chapter III, Page III-81	Section P09	1
Chapter III, Page III-81-82	Section P11-14 and P15	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

Regional fire management requirements have been changed to provide greater flexibility to the land manager without changing the basic content (Regional Forester's 1920 Letter dated July 8, 1985).

### Amendment Number 6:

This Forest Plan amendment replaces General Direction and Standards and Guidelines under the Fire Planning and Suppression (P01), and Escaped Fire Suppression (P09) management activities (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-81) and replaces General Direction and Standards and Guidelines under the Fuel Treatment (P11 through P14) and Vegetation Treatment by Burning (P15) management activities (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-82).

Management requirements under the Fire Planning and Suppression (P01), and Escaped Fire Suppression (P09) management activities are replaced by:

<b>Management Activity</b>	<b>General Direction</b>	<b>Standards &amp; Guidelines</b>
Fire Protection (P01-14)	Protect life, property and resource values from wildfire in a cost-efficient manner that maximizes the benefits of shared resources and developing technologies (FSM 5100)	a. Planned budgets and programs are based on an analysis of efficiency and public concern.  b. Fiscal year fire program activities are based on a cost-efficient analysis of the budget.  c. Wildfire suppression is based on least cost plus damages with consideration

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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for public concerns.

Management requirements under Fuel Treatment (P11 through 14) and Vegetation Treatment by Burning (P15) are replaced by:

<b>Management Activity</b>	<b>General Direction</b>	<b>Standards &amp; Guidelines</b>
Prescribed Fire (P11-12, 15)	Prescribed fire will be utilized as a vegetative and fuels management technique where it is the most cost efficient and acceptable alternative to achieve management objectives (FSM 5140)	<p>a. A historical record will be maintained with each prescribed fire plan which documents the biological and physical effects and the fire behavior which produced the effects.</p> <p>b. Utilize current technologies to achieve an optimum balance between positive and negative effects, and prevent escaped fires.</p> <p>c. Wildfire suppression is based on least cost plus damages with consideration for public concerns.</p>

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 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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date



# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 7

July 1987

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

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment is necessary because of a Forest Plan Map error found during Plan implementation.

The Forest Plan Map (San Carlos District) needs to be corrected to accurately reflect Forest Plan application of Capability Areas to Management Areas (Forest Plan Appendix E, Allocation of Capability Areas to Management Areas).

There is a discrepancy between the Forest Plan Map and Appendix E for Geographic Area 3894, Capability Area SF060, Number 008 and Management Area 3A in portions of Sections 19, 20, 29 and 30, T.24 S., R.68 W., 6th P.M.

Currently the Map displays this area as a 3A Management Area (Emphasis Is On Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation In Roaded Or Unroaded Areas). The Forest Plan intended that this area have a 2B Management Area Prescription (Emphasis Is On Rural And Roaded-Natural Recreation Opportunities), which reflects management emphasis more suitable for these lands.

### Amendment Number Number 7:

This Forest Plan amendment changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in the acreage in two management areas. Management Area 2B acreage increases by 3,278 acres. Management Area 3A acreage decreases by 3,278 acres.

Maps displaying these Management Area changes are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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 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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 8

July 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Appendix B (Table B-4)	1	1
Appendix B (Table B-5)	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

The Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) incorrectly shows fuelwood products as being a part of the Forest's allowable sale quantity (ASQ) in Forest Plan Appendix B, Determination of Lands Suitable for Timber Production (Appendix B, Tables B-4 and B-5, Pages B-12 and B-13).

The following excerpts from the Forest Service's "Timber Resource Planning" Handbook define the term "allowable sale quantity", and specify which timber products are included in it:

"For timber resource planning purposes, the allowable sale quantity applies to each decade over the planning horizon and includes only chargeable volume. Consistent with the definition of timber production, fuelwood or other non-industrial wood is not included in the allowable sale quantity." (FSH 2409.13)

"The allowable sale quantity includes only those volumes used in the yield projection calculation of the sale schedule for suitable lands (these volumes are chargeable). It may include volume in salvage or mortality sales, but only if included in the yield projection calculations. Conversely, volume not included in the calculation, such as unsound material or any planned sales in unsuitable land, is not part of the ASQ (these volumes are nonchargeable). Where a firm or intermittent market exists for unsound or dead material, the estimated amount of this class of material expected to be available during the Plan period may be shown as additional volume and included in the timber sale program quantity, but it is not a part of the ASQ." (FSH 2409.13)

"Calculations of the ASQ shall include only trees utilized to the standards specified in the Regional Guide. The ASQ includes the volume of all timber products from these trees, to the specified utilization standards. When the product mix is of interest to the wood products industry or others, the corresponding volume components may be identified subsequently in the

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Forest Plan Amendment Number 8

Page 2

Forest Plan. Do not include other material planned for sale in the ASQ; for example, cull material and fuelwood." (FSH 2409.13)

"Consistent with the definition of timber production, planned production of fuelwood is not included in the allowable sale quantity and therefore is nonchargeable." (FSH 2409.13)

### Amendment Number 8:

This Forest Plan amendment corrects information contained in Forest Plan Appendix B. Correct the periodic ASQ (from 10/1/84 to 9/30/94), Appendix B, Table B-4 (Page B-12) by deleting the information in the two columns under the heading "Products (MMCF - Cords)" and changing the totals in the Total Volume column to read the same as in Column 4.

Correct the annual ASQ (from 10/1/84 to 9/30/94), Appendix B, Table B-5 (Page B-13) by deleting the information in the two columns under the heading "Products (MMCF - Cords)" and changing the totals in the Total Volume column to read the same as in Column 4.

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 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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 9

JULY 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Amendment No. 1 (September 23, 1985)	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

September 23, 1985, the Forest Supervisor amended the Forest Plan (Forest Plan Amendment Number 1) to permit identifying annual schedules for planned management activities. Scheduled management activities are displayed in Forest Plan Appendices A, C and D.

I have found it necessary to rescind Forest Plan Amendment Number 1.

Provisions of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219.11 (c)) require that each Forest Plan contain schedules of, "...proposed and probable management practices such as the planned timber sale program", and Forest Service Manual 1922.51 requires, "The Forest Supervisor shall develop and maintain at least a 3-year implementation schedule of proposed and possible projects that normally will be updated annually".

The Regional Forester's 1920 Letter dated April 4, 1987 requires National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region (Region-2) to evaluate all Forest Plan implementation schedules annually and to incorporate needed changes to the schedules as Forest Plan amendments.

The program budget allocations for Fiscal Years 1987 and 1988 (tentative) are 75.59 % and 69.36 %, respectively, of the budget required to fully implement the Forest Plan. The planned timber sale objectives for 1987 and 1988 have been reduced by a commensurate amount from 26 million board feet (MMBF) annually to 17 MMBF for each of those years.

The requirements and budget reductions described in paragraphs three, four and five above make it necessary to rescind Forest Plan Amendment Number 1.

The Forest currently is reviewing Forest Plan implementation schedules and will, later this year, prepare a three year schedule of planned management activities. These schedules will reflect: (1) rescheduling of planned timber sales; (2) updated estimates of

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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volumes and acres to be harvested by timber type and regeneration harvest method; and (3) updated road construction and reconstruction schedules.

Rescheduling of some planned management activities is necessary because of cumulative deviations (during Fiscal Years 1985 and 1986 the Forest cut 17 MMBF and 15 MMBF, respectively. This was below the amount the Forest Plan projected (26 MMBF) would be harvested) from the sale schedule, the need to balance District workloads with budget allocations and available personnel, and a need to provide ample time to complete site specific environmental analysis.

### Amendment Number 9:

This Forest Plan amendment rescinds Amendment Number 1 (approved September 23, 1985).

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 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  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 10

July 1987

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

### Reason For This Amendment:

A need for an assigned utility corridor has been identified in the Environmental Assessment prepared for the proposed Phillips Pipe Line Company Borger-Denver Pipeline Loop 12 inch diameter pipeline on the Comanche National Grassland. This pipeline replaces an existing 8 inch diameter pipeline near Campo, Colorado.

The Forest Plan requires that pipelines, 10 inches or larger, that cross National Forest System lands be within assigned utility corridors (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-104).

There are a number of existing oil and natural gas pipelines, highways, electrical transmission lines and telephone lines that cross the Comanche National Grassland. Assignment of Management Area 1D (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Pages III-103 through III-106) to these lands for the above identified uses and similar future facilities will provide appropriate management guidelines and requirements to ensure protection of other resource values within these corridors. Assignment of utility corridors in the Forest Plan allows for concentration of utility projects and facilities in one designated area of National Forest System lands.

### Amendment No.10:

This amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) and the Forest Plan Map establishes Management Area 1D (Provides for Utility Corridors) for certain National Forest System lands within the Comanche National Grassland. Maps displaying these utility corridors are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

This Forest Plan amendment changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in the acreage in four management areas. Management Area 4B (Emphasis Is On Wildlife Management Indicator Species) acreage decreases by 85 acres; Management Area 6B (Emphasis Is On Livestock Grazing)

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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acreage decreases by 690 acres; Management Area 10C (Special Interest Areas) acreage decreases by 18 acres; and Management Area 1D (Provides For Utility Corridors) increases by 793 acres.

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 Weissing  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

7/24/87  
Date



# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 11

August 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Appendix A	16	7
Forest Plan Map	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

Demand for wood products from National Forest System lands has declined since 1984. During Fiscal Years 1985 and 1986 timber purchasers harvested 17 million board feet (MMBF) and 15 MMBF of wood products, respectively, from the Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

This was below the 26 MMBF average annual harvest projected in the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan).

Because of the declining demand for wood products, it has been necessary to reduce the planned vegetation treatment program and the Forest's budget requests for timber sale activities.

Budget allocations for Fiscal Years 1987 and 1988 are 75.59 percent and 69.36 percent, respectively, of the budget necessary to fully implement planned management activities projected in the Forest Plan for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands.

The Forest's annual timber sale objective has been reduced from 26 MMBF to approximately 17 MMBF.

Available appropriated funding in Fiscal Years 1989 and 1990 is anticipated at near the 1987-1988 reduced levels.

Rescheduling of these planned activities is necessary because of a number of factors including a declining demand for wood products, the need to balance District workloads with budget allocations and available personnel and a need to provide ample time to complete site specific project environmental analysis.

### Amendment Number 11:

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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This amendment of the Forest Plan replaces Appendix A (the Ten-Year Timber Sale Schedule) and establishes a three year schedule of planned vegetation treatment projects.

To incorporate the three year schedule into the Forest Plan, replace previous Appendix A with the attached new appendix.

Amended Appendix A includes rescheduling of planned timber sales and updated estimates of volumes and acres to be harvested by timber type and regeneration harvest method for Fiscal Years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

Maps displaying areas where scheduled vegetation treatment is planned are on file at the Forest Supervisor's office.

There is no absolute assurance that planned activities will occur as shown in the amended schedule. Limitations of preliminary planning estimates, local economic conditions, on-the-ground conditions, demand for wood products, and appropriated funding all affect the Forest's ability to achieve planned vegetation treatment objectives and thus, actual timber sale levels.

During project implementation, when resource management activities listed in amended Appendix A are designed, additional site specific analysis will be conducted. Opportunity for public participation will be provided. Thus, the schedule change represents preliminary intent.

The actual decision to implement or not implement a project will be made after site-specific analysis and public involvement are completed.

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.

I have determined that these changes to Appendix A are not a significant change in the Forest Plan for the following reasons:

1. The amended schedule does not significantly alter the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals for long term land and resource management, nor is the opportunity to achieve vegetation treatment objectives in later years foregone; and
2. The amended schedule represents a short term fluctuation in planned management activities.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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The potential environmental, social and economic effects of implementing the vegetation treatment activities represented in amended Appendix A were documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined that there is no significant effect on the human environment and that categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

August 20, 1987  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 12

October 1987

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Appendix C	3	6

### Reason For This Amendment:

Because of declining demand for wood products from National Forest System lands on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, it has been necessary to reduce planned road construction and reconstruction projects and the Forest's budget requests for timber sale related activities.

Rescheduling of planned transportation system management projects is necessary because of a number of factors including the declining demand for wood products and needed transportation facilities, a need to balance District workloads with budget allocations and available personnel and a need to provide ample time to complete site specific project environmental analysis.

### Amendment Number 12:

This amendment of the Forest Plan replaces Appendix C (the Ten-Year Road Construction/Reconstruction Schedule) and establishes a three year schedule of planned road construction and reconstruction projects. Amended Appendix C includes revised road construction and reconstruction projects for Fiscal Years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

Transportation system needs for timber sale activities and for general purpose and recreation activities are identified in amended Appendix C.

To incorporate the three year schedule into the Forest Plan, replace previous Appendix C with the attached new appendix.

There is no absolute assurance that planned activities will occur as shown in this amended schedule. Limitations of on-the-ground conditions, preliminary planning

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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estimates and appropriated funding all affect the Forest's ability to achieve planned road construction and reconstruction projects.

During project implementation, when transportation system management activities listed in amended Appendix C are designed, additional site specific analysis will be conducted. Opportunity for public participation will be provided. Thus, the schedule change represents preliminary intent. The actual decision to implement or not implement a project will be made after site-specific analysis and public involvement is completed.

In accordance with 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.

I have determined that these changes to Appendix C are not a significant change in the Forest Plan for the following reasons:

1. The amended schedule does not significantly alter the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals for long term land and resource management; and
2. The amended schedule represents a short term fluctuation in planned management activities.

Expected environmental, social and economic effects of implementing planned vegetation management projects and road construction and reconstruction activities represented in amended Appendix C were documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

10/5/87  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## 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:

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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 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 Roaded-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.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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 Roded 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.

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



## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 14

December, 1988

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

### Reason For This Amendment:

The Forest Plan 9A Management Area Prescription (Emphasis Is On Riparian Area Management) assignment along the Cimarron River corridor should be changed in the Cimarron National Grassland in southwestern Kansas. It is necessary to make this change because management requirements of the 9A Prescription do not apply to intermittent, dry stream bed areas. An additional reason is because of an increase in a number of resource uses and increasing numbers of visitors to the Cimarron River corridor.

The Cimarron National Grassland occupies 108,177 acres of public land in Kansas.

The Forest Plan (approved October 18, 1984) assigned Management Area 9A for the lands along the Cimarron River. Since approval of the Plan, further Forest Service studies, consultation with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officials, information gathered at a number of public meetings, personal contacts with National Grassland permittees and Cimarron River recreationists identified that recreational use of the river and lands adjacent to the river has been increasing significantly. A change in management emphasis will provide more suitable management direction and will ensure protection of resource values along the river while permitting appropriate levels of recreation activities in the river corridor.

In addition to the prescription change a Recreation and Travel Management Guide for the Cimarron River corridor is being prepared, with public and interest group participation. The Guide, when implemented, will ensure a reasonable level of use of the corridor as well as protection for all resources along the river.

Assignment of Management Areas 2B (Rural and Roaded-Natural Recreation Opportunities) and 4B (Wildlife Habitat For Management Indicator Species) prescriptions for these lands and the Recreation and Travel Management Guide will

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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greatly enhance the District's ability to properly management all resources along the Cimarron River.

### Amendment No. 14:

This Forest Plan amendment 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 9A acreage (mapped) on the Forest Plan Map will decrease by 10,290 acres; Management Area 2B acreage will increase by 2,430 acres; and, Management Area 4B acreage will increase by 7,860 acres.

The changes on the Forest Plan Management Area Map (Cimarron National Grassland portion) are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

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 assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissing  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

12/9/88  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 16

January, 1989

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Appendix A	16	8
Forest Plan Appendix C	3	6

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment of the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands is necessary so that three year schedules of planned timber sales and road construction and reconstruction activities can be established and Appendix A (the Ten-Year Timber Sale Schedule) and Appendix C (the Ten-Year Road Construction/Reconstruction Schedule) can be revised.

Rescheduling of planned vegetation treatment projects and transportation system management activities is necessary because of a number of factors including changing demands for wood products and needed transportation facilities, a need to balance District workloads with available personnel and budget allocations and a need to provide ample time for completion of site specific project environmental analysis, including providing appropriate opportunity for public notice and involvement during planning activities.

Forest Plans shall contain a 3-year implementation schedule of proposed and possible projects (FSM 1920, Region-2 Supplement No. 8, 3/86). Annually Forest Supervisors shall evaluate all existing Forest Plan Implementation Schedules. Needed changes to the implementation schedules shall be incorporated as an amendment to the Forest Plan (FSH 1909.12, Region-2 Supplement No. 1, 8/88).

### Amendment Number 16:

This amendment of the Forest Plan replaces Appendix A (the Ten-Year Timber Sale Schedule) and Appendix C (the Ten-Year Road Construction/reconstruction Schedule) and establishes three year schedules of planned vegetation treatment projects and planned road construction and reconstruction projects.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Amended Appendix A includes rescheduling of planned timber sales and updated estimates of volumes and acres to be harvested by timber type and regeneration harvest method for Fiscal

Years 1989, 1990 and 1991. Planned levels of harvest are expected to achieve the allowable sale quantity for the Forest as identified in the Forest Plan.

Amended Appendix C includes revised road construction and reconstruction projects for Fiscal Years 1989, 1990 and 1991. Transportation system needs for planned timber sale activities and for general purpose and recreation activities are identified in amended Appendix C. To incorporate these three year schedules into the Forest Plan, replace previous Appendices A and C with the attached new appendices.

There is no absolute assurance that planned activities will occur as shown in these amended schedules. Limitations of on-the-ground conditions, preliminary planning estimates, local economic conditions, demand for wood products and appropriated funding all affect the Forest's ability to achieve planned timber sales (and thus, actual timber sale levels) and planned road construction and reconstruction projects.

When resource management activities listed in amended Appendices A and C are designed, additional site specific analysis will be conducted. Opportunity for public participation in the planning process will be provided. Thus, these schedules represent preliminary intent. The actual decision to implement or not implement any project will be made after site specific analysis and public involvement are completed.

In accordance with 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.

The amended schedules do not significantly alter the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals for long term land and resource management.

Anticipated environmental, social and economic effects of implementing planned vegetation treatment projects and road construction and reconstruction activities represented in amended Appendices A and C were documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

1/3/89  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 17

January, 1989

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
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.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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 assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

1/3/89  
Date



# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 18

January, 1989

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

### Reason For This Amendment:

A need for an assigned 1D Management Area Prescription (Provides For Utility Corridors) has been identified in the Environmental Assessment prepared for the proposed Methodist Mountain electronic communications site, Salida District, San Isabel National Forest.

The Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) requires that all fixed telecommunication electronic sites be within 1D Management Areas (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page III-104).

Assignment of Management Area 1D (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Pages III-103 through III-106) to the affected National Forest System lands will provide appropriate management guidelines and requirements to ensure protection of other resource values in the area. Assignment of this prescription allows for concentration of utility projects and facilities in one designated area of National Forest System lands.

### Amendment Number 18:

This amendment of the Forest Plan and the Forest Plan Map establishes Management Area 1D for certain National Forest System lands atop Methodist Mountain (located in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 31, T.49N., R.9E., New Mexico Principal Meridian), within the Salida District, San Isabel National Forest.

This Forest Plan amendment changes Management Area Summary Table III-3 (Forest Plan, Chapter III, Page 84), to show a change in the acreage in two management areas. Management Area 2A (Emphasis Is On Semiprimitive Motorized recreation Opportunities) acreage decreases by 53 acres; Management Area 1D acreage increases by 53 acres.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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In accordance with 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 assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

1/3/89  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 19

March 1989

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
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 Dry Union Gulch area, Leadville Ranger District, San Isabel National Forest needs to be changed.

The Forest Plan Map (Dry Union Gulch 7D Management Area, Sections 3 through 9 and 16 through 21, T. 10 S., R. 79 W., and Sections 1, 11 through 14, 24 and 25, T. 10 S., R. 80 W., 6th P.M.) should be changed to a 5B Management Area (Emphasis Is On Big Game Winter Range) to provide more appropriate management emphasis and to allow better suited management activities for these National Forest System lands.

Field examination and study has determined that the Dry Union Gulch 7D Management Area should be changed to a 5B Management Area, primarily because of extensive utilization of the area by wildlife as winter and transitional (spring and fall) range. These National Forest System lands are better suited for big game winter range and additional winter range needs to be improved and maintained in the area. During the past few years, management emphasis and activities have been oriented to meet wildlife objectives rather than production of forest products

### Amendment Number 19:

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 5,114 acres. Management Area 7D acreage decreases by 5,114 acres.

Maps displaying these Management Area assignment changes are on file at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

3/2/89  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 20

December, 1989

### Page Code Superseded    New

Forest Plan Appendix A	8	11
Forest Plan Appendix C	6	4

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment of the Forest Plan is necessary to maintain the three-year schedules of planned timber sales and road construction and road reconstruction activities (Forest Plan Appendices A and C) on the Forest.

Annual scheduling of planned vegetation treatment projects and transportation system management activities is necessary because of a number of factors including: changing demands for wood products and needed transportation facilities; a need to balance District workloads with available personnel and budget allocations; and, a need to provide ample time for completion of site-specific project environmental analysis, including providing appropriate opportunity for public notice and involvement during planning activities.

### Amendment Number 20:

This amendment of the Forest Plan replaces Forest Plan Amendment Number 16 (the Three-Year Timber Sale Schedule and the Three-Year Road Construction and Reconstruction Schedule) which was approved January 3, 1989.

Amended Appendix A includes rescheduling of planned timber sales for Fiscal Years 1990, 1991 and 1992. Amended Appendix C includes revised road construction and reconstruction projects for Fiscal Years 1990, 1991 and 1992.

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

The amended schedules do not significantly alter the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals for long term land and resource management. Anticipated environmental, social and economic effects of implementing planned vegetation treatment projects and road construction and reconstruction activities represented in amended Appendices A and C

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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were documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

When resource management activities listed in amended Appendices A and C are designed, additional site-specific analysis will be conducted. Opportunity for public participation in the planning process will be provided. Thus, these schedules represent preliminary intent. The actual decision to implement or not implement any project will be made after site-specific analysis and public involvement are completed.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined that there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217 (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 13, January 23, 1989, pages 3357 to 3362). Any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR Part 217.9, Content of Notice of Appeal, including the reasons for appeal and must be filed with Regional Forester Gary Cargill, 11177 West 8th Avenue, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225, with a concurrent copy to the Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, 1920 Valley Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008, within 45 days of the date of this decision.

/s/ JackWeissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

12/6/89  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 21

June, 1990

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter II, Page II-42		1
Chapter III, Page III-3		1
Chapter III, Page III-27		1
Appendix J		1

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment is necessary because of designation of the Scenic Highway of Legends as a Scenic Byway on February 8, 1990, by Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson. It is necessary to add Appendix J to the Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan) to include the formal Scenic Byway designation sheet signed by the Chief.

### Amendment Number 21:

This amendment updates the Forest Plan to identify the Scenic Highway of Legends as a Scenic Byway on the San Carlos Ranger District, San Isabel National Forest.

Include the following paragraph under the heading, Special Recreation Areas, Chapter II, Page II-42:

"Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic Byway. The Scenic Highway of Legends is an 82 mile route in south central Colorado, just north of the New Mexico border and includes 68 miles of Colorado Highway 12 from Interstate 25 in Trinidad to the junction with U.S. Highway 160 and 14 miles of U.S. Highway 160 through Walsenburg and returning to I-25. Seven miles of the route are within the San Carlos Ranger District, San Isabel National Forest; seventy-five miles of the route are under the jurisdiction of the Colorado Division of Highways. This semi-circular route around Spanish Peaks travels through two valleys of extraordinary scenic beauty and historic interest. The Purgatory River Valley west from Trinidad includes examples of igneous volcanic dykes, the well known "stonewalls" which radiate outward from the Spanish Peaks. The area includes historic coal mining towns of Cokedale, Tercio, Torres, and Segundo. Following the climb to the summit of Cucharas Pass, the descent into Cuchara Valley reaches the picturesque towns of La Veta and Cuchara and thence to U.S. Highway 160 and I-25 at Walsenburg completing the 82 mile route."

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Incorporate into the Forest Plan the following goal for the Scenic Byway Program after the heading, GOALS, Chapter III, Page III-3:

Manage a Scenic Byways Program to: contribute to the Nations's overall Scenic Byways effort; meet the demand of driving for pleasure as a significant recreation use; showcase outstanding National Forest and National Grassland scenery; and, increase awareness, understanding and use of National Forests for outdoor recreation for all users and visitors.

Add new Forest Direction for Scenic Byway management to the Forest Plan. Insert in Chapter III, Page III-27, new management requirements which read as follows:

<b>Management Activity</b>	<b>General Direction</b>	<b>Standards &amp; Guidelines</b>
Scenic Byway Management	01 Upon Scenic Highway designation, prepare a Scenic Byway management plan and viewshed plan for the Byway corridor as seen from the Byway. Consider the following planning criteria for Corridor Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Determine public desires for the Scenic Byway.</li> <li>b. Include a vegetation management plan (see RF's 2370/7770 Ltr, dated 02/12/90).</li> <li>c. Determine permanent and moving vista locations.</li> <li>d. Determine need for recreation facilities to serve the Scenic Byway users.</li> <li>e. Prepare an interpretive plan reflecting interpretation of natural features, history and other pertinent aspects of the Scenic Bysay.</li> <li>f. Include partnership agreements with other Federal agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals in an implementation plan (see RF's 2370/7700 Ltr, dated 2/12/90).</li> </ul> 02 Upon Scenic Highway designation,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Follow nomination procedures for Scenic Byway designation in the Regional Forester's 2370/7700 Letter of February 12, 1990.</li> <li>b. Maintain Scenic Byway corridors generally within ½ mile either side of the Byway centerline, but also including related natural features and historical and recreation sites wthin convenient driving distance.</li> </ul> Prepare Viewshed



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

---

prepare a Scenic Byway Viewshed Management Plan for the Scenic Byway corridor. Consider the following planning criteria for Scenic Byway Viewshed Management Plans:

- a. Prepare a map of the viewshed boundaries.
- b. Include Visual Quality Objectives for the Byway corridor
- c. Prepare Viewshed Monitoring Plan.

analysis to determine where enhancement is appropriate  
Prepare Enhancement Action Plan for implementation.

Insert the attached new Appendix J following Appendix I in the Forest Plan. (Appendix J includes the formal designation sheet signed by Chief F. Dale Robertson.)

The Forest Plan map will be modified when it is next printed to show the Scenic Highway of Legends Scenic Byway with a shaded corridor along the route described above. The Forest Plan Map legend will be modified to include a Scenic Byway symbol (the shaded corridor) with the designation of "Scenic Byway".

I have determined that there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

6/11/90  
Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### **APPENDIX J**

(designation sheet signed by Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson)

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 22

October, 1990

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Appendix A	11	9
Forest Plan Appendix C	4	5

### Reason For This Amendment:

This amendment of the Forest Plan is necessary to maintain the three-year schedules of planned timber sales and road construction and road reconstruction activities (Forest Plan Appendices A and C) on the Forest.

Annual scheduling of planned vegetation treatment projects and transportation system management activities is necessary because of a number of factors including: changing demands for wood products and needed transportation facilities; a need to balance District workloads with available personnel and budget allocations; and, a need to provide ample time for completion of site-specific project environmental analysis, including providing appropriate opportunity for public notice and involvement during planning activities.

### Amendment Number 22:

This amendment of the Forest Plan replaces Forest Plan Amendment Number 20 (the Three-Year Timber Sale Schedule and the Three-Year Road Construction and Reconstruction Schedule) which was approved December 6, 1989.

Amended Appendix A includes rescheduling of planned timber sales for Fiscal Years 1991, 1992 and 1993. Amended Appendix C includes revised road construction and reconstruction projects for Fiscal Years 1991, 1992 and 1993.

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

The amended schedules do not significantly alter the Forest Plan's multiple-use goals for long term land and resource management. Anticipated environmental, social and economic effects of implementing planned vegetation treatment projects and road construction and reconstruction activities represented in amended Appendices A and C

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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were documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement which accompanied the Forest Plan.

When resource management activities listed in amended Appendices A and C are designed, additional site-specific analysis will be conducted. Opportunity for public participation in the planning process will be provided. Thus, these schedules represent preliminary intent. The actual decision to implement or not implement any project will be made after site-specific analysis and public involvement are completed.

Therefore, because of the above, I have determined that there is no significant effect on the human environment and categorically excluding this amendment from documentation in an environmental assessment or impact statement is appropriate (FSM 1952.2).

The decision on this amendment is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR Part 217 (Federal Register, Vol. 54, No. 13, January 23, 1989, pages 3357 to 3362). Any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR Part 217.9, Content of Notice of Appeal, including the reasons for appeal and must be filed with Regional Forester Gary Cargill, 11177 West 8th Avenue, P.O. Box 25127, Lakewood, CO 80225, with a concurrent copy to the Forest Supervisor, USDA Forest Service, 1920 Valley Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008, within 45 days from the day following publication of notice of this amendment in the Pueblo Chieftain at Pueblo, Colorado.

Anyone who is concerned about these schedules, is encouraged to first see if concerns or misunderstandings may be clarified or resolved before submitting an appeal. I and my staff will appreciate an opportunity to work with you. Our telephone number is (719) 545-8737.

/s/ Jack Weissling  
JACK WEISSLING  
Forest Supervisor

10/4/90  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 23

(February, 1992)

### Reason For This Amendment:

The ROD for the Forest Plan allows oil and gas leasing on most lands under the Unit's administration. Agency regulations implementing the 1987 Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act identified new requirements for a Forest-wide Leasing Analysis. The Leasing Analysis has been completed and the resulting decisions are being incorporated into the Forest Plan.

Section II B. of the Oil and Gas Leasing ROD contains detailed discussions of how the leasing stipulations in this Forest Plan Amendment will be applied once a lease application is received. Appendices C, D and E of the FEIS discuss various maps that are necessary for understanding how the stipulations that constitute a portion of the Forest Plan amendment will be applied.

### Significance

This Amendment does not alter any of the long-term relationships between the level of goods and services projected by the Forest Plan, as disclosed in the Oil and Gas Leasing FEIS. It is, therefore, a non-significant amendment based on the definition in 36 CFR 219.10(f) and will be approved by the Forest Supervisor as part of the decision associated with the Oil and Gas Leasing FEIS.

### Implementation

The decision will be implemented upon public notice. This Decision Notice is public notice and will be sent to all those who have requested notice of Forest Plan amendments and those who have participated in the Oil and Gas Leasing analysis efforts. The Decision will be published in newspapers of record on the Unit.

This Forest Plan Amendment consists of four parts:

- Forest-wide Management Requirements
- Management Area Prescriptions
- Standard Lease Terms, Lease Notices and Supplemental Stipulations
- Stipulation Base Map

### Forest-wide Management Requirements

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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The Forest-wide management requirements, or General Direction, under Management Activity “Minerals Management – Oil, Gas and Geothermal (G02 and 4),” on pages III-54 through III-61 in the Forest Plan will be changed to incorporate the Leasing Availability decisions in the ROD. These changes incorporate the supplemental stipulations and discretionary no lease applied in the ROD.

Superseded Pages

New Pages

III-55 through 61

III-55a through d  
III-56 through 59  
III-60a through d  
III-61

### Management Area Prescriptions

Management Prescription Summary, General Direction and Goals, for Management Areas 1A, Developed Recreation Sites; 1B2, Potential Ski Areas, 4D, Aspen Management; and 7B, Wood Fiber – Other Products, are changed to add the following statement:

Mineral and energy resource activities are generally compatible with the goals of this management area subject to appropriate stipulations provided in Management Activities G000-G07 in Forest Direction.

Superseded Pages

New Pages

III-76, 86, 144, 179

III-76, 86, 144, 179

### Standard Lease Terms, Lease Notices and Supplemental Stipulations

Appendix F in the Forest Plan (Stipulations for Lands Under the Jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture) and Amendment 5, dated July 24, 1987, will be replaced by the stipulations, lease notices and standard lease terms applied by the Oil and Gas Leasing ROD.

Superseded Pages

New Pages

F-3 through 8  
Amendment 5, dated July 24, 1987

F-3 through 19  
remove

### Stipulation Base Map

The ½-inch per mile map displaying the availability determinations made in the Oil and Gas Leasing ROD is appended to the Forest Plan as a part of this decision. The Stipulation Base Map is included in the FIES as Appendix D and represents the site-

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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specific information disclosed on the working maps that will be used in implementation. The working maps (quads) will be maintained at the Forest Supervisor, Ranger District, and State BLM offices. The use of these maps is described in section IV of the Oil and Gas Leasing ROD.

/s/ Jack Weissling

JACK WEISSLING

Forest Supervisor

Feb 12 1992

Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 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".



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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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

4/9/92

Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Forest Supervisor

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 25

(September 27, 1994)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superceded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Map (North Portion)	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to issue a special use permit to Public Service Company of Colorado to construct and operate an electric transmission line on National Forest System lands between Divide and Lake George. Accordingly, the Forest Plan is being amended to show a utility corridor embracing the selected route over National Forest System lands.

### Amendment Number 25:

The north portion of the Forest Plan Map is modified to show the newly-established utility corridor. See the attached sheet for the corridor's location.

Table III-3 on page III-84 is modified to show a new total of 8,008 acres of Management Area 1D (Utility Corridor). This figure results from adding 1,401 acres to the previous total of 6,607 acres.

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

September 27, 1994  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 26

(March 22, 2000)

### Page Code

III-90 and 204

### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to amend the Adopted Visual Quality Objective within the Ski Cooper permit area. The reason for the amendment is to correct an impractical situation caused by the unit-wide VQO for riparian areas, which is Partial Retention. This standard is not practical when it conflicts with ski area layout issues. Thus the reason for the amendment.

### Amendment Number 25:

P. III-90 (Management Area 1B-1, Winter Sports Sites). Add Standard & Guideline 01-c to Visual Resource Management:

- c. Within the special use permit area at Ski Cooper, the Adopted Visual Quality Objective for all lands, including riparian areas, is Modification.

P. III-204 (Management Area 9A, Riparian Areas). Add Standard & Guideline 01-b to Visual Resource Management:

- b. Within the special use permit area at Ski Cooper, the Adopted Visual Quality Objective for all lands, including riparian areas, is Modification.

/s/ Abigail R. Kimbell

ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL  
Forest Supervisor

March 22, 2000

Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 27

(February 2, 2001)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Supceded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Map (North Portion)	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to establish the Stanley Canyon Expansion of the Northfield Multi-User Electronic Site. The Northfield site has been in existence for many years and lies on National Forest system land within the Pike National Forest in El Paso County just west of the United States Air Force Academy. Accordingly, the Forest Plan is being amended to show the Stanley Canyon expansion.

### Amendment Number 25:

The north portion of the Forest Plan Map is modified to show the newly-established expansion. See the attached sheet for the site's location.

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

/s/ William A. Wood, for  
Abigail R. Kimbell  
Forest Supervisor

February 2, 2001  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendment No. 28

August 2, 2001

Page Code

Supceded New

### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to modify the suitable timber base and certain standards and guidelines within portions of the area Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project. The reason for the change is to make possible the project's desirable outcomes.

### Amendment Number 28:

This amendment modified the Forest Plan by removing approximately 4,000 acres in the Upper South Platte Watershed from the Forest's suitable timber base to allow cutover areas to indefinitely persist as openings; and to modify the elk and mule deer thermal cover standards and guidelines under forest direction and management prescription 4B for areas generally below 7,500 feet in the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds to provide more sustainable forest conditions and diverse wildlife habitat while maintaining at least 5 percent of the area in thermal cover for elk and mule deer. See attached for more detail.

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

/s/ William A. Wood, for  
Abigail R. Kimbell  
Forest Supervisor

August 2, 2001  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

### AMENDMENT 28

July 2001

This document amends the Forest Plan (USFS 1984). It includes the current Forest Plan standards, the amendments to the standards, rationale for the amendment, and determination of significance.

### FOREST VEGETATION

#### **Current Forest Plan Standard and Guidelines**

The Forest Plan, page III-47-50, identifies the general direction and the standards and guidelines associated with reforestation. The general direction is to establish a satisfactory stand on cutover areas within five years of final harvest. Permanent openings that serve specific management objectives are excluded. Ponderosa pine sites are required to have at least 190 seedlings per acre within five years of a final harvest.

#### **Amendment For The Upper South Platte Watershed**

This Forest Plan Amendment allows up to 25% of the vegetation treatment areas identified in the *Environmental Assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* (USFS 2000) to persist indefinitely on sites that were historically openings. Sixty percent of these openings will retain approximately 5-10% canopy closure while the remaining openings would have no canopy maintained. The openings will be located on southerly and westerly aspects that historically maintained persistent openings. The typical opening size will be 5 acres with the largest persistent opening being 40 acres. The field-identified locations will be mapped using a Global Positioning System and classified as "Administratively Not Suitable for Timber Production." Approximately 4,000 acres will be removed from the Forest's suitable timber base. The forest area capable, available, and suitable for timber production would be decreased from 581,550 acres (Forest Plan, Appendix B) to approximately 577,550 acres. These areas will not be reforested and will no longer contribute to the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for the Forest.

#### **Reason For This Amendment**

Created openings in the Upper South Platte Watershed need to persist for decades with little or no regeneration. Regeneration functions as ladder fuels that allow surface fires to become crown fires. Crown fires are not characteristic in the ponderosa pine type and the

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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ecosystem is poorly adapted for these types of fires. The persistent openings will help restore a missing component in the landscape and provide more sustainable and heterogeneous forest conditions similar to the historic landscape. This amendment is consistent with Dr. Merrill Kaufmann's research findings near Cheesman Lake.

The created openings need to be removed from the Forest's suitable timber base to be excluded from the National Forest Management Act's reforestation requirement. The 4,000-acre reduction from the timber base represents less than 0.7% of the Forest's existing suitable timber base (581,550 acres). The areas that would be removed are low productivity sites and would not have much effect on the Forest's ASQ.

### ELK AND MULE DEER THERMAL COVER

#### Current Forest Plan Standard and Guidelines

Forest Direction: Maintain 20 percent of the diversity unit in thermal cover (winter or spring-summer). (Forest Plan page III-33)

Management Prescription 4B: Maintain 30 percent of the diversity unit in thermal cover (winter or spring-summer). (Forest Plan page III-138)

#### Amendment For The Upper South Platte Watershed

The following replaces the current Forest Plan standards and guidelines under forest direction and management prescription 4B for diversity units below 7,500 feet elevation within the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds:

Manage vegetation to provide more sustainable forest conditions and diverse wildlife habitat while maintaining 5 percent of the area in thermal cover for elk and mule deer.

This applies to all diversity units with at least 50% of the area below 7,500 feet elevation within the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds.

#### Reason For This Amendment

This amendment is necessary to provide improved Management Direction and Standards and Guidelines for creating forest conditions that are more sustainable and achievable while providing for the cover needs of deer and elk within the project area. In 1989, the Forest Service drafted an amendment to the Forest Plan to address this same issue, however it was never finalized (USFS 1989). The 1989 draft amendment recognized that the rigid definitions of cover for elk and mule deer for all of the Pike and San Isabel National Forest was not achievable.

This amendment addresses only areas generally below 7,500 feet within the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds. The forest vegetation conditions in these subwatersheds were analyzed in the *Landscape Assessment Upper South Platte Watershed* (Foster Wheeler Environmental 1999) and the *Environmental Assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* (USFS 2000). These analyses indicate that research on Denver Water's Cheesman Lake property is



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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applicable to the forest vegetation in the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds.

This amendment allows for managing toward more sustainable forest conditions in the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds and is consistent with most wildlife goals in the Forest Plan. The desired landscape conditions will result in more heterogeneous natural landscapes with diverse habitats that are sustainable over the long-term benefiting elk, mule deer, and other wildlife. The objective is to manage vegetation toward forest conditions that are sustainable and similar to presettlement conditions.

Before logging, grazing, and fire suppression, ponderosa pine stands within these subwatersheds were less dense, more open, and less vulnerable to diseases, insects, and large intense wildfires (Veblen et al. 2000). The desired landscape conditions are not intended to completely restore historic forest conditions in the subwatersheds, but to create conditions over part of the landscape that are similar to those present before settlement. Historically, the forest likely provided much less thermal cover for elk and mule deer than what is present today.

Thermal cover for elk and mule deer has been generally defined as 70 percent or greater crown closure (Hoover and Wills 1987). At current conditions, thermal cover in the winter range of these species in the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds are 5 and 8 percent for mule deer and elk, respectively. Thermal cover in both winter and summer range below about 7,500 feet within these subwatersheds is 9 percent. This is far less than the 20 and 30 percent thermal cover standards. The current forest and elk and mule deer habitat conditions are not sustainable. It would be extremely difficult to manage the ponderosa pine/Douglas fir forest within these subwatersheds to achieve the 20 or 30 percent thermal cover standards for a short period (20 years) and likely impossible over the long-term (100+ years) for reasons discussed below. The thermal cover definition was based primarily on empirical habitat studies in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington (Thomas 1979) where the forest ecosystem is very different from the ponderosa pine forests in the Waterton/Deckers subwatersheds. The Blue Mountain forests are much more dense with larger trees and support a greater number tree species. This is because the soils are more productive and the climate is wetter. In contrast, the subwatersheds are much drier with unproductive decomposed granite soils with low moisture retention capacity. As a result, the subwatersheds are not capable of supporting dense stands of large trees, and thus cannot produce 70 percent crown closure over 20 percent or more of the area like in the Blue Mountains. It is also not feasible to manage the subwatershed forests to create canopy closures similar to those in the Blue Mountain forests. Even Thomas et al. (1979) indicated that ponderosa pine stands in the Blue Mountains are also not capable of meeting this standard. They wrote “where ponderosa pine stands are used for thermal cover, it is especially rare to find canopy closures approaching 70 percent.” Because thermal cover has little practical relevance for reasons discussed below there is no practical reason to increase tree density to meet the 20 or 30 percent thermal cover standards.

*The Environmental Assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* (USFS 2000) showed that managing vegetation toward the desired

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

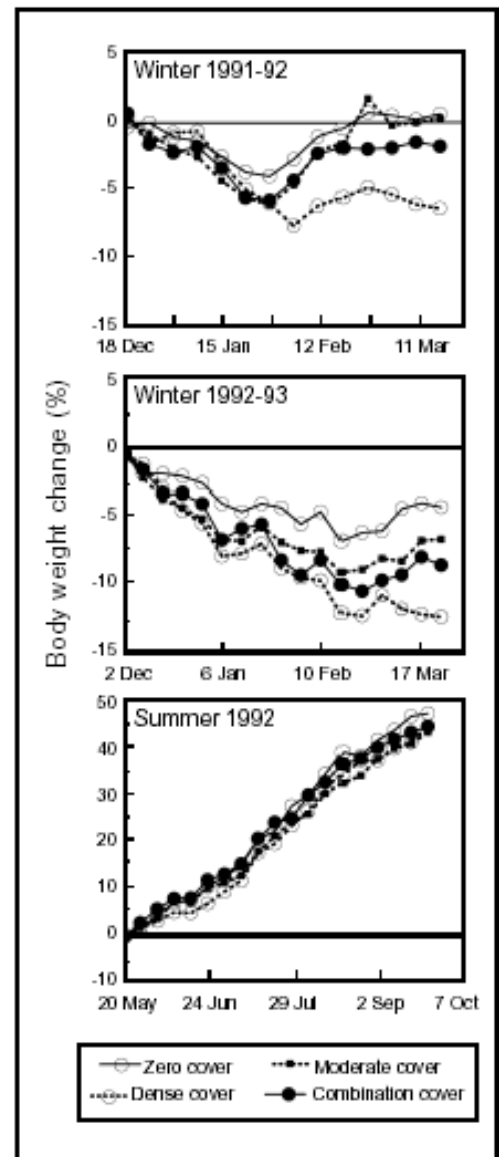
Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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landscape conditions in the Waterton/Deckers and Horse Creek subwatersheds may slightly decrease or not change existing thermal cover in deer and elk winter ranges to 5 to 7 percent, respectively. It will decrease thermal cover to 8 percent in both summer and winter ranges within all diversity units below 7,500 feet in these subwatersheds. However, the project would reduce the potential for losing the remaining thermal cover to large-scale high intensity fires or insect-related mortality, thus indirectly benefiting deer and elk. The habitat capability calculated by the HABCAP model predicted that managing vegetation toward the desired landscape conditions would increase elk and mule deer overall winter habitat capability. More browse would be available to these species to sustain them through the winter.

**General Elk and Deer Thermal Cover Thermal Cover Requirements.** Many studies provided empirical evidence that free ranging ungulates occasionally use dense forest stands out of proportion to their availability. Several study areas indicate that elk use all available habitats at one time or another, but are much more selective during periods of stress (Lyon et al. 1985). In Montana, elk on winter range continuously seek the most moderate ambient weather conditions, and other factors influencing habitat selection are secondary (Beall 1973). In winter, elk move between foraging and bedding sites in response to changing ambient temperatures, increasing snow depths, and to enhance control of body temperature. Similarly, on summer range, Lyon (1979) concluded that maintenance of relatively constant body temperature “may be comparable to feeding as a daily preoccupation for elk.” Elk may use more open areas during spring green-up (Edge et al. 1987). During hot summer months, elk seek shaded, cool habitats (Leege 1984). Elk studies in the Blue Mountains of Washington and Oregon estimated optimal thermal cover for elk to be 10 to 20% of the occupied range (Thomas et al. 1979).

Mule deer are most likely to be found in open forested regions or on the plains and prairies (Snyder 1991b). Mule deer seek shelter at lower elevations when snows become deep. In open prairie regions mule deer tend to concentrate in river breaks and brushy stream bottoms (Mackie et al. 1987). The optimal amount of thermal cover has been estimated to be 10 to 20% of a deer’s use area (Hoover and Willis 1984; Snyder 1991b; Thomas et al. 1979). Optimal winter ranges would contain thermal cover consisting of evergreen trees of at least pole-sapling stage, with 75% or greater canopy closure. The best summer and spring thermal



*Weight dynamics of elk, expressed as a percentage of beginning body weight, over the first summer and two winter experiments of the study.*

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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cover is often made up of deciduous trees or shrubs. Optimal summer thermal cover is 75% or greater canopy closure for saplings or shrubs greater than 5 feet tall or 60% or greater canopy closure where trees are pole-size or larger (Hoover and Willis 1984).

**Significance of Thermal Cover Based on Science.** Cook et al. (1998) recently tested the sheltering effect of thermal cover to enhance condition of elk during summer and winter. They found no significant positive effect on condition of elk during any of four winter-long experiments and two summer-long experiments. In fact, during winter, they showed that the dense cover units actually provided the most costly energetic environments and the clearcuts the least (see figure). These results suggest dense thermal cover could have a negative effect. During summer, Cook et al. (1998) also found no indication that elk performance was influenced in any way by forest cover treatments, despite high summer temperatures (see figure). Other researchers have also found elk to be surprisingly tolerant of high summer temperatures (Cook et al. 1998).

This study also concluded that enhanced performance of elk with little or no thermal cover in winter was due to the greater levels of solar radiation flux and that potential energetic benefits of thermal cover (from reduced windspeed, elevated nocturnal temperature, and long-wave radiation flux during winter, and shading from solar radiation in summer) were negligible in respect to the thermoregulatory capabilities of elk. This is because large ungulates are well adapted to deal with climatic stresses, and apparently under various vegetative covers. (PNWRS 2000). The results suggest the weather-moderating effects of forest cover are too small, occur too infrequently, or are too variable to have significant effects.

The lack of significant positive benefits of thermal cover during this study is consistent with every other study of thermal cover influences on large wild ungulates conducted under rigorous scientific conditions (PNWRS 2000). Swift et al. (1980) and Hobbs (1989) concluded that thermal cover had negligible influences on ungulates during winter, based on simulation models. Hobbs (1989) indicated that forage conditions, during or before winter, exerted greater effects on overwinter survival of mule deer than did thermal cover. Riggs et al. (1993) suggested that events must increase cumulative expenditures of energy reserves such that survival and/or reproductive rates are reduced. If such events do not occur, then thermal cover has little practical relevance.

**Importance of Forage Versus Thermal Cover.** Thermal cover and forage resources both address energy balance but from different perspectives: dietary energy levels and forage abundance control intake rates of energy whereas thermal cover has been perceived to reduce the rate of net energy loss (Cook et al. 1998). The effects of nutrition on animal performance have been well established. Quality, quantity, and distribution of forage directly affect carrying capacity of ungulates. The nutritional needs during summer and fall are especially important because of the high nutritional demands prior to winter. In contrast, similar effects have not been documented for thermal cover. In fact, the preponderance of evidence currently does not support the hypothesis that thermal cover is a significant habitat attribute necessary for the well-being of ungulates (Cook et al. 1998).

The inverse relation between forage production and forest overstory canopy is well documented. Providing large areas of thermal cover therefore could reduce nutritional

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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carrying capacity and herbivore performance. The practical importance of nutrition is far more important than thermal cover in the productivity of ungulate herds. The energy saved through protection via thermal cover is negligible compared to the energy taken in through nutrition. The energetic benefits of thermal cover are considered inconsequential, thus leaving forage effects as the primary mechanism through which habitat influences individual performance (PNWRS 2000).

**Significance of Thermal Cover to Land Management.** Various thermal cover studies (Robinson 1960; Gilbert and Bateman 1983; Freddy 1984, 1985, 1986; Cook et al. 1998) offer strong evidence that influences of thermal cover on animal performance and population dynamics is rarely of consequence. Because thermal cover has little relevance to herd productivity or demographics, thermal cover considerations should be relegated low priority relative to other habitat values (Cook et al. 1998). In fact, if thermal cover has little practical relevance, then land management aimed at providing thermal cover is unnecessary and even counterproductive from the standpoint of long-term management (Riggs et al. 1993). In contrast, the effects of nutrition on animal performance have been well established. Long-recognized inverse relations between forage production and forest canopy closure indicate that decisions that emphasize thermal cover over food production can reduce forage production and, in turn, ungulate carrying capacity. Therefore, land management decisions relative to ungulates should place much greater emphasis on forage quantity and quality compared to thermal cover (Cook et al. 1998).

**Importance of Thermal Cover in the Project Area.** Winters in the lower portions of the subwatersheds are relatively mild. Snow depths are not considered limiting to elk or deer. Average maximum snow depths for each month between September and May ranges between 1.2 inches and 6.3 inches near Cheesman Lake and between 0.2 inches and 11.6 inches near Strontia Springs Reservoir. The snows typically melt quickly, particularly on south-facing slopes. In severe winter areas, snow depths greater than 18 inches typically restrict deer winter ranges. Snow depths greater than 12 inches begin to reduce the winter range (USFWS 1982). Elk typically avoid sites with snow accumulations in excess of 18 inches. Because snow accumulations are low in the project area, the value that cover provides for intercepting snow is of negligible value to elk and mule deer.

Winter temperatures in the subwatersheds average 30 degrees F. This is slightly cooler than average winter temperatures (36 degrees F) for the study area evaluated in the thermal cover study (Cook et al 1998) discussed above. Eric Cole, (Habitat Biologist, National Elk Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. com., June 25, 2001), indicated that winter temperatures need to be sustained below -20 degrees F before thermal cover becomes important for protecting elk. Then, elk tend to only seek refuge during the most severe winter storms. He stated that “winter thermal cover is a non-issue” for the lower areas in the subwatersheds because of the mild winter temperatures. Summer temperatures in the project area average 62 degrees F, slightly cooler than average summer temperatures (66 degrees F) for the thermal cover study (Cook et al 1998) discussed above. Because summer temperatures are relatively cool, dense thermal cover in the project area has negligible value for protecting ungulates from summer heat.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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The Colorado Division of Wildlife has also indicated that dense thermal cover does not appear to be as important as was previously thought (Janet George, NE Region Terrestrial Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife, pers. com., Nov. 21, 2000). The lower portions of the subwatersheds, where elk and mule deer are likely to congregate during severe winters, are mostly shrubland. The elk and deer populations are stable in this area. The Colorado Division of Wildlife intensively manages these elk and mule deer populations to maintain optimal numbers through their hunting and monitoring program. Slight changes in existing dense thermal cover would not adversely affect these populations.

**Rationale for Desired Landscape Conditions.** Scientists (Kaufmann et al. in preparation; Huckaby et al. 2000; Kaufmann et al. 2000; and Brown et al. 1999) have been studying historical landscape conditions on Denver Water's Cheesman Lake property with the Pike National Forest since 1995. They showed that the historic Cheesman Lake forest was less dense, more open, and less vulnerable to large-scale fires than the surrounding forested landscape. The historical fire behavior in this area followed a mixed severity fire regime characterized by a combination of surface fire and patchy crown fire. They concluded that past logging, grazing, tree planting, and fire suppression has substantially increased the current forest density and amount of Douglas-fir that acts as a ladder fuel for fires. As a result, the current forest conditions favor a crown fire regime, with a high risk of catastrophic stand-replacing fire. These higher-severity fires are more apt to have detrimental effects on wildlife habitat (Brown 2000). Because conditions are well outside the historic range of variability within the Forest, researchers believe that managers must remove wood to break up the dense, continuous forest (Kaufmann et al. 2000). Dry forest types, such as the lower montane forest, offer the clearest opportunities for thinning in conjunction with prescribed fire to contribute to restoration of wildlife habitat while making the forests more resistant to uncharacteristically severe fire (Brown 2000). Because openings are an important and transient part of the landscape, removing dense, young trees and retaining old trees will do much to restore the ecosystem and at the same time reduce wildfire risk. Such ecological restoration is compatible with reducing the hazards of catastrophic fire and insect outbreak (Veblen et al. 2000). Creating a more open forest will result in a more grassy understory that will burn at lower fire intensities, increase shrub and grass density, and reduce soil erosion (Kaufmann et al. 2000). Creating a more open forest would also benefit elk and deer by improving forage and reducing the risk of large-scale fires that are the primary threat to their habitat.

Kaufmann et al. (in preparation) indicated that more than 90% of the historical landscape had a crown closure of 30% or less. In contrast, only 50% of the current forest landscape has crown closure of 30% or less. In other words, the historical forest stands were much more open. They describe four basic stand conditions in the area: 1) openings vegetated primarily with grasses and shrubs, 2) patches that are pure or nearly pure ponderosa pine, 3) patches having both ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, and 4) patches of very old trees, persistent old growth. Historically 15% of landscape had persistent old-growth patches, pure ponderosa pine patches probably accounted for 35-50% of the landscape, primarily on east, south, and west slopes. Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir patches on north slopes and

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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portions of upper ridges may have accounted for 20-30% of the landscape, and at least 25% of the landscape was open, with no more than 10% tree crown closure (Kaufmann et al. in preparation; Dr. Merrill Kaufmann, Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, pers. com., June 26, 2001). Undoubtedly these proportions varied over time, especially when fires created openings, reduced tree densities, or killed young Douglas fir trees invading patches (Kaufmann et al. in preparation).

These patch proportions shifted dramatically because of the effects of logging, grazing, fire suppression, and tree planting, all of which are likely to increase forest density. Logging decreased the amount of old growth. Grazing reduced understory competition and helped the establishment of new seedlings. The lack of fire allowed more seedlings to survive. The result was a sharp increase in forest density, expansion of the area having a significant Douglas-fir component, and the loss of openings that temporarily increased during intense logging during the late 1800's (Kaufmann et al. in preparation). Because the lower montane forests are well outside the historic range of variability, recent vegetation disturbances such as fire and insects have had a greater influence on the vegetation trends than forest management activities (Thinnes 2001; Veblen et al. 2000). In the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, timber-related vegetation management activities have annually averaged less than 0.3% of the lower montane forest compared to about 1% of the mature forest canopy lost annually because of wildfire and insects. Fire has eliminated more than 1,000 acres of mature lower montane forest annually since 1989. Insects, primarily Douglas-fir Tussock moth and western budworm, killed thousands of acres of mature forest. Fires and insects have eliminated the mature forest canopy on at least 60,000 acres since 1989. The fire behavior on several recent fires and the persistence of defoliation and beetle epidemics would not have occurred in the historic forest conditions. The current forest conditions are not sustainable. High-intensity wildfires and insect epidemics are expected to continue until tree densities are significantly reduced on much of the lower montane forest (Thinnes 2001). Because current forest conditions are not sustainable, current elk and mule deer cover habitat conditions are not expected to be sustainable.

The U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Colorado State Forest Service and Denver Water recently assessed the Upper South Platte Watershed to identify forested areas with the highest risk of fire and soil erosion (Foster Wheeler Environmental 1999). As a result, the Forest Service has targeted the highest risk areas for treatments to improve forest diversity and resilience in this fire-prone ecosystem used by elk and mule deer (USFS 2000). These treatments will include thinning ponderosa pine forests and creating openings similar to historic conditions. The openings will be interspersed throughout the treatment area to create more patchy conditions that result in more forage. These created openings will typically be less than five acres, and thus entirely usable by deer and elk. These treatments will have positive effects on overall forest health and sustainability resulting in a more heterogeneous natural landscape with diverse habitats that would have long-term beneficial effects on elk and mule deer (USFS 2000).

The selection of 5% as the new thermal cover standard is based on a standard that is achievable for this biophysical area. As discussed above, the science does not support the need for any thermal cover in this area. Five percent is believed to be sustainable based

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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on Dr. Kaufmann's best estimates of the historic landscape where only 1% of the area would have been dense pole, 1% dense mature, and a small portion of the 15% old growth would have had the 70% canopy closure necessary for thermal cover.

### FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT EFFECTS

The only vegetation treatment action relevant to this Forest Plan amendment that the USDA Forest Service expects to implement in the near future was described and analyzed in the *Environmental Assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* (USFS 2000). This EA, the *Public Review of the Environmental Assessment, Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* document (Attachment B to the FONSI/Decision Notice for the Vegetation Treatment Subproject in Non-Roadless Areas), and the above analysis addressed direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this project relevant to this plan amendment. The FONSI/Decision Notices for the EA addressed the significance of these effects. In the unlikely event that a different action relevant to this amendment is proposed in the near future, its environmental effects would also be evaluated according to NEPA.

### DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The changes are not significant in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), and FSM 1922.51 and 1922.52. In accordance with FSH 1909.12 and 5.32, the following factors were used to determine whether the amendment to the forest plan is significant or not significant.

#### **Timing**

The effective period for the amendment will be from the date of approval of the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project and completion of the scheduled revision of the Forest Plan. A Notice of Intent to complete a revision of the Forest Plan was filed in the Federal Register in October of 1999. The Forest Plan revision is expected to be completed in about three years. This time period for the amendment is not significant.

#### **Location and Size**

The amendment applies only to areas generally below 7,500 feet within the Waterton, Deckers, and Horse Creek subwatersheds. This area covers about 61,000 acres of Forest Service managed lands or about two percent of the lands affected by the Forest Plan. This area is relatively small area. This location is not capable of achieving elk and deer thermal cover standards for reasons given in the above sections. Changing the thermal cover standards to something that is achievable for this location is not significant. Maintaining dense canopy cover on 20 percent of the landscape is not considered a significant attribute for the well-being of elk and deer for this location for reasons given in the above sections.

#### **Goals, Objectives, and Outputs**

The amendment will not cause a significant change in the goals, objectives and outputs of the Forest Plan for the following reasons. The amendment will allow for vegetation treatment activities that help achieve Forest Plan goals such as increasing diversity for

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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wildlife habitat, improving the health and vigor of vegetation, and conserving water and soil resources (see Forest plan pages III-4 and III-5).

The amendment will allow for vegetation treatments that will help achieve Forest Plan objectives and outputs. The habitat capability calculated by the HABCAP model predicted that managing vegetation toward more sustainable conditions would increase elk and mule deer overall winter habitat capability. This is consistent with the Project Average Annual Outputs for elk and deer winter range that predict a steady increase (see Forest Plan page III-7). These treatments will also have positive effects on overall forest health and sustainability resulting in a more heterogeneous natural landscape with diverse habitats having long-term beneficial effects on wildlife. This is consistent with Wildlife Habitat Improvement Outputs that predict a steady increase (see Forest Plan page III-7). The amendment will allow for vegetation treatments that could reduce the Forest's existing suitable timber base by as much as 4,000 acres which is less than 1% of the Forest's existing suitable timber base (581,550 acres). This minor decrease would cause an insignificant decrease in the outputs for Allowable Sale Quantity (see Forest Plan page III-8).

### **Management Prescriptions**

The amendment will provide flexibility to restore forest stands to conditions that are less dense, more open, and less vulnerable to large intense wildfires. It will allow the Forest Service to carry out restoration activities, such as thinning and creating openings that would mimic historical landscape conditions resulting in positive effects on overall forest health and sustainability. This is compatible with the prescriptions for management areas within the affected subwatersheds including Management Area 2A (emphasizes semiprimitive motorized recreational opportunities), 2B (rural and roaded-natural recreation), 3A (semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation in roaded or nonroaded areas), 4B (habitat for management indicator species), 5B (big game winter range), 7A (wood-fiber production and utilization), and 7D (wood-fiber production and utilization for products other than sawtimber) (see Forest Plan pages III-107 to III-188). The amendment would not affect other management areas. The amendment will not cause a significant change to the Forest Plan because it is compatible with management prescriptions.

I have determined that this amendment is not significant based on the analysis of the above factors. The USDA Forest Service will implement this amendment only after a decision on the vegetation treatment subproject evaluated in the *Environmental Assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed Protection and Restoration Project* has been made and the appeal process has been completed.

/s/ William A. Wood, for  
Abigail R. Kimbell  
Forest Supervisor

August 2, 2001  
Date



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

Amendment No. 29

(June 21, 2002)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superceded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Map (North Portion)	1	1

### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to establish the Dick's Peak Communication Site. Accordingly, the Forest Plan is being amended to add this site.

### Amendment Number 29:

The north portion of the Forest Plan Map is modified to show the newly-established site, which is located in NW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 35, T. 14 S., R. 74 W., 6<sup>th</sup> PM

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

/s/ Richard Stem, for  
Rick D. Cables  
Regional Forester

June 21, 2002  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

### Amendment No. 30

(August 8, 2005)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III-28 & 29	1	1
Chapter III-137	1	1
Chapter III-145	1	1
Chapter IV-6	1	1

#### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to establish an updated list of Management Indicator Species (MIS) to ensure better alignment with the 1982 planning regulations, to adequately serve the monitoring of management activities' potential effects, and to adequately ensure that the appropriate monitoring is feasible, useful and not redundant.

A MIS review was conducted in 2005 and through this review it was found that several species on the list established with the development of the 1984 Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Plan) did not serve valid roles as indicators of major management activities' effects or of ecosystem change. For some species the effects of management activities are difficult to determine because of the infeasibility and ineffectiveness of collecting monitoring data at appropriate scales. The 2005 MIS review also considered other ongoing Plan monitoring, which was not a consideration during the development of the 1984 Plan.

Recent interpretations of MIS monitoring requirements that are specifically tied to population data pointed to the need to review the feasibility of monitoring populations of existing MIS which vary by scale, methodology, cost, and objectives. Although the 1984 Plan indicated that population data collected by State wildlife agencies could be used to determine species trend, the original intent of the 1984 Plan's MIS monitoring program was to assess the effects of management activities and species trend by focusing primarily on habitat capability.

From the 2005 MIS review and analysis, the decision made included the following action items:

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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1. Eight (8) of the original 40 species listed in Chapter III pages III-28 to III-29 of the 1984 Plan will retain MIS status.
2. Eight (8) of the 32 species removed as MIS do have Forest Service sensitive species status and will continue to be managed based on the direction and guidelines that apply to sensitive species management.
3. All 32 species removed from the MIS list continue to be protected by the general viability requirements of NFMA and the 1984 Plan Standards and Guidelines.
4. The 1984 Plan Monitoring and Evaluation requirements (Chapter IV-6) are modified to pertain to only the eight (8) species that are retained as MIS.

### Amendment Number 30:

This amendment of the 1984 Plan changes:

1. The existing wording in Chapter III, pages III-28 and III-29, to show the modified list of MIS and modified language in General Direction specific to habitat needs of MIS species on the National Forest.
2. The existing wording in Chapter III, page III-137, specific to certain guidelines and other direction for Management Area 4B.
3. The existing wording in Chapter III, page-145, specific to certain guidelines and other direction for Management Area 4D.
4. The existing wording in Chapter IV, page IV-6, specific to the monitoring and evaluation direction for MIS.

The details of these changes are found in Appendix C of the Environmental Assessment and are included as an attachment to this amendment notice.

The affects of these changes to the 1984 Plan have been appropriately analyzed in an Environmental Assessement, which is on file at the PSICC. As such, I have determined that, according to 36 CFR Part 219.10(f), this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan.

/s/ Brian Ferebee for  
Robert J. Leaverton  
Forest Supervisor

August 8, 2005  
Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Attachment: Changes effective August 15, 2005

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### CHANGES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 2005

#### FINAL DECISION NOTICE TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT 30

### PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS, CIMARRON AND COMANCHE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

The following table displays the 1984 MIS list and associated direction and the changes made in 2005 to the MIS list and applicable direction.

**Table 1. 2005 Modifications to Chapter III of the Plan – General Direction**

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
<b>Chapter III pages III-28 &amp; III-29 General Direction</b>	The following species are management indicator species (MIS) for the respective administrative units:	The following species are management indicator species (MIS) for the respective administrative units:
	<b>Pike &amp; San Isabel National Forests</b> Beaver Bighorn sheep Mule deer Elk Pine marten Abert's squirrel Mountain bluebird Peregrine falcon Mallard Water pipit Yellow-bellied sapsucker Green-tailed towhee Turkey Lewis' woodpecker Northern three-toed woodpecker Black-throated gray warbler Virginia's warbler Wilson's warbler Brook trout Greenback cutthroat trout	<b>Pike &amp; San Isabel National Forests</b> Rocky Mountain elk Abert's squirrel Greenback cutthroat trout Brook trout



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
	<p><b>Comanche National Grassland</b></p> <p>Antelope Bobcat Mule deer Black-tailed prairie dog Black-tailed jackrabbit Long-billed curlew Ferruginous hawk Northern oriole Burrowing owl Great horned owl Lesser prairie chicken Scaled quail Cassin's sparrow Turkey Lewis' woodpecker Bewick's wren Cliff swallow</p>	<p><b>Comanche National Grassland</b></p> <p>Black-tailed prairie dog Lesser prairie chicken Long-billed curlew Bullock's (Northern) oriole</p>
	<p><b>Cimarron National Grassland</b></p> <p>Mule deer White-tailed deer Black-tailed prairie dog Bobwhite Mourning dove Mississippi kite McCown's longspur Northern oriole Burrowing owl Lesser prairie chicken Scaled quail Cassin's sparrow Turkey Red-headed woodpecker</p>	<p><b>Cimarron National Grassland</b></p> <p>Black-tailed prairie dog Lesser prairie chicken Bullock's (Northern) oriole</p>
<p><b>Chapter III</b> <b>pages III-28 &amp; III-29</b> <b>General Direction</b></p>	<p><b>PROVIDE FOR THE HABITAT NEEDS OF MIS SPECIES ON THE NATIONAL FOREST.</b></p>	
	<p>a. Bighorn sheep – protect lambing concentration areas from disturbance April 1 – June 15, annually. Protect lambing areas from habitat modification.</p>	<p>Removed</p>
	<p>b. Elk and mule deer – protect calving and fawning concentration areas from habitat modification and disturbance from May 15 – June 30.</p>	<p>Elk– protect calving and fawning concentration areas from habitat modification and disturbance from May 15 – June 30.</p>
	<p>c. Abert's squirrel – protect or provide for one Abert's squirrel nest tree clump (0.1 acres of 9" to 22" DBH ponderosa pine with a basal area of 180 to 220 and an interlocking canopy) per six acres on ponderosa pine sale areas</p>	<p>Abert's squirrel – protect or provide for one Abert's squirrel nest tree clump (0.1 acres of 9" to 22" DBH ponderosa pine with a basal area of 180 to 220 and an interlocking canopy) per six acres on ponderosa pine sale areas</p>

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
	d. Turkey – protect two turkey roost tree clumps/section in ponderosa pine sale areas, if available. Minimum size of a clump is one-tenth acre.	Removed
	<b>PROVIDE FOR THE HABITAT NEEDS OF MIS SPECIES ON THE NATIONAL GRASSLANDS.</b>	
	a. Ferruginous hawk, great horned owl, Mississippi kite – protect all large cottonwood and other trees which have had raptor nests. Provide and maintain mature deciduous trees where clumps exist or potentially exist.	Removed
	b. Long-billed curlew – provide habitat of open-buffalo grama Shortgrass adjacent to fields of mid-grasses and forbs. Protect established nesting areas.	Long-billed curlew - provide heterogeneous mosaic of open buffalo-grama shortgrass prairie interspersed with areas covered with mid-height grasses and forbs.
	c. Lewis’ woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, turkey, mule deer, white-tailed deer – maintain understory vegetation in riparian and adjacent areas. Maintain roost tree groups for turkey. Maintain and provide for the recruitment of mature deciduous trees.	Bullock’s (Northern) oriole - maintain understory vegetation in riparian and adjacent areas. Maintain a diverse age and size structure in riparian cottonwood populations, and provide for the recruitment of mature deciduous trees.
	d. Scaled quail – provide small soap weed, and sagebrush and mid-grass habitats.	Removed
	e. Black-tailed prairie dog – maintain the size and location of prairie dog towns in accordance with the prairie dog management plan.	Black-tailed prairie dog – maintain the size and location of black-tailed prairie dog towns in accordance with the black tailed-prairie dog management objective.
	f. Antelope – construct and reconstruct fences so they are not a barrier to antelope movement.	Removed
	g. Bobwhite quail – provide adequate food and cover habitat in riparian and adjacent areas.	Removed
	<u>Guideline a.</u> In antelope habitat, construct fences so that the top strand is not over 40 inches high and the bottom strand is not less than 18 inches high.	Removed
	<u>Guideline b.</u> Conduct black-footed ferret surveys in all prairie dog control areas.	<u>Guideline.</u> Conduct black-footed ferret surveys in all prairie dog control areas.
<b>Chapter III-137 Management</b>	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Section of the Plan	1984 Wording	2005 Wording
<b>Area 4B</b>	a. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 80% of potential capability.	a. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 80% of potential capability.
	b. Protect all lesser prairie chicken leks from surface disturbance at all time. Protect nesting habitat from surface disturbance from April 15 – June 30.	b. Protect all lesser prairie chicken leks from surface disturbance at all time. Protect nesting habitat from surface disturbance from April 15 – June 30.
	c. Livestock and wild herbivore allowable forage use in lesser prairie chicken habitat will not exceed 40 percent.	c. Livestock and wild herbivore allowable forage use in lesser prairie chicken habitat will not exceed 40 percent.
<b>Chapter III-145 Management Area 4D</b>	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.	Manage for habitat needs of management indicator species.
	a. Maintain big game hiding cover next to aspen viewing areas, and along the edge of arterial and collector roads.	Removed
	b. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 70% of potential capability for aspen dependent and big game species.	b. Maintain habitat capability at a level at least 70% of pre-project levels for aspen dependent and big game species.

The following table displays the 1984 wording in the Plan and 2005 changes made to the wording for monitoring and evaluation of MIS.

**Table 2. 2005 Modifications to Chapter IV of the Plan – Monitoring and Evaluation**

Pertinent Section of the Plan	1984 Wording from Table IV-1	2005 Wording
<b>Chapter IV- 6 Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	<b>Actions, Effects or Resources to be Monitored/Fish and Wildlife:</b> Trend of Management Indicator Species Habitats and Populations	<b>Actions, Effects or Resources to be Monitored/Fish and Wildlife:</b> Trend of Management Indicator Species Habitats or Populations
	<b>Monitoring Techniques or Data Sources:</b> Habitat capability assessments, population estimates by State Wildlife Agencies, Resource Information System, Professional judgment by Forest Service biologists and activity reviews.	<b>Monitoring Techniques or Data Sources:</b> FS habitat capability assessments determined with HABCAP models; established monitoring protocols are used where and as they become available. For wide-ranging species, development and/or use of protocols are coordinated with other regional FS offices and/or agencies. Other data sources may include but are not limited to inventory and monitoring data gathered by State wildlife agencies, USFWS and other organizations to determine and/or estimate wildlife populations and trends, FS corporate or other databases such as the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), professional judgment by FS biologists and activity reviews.
	<b>Precision Reliability:</b> Moderate	<b>Precision Reliability:</b> Moderate

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Pertinent Section of the Plan	1984 Wording from Table IV-1	2005 Wording
	<b>Measurement Frequency:</b> 5 years	<b>Measurement Frequency:</b> 5 years or less
	<b>Reporting Period:</b> 5 years	<b>Reporting Period:</b> minimum 5 years
	<b>Variability which would Initiate Evaluation:</b> $\pm$ 25% change in species habitat capability or population size.	<b>Variability which would Initiate Evaluation:</b> $\pm$ 25% change in species habitat capability or population size.

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

### Amendment No. 31

(June 21, 2004)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Supceded</u>	<u>New</u>
Forest Plan Map (North Portion)	1	1

#### Reason For This Amendment:

A decision has been made to establish a new management area along the South Platte River between Elevenmile Reservoir and Strontia Springs Reservoir, and along the North Fork of the South Platte River from below Bailey to the confluence with the South Platte River. These portions of the rivers were found to be eligible for consideration as potential Wild and Scenic Rivers. The purpose of the management area is to protect the river values that were identified during the eligibility study.

#### Amendment Number 31:

The north portion of the Forest Plan Map is modified to show the newly-established management area, which is a corridor extending ¼-mile on both sides of the eligible segments of the rivers.

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

/s/ Robert J. Leaverton  
Robert J. Leaverton  
Forest Supervisor

June 21, 2004  
Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

## Amendment No. 32

(June 20, 2008)

<u>Page Code</u>	<u>Superseded</u>	<u>New</u>
Chapter III – 81& 82	--	1

### Reason for this Amendment:

A decision has been made to designate additional areas where fire managers may use naturally-ignited wildland fires to achieve management objectives. The Forest Plan currently contains direction for managing naturally-ignited wildland fires in wilderness areas. This amendment expands the use of naturally-ignited wildland fires to achieve management objectives beyond designated wilderness areas, to all National Forest lands in the Wet Mountains, Sangre de Cristo Range and Spanish Peaks.

The intent of this amendment is to reintroduce, where desirable and feasible, the natural role of fire in maintaining the proper functioning and health of natural communities, and to reduce the long-term threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Based on the Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) rating system, roughly 35% of the plant communities on the Pike and San Isabel Forests fall into Condition Class 2 or 3. Condition Classes 2 and 3 represent plant communities that have been moderately to significantly altered from their historical range of variability, with regard to species composition and structural arrangement. This alteration is generally attributed to decreased fire frequency, arising from 80+ years of aggressive fire suppression. A moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components has been identified for these landscapes.

The build up of forest fuels over the past 80 years is annually inflating the potential for explosive fire growth during drought years, and decreasing the Forest Service's ability to control them when high to extreme fire conditions exist. By allowing some lightning ignited fires to burn at low to moderate fire intensity levels, I hope to reduce the proportion of acres burned under high to extreme conditions.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Amendment # 32:

This amendment of the 1984 Plan changes:

1. Add to Management Activities, Chapter III – 82, Amendment Number 6:
  - a. Vegetation Treated by Burning
  
2. Add to General Direction, Chapter III – 82, Amendment Number 6:
  - a. Use unplanned ignitions on areas identified in this Plan to achieve management objectives.
  
3. Add to Standards and Guidelines, Chapter III – 82, Amendment Number 6:
  - a. Naturally-ignited wildland fires may be used in predetermined areas under specified conditions to achieve the following management objectives:
    - Reduce the occurrence and/or adverse impacts of potential catastrophic wildfires over the long-term.
    - Maintain or restore the ecological composition, structure and functioning of fire-dependent ecosystems.
  
  - b. Naturally-ignited wildland fires may be used to achieve management objectives under conditions specified in an approved fire management plan, in the following areas:
    - All Wilderness Areas within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests.
    - All National Forest lands in the Wet Mountains, along the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range, and in the Spanish Peaks.

<b>Management Activity</b>	<b>General Direction</b>	<b>Standards and Guidelines</b>
Vegetation Treated by Burning	Use unplanned ignitions on areas identified in this Plan to achieve management objectives.	a. Naturally-ignited wildland fires may be used in predetermined areas under specified conditions to achieve the following management objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce the occurrence and/or adverse impacts of potential catastrophic wildfires over the long-term.</li> <li>- Maintain or restore the ecological composition, structure and functioning of fire-dependent ecosystems.</li> </ul>



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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		b. Naturally-ignited wildland fires may be used to achieve management objectives under conditions specified in an approved fire management plan, in the following areas: - All Wilderness Areas within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. - All National Forest lands in the Wet Mountains, along the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo Range, and in the Spanish Peaks.
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### Significance of this Amendment:

The affects of these changes to the 1984 Plan have been appropriately analyzed in an Environmental Assessment, which is on file at the PSICC. As such, I have determined that this is not a significant amendment to the Forest Plan, according to direction established in 36CFR219.14(b)(2) for the 2008 planning rule, and 36CFR219.10(f) which governs planning documents that existed prior to 11/9/2000.

/s/ Robert J. Leaverton  
ROBERT J. LEAVERTON  
Forest Supervisor

June 20, 2008  
Date

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

### Amendment No 33

(October 28, 2008)

Page Code

Superseded New

7 Standards; 24 Guidelines

#### Reason for this Amendment:

A decision has been made by the Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, to amend the 1984 Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Plan) to add consistent management direction that will conserve the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This amendment, while contributing to the conservation of the lynx in the Southern Rocky Mountains, will at the same time allow management and use of other natural resources.

The Rocky Mountain Region prepared the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), "Southern Rockies Lynx Management Direction," from which Alternative F-modified (Attachment 1) was selected. This amendment incorporates the goals, objectives, seven new standards and 24 new guidelines, and monitoring requirements of Alternative F-modified. The decision by the Regional Forester meets the Purpose and Need, responds to public concerns, and incorporates the terms and conditions contained in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion. This decision supersedes the 2006 Lynx Conservation Agreement in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment area.

The Record of Decision (ROD), the FEIS, and all supporting documents are available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/lynx/documents/> [last accessed June 4, 2009].

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Significance of this Amendment:

The following is from the ROD for the Southern Rockies Lynx Management FEIS (pages 24–25):

*“The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) provides that forest plans may be amended in any manner, but if the management direction results in a significant change in the plan, the same procedure as that required for development and approval of a plan shall be followed. The 1982 regulations at 36 CFR 219.10(f) require the agency to determine whether or not a proposed amendment will result in a significant change in the plan. If the change resulting from the amendment is determined not to be significant for the purposes of the planning process, then the agency may implement the amendment following appropriate public notification and satisfactory completion of NEPA procedures.*

*“Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1920, section 1926.5 (January 31, 2006) identifies factors to consider in determining whether an amendment is significant or non-significant for those plans using planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000.*

*“Changes to the land management plan that are not significant can result from:*

- 1. Actions that do not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.*
- 2. Adjustments of management area boundaries or management prescriptions resulting from further on-site analysis.*
- 3. Minor changes in standards and guidelines.*
- 4. Opportunities for additional projects or activities.*

*“Examples of significant changes include:*

- 1. Changes that would significantly alter the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goods and services originally projected.*
- 2. Changes that may have an important effect on the entire land management plan or affect land and resources throughout a large portion of the planning area during the planning period.*

*“The selected alternative (Alternative F-modified) will change in plans similar to examples of non-significant changes #1 and #3. The effects of this decision are not similar to either example of significant plan changes.”*

The affects of these changes to the 1984 Plan have been appropriately analyzed in Southern Rockies Lynx Management Direction FEIS prepared by the Rocky Mountain

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Region, which is on file at the PSICC. The ROD for the FEIS describes that the addition of seven standards and 24 guidelines is minor.

In summary, after considering these three factors, the Regional Forester determined the management direction is not a significant change under the NFMA to the Pike and San Isabel National Forests because it imposes minor changes over a limited area on these forests.

/s/ Robert J. Leaverton

ROBERT J. LEAVERTON  
Forest Supervisor

October 28, 2008

Date

## **Amendments to the Forest Plan**

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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From the Record of Decision – Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **The Selected Alternative**

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### **Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment – Management Direction**

The management direction applies to lynx habitat on the following National Forests in the Southern Rockies Lynx Amendment area:

Medicine Bow Routt National Forests (two separate Plans),  
Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests,  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests,  
Pike-San Isabel National Forests,  
Rio Grande National Forest,  
San Juan National Forest, and  
White River National Forest.

#### **GOAL<sup>14</sup>**

Conserve the Canada lynx.

**ALL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES (ALL). The following objectives, standards, and guidelines apply to all management projects in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAUs) in occupied habitat and in linkage areas, subject to valid existing rights. They do not apply to wildfire suppression, or to wildland fire use.**

Objective<sup>30</sup> ALL O1

Maintain<sup>26</sup> or restore<sup>40</sup> lynx habitat<sup>23</sup> connectivity<sup>16</sup> in and between LAUs<sup>21</sup>, and in linkage areas<sup>22</sup>.

Standard<sup>44</sup> ALL S1

New or expanded permanent developments<sup>33</sup> and vegetation management<sup>50</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> must maintain<sup>26</sup> habitat connectivity<sup>16</sup> in an LAU<sup>21</sup> and/or linkage area<sup>22</sup>.

Guideline<sup>15</sup> ALL G1

Methods to avoid or reduce effects on lynx should be used when constructing or reconstructing highways<sup>18</sup> or forest highways<sup>12</sup> across federal land. Methods could include fencing, underpasses or overpasses.

Standard<sup>44</sup> LAU S1

Changes in LAU<sup>21</sup> boundaries shall be based on site-specific habitat information and after review by the Forest Service Regional Office.

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES (VEG). The following objectives, standards, and guidelines apply to vegetation management projects<sup>36</sup> in lynx habitat within lynx analysis units (LAUs) in occupied habitat.**

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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**With the exception of Objective VEG O3 that specifically concerns wildland fire use, the objectives, standards, and guidelines do not apply to wildfire suppression, wildland fire use, or removal of vegetation for permanent developments such as mineral operations, ski runs, roads, and the like. None of the objectives, standards, or guidelines apply to linkage areas.**

### Objective<sup>30</sup> VEG O1

Manage vegetation to mimic or approximate natural succession and disturbance processes while maintaining habitat components necessary for the conservation of lynx.

### Objective VEG O2

Provide a mosaic of habitat conditions through time that support dense horizontal cover<sup>19</sup>, and high densities of snowshoe hare. Provide winter snowshoe hare habitats<sup>51</sup> in both the stand initiation structural stage and in mature, multi-story conifer vegetation.

### Objective VEG O3

Conduct fire use<sup>11</sup> activities to restore<sup>40</sup> ecological processes and maintain or improve lynx habitat.

### Objective VEG O4

Focus vegetation management<sup>50</sup> in areas that have potential to improve winter snowshoe hare habitats<sup>52</sup> but presently have poorly developed understories that lack dense horizontal cover.

### Standard<sup>44</sup> VEG S1

**Where and to what this applies:** Standard VEG S1 applies to all vegetation management<sup>50</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> that regenerate<sup>38</sup> forested stands, except for fuel treatment<sup>13</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> within the wildland urban interface<sup>51</sup> (WUI) as defined by HFRA<sup>17</sup>, subject to the following limitation:

Fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, or VEG S6 shall occur on no more than 3 percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a National Forest or administratively combined National Forests). In addition, fuel treatment projects may not result in more than three adjacent LAUs exceeding the standard.

For fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> see guideline VEG G10.

**The standard:** Unless a broad scale assessment has been completed that substantiates different historic levels of stand initiation structural stages<sup>45</sup> limit disturbance in each LAU as follows:

If more than 30 percent of the lynx habitat in an LAU is currently in a stand initiation structural stage that does not yet provide winter snowshoe hare habitat, no additional habitat may be regenerated by vegetation management projects<sup>36</sup>.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Standard VEG S2

**Where and to what this applies:** Standard VEG S2 applies to all timber management<sup>47</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> that regenerate<sup>38</sup> forests, except for fuel treatment<sup>13</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> within the wildland urban interface<sup>51</sup> (WUI) as defined by HFRA<sup>17</sup>, subject to the following limitation:

Fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, or VEG S6 shall occur on no more than 3 percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a National Forest or administratively combined National Forests).

For fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> see guideline VEG G10.

**The standard:** Timber management<sup>47</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> shall not regenerate<sup>38</sup> more than 15 percent of lynx habitat on NFS lands within an LAU in a ten-year period. This 15 percent includes the entire stand within an even-age regeneration area, and only the patch opening areas within group selections. Salvage harvest within stands killed by insect epidemics, wildfire, etc. does not add to the 15 percent, unless the harvest treatment would cause the lynx habitat to change to an unsuitable condition<sup>24</sup>.

### Standard VEG S5

**Where and to what this applies:** Standard VEG S5 applies to all precommercial thinning<sup>35</sup> projects, except for fuel treatment<sup>13</sup> projects that use precommercial thinning as a tool within the wildland urban interface (WUI) as defined by HFRA, subject to the following limitation:

Fuel treatment projects within the WUI that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, or VEG S6 may occur on no more than three percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a National Forest or administratively combined National Forests) for the life of this amendment.

For fuel treatment projects within the WUI see guideline VEG G10.

**The Standard:** Precommercial thinning practices and similar activities intended to reduce seedling/sapling density are subject to the following limitations from the stand initiation structural stage<sup>45</sup> until the stands no longer provide winter snowshoe hare habitat.

Precommercial thinning<sup>35</sup> may occur only:

1. Within 200 feet of administrative sites, dwellings, or outbuildings; or
2. For research studies<sup>39</sup> or genetic tree tests evaluating genetically improved reforestation stock; or



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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3. For conifer removal in aspen, or daylight thinning<sup>5</sup> around individual aspen trees, where aspen is in decline; or
4. Based on new information that is peer reviewed and accepted by the regional/state levels of the Forest Service and FWS, where a written determination states:
  - a) That a project is not likely to adversely affect lynx; or
  - b) That a project is likely to have short term adverse effects on lynx or its habitat, but would result in long-term benefits to lynx and its habitat.
5. In addition to the above exceptions (and above and beyond the three percent limitation for fuels projects within the WUI<sup>51</sup>), precommercial thinning may occur provided that:
  - a) The additional precommercial thinning does not exceed one percent of the lynx habitat in any LAU for the life of this amendment, and the amount and distribution of winter snowshoe hare habitat within the LAU must be provided through appropriate site-specific analysis and consultation; and
  - b) Precommercial thinning in LAUs with more than 30 percent of the lynx habitat currently in the stand initiation structural stage<sup>45</sup> is limited to areas that do not yet provide winter snowshoe hare habitat<sup>52</sup>; and
  - c) Projects are designed to maintain lynx habitat connectivity<sup>16</sup> and provide snowshoe hare habitat over the long term; and
  - d) Monitoring is used to determine snowshoe hare response.

Exceptions 2 and 3 may not occur in any LAU in which VEG S1 is exceeded (i.e., more than 30 percent of LAU in stand initiation structural stage).

Note: This standard is intended to provide snowshoe hare habitat while permitting some thinning, to explore methods to sustain snowshoe hare habitat over time, reduce hazardous fuels, improve forest health, and increase timber production. Project design must ensure any precommercial thinning provides an appropriate amount and distribution of snowshoe hare habitat with each LAU over time, and maintains lynx habitat connectivity within and between LAUs. Project design should focus on creating irregular shapes for the thinning units, creating mosaics of thinned and unthinned areas, and using variable density thinning, etc.

### Standard VEG S6

**Where and to what this applies:** Standard VEG S6 applies to all vegetation management<sup>50</sup> practices within multi-story mature or late successional conifer forests<sup>29</sup>, except for fuel treatment<sup>13</sup> projects within the wildland urban interface (WUI) as defined by HFRA<sup>17</sup>, subject to the following limitation:

Fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> that do not meet Standards VEG S1, VEG S2, VEG S5, or VEG S6 shall occur on no more than 3 percent (cumulatively) of lynx habitat on each administrative unit (a National Forest or administratively combined National Forests).

For fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> see guideline VEG G10.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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**The Standard:** Vegetation management projects<sup>36</sup> that reduce winter snowshoe hare habitat<sup>52</sup> in multi-story mature or late successional conifer forests<sup>29</sup> may occur only:

1. Within 200 feet of administrative sites, dwellings, outbuildings, recreation sites, and special use permit improvements, including infrastructure within permitted ski area boundaries; or
2. For research studies<sup>38</sup> or genetic tree tests evaluating genetically improved reforestation stock; or
3. For incidental removal during salvage harvest<sup>41</sup> (e.g., removal due to location of skid trails); or
4. Where uneven-aged management (single tree and small group selection) practices are employed to maintain and encourage multi-story attributes as part of gap dynamics.

Project design must be consistent with VEG O1, O2 and O4, except where impacts to areas of dense horizontal cover are incidental to activities under this exception (e.g., construction of skid trails).

Exceptions 2 and 4 may not occur in any LAU in which VEG S1 is exceeded.

### Guideline VEG G1

Vegetation management<sup>50</sup> projects<sup>36</sup> should be planned to recruit a high density of conifers, hardwoods, and shrubs where such habitat is scarce or not available. Priority for treatment should be given to stem-exclusion, closed-canopy structural stage<sup>46</sup> stands to enhance habitat conditions for lynx or their prey (e.g. mesic, monotypic lodgepole stands). Winter snowshoe hare habitat<sup>52</sup> should be near denning habitat<sup>6</sup>.

### Guideline VEG G4

Prescribed fire<sup>34</sup> activities should not create permanent travel routes that facilitate snow compaction. Constructing permanent firebreaks on ridges or saddles should be avoided.

### Guideline VEG G5

Habitat for alternate prey species, primarily red squirrel<sup>37</sup>, should be provided in each LAU.

### Guideline VEG G10

Fuel treatment projects<sup>36</sup> within the WUI<sup>51</sup> as defined by HFRA<sup>17</sup> should be designed considering Standards VEG S1, S2, S5, and S6 to promote lynx conservation.

### Guideline VEG G11

Denning habitat<sup>6</sup> should be distributed in each LAU in the form of pockets of large amounts of large woody debris, either down logs or root wads, or large piles of small wind thrown trees (“jack-strawed” piles). If denning habitat appears to be lacking in the LAU, then projects<sup>36</sup> should be designed to retain some coarse woody debris<sup>4</sup>, piles, or residual trees to provide denning habitat<sup>6</sup> in the future.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT (GRAZ): The following objectives and guidelines apply to grazing projects in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAUs) in occupied habitat. They do not apply to linkage areas.**

Objective<sup>30</sup> GRAZ O1

Manage livestock grazing to be compatible with improving or maintaining<sup>26</sup> lynx habitat<sup>23</sup>.

Guideline<sup>15</sup> GRAZ G1

In fire- and harvest-created openings, livestock grazing should be managed so impacts do not prevent shrubs and trees from regenerating.

Guideline GRAZ G2

In aspen stands, livestock grazing should be managed to contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of aspen.

Guideline GRAZ G3

In riparian areas<sup>41</sup> and willow carrs<sup>3</sup>, livestock grazing should be managed to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages<sup>28</sup>, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

Guideline GRAZ G4

In shrub-steppe habitats<sup>43</sup>, livestock grazing should be managed in the elevation ranges of forested lynx habitat in LAUs<sup>21</sup>, to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

**HUMAN USE PROJECTS (HU): The following objectives and guidelines apply to human use projects, such as special uses (other than grazing), recreation management, roads, highways, and mineral and energy development, in lynx habitat in lynx analysis units (LAUs) in occupied habitat, subject to valid existing rights. They do not apply to vegetation management projects or grazing projects directly. They do not apply to linkage areas.**

Objective<sup>30</sup> HU O1

Maintain<sup>26</sup> the lynx's natural competitive advantage over other predators in deep snow, by discouraging the expansion of snow-compacting activities in lynx habitat<sup>23</sup>.

Objective HU O2

Manage recreational activities to maintain lynx habitat and connectivity<sup>16</sup>.

Objective HU O3

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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Concentrate activities in existing developed areas, rather than developing new areas in lynx habitat.

### Objective HU O4

Provide for lynx habitat needs and connectivity when developing new or expanding existing developed recreation<sup>9</sup> sites or ski areas.

### Objective HU O5

Manage human activities, such as special uses, mineral and oil and gas exploration and development, and placement of utility transmission corridors, to reduce impacts on lynx and lynx habitat.

### Objective HU O6

Reduce adverse highway<sup>18</sup> effects on lynx by working cooperatively with other agencies to provide for lynx movement and habitat connectivity<sup>16</sup>, and to reduce the potential for lynx mortality.

### Guideline<sup>15</sup> HU G1

When developing or expanding ski areas, provisions should be made for adequately sized inter-trail islands that include coarse woody debris<sup>4</sup>, so winter snowshoe hare habitat<sup>51</sup> is maintained.

### Guideline HU G2

When developing or expanding ski areas, lynx foraging habitat should be provided consistent with the ski area's operational needs, especially where lynx habitat occurs as narrow bands of coniferous forest across mountain slopes.

### Guideline HU G3

Recreation development and recreational operational uses should be planned to provide for lynx movement and to maintain the effectiveness of lynx habitat<sup>23</sup>.

### Guideline HU G4

Remote monitoring of mineral and energy development sites and facilities should be encouraged to reduce snow compaction.

### Guideline HU G5

A reclamation plan should be developed (e.g., road reclamation and vegetation rehabilitation) for closed mineral and energy development sites and facilities that promote the restoration of lynx habitat.

### Guideline HU G6

Methods to avoid or reduce effects to lynx habitat connectivity<sup>16</sup> should be used when upgrading unpaved roads to maintenance levels 4 or 5<sup>27</sup>, where the result would be

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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increased traffic speeds and volumes, or contribute to development or increases in human activity.

### Guideline HU G7

New permanent roads should not be built on ridge-tops and saddles, or in areas identified as important for lynx habitat connectivity<sup>16</sup>. New permanent roads and trails should be situated away from forested stringers.

### Guideline HU G8

Cutting brush along low-speed, low-traffic-volume roads<sup>25</sup> should be done to the minimum level necessary to provide for public safety.

### Guideline HU G9

If project level analysis determines that new roads adversely affect lynx, then public motorized use should be restricted. Upon project<sup>36</sup> completion, these roads should be reclaimed or decommissioned, if not needed for other management objectives.

### Guideline HU G10

Designated over-the-snow routes or designated play areas should not expand outside baseline areas of consistent snow compaction<sup>1</sup>, unless designation serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat. This may be calculated on an LAU basis, or on a combination of immediately adjacent LAUs. This does not apply inside permitted ski area boundaries, to winter logging, to rerouting trails for public safety, to accessing private inholdings, or to access regulated by Guideline HU G12. Use the same analysis boundaries for all actions subject to this guideline.

### Guideline HU G11

When developing or expanding ski areas and trails, consider locating access roads and lift termini to maintain and provide lynx security habitat<sup>10</sup>.

### Guideline HU G12

Winter access for non-recreation special uses and mineral and energy exploration and development should be limited to designated routes<sup>8</sup> or designated over-the-snow routes<sup>7</sup>.

**LINKAGE AREAS (LINK): The following objective, standard, and guidelines apply to all projects within linkage areas in occupied habitat, subject to valid existing rights.**

### Objective<sup>30</sup> LINK O1

In areas of intermingled land ownership, work with landowners to pursue conservation easements, habitat conservation plans, land exchanges, or other solutions to reduce the potential of adverse impacts on lynx and lynx habitat.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Standard<sup>44</sup> LINK S1

When highway<sup>18</sup> or forest highway<sup>12</sup> construction or reconstruction is proposed in linkage areas<sup>22</sup>, identify potential highway crossings.

### Guideline<sup>15</sup> LINK G1

National Forest System lands should be retained in public ownership.

### Guideline LINK G2

Livestock grazing in shrub-steppe habitats<sup>43</sup> should be managed to contribute to maintaining or achieving a preponderance of mid- or late-seral stages<sup>28</sup>, similar to conditions that would have occurred under historic disturbance regimes.

### Required Monitoring

1. Maps of the location and intensity of snow compacting activities and designated and groomed routes that occurred inside LAUs during the period of 1998 to 2000 constitute baseline snow compaction. Changes in activities and routes are to be monitored every five years after the decision.
2. When fuels treatment and vegetation management project decisions are signed, report the following:
  - a) Acres of fuel treatment in lynx habitat by Forest and LAU, and whether the treatment is within or outside the WUI as defined by HFRA.
  - b) Whether or not the fuel treatment met the vegetation standards or guidelines. If standard(s) were not met, report which standard(s) was not met, why it could not be met, and how many acres were affected.
  - c) Application of exceptions in Standard VEG S5:  
For areas where any of the exceptions 1 through 5 listed in Standard VEG S5 were applied, report the type of activity, the number of acres, and the location (by unit, and LAU) and whether or not Standard VEG S1 was within the allowance.
  - d) Application of exceptions in Standard VEG S6:  
For areas where any of the exceptions 1 through 4 listed in Standard VEG S6 were applied, report the type of activity, the number of acres, and the location (by unit, and LAU) and whether or not Standard VEG S1 was within the allowance.
  - e) Total acres of lynx habitat treated under exemptions and exceptions to vegetation standards, to assure the 4.5 percent limit is not exceeded on any Forest over the life of the amendment (15 years).
3. Application of guidelines:
  - a) Summarize what guideline(s) was not followed and why.
  - b) Document the rationale for deviations to guidelines.

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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## Glossary

*1 Area of consistent snow compaction* – An area of consistent snow compaction is an area of land or water that during winter is generally covered with snow and gets enough human use that individual tracks are indistinguishable. In such places, compacted snow is evident most of the time, except immediately after (within 48 hours) snowfall. These can be areas or linear routes, and are generally found in or near snowmobile or cross-country ski routes, in adjacent openings, parks and meadows, near ski huts or plowed roads, or in winter parking areas. Areas of consistent snow compaction will be determined based on the acreage or miles used during the period 1998 to 2000.

*2 Broad scale assessment* – A broad scale assessment is a synthesis of current scientific knowledge, including a description of uncertainties and assumptions, to provide an understanding of past and present conditions and future trends, and a characterization of the ecological, social, and economic components of an area. (LCAS)

*3 Carr* – Deciduous woodland or shrub land occurring on permanently wet, organic soil. (LCAS)

*4 Coarse woody debris* – Any piece(s) of dead woody material, e.g., dead boles, limbs, and large root masses on the ground or in streams. (LCAS)

*5 Daylight thinning* – Daylight thinning is a form of precommercial thinning that removes the trees and brush inside a given radius around a tree.

*6 Denning habitat (lynx)* – Denning habitat is the environment lynx use when giving birth and rearing kittens until they are mobile. The most common component is large amounts of coarse woody debris to provide escape and thermal cover for kittens. Denning habitat must be within daily travel distance of winter snowshoe hare habitat – the typical maximum daily distance for females is about three to six miles. Denning habitat includes mature and old growth forests with plenty of coarse woody debris. It can also include young regenerating forests with piles of coarse woody debris, or areas where down trees are jack-strawed.

*7 Designated over-the-snow routes* – Designated over-the-snow routes are routes managed under permit or agreement or by the agency, where use is encouraged, either by on-the-ground marking or by publication in brochures, recreation opportunity guides or maps (other than travel maps), or in electronic media produced or approved by the agency. The routes identified in outfitter and guide permits are designated by definition; groomed routes also are designated by definition. The determination of baseline snow compaction will be based on the miles of designated over-the-snow routes authorized, promoted or encouraged during the period 1998 to 2000.

*8 Designated route* – A designated route is a road or trail that has been identified as open for specified travel use.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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*9 Developed recreation* – Developed recreation requires facilities that result in concentrated use. For example, skiing requires lifts, parking lots, buildings, and roads; campgrounds require roads, picnic tables, and toilet facilities.

*10 Diurnal security habitat (lynx)* – Places in lynx habitat that provide secure winter bedding sites in highly disturbed landscapes such as ski areas. Security habitat gives lynx the ability to retreat from human disturbance. Site characteristics and stand conditions make human access difficult and discourage human activity. Security habitats are sufficiently large to provide effective visual and acoustic insulation and to let lynx easily move away from any intrusion. Lynx security habitat must be in proximity to winter snowshoe hare habitat. (LCAS)

*11 Fire use* – Fire use is the combination of wildland fire use and using prescribed fire to meet resource objectives. (NIFC) Wildland fire use is the management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish resource management objectives in areas that have a fire management plan. The use of the term wildland fire use replaces the term prescribed natural fire. (Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, August 1998)

*12 Forest highway* – A forest highway is a forest road under the jurisdiction of, and maintained by, a public authority and open to public travel (USC: Title 23, Section 101(a)), designated by an agreement with the FS, state transportation agency, and Federal Highway Administration.

*13 Fuel treatment* – A fuel treatment is a type of vegetation management action that reduces the threat of ignition, fire intensity, or rate of spread, or is used to restore fireadapted ecosystems.

*14 Goal* – A goal is a broad description of what an agency is trying to achieve, found in a land management plan. (LCAS)

*15 Guideline* – A guideline is a particular management action that should be used to meet an objective found in a land management plan. The rationale for deviations may be documented, but amending the plan is not required. (LCAS modified)

*16 Habitat connectivity (lynx)* – Cover (vegetation) in sufficient quantity and arrangement to allow for the movement of lynx. Narrow forested mountain ridges or shrub-steppe plateaus may serve as a link between more extensive areas of lynx habitat; wooded riparian communities may provide cover across open valley floors. (LCAS)

*17 HFRA (Healthy Forests Restoration Act)* - Public Law 108-148, passed in December 2003. The HFRA provides statutory processes for hazardous fuel reduction projects on certain types of at-risk National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands. It also provides other authorities and direction to help reduce hazardous fuel and restore



## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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healthy forest and rangeland conditions on lands of all ownerships. (Modified from Forest Service HFRA web site.)

*18 Highway* – The word highway includes all roads that are part of the National Highway System. (23 CFR 470.107(b))

*19 Horizontal cover* – The visual obscurity provided by vegetation that extends to the ground or snow surface, primarily provided by tree stems and tree boughs, but may also be provided by shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, and landscape topography.

*21 LAU (Lynx Analysis Unit)* – An LAU is an area of at least the size used by an individual lynx, from about 25 to 50 square miles (LCAS). An LAU is a unit for which the effects of a project would be analyzed; its boundaries should remain constant.

*22 Linkage area* – A linkage area provides landscape connectivity between blocks of lynx habitat. Linkage areas occur both within and between geographic areas, where blocks of lynx habitat are separated by intervening areas of non-lynx habitat such as basins, valleys, or agricultural lands, or where lynx habitat naturally narrows between blocks. (LCAS updated definition approved by the Steering Committee 10/23/01)

*23 Lynx habitat* – Lynx habitat occurs in mesic coniferous forest that experience cold, snowy winters and provide a prey base of snowshoe hare. In the southern Rocky Mountains, lynx habitat generally occurs between 8,000 and 12,000 feet in elevation. Primary vegetation consists of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, aspen-conifer mix and lodgepole pine on spruce-fir habitat types. On cool moist sites, Douglas-fir and aspen, when interspersed with subalpine forests, may also contribute to lynx habitat. Dry forest types (e.g., ponderosa pine, climax lodgepole pine) do not provide lynx habitat. (LCAS)

*24 Lynx habitat in an unsuitable condition* – Lynx habitat in an unsuitable condition consists of lynx habitat in the stand initiation structural stage where the trees are generally less than ten to 30 years old and have not grown tall enough to protrude above the snow during winter. Stand replacing fire, insect epidemics or certain vegetation management projects can create unsuitable conditions. Vegetation management projects that can result in unsuitable habitat include clearcuts and seed tree harvest, and sometimes shelterwood cuts and commercial thinning depending on the resulting stand composition and structure. (LCAS)

*25 Low-speed, low-traffic-volume road* – Low speed is less than 20 miles per hour; low volume is a seasonal average daily traffic load of less than 100 vehicles per day.

*26 Maintain* – In the context of this decision, maintain means to provide enough lynx habitat to conserve lynx. It does not mean to keep the status quo.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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*27 Maintenance level* – Maintenance levels define the level of service provided by and maintenance required for a road. (FSH 7709.58, Sec 12.3) Maintenance level 4 is assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most level 4 roads have double lanes and an aggregate surface. Some may be single lane; some may be paved or have dust abated. Maintenance level 5 is assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. Normally, level 5 roads are have double lanes and are paved, but some may be aggregate surfaced with the dust abated.

*28 Mid-seral or later* – Mid-seral is the successional stage in a plant community that is the midpoint as it moves from bare ground to climax. For riparian areas, it means willows or other shrubs have become established. For shrub-steppe areas, it means shrubs associated with climax are present and increasing in density.

*29 Multi-story mature or late successional forest* – This stage is similar to the *old multistory structural* stage (see below). However, trees are generally not as old, and decaying trees may be somewhat less abundant.

*30 Objective* – An objective is a statement in a land management plan describing desired resource conditions and intended to promote achieving programmatic goals. (LCAS)

*31 Old multistory structural stage* – Many age classes and vegetation layers mark the old forest, multistoried stage. It usually contains large old trees. Decaying fallen trees may be present that leave a discontinuous overstory canopy. On cold or moist sites without frequent fires or other disturbance, multi-layer stands with large trees in the uppermost layer develop. (Oliver and Larson, 1996)

*32 Old growth* – Old growth forests generally contain trees that are large for their species and the site, and are sometimes decadent with broken tops. Old growth often contains a variety of tree sizes, large snags, and logs, and a developed and often patchy understory.

*33 Permanent development* – Any development that results in a loss of lynx habitat for at least the duration of a Forest Plan, approximately 15 years. Ski trails, parking lots, new permanent roads, structures, campgrounds, and many special use developments would be considered permanent developments.

*34 Prescribed fire* – A prescribed fire is any fire ignited as a management action to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements met, before ignition. The term prescribed fire replaces the term management ignited prescribed fire. (NWCG)

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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*35 Precommercial thinning* – Precommercial thinning is mechanically removing trees to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on the remaining trees, and not resulting in immediate financial return. (Dictionary of Forestry)

*36 Project* - All, or any part or number of the various activities analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Analysis, or Decision Memo. For example, the vegetation management in some units or stands analyzed in an EIS could be for fuel reduction, and therefore those units or stands would fall within the term *fuel treatment project* even if the remainder of the activities in the EIS are being conducted for other purposes, and the remainder of those units or stands have other activities prescribed in them. All units in an analysis do not necessarily need to be for fuel reduction purposes for certain units to be considered a *fuel reduction project*.

*37 Red squirrel habitat* – Red squirrel habitat consists of coniferous forests of seed and cone-producing age that usually contain snags and downed woody debris, generally associated with mature or older forests.

*38 Regeneration harvest* – The cutting of trees and creating an entire new age class; an even-age harvest. The major methods are clearcutting, seed tree, shelterwood, and group selective cuts. (Helms, 1998)

*39 Research* – Research consists of studies conducted to increase scientific knowledge or technology. For the purposes of Standards VEG S5 and VEG S6, research applies to studies financed from the forest research budget (FSM 4040) and administrative studies financed from the NF budget.

*40 Restore, restoration* – To restore is to return or re-establish ecosystems or habitats to their original structure and species composition. (Dictionary of Forestry)

*41 Riparian area* – An area with distinctive soil and vegetation between a stream or other body of water and the adjacent upland; includes wetlands and those portions of floodplains and valley bottoms that support riparian vegetation. (LCAS)

*42 Salvage harvest* – Salvage harvest is a commercial timber sale of dead, damaged, or dying trees. It recovers economic value that would otherwise be lost. Collecting firewood for personal use is not considered salvage harvest.

*43 Shrub steppe habitat* – Shrub steppe habitat consists of dry sites with shrubs and grasslands intermingled.

*44 Standard* – A standard is a required action in a land management plan specifying how to achieve an objective or under what circumstances to refrain from taking action. A plan must be amended to deviate from a standard.

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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*45 Stand initiation structural stage* – The stand initiation stage generally develops after a stand-replacing disturbance by fire, insects or regeneration timber harvest. A new single-story layer of shrubs, tree seedlings, and saplings establish and develop, reoccupying the site. Trees that need full sun are likely to dominate these even-aged stands. (Oliver and Larson, 1996)

*46 Stem exclusion structural stage (Closed canopy structural stage)* – In the stem exclusion stage, trees initially grow fast and quickly occupy all of the growing space, creating a closed canopy. Because the trees are tall, little light reaches the forest floor so understory plants (including smaller trees) are shaded and grow more slowly. Species that need full sunlight usually die; shrubs and herbs may become dormant. New trees are precluded by a lack of sunlight or moisture. (Oliver and Larson, 1996)

*47 Timber management* – Timber management consists of growing, tending, commercially harvesting, and regenerating crops of trees.

*48 Uneven-aged timber management* - Uneven-aged management develops a stand with trees of three or more distinct age classes, either intimately mixed or in small groups of 2 acres or less (based on *The Dictionary of Forestry* Helms ,1998). Group openings do not exceed 20% of the stand in a single entry, but individual tree selection can occur throughout an entire stand or between the groups.

*49 Understory re-initiation structural stage* – In the understory re-initiation stage, a new age class of trees gets established after overstory trees begin to die, are removed, or no longer fully occupy their growing space after tall trees abrade each other in the wind. Understory seedlings then re-grow and the trees begin to stratify into vertical layers. A low to moderately dense uneven-aged overstory develops, with some small shade tolerant trees in the understory. (Oliver and Larson, 1996)

*50 Vegetation management* – Vegetation management changes the composition and structure of vegetation to meet specific objectives, using such means as prescribed fire.

# Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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

### Amendment No 34

(January 14, 2009)

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#### Reason for this Amendment:

A decision has been made by the Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA, to designate energy corridors on NFS lands, thereby amending land management plans. Only those plans where Section 368 energy corridors are located are amended by the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Westwide Energy Corridor final environmental impact statement (FEIS). The locations of these corridors protect or minimize resource impacts to lands and surface resources by identifying preferred locations for corridors that also cross Federal lands. These corridors offer the American public a way to meet the increasing energy demands while mitigating potential harmful effects to the environment.

The ROD does not affect existing pipeline or transmission authorizations. It does not authorize any ground disturbing activities. The ROD is the final decision of the Department of Agriculture and was not open to appeals under the regulations found at 36 CFR 219.13(a)(2).

This amendment applies to the 1984 Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Plan). The specific corridor covered by the 1984 Plan for which this amendment applies is 87-277.

Any new proposals for permitting and/or energy transmission will follow the guidance in the ROD and other documents applicable to the Westwide Energy Corridor project. The Record of Decision (ROD), the FEIS, and all supporting documents are available at: <http://corridoreis.anl.gov/> [last accessed June 4, 2009].

## Amendments to the Forest Plan

Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

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### Significance of this Amendment:

The affects this amendment has on the 1984 Plan have been appropriately analyzed Westwide Energy Corridor programmatic FEIS, and in the ROD prepared by the Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA, which are on file at the PSICC. .

In summary, after considering the available information related to the Westwide Energy Corridor project, this decision does not constitute a significant change under the National Forest Management Act to the Pike and San Isabel National Forests because it imposes minor changes over a limited area on these forests.

/s/ Robert J. Leaverton  
ROBERT J. LEAVERTON  
Forest Supervisor

January 14, 2009  
Date