

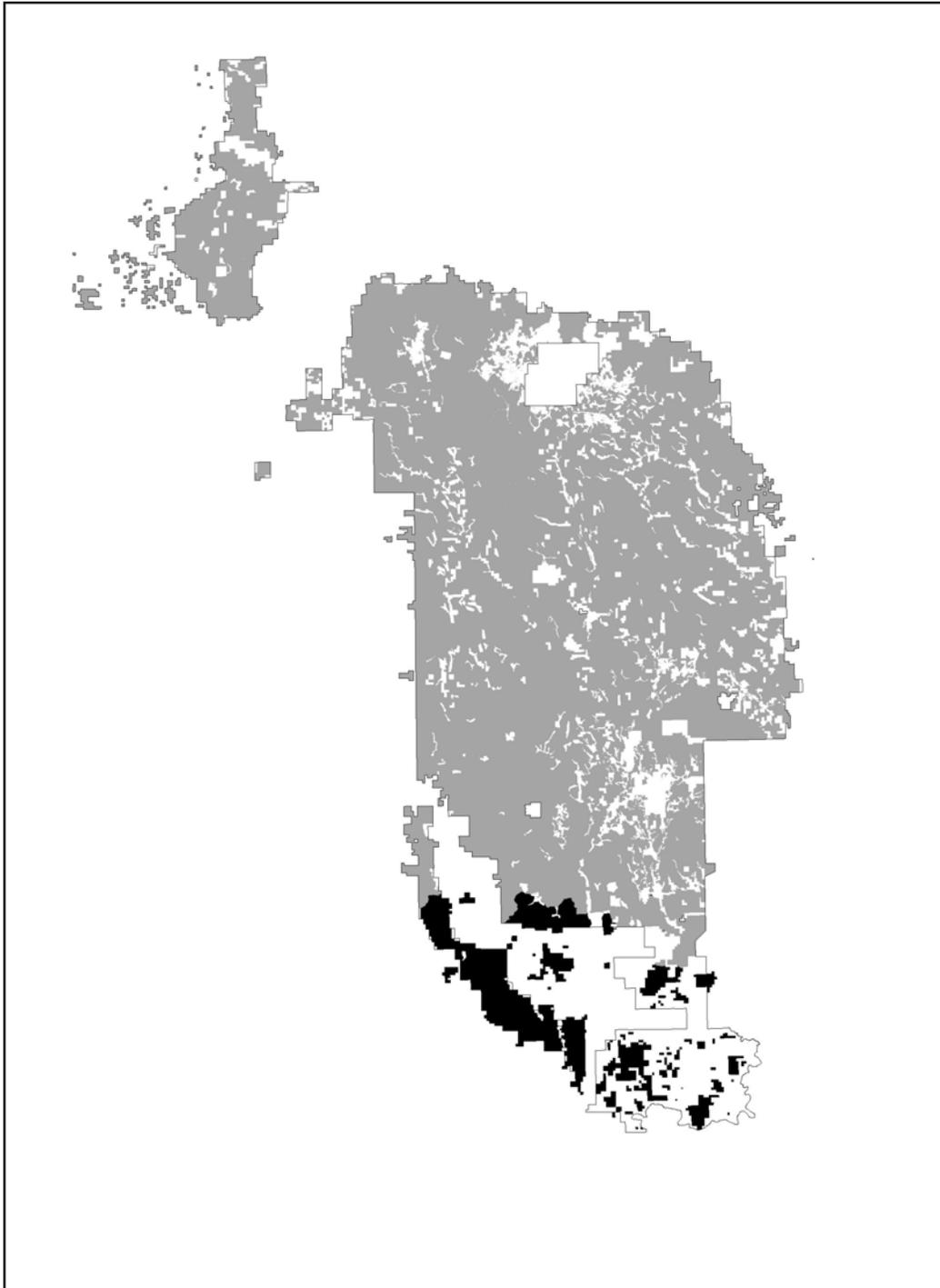
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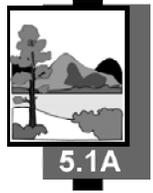
## Management Area 5.1A Southern Hills Forest and Grassland Areas

**Theme:** These areas are managed for sustainability of the physical, biological and visual values associated with areas of woody vegetation and open grassland. Habitat and vegetation are managed to achieve and maintain the desired conditions for wildlife, livestock and vegetation.





**Management Area 5.1A**  
89,706 Acres  
7.2 Percent of Forest



**Setting:** This management area is dominated by open grasslands and areas of woody vegetation located primarily in the southern part of the forest. Deep sandstone canyons run through the area and surface water is limited. Though many of these areas are forested, they usually do not produce commercially profitable wood fiber as a result of their poor site conditions. These areas do provide various resource values including wildlife habitat. Many of these areas produce substantial forage for livestock and wildlife.

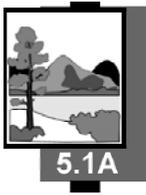
### Activities and Opportunities:

Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Timber Harvesting	Minimal
Livestock Grazing	Yes
Mineral Development	Yes

**Desired Future Condition:** These areas exhibit a mosaic of vegetation types. Ponderosa pine is usually the dominant tree species, although Rocky Mountain juniper intermingles throughout. Stand ages and size compositions are not uniform. Natural processes, like insect and disease infestations, blowdowns and wildfire, have sculpted openings of various sizes and shapes into the landscape. Snags and down woody material exist in varying quantities in most timber stands. Many of the trees in these stands display form characteristics undesirable from a harvestable timber standpoint. These forms include crook and sweep, excessive branching, forking and twisted grain. These forms may be particularly interesting to sight-seers and recreationists.

Wildlife habitat and forage production for both livestock and wildlife are emphasized. Livestock grazing may be a prominent feature. Vegetation is often managed through livestock grazing. Management ignited prescribed burning is a primary tool used to maintain desired conditions of habitat and vegetation. Vegetative diversity exists, including species associated with grasslands, sage brush, Rocky Mountain juniper, and ponderosa pine.

Motorized travel, hunting, hiking, timber harvests, mining and livestock grazing will be evident.



## Management Area Goals and Objectives

### **Biological Elements -- Flora**

#### **Forest Communities**

5.1A-201. Achieve diversity by maintaining or enhancing hardwood trees, shrub inclusions and other beneficial plant communities and openings. **OBJECTIVE**

5.1A-202. Vary tree densities (0- to 140-basal area) within stands to create small-scale diversity (i.e., to enhance understory shrubs or herbage), if compatible with other habitat objectives. **OBJECTIVE**

#### **Rangeland**

5.1A-203. Improve forage on range areas. **GOAL**

### **Biological Elements -- Fauna**

#### **Wildlife**

5.1A-204. Provide thermal cover on at least 20 percent of the forested area, where biologically feasible. **OBJECTIVE**

5.1A-205. \*NEW. Remove pine encroachment in grasslands and shrublands.

**OBJECTIVE**

## Management Area Standards and Guidelines

### **Physical Elements**

#### **Minerals**

5.1A-1501. Exploration and operations will be designed and conducted to minimize impacts to other resources. **STANDARD**

### **Biological Elements -- Flora**

#### **Forest Communities**

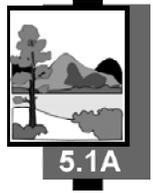
5.1A-2101. Timber harvest may be used to achieve management objectives.

**GUIDELINE**

5.1A-2102. Tentatively suitable lands within these areas do not contribute to the allowable sale quantity and are not part of the suitable timber land base. **STANDARD**

#### **Rangeland**

5.1A-2501. Feature livestock use of forage increases, that result from vegetative improvements, while also allowing for wildlife increases in forage use. **GUIDELINE**



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## Biological Elements -- Fauna

### Wildlife

5.1A-3201. \*DELETED

## Disturbance Processes

### Fire and Fuels

5.1A-4101. Utilize appropriate fuel treatment practices, including prescribed fire, to achieve resource management objectives. **GUIDELINE**

5.1A-4102. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire as a tool to enhance the vigor and palatability of grass and woody vegetation for the benefit of wildlife and domestic livestock. **GUIDELINE**

## Social Elements

### Recreation

5.1A-5101. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural, unless otherwise specified. **GUIDELINE**

### Scenery Management

5.1A-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objectives are:

High = 1,585 Acres

Moderate = 16,726 Acres

Low = 71,354 Acres

**GUIDELINE**

## Transportation and Travel

5.1A-9101. Off-road motorized travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.1A-9102. Motorized road travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.1A-9103. Over-the-snow motorized travel is allowed unless restricted by a project decision. **GUIDELINE**

5.1A-9104. Do not construct any new System roads in the Pilger Mountain area shown on page C-27 of the FEIS Appendix C. **STANDARD**