

Study Group Theme Comments for Piedra and Mosca, Pagosa Meeting 4/28/'05

Theme Area #: A1

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

Extend T-1 from wilderness into northern portion of Mosca landscape (Change that part from T-3 down to T-1)

Nothing that is being done up here is incompatible with Theme 1, so lets make it a theme 1.

There is no timber health management now, so a "1" wouldn't change anything, so I support theme 1.

Designate as a Theme 1: it is steep, inaccessible, and up against the wilderness.

This is a steep area, too steep for motorized access and timber harvest: support theme 3

Theme 3 appropriate since there aren't any roads and only a few trails.

This Theme 3 area provides a good transition between the Theme 5 area and the Wilderness.

Concerned about forest health management in a Theme 1 (responding to a suggestion to make area theme 1)

Changing themes from higher use to lower use concentrates users into small areas and that's not good (responding to suggestion for a Theme 1)

Theme Area #: A2

Draft Theme Designation: 3

Comment

Little Sand Creek. Could be in Theme 5 because it is accessible, but argument for keeping it Theme 3 is that access is through private land and its rough country used by a horseback oriented hunting outfitter, and provides an alternative to motorized hunting access in Mosca.

Theme Area #: B

Draft Theme Designation: 5

Comment

Lots of motorized recreation and hunting as well as logging and grazing in this area.

One of the only places in the area where you can drive to 10,000 ft.

One recent timber harvest project pending in this area

This is a forward looking plan, we should be considering timber and grazing and rec. use with a restoration emphasis, making this more appropriate as a 3

Consider managing as a 4 due to heavy rec use. Perhaps a 4 designation should apply to areas of heavy dispersed use as well as areas of concentrated heavy use (which is how theme 4 is applied in the proposed themes).

Since this area was only used for timber harvest on a commercial scale in the past, and will only be restoration related harvest in the future, it should be a theme 3.

Area is steep and hunting is a primary activity. Although the area is remote, the roads and altered landscape make it a suitable Theme 5.

The Mosca Road is one of the few high altitude access roads, accessible by truck for hunting, provided great access had the Missionary Ridge fire moved into this landscape. Theme 5 is appropriate.

Much agreement on T-5 for this area

Recreation use is dispersed, a 4 is for more concentrated recreation areas. Keep it a 5

Theme Area #: B1

Draft Theme Designation: 5

Comment

Extend T-3 down - may include some timber mgmt. area but use/mgt. is limited

Theme Area #: C

Draft Theme Designation: 1

Comment

Concern that in a Theme 1, wildfire cannot be aggressively fought. ANOTHER person said that's ok -- let the fire burn in this area -- that area should remain a T-1 for its wilderness values

T-1 shuts out many uses - I am a multiple use advocate -- T1 precludes multiple use

Lots of demand for access - along the river

Fires dominated this area historically - RX for fire is appropriate

The table supported prescribed burning in the Piedra area to protect the large unaltered Ponderosa Pine stands so that natural fire wont be as great a threat to stands in the future.

The Piedra area is about as wild a chunk of land as there is, and only accessible by foot or horseback by a limited number of people that know the area. Theme 1 makes sense.

Theme Area #: Gen

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

In response to a question, the agency explained that there are currently 4 or 5 commercial permits on the Piedra River and that is the maximum amount (i.e., no new permits are available). SG members were concerned and not supportive of more permits in this remote, challenging section of the river, since more use