

Study Group Theme Comments for Square Top South San Juan: Pagosa 6-30-05

Theme Area #: B

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

Control cattle on range better - distribute to watering holds further apart -- don't put in a theme that prevents doing this

Concern about 3 b/c I want to be able to make improvements on my grazing allotment (corrals, fences, etc.); 3 might make it harder for me to do these improvements, infrastructure, type improvements; like less people that the 3 brings; If I improve my grazing allotment, it helps everyone -- people, hikers, wildlife, etc.

Designation of a 3 is good -- b/c hikers/bikers can get a wilderness-like experience now, keep it that way, roads give you access -- good for older adults who can't be out for day after day, quiet now, not a lot of ATVs

Maintain current limited management by keeping theme 3

Theme 3 works.

Theme Area #: B1

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

limited recreation opportunities – support change from theme 4 to theme 3

Theme Area #: C

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

Theme 5 is good.

Lots of traffic on Blanco Basin road, too much, I agree with the 3 to reduce traffic

Theme Area #: C1

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

Price Lakes Rd. Change to a Theme 3. This area receives lots of hunting, recreation (intensive during hunting season), oil and gas development and has lots of wetlands. The area should be managed for restoration; not appropriate for commercial sales.

The three months of intensive rec use (hunting) in the fall is really impacting the road. Don't promote or encourage recreation use in the area.

The road is not maintained by either FS or County (neither take responsibility); future timber sales, oil gas development need to include road maintenance. Private lands should not have to pay the bill. (The recent oil and gas EA failed to address who was accountable for the road.)

Theme Area #: C2

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

if there is going to be high population and high intensity use nearby we should make it a 7

Theme Area #: D

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

There's lots of studies indicating winter range migration from "area A to D" (the theme 3 areas separated by a theme 5). Will the theme 5 in between impact that migration corridor? The private land development in between the areas also impacts habitat and corridor. Would be good to somehow link the two areas better.

3 good, not really conducive to camping; Eight Mile Road used a lot; can't see a need for more roads in this area

without timber resources to manage it makes sense to manage at theme 3 level – still allows forest health and fuel management activities

Theme Area #: D1

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

why change from theme 3 to 5. is relatively difficult to access (big branch road) leave as a theme 3

Theme Area #: Gen

Draft Theme Designation:

Comment

Concerned about what is being done to reduce elk numbers. Permitees are held accountable to numbers. The large number of elk are impacting the permittees available forage and impacting private lands. Would like to see the FS and DOW work jointly on elk numbers and available habitat, (including permittee allotments) and

All commercial operators should have to pay for road maintenance (timber, gravel, recreation, etc.).

Concerned about 35 ac. parcels building fences everywhere around the southern boundary of Square Top impacting wildlife movement.