
H. LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

1. Protected Lands and Natural Resources (Table H-1)

The extensive natural resources blanketed across the Valley's mountains and floor are protected by the network of Federal, State, and private agencies listed in Table H-1. Together these agencies are responsible for over 3.6 million acres of protected or managed lands representing about 69% of the Valley's 5.2 million acres.

Our current update of the table includes a significant increase in Federal land for the Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the actions taken in upgrading the protection status of the Great Sand Dunes from a National Monument to a National Park, and also contains some other changes and adjustments. Park Service lands now include 107,866 acres covering the park proper, and a 41,648-acre Preserve. To create the Baca National Wildlife Refuge, 92,623 acres were added to the FWS for a new total of 116,739 acres.

We also note that over 509,000 acres of Wilderness overlap with the National Forest, which were left out of the overall total. Also pertaining to Wilderness, the table will not reflect plans to transfer an additional 50,997 acres of proposed Wilderness to Park Service management, which add to an existing 75,577 acres of designated Wilderness area already under their management.

Also excluded from the table total this time is 138,000 acres representing the total project area of the Closed Basin Project, leaving only the 680 acres owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. The DOW State Wildlife and Fishing Areas total of 30,387 acres presumably includes some private leased acres in addition to owned land. For the State Land Board properties, we are including both owned and leased holdings in the protected lands total.

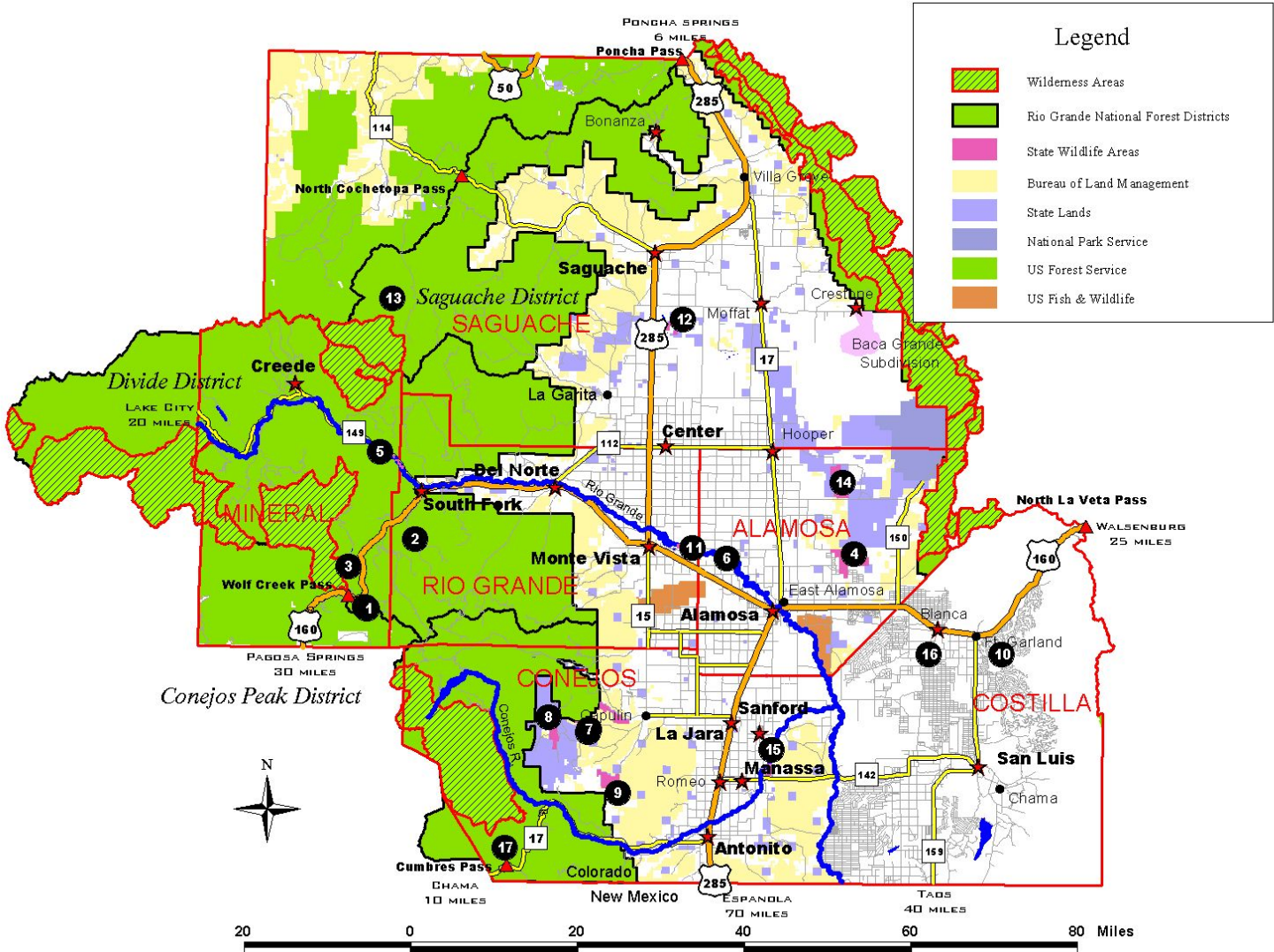
The 100,000-acre Zapata/Medano Ranch property which is privately owned by The Nature Conservancy is afforded an extremely high degree of protection, and included in the total.

Areas covered by the various agencies are shown on the detailed ownership map. The Forest Service covers most of the mountainous and forested watersheds of the western half of the Valley, while BLM, Park Service, FWS, DOW, and others share responsibility for the foothills and Valley floor.

An estimated 1.501 million acres of Rio Grande National Forest inside the Valley borders make it the largest public lands manager. Total Forest Service ownership including portions of the adjoining San Juan, Gunnison, and San

Map 11

San Luis Valley Region – Public Lands and Wildlife Areas



Source: San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority.

ALBERTA PARK RESERVOIR SWA	1	MOUNTAIN HOME RESERVOIR SWA	10
BEAVER CREEK RESERVOIR SWA	2	RIO GRANDE SWA	11
BIG MEADOWS RESERVOIR SWA	3	RUSSELL LAKES SWA	12
BLANCA SWA	4	SAGUACHE PARK SWA	13
COLLER SWA	5	SAN LUIS SWA	14
HIGEL SWA	6	SEGO SPRINGS SWA	15
HOT CREEK SWA	7	SMITH RESERVOIR SWA	16
LA JARA RESERVOIR SWA	8	TRUJILLO MEADOWS RESERVOIR SWA	17
LA JARA SWA	9		

Isabel forests inside our counties is 2.088 million acres. On a percentage basis this is equal to about 57% of the public and private lands included in the table, and almost 40% of the whole Valley.

The Bureau of Land Management is the second largest land owner, with over 632,000 (17%) of the managed acres. Other Federal agencies in the total include the National Park Service (4%); and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (3%). All of the Federal agencies combined total 2.988 million acres, or 81% of the land management. State agencies including State Parks, Division of Wildlife, and State Land Board control about 586,000 acres (16%); and the balance consists of the TNC holdings and Zapata Falls.

2. Rio Grande National Forest – Selected Resources (Table H-2)

Table H-2 with older data verified recently, shows a total of 1.831 million acres covering about 2,681 sq/mi, 2.5 times bigger than Rhode Island. The difference in acreage from Table H-2 may be due to the exclusion of the other National Forests, and inclusion of parts of the Rio Grande which are outside the Valley counties. Other factors which may cause a 5-10% difference in acreage estimates include timing of land sales and acquisitions, and differences in "land owned" and "land managed."

The table shows about 1.1 million visitor days of recreation use, and capacity to handle 6,570 visitors per day. Wolf Creek Ski Area located on forest land can handle 4,200-5,000 skiers per day. Other notables from the table include up to 150 jobs; 36 campgrounds; 1,251 miles of trails, with access to the Colorado and Continental Divide trails; 1,600 miles of open roads; and over 710,500 acres of old growth forest.

3. Rio Grande National Forest – Economic Contributions (Table H-3, H-4)

The 1994 data developed for the Draft EIS – Draft Revised Forest Plan as provided in Table H-3 is the most current available to the data search. It estimates an economic contribution (including multipliers) of \$24.2 million, and 1,225 jobs. This information continues to convey valid projections of the Forest's value to the San Luis Valley. Fishing, wildlife, and other recreation provided 49.2% of the revenue; timber 12.8%; and grazing 10.7%.

As presented in Table H-4, we also believe that the Forest Service continues to provide over \$483,000 in projected 25-percent funds to counties from timber sales and other sources, and about \$1.4 million in PILT funds.

4. Rio Grande National Forest - Land and Resource Management Plan (Table H-5, H-6)

Balancing the traditional management responsibilities for providing water, forage, and timber with increasing demand for recreational, wildlife, environmental, and wilderness uses, requires a considerable effort and a lot has been done to get public input on these issues. Protection of the Lynx as an endangered species; extended drought conditions; and timber thinning near populated areas as a fire mitigation measure continue to be issues in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report Fiscal Year 2006; as well as the land acquisitions of P.L. 106-530, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act which is addressed in the Baca Mountain Tract Amendment to the Forest Plan currently underway to cover the new land received by the Forest Service. Corrections to the Forest Plan map and Forest Service travel maps are needed to reflect the Park Preserve created from former National Forest lands within the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness.

Table H-5 is summarized from the preferred plan which was approved as part of the 1996 Forest Plan with acreages identifying total Wilderness acres and type; Wild Rivers; research areas; backcountry motorized use; grazing; big game habitat; and acres under timber management. Oil and gas exploration and mineral extraction is also a concern, but not shown in these particular alternatives.

Planned recreation use in Table H-6 is expressed in thousand Recreation Visitor Days (MRVD) of 12 hours each. Highest tourist use is anticipated for non-motorized recreation; camping; motorized recreation; and fishing. Highest local resident use is anticipated for downhill skiing; non-motorized recreation; camping; and big game hunting.

5. Great Sand Dunes (Table H-7, H-8, H-9)

As discussed in the chapter on tourism, the Dunes are the Valley's largest destination attraction, drawing up to 300,000 in normal years. Its economic impact shown in Table H-7 is estimated at \$13.1 million. Daily expenditures by the visitors average \$41.60/day.

Table H-8 compares the Dunes visitation of 285,591 in 2007 to other parks and recreation areas in Colorado, which continues to rank 5th in the State. The largest visitation is Rocky Mountain NP with 3.1 million, followed by Curecanti NRA at Blue Mesa (964,600); Colorado National Monument (714,200) and Mesa Verde (513,400). While the Dunes visitation had a modest increase from 2001, 5 of the areas on this list experienced declines. Some of the visitation data might not be directly comparable due to roadways going through some parks, such as Colorado National Monument and Curecanti NRA.

Table H-9 provides a history of visitation at the Dunes from 1990-1999, and from 2000-2007. The current number in 2007 of 268,261 reflects only a slight increase of 4.9% over the 18-year period of record-taking reported in the table. The best years were 1994-1997 which were all over 300,000, hitting a peak of 323,668 in 1995.

Judging by a comparison of the earlier 10-year visitation average of 297,268 to the more recent 8-year average experience of 268,271, we note a decrease overall of -9.8%. Some of this may be explained by the 9/11/01 disaster and the drought and forest fires in Colorado which started after that, and some is probably also due to flat family incomes and escalating gasoline prices.

The percentages of overnight stays are showing a slight increase, indicating possible greater potential for local spending by visitors and a benefit to the economy. The average number of overnight stays in the last 8 years, however, are lower than the previous average.

Conversion to National Park status is viewed to increase tourism, but the early estimates indicated only about 10% more visitors. A more comprehensive study of the Dunes' impact on the regional economy has not been conducted since the park was established in 2002.

6. Alamosa/Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge Complex

In May 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) for the Baca National Wildlife Refuge. Authorized in 2000, this included an area of 92,500 acres located in Saguache and Alamosa counties bordering the new lands added to form the Great Sand Dunes National Park. This increased the Alamosa/Monte Vista NWR Complex to a total 116,739 acres. The legislation focused not only on protecting the region's hydrology, but also at protecting the exceptional ecological, cultural, and wildlife resources of the area.

Adding to the uniqueness and importance of the refuge is its juxtaposition to other conservation lands in the area. Combined with The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, and Forest Service, this complex of lands totals over 500,000 acres, and contains one of the largest and most diverse assemblages of wetland habitats remaining in Colorado. Due to its sheer size and contiguity to other conservation entities, the refuge will play an important role in the protection and stability of the Great Sand Dunes ecosystem. Also by partnering with others, all of these entities will benefit from leveraging scarce resources.

The CMP also notes the potential for increased public use of these formerly privately held lands, and need to develop visitor information and a visitor services program. While acknowledging the FWS mission that "wildlife comes first," access to the extraordinary resources of this complex will continue to attract more visitors as more visitor services are in place. The other units of the Alamosa/Monte Vista NWR Complex receive their share of visitors; particularly during the Sandhill Crane migration. The annual festival draws up to 3,500 visitors and local residents who watch cranes and participate in the festival activities which creates additional spending activity and usually requires an overnight stay for the non-residents.

Table H-1

Protected Lands - Federal, State, Local, and Private

<u>Agency/Oversight</u>	<u>Protected Area</u>	<u>SLV acres</u>	<u>Counties</u>
Federal			
National Park Service (NPS)	Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve		
	Park	107,866	Alamosa, Saguache
	Preserve	<u>41,648</u>	Saguache
		149,514	
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	Rio Grande National Forest		
	Distribution by county	26,594	Alamosa
		292,844	Conejos
		312,296	Mineral
		267,068	Rio Grande
		<u>602,881</u>	Saguache
		1,501,683 *	
	Other National Forest land, including San Juan NF, Gunnison NF, and San Isabel NF.	587,015	Rio Grande, Conejos, Mineral, Saguache
	Wilderness Areas (overlays with FS land)		
	Weminuche	150,719	Mineral
	Wheeler Geologic Area	66,088	"
	La Garita	65,053	Saguache
	South San Juan	91,371	Conejos
	Sangre de Cristo	<u>136,234</u>	Alamosa, Saguache
		(509,465)	not included in total
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Proposed segment of Rio Grande from Colorado/ New Mexico Lobatos bridge south to state line	8 miles	Conejos, Costilla
Bureau of Land Mgmt (BLM)	Blanca Wetlands	7,520	Alamosa
	Other BLM Lands	38,665	Alamosa
	"	186,901	Conejos
	"	55,161	Rio Grande
	"	<u>351,479</u>	Saguache
		632,206	
US Fish & Wildlife Serv. (FWS)	Alamosa NWR	10,640	Alamosa
	Monte Vista NWR	13,476	Rio Grande
	Baca NWR	<u>92,623</u>	Alamosa, Saguache
		116,739	
Bureau of Reclamation	Closed Basin Project		
	Federal Owned Land Total Project Area (138,000) - not included in total)	680	Alamosa, Saguache

*Numerous changes to acreage have occurred since the Forest Plan was approved in 1996. These changes to acreage and the Forest map are being undertaken in the current Baca Mountain Tract Amendment.

Table H-1 (Continued)

<u>Agency/Oversight</u>	<u>Protected Area</u>	<u>SLV acres</u>	<u>Counties</u>
Colorado			
Colorado State Parks	San Luis Lakes State Park	2,369	Alamosa
Division of Wildlife (DOW)	State Wildlife and Fishing Areas (includes State owned and leased lands)		
	Playa Blanca SWA	700	Alamosa
	Hot Creek SWA	3,534	Conejos
	La Jara Creek SWA	3,320	"
	Sego Springs SWA	640	"
	Terrace Reservoir	300	"
	Trujillo Meadows Reservoir	949	"
	La Jara Reservoir	1,933	"
	Rajadero Natural Area	3,360	"
	Smith Reservoir	700	Costilla
	Mountain Home Reservoir	1,120	"
	Sanchez Reservoir	2,400	"
	Coller SWA	733	Rio Grande, Mineral
	Rio Grande SWA	935	Rio Grande
	Alberta Park Reservoir	60	Mineral
	Big Meadows	114	"
	Shaw Lake	150	"
	Beaver Creek Reservoir	120	Rio Grande
	Russell Lakes SWA	4,640	Saguache
	Dome Lakes	239	"
	Mishak Lakes Natural Area	2,800	"
	Indian Springs Natural Area	640	"
	Higel Ranch SWA	1,000	"
		<u>30,387</u>	
State Land Board		Owned	Leased
		55,692	81,406
		52,776	139,503
		0	0
		58	1,283
		9,500	11,957
		<u>80,616</u>	<u>120,491</u>
		198,642	354,640
County			
Alamosa County	Zapata Falls	619	Alamosa
Private			
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Zapata/Medano Ranch	100,000	Alamosa, Saguache
Total Acres Listed Above not including USFS Wilderness overlay		<u><u>3,674,484</u></u>	

Sources: NPS - Park GIS specialist, 2008
 USFS - GIS/GPS Authority, May 2002.
 BLM - " " " "
 FWS - " " " "
 BOR - Closed Basin Division office, Alamosa, May 2002.
 Colorado State Parks - website, 01/11/2008.
 DOW - website, Jan 2008.
 State Land Board - Colorado Department of Natural Resources, *Colorado State Land Board, 2008*.
 Alamosa County - Colorado Natural Areas Program website, Jan 2008.
 TNC - website, Jan 2008.

Table H-2

Rio Grande National Forest (RGNF) – Selected Resources

Size: 1,831,207 acres / 2,861 sq/mi

Workforce: 100-150

Total recreation use: 1.1 million visitor days/yr

Forest facilities:

36 campgrounds, 12 picnic areas, 9 interpretive sites, 8 boat ramps, approx 820 acres

Use is greatest from Memorial Day to Labor Day, occupancy 35-80%

Capacity = 6,570

Ski Areas:

1,196 acres under permit to Wolf Creek Ski Corp., 900 acres fully developed

Lift capacity = 8,280 per hour; Total capacity = 4,200 – 5,000 skiers

Operating season is approx 140 days (November 20 - April 9)

Skier visits, 2001-2002 season = 170,847

2000-2001 season = 187,000

Trails:

1,251 miles, average of 10-12 miles annually scheduled for reconstruction

Major trail systems:

Colorado Trail – 470 miles from Durango to Denver (80.5 miles on RGNF)

Continental Divide Trail – 3,100 miles from the southern border of New Mexico to the Canadian border in Montana (170 miles on RGNF)

Outfitters & guides: 60

Roads: 2,200 miles of roads (approx. 600 miles closed to protect wildlife, reduce erosion, and reduce maintenance costs)

Roadless area: 524,292 acres (27% of total acreage)

Wilderness: 439,600 acres (23% of total acreage)

Old-growth forest: 710,509 acres

Stream channel: 11,160 miles

Riparian area: 164,100 acres

Source: Information verified Jan 2008. Updates pending the Baca Mountain Tract Amendment to the Forest Plan. Rio Grande National Forest, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* – various volumes and tables, 1995.

Table H-3

RGNF - Summary of Key Land Allocations Under Preferred Plan

Management Prescription	Planned Acres	
	Approved Plan 1996 (preferred)	%
Wilderness - Pristine	46,230	2.4
- Pristine/Wild River	1,257	0.1
- Pristine/Research Natural Area	9,628	0.5
Wilderness - Primitive	55,615	2.9
- Primitive/Wild River	84	0.0
- Primitive/Research Natural Area	4,470	0.2
Wilderness - Semi-primitive	295,181	15.3
- Semi-primitive/Wild River	3,336	0.2
- Semi-primitive/Research Natural Area	17,803	0.9
- SP/RNA/Scenic River	80	0.0
- SP/Scenic River	4,582	0.2
- SP/Recreation River	1,325	0.1
Backcountry rec - Nonmotorized	0	0.0
- Nonmotorized/winter limited	296,493	15.3
Wild Rivers (designated/eligible)	2,763	0.1
Special Interest Area - Minimal Use	3,797	0.2
Research Natural Area	10,813	0.6
Special Interest Area - Use/Interruptive	28,625	1.5
Backcountry rec - Motorized	84,732	4.4
Scenic Rivers (designated eligible)	2,408	0.1
Wildlife corridor (connecting core areas)	0	0.0
Aspen - limited mgmt	0	0.0
Scenic Byways or Railroads	33,069	1.7
Dispersed recreation	63,212	3.3
Recreation Rivers (designated/eligible)	11,415	0.6
General forest and rangelands	222,550	11.5
Forest products	298,803	15.4
Water yield emphasis	0	0.0
Deer and Elk winter range	181,886	9.4
Big Horn Sheep habitat	79,673	4.1
Grassland resource production	70,157	3.6
Ski resorts	1,220	0.1
Private	104,147	5.4
Forest Totals	1,935,354	100.0

Source: Revised from Rio Grande National Forest, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, 1995.
Describes the projections for preferred plan that was approved in 1996 Forest Plan

Table H-4

RGNF - Projected Payments to Counties Under Preferred Management Plan

25 - Percent Fund ¹⁾

<u>County</u>	<u>RGNF Budget Capacity (\$1,000)</u>	
	<u>Full funding request</u>	<u>Experienced budget</u>
Alamosa	\$ 14.3	\$ 8.5
Conejos	150.0	89.1
Costilla	0.0	0.0
Mineral	196.3	116.7
Rio Grande	137.0	81.4
Saguache	316.4	188.0
San Luis Valley	\$ 814.0	\$483.7

Source: Rio Grande National Forest, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* - Draft Revised Forest Plan - Table S-109, 8/1/95.

1) 25-percent payments to counties result from programs on the Forest, including timber sales, grazing permits, campground fees, and special-use permit fees. Payments are made to county road funds and school districts. These represent annual average payments projected for the next decade.

Table H-5

RGNF - Summary of Key Land Allocations Under Preferred Plan, Approved 1996

Management Prescription	Planned Acres	
	1996 Approved Forest Plan	%
Wilderness - Pristine	46,230	2.4
- Pristine/Wild River	1,257	0.1
- Pristine/Research Natural Area	9,628	0.5
Wilderness - Primitive	55,615	2.9
- Primitive/Wild River	84	0.0
- Primitive/Research Natural Area	4,470	0.2
Wilderness - Semi-primitive	295,181	15.3
- Semi-primitive/Wild River	3,336	0.2
- Semi-primitive/Research Natural Area	17,803	0.9
- SP/RNA/Scenic River	80	0.0
- SP/Scenic River	4,582	0.2
- SP/Recreation River	1,325	0.1
Backcountry rec - Nonmotorized	0	0.0
- Nonmotorized/winter limited	296,493	15.3
Wild Rivers (designated/eligible)	2,763	0.1
Special Interest Area - Minimal Use	3,797	0.2
Research Natural Area	10,813	0.6
Special Interest Area - Use/Interruptive	28,625	1.5
Backcountry rec - Motorized	84,732	4.4
Scenic Rivers (designated eligible)	2,408	0.1
Wildlife corridor (connecting core areas)	0	0.0
Aspen - limited mgmt	0	0.0
Scenic Byways or Railroads	33,069	1.7
Dispersed recreation	63,212	3.3
Recreation Rivers (designated/eligible)	11,415	0.6
General forest and rangelands	222,550	11.5
Forest products	298,803	15.4
Water yield emphasis	0	0.0
Deer and Elk winter range	181,886	9.4
Big Horn Sheep habitat	79,673	4.1
Grassland resource production	70,157	3.6
Ski resorts	1,220	0.1
Private	104,147	5.4
Forest Totals	1,935,354	100.0

Source: Extracted from Rio Grande National Forest, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* - Table S-1, 1995.

Table H-6

RGNF - Preferred Plan Management Prescriptions

Preferred Plan Management Prescription for Timber

<u>Management prescription</u>	<u>Planned Level</u>	
	<u>Full funding request</u>	<u>Experienced budget</u>
RGNF estimated expenditures (million \$)	\$10.4220	\$6.7780
Softwood - sawtimber, million board feet (MMBF)	20.7070	7.5370
Aspen - waferwood, million cubic feet (MMCF)	No set level	No set level
Groundwood " " "	0.0041	0.0023
Fuelwood " " "	1.1940	0.6120

Preferred Plan Management Prescription for Recreational Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Planned level</u>	
		<u>Local residents</u>	<u>Nonlocal (tourists)</u>
Camping	MRVD	56.4	319.4
Dispersed non-motorized recreation	"	58.1	329.2
Dispersed motorized recreation	"	25.4	144.1
Water based recreation	"	3.6	20.2
Downhill skiing	"	123.9	23.6
Big game hunting	"	47.7	39
Small game hunting	"	6.7	2.8
Nonconsumptive wildlife	"	2	11.3
Fishing	"	16.7	94.4

Preferred Plan Management Prescription for Grazing

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Planned level</u>
Cattle	MAUM	63.7
Sheep	"	8.9

Source: Rio Grande National Forest, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* - Appendices, Table M-4 (Economic Impact Worksheet - Values Used in IMPLAN), 1995. These represent annual average levels of activity for the next decade. In order to calculate tourism impacts, local resident use is separated from nonlocal. MRVD = 1,000 Recreation Visitor Days (12 visitor hours). MAUM = 1,000 Animal Unit Months (quantity of forage required by a 1,000/lb cow and calf or equivalent for one month).

Table H-7

Great Sand Dunes - Selected Resources

Size: 149,552 acres (Park 107,866 acres, Preserve 41,686 acres)

Workforce: 24 permanent, 18 seasonal

Total recreation use (2007): 285,591 recreation visitors

Visitor origin (2007): Colorado (64.5%), Texas (11.6%), New Mexico (4.6%), Foreign (4.1%),
Missouri (3.6%), Oklahoma (2.8%), Kansas (2.7%), California (2.0%), Illinois (1.4%)

Unique features: Tallest dunes in North America (750 feet), Medano Creek, 14,00 ft peaks, rangelands

Budget (FY 2007): \$2,003,200

Economic impact (2006): From EIS/ General Management Plan/Wilderness Study, April, 2006

<u>Category</u>	<u>User Segment</u>			
	Local Day User	Nonlocal Day User	Motel's, B&Bs, etc	Camping
Spending per Party Day	\$38.11	\$45.08	\$165.94	\$65.69
Party-Days	21,075	32,613	54,372	27,934
Total Spending	\$803,000	\$1,470,000	\$9,022,000	\$1,835,000
Total Spending All Users	\$13,131,000			

Source: National Park Service, various documents, 2007.

Table H-8

Great Sand Dunes - Comparison to Parks in Colorado

Colorado Parks	Recreation Visits		2001-2007 percent change
	2001	2007	
Bent's Old Fort NHS	30,987	23,952	-22.7
Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP	181,018	219,575	21.3
Colorado NM	599,586	714,229	19.1
Curecanti NRA	879,776	964,639	9.6
Dinosaur NM	241,516	231,645	-4.1
Florissant Fossil Beds NM	79,669	55,990	-29.7
Great Sand Dunes NP	277,523	285,591	2.9
Hovenweep NM	37,396	26,561	-29.0
Mesa Verde NP	513,409	565,098	10.1
Rocky Mountain NP	<u>3,318,303</u>	<u>3,090,875</u>	<u>-6.9</u>
Colorado	6,161,184	6,178,155	0.3

Source: National Park Service, *Park Visitation Reports, 2008*.

Table H-9

Great Sand Dunes - Visitation Record, 1990 - 2007

	Recreation visits	Campers				Total overnight stays	% of recreation visits
		Tent	RV	Back-country	Misc		
1990	272,136	19,309	14,590	447	5,256	39,602	14.6
1991	295,070	22,570	15,698	505	4,952	43,725	14.8
1992	290,654	24,112	16,190	675	4,889	45,866	15.8
1993	294,282	24,318	14,588	963	4,743	44,612	15.2
1994	312,225	24,658	14,020	1,210	4,251	44,139	14.1
1995	323,663	26,007	14,320	1,313	4,627	46,267	14.3
1996	309,283	24,220	13,177	1,300	4,408	43,105	13.9
1997	309,855	24,755	13,810	1,216	4,373	44,154	14.2
1998	279,768	21,786	11,844	1,437	5,583	40,650	14.5
1999	286,745	24,433	13,867	1,404	5,155	44,859	15.6
10-year average	297,368	23,617	14,210	1,047	4,824	43,698	14.7
2000	260,789	18,438	11,031	1,367	3,887	34,723	13.3
2001	277,523	23,625	14,206	1,982	6,453	46,266	16.7
2002	261,260	*	*	*	*	37,952	14.5
2003	252,994	*	*	*	*	43,554	17.2
2004	268,826	*	*	*	*	43,107	16.0
2005	280,059	*	*	*	*	45,828	16.4
2006	259,131	*	*	*	*	40,968	15.8
2007	285,591	*	*	*	*	45,915	16.1
8-year average	268,271	*	*	*	*	42,289	15.8

Source: National Park Service, *Park Visitation Report*, July 2002 and January 2008.

* No report on overnight detail.