

Appendix 4: Recommended Wilderness Analysis Process

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Recommended Wilderness Process

When developing or revising a forest plan, the Forest Service must identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands to be designated as wilderness. This is done in four steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation. The inventory and evaluation steps are completed; this appendix documents the analysis requirements found in the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 70.

The directives contain the framework for the wilderness recommendation process. The Forest Plan Revision interdisciplinary team developed the wilderness inventory areas based on the process in 1909.12 chapter 70 section 71. The inventory process is documented [here](#).

The wilderness inventory area was separated into 25 named areas. All wilderness inventory areas went through a wilderness evaluation, which is documented through a wilderness evaluation worksheet for each area found [here](#) and in appendix F of the proposed action, available on-line at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr.

Black and white vicinity maps of each recommended wilderness area are located at the end of this appendix (see figures 4-1 through 4-11). Color maps of the recommended wilderness areas for alternatives B (figures 1-71 to 1-75) and C (figures 1-76 to 1-79) are located on the cd that accompanies this draft EIS in appendix 1: Maps. Most of the recommended wilderness areas are grouped together with adjacent recommended wilderness areas. In addition, there are color maps of the recommended wilderness that can be found on the compact disc enclosed with the hard copy document. The maps are also available on the web with the draft environmental impact statement. These color maps have more information and the ability to zoom in to the recommended wilderness area for more detailed information.

Step 3: Analysis

In addition to the analysis in the recommended wilderness section of the draft environmental impact statement for recommended wilderness, the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 70, requires that for all areas recommended for wilderness, the following items must be discuss in the environmental impact statement:

- The name of the area and number of acres to be considered;
- The location and a summarized description of a recommended boundary for each area;
- A brief description of the general geography, topography and vegetation of the recommended area;
- A brief description of the current uses and management of the area.
- A description of the area's wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics;
- A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternatives;
- A brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for the area's suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be carried forward in an alternative.

Alternative A

The no-action alternative is based on the 1986 Forest Plan, which had 98,400 acres as recommended wilderness. The five recommended wilderness areas are: Alcove, Jewel Basin, Limestone, Slippery Bill and the Swan Front. Please also refer to the recommended wilderness section in the draft environmental impact statement.

Alternative B

Factors considered in developing recommended wilderness areas in alternative B: The 187,741 acres were selected based upon consideration of the information within the wilderness evaluation, which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, undeveloped, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation or other special features such as ecological, geological, or scientific, educational, scenic or historic value. Another consideration was to minimize existing conflicting uses. The selection of the 187,741 acres recommended for wilderness under this alternative was carefully considered in the context of the other multiple use considerations that the Forest is balancing in developing management area recommendations for the 2.4 million acres of national forest of which 1.2 million acres are already designated as wilderness. The remaining acres that were within the wilderness inventory and not selected to be included under this alternative were determined to have either conflicting uses that did not reflect the balance of multiple use the forest was striving for in this alternative and/or the areas did not possess sufficient wilderness characteristics or wildlife conservation values.

Please also refer to the recommended wilderness analysis, section 3.14, volume 2 of the DEIS.

Alcove Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness was derived from the Bob North wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-1. Alcove recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	12,627 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area is within the Bunker Creek drainage, north of the existing Bob Marshall Wilderness. The area is split into two polygons by the Gorge Creek Trail # 218; both sections are adjacent to existing wilderness.</p> <p>The western polygon: The southern boundary follows the existing Bob Marshall Wilderness until just east of Gorge Creek. The eastern boundary is where the Gorge Creek Trail bisects the area. The northern boundary is generally south of trail #101/91 which is currently open to mechanized transport. The western boundary follows divide between the South Fork drainage and Swan River drainage.</p> <p>The eastern polygon: the southern boundary follows along the existing Bob Marshall Wilderness, until the Picture Ridge Trail #107 which forms the eastern boundary. Bunker Creek forms the northern boundary and is south of road 549. The western boundary follows Gorge Creek. Refer to figure 4-2 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Much of the area is moderately steep to very steep with some gentle slopes, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms. Existing vegetation includes whitebark pine, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and larch. The highest point in this area is Alcove Mountain at 8,053 feet.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily managed lands within grizzly bear habitat. About 79 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Alcove Recommended Wilderness and 97 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is primitive.</p> <p>This area has 3 mile of non-motorized trail of which .5 miles allows mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. Most of this area has intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 3 miles of non-motorized trails that are along the boundary.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, gathering forest products, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – There is outstanding opportunity for solitude as the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance; this area is very remote.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high as this area is remote, with little development, 97 percent of the area is within an inventoried roadless area and the southern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. A large portion (79 percent) of this area has been managed as recommended wilderness since the 1986 Forest Plan and has 0.5 miles of trail that allows mechanized transport.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process¹ used in evaluating the area and developing the alternatives²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o High interest exists for this area to be recommended for wilderness. In addition, there is public interest to recommend all inventoried roadless areas as wilderness. o This area is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and would expand it by 12,627 acres. o A portion (79 percent) of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Alcove Recommended Wilderness. o This area has very high quality grizzly bear habitat, very high amount of maternal denning habitat for wolverines, and habitat for mountain goats. o Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are present in Bunker Creek which forms the northern boundary of the eastern polygon. o This area represents an opportunity to add 1,243 acres of underrepresented³ ecological groups into the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The naturalness of the area is very high as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, mountain goat, bull trout, and westslope trout. o The undeveloped quality of the area is very high as the majority of this area is unroaded (97 percent) although there are 3 miles of non-motorized trail where mechanized transport is allowed on .5 miles. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The area offers outstanding opportunity for solitude o There is high amount of primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing.

1. Refer to the wilderness evaluation process, in appendix F of the proposed action, which is also available on-line at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr.
2. For factors considered in developing recommended wilderness areas in alternatives B and C, refer to pages 4-2 and 4-21 of this appendix and tables 4-27 to 4-50 of this appendix.
3. For information on underrepresented ecological groups, refer to recommended wilderness methodology section of the draft environmental impact statement, found in volume 2, section 3.14.

Elk Creek Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Elk Creek wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-2. Elk Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	2,032 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	The western and southern boundary is the existing Mission Mountains Wilderness. The northern boundaries are along section lines, harvest units and 1 road spurs that is closed year-long (FS Road #91280); the eastern boundary follows a section line. Refer to figure 4-5 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, larch and subalpine fir. This area has moderate slopes and is heavily timbered. Although no mountain top occurs in the area, the highest ridge point is about 6,800 feet and is the highest point in the area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is timber production. About 6 percent of the area is within the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition #01506 Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>This area has 1 mile of non-motorized trails which allows mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics.	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention. There is a large visible older dozer firebreak along the ridge in the southern portion that has been rehabilitated.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 1 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: fishing, paddling, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – The area is remote and the majority of this area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. With much of the area moderately steep slopes and ranging and heavily timbered, sights and sounds are buffered and allow for the feeling of solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value –Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the Swan River watershed.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. This areas is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as the northern boundaries are along section lines, harvest units and road spur and the eastern boundary follow section lines and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. This area is within the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition #01506 Inventoried Roadless Area. ○ This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would expand it by 2,032 acres. ○ Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the entire Swan River watershed and is an eligible wild and scenic river with the outstandingly remarkable value for fish. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 1,778 acres underrepresented ecological groups into the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the Swan River watershed and is an eligible wild and scenic river with the outstandingly remarkable value for fish. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is very high as this area is unroaded with 1 miles of non-motorized trail that allows mechanized transport and no other development. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outstanding opportunity for solitude. ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation such as fishing, paddling, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

Fatty Creek Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Fatty Creek wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-3. Fatty Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Acres</p>	<p>973 acres</p>
<p>Summarized description of the recommended boundary</p>	<p>The western boundary is the Mission Mountains Wilderness; the northern, eastern and southern boundaries generally follow a contour line. Refer to figure 4-5 for a map of the area.</p>
<p>Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation</p>	<p>The topography of the area includes gentle to moderate slopes. This area is heavily timbered. The existing vegetation includes subalpine fir, lodgepole pine (larch, ponderosa pine). Sites supporting mature/old western redcedar are present, a relatively uncommon forest type. Highest elevation point is 6,650 feet.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of primitive. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized and the primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum is semi-primitive motorized.</p> <p>This area allows motorized over-snow motorized vehicle use during December 1 through March 31 in the entire area.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention; this area does not have trail or other development.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, fishing, and hunting.</p> <p>Solitude – There is very high opportunity for solitude in this area during the summer as it is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness, the Flathead Indian Reservation, adjacent to Swan River State Forest and the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or have little impact due to distance. In winter, motorized over-snow vehicle use can influence opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. This areas is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as portions of the boundaries not adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness generally follow a contour line and do not use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would expand the existing wilderness by 973 acres. ○ The area has high/very high lynx habitat quality. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 824 acres of underrepresented ecological groups into the National Wilderness Preservation System.
Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear and lynx. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is very high as this area is unroaded with no development. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a high opportunity for solitude in the summer as there is no motorized trails. In the winter the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use on 100 percent of the area which can influence solitude. ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation such as hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, fishing, and hunting.

Java-Bear Creek Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Essex wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-4. Java-Bear Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	1,824 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The recommended wilderness area is separated into two polygons and both polygons are adjacent to the existing Great Bear Wilderness. It is a thin strip of land that ranges from 1/10 to ½ mile from the existing wilderness, and generally heads southeast towards highway 2 corridor.</p> <p>Western polygon: The southwestern boundary is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and ranges from 1/10 to ½ mile from existing wilderness boundary. The eastern boundary follows Trail #152/62 Sheep-Elk Loop and the Logan Dirty Face Trail # 62. This area is west of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.</p> <p>Eastern Polygon: The western and southern boundaries are adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness. This area is east of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, south of Bear Creek and Highway 2. Northern boundary ranges from 1/10 to ½ mile from existing designated wilderness no discernible features defining it but it typically is at least ¼ mile south of highway 2.</p> <p>Refer to figure 4-4 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and larch. In higher elevations there is sparse vegetation. Very steep slopes, heavily timbered with the highest elevation in the area at 6,800 feet.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. About 91 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized and the primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>This area has 2 miles of non-motorized trail with 1.5 miles allowing mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 2 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – Depending on how close you are to the Highway 2 corridor, solitude can range from moderate close to the corridor to very high as you travel away from the corridor.</p> <p>Other Features of Value –None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and about 91 percent of this area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as portions of the boundaries not adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness generally do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would increase it by 3,725 acres. ○ The area includes high habitats for wolverines, mountain goats, and grizzly bear. ○ Bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout are in Devils and Sheep creeks. ○ The eastern polygon has high values for connectivity between Glacier National Park and the Forest for wolverines, mountain goats, and grizzly bear and lynx. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 372 acres of underrepresented ecosystems into the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolverine and bull trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is very high as this area is unroaded with 2 miles of non-motorized trails. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing ○ Portions of this area have very high solitude is high; closer to the highway 2 corridor solitude is moderate.

Jewel Basin Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Hungry Horse West wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-5. Jewel Basin recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	21,996 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This area expands the Jewel Basin Hiking area along the southern and eastern boundaries of the hiking area. Generally the western boundary follows the Swan Crest and extend downslope of the crest in the Birch Lake area. The southern boundary at the southernmost point at Broken Lake Mountain, the boundary continues towards the divide between Wheeler and Quintonkon Creek. The southern boundary is the divide between Wheeler Creek and Quintonkon Creek. The eastern boundary meanders between the ridge between Bigalow and Kate Creek towards Graves Creek and then follows the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. Refer to figure 4-3 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, larch, whitebark pine and lodgepole pine. Gentle to very steep slopes. Some timbered slopes with rocky slopes and outcrops, avalanche chutes, and high alpine lakes. Big Hawk Mountain at 7,542 feet is the highest point in this area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is the Jewel Basin Hiking Area and unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. About 94 percent of this area is the 1986 Jewel Basin recommended wilderness area. About 96 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is primitive.</p> <p>This area contains 43 mile of non-motorized trails with 6 miles allowing mechanized transport. There are 4 miles of historical roads that are no longer on the road system within this area.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 43 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Outstanding opportunities exist for primitive recreation included hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest products, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – There is very high opportunity for solitude in this area although mainline trails within the Jewel Basin Hiking Area have high levels of use on weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 94 percent of this area is the 1986 Jewel Basin recommended wilderness area and about 96 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless. Generally boundaries follow natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is high public interest in this area to remain as recommended wilderness. ○ A majority (94 percent) of this area was recommended wilderness with the 1986 Forest Plan. Sixty-nine percent of this area is the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. ○ This area has a high percentage of maternal habitat for wolverine and connectivity habitat for wolverine, grizzly bear and lynx as well as a continuous band of high-quality habitat mountain goats habitat that occurs from above Margaret Lake westward to Big Hawk Mountain in Jewel Basin. ○ Aeneas Creek which flows through the area is a eligible WSR ○ There is a high concentration of alpine lakes that support genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 7,812 acres of underrepresented ecological groups into the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats and westslope trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded with very limited developments. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very high solitude ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Limestone-Dean Ridge Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived the Bob North wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-6. Limestone-Dean Ridge recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	15,026
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The northern and eastern boundaries is the Great Bear Wilderness and the southern boundary is the Bob Marshall Wilderness. There is an extrusion of the Spotted Bear River Road #568 that bisects the main lobe. The western top boundary is bordered by the Road 564 and Whitcomb Creek. This area generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The southern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the western boundary goes down a ridge line from Spotted Bear Mountain to 1/2 mile of Spotted Bear River. Boundary heads east going upstream of the Spotted Bear River. Southeast boundary crosses the Spotted Bear River just upstream of Blue Lakes. Refer to figure 4-2 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Much of the area is moderately steep to very steep, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms to open south facing slopes. Existing vegetation includes subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, whitebark pine and larch. The highest point in the area is Whitcomb Peak at 7,306 feet. This area has a network of limestones caves near Sargent Mountain and Spotted Bear Mountain.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primary unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum of primitive class. About 35 percent of this area contains the 1986 Limestone Cave recommended wilderness area. Approximately 99 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>The area has 10 miles of non-motorized trails with 8 miles allowing mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 10 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Outstanding opportunities exist for primitive recreation activities in this area include horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and cross country skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – This area provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. With much of the area moderately steep to very steep, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms, sights and sounds are buffered and allow for solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value –A network of limestones caves which has had on-going exploration of the cave system for many years and provides a scientific and educational value. Whitebark pine trees with apparent natural resistance to blister-rust occur within the upper reaches of Big Bill Creek and provide seed for whitebark pine restoration objectives. A network of limestones caves which has had on-going exploration of the cave system for many teas and provides a scientific and educational value.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 19 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Limestone Cave Recommended Wilderness and this area is 99 percent within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to existing wilderness and use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ A portion (19 percent) of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Limestone Cave recommended wilderness area. ○ This area is adjacent to the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas and expands the Bob Marshall Complex by 15,026 acres. ○ This area is key habitat for Clark's nutcracker. ○ There are strong populations of bull trout in Spotted Bear River and tributaries as well as genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout in many streams throughout this area. ○ There is high and very high quality lynx habitat and there is mountain goat habitat in this area. ○ A portion of this area has maternal denning habitat for wolverine, and a majority of the area contains high/very high quality grizzly bear habitat. ○ Includes a portion of the Spotted Bear River which is an eligible wild and scenic river. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 1,352 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded, has no development and 31 miles of non-motorized trails. ○ Unique ecological features and the network of limestones caves which has had on-going exploration of the cave system for many years and provides a scientific and educational value. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and cross country skiing. ○ Outstanding solitude.

Slippery Bill Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Puzzle wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-7. Slippery Bill recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	7,225 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	The southern and western boundary is the Great Bear Wilderness, the eastern boundary is the Continental Divide which is also the administrative boundary between the Flathead National Forest and the Helena/Lewis Clark National Forest. The northern boundary is south of the roaded and previous harvested areas, curves around the north end of Slippery Bill Mountain and continues southeast to Crescent Cliff on the Great Bear Wilderness Boundary. Refer to figure 4-4 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes whitebark pine, lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. The area is moderately to heavily timbered. Gentle to steep slopes. Crescent Cliff 7,600 feet is the highest point in the area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary management direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. About 71 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Slipper Bill recommended wilderness area. About 98 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>The area has 4 miles of non-motorized trails that allow mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 4 miles of non-motorized trails. The Patrol Ridge electronic site may be moved to this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, forest product gathering, cross-country and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – About 98 percent of the area is with the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area, which makes for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Provides solitude and remoteness near the Continental Divide. Morrison and Granite are two mainline trails that traverse through the area that have high use.</p> <p>Other features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 97 percent of his area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area and about 71 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Slipper Bill recommended Wilderness Area . The northern boundary may poses a challenge to managers as it generally does not use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ A portion (71 percent) of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Slippery Bill recommended wilderness area. ○ This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and expands the Great Bear Wilderness by 7,225 acres. ○ The southern portion (area around Crescent Cliff) is mountain goat habitat. ○ This majority of this area contains maternal denning habitat for wolverine. ○ The entire area has high/very high quality lynx habitat. ○ Granite, Morrison, Twenty-five Mile creeks support bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout ○ The area contains 119 acres of underrepresented ecological groups within the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is very high as the majority of this area is unroaded (97 percent). <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing ○ Solitude summer provides solitude and remoteness.

Swan Front Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Swan Face South wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-8. Swan Front recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	45,330 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This area generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The southern boundary is a ridgeline that is the administrative boundary between the Flathead National Forest and the Lolo National Forest. The northern boundary is adjacent to the Alcove recommended wilderness area and follows the ridgeline off of Inspiration Point to a section line. A portion is adjacent to the Swan River State forest. The eastern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Portions of the western boundary extend further west than the existing inventoried roadless boundary, past harvest areas and roads and a portion of the western boundary follows the contour break. Refer to figure 4-5 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	The area includes a steep ridges and a continuous chain of high and often treeless, rugged mountains forms the eastern boundary. Below the high peaks is the canyon zone where the streams of the face plunge down narrow bottoms between steep sideslopes until they reach the valley floor. Rocks and cliffs prevail in much of the canyon zone. The area includes high-elevation sparse vegetation and avalanche chutes. The existing vegetation is subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, whitebark pine and western larch. The highest point in the area is Holland Peak at 9,356 feet.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of primitive. About 98 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Swan Front Recommended Wilderness area. About 94 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is primitive.</p> <p>The area has 1 mile of existing closed yearlong roads; 27 miles of trails with 4 mile allowing mechanized transport. This area contains Holland Fire Lookout which is a functioning lookout and used as needed.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 27 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – outstanding opportunities for unconfined or primitive recreation include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and big-game hunting, camping, backpacking, and viewing wildlife. Napa Point, Smith Creek, and Holland Lake Trails are major access points to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.</p> <p>Solitude – The majority of the area is within an inventoried roadless area, which provides screening of sight and sound and providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. The western boundary is close to private land, which might influence solitude in that area.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 94 percent of this area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area and about 98 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Swan Front Recommended Wilderness area. The western boundary meanders around roads, private property, contour lines and harvest units and may pose a challenge to managers as they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and would expand the Bob Marshall Wilderness by 45,330 acres. o The North and South Forks of Lost Creek are spawning streams for bull trout. o The South Fork Lost Creek contains pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout. o The section along the Swan Crest provides maternal denning habitat for wolverines. o There is a notable concentration of avalanche chutes in the headwaters of the South Fork Lost Creek providing high quality grizzly bear habitat. o There is high-quality winter and summer habitat for mountain goats occur in rugged terrain along the Swan Crest, especially around Thunderbolt Mountain and Warrior Mountain. o Lower Holland Falls has the only known nesting colony of black swifts on Forest. o Lion Creek is an eligible wild and scenic river. o The area represents the opportunity to add 12,355 acres underrepresented ecological groups within the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is very high as this area is unroaded and 98 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Swan front Recommended Wilderness area. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outstanding opportunities for solitude o Primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing.

Tuchuck-Whale Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Tuchuck and Whale wilderness inventory areas.

Table 4-9. Tuchuck-Whale recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	80,708 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area is bisected by two roads that are not included into the recommended wilderness area: the Frozen Lake Road 114A in the northern polygon is 3 miles of open yearlong road and then the road is barriered and closed to motorized use for 6 miles. In the wintertime this road is a designated motorized over-snow vehicle corridor (100 feet either side of the route). The southern road is the Graves Creek/Trail Creek Road # 114 open year-long but in winter snowmobiles can only go to the Tuchuck campground. This road is excluded from the recommended wilderness area. The area generally follows the Tuchuck and Thompson-Seton Inventoried Roadless Areas.</p> <p>The northern boundary follows the Canadian/United States border until 2 miles from Frozen Lake, and then follows areas adjacent previously harvested areas to the Whitefish divide. The western boundary is the Whitefish Divide between Kootenai and Flathead National Forest, all the way down to Link Mountain. There is a 2 mile extrusion of trail 374 to Huntsberger Lake that is outside the recommended wilderness area. The southern boundary follows ridgelines around the Chain Lakes area and then just north of Red Meadow Road (circumvent the chain lake area). And then north of Red Meadow Road (# 115) following past harvest areas. The eastern boundary meanders in and out of drainages to follow part harvest areas and roads. The northeast portion of the eastern boundary, follows the county wildland urban interface boundary. Refer to figure 4-1 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Topography consists of typical steep alpine glaciated canyons and gently rolling ground moraines, with glacial cirque headwalls, glacial trough walls, high elevation slab rock, and glacial tills. Nasukion Mountain is 8,086 feet is the highest point in the area. The major drainage is Trail Creek, Whale Creek and Red Meadow.</p> <p>The predominant tree species is lodgepole pine and western larch with a mixture of subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, and spruce. Whitebark pine dominates in the upper elevations. Alpine larch, a rare high elevation species, is also present.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan management direction is timber and nonforest lands capable of providing grizzly bear habitat located in the Trail Creek area. About 91 percent of the area is within the following inventoried roadless areas: Mount Hefty (10 percent), Thompson-Seton (59 percent), and Tuchuck (22 percent). The primary winter and summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>The area has 4.5 miles of existing roads that are closed yearlong, 16 miles of historical roads which are no longer on the road system and 87 mile of non-motorized trails miles allow mechanized transport.</p> <p>The area contains the Thoma fire lookout which is currently active during fire season. The area also contains Mount Hefty electronic site.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped - This area is mostly undeveloped and not affected by human intervention. This area has 4.5 miles of existing roads that are closed yearlong; 87 mile of non-motorized trails. Thoma Lookout is an active lookout in this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, forest product gathering, wildlife watching, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – Outstanding opportunities for solitude as the area is adjacent to the US/Canada Border on the north, national forest system lands to the west and south and private lands to the east. Ninety-three percent of the area is an inventoried roadless area.</p> <p>Other features of Value – Healthy whitebark pine that has apparent natural resistance to blister-rust occurs within this area, with the potential to provide seed for whitebark pine restoration objectives.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 91 percent of his area is within the 3 inventoried roadless areas. The current boundaries may pose a challenge to managers as they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is high public interest in this area; it was part of the Whitefish Range Partnership agreement and was carried forward as recommended wilderness. o The Tuchuck Research Natural Area (2,050 acres) is within this recommended wilderness area. o Graves Creek/Trail Creek is an historic Native American travel corridor. o Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are present in Trail and Whale creeks. o This area is important for providing connectivity with Canada for grizzly bear and wolverine. o This area provides high/very high quality grizzly bear habitat with a high density of grizzly bears. o This area provides important lynx connectivity with Canada, Glacier National Park and Kootenai National Forest. o Nokio, Yakinakat, Trail and Whale Creeks are eligible wild and scenic rivers within this area. o A portion of the Pacific Northwest scenic trail (7 miles) is along the boundary of this area. o This area represents an opportunity to add 6,013 acres underrepresented ecological groups within the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is a substantial amount of apparent blister rust-resistant whitebark pine in the upper elevations. Alpine larch, a rare high elevation species, is also present.

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. o Unique ecological feature is the phenotypically superior whitebark pine trees are identified in this area that may provide seed for whitebark pine tree restoration objectives. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing. o Outstanding opportunities for solitude

Alternative C

The 506,900 acres for recommended wilderness were selected based upon consideration of the information within the wilderness evaluation and to respond to issues identified in the scoping of the proposed action. A significant number of scoping comments identified a desire for all inventoried roadless acres to be managed as recommended wilderness. The selection of the 506,900 acres recommended for wilderness under this alternative included all inventoried roadless acres within the wilderness inventory area. In some cases, areas outside inventoried roadless areas but inside the wilderness inventory, were added in to help with boundary management (blocking up areas instead of having narrow intrusions).

The remaining acres that were within the wilderness inventory area and not selected to be included under this alternative were determined to not be responsive to the input received in scoping and have either conflicting uses that did not reflect the balance of multiple use the forest was striving for in this alternative and/or the areas did not possess sufficient wilderness characteristics or wildlife conservation values.

Please also refer to the recommended wilderness analysis in the draft environmental impact statement, section 3.14.

Alcove Bunker Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from portions of the Bob North Wilderness and Hungry Horse West Inventory Areas.

Table 4-10. Alcove-Bunker recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	63,962
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The southern boundary of this area is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and portions of the north/northwest boundary is adjacent to the Jewel Basin-Swan Crest recommended wilderness area. The eastern boundary generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area and includes four areas that were not included in the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The western boundary generally follows along the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The southwestern boundary is roughly south of system trail #31 (Napa Lookout Trail) then up to the ridge, follows along the ridge to Inspirational Point and then to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.</p> <p>The first 10 miles of the Bunker Creek Road # 549 forms a corridor that is excluded from this area (cherry stem); the first 4 miles of the road is open yearlong, the rest is closed yearlong by physical barrier; at this point, trail #101 uses the road template and is a non-motorized trail which allows mechanized transport. Refer to figure 4-8 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>The area is moderately steep to steep, reaching from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms with scattered rock outcroppings. Existing vegetation is subalpine fir, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, larch and whitebark pine.</p> <p>The highest point in the area is Alcove Mountain at 8,053 feet.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is timber and non-forest lands capable of providing grizzly bear habitat in the Bunker Creek area. About 16 percent of this area is the 1986 Forest Plan Alcove Addition recommended wilderness area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized. About 92 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The areas has 11 miles of existing closed yearlong roads and 18 miles of historical roads that are decommissioned. There are 21 miles of non-motorized trails of which 20 miles allow mechanized transport. Motorized over-snow use is suitable on 23,409 acres, December 1 through March 31.</p> <p>The area contains the Stony Hill electronic site which includes periodic helicopter flights for maintenance.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. Most of this area has intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped although there is an electronic site at Stony Hill. Within this area there are 11 miles of existing system roads that are closed year-long and 21 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, gathering forest products, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – There is outstanding opportunity for solitude as the sights and the sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance. The eastern boundary is close to Meadow Creek Airstrip (within 1 mile) of the very southeastern edge of the area but as you travel away from the southeastern boundary, the noise from the airstrip diminishes.</p> <p>Other Features of Value - None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high as this area is remote, with little development, ninety-two percent of the area is within an inventoried roadless area and the southern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. A portion (16 percent) of this area has been managed as recommended wilderness since the 1986 Forest Plan and does not allow mechanized transport or motorized use. The Stony Hill electronic site poses a challenge to preserve the wilderness characteristics as maintenance for this site includes helicopter flights/landings. The 11 miles of existing roads that are closed year-long would need to be decommissioned.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Significant interest exists for this area to be recommended for wilderness in addition, there is public interest to recommend all inventoried roadless areas as wilderness. o This area is contiguous to with the Bob Marshall Wilderness and would expand it by 63,962 acres. o There is high quality grizzly bears habitat, and wolverine, mountain goats and lynx habitat throughout this area. o This area has a strong population of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o This area represents an opportunity to add 8,445 acres of underrepresented ecosystems into the National Wilderness Preservation System. High elevation whitebark pine ecosystems comprise about 30 percent of this area.

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, mountain goat, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as the majority of this area is unroaded (92 percent) although there are 11 miles of existing system roads that are closed and includes 20 miles of non-motorized/non-mechanized trail where and 1 mile of non-motorized trail where mechanized transport is allowed. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outstanding opportunity for solitude o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing.

Canyon Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area was derived from the Canyon wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-11. Canyon recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	7,939
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This area is irregular shape and generally follows the Standard Peak Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries. The Smokey Range ridge forms the spine of the area with four nodes of ridges that come off the spine. There are no discernible physical features to define the boundary. Refer to figure 4-7 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	The existing vegetation is subalpine fir, Douglas fir, whitebark pine and larch. South facing slopes are fairly open, with less vegetation than north facing slopes but there is dense understory when vegetation is present. Moderate to steep slopes with flatter ridge tops and high elevation basins. Standard Peak at 7,200 feet is the highest point in the area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily managed for unroaded lands and dispersed recreation. The recreation opportunity spectrum class for summer is primarily semi-primitive non-motorized and for summer is primarily semi-primitive motorized classes. About 99 percent of the area is within the Standard Peak Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>This area has 7 miles of trails which allow mechanized transport and 344 acres (4 percent) of the area is suitable for motorizes over-snow vehicle use December 1 through March 31.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped with 7 miles of non-motorized trail that allow for mechanized transport. There are no roads in this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunity: hiking, backcountry skiing, Nordic skiing, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and huckleberry picking.</p> <p>Solitude – The majority of this area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in the summer as the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance. In the winter, this area provides very high opportunities for solitude as less than 4 percent of the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use which can influence solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high; ninety-nine percent of the area is within an inventoried roadless area. The current boundaries may pose a challenge to managers as they do not use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest to recommend all inventoried roadless areas as wilderness. o There is a strong population of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o The area has high amount of wolverine maternal denning habitat, lynx habitat ranging from low to high habitat, and grizzly bear denning/spring habitat. o This area represents an opportunity to add 1,520 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area as the majority of this area is unroaded (92 percent), there is no development and 7 miles of non-motorized trail where mechanized transport is allowed. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outstanding opportunity for solitude in the summer and very high in the winter. o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing.

Coal Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area was derived from the Coal wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-12. Coal Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Size	45,257 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area is irregular shaped and separated into three distinct polygons that are adjacent but are not connected. Refer to figure 4-7 for a map of the area.</p> <p>The northern polygon is between Hay Creek and Red Meadow Creek drainages and follows the Benchmark Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The middle polygon follows the Coal Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area and is between Hay Creek and Coal Creek drainages.</p> <p>The southern polygon follows the Dead Horse Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area and its western edge is the Whitefish Divide, the Inventoried Roadless Area going east follows the spine of Deadhorse Ridge. It is bounded by the Whitefish Divide on western edge and surrounded by open and closed roads and past timber harvest units.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>The existing vegetation is subalpine fir, Douglas fir, larch and whitebark pine. This area is moderately to heavily timbered with areas of sparse vegetation and shrubs that occur mainly in avalanche chutes.</p> <p>Red Mountain, at 7,601 feet, is the highest point in the area.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily managed for unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meet the recreation opportunity spectrum class semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-primitive motorized. The recreation opportunity spectrum class for summer and winter is primarily semi-primitive non-motorized. About 96 percent of the area is within the following inventoried roadless areas: Benchmark (14 percent), Coal Ridge (31 percent), and the Deadhorse Ridge (51 percent).</p> <p>The southern polygon has 1 mile of existing closed yearlong roads and 14 miles of historical roads that are no longer on the transportation system. The middle and southern polygon have 35 miles of non-motorized trails with 33 miles allowing mechanized transport. Combined, the three polygons have 2 miles of motorized over-snow vehicle routes, and 4,372 acres (10 percent) of motorized over-snow vehicle use December 1 through March 31.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – Much of this area is undeveloped with 35 miles of non-motorized trail which 33 miles of trails allow for mechanized transport. There is 1 miles of existing closed year-long road in this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, forest product gathering, Nordic and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – In the summer, this area provide for outstanding opportunity for solitude and the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance. In the winter, this area provides very high opportunities for solitude as this area has 2 miles of motorized over-snow vehicle route and about 10 percent of the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use which can influence solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is moderate to high; ninety-six percent of the area is within an inventoried roadless area. The boundaries of the three polygons would present a challenge for managers as they are separated by roads.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest to recommend all inventoried roadless areas as wilderness. o Portions of this area include high to very high value lynx habitat, wolverine maternal denning habitat, and mix of moderate and high value grizzly bear habitat. o This area represents an opportunity to add 4,646 acres underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, and lynx. o Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is unroaded (96 percent) with 14 miles of historic roads that are no longer on the transportation system, and 35 miles of non-motorized trails with 33 miles allowing mechanized transport. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high opportunity for solitude in the summer and high opportunity for solitude in the winter as motorized over-snow vehicle use and can influence solitude. o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, forest product gathering, Nordic and backcountry skiing.

Cold Jim Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from portions of the North Fork Cold Creek and Jim Creek wilderness inventory areas.

Table 4-13. Cold Jim recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	317 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>Three separate polygons that are adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness.</p> <p>Northern polygon: follows the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition Inventoried Roadless Area # 01503 adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness on the western boundary. The northern boundary is a section line; the southern and eastern boundary cannot be physically discerned on the ground.</p> <p>Middle polygon: the northern boundary follows the Northside of Cold Creek, than follows Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition Inventoried Roadless Area #015104.</p> <p>Southern polygons: Is in the headwaters of Cold Jim Creek. The western and southern boundaries are adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and part of the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition IRA # 01505. The eastern boundary follows contour line. No roads or trails in this polygon. Refer to figure 4-11 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, western larch, lodgepole pine. The area has gentle to moderate slopes and is heavily timbered. While no ridge top or mountain top occurs in the area, the highest elevation is about 6,300 feet in the area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily managed for timber production. About 80 percent of the area is within the following inventoried roadless areas: Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition #01503 (15 percent), Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition #01504 (35 percent), and Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition # 01505 (30 percent). The primary recreation opportunity spectrum class for summer is semi-primitive non-motorized. The primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive motorized.</p> <p>The area has < 1 mile existing roads that are closed yearlong. The area has 317 acres suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use December 1 through March 31.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped as about 80 percent of the area is within the three inventoried roadless areas. The area has < 1 mile miles of existing roads closed year-long.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – There is outstanding opportunity for solitude as the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance. In winter, motorized over-snow vehicle use can influence solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high; eighty percent of the area is within inventoried roadless areas. This areas is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The boundaries of the three polygons could present a challenge for managers they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would expand the Mission Mountains Wilderness by 317 acres. o This area represents an opportunity to add 186 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System. o Jim and Cold creeks support bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o There is very high and high value lynx habitat and the area provides high connectivity for wolverines between the Mission Mountains and Swan ranges and key habitat for grizzly bear.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is primarily unroaded; there are no system trails within this area. o <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high opportunities for solitude in the summer and high opportunity in the winter as 100 percent of the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use which can influence solitude. o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

Elk Creek Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Elk Creek wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-14. Elk Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	2,964 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	The western boundary is the existing Mission Mountains Wilderness. The northern boundaries are along section lines, harvest units and 2 road spurs that are closed year-long (Roads #91280 and #91299). The boundary follows section lines along the eastern and southern boundaries. Refer to figure 4-11 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, larch and subalpine fir. This area is heavily timbered. This area has moderate slopes. While no mountain top occurs in the area, the highest ridge point is about 6800 feet.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily for timber production. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized for both summer and winter. About 4 percent of the area is within the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition Inventoried Roadless Area #01506.</p> <p>The area has 1 miles of non-motorized trail which allow mechanized transport in the northwestern corner.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention. There is a visible old dozer firebreak along the ridge in the southern portion that has been rehabilitated.</p> <p>Undeveloped – This area is undeveloped with only 1 miles of non-motorized trail which allows mechanized transport.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: fishing, paddling, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – There is outstanding opportunity for solitude as the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened well by topography or do not have impact due to distance.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the Swan River watershed.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. This areas is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as the northern boundaries are along section lines, harvest units and 2 road spurs and the eastern and southern boundaries follow section lines and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would expand it by 2,964 acres. ○ Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the entire Swan River watershed and is an eligible wild and scenic river with the outstandingly remarkable value for fish. ○ There is high/very high quality habitat for lynx in this area. ○ This area has secure core for grizzly bear. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 2,689 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. Elk Creek is the most productive stream for the threatened bull trout in the Swan River watershed. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is unroaded with <1 mile of non-motorized trail that allows mechanized transport and no other development. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outstanding opportunities for solitude. ○ Outstanding opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation such as fishing, paddling, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

Essex Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Essex wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-15. Essex recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	13,788
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This recommended wilderness areas is comprised of 8 polygons which are all adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness. The boundaries generally following the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area with some minor additional to extend to section lines or decommissioned roads. Refer to figure 4-10 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and larch. This area is heavily timbered with sparse vegetation at high elevation and in avalanche chutes. This area contains very steep to steep slopes. An unnamed mountain top at 7,700 feet is the highest point in this area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is timber with special consideration for sensitive soils and watershed values and unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation in a semi-primitive motorized class. The primary class is semi-primitive non-motorized in the summer and semi-primitive motorized in the winter. About 92 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>There are 9 miles of non-motorized trails in which 5 miles allow mechanized transport and 9,698 acres (70 percent) is suitable for motorized over-snow motorized vehicle use December 1 through March 31.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped with 9 miles of non-motorized trail in which 5 miles allow mechanized transport. This area is close to the U.S Highway 2 corridor and includes a railroad corridor and private property.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, Nordic and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – Portions of this area provide for high to very high opportunities for solitude in summer; especially as one moves away and upslope from the U.S. Highway 2 corridor and then the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or have little impact due to distance. In winter, 70 percent of the area is available for motorized over-snow vehicle use, which can influence solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value –None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. This areas is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as portions of the boundaries not adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness are along section lines, harvest units and road spurs and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would expand the existing wilderness by 13,788 acres ○ There are pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout present throughout the area. ○ Most of this area has been identified as security core area for grizzly bears and this area has numerous avalanche chutes, which are a primary habitat component for grizzlies. Nearly all of this area has been identified as high-value maternal habitat for wolverine. ○ There is key habitat for mountain goats in the steeper areas of this area. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 4,235 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, mountain goats, wolverine, and westslope cutthroat trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is unroaded with no development. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High to very high opportunities for solitude. ○ Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, Nordic and backcountry skiing.

Fatty-Woodard Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from portions of the Fatty Creek and Woodward wilderness inventory areas.

Table 4-16. Fatty-Woodward Recommended Wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	2,133
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This recommended wilderness area is comprised of three polygons which are all adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The northern polygon lies between the Swan River State Forest and the Mission Divide (Flathead Indian Reservation is on the west side of the divide). The southern boundary is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness the eastern boundary is the Swan River State Forest, the western boundary is the Mission Divide (Flathead Indian Reservation) and the northern boundary generally follows a section line. This polygons follows the Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition Inventoried Roadless Area #01500.</p> <p>Middle Polygon is a triangle shaped area with the western boundary adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness; the northern boundary is the Swan River State Forest, and the eastern boundary goes from the northeastern edge of the area headed southwest goes across the landscape to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. It generally follows the Mission Mountains Wilderness addition Inventoried Roadless Area #01501.</p> <p>Southern polygon – the western boundary is the Mission Mountains Wilderness, the north, east and south boundaries generally follow a contour line.</p> <p>Refer to figure 4-11 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Topography is rolling foothills to moderately steep slopes. This area is heavily to moderately timbered and the existing vegetation is primarily subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, larch, whitebark pine and western redcedar in mature/old forest near Fatty Creek. The ridge along the Mission Divide in the northern polygon at 7200 feet is the highest point in this area.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation in a primitive class. About 53 percent of the area is within the following inventoried roadless areas: Mission Mountains Wilderness Addition Inventoried Roadless Area #01500 (38 percent) and Mission Mountains Addition Inventoried Roadless Area #01501 (15 percent). The primary summer class is semi-primitive non-motorized and the primary winter class is semi-primitive motorized.</p> <p>The area is suitable on 1,962 acres (92 percent) for over-snow motorized use December 1 through March 31.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – This area is undeveloped and has no trail or other development.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, wildlife observation, fishing, and hunting.</p> <p>Solitude – There is very high opportunity for solitude in this area during the summer as it is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness, the Flathead Indian Reservation, adjacent to Swan River State Forest and the sights and sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or have little impact due to distance. In winter, motorized over-snow vehicle use can influence opportunities for solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. This areas is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as portions of the boundaries not adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness generally follow a contour line and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would expand the existing wilderness by 2,133 acres. o This area represents an opportunity to add 1,087 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System. o Woodward Creek has west-slope cutthroat trout and bull trout. o The area has high/very high lynx habitat quality.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is unroaded with no development. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high opportunities for solitude in the summer. In the winter, the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use which can influence solitude. o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and backcountry skiing.

Hungry Horse East Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from portions of the Hungry Horse East and Bob North wilderness inventory areas.

Table 4-17. Hungry Horse East recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	33,503
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This area is adjacent to Great Bear Wilderness. The northern boundary is adjacent to the Essex recommended wilderness area and the southern boundary is South Creek. The western boundary generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area as well as roads and previous harvest units.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	The existing vegetation is Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, larch, and lodgepole. Very steep to steep slopes, heavily timbered with south facing slopes more open. Sparse vegetation at ridge tops and mountain tops. The highest elevation point is Mount Baptiste at 8,400 feet. Refer to figure 4-10 for a map of the area.
Current uses and management	The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. The primary summer and summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized. About 89 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. There is 5 miles of existing closed yearlong roads and 11 miles of historical roads that are not on the system in the area. There are 22 mile of non-motorized trails with 19 miles allowing mechanized transport. The area has 9,586 acres (29 percent) suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use December 1 through March 31. This area contains Baptiste Fire Lookout which is a functioning lookout.
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics.	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – This area is primarily undeveloped with 5 miles of existing closed yearlong roads and 22 mile of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount for unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and gathering forest products such as huckleberries. Winter recreation opportunities include cross-country and back-country skiing, and snowshoeing.</p> <p>Solitude –This area provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The majority of the eastern boundary is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and a large portion of the area is within an inventoried roadless area. With much of the area moderately steep to very steep, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms, sights and sounds are buffered and allow for the feeling of solitude. As you move downslope towards the Hungry Horse Reservoir, there may be occasionally sights and sounds from the Hungry Horse Reservoir and Hungry Horse Road #38.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. This areas is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as the western boundary generally follows roads and previously harvested areas and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would expand the wilderness by 33,503 acres. ○ Pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout are abundant. ○ High amounts of wolverine maternal denning habitat ○ Harlequin duck pair on Twin Creek. ○ Several streams that have bull trout are within this area. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 8,715 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, wolverine, westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is mostly unroaded (5 miles of closed yearlong roads) with little development except the Baptiste lookout and 22 miles of non-motorize trails. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very high opportunities for solitude in the summer as there is no motorized trails. In the winter, the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle which can influence solitude. ○ Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and gathering forest products such as huckleberries, snowshoeing Nordic and back-country skiing.

Java-Bear Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Essex wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-18. Java-Bear Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	3,725
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The recommended wilderness area is separated into two polygons and both polygons are adjacent to the existing Great Bear Wilderness</p> <p>Western polygon: the southwestern boundary is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness. This boundary follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area boundary until the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. The eastern boundary follows Trail #152/62 Sheep-Elk Loop and the Logan Dirty Face Trail # 62. This area is west of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.</p> <p>Eastern Polygon: The eastern and southern boundary is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness, and generally follows the Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area boundary. This area is east of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, south of Bear Creek and U.S. Highway 2.</p> <p>Refer to figure 4-9 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and larch. In higher elevations there is sparse vegetation. Very steep slopes, and heavily timbered. The highest point in this area is 6,800 feet.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primarily unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. The primary summer and summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized. About 94 percent of this area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The area has 4 mile of non-motorized trails with 3 mile allowing mechanized transport. This are has 562 acres (15 percent) suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use during December 1 through March 31.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – This area is primarily undeveloped with 4 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, and backcountry skiing. Fifteen percent of the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use.</p> <p>Solitude – In summer, very high opportunities for solitude exist. In winter, there is a small area of over-motorized over-snow vehicle (562 acres) in the northeast corner that may affect winter solitude but this would not be pervasive throughout the area. Depending on how close you are to the U.S. Highway 2 corridor, solitude can range from moderate close to the corridor to very high as you travel away from the corridor.</p> <p>Other Features of Value –None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is moderate. This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and about 94 percent of this area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would increase it by 3,725 acres. o The area includes high habitats for wolverines, mountain goats, and grizzly bear. o Bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout are in Bear Creek. o This area represents an opportunity to add 1,157 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, mountain goat, wolverine, west slope cutthroat trout and bull trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area as this area is unroaded with 4 miles of non-motorized trails. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opportunities for solitude is very high; closer to the U.S. Highway 2 corridor solitude is moderate to high. o Outstanding primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, and backcountry skiing.

Jewel Basin-Swan Crest Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Bob North and Hungry Horse West Wilderness Inventory areas.

Table 4-19. Jewel Basin-Swan Crest recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	135,759
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>Irregular polygon that generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area and goes from the ridge top near Doris Mountain south to Thunderbolt Mountain.</p> <p>The southern boundary is adjacent to the Alcove-Bunker recommended wilderness area. The northern boundary is the lower slope of Doris Mountain in the Badrock Canyon area. On the eastern boundary, the boundary meanders around roaded and previously harvested areas and there are numerous road intrusions (Quintonkon, Wheeler, Graves, Lost Johnny and Doris) that penetrate into the area but are excluded from the recommended wilderness area.</p> <p>Refer to figure 4-10 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation is subalpine-fir, Douglas –fir, lodgepole pine, whitebark pine and larch. The area is heavily timbered to open meadows and rocky outcrops. Steep to very steep slopes and the highest elevation is Thunderbolt Mountain at 7,900 feet.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary management direction are unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive motorized and the Jewel Basin Hiking Area direction. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class semi-primitive non-motorized. The primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive motorized. About 92 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. This area includes Jewel Basin Hiking Area where motorized use, mechanize transport and pack and stock animals are prohibited. About 24 percent of this area contains the 1986 Jewel Basin recommended wilderness area.</p> <p>The area has 17 miles of system roads that are closed yearlong and 18 miles of historical roads that are not on the system. There are 184 miles of trails; 75 miles allowing wheeled motorized use and mechanized transport, 72 miles of non-motorized trails allowing mechanized transport and 37 miles of non-motorized trails not allowing mechanized transport.</p> <p>The area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use on: 82,543 acres during December 1 through March 31; 3,114 acres during December 1 through April 30; and 18,332 acres during December 1 through May 31.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – This area has high undeveloped qualities as this area contains 17 miles of system roads that are closed year-long, 75 miles of motorized trails and 109 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Outstanding opportunities existing for primitive recreation included hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest products, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. About 77 percent of this area is suitable for motorized over snow vehicle use.</p> <p>Solitude – There is very high opportunity for solitude in this area during the summer and high opportunity for solitude in the winter. Although mainline trails within the Jewel Basin Hiking Area have high levels of use on weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is moderate to high. The current boundary may pose a challenge to managers as there are numerous motorized corridors that extend up and adjacent to the areas (Quintonkon, Wheeler, Graves, Lost Johnny and Doris). These areas are excluded from the recommended wilderness areas and form cherry-stem boundaries. Much of the boundary generally follows roads and previously harvested areas and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is high public interest in recommended wilderness for the Jewel Basin Hiking Area and surrounding lands. There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas within inventoried roadless areas. o Twenty-four percent of this area was recommended wilderness with the 1986 Forest Plan. Ninety-two percent of this area is the Jewel Basin Hiking Area. o Bull trout and west slope cutthroat trout are in Sullivan, Quintonkon, Wheeler, and Wounded Buck creeks o This area contains wolverine maternal denning habitat, has high/very high lynx habitat quality, and generally considered to be travel corridors for lynx along western side. The area has high quality grizzly bear habitat for feeding/denning/security (avalanche chutes), important spring habitats for grizzly bears, and mountain goat habitat in Jewel Basin Hiking Area. o Aeneas Creek which runs through this area is an eligible wild and scenic river. o This area represents an opportunity to add 62,378 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats and bull trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded with very limited developments. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high opportunities for solitude. o Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest products, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

LeBeau Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the LeBeau Creek wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-20. LeBeau recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	5,950
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The western boundary follows the research natural area/forest boundary (divide between Sunday Creek and LeBeau Creek), eastern boundary generally follows the Forest Service administrative boundary, and the southern boundary follows the LeBeau Research Natural Area boundary.</p> <p>Refer to figure 4-7 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>The topography of the LeBeau area is characterized by ridgetops and cliffs formed by glacier scouring. Gentle to moderate slopes. Existing vegetation includes Douglas-fir, western larch and a small amount of ponderosa pine.</p> <p>Ketawke Mountain at 5,635 feet is the highest elevation in the area. Unique geological features include: obvious evidence of glacial activity with glacial grooves and striations on cliffs and exposed ridge tops in the area, and large amounts of limestone bedrock in the drainages. Large canyons in the area are often bordered by rock cliffs of sandstone, mudstone and limestone.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan management direction is management of the LeBeau Research Natural Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class semi-primitive non-motorized. About 92 percent of the area is within the LeBeau Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The area has 1 mile of existing closed yearlong roads; 3 mile of trail allowing mechanized transport and 252 acres that are suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use open yearlong.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The undeveloped quality of the area is high as there is little development in the form of trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Camping, hiking, fishing and hunting opportunities exist in the area.</p> <p>Solitude –The majority of this area lies within an inventoried roadless area and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. Additionally, the combination of topography and vegetation allows for a high degree of screening, and diminishes noise from U.S. Highway 93 on the northern boundary and the Burlington Railroad.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – Unique geological features include: evidence of glacial activity with glacial grooves and striations on cliffs and exposed ridge tops in the area, and large amounts of limestone bedrock in the drainages. Large canyons in the area are often bordered by rock cliffs of sandstone, mudstone and limestone.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. This majority of this area has been managed as an inventoried roadless area and research natural area. The eastern and southern boundaries may pose a challenge to managers as they do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This area is in a key connectivity area for grizzly bears between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and Cabinet Yaak Ecosystem and has high grizzly bear habitat security. o LeBeau Creek is an eligible wild and scenic river. o The LeBeau Natural Research Area lies within this area. o This area represents an opportunity to add 4,962 acres of underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains indigenous specie such as the grizzly bear. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded with very little trails o Unique topography that has obvious evidence of glacial activity with glacial grooves and striations on cliffs and exposed ridge tops in the area, and large amounts of limestone bedrock in the drainages. Large canyons in the area are often bordered by rock cliffs of sandstone, mudstone and limestone. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Opportunities for solitude o Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for camping, hiking, fishing and hunting.

Limestone-Dean Ridge Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Bob North wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-21. Limestone-Dean Ridge recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	26,294
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>The northern and eastern boundaries is the Great Bear Wilderness and the southern boundary is the Bob Marshall Wilderness. There is an extrusion of the Spotted Bear River Road #568 that bisects the main lobe. The western top boundary is bordered by the Road 2853. This area generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The southern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the western boundary is the slopebreak on the between gentle and steep. Refer to figure 4-8 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Much of the area is moderately steep to very steep, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms to open south facing slopes. Existing vegetation includes whitebark pine, subalpine fir, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and larch. The highest peak is Green Mountain at 7,418 feet. This area has a network of limestone caves near Sargent Mountain and Spotted Bear Mountain.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan direction is primary unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum of primitive class. Approximately 19% of this area contains the 1986 Limestone Cave recommended wilderness. Approximately 99 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is primitive and the primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized</p> <p>The area has 31 miles of non-motorized trails with 27 miles allowing mechanized transport.</p> <p>The area contains the Spotted Bear Fire Lookout which is an active lookout at the end of trail #84 which allows for mechanized use. The lookout is also an electronic site.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped. Within this area there are 31 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Primitive recreation activities in this area include horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and cross country skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – This area provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. With much of the area moderately steep to very steep, and ranging from heavily timbered to subalpine land forms, sights and sounds are buffered and allow for solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – Whitebark pine trees with apparent natural resistance to blister-rust occur within the upper reaches of Big Bill Creek and provide seed for whitebark pine restoration objectives. A network of limestone caves which has had on-going exploration of the cave system for many years and provides a scientific and educational value.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is very high. About 19 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Limestone Cave Recommended Wilderness and this area is 99 percent within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The northern, eastern and southern boundaries are adjacent to existing wilderness and use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o A portion (19 percent) of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Limestone Cave Recommended Wilderness o This area is adjacent to the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas and expands the Bob Marshall Complex by 26,294 acres. o Contains a stream reaches that has consistently high production of harlequin duck broods. o There are strong populations of bull trout in Spotted Bear River and tributaries as well as genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout in many streams throughout this area. o There is high and very high quality lynx habitat and there is mountain goat habitat in this area. o A portion of this area has maternal denning habitat for wolverine, and a majority of the area contains high/very high quality grizzly bear habitat. o Includes a portion of the Spotted Bear River which is an eligible wild and scenic river. o This area represents an opportunity to add 4,650 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded, has no development and 31 miles of non-motorized trails. o Unique ecological features are the genetically superior whitebark pine trees are identified in upper reaches of Big Bill Creek and the network of limestones caves which has had on-going exploration of the cave system and provides a scientific and educational value. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outstanding opportunities for solitude o Primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hunting, horseback riding, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Piper Creek Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Piper Creek wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-22. Piper Creek recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	642
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	This recommended wilderness area is one complete section (section 26 of 22 N, 18 W). It follows the Mission Mountains Wilderness addition #01502 Inventoried Roadless Area. The western boundary is the Mission Mountains Wilderness, and the northern, eastern and southern boundaries are section lines. Refer to figure 4-11 for a map of the area.
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes larch, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Sites supporting mature/old western red cedar stands are present, a relatively uncommon forest type. The elevation is generally around 6,000 feet with gentle to moderate slopes.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is timber production and unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of primitive. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is primarily semi-primitive non-motorized and the primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive motorized. About 94 percent of the area is within the Mission Mountain Wilderness Addition #01502 Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>This area is suitable for motorized over-snow motorized vehicle use during December 1 through March 31 on 511 acres. One mile of the Piper Creek Trail allows mechanized transport.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – There are no developments in this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities for hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, and fishing</p> <p>Solitude – This area provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude as it is unroaded with one non-motorized trail. In winter, 78 percent of the area is suitable to motorized over-snow vehicle use, which can influence solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. About 94 percent of his area is within the Mission Mountains Addition #01502 Inventoried Roadless Area. The western boundary is adjacent to existing wilderness. The current northern, southern and eastern boundaries may pose a challenge to managers as they do not use natural features that are locatable on the map but not the ground.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. ○ This area is adjacent to the Mission Mountains Wilderness and would increase it by 642 acres. ○ This area supports bull trout and pure westslope cutthroat trout in Piper Creek. ○ There is high/very high quality lynx habitat and high value for connectivity for wolverines between Mission and Swan Range. ○ This area represents an opportunity to add 576 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outstanding opportunities for solitude. ○ Opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation for backpacking, hiking, fishing and wildlife viewing.

Sky West Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Sky West wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-23. Sky West recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	5,193
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area with additional acreage in the 25 Mile Creek area</p> <p>Northern polygon – this area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The northern boundary is adjacent to the U.S. Highway 2 corridor within 1/4 mile, the southeast section of the southern boundary is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and southwest portion side is partly adjacent to private property and partly on contour lines not discernible on the ground. The eastern boundary is not discernible on the ground.</p> <p>Southern Polygon – generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The western boundary is the adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness; the southern and eastern boundary borders past management harvest activities. Refer to figure 4-9 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	Existing vegetation includes whitebark pine, subalpine fir and lodgepole pine. Moderate to steep slopes; heavily timbered with some past fire openings. Baldhead Mountain at 7,794 feet is the highest elevation in this area.
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is for unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. The primary summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized and the primary winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive motorized. About 90 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The area has 3 miles of existing roads closed yearlong; 4 miles of non-motorized trails allowing mechanized transport. The area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use on 4,263 acres during December 1 through May 14 with the majority in the northern polygon.</p> <p>The Patrol Ridge electronic site is planning to be move from north of the road to south of the road, which would place the site within the Slippery Bill recommended wilderness area. Until then, the electronic site is within this recommended wilderness area.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped although there is an electronic site at Patrol Ridge 9(planning to be moved). Within this area there are 3 miles of existing system roads that are closed year-long, and 4 miles of non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing.</p> <p>Solitude – Portions of the area provide outstanding opportunity for solitude; especially as one moves away from US Highway 2. Eighty-four percent of the area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicles which can influence opportunities for solitude. This area is a popular late season snowmobile area.</p> <p>Other features of Value – None</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. About 90 percent of his area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The boundaries may poses a challenge to managers; the northern, eastern and western boundaries may poses a challenge to managers is partly adjacent to private property and partly on contour lines and do not generally use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would increase it by 5,193 acres. o This area has high value as connectivity habitat between Glacier National Park and Forest for wolverine and grizzly. This area has high and very high habitat quality for lynx, portions in the southern section provides maternal denning habitat for wolverine and very high quality grizzly bear habitat. o This area represents an opportunity to add 302 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, and wolverine. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high to outstanding opportunities for solitude. o Opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, snowshoeing, Nordic and backcountry skiing.

Slippery Bill–Puzzle Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Puzzle wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-24. Slippery Bill–Puzzle recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	20,703 acres
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>Generally this rea follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area and is irregularly shaped. The southern boundary is the Great Bear Wilderness, the eastern boundary is the Continental Divide as well as the administrative boundary between the Flathead National Forest and the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. The northern boundary is along the U.S. Highway 2 corridor (1/4 mile away) and the western boundary meanders around roads and harvest units. Refer to figure 4-9 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Existing vegetation includes whitebark pine, lodgepole pine and subalpine fir. Moderate to heavy timber with open south slopes. Gentle to steep slopes. Bullshoe Mountain at 7,900 feet is the highest point.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary management direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets recreation opportunity spectrum class of semi-primitive non-motorized. About 26 percent of this area contains the 1986 Forest Plan Slipper Bill recommended wilderness area. About 97 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>The area has 17 miles of trails with 16 miles allowing mechanized transport. The area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use on 5,313 acres (26 percent) during December 1 through May 14 and is a popular late season snowmobile area.</p> <p>Patrol Ridge electronic site is currently north of the road in the Sky West recommended wilderness area and is planned to be moved to a site south of the road, which would make it within this recommended wilderness area.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. This area has mostly intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped. Within this area there are 17 miles of non-motorized trails. The Patrol Ridge electronic site may be moved to this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, forest product gathering, cross-country and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – This area provides for outstanding opportunities for solitude as it is unroaded with one non-motorized trail. In winter, 78 percent of the area is suitable to motorized over-snow vehicle use, which can influence solitude. This area is remote, especially close to the Continental Divide. Motorized over-snow vehicle use is suitable on 26 percent of the area the late season use is moderate to high which can affect solitude.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. About 97 percent of his area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The northern is along the US Highway 2 corridor (1/4 mile away) and the western boundary meanders around roads and harvest units and may poses a challenge to managers as they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This area is adjacent to the Great Bear Wilderness and would increase it by 20,703 acres. o This area includes 100 percent of the 1986 Slippery Bill recommended wilderness area. o Morrison, Granite, and Twenty-five Mile creeks support bull trout and native westslope cutthroat trout. o Southern portion (area around Crescent Cliff) is mountain goat habitat. The majority of this area is maternal denning habitat for wolverine. o This area contains high quality Grizzly Bear habitat. o The area provides high/very high quality lynx habitat. o This area represents an opportunity to add 263 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Very high to outstanding opportunities for solitude. o Opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing.

Swan Front Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from the Swan Face South wilderness inventory area.

Table 4-25. Swan Front recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	48,151
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area generally follows the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <p>The southern boundary is the forest boundary between Flathead National Forest and Lolo National Forest at a ridgeline. The northern boundary is adjacent to the Alcove Bunker Recommended Wilderness area and follows the ridgeline off of Inspiration point to a section line. A portion of the boundary is adjacent to the Swan River State forest. The eastern boundary is adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The western boundary has some portions of the boundary extend further west than the existing Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area boundary, past harvest areas and roads and a portion of the western boundary follows the contour break. Refer to figure 4-11 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>The area includes a steep ridges and a continuous chain of high and often treeless, rugged mountains forms the eastern boundary. Below the high peaks is the canyon zone where the streams of the face plunge down narrow bottoms between steep sideslopes until they reach the valley floor. Rocks and cliffs prevail in much of the canyon zone.</p> <p>The existing vegetation is subalpine fir, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, whitebark pine and western larch.</p> <p>The highest point in this area is Holland Peak at 9,356 feet.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is unroaded lands suited for dispersed recreation that meets the recreation opportunity spectrum class of primitive. About 100 percent of the 1986 of the Swan Front recommended wilderness area is within this area. About 93 percent of the area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The primary summer and winter recreation opportunity spectrum class is primitive.</p> <p>The area has 1 mile of existing closed yearlong roads; 27 miles of trails with 4 mile allowing mechanized transport. The area is suitable for motorized over-snow vehicle use on 2,761 acres (6 percent) during December 1 through March 31 (6 percent).</p> <p>This area contains Holland Fire Lookout which is a functioning lookout that is not staffed full-time during the summer but only used as needed.</p>
Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. Most of this area has intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped –The majority of this area is undeveloped. Within this area there are 27 miles of non-motorized trails. The Holland Lake Fire Lookout is within this area.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – This area has an outstanding amount of unconfined and primitive recreation opportunities: hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and big-game hunting, camping, backpacking, and viewing wildlife.</p> <p>Solitude – There is outstanding opportunity for solitude as the sights and the sounds of human activities and improvements are screened by topography or do not have impact due to distance. The western boundary is adjacent to private land, which might influence solitude. Napa Point, Smith Creek, and Holland Lake Trails are major access points to the Bob Marshall Wilderness which has high use during the summer and fall seasons.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – None</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
	<p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. About 93 percent of his area is within the Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan Inventoried Roadless Area. The western boundary meanders around roads, private property, contour lines and harvest units and may poses a challenge to managers as they do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is high public interest in recommended this area as well as wilderness areas adjacent to existing designated wilderness and within inventoried roadless areas. o This are would expands the Bob Marshall Wilderness area by 48,151 acres. o The North and South Forks of Lost Creek are spawning streams for bull trout. o The South Fork Lost Creek contains pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout. o Lower Holland Falls has the only known nesting colony of black swifts on the Forest. o There is high value grizzly bear connectivity and high and very high grizzly bear habitat quality, particularly in the avalanche chutes in the headwaters of the South Fork Lost Creek. o The area has putative lynx travel corridor along west edge and most of the area provides maternal denning habitat for wolverine. o Lion Creek is an eligible wild and scenic river within this area. o The area represents the opportunity to add 14,432 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is a population of whitebark pine.
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. o Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outstanding opportunities for solitude o Primitive and/or unconfined recreation opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing.

Tuchuck–Whale Recommended Wilderness Area

This recommended wilderness area is derived from portions of the Tuchuck and Whale wilderness inventory areas.

Table 4-26. Tuchuck-Whale recommended wilderness area

Analysis Criteria	Description
Acres	90,638
Summarized description of the recommended boundary	<p>This area is bisected by two roads that are not included into the recommended wilderness area: the Frozen Lake Road 114A in the northern polygon is 3 miles of open yearlong and then the road is barriered and closed to motorized use for 6 miles. In the wintertime this road is a designated motorized over-snow vehicle corridor (100 feet either side of the route).</p> <p>The southern road is the Graves Creek/Trail Creek Road # 114 open year-long but in winter snowmobiles can only go to Tuchuck Campground. This road is excluded from the recommended wilderness area.</p> <p>This area generally follows three inventoried roadless areas: Tuchuck, Mount Hefty, and Thompson-Seton.</p> <p>The northern boundary follows the Canadian border until 2 miles from Frozen Lake, where it then follows previously harvested areas to the Whitefish Divide. The western boundary is the divide between Kootenai and Flathead National Forest, (Whitefish Divide), and follows the divide down to Link Mountain. The southern boundary has no discernable features, runs north of Red Meadow Road and harvest units. The eastern boundary meanders in and out of drainages to follow part harvest areas and roads. Portions of the northeastern boundary follows private property. Refer to figure 4-6 for a map of the area.</p>
Brief description of the general geography, topography, and vegetation	<p>Topography consists of typical steep alpine glaciated canyons and gently rolling ground moraines, with glacial cirque headwalls, glacial trough walls, high elevation slab rock, and glacial tills. Nasukion Mountain is 8,086 feet is the highest point in the area. The major drainage is Trail Creek, Whale Creek and Red Meadow.</p> <p>The predominant tree species is lodgepole pine and western larch with a mixture of alpine fir, Douglas-fir, and spruce. Whitebark pine dominates in the upper elevations. Alpine larch, a rare high elevation species, is also present.</p>
Current uses and management	<p>The 1986 Forest Plan primary direction is timber and nonforest lands capable of providing grizzly bear habitat located in the Trail Creek area. About 91 of the area is within the following inventoried roadless areas: Mount Hefty (11 percent), Thompson-Seton (59 percent), and Tuchuck (22 percent). The primary winter and summer recreation opportunity spectrum class is semi-primitive non-motorized.</p> <p>The area has 7 miles roads closed yearlong and has 16 miles of historical roads. There are 98 miles of non-motorized trails that allow mechanized transport. Motorized over-snow motorized vehicle use is suitable on 1,906 acres during December 1 through March 31.</p> <p>The area contains the Thoma Lookout which is active during fire season and the Mount Hefty electronic site.</p>

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Description of the wilderness characteristics and the ability to protect and manage the area so as to preserve its wilderness characteristics</p>	<p>Natural Quality – The majority of this area is very natural appearing and the current vegetation is primarily affected by natural ecological processes. Most of this area has intact ecological integrity and generally appears to reflect ecological conditions that would be associated with the area without human intervention.</p> <p>Undeveloped – The majority of this area is undeveloped with 7 miles of existing roads that are closed year-long, 98 miles of non-motorized trail that allow for mechanized transport and 16 miles of historical roads. There is one active lookout Thoma and one electronic site on Mount Hefty.</p> <p>Unconfined and/or primitive recreation – Outstanding opportunities existing for primitive recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, forest product gathering, wildlife watching, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing.</p> <p>Solitude – Outstanding opportunities for solitude as the area is adjacent to the US/Canada Border on the north, National Forest System lands to the west and south and private lands to the east. Ninety-three percent of the area is an inventoried roadless area.</p> <p>Other Features of Value – Healthy whitebark pine that has apparent natural resistance to blister-rust occurs within this area, with the potential to provide seed for whitebark pine restoration objectives.</p> <p>The ability to protect and manage these wilderness characteristics is high. About 91 percent of this area is within the three inventoried roadless areas. The current boundaries may pose a challenge to managers as there is one motorized corridor that extends through and adjacent to the areas (Grave/Trail Creek Road) and the Frozen Lake Road that extends partly through the northern polygon and forms a cherry stem boundary. In addition, the boundaries do not always use natural features that are locatable on the map and ground.</p>
<p>A brief summary of the factors considered and the process used in evaluating the area and developing the alternative(s).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There is high public interest in recommending this area for wilderness. o There is public interest in recommended wilderness areas within inventoried roadless areas. o This area was part of the Whitefish Range Partnership agreement and was carried forward as recommended wilderness. o Bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout are present in Trail and Whale creeks. o Tuchuck Research Natural Area (2,050 acres) is within this recommended wilderness area. o This area contains a stream that consistently has high production of harlequin duck broods. o This area is important for providing connectivity with Canada for grizzly bear and wolverine. Several putative travel corridors for lynx traverse it and are important for connectivity with Canada and between Glacier National Park and Whitefish Range. o The area has high/very high quality grizzly bear habitat quality, maternal denning habitat for wolverine and a majority of the area is high and very high quality lynx habitat. o There are three eligible wild and scenic rivers: Trail, Nokio, and Whale creeks. o A portion of the Pacific Northwest scenic trail (7 miles) is within this area. o This area represents an opportunity to add 9,766 acres of underrepresented ecological groups to the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is a substantial amount of apparent blister rust-resistant whitebark pine in the upper elevations. Alpine larch, a rare high elevation species, is also present.

Analysis Criteria	Description
<p>Brief summary of the ecological and social characteristics that would provide the basis for suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System</p>	<p>The <u>ecological characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturalness of the area as much of the area is affected primarily by natural forces, has mostly intact ecological integrity and contains many indigenous species such as the grizzly bear, lynx, wolverine, mountain goats, bull trout and western cutthroat trout. ○ Undeveloped quality of the area is high as this area is unroaded. ○ Unique ecological feature is the phenotypically superior whitebark pine trees are identified in this area that may provide seed for whitebark pine tree restoration objectives <p>The <u>social characteristics</u> that provide the basis for suitability are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outstanding opportunities for solitude. ○ Opportunities for primitive and/or unconfined recreation for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gathering forest product, cross-country and backcountry skiing, and snowshoeing

Alternative D

No areas were recommended for wilderness for this alternative to respond to issues identified in the scoping of the proposed action. Scoping comments identified a desire to not recommend any additional acres to be managed as recommended wilderness. The comments suggested that existing wilderness areas on the Flathead National Forest (1.2 million out of the 2.4 million total acres available) provide sufficient opportunities and benefits and that additional recommended wilderness designation promotes higher degrees of multiple use conflicts on remaining lands. While the wilderness inventory displays many areas and acres that possess wilderness character, this alternative is designed to respond to the public input received in scoping and to display a reasonable range of alternatives as required under NEPA. Please also refer to the recommended wilderness analysis in the draft environmental impact statement, section 3.14.

Summary of Areas Excluded in Alternatives by Wilderness Inventory Areas

For each wilderness inventory area evaluated or portions evaluated that are not included in an alternative in the applicable National Environmental Policy Act analysis, the following tables document the reasons for excluding it from further analysis. For maps of the wilderness inventory areas, please refer to appendix F of the proposed action for the Evaluation of Wilderness Inventory Areas, which is also available on-line at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/flathead/fpr.

Beaver Lake Wilderness Inventory Area – 3,478 acres

Table 4-27. Management area allocation by alternative for the Beaver Lake wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0	5c (15%), 6b (85%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0	5c (100%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness. There is no inventoried roadless area within this wilderness inventory area.
D	0	6a (15%) 6b (85%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Bob North Wilderness Inventory Area – 88,034 acres

Table 4-28. Management area allocation by alternative for the Bob North wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	31%	2a (2%), 2b (3%), 5a (46%), 5c (8%), 5d (<1%), 6a (5%), 6B (4%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	87%	2a (2%), 2b (<1%), 5a (6%) 5c (5%), 6a and 6b (<1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0	2a (2%), 2b (4%), 5a (68%), 5c (17%), 6a (5%), 6b (4%), 6c (<1%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Canyon Wilderness Inventory Area – 18,821 acres

Table 4-29. Management area allocation by alternative for the Canyon wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5a (56%), 5c (3%), 6a (31%), 6b (6%), 7 (5%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	42%	5a (24%), 5c (5%), 6a (16%), 6b (4%), 7 (5%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0	5a (43%), 5c (15%), 6a (12%), 6b (3%), 7 (26%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient

Coal Wilderness Inventory Area – 67,479 acres

Table 4-30. Management area allocation by alternative for the Coal wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5a (66%), 5c (8%), 6a (11%), 6b (15%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	67%	5a (27%), 5c (5%), 6a (1%), 6b (1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0	5a (64%), 5c (8%), 6a (13%), 6b (15%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness is sufficient

Cold Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 674 acres

Table 4-31. Management area allocation by alternative for the Cold Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5c (23%), 6b (77%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	23%	5c (77%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5c (23%), 6b (77%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness is sufficient

Crane Porcupine Wilderness Inventory Area – 5,369 acres

Table 4-32. Management area allocation by alternative for the Crane Porcupine wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	6b (100%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0%	5c (100%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness. There is no inventoried roadless area within this wilderness inventory area.
D	0%	6b (98%), 6c (2%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient

Demers Wilderness Inventory Area – 6,948 acres

Table 4-33. Management area allocation by alternative for the Demers wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	2a (1%), 5a (18%), 6a (56%), 6b (25%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0%	2a (1%), 5a (73%), 6b (25%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness. There is no inventoried roadless area within this wilderness inventory area.
D	0%	2a (1%), 6a (65%), 6b (22%), 6c (12%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient

Elk Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 7,714 acres

Table 4-33. Management area allocation by alternative for the Elk Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	26%	2b (5%), 5a (31%), 6b (38%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	38%	5a (17%), 5c (45%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2b (14%), 5a (47%), 6b (39%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Essex Wilderness Inventory Area – 22,912 acres

Table 4-34. Management area allocation by alternative for the Essex wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	8%	2a (8%), 5a (15%), 5c (38%), 6a (21%), 6b (9%) 7 (1%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	76%	2a (8%), 5c (6%), 6a (8%), 7 (1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2a (8%), 5a (23%), 5c (32%), 6a (25%), 6b (6%), 6c (5%), 7 (1%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Fatty Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 4,959 acres

Table 4-35. Management area allocation by alternative for the Fatty Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	20%	3b (2%), 5a (3%), 5c (12%), 6b (63%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	26%	3b (2%), 5c (71%), 6a and 6b (<1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	3b (2%), 5a (3%), 5c (31%), 6b (63%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Glacier Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 2,591 acres

Table 4-36. Management area allocation by alternative for the Glacier Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	2b (44%), 3b (28%), 6a (1%), 6b (28%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0%	2b (44%), 3b (28%), 5c (28%), 6a (<1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness. There is no inventoried roadless area in this wilderness inventory area.
D	0%	2b (44%), 3b (28%), 6a (<1%), 6b (28%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Hungry Horse Reservoir East Wilderness Inventory Area – 36,928 acres

Table 4-37. Management area allocation by alternative for the Hungry Horse Reservoir East wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5a (51%), 5c (24%), 6a (6%), 6b (18%),	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	83%	5a (1%), 5c (13%), 6a (3%),	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5a (51%), 5c (24%), 6a (6%), 6b (17%), 6c (<1%), 7 (<1%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Hungry Horse Reservoir West Wilderness Inventory Area – 178,404 acres

Table 4-38. Management area allocation by alternative for the Hungry Horse Reservoir West wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	12%	5a (9%), 5b (28%), 5c (25%), 5d (6%), 6a (10%), 6b (9%), 7 (1%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	85%	5c (8%), 6a (6%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2b (2%), 3b (7%), 5a (8%), 5b (28%), 5c (29%), 5d (6%), 6a (10%), 6b (7%), 6c (2%), 7 (1%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Jim Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 1,519 acres

Table 4-39. Management area allocation by alternative for the Jim Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	6a (31%), 6b (69%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	3%	5c (96%), 6a (<1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	6a (31%), 6b (69%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

LeBeau Wilderness Inventory Area – 6,340 acres

Table 4-40. Management area allocation by alternative for the LeBeau wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	4a (84%), 6a (8%), 6b (1%), 6c (7%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	92%	6a (1%), 6c (7%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	4a (84%), 6a (8%), 6b (1%), 6c (7%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Lindbergh Lake Wilderness Inventory Area – 1,013 acres

Table 4-41. Management area allocation by alternative for the Lindbergh Lake wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	2b (4%), 5a (45%), 5c (11%), 6b (40%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0%	2b (4%), 5a (45%), 5c (51%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness. There is no inventoried roadless area within this wilderness inventory area.
D	0%	2b (4%), 5a (45%), 5c (11%), 6b (40%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Meadow Lake Wilderness Inventory Area – 1,037 acres

Table 4-42. Management area allocation by alternative for the Meadow Lake wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	2b (2%), 5a (49%), 5c (17%), 6b (33%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	0%	2b (2%), 5a (49%), 5c (49%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2b (2%), 5a (49%), 5c (17%), 6b (27%), 6c (6%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

North Fork Cold Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 443 acres

Table 4-43. Management area allocation by alternative for the North Fork wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	6a (26%), 6b (74%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	26%	5c (59%), 6a (15%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	6a (26%), 6b (74%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Piper Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 642 acres

Table 4-44. Management area allocation by alternative for the Piper Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5a (20%), 5c (80%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	100%		Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5a (20%), 5c (80%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Puzzle Wilderness Inventory Area – 24,133 acres

Table 4-45. Management area allocation by alternative for the Puzzle wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	30%	5a (32%), 5c (22%), 6a (9%), 6b (7%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	86%	5c (14%), 6a (1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5a (58%), 5c (22%), 6a (13%), 6b (7%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Sky West Wilderness Inventory Area – 6,265 acres

Table 4-46. Management area allocation by alternative for the Sky West wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5a (14%), 5c (62%), 6a (19%), 6b (6%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	83%	5c (13%), 6a (4%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5a (14%), 5c (32%), 6a (47%), 6b (7%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Swan Face South Wilderness Inventory Area – 52,978 acres

Table 4-47. Management area allocation by alternative for the Swan Face South wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	86%	5c (5%), 6a (1%), 6b (7%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	91%	5c (8%), 6a (<1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2b (5%), 5a (80%), 5c (5%), 6a (1%), 6b (2%), 6c (5%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Tuchuck Wilderness Inventory Area – 32,667 acres

Table 4-48. Management area allocation by alternative for the Tuchuck wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	84%	2b (1%), 5c (1%), 6a (15%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	98%	2b (1%), 5a (<1%), 5c (1%), 6a (1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0	2b (2%), 4a (6%), 5a (76%), 5c (1%), 6a (15%),	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Whale Wilderness Inventory Area – 69,549 acres

Table 4-49. Management area allocation by alternative for the Whale wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	77%	2b (2%), 5a (4%), 5c (4%), 6a (10%), 6b (3%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	84%	2b (1%), 5a (10%), 5c (3%), 6a (2%), 6b (1%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	2b (7%), 5a (69%), 5c (9%), 6a (12%), 6b (3%), 6c (<1%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

Woodward Creek Wilderness Inventory Area – 2,158 acres

Table 4-50. Management area allocation by alternative for the Woodward Creek wilderness inventory area

Alternative	1b allocation Recommended Wilderness	Other management area allocation	Rationale
B	0%	5c (40%), 6a (2%), 6b (58%)	This alternative considered the wilderness evaluation information which indicated these areas had wilderness characteristics and balanced this with other multiple uses to minimize existing conflicting uses when developing recommended wilderness areas.
C	39%	5c (61%)	Responds to comments for all inventoried roadless areas to be managed as recommended wilderness.
D	0%	5c (40%), 6a (2%), 6b (58%)	Responds to comments stating existing wilderness on the Forest is sufficient.

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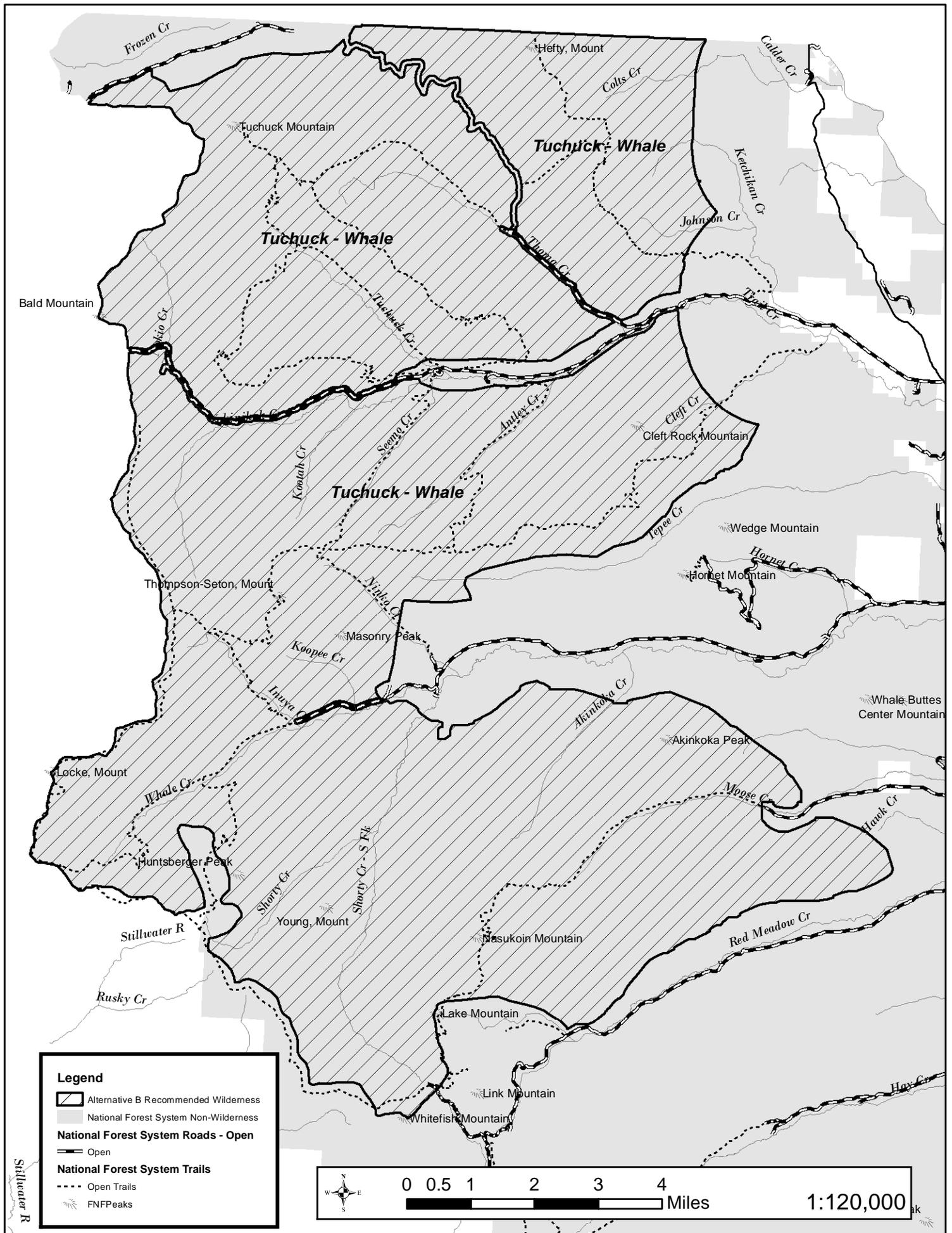


Figure 4-1. Alt B Tuchuck-Whale recommended wilderness area

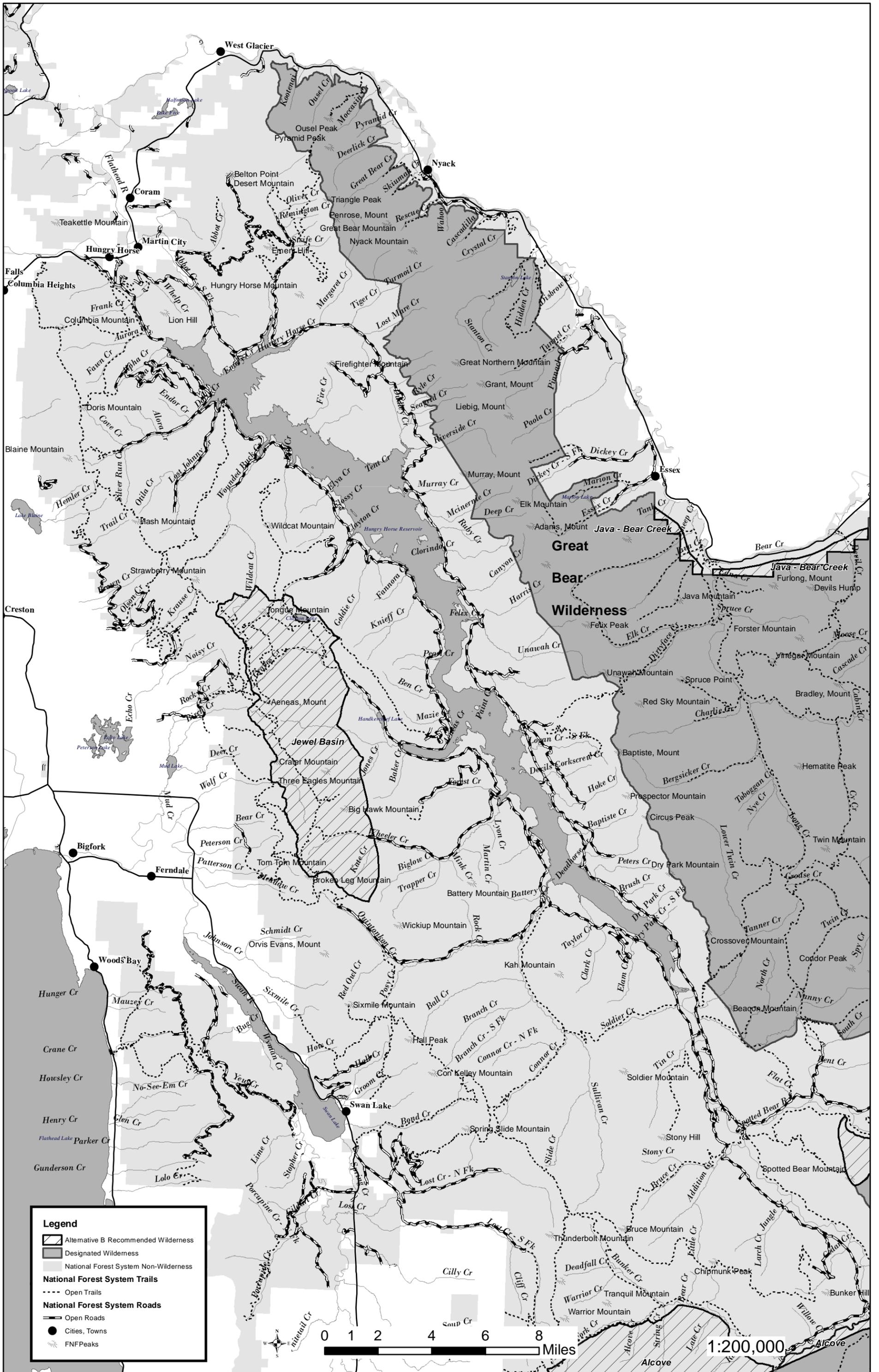


Figure 4.3. Alt B Jewel Basin and Java Bear Creek recommended wilderness areas

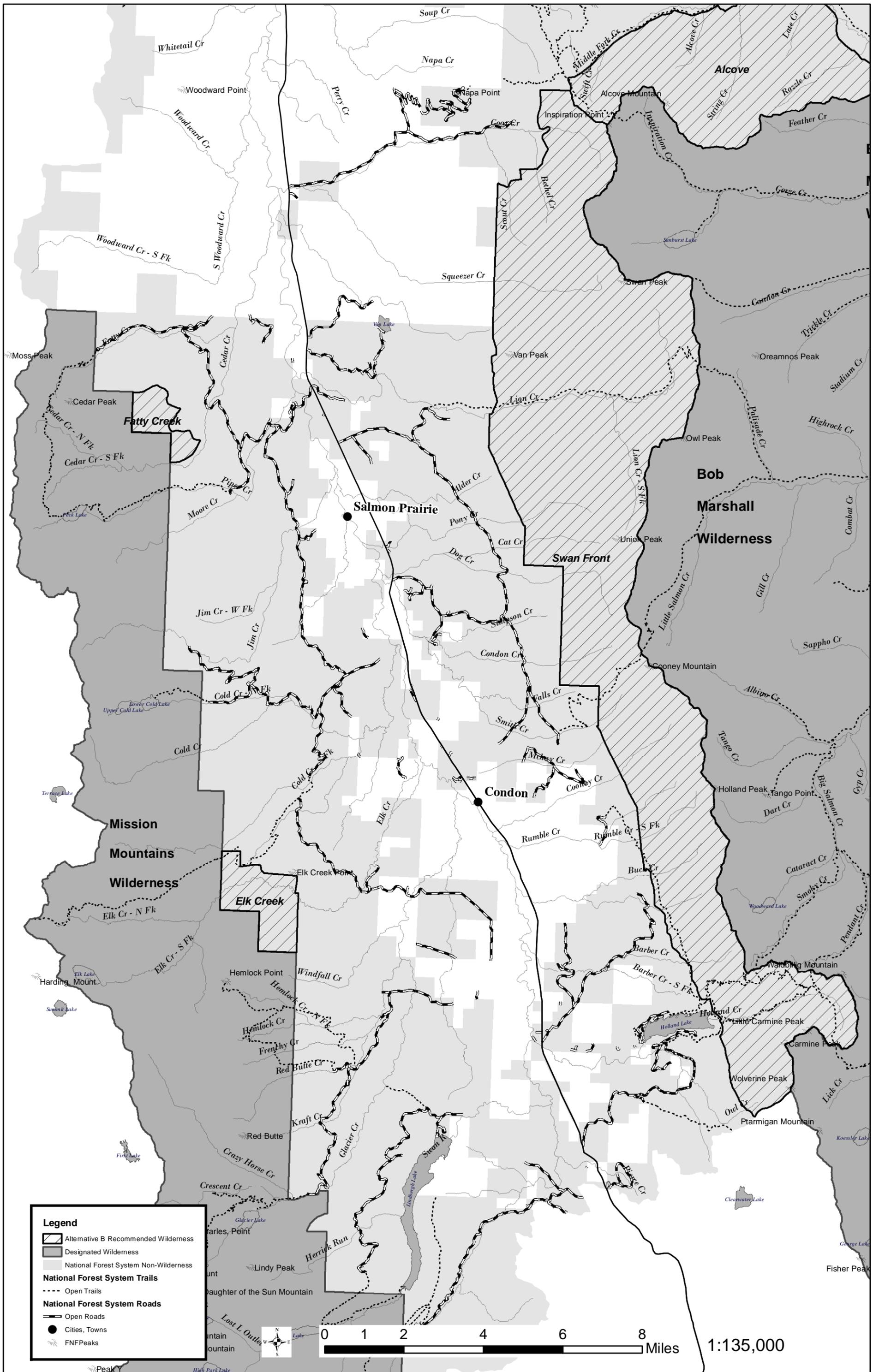


Figure 4-5. Alt B Elk Creek, Fatty Creek and Swan Front recommended wilderness area

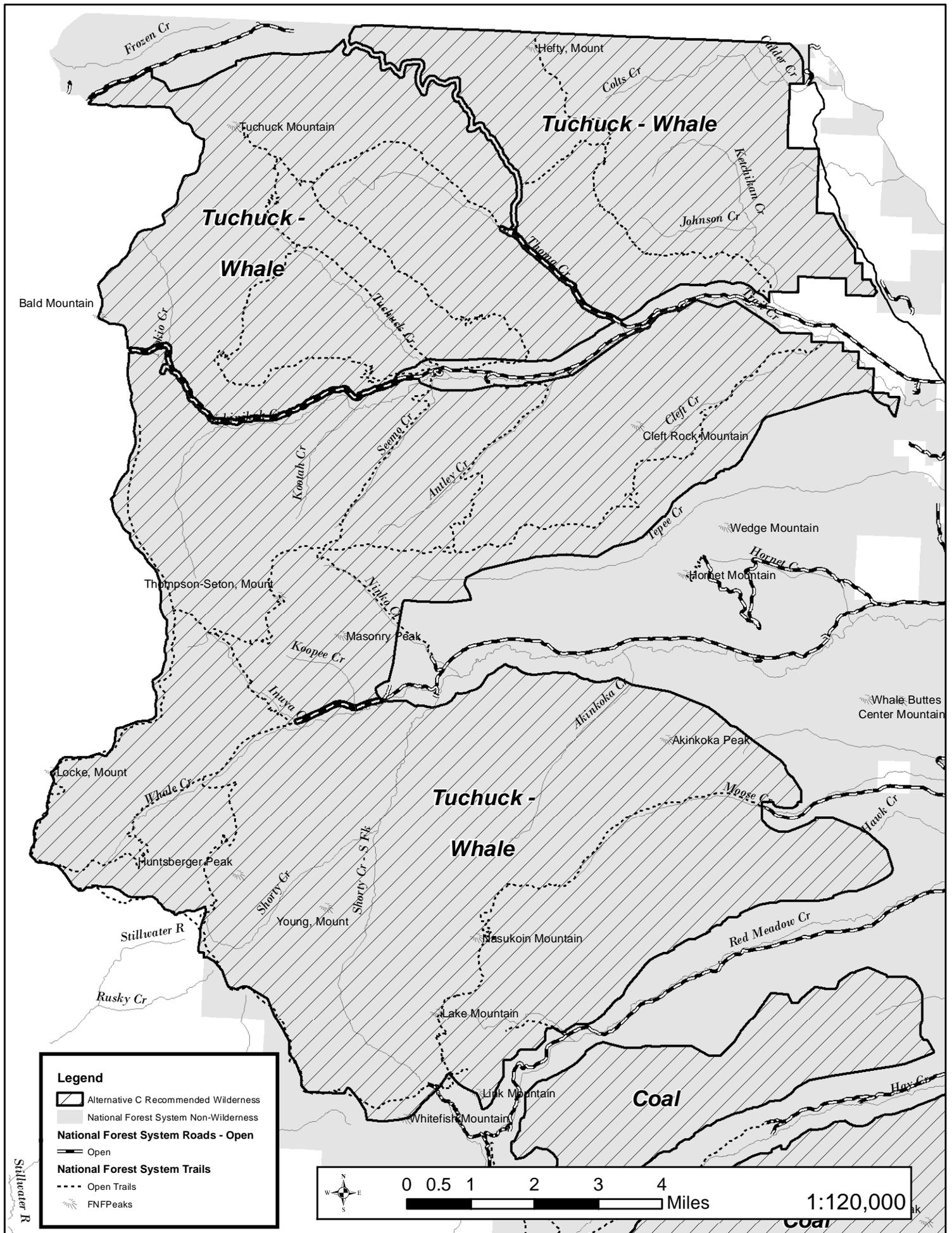


Figure 4-6. Alt C Tuchuck Whale recommended wilderness area

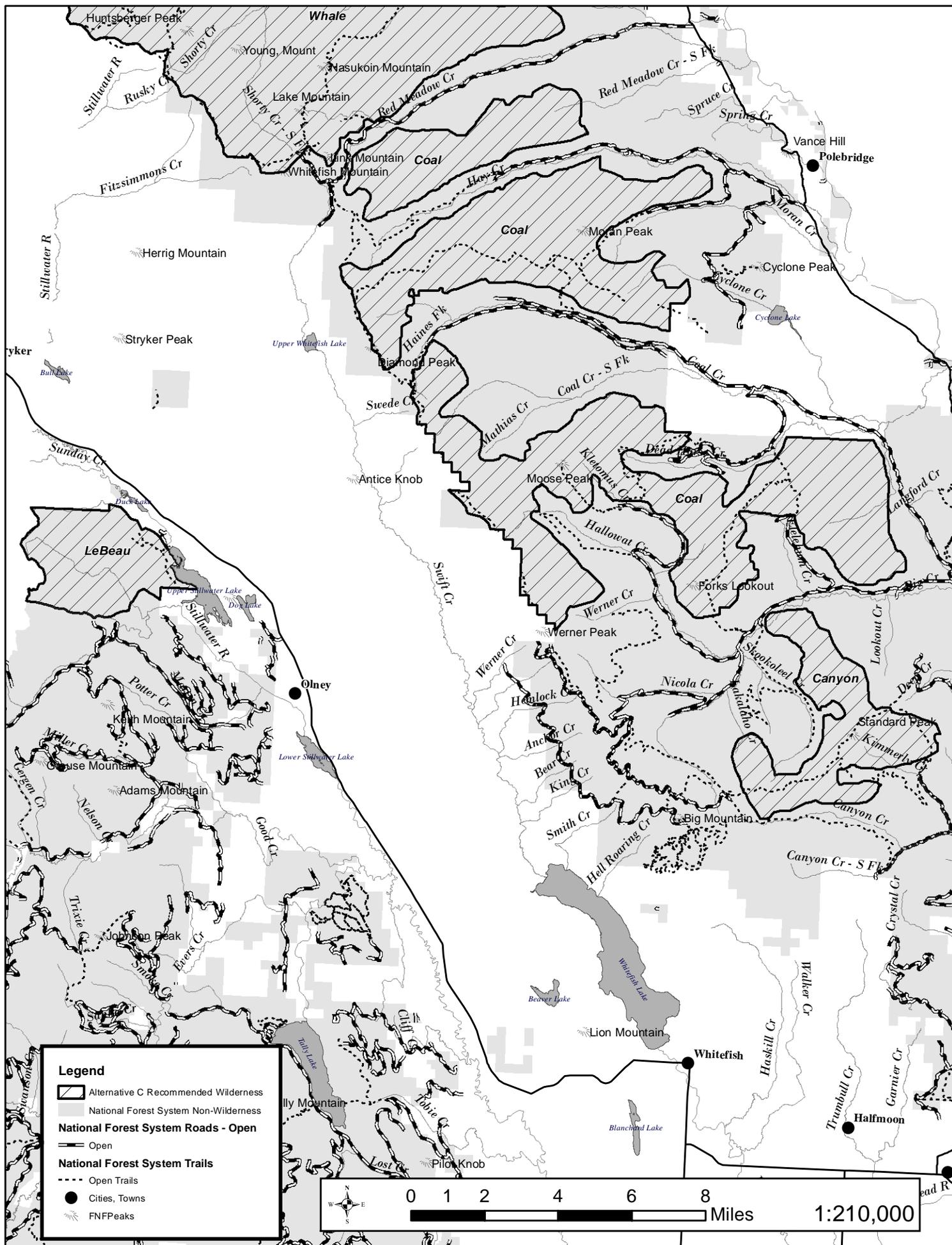


Figure 4-7. Alt C Canyon, Coal, and LeBeau recommended wilderness areas

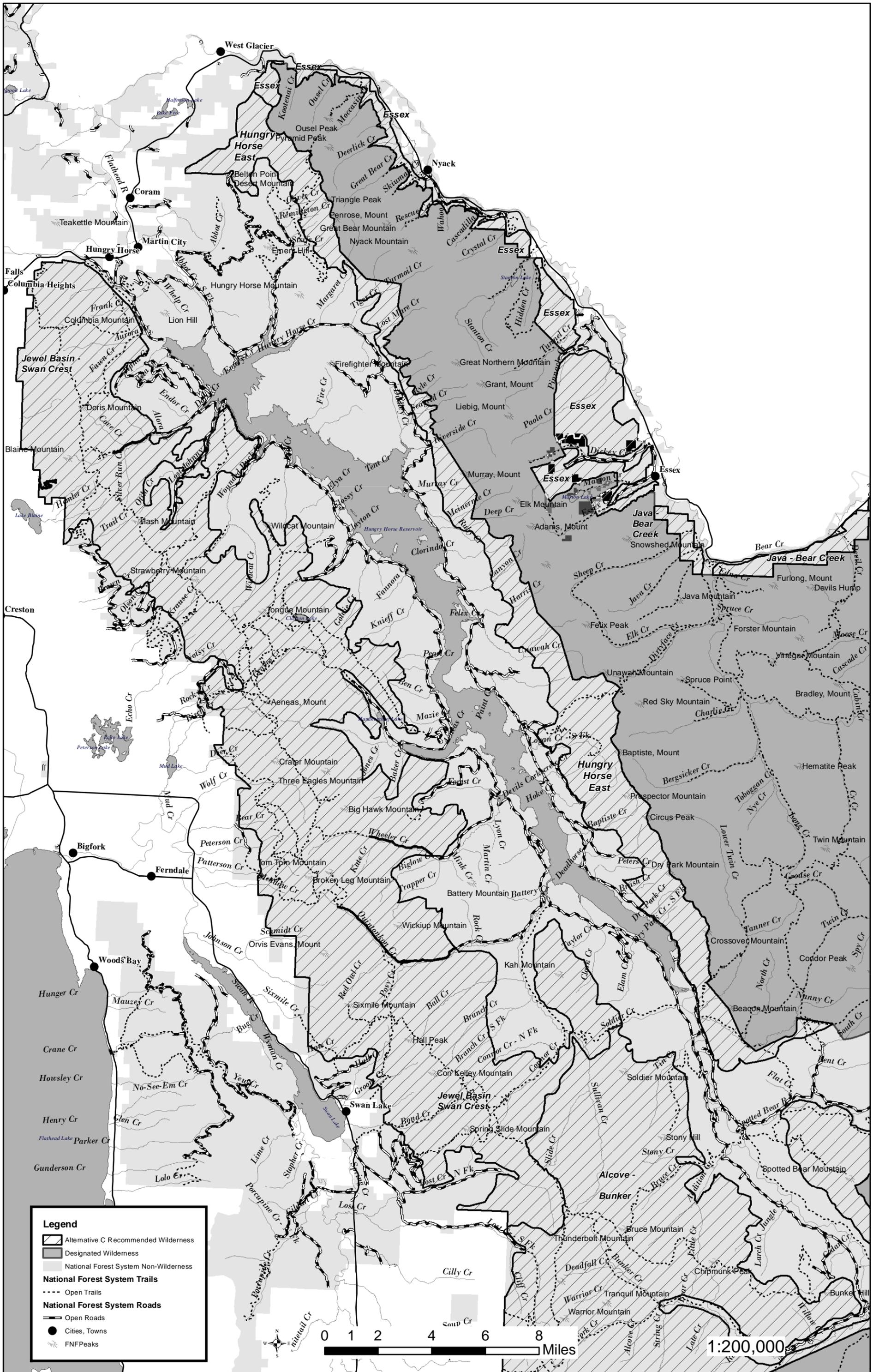


Figure 4-10. Alt C Jewel Basin-Swan Crest, Hungry Horse East and Essex recommended wilderness areas

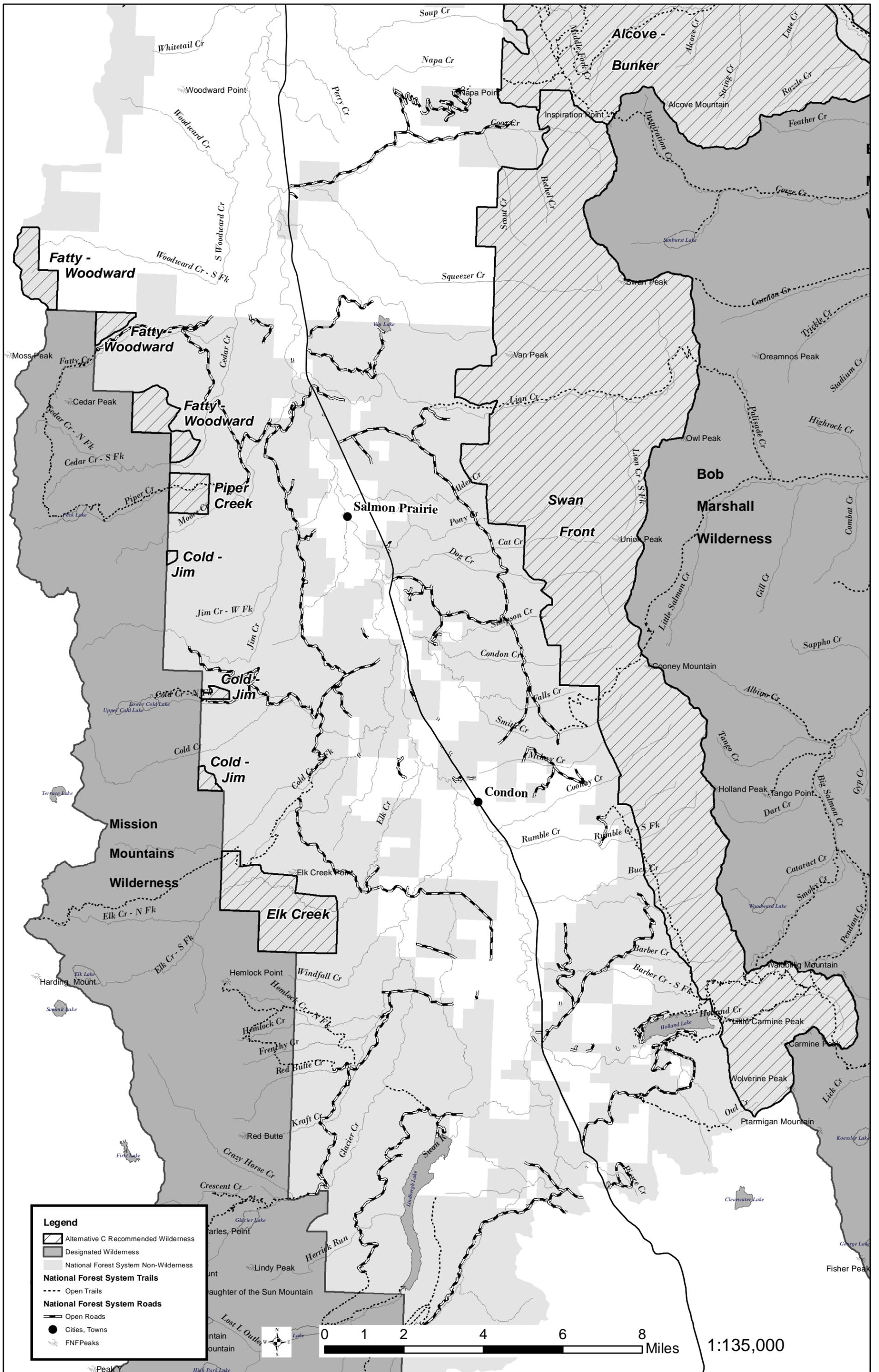


Figure 4-11. Alt C Cold Jim, Elk Creek, Fatty-Woodward, Piper Creek, Swan Front recommended wilderness areas

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