

Questa Ranger District

Latir Wilderness Accompaniments

Suggested Evaluation Determination: This area does not have wilderness character.

If a wilderness characteristic is not addressed in the following rationale, that characteristic is not determined to be found in the evaluated area, except for size. If size is not addressed, the area is determined to be 5,000 acres or more per the [wilderness criteria](#). The five wilderness characteristics are: (1) apparent naturalness; (2) opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation; (3) size; (4) ecological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values; and (5) manageability of wilderness characteristics.

Apparent Naturalness

The Latir Wilderness Accompaniments evaluated area offers little in the way of apparent naturalness, because of the visible impacts from past timber activities, noticeable road beds created by unauthorized motor vehicle use, and historic mining activities that include tailings piles. This area typically offers more of an urban feel, due to the visibility of houses and associated access roads from adjacent private lands.

Solitude or Unconfined Recreation

This area does offer opportunities for unconfined recreation for the portions that are within the inventoried roadless area,¹ since these portions have no improvements, designated trails, and experience low levels of use. The rest of the area; however, does not offer solitude. The sights, sounds, and uses from adjacent houses and private land can be pervasive throughout most of this area.

Size

This Latir Wilderness Accompaniments evaluated area is less than 5,000 acres, but adjacent to a designated wilderness area. If managed in conjunction with the Latir Wilderness, this area would be over 5,000 acres as a whole, which would then meet the size requirement.

Manageability

It would be difficult to manage the Latir Wilderness Accompaniments evaluated area to preserve wilderness character, because of existing vehicle encroachment from the adjacent private land and lack of access to enforce boundaries and provide other wilderness management needs, since the Forest Service does not have legal access through private land to enter this area.

Other considerations that may affect the manageability of wilderness character in this area include long established traditional and cultural uses that consist of fuelwood gathering and hunting.

¹ The definition of an inventoried roadless area for the [2001 Roadless Rule](#) included: undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process.