

Gila National Forest Plan Revision

DRAFT Evaluation Report of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics



DRAFT Report, June 2018

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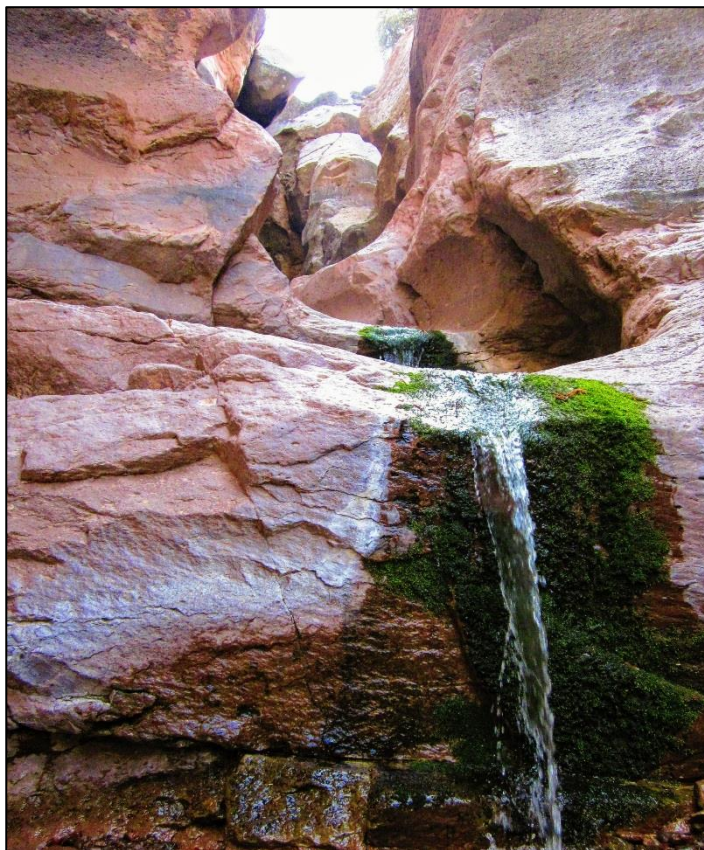
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Introduction

The Gila National Forest is in the process of revising a land and resource management plan (i.e. Forest Plan) that has been in place since 1986. The [2012 Planning Rule \(36 CFR 219\)](#) provides the framework to create local land management plans for national forests and grasslands across the nation. The rule establishes an ongoing, three-phase process: 1) assessment; 2) plan development or revision; and 3) implementation and monitoring.

The 2012 Planning Rule is intended to create a plan that guides resource management on the Gila National Forest within the context of the broader landscape. It takes an integrated and holistic approach that recognizes the interdependence of ecological, social, cultural and economic systems. Collaboration with stakeholders and process transparency are key components of this approach. Each national forest undertaking Forest Plan Revision under the 2012 Planning Rule must complete a process of identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (hereafter referred to as process), and determine whether to recommend any of the evaluated lands to Congress for wilderness designation. Congress reserves the authority to designate wilderness through legislation. [Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70](#) provides direction and guidance for the four-step process to be completed as one part of the larger Plan Revision effort:



[Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70](#) provides direction and guidance for the four-step process to be completed as one part of the larger Plan Revision effort:

1. **Inventory** to identify all National Forest Lands in the plan area that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act
2. **Evaluation** of the wilderness characteristics possessed by the lands identified in the Inventory step of the process
3. **Analysis** of the evaluated areas that are determined to be potentially suitable for inclusion in one or more alternatives as part of the Forest Plan Revision National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
4. **Recommendation** of any lands determined by the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) that should be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Only Congress may designate wilderness

Step One – Inventory

An Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) of diverse Forest Service resource specialists that was appointed by the Forest Supervisor is in the process of developing and seeking public input to complete a transparent, reasonably broad, and inclusive inventory process that identifies the Gila National Forest lands that may have wilderness characteristics as Step 1 of the overall process.

The [Inventory Process for Identifying Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics Final Process Paper](#) outlines in detail the process employed to accomplish the Inventory. This process paper was developed with input and feedback from stakeholders during community and technical meetings and draft review periods. To help refine and improve this preliminary effort, the draft inventory maps were released for public review and feedback for 30 days before incorporating this input where appropriate and being finalized. The primary purpose of the Inventory step of the process is to efficiently and transparently identify the lands in the plan area that may have wilderness characteristics as defined in the [Wilderness Act](#). The Inventory Maps include all National Forest areas that were identified as meeting the criteria for that process and will be carried forward to the next step, Evaluation.

Step Two - Evaluation

This DRAFT Evaluation Report was developed to document the results of Step two: Evaluation of the Inventoried areas for wilderness characteristics. This report is intended to be used in conjunction with the DRAFT Evaluation Maps that may be found on the Inventory and Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Characteristics website ([link](#)). The lands shown on all preliminary maps and described in this report do not imply any form of designation or convey or require a particular kind of management. The following are the steps that were completed for the draft evaluation

1. The draft Evaluation Process Document was released for public review and comment.

This allowed stakeholders to provide input on and become familiar with the process used to evaluate the wilderness characteristics of the lands that were earlier identified in the Inventory. The draft evaluation process paper was adjusted based on consideration of stakeholder feedback before being finalized.

2. Dissimilar Portions of Areas Divided, and Similar Areas Grouped Together for Evaluation

The Forest Supervisor divided some areas, or consolidated others identified in the inventory into grouped areas for the purpose of evaluation, and varied the scope of the evaluation based on the specific characteristics of each area or portions of an area.

Certain areas such as those in relatively close proximity, being less than 5,000 acres size individually, similar in characteristics, and located contiguous to the same existing wilderness or similar designated area, were grouped and evaluated together for wilderness characteristics.

Other Inventoried areas were separated for individual evaluations due to a significant disparity in their wilderness characteristics. The Forest Supervisor has discretion to determine that dissimilar parts of individual inventoried areas may be divided and evaluated on their own merits if separately they still meet the criteria for being included in the Inventory.

Evaluations may also exclude some portions of an overall area that do not possess wilderness characteristics. If the remainder of the area meets the Inventory criteria, then it may be evaluated based upon its own merit.

3. Evaluation Process of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics:

For a more fully detailed description of the Evaluation Process, please see the [Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Character](#) process paper.

The ID Team (which included personnel from ranger districts) as well each district providing input at meetings specific to their areas, conducted a preliminary evaluation of the inventoried areas that will receive subsequent internal and public review and feedback to rank the level of wilderness characteristics they possess according to four consistent, and sometimes a fifth (where it exists) criteria):

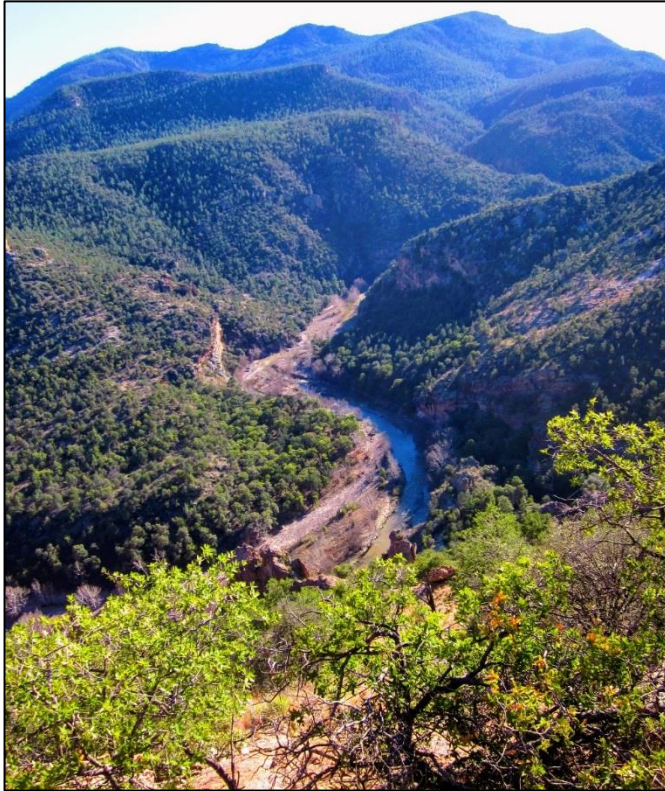
1. **Sufficient Size to be Practicable to Manage as Wilderness** (if less than 5,000 acres size);
2. **Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics** (factors other than size);
3. **Apparent Naturalness**; and
4. **Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation**;
5. **Other Features of Value** is not mandated to be present for an area to have wilderness characteristics, and is evaluated only where it occurs.

These criteria, sometimes referred to as “wilderness characteristics” are derived from the definition of Wilderness provided in the Wilderness Act of 1964, and by the Forest Service Planning Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70.

Each criterion was evaluated systematically and in the order they are described in the Evaluation process paper.

If an area received a rating of “NONE” for either of the first two criteria, the evaluation did not continue for that area. The evaluated area was instead given a preliminary summary score of NONE for the level of wilderness characteristics that it possesses, and was removed from any further consideration in the process (unless the Forest Supervisor exercises the authority to do otherwise).

Evaluation Step 1 - Determination of Sufficient Size to be Practicable to Manage as Wilderness



The ID Team determined and documented the rationale for inventoried areas that are less than 5,000 acres in size, but were carried forward due to it being of a sufficient size to make its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition practicable.

All inventoried areas greater than 5,000 acres in size, and inventoried areas that are less than 5,000 acres but are contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, administratively recommended wilderness, or wilderness inventory of other Federal ownership were automatically continued on to Evaluation Step 2.

If any area is determined to be NOT SUFFICIENT SIZE to be practicable to manage as wilderness, the evaluation was discontinued for that area, the reasoning for the determination is documented here in this draft Evaluation

Report, and the area was assigned a preliminary Summary Ranking of NONE for possessing wilderness characteristics.

If the area was determined to be of SUFFICIENT SIZE to be practicable to manage as wilderness, it continued on to be evaluated for the next criterion.

Evaluation Step 2 -Determine Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to determine if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as:

- Shape and configuration of the area;
- Legally established rights or uses within the area;
- Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics;
- The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area; and
- Management of adjacent lands

All inventoried areas that were determined to be MANAGEABLE to protect wilderness characteristics were carried forward for consideration of the next criterion.

If the area was determined NOT MANAGEABLE to protect wilderness characteristics, the evaluation was discontinued for that area, the rationale is documented here in this DRAFT Evaluation Report, and the area was assigned a preliminary ranking of NONE for possessing wilderness characteristics.

Evaluation Step 3 - Evaluate the Apparent Naturalness of the Area:

For each identified area, the ID team evaluated how much the area overall appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of modern human activity substantially unnoticeable (apparent naturalness). The standard for this criterion is how natural the area would appear to an average, reasonable person.

The ID Team applied Preliminary Ranking of NONE, LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING, accompanied by a detailed narrative rationale for the Preliminary Ranking.



Each preliminary ranking level also has a point range, and a preliminary point score within that range is to accompany the Preliminary Ranking. This selected point within the range is based on the gradient where the area is judged to fall within that Preliminary Ranking – for example: If an area is ranked as LOW for apparent naturalness, but is very close to deserving a MODERATE, then it would be appropriate to assign it the highest point in the range for a Preliminary Ranking of LOW (i.e. 2). See Figure 1 for the matrix of Preliminary Rankings and point range for each criterion.

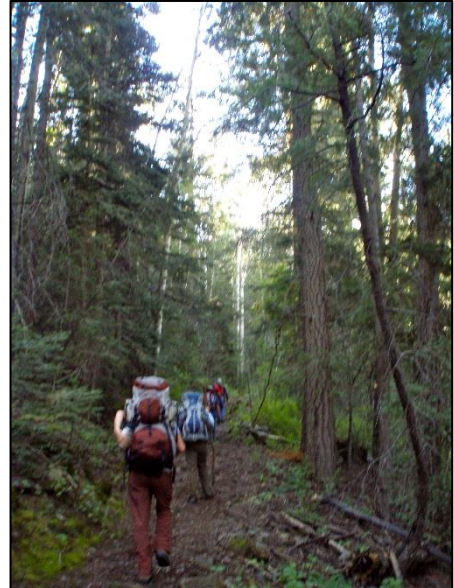
The Preliminary Ranking for Apparent Naturalness consists of 3 factors, with each evaluated and ranked separately, with the average of these being the overall preliminary ranking points and preliminary ranking for each area (see Figure 1 for more detail). These 3 factors of Apparent Naturalness are:

- a) The composition of plant and animal communities, determination if plant and animal communities appear substantially unnatural (for example, past management activities have created a plantation style forest with trees of a uniform species, age, and planted in rows);
- b) The extent to which the area appears to reflect ecological conditions that would normally be associated with a lack of human intervention; and
- c) The extent to which improvements included in the area represent a departure from apparent naturalness.

Evaluation Step 4 - Evaluate the Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation of the Area:

“Solitude” is an experience of feeling alone, remote from civilization, and removed from society. Solitude experiences may include seeing few or no other people, having privacy, and freedom from societal constraints and obligations. “Primitive and unconfined recreation experiences” are non-motorized, non-mechanized, nature-based recreation opportunities of personal challenge, self-discovery and rejuvenation that are free from excessive management restrictions.

The areas were next evaluated by the degree to which they have outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The word “or” means that an area only has to possess one or the other. The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities for either experience on every acre.



The ID Team evaluated for both Solitude and Primitive/Unconfined Recreation and applied a Preliminary Ranking of NONE, LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING, accompanied by a detailed narrative rationale for the Preliminary Ranking.

- Impacts were considered that are pervasive and influence a visitor’s opportunity for solitude within the area. Factors to consider may include topography, presence of screening, distance from impacts, degree of permanent intrusions, and pervasive sights and sounds from outside the area;
- Consideration was given to the opportunity to engage in primitive-type or unconfined recreation activities that lead to a visitor’s ability to feel a part of nature. Examples of primitive-type recreation activities include observing wildlife, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, floating, kayaking, cross-country skiing, camping, and enjoying nature

Evaluation Step 5 - Evaluate Other Features of Value – Considered only where they exist:

The ID Team evaluated the degree to which the inventoried area may possess ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These values are not required to be present in an area for the area to be recommended for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, but where they do occur their presence was identified and evaluated with detailed documentation of why the ID Team considers them of value.

- Rare plant or animal communities or rare ecosystems. Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations;
- Outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features;
- Historic and cultural resource sites. (Confidentiality requirements with respect to cultural resource sites must be respected (25 U.S.C 3056));
- Research natural areas;

- High quality water resources or important watershed features

The ID Team evaluated the degree to which each inventoried area possess Other Features of Value. The presence of Other Features of Value was assigned points for its Preliminary Ranking that were included in the tally of the total score as a “bonus” to raise the Overall Wilderness Characteristics summary score.

Areas that do not possess other features of value were not evaluated and ranked for this criterion, and the absence of this characteristic did not have any negative effect to the ratings of evaluated areas.

It is important to note that there are a great many historic and prehistoric heritage resources located across the Gila National Forest. Nationally significant heritage resources exist in each of the areas being evaluated; however, they will only receive mention and be assigned a value where they have been documented and are of a particularly exceptional and unique nature as compared to what may be found elsewhere on the Forest.

The ID Team applied a Preliminary Ranking of LOW (1 point bonus), MODERATE (2 point bonus), HIGH (3 point bonus), or OUTSTANDING (4 point bonus), accompanied by a narrative rationale for the Preliminary Ranking.



Evaluation Step 6 -Assign Each Area an Overall Wilderness Characteristics Score

The Areas were assigned a Preliminary Overall Summary Rating of NONE, LOW, MODERATE, MODERATE/HIGH, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING Score for Presence of Wilderness Characteristics.

To calculate the Overall Preliminary Summary Score, the Preliminary Rankings’ point scores were tallied of Apparent Naturalness criteria from Step 3, Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation criteria from Step 4, and Step 5, Other Features of Value, where they exist.

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For more information on determining the Overall Wilderness Characteristics Summary Score, see Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 - Matrix for Preliminary Ranking of Wilderness Characteristics			
Wilderness Characteristic	Process Description	Preliminary Ranking	Range of Preliminary Ranking Points
Size (if less than 5,000 acres)	Step 1 - Determination if Areas Less than 5,000 acres are Practicable as Wilderness	SUFFICIENT SIZE	Continue Evaluation
		NOT SUFFICIENT SIZE	Cease Evaluation
Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics	Step 2 - Evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics	MANAGEABLE	Continue evaluation
		NOT MANAGEABLE	Cease Evaluation
Apparent Naturalness	Step 3 - Evaluate degree the area appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with modern human activity substantially unnoticeable. The standard is how natural the area would appear to an average reasonable person.		
a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities (determine if appear substantially unnatural)		NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
b) appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention		NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
c) extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness		NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
Apparent Naturalness Overall Score	Determined by the average of the sum of [a + b + c]	NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
Opportunities for Solitude	Step 4 - The area has outstanding opportunities for solitude <u>or</u> primitive and unconfined recreation. The “or” means that an area has to possess one or the other, but	NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
-OR-			

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Primitive and Unconfined Recreation	does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for either experience on every acre. Use the highest ranked and point scored of the two – if they are equally ranked, only count the Preliminary Ranking once, but document in the evaluation that both are available in equal measure.	NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1-2 3-5 6-7 8-10
Other Features of Value	Step 5 - Evaluate degree to which the area possesses ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These must be identified and evaluated only where they occur.	NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	N/A 1 2 3 4
Overall Area Preliminary Ranking of Wilderness Characteristics	Step 6 - Overall area score is determined by adding the Preliminary scores for steps 3 and 4, with the score from Step 5 (Where it exists) added to the overall score as bonus points	Preliminary Ranking	Total Points Tallied
		NONE LOW MODERATE MODERATE/HIGH HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1 - 5.9 6 - 11.9 12 - 13.9 14 -15.9 16 +

Evaluation Step 7 - Documentation of the Evaluation for Public and Stakeholder Review:

The ID Team has completed this DRAFT Evaluation Report for public and stakeholder review and feedback.

- Most individual polygons that were assigned an identification number and common name were separately evaluated, however in many case smaller areas in close proximity or adjacent to the same larger contiguous areas were evaluated together
- The draft Evaluation Report shall be released for public review and feedback period of at least 30 days duration
- After considering stakeholder feedback and making appropriate updates, the FINAL Evaluation Report shall be released for use in Step 3 - Analysis



The ID Team will document the evaluation process with the FINAL Evaluation Report along with any additional relevant documentation.

The intent of the Forest Supervisor and the planning team is to ensure that the process for inventory and evaluation is transparent and accessible to the public for input and feedback. This documentation will also be available at public participation opportunities during the plan revision process.

Lands shown on the preliminary series of inventory and evaluation process maps and described in the Evaluation Report and other process documentation, do not imply designation or convey or require a particular kind of management, and inclusion or removal of any of these lands will continue to be open for consideration throughout the process until the Forest Supervisor signs the Record of Decision for the Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Copies of the DRAFT and FINAL Inventory Maps will be made available in both electronic and hardcopy form



Next Steps in the Process, Following the Evaluation

Step Three: Analysis

After the Evaluation step is completed, the evaluations will be used to inform the Forest Supervisor's selection of which areas, or modified areas, are to be analyzed in each of the forest plan revision Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) alternatives. Public comments will also be an important consideration for the analysis, modification, and inclusion of the areas in the preferred alternative prior to release of the DRAFT plan revision EIS. Any evaluated area that is not analyzed in any of the alternatives will have a justification documented and included in the EIS.

Step Four: Recommendation

The Forest Supervisor may recommend in the signed Record of Decision any lands analyzed to be designated by Congress for inclusion in National Wilderness Preservation System. This is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Only Congress has the authority to designate wilderness through legislation. Also, the revised plan must include components that provide for managing recommended wilderness areas to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that are the basis for each area's suitability for wilderness recommendation. Only if an area is included in the Forest Plan EIS Record of Decision as Recommended Wilderness will it from that time be managed so as to protect these wilderness characteristics. This management direction will continue until Congress acts on the recommendation one way or another, or when the recommended areas are re-evaluated in the next planning cycle.

For more information on the Plan Revision Process, including the Wilderness Recommendation Process, please visit the [Gila Forest Plan Revision webpage](#).



Definition of Wilderness, from the Wilderness Act of 1964

"...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..." Section 2(a)



DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational,

scenic, or historical value." Section 2(c)

"...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historic use." Section 4(b)

Q1 – Largo

15,288 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

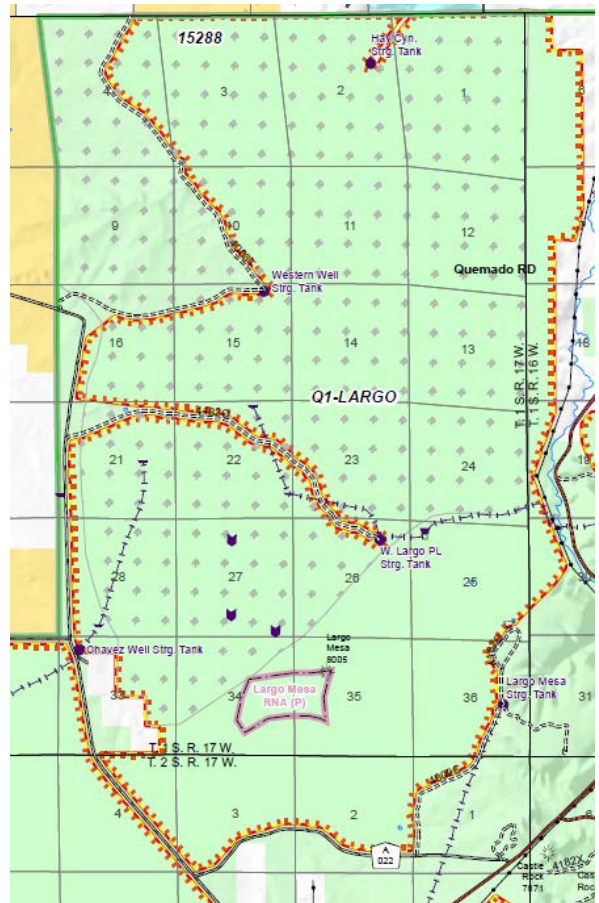
General description:

The Q1 – Largo area is located in the central to eastern part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, and lies within:

- T1S R17W, all or parts of Sections 1-4, 10-16, 21- 28, 33-36;
- T2S R17W, parts of Sections 1-4;
- T1S R16W parts of Sections 30, 19, 18, 7, 6

The majority of the vegetation cover throughout the area is pinon-juniper, with some open grasslands areas and occasional stringers of ponderosa pine.

The geology consists of lots of Datil soils and associated erosional features, such as steep slopes, mesas, and hoodoos, and is dominated by Largo Mesa. This is overall relatively gentle terrain, occasionally interrupted by range fences, cherry-stemmed roads and some (mostly buried) pipelines. The Chavez Lake area is narrowly separated from the area by a forest road to the southwest, and Q2, The Hub area lies to the east and across NM State Hwy 32.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although the area has some private inholdings to the southwest, adjacent private property to the northeast, one cherry-stemmed road that nearly bisects the area, and is flat and relatively easy to access by motorized users, it is also of a fair size at over 15,000 acres and is of a location, shape and orientation that it has a great deal of core area away from roads and development. The area is very lightly visited, except during hunting seasons. This combines to allow for a fair amount of core area of wilderness characteristics throughout. Agency and public access to the area can be a challenge, due to the need to cross private property without reciprocal easements in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past

and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the area, there are a number of visible range improvements, including fences, a cherry-stemmed road that nearly bisects the area, and a number of pipelines. There are also a number of both Level 1 maintenance roads, and user-developed OHV routes in parts of the area. The prevalence of these improvements is high and concentrated and also do not contribute the historical character and cultural context of the area and detract significantly from apparent naturalness in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: LOW Preliminary Score: 2

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness - Overall Preliminary Score: 3.3*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There are opportunities for solitude, but these may be negatively affected by noise from highways (32 and 60) on two sides of the area, with the presence of HWY 32 visible for much of the eastern part of the area, and a few cherry stemmed roads that go well into the interior. Much of the area is also flat and open so the powerline to the west may be visible. There is a proposal submitted to the Bureau of Land Management to permit a wind farm on lands they manage to the north of this evaluated area that would be visible throughout.

The area receives heavy use during hunting season, and there are a number of requests for filming permits of big game hunts in Unit 15. However, outside of hunting seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors at other times of the year is extremely low, essentially guaranteeing opportunities for solitude.

Because there are no trails or perennial waters, there are limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available besides hunting. The presence of range fences may also negatively affect some primitive recreation activities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

This area includes a proposed research natural area, that despite being proposed in the 1986 plan, has had no further action was taken regarding its designation. It is unknown if the recommendation will be carried into the revised plan. The area also offers scenic opportunities of features in the northern portion of the district.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: 1

(Q1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

Additional Remarks:

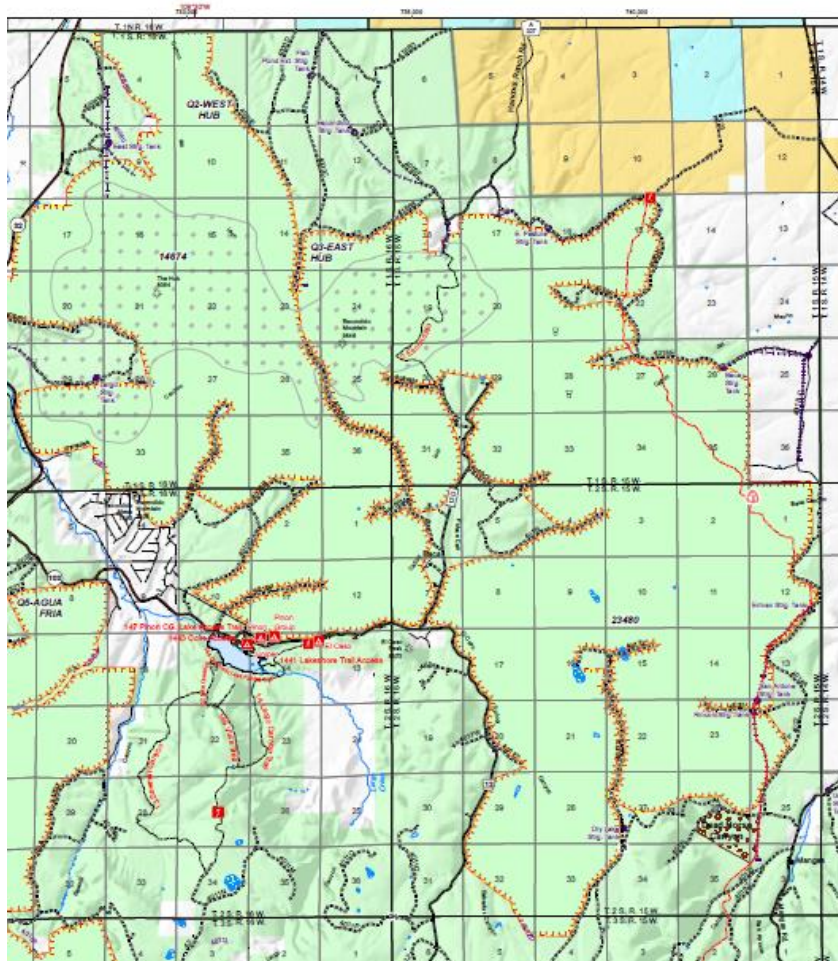
Q2 – The Hub (formerly Q2 West and Q3 East Hub) 36,344 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

Q2 – The Hub area is located in the northeastern of region of the Quemado Ranger District, and lies within:

- T1S R15W all or parts of Sections 15-22, 26-35;
- T1N R16W, all or parts of Sections 3, 4, 6,-11, 14-29, 32-36;
- T2S R15W, all or parts of sections 1-4, 6-17, 20-29, 32-33;
- T2S R16W, all or portions of Sections 1, 2, 6, 7, 11-12;
- T3S R15W, portions of Sections 4-5

Most of the vegetation cover throughout the lower elevation is primarily pinon-juniper, but with some stringers of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer on the higher elevations. There are interesting geologic erosional features and hoodoos at the part of the area that it is named for, “The Hub”.



This is overall relatively steep and rugged terrain, and as a result there has not been a lot of management activities or development within the area. There are also substantial views from much of the area, and access to several hiking trails. Access to some areas may be challenging because of the need to cross private property where easements have not been established.

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team found that if it followed the recommendation to combine polygons and adjust boundaries to exclude areas identified as lacking wilderness characteristics, that boundaries would

be manageable and that there were no known valid existing rights that would prevent the area from being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflect some active management activity occurring within the area, including past and current permitted grazing of livestock, however the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout at least 90% of the area, and does not appear to be manipulated by humans.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area, except for the permitted grazing of livestock, and there is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements, including fences, with natural barriers providing a large portion of livestock containment. There are some cherry-stemmed roads, a number of Level 1 maintenance roads (such as east of the Escondido Trail), and user-developed OHV routes in parts of the area. The ID Team made boundary adjustments in the southeast to exclude treated areas and improve overall wilderness characteristics. There is a fair level of development in immediately adjacent areas, such as the developed recreation area at Quemado Lake and private property housing developments.

Improvements are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There are very good opportunities for solitude, but there are negative effects from noise from highways 32 and a few cherry stemmed roads that go well into the interior of the area. There is also private property adjacent to the area with high levels of development. The area receives use during antler gathering and hunting seasons, but because of the steep, rugged terrain, OHV access into the area is difficult, and outside of hunting seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is extremely low, allowing for great opportunities for solitude. There are system hiking trails in the area, though they receive very light levels of use.

Because of the relative size of the area, combined with the presence of trails and rugged, variable terrain, opportunities for primitive recreation are high. The presence of range fences may also negatively affect some primitive recreation activities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains “The Hub”, an interesting and accessible geologic area consisting of and assortment of “hoodoo” rock formations for which it is named, and there is outstanding scenery throughout the area.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW/MODERATE** Preliminary score: **1.5**

(Q2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW/MODERATE	1.5
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13.5

Additional Remarks:

By recommendation of the Quemado District Ranger, informed by the input from district employees familiar with the area on the ground, two adjacent inventoried areas were combined together and a narrow boundary created between two cherry-stemmed roads was removed. The ID Team determined that although the combined area that had previously been polygons Q2 and Q3 combined into one area ranked as MODERATE/HIGH, this rank also required that the area’s boundaries were adjusted to eliminate lower quality areas, particularly those located to the southeast. Although it reduced the overall area size, it serves to improve overall wilderness characteristics.

This area may be a candidate for some other type of designation or management direction besides wilderness that would protect and enhance its characteristics and provide for a quality backcountry recreation, scenic, or interpretive/educational experience close by to the popular Quemado Lake recreation area.

Q4 – Chavez Lake

7,237 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Q4 – Chavez Lake area is located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, within:

- T1S R17W, all or parts of Sections 31-33;
- T2S R17W, all or parts of Sections 4-10; 15-21

Chavez Lake is a small area located on a large mesa top, with rough terrain bordering the core of the area, but it is also surrounded by roads and adjacent private ownership with fairly low levels of development. The majority of the vegetation cover throughout this area is pinon-juniper, with some open grass areas. There are excellent views of Fox Mountain and a fair amount permitted grazing improvements.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Despite its relatively small size, some adjacent private inholdings to the southeast and northeast, the surrounding roads, and having flat terrain across the mesa top, this is a remote part of the Forest that is lightly visited, and the mesa boundary slopes make it difficult to access with motorized vehicles. The ID Team has preliminarily determined this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

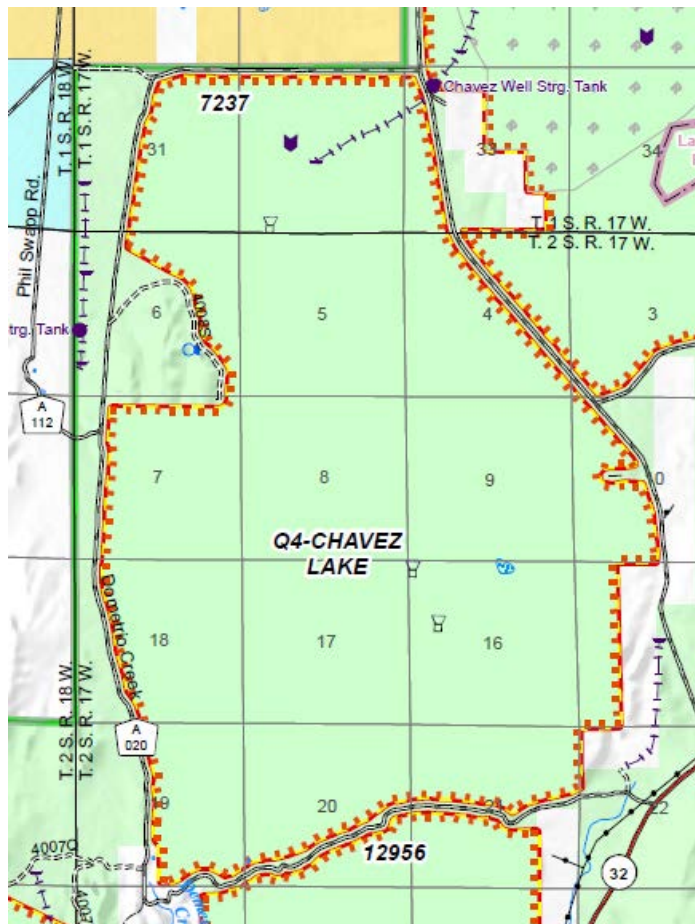
Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4



b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

There are a number of range improvements in the area relative to its small size, and the type of vegetation cover throughout may make them more visible than they would be in other locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is determined by the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 4.3

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The presence of illegally operated OHVs traveling cross country during antler gathering and hunting seasons can negatively affect solitude. However, this is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year, and there is a high probability of finding solitude at most times. Because there are no trails, no perennial waters, and no reliable access into some locations within the area, there are some limitations to the types of primitive recreation opportunities available. The presence of range fences relative to the size of the area may also negatively affect the pursuit of some primitive recreation activities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(Q4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

Additional Remarks:

Q5 – Agua Fria

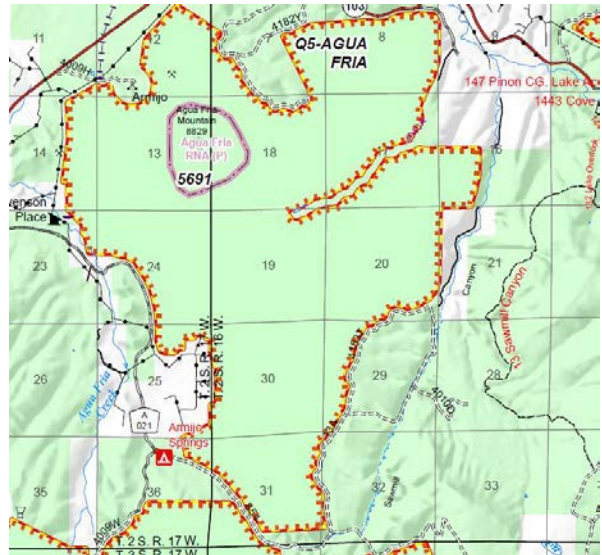
5,691 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Q5 – Agua Fria area is located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, and is located within:

- T2S R16W, all or parts of Sections 7-8, 16-20, 29-31;
- T2S R17W, all or parts of Sections 12-14, 23-25, 36

Agua Fria is a small area that barely meets the 5,000 acre threshold criterion to be included in the inventory. There was an Agua Fria proposed research natural area in the 1986 plan, but no further action was taken regarding its designation. It is unknown at this time if the proposed research natural area will be carried over in the revised forest plan. The Armijo Springs campground is located at the southwest corner of the area, and Quemado Lake is located nearby its northeast corner.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

There is a great deal of adjacent private property with high levels of development, the area has a narrow, odd configuration, a cherry stem deep into the area that nearly bisects it, a deeply intruding level 1 closed but not decommissioned road, and lack of a good core area that combine to make the area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(Q5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Agua Fria area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will be no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

Q6 – Fox Mountain (formerly Brushy Springs) **12,956 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The Q6 – Fox Mountain area is located in the north central region of the Quemado Ranger District, and lies within:

- T3S R17W, all or parts of Sections 5-8;
- T3S R18W, all or parts of Sections 1-5, 8-10, 15-17;
- T2S R18W, all or parts of Sections 21-36;
- T2S R17W, all or parts of sections 20-21, 28-33



The Fox Mountain area is small to moderate sized and consists of some of the more steep and rugged terrain and deep drainages on this part of the Quemado District. The vegetation cover throughout this area is a classic southwestern mountains mix, in that depending upon elevation and aspect may be pinon-juniper at lower, south-facing slopes, stringers of ponderosa pine in drainages and north-facing slopes, to mixed conifer at the highest elevations facing primarily to the north.

The Fox Mountain Lookout, which is also the site of an electronic communication site with a small building, is located adjacent to the area, near the boundary to the south-south-west locations, and NM State Hwy 32 passes by the area adjacent to its east boundary.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, due to its moderate size, challenging terrain and availability of a sizeable core area. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence, there are few known issues with existing user developed roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There has been past logging activity and pinon-juniper pushes in some locations within the area (such as the Blanco Canyon area), but little to no noticeable management activity has occurred within the steeper and less accessible locations. Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been management activity occurring and modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements; most of the ones in the general area were excluded from the inventoried area by boundary adjustments. For its moderate size, there are very few fences in particular.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 4.6*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There are few opportunities for motorized access into the area, and the few existing roads in the area are often impassible in wet weather. Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors is extremely low in parts of the area located away from roads and the Fox Mountain lookout. This is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year, and finding solitude at most times is likely throughout the area.

There may be issues with access to the area across private property to reach the Blanco Trail, but throughout the majority of this area there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities. This a reasonably large-sized area with a variability of terrain and no additional management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area does offer superior scenery of the northern part of the Forest from Fox Mountain.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: 1

(Q6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.6

Additional Remarks: If this area is not recommended to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, it may also be a good candidate for some other type of area designation in recognition and protection of scenery and/or backcountry recreation experiences.

Q7 – East Gallo

13,330 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Q7 – East Gallo area is located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, within:

- T3S R17W, parts of Sections 1-4, 9-12, 14-16, 22-23;
- T3S R16W, parts of Sections 5-8;
- T2S R17W, parts of Sections 33-36;
- T2S R16W, part of section 31



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined the narrow, odd shape, cherry stems accessing deeply into the area, nearly bisecting it, the entire western end of the area being dominated by a motorized trail system, and lack of space for a sizable core area, all combine to make the area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Ultimately, there is not enough core area for a visitor to be able to walk for more than a short distance across the area without encountering a road.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(Q7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the East Gallo area has been determined to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

Q8 – Bull Camp

14,186 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Q8 – Bull Camp is a moderately sized area located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District within:

- T3S R17W, parts of Sections 13-14, 24-26, 35-36;
- T3S R16W, parts of Sections 9-11, 13-35;
- T4S R16W, parts of Sections 3-6, 8-10, 16

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

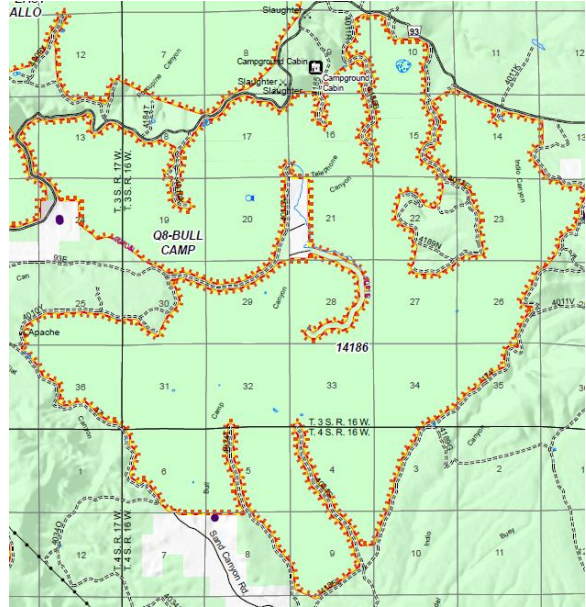
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The area's narrow spaces between boundary intrusions, odd overall shape and configuration, deeply cherry stemmed roads, level 1 roads in the northeastern portion, occurrence of private inholdings located deep inside the area, and lack of uninterrupted core area relative to its size all combine to make the area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(Q8) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Bull Camp area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

Q9 – Apache Mountain

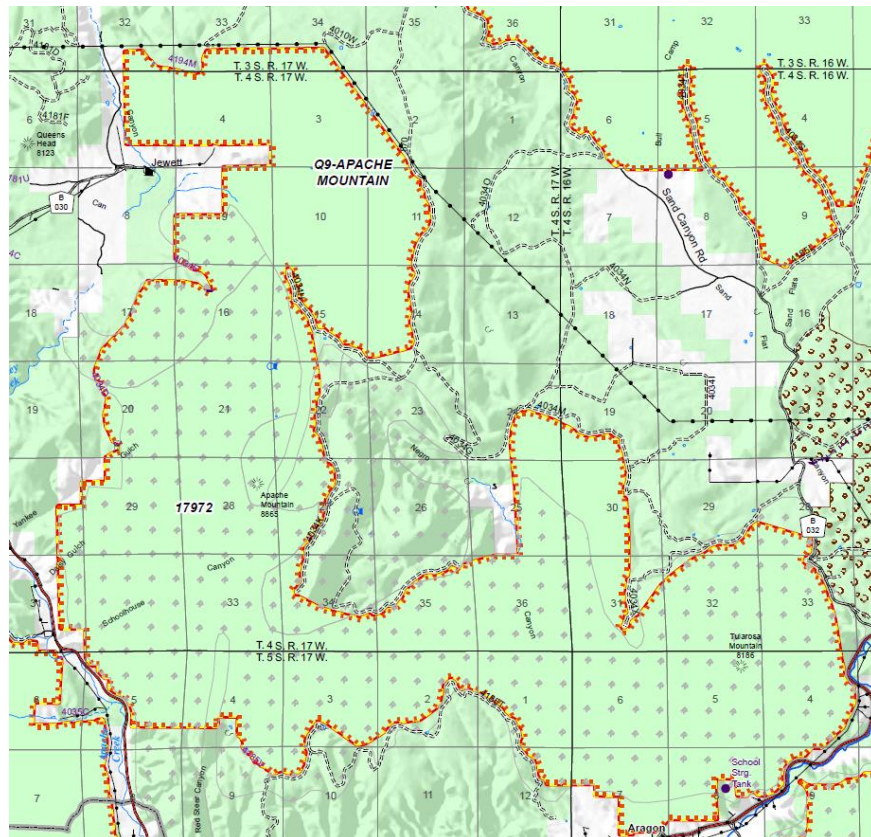
17,972 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Q9 – Apache Mountain area is located in the central region of the Quemado Ranger District, and occurs within:

- T3S R17W, parts of Sections 32-34;
- T4S R17W, all or parts of Sections 2-5, 9-11, 14-17, 20-22, 27-36;
- T4S R16W, parts of Sections 19, 28-33;
- T5S R16W, all or parts of sections 4-9

Apache Mountain is a moderately sized area that is somewhat narrow and crescent shaped, but also consists of some of the most steep and rugged terrain on the Quemado District. The vegetation cover is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer in pockets on the north slopes. Very little management activity has occurred, and a majority of the area consists of inventoried roadless area identified from the 2001 Roadless



Rule. NM State Hwy 32 passes by the southwestern-most corner of the area and NM State Hwy 12 passes to the southeast.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminary determined this area would be manageable due to its relative size, and the prevailing challenging terrain. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence. There are few known issues with user developed roads, and

no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management of this area to protect any wilderness characteristics that it may possess.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past logging and vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Much of the Apache Mountain area consists of existing Inventoried Roadless Area, however current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity, including past logging and vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements. However, for its moderate size, there are a fairly high number of fences throughout the area. Because of nature of the steep, predominantly ridgeline terrain, most of the long-range views within the area are of outside developments (roads, highways, residential and business development on private property). There are also closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads that bisect the area to the east, and deeply intrude to the west.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 4.3*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors at other times of the year is extremely low, providing very good opportunities for solitude within this area. This is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year, and finding solitude at most times is almost a certainty. However, most of the long-range views are of locations outside of the area, including two state highways, that somewhat mitigate opportunities for solitude, keeping it on the low end of high for the area.

Throughout this moderately sized area, there is a fair amount of core area and there are few management limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is some variability of terrain from mild to challenging, and few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(Q9) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

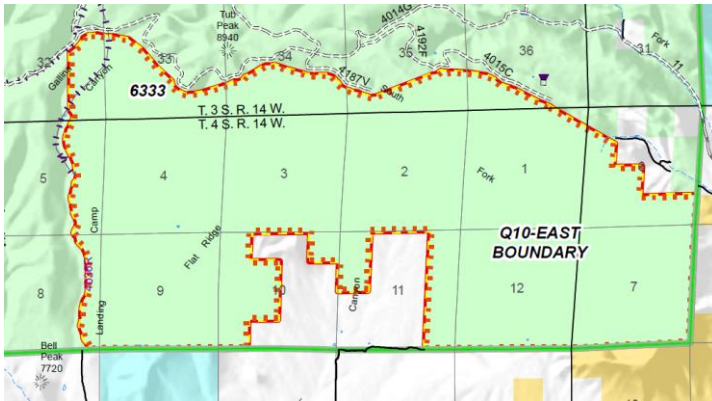
Additional Remarks.

Q10 – East Boundary

6,333 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

As its name would imply, the Q10 – East Boundary area is a small area located on the eastern boundary of the Forest. It wraps around a relatively large private inholding, resulting in its overall shape of a crescent or “C” turned on its side. It is in the southeast region of the Quemado Ranger District, located within:



- T3S R14W, parts of Sections 32-36;
- T4S R14W, all or parts of Sections 1-5, 8-12;
- T46 R13W all or part of sections 6-7

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in

size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team found that the area’s odd, cumbersome, and narrow crescent shape, relatively small size, and the presence of private inholdings intruding deep into the core, and an intruding closed, but not decommissioned level 1 road, all combine to make the area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(Q10) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the East Boundary area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) directs otherwise.

Q11 – Mother Hubbard

5,728 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

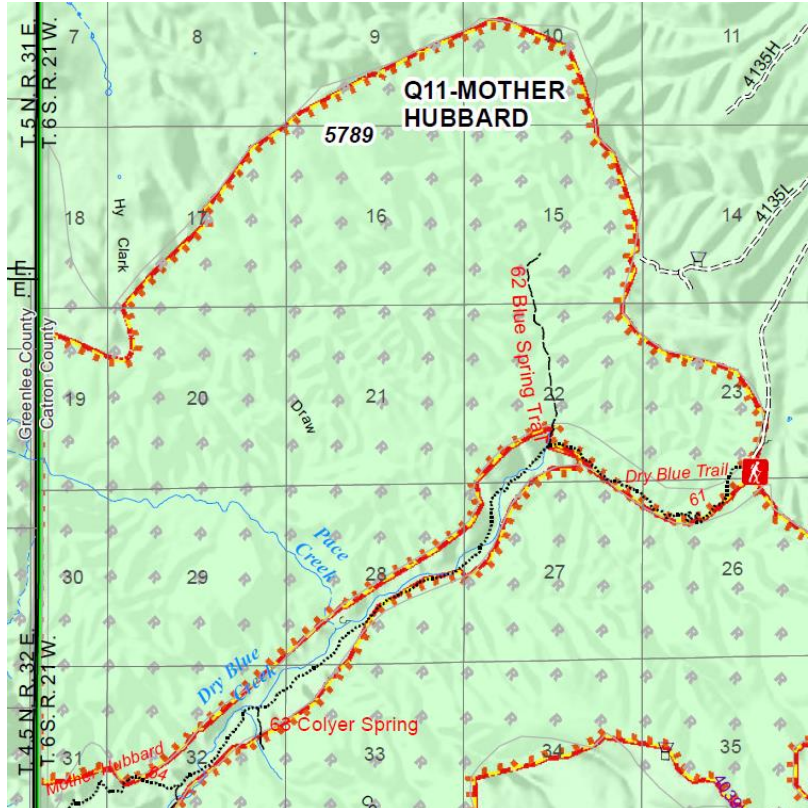
General description:

The Q9 – Apache Mountain area is located in the southwestern region of the Quemado Ranger District, on the boundary with lands of similar status and similarly managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests on the Arizona side of the state line boundary. The area occurs within:

- T6S R17W, all or parts of Sections 9-10, 15-17, 19-23, 28-32

Mother Hubbard is part of a larger inventoried roadless area that crosses state and forest boundaries into neighboring National Forest lands. That additional contiguous 2,100 acres of inventoried roadless area is overlapped by 2,656 acres of evaluated potential wilderness from the Apache-Sitgreaves forest plan revision process completed in 2015.

The character of the Mother Hubbard area consists of mostly steep and rugged terrain, including deeply incised canyons and drainages, and vegetation consists mostly of ponderosa pine-oak forest with some smaller areas of mixed conifer, and pinon-juniper at lower elevations. Areas of grassy meadow are mixed in throughout, including some drainage bottoms. There are several perennial streams within the canyons, sometimes resulting in dramatic waterfalls and scenic riparian areas with associated vegetation. Mother Hubbard is separated on its southern boundary from QG1 Nolan North, formerly identified as QG1a, Nolan North by a motorized trail that follows the bottom of the Dry Blue River Drainage.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Despite the area's relatively small size, it features challenging terrain, relative inaccessibility for non-conforming uses, and is buffered by adjacency to additional acres of inventoried roadless areas. There are no private inholdings immediately adjacent to the area, and due to the terrain there are few known issues with user developed or illegal roads use, and no known legal existing rights within

the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area, and reflects very little active management activity occurring within the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity. Much of the area is Inventoried Roadless Area, but some areas such as Pace Creek have seen logging in the past that may be evidenced by the presence of large stumps.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the area, there are very few range improvements, mostly a fence to the northeast. However, there is illegal motorized use in the Pace Creek drainage, and a motorized trail that was adapted from a road prism makes up the entire south boundary. For the area's relatively small size, these combine to have an effect on apparent naturalness.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 5.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors at other times of the year is extremely low, providing very good opportunities for solitude. Despite its relatively small size, this is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year, without sights and sounds of civilization intruding, and finding solitude in the rugged terrain at most times is almost a certainty throughout the area.

Throughout this moderately sized area, there is a good core area to pursue a variety of activities, and there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is variability of terrain, some very challenging, and few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: 9

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains valuable scenic qualities for its dramatic terrain, waterfalls, and riparian areas.

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Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(Q11) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	9
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15.7

Additional Remarks: May be a good candidate for some other type of area designation such as scenery, and/or backcountry recreation experiences.

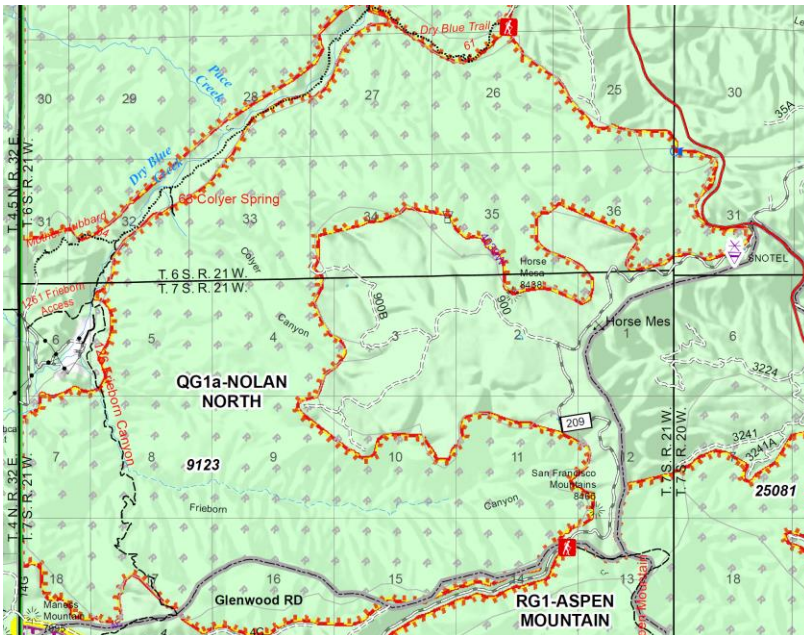
This area is directly adjacent to an evaluated potential wilderness from the Apache-Sitgreaves forest plan revision process completed in 2015. In the Record of Decision, the Apache-Sitgreaves Responsible Official withheld a decision of whether to recommend this adjacent area to Congress for wilderness designation, pending the results of the Gila NF wilderness evaluation process on this area. The purpose was to better inform the decision with a decision based upon whether the entirety of the inventoried roadless area was to be recommended collectively by both forests.

QG1 (formerly QG1a) – Nolan North

8,685 acres, Quemado and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The QG1 (formerly QG1a) – Nolan North area is located in the southwestern region of the Quemado Ranger District, near the Blue River and at the edges of the Mogollon Rim. Originally, this area was inventoried together with QG2 (formerly QG1b) because of their close proximity, and because they overlap part of the same inventoried area that continues across the state line and Forest boundary on lands managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. However, the ID Team determined that the areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together, so they were re-numbered and each considered on their own merits. The area occurs within:



- T6S R21W, parts of Sections 25-29, 31-36;
- T6S R20W parts of Sections 30-31;
- T7S R21W all or parts of Sections 3-18

The Nolan areas are of a relatively small size considered on their own, but are part of a larger contiguous area with an additional 2,100 acres of inventoried roadless area on the Apache-Sitgreaves side of the Arizona-New Mexico border. These are in turn overlapped by 2,656 acres of evaluated potential wilderness from their forest

plan revision process completed in 2015.

The nearby Mother Hubbard and Aspen Mountain inventoried roadless areas within this relatively remote area are separated from Nolan North and South mostly by single forest roads. The character of Nolan North is similar to the Mother Hubbard and Aspen Mountain areas, being mostly steep and rugged terrain with deeply incised canyons and drainages, and vegetation that consists mostly of ponderosa pine-oak forest with some smaller areas of mixed conifer, and pinon-juniper at lower elevations. Areas of grassy meadow are mixed in throughout, including grassy parks in the floodplains of some drainage bottoms.

There are several perennial streams within the canyons, sometimes resulting in dramatic waterfalls during times of higher flows, and scenic riparian areas with associated vegetation. Very little management activity has occurred within the area mostly due to the precipitous terrain.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because of the challenging terrain, relative inaccessibility for non-conforming uses, and adjacency to additional acres of inventoried roadless areas the ID Team found this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are only minor private inholdings adjacent to the Nolan North area. Due to the terrain, and remoteness of the location, there are few known issues with user developed or illegal roads use, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) *Composition of Plant and Animal Communities*

The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area, and reflects very little management activity, especially the more inaccessible, rugged parts of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) *Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention*

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that much of the area overlays an existing Inventoried Roadless Area, with challenging terrain but with some management activity occurring, including past logging and vegetative treatments.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) *Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness*

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements, mostly consisting of fences crossing a small part of the area to the northeast and the south within Nolan North, and the boundary fences along the state line.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 5.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors is extremely low, providing very good opportunities for solitude. This is a remote, rugged and rarely visited area for most of the year, and finding solitude at most times is almost a certainty throughout the area.

Throughout this relatively small area, there is a good core area to pursue a variety of activities, and there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is variability of terrain, some very challenging, and very few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: 9

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Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains valuable scenic qualities for its dramatic terrain, waterfalls, and riparian areas.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(QG1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	9
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15.7

Additional Remarks: May be a good candidate for some other type of area designation for scenery, and/or backcountry recreation experiences.

This area is directly adjacent to an evaluated potential wilderness from the Apache-Sitgreaves forest plan revision process completed in 2015. In the Record of Decision, the Apache-Sitgreaves Responsible Official withheld a decision of whether to recommend this adjacent area to Congress for wilderness designation, pending the results of the Gila NF wilderness evaluation process on this area. The purpose was to better inform the decision with a decision based upon whether the entirety of the inventoried roadless area were to be recommended collectively by both forests.

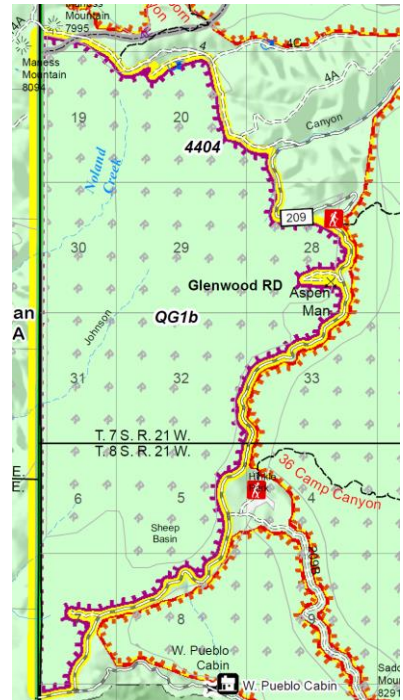
QG2 (formerly QG1b) – Nolan South **4,404 acres, Quemado and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The QG2 (formerly QG1b) – Nolan South area is located in the southwestern region of the Quemado Ranger District, near the Blue River and at the edges of the Mogollon Rim. Originally, this area was inventoried together with QG1 (formerly QG1a) because of their close proximity, and because they overlap part of the same inventoried area that continues across the state line and forest boundary on lands managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. However, the ID Team determined that the areas did not possess similar wilderness characteristics so they were re-numbered and each considered on their own merits. The Nolan South area occur within:

- T7S R21W all or parts of Sections 18-21, 28-33;
- T8S R21W all or parts of Sections 5-8, 18

The Nolan areas are of a relatively small size considered on their own, but are in fact part of a larger contiguous area. An additional adjacent 2,100 acres of inventoried roadless area, overlapped by 2,656 acres of evaluated potential wilderness from their forest plan revision process completed in 2015, exists on the Apache-Sitgreaves side of the Arizona-New Mexico border.



The nearby Mother Hubbard and Aspen Mountain inventoried roadless areas within this relatively remote area are separated from Nolan North and South mostly by single forest roads. The character of the areas is fairly rugged terrain with vegetation that consists mostly of ponderosa pine-oak forest with some smaller areas of mixed conifer, and pinon-juniper at lower elevations. Because of this is Mogollon Rim country, there are some relatively flat, plateau areas with areas of grassy meadow mixed in throughout, and extensive management activity has occurred within the area, within areas adjacent to and where there are inholdings to the inventoried roadless area.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an inventoried roadless area that is under consideration by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest as a potential wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible within this area, despite the area's relatively small size, because of the challenging terrain, relative inaccessibility for non-conforming uses, and adjacency to additional acres of inventoried roadless areas. Due to the terrain, and remoteness of the location, there are few known issues with user developed or illegal roads use, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Although most of Nolan South overlay existing Inventoried Roadless Area, there is noticeable evidence of modern human land management activity, and the area has a high level of modern human-caused disturbance. Some ridgelines, drainages, and plateau areas near the edge of the rim have seen logging activities in the past that may be evidenced by the presence of large stumps.

Preliminary Rank: LOW

Preliminary Score: 2

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

For the relative size of the areas, there are few range improvements, mostly consisting of fences crossing the center of Nolan South, and the boundary fence along the state line, and some earthen tanks. Past logging activity is visible in certain stringers, some dating from 60s and 70s, but the area has been logged as recently as 2002. There is one road prism still visible in Section 6, stumps indicating past logging activity, and clearings for old landings (although these may not be substantially noticeable to the untrained eye).

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 3.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is extremely low, providing very good opportunities for solitude. This is a very remote, rugged and rarely visited area for most of the year, and finding solitude at most times is almost a certainty throughout the area. The area is not known to even be accessed a great deal during hunting season.

Within this relatively small area there is a good sizeable core area to pursue a variety of activities, and there are few agency management limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING**

Preliminary Score: 8

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(QG2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.7

Additional Remarks: May be a good candidate for some other type of area designation for wildlife or backcountry recreation experiences.

This area is directly adjacent to an evaluated potential wilderness from the Apache-Sitgreaves forest plan revision process completed in 2015. In the Record of Decision, the Apache-Sitgreaves Responsible Official withheld a decision of whether to recommend this adjacent area to Congress for wilderness designation, pending the results of the Gila NF wilderness evaluation process on this area. The purpose was to better inform the decision with a decision based upon whether the entirety of the inventoried roadless area were to be recommended collectively by both forests.

QR1 – Upper Frisco Box

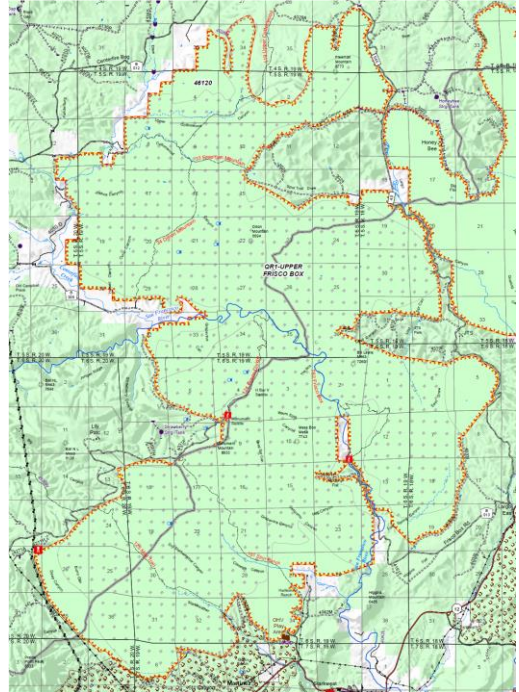
41,047 acres, Quemado and Reserve Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The QR1 – Upper Frisco Box area is located in the south-central region of the Quemado Ranger District, and crosses boundaries into the north-central portion of the Reserve Ranger District and occurs within:

- T4S R19W, parts of Sections 25, 27, 33-36;
- T4S R18W, parts of Sections 30-31;
- T5S R18W, all or parts of Sections 6-7, 18-19, 29-32;
- T5S R19W, all or parts of Sections 1-5, 8-30, 32-36;
- T6S R19W, all or parts of Sections 1-34;
- T6S R18W, all or parts of Sections 5-8, 17-19;
- T5S R20W, parts of Sections 12-13, 24;
- T6S R20W, all or part of Sections 13, 23-27, 35-36;
- T7S R20W, parts of Sections 1-2;
- T7S R19W, parts of Sections 4-6

The Upper Frisco Box is a moderately large area that has as its centerpiece the Upper Frisco Box, a spectacularly scenic, and physically challenging slot canyon that is unique within the Gila region of New Mexico. Terrain is variable throughout the area, with some rolling relief, mesa tops, some high ridges, and deeply incised large canyons. The vegetation cover is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer in pockets on the north slopes of the higher ridges. The town of Reserve is located a few miles to the southeast of the area, and although neither is close to the boundary at any point, it is situated roughly between US HWY 180 to the west and southwest, and NM State HWY 12 on the southeast to east. There is an extensive system of trails providing access throughout the area, including through the Gila Box slot canyon.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team finds that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, primarily due to the area's relatively large size, and challenging terrain. There are some private inholdings adjacent to and inside the area, particularly to the northwest and west, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence in many areas. There are issues with user developed roads, but no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. There is also a significant private inholding to the south of the Frisco Box itself, and just to the north of that private property there is a substantially noticeable pipeline that is above ground for several hundred feet.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**



View of Upper Frisco Box landform from the south

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Should boundaries be adjusted to the inventoried roadless area boundaries, ID Team and districts agree it would merit a higher score.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Both the interdisciplinary team and the Quemado and Reserve district rangers agree that removal of the areas with visible evidence of treatments from the area, and keeping the boundaries close to those for the inventoried roadless area, would increase the score.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness



For the large relative size of this area, there are few range improvements, and most of the higher development ones were already excluded by minor boundary adjustments.

However, there is a significant private inholding with a fairly high level of development that is visible for a large part of the area, and a large pipeline that is substantially noticeable just to the north of this private inholding. This particular improvement is more substantially noticeable due to its proximity to the trail access to the Upper Frisco Box itself, and the area boundary was moved to exclude this.

There is also a network of closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads along the western boundary, not far from the San Francisco River. The ID Team excluded these from area boundaries would improve wilderness characteristics overall.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness

Overall Preliminary Score: 4.7

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. However, there is a great deal of ATV use affecting some periphery areas, and making recommended boundary adjustments would raise the quality of solitude within a core area in the opinion of the ID Team and the districts.

Throughout this relatively large area, there is a large core area, trails for access, and there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, and few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. The area also features recreation experiences unique to this part of New Mexico, with opportunities for very challenging slot-canyoneering within the Upper Frisco Box Canyon. There are currently few management restrictions on recreation pursuits as well.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains the Upper Frisco Box slot canyon, which is very unique to this area of New Mexico, and is an outstanding scenic and recreation feature of value. There are other opportunities for scenery throughout the area as well.

Present: **YES**

Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary score: **3**

(QR1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14.7

Additional Remarks:

This area might be a good candidate for other designated area status if not recommended as wilderness, for scenic, backcountry recreation, historic, or wildlife values.

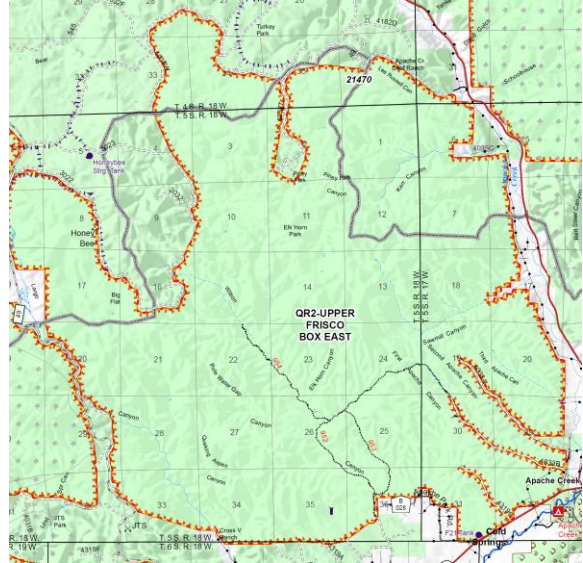
QR2 – Upper Frisco Box East 18,810 acres, Quemado and Reserve Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The QR2 – Upper Frisco Box East area is located in the south-central region of the Quemado Ranger District, and crosses district boundaries and most of the area is located in the north-central portion of the Reserve Ranger District. It is located occurs within:

- T5S R17W, all or parts of sections 5-8, 17-20, 29;
- T4S R18W, parts of Sections 33-36;
- T4S R17W, parts of Section 31;
- T5S R18W, all or parts of Sections 1-18, 20-29, 32-36

The Upper Frisco Box East is a moderately sized area. The vegetation cover is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine some areas, depending upon elevation and aspect.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team found that the area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to its moderately large size, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are some private inholdings adjacent, especially on the eastern boundary that may hinder access to the area along with cherry-stem roads and deeply intruding motorized routes. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, particularly in the southern half due to the less accessible terrain.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, particularly in the northern portion, including past logging, replanting, firewood harvesting, and vegetation treatments as well as permitted grazing of livestock. There have been timber sales in the upper portion around Turkey Park and Piney Park, mostly on the Quemado District. There has also been tree planting following the harvests in these areas. It is more rugged country in the southern portion, and there has been less management activity there as a consequence. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations, particularly in the north portion.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and concentrated in some locations, and their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are a fairly high number of fences, and evidence of logging and replanting in the north. The road in Wilson Canyon that shows being open only part of the way on the ground actually goes all the way, indicating that there is illegal use occurring and keeping the route substantially noticeable on the ground.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness*

Overall Preliminary Score: 3

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is fairly low, providing very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. However, there are nearby highways, adjacent private property inholdings (including the community of Apache Creek) and ATV use affecting some periphery areas. Because of the cherry stemmed roads, there is not a lot of core solitude area. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, and few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(QR2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks:

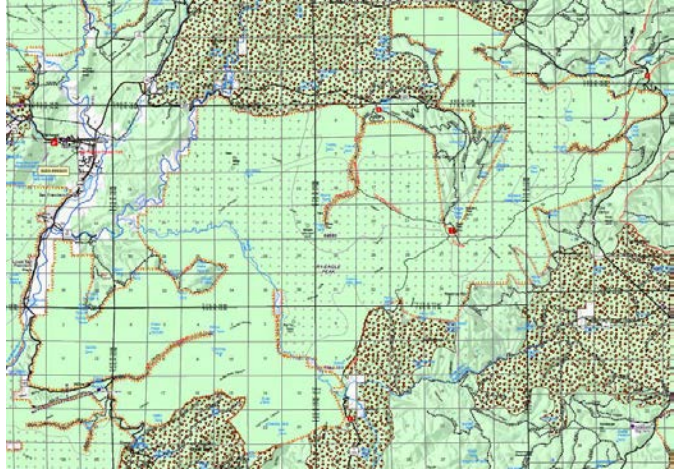
R1 – Eagle Peak

31,993 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R1 – Eagle Peak area is located in the southeastern region of the Reserve Ranger District, and occurs within:

- T6S R17W, parts of Sections 21-28, 31, 34-36;
- T6S R16W, parts of Sections 31-33;
- T7S R16W, all or parts of Sections 2-10, 15-21, 30-31;
- T76 R17W, all or parts of Sections 1-36;
- T8S R17W, all or parts of Sections 2-8, 18-19;
- T8S R18W, all or parts of Sections 1-27;
- T8S R19W, all or parts of Sections 1-3, 10-15;
- T7S R19W, all or parts of Sections 25-26, 35-36;
- T7S R18W, all or parts of Sections 1-4, 8-36;
- T6S R18W, parts of Sections 33-34



Vegetation cover throughout this large area is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine some areas, and some mixed conifer at higher elevations and north-facing slopes. It is a classic southwestern mountain forest regime, where vegetation cover is largely dependent upon elevation and aspect. There is some fairly rugged terrain in the southern portion, and the Eagle Peak lookout tower is located just outside the boundary at the peak of a sizeable cherry-stemmed exclusion. There are several additional deep cherry-stems from roads that go fairly deep into the core of the area.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, primarily due to the area's large size, the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. The ID Team adjusted the boundaries of the area to exclude motorized trails and some areas that impacted manageability. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, although not enough to be disqualifying, there are still adjacent private inholdings and forest road cherry-stems within the area that could somewhat complicate manageability in this area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

The northern part of the area has seen more firewood harvest, logging, pinon-juniper pushes, and thinning vegetation treatments. Because of rugged terrain, there has been less activity in the southern half of this area. There are still cable logging trails visible in some areas. There is noticeable evidence of modern human land management activity, and the area has a high level of modern human-caused disturbance.

Preliminary Rank: LOW Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but is concentrated in some locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Area boundaries were adjusted to exclude motorized trails, closed, decommissioned and user developed roads and past forest management activity visible on the ground, particularly to the north and in the Kiko Canyon area leading from the San Francisco River, and Negrito Creek. Stock tanks within the area have ATV trails leading to them. There are also several cherry stem open roads, private property inholdings and motorized trails within the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 3.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons there are some areas where likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. There is a great deal of OHV use affecting some periphery areas, as well as motorized routes within the area boundaries.

Throughout this relatively large area, there is a lot of core area, trails for access, and there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. Eagle Peak is a popular side hike destination for Continental Divide Trail through-hikers. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, and few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 7

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains the quality scenery within Negrito Canyon and views of and from Eagle Peak. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes nearby, but not through the area.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(R1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.7

Additional Remarks: This area could be a candidate for other designated area status if not recommended as wilderness, such as for scenic and backcountry recreation (motorized and non-motorized) values.

R3 – Moraga Canyon

8,527 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R3 –Moraga Canyon is located on the eastern forest boundary and the eastern region of the Reserve Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T7S R15W, parts of Sections 9-17, 20-24, 26-28

The character of the terrain is rolling hills and drainages, and the predominant vegetation cover is open grasslands with few trees (mostly pinon-juniper).

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

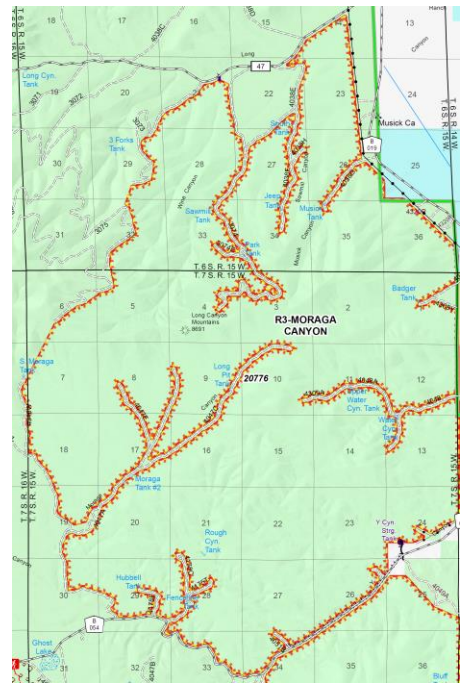
Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that with some very significant changes to the area boundaries, a significantly smaller portion of the overall area than was identified as meeting inventory criteria is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Removal of areas to the north were identified as necessary to improve manageability by excluding numerous, deeply intruding cherrystems of ML2 roads that create an odd and difficult to manage overall configuration and shape. Additionally, most of these cherry stemmed areas continue as substantially noticeable (to the point of being visible via aerial photography) user developed routes that continue deeper into the area.

There are also a number of substantially noticeable, closed but not decommissioned, ML 1 administrative use only roads that intrude deeply into the area. Three ML1 roads run nearly parallel north to south in the northwestern portion to the west of the cherrystem, effectively bisecting the area. From the east, Forest Road 4047 continues as a substantially noticeable ML1 road for several miles into the heart of the area beyond where it ends as a ML 2, open to public use road, effectively bisecting the northeastern portion of the area, preventing a sizeable core area to protect wilderness characteristics. Finally, closed but not decommissioned ML1 Forest Road 430BZ effectively joins the two cherrystems of open to public use ML2 Forest Roads 4047C and 4048A, effectively dividing the northern and southern portions of the originally inventoried area.

However, despite the relatively small size of the remaining area, if these problematic areas are removed from the area boundary, and despite a deep intrusion by closed, but not decommissioned ML 1 Forest Road 4048B, the modified shape and configuration of the considerably reduced area allows for a decent core area suitable to protect wilderness characteristics. Management will still be complicated by some remaining private inholdings to the east and a road that cherry-stems within the area in the northeast.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**



Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Recently completed treatment areas are visible on the ground, and other vegetation management work is ongoing. Most recent projects were undertaken with the intention of opening a wildlife migration corridor from the Plains of San Agustin to Collins Park for encouraging migration of pronghorn into this part of the Forest.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are some visible user-developed roads in some locations, and several deeply intruding ML 1 closed, but not decommissioned, roads even within the reduced area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 4.3*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons there are some areas where likelihood of encountering other visitors in the Moraga Canyon area is low, providing fair opportunities for solitude. The shape and configuration provide a decent, though small, core area shielding from influence of outside development. However, there is also a frequently used airstrip on adjacent private that has a negative effect to solitude.

Throughout this relatively small area, size and lack of forest cover is a limitation to both solitude and recreation. There are no trail opportunities, but few range fences and improvements, and few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area consists primarily of open, rolling grassland that may provide ideal pronghorn habitat, and this type of open, rolling grasslands are an underrepresented vegetation type within existing wilderness on the forest.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(R3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

Additional Remarks:

R4 – O-Bar-O Mountain

20,010 acres Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R4 – O-Bar-O area is located in the eastern region of the Reserve Ranger District, and occurs within:

- T7S R15W, parts or all of Sections 25-26, 34-36;
- T8S R15W, parts or all of Sections 1-3, 9-17, 21-28, 35-36;
- T9S R15W, parts of Sections 1-2;
- T9S R14W, parts of Sections 5-6;
- T8S R14W part or all of Sections 7-8, 17-20, 29-32

This a moderately large area that is located on the eastern Forest boundary. There is variable terrain throughout the area, including two high elevation areas at O-Bar-O Mountain and Salvation Peak. The vegetation cover throughout the area is primarily pinon-juniper, with ponderosa pine at higher elevations, and open grasslands at lower elevations.

The terrain is rolling and vegetation cover is mostly open grasslands with few trees.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

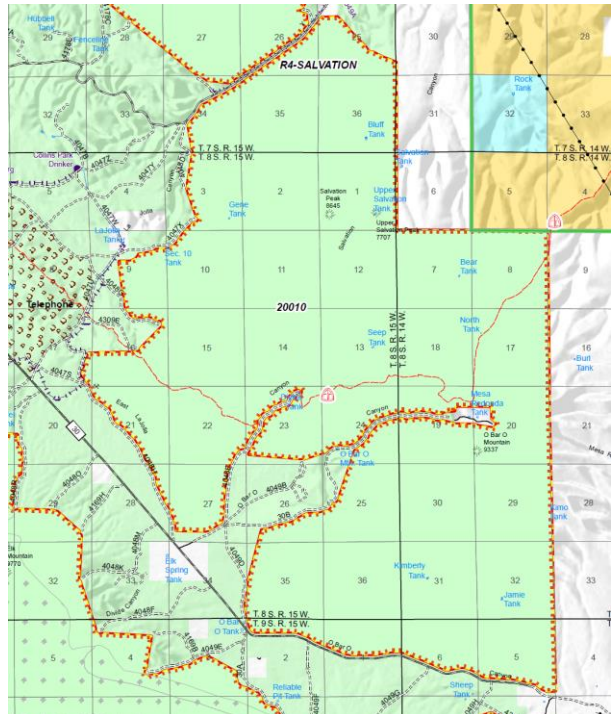
The ID Team preliminarily determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the relatively large size of the area and lack of known valid existing rights that would preclude protection of wilderness characteristics. However, although not enough to be disqualifying, management could be complicated by a large cherry stem including private inholdings from west to east that nearly bisects the area, and adjacent private property along all of the eastern and northeastern boundaries, except along a section in BLM ownership.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.



Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Some completed vegetation treatments are visible on the ground, and work is still ongoing with intention of opening a wildlife corridor from the Plains of San Agustin to Collins Park for encouraging migration of pronghorn into the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

There are very few range improvements, but due to lack of forest cover there are visible fences, roads, a subdivision at Elk Springs, and a powerline located outside of the area. There have been treatments for fire management to protect the adjacent private property. Several roads within the area may be added to the Travel Management system.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low in most areas except along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. There are very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area, but more so in the northern portion. There are private inholdings deep into the area, and a majority of the eastern boundary adjoins private property, with a high level of suburban-type development at Elk Springs. The large size of the area helps to provide a very good core area. However, there is a sizable cherry-stem deep into the area accessing the private inholding that nearly bisects the area.

This is a relatively large area with a great deal of variable terrain, and trail opportunities on the Continental Divide Trail, and despite the large cherry-stem, there is a workable core area, very few range fences and improvements, and there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains rolling grassland that may make ideal pronghorn habitat, and rolling grasslands are an underrepresented vegetation type within wilderness on the Forest. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail enters the Forest at this area, but is fairly ubiquitous throughout the Forest.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(R4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

Additional Remarks: This area could be a candidate for some other type of designated area status if not recommended as wilderness, for backcountry recreation, wildlife and scenic values.

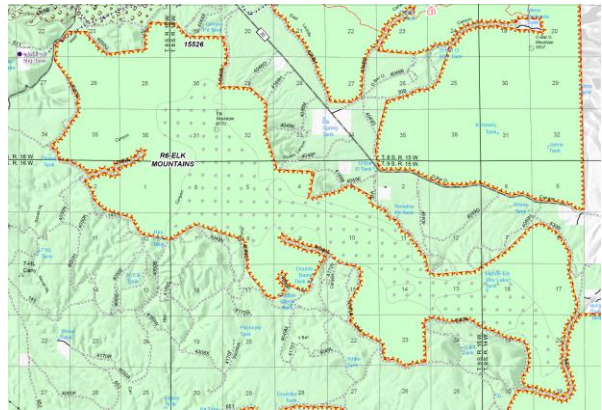
R6 – Elk Mountains

15,526 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R6 – Elk Mountains area is located near the eastern boundary of the forest in the Reserve Ranger District, located within:

- T8S R16W, all or parts of Sections 22-27, 34-36;
- T9S R16W parts of Sections 1-3, 11-12;
- T8S R15W all or parts of Sections 19, 29-33;
- T9S R15W all or parts of Sections 2-11, 13-17, 22-24, 26;
- T9S R14W all or parts of Sections 7-8, 17-20, 29-30



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The area's narrow, often torturous shape (negatively contributed to by several cherrystems), moderate total acreage, and adjacent roads, the presence of several closed but not decommissioned level 1 roads, and the resulting lack of a core area combine to make Elk Mountains area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(R6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Elk Mountains area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

R7 – Negrito

10,461 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R7 – Negrito area is a small to moderate sized, awkwardly shaped and oriented, mostly narrow throughout area. It is in the southwest region of the Reserve Ranger District, located within:

- T9S R17W, parts of Sections 25, 36;
- T9S 16W, parts of Sections 30-34;
- T10S R16W all or parts of sections 2-18;
- T10S R17W parts of sections 2, 9-16



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Only 2 sections are contained in their entirety within the area. The area's long, narrow, and odd shape, moderate total acreage, cherry stems and adjacent roads, all combine to make the area lacking a core area large enough to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. The entire western part of the area is also heavily dissected by a series of decommissioned level 1 roads.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(R7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Negrito area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

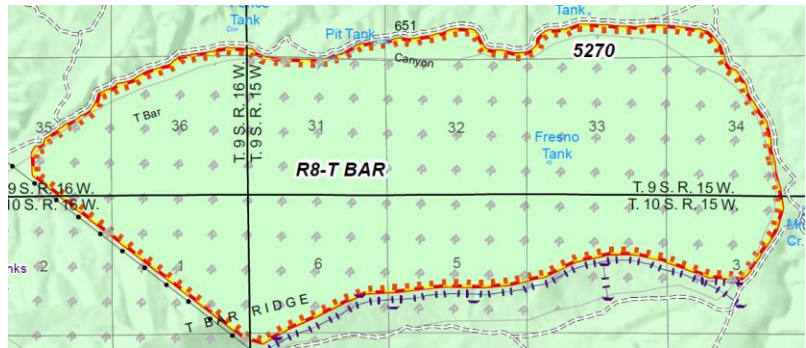
R8 – T-Bar Ridge

5,270 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R8 – T-Bar Ridge area is located in the south central region of the Reserve Ranger District, located within:

- T9S 16W, parts of Sections 25, 35-36;
- T10S R16W parts of sections 1-2;
- T10S R15W parts of sections 3-7;
- T9S R15W all or parts of sections 27-34



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The area's small size, narrow shape, location, terrain, vegetation cover and adjacent roads and developments all combine to make the area lacking a core area large enough and with boundaries manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(R8) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the T-bar Ridge area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

R9 – Wagon Tongue

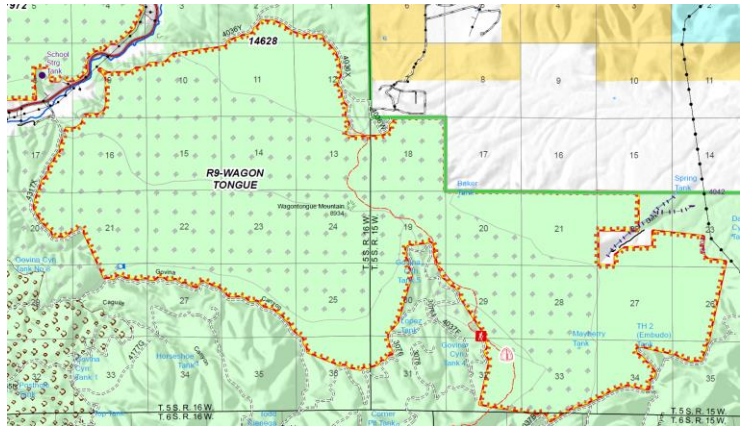
14,628 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R9 – Wagon Tongue area is moderately-sized and located in the northeastern part of the Reserve Ranger District within:

- T5S R16W part or all of Sections 1-2, 9-17, 20-28, 36;
- T5S R15W part or all of Sections 18-23, 26-35;
- T6S R15W part of Section 5

Vegetation cover is classic southwestern mountains mix, with primarily pinon-juniper and ponderosa pine but also mixed conifer on north-facing slopes and at higher elevations



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the relatively large size of the area and lack of known valid existing rights that would preclude protection of wilderness characteristics. However, although not enough to be disqualifying, management could be complicated by a large cherry-stem caused narrowing of the area at about its midpoint east-to-west, and adjacent private property along the eastern side and the north boundary, including a sizable subdivision.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Largely due to remoteness of the areas location, lack of easy access to the area, the current composition of plant and animal communities reflects little active management activity occurring within the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations within the area. There are a number of visible roads in the area around Aragon. Although not on the map, there is a visible road on top of Wagon Tongue that is an extension of FR 4373X. There is a subdivision just outside the Forest boundary on north side. There are few range improvements, and most of the existing ones are on the eastern end of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This is a fairly remote region of the Forest not as easily accessed to those unfamiliar with the area. Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low except along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. There are private inholdings on the eastern boundary, and the north portion adjoins private property, with a sizable subdivision. The large size of the area makes available good core areas, but there is a sizable cherry-stem midway from east to west and into the area that nearly bisects it. The area features variable terrain, and trail opportunities on the Continental Divide Trail, and combined with good core areas for primitive recreation. There are no limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, beyond those normally applied to National Forest lands.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(R9) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.7

Additional Remarks:

R10a, and R10b - Gila Additions North Reserve

536 acres; 657 acres

Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R10a, R10b, and R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve areas are adjacent to the Gila Wilderness, and were initially evaluated



together for being closely located to each other and similar in character. However, the R10c area was found to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to R10a and R10b, and therefore is now being evaluated separately. R10a and R10b lie within:

- T10S R17W, all or parts of Sections 13-15;
- T10S R16W all or parts of Sections 16-22, 24-30;
- T10S R15W parts of Sections 19-22, 28-30

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although most of these areas were determined unmanageable due to their narrow, odd shape and configuration between open roads combined with unmanageable boundaries, the area boundaries were adjusted to remove all areas outside the inventoried roadless area just to the east and west of the lake and recreation site. Snow Lake Dam is substantially noticeable, likely requiring motorized access to maintain, and the developed recreation area, lake, and dam are within a cherry-stem.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

d) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the evaluated area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including management of the area to enhance developed recreational use as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

e) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including developed recreation and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

f) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations within the area. There are a number of visible roads, the dam, developed recreation facilities, and range improvements.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

. There are no limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, beyond those normally applied to National Forest lands.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **4**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(R10a and b) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE(PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks:

R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve

1,451 acres

Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R10a, R10b, and R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve areas are adjacent to the Gila Wilderness, and were initially evaluated



together for being closely located to each other and similar in character. However, the R10c area was found to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to R10a and R10b, and therefore is now being evaluated separately. R10c is located in the southwest region of the Reserve Ranger District, and lies within:

- T10S R17W, all or parts of Sections 21-28

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

The area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The area's narrow, odd shape and configuration between open roads combine with unmanageable boundaries to be unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(R10c) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICEINT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the R10c Gila Additions North Reserve areas has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

RB1 – East Elk Mountain

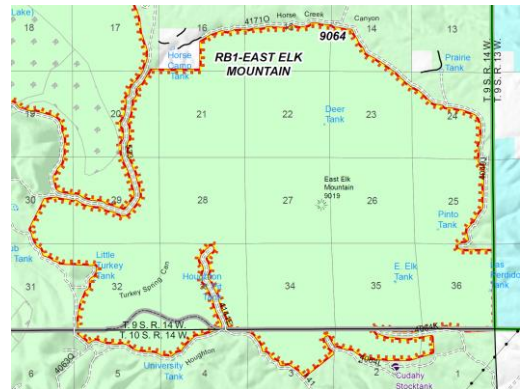
9,064 acres, Reserve and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RB1 – East Elk Mountain area is located in the south-eastern region of the Reserve Ranger District, and crosses boundaries so that a very small part off the area is located in the northeastern portion of the Black Range Ranger District and occurs within:

- T9S R14W, all or parts of Sections 14-16, 20-36;
- T10S R14W, parts of Sections 1-5

Vegetation cover is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer in some areas, depending upon elevation and aspect. There is very steep terrain in the vicinity of East Elk Mountain, gradually becoming less rugged until becoming rolling hills and changing from forest to grasslands.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the area's moderately large size, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are some state and private lands adjacent to much of the area's boundary, and several cherry-stem motorized routes that could somewhat complicate manageability in this area, but not enough to prevent it. The area's shape, location, and configuration allow for a core area suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Not a lot of range improvements or fences throughout the area. There are cherry stems on the south boundary. There are pre-Travel Management Plan parallel roads leading into Horse Camp that are still visible on the ground. Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 5*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is fairly low, providing good opportunities for solitude. Because of the moderate size of the area, cherry stemmed roads have an effect on the amount of core areas for opportunities for solitude. There is a ranch headquarters on adjacent private where there is a great deal of outfitter/guiding out of into this area. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are no non-motorized trail use opportunities. The terrain varies from mild to challenging, with rolling grasslands and steep mountain slopes, and there are no management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits beyond those applicable to all National Forest lands.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(RB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10

Additional Remarks:

RWB1 – Canyon Creek

10,282 acres

Reserve, Wilderness and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RWB1 – Canyon Creek area is located at the junction between, and lies partially on the Reserve, Wilderness, and Black Range Ranger Districts, within:

- T10S R15W, all or parts of Sections 1, 11-16, 21-26;
- T10S R14W, all or parts of Sections 7-10, 15-22, 28-30

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

**Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres
Practicability as Wilderness:**

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

There are multiple issues with the configuration of the area that make it unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are a number of cherry stem roads, including two that may connect on the ground and together extend nearly 3/4 across the polygon, high development system roads on all boundaries, and it lacks sizable core area where wilderness characteristics could be preserved.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(RWB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Canyon Creek area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

RWB2 – Gila Addition North Central

3,392 acres

Reserve, Wilderness, and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RWB2– Gila Addition North Central area located at the junction of, and lies partially on the Reserve, Wilderness, and Black Range Ranger Districts, and lies within:

- T10S R15W, parts of Sections 20-23, 26-28, 33-36;
- T11S R15W parts of Sections 1-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

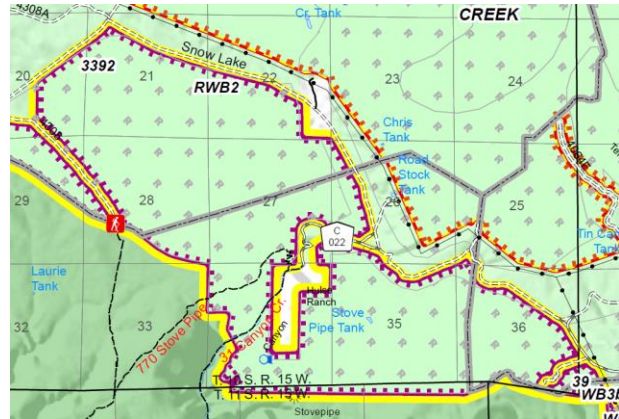
Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank:

SUFFICIENT SIZE

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The shape and configuration of this small area makes it unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There is a large parcel of developed private land dominating the area, as well as several cherry-stemmed roads creating an awkward shaped area with unmanageable boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(RWB2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Addition North Central area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

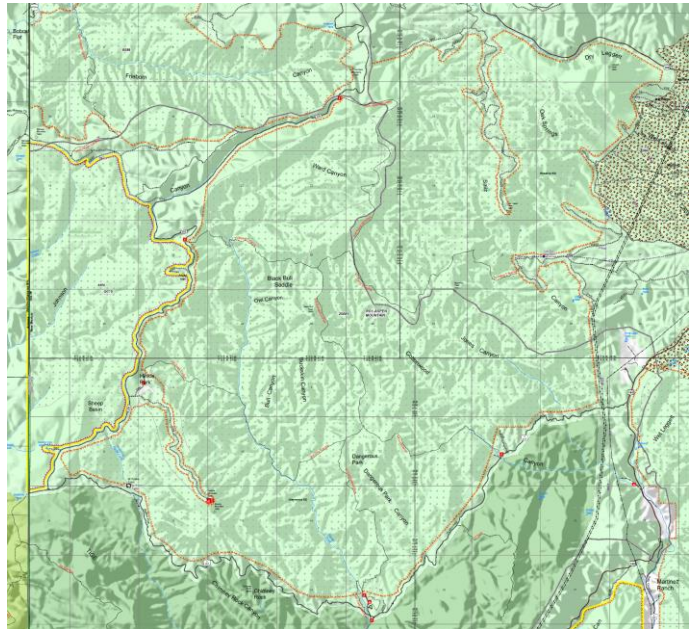
RG1 – Aspen Mountain

22,089 acres, Reserve and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RG1 – Aspen Mountain is a moderately large area located partly in the southwestern Reserve Ranger District but crosses boundaries with the majority of the area located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District within:

- T7S R21W, all or parts of Sections 12-14, 21-28, 32-36;
- T76 R20W, all or parts of Sections 7-10, 15-22, 27-33;
- T8S R20W, all or parts of Sections 4-8, 17-19;
- T8S R21W, all or parts of Sections 1-5, 8-16, 21-24



Vegetation cover is variable, a classic example of southwestern mountain forests: mostly pinon-juniper at lower elevations varied with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, depending upon elevation and aspect. The terrain is steep throughout much of the area, and features scenic escarpments in the vicinity of the several mountain peaks and deep canyons located within the area, but there is also somewhat milder terrain in areas near Pueblo Park Campground, which lies directly adjacent to its south central border.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because of the area's moderately large size, rugged terrain, remote location, configuration, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts it is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are no private inholdings, but there are several cherry-stem motorized routes on the Reserve District portion generally east and northeast of Saliz Canyon and Joe Green Peak that could somewhat complicate manageability in that particular area. The area's remoteness, size, and configuration allow for a large core area suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Because of limited access of the area's roadless character and difficult terrain, there have been few management actions beyond limited permitted grazing. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area. The ID Team felt the area could be ranked higher, if the area to the northeast (Reserve District portion) was removed from the area boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 7

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Although historic and current fire suppression within the area may affect fire regimes, ecological conditions reflect only minor modern human land management activities, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. The ID Team would also rank this component higher, if its boundaries were redrawn to exclude the area to the northeast.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 7

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Not a lot of range improvements or fences throughout, especially in context of the size of the area. There are cherry stems to the northeast, and the team also felt removal of that area could raise this Preliminary Rank as well. There is a beacon on Joe Green peak that serves the nearby airstrip. Other roads not shown on the map do exist on the ground leading off the northern cherry stem. There are some spring improvements. Again, the ID Team felt the rating would be higher without including area east and northeast of Saliz Canyon.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 7

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness

Overall Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area, with the western portion providing high opportunities. Saddle Mountain lookout is visible from many places within the area. On the northeastern side, sound is evident from the highway and roads are visible on the ground. Not a lot of use on the trails. The ID Team again felt that eliminating the small area to the northeast would serve to improve this rating. Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, including good non-motorized trail use opportunities accessing much of the area. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, with steep mountain slopes, long ridgelines, and deep canyons. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

There is a concentration of prehistoric sites at Pueblo Park that are a note able heritage resource. There is dramatic scenery – views into the Blue Range Wilderness Tige Rim area in particular, as well

as the dramatic escarpments and views areas within the Aspen Mountain area – including Chimney Rock.



Present: **YES**

Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary score: **2**

(RG1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	MODERATE	2
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	16

Additional Remarks:

In order to improve the score and retain better quality of wilderness characteristics, the ID Team excised parts on the Reserve District to the east and north of Saliz Canyon from this area.

One other recommendation from some members of the ID team was to reconsider the area boundary where the Saddle Mountain Lookout and access road create a cherry-stem, to instead move the boundary to eliminate the smaller triangular area between the lookout access road and FR 209. This small area between the cherry-stem and the roads would be less manageable to preserve wilderness characteristics than much of the rest of the area.

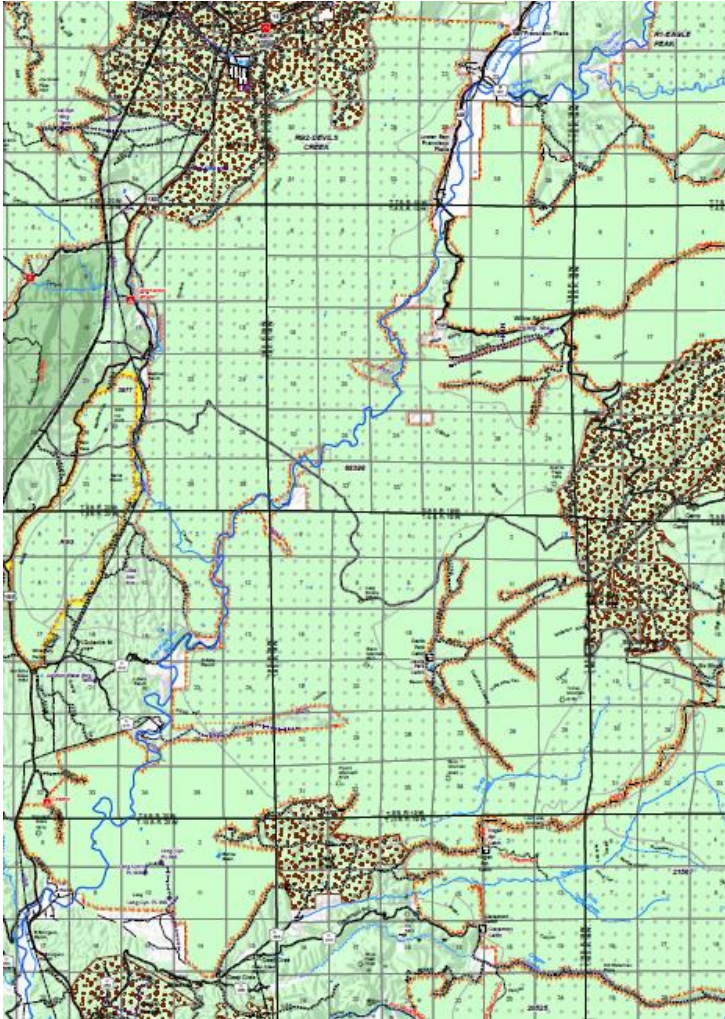
Although the Aspen Mountain area is of only moderately large size, its benefits in its wilderness characteristics by being located in a remote and lightly visited area of the Forest with close proximity to the Blue Range Wilderness, Blue Range Primitive Area, and three adjacent inventoried roadless areas. Inclusion of Aspen Mountain, on its own or in conjunction with nearby areas, would contribute additional size to a wilderness complex of areas separated only by low-development forest system roads.

RG2 – Devil’s Creek

61,067 acres, Reserve and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RG2 – Devil’s Creek area is located in partly in the southwestern region of the Reserve Ranger District and crosses boundaries with approximately half located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District within:



- T7S R19W, all or parts of Sections 14-22, 27-34;
- T7S R20W, parts of Sections 25, 36;
- T8S R20W, all or parts of Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36;
- T8S R19W, all or parts of Sections 2-10, 13-36;
- T8S R18W, parts of Sections 19, 30-31;
- T9S R18W, all or parts of Sections 7, 17-21, 29-32;
- T9S R19W, all or parts of all Sections;
- T9S R20W, all or parts of Sections 1-3, 10-14, 23-39, 32-36,
- T10S R20W, all or parts of Sections 1-5, 8-14, 23;
- T10S R19W, parts of Sections 1-5;
- T10S R18W, part of Section 6

The Devil’s Creek area is a very large area of deeply incised canyons along the San Francisco River and its tributaries. There is mostly rugged terrain throughout and erosive soils leading down into the canyon from the Devil’s Park area. The vegetation cover is primarily pinon-juniper, with stringers of ponderosa pine,

depending upon elevation and aspect. The terrain is steep and features scenic views of the San Francisco River, and lies immediately adjacent to Cosmic Campground International Dark Sky Sanctuary (CCIDSS), which has been recognized as the first International Dark Sky Sanctuary located on National Forest System lands and also in North America. International Dark Sky Sanctuaries are lands possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights. This status would indicate that the area – located on adjacent lands – would possess similar dark sky characteristics.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to the very large size of this area, the rugged terrain, remote location, manageable boundaries, and lack of known valid existing legal rights conflicts, the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, there are substantial cherry stems that go deep into the area and have a detrimental effect to core areas for protection of wilderness characteristics; this is despite the overall large size of the area, because of the overall shape and configuration is narrowed and sometimes winding, rather than having a large robust interior. There are also very significant private inholdings into the area, and adjacent private lands, often in locations making access difficult into the area, particularly along the San Francisco River. The area's size, and configuration allow for adequate core areas suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics, but the shape and configuration combine with the cherry-stems to be limiting.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. The ID Team felt the area could be ranked higher, if some of the more active land management locations were removed from the evaluation area boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. The ID Team felt the area would rank higher if the more active land management areas were removed.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on apparent naturalness. Not a lot of range improvements or fences for the size of the area, but they are more concentrated in several locations to the northeast and southwest. Views from much of the northeast are of development in municipalities along the river. There are a few closed but decommissioned roads in some areas, and to the southeast and east several closed but not decommissioned level 1 roads.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness*

Overall Preliminary Score: 4

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good overall opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area, with the south

portion providing better quality opportunities than areas nearer to the highways and municipalities, including Reserve, in the north. In the northeast, populated areas, road traffic and industrial noise from a busy sawmill may be an intrusion on solitude experiences of being removed from civilization/society. The ID Team again felt that removing some areas with lower wilderness characteristics would serve to improve the wilderness characteristics rank for the overall area.

Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are few trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, water recreation along the river and its tributaries, and deep canyons. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The San Francisco River corridor offers exceptional scenic values, including tributaries – secluded Saliz canyon in particular. The area contains a concentration of prehistoric sites that represents a notable heritage resource. Immediately adjacent to the Cosmic Campground Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Present: **YES**

Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary score: **2**

(RG2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	MODERATE	2
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13

Additional Remarks:

RG3 – Brushy Canyon

3,977 acres, Glenwood District and Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RG3 – Brushy Canyon area is a very small area oriented between US HWY 180 on the west (south of Cottonwood, north of Cosmic Campgrounds) and forest roads and powerline rights of way to the east. Its northernmost point is in the southwestern Reserve Ranger District, but the majority is located in the northern Glenwood Ranger District within:

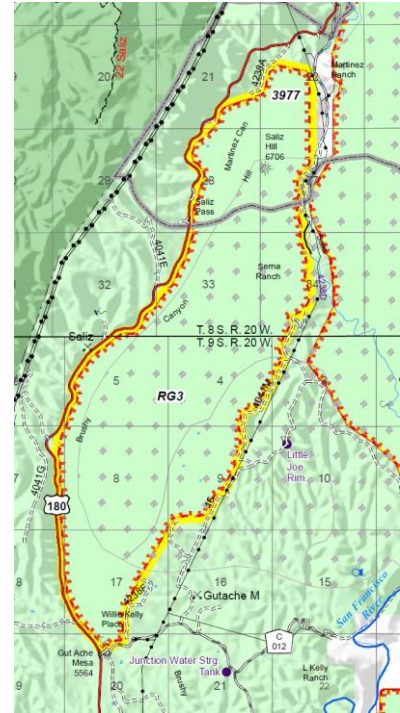
- T8S 20W, parts of Sections 21-22, 27-28, 32-34;
- T9S R20W parts of sections 3-9, 17-18, 20

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **NOT SUFFICIENT SIZE**

Though less than 5,000 acres and not contiguous to existing wilderness or similar management, this area was included in the Inventory because its location, could possibly have been found to have a role as a “stepping stone” of connectivity for wildlife between the Blue Range Wilderness and lands to the east. During inventory, the steep terrain was considered as possibly making the area practicable to manage as wilderness. However, as part of the first step of the Evaluation that assumption was revisited, and considered that road and other development proximity directly uphill negatively affects the entire area, and instead contributes to it not being manageable at its present size.



(RG3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	NOT SUFFICIENT SIZE	0
Step 2 – Manageability	N/A	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Brushy Canyon area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

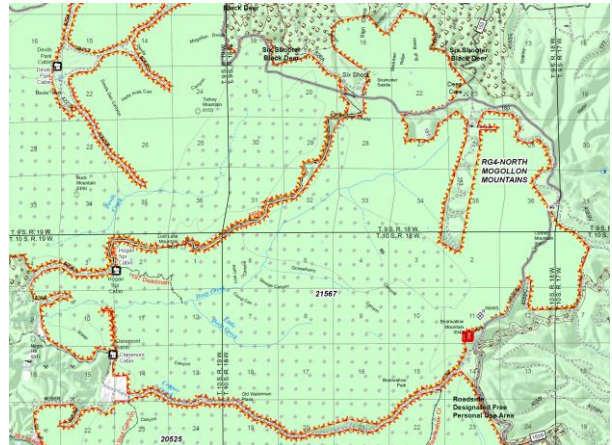
RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains

21,591 acres, Reserve and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains area is located in partly in the south-western region of the Reserve Ranger District and crosses boundaries with approximately half of the area is located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District within:

- T9S R18W, all or parts of Sections 14-36;
- T10S R19W, all or parts of Sections 1-4, 9-16, 24;
- T10S R18W, all or parts of Sections 1-12, 14-22;
- T10S R17W, parts of Sections 6-7;
- T9S R17W, part of Section 31



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to the very large size, the rugged terrain, location, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are core areas suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics, but the cherry-stems have a negative effect to the portions of the area where they occur. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past timber harvest as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Bull thistle intrusions from past fires are known to be spreading into the Deep Creek area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and mostly concentrated in some locations, but by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is an extensive system of closed roads that are still evident on the ground that come off of cherry stemmed road, as well as a motorized trail and visible closed roads in the northern part.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness

Overall Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors during other times of the year is low, providing good overall opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. Great opportunities for solitude. Towards bottom see fence lines strung out. Not a lot of range improvements elsewhere. Deep Creek perennial mostly. Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. Some trails (Class 1 and 2). Elk and bear hunting.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(RG4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

Additional Remarks:

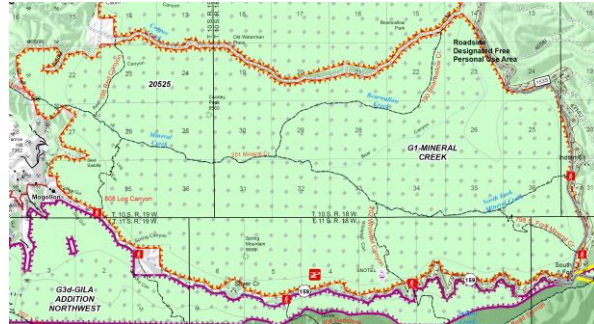
G1 – Mineral Creek

20,525 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The G1 – Mineral Creek area is located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District and occurs within:

- T10S R19W, all or parts of Sections 13-14, 21-27, 34-36;
- T10S R18W, all or parts of Sections 15-15, 19-36;
- T10S R17W, parts of Sections 30-31;
- T11S R17W, parts of Sections 5-6;
- T11S R18W, parts of Sections 1-6;
- T11S R19W, parts of Sections 1-2



Mineral Creek is a moderately sized area of rugged terrain consisting of deeply incised canyons, ridgelines, and mountain peaks. The vegetation cover is primarily pinon-juniper, with stringers of ponderosa pine, aspen, and mixed conifer depending upon elevation and aspect. Much of the area was affected by the Whitewater Baldy fire.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, location, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are few private inholdings and cherry-stem motorized routes, and the area's size, terrain and configuration allow for sizable core areas to protect wilderness characteristics. There may be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area. This reflects very little active management activity occurring within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 8

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area, except for historic mining within the canyon bottom. The area has never been logged.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 10

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, do not detract from the apparent naturalness of the area, do not appear modern, and they contribute significantly to the historical character and cultural context of the area. Not a lot of range improvements or fences for the size of the area. Steep slopes have limited impacts of human development. There are a few broken down cabins that are historic.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 10

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

OUTSTANDING *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Preliminary Score: **9.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. Lots of trail opportunities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: **8**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: **10**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area has a great deal of visible mining history, outstanding geologic features, exceptional scenery, and provides quality representation of a lot of plant communities. The Gila Native Plant Society, Western New Mexico University, and Aldo Leopold High School all make use this area for its excellent environmental education purposes.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary score: **4**

(G1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	OUTSTANDING	9.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	10
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	OUTSTANDING	4
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	23.3

Additional Remarks: Localized issue: Columbus Gold buying mineral rights in Mogollon area on western side of the area. Gila trout management using helicopters for limited time to initially establish populations, but could possibly use pack animals in the future.

G2 – Blue Primitive Addition (formerly G2a – Blue Range South) **315 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The G2 – Blue Primitive Addition is a very small area located in the western region of the Glenwood Ranger District, on the state line and adjacent to the Blue Range Primitive area managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The area was originally numbered as G2a and grouped together in the inventory with areas G2b, G2c, G2d and G2e, all named Blue Range South. However, it was preliminarily determined by the ID Team that G2b and G2c were not manageable, and that the areas formerly numbered G2a, G2d, and G2e were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite their close proximity. G2d and G2e were renumbered and renamed as G9, Blue Range SE Addition, and G10, Blue Range SW Addition. This area was renamed G2, Blue Primitive Addition and occurs within:

- T9S R21W, part of Section 31;
- T10S R21W, parts of Sections 5-6, 8

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area contiguous to an existing primitive area, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area, which consists of inventoried roadless area, would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to its adjacency to the Blue Range Primitive Area. By law, the primitive area is required to be managed the same as designated wilderness by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

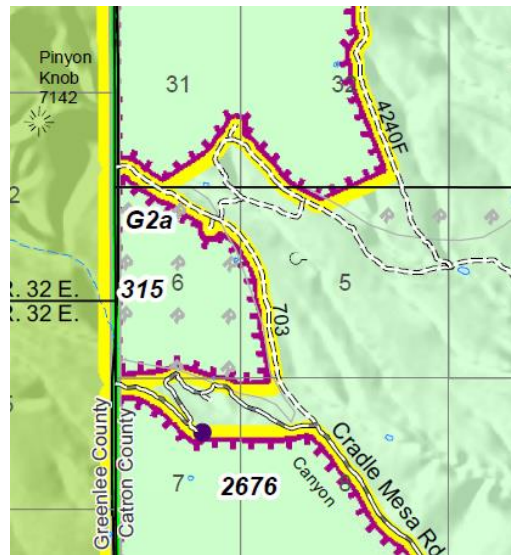
The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is noticeable evidence of modern human land management activity, and the area has a high level of modern human-caused disturbance. Most of the area has visibly been thinned by mechanical pinyon-juniper pushes in the past.

Preliminary Rank: LOW Preliminary Score: 1



c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is high throughout the area and are often concentrated. The improvements may appear somewhat modern, and some improvements may be substantially noticeable and detract significantly from apparent naturalness in some locations. The area is surrounded by open roads, which tends to have an outsized effect on such a small area.

Preliminary Rank: LOW Preliminary Score: 1

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

LOW Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **2**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, but that is mitigated by being surrounded by roads on three sides (including a county road). Shape and contour of area would not contribute much to the solitude provided by adjacency to the primitive area. Not a lot of room to pursue recreation activities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **1**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(G2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	LOW	2
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	LOW (SOLITUDE)	2
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	LOW	4

Additional Remarks:

G2b and G2c – Blue Range South

1,321 acres and 2,676 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

These very small areas in the Glenwood Ranger District were originally grouped with areas G2a, G2d and G2e, all named Blue Range South, in the inventory. However it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together despite their close proximity. G2a, G2d and G2e were renumbered and renamed as G2, Blue Primitive Addition; G9, Blue Range South Addition; and G10, Blue Range South Addition. G2b and G2c occur within

- T10S 21W, all or parts of Sections 7-8, 17-21, 28-33

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

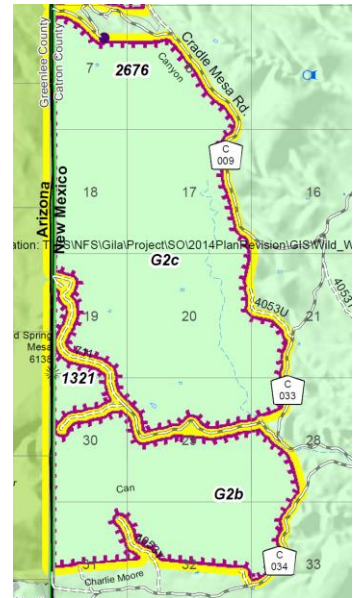
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing primitive area, and therefore meet the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

These areas' odd shapes, orientation sandwiched between adjacent roads, lack of manageable boundaries, presence of level 1 closed but not decommissioned roads, and the gentle roadside terrain all combine to make these areas not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



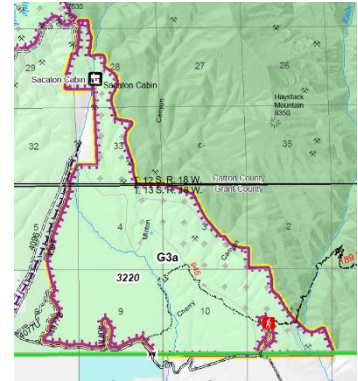
(G2b and G2c) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Blue Range South Addition areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

G3 – Gila Rain Creek Addition (formerly G3a – Gila Addition Northwest) 1,298 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico

General description:

G3 – Gila Rain Creek is a very small area located in the central region of the Glenwood Ranger District directly on the western boundary of the Gila Wilderness. This area had originally had been numbered G3a and grouped together with areas G3b, G3c, and G3d, all named Gila Addition Northwest and intended to be evaluated together. However, it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G3c was preliminarily determined by the ID Team to not contain wilderness characteristics, and eliminated from further consideration. Areas G3b and G3d were renumbered and renamed as G11, Gila Dry Creeks Addition, and G12, Gila Whitewater Addition. The G3 Gila Rain Creek Addition area occurs within:



- T12S R18W, parts of Sections 28-29, 33;
- T13S R18W, part or all of Sections 3-5, 8-12

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but conditioned upon boundaries adjusted to the bases of where steeper slopes begin, approximately the boundary of the inventoried roadless area. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. As is, the area would not be considered manageable, because the current boundaries would not be manageable, and the shape and configuration, combined with existence of non-conforming uses and development on adjacent lands all contribute to compound unmanageability. Addition of this area would be of limited benefit to the Gila Wilderness. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Vegetation appears natural in some locations, but not commonly throughout the entire area. In particular, the mesa tops reflect past management activities. If the mesa tops were excluded, overall the area would score higher.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is noticeable evidence of modern human land management activity, and the area has a high level of modern human-caused disturbance.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and concentrated in some locations, contribute a limited amount to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a cement ditch along western boundary, and old roads in parts of Section 9. The Rain Creek trailhead has an old road that follows wilderness boundary, now just an ATV trail. A closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 road bisects the area from north to south. There is an old mining claim within the area, and there is an old airstrip on the area boundary.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness

Overall Preliminary Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This area is moderate in both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to areas located nearby and with opportunities available elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

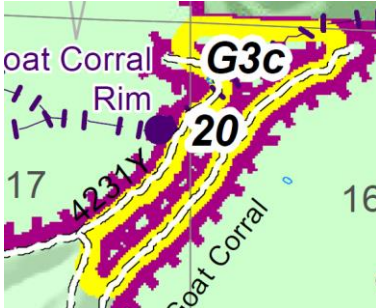
Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (SOLITUDE)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

Additional Remarks:

G3c – Gila Addition Northwest

20 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:



This is a very small area in the central Glenwood Ranger District originally grouped together with areas G3a, G3b and G3d, all named Gila Addition Northwest, in the inventory. However it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together despite being in close proximity. G3a, G3b and G3d were renumbered and renamed as G3, Gila Rain Creek Addition; G11, Gila Dry Creeks Addition; and G12, Gila Whitewater Addition. The G3c area occurs within T12S 19W, parts of Sections 16-17

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This tiny area consists of just 20 acres, and it is oriented in a narrow space between two open Forest roads, and lacks enough of a core area to be able to protect wilderness characteristics.

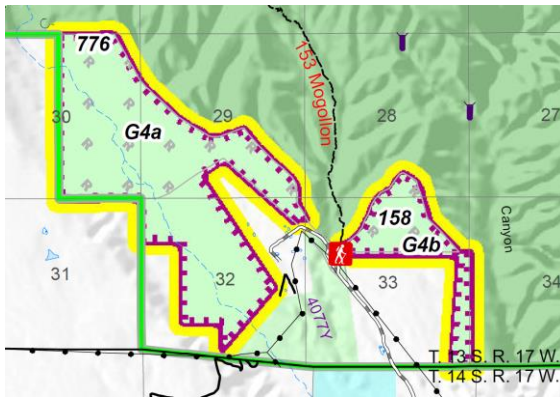
Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(G3c) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the G3c Gila Northwest Addition has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) directs otherwise.

G4a and G4b – Gila Additions West

776 acres and 158 acres, Glenwood District, Grant County New Mexico



General description:

These are very small areas in the far southeastern Glenwood Ranger District, grouped together due to proximity contiguous to existing wilderness and being similar for evaluation in the inventory. These areas occur within T13S R17W, parts of Sections 28-33, 32-33;

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

These very small areas' odd shapes, orientation being sandwiched between adjacent roads and private property, and the roadside terrain all combine to make these areas not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

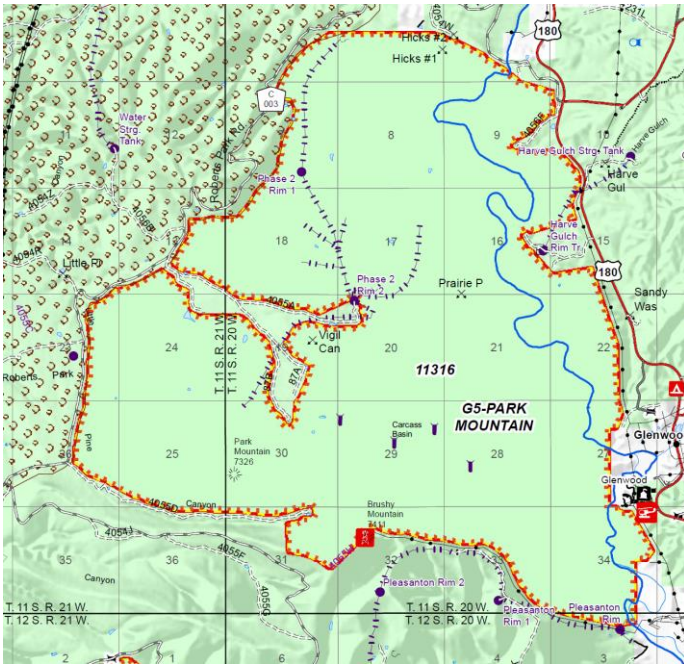
Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(G4a and G4b) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions West areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) directs otherwise.

G5 – Park Mountain

11,316 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico



The G5 – Park Mountain area is located in the central region of the Glenwood Ranger District and occurs within:

- T11S R21W, all or parts of Sections 13-14, 23-26, 36;
- T11S R20W, all or parts of Sections 4-10, 15-22, 27-34
- T12S R20W, part of Section 3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. However, this determination was considered very borderline because there are private inholdings on the boundary, a fuelwood cutting area directly adjacent, several deeply cherry-stem motorized routes, and water developments associated with permitted grazing that allow for only a very limited core area suitable for wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears natural for at least 90% of the area, reflecting very little active management occurring within the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

The appearance of ecological conditions reflect very little of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness of

the overall area. There are some pipelines, water developments, metal drinkers, and metal storage tanks. Some level 1 roads intrude only slightly along area boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 5.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The Roberts Park Road gets a lot of traffic on west side of the area that would be audible and visible in much of the area. Steeper sections on east side have solitude opportunities, though not a lot of trails and may be difficult to access. People could float the section of the San Francisco River passing through the area, but access might be an issue taking out to the south, and the steep bluffs prevent access to the river from within much of the area.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 4

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(G5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (SOLITUDE)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.7

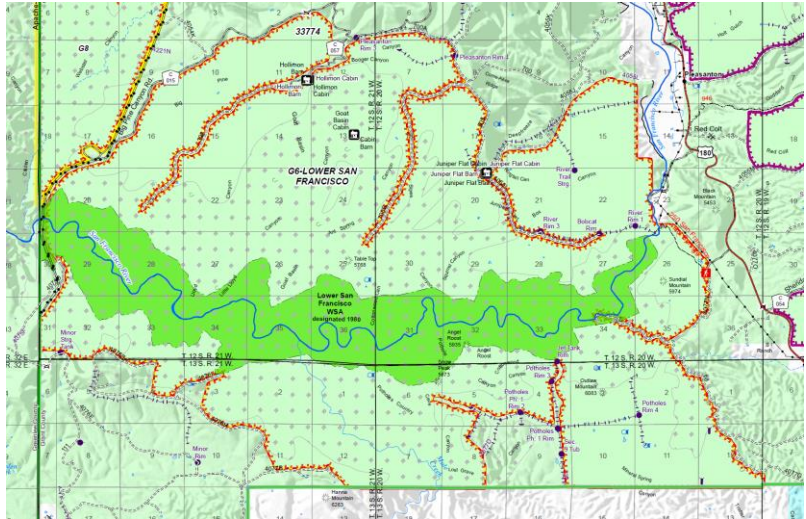
Additional Remarks:

G6 – Lower San Francisco **21,196 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico**

General description:

The G6 – Lower San Francisco area is located in the west-central region of the Glenwood Ranger District, overlaying the entire Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area, and occurs within:

- T12S R21W, all or parts of Sections 1-2, 9-17, 19-36;
- T12S R20W, all or parts of Sections 7-8, 10, 14-23, 25-36;
- T13S R21W all or parts of Sections 1-4, 10-12;
- T13S R20W all or parts of Sections 1-12



This area contains the entire Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area, which is included in the process because it meets the criteria for being included as part of Step 1: Inventory to Identify Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, location, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. However, this determination was considered somewhat borderline because there are private inholdings all along the south boundary, a number of cherry-stem motorized routes going deep into the area, and grazing associated water developments.

Although the size of the area, and the terrain within the canyon allow for very good core areas suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics, but the ID Team felt the manageability and other wilderness characteristics within the area would be improved by removal of some areas with development and most of the cherry-stems. This makes the boundary of the area approximate to the existing inventoried roadless area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area, reflecting very little active management. However, composition appears less natural in the eastern part, and there are nonnative fish in the river. Some areas reflect diversity at potential.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 7

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Conditions within the area reflect very little of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. There have been no pinon-juniper pushes, and not a lot of vegetation treatments have occurred in the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 7

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are not concentrated in location, or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. The manageability and other wilderness characteristics of the area were improved when boundary was reconfigured by the ID Team to exclude areas with substantially noticeable improvements.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

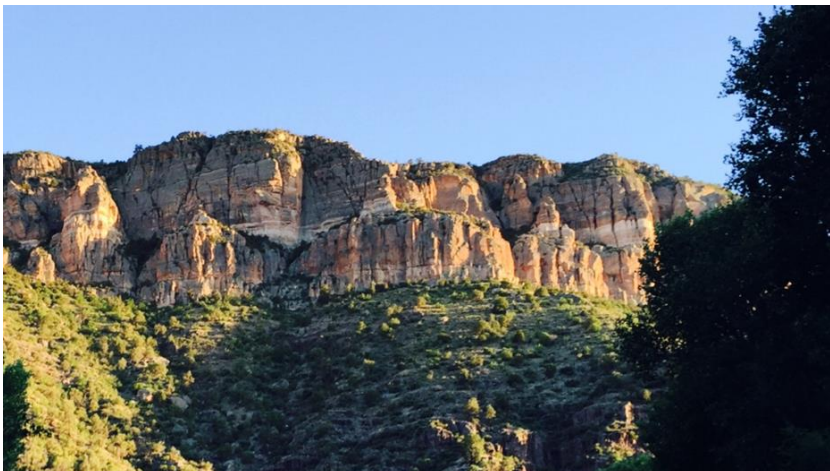
HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **6.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low in much of the area. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. There are excellent opportunities for water recreation along the river and its tributaries and their accompanying deep canyons including floating the river when conditions allow, swimming, and fishing, bathing in hot springs, and hiking. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. Some places within the area offer a high degree of solitude.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 7

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: 9



Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist -

ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area is well-known and popular with recreationists for its numerous hot springs and also features scenic and interesting geology that is visible all along the river

corridor. The area also contains the entire 8,800 acre Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area.

The San Francisco River in this area is designated as critical habitat for both the loach minnow and spikedace species of fishes.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary score: **3**

(G6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	9
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	18.3

Additional Remarks: When the New Mexico Wilderness Act was passed in 1980, it designated two areas of the Forest, the Hell Hole and Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Areas for review to determine if they feature wilderness characteristics to make them worthy of designation by Congress as wilderness. The 1986 Forest Plan evaluated the Hell Hole and Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Areas for wilderness suitability as directed by Congress and the New Mexico Wilderness Act, and did not recommend that either should be designated as wilderness.

Until such time that Congress acts on this recommendation, the Forest Plan calls for managing these lands to maintain existing wilderness character. Because these areas meet the requirements to be included as part of the Inventory to Identify Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics under the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule and Forest Planning Handbook, the Forest is required to re-evaluate these areas as part of the process.

G7 – Hell Hole

20,535 acres Glenwood District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The G7 – Hell Hole area is located in the south westernmost region of the Glenwood Ranger District, overlaying the entire Hell Hole Wilderness Study Area, and occurs within:

- T14S R21W, all or parts of Sections 3-5, 7-10, 15-21, 26-35;
- T15S R21W parts or all of Sections 2-10, 15-23, 26-36

The landscape of the southern portion of the area is dominated by topographic features including deep, rugged canyons, rocky peaks, and steep cliffs. The northern portion of the area is primarily rolling hills. Vegetation varies greatly with elevation and aspect. The presence of ponderosa pine in the area is somewhat unusual, as it is rather scarce in surrounding areas. The area lends itself to a variety of primitive recreation activities.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

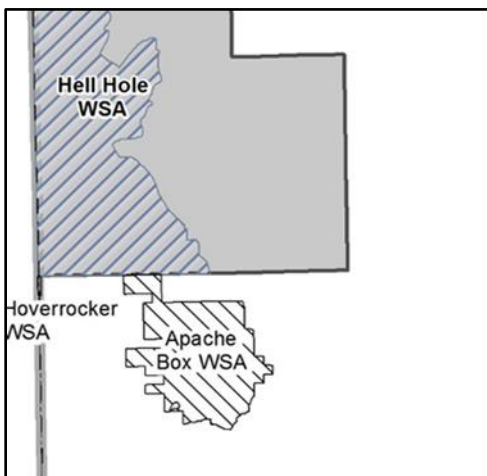
Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

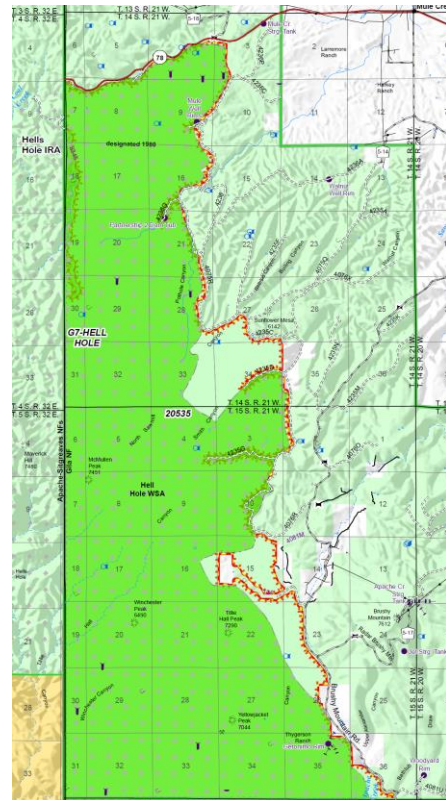
(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area is contiguous to the BLM managed Hoverrocker WSA, which is a tiny remnant of a much larger previous wilderness study area that once extended across the state boundary into Arizona. Most of that WSA was in the past released to other resource management, but this small remnant does provide a contiguous link between the Hell Hole and another BLM wilderness study area, the Apache Box WSA.



The ID Team preliminarily determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristic is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, location, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. However, manageability was considered close to being borderline because there are private inholdings all along the south boundary, a number of cherry-stem motorized routes going deep into the area, and grazing associated water developments. The size of the area, and the terrain within the canyon allow for very good core areas suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics, but the ID Team felt the area would be improved by removal of some areas with development in them or immediately adjacent to development and most of the cherry-stems. This would make the boundary



of the area approximate to the existing inventoried roadless area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) *Composition of Plant and Animal Communities*

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) *Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention*

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations, and there has been some unauthorized fuelwood cutting and gathering in the area, mostly around the area boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) *Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness*

The area contains a number of range improvements, including corrals, tanks, fences, developed springs, dams/headers, and water storage tanks. There is visible development on adjacent private property, and unauthorized fuelwood cutting and gathering has occurred within area boundaries as well. There are also several closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads, one of which extends relatively deep beyond the area boundary.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* **Overall Preliminary Score: 3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits, but there are few system trails providing access into the area. There are very good opportunities for solitude throughout most of the area, except for those close by adjacent roads.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Contains Wilderness Study Area, scenic.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(G7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11

Additional Remarks: When the New Mexico Wilderness Act was passed in 1980, it designated two areas of the forest, the Hell Hole and Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for review to determine if they feature wilderness characteristics to make them worthy of designation by Congress as wilderness. The 1986 Forest Plan evaluated the Hell Hole and Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Areas for wilderness suitability as directed by Congress and the New Mexico Wilderness Act, and did not recommend that either should be designated as wilderness.

Until such time that Congress acts on this recommendation, the Forest Plan calls for managing these lands to maintain existing wilderness character. Because these areas meet the requirements to be included as part of the Inventory to Identify Lands with Potential Wilderness Characteristics under the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule and Forest Planning Handbook, the Forest is required to re-evaluate these areas as part of the process.

According to the Record of Decision for the 1986 Gila Forest Plan, the Hell Hole Wilderness Study Area was originally part of a larger Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) II area that extended into Arizona. The Arizona portion contained an ecosystem that was under-represented in the Wilderness System. As a result, the entire area was designated a Further Planning Area in the RARE II process. When the New Mexico Wilderness Act was passed, the area was designated a Wilderness Study Area. Since that time, the Arizona Wilderness Bill in 1984 released the Arizona portion for other multiple uses. Since this was the portion that contained the under-represented ecosystem, and because existing wilderness on the Gila NF already contained vegetation similar to the New Mexico portion of Hell Hole Wilderness Study Area, the 1986 plan decision determined that wilderness designation of the area would not contribute significant ecological diversity to the Wilderness System. The 1986 Gila Forest Plan manages this Wilderness Study Area to maintain semi-primitive recreation opportunities, and no fuelwood, timber, or forest products harvest is permitted.

G8 – Smoothing Iron Mesa

3,588 acres Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The G8 – Smoothing Iron Mesa area is located in the southwestern region of the Glenwood Ranger District and occurs within:

- T11S R21W, parts of Sections 28-29, 31-33;
- T12S R21W part or all of Sections 4-9, 16-20

This area consists of rough country, dominated by steep bluffs and narrow slot canyons with steep side walls.

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is less than 5,000 acres in size, but the ID Team preliminarily determined that due to its terrain, location, and manageable boundaries, that the area meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability is possible despite the small size of this area, due to the rugged terrain, location contiguous with an existing inventoried roadless area, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. The shape of the area combined with the inventoried roadless area allows for a sufficient core area that is adequate to preserve wilderness characteristics. The area is also only separated from the adjacent Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area by a narrow corridor for a powerline right of way.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

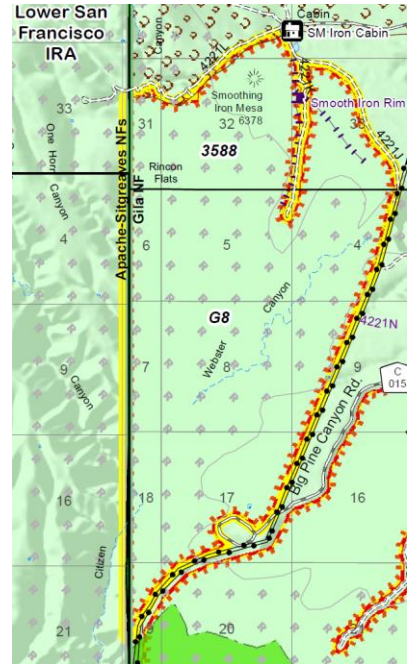
The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, but less so on the mesa tops compared to the canyon bottoms and drainages.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, but limited mostly to past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6



c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There has been unauthorized fuelwood gathering, mostly near the area boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is very low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to high opportunities for solitude. However, a powerline and associated vegetation management within its ROW is visible from most locations except for from the canyon bottom, causing limitations. Recreation opportunities are moderate compared to those available nearby and Forest-wide.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Adjacent Wilderness Study Area, scenic canyon settings. Narrow slot canyons and steep side walls.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(G8) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12.3

Additional Remarks: This area may be a candidate for some other type of designation besides wilderness that would protect and enhance its characteristics and provide for a quality backcountry recreation, scenic, or interpretive/educational experience.

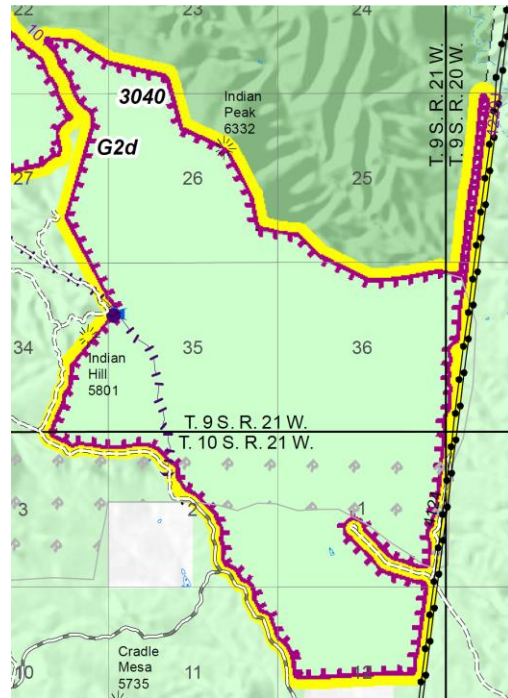
G9 – Blue Range SE Addition (formerly G2d – Blue Range South) **3,040 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The G9 – Blue Range SE Addition area is a very small area located in the western region of the Glenwood Ranger District, on the state line and adjacent to the Blue Range Wilderness. The area was included despite its size because it is contiguous with a designated wilderness, as per 1902.12 Forest Service Planning Handbook Chapter 70 direction, and originally had been grouped together with areas G2a, G2b, G2c, and G2e, all named Blue Range South and intended to be evaluated together. However it was preliminarily determined by the ID Team that G2b and G2c were not manageable at their size, and that the areas formerly numbered G2a, G2d, and G2e were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G2a and G2e were renumbered and renamed as G2, Blue Range Primitive Addition; and G10, Blue Range SW Addition. The G9, Blue Range SE Addition area, occurs within:

- T9S R21W, all or part of Sections 22-23, 25-27, 34-36;
- T9S R20W, parts of Sections 30-31
- T10S R20W, part of Section 6
- T10S R21W, part of Sections 1-3, 11-12

A strangely shaped inventoried roadless area passes through part of this area, with vegetation consisting of mostly pinon-juniper mixed with grass, and open grassland.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is less than 5,000 acres in size, but is contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area is immediately adjacent to existing wilderness. Some unauthorized motorized cross-country travel is known to occur on the south side of the area. The existing Blue Range Wilderness boundary appears to be based on the terrain allowing for a manageable boundary with natural barriers to prevent unauthorized motorized access. Although considered borderline because of manageable boundary concerns, the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being contiguous to existing wilderness, and a lack of known legal established rights. The ID Team feels that manageability of boundaries may be challenging, however, and it may be desirable to consider natural features as boundaries to better protect existing wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. High density of fences. Can see the houses (with high level of development) on the private property to the south. Cherry stem road and pipeline are also present.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 3*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There are a number of features that put limitations of opportunities for solitude within the area, and as an addition to existing wilderness it would not create a significant improvement to the solitude within. There is a large powerline that passes close by to this area that is visible in some locations within the area, and Hwy 180 is also visible from others. There is also visible development on nearby private property that is visible from within the area.

Also, the area contains no trails and in general does not provide for good opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in comparison to opportunities available on nearby lands and Forest-wide.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **3**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(G9) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE	3
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	6

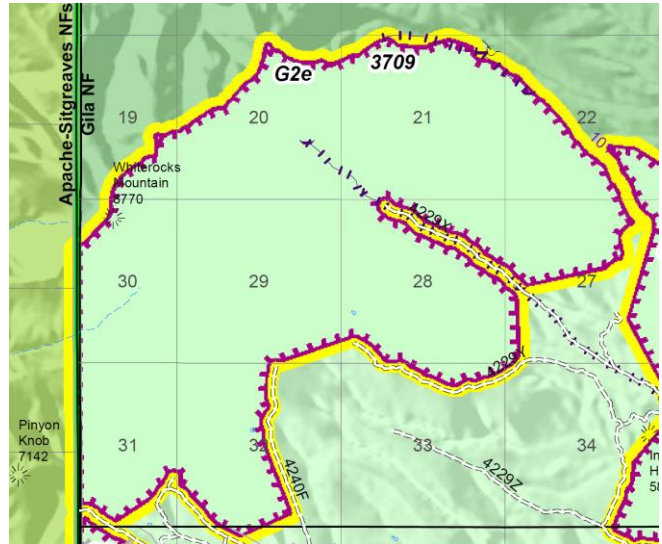
Additional Remarks:

G10 – Blue Range SW Addition: (formerly G2e– Blue Range South) **3,709 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The G10 – Blue Range SW Addition area is a very small area located in the western region of the Glenwood Ranger District, on the state line and adjacent to the Blue Range Wilderness. The area was included despite its size because it is contiguous with a designated wilderness, as per 1902.12 Forest Service Planning Handbook Chapter 70 direction, and originally had been grouped together with areas G2a, G2b, G2c, and G2d, all named Blue Range South and intended to be evaluated together. However it was preliminarily determined by the ID Team that G2b and G2c were not manageable at their size, and that the areas formerly numbered G2a, G2d, and G2e were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G2a and G2e were renumbered and renamed as G2, Blue Range Primitive Addition, and G9, Blue Range SE Addition. G10, Blue Range SW Addition area, occurs within:

- T9S R21W, part of Sections 19-22, 27-32;
- T10S R21W, parts of Sections 5-6



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is less than 5,000 acres in size, but is contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness and to a primitive area on the Arizona side of the border in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Some unauthorized motorized cross-country travel is known to occur on the south end of the area. The existing Blue Range Wilderness boundary appears to be largely based on the terrain available that allows for a manageable boundary consisting of natural barriers to prevent unauthorized motorized access.

Although considered by the ID Team to be somewhat borderline because of manageable boundary concerns, ultimately the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being contiguous to existing wilderness and primitive area, and a lack of known legal established rights. The ID Team feels that manageability of boundaries may be challenging, however, and it may be desirable to consider natural features as final boundaries to better protect existing wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, which is pinon-juniper woodland mostly.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Too dissected and steep for many range treatments (pushes, etc.).

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Couple of fences. Pipelines (aboveground; visible when right on top). Keeping up with improvements.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 4*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors during is fairly low, however solitude is affected by this small area being penned in on three sides by roads, one of which is a county road. There is also a cherry-stemmed open road that reaches fairly deep into the interior, again relative to a relatively small number of acres. There is also not a lot of room to pursue primitive and unconfined recreation, and because of the size, adjacent roads, and the shape and contour, the area would not contribute to improve opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation within either the contiguous wilderness or the contiguous primitive area.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **4**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(G10) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (SOLITUDE)	4
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	8

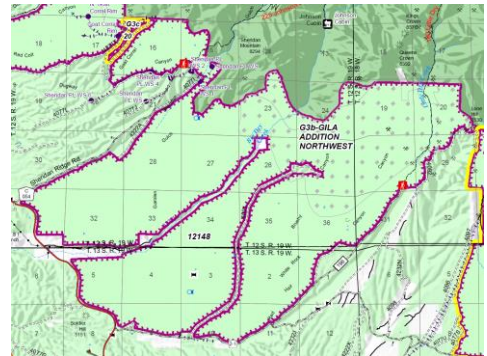
Additional Remarks:

G11 – Gila Dry Creeks Addition: (formerly G3b – Gila Addition Northwest) 3,129 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico

General description:

The G11 – Gila Dry Creeks Addition is a moderately small area located in the central region of the Glenwood Ranger District directly on the western boundary of the Gila Wilderness. The area is contiguous with existing wilderness, and had originally had been numbered G3b and grouped together with areas G3a, G3c, and G3d, all named Gila Addition Northwest and intended to be evaluated together. However it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G3c was preliminarily determined by the ID Team to not contain wilderness characteristics, and removed from further consideration. Areas G3a and G3d were renumbered and renamed as G3, Gila Rain Creek Addition; and G12, Gila Whitewater Addition. The G11, Gila Dry Creeks Addition area, occurs within:

- T12S R19W, parts of Sections 14-17, 20-36;
- T13S R19W, part of Sections 1-5, 8-11
- T12S R18W parts of Sections 19-20, 29-31



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team found that this area could be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but only if fairly large portions were excluded to the northwest, west, south, and southwest - and the area boundary were adjusted to instead follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary in the north and northeast. The existing inventoried roadless area consists of steep terrain, allowing for manageable boundaries.

The areas outside of the inventoried roadless area are not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to issues with size (core area possessing wilderness characteristics), orientation and proximity to open roads and improvements, and the presence of cherry-stemmed private inholdings accessed by single purpose roads. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The area experienced a lot of backburning during Whitewater Baldy Fire in 2012, which set it back to a brushy state. Steep slopes have grass components that are at potential.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Much of this area has been subject to fuel wood gathering in the past, and local residents have expressed a desire for more opportunities. Steep slopes have grass components that are at potential.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Small mines by Little Dry Creek with trash and some tailings. User created roads. .

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **4.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This ranking is conditional on the recommended boundary adjustments being made. Throughout the inventoried roadless area the terrain is steep and you have the existing wilderness at your back. Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. The trail up Little Dry Creek is about the only access.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(G11) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

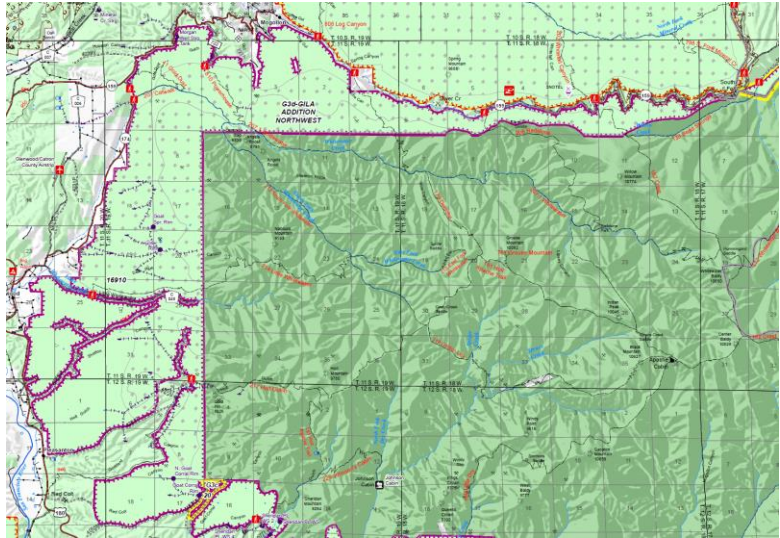
Additional Remarks:

G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition (formerly G3d – Gila Addition Northwest) **3,463 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition is a moderately small area located in the central region of the Glenwood Ranger District directly on the western boundary of the Gila Wilderness. The area is contiguous with existing wilderness, and had originally had been numbered G3d and grouped together with areas G3a, G3b, and G3c, all named Gila Addition Northwest and intended to be evaluated together.

However it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G3c was preliminarily determined by the ID Team to not contain wilderness characteristics, and removed from further consideration. Areas G3a and G3b were renumbered and renamed as G3, Gila Rain Creek Addition; and G11, Gila Dry Creeks Addition. G12, Gila Whitewater Addition area, occurs within:



- T11S R17W, part of Section 6;
- T11S R18W, part of Sections 1-6;
- T11S R19W, all or part of Sections 1-8, 17-20, 29-32;
- T11S R20W, parts of Sections 24-26, 35-36;
- T12S R20W, parts of Sections 1-2, 11-13;
- T12S R21W, parts of Sections 5-8, 17-19

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

With the recommended changes to the area boundaries to remove the southwestern portion of the original area configuration at Powerhouse Trail #810, the ID Team has preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, primarily due to being a viable, contiguous area that would serve to improve characteristics if it were included as an addition to the existing wilderness area. Issues with the excluded areas include high levels of water developments, shape and configuration around open roads, a motorized trail and the presence of level 1 closed but not decommissioned roads. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the reconfigured boundaries of the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past fire management actions, vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. A significant amount of backburning occurred within the area during Whitewater Baldy Fire in 2012. This set vegetation composition back into a brushy state. The steep slopes have grass components that are at potential.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 7

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the reconfigured area, including past fire management actions, vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 7

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the reconfigured area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6.7

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is very low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. Lots of trails to provide recreation opportunities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(G12) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13.7

Additional Remarks: The areas recommended for removal of the original G3d Gila Addition Northwest (the area west and south of Powerhouse Trail #810) may be a candidate for consideration as an administratively designated or special management area with an emphasis on the Gila Trout.

B1a, B1b, B1c, – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions (formerly south portion B1a, B1b, B1c – Aldo Leopold Addition East)
5,741 acres, 265 acres, and 78 acres
Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B1a, B1b, and B1c – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions are small, closely located, and similar areas located on the Black Range Ranger District. They lie within moderate to rugged terrain, and the vegetation is classic southwestern mountains, with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. The ID Team agreed to modify the original B1a by separating it using the south end of sections 34 and 35 as a boundary break from the northern portion that is preliminarily determined to have less wilderness characteristics. The northern portion was assigned the new identifier number of B9. The separated northern portion has less rugged terrain, and a lot of issues with manageability and other wilderness characteristics, so it was determined to be more accurate to rate these separately rather than as a larger overall area.

The B1a – Aldo Leopold Seco Addition area occurs within:

- T14S R9W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 10-14, 23-25, 36;
- T14S R8W, part or all of Sections 19, 30-31

The B1b area occurs within:

- T14S R9W, part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;

The B1c area occurs within:

- T14S R9W part of Sections 33-34

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

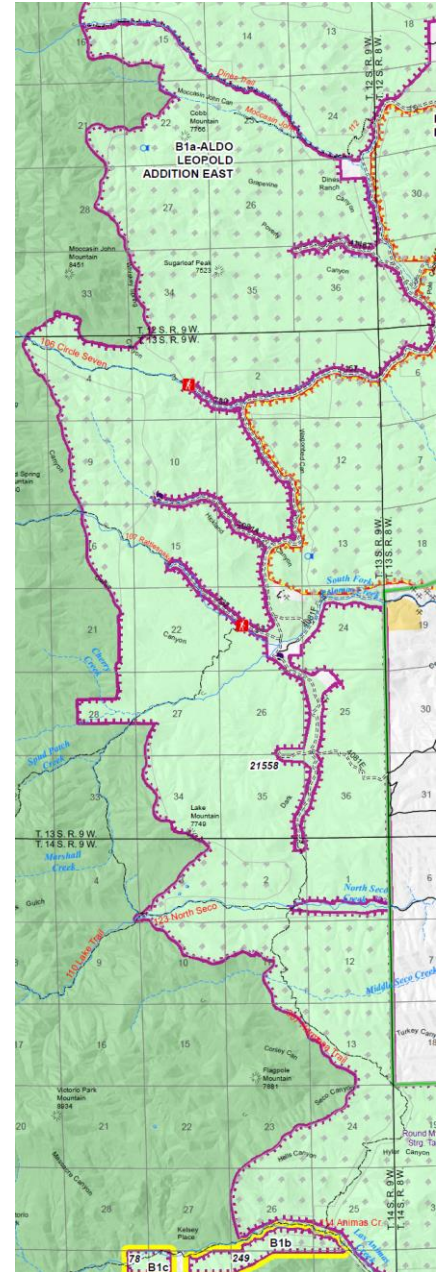
Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

B1b and B1c areas are less than 5,000 acres in size, but are contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and B1a is over 5,000 acres contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and therefore all these areas meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights occurring within, the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are existing, closed roads in the area, but most are in poor condition and would be difficult if attempted to use for travel after a certain point. There has also been some user-developed trailblazing by ATVs in some locations; but the district is working to establish trailheads as a strategy to address the issue. The ID Team does recommend redrawing boundaries in



areas with less challenging terrain to use natural features for improve the manageability of the areas' boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) *Composition of Plant and Animal Communities*

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area, and does not appear to be manipulated by humans. This reflects very little past or current active management activity occurring within the area.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 8

b) *Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention*

The ID Team preliminarily determined that the area reflected only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) *Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness*

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, mostly concentrated in some locations, some appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is some evidence of mining activity within the area but it is not prevalent throughout. There are some range improvements within the area that are not identified on the range map, including some tire drinkers, and the Round Mountain Storage Tank. There is a motorized trail to the north of the area, and some cabins and roads can be found in Sections 1, 2, 3.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **6.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are lower from October to February due to hunting seasons. Experiencing solitude on southern of Seco Creek is possible outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons as the likelihood of encountering other visitors during non-hunting season times of the year is low.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

There is Chiricahua Leopard Frog habitat in Seco Creek (on southern half). The area has excellent scenery compared to other, nearby areas.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(B1a, B1b, B1c) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14.3

Additional Remarks:

B2– Brushy Mountain

7,751 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

B2 – Brushy Mountain is a small area located in the Black Range Ranger District that occurs within:

- T12S R8W, part or all of Sections 19-20, 29-32;
- T13S R8W, part or all of Sections 5-8, 18;
- T13S R9W, part or all of Sections 1-2, 11-14

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

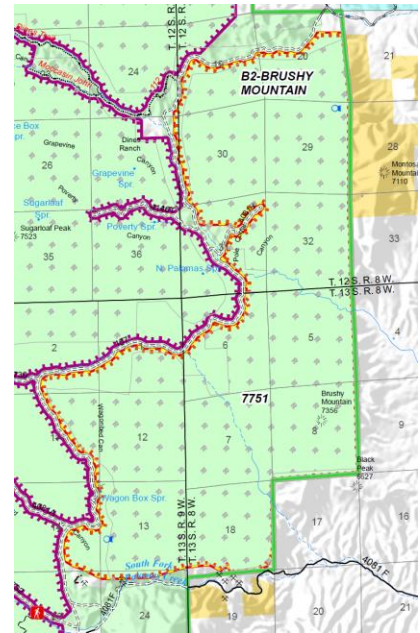
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is greater than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

There are multiple issues with the ability to manage the area's boundaries to protect wilderness characteristics, including a system of roads user-developed for wood cutting in Sections 12 and 7 and relatively flat terrain with pinon-juniper as the primary vegetation. Additionally, there are existing mining claims, mining operations on adjacent lands, and issues with access due to extensive private lands adjacent to area boundaries. Also, several closed, but not decommissioned, roads extend deeply into the area from the west-northwest to the south, affecting core area available for protecting wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(B2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Brushy Mountain area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

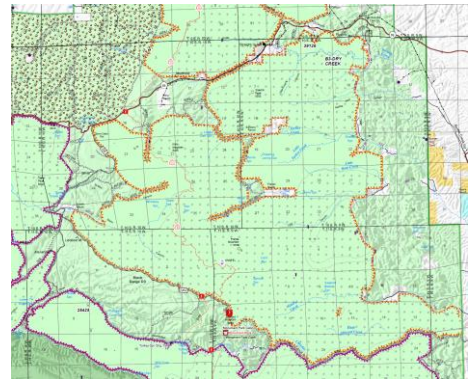
B3– Big Dry Creek

39,126 acres, Black Range District, Sierra and Catron Counties County New Mexico

General description:

The B3 – Big Dry Creek area is a moderately sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District. The B3 – Dry Creek area occurs within:

- T9S R9W, part of Sections 32-34;
- T10S R10W, part or all of Sections 11-17, 20-28, 31-36;
- T10S R9W, part or all of Sections 2-10, 15-23, 26-34;
- T11S R10W, part or all of Sections 1-5;
- T11S R9W, part or all of sections 2-24, 28
- T11S R8W, part of sections 18-19



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area was unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to deep incursions of private property inholdings, cherry stems, unmanageable boundaries, and a lack of core area. Even if boundary adjustments were made, the resulting smaller areas would be isolated from existing wilderness and not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Compounding issues with manageability are level 1 roads accessing into much of the area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Dry Creek area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

B4 – Wahoo South

19,769 acres Black Range District, Catron and Sierra Counties New Mexico

General description:

The B4 – Wahoo South area is located on the Black Range Ranger District and lies within:

- T8S R10W, part of Section 36;
- T8S R9W, part of Section 31;
- T9S R9W, part or all of Sections 5-9, 15-23, 26-33;
- T10S R10W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-12;
- T10S R9W, part of Section 5

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

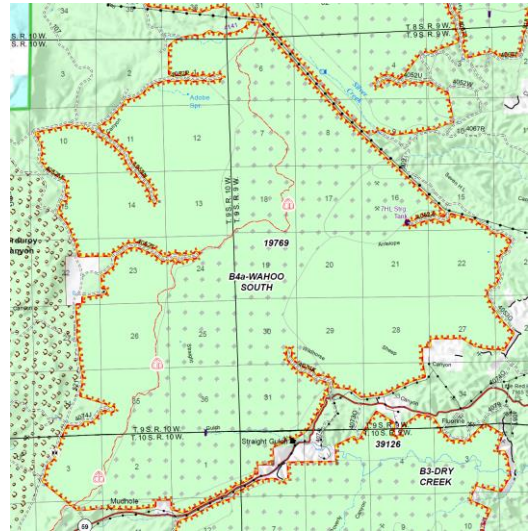
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area was preliminarily determined by the ID Team to be unmanageable due to unmanageable boundaries (proximity to firewood cutting areas, private property, flatness of terrain, an extensive network of closed roads, some not decommissioned, compounded by a lack of sizeable core area due to deeply intruding cherry stems of open Forest roads in relation to the relative size of the area. FR 4052t is closed at its halfway point but not decommissioned, nearly bisecting the area. There are extensive closed, decommissioned level 1 roads in the eastern portion of the area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(B4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Wahoo South area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

B5 – Stone Creek

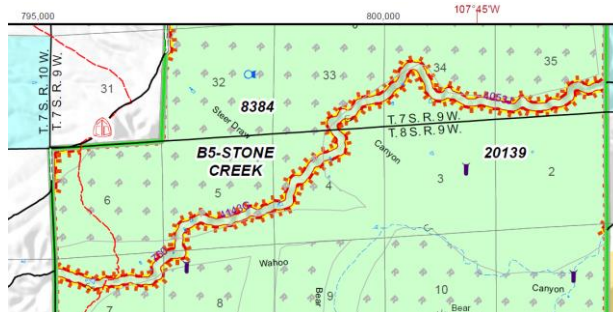
8,384 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

B5 – Stone Creek is located on the Black Range Ranger District and occurs within:

- T7S R9W, part of Sections 32-35;
- T8S R9W, all or parts of Sections 5-8

The Stone Creek area is a small-sized area with vegetation cover of primarily pinon-juniper, with stringers of ponderosa pine, depending upon elevation and aspect.



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible within this area due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries location, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The ID Team preliminarily determined that the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations but by their presence impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are windmills, tanks, and other range improvements throughout the area, as well as closed but not decommissioned roads that are still noticeable on the ground.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good overall opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. The area is known to be used by outfitter guides accessing through private property. Due to terrain and surrounding private property, much of the area is inaccessible for the general public.

Throughout this small-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are few trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are moderate compared with those nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(B5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.3

Additional Remarks:

B6 – Sand Canyon

6,136 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B6 – Sand Canyon is a small-sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District occurring within:

- T8S R11W, parts of Sections 32-33;
- T9S R11W, part or all of Sections 3-9, 15-21, 29-30;
- T9S R12W, part of Sections 24-25

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

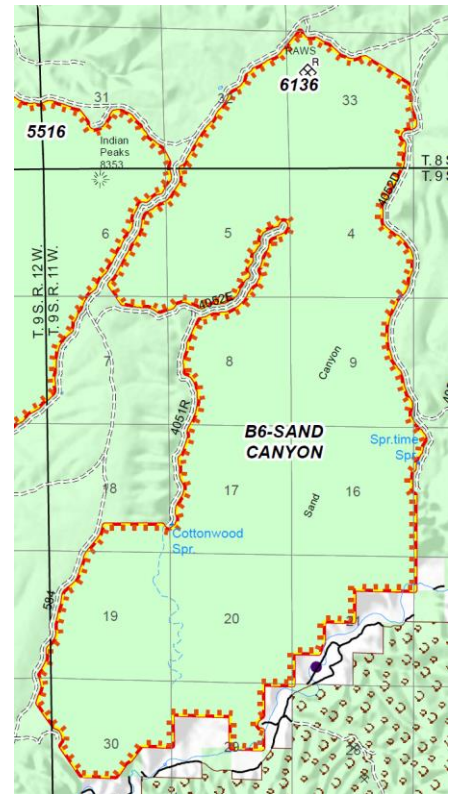
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is greater than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team identified a number of problems that together make this area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics, including its narrow shape relative to its small size, proximity to private property all along its southeast boundary, the remaining boundary being open roads, a cherry stem incursion deep into the area, and a lack of a core area to protect wilderness characteristics. There is also a closed, decommissioned level 1 road that nearly bisects the area from north to south.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(B6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Sand Canyon area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

B7 – Indian Peaks

5,516 acres Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

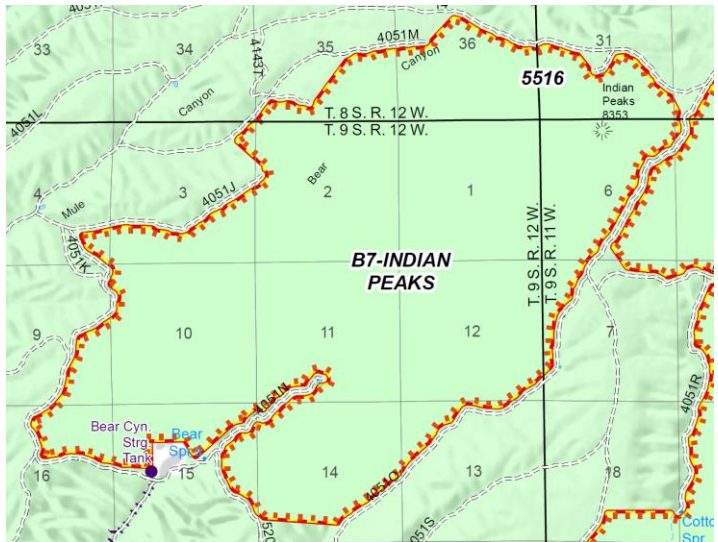
The B7 – Indian Peaks is a small-sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District occurring within:

- T8S R12W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T8S R11W, part of Section 31;
- T9S R11W, part of Sections 6-7;
- T19S R12W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 9-16

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank:
SUFFICIENT SIZE



(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that due to the small size of the area combined with it being bounded on all sides by roads, having a deep cherry stem incursion by an open Forest road, a closed but not decommissioned level 1 road along the southeast boundary, proximity to private property to the south, and area boundaries unmanageable (due to terrain and vegetation cover) to prevent continued motored incursions, make the area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Indian Peaks area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

B8 – Beaverhead

9,849 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B8 – Beaverhead area is located in the Black Range Ranger District and occurs within:

- T10S R14W, part of Section 12;
- T10S R13W, all or parts of Sections 7-18, 21-26;
- T10S R12W, part of Sections 7, 18-19, 30



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has preliminarily determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but there are serious existing challenges to manageability that make the area considered borderline to being unmanageable. The area features flat terrain and open vegetation conditions that has been conducive to creation of lots of user created roads. There is also a significant cherry stem into the area in the northeast corner, and the area is bounded by open roads on three sides. Closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 roads 4064v and 4064u fork together and run from the southcentral boundary northeast, crossing the entire area, to join open level 2 roads 4141g and 4065A. Closed but not decommissioned road 4064w, runs northeast from just east of 4064u to dead end in the center of the area.

Additionally there is adjacent private property along the entire northern boundary, and most of the east boundary as well, creating issues of access and manageable boundaries. There is a high level of development on adjacent lands, including the Beaverhead Workstation, which includes a helibase, and the Beaverhead Air Base.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are range improvements throughout, but fences are not too prevalent for the size of the area. There are some tanks and underground pipelines as well, primarily on the southern end that extend far in from area boundaries.

Closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 roads 4064v and 4064u fork together and run from the southcentral boundary northeast, crossing the entire area, to join open level 2 roads 4141g and 4065A. Closed but not decommissioned road 4064w, runs northeast from just east of 4064u to dead end in the center of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons, the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low. However, due to the area's relatively small size, and the amount of development on adjacent lands, cherrystem roads into the area, audible and visible traffic along the state highway, and the amount of air traffic (particularly during fire season) opportunities for solitude are moderate when compared to those available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are also no system trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. This area has moderate opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to those available nearby and in other Forest locations.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **3**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Much of this area is open grassland, under-represented within current wilderness, consisting of the lower of extension of the Plains of San Agustin onto the Forest. The extensive views to the Plains are a unique scenic opportunity, and the presence of pronghorn provide a unique wildlife viewing and hunting opportunity.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **1**

(B8) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks:

B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East (formerly part of B1a – Aldo Leopold Additions East)

13,558 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. ID Team agreed to split this area from the southern portion of B1a – Aldo Leopold Addition East (now Seco Addition) because it was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics. This separated northern portion has less rugged terrain and issues with manageability and differences in other wilderness characteristics, so it would be more accurate to rate these separately rather than as a larger overall area. The area occurs within:

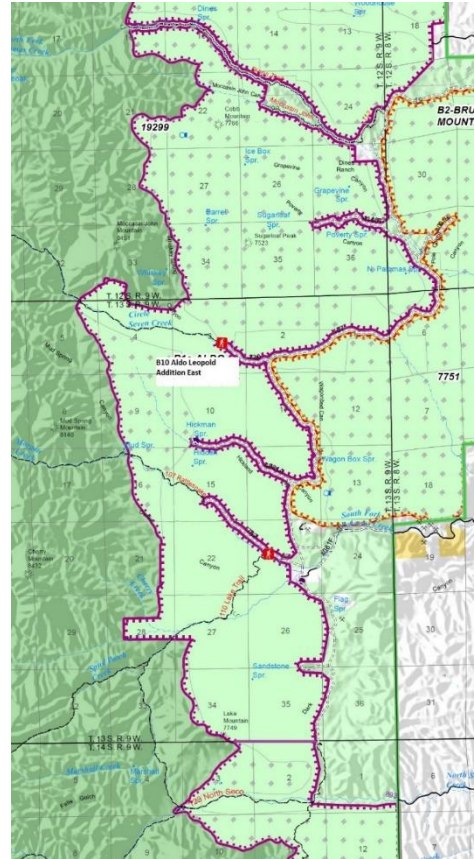
- T12S R9W, part or all of Sections 15-16, 21-28, 32-36;
- T12S R8W, part of Section 31;
- T13S R9W all or parts of Sections 1-5, 9-11, 14-16, 21-23, 25-28, 34-36;
- T13S R8W part of Section 6

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness area and also over 5,000 acres, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights occurring within, the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Vegetation appears natural in some locations, but not commonly in the area.

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Preliminary Rank: LOW

Preliminary Score: 2

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and concentrated in some locations, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a closed and decommissioned level 1 road to the south, near where the area was separated from B1a.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

LOW Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **2.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There is a fair amount of visible and audible traffic occurring from inholdings, including dust plumes and vehicles visible for long distances. There is also generally a lot of recreation activity happening around Hermosa (field camps, outings, etc.).

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW**

Preliminary Score: 2

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 3

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

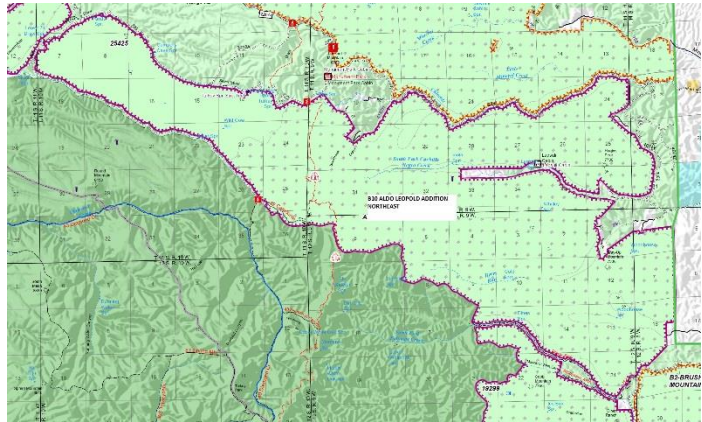
(B9) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	LOW	2.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	3
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	LOW	5.7

Additional Remarks:

B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast **15,909 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico**

General description:

The B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. There are several proposals for water storage and trick tanks within this area that have been through the NEPA process, just waiting for implementation, located in Sections 25-28 on northern side of the area. Logging previously occurred on northwest side and lots of roads remain from those activities.



The ID Team recommended that the area would be more manageable, and possess greater overall wilderness characteristics, if an adjustment were made join boundary from inholding at Section 30 to inholding in Section 33, and to follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary for the western boundary to avoid development.

The area occurs within:

- T11S R10W, part or all of 4-10, 13-18, 21-26, 36;
- T11S R9W, part or all of Sections 19-36;
- T11S R8W part of Sections 30-31;
- T12S R9W part or all of Sections 1-16, 23-24;
- T12S R8W part or all of Sections 6-7, 18-19

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team reached consensus that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics because of terrain, manageable boundaries, and its location contiguous to an existing wilderness, with no known conflicts with existing legal rights. Inholding and adjacent private property is of concern, and the ID Team made the preliminary determination of manageability based upon their previously mentioned recommended boundary adjustments to avoid substantially noticeable improvements and management activity within the area. There may be issues with mining claims in the area. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects little active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in 90% of the area (contingent upon adjusting boundaries to remove logging road area, otherwise ID Team would rank as Low).

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

There are very few improvements, however there is a nearby mining complex located just outside of polygon. There are roads from logging activities in far northwest side. The ID Team recommended the boundary be adjusted to follow inventoried roadless area boundary for the western boundary to exclude visible improvements and improve overall wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 7

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **6.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There are some effects from traffic associated with cherry stems and private property inholdings along those areas. Traffic along the main roads bounding the area produce dust plumes and with lack of forest vegetation cover it is possible to see vehicles as well. However, there are good opportunities though much of the area, and it is contiguous to the existing wilderness. There is a mining complex nearby, but outside of polygon. The ID Team recommends making boundary adjustments to improve wilderness characteristics.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains significant Mexican spotted owl habitat, known as protected activity centers (PACs). The area is also a representative of the role of fire being present within the ecosystem.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(B10) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14.3

Additional Remarks:

B11 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast (formerly B1d and B1e) **1,242 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico**

General description:

Originally, the DRAFT inventory map had shown B1e as separate to the very south, and B1 a, b, c, d, and e were grouped together for evaluation. However, a mapping error, was corrected and what had been B1e was combined with B1d. Additionally, this area was found to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics from B1a-c, and so was renamed area B10 and evaluated separately upon its own merit. The B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast area is located on the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

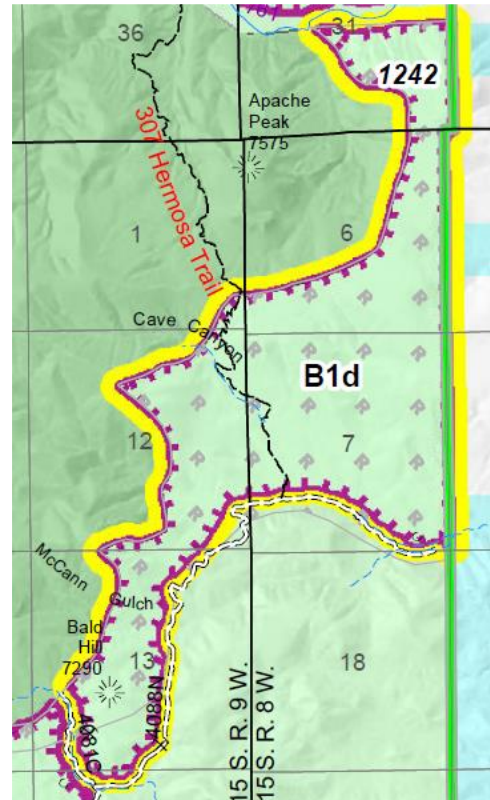
- T14S R8W, part of Section 31;
- T15S R8W, part of Sections 6-7;
- T15S R9W part of Sections 1, 12-13, 24

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team made a preliminary determination that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics because of terrain, manageable boundaries, and its location contiguous to an existing wilderness. However, due to valid existing rights in the form of mining claims, area boundaries may need to be adjusted to accommodate. Predominance of adjacent private property is also of concern. Future mine reclamation activities are also planned within the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been only minor management activity occurring within the area. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. There is

only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, the, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Visible mining activity is present within the area, including mine reclamation infrastructure such as culverts and gates. This activity is visibly evident from Bald Hill, but not the trail. There is very little range fence within the area, containment consists mostly of natural barriers.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Not even in hunting season does this area see much visitation. The trail through the area has been reconstructed, and offers excellent views of the surrounding landscape - though not of nearby mining activities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The scenic resources within this area are considered by the ID Team to be exemplary compared to other areas in the near vicinity, especially the long-range views available from the trail.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(B11) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12.7

Additional Remarks:

B13 – Wahoo North

20,139 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B13 – Wahoo North area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T7S R9W, part of Sections 33-35;
- T8S R9W, part or all of Sections 2-5, 7-11, 14-23, 26-35;
- T8S R10W part of Sections 13, 24, 13-14, 25-26, 35-36;
- T9S R9W part of Sections 2-6, 8-10

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable due to its relative size, challenging terrain and a sizeable core area to maintain wilderness characteristics. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence, and there are few known issues with existing user developed roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. There are issues with motorized intrusions on the Continental Divide Trail and it is known that the Forest is sometimes accessed from private on the eastern boundary. The area may be difficult to access due to boundaries abutting private land. The area boundaries were moved to match the roadless area boundary in the west and southwest, excluding areas where past logging activity has occurred and improving manageability.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

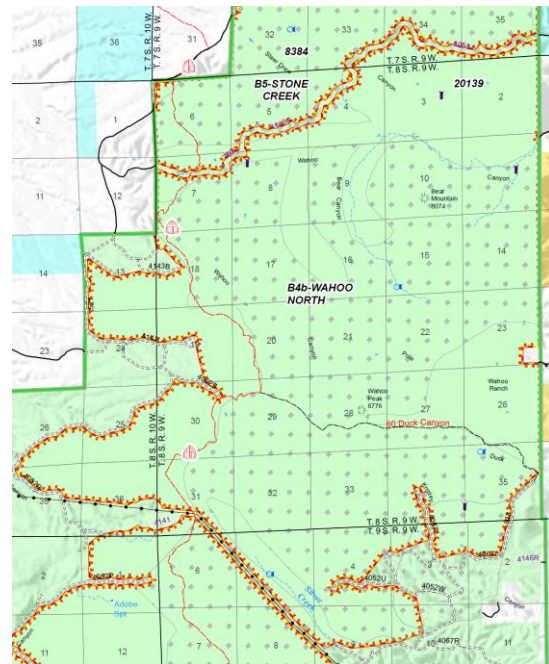
The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past logging and management for wildlife habitat. Composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including logging. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6



c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is high throughout the area, are often concentrated and contribute very little to the historical character and cultural context of the area; they may appear somewhat modern, some improvements may be substantially noticeable and detract significantly from apparent naturalness in some locations. Within this area, there is some infrastructure (tanks, masonry dams) and user created roads.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Depending on the time of the year, there are opportunities for solitude although there are potential disturbances from off road vehicles and private helicopters as well as the adjacent presence of private property with houses and a powerline. It is a fairly good sized polygon for recreation pursuits and some trails present to provide recreation opportunities including a portion of the Continental Divide Trail.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(B13) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.3

Additional Remarks:

B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek **5,380 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico**

General description:

The B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek area is located in the Black Range Ranger District, and is contiguous with existing wilderness. The area had originally had been part of a much larger inventoried area, the Rabb Park (WSB1) area. However, it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were dissimilar enough to warrant being evaluated separately, and there was a pinch point at Ladron Canyon that made a logical separation point between the two areas. The B14 area occurs within:

- T15S R9W, part of Sections 13-15, 22-28, 33-36;
- T16S R9W, part of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 1-3, 10-12, 14;
- T16S R8W part of Sections 6-7

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has preliminarily determined that this area is manageable due to being contiguous to existing wilderness, its relative size, manageable boundaries, and absence of known conflicting existing legal rights. There are some private inholdings, private property adjacent to the area, prospecting within the area as well as mining operations nearby that could present management challenges, but area boundaries could be adjusted during the analysis step of the process in order to minimize their effects.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

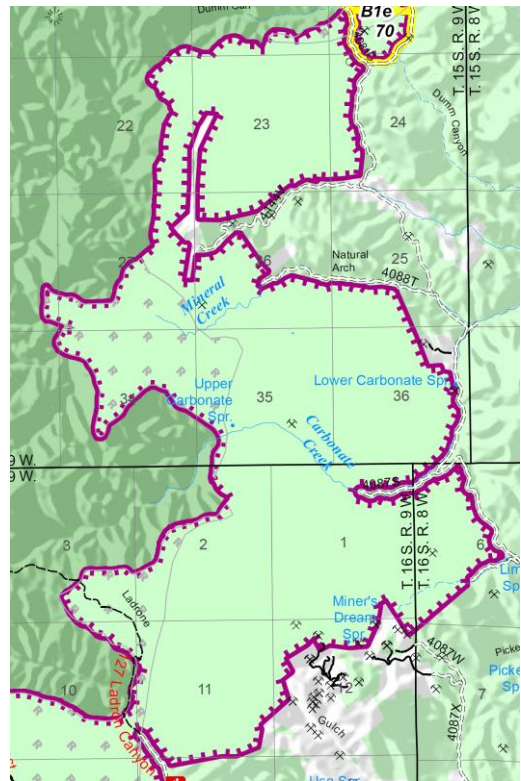
a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little current and past active management activity occurring within the area. Plant and animal communities visibly appear to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area.



Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are some stock tanks and roadbeds, but there is not a lot of fencing.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This area benefits from backing on, and tying into to the existing Aldo Wilderness. The area does not see much in the way of visitation, and very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. Opportunities for recreation are very good, with lots of trails and access into the existing wilderness, and destinations that afford views.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 7

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: 8

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: 0

(B14) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14

Additional Remarks:

B15 – Continental Divide WSA Addition **1,405 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The B15 – Continental Divide Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T8S R12W, part of Sections 13-14, 22-23

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

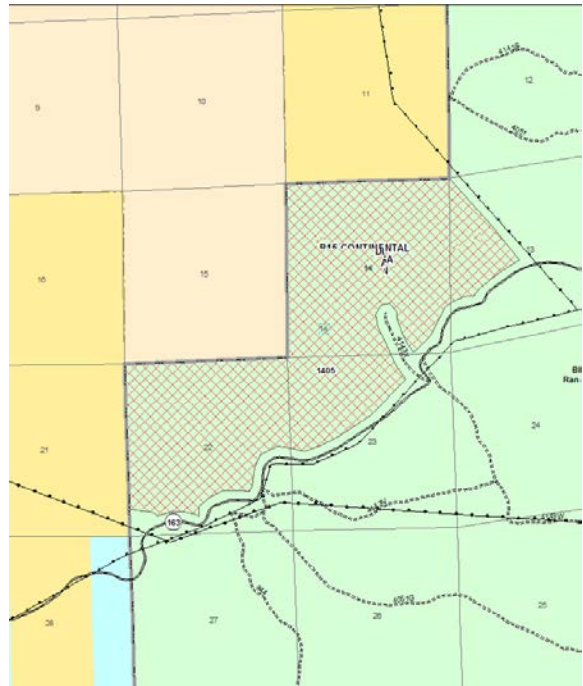
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing Bureau of Land Management managed wilderness study area, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has preliminarily determined that due to its small size, orientation, open terrain, unmanageable boundaries, and proximity to roads, powerlines, and other infrastructure this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(B15) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Continental Divide WSA Addition area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

SB1 – Sawyer Peak

41,063 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The SB1- Sawyer Peak area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State Hwy 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

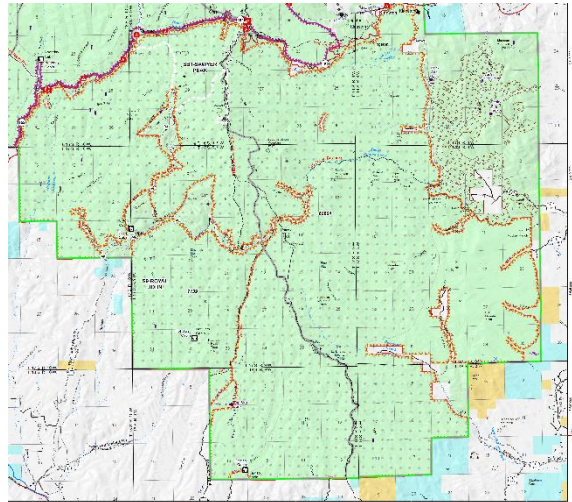
- T17S R9W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 27-33;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area contains a number of old roads, an isolated inholding (with an access trail shown on resource maps) in the central part, and a large amount of cherry stem inholdings on the southern side. A fuelwood cutting area is adjacent to the entire northeast boundary of the area, along with private inholdings. There has been mining activity within and some extensive mine closures outside of the area. There may be issues with mining claims in the area. The ID Team has preliminarily determined that due to its relatively large size, rugged terrain, and manageable boundaries this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the manageability of the area has been greatly improved by making some ID Team recommended boundary adjustments to the east, southeast and southwest to exclude substantially noticeable developments. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area does not reflect a great deal of active management activity occurring within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but may be concentrated in some locations. Some improvements contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, but others appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a high level of development on private lands in the adjacent Berrenda Creek area. The area itself contains a number of range improvements, including corrals, water storage tanks (some steel rim), and windmills, although there is not a lot of fencing for the size of the area. Some rebuilding of range improvements damaged by the Silver Fire is planned and is being implemented and solar-powered wells being installed. There is a special use permit for small structures for kids in the woods programs that has been in non-use status for a long time. Gavilon Canyon has a road to the corral.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. Some trails to provide recreation opportunities.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: **8**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(SB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 –Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13.7

Additional Remarks: The Crest Trail to Sawyer Mountain is occasionally used by mountain bikers, and although they are not currently Forest System Trails, mountain bikers do occasionally use several other routes within this area, and recommending designation of this area would likely prohibit this use, unless area boundaries were adjusted to remove these from the area being considered.

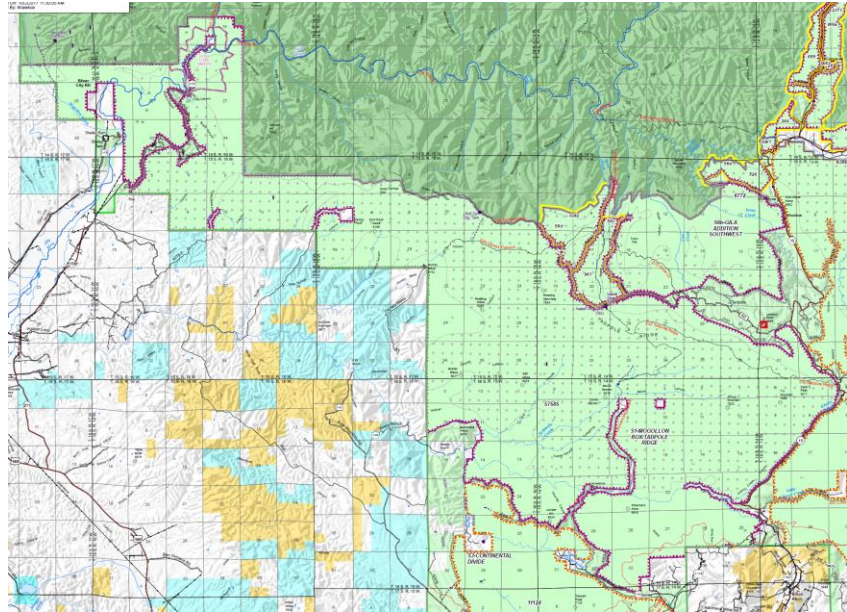
S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge

48,067 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge is a large area is located in the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- 14S R17W, part or all of Sections 23-25;
- T14S R16W, part or all of Sections 15-16, 19-22, 27-34;
- T15S R16W, part or all of Sections 1-7, 9-12;
- T15S R15W, part or all of Sections 4-18, 22-27, 34-36;
- T16S R15W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-25;
- T15S R14W, part or all of Sections 15, 19-23, 25-36;
- T16S R14W, part or all of Sections 1-35;
- T17S R14W, part of Section 4;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 29-32;
- T16S R13W, part or all of Sections 4-9, 17-19, 30



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

If the area boundaries on the easternmost part of the area were adjusted to follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary by Bear Creek, and also adjusted in a manner to avoid private inholdings with uncertain status and the Bear Creek area itself (which is being considered for possible motorized recreation uses), the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may be issues with mining claims in the area. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects little active management activity occurring within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area, although there has been some past logging north of Tadpole Pole Ridge inventoried roadless area boundary. However, modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are not many water developments within the area, though there are a couple of old mining developments. For size of the area, there are not very many fence lines (and many of them are on the ground). There are some closed and decommissioned roads, in particular the area of Preachers Point and Bear Creek, and some administrative roads closed to public use that provide permitted access to private inholdings. There are more existing roads in certain areas (e.g. Dorsey Mesa) than are shown on the map.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Off trail exploration of this area involves lots of steep slopes and scrambling. Due to its remoteness, lack of easy accessibility to many areas, its overall large size and adjacency to existing wilderness, this area affords excellent opportunities for solitude throughout. There is a great variability of terrain, and system trails to access much of the area, although it requires trail travel over relatively long distances to access some locations. There is not a lot of water available in some areas. There is also lots of existing mountain bike use in the Tadpole Ridge area and Continental Divide Trail area that would be negatively impacted if the trails were included in wilderness.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING**

Preliminary Score: 8

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 7

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains a formerly proposed RNA in the western section, which is also home to big horn sheep. There are scenic river bluffs, canyons, and rock formations, particularly around the Gila River in the western portion, and the scenic Cherry Creek area to the east. The area also contains a

number of Mexican Spotted Owl PACS, and provides habitat to several T&E species that are known to be present.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary score: **3**

(S1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	17

Additional Remarks: There is occasional existing mountain bike use in the Sheep Corral/Tadpole Ridge area, and heavy use of the CDT through the southern portion of the area. The recently acquired by the Forest Service Bear Creek Trail is planned to continue to allow for motorized use, and is also moderately used by mountain bikers. The ID Team recommended excluding these trails from the boundary at the Analysis step of the process so as not to impact these popular recreation uses that would be likely prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

The ID Team also decided to adjust the boundary in Tadpole Ridge area by a placing a boundary from the ridge to Sycamore, excluding everything east, to avoid issues with access to private property inholdings and the Bear Creek area, a new acquisition of private property that is currently planned to be managed as open to motorized use. By the Mogollon Box day use area, the ID Team also removed the Fort West Ditch diversion point from the polygon for being a substantially noticeable improvement.

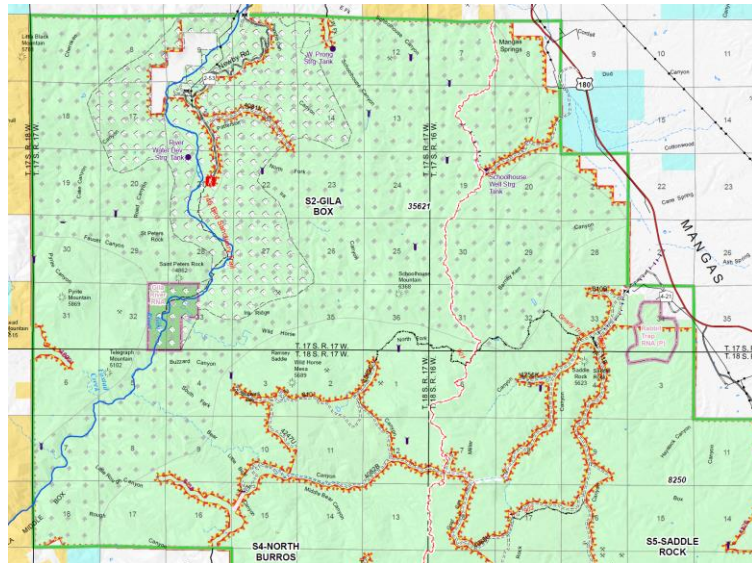
S2 – Gila Middle Box

25,335 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S2- Gila Middle Box area is located in the Silver City Ranger District. The primary vegetation type outside of the river corridor within the area is pinon-juniper semi-desert, sometimes thick, and with some Ponderosa pine stringers. This area occurs within:

- T17S R17W, part or all of Sections 7-36;
- T18S R17W, part or all of Sections 1-10, 15-18;
- T17S R16W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 17-21, 28-33



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but that some boundary adjustment would enhance manageability and other characteristics as well. The Gila Bird Area gets a lot of visitation, and contains some fencing and roads that are substantially noticeable. The ID Team excluded the Bird Area and areas to the southwest that have past mining activities and user-developed roads by following the existing inventoried roadless area boundaries. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Some ecological improvements recently, but still some visible inconsistency (wood species encroachment, herbaceous covers). Composition along the river

is good, visibly consistent with what would be there by forest type. Prescribed burning has occurred in the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments, prescribed burning and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Too steep for previous, current, or future vegetation treatments.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. When travelling cross country, visitors may come across old mining sites. There are old roads and visible mining development around Telegraph Mountain. There are range improvements throughout the area, including tanks, solar powered pumps, drinkers, and windmills. There are quite a few fences, but not relative to the size of the area. There are also a number of user created roads in the Wild Horse Mesa area, several decommissioned level 1 roads near the easternmost boundary and a closed, but not decommissioned, road extending north from a cherrystem in the northeast part of the area. The ID Team suggested the boundary could be adjusted to remove some areas to increase the overall score for the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness*

Overall Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Some open roads on adjacent BLM lands and the access road into the Bird Area are visible from high points. There are opportunities for solitude in some of the steep, hilly parts of the area that don't see a lot of use. Solitude opportunities are moderate in comparison to those available nearby and elsewhere in the Forest, but are better in the river corridor than elsewhere within the area.

Boating opportunities through the Middle Box on the Gila River is a unique experience for the Gila region. There are very good hiking opportunities on the CDT and along the river. The river also affords good opportunities for fishing.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 7

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The Gila River Middle Box is an outstanding whitewater boating opportunity (Class III). The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and a Research Natural Area are also within the area. Geological formations along the river, especially within the Middle Box are unique and provide

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outstanding scenery. Lot of T&E species with critical habitat along the Gila River. Multiple cultural resources are located within this area including spectacular rock art.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary score: **4**

(S2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	OUTSTANDING	4
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	16

Additional Remarks: Most of the characteristics that provided for the overall outstanding score within this area originate from, and are primarily confined to, the river corridor itself, rather than the overall wilderness characteristics of the larger area contained within the polygon.

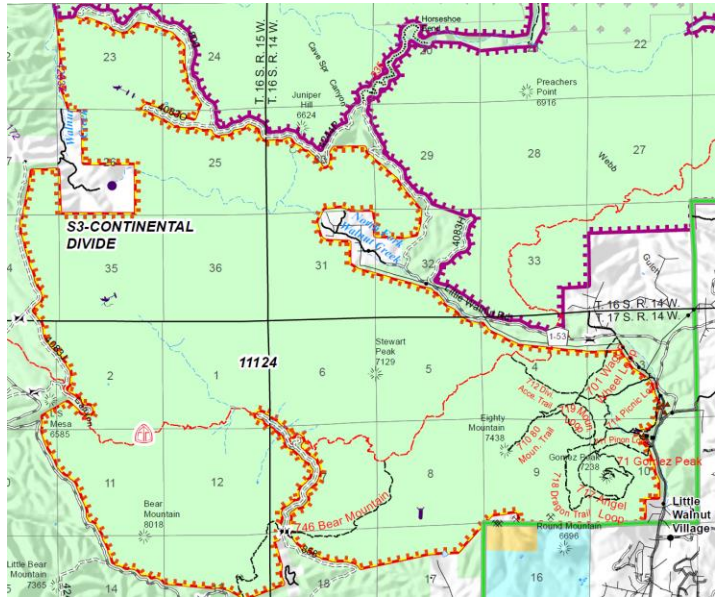
The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S3 – Bear Mountain (formerly Continental Divide) **11,124 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico**

General description:

The S3- Bear Mountain area is located in the Silver City Ranger District. The primary vegetation type is pinon-juniper with pine stringers in the drainages. The area contains prominent peaks of the Silver City Range, but much of it is open gentle terrain.

This area was originally identified on the DRAFT Inventory map as S3-Continental Divide area, however it was suggested by the Silver City District that Bear Mountain is the most prominent feature within the area, and so the name was adjusted accordingly. The area occurs within:



- T16S R15W, part or all of Sections 24-27, 34-36;
- T16S R14W, part of Sections 29-32;
- T17S R14W, part or all of Sections 3-10, 17-18;
- T17S R15W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-14

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -- to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The northern section of this area has both deep private inholdings that are cherry-stemmed, and contribute to boundaries creating narrow awkwardly configured areas that would be not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There is also a very high density of trails in the eastern section of the area that currently allow non-conforming wilderness uses in the form of mechanical transport. The ID Team preliminarily determined that because the area's moderately large size there would be a core area that would make the area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including fuelwood cutting, vegetation treatments,

and permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, but less so on the mesa top areas.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including fuelwood cutting, vegetation treatments, and permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations, such as mesa tops.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

There are range improvements within the area, including a water storage tank with a drinker in section 35, a windmill, and pipeline. The level of trail density is high on the eastern end at the recreation area. There are user created roads in a number of locations, as well as closed but not entirely decommissioned administrative use low-development roads. Not a lot of fence lines for the size of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 3*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This area has moderate opportunities for solitude in comparison to what is available in nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest, and has more of a “frontcountry” feel than a backcountry opportunity. Heavily used trails and an adjacent recreation area limit opportunities for solitude on the eastern end, with better opportunities in the western part of the area. Clouds of dust from roads are visible throughout much of the area. Solitude is also limited by weekend “party spots” and recreational shooting due to the area’s location close to a well populated suburban area (Silver City). There are good trail opportunities with the Continental Divide Trail and Gomez Peak trails, but one of the most popular trail uses is mountain biking, which is a nonconforming use in designated wilderness.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **3**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area has low features of value, but cumulatively contains a popular section of the Continental Divide Trail, has scenic value with prominent peak Bear Mountain serving as a local landmark, and historic value with a number of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) installed check dams.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(S3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks: There is popular system of trails in the eastern section of the area and the section of the Continental Divide Trail that passes through the area are both used heavily by mountain bikers. These trails are very popular for mountain biking with both local residents and with visitors from outside the area, and the recreation use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

S4 – North Burros

15,786 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S4- North Burros area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T18S R17W, part or all of Sections 10-16, 22-27, 34-36;
- T18S R16W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 19, 31-33;
- T19S R17W, part or all of Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-24;
- T19S R16W, part or all of Sections 3-9, 16, 19

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is borderline close to being unmanageable. However, the area is of a moderate enough size to provide core areas to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Issues with manageability include a very deep cherry stem that almost bisects the area from the east to the southwest and a deep intrusion to the northeast. Other cherry stems cause significant intrusions and there is private property with development along the area boundaries. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

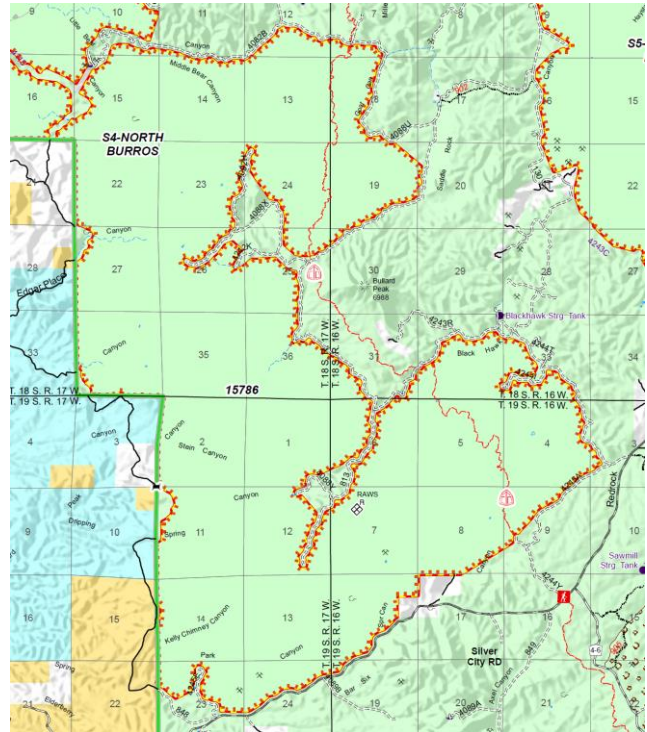
a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, with some places more than others such as steep slopes.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land



management activity is noticeable in some locations. There have been lots of thinning treatments north of Bar 6 and some prescribed burning in some of the surrounding area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are not a lot of range improvements, mostly fences and some water storage tanks. The area does contain a RAWS station, and there is evidence of old mining activities on the south end. There are several closed, but not decommissioned level 1 and user-developed roads and decommissioned roads that are visible on the ground within the area as well.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The shape and orientation of the area doesn't provide for a good core solitude area. Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are considered to be moderate in comparison to those available at nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **3**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	8

Additional Remarks: The Continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and if any areas that that trail passes through within the Burro Mountains were recommended for designation, this would likely prohibit this popular use unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S5 – Saddle Rock

6,734 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S5- Saddle Rock area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T17S R16W, part of Sections 33-34;
- T18S R16W, part or all of Sections 3-4, 9-11, 14-16, 21-27a

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, because there is a narrow core area free of intrusion by cherry stems and inholdings, and there are no known existing legal rights within the area. The area's size, the presence of a great deal of mining activity on adjacent lands and the area being very popular for motorized recreation uses create manageability issues, and the area is borderline to be unmanageable. Spectrum of recreation use is highly varied. Entire eastern boundary is privately owned. Active mining activity at Blackhawk just outside the polygon at SW corner. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area. Size of the area with the amount of development outside. A closed, but not decommissioned road extends from the east to nearly bisect the area as well.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

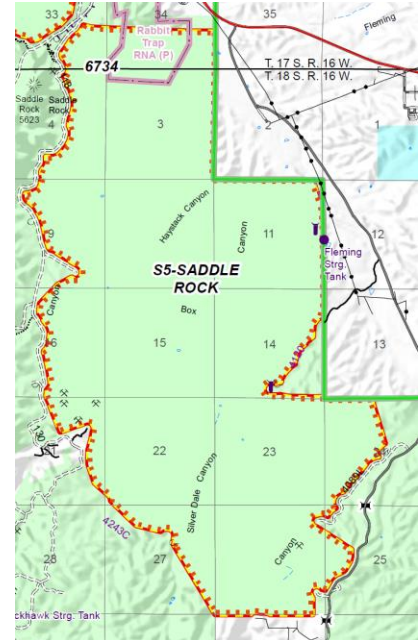
b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including some fuelwood harvest and permitted grazing of livestock.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of



the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Most of the water developments are along the eastern boundary. Quite a bit of fence for small area. Lots of woodcutting has occurred within the area, and one level 1 closed but not decommissioned road nearly bisects the southern portion of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This smaller area has low opportunities for solitude in comparison to those available nearby and at other locations in the Forest. Much of this area consists of a high ridgeline making visibility of the Tyrone Mines an impact to much of the area. This is compounded by audible traffic from the Mangas road and Highway 180. There is also a large, developed subdivision to the south. The area does not feel removed from civilization. The area is also dry, lacking water sources and not very attractive as a primitive recreation experience compared to areas available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **3**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Although the area contains a portion of a recommended RNA from the 1986 plan, there has been no further action taken regarding its designation. It is unknown if the recommendation will be carried into the revised plan.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	3
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	8.3

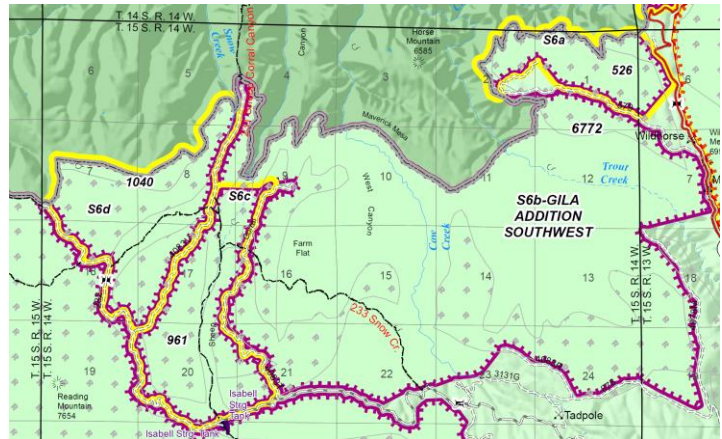
Additional Remarks:

S6a, S6b, S6c, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest
526 acres, 4,643 acres, 961 acres, and 1,040 acres
Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S6a, S6b, S6c, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest areas are located in close proximity and are each contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, as well as being similar in their wilderness characteristics, and therefore were grouped together by the ID Team for evaluation. The areas occur within:

- T14S R14W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T14S R13W, part of Section 31;
- T15S R14W, part or all of Sections 1-5, 7-24, 29;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 6-7, 18-19



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and S6b is also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore all meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because the areas are contiguous to existing wilderness, the ID Team preliminarily determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics if boundaries are adjusted to eliminate narrow and less manageable areas because of their configuration between cherry stem roads and areas where closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 roads are evident, and apparently end due to terrain.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. One notable exception is the presence of nonnative trout in some streams.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. The area contains few range fences. There are a number of closed but not decommissioned, and some decommissioned, level 1 roads extending in from the south boundary of S6b.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are attainable throughout these areas, but there is a great deal of use during hunting season. Although the areas are adjacent to wilderness, due to terrain and a lack of trails, they does not provide good wilderness access. Solitude is also limited by the areas' size, and close proximity to roads that are popular for dispersed camping. This is also a popular fuelwood cutting area. There is good fishing in Trout Creek, but for non-native trout.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **4**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

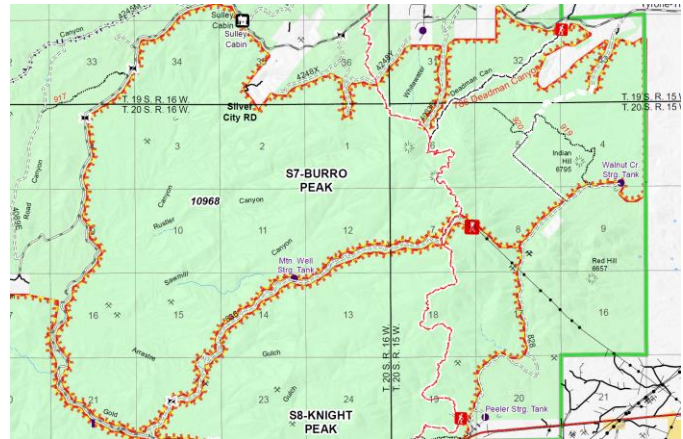
(S6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks:

S7 – Burro Peak

The S7- Burro Peak area is located in the Burros Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T19S R16W, part of Sections 26-27, 33-36;
- T20S R16W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 9-16;
- T19S R15W, part of Section 31;
- T20S R15W, parts of Sections 5-8



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although relatively small in size, the ID Team preliminarily determined that with boundaries adjusted to exclude some areas in the eastern and northeastern portion that contain motorized trail systems, ML 1 roads, and oddly configured boundaries, this remaining portion features enough core area to be manageable to preserve wilderness characteristics. Challenges to manageability include a subdivision on north side with a lot of roads, and previous mining activity. The northeastern portion of the area is dissected by several interconnected closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads, extending across the area from boundary to boundary. There may also be issues with valid mining claims and former mining lands in need of rehabilitation in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Vegetation appears natural in some locations, but not commonly in the area, reflecting active management occurring throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: LOW Preliminary Score: 2

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) *Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness*

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of

the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

There are a lot of nonfunctioning improvements included within the area, and improvements in general for the size of the area. Some fencing. Ausmer/Amazon Mine (patented) is located to the north. Burro Mtn. Homestead private inholding is located nearby. The area also contains a great deal of closed but not decommissioned and highly visible Level 1 and user created roads, and evidence of former mining. Some former mining lands may be in need of rehabilitative work.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 3

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Solitude is degraded by the area's adjacency to high development on private property. Anywhere there is a high point within this area, the mine operation and US 180 are visible. Jack's Peak is a highly developed communications site within the area. Non-motorized primitive recreation opportunities are very poor in comparison to those available nearby and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	LOW (BOTH)	2
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	LOW	5

Additional Remarks: The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S8 – Knight Peak

5,618 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S8- Knight Peak area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

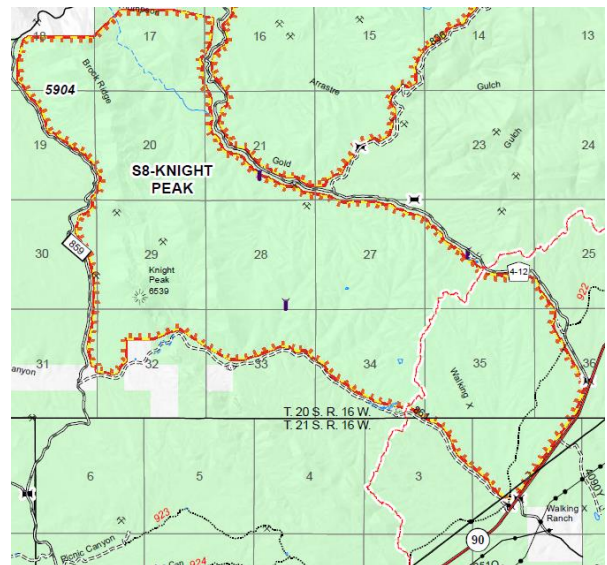
- T20S R16W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 25-36;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics with the removal of the area to the southeast that contains a motorized trail, and due to being fairly contiguous, and lacking cherry stem intrusions and any known existing legal rights. However, even with removal of the motorized trail it is considered borderline due to being small and narrowly configured, without a lot of core area and a great deal of abandoned mine lands in need of rehabilitative maintenance. Bounded by roads on all sides. There may also be issues with valid existing mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, but do not contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area,

may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. High concentration of range improvements in a small area. There are closed but not decommissioned level 1 roads that dissect the northernmost portion of the area, and would be noticeable on the ground.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **3.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are considered to be low in comparison to those available in other locations nearby and in elsewhere on the Forest. There are limitations to solitude due to its small size, with a limited amount of core area, combined with being bounded by Forest roads or motorized trails on all sides. There is also industrial mining activity on nearby lands, and close proximity to Hwy 90. Although a section of the Continental Divide Trail passes through the area, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities overall are considered to be low in comparison to those available nearby, and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S8) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	LOW (BOTH)	2
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	LOW	5.3

Additional Remarks: The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S9 – Royal John

6,915 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S9 – Royal John area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State HWY 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T17S R9W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 27-33;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although relatively small in size, and sharing a large portion of its boundary with privately owned lands, the ID Team preliminarily determined that there is enough of a core area and manageable boundaries for this area to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the area was considered to be a borderline case, due to the compromised ability to access the area due to so much private property adjacent to its boundaries. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

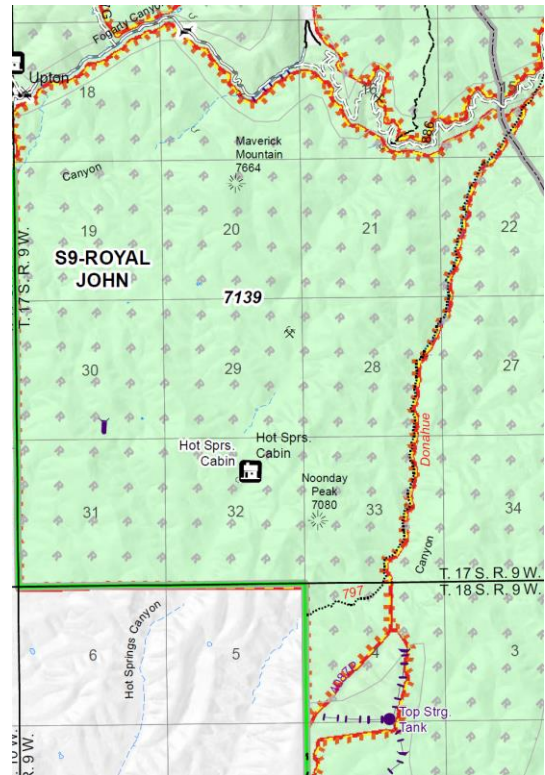
The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area does not reflect a great deal of active management activity occurring within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in a locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6



c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and mostly concentrated in the area of Hot Springs Cabin. Some improvements contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, but others appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a closed and decommissioned level 1 road that completely bisects the area from north to south.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Preliminary Score: **5.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This is a small but relatively remote and very lightly visited area with good opportunities for solitude. There are some development close to the Forest boundary at Hot Springs but there is a decent core area for solitude. Recreation opportunities are moderate compared to those available nearby and elsewhere in the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S9) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.7

Additional Remarks:

S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon

9,048 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State Hwy 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. This area was separated from the larger SB1 Sawyer Peak area because the ID Team felt that the areas were dissimilar enough in their wilderness characteristics that each warranted separate evaluations based upon their own merits. The area occurs within:

- T16S R10W, part or all of Sections 24-27, -33-36;
- T16S R9W, part of sections 19, 30-31;
- T17S R10W, part or all of sections 1-3, 1-14;
- T17S R9W, parts of Sections 6-7

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that although small in size, this area has a shape and configuration to provide enough of an adequate core area, combined with manageable boundaries, and a lack of known existing legal rights, to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including the harvest of fuelwood in some locations. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

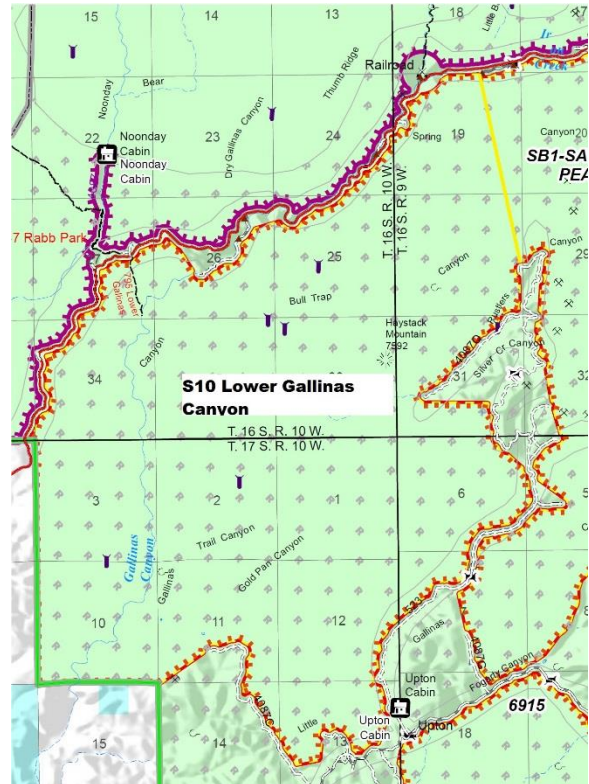
Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including some fuelwood harvesting in areas. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness



The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are vault toilets at the site of the former Lower Gallinas Campground, and a road that has seen a great deal of recent erosion. Range improvements include rock headers in some drainages, and dirt water storage tanks. For the area's size, there is a high density of fences and corrals.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 3.7*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Due to its relatively small size and proximity to Hwy 152, the opportunities for solitude are moderate when compared to those available nearby and at other locations throughout the Forest. There is better solitude located away from the highway due to the variability of terrain. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate compared to those available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(S10) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	8.7

Additional Remarks: There is a pre-NEPA working proposal to move the Upper Gallinas Campground to Noonday cabin area as part of Highway 152 recreation corridor planning, which could affect area boundaries. Lower Gallinas campground is currently being managed as a trailhead, and camping is permanently closed.

Although not currently Forest System Trails, mountain bikers do occasionally use routes within this area, and this use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if this area were recommended for designation as wilderness.

SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo

264 acres Silver City and Wilderness Districts, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo area is located contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, partially on both the Silver City and Wilderness Ranger Districts. The area occurs within:

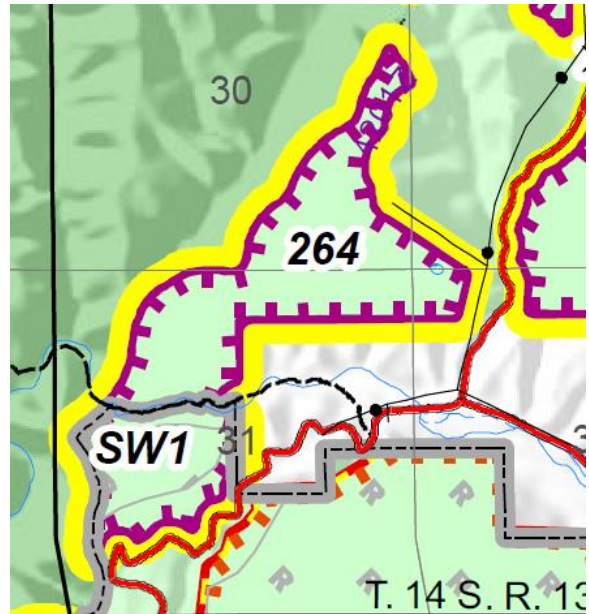
- T14S R13W, part of Sections 30-31

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres **Practicability as Wilderness:**

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because the private lands adjacent to the area was recently acquired by the Forest to be managed as public lands, the ID Team has preliminarily determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing contiguous wilderness.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity occurring within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in a limited number of locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. Range improvements are limited to only a few fences.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Due to the rugged terrain and adjacency to existing wilderness (to which the area would contribute wilderness characteristics) this area offers very good opportunities for solitude but only moderate opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as compared to areas nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(SW1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

Additional Remarks:

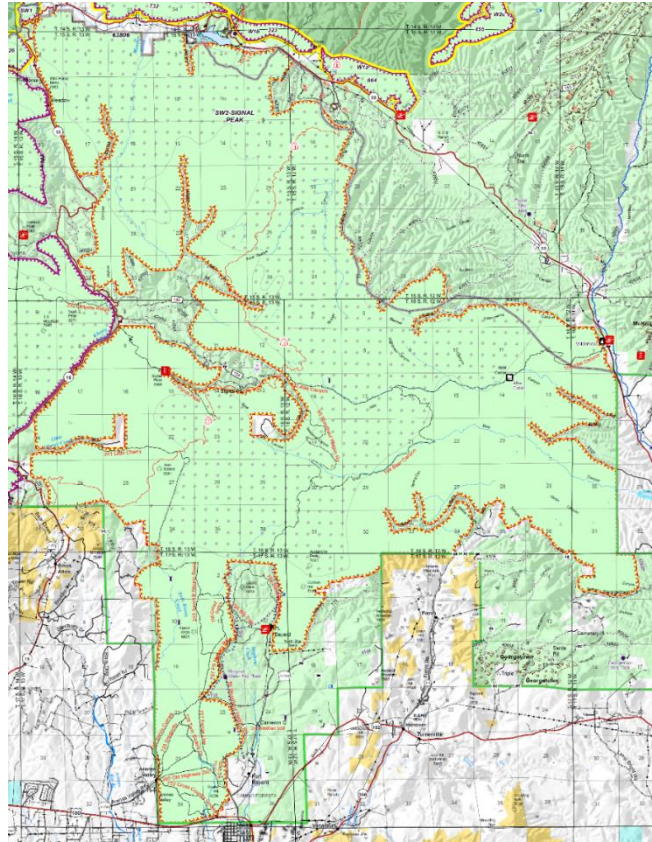
SW2 – Signal Peak

66,486 acres, Silver and Wilderness Districts, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The SW2 – Signal Peak is a large-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. SW2 occurs within:

- T14S R13W part of Sections 31-32;
- T15S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-18, 20-29, 32-36;
- T16S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 8-13, 33-36;
- T17S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36;
- T15S R12W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 17-20, 29-34;
- T16S R12W, part or all of Sections 1-36;
- T17S R12W, part or all of Sections 5-7, 18;
- T16S R11W, part or all of Sections 7, 18-19, 30-31;
- T17 R11W, part of Sections 5-6



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although this is a very large-sized area at over 63,000 acres, challenges to manageability to protect wilderness characteristics are extensive and pervasive throughout the area, and in combination are preliminarily determined by the ID Team to make the area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area has numerous and deeply intruded cherry stem roads. The shape is very narrow in some areas. Private land borders a majority of the area boundaries on most sides, and there are also private inholdings deeply cherry stemmed into the area. High levels of development are pervasive both on the private adjacent lands and within the cherry stemmed areas. There may be issues with mining claims in the area. The very extensive Cobre Mine is directly adjacent to the south, with a great deal of audible and visible heavy industrial activity currently occurring and future mining activity that will involve removing Hanover Mountain.

The ID Team considered evaluation of the area if confined to inventoried roadless area boundaries and avoiding areas of high development, but preliminarily determined that the shape and configuration would be tortuous, narrow, and would not provide a core area for preservation of wilderness characteristics, and the influence of the nearby mining activity would still be pervasive.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(SW2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Signal Peak area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

The trails throughout the Signal Peak area, particularly those within the Fort Bayard trail system, are known to be very popular with mountain bikers, and recommendation of the area to Congress for wilderness designation would have an outsized adverse impact to mountain biking trail use for the greater Silver City area.

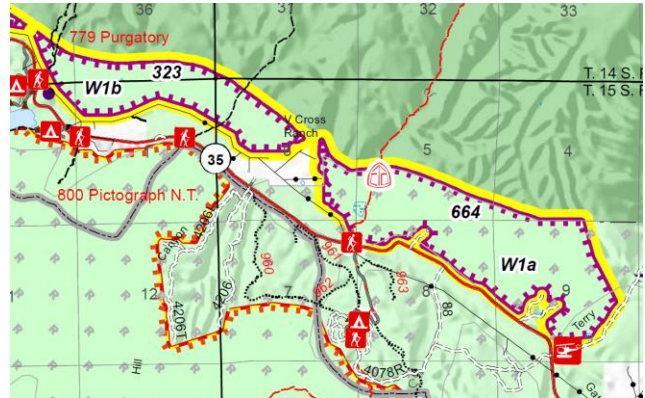
W1a and W1b – Gila Additions Lake Roberts

664 acres and 323 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W1a, W1b, and W1c – Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas were initially grouped together due to their close proximity and each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness. However W1c was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics, and therefore was considered separately by the ID Team for evaluation on its own merits. The W1a and W1b areas occur within:

- T14S R13W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 1-2;
- T14S R12W, part of Section 1;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 4-9



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres **Practicability as Wilderness:**

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristic

The ID Team preliminarily determined that due to these areas' configuration and proximity to private property, roads, and high levels of development, and unmanageable boundaries that these areas are unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Selection of the existing wilderness boundary locations seem to have taken into account existing level 1 road prisms and powerline ROWs within these areas.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W1a and W1b) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

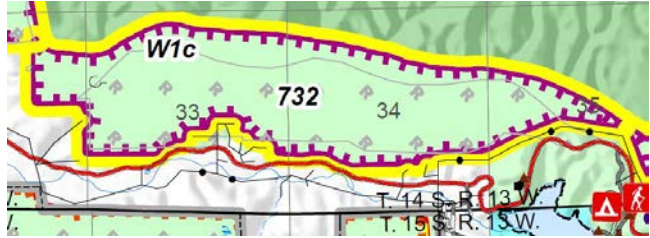
Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W1c – Gila Addition Lake Roberts

732 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W1a, W1b, and W1c – Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas were initially grouped together due to their close proximity each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, however W1c was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics, and therefore was considered separately by ID Team for evaluation. The W1c area occurs within:



- T14S R13W, part of Sections 32-35

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although this area has issues with proximity to private lands, the ID Team preliminarily determined that because of terrain and manageable boundaries, this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing wilderness.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 6*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Because of the area's small size and proximity to private property, developed areas, and high use roads, opportunities for solitude are low, and for primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are moderate by comparison to those available nearby and within other areas of the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary Score: **2**Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(W1c) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	4
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10

Additional Remarks:

W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East
2,088 acres, 393 acres, and 1,039 acres
Wilderness District, Grant and Catron Counties New Mexico

General description:

The W2a, W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions east were initially grouped due to proximity and adjacency to existing Wilderness. However, a portion of W2a was found to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to the others, and is being considered as a separate area numbered as W7. The areas occur within:

- T12S R12W, part of Sections 2-4, 9-11, 14-15, 22-23, 25-26, 36;
- T12S R11W, part of Sections 30-31;
- T13S R12W, part of Sections 1, 12-13;
- T13S R11W, part of Sections 6-7, 17-21, 29-30;
- T14S R11W part of Sections 5-8, 17-19, 30;
- T14S R12W part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 2-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to existing wilderness, and therefore meet evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that due to narrow configurations and unmanageable boundaries, these areas are unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Existing wilderness boundary locations were likely chosen due to these considerations, and these areas would not improve manageability.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(W2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions East areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W3 (formerly W3a) – Aldo Leopold Addition West 3,394 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W3 – Aldo Leopold West Addition area occurs within:

- T14S R13W, part of Sections 32-35

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing wilderness with some boundary adjustments. The north end would be manageable if moved away from the road through sections 9 and 21. The south end is not manageable due to private land and cherry stem roads. The ID Team adjusted boundaries to work with natural contours in these locations, and all other parts of polygon are determined to be unmanageable. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

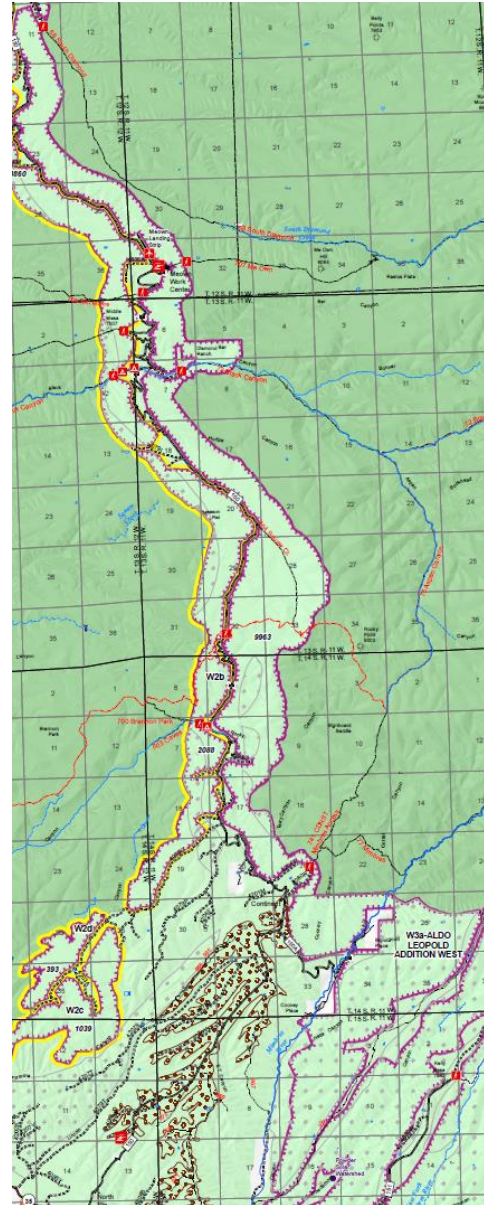
Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6



b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Although the area is located adjacent to Forest Road 150, outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is very low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. The area compliments and is enhanced by opportunities available on the contiguous wilderness.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(W3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

Additional Remarks:

W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon **12,458 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico**

General description:

The W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon area is located on the Wilderness Ranger District, and occurs within:

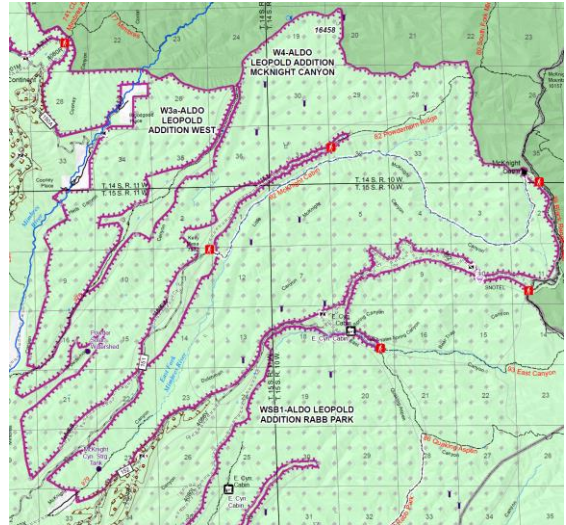
- T14S R11W, part of Sections 24-25, 36;
- T14S R10W, part or all of Sections 17-22, 27-35;
- T15S R11W, part or all of sections 1, 11-15, 22-24;
- T15S R10W, part or all of sections 1-8, 10-11

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**



This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, location, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are few private inholdings and cherry-stem motorized routes, and the area's size, terrain and configuration allow for sizable core areas to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the ID Team adjusted the boundary to the southeast of FR 151 to remove a narrow section that abutted private lands and contained a motorized route to improve manageability. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area. This reflects little active management activity occurring within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 9

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Ecological conditions within the area reflect nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: OUTSTANDING Preliminary Score: 9

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are historic cabins and some plunge pool creation for Gila trout.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 7

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

OUTSTANDING *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Preliminary Score: **8.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This is a relatively large and remote area that receives little visitation outside of hunting seasons. The terrain is variable, with ridges, mesa tops, and canyons with good recreation and solitude potential, and there are several trails and trailheads providing access to the interior of the area. Compared with other nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest, this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, and high opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING**

Preliminary Score: **8**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH**

Preliminary Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(W4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	OUTSTANDING	8.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	16.3

Additional Remarks: Parts of the McKnight Canyon Trail receive some occasional mountain bike use, and so recommendation of this area for designation would negatively affect this use by likely prohibition.

W5 – Gila Addition North Central 27 acres, Wilderness District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The W5 – Gila Addition North Central is a very small area located within:

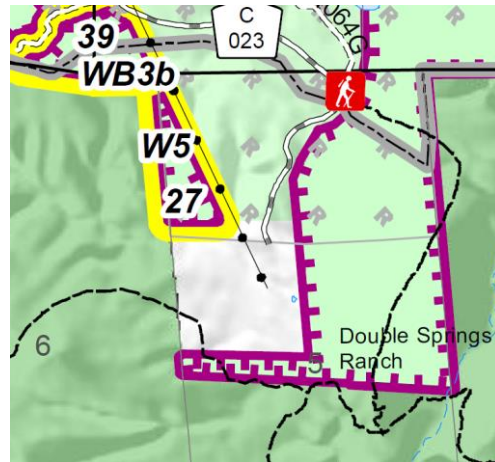
- T11S R14W, part of Section 5

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to its very small size and awkward orientation to a powerline right of way and adjacent private lands, the ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Addition North Central area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Central
2,371 acres, 25 acres, 689 acres, 115 acres, 16 acres, 178 acres, and 58 acres
Wilderness District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Center areas were grouped together due to their proximity contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness. The areas occur within:

- T12S R12W, part of Sections 2-4, 9-11, 14-15, 22-23, 25-26, 36;
- T12S R11W, part of Sections 30-31;
- T13S R12W, part of Sections 1, 12-13;
- T13S R11W, part of Sections 6-7, 17-21, 29-30;
- T14S R11W part of Sections 5-8, 17-19, 30;
- T14S R12W part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 2-3

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

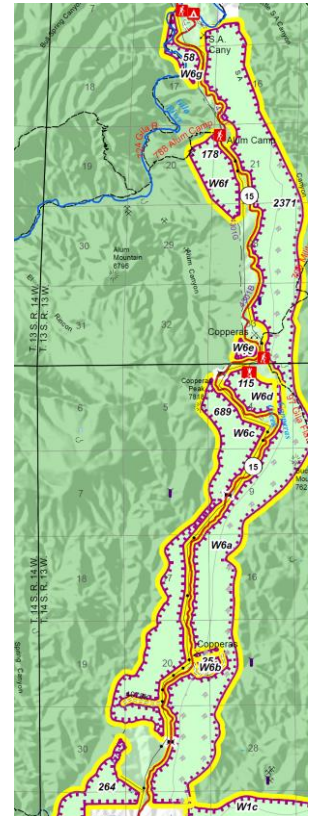
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that due to existing legal rights (utility rights of way), configuration and proximity to utility and state highway rights of way, private property, and unmanageable boundaries, these areas are unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(W6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

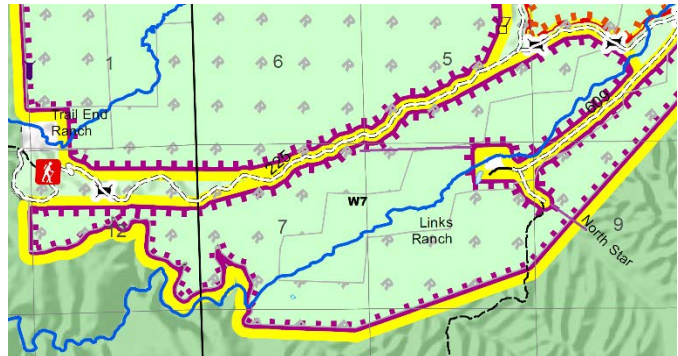
Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions Central areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W7 – Gila Addition East

1,057 acres: Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W2a, W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East areas were grouped together due to their close proximity and each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, however a major portion of W2a was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to the rest from this initial grouping, and therefore was instead considered as a separate area numbered W7 by the ID Team for evaluation. The W7 area occurs within:



- T12S R13W, part of Section 12;
- T12S R12W, part of Sections 7-9, 17-18

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that with significant changes to the orientation of boundaries by only retaining the most western section - west of private land (sections 7, 8), the remaining parts of this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as a viable addition to the existing contiguous wilderness.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area. This reflects little active management activity occurring within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Ecological conditions within the area reflect nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH

Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness

Overall Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Proximity to the highway and development on private lands places some limitations on opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude are low, and for primitive and unconfined recreation are moderate by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **LOW**

Preliminary Score: 2

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE**

Preliminary Score: 4

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO**

Preliminary Rank: **NONE**

Preliminary score: **0**

(W7) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	4
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10

Additional Remarks:

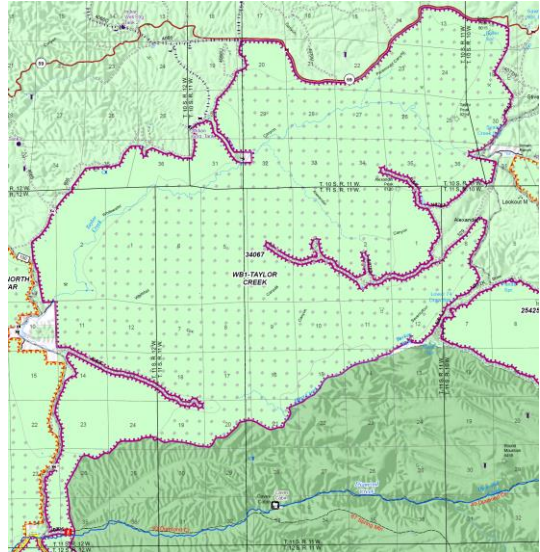
WB1 – Taylor Creek

27,335 acres, Black Range District, Catron and Sierra Counties New Mexico

General description:

The WB1 – Taylor Creek area is located in the Black Range Ranger District, but it shares a boundary with the Wilderness Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T10S R10W, part of Sections 18-19, 30-31;
- T10S R11W, part or all of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 34-36;
- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 1-3, 11-14, 22-27, 34-35;
- T11S R11W, part or all of Sections 1-22;
- T12S R12W part of sections 2-3, 11



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to its size, and orientation contiguous to existing wilderness, but qualified that some boundary adjustments would provide for more manageability. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence, and there are few known issues with existing user developed roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics although there may be issues with mining claims in the area. The ID Team made boundary adjustments to enhance wilderness characteristics, including manageability to protect wilderness characteristics. The changes included following the inventoried roadless area boundary from the in the northeast (Boiler Peak) area, in the vicinity of the private property inholding (northcentral) and around to the northwest and west, following the inventoried roadless area, but bringing it back to FR150 west of Section 31.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management, including past logging as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Non-native species are known to be present in some areas.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past logging and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Flat areas on the tops were logged in the 50s.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are not a lot of range improvements and there are a few fences, but livestock containment in this area uses mostly natural barriers. On the ground, the road represented in center of the polygon doesn't go as far as shown. There is a primitive road up the bottom of Taylor Creek, but this route was not included in TMP, and would disappear if not used.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are high, and for primitive and unconfined recreation are high by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest. There is not a lot out there and ties into the Aldo Wilderness well.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: 7

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The geology, river bluffs and canyons within the area are exceptionally scenic. Multiple heritage resources have been identified within this area, including prehistoric rock shelters and historic mining and military sites. This is a noteworthy area for cultural resources. The area also features exceptional views out towards the west and of the Mogollon Range.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary score: 3

(WB1)-Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Ranking Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Ranking	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Preliminary Ranking of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15

Additional Remarks:

WB2 – Gila Addition East (formerly WB2a) **4,437 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico**

General description:

The WB2 – Gila Addition East area is located in the Black Range and Wilderness Ranger Districts. The area occurs within:

- T11S R13W, part or all of Sections 11, 14, 23-24, 25, 36;
- T11S R12W, part of Sections 30-32;
- T12S R13W part of Sections 1, 12;
- T12S R12W part of Sections 5-6

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics although there are issues with adjacent private property, cherry stem roads, and density of roads in area. The ID Team recommended possible changing or splitting the polygon into two polygons, and/or giving wider breadth around the private property to increase manageability.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity, appears natural throughout at least 90% the area, and does not appear to be manipulated by humans.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

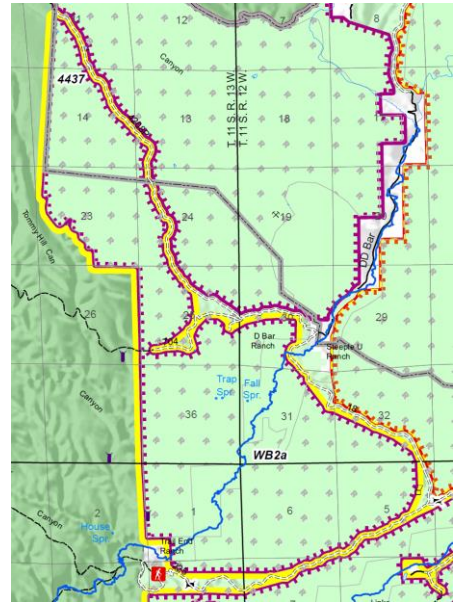
b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect very little evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but is concentrated in some locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a fairly high density of range fences, but there are no pipelines. There is some evidence of developments on private land is visible within some locations in the area as well.



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Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The area is adjacent to an existing wilderness, but there are roads and developed private land along the East Fork. However, there are very good opportunities for solitude throughout the area, particularly outside of hunting and antler gathering seasons.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Many cultural resources have been identified within the area, representing both prehistoric and historic occupations.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(WB2) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13

Additional Remarks:

WB3 – Gila Addition North (formerly WB3b) 39 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The WB3 – Gila Addition North area is a very small-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts and occurs within:

- T10S R15W, part of Section 31;
- T10S R14W, part of Sections 36

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has preliminarily determined that due to its very small size, orientation, and proximity to roads that this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(WB3) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Addition North area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast

14,153 acres, Wilderness and Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast area is located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. The ID Team agreed to split this area from the southern portion (which is now identified as WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek) of the original inventoried area that was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics in order to give each an accurate evaluation on its own merits. There is a variability of vegetation types within this area, with from grasslands with meadows in lower elevations up to mixed conifer in the higher areas. This area occurs within:

- T10s R14W, part or all of Sections 11-14, 21-36;
- T10S R13W, part or all of Sections 17-21, 25-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 30-31;
- T11 R13W, part of Section 5;
- T11S R13W parts of Sections 1,5-6;
- T11S R12W part of Sections 5-6



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore meeting the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, due to its relative size, challenging terrain and a sizeable core area. However, the ID Team predicated their conclusion on making changes of the area boundaries to make them more manageable, and exclude locations that have lower quality of wilderness characteristics. The evaluation is also predicated upon the southern portion, now identified as WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek, being evaluated separately and upon its own merit. The ID Team made boundary adjustments to improve wilderness characteristics, in particular manageability. The recommended change is to have the boundary adjusted starting at Indian Creek Cabin, keeping instead in line with the existing inventoried roadless area boundary. Also clipped off the cherry stem in Section 27, and excluded other cherry stems from the north (4064T), and then excluded the stock tanks in Section 27 and 26 and trick tank in Section 36, and tie in midpoint of Section 31.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past logging and vegetation treatments, as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments, logging, and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. There are special uses roads located in the Cooney Prairie area, as well as access roads to tanks and pipelines. There are also pipelines within the area, and a network of user-developed roads.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: **3.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

There is a fair amount of visible and audible traffic occurring from roads along area boundaries and cherry stemmed roads including dust plumes and vehicles visible for long distances. Solitude overall would be improved by adopting the ID Team's recommended changes to boundaries. The area does offer good opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation, enhanced by being contiguous to an existing wilderness.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains a site listed as a National Historic Landmark as well as other cultural resources.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(WB4) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.7

Additional Remarks:

WB5 – North Star

7,148 acres, Wilderness Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The WB5 – North Star is a small-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts and occurs within:

- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 3-4, 8-10, 14-17, 20-22, 27-29, 32-34;
- T12S R12W, part of Sections 3-5

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

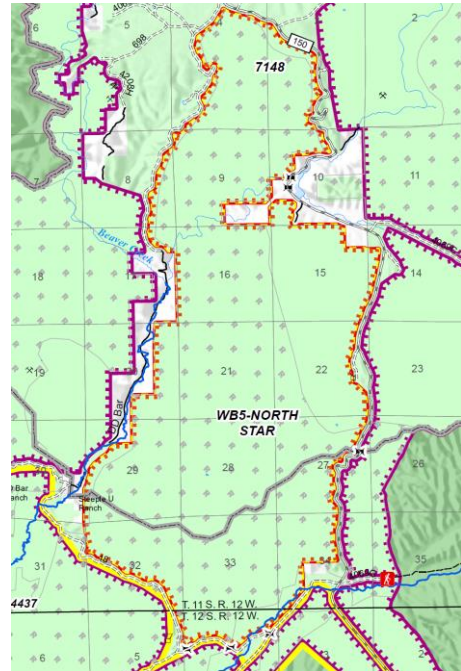
Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team identified a number of problems that together they preliminarily determined make this area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics, including its narrow shape relative to its small size, proximity to private property along much of its boundary, the remaining boundary being open roads, a private property inholding deep into the area that nearly bisects it at one point, with closed, not decommissioned FR 4069e extending deep south into the area, and an overall lack of core area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Preliminary Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**



(WB5) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the North Star area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek **4,975 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts, Sierra County New Mexico**

General description:

The WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek area is located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. The ID Team agreed to split this area from the northern portion of the original inventoried area (WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast) that was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics in order to give each a fair and accurate evaluation based on their own merits. The area occurs within:

- T11S R12W, part or all of Sections 5-6, 7-8, 17-20, 29-30;
- T11S R13W, parts of Sections 1-2 11-14, 24-25

Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore meeting the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Bull thistle is known to occur, as well as nonnative fish.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

a) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

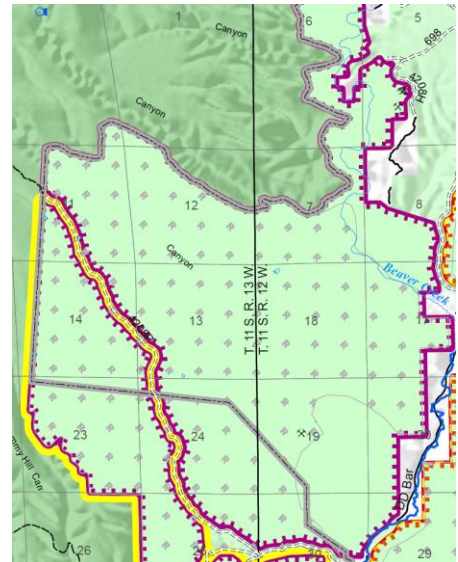
Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity occurring within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE

Preliminary Score: 5

b) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is not a lot of development on adjacent private property



away from the main ranch house on the southern end. There are some visible road prisms in the southeast part, and there are user developed roads throughout the area.

Preliminary Rank: MODERATE Preliminary Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Preliminary Score: 5*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation are moderate by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **MODERATE** Preliminary Score: 5

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Preliminary Rank: **NONE** Preliminary score: **0**

(WB6) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10

Additional Remarks:

WSB1 – Rabb Park

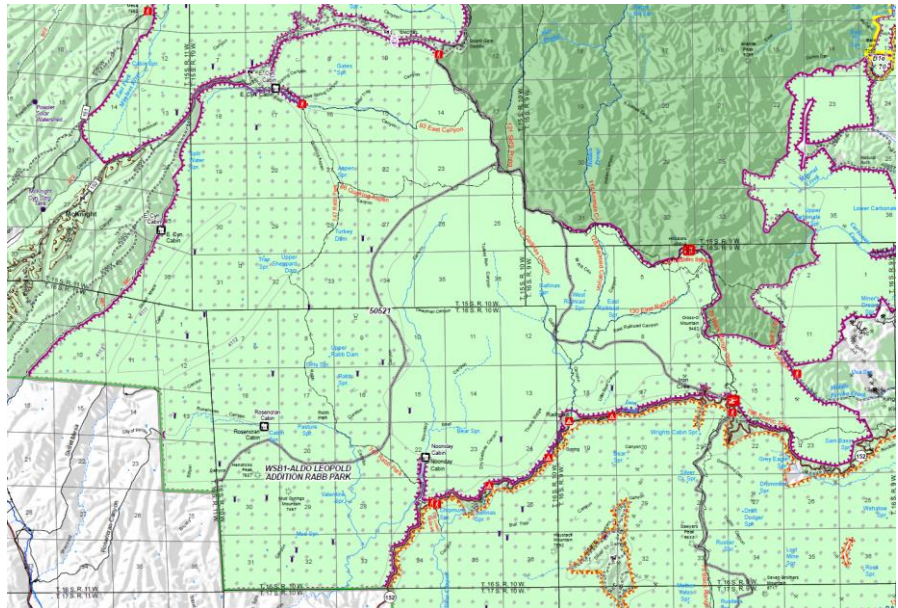
43,998 acres

Wilderness, Silver City, and Black Range Districts, Grant and Sierra Counties NM

General description:

The WSB1 – Rabb Park area is located in the Silver City, Wilderness, and Black Range Ranger Districts. This is why the numbering is for three districts. The area had previously included the area now numbered and named B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek, however the ID Team elected to separate it into the two smaller areas due to dissimilarities in their wilderness characteristics, allowing each to be evaluated separately and upon their own individual merits. The Rabb Park area occurs within:

- T10S R10W, part of Sections 18-19, 30-31;
- T10S R11W, part or all of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 34-36;
- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 1-3, 11-14, 22-27, 34-35;
- T11S R11W, part or all of Sections 1-22;
- T12S R12W part of sections 2-3, 11



Preliminary Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Preliminary Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team preliminarily determined that this area is manageable due to its large size, challenging terrain, manageable boundaries, and a sizeable core area. Although manageable, there could be challenges where there is a large extent of boundary contiguous to private property to the southeastern portion of the area. There is also a moonstone gemstone deposit in Rabb Canyon that has been sporadically mined in the past.

There are also Level 2 administrative use – permit only cherry-stemmed roads extending into the area from private property boundaries that may create management issues. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Preliminary Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity occurring within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity occurring within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

There are some stock tanks, rock headers in some drainages and roadbeds, but there is not a lot of fencing. There are existing single purpose roads within inventoried roadless area boundaries, where corridors are visible. Two level 1 roads that are not decommissioned extend into the area from adjacent private property.

Preliminary Rank: HIGH Preliminary Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Preliminary Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, including good non-motorized trail use opportunities accessing much of the area, although some of the boundary is landlocked from access due to adjacent private lands.

There is variability of terrain from moderate to challenging, with steep mountain slopes, long ridgelines, and deep canyons. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Preliminary Rank: **HIGH** Preliminary Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Preliminary Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Preliminary Score: **8**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The Hillsboro site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located within this evaluation area. As such, the area can be considered significant for heritage resources. Prehistoric resources are also present.

Present: **YES** Preliminary Rank: **LOW** Preliminary score: **1**

(WSB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Preliminary Rank	Preliminary Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Preliminary Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15

Additional Remarks: There is a pre-NEPA working proposal being considered by the Forest to move the Upper Gallinas Campground to the Noonday cabin area, which could affect area boundaries.

There is occasional existing mountain bike use on the Gallinas Canyon, Rabb Park, and Railroad Canyon Trails, and this existing recreation use would be impacted because it would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

References

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service). 2012. National Forest System Land Management Planning; Final Rule. 36 CFR Part 219. USDA.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12- Land Management Planning Handbook: Chapter 70- Wilderness.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. R3 Designated Areas, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Forest Plan Revision Process Guidance under the 2012 Planning Rule.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. R3 Wilderness Process Guidance (Timing/Public Engagement/Documentation) for Wilderness Inventory Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation under the 2012 Planning Rule.

Appendix A: Summary Tables

Summary of Quemado District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
Q1 - Largo	15,288	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	10.3	M
Q2 –The Hub	36,344	N/A	Y	H	H	H	L/M	13.5	MH
Q4 – Chavez Lake	7,237	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	10.3	M
Q5 – Agua Fria:	5,691	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q6 – Fox Mountain	12,956	N/A	Y	M	H	H	L	11.6	M
Q7 – East Gallo	13,330	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q8 – Bull Camp	14,186	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q9 – Apache Mountain	17,972	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	10.3	M
Q10 – East Boundary	6,333	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q11 – Mother Hubbard	5,728	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	L	15.7	H
Summary of Shared Quemado and Glenwood Districts Evaluated Areas									
QG1 – Nolan North	8,685	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	L	15.7	H
QG2 – Nolan South	4,404	Y	Y	M	OS	H	N	11.7	M
Summary of Shared Quemado and Reserve Districts Evaluated Areas									
QR1 – Upper Frisco Box	41,047	N/A	Y	M	H	H	H	14.7	H
QR2 – Upper Frisco Box East	18,810	N/A	Y	M	M	H	N	9	M
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Reserve District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
R1 – Eagle Peak	31,993	N/A	Y	M	M	H	L	11.7	M
R3 – Moraga Canyon	8,527	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	10.3	M
R4 – O-Bar-O Mountain	20,010	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	12	MH
R6 – Elk Mountains	15,526	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R7 – Negrito	10,461	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R8 – T-Bar Ridge	5,270	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R9 – Wagon Tongue	14,628	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.7	M
R10a, R10b, - Gila Additions North Reserve	536 657	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	9	M
R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve	1,451	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Summary of Shared Reserve and Black Districts Evaluated Areas									
RB1 – East Elk Mountain	9,064	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	10	M
Summary of Shared Reserve, Wilderness, and Black Districts Evaluated Areas									
RWB1 – Canyon Creek	10,282	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
RWB2 – Gila Addition North Central	3,392	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Summary of Shared Reserve and Glenwood Districts Evaluated Areas									
RG1 – Aspen Mountain	22,089	N/A	Y	H	H	H	M	16	OS
RG2 – Devil’s Creek	61,067	N/A	Y	M	H	H	M	13	MH
RG3 – Brushy Canyon	3,977	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains	21,591	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	12	MH
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Glenwood District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
G1 – Mineral Creek	20,525	N/A	Y	OS	OS	OS	OS	23.3	OS
G2 – Blue Primitive Addition	315	Y	Y	L	L	L	N	4	L
G2b and G2c – Blue Range South	1,321 2,676	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G3 – Gila Rain Creek Addition	1,298	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	10.3	M
G3c – Gila Addition Northwest	20	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G4a and G4b – Gila Additions West	776 158	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G5 – Park Mountain	11,316	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	10.7	M
G6 – Lower San Francisco	21,196	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	OS	18.3	OS
G7 – Hell Hole	20,535	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	11	M
G8 – Smoothing Iron Mesa	3,588	Y	Y	M	H	M	L	12.3	MH
G9 – Blue Range SE Addition	3,040	Y	Y	M	M	L	N	6	M
G10 – Blue Range SW Addition	3,709	Y	Y	M	M	L	N	8	M
G11 – Gila Dry Creeks Addition	3,129	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	10.3	M
G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition	3,463	Y	Y	H	H	H	N	13.7	MH
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Black Range District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
B1a, B1b, B1c, – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions	5741 265 78	Y	Y	H	H	H	L	14.3	H
B2– Brushy Mountain	7,751	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B3– Big Dry Creek	39,126	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B4 – Wahoo South	19,769	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B5 – Stone Creek	8,384	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.3	M
B6 – Sand Canyon	6,136	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B7 – Indian Peaks	5,516	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B8 – Beaverhead	9,849	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	9	M
B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East	13,558	N/A	Y	L	L	M	N	5.7	L
B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast	15,909	N/A	Y	H	H	H	L	14.3	H
B11 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast	1,242	Y	Y	M	H	H	L	12.7	MH
B13 – Wahoo North	20,139	N/A	Y	M	M	H	N	11.3	M
B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek	5,380	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	N	14	H
B15 – Continental Divide WSA Addition	1,405	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

Summary of Silver City and Black Range Shared District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
SB1 – Sawyer Peak	41,063	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	N	13.7	MH
Summary of Silver City District Evaluated Areas									
S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge	48,067	N/A	Y	H	OS	H	H	17	OS
S2 – Gila Middle Box	25,335	N/A	Y	M	M	H	OS	16	OS
S3 - Bear Mountain	11,124	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	9	M
S4 – North Burros	15,786	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	8	M
S5 – Saddle Rock	6,734	N/A	Y	M	L	M	N	8.3	M
S6a, S6b, S6c, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest	526 4,643 961 1,040	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	9	M
S7 – Burro Peak	7,522	N/A	Y	M	L	L	N	5	L
S8 – Knight Peak	5,618	N/A	Y	M	L	L	N	5.3	L
S9 – Royal John	6,915	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.7	M
S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon	9,048	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	8.7	M
Summary of Shared Silver City and Wilderness District Evaluated Areas									
SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo	264	Y	Y	H	H	M	N	12	MH
SW2 – Signal Peak	66,486	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Wilderness District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
W1a and W1b – Gila Additions Lake Roberts	664 323	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W1c – Gila Addition Lake Roberts	732	Y	Y	H	L	M	N	10	M
W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East	2,088 393 455	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W3 – Aldo Leopold Addition West	3,394	N/A	Y	H	H	H	N	12	MH
W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon	12,458	N/A	Y	OS	OS	H	N	16.3	OS
W5 – Gila Addition North Central	27	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Central	2,371 25 689 115 16 178 58	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W7 – Gila Addition East	1,057	Y	Y	H	L	M	N	10	M
Summary of Shared Wilderness and Black Range Districts Evaluated Areas									
WB1 – Taylor Creek:	27,335	N/A	Y	M	H	H	H	15	H
WB2 – Gila Addition East:	4,437	Y	Y	M	H	M	L	13	MH
WB3 – Gila Addition North	39	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast:	14,153	N/A	Y	M	M	H	L	10.7	M
WB5 – North Star	7,148	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek	4,975	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	10	M
Summary of Shared Wilderness Silver City and Black Range Districts Evaluated Areas									
WSB1 – Rabb Park	43,998	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	L	15	H
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									