

Ashley National Forest Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Inventory Areas

May, 2019

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Introduction

The Ashley National Forest is revising its forest plan. The revision process requires identifying and evaluating lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and determining whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation. A description of this process can be found in the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule and Chapter 70 of the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook (FSH) 1909.12. This process includes the following four steps – Inventory, Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation (if any). This document will discuss all steps, but will emphasize Step 2, the Evaluation.

Step 1: Inventory

The Inventory (Step) is intended to be broad and inclusive, including all areas across the Ashley National Forest that meet certain size, roads, and improvements criteria (FSH 1909.12 Section 71.1). In August 2016 and February 2017, the Ashley National Forest released for public feedback draft inventories of areas that were deemed suitable to proceed to Step 2, Evaluation.

Final Inventory Results

The final inventory comprises 28 polygons over 5,000 acres, and 4 polygons less than 5,000 acres, that are adjacent to the High Uintas Wilderness (Table 1) - for a total of 590,788 acres (about 43% of the Ashley National Forest). The wilderness evaluation, the second step, will take a more detailed look at these inventoried areas to determine how well they meet wilderness characteristics, using a set of criteria based on the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Table 1. Final Inventory Areas

Area	Acres
Alkali Canyon	20,306
Big Ridge	23,666
Carter Creek	7,853
Cottonwood	26,585
Cow Hollow	18,028
Dry Ridge	23,509
Dyer Mtn	7,788
Flat Top Mtn	20,010
Goslin	7,066
Grizzly Ridge	6,734
Indian Springs	5,573
Lake Fork Mtn	18,063
Lambson Draw	5,005
Mill Hollow	6,301
Mt Lena	34,114
North Slope East Uintas	66,791

Area	Acres
Nutters Canyon	6,642
Pole Creek	13,207
Right Fork Indian Canyon	46,310
Sheep Creek East	7,579
Sheep Creek West	7,382
South Fork Rock Cr	8,925
South Slope East Uintas	135,466
Timber Canyon East	10,479
Timber Canyon West	24,552
Wagon Road Ridge	5,063
Water Hollow	5,007
Wire Fence	22,239
Four areas less than 5000 acres and adjacent to existing wilderness	384
Total	590,270

Step 2: Evaluation

The next step is to evaluate each area on the inventory map for wilderness characteristics. Evaluation of wilderness characteristics uses five criteria set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Forest Service Handbook final directives FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70, Section 72.1. A summary of these five criteria is as follows:

1. The degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable (**apparent naturalness**).
2. The degree to which the areas has 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 on every acre.
3. Evaluate the degree to which they are contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education scenic, or historical value (**unique features**). These values are not required for recommendation, but they should be identified and evaluated where they exist.
4. Evaluate the degree to which the area may be **managed** to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Step 3: Determine which areas to further analyze in the National Environmental Policy Act process

Release of the Proposed Action initiates the National Environmental Policy Act process. The Draft Environmental Impact State (DEIS) will analyze the environmental effects and management tradeoffs associated with recommending areas for wilderness designation.

Step 4: Decide which areas, if any, to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

As the deciding official, the Forest Supervisor makes a final decision on which areas to recommend for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System when he signs the forest plan. If any areas recommended in Step 4, these are preliminary administrative recommendations. Once the forest plan is finalized, the Final Environmental Impact Statement is released, and a Record of Decision is signed the Forest Supervisor may recommend suitable lands for National Wilderness Preservation System designation to the Chief of the U. S. Forest Service if the Record of Decision contains suitable lands. Such recommendation may then be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture, and ultimately to Congress, for their consideration and possible designation. Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

Overview of the Wilderness Evaluation Process

Criteria 1: Apparent Naturalness - The degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

The apparent naturalness is evaluated through multiple factors.

- Composition of plant communities
- Animal habitat
- Recent timber harvests
- Other vegetation treatments
- Closed Forest Service System roads that are visible on the landscape
- Invasive plants
- Fish
- Animals
- Improvements
- Fire regime condition class

Fire regime condition reflects the current vegetation condition’s degree of departure from ecological reference (historical) conditions. Pre-settlement ecosystems are commonly used as a benchmark for reference conditions and include possible Native American influence in the natural fire regime (fire frequency and severity). The fire regime condition class measures departure in two main components of ecosystems: 1) fire regime (fire frequency and severity) and 2) associated vegetation condition class. Fire regime has a five groups (I - V) classification based on fire frequency and fire severity (Table 1). Fire regime characteristics is classified into three (1-3) groups (Table 2).

Table 2. Fire regimes groups and descriptions

Group	Frequency	Severity	Severity Description
I	0 - 35 years	Low / mixed	Generally low-severity fires replacing less than 25% of the dominant vegetation; can include mixed-severity fires that replace up to 75% of the overstory
II	0 - 35 years	Replacement	High-severity fires replacing greater than 75% of the dominant overstory vegetation
III	35 - 200 years	Mixed / low	Generally mixed severity; can also include low-severity fires
IV	35- 200 years	Replacement	High-severity fires
V	200+ years	Replacement / any severity	Generally replacement severity; can include any severity type in this frequency range

Table 3. Fire Regime Characteristics

Class	Description
1	Less than 33 percent departure from the central tendency of the historical range of variation (HRV): Fire regimes are within the natural historical range and risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Vegetation attributes (compositions and structure) are well intact and functioning.
2	33 to 66 percent departure: Fire regimes have been moderately altered. Risk of losing key ecosystems components is moderate. Fire frequencies may have departed by one or more return intervals (either increased or decreased). This departure may result in moderate changes in fire and vegetation attributes.
3	Greater than 66 percent departure: Fire regimes have been substantially altered. Risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Fire frequencies may have departed by multiple return intervals. This may result in dramatic changes in fire size, fire intensity and severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been substantially altered.

Criteria 2: The degree to which the areas has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Criteria 2 was evaluated by considering:

- Proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads
- General topography of the area
- Area and percentage of primitive and non-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunity spectrum
- Types of primitive recreation activities in the area

The winter recreation opportunity spectrum has not been completed for the Ashley National Forest at the time of the evaluation and is not included in the measures for Question 2b, area available for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Criteria 3: Ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education scenic, or historical value were evaluated by multiple factors. One factor being considered was rare plant or animal communities and habitats and coarse scale key connectivity for wildlife. For considering rare plant or animal communities, the Ashley National Forest utilized the acres of the Uinta Bollie Landtype Association (LTA) which is habitat for rare plants on the Ashley National Forest. Other factors include the acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems, and acres of the Uinta Bollie LTA and Alpine Moraine LTA which is habitat for the Black Rosy Finch, a rare bird species on the Ashley National Forest.

Further evaluation consideration for criteria 3 included acres of the distinctive scenic class and landscapes of greater than 45 degrees. The distinctive scenic class is a classification in the Scenery Management System. The distinctive scenic class is defined by areas were landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide unusual, unique, or outstanding scenic quality.

High quality water resources or important watershed features in the areas were identified by the watershed condition framework and whether municipal watersheds overlay the inventory area. The watershed condition framework uses three classes to describe watershed condition.

- Class 1: watersheds exhibit high geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition.
- Class 2: watersheds exhibit moderate geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition
- Class 3: watersheds exhibit low geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to their natural potential condition.

These Condition Classes are directly related to the degree or level of watershed functionality or integrity.

- Class 1 = Functioning Properly
- Class 2 = Functioning at Risk
- Class 3 = Impaired Function

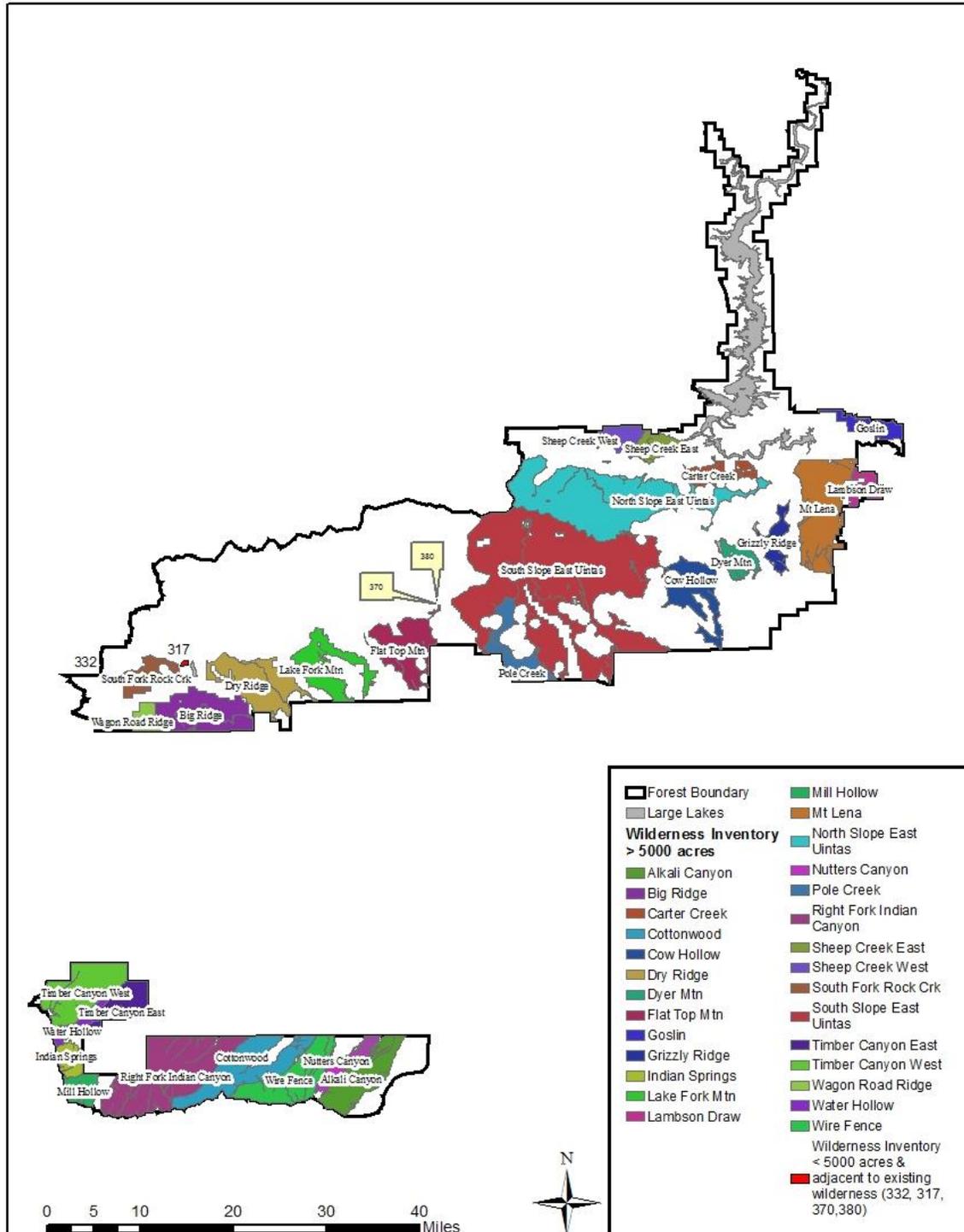
Other factors for criteria 3 were: historic or cultural resources of historic value in the inventory area, any special interest or research natural areas within the inventory area, and any scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics. Criteria 4 factors include: the shape of the inventory area, if the inventory area boundaries are defined by geographic locations, and if the inventory area lands could be identified from the Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory area. Other factors used for criteria 4 are:

- Legally established rights or uses with the area
- Specific Federal or state laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness
- Management of adjacent lands,
- Current management of the inventory area
- Acres of wildland urban interface in the inventory area,
- Type and extent of management restriction with the inventory area

The wildland urban interface is the area where structure and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland, and it is where wildfire have their greatest impacts on people.

Ashley National Forest Inventory Areas



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

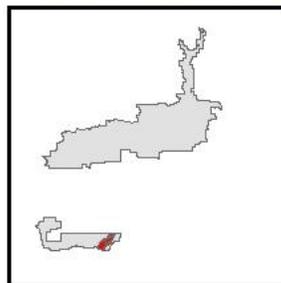
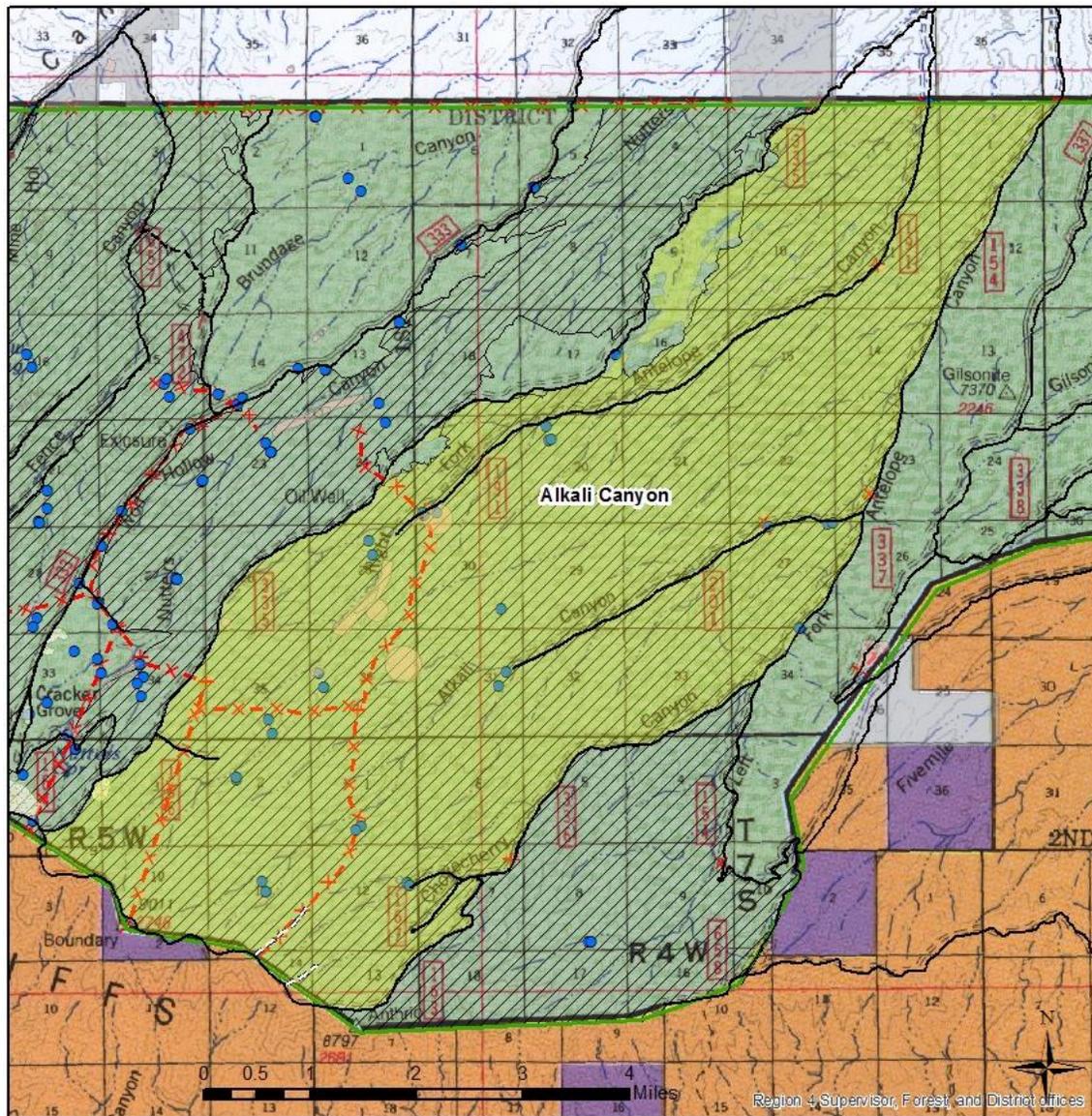
Figure 1. Wildness inventory areas on the Ashley National Forest

2019

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Alkali Canyon - 181

Alkali Canyon



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

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Figure 2. Alkali Canyon wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 2% Basin Big Sagebrush
- 2% Black Sagebrush
- 5% Douglas fir
- 1% Grass
- 2% Greasewood
- 1% Mountain Brush
- 26% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 2% Persistent Aspen
- 58% Pinyon – Juniper
- 1% Wyoming Big Sagebrush
- Less than 1% of Rubber Rabbit Brush and Seral Aspen

The vegetation in the southern portion of the area consists of sparse grass and sagebrush and/or pinyon pine and juniper.

The central portion of the area has moderately dense pinyon pine and juniper along the ridges intermixed with perennial grasses and mountain mahogany.

The northern part of the area has sparse pinyon pine-Douglas fir-juniper on the south to west aspects and moderately dense pinyon pine-Douglas fir or perennial grasses-sagebrush-mountain mahogany on the north to east aspects. The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Greater Sage Grouse

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹).	100%

¹ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds).	99.02%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ² (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads).	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads).	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to roads.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

The current vegetation within this inventory areas is partially affected by natural ecological processes.

- *The mountain big sagebrush communities in this inventory polygon have a fire regime of 1, and a condition class of 2.*
- *The pinyon juniper communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2. There have been no wildfires in the in the past 60 years.*
- *A small area, 20 acres, of the inventory area was burned in 2007 for a sage grouse habitat burn study.*
- *Portions of the inventory area were cleared of pinion pine-juniper in the past.*

There are five Forest Service System roads cherry stemmed into the polygon. Two of these cherry stemmed roads, Alkali Canyon and Right Fork Indian Canyon travel more than four miles into the polygon. There are three Forest Service System trails open to all motor vehicles in the southern part of the area. A number of unauthorized routes exist, primarily in the southern half of the inventory area.

The inventory area has two range allotments, Sowers Canyon and Anthro Mountain. There is a boundary fence on the forest on the northern boundary that marks the border between the Ashley National Forest and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. There are three other range fences as well as multiple range spring developments, troughs, and reservoirs. There is one guzzler in the northwestern corner of the inventory area.

most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

² Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

There are two abandoned well pads in the southwestern portion of the area. One active well pad in the far northern portion of the area is cherry stemmed out of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None present
Heliports	None present
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable.	19.30 acres @ 0.10%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal.	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable.	70 acres @ 0.35%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps.	None
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions.	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude.	There are five planned well pads in the northwestern portion of the area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area.	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation³.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	20,304 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

³ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads.

The northern boundary, which is the northern boundary of the Ashley National Forest, is immediately adjacent to the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands. The southern boundary is the southern boundary of the Forest and is immediately adjacent to lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The western boundary is Forest Service Road 335, which separates the inventory area from the Nutters Canyon inventory area. The eastern boundary is adjacent to Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

The terrain consists of broad plateaus with moderately steep dissected side slopes above narrow valleys. Hills are rounded in the north. Pinyon pine, Douglas fir, and juniper cover the northern part of the area and many of the canyon walls and drainages in the south. Across the tops of the southern plateaus, the cover opens to sagebrush and grass with areas of mountain mahogany.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum.	0 acres (Primitive); 6,358 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 31.31% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum.	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.

Primitive recreation activities - camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the western and eastern boundary and in Alkali Canyon where road access exists. The majority of the inventory area does not support primitive recreation activities because of a lack of attractions and access routes.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity

hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁴? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western, eastern, and southern boundaries disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Many historic and prehistoric surveys have been performed in the area and multiple eligible prehistoric sites have been found.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans two watersheds, Nutters Canyon on the west side and Left Fork Antelope Canyon on the east side, with Right Fork Antelope ridge separating the watersheds.

- *Nutters Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Right Fork Antelope Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Green River City, Utah municipal watershed.

⁴ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural area in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas.	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known education or scientific features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

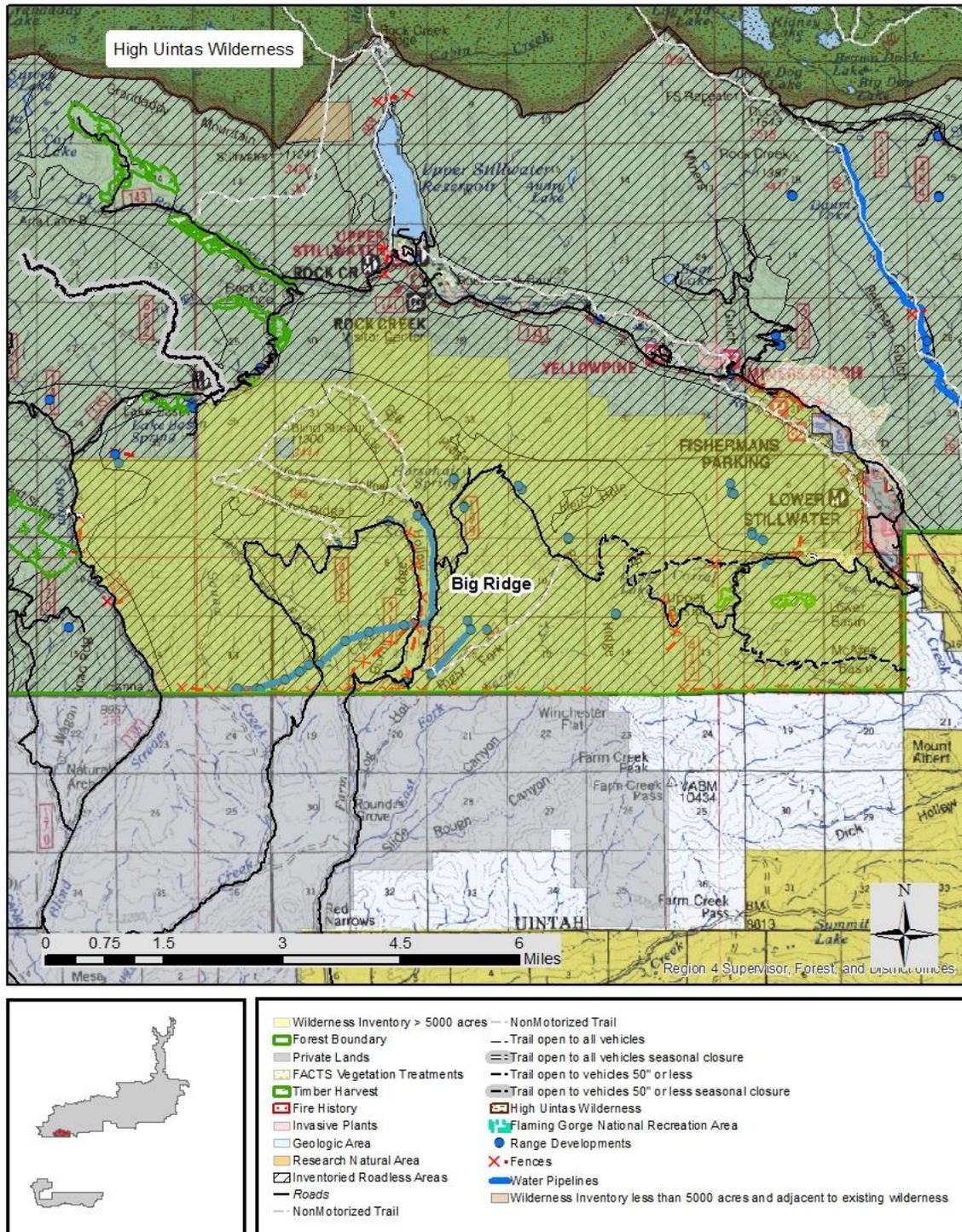
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area.	The shape is irregular, long and narrow, with multiple excluded authorized roads and other excluded areas partially dissecting the area. The area boundary is tied to roads on the south, west, and east.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area.	There are portions of 11 oil and gas leases in the area. Seven are active and 4 are inactive. The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, and is within the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands.	Bureau of Land Management are managed for multiple use. Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands are managed for multiple use and there is significant oil and gas development. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area.	36% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 8% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 1% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 55% MA n (Range of Resources Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area.	2,736 acres @ 13.48%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area.	97.4% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area.

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Big Ridge - 274

Big Ridge



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

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Figure 3. Big Ridge wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 3% Alpine
- 1% Douglas fir
- 9% Engelmann Spruce
- 2% Fell-field
- 1% Grass
- 2% Lodgepole Pine
- 15% Mixed Conifer
- 9% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 1% Riparian Non-Willow Shrub
- 21% Persistent Aspen
- 5% Rock
- 30% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Alpine vegetation, Cottonwood, Meadow grasses and forbs, and Mountain Big Sagebrush

In the northern part of the inventory area, the vegetation on the steep canyon slopes includes Douglas fir, ponderosa pine; and mixed lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The drainage ways on these slopes have a vegetative cover of Engelmann spruce – subalpine fir/aspen, lodgepole pine with scattered Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir; mixed Douglas fir/common juniper/aspen/limber pine, and mountain brush.

In the upper reaches above timberline of Big Ridge, Log Hollow, Wedge Hollow, Burnt Ridge, Hell Hole, and Upper Basin - the vegetative cover includes Engelmann spruce, alpine sedge grass and forbs, with inclusion of Krummholtz Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir.

In the middle reach of the inventory area, Log Hollow and Big Ridge, the cirque basins have scattered spruce/fir cover. There is also hummocky topography with lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir.

The vegetation in the Upper Basin area includes Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir with some scattered Douglas fir and minor inclusions of big sagebrush/grass.

In the southern part of the inventory area, the dominant overstory includes Douglas fir, aspen, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine with mountain big sagebrush and grass at lower elevations.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Black Bear
- Moose
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Blue Grouse
- Mule Deer

- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁵).	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds).	99.77%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁶ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads).	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads).	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

- *The persistent Aspen communities have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the western portion of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the eastern and north central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

⁵ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the

⁶ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

- *The mountain brush communities in the western part and eastern part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities in the central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2.*
- *There have been no identified wildfires in the area in the past 70 years.*
- *A broadcast burn along the McAfee basin road occurred in 2013. Two individual tree selection harvests occurred in 1990*

There are 6 Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed out of the inventory area. There are two motorized trails in the inventoried area, #1145 and #1213, for a total of 7 miles. There are multiple unauthorized routes in the inventory area, primarily along south facing slopes and ridgelines south of Burnt Ridge and on Big Ridge.

The inventory area contains all or parts of four grazing allotments; Blind Stream, Log Hollow, McAfee Basin, and Rock Creek. There are multiple spring developments, stock troughs, pipelines, and fences. The greatest concentration of range improvements are south of Burnt Ridge.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable.	83 acres @ 0.35%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal.	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable.	95 acres @ 0.40%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps.	There are multiple dispersed camping spots throughout the inventory area. The largest concentrations occur in Log Hollow and along the Blind Stream road.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude.	Private and Tribal lands adjacent to the southern border and primarily undeveloped
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	Remnants of logging operations are evident along the McAfee Basin road

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁷

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	23,657 acres @ 99.96%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads.
The inventory area borders private range lands on the southern border.
- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

The northern part of the inventory area includes steep highly dissected north facing slopes with steep canyon slopes.

In the middle portion of the inventory area, including Big Ridge, Log Hollow, Wedge Hollow, Burnt Ridge, Hell Hole, and Upper Basin areas, there are steep to very steep sloping terrain and defined ridges and drainages. The upper reaches of these areas are rolling uplands, the middle reaches include cirque basins and canyons separated by high ridgelines.

⁷ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

The southern portion of the area has gentle south facing slopes and dissected, moderately steep terrain.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 7,463 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 31.53% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the Blind Stream Road and in McAfee Basin, Log Hollow, Corral Creek, and Burnt Ridge.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁸? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	23.5% @ 5553 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.05% @ 12 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	43% @ 10,229 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

⁸ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Big Ridge mountain peak has an elevation of 11,095 feet.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	4,981 acres @ 21.04%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	204 acres @ 0.86%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area.

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Historic and prehistoric sites have been identified but none have been found to be eligible.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans seven watersheds. The watershed condition class for each watershed is:

- *Blind Stream: functioning at risk*
- *Rudy Hollow - Duchesne River: functioning at properly*
- *South Fork Rock Creek: functioning properly*
- *Farm Creek: functioning properly*
- *Cabin Creek – Rock Creek: functioning properly*
- *Corral Creek – Rock Creek: functioning at risk*
- *Carter Creek – Rock Creek: functioning at properly*

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah Water Conservancy District – Duchesne Valley and Green River City, Utah municipal watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

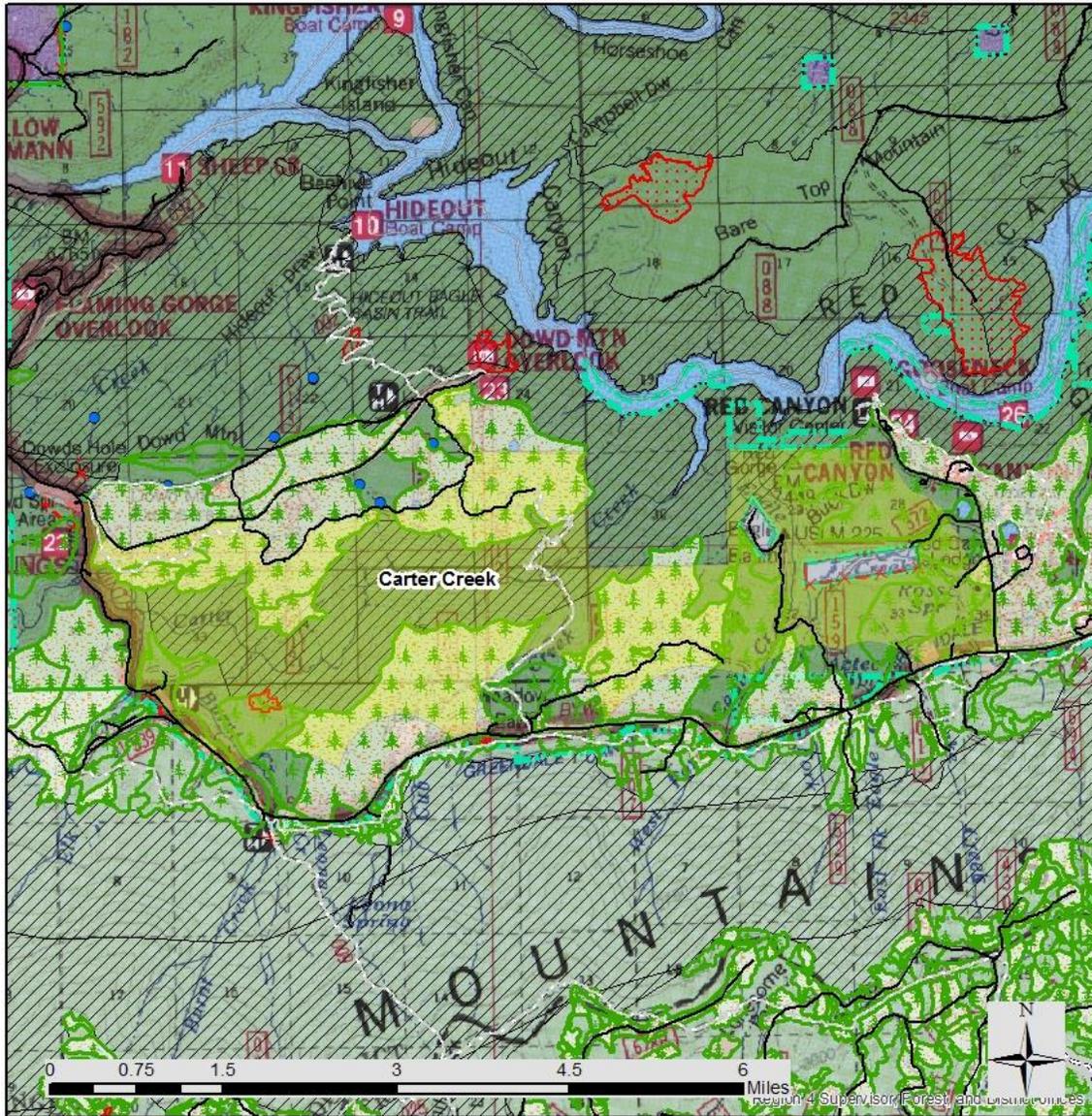
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area.	The shape of the area is primarily blocky and is dissected by four cherry stemmed roads. The western boundary is defined by the Blind Stream Road, the south boundary by the Forest boundary, the east boundary by the Forest boundary and roads, and the north boundary is not defined by any landmarks and is difficult to define from the surrounding area.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area.	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, and within the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands.	The inventory area is bordered on the south by private range lands and on the south and east by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. These lands are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent Ashley Forest Service lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area.	2% MA b (Moderate Timber Production); 1% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 13% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 4% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 4% MA k (Maximum Water Yield Recreation); 76% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	23,651 acres @ 99.93%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	97.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
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Carter Creek - 526

Carter Creek



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 4. Carter Creek wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation within the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Douglas fir
- 2% Lodgepole Pine
- 18% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 11% Pinyon-juniper
- 66% Ponderosa Pine
- 1% Seral Aspen
- less than 1% Riparian conifer, Meadow grasses, and forbs

Ponderosa Pine covers a majority of the Greendale Plateau within the inventory area. The north facing slopes of the Carter Creek drainage has mixed conifer and the south facing slopes of Carter Creek drainage has pinyon and juniper. The Eagle Creek drainage has a vegetative cover of mixed conifer.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Chukar
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁹).	100%

⁹ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	98.64%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁰ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads, trails, and dispersed camping locations in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*
- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2.*
- *The Burnt Creek wildfire occurred in 2000 in the inventory area.*
- *There have been multiple individual tree selection harvests throughout the inventory area in the 1980s and early 1990s.*

There are seven Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are some unauthorized routes the inventory area. The majority in the eastern side of the inventory area.

The inventory area contains parts of the Lonesome Park and Lewis/Allen grazing allotments. There are three stock ponds and two wildlife guzzlers in the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹⁰ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable.	2731 acres @ 34.78%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	12 acres @ 0.15%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping locations are scattered throughout the inventory area. The majority occur on south slope of Dowd Mountain
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The east side of the inventory area is adjacent to the Red Canyon Recreation Corridor. The corridor is a high use area including a paved road, visitor center, day use area, and campgrounds. The east side of the inventory area also includes to private inholdings that include private residences and agricultural lands.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹¹.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	7,853 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	2,544 acres @ 32.40%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads.

The inventory area is bordered by State Highway 44 on the west and in three places on the southern boundary. Highway 44 is also within 0.6 miles of the inventory area boundary on the southern border. There are two private inholding, developed with private residences and outbuildings within the inventory area.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

The Greendale Plateau within the inventory area is relatively flat with two steep sided canyons, Carter Creek and Eagle Creek, incised through the plateau

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 3616 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 46.04% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.

Primitive recreation activities in the inventory area include hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing.

¹¹ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹²? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.01% @ 1 acre
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western, eastern, and southern boundaries disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	2,938 acres @ 37.42%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	130 acres @ 1.65%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been multiple historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Multiple eligible prehistoric sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

¹² Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

The inventory area includes parts of three watersheds:

- *Lower Carter Creek on the west side*
- *Skull Creek – Green River on the east side*
- *Horseshoe Canyon – Green River on the northern side*
- *Lower Carter Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*
- *Skull Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Horseshoe Canyon – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town municipal watershed.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is shape is irregular with nine roads cherry stemmed into the area. The area is bounded by roads on the south and east side. A road and powerline form the boundary on the east. A road forms part of the northern boundary. The remainder of the northern boundary is not tied to a geographic location and is difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	There are three Ditch Bill Easements adjacent to the inventory area: Center Fork Eagle Creek Ditch, Aztec Ditch, and Eagle Creek Ditch.

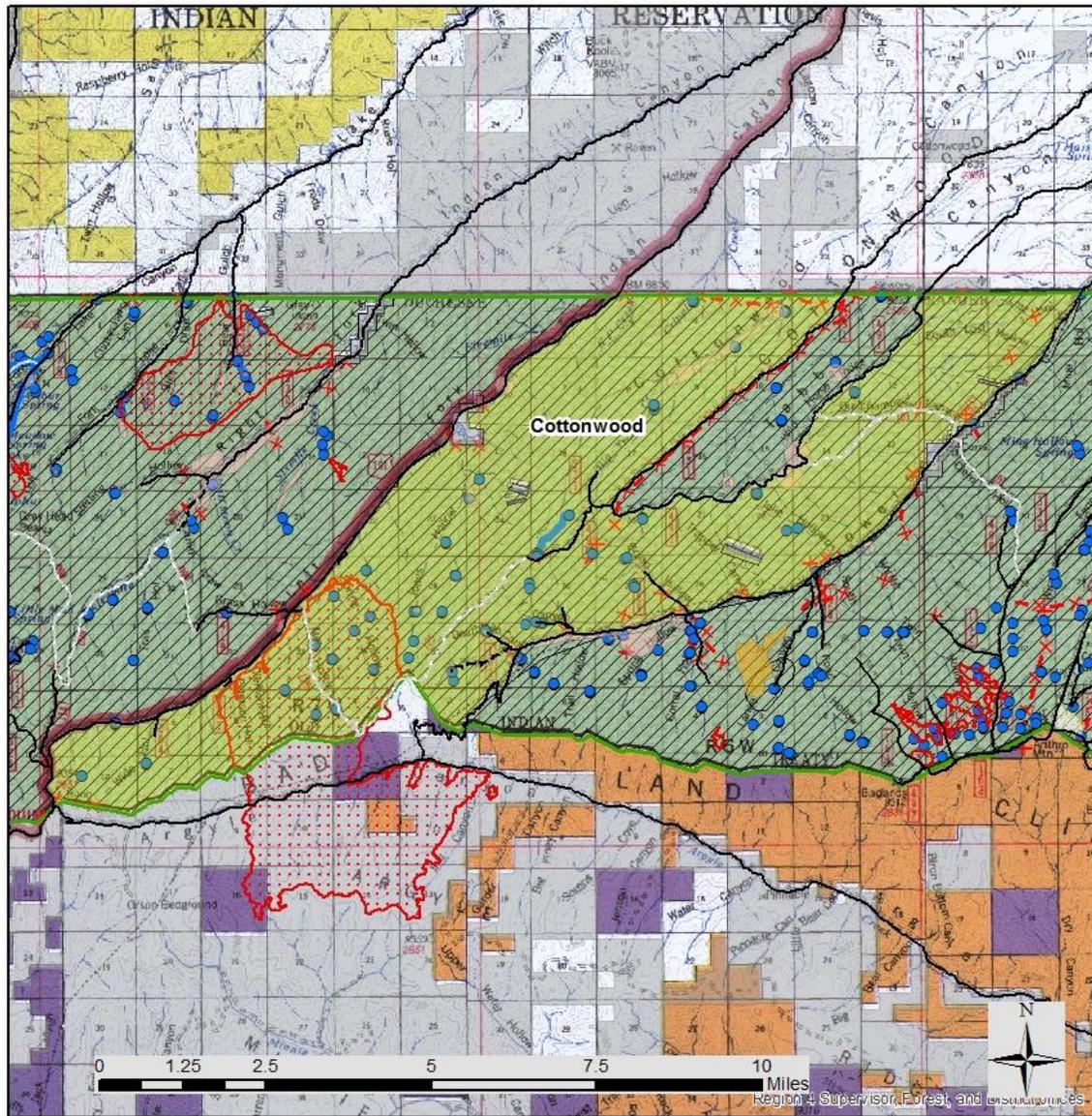
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Are there specific Federal or state laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics?	<p>The Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land.</p> <p>These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options".</p>
Describe the management of adjacent lands	<p>The lands adjacent to the inventory area to the north, east, and on part of the west side is the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The Ashley National Forest lands are multiple use. The two private inholdings within the inventory area are private residences</p>
Describe the current management of the area	<p>93% MA n₁ (NRA existing situation); 7% MA r (Wildlife)</p> <p>The entire inventory area is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.</p>
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	<p>100% @ 7,853 acres</p>
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	<p>30% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area</p>

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
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Cottonwood - 187

Cottonwood



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 5. Cottonwood wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation within the inventory area consists of:

- 3% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 1% Basin Big Sagebrush
- 1% Black Sagebrush
- 17% Douglas fir
- 6% Grass
- 3% Mountain Brush
- 13% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 40% Pinyon and Juniper
- 1% Rubber Rabbitbrush
- 12% Seral Aspen
- 1% Tall Willow
- Less than 1% of Cottonwood, Greasewood, Persistent Aspen, Ponderosa Pine, Serviceberry, and Yellowbrush

The drainages that descend to the Left Fork Indian Canyon in the western portion of the inventory area have Douglas-fir and mixed coniferous forest stands, with and without seral aspen at higher elevations. At mid elevations, these drainages have a cover of dense stands of Douglas fir and aspen on north aspects and sparse pinyon pine and Douglas fir on south aspects. On the less steep slopes at all aspects grass and sagebrush, and mountain mahogany is prevalent. At the lower elevations, the drainages that descend to Left Fork Indian Canyon have moderately dense pinyon pine and juniper with patchy areas of perennial grass and mountain mahogany.

The drainages that descend to Sowers Canyon have sparse pinyon pine, Douglas fir, and juniper with the amount of Douglas fir increasing with elevation. The north to east aspects have either moderately dense pinyon pine and Douglas fir or perennial grass, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. At lower elevations, the drainages have a very sparse vegetative cover of scattered pinyon pine and juniper, and perennial grasses.

The inventory area provides habitat for two endemic plants, Erigeron untermannii, Indian Canyon fleabane, and Mentzelia goodrichi, Goodrich's blazingstar.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx

- *Bandtailed Pigeons*
- *Black Bear*
- *Blue Grouse*
- *Moose*
- *Mule Deer*
- *Pronghorn*
- *Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep*
- *Elk*
- *Ruffed Grouse*
- *Snowshoe Hare*
- *Greater Sage Grouse*

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹³)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	97.72%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁴ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to the road corridors.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

- *The mountain big sagebrush communities on the west side of Tabby Canyon have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 3*
- *On the east side of Tabby Canyon the communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*

¹³ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹⁴ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon pine-juniper communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2.*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*

The Church Camp fire in 2012 burned over 2,900 acres in the inventory area. There have been no other wildland fires in the past 60 years.

There are eight Forest Service System road cherry stemmed into the inventory area, the longest being 1.3 miles. A number of unauthorized routes exist, primarily in the drainage bottoms.

The inventory area has portions of three range allotments, Sowers Canyon - Cottonwood, Left Fork Indian Canyon, and Right Fork Indian Canyon. There are boundary fences on the Ashley National Forest on the northern boundary that marks the border between the Ashley and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. There are multiple other range fences - as well as multiple range spring developments, troughs, and reservoirs and one buried range pipeline.

There are three active oil and gas well pads in the northern portion of the area that are cherry stemmed out of the inventory area, and one active oil and gas well pad on the northeastern boundary of the inventory area. There are six planned well pads with associated planned pipelines that have been excluded from the northeastern portion of the inventory area.

There is a powerline with a partially cleared corridor that runs along the eastern boundary of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	311 acres
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	4.98 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	116 acres @ 0.44%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps.	A number of dispersed camping locations are located in the Left Fork of Indian Canyon on the western boundary of the inventory area.
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	21 acres
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	Three active oil and gas well pads are cherry stemmed out of the inventory area. The inventory area is bordered in portions on the west and east by private inholdings. There are 3 private inholdings that are surrounded by the inventory area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	The Indian Canyon Guard Station is within the inventory area.

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹⁵

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	26,584 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads.

State Highway 191 forms the western border of the inventory area. The inventory area borders a private inholding in the Left Fork of Indian Canyon and private inholdings in Sowers Canyon. There are three private inholdings within the inventory area. The Argyle Canyon county road is south of the inventory area and at it closest point is 0.25 miles from the inventory area.

¹⁵ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

The southern boundary of the inventory area is delineated by the north ridgeline of Argyle Canyon/Bad Land Cliffs. Immediately north of this ridgeline, the topography is dissected by numerous drainages that descend to the bottom of the upper (southern) end of Left Fork Indian Canyon. Another ridgeline breaks off of the north ridge line of Argyle Canyon/Bad Lands Cliffs and descends north and east to the heads of Cottonwood Canyon and Tabby Canyon and beyond. This ridge line divides the western and eastern halves of the undeveloped area, with drainages descending north and west from the ridge line to the bottom of Left Fork Indian Canyon, and south and east from the ridge line to the bottom of Sowers Canyon.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 9,199 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 34.60% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area.

This area offers primitive recreation opportunities, including backpacking, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. Most of the primitive recreation activities occur along the canyon bottoms of Left Fork Indian Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon, and Sowers Canyon. Few primitive recreation activities occur on the side slopes of the numerous side canon areas, due to steep terrain and limited access routes.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹⁶? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres

¹⁶ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Major road corridors adjacent to the east and west boundaries of the inventory area and off the Ashley National Forest and oil and gas production have disrupted wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

The western boundary of the inventory area is State Highway 191 which is part of the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Byway.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	5,497 acres @ 20.68%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	51 acres @ 0.19%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

The Historic Elkhorn Guard Station is located on the western edge of the inventory area in the Left Fork of Indian Canyon.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans four watersheds: Left Fork Indian Canyon and Cottonwood Canyon watersheds on the western side and portions of Lance Canyon-Sowers Canyon and Tabby Canyon – Sowers Canyon watersheds on the east side. Left Fork Indian Canyon. All four watersheds have a watershed condition class of functioning at risk.

The inventory area is part of the Green River City watershed.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no known special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

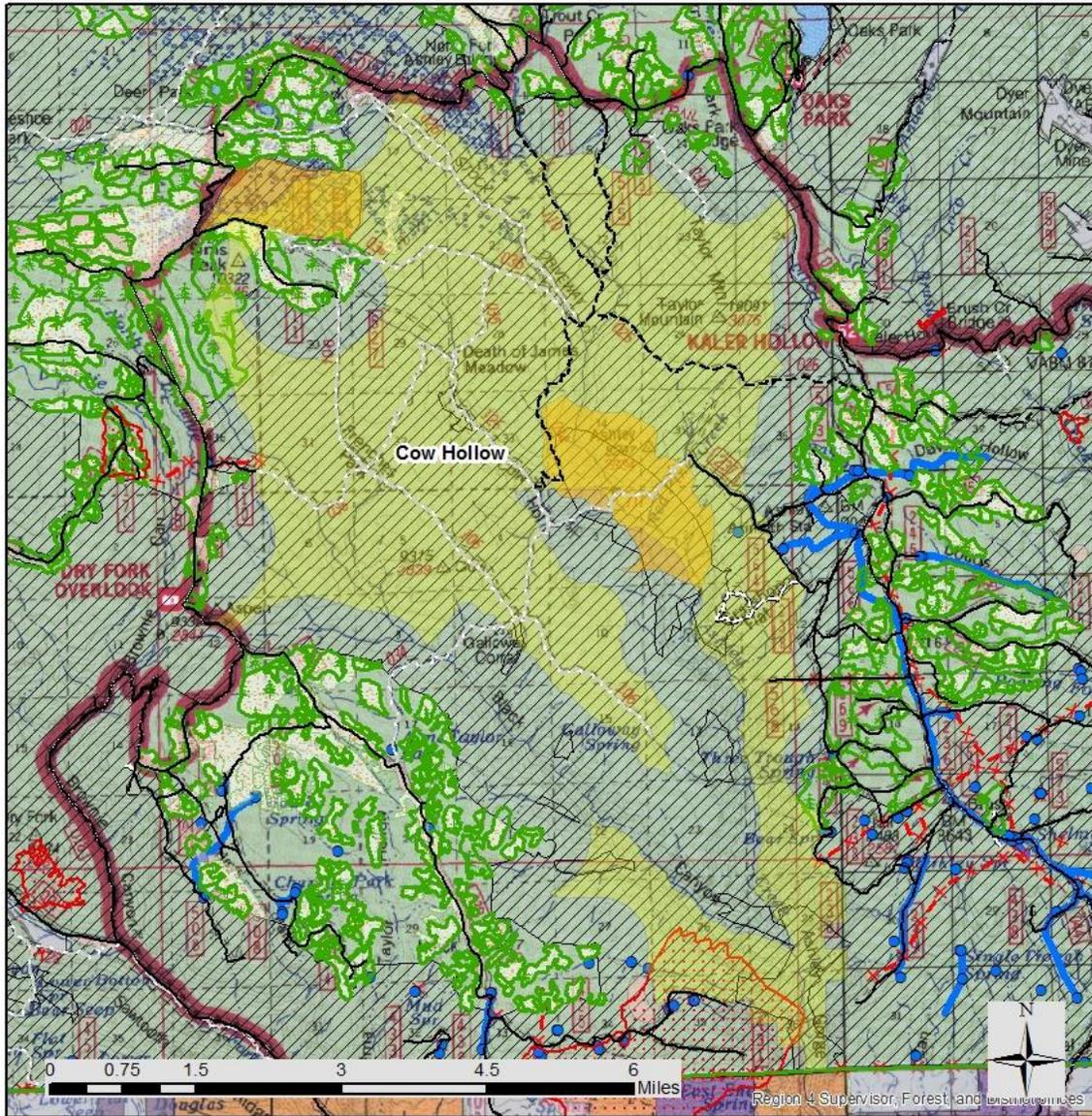
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is shaped like an inverted wishbone, with Forest Service lands excluded from the inventory area in the north central portion. The inventory area boundary on the east and west are roads and on the north and south of the Ashley National Forest boundary.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	There are portions of two active oil and gas leases in the inventory area. The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which is within the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uintah Ouray Indian Reservation and private lands to the north. The reservation lands are managed for oil and gas production. The inventory area is adjacent to BLM and state lands to the south, which are managed for multiple use. Private lands also border the inventory area to the south. These lands are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	39% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 1% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 9% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 51% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	14,616 acres @ 54.98%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.5 of inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Cow Hollow - 440

Cow Hollow



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 6. Cow Hollow wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 26% Lodgepole Pine
- 1% Meadow
- 63% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 3% Persistent Aspen
- 5% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% of Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany, Douglas fir, Engelmann Spruce, Fringed Sagebrush, Mountain Brush, and Riparian Non-willow Shrub

The headwaters of Ashley Creek vegetative cover are mixed conifer and lodgepole pine and the plateau between Black Canyon and Ashley Gorge is lodgepole pine. The west facing canyon slope of Ashley Gorge is mixed conifer. The plateau lands between Ashley Gorge and eastern boundary of the inventory area are a mixture of seral Aspen and persistent Aspen.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹⁷)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.99%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁸ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	99.99%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes.

The mixed conifer communities in the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2, except for the mixed conifer communities in the north central part of the inventory area. These communities have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 2. The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 1.

A regeneration clear cut timber harvest was done in 1950 in the northwest side of the inventory area, adjacent to the Sims Peak road. Individual tree selection harvest were done by Sims Peak in 1950, 1962, and 1969.

There are two Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are numerous unauthorized routes. The majority of the routes occur on the east side of the inventory area, above Ashley Gorge. There are four trails open to vehicles 50 inches or less in the inventory area; #0110, #1196, #0011, #0034 and #0026. There is one trail open to all vehicles in the inventory area, #0109.

¹⁷ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹⁸ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The inventory area contains parts of two range allotments, Black Canyon and Taylor Mountain Complex. There is one spring development, one stock pond, one trough, one reservoir, one pipeline, and four range fences.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	51 acres @ 0.28%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	63 acres @ 0.35%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	7 acres @ 0.04%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping location primarily occur on the east side of the inventory area above Ashley Gorge.
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	None identified
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹⁹.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

¹⁹ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	18,015 acres @ 99.93%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	2,213 acres @ 12.28%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area borders Bureau of Land Management lands for 0.25 miles on the southern border. The BLM lands are undeveloped.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The northern part of the inventory area is moderately rolling terrain, with weakly dissected drainages and the drainages become steeper to the south.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 9,426 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 52.28% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities; camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, primarily in the northern part of the inventory area - which has multiple trails for access.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types²⁰? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres

²⁰ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.24% @ 43 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	13.9% @ 2,507 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors surrounding the inventory area disrupt wildlife connectivity

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features, such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

The eastern side of Ashley Gorge is included in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	6,183 acres @ 34.30%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	370 acres @ 2.05%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

Ashley Gorge is an extremely rugged and steep canyon area, with steep slopes and rock outcrops.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Multiple eligible historical sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of six watersheds:

- *Black Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*
- *Ashley Gorge has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *South Fork Ashley Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *North Fork Ashley Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Headwaters of Big Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Davis Hollow – Big Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Ashley Water system for Vernal, Utah, Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-op, and Green River City, Utah municipal water systems.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

Portions of two research natural areas are within the inventory area, Sims Peak – Potholes and Ashley Gorge. Sim Peak Potholes RNA was established in 1991 for the features of; seral lodgepole pine with subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce understory, sedge dominated pothole wetlands, and rare plants. The Ashley Gorge RNA was established in 1996 for the features of; Blue spruce, lodgepole pine, and aspen woodlands, shrub lands with mountain mahogany and snowberry, moderate-gradient perennial stream, and rare plants.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	1,459 acres @ 8.09%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

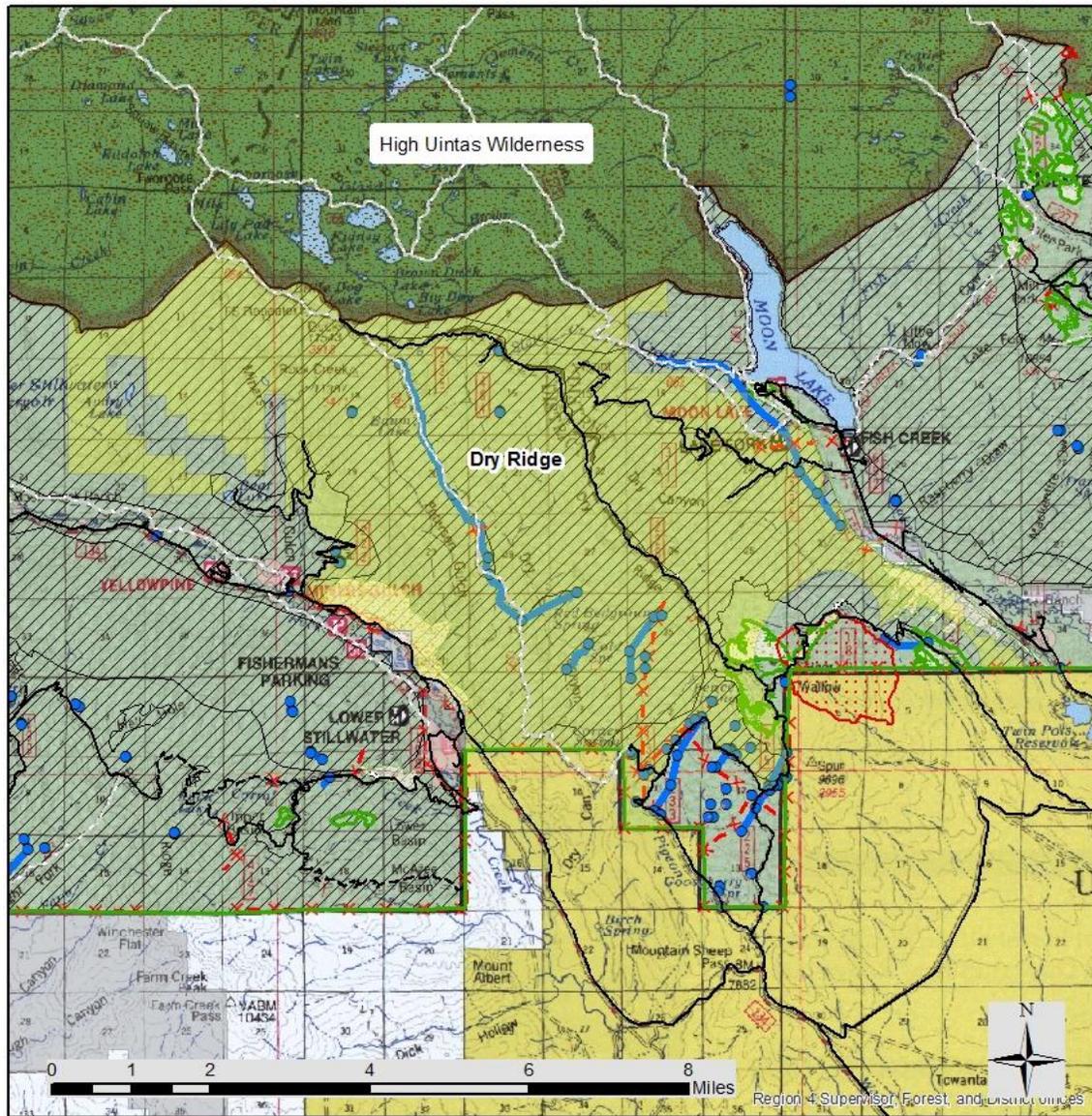
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is very irregularly shaped. The inventory area boundaries are primarily not tied to geographic locations and are difficult to distinguish between areas not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states “The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness”.
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is primarily adjacent to Ashley National Forest lands managed for multiple use. A small part of the southern boundary of the inventory area is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands, managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	4% MA a (Research Natural Area Candidates); 1% MA b (Moderate Timber Production); 26% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 4% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unrouted); 65% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	100% @ 18,028 acres
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	98.4% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area.

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Dry Ridge - 325

Dry Ridge



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 7. Dry Ridge wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 4% Alpine
- 1%
- 17% Engelmann Spruce
- 3% Grass
- 5% Lodgepole Pine
- 34% Mixed Conifer
- 8% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 11% Persistent Aspen
- 1% Pinyon – juniper
- 2% Ponderosa Pine
- 3% Rock
- 8% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Cottonwood, Fell-field, Meadow, Mountain Brush, and Riparian Non-Willow Shrub

The steep west facing slopes of Rock Creek have a dominate overstory of scattered mixed conifer including Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir and lodgepole pine, with some intermixed aspen and mountain brush/grass species. The northern boundary tree cover includes Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir - with Douglas fir, Engelmann spruces, aspen and scattered lodgepole pine and subalpine on the colluvial scarp slopes.

In upper Peterson Gulch, the vegetation consists of an Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir-aspen dominated overstory - with inclusions of subalpine fir. In lower Peterson Gulch, the most common vegetative cover is mountain big sagebrush and grass.

The Dry Canyon area vegetation consist of aspen, with inclusion of Douglas fir, scattered throughout and small groups of lodgepole pine.

On the eastern side of the inventory area, the vegetation from the Slate Creek drainage to Dry Canyon consists of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Along the top of Dry Ridge, the vegetative cover is seral lodgepole with small amounts of Douglas fir and aspen.

South of Dry Canyon, the gently rolling plateaus have a vegetative cover of seral lodgepole stands and small amounts of Douglas fir and aspen.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Mule Deer

- *Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep*
- *Elk*
- *Ruffed Grouse*
- *Snowshoe Hare*
- *Whitetailed Ptarmigan*
- *Wild Turkey*

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ²¹)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.85%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ²² (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the western, eastern, and south central portions of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the north central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*

²¹ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

²² Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *There have been no identified wildfires in the area in the past 70 years*

One regeneration harvest clear cut occurred in 1965 and two individual tree selection harvests occurred in 1975. One broadcast burn was completed in 2014 on the west side of the inventory area. One pre-commercial thinning projects was completed in 2013 on the east side of the inventory area.

There is a weather station along the Dry Ridge road.

There are multiple unauthorized routes in the inventory area, primarily surrounding the Dry Ridge road. Unauthorized routes are also on the south side of the inventory area, on the treeless south, facing slopes and ridges and in the drainage bottoms between the ridges.

The inventory area contains all or parts of four grazing allotments; Rock Creek, Dry Ridge, Pigeon Water, and Lake Fork. There are multiple spring developments, stock troughs, pipelines, and fences.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	783 acres @ 3.33%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	80 acres @ 0.35%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	3.62 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	The Uintah Mountain Copper Company iron oxide mine is located within the inventory area as it is not substantially noticeable
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	106 acres @ 0.45%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are dispersed camping locations along the Dry Ridge Road and in other locations in the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to the Rock Creek road and private inholdings in the Lake Fork and Rock Creek drainages
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation²³.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	23,509 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0.06 acres @ 0.0002%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

Private inholdings are adjacent to the inventory area on the west and east boundaries. Uintah

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The west facing slope of Rock Creek Canyon consists of cliffs and steep outcrops on the upper valley walls. Along the northern boundary of the inventory area the terrain is gently sloping ridgetops with colluvial scarp slopes. In upper Peterson Gulch there are steep canyon side slopes extending from the ridge tops to the valley bottom. These slopes have a ridge and furrow texture to them and the intervening gullies are very steep. The Dry Canyon area on the west side of Dry Ridge has moderate to steep slopes of substantial relief.

On the east ridge of Dry Ridge, the topography between the Slate Creek drainage to Dry Canyon consists of steep canyon slopes and steep gullies. South of Dry Canyon there are gently rolling plates cut by a few, widely spaced, shallow drainage ways.

²³ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0.49 acres (Primitive); 10,431 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 44.37% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities of camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly in the Dry Ridge area, Miners Gulch, and along the Paint Mine road.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types²⁴? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	12.7% @ 2981 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.003% @ 1 acre
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	21.5% @ 5,066 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

²⁴ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	9,252 acres @ 39.36%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	209 acres @ 0.89%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Eligible historic sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of six watersheds:

- *Cabin Creek – Rock Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Corral Creek – Rock Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Brown Duck Creek – Lake Fork River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Petty Creek – Lake Fork River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Upper Pigeon Water Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Carter Creek Rock Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley, and Green River City, Utah municipal water systems.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

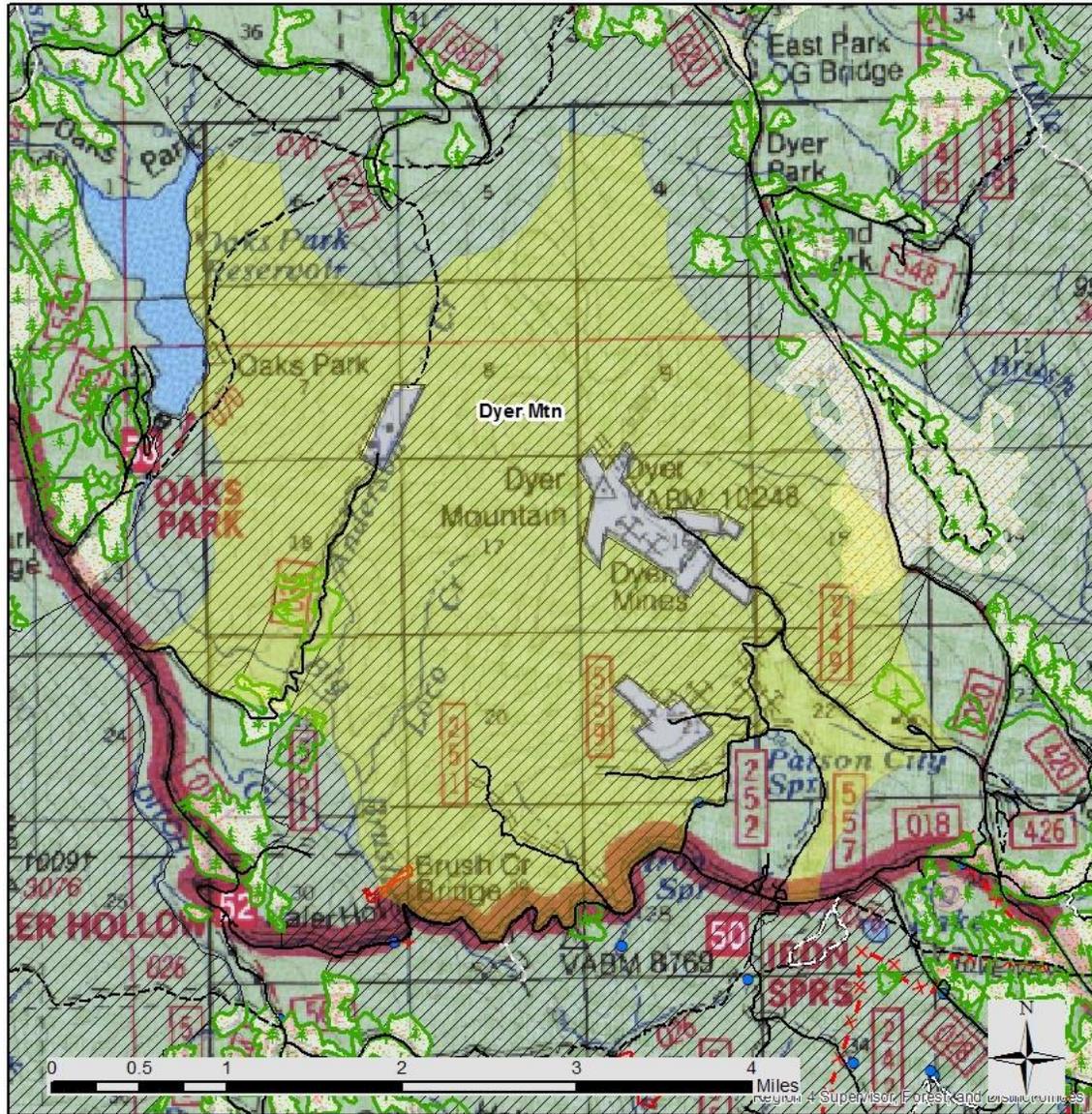
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is irregular. The northern boundary is the boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness. The southern boundary is adjacent to the Ashley National Forest boundary and Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory. The western boundary is partially defined by the Rock Creek road and the other parts of the western boundary are not distinguishable from other Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory. The eastern boundary is not distinguishable from other Ashley National Forest land not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The High Uintas Wilderness is adjacent to the inventory area to the north. The High Uintas Wilderness is managed according the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is adjacent to the south and are primarily undeveloped. On the eastern boundary the inventory area is adjacent to Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory. All of the Ashley National Forest non-wilderness lands are managed for multiple use. The inventory area is adjacent to the Moon Lake Recreation Complex, which includes a highly popular campground and lodge.
Describe the current management of the area	7% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 10% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unrouted); 3% MA k (Maximum Water Yield Recreation); 80% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	18,948 acres @ 80.60%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	94.9% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Dyer Mountain - 450

Dyer Mtn



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 8. Dyer Mountain wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 4% Alpine
- 1% Douglas fir
- 17% Engelmann Spruce
- 3% Grass
- 5% Lodgepole Pine
- 34% Mixed Conifer
- 8% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 11% Persistent Aspen
- 1% Pinyon – juniper
- 2% Ponderosa Pine
- 3% Rock
- 8% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Cottonwood, Fell-field, Meadow grasses and forbs, and Riparian Non-Willow Shrub

The mixed conifer in the northern half of the inventory consists of subalpine fir, spruces, and grouse whortleberry, with a lodgepole pine over story. The wetter areas in low swales support more Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. In the southern half of the inventory area, the vegetative cover consists of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. Aspen, sedge-bluegrass, and wet meadow vegetation is found along the bottoms of Anderson and Loco Creeks.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ²⁵)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ²⁶ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	99.99%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the north part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the south part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 1*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

A regeneration clear cut timber harvest was done in 1945 on the west side of the inventory area. Three individual tree selection harvests were done in 1945 and 1970. An improvement cut was done on the east side of the inventory area in 1970.

There are seven Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are numerous unauthorized routes. The majority occur on the south end and central part of the inventory area. There are two trails open to 50 inch vehicles or less in the inventory area, #0071 and #0070.

²⁵ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

²⁶ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The inventory area contains parts of three range allotments: Taylor Mountain Complex, Lonesome Park, and Iron Springs. There is on stock reservoir in the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	115 acres @ 1.48%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	17 acres @ 0.21%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	Mining activity has occurred around Dyer Mountain
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	There is a small gravel pit on south boundary of the inventory area
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	1 acre @ 0.01%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps.	There are dispersed camping sites primarily in the southern part of the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The private inholding on Dyer Mountain has private homes
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation²⁷

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

²⁷ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	7,785 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

There are three private inholdings within the inventory area. Private homes have been constructed adjacent to the inventory area boundary on private lands east of Dyer Mountain. A private inholding is present at the head of Anderson Creek that contains a smelter structure and old cabin structures. The third private inholding is not developed.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The inventory area consists of gently rolling topography of low relief in the northern portion of the area and moderately steep side slopes associated with Dyer Mountain and canyon side slopes of Anderson and Loco Creeks.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 3,218 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 41.32% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding - occur within the inventory area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types²⁸? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

²⁸ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.12% @ 9.5 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors surrounding the inventory area disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Multiple eligible historic sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of four watersheds:

- *Upper Little Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Headwaters Big Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Middle Little Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Davis Hollow - Big Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah WCD – Ashley Valley, Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-op, and Green River City, Utah municipal water systems.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas of research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

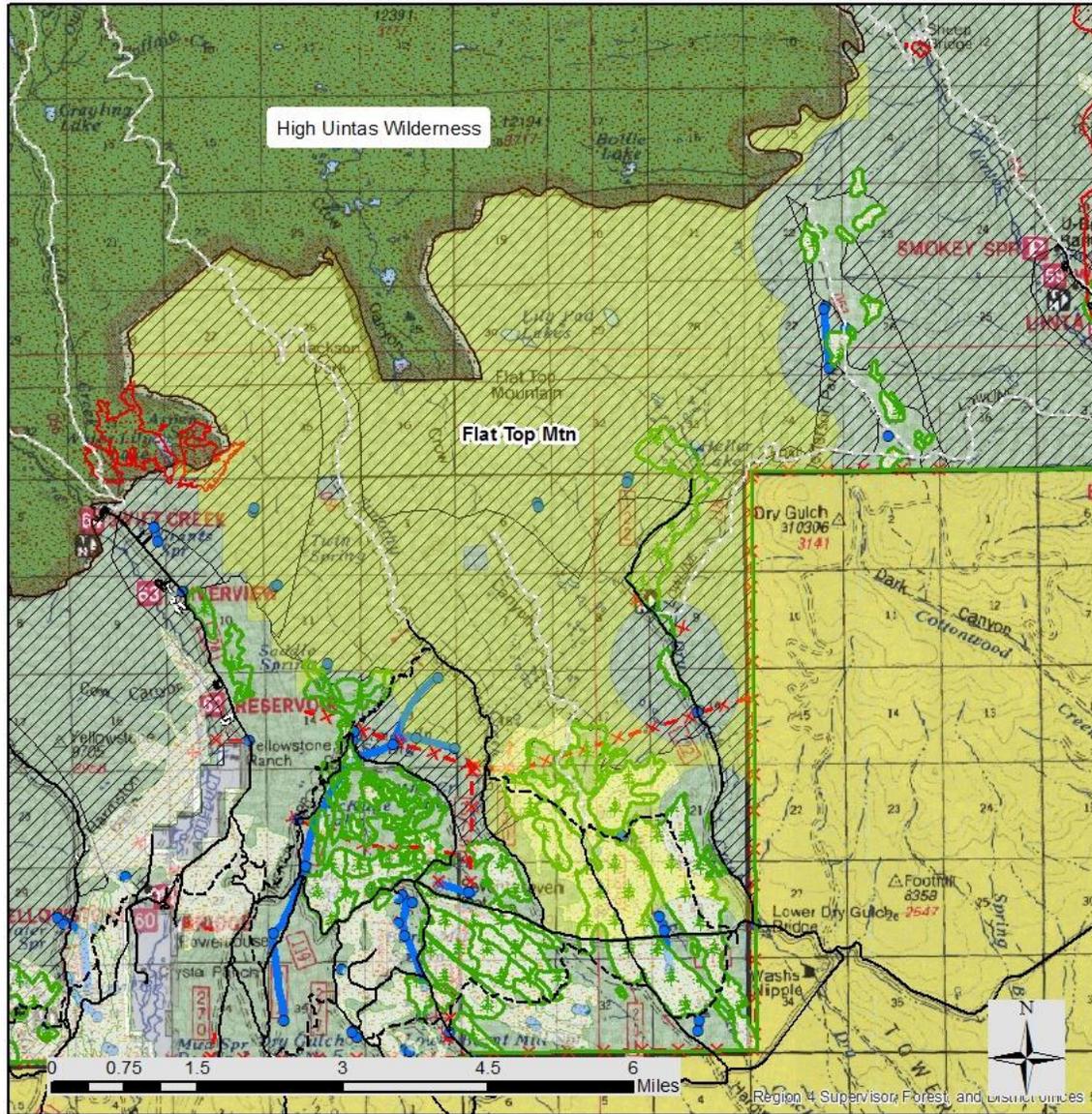
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is irregular and has three inholding within it. The southern boundary is defined by roads. The west, south, and eastern boundaries are primarily not tied to geographic locations and the area is difficult to identify from the surrounding area not included in the inventory
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states "The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness".
Describe the management of adjacent lands	Two of the private inholding are primarily undeveloped. The Dyer Mountain inholding has private homes. The Ashley National Forest lands surrounding the inventory area are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	4% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 34% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roded); 62% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	7,392 acres @ 94.92%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	94.9% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Flat Top Mountain - 365

Flat Top Mtn



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 9. Flat Top Mountain wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alpine vegetation
- 9% Engelmann Spruce
- 14% Lodgepole Pine
- 3% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 22% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Brush
- 1% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 8% Persistent Aspen
- 8% Ponderosa Pine
- 5% Rock
- 27% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Douglas fir and Serviceberry

The vegetation in the inventory area transitions from conifer forests and meadows in the south to high elevation "bollies" in the northern portion. In the Upper Dry Gulch drainage, the vegetative cover is seral lodgepole stands, with small amounts of Douglas fir and aspen. Lower Dry Gulch drainage is aspen, scattered Douglas fir and small groups of lodgepole pine. Flat Top Mountain has lodgepole pine, with inclusions of Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and some Douglas fir.

At the upper end of Crow Canyon and Timothy Creek, the major plant communities of the alpine ridges are cushion plan and sedge-geum. Below tree line, the vegetation includes Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, whortleberry, gooseberry and carex.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Whitetailed Ptarmigan
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ²⁹)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.94%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ³⁰ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads).	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2.*
- *A small part of the inventory area was burned in the Swift Creek fire in 2003*

Multiple individual tree selection harvests were completed in the 1980s. These primarily occurred west and south of Heller Lake and between Dry Gulch Creek and the Jackson Park road. Pre-commercial thinning was also completed in the 2007 and 2008 between Dry Gulch Creek and the Jackson Park road.

There are three Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are multiple unauthorized routes in the inventory area, primarily between Dry Gulch Creek and the Jackson Park road and west of Heller Lake. The inventory area contains parts of the Yellowstone OHV trail, #1128.

²⁹ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

³⁰ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The inventory area contains parts of three grazing allotments; Yellowstone, Dry Gulch, and Uinta Rec Livestock. There are seven spring developments, 9 stock troughs, 2 pipelines, and 2 fences.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	1,458 acres @ 7.29%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal.	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	42 acres @ 0.21%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	An outfitter camp is permitted in the Lily Pad Lake area and multiple dispersed camping locations mainly in the southern part of the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands to the east and south are primarily undeveloped
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation³¹.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	20,005 acres @ 99.98%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	250 acres @ 1.25%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is partially bordered on the east by the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The topography consists of moderately sloping terrain and glaciated valleys. The terrain at the upper end of Crow Canyon and Timothy Creek consists of gently to moderate rolling upland surface that form the crest of the Uinta Range. The terrain on the south side of the inventory area is gently slopes plateau lands.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 15,166 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 75.79% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, mainly along the Jackson Park trail #1055 and around Lily Pad Lakes.

³¹ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types³²? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	10.2% @ 2,034 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.2% @ 41 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	30.2% @ 6,053 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	1,284 acres @ 6.24%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	3 acres @ 0.01%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. No eligible sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

³² Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

The inventory area includes parts of five watersheds:

- *Swift Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Crystal Creek – Yellowstone River has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*
- *Timothy Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *West Fork Dry Gulch Creek Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Headwaters Dry Gulch Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of Green River City, Utah municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area.	The inventory area shape is irregular with three roads cherry stemmed into it. The inventory area borders the High Uintas Wilderness to the north, partially borders the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation to the east, and Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory to the west, south, and east.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes. The Heller Lake and Dam Ditch Bill Easement is surrounded by the inventory area.

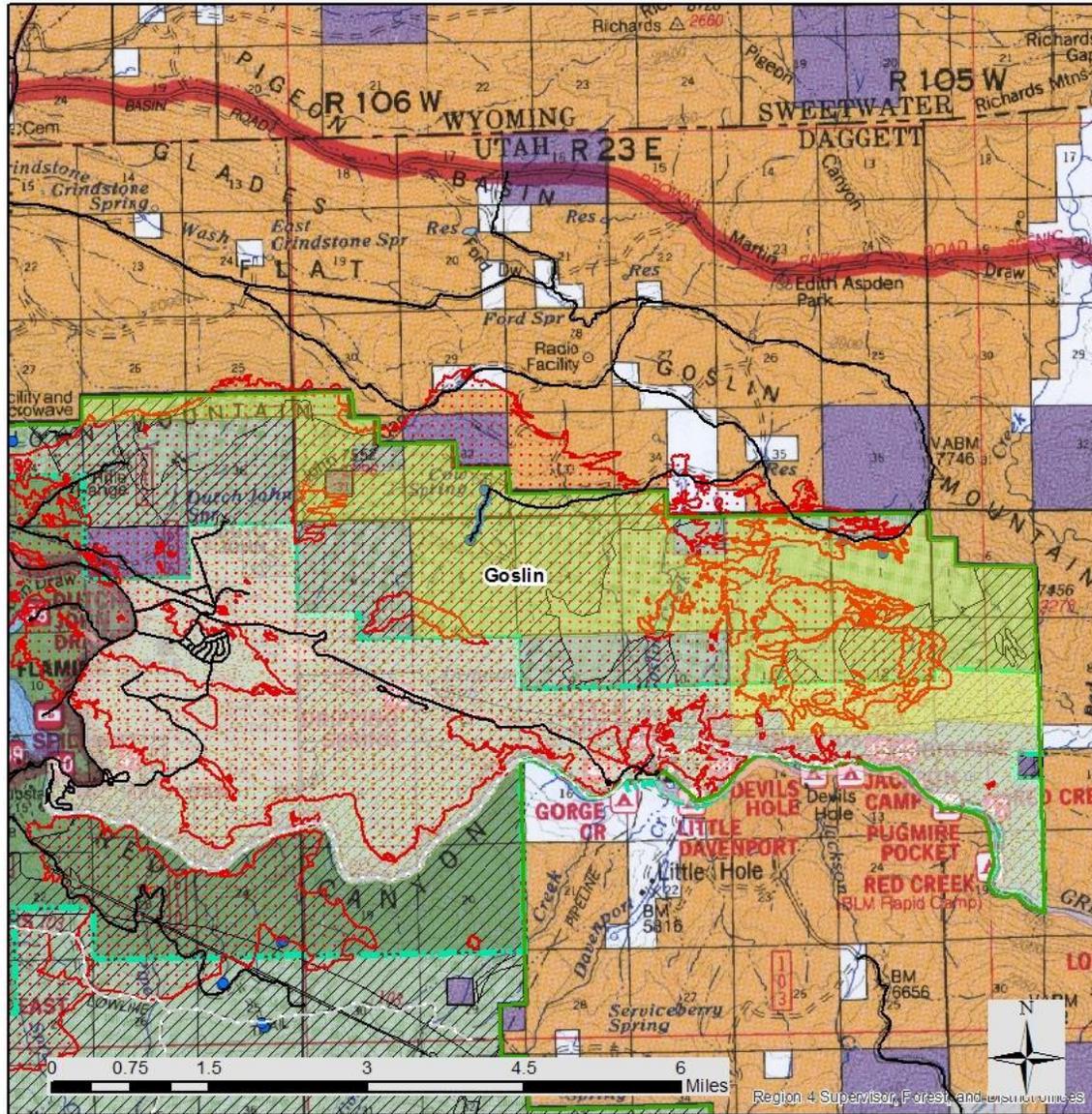
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Are there specific Federal or state laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The non-wilderness Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use. The adjacent Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent High Uintas Wilderness is managed according to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act.
Describe the current management of the area	10% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 1% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 1% MA k (Maximum Water Yield Recreation); 88% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	411 acres @ 2.05%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	88.8% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Goslin - 583

Goslin



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 10. Goslin wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation within the inventory area consists of:

- 3% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 1% Black Sagebrush
- 7% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 89% Pinyon – juniper
- Less than 1% Basin Big Sagebrush, Fringed Sagebrush, and Wyoming Big Sagebrush

Perennial grasses and annual forbs is the primary vegetative cover through much of the inventory area. This is because the Pinyon – juniper was burned during the Mustang Ridge Fire in 2002. Mountain Mahogany is the common vegetative cover on the northern exposures. Pinyon – juniper occur in scattered locations, primarily on the eastern side of the inventory area.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Chukar
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ³³)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	100%

³³ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ³⁴ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to roads.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The Wyoming Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2. Much of the Pinyon – Juniper communities burned in the Mustang Ridge Fire in 2002 and are now grasses. The remaining Pinyon – Juniper communities have a fire regime of 5 and condition classes of 2 and 3.

A majority of the inventory area burned in the Mustang Ridge Fire in 2002.

There is one Forest Service system road cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are a number of unauthorized routes in the northeastern part of the inventory area.

The inventory area contains parts of the Goslin Mountain BLM grazing allotment. There is one spring development, one stock pond, two stock troughs, one pipeline, and one fence in the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	895 acres @ 12.66%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None

³⁴ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	8 acres @ 0.11 acres
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are a few dispersed camping locations in the northeastern portion of the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	There are four country roads north of the inventory area. The Little Hole Road is 0.50 miles away from the inventory area at its closest point. This roads receives moderate traffic during the springs, summer, and fall
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation³⁵.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	7,066 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	9 acres @ 0.13%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area borders private and state lands on the northern boundary, but the majority of the northern border is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The inventory area topography includes part of the southern and western slopes and plateau of the Goslin Mountain. The top of the plateau consists of long smooth slopes with low ridges and swales. The eastern portion of the inventory area includes some steep slopes descending to the Green River.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 4,641 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 65.68% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities in the inventory area is primarily hunting. Very little camping and hiking occur within the inventory area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types³⁵? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area is an important corridor for species moving from Browns Park to the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

³⁵ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	2,969 acres @ 42.01%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	23 acres @ 0.33%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been multiple historic and prehistoric surveys in the inventory area and numerous eligible prehistoric sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of five watersheds:

- *Spring Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Dutch John Draw – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*
- *Pine Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Goslin Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Headwaters Dry Gulch Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

Part of the inventory area is included in the Dutch John Town municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

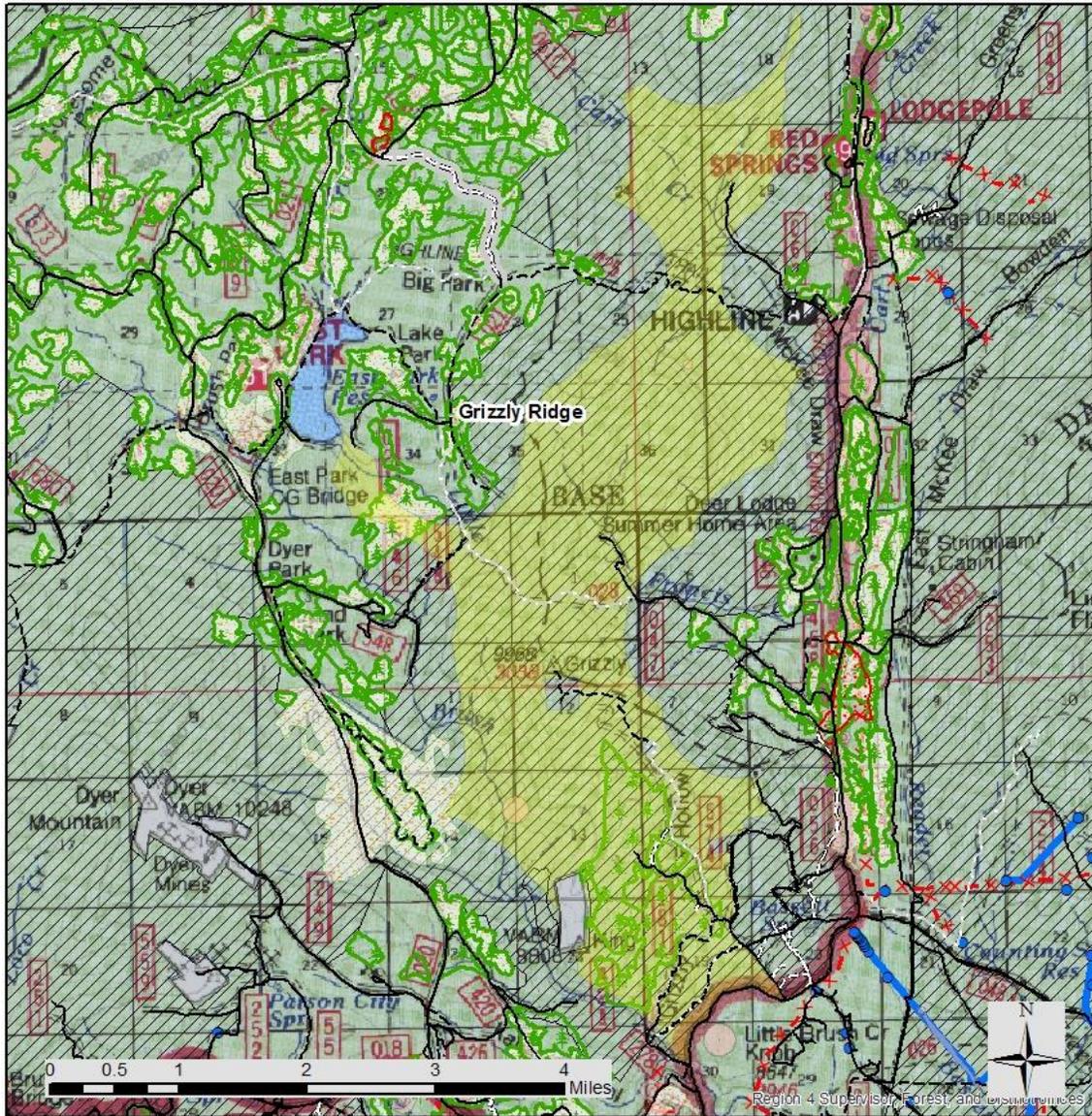
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape is irregular and does not have any district topographic boundaries. The administrative boundaries do not distinguish the area from adjacent ownership.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options".
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area borders the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area to the south and east. The northern and eastern sides border BLM, state, and a small amount of private lands which are primarily managed for grazing. The Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area.	56% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 31% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 12% MA r (Wildlife) Part of the inventory area is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	1,722 acres @ 24.37%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	60.3 % of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Grizzly Ridge - 464

Grizzly Ridge



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 11. Grizzly Ridge wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Douglas fir
- 9% Lodgepole Pine
- 59% Mixed Conifer
- 2% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 28% Seral Aspen
- 1% Subalpine fir
- Less than 1% Meadow grasses and forbs and Riparian Non-willow Shrub

The vegetative cover in the northern part of the inventory area consists of mixed conifer communities of subalpine fir, spruce, and grouse whortlebelly, with a lodgepole pine overstory. The wetter areas in swales support more Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. South of Grizzly Peak, the vegetative cover consists of Douglas fir and aspen. Open parklands and wet meadows occur in the southern portion of the inventory area. The dominant plants are grasses and forbs.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ³⁶)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.45%

³⁶ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ³⁷ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	99.99%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the north part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the south part of the inventory are have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 1*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

A regeneration clear cut timber harvest was done in 1965 in the northwest side of the inventory area. A large individual tree selection harvest was done on the south end of the inventory area in 1928.

There are four Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are numerous unauthorized routes. The majority occur on the south end and central part of the inventory area. There are two trails open to 50 inch vehicles or less in the inventory area, #1025, #0047, #0011, #0153 and #0152B. There is one trail open to all vehicles in the inventory area, #0061.

The inventory area contains parts of three range allotments: Lonesome Park, Grizzly Ridge, and McKee Draw. There are no range improvements in the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

³⁷ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	60 acres @ 0.90%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	55 acres @ 0.82%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations (including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters), provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	4.34 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	None
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are multiple dispersed camping locations in the southeastern part
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to popular dispersed camping areas on the east and west sides
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation³⁸.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	6,726 acres @ 99.89%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

³⁸ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

United States Highway 191 is adjacent to the inventory area on the eastern boundary, and at its closest point is 0.25 miles away, and at its furthest is 1.7 miles away.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The inventory area spans Grizzly Ridge in the southern part of the inventory area and the eastern slope of Grizzly Ridge in the northern part of the inventory area. Grizzly Ridge primarily runs north/south and consists of moderately steep to steep side slopes.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0 % combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing, occur primarily on the east side of the inventory area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types³⁹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.13% @ 9 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors surrounding the inventory area disrupt wildlife connectivity.

³⁹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the inventory area and one eligible historic site has been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of four watersheds:

- *Upper Little Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Ashley Gorge has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Cart Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Middle Little Brush Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Reader Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town, the Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-op, and Green River City, Utah municipal water systems.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory areas.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

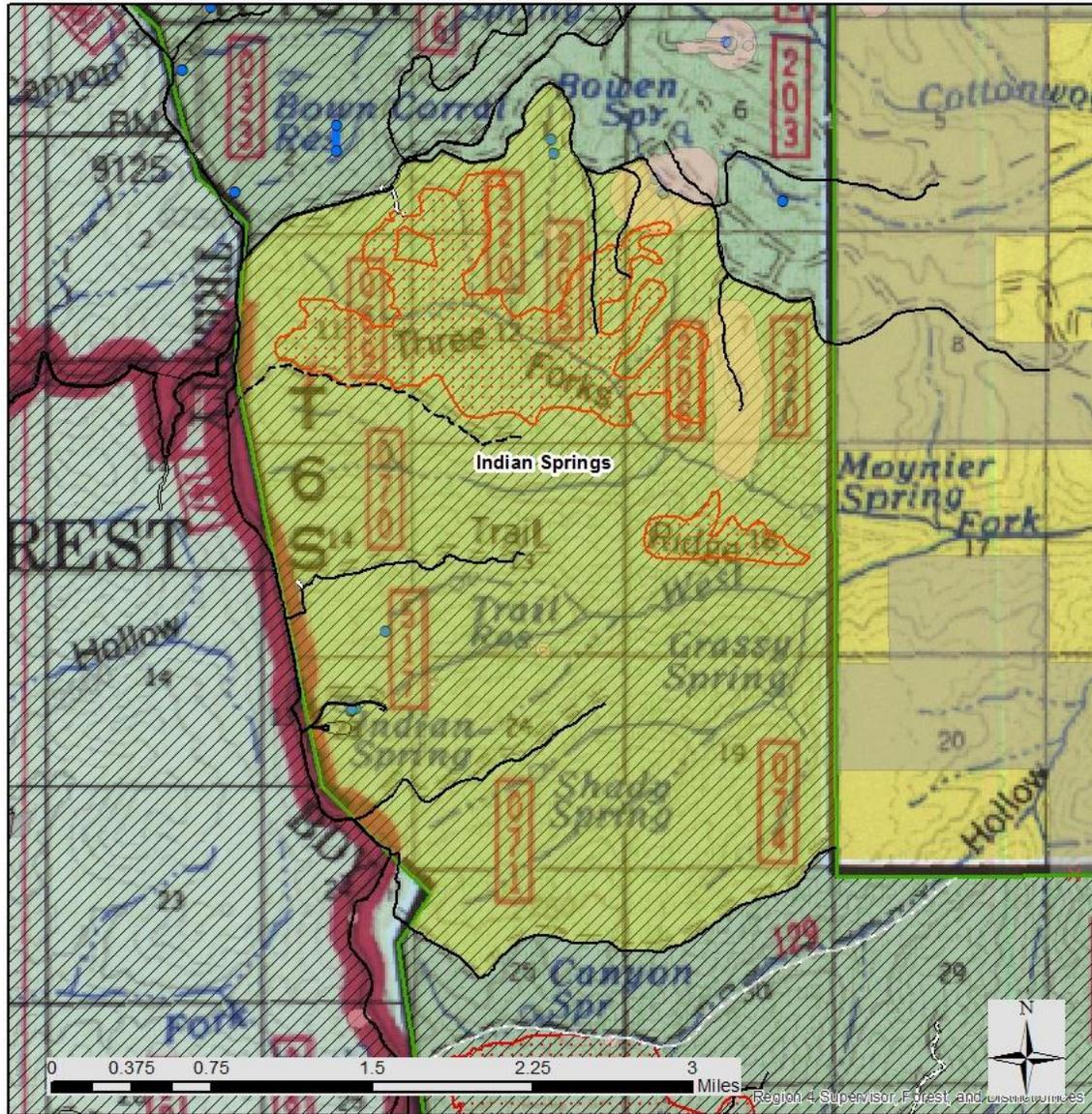
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is long and narrow. The area boundaries are not tied to geographic locations and are difficult to identify from the area not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states "The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness"
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to Ashley National Forest lands that are managed for multiple use
Describe the current management of the area	13% MA b (Moderate Timber Production); 25% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 62% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	3,778 acres @ 56.11%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	97.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Indian Spring - 171

Indian Springs



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 12. Indian Springs wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 3% Douglas fir
- 29% Mixed Conifer
- 24% Mountain Brush
- 17% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 6% Persistent Aspen
- 1% Ponderosa Pine
- 19% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Yellowbrush

The concave and flat areas along the ridgelines, branching out from Reservation Ridge, have a vegetative cover of subalpine fir and Douglas fir, with and without aspen. Mountain big sagebrush/grass communities are common where tree cover is light. Spiked big sagebrush is found where snow persists into late June and July.

Intervening canyon side slopes and bottoms have a tree cover of Douglas fir and mixed coniferous stands. Seral aspen covers much of the lower and moderate gradients of all aspects and the canyon bottoms. Grasses and other herbaceous species are abundant on the steeper slopes with a southerly aspect.

Along lower elevations along the eastern boundary of the inventory area north facing slopes are usually covered with Douglas fir and pinyon pine-juniper, but no aspen. The upper part of the north facing slopes are less steep and support a shrub vegetation of mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. The steeper south facing slopes have a cover of grass and some shrub vegetation.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

The area also includes the headwaters of Avintaquin Creek, which contains a population of Colorado River Cutthroat trout.

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁴⁰)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	96.78%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁴¹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited in the inventory area and mainly occur along roads.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2. The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3.

The Spring Fire wildfire in 2011 burned 695 acres of the inventory area and the Trail Ridge wildfire in 2009 burned 54 acres.

There are six Forest Service System roads cherry stemmed out of the inventory area, the longest being 1.9 miles. Trail 1097, open to vehicles 50 inches or less, extends 1.6 miles into the inventory area and trail 1100, open to all vehicles, extends 0.16 miles into the inventory area. A number of unauthorized routes are present, with the majority leading to dispersed camping locations off of Reservation Ridge

The inventory area contains a portion of the Avintaquin range allotment. There is one stock trough and one stock pond in the inventory area.

⁴⁰ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁴¹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	10 acres @ 0.18%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping sites are primarily located along Reservation Ridge within the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is partially bordered on the east by private lands
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	Remnants of the Avintaquin Guard Station site remain within the inventory area

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁴².

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	5,571 acres @ 99.96%

⁴² The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory is partially bordered to the east by private lands.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of west-to-east trending ridge and canyon bottom topography. Ridge, canyon bottoms and stream courses generally descend in an easterly direction from Reservation Ridge. Ridgelines are fairly broad and somewhat rounded or flat, and are interrupted and irregular intervals by steep shale knolls. Intervening canyons are moderately wide with moderately steep side slopes.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the west to east trending ridgelines.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁴³? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres

⁴³ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Remnants of the Avintaquin Guard Station are still present in the inventory area, but do not qualify as an historical site. A limited number of historic and prehistoric surveys have been performed in the inventory area and no eligible sites have been located.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes portions of one watershed, Mill Hollow – West Fork Avintaquin, it has a watershed condition class of functioning properly. The watersheds are part of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City, Utah watersheds.

The area includes the headwaters of Avintaquin Creek, which contains a population of Colorado River Cutthroat trout.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

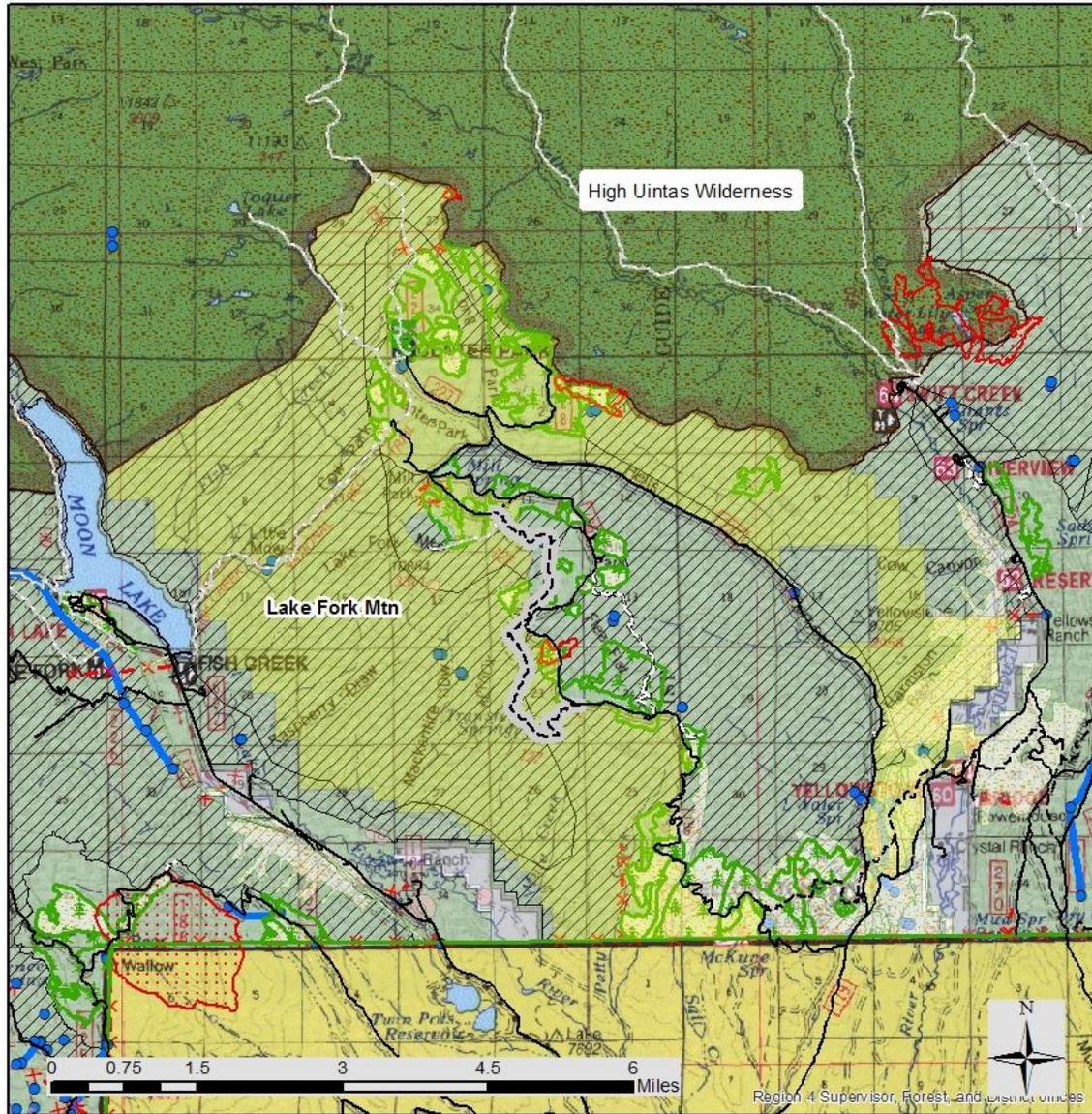
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	Irregular rectangle in shape and dissected by excluded cherry stemmed roads. Roads form the borders to the north, south, and west. The forest boundary is the inventory area boundary to the east.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The Uinta Wasatch-Cache National Forest is adjacent to the western boundary of the inventory and is designated as inventoried roadless area #418019. The inventory area is adjacent to private lands and the Horse Ridge Wildlife Management Area to the east. The private lands are minimally developed. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	29% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 2% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 21% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 48% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	5,552 acres @ 99.63%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Lake Fork Mountain - 343

Lake Fork Mtn



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 13. Lake Fork Mountain wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 1% Douglas fir
- 11% Engelmann Spruce
- 1% Grass
- 5% Lodgepole Pine
- 2% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 38% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Brush
- 9% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 5% Persistent Aspen
- 4% Pinyon – juniper
- 3% Ponderosa Pine
- 1% Rock
- 20% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Cottonwood, Low Willow, and Willow

The vegetation in the Fish Creek and Raspberry Draw areas consist of a tree cover of lodgepole pine overstory and small amounts of aspen, Douglas fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. There are two large wet meadows immediately south of Fish Creek: Little Meadow and Cow Park. In the moderately steep middle and upper Mackentire Draw area, the vegetative cover includes:

- Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir with aspen
- Lodgepole pine with scattered Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir
- Aspen
- Mixed Douglas fir
- Common juniper
- Limber pine
- Mountain brush

The lower Mackentire Draw area has scattered mixed conifer and mountain brush.

The eastern side slopes of Hells Canyon has a vegetation cover of Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir and aspen with inclusion of subalpine fir. Hamison Basin has Ponderosa pine and manzanita on south and south easterly exposures and lodgepole pine on the northerly aspects.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁴⁴)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.79%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁴⁵ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	99.99%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the east and south parts of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the north part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

⁴⁴ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁴⁵ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

There have been three identified wildfires in the area, one occurring in 1988 and two with no identified year.

There have been a number of small stand clearcut in the inventory area, as well as larger individual tree selection harvests. These primarily occurred around Center Park and Long Park in the northern part of the inventory area, and around Salt Creek in the southern part of the inventory area. A broadcast burn was conducted in 2011, in the south part of the Yellowstone drainage on the east side of the inventory area. Pre-commercial thinning was also completed in this area, as well as along Salt Creek.

There are six Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are multiple unauthorized routes in the inventory area, primarily on south slope of Lake Fork Mountain and around Center Park in the northern part of the inventory area. The inventory area contains a portion of the Petty Mountain Loop OHV trail, #1127, as well as part of the Yellowstone OHV trail, #1128.

The inventory area contains parts of three grazing allotments; Petty Mountain, Yellowstone, and Lake Fork. There are multiple spring developments, stock troughs, pipelines, and fences.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	1560 acres @ 8.63%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	240 acres @ 1.33%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	45 acres @ 0.25%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping locations occur in the inventory area, primarily along the Hells Canyon road and around the top of Lake Fork Mountain
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to private inholdings along parts of the east and west boundaries. These private lands are developed with homes
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	Remnants of a Civilian Conservation Corp camp are located adjacent and partially within the inventory area

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁴⁶.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	18,057 acres @ 99.97%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0.01 acres @ 0.00007%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to private lands on portions of the western and eastern boundaries.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain on the eastern side of the Lake Fork drainage, within the inventory area, is steep dissected slopes. The terrain around Center Park is gently sloping with interspersed meadows. In Fish Creek and Raspberry Draw, there are moderately sloping to very steep side slopes. In Upper Mackentire Draw, there are moderately steep slopes with cliffs and steep bedrock outcrops on the upper valley walls. The Mule Creek and Perry Creek areas have gently sloping to moderately steep, long southerly facing slopes.

The eastern slopes of the Hells Canyon are steep in the upper end of the canyon and decrease in slope towards the forest boundary. Harmston Basin consists of sandy, boulder covered ridge and trough areas.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

⁴⁶ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	4 acres (Primitive); 11,176 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 61.90% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the Fish Creek trail #1060, Toquer Lake trail #1185, and Center Park Trail #1059.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁴⁷? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	8.2% @ 1,482 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.7% @ 125 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	14.9% @ 2,685 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape feature in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	4,421 acres @ 24.47%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs).	25 acres @ 0.14%

⁴⁷ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

Lake Fork Mountain, to the east of Moon Lake, has an elevation of 10,910 feet.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Eligible historic sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of four watersheds:

- *Brown Duck Creek – Lake Fork River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Swasey Lakes – Yellowstone Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Petty Creek – Lake Fork River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Crystal Creek – Yellowstone River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.*

The inventory area is part of the Green River City, Utah municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

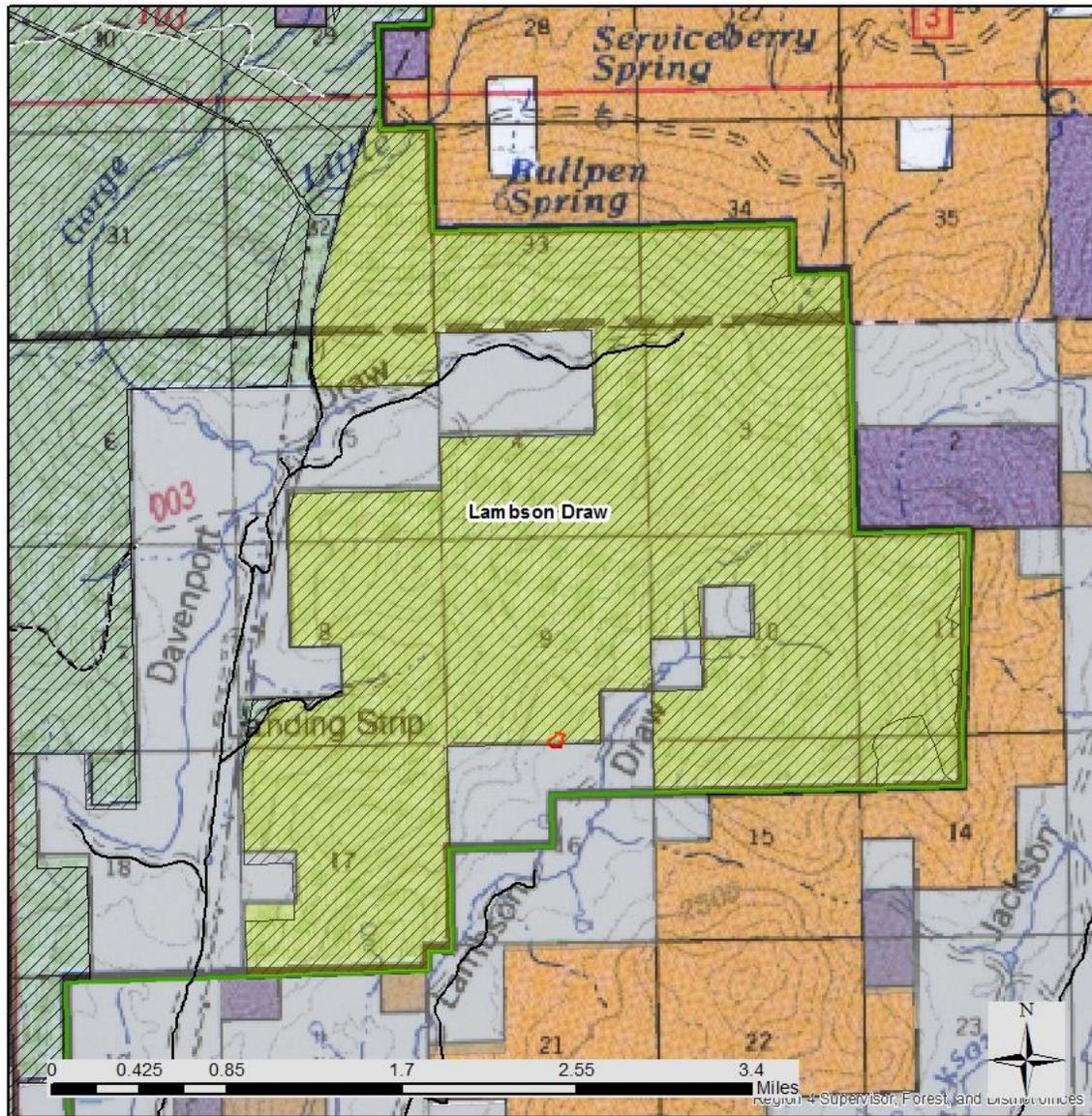
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is shape is similar to a wishbone. The inventory area borders the High Uintas Wilderness to the north, the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation to the south and private lands and Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory. The eastern and western boundaries are not tied to any geographic locations and it is difficult to distinguish between lands within the inventory area and lands that are not.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The adjacent Uintah and Ouray Indian reservation lands are primarily undeveloped. The private lands on the eastern and western boundaries are developed with private homes. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands outside of the High Uintas Wilderness are managed for multiple use. The High Uintas Wilderness is managed according the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act
Describe the current management of the area	7% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 19% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 74% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	5,931 acres @ 32.83%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	80.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Lambson Draw - 490

Lambson Draw



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 14. Lambson Draw wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 8% Douglas fir
- 1% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 59% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Ponderosa Pine
- 31% Seral Aspen

The mixed conifer within the inventory area is composed of subalpine fir and spruce, with a lodgepole pine overstory. Seral Aspen, interspersed with lodgepole pine, occurs on the south facing slope north of Lambson Draw and on the western boundary above Davenport Draw.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁴⁸)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	100%

⁴⁸ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁴⁹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the north part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the south central part of the inventory are have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

There was one small wildfire in inventory area in 1994.

There is one Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are no known unauthorized routes in the area.

The inventory area contains parts of 5 range allotments: Davenport, Little Davenport, Jackson Draw, Pot Creek, and Lambson Draw. There are no known range improvements.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None

⁴⁹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	None
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	None identified
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	Private lands area adjacent to the inventory area. These lands are primarily undeveloped
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁵⁰.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	5,005 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to private lands on west side, and part of the east and south side. Private lands are also within the inventory area.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

⁵⁰ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

The topography of the inventory area is gently rolling terrain between Davenport Draw and Lambson Draw, and between Lambson Draw and Jackson Draw.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 3,425 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 68.43% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities are limited in the inventory area because of access, hunting is the primary activity that occurs.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁵¹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA – Habitat for rare plants	None
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	None
Acres of habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	None

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western and eastern sides disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

⁵¹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. One eligible historic site has been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of three watersheds:

- *Goslin Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Pine Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Matt Warner Reservoir has a watershed condition class of functioning properly, and the fourth watershed is outside of the Ashley National Forest watershed condition class framework.*

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

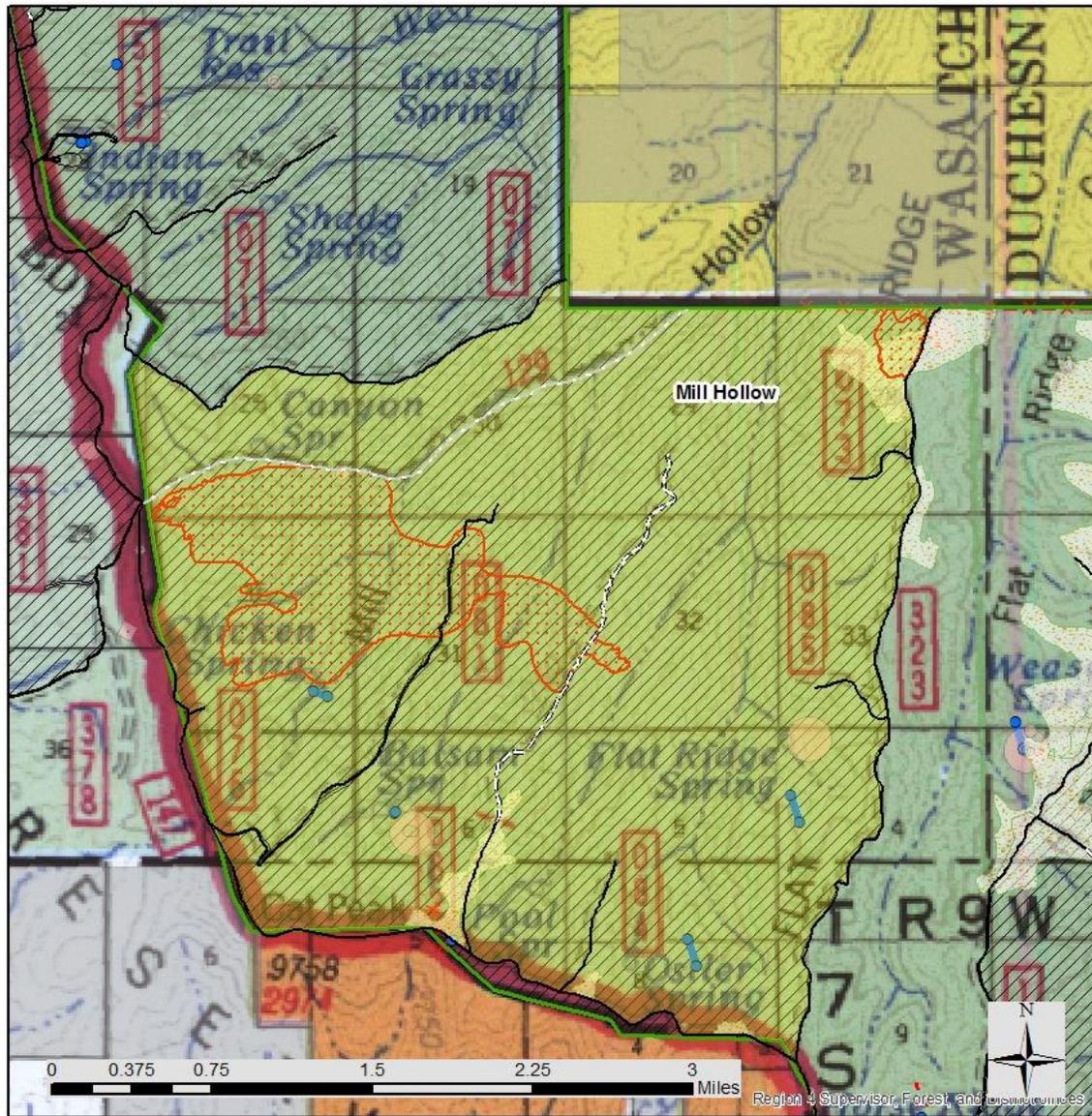
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is irregular. The borders are primarily the Ashley National Forest boundary and are not tied to geographic locations. The inventory area is difficult to distinguish from the surrounding lands.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states "The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness"
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The private lands adjacent of the inventory area are primarily undeveloped range lands. The Ashley National Forest lands adjacent are managed for multiple use
Describe the current management of the area	58% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 3% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unrouted); 34% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	3,088 acres @ 61.69%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.0% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Mill Hollow - 44

Mill Hollow



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 15. Mill Hollow wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 8% Douglas fir
- 2% Grass
- 16% Mixed Conifer
- 10% Mountain Brush
- 17% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 10% Persistent Aspen
- 1% Pinyon – juniper
- 1% Ponderosa Pine
- 19% Seral Aspen
- 3% Spike Big Sagebrush
- 8% Subalpine fir
- 2% Yellowbrush

The concave and flat areas along the ridge lines branching out from Reservation Ridge have a vegetative cover of subalpine fir and Douglas fir, with and without aspen. Mountain big sagebrush/grass communities are common where tree cover is light. Spiked big sagebrush is found where snow persists into late June and July.

The canyons branching north from Reservation Ridge have a tree cover of Douglas fir and mixed coniferous forest stands. Seral aspen covers much of the lower and moderate gradients of all aspects and the canyon bottoms. Grasses and other herbaceous species are abundant on the steep slopes of drainages with a southerly aspect.

At lower elevations along the eastern boundary of the area north facing slopes are usually covered with Douglas fir and pinyon pine – juniper, but no aspen. The upper part of the north facing slopes supports shrub vegetation of mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. The steeper south facing slopes have a cover of grass and some shrub vegetation.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

The area also includes the headwaters of Avintaquin Creek, which contains a population of Colorado River Cutthroat trout.

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁵²)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.22%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁵³ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds limited in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2. The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3.

The Mill Hollow wildfire in 2008 burned 722 acres of the inventory area and the Ridge wildfire in 2007 burned 35 acres.

A broadcast burn in 2012 burned 139 acres in the inventory area for wildlife habitat improvement.

There are five Forest Service System roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area, the longest being 2.8 miles. The Lind Ridge trail is open to all vehicles and extends 2.7 miles into the inventory area. A number of unauthorized routes are present, with the majority leading to dispersed camping locations on Flat Ridge.

The inventory area contains a portion of the Horse Ridge range allotment and portion of the Avintaquin range allotment. There are four identified spring developments.

⁵² Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁵³ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	139 acres @ 2.20%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	15 acres @ 0.23%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	A number of dispersed camping locations are located in the inventory area, primarily on Flat Ridge
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	Inventory area is bordered by private land and Utah Division of Wildlife lands on the northern boundary and Bureau of Land Management lands on the southern boundary
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁵⁴.

⁵⁴The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	6298 acres @ 99.96%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory are is partially bordered by private lands on the northern boundary.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of south to north trending ridge and canyon bottom topography. Ridges, canyon bottoms, and stream courses generally descend in a northerly direction from Reservation Ridge. Ridgelines are fairly broad and somewhat rounded or flat, and are interrupted as irregular intervals by steep shale knolls. Intervening canyons are moderately wide with moderately steep side slopes

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the south to north trending ridgelines.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁵⁵? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

⁵⁵ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, the Ashley National Forest to the north, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been a limited number of historic and prehistoric surveys in the inventory area. No eligible sites have been found.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes portions of one watershed, Mill Hollow – West Fork Avintaquin, it has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City watersheds.

The area includes the headwaters of Avintaquin Creek, which contain a population of Colorado River Cutthroat trout.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

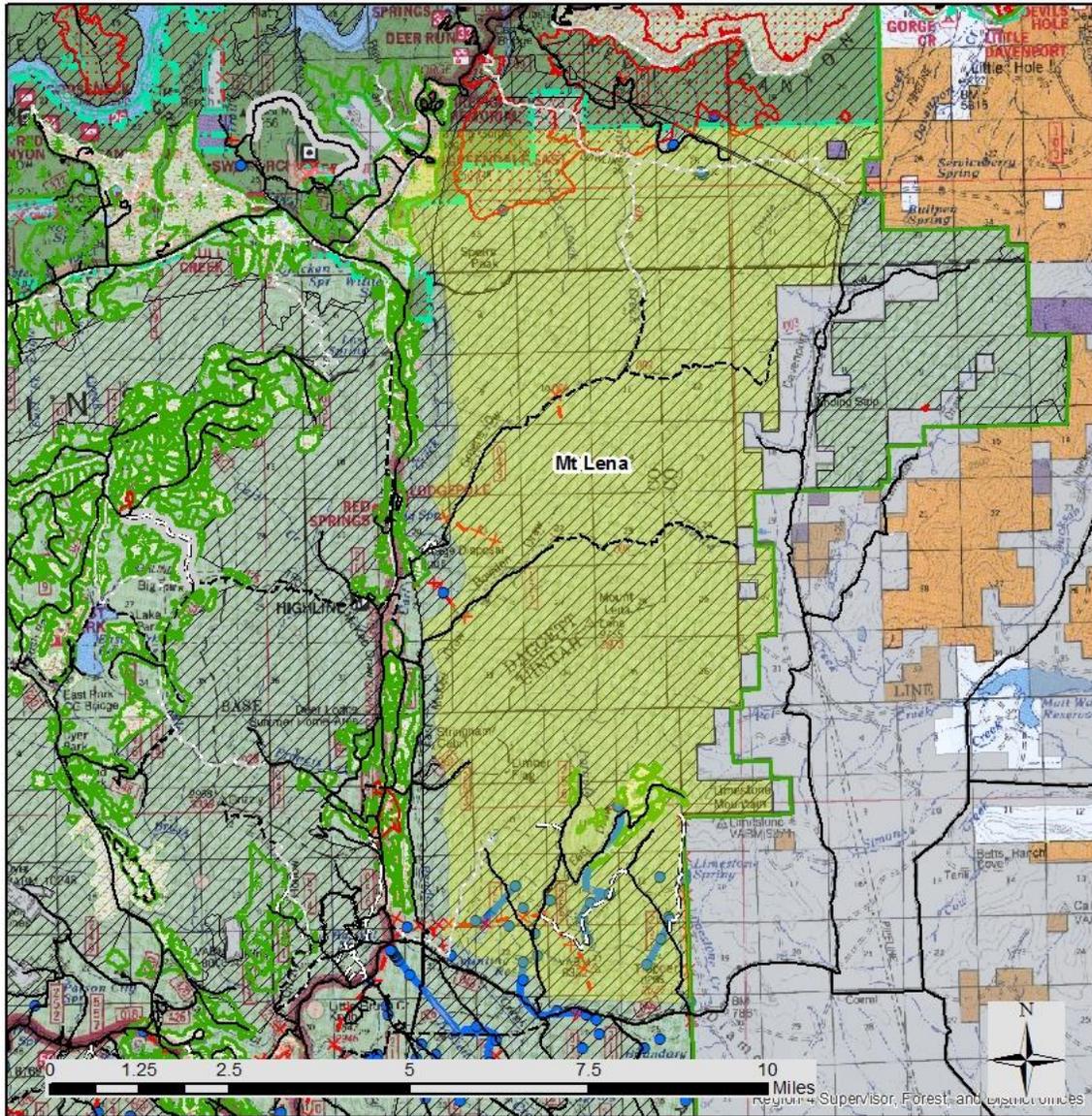
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The area is of irregular shape with 4 cherry stemmed routes into it. The inventory area boundaries are defined by roads on the south, east, and western boundaries and partially by a road and the Forest boundary on the north.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area borders the Uinta Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the west. On the eastern border the inventory area is adjacent to private and the Horse Ridge Wildlife Management Area. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	30% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 1% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 24% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 45% MA n (Range of resources uses and outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	6,284 acres @ 99.74%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Mount Lena - 517

Mt Lena



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 16. Mount Lena wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation within the inventory area consists of:

- 7% Alder-leaf mountain mahogany
- 4% Douglas fir
- 1% Fringed Sagebrush
- 7% Lodgepole Pine
- 2% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 54% Mixed Conifer
- 5% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 2% Riparian Non-willow Shrub
- 1% Persistent Aspen
- 11% Ponderosa Pine
- 7% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Black Sagebrush, and Riparian Conifers

In the far northern portion of the inventory area the vegetative cover consists of Ponderosa pine and bitterbrush, mountain big sagebrush, and grasses in the understory. The mixed conifer in the north and central portion of the inventory area is composed of subalpine fir and spruce, with a lodgepole pine over story. On the southern slopes of Moun Lena, the vegetative cover is lodgepole pine in the upper Pothole Creek drainage. Moving down in elevation, the vegetative cover is Seral Aspen and Alder Leaf Mountain Mahogany - with Mountain Big Sagebrush at the lowest elevations of southern slopes of Mt Lena.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁵⁶)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.83%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁵⁷ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the north part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in east central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 1*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 1*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

There have been single tree selection timber harvests in the inventory area. These occurred in the northwest corner of the inventory area and along the East Draw and Pothole roads in

⁵⁶ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁵⁷ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

the late 1970s and early 1980s. Pre-commercial thinning occurred in 2010 along the East Draw road.

Parts of the northern part of the inventory area was burned by the Mustang Ridge Wildfire in 2002.

There are seven Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are numerous unauthorized routes, the majority of which occur on the south end of the inventory area. There are two trails open to 50 inch vehicles or less in the inventory area, #0003, #0004, and #0008. There are three trails open to all vehicles in the inventory area, #0135, #0122, and 0062.

The inventory area contains parts of eight range allotments:

- *Diamond Mountain*
- *Lena Peak*
- *Pot Creek*
- *Bowden Draw*
- *McKee Draw*
- *Davenport*
- *Little Davenport*
- *Birch Creek/Little Hole*

There are numerous spring developments, stock ponds, troughs, and reservoirs, pipelines, and fences, primarily on the south side of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	431 acres @ 1.26%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	4.90 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	59 acres @ 0.17%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping locations are numerous. The locations are primarily on the east and south sides of the inventory area.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The Limber Flag Yurt is surrounded by the inventory area. The Greendale East Campground is adjacent to the inventory area. The Limestone Mine is surrounded by the inventory area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁵⁸.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	34,097 acres @ 99.95%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	490 acres @ 1.44%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to the private lands on the eastern boundary. United States Highway 191 is, on average, ½ mile away from the western boundary.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The topography in the inventory area includes plateau lands, rolling upland plans, moderate sloping to very steep slopes along ridges, and shallow drainage ways.

Along the western boundary, the terrain is comprised of flat to gently rolling plateaus cut by a few, widely spaced, shallow drainage ways, and the open meadow areas, Bowden and Greens Draws. Along the eastern boundary, the terrain consist of gently rolling lands. The inventory area includes Limber Flag summit, and Mount Lena is the southern portion. The ridge line between Limber Flag and Mount Lena primarily run north to south, and has moderately steep to steep slopes.

⁵⁸ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 14,128 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 41.41% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation, activities, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing occur throughout the inventory area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁵⁹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.01% @ 5 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western and eastern boundaries disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	288 acres @ 1.72%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	52 acres @ 0.15%

⁵⁹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Some eligible historic sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of five watersheds:

- *Cart Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Pine Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Matt Warner Reservoir has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Reader Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Willow Creek Draw – Diamond Gulch has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town, Deseret Generation and Transmission Co-op, and Green River City, Utah municipal water systems.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

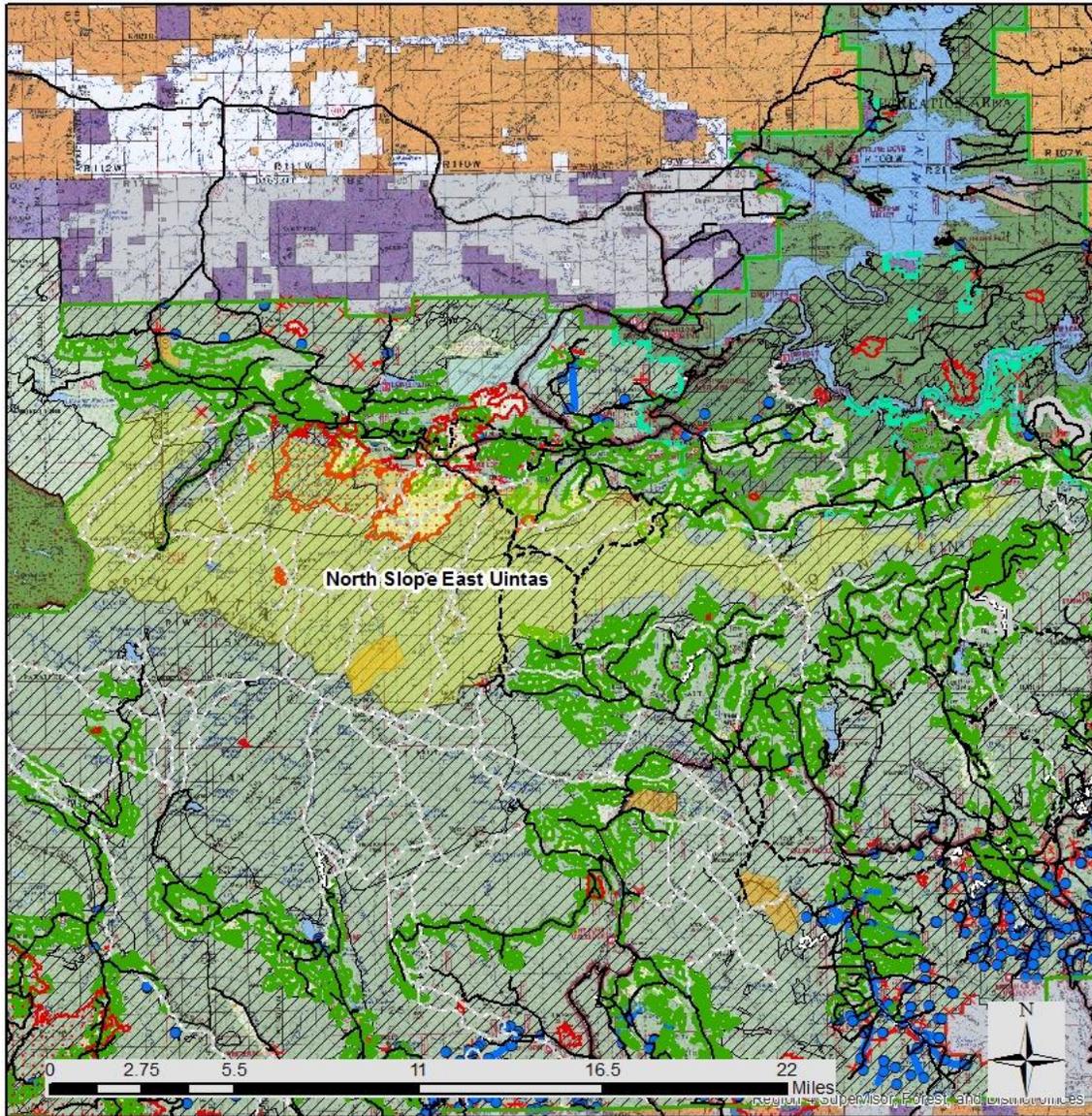
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is primarily blocky. The inventory area boundaries are not tied to any geographic location and is difficult to identify from the surrounding areas not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None
Are there 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 Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options", and the 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states "The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness".
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The Ashley National Forest adjacent to the inventory area are managed for multiple use. The private lands adjacent to the inventory area on the eastern boundary are primarily managed as rangelands.
Describe the current management of the area	2% MA b (Moderate Timber Production); 40% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 1% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 54% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs); 2% MA n ₁ (NRA existing situation) A portion of the inventory area in the northwest corner is part of the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	25,584 acres @ 75.00%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.5% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

North Slope East Uintas - 530

North Slope East Uintas



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 17. North Slope East Uintas wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 2% Alpine
- 18% Engelmann Spruce
- 1% Fell-field
- 14% Lodgepole Pine
- 1% Low willow
- 1% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 48% Mixed Conifer
- 5% Ponderosa Pine
- 6% Rock
- 2% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% of Douglas fir, Grass, Mountain Big Sagebrush, Subalpine fir, Tall Willow, and Willow

The vegetative cover of the western part of inventory area consists of cirques, lakes and wet meadows between high elevation "bollie" ridge tops descending to the lower drainages. The vegetative cover in the drainages consists of mixed dense conifer forests of Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and subalpine fir. Standing water is common and riparian communities are dominant. The communities have lodgepole and spruce fir tree cover, and wet understory vegetation. There are numerous small potholes with sedges as the dominant species. Narrow stringers of wet meadows exist throughout the lower portion of the drainage,s that are dominated by grasses and sedges. Above the potholes and wet swales, the plant communities consist of a dense overstory of lodgepole pin, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir between the meadow areas.

The vegetation in the eastern part of the inventory area consists of north facing steep slopes covered by lodgepole pine with aspen stands in rock places and stands of subalpine fir in isolated areas. Along the northern inventory area boundary, east of the main Cart Creek drainage, aspen is frequently present and lodgepole pine is predominant, near the Greendale Plateau ponderosa pine is common. Along the northern inventory area boundary, west of the main Cart Creek drainage, the vegetation consists of mixed conifer, aspen, willow, birch, and alder interspersed with wet meadows with a variety of forbs, grasses, and sedges.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Whitetailed Ptarmigan

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁶⁰)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.59%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁶¹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities in the west and central part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the east part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The lodgepole pine communities through a majority of the inventory area have a fire regime 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The lodgepole pine communities in the headwaters of Deep Creek have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*
- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 5 and condition class of 2*

⁶⁰ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁶¹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Wildfires have burned parts of the inventory area, mainly in the north central part of the inventory area. These wildfires occurred in 1978, 1985, 2005, and 2006. A salvage harvest occurred in 1979 in interior of the Campbell Draw wildfire, which occurred in 1978.

Small clear cuts occurred in the south central part of the inventory area in 1970. Pre-commercial thinning and individual tree selection harvests have been done along the north central part of the inventory area, primarily in the 1980s

There are six Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are some unauthorized routes in the inventory area, the majority of which occur on the north end of the inventory area. There are four trails open to 50 inch vehicles or less in the inventory area, #1016, #1013, #1014, and #1014A.

The inventory area contains parts of six range allotments, Hickerson Park, Commissary Park, Sheep Creek Park, Sheep Creek Mountain, Lonesome Park, and Lewis/Allen. There are multiple range fences in the inventory area. No other range improvements are within the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	2,994 acres @ 4.48%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	115 acres @ 0.17%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	8 acres @ 0.01%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are dispersed camping spots scattered throughout the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to the Spirit Lake Recreation Area and Browne Lake Campground
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁶².

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	66,772 acres @ 99.97%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads
Small parts of the northern boundary is adjacent to State Highway 44.
- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The western portion of the inventory area contains high glaciated ridgelines separating cirque basins descending into broad forested tops and interspersed pothole areas. The eastern portion of the inventory area contains steep scarp north facing slopes descending down into wet stream bottomlands, flood plains, and lower terraces with marshes and meadows.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	9,867 acres (Primitive); 40,933 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 76.06% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

⁶² The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding are popular in the inventory area. These activities primarily occur in the western side of the inventory area where there are multiple access trails.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁶³? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	19% @ 12,714 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.5% @ 319 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	47.1% @ 31,446 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are peaks in the southwestern part of the inventory area. Cirque basins and associated lakes are within the southwestern part of the inventory area. There are many lakes within the central part of the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	14,785 acres @ 22.14%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	144 acres @ 0.22%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

⁶³ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Some eligible prehistoric sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of seven watersheds:

- *Upper Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Middle Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Beaver Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Upper Carter Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Middle Carter Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Lower Carter Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Skull Creek – Green River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

The inventory area includes a majority of the Pollen Lake Research Natural Area. The Pollen Lake Research Natural Area was established in 1987 for the features of subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce forest and krummholz; alpine turf communities on shallow rocky soil, lake and wetlands in a cirque basin, and rare plants.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	1134 acres @ 1.70%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

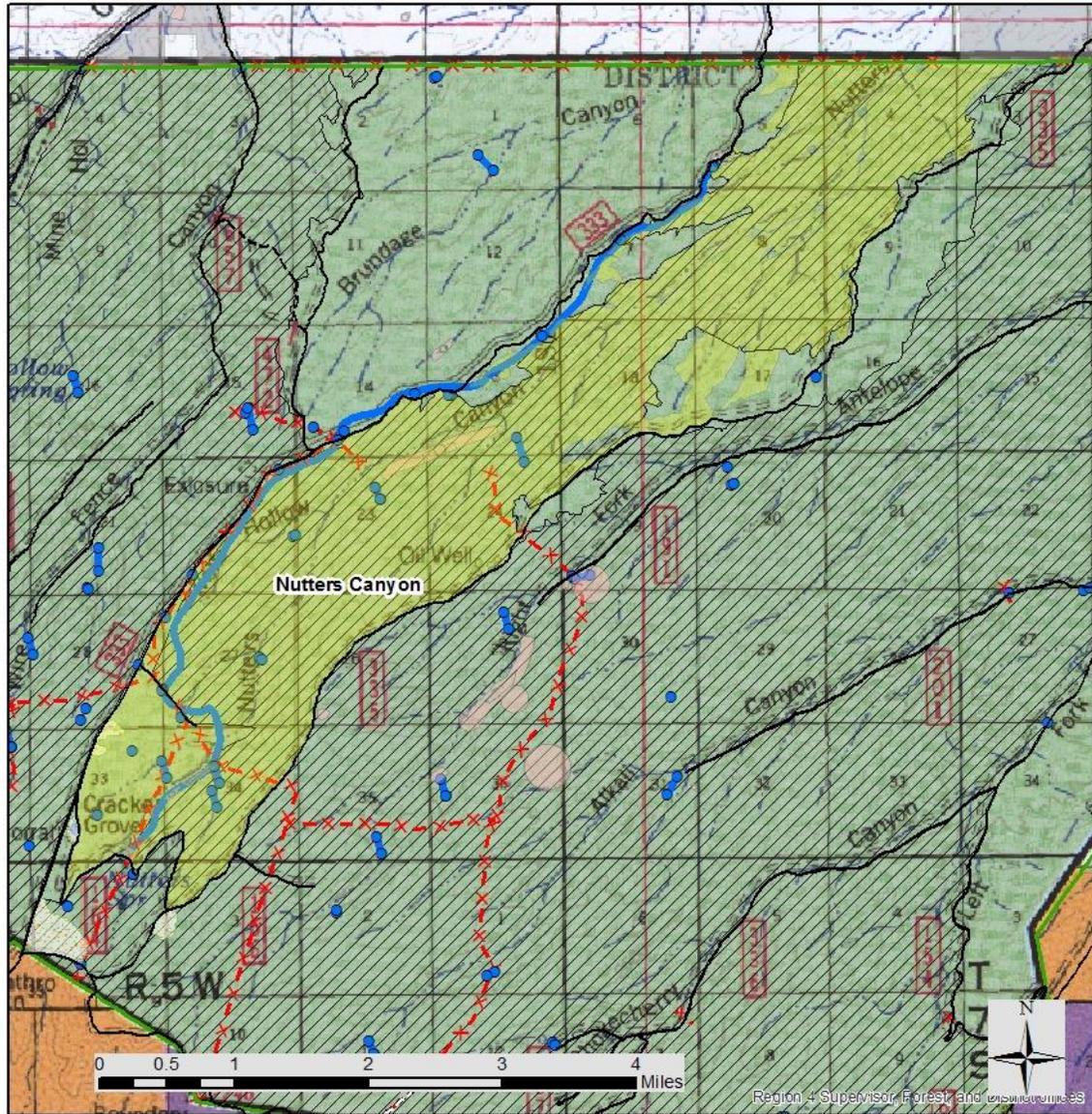
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is very irregular. The inventory area borders on the east, north, west, and part of the south are not tied to geographic locations and it is difficult to distinguish between the inventory area and lands not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	There are five ditch bill easements surrounded by the inventory area. They are Carter Creek Canal and service road, Teepee Lakes Pipeline and Dam, Highline Canal, and Highline Canal Overflow Ditch
Are there 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 Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options"
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, including the High Uintas Wilderness. The remaining adjacent lands are Ashley National Forest lands. The High Uintas Wilderness is managed according to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. The non-wilderness lands National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	2% MA a (Research Natural Area Candidates); 13% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 37% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 48% MA n (Range of Resources Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	66,747 acres @ 99.93%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	89.6% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
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Nutters Canyon - 184

Nutters Canyon



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 18. Nutters Canyon wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 3% Basin Big Sagebrush
- 5% Black Sagebrush
- 2% Greasewood
- 23% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 4% Persistent Aspen
- 62% Pinyon – juniper
- Less than 1% of Serviceberry and Grass

The vegetation in the central and northern portions of the inventory area consists of moderately dense pinyon pine and juniper, substantial patchy areas of perennial grasses, and mountain mahogany intermixed with pinyon pine and juniper areas.

The southern portion of the area has sparse grass and sagebrush and/or pinyon pine, juniper and some Douglas fir as well as bare soil.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Greater Sage Grouse

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁶⁴)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	98.97%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁶⁵ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%

⁶⁴ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁶⁵ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals.

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to the buried pipeline disturbed area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The mountain big sagebrush communities in this inventory polygon have a fire regime of 1, and a condition class of 2. The pinyon juniper communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2.

There have been no wildfires in the area in the past 60 years. A small area, 16 acres of the inventory area, was burned in 2007 for a sage grouse habitat burn study. Portions of the inventory area were cleared of pinyon pine-juniper in the past. These areas have been excluded from the inventory but are surrounded by the inventory area.

There is one Forest Service System road cherry stemmed into the inventory area. Several unclassified roads proved access to spring developments or stock ponds. A number of unauthorized routes exist, primarily in the southern half of the inventory area.

The inventory area has portions of two range allotments, Sowers Canyon and Anthro Mountain. There are five other range fences, as well as multiple range spring developments, troughs, reservoirs and a buried range pipeline. There is a boundary fence on the Ashley National Forest on the northern boundary that marks the border between the Ashley t and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

Four active oil and gas well pads in the northern portion of the area are cherry stemmed out of the inventory area. There are five planned well pads, with associated planned pipelines, that have been cherry stemmed out the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	16 acres @ 0.25%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	64 acres @ 0.97%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	One dispersed camping area along Nutters Ridge Road has compacted soil and disturbed vegetation
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	To the west and north of the area, there are active oil and gas activities on both the Ashley National Forest and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁶⁶.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	6,642 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

⁶⁶ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads
- *The northern boundary, which is the northern boundary of the Ashley National Forest, is immediately adjacent to the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands*
- *The southern boundary of the inventory area is Forest Service System Road #10164, which it forms a boundary with Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory*
- *The eastern boundary is Forest Service System Road 335, which separates the inventory area from the Alkali Canyon inventory area*
- *The western boundary is adjacent to the Wire Fence inventory area and Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory, and is separated by Forest Service System Road #10333*
- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The main terrain feature in the inventory area is the ridgeline that runs down the center of the area from north to south. Pinyon pine and juniper covers the ridgeline and hill sides.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding occur with the inventory area, mainly along the western and eastern boundaries of the inventory area where road access exists. Very few primitive recreation activities occur in the majority of the inventory area because of the lack of attractions and access routes.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity

hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁶⁷? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western, eastern, and southern boundaries disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Ute Indian horse corral complexes are present, as well as numerous prehistoric sites (rock art, rock shelters, lithic scatters, and habitation sites).

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area is within the Nutters Canyon watershed. Nutters Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning.

Nutters Canyon is part of the Green River City, Utah municipal watershed.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

⁶⁷ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

There are no known special interest areas or research natural area is the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known education or scientific features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape is irregular, long and narrow and has multiple areas excluded inside the area boundary. The inventory area is bounded by roads on west, east, and south and by the Ashley National Forest boundary to the north.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	There are portions of seven oil and gas leases in the area. Five are active and two are inactive. The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	Bureau of Land Management are managed for multiple use. Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands are managed for multiple use and there is significant oil and gas development. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use with oil and gas developments adjacent to the inventory area on the northwest.

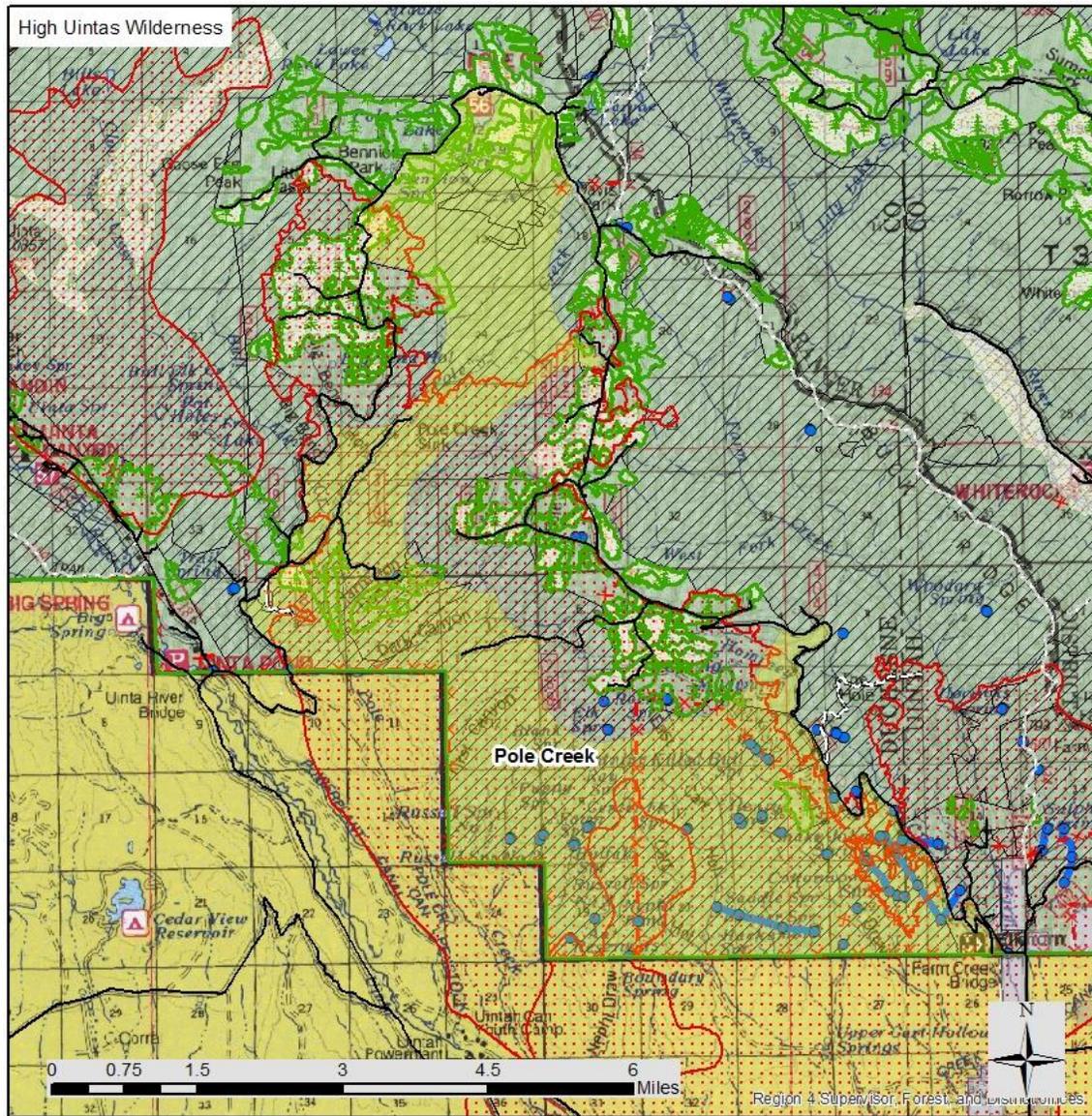
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area	31% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 14% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 2% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 53% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	2,770 acres @ 41.70%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	84.6% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Pole Creek - 384

Pole Creek



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 19. Pole Creek wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alpine
- 2% Engelmann Spruce
- 14% Mixed Conifer
- 6% Mountain Brush
- 25% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 11% Persistent Aspen
- 7% Pinyon – juniper
- 2% Ponderosa Pine
- 30% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% Alpine vegetation, Cottonwood, Lodgepole Pine, Meadow grasses and forbs, Sagebrush, and Serviceberry

The vegetative cover in the northern portion of the inventory area includes seral lodgepole pine overstory, and small amounts of Douglas fir and aspen. In the Pole Creek Canyon Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and aspen are the dominate overstory, with inclusions of subalpine fir. In the Dark Canyon and First Canyon areas, the vegetative cover is mixed mountain shrub and grass, with lodgepole pine and Douglas fir on intervening side slopes and ridges. At the lower end of the canyons, the vegetation is dominated by mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass communities. In the southern portion of the inventory area, Ponderosa pine and manzanita cover the lower south facing slopes, with aspen in the drainage ways. The lower south facing slopes have a cover of mountain brush with sagebrush and grass.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx,
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁶⁸)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.90%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁶⁹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	99.99
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and condition class of 2.*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon-juniper have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 1 - and fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*

The Neola North fire burned through much of the inventory area in 2007.

Multiple individual tree selection harvests were completed, the majority in the 1950s and 1960s, and the latest occurring in 1991. Three stand clear cuts were done in 1958, 1968, and 1970. The se occurred west of the Pole Creek Cave and east of Pole Creek Lake. One small pre-commercial thinning project was completed in the 1995.

There are three Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. One Forest Service system trail, #1117, is open to all vehicles within the inventory area. There are multiple unauthorized routes scattered throughout the inventory area.

⁶⁸ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁶⁹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The inventory area contains parts of two grazing allotments; Pole Creek and Farm Creek. There are multiple spring developments, stock ponds and troughs, fences, and pipelines, primarily in the southern part of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	121 acres @ 0.91%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	177 acres @ 1.34%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	115 acres @ 0.87%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are dispersed camping locations along the Elkhorn Loop Road on the west and east sides of the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is adjacent to the inventory area. The Pole Creek Campground is adjacent to the north side of the inventory area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁷⁰.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	13,206 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	5,042 acres @ 38.17%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The topography ranges from gentle to moderately steep. The terrain north of Pole Creek Canyon consists of rough, boulder covered shoulders to steep pitches. Pole Creek Canyon has steep canyon side slopes extending from the ridge top to Pole Creek. The side slopes of Pole Mountain consists of steep escarpments of sandy and boulder lateral moraines. The southern portion of the inventory area is broad open south facing slopes, intercut with open drainage ways.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum.	0 acres (Primitive); 5,352 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 40.52% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, primarily around Pole Creek Lake and the meadows south of Pole Creek Lake.

⁷⁰ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁷¹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA – Habitat for rare plants	None
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.06% @ 8 acres
Acres of habitat for Black Rosy Finch - Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	3.3% @ 434 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	10,015 acres @ 75.84%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

The Pole Creek Cave and Pole Creek Sinks area located within the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. No eligible sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

⁷¹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

The inventory area includes parts of three watersheds:

- *Pole Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Cart Hollow – Uinta River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Hominy Creek – Farm Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

The inventory area is part of the Green River City municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no known special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is irregular, long and narrow. The inventory area southern boundary is the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. The west, east, and north boundaries are partially identified by roads. The other east and west boundaries are not tied to geographic locations and are difficult to identify from the areas not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states “Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness...”
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lands. These lands are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.

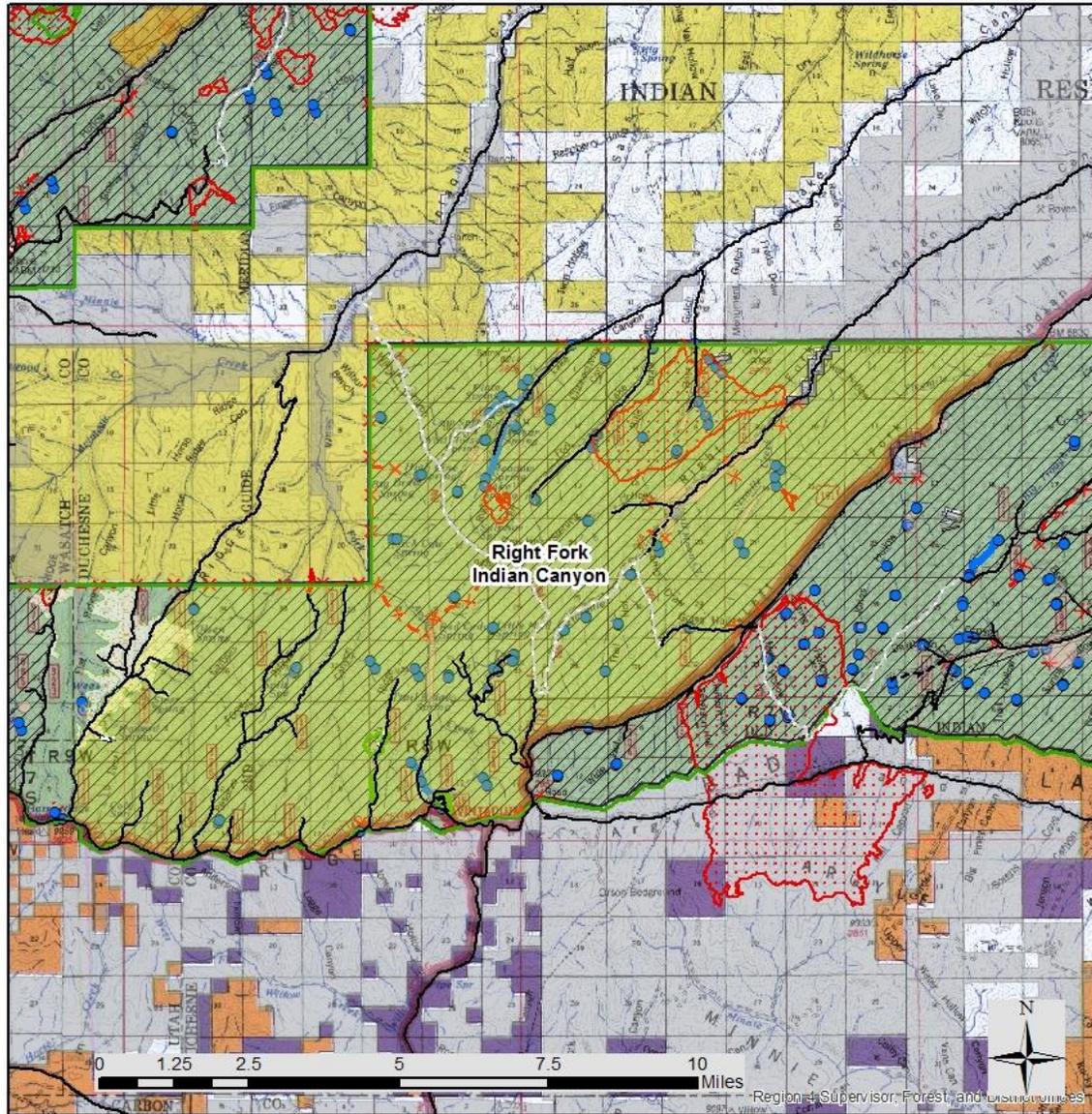
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area	25% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 17% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 4% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 2% MA k (Maximum Water Yield Recreation); 52% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	1,767 acres @ 13.38%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	88.6% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Right Fork Indian Canyon - 183

Right Fork Indian Canyon



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 20. Right Fork Indian Canyon wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 2% Basin Big Sagebrush
- 21% Douglas fir
- 7% Grass
- 3% Mixed Conifer
- 13% Mountain Brush
- 13% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 1% Persistent Aspen
- 29% Pinyon – juniper
- 1% Ponderosa Pine
- 9% Seral Aspen
- 1% Subalpine fir
- Less than 1% Alder-leaf mountain mahogany, Rubber Rabbitbrush, Serviceberry, Spiked Big Sagebrush, and Tall Willow

The steep north facing slopes in Reserve Canyon are usually covered with Douglas fir and pinyon pine-juniper, but no aspen. The upper portions of slopes are less steep and support shrub vegetation of mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sage. The steepest south facing slopes have grass and some shrub vegetation.

The drainage ways immediately north of Reservation Ridge have tree cover of Douglas-fir and mixed coniferous forest stands, with and without seral aspen. Perennial grasses and other herbaceous species are abundant on the steeper slopes of south aspects.

The South Fork Avintaquin Creek north facing slopes are usual covered with Douglas fir and pinyon pine-juniper, but no aspen. Upper portion of slopes are less steep and support a shrub vegetation of mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sage. The steepest south facing slopes have grass and some shrub vegetation. At the lower end of the drainage the hilly topography has a cover of sagebrush and perennial grasses.

The left and right Forks of Lake Canyon, Wilbur Canyon, and Right Fork Indian Canyon have Douglas fir and aspen on the higher elevation, north facing slopes, and sparse pinyon pine and Douglas fir on south facing slopes. The mid to upper elevation side slopes, have a cover of moderately dense pinyon pine and juniper. The lower slopes have sparse pinyon pine-Douglas Fir or perennial grass-sagebrush-mountain mahogany. The canyon bottoms have a vegetative cover of sagebrush, rabbit brush, grass and willows along creeks, and grass and sagebrush on alluvial fans.

The Left Fork Indian creek has sparse pinyon pine-Douglas fir-juniper on the south to west aspects and dense pinyon pine-Douglas fir or perennial grass-sagebrush-mountain

mahogany on the north to east aspects. The lower end (north end) of the canyon has sparse scattered pinyon pine, and juniper and perennial grasses.

The inventory area provides habitat for two endemic plants, Erigeron untermannii, Indian Canyon fleabane, and Mentzelia goodrichi, Goodrich's blazingstar.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁷²)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	97.72%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁷³ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to the road corridors.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

⁷² Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁷³ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The pinyon-juniper communities in the Left For and Right Fork of Lake Canyon have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2

- *The pinyon-juniper communities in the remainder of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*
- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3.*

The Lake Canyon wildfire burned 85 acres in 2012, the Six Mile wildfire burned 1,950 acres in 1989, and the Six Mile Creek wildfire burned 17 acres in 1981.

There have been a small amount of vegetation treatments in the inventory area, 594 acres of single tree selection harvests.

There are 13 Forest Service System roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area, the longest being five miles. Unauthorized routes exist in the canyon bottoms and lead to dispersed camping locations.

The inventory area contain all or portions of six range allotments, Horse Ridge, Wilbur Bench, Lake Canyon, Right Fork Indian Canyon, Left Fork Indian Canyon, and Mill Hollow. There are many spring developments, stock ponds and troughs, pipelines, and fences within the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	594 acres @ 1.28%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	0
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	4.31 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable.	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	174 acres @ 0.38%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping locations exist, primarily located in canyon bottoms

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	Ditches have been cut in the alluvial fans along State Highway 191
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The eastern boundary of the inventory area is State Highway 191
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁷⁴.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	46,308 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

State Highway 191 forms the eastern border of the inventory area. The inventory area borders a private inholding in the Left Fork of Indian Canyon and private inholdings in Right Fork of Indian Canyon. There is one private inholding in Bear Gulch, surrounded on all sides by the inventory area. Private lands are adjacent to the inventory area on the north and southern boundaries.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of a south to north trending ridge and canyon bottom topography. Ridges, canyon bottoms, and stream courses generally descend in northerly direction from Reservation Ridge along the southern boundary and from Left Fork Indian Creek along the eastern boundary. Ridge lines are generally narrow, and intervening canyons are fairly broad, with moderately steep to very steep side slopes. The terrain along Reservation Ridge is dissected by numerous minor drainages, including the upper headwaters of Reserve Canyon and South Fork Avintaquin Creek.

⁷⁴ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 14,648 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 31.63% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	56 acres @ 0.12%

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

This area offers primitive recreation opportunities including camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding. The primitive recreation activities mainly occur along the southern boundary of the area, and in the canyon bottoms of Grass Hollow, Right Fork Indian Creek, and the Left and Right Forks of Lake Canyon.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁷⁵? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, the Ashley National Forest to the north, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

⁷⁵ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Grey Head Peak is located in the head of Right Fork Indian Canyon and has an elevation of 9,496 feet.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	56 acres @ 0.12%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Few surveys for historic and prehistoric sites have been completed, some eligible prehistoric sites were found.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes portion of five watersheds. Four of the watersheds, Left Fork Indian Canyon, Right Fork Indian Canyon, Lake Canyon, and Finger Canyon – Avintaquin have a watershed condition class of functioning at risk. South Fork Avintaquin has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.

The inventory area contains parts of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

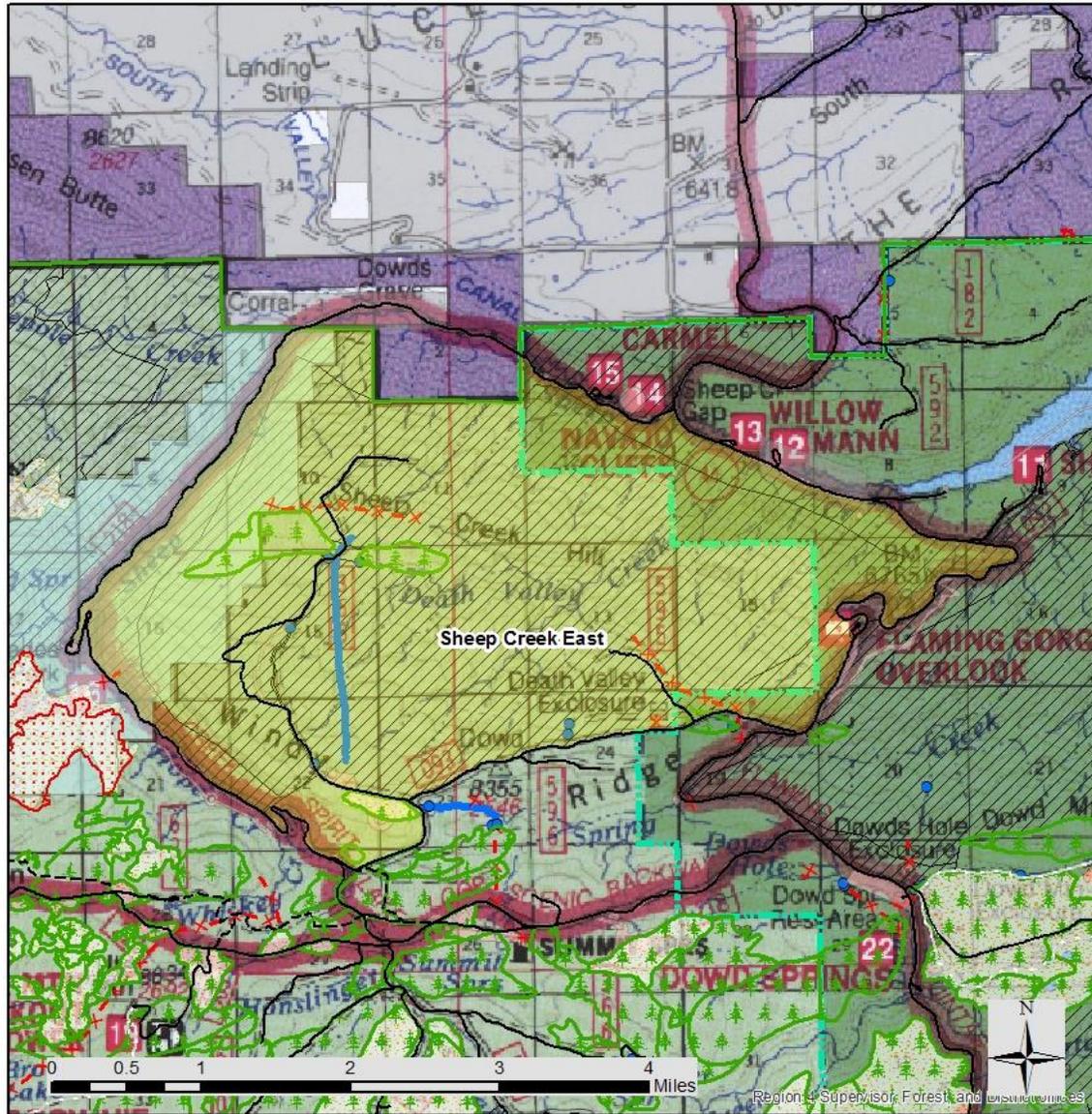
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The areas shape is irregular. Thirteen authorized roads are cherry stemmed into the inventory area. The area boundaries are primarily tied to roads on the west, east, and south sides -the boundary on the north is the Ashley National Forest boundary.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	<p>There is a portion of one active oil and gas lease in the far northeastern corner of the area.</p> <p>The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.</p>
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Lake Canyon Wildlife Management Area, Tribal, and private lands to the north, the Horse Ridge Wildlife Management Area to the north and west, and private, BLM, and state trust lands to the south. The lands on the northern boundary are primarily undeveloped. There are oil and gas developments adjacent to the northeastern corner of the inventory area. The lands on the southern boundary are primarily undeveloped, except for some private residences adjacent to the southeast corner of the inventory area. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	29% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 1% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 12% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 58% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area.	36,380 acres @ 78.56%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area.	99.7% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
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Sheep Creek East - 562

Sheep Creek East



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 21. Sheep Creek East wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory are consists of:

- 25% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 22% Black Sagebrush
- 1% Cottonwood
- 2% Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 9% Douglas fir
- 1% Fringed Sagebrush
- 1% Mountain Brush
- 14% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 20% Pinyon – juniper
- 2% Wyoming Big Sagebrush
- Less than 1% Desert Shrub, Little-leaf Mountain Mahogany, Persistent Aspen, Sagebrush, and Seral Aspen

The vegetative cover includes: sagebrush and grass on the north facing slopes of Sheep Creek Canyon; scattered ponderosa pine and grass understory above Sheep Creek; and mountain bush and small stands of Douglas fir and pinyon and juniper within Death Valley Canyon.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including

- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Chukar
- Moose
- Mule Deer,
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁷⁶)	100%

⁷⁶ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	97.83%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁷⁷ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The lodgepole pine communities have a fire regime of 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon – juniper conifer communities have a fire regime of 5 and condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2.*

There have been six regeneration harvest individual tree selection cuts in the 1980s. A small salvage cut was completed in 2013

Multiple unauthorized routes exist in the inventory area. The majority are found in the western and southern parts of the inventory area, leading off from the Death Valley road.

The inventory area contains a part of the Sheep Creek Mountain grazing allotment. There are two spring developments, two stock troughs, one stock pond, three wildlife guzzlers, one pipeline, two range fences, and one exclosure.

and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁷⁷ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	40 acres @ 0.53%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations (including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters), provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	20 acres @ 0.26%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are few dispersed camping locations in the inventory area. These are on the south end of the inventory area, below Windy Ridge.
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The Sheep Creek Canyon corridor is adjacent to the inventory area
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁷⁸.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

⁷⁸ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	7,579 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	7,112 acres @ 93.83%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

Private lands are adjacent to the inventory area on the northeast. A private residence, outbuildings, and agricultural lands are located on these private lands. The inventory area is adjacent to State Highway 44, on portions of the north and eastern sides.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The topography in the inventory area includes the north and west facing slopes of Sheep Creek canyon along the northern border. These slopes are moderate to very steep. Death Valley Canyon is sharply incised from the broad plateau, which spans a majority of the area. Windy Ridge forms the southern boundary of the plateau and steeply drops into the Hope Creek drainage.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, primarily along the Death Valley Road.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity

hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁷⁹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Road corridors on the western, eastern, and northern boundaries disrupt wildlife connectivity.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

The Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic area is partially located in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	7,578 acres @ 99.99%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	120 acres @ 1.59%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

The Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic area includes the Uinta Crest Fault, a section of folded and twisted rock that reveals millions of years of geologic history.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Some eligible prehistoric sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of two watersheds. Lower Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk and Middle Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk.

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town municipal water system.

⁷⁹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

The inventory area contains a portion of the Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Area

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	1,035 acres @ 13.65%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

The Sheep Creek Canyon Geological Area offers opportunities for geological education.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area has two cherry stemmed roads into its interior. The majority of the boundary of the inventory area is formed by roads. Part of the northern boundary is not tied to a geographic location and is difficult to identify from the private lands adjacent.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None
Are there 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 Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options".
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The Ashley National Forest lands adjacent to the inventory area to the east, and part of the north and south boundaries are designated as the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use The inventory area is adjacent to private lands on part of the northern border. State trust lands also border part of the northern border and are managed as rangelands.

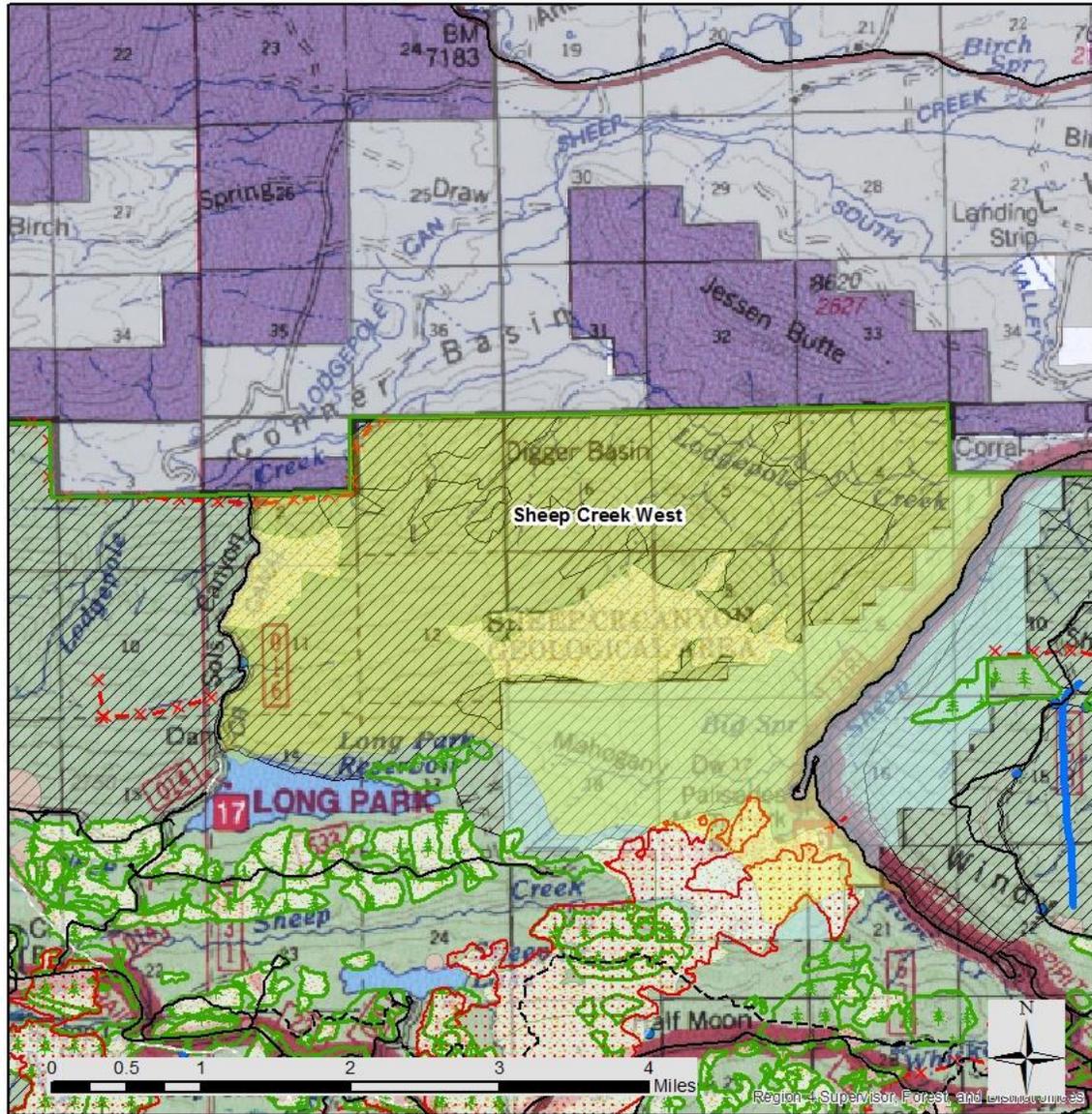
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area	<p>16% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 57% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 10% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs); 4% MA n₁ (NRA existing situation); 13% MA r (Wildlife)</p> <p>The eastern portion of the inventory area is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.</p>
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	7,578 acres @ 99.99%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	93.4% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Sheep Creek West - 574

Sheep Creek West



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 22. Sheep Creek West wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 18% Alder-leaf mountain mahogany
- 9% Black Sagebrush
- 4% Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 19% Douglas fir
- 4% Mountain Brush
- 2% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 16% Pinyon – juniper
- 9% Seral Aspen
- Less than 1% of 5-needle Pine, Cottonwood, Juniper, Lodgepole Pine, and Persistent Aspen

The vegetation in the lower elevations on the north edge of the inventory area is sagebrush, grass, pinyon and juniper, and scattered ponderosa pine. Moving south and higher in elevation, the ponderosa pine, pinyon and juniper transition to Douglas fir and some lodgepole pine. Limber pine is found on some of the direr ridgetop sites.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Chukar
- Greater Sage Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Wild Turkey

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁸⁰)	100%

⁸⁰ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.56%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁸¹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The lodgepole pine communities have a fire regime of 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon – juniper conifer communities have a fire regime of 5 and condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 3*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2.*
- *A small part of the southeastern part of the inventory area was burned in the Weyman Fire in 1985*

Broadcast burns were conducted in 2011 in the central and west central part of the inventory area.

Unauthorized routes exist in the inventory area. They are primarily found in the area northeast of Long Park Reservoir and in the central part of the inventory area, east of Sols Canyon.

The inventory area contains a part of the Sheep Creek Park grazing allotment. There are no stock improvements in the inventory area, except for a fence on part of the northeastern boundary.

⁸¹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	1068 acres @ 14.47%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	5 acres @ 0.7%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	None identified
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The private lands adjacent to the north of the inventory area are primarily undeveloped. The Sheep Creek Geologic Loop road is the eastern boundary of the inventory area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁸².

⁸² The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	7,382 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	6,601 acres @ 89.43%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to private lands along portions of the northern border.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The inventory area includes steep, rocky canyons - folded and faulted, steep to very steep canyon side slopes and scarp slopes interspersed with mid elevation ridgelines.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 5,742 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 77.79% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, but are limited because of access.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁸³? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres

⁸³ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between parts of the Ashley National Forest, and animals moving between the Bridger Teton National Forest and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

The folds and faults of the Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Area are partially within the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	3,260 acres @ 44.17%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	188 acres @ 2.55%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

The inventory area contains part of the Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Area, and the Sheep Creek Cave and Sheep Creek Spring.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Some eligible prehistoric sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes parts of three watersheds:

- *Lodgepole Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Middle Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Lower Sheep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*

The inventory area is part of the Dutch John Town municipal water system.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

The inventory area contains a portion of the Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	2,055 acres @ 27.84%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

The inventory area contains part of the Sheep Creek Canyon Geologic Area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

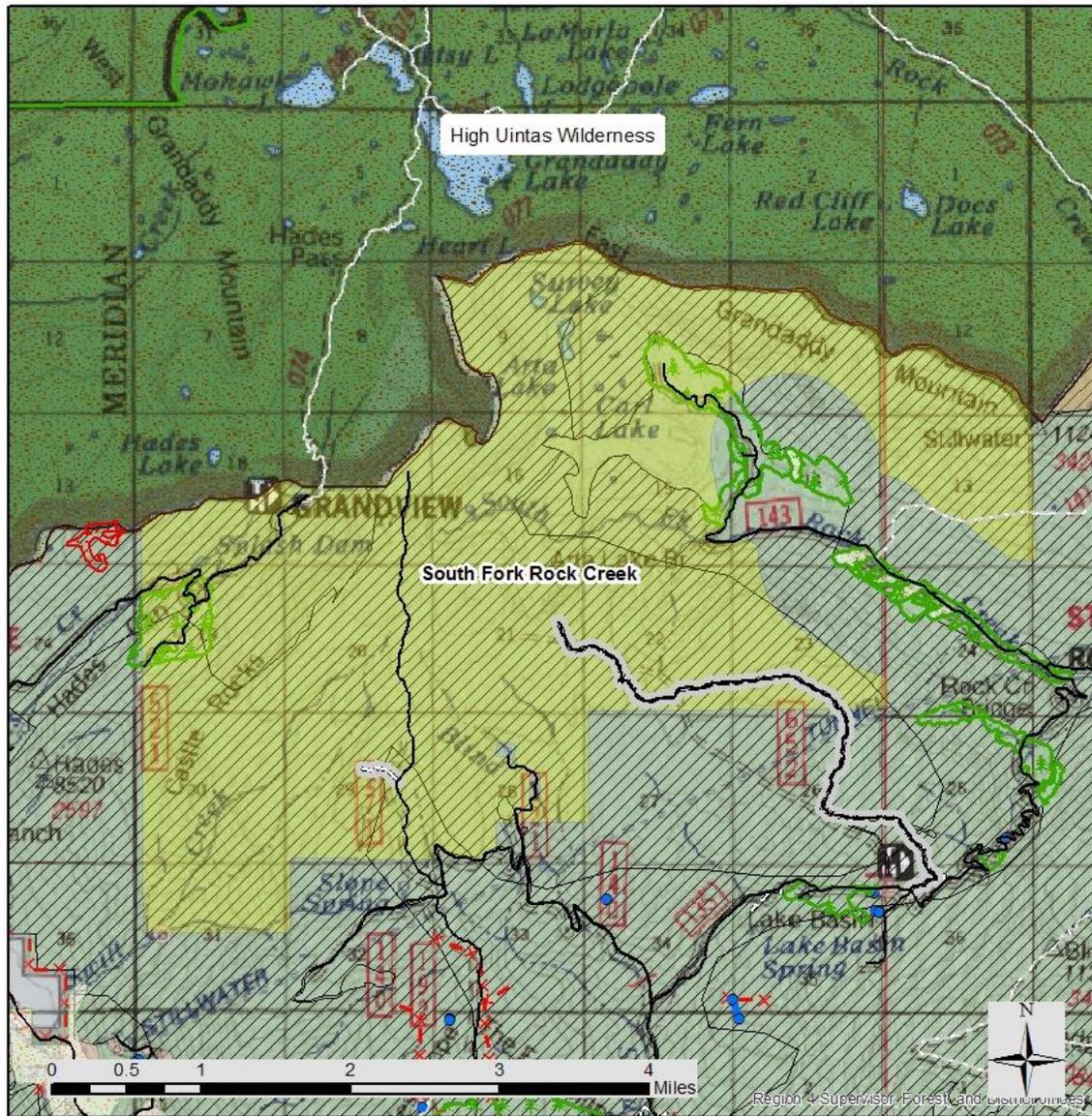
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is irregular. The area is boundary to the north in the Ashley National Forest boundary and to the east and west are roads. The southern boundary is not tied to a geographic location and is not distinguishable from the lands outside of the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	None identified
Are there 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 Daggett County General 2017 Resource Management Plan states; "Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options".
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The private and State Trust Lands adjacent to the northern boundary are mainly undeveloped and are managed as range lands. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	2% MA b (Moderate Timber Production); 28% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 14% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 25% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 31% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	7,376 acres @ 99.92%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	94.0% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

South Fork Rock Creek - 320

South Fork Rock Creek



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 23. South Fork Rock Creek wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 47% Aspen
- 2% Douglas fir
- 27% Engelmann Spruce
- 2% Gambel Oak
- 7% Lodgepole Pine
- 13% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Rock
- Less than 1% Mountain Brush and Subalpine fir

The steep slopes in the inventory area around the South Fork of Rock Creek have a vegetative cover of Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The rolling uplands above the timberline include plant communities of Engelmann spruce, alpine sedge/grass and forbs, with inclusions of Krummholtz Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. Cushion plant, geum sedge, and sedge-grass communities occur on the steep rocky slopes wherever pockets of soil have formed.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare
- Whitetailed Ptarmigan

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁸⁴)	100%

⁸⁴ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.71%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁸⁵ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	99.93%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The Engelmann spruce communities have a fire regime of 4 and condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the western portion of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the western part of the inventory are have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 2*

There have been no identified wildfires in the area over the past 60 years.

Three regeneration harvest individual tree selection timber harvests were completed in 1966, 1999, and 2002. Four small stand clear cuts were done in 1975 along the Castle Rock road in the western side of the inventory area.

There are four Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed out of the inventory area. There are two trails open to all vehicles, #1215 and 1209, in the inventory area. A few unauthorized routes are present, primarily in the southeastern part of the inventory area.

The inventory area contains parts of four range allotments: Shale Creek, North Fork Duchesne, Blind Stream, and Rock Creek. There are no stock improvements in the inventory area.

⁸⁵ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	5.28 acres @ 0.06%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	None
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	The Splash Dam dispersed camping site is popular and is compacted soils and modified vegetation
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The Honeycomb and Amber Onyx calcite mines are patented mining claims that have been excluded from the inventory area, but are surrounded by the inventory area. These mines are active.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁸⁶.

⁸⁶ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	8,921 acres @ 99.96%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	30 acres @ 0.34%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

There are no adjacent private lands or non-Forest Service roads.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

There terrain consists of moderate to very steep ridge sides above timberline that grade laterally to cliffs. The area includes East Granddaddy Mountain and the cirque basin, where Arta Lake, Survey Lake and Carl Lake are located. The area to the south and southwest of this cirque basin is composed of elongated lateral moraines and broad tops, separated by broad open troughs. The western slope descending into Hades Canyon contains steep slope and cliff faces, including Castle Rocks.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	26 acres (Primitive); 5000 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 56.32% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area. These activities occur mainly around Survey, Arta, and Carl Lakes, and along the Headache Road #10171.

The cirque basin containing Survey Lake, Arta Lake, and Carl Lake are popular destinations for hiking and fishing.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁸⁷? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	52.4% @ 4,679 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.05% @ 4 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	61.6% @ 5,001 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Are there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

East Granddaddy Mountain (at 11,659 feet) overlooks Granddaddy Basin within the High Uintas Wilderness and the South Fork of Rock Creek drainage.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	6,069 acres % 68.00%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	185 acres @ 2.07%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

The Castle Rocks, in the North Fork Duchesne drainage, are dramatic steep rock formations.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

Minimal surveys have been performed in the inventory area. One eligible prehistoric site has been identified within the inventory area.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans four watersheds:

- *Hades Creek – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Swift Creek – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*

⁸⁷ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

- *Blind Stream has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *South Fork Rock Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah WCD - Duchesne Valley and Green River City municipal watersheds.

South Fork Rock Creek has a genetically pure population of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is irregular. The areaborders the High Uintas Wilderness to the north and northwest. The inventory area covers the south slope of East Granddaddy Mountain, and the ridgeline between Hades Canyon and South Fork Rock Creek - including Castle Rocks Hades Canyon. The inventory area boundaries are not tied to roads or distinguishable landmarks.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."

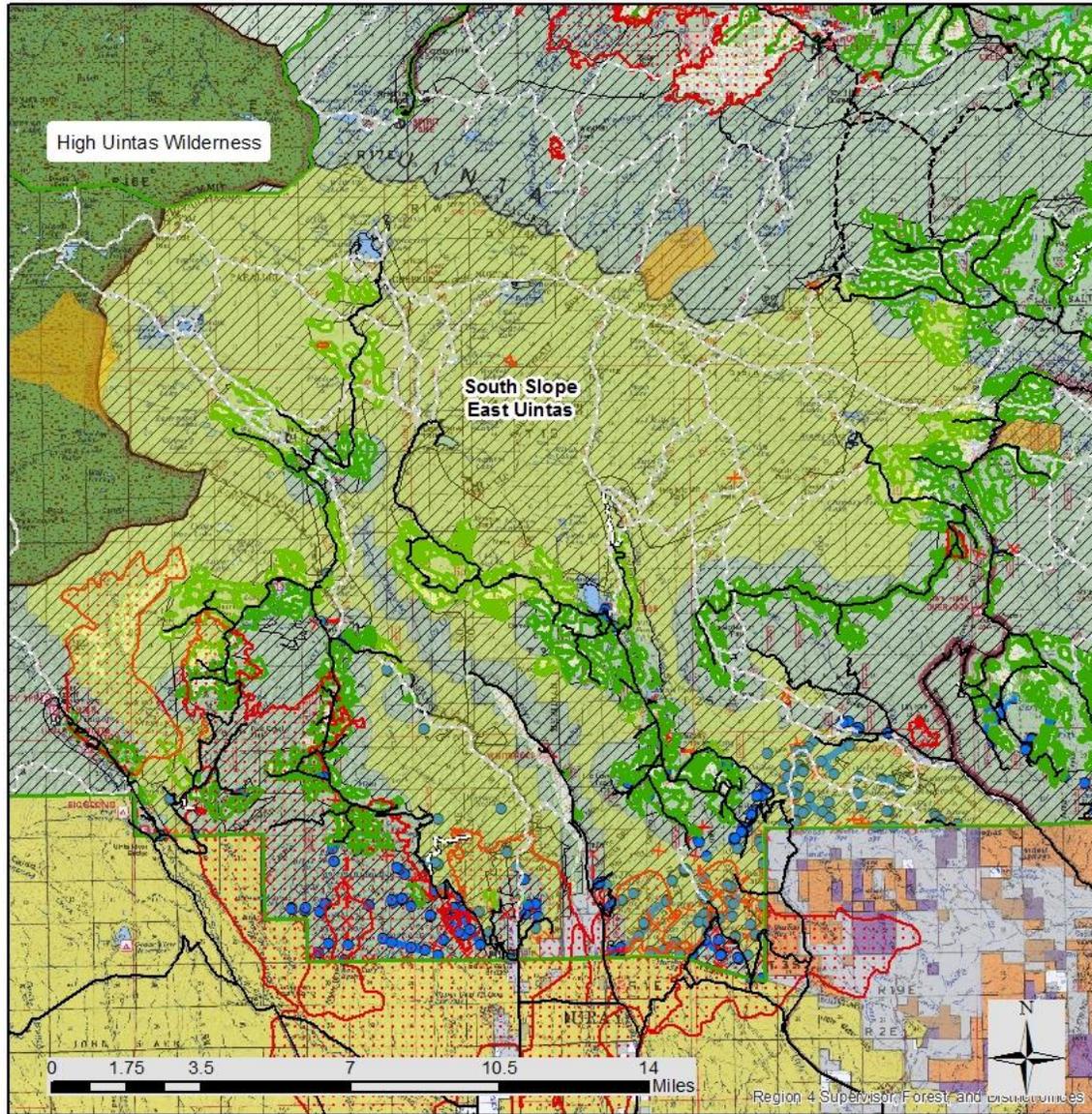
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the High Uintas Wilderness to the north and is surrounded by other Ashley National Forest lands to the south, west, and east. The High Uintas Wilderness is managed according to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. The non-wilderness Ashley National Forest lands are management for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	1% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 12% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 87% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	None
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	94.7% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

South Slope East Uintas - 463

South Slope East Uintas



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 24. North Slope East Uintas wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 2% Alpine
- 1% Douglas fir
- 24% Engelmann Spruce
- 13% Fell-field
- 4% Lodgepole Pine
- 2% Low Willow
- 2% Meadow grasses and forbs
- 24% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Brush
- 6% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 2% Persistent Aspen
- 1% Pinyon – juniper
- 11% Rock
- 6% Seral Aspen
- 1% Willow
- Less than 1% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany,
- Black Sagebrush, Cottonwood, Maple, Ponderosa Pine, Serviceberry, Shale Semi-barrens, Subalpine Fir, Tall Willow, and Wyoming Big Sagebrush

The plant communities in the inventory area vary widely by elevation. The high elevation boulder fields support little, if any, alpine vegetation. Vegetation cover on the rounded high elevation “bollies” consists of sedges, moss, dwarf clover, and other alpine vegetation. In the glacial high elevation valley bottoms, vegetative cover consists of alpine moraine wet and dry meadows - with sporadic tree cover. Sedges, grasses, and low growth willows (such as plainleaf willow) dominate the wet meadows and marsh marigold - and elephant head are common forbs in these wet areas. The dry meadows include sedges and grasses. The alpine moraine forested areas include lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir.

The lower elevation glacial valley bottoms east of the Uinta River have a dense forest cover of lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. Within the Whiterocks River, drainage the tree overstory occurs on most of the area, with minor inclusions of mixed mountain shrub. Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine and Douglas fir-aspen are the dominant overstory, with inclusion of subalpine fir.

Along the Middle and Lower Dry Fork, plant communities are variable and highly diverse. A Douglas fir and Oregon grape habitat occurs on the limestone derived soils, while at the upper portion lodgepole pine and grouse whortleberry plan communities occur. An aspen, narrow leaf cottonwood, snowberry community dominates the vegetative cover in the lower canyon bottoms. A blue spruce/grass community is intermingle with other communities, and side slopes are dominated by mountain brush with some juniper at the lower elevations.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- *Lynx*
- *Bandtailed Pigeons*
- *Black Bear*
- *Blue Grouse*
- *Greater Sage Grouse*
- *Moose*
- *Mountain Goat*
- *Mule Deer*
- *Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep*
- *Elk*
- *Ruffed Grouse*
- *Snowshoe Hare*

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁸⁸)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.85%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁸⁹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	99.99%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	99.99%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads, trails, and old timber cuts in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

⁸⁸ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁸⁹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

- *The mixed conifer communities in the north, west, and south of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the eastern part of the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 1*
- *The mixed conifer communities in the central part the inventory area have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Engelmann spruce communities have a fire regime of 4 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Ponderosa pine communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 3*
- *The seral Aspen communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities in the southern part of the inventory have a fire regime 2 and condition class of 2*
 - *fire regime of 2 and condition class of 1*
 - *fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon-juniper communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 1*

The Whiterocks wildfire in 1988, Neola North wildfire in 2007, and the Uinta Canyon wildfire in 1989 burned parts of the southwestern part of the inventory area. Three other wildfires occurred in the inventory area in 1974, 1993, and 2001.

Clear cut timber harvests occurred throughout the inventory area, primarily in the in the 1970s. There have been multiple individual tree section harvests throughout the area, the majority occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

There are 29 Forest Service system roads cherry stemmed into the inventory area. There are unauthorized routes in the inventory area. The majority of these routes occur on the lower elevation parts of the south side of the inventory area. There are three trails open to all vehicles in the inventory area, #005, #0075, and #1211.

The inventory area contains parts or all of 13 range allotments, Uinta Rec Livestock, Farm Creek, Whiterocks River, Pole Creek, West Westrocks, Whiterocks Canyon, Dry Fork, Chepeta Lake, Lake Mountain, Marsh Peak, Lakeshore Basin, Taylor Mountain, and Black Canyon. There are multiple spring developments, stock troughs, ponds, and reservoirs, pipelines, and fences in the inventory area. These mainly occur in the southern portion of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	2390 acres @ 1.76%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	3329 acres @ 2.46%
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None identified
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	274 acres @ 0.20%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are dispersed camping spots throughout the inventory area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to the Pole Creek Campground, West Fork Whiterocks and Chepeta Trailheads, Chepeta Day Use Area, and Massey Ranch private inholding,
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁹⁰.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	135,461 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	7,129 acres @ 5.26%

⁹⁰ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is adjacent to private lands on parts of the southern border.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The high elevation headwater areas include rounded and moderately steep alpine slopes and “bollies”, cirques, and hummocky ground moraines located along glacial valley bottoms below the cirques. Lakes, ponds, wet depressions, and open and forested knolls are common. The mid elevation glacial bottoms give way to steep to moderately steep slopes, extending from the ridge tops to the canyon bottoms.

The area along the southern boundary of the inventory area has plateau areas of gently rolling land around Gull Lake, to gently sloping shoulders and steep slopes south of Mosby Mountain.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	11,479 acres (Primitive); 83,186 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 69.88% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, backpacking, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding are popular in the inventory area. These activities occur throughout the inventory area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁹¹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

⁹¹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	65% @ 88,266 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.3% @ 455 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	31% @ 42,280 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are peaks throughout the inventory area, including: Marsh Peak, Leidy Peak, and Paradise Peak. Cirque basins and lakes are scattered throughout the inventory area. The Whiterocks Cave is within the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	88,761 acres @ 65.52%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	638 acres @ 0.47%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

Whiterocks Cave contains impressive formations of water deposited minerals

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been some historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. Multiple eligible prehistoric and historic sites have been identified.

Question 3d: Are there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans 16 watersheds:

- *Clover Creek-Uinta River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Pole Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *West Fork Whiterocks has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *East Fork Whiterocks River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Twin Lakes has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *North Fork Ashley Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*

- *South Fork Ashley Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Brownie Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Dry Fork – North Fork has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Dry Fork – Twin Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Dry Fork Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Upper Deep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Mosby Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Middle Deep Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Paradise Creek – Whiterocks River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly,*
- *Hominy Creek – Farm Creek has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *A small portion of an additional watershed is included in the inventory area but has not been evaluated for the watershed condition framework*

The inventory area is part of the Green River City, Tridell – Lapoint, Ashley Valley Water, and Deseret Generation and Transmission municipal watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

Part of the Uinta Shale Creek Research Natural Area is within the inventory area. The Research Natural Area was established in 1996 for the features of; Subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce forest and krummholz, alpine turf communities, and cirque basins draining into moist forest-meadow complexes.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	279 acres @ 0.21%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

Research activities are ongoing at some of the high elevation lakes in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

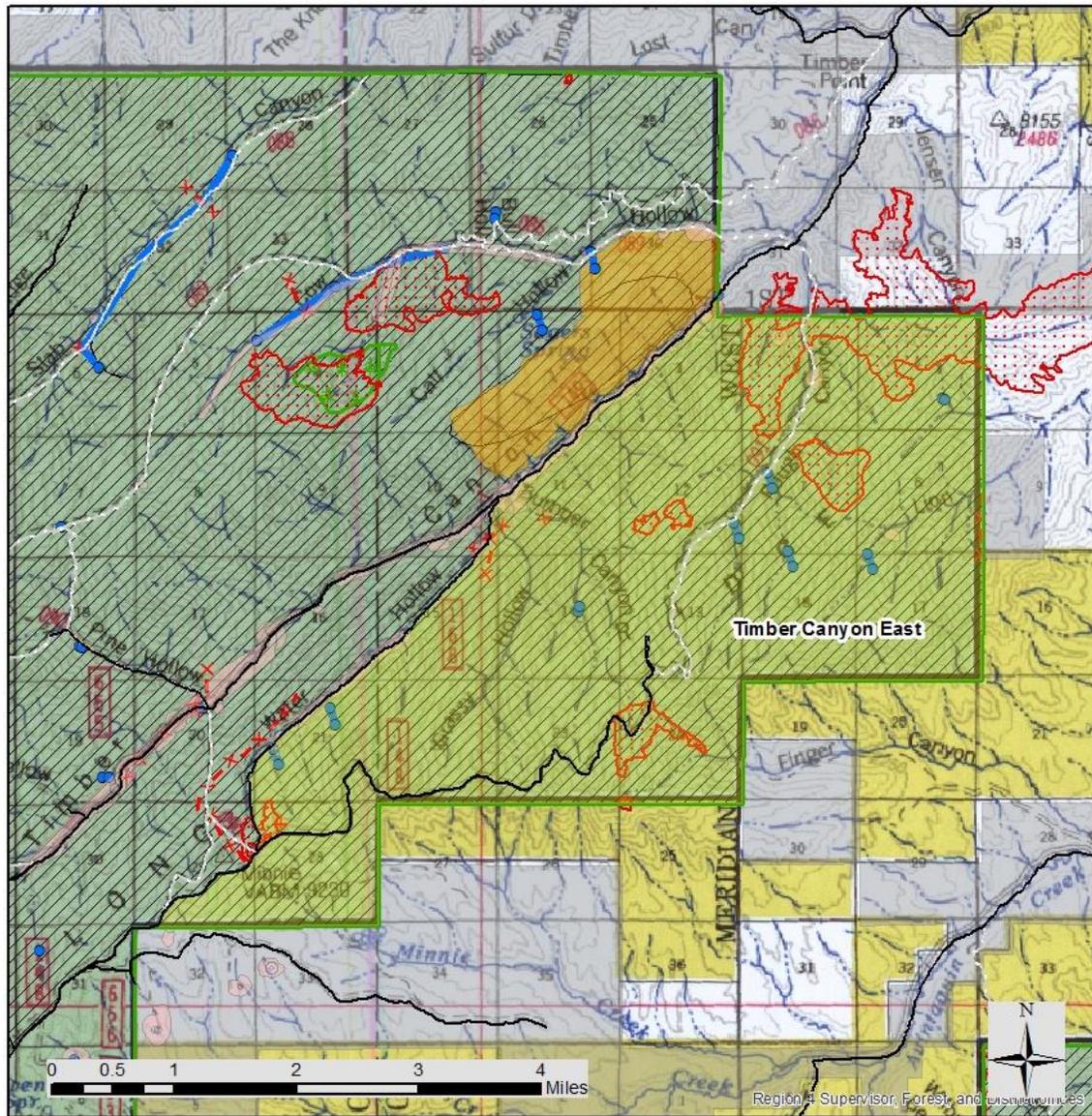
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area shape is very irregular. The area boundary is defined by roads and the Ashley National Forest boundary in some parts of the inventory area. The majority of the boundary is not tied to geographic locations and is difficult to distinguish from lands not included in the inventory.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	<p>Part of the inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.</p> <p>There are Ditch Bill Easements that are surrounded by the inventory area. These are Wigwam Lake and Dam, Papoose Lake and Dam, Moccasin Lake and Dam, Paul Lake, Little Elk Lake, Blanchett Park Diversion and Pipeline, Upper Goose Lake, Lower Goose Lake, and Ashley Twin Lakes.</p>
Are there 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?	<p>An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."</p> <p>The 2017 Uintah County Resource Management Plan states "The County does not support designation of additional areas within the County as federally designated Wilderness".</p>
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the High Uintas Wilderness on the west and north sides. The High Uintas Wilderness is managed according to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. The lands adjacent to the inventory to the south include the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands. These lands are primarily undeveloped. The inventory area is adjacent to Ashley National Forest lands not included in the inventory, which are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	1% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 3% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 7% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 35% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 54% Ma n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	115,004 acres @ 84.89%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	90.0% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Timber Canyon East - 204

Timber Canyon East



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 25. Timber Canyon East

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 1% Riparian Deciduous
- 21% Douglas fir
- 13% Grass
- 13% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 1% Persistent Aspen
- 17% Pinyon juniper
- 20% Ponderosa Pine
- Less than 1% of Ponderosa Pine

The vegetation in the inventory area is influenced by elevation and exposure. The vegetation on the high elevations (7,800 – 9,000 feet) steep slopes of Grassy Hollow and Bumper Canyon consists of dense stands of Douglas fir and aspen on north facing aspects, and sparse pinyon pine Douglas fir on the south aspects. On the less steep slopes of all aspects, the vegetation consists of grasses, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. The vegetation in Rough Canyon and Lion Hollow consists of grasses, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany on the ridge tops, and the upper canyon side slopes have dense Douglas fir and mixed conifer.

At mid-elevation along the canyon slopes, the vegetation is mostly pinyon pine - with some Douglas fir and juniper. Substantial patchy areas of perennial grass and mountain mahogany are intermixed with the pinyon pine-Douglas fir areas. At the lower elevations, persistent aspen and mountain big sagebrush/grass communities cover much of the canyon areas. In Finger Canyon, the south to west aspects vegetation consist of sparse pinyon pine-Douglas fir-juniper, and the north to east aspects have either moderately dense pinyon pine-Douglas fir or perennial grass-sagebrush-mountain mahogany. The north facing slopes on the south side of Finger Canyon vegetation consist of Douglas fir and mixed coniferous forest stands, with and without seral aspen. In Timber Canyon, the vegetation is mostly pinyon pine, with some Douglas fir and juniper. The bottom lands of Timber Canyon consist of willow, cottonwood, grasses, and sagebrush.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Timber Canyon is managed for conservation of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁹²)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	98.28%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁹³ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The pinyon pine-juniper communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3*
- *The mountain big sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 2*

⁹² Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁹³ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

There have been five wildfires in the inventory area between 1974 and 2002.

There is one Forest Service System road cherry stemmed into the inventory area, for approximately 5.2 miles. A number of unauthorized routes are present. An unauthorized route traverses the complete length of Grassy Hollow.

The inventory area contains a majority of the Long Ridge range allotments and portions of the Timber Canyon and Strawberry allotment. There are numerous spring developments and stock troughs.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations (including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters), provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	30 acres @ 0.28%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	There are dispersed camping within the inventory area, primarily along the ridgelines
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The private, tribal, and state wildlife reserve lands are primarily undeveloped
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁹⁴.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	10,479 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is partially bordered by private lands on the north, east and south. These lands contain little developments.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of ridge and canyon bottom topography, with an average of 1,000 relief between ridge tops and canyon bottoms and stream courses generally trend north. . The terrain descends in a north and northeast direction from Long Ridge. The terrain south of Long Ridge descends easterly.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 6,278 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 59.91% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area. The activities occur mainly along Timber Canyon, the Rough Canyon Trail #1091, and the bottom lands of Grassy Hollow and Bumper Canyon.

⁹⁴ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁹⁵? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, the Ashley National Forest to the north, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	718 acres @ 6.85%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	21 acres @ 0.20%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been a limited number of historic and prehistoric surveys in the inventory area. No eligible sites have been found.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

⁹⁵ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

The inventory area includes portions of three watersheds; Timber Canyon, Finger Canyon-Avintaquin, Minnie Creek-West Fork Avintaquin.

- *Timber Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Minnie Creek-West Fork Avintaquin has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
- *Finger Canyon-Avintaquin has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*

The inventory area contains parts of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City municipal watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas of research natural area in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape of the inventory area is irregular. One road is cherry stemmed into the inventory area. The western boundary is formed by roads, and the north, east, and south boundaries are the Ashley National Forest boundary.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."

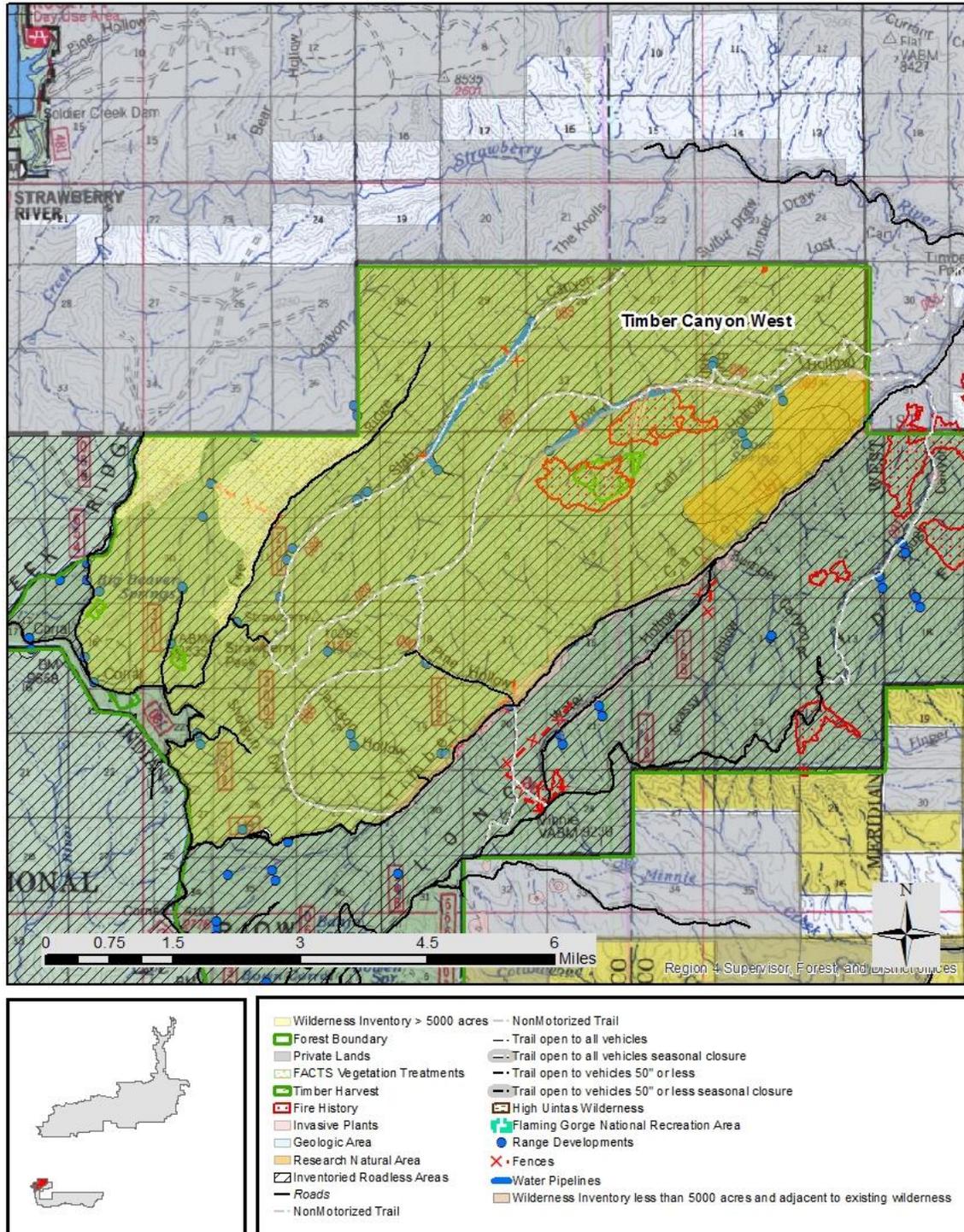
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Timber Canyon Wildlife Management Area to the east and north, private lands on the north, east, and south and tribal lands on the south and east. These lands are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	29% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 19% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 52% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	10,441 acres @ 99.64%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.2% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Timber Canyon West - 205

Timber Canyon West



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 26. Timber Canyon West wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 12% Douglas fir
- 1% Gambel Oak
- 15% Grass
- 2% Mixed Conifer
- 1% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 14% Persistent Aspen
- 9% Pinyon – juniper
- 34% Seral Aspen
- 2% Yellowbrush
- Less than 1% Riparian Deciduous, Forbs, Ponderosa Pine, and Tall Willow

The vegetative cover of the inventory area is influenced by elevation and exposure. Beaver Canyon has a vegetative cover of dense stands of Douglas fir and aspen on north facing slopes, and sparse pinyon pine and Douglas fir on south facing slope. There is some grass, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany on both north and south facing slope. The vegetative cover on Twelve Hundred Dollar Ridge consists of grass, sagebrush, and mountain brush. The south facing slopes of Slab Canyon supports a vegetative cover of aspen, spruce, and fir with intervening openings of forbs, grasses and mountain brush. At lower elevations in Slab Canyon, the vegetative cover is old growth ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen, and mountain mahogany.

The vegetation in Shotgun Draw, Jackson Hollow, Pine Hollow, and Timber Canyon consists of fir and seral aspen at the upper drainage areas, Douglas fir and aspen at mid elevations, and sparse pinyon pine/Douglas fir, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and grasses at lower elevations. The bottom lands of Timber Canyon consist of willow, cottonwood, grasses, and sagebrush. The vegetation in Cow Hollow, Bull Hollow, and Calf Hollow consists of old growth ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen, and mountain mahogany on the higher elevations slide slopes. On the lower elevation side slopes with a southern aspect, the vegetation consists of pinyon pine - with some Douglas fir. Substantial patchy areas of perennial grass and mountain mahogany are intermixed with the pinyon pine-Douglas fir areas.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Timber Canyon is managed for conservation of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ⁹⁶)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	97.73%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ⁹⁷ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The pinyon pine-juniper communities have a fire regime of 1 and condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

A broadcast burn of 1258 acres was performed in 2011 on Twelve Hundred Dollar Ridge and the north end Beaver Canyon.

An individual tree selection timber harvest was performed in 1960 between Cow Hollow and Calf Hollow. A regeneration harvest individual tree selection timber cut was performed in 1992, along the Beaver Springs Road. A regeneration harvest individual tree selection timber cut was performed in 1992 at the head of Beaver Canyon.

⁹⁶ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

⁹⁷ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

The Cow Hollow wildfire in 2005 burned 330 acres of the inventory area and the Cow Hollow wildfire in 2014 burned 290 acres.

There are 6 Forest Service System roads cherry stemmed out of the inventory area, the longest being 5.3 miles. A number of unauthorized routes are present, with the majority leading to dispersed camping locations in Beaver Canyon and Twelve Hundred Dollar Ridge. A tractor "cat" trail parallels the water pipe line in Cow Canyon.

The inventory area contains a portions of three active range allotments; Slab Canyon, Timber Canyon, and Strawberry. There are numerous spring developments, stock ponds, reservoirs, and troughs, and range fences.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	1,250 acres @ 5%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	4.84 acres
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	78 acres @ 0.32%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping locations, primarily located in Beaver Canyon and Twelve Hundred Dollar Ridge
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is adjacent to private lands on the north and partially on the east. These lands are undeveloped. The Strawberry River Road is approximately 1 mile north of the inventory area.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation⁹⁸.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	24,551 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is bordered on the north side by private lands. The Strawberry River county road is approximately 1 mile from the northern boundary.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of ridge and canyon bottom topography, with an average of 1,000 feet of relief between ridge tops and canyon bottoms. Ridges, canyon bottoms and stream courses generally trend and descend in a northeast direction from the western portion of the areas near Willow Creek Ridge, to a confluence with Strawberry River immediately north of undeveloped area. The exception to this is the terrain along Timber Canyon where the ridgelines are narrow, with short side slopes that descend to Timber Canyon Creek.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 13,428 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 54.69% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

⁹⁸ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, mainly along the south to north trending ridge lines and on the five non-motorized trails in the area.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types⁹⁹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0.0008% @ 0.19 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, the Ashley National Forest to the north, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

Strawberry Peak, elevation 10,355, is located in the western portion of the inventory area, at the southern end of Twelve Hundred Dollar Ridge.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	3,129 acres @ 12.75%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	105 acres @ 0.43%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been a limited number of historic and prehistoric surveys in the inventory area. No eligible sites have been found.

⁹⁹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes portions of two watersheds; Timber Canyon and Beaver Canyon-Strawberry River. Timber Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning properly and Beaver Canyon – Strawberry River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.

The inventory area is part of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City, Utah watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

The inventory area contains part of the Timber – Cow Hollow Ridge Research National Area. The Timber – Cow Hollow Ridge Research Natural Area is located in the Cow Hollow and Calf Hollow areas. The values associated with this Research Natural Area are: vegetation – Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen; and geologic – sedimentary rocks.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	1,177 acres @ 4.79%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape of the inventory is irregular, with six cherry stemmed roads extending into the area. Roads form the southern and part of the western boundary. The Forest boundary forms the north, east, and part of the western boundaries.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states “Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness...”

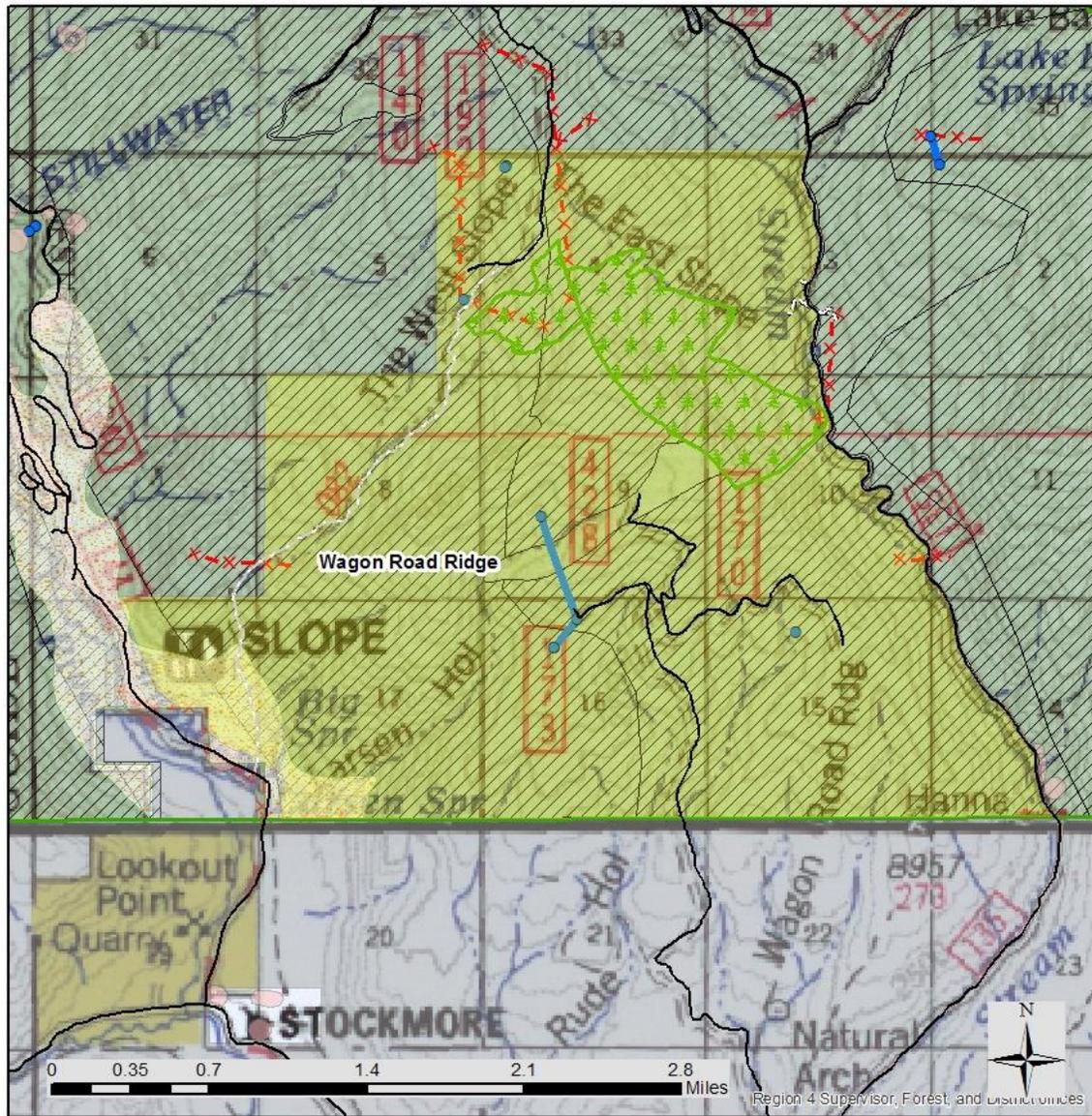
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uinta Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the west and a majority of these lands have been designated as inventoried roadless area. The lands adjacent to the inventory area on the north are private and the Strawberry River Wildlife Management Area and are primarily undeveloped. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	2% MA a (Research Natural Area Candidates); 28% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 23% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roded); 47% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	24,521 acres @ 99.87%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.6% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Wagon Road Ridge - 242

Wagon Road Ridge



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 27. Wagon Road Ridge wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 1% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 2% Black Sagebrush
- 3% Riparian Deciduous
- 1% Douglas fir
- 4% Engelmann Spruce
- 7% Gambel Oak
- 11% Grass
- 15% Mixed Conifer
- 12% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 25% Persistent Aspen
- 17% Seral Aspen
- 1% Yellowbrush
- Less than 1% Fringed Sagebrush

The vegetative cover is mixed mountain shrub communities with minor inclusions of mixed conifer and aspen at the lower elevations. The higher elevations vegetation includes mixed conifer and aspen, as well as grasses on the exposed ridges and meadows. The southern side of the inventory area is primarily south facing hill slopes with Mountain Big Sagebrush and grasses.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹⁰⁰)	100%

¹⁰⁰ Past timber harvests considered "most impactful," which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	99.62%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁰¹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	99.96%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited to roads and trails in the inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2*
- *The Persistent Aspen communities have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The mixed conifer communities on the west side of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 3*
- *The mixed conifer communities on the east side of the inventory area have a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*

There have been no wildfires in the area over the past 60 years.

An individual tree selection harvest was conducted in 1961 in the inventory area. In 2008, a developed site hazard tree removal project occurred along the southwestern border of the inventory area.

There are three administratively closed Forest Service System roads within the inventory area, longest being approximately 4.8 miles long. A number of unauthorized routes are present, the majority of them are located on the southern side of the inventory area.

The inventory area contains portion of two range allotments, Blind Stream and North Fork Duchesne. There are four stock fences, two spring developments, and two stock ponds.

¹⁰¹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	173 acres @ 3.42%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal.	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	18 acres @ 0.36%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	A few dispersed camping sites are located on the eastern boundary of the inventory area, along the Blind Stream road.
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	The inventory area is bordered to the south by private lands. These lands have minimal development.
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹⁰².

¹⁰² The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	5,063 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The inventory area is bordered on its southern boundary by private lands and also on a small portion of the southwestern border.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The inventory area includes a portions of the foothills of the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. The inventory area covers a part of the ridgeline between the North Fork Duchesne River drainage and the Blind Stream drainage. The area has multiple cliff faces and moderately deep drainages.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 1,850 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 36.54% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding, occur within the inventory area, mainly along the Slope Hades Canyon trail #1082 and adjacent to the Blind Stream Road on the eastern boundary.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity

hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹⁰³? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, and the Ashley National Forest.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the inventory area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	2,727 acres @ 53.85%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	62 acres @ 1.22%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the inventory area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been minimal historic and prehistoric surveys in the area. No eligible sites have been located.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans three watersheds, Swift Creek – Duchesne River on the west side, Blind Stream on the east side, and Rudy Hollow – Duchesne River in the southcentral portion.

- *Swift Creek – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*
- *Blind Stream has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*

¹⁰³ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

- *Rudy Hollow – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning at properly*

The inventory area is part of the Duchesne and Green River City municipal watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape of the inventory area is blocky. The eastern boundary is formed by the Blind Stream Road. The southern boundary by the Ashley National Forest boundary. The west and north boundaries are not tied to any landmarks and would be difficult to distinguish from the surrounding area.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes. The Rhoades Pipeline Ditch Bill Easement on the southwestern side of the inventory area.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management states “Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness...”
Describe the management of adjacent lands	Private range lands border the inventory area to the south. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.

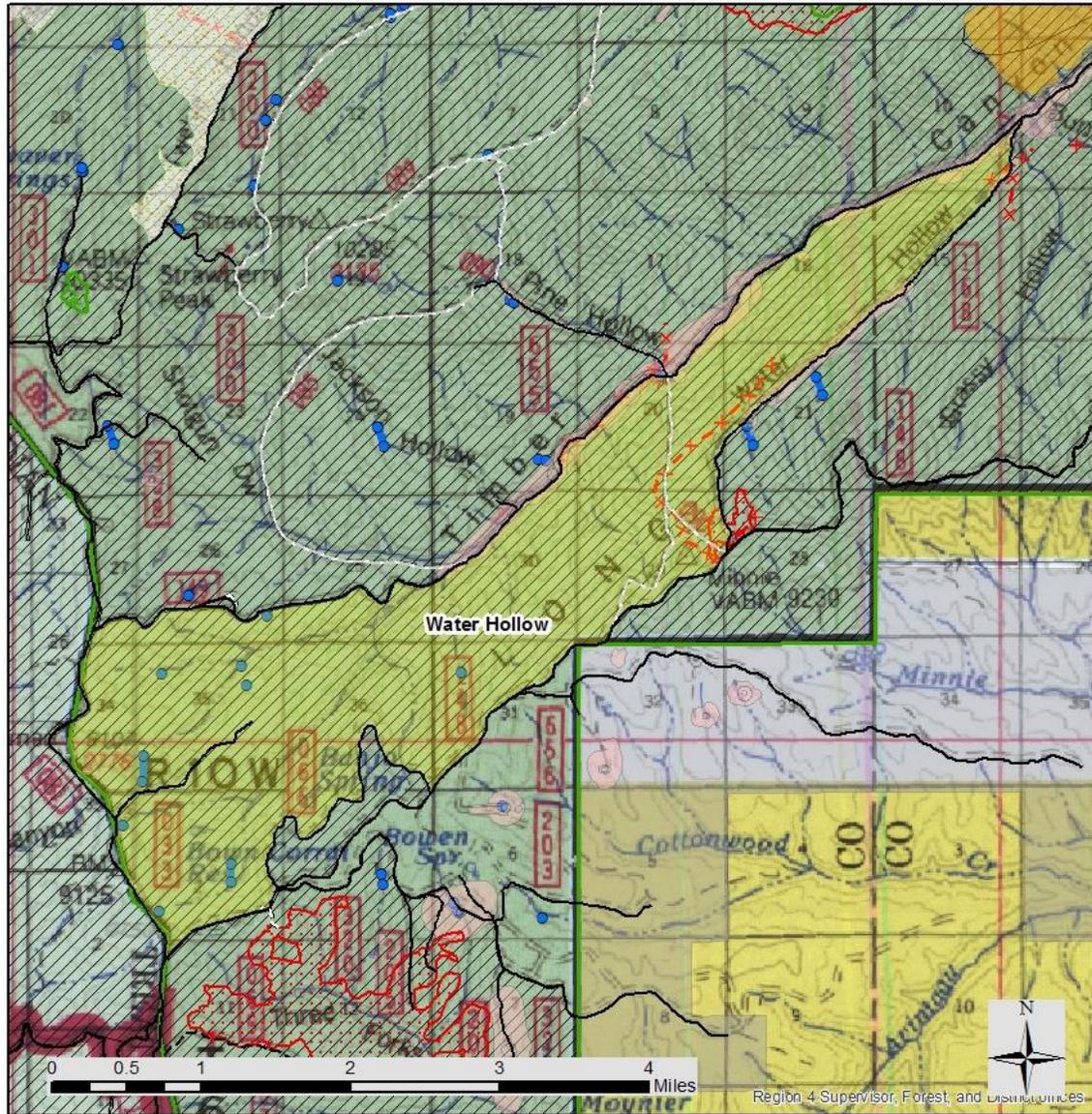
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area	8% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Roaded); 10% MA g (Undeveloped Dispersed Recreation – Unroaded); 1% MA k (Maximum Water Yield Recreation); 81% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area.	5,057 acres @ 99.88%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	96.0 % of inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS
PLANNING PROCESS
Evaluation Worksheet

Water Hollow - 201

Water Hollow



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 28. Water Hollow wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: *Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable*

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 12% Douglas fir
- 12% Grass
- 24% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 2% Persistent Aspen
- 47% Seral Aspen
- 2% Tall Willow
- Less than 1% Riparian Deciduous, Pinyon – juniper, Rubber Rabbitbrush

The concave and flat areas along the ridge lines, branching out from Reservation Ridge, have a vegetative cover of subalpine fir and Douglas fir with and without aspen. Mountain big sagebrush/grass communities are common where tree cover is light. Spiked big sagebrush is found where snow persist into late June and July.

Intervening canyon side slopes and bottoms have a tree cover of Douglas fir and mixed coniferous stands. Seral aspen covers much of the lower and moderate gradients of all aspects and the canyon bottoms. Grasses and other herbaceous species are abundant on the steeper slopes with a southerly aspect.

Along lower elevations along the eastern boundary of the inventory area, north facing slopes are usually covered with Douglas fir and pinyon pine-juniper - but no aspen. The upper part of the north facing slopes are less steep and supports a shrub vegetation of mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sagebrush. The steeper south facing slopes have a cover of grass and some shrub vegetation.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including:

- Lynx
- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Elk
- Ruffed Grouse
- Snowshoe Hare

The area also includes the headwaters of Avintaquin Creek, which contains a population of Colorado River Cutthroat trout

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹⁰⁴)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	95.55%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁰⁵ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are limited in the inventory area and mainly occur along roads.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The mountain brush communities have a fire regime of 2 and condition class of 2. The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2.

The Water Hollow wildfire in 1974 burned approximately 18 acres of the inventory area.

A broadcast burn in 2012, burned 139 acres in the inventory area for wildlife habitat improvement.

There is one Forest Service System road cherry stemmed out of the inventory area, for 1.2 miles. A number of unauthorized routes are present, with the majority leading to dispersed camping locations on Reservation Ridge.

The inventory area contains a portion of the Horse Ridge range allotment and portion of the Avintaquin range allotment. There are multiple spring developments and stock ponds.

¹⁰⁴ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹⁰⁵ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	28 acres @ 0.55%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Dispersed camping sites are primarily located along Reservation Ridge within the inventory area.
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	None
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹⁰⁶.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	5,007 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

¹⁰⁶ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

The small part of the inventory area borders private lands.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The terrain consists of ridge and canyon bottom topography, Timber Canyon forms the northern boundary and Long Ridge and Water Hollow the southern boundary. The western portion of the inventory area contains the numerous narrow canyons at the head of Timber Canyon. The center and eastern portions of the inventory area contains the southern slope between the bottom of Timber Canyon and the crest of Long Ridge.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 0 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 0% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, and horseback riding occur within the inventory area, mainly along the south to north trending ridge lines.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹⁰⁷? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres

¹⁰⁷ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory area provides a corridor habitat for animals moving between the Uinta Wasatch Cache National Forest to the west, the Ashley National Forest to the north, and the Manti-La Sal National Forest to the south.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	1,061 acres @ 21.20%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0 acres @ 0%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

A limited number of historic and prehistoric surveys have been performed in the inventory area and no eligible sites have been located.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area includes portions of one watershed, Timber Canyon, which has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.

The inventory area contains parts of the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City watersheds.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the inventory area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

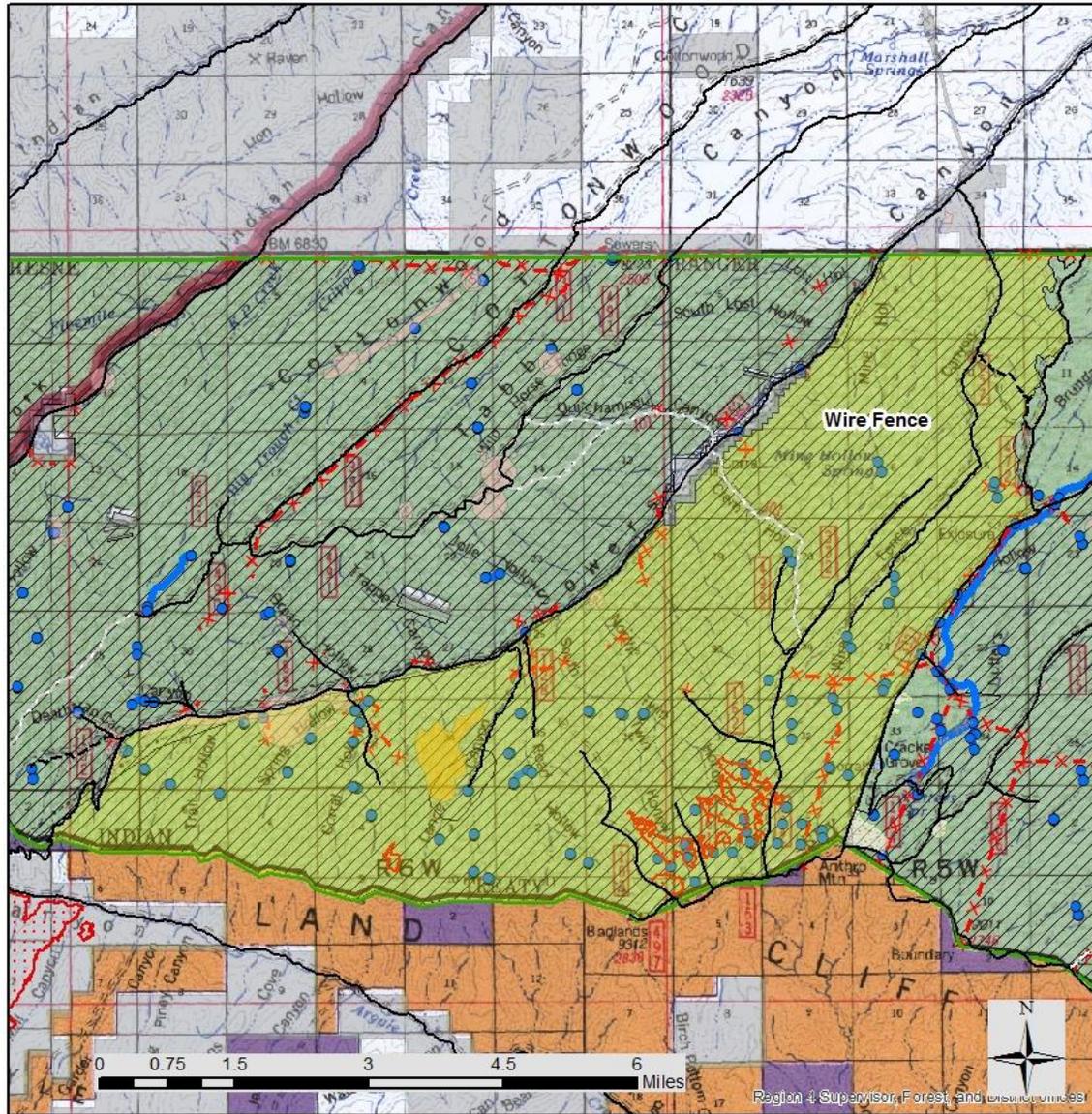
Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The shape is irregular, long and narrow. The inventory areas boundaries are defined by roads on all sides.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uinta Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the west and the lands have been designated and an inventoried roadless area. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use. The inventory area is adjacent to private lands for approximately 0.18 miles on the southern boundary. The private lands are primarily undeveloped.
Describe the current management of the area	29% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 23% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Routed); 48% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	4984 acres @ 99.54%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	99.1% of the inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

Wire Fence - 190

Wire Fence



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 29. Wire Fence wilderness inventory area

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

The vegetation in the inventory area consists of:

- 17% Alder-leaf Mountain Mahogany
- 1% Basing Big Sagerush
- 5% Black Sagebrush
- 16% Douglas fir
- 5% Grass
- 1% Greasewood
- 2% Mountain Brush
- 13% Mountain Big Sagebrush
- 3% Persistent Aspen
- 34% Pinyon – juniper
- 3% Rubber Rabbitbrush
- Less than 1% 5-needle Pine, Meadow grasses and forbs, and Riparian vegetation

The vegetative cover in the southern portion on the inventory area consists of dense stands of Douglas fir and aspen on steep northern aspects. The southern aspects support sparse pinyon pine and Douglas fir. On the less steep slope of all aspects, the vegetation consists of grasses, sagebrush, and mountain mahogany. The vegetation in the northern portion of the inventory area consists of moderately dense pinyon pine and juniper; with substantial patchy areas of perennial grass and mountain mahogany intermixed with pinyon pine and Douglas fir. The drainage bottoms have sagebrush and perennial grasses with a few patches of aspen groves.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- Bandtailed Pigeons
- Black Bear
- Blue Grouse
- Moose
- Mule Deer
- Pronghorn
- Elk
- Snowshoe Hare
- Greater Sage Grouse

The inventory are provides habitat for one endemic plant, Erigeron untermannii, Indian Canyon fleabane.

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹⁰⁸)	100%
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	98.49%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹⁰⁹ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. Weeds are generally limited to the road corridor on the western boundary.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

- *The mountain brush communities in this inventory polygon have a fire regime of 2, and a condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon juniper communities in the northern portion of the inventory area have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*
- *The pinyon juniper communities in the central and southern portion of the inventory area has a fire regime of 3 and a condition class of 2*
- *The Douglas fir communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 3*
- *The Mountain Big Sagebrush communities have a fire regime of 1 and a condition class of 2*

There have been three small wildfires between 2008 and 2016, primarily in the Douglas fir communities in the southern portion of the inventory area. Areas on the northeastern border of the inventory area were cleared of pinyon pine-juniper in the past. These areas have been excluded from the inventory but are surrounded by a small sliver of the inventory area.

¹⁰⁸ Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹⁰⁹ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

There are nine Forest Service System road cherry stemmed into the inventory area. Two of these roads reach more than five miles into the inventory area. A Forest Service System trail, #1199, is in the northcentral part of the inventory area. A number of unauthorized routes exist, primarily in the drainage bottoms and are the most prevalent along the Anthro Mountain Road, between the Nutters Ridge Road and Road Hollow.

The inventory area has portions of two range allotments, Sowers Canyon and Anthro Mountain. There is a boundary fence on the Ashley National Forest on the northern boundary that marks the border between the Ashley and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation. There are five other range fences, as well as multiple range spring developments, troughs, and reservoirs and two buried range pipelines.

One active oil and gas well pad in the northern portion of the area is cherry stemmed out of the inventory area. There is one planned well pad with an associated planned pipeline that has been cherry stemmed out the inventory area.

There is a powerline with a partially cleared corridor the runs along the western boundary of the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	0.76 acres @ 0.003%
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable.	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	167 acres @ 0.75%
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	Minor dispersed camping locations occur throughout the area
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	50 acres @ 0.22%
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	There is one active well pad that is surrounded by the inventory area and one on the northwestern border of the inventory area
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None Identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹¹⁰.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	22,238 acres @ 99.99%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	0 acres @ 0%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

Private lands border the inventory area at the northern end of Sowers Canyon, inside the administrative boundary of the Ashley National Forest. Private lands also border the inventory area on the northern boundary. The private lands are outside the administrative boundary of the forest.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening

The topography of the inventory area is dissected by numerous drainages with steep, long canyon side slopes.

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	0 acres (Primitive); 4,008 acres (Semi-Primitive non-motorized) @ 18.02% combined total
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

¹¹⁰ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Primitive recreation activities, camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, occur with the inventory area, mainly along Sowers Canyon and lower end of the drainages that have confluences with Sowers Canyon. Very few dispersed recreation activities occur in the upper areas of these drainages due to steep terrain and limited access routes.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹¹¹? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	0% @ 0 acres
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	0% @ 0 acres
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	0% @ 0 acres

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

Major road corridors adjacent to the east and west boundaries of the inventory area and off Forest oil and gas exploration and production have disrupted wildlife connectivity

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no known outstanding landscape features in the area.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	0 acres @ 0%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	2 acres @ 0.01%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area

There are no known unique geologic features in the area.

Question 3c: Are there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

¹¹¹ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Prehistoric surveys have been performed on a portions of the inventory area and a number of prehistoric sites have been found.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

The inventory area spans two watersheds, Lance Canyon-Sowers Canyon on the west side and Tabby Canyon-Sowers Canyon on the east side, with Wire Fence ridge separating the watersheds. Lance Canyon-Sowers Canyon has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk and Tabby Canyon-Sowers Canyon of functioning at risk.

The inventory area is part of the Green River City watershed.

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the inventory area.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	0 acres @ 0%

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the area.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	The inventory area is irregular with multiple cherry stemmed roads into the area. The area boundary is tied to roads on the west and east and the Ashley National Forest boundary to the north and south.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	There are portions of 4 active oil and gas leases and 2 inactive oil and gas leases in the area. The inventory area is within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The inventory area is adjacent to the Uintah Ouray Indian Reservation lands to the north. The reservation lands are managed for oil and gas production. The inventory area is adjacent to BLM and state lands to the south, which are managed for multiple use. The adjacent Ashley National Forest lands are managed for multiple use.
Describe the current management of the area	27% MA d (High Forage Production and Livestock Utilization); 1% MA e (Wildlife Habitat Emphasis); 5% MA f (Dispersed Recreation Road); 68% MA n (Range of Resource Uses and Outputs)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	7,196 acres @ 32.36%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	98.9 % of inventory area is Inventoried Roadless Area

2019

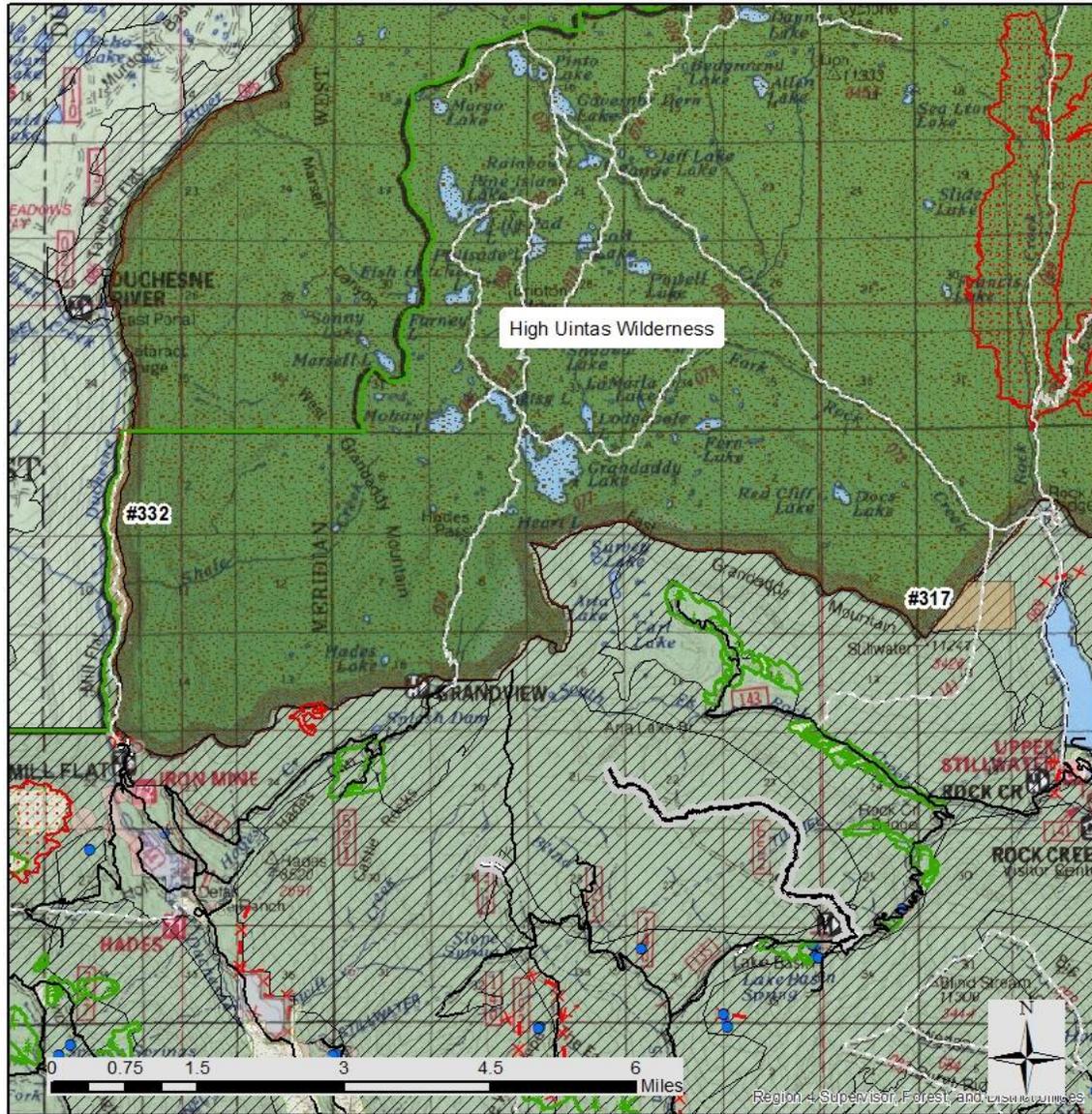
REGION 4 WILDERNESS PLANNING PROCESS Evaluation Worksheet

#317, 332, 370, 380

#317: 212 acres, #332: 165 acres, #370: 0.3 acres
and #380: 7 acres

Less than 5,000 acres, and
adjacent to existing Wilderness

Less than 5000 acres and adjacent to existing Wilderness (#317 and 332)

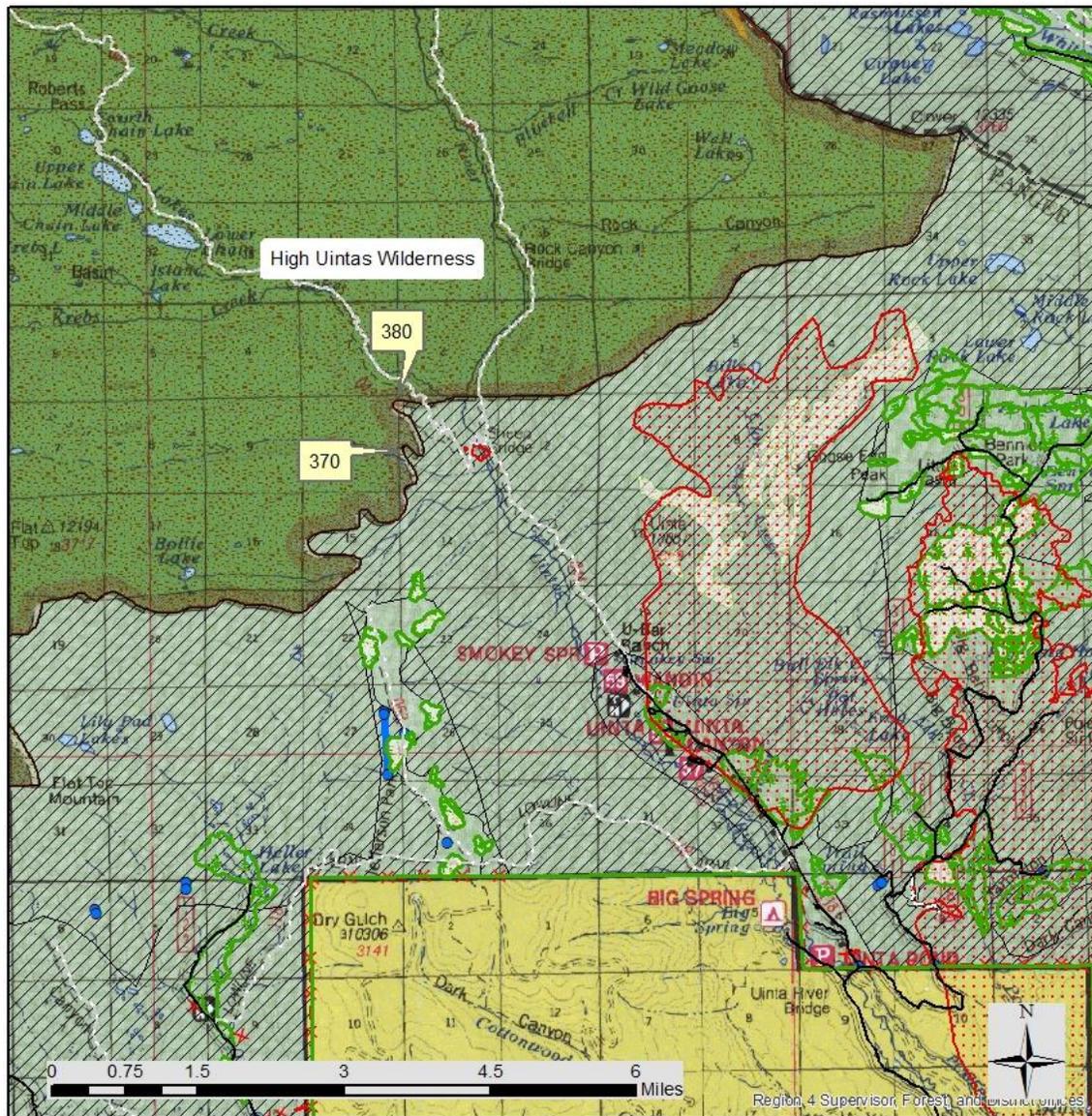


GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 30. Inventory Areas #317 and #332

Less than 5000 acres and adjacent to existing Wilderness (#370 and 380)



GIS data and mapping provides a consistent qualitative methodology for evaluation and display but precision varies on location and subject matter.

July 2018

Figure 31. Inventory Areas #370 and #380

CRITERIA 1: Evaluate the degree to which the area generally appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man’s work substantially unnoticeable

Question 1a: What is the composition of plant and animal communities within the area?

- Inventory area #317 is 11% Alpine and 89% mixed conifer
- Inventory area #332 is 100% mixed conifer
- Inventory area #370 is 100% mixed conifer
- Inventory area #380 is 100% Ponderosa pine

In inventory area #317 the mixed conifer is Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir. The alpine vegetation consists of alpine sedge/grass and forbs and cushion plant, geum sedge, and sedge-grass communities on the steep rocky slope where pockets of soil have formed.

The area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Lynx | • Moose | • Elk |
| • Goshawk | • Mountain Goat | • Ruffed Grouse |
| • Bandtailed Pigeons | • Mule Deer | • Snowshoe Hare |
| • Black Bear | • Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep | • Whitetailed Ptarmigan |
| • Blue Grouse | | |

Question 1b: What is the extent to which the area reflects ecological conditions that would normally be associated with the area without human intervention?

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent of area that appears to be affected primarily by the force of nature (inverse of the percent of area of timber harvest ¹¹²)	100%

¹¹² Past timber harvests considered “most impactful,” which in this context refers to the degree of visual change in the forest related to the proportion of the tree cover that is removed. Regeneration harvests (clearcut, seedtree and shelterwood cuts) are the most impactful, because they remove most of the existing trees and create the

Measures for 1a and 1b	Outcome
Percent total of the area without invasive weeds (inverse of the percent of total area that has invasive weeds)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by maintenance level 1 roads ¹¹³ (inverse of the percent of area of maintenance level 1 roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by decommissioned roads (inverse of the percent of area of decommissioned roads)	100%
Percent of area that is not affected by known historic roads (inverse of the percent of area of known historic roads)	100%

Measures for 1a and 1b:

Describe the extent of invasive fish and animals

There are no non-native or parasitic wildlife species present. There are no known invasive plants in the four inventory area.

Describe the departure from natural range of variation in forest composition, structure, patterns and ecological processes

The four inventory areas are primarily affected by the forces of nature. There are no vegetation treatments or timber harvests in the inventory areas.

Non-motorized trail #1081 traverses inventory area #332, and non-motorized trail #1141 traverses inventory area #317.

Inventory area #317 is within two range allotments, Granddaddy Basin and Rock Creek, inventory area #332 is within North Fork Duchesne allotment, and inventory areas #370 and 380 are within the Uinta Rec Livestock allotment. There are no range improvements within the inventory area.

Question 1c: What is the extent to which improvements (improvement criteria 71.22 from FSH Book 1909.12 chap 70) included in the inventory represent a departure from naturalness?

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Airstrips	None
Heliports	None
Vegetation treatments that are not substantially noticeable	None

most visual change. Intermediate cuts, such as commercial thins or salvage cuts, remove a smaller portion of the existing trees and are considered less impactful and generally have a moderate degree of change.

¹¹³ Roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses.

Improvement Type	Extent of departures (acres)
Timber harvest areas where logging and prior road construction are not substantially noticeable	None
Permanently installed vertical structures, such as electronic installations including cell towers, television, radio, and telephone repeaters, provided their impact, as well as their maintenance and access needs, is minimal	None
Areas of historic mining where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Areas of mining activity where impacts are not substantially noticeable	None
Range improvement areas, involving minor structural improvements (for example fences or water troughs) and non-structural improvements (chaining, burning, spraying, potholing, and so forth) that are not substantially noticeable	None
Recreational improvements, such as occupancy spots, or minor hunting, or outfitting camps	None
Ground-return telephone lines, electric lines, and power lines if a right-of-way has <u>not been cleared</u> . Exclude power lines with cleared right-of-ways, pipelines, and other permanently installed linear right-of-way structure.	None
Watershed treatment areas (contouring, diking, channeling) that are not substantially noticeable, or if wilderness character can be maintained or restored through appropriate management actions	None
Lands adjacent to development or activities that impact opportunities for solitude	None
Structures, dwellings and other relics of past occupation when they are considered part of the historical and cultural landscape of the area	None identified

CRITERIA 2: Evaluate the degree to which the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation¹¹⁴.

Question 2a: What is available for outstanding opportunity for solitude?

Measures for 2a	Outcome
Area and % total of area available for summer non-motorized opportunity	384 acres @ 100%
Area and % total available for winter non-motorized opportunity	7 acres @ 1%

Narrative for 2a:

- Describe the proximity to private lands and non-Forest Service roads

There are no non-Forest Service roads in close proximity to the four inventory areas. The nearest private land are two miles from inventory area #332.

- Describe the general topography of the area in context of sight, sound, and screening.

¹¹⁴ The area does not have to possess outstanding opportunities for both elements, nor does it need to have outstanding opportunities on every acre. Consider impacts that are pervasive and that influence a visitor's opportunity for solitude.

The topography varies between the inventory areas.

- *Inventory area #317 is located on the slope to west of Upper Stillwater Reservoir. The area includes an open rock field on a steep mountain slope*
- *Inventory area #332 is located in the Duchesne drainage canyon and contains the eastside of the drainage bottom and is gently sloping terrain*
- *Inventory areas #370 and 380 are on the mountain slope above the Uinta River*

Question 2b: What is available in the area for opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Measures for 2b	Outcome
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive classes for summer recreation opportunity spectrum	#332 – 100% Primitive #317, 370, and 380 – 100% Semi-primitive non-motorized
Acres and % total of primitive and non-primitive ROS winter recreation opportunity spectrum	NA

Measure for 2b:

Describe the types of primitive recreation activities in the area

Hiking and horseback riding are the two main primitive recreation activities in the inventory areas #317 and 332. There is no access to inventory areas # #370 and 380 and primitive recreation activities are not likely.

Criteria 3: Evaluate the degree to which the area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

Question 3a: Does the area contain rare plant or animal communities; rare ecosystem for wildlife habitat; rare ecosystem for aquatics; rare ecosystem for terrestrial; any biodiversity hotspots; coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species, or underrepresented/rare vegetation types¹¹⁵? Need to be site specific for each Forest.

Measures for 3a	Outcome
Habitat for rare plants - Acres of Uinta Bollie LTA	70 acres @ 18.22%
Acres of fens and ground water dependent ecosystems	1.2 acres @ 0.003%
Habitat for Black Rosy Finch – Acres of Uinta Bollie and Alpine Moraine LTA	323 acres @ 84.11%

¹¹⁵ Rare can be determined locally, regionally, nationally, or within the system of protected designations.

Measure for 3a: Description of the coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species

The inventory areas are too small to contribute to coarse scale key connectivity for multiple species.

Question 3b: Is there any outstanding landscape features such as waterfalls, mountains, viewpoints, waterbodies, or geologic features?

There are no outstanding landscape features in the inventory areas.

Measures for 3b	Outcome
Acres and % total of distinctive scenic class	384 acres @ 100%
Outstanding landscapes in acres/% total (extremely steep breakland, cliffs)	0.04 acres @ 99.99%

Measure for 3b: Description of any unique geologic features in the area.

There are no unique geologic features in the inventory areas.

Question 3c: Is there historic or cultural resources of historic value in the area?

There have been no historic or prehistoric surveys in the inventory area.

Question 3d: Is there high quality water resources or important watershed features in the area?

- *Inventory area #317 is within the Cabin Creek – Rock Creek drainage and has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Inventory area #332 is within two drainages:*
 - *Hades Creek – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning at risk*
 - *Little Deer Creek – Duchesne River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Inventory area #370 is within the Clover Creek – Uinta River drainage and has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
- *Inventory area #380 is within two drainages:*
 - *Atwood Creek-Uinta River has a watershed condition class of functioning properly*
 - *Clover Creek – Uinta River drainage and has a watershed condition class of functioning properly.*

- *Inventory area #317 and #332 are within the Central Utah WCD – Duchesne Valley and Green River City municipal watershed*

Question 3e: Are there any special interest areas and/or research natural areas in the areas?

There are no special interest areas or research natural areas in the inventory areas.

Measure 3e	Outcome
Acres and % of total of special interest areas or research natural areas	None

Question 3f: Are there any scientific or education features in the area?

There are no known scientific or education features in the areas.

Criteria 4: Evaluate the degree to which the area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics

Question 4a: How can the area be managed to preserve its wilderness character?

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the shape and configuration of the area	Inventory area #317 is blocky in shape. The boundaries of #17 are not tied to geographic features. Inventory area # is long and thin and the western boundary is adjacent to the Ashley National Forest and Uinta Wasatch Cache boundaries. Inventory areas #370 and 380 are irregular in shape and the boundaries are not tied to any geographic location.
Describe if there are any legally established rights or uses within the area	The inventory areas are within the Uintah Special Meridian, which includes the original Uintah Valley Indian Reservation and has reserved treaty rights by the Ute Indian Tribe. Treaty rights are described in a variety of treaties with the Ute Indian Tribe and have been clarified in multiple court decisions, executive orders, and federal statutes.
Are there 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?	An objective in the 2017 Duchesne County resource management plan states "Avoid designation of additional areas within the county as federally designated wilderness..."
Describe the management of adjacent lands	The areas are adjacent to the High Uintas Wilderness which is managed according to the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. The adjacent non-wilderness National Forest Service lands are managed for multiple use.

Measures for 4a	Outcome
Describe the current management of the area	Inventory Area #317 – 67% MA g (Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded) and 33% MA n (Range of resource uses and outputs) Inventory Area #332 - 33% MA n (Range of resource uses and outputs) Inventory Area #370 - 100% MA g (Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded) Inventory Area #380 - 100% MA g (Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded)
Acres and % total of wildland urban interface in the area	377 acres @ 98.18%
Type and extent of management restrictions within the area	100% of the inventory areas are within Inventoried Roadless Areas