

Gila National Forest Plan Revision Evaluation Report of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics



Final Report, December 2019

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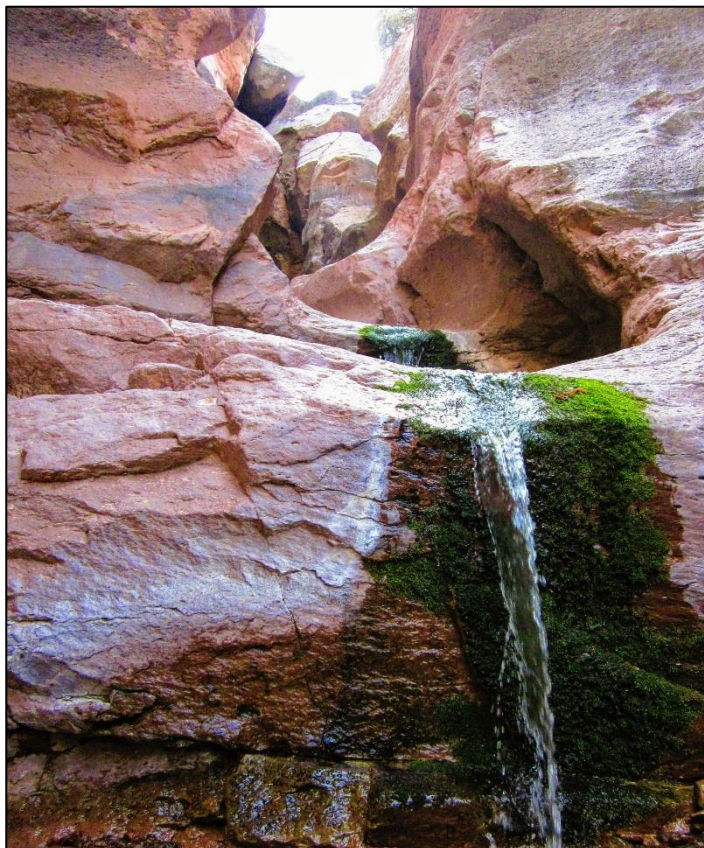
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Introduction

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

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



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

Step One – Inventory of Lands That May Possess Wilderness Characteristics (completed)

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

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

Step Two - Evaluation of Inventoried Lands for Wilderness Characteristics

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

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

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

Evaluation Process of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

1. **Sufficient Size to be Practicable to Manage as Wilderness** (if less than 5,000 acres size);
2. **Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics** (factors other than size);
3. **Apparent Naturalness**; and

4. **Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation;**
5. **Other Features of Value** is not mandated to be present for an area to have wilderness characteristics, and is evaluated only where it occurs.

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

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

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

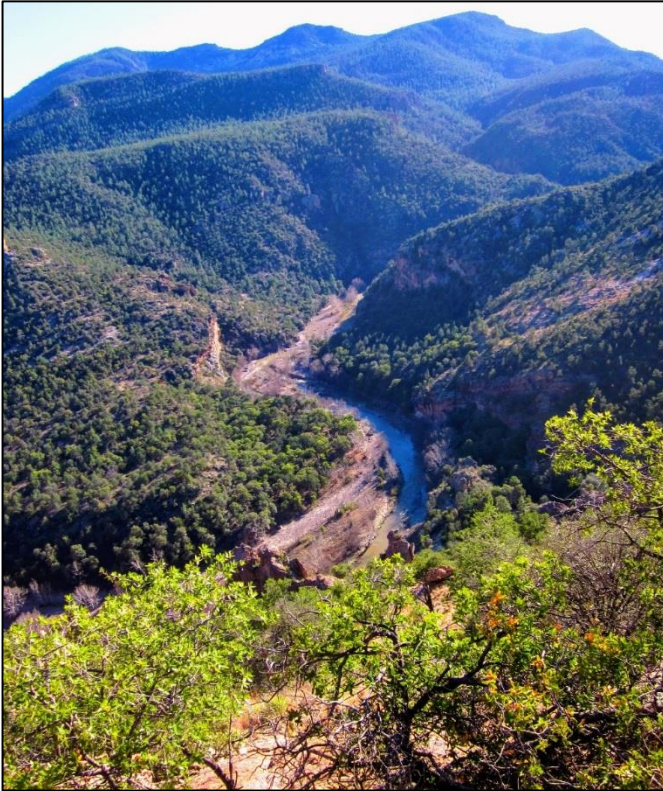
The Forest Supervisor divided some areas, or consolidated others identified in the inventory into grouped areas for the purpose of evaluation, and varied the scope of the evaluation based on the specific characteristics of each area or portions of an area .

Areas that were consolidated for the purposes of evaluation include those less than 5,000 acres contiguous to existing wilderness, in close proximity to each other and with similar characteristics.

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

Evaluations also excluded some portions of overall areas that were determined to not possess wilderness characteristics. If the remainder of the area still met the Inventory criteria, then it was evaluated based upon its own merit.

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



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

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

If any area was determined to be not of a sufficient size to be practicable to manage as wilderness, the evaluation was discontinued for that area, the reasoning for the determination is documented here in this Evaluation

Report, and the area was assigned an overall ranking of NONE for possessing wilderness characteristics.

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

Evaluation Step 2 -Determine Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

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

If the area was determined not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, the evaluation was discontinued for that area, the rationale was documented within this Evaluation Report, and the area was assigned a ranking of NONE for possessing wilderness characteristics.

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

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

The ID Team applied a ranking of NONE, LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING, accompanied by a detailed narrative rationale for the rank it received.



Each ranking level has a corresponding point range, and the assigned point within the range reflects the gradient where the area is judged to fall within that ranking. For example: If an area were ranked as LOW for its apparent naturalness, but determined to be very close to worthy of a MODERATE rank, then it would be appropriate to assign it the highest point in the range for a rank of LOW (i.e. 2). See Figure 1 for the matrix of rankings and point range for each criterion.

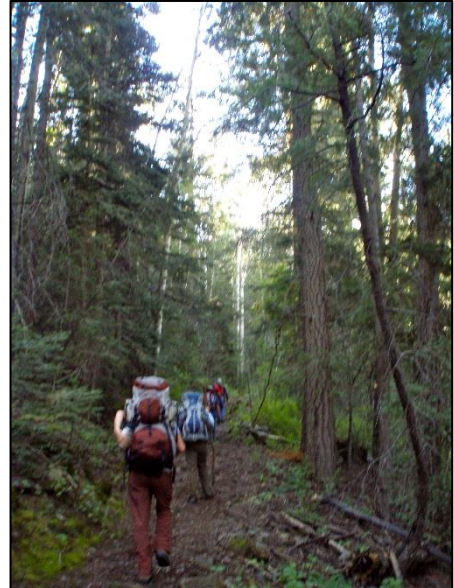
The ranking for Apparent Naturalness consisted of 3 factors, with each evaluated and ranked separately, and the average of these being the overall points and rank for each area (see Figure 1 for more detail). These 3 factors of Apparent Naturalness are:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

- High quality water resources or important watershed features

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

Areas determined to not possess Other Features of Value were not evaluated and ranked for this criterion, and the absence of this characteristic did not have any negative effect to the ratings of evaluated areas.

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

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



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

The Areas were assigned an overall ranking of NONE, LOW, MODERATE, MODERATE/HIGH, HIGH, or OUTSTANDING Score for Presence of Wilderness Characteristics.

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

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

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

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Other Features of Value	Step 5 - Evaluate degree to which the area possesses ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. These must be identified and evaluated only where they occur.	NONE LOW MODERATE HIGH OUTSTANDING	N/A 1 2 3 4
Overall Area Ranking of Wilderness Characteristics	Step 6 -Overall area score is determined by adding the scores for steps 3 and 4, with the score from Step 5 (Where it exists) added to the overall score as bonus points	Ranking	Total Points Tallied
		NONE LOW MODERATE MODERATE/HIGH HIGH OUTSTANDING	0 1 - 5.9 6 - 11.9 12 - 13.9 14 -15.9 16 +

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

The ID Team first completed a DRAFT Evaluation Report that was released for public and stakeholder review and feedback.

- Most individual polygons that were assigned an identification number and common name were separately evaluated, however in many case smaller areas in close proximity or adjacent to the same larger contiguous areas were evaluated together
- The draft Evaluation Report was released for public review and feedback period of 40 days duration
- After considering stakeholder feedback and making appropriate updates, the final Evaluation Report is applied to inform Step 3 - Analysis



The ID Team has documented the evaluation process with this Evaluation Report along with any additional relevant documentation. The intent of the Forest Supervisor and the planning team is to ensure that the process for inventory and evaluation is transparent and accessible to the public for input and feedback. This documentation will also be made available at public participation opportunities during the plan revision process.

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

Individual Area Evaluations of Wilderness Characteristics

Q1 – Largo

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

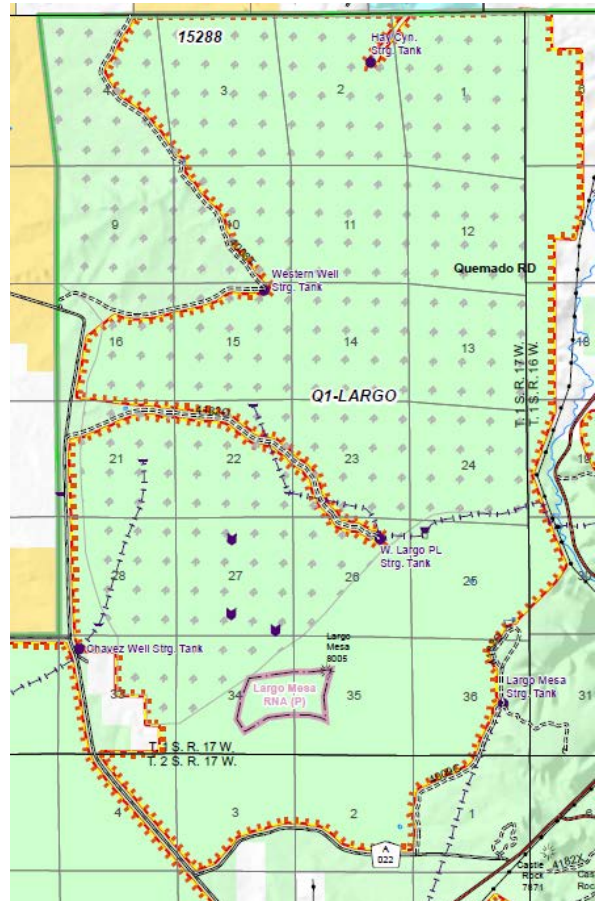
General description:

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

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

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

The majority of the vegetation cover throughout the area is pinon-juniper, with some open grasslands areas and occasional stringers of ponderosa pine. There is overall relatively gentle terrain, with geology that consists of Datil soils and associated erosional features, such as steep slopes, mesas, and hoodoos, and most of the area is dominated by Largo Mesa. This overall relatively gentle terrain is occasionally interrupted by range fences, cherry-stemmed road¹s and some (mostly buried) pipelines. The Chavez Lake area is narrowly separated from the area by a forest road to the southwest, and Q2, The Hub area lies to the east and across NM State Hwy 32. There is a proposal submitted to the Bureau of Land Management to permit a wind farm on lands they manage to the north that would be visible throughout this entire area. The area contains the Largo Mesa proposed Research Natural Area (RNA), which was proposed under the 1986 forest plan; however the proposal will not be carried forward with the current plan revision process.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

¹ Cherry-stems are inventoried area boundaries that exclude substantially noticeable intrusions including some motorized routes or other significant man-made features that impact natural character. Cherry-stems are not considered part of the inventoried area.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The area has some private inholdings to the southwest, adjacent private property to the northeast, one cherry-stemmed road that nearly bisects the area, and is flat and relatively easy to access by motorized users. However, it is also of a fair size at over 15,000 acres and is of a location, shape and orientation that it has a great deal of core area within its interior. The area is very lightly visited, except during hunting seasons. Agency and public access to the area can be a challenge, due to adjacent private property without reciprocal easements in some locations.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: LOW Score: 2

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness - Overall Score: 3.3

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

There are opportunities for solitude within the area, but there are cherry stemmed roads that go well into the interior. Much of the area is also flat and open.

The area receives heavy use during hunting season, and the Forest has received a number of requests for filming permits of big game hunts in Unit 15, which includes this area. However, outside of hunting seasons the likelihood of encountering any other is extremely low, essentially guaranteeing opportunities for solitude at those times.

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

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

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

This area includes a proposed research natural area that proposed in the 1986 plan, and had no further action was taken regarding its designation. This recommendation will not be carried into the revised plan. However, the area does offers exceptional scenic opportunities of features in the northern portion of the district.

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

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

Q2 – The Hub (formerly Q2 West and Q3 East Hub)

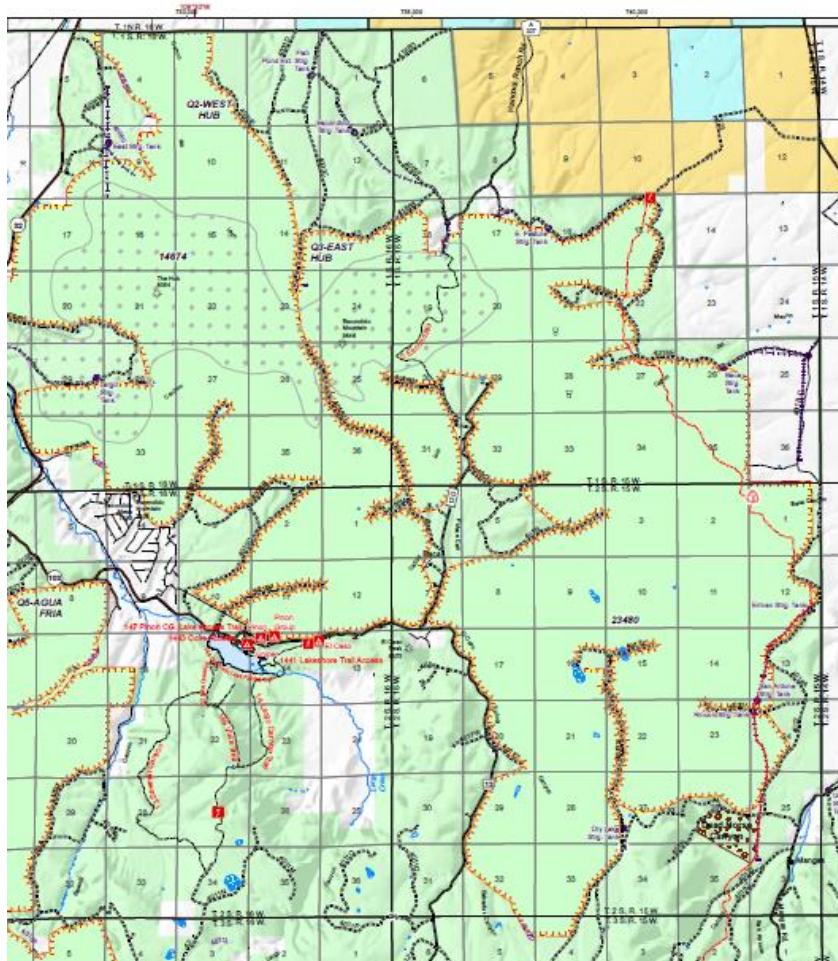
36,344 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The Hub area is located in the northeastern of region of the Quemado Ranger District, adjacent to Quemado Lake, and lies within Catron County, New Mexico. Based upon recommendation of Quemado district employees familiar with the area on the ground, two adjacent inventoried areas were combined together and a narrow boundary created between two cherry-stemmed roads was removed to develop this area's boundaries. The area lies within:

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

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



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Following the district employees' recommendation, the ID Team found that combining the two polygons and adjusting boundaries to exclude the areas identified by the team as not manageable. This resulted in a significantly larger area that was determined to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Factors contributing to the ID Team's determination included consideration that despite the presence of multiple cherrystem roads, the relative remoteness of the area and the steep, mountainous terrain do still allow for sufficient core areas throughout manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Area boundaries would also be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and that there are no known valid existing rights within the area that would create conflicts with manageability.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements, with natural barriers providing a large portion of livestock containment. There are some cherry-stemmed roads, a number of Level 1 maintenance roads and some visible user-developed OHV routes. The ID Team made boundary adjustments in the southeast to exclude areas with substantially noticeable evidence of mechanical vegetation treatments. The ID Team determined that overall, improvements are very few in number and are rarely encountered, they are not concentrated by location, and their appearance detracts very little from the area's apparent naturalness

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

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

There are very good opportunities for solitude available within the area, but there are also cherry stemmed roads that intrude some distance into the interior. The area receives some use during antler gathering and hunting seasons, but because of the steep, rugged terrain, unauthorized OHV

access into the area would be difficult, and outside of hunting seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is extremely low. There are forest system hiking trails within the area, though they are known to receive very light levels of use.

Because of the relative size of the area, the presence of several non-motorized trails, and the rugged, variable terrain, opportunities for primitive recreation are considered to be high.

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

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

The area includes “The Hub”, a wide, shallow box canyon area that features an interesting and accessible geologic area colloquially referred to as “bubble rocks”, an unusual group of spherical rock formations. There is also outstanding scenery available throughout the area, including excellent views of Quemado Lake from higher elevations.

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

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

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

Q4 – Chavez Lake

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

General description:

The Q4 – Chavez Lake area is located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, within Catron County, New Mexico. Area boundaries are generally determined by setbacks from roads and defensible space with adjacent private or other ownership lands. The evaluated area is found within:

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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

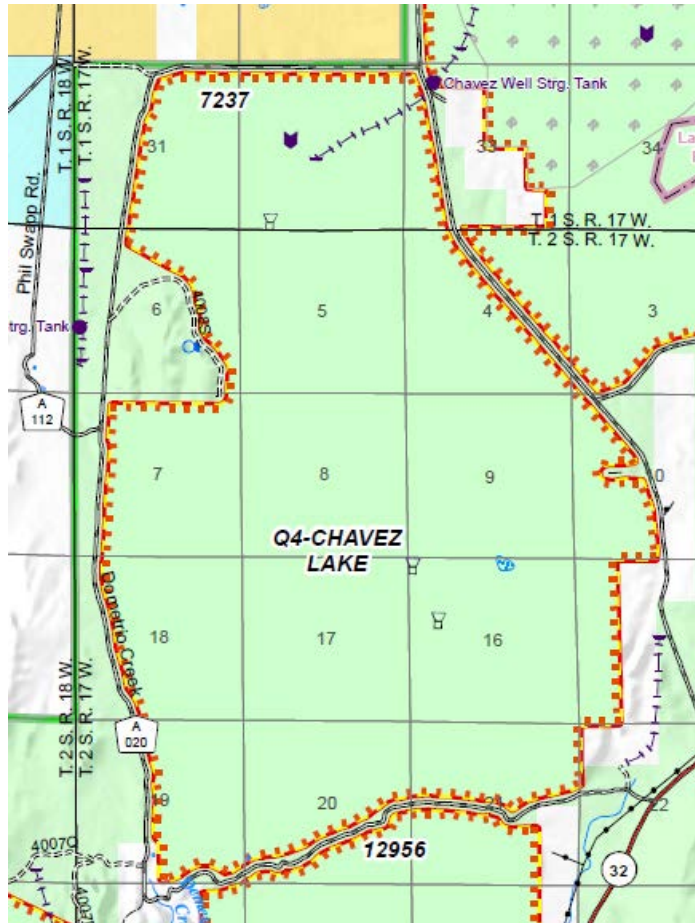
Despite its relatively small size, having some adjacent private inholdings to the southeast and northeast, and consisting of mostly flat terrain across the mesa top, this is a remote part of the Forest that is lightly visited, and the mesa boundary slopes would make it difficult to access with unauthorized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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities



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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

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

This is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year, and there is a high probability of finding solitude at most times. Because there are no trails, no perennial waters, and no reliable access into the area, there are limitations to the sorts of primitive recreation opportunities available. The presence of range fences relative to the size of the area may also negatively affect the pursuit of some primitive recreation activities.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

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

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

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

Q5 – Agua Fria

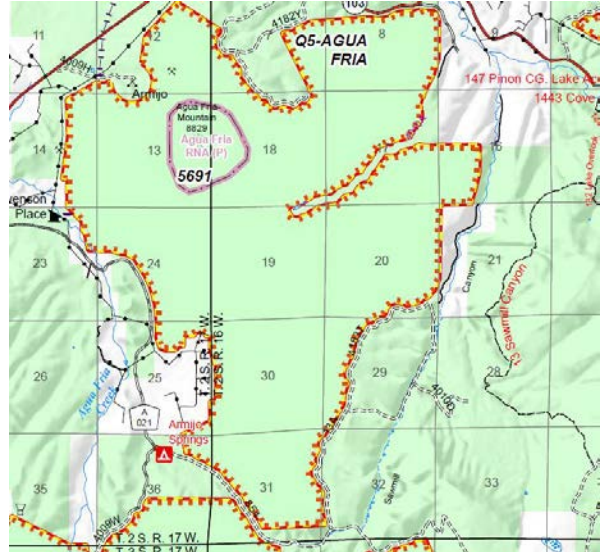
5,691 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

Agua Fria is a small area that barely met the 5,000 acre threshold criterion to be included in the inventory. There was an Agua Fria proposed research natural area in the 1986 plan, but no further action was taken regarding its designation, and the proposal will not be carried over in the revised forest plan. The Armijo Springs campground is located at the southwest corner of the area, and Quemado Lake is located nearby its northeast corner.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This small-sized area is of a narrow, convoluted configuration, with a cherry stemmed road intruding very deeply into the area and nearly bisecting it. Combined with its small size, this results in a lack of core area available to preserve wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There is a great deal of adjacent private property relative to the small size and narrow shape and configuration of the area. This creates challenges with access and defensible space against wildfire.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

Some of the adjacent private property has high levels of residential development.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The evaluated area contains a deeply intruding ML1 road that is closed, but not decommissioned, and is substantially noticeable. This negatively affects the amount of undeveloped core area, informing ID Team's determination that it is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Manageability Determination:

There is a fairly high amount of adjacent private property with residential development relative to the evaluated area's size, the area is of a narrow, odd configuration, there is a cherry stem deep into the area that nearly bisects it, there is a deeply intruding level 1 closed but not decommissioned road, and lack of a good core area; these factors all combine to lead the ID Team to conclude that the area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

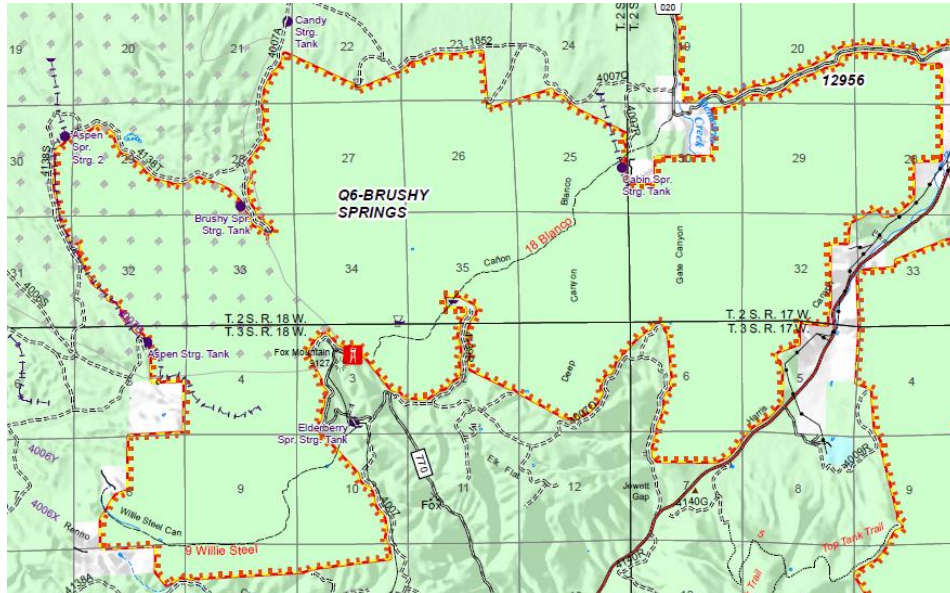
Q6 – Fox Mountain (formerly Brushy Springs)

12,956 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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



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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

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Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area does reflect active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and both past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities does appear natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Score: 4.6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q7 – East Gallo

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

General description:

The Q7 – East Gallo area is located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District, in Catron County New Mexico and found within:

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area consists of a narrow, convoluted shape, with multiple cherry stems intruding deeply into the area (in some instances nearly bisecting it), and the entire western end of the area is dominated by a wilderness non-conforming motorized trail system, resulting in a lack of space for a sizable core area. Ultimately, there is not enough core area for a visitor to be able to walk for more than a short distance across the area without encountering a road.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

The area contains Travel Management designated motorized trails that are a legally established use authorized via a NEPA decision and precludes the area from being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. The ID Team determined that adjusting the boundary of the area to exclude these motorized trails that would not result in the remaining area being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, due to the limitations created by the altered area's reduced size and narrow, tortuous configuration.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There are non-federal lands adjacent to the area, but these were only a very small contributing factor in the overall determination of not manageable by the ID Team.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of lands adjacent to the area was not a contributing factor in the determination of not manageable by the ID Team.

Summary of Determination:

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

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

Q8 – Bull Camp

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

General description:

The Q8 – Bull Camp is a moderately sized area located in the central part of the northernmost of region of the Quemado Ranger District in Catron County, New Mexico, and is found within:

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

f) Shape and configuration of the area:

The evaluated area includes deeply cherry stemmed roads, narrow spaces between the boundary intrusions, convoluted overall shape and configuration, level 1 roads present in the northeastern section, private inholdings intruding deep inside the area, and a lack of uninterrupted core area relative to its size.

g) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

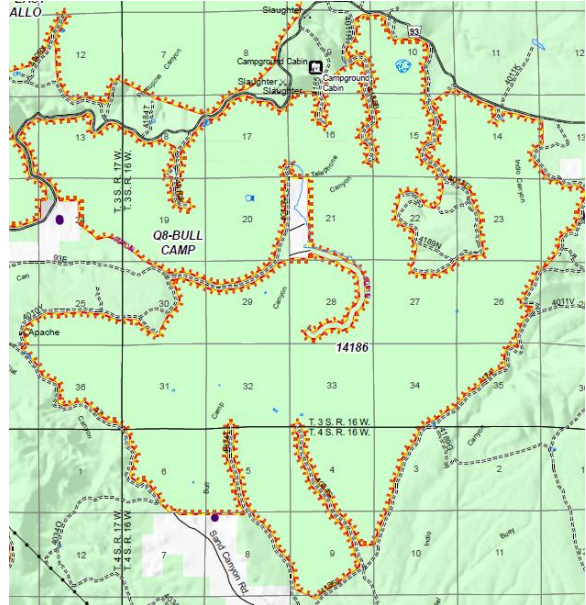
h) Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

i) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There are some adjacent private lands along the south boundary, and there are sizeable private inholdings located deep inside the area that contribute to the lack of core area to protect wilderness characteristics.

j) Management of adjacent lands:



The management of lands adjacent to the area was not a contributing factor in the determination of not manageable by the ID Team, although the level of development on inholding properties were more of a concern.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

In aggregate with the other manageability concerns, the ID Team considered that there were ML1 roads in the northwestern portion of the area that are substantially noticeable, and would affect apparent naturalness, but adjusting the boundary to exclude these would only negatively affect the determination of not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Determination:

The narrow spaces between boundary intrusions, odd overall shape and configuration, deeply cherry stemmed roads, presence of substantially noticeable level 1 roads in the northeastern segment, the existence of private inholdings situated deep inside the area, and lack of core area relative to its size all combine to inform the ID Team's determination that the area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

Q9 – Apache Mountain

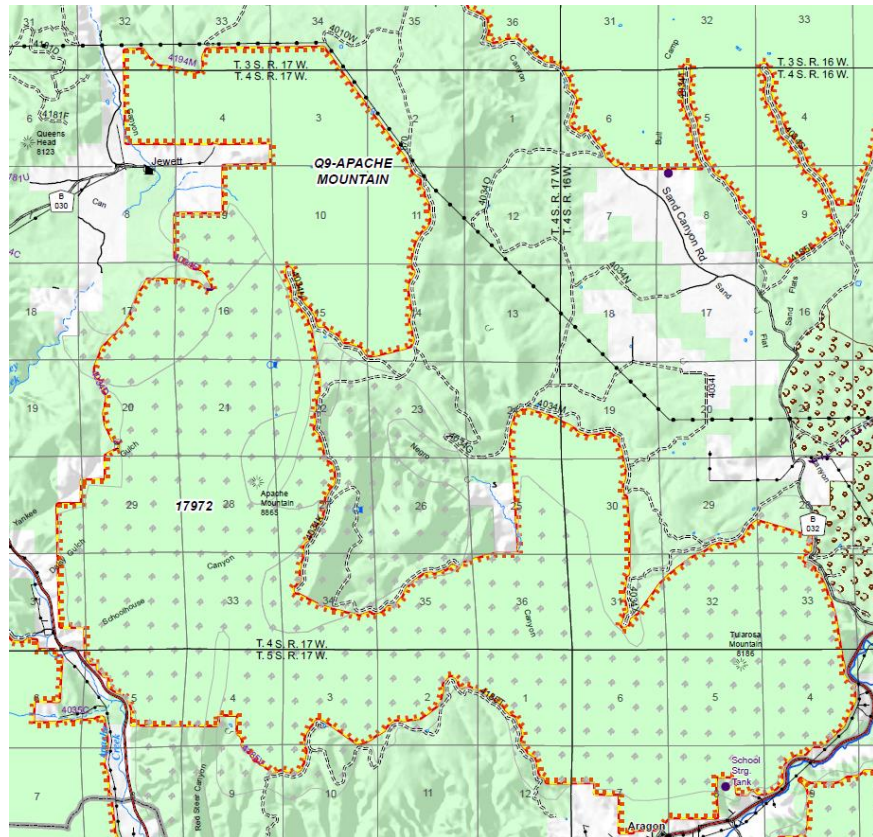
17,972 acres, Quemado District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

Apache Mountain is a moderately sized area that is somewhat narrow and crescent shaped, but also consists of some of the most steep and rugged terrain on the Quemado District. The vegetation cover is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer in pockets on the north slopes. Very little management activity has occurred in the evaluated area, and a majority of it consists of inventoried roadless area identified from the 2001 Roadless Rule. NM State Hwy 32 passes by the southwestern-most corner of the area and NM State Hwy 12 passes to the southeast.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

For its moderate size, there are a fairly high number of range fences throughout the area, but few other improvements. There are also closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads that bisect the area to the east, and deeply intrude to the west.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **4.3**

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is extremely low, resulting in very good opportunities for solitude within this evaluated area. This is a very remote and rarely visited area for most of the year.

Throughout this moderately sized area, there is some variability of terrain from mild to challenging, and a fair amount of core area and there are few limitations to primitive recreation opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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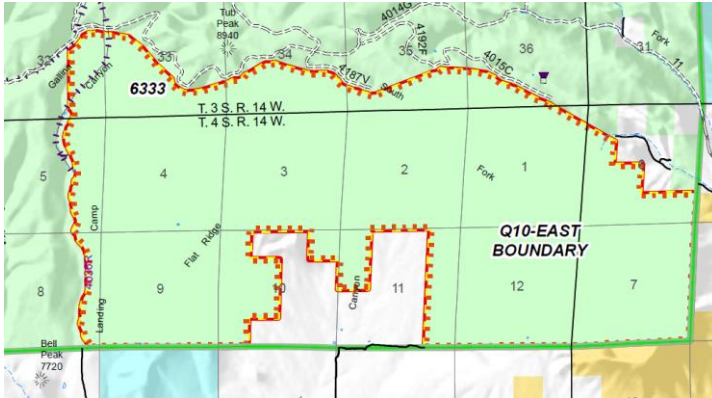
(Q9) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined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

Q10 – East Boundary

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

General description:

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



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in

size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area is of a convoluted and narrow crescent shape, which is exacerbated by its small size, preventing an adequate core area to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The area's narrow crescent shape is a direct result of the presence of private inholdings intruding deep into the area's core.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

There is some development on the inholding private property that would be a lesser contributing factor to other greater concerns such as shape and configuration relative to the area's size.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

A closed, but not decommissioned, deeply intruding level 1 road was considered as an additional factor due to its tendency to have an outsized impact to characteristics within such a small and narrowly shaped. Excluding it from the boundary would only worsen manageability concerns.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team found that the area's odd, cumbersome, and narrow crescent shape, relatively small size, the presence of private inholdings intruding deep into the core, and a substantially noticeable closed, but not decommissioned ML 1 road, all combine to inform the ID Team's determination that the area is notmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

Q11 – Mother Hubbard

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

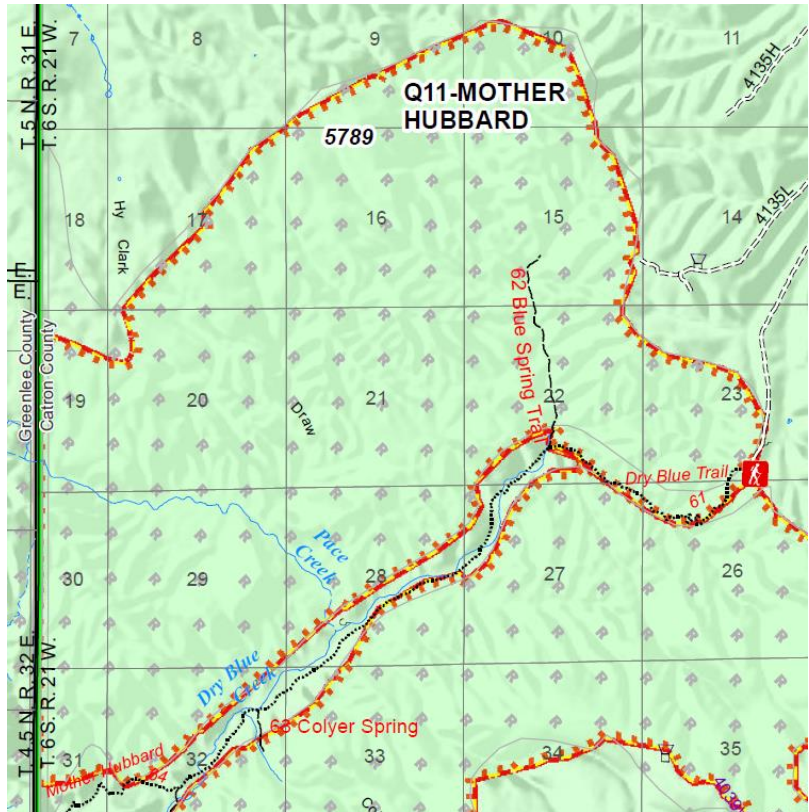
General description:

The Q11 –Mother Hubbard area is located in the southwestern region of the Quemado Ranger District, on the boundary with lands of similar status and similarly managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests on the Arizona side of the state line boundary. The area is in Catron County, New Mexico and occurs within:

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

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Despite the area's relatively small size, it features challenging terrain, relative inaccessibility for non-conforming uses, and it is buffered by adjacency to additional acres of inventoried roadless areas.

There are no private inholdings immediately adjacent to the area, though there are small inholdings to the south, closer to the G1 Nolan North area. Due to the terrain there are few issues with user developed or illegal roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5.7

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering any other visitors is extremely low, particularly within areas with steeper and more challenging terrain, providing very good opportunities for solitude. Despite its relatively small size, much of this area is remote and

rarely visited for most of the year, and finding solitude in the rugged terrain at most times is almost a certainty.

There is good core area available to pursue a variety of primitive recreation activities, and there are few limitations. There is variability of terrain, some very challenging, and few restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

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

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

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

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

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

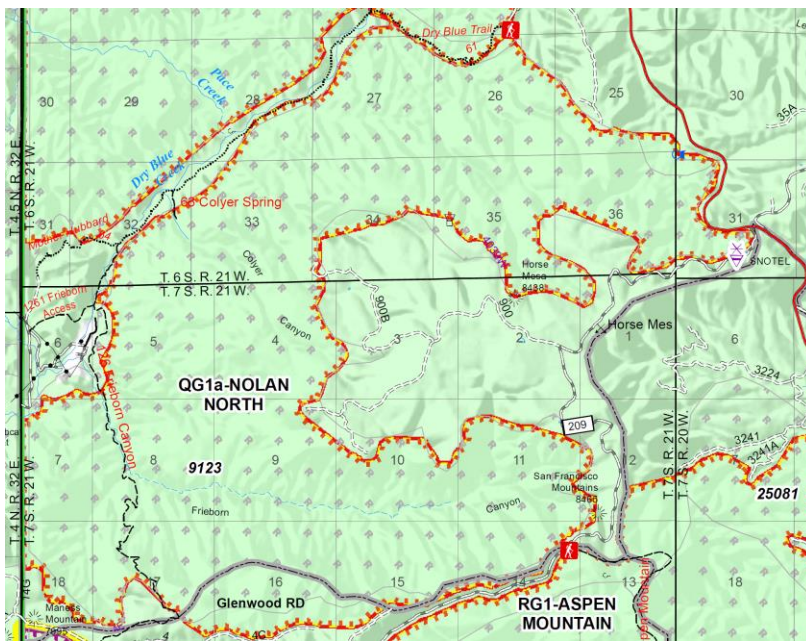
(Q11) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or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

QG1 (formerly QG1a) – Nolan North

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

General description:

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



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

The Nolan North evaluated area is of a relatively small size considered on its own, but along with Nolan South is part of a larger contiguous area with an additional 2,100 acres of inventoried roadless area located on the Apache-Sitgreaves side of the Arizona-New Mexico border. These are in turn overlapped by 2,656 acres of evaluated potential

wilderness from their forest plan revision process completed in 2015.

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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

For the relative size of the area, there are few range improvements, mostly consisting of fences that cross a small part of the area to the northeast and the south, and boundary fences along state lines.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

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

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

Although it is a relatively small evaluated area, and without system trails, there is a good core space and few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available. There is variability of terrain, some very challenging, and few restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

QG2 (formerly QG1b) – Nolan South

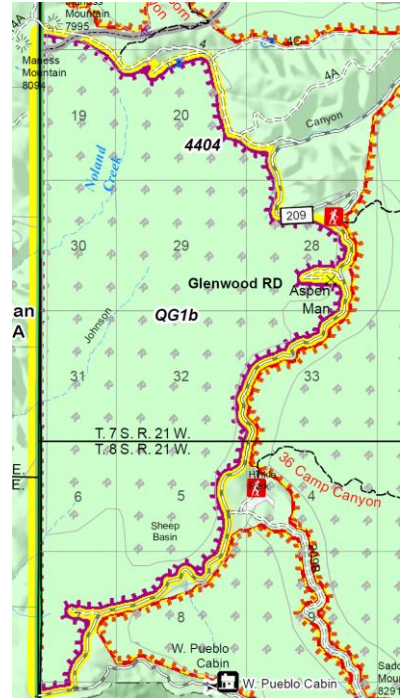
4,404 acres, Quemado and Glenwood Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

The Nolan South evaluated area is of a relatively small size considered on its own, but it is also part of a larger contiguous area that includes an adjacent 2,100 acres of inventoried roadless area, overlapped by 2,656 acres of evaluated potential wilderness on the Apache-Sitgreaves side of the Arizona-New Mexico border.



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: LOW Score: 2

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 3.7

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

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

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

Solitude Rank: **OUTSTANDING Score: 8**

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

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

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

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

QR1 – Upper Frisco Box

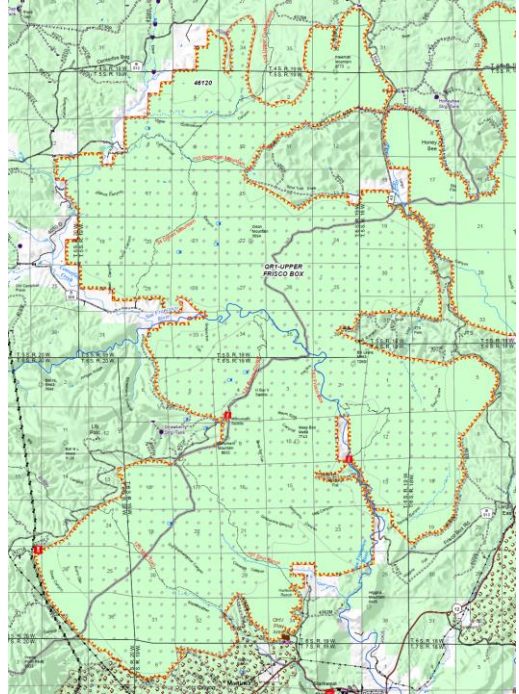
41,047 acres, Quemado and Reserve Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

The Upper Frisco Box is a moderately large area that has as its centerpiece the Upper Frisco Box, a spectacularly scenic, and physically challenging slot canyon that is unique within the Gila region of New Mexico. Terrain is variable throughout the area, with some rolling relief, mesa tops, some high ridges, and deeply incised large canyons. Vegetation is mostly pinon-juniper with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer on the north slopes of higher ridges. There is a system of trails providing access throughout the area, including the Gila Box slot canyon.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**



View of Upper Frisco Box landform from the south

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE

Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE

Score: 4

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



Substantially noticeable pipeline south of the Gila Box landform that represents a departure from apparently natural



For the size of this area, there are few range improvements, and most were excluded by minor boundary adjustments. There is a significant private inholding with a fairly high level of development, and a large pipeline that is substantially noticeable just to the north of this private inholding, and the area boundary was realigned slightly to exclude it. There is also a network of closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads along the western boundary, not far from the San Francisco River.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness

Overall Score: 4.7

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing very good opportunities for solitude. However, there are user-developed motorized routes within periphery areas. There is a large core area, trails, and few limitations to the

primitive recreation opportunities available. Terrain is mild to challenging, with slot-canyoneering recreation experiences unique to the region within the Upper Frisco Box Canyon.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH**

Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH**

Score: 7

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

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

Present: **YES** Rank: **HIGH**

score: 3

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

QR2 – Upper Frisco Box East

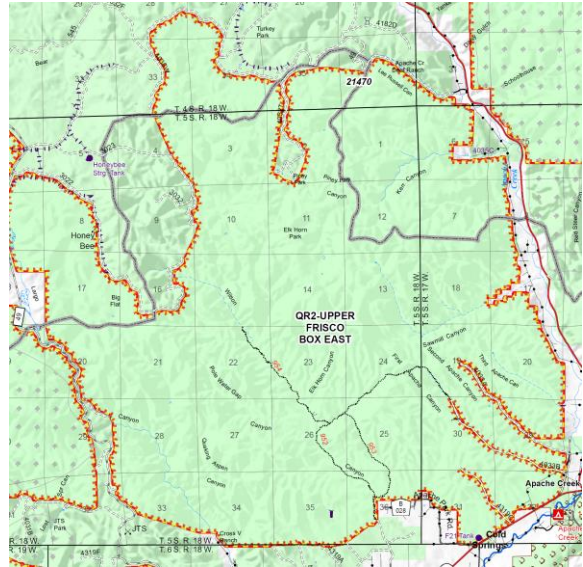
18,810 acres, Quemado and Reserve Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, particularly in the southern half due to the less accessible terrain.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and concentrated in some locations, and their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are a fairly high number of fences, and evidence of logging and replanting in the north. The road in Wilson Canyon continues further than shown on the maps, indicating unauthorized use and causing the route to be substantially noticeable.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Score: 3*

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is fairly low, providing very good opportunities for solitude. Because of the cherry stemmed roads, there is not a lot of core solitude area. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging and few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: 5

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

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

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

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DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

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

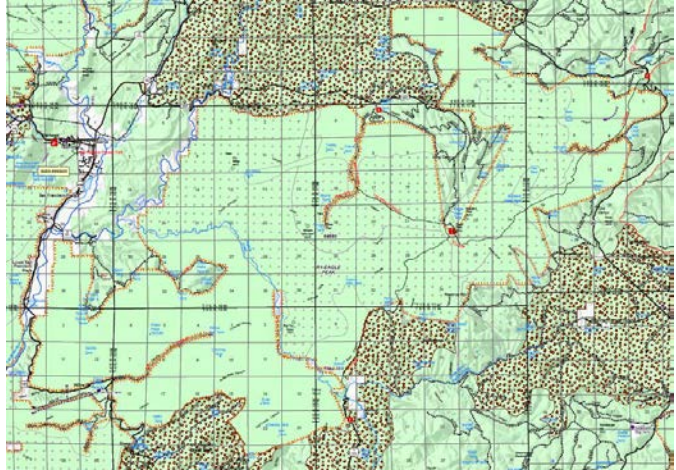
R1 – Eagle Peak

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

General description:

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

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



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: LOW Score: 3

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but is concentrated in some locations, and may impose limits on the apparent naturalness of the area. Area boundaries were adjusted by the ID Team to exclude substantially noticeable motorized trails, decommissioned roads, and user developed routes, particularly to the north, the Kiko Canyon area leading from the San Francisco River, and Negrito Creek. Stock tanks within the area have ATV trails leading to them. There are also several cherry stem open roads and, private property inholdings.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **3.7**

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons there are some areas where likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good opportunities for solitude.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

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

R3 – Moraga Canyon

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

General description:

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

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

The character of the terrain is rolling hills and drainages, and the predominant vegetation cover is open grasslands with few trees (mostly pinon-juniper). There is a frequently-used airstrip located on private lands adjacent to the area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

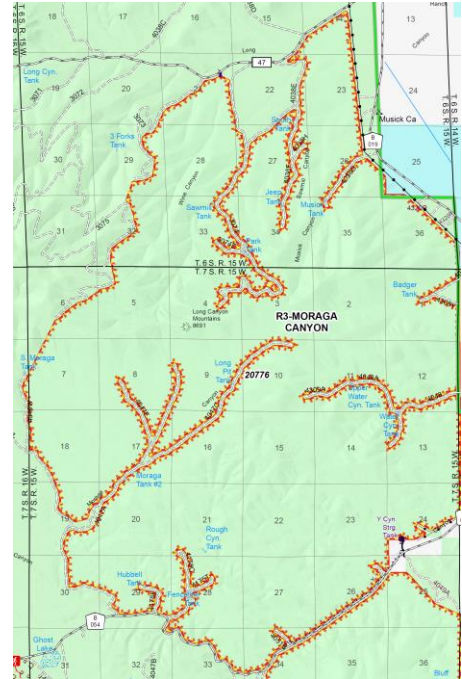
Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**



Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) *Composition of Plant and Animal Communities*

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors in the Moraga Canyon area is low, providing opportunities for solitude compared to other areas of the Forest. The shape and configuration provides a sufficient, though small, core area.

Throughout this relatively small area, there are limits to availability of both solitude and recreation. There are no trail opportunities, but there are few range fences and improvements.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: 5

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

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

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

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

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DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

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

R4 – O-Bar-O Mountain

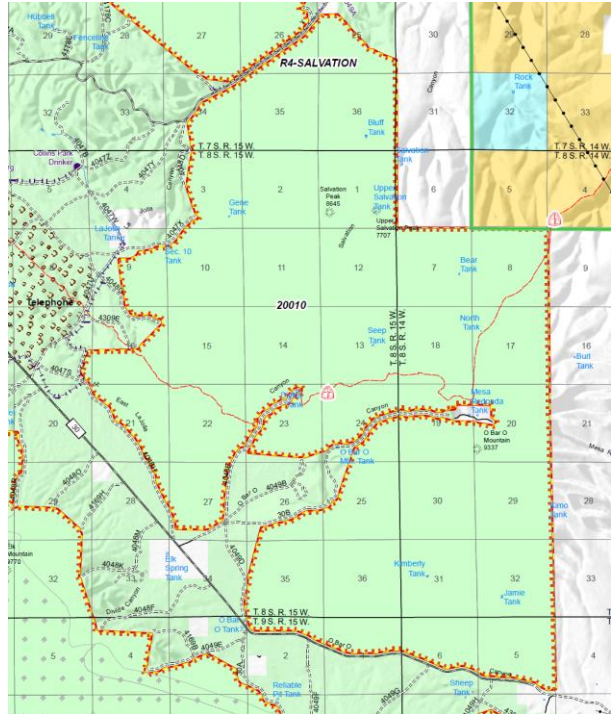
20,010 acres Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low in most areas except along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. There are very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area, but more so in the northern portion. The large size of the area helps to provide a very good core area. However, there is a sizable cherry-stem deep into the area accessing the private inholding that nearly bisects the area.

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

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: 6

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

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

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

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

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

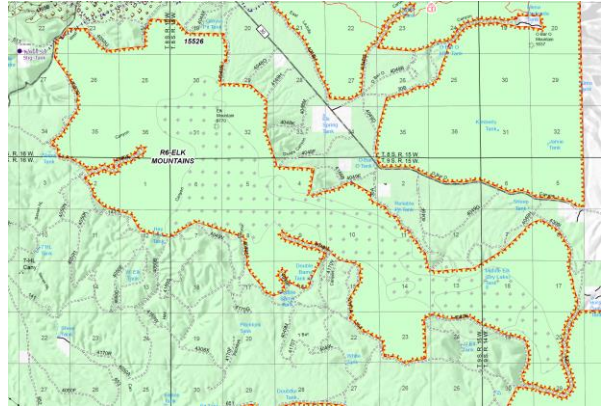
R6 – Elk Mountains

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

General description:

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area's narrow, torturous shape is exacerbated by several cherrystems and resulting in lack of a core area to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The presence of several closed to use, but not decommissioned, ML1 roads was considered by the ID Team due to being substantially noticeable and causing negative effects to apparent naturalness, but excluding these roads by adjusting the boundary would only have worsened manageability of the area due to existing issues shape and configuration.

Summary of Determination:

The area's narrow, often torturous shape (negatively contributed to by several cherrystems), moderate total acreage, lack of distance from adjacent roads, the presence of several closed but not decommissioned ML1 roads, and the resulting lack of a core area combine to make Elk Mountains area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

R7 – Negrito

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

General description:

The R7 – Negrito area is a relatively small area that is tortuously shaped, and oriented, with a mostly narrow interior throughout area. It is in the southwest region of the Reserve Ranger District, Catron County, New Mexico, and located within:

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area is of an elongated, narrow, and convoluted shape and configuration, combined with a relatively small total acreage, and deeply intruding cherry stems that combine to preclude there being a core area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The presence of adjacent, open system roads was also considered in the context of the narrow and tortuous shape and configuration of the area. This is due to the shape and boundaries of the area being entirely determined by setbacks from adjacent forest system roads. This circumstance has a much different effect to manageability to protect wilderness characteristics than if the shape and configuration were determined by natural features, or if the area were oriented between existing wilderness boundaries. The presence of decommissioned ML1 roads in the portion of the area was also considered, but ultimately the determination of the ID Team was based upon shape and configuration. The entire western part of the evaluated area is also heavily dissected by a series of decommissioned ML1 roads.

Summary of Determination

Only 2 sections are contained in their entirety within the area. The area's long, narrow, and odd shape, moderate total acreage, cherry stems and adjacent roads all combine to inform the ID Team's determination that the area lacks a core area large enough to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

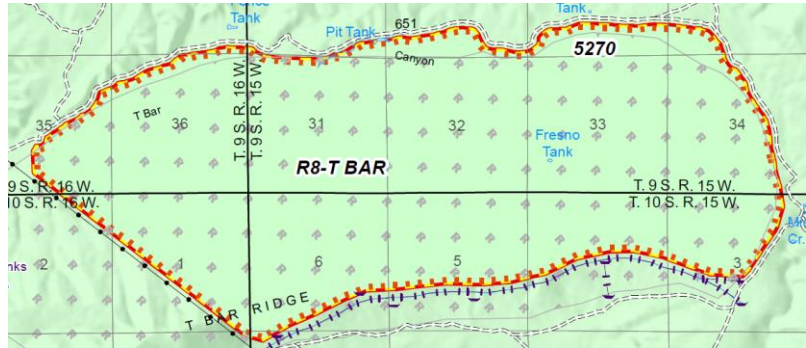
R8 – T-Bar Ridge

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

General description:

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area's very small size, narrow shape, orientation situated a relatively short distance between open roads and substantially noticeable developments such as pipelines and powerlines result in the area lacking a core area large enough to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics, although adjacent powerline rights-of-way do have a negative influence considered in context and in aggregate with shape and configuration concerns.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The evaluated area's small size, combined with mild terrain, open vegetation cover, closely oriented adjacent open roads and developments (such as powerlines and pipelines) surrounding this area would contribute to boundaries that would not be manageable, and was considered in context that this only exacerbates the lack of a core area to protect wilderness characteristics due to size, shape, and configuration among adjacent, substantially noticeable developments.

Summary of Determination:

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

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

R9 – Wagon Tongue

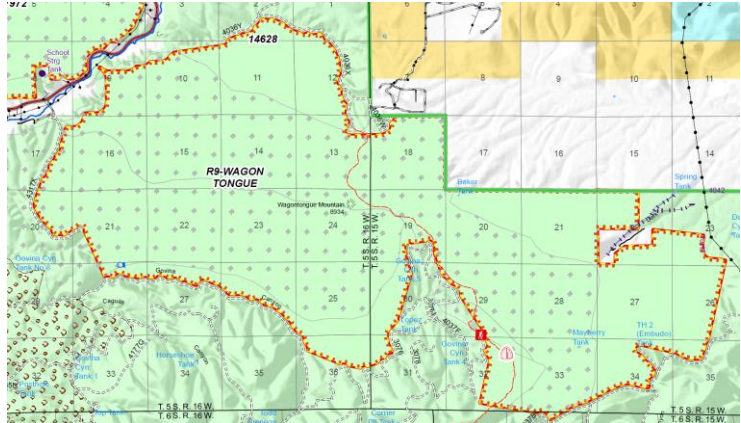
14,628 acres, Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The R9 – Wagon Tongue area is moderately-sized and located in the northeastern part of the Reserve Ranger District within Catron County, New Mexico. The area lies within:

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

Terrain in this area is moderate to very rugged with canyons, ridges and mountains, including Wagontongue Mountain. Vegetation cover is classic southwestern mountains mix, with primarily pinon-juniper and ponderosa pine but also mixed conifer on north-facing slopes and at higher elevations. A section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through this area.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

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

This evaluated area is a fairly remote part of the Forest that is not easily accessed by those unfamiliar with the area. Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low except along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The large size of the area makes available good core areas, but there is a sizable cherry-stem road midway from east to west and into the area that nearly bisects it. The area features variable terrain, and trail opportunities on the Continental Divide Trail, and combined with good core areas for primitive recreation. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and they are considered to be moderate by comparison with those available elsewhere on the Forest.

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

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

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

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

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

R10a, and R10b - Gila Additions North Reserve

536 acres; 657 acres

Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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



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

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

R10a is a very small area of moderate to rugged, steep terrain oriented in the narrow spaces between the existing wilderness boundary and forest roads. R10b is a very small area of moderate to somewhat steep terrain located in the general vicinity of Snow Lake Dam and the headwaters of the Middle Fork Gila River. The Snow Lake Trail also passes through this area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness. R10b is a very small area of moderate to somewhat steep terrain located in the general vicinity of Snow Lake Dam and the headwaters of the Middle Fork Gila River. The Snow Lake Trail also passes through this area.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although most of these areas grouped together under the R10 numbering were determined unmanageable due to their narrow, odd shape and configuration between closely oriented open roads combined with unmanageable boundaries, the area boundaries for R10a and R10b were adjusted to make for smaller areas and remove all areas outside the inventoried roadless area just to the east and west of the lake and recreation site. Snow Lake Dam is substantially noticeable, likely requiring motorized access to maintain, however with boundary adjustments made by the ID Team, the developed recreation area, lake, and dam are excluded from the area within a cherry-stem.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

There are a number of visible improvements, which is exacerbated by the small size of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **4**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve

1,451 acres

Reserve District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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



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

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

R10c is a small area of moderate terrain. A short section of Middle Fork Trail #157 and Gilita Creek pass through the area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The evaluated area is very small (though adjacent to existing wilderness) with a narrow, odd shape and orination between open roads combine to be unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics within the area, and would not contribute additional characteristics or additional protections of characteristics to the adjacent wilderness.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

It was determined by the ID Team that the area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and would not contribute positively to existing character of the adjacent wilderness. It was also considered that the areas boundaries of open system roads oriented very closely together would not be manageable boundaries to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Determination:

The area's narrow, odd shape and configuration between open roads combine with generally unmanageable boundaries to be unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. The area would also not contribute to the characteristics or protection of characteristics as an addition to the adjacent wilderness.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

RB1 – East Elk Mountain

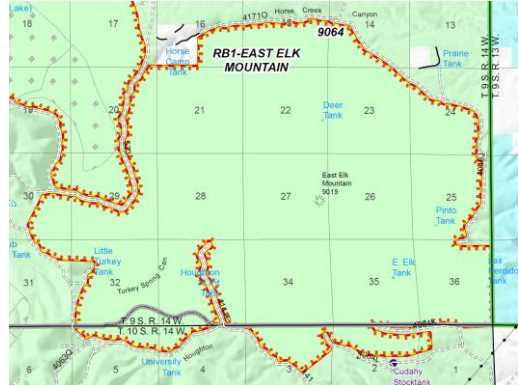
9,064 acres, Reserve and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

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



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Score: 5

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is fairly low, providing opportunities for solitude. Because of the moderate size of the area, cherry stemmed roads have an effect on the amount of core area available for opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are no non-motorized trail use opportunities. The terrain varies from mild to challenging, with rolling grasslands and steep mountain slopes.

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

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

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

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

RWB1 – Canyon Creek

10,282 acres

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

General description:

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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

There are several deeply intruding cherry stem roads, including two that are not shown on the map, but connect on the ground and together extend nearly 3/4 across and effectively bisect this evaluated area. Consequently the area lacks a sufficient core area where wilderness characteristics could be preserved. Boundary adjustments to exclude the cherry stems would only negatively affect overall manageability of the area.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

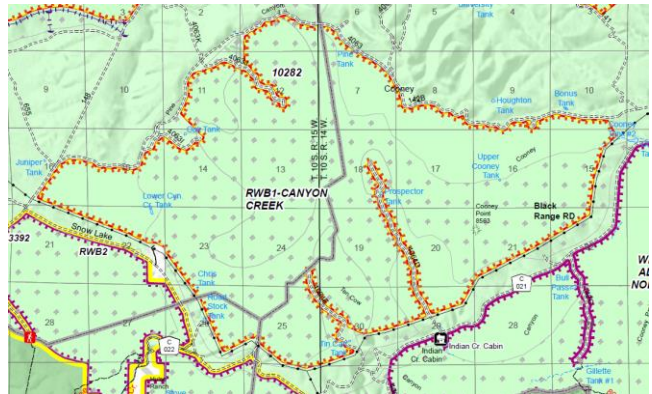
c) Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:



The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Summary of Determination:

There are multiple issues with the shape and configuration of the area in context of its size that make it unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are a number of cherry stem roads, including two that, although not shown as such on the map connect on the ground and together extend nearly 3/4 across the polygon, and it lacks sizable core area where wilderness characteristics could be preserved.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

RWB2 – Gila Addition North Central

3,392 acres

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

General description:

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

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

Evaluation Results:

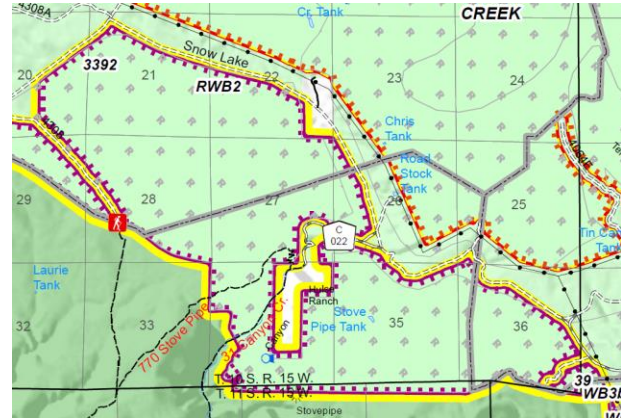
Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank:

SUFFICIENT SIZE

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



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

There is a large parcel of developed private land dominating the interior core of this very small area, as well as several cherry-stemmed roads creating an awkward shape with generally unmanageable boundaries. The ID Team determined that the area's shape and configuration in context of its very small size do not allow for manageability to protect wilderness characteristics, and as an addition it would not contribute positively to the characteristics, or their protection, for the adjacent wilderness.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands dominating the interior of the area was a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of the manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of inholding, adjacent lands was a minor contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Summary of Determination:

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

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

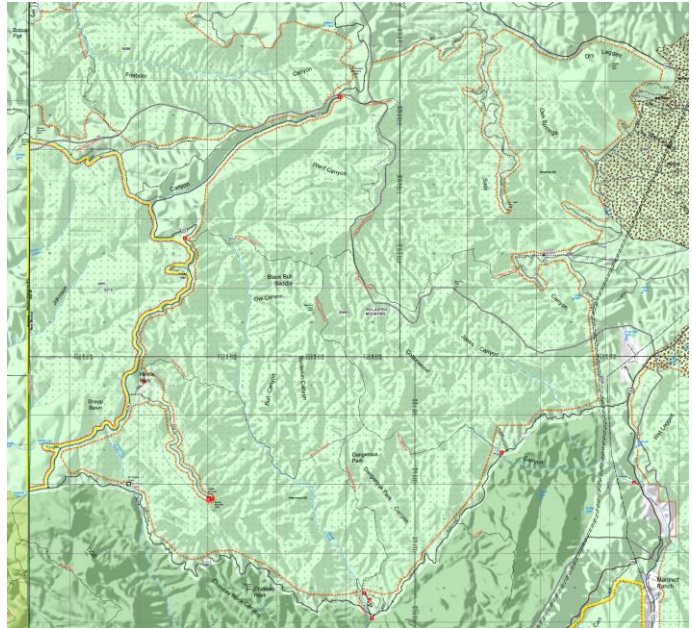
RG1 – Aspen Mountain

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

General description:

RG1 – Aspen Mountain is a moderately large evaluated area located partly in the southwestern Reserve Ranger District but also crossing district boundaries, with the majority of the area being located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District within:

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



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because of the area's moderately large size, rugged terrain, remote location, configuration, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts the ID Team has determined that with a boundary adjustment to exclude an unmanageable portion to the northeast, the remaining area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

There are no private inholdings, but there are several cherry-stem motorized routes on the Reserve District portion generally east and northeast of Saliz Canyon and Joe Green Peak that were judged to prevent the manageability only in that particular part of the area. The remaining area's remoteness, size, and configuration do allow for a large core area suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Because of limited accessibility and difficult terrain, there have been few management actions beyond limited permitted grazing. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area. The ID Team decided that eliminating the small area to the northeast improved this rating.

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

Although historic and current fire suppression within the area may affect fire regimes, ecological conditions reflect only minor modern human land management activities, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. The ID Team again felt that eliminating the small area to the northeast improved this rating.

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

Not a lot of range improvements or fences throughout, especially in context of the size of the area. There are cherry stems to the northeast, and the team also felt removal of that area justified a higher rank for this factor as well. There is a beacon on Joe Green peak that serves the nearby airstrip. Other roads not shown on the map do exist on the ground leading off the northern cherry stem that was excluded, and so do not affect the ranking. There are some spring improvements

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

HIGH *Apparent Naturalness* **Overall Score: 7**

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

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

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

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

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

There is a concentration of prehistoric sites at Pueblo Park that are a notable heritage resource. There is dramatic scenery – views into the Blue Range Wilderness Tige Rim area in particular, as well as the dramatic escarpments and views areas within the Aspen Mountain area – including Chimney

Rock. The area also contains a small amount of the Ponderosa Pine – Willow ERU, which is currently under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.



Present: **YES** Rank: **MODERATE** score: **2**

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

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

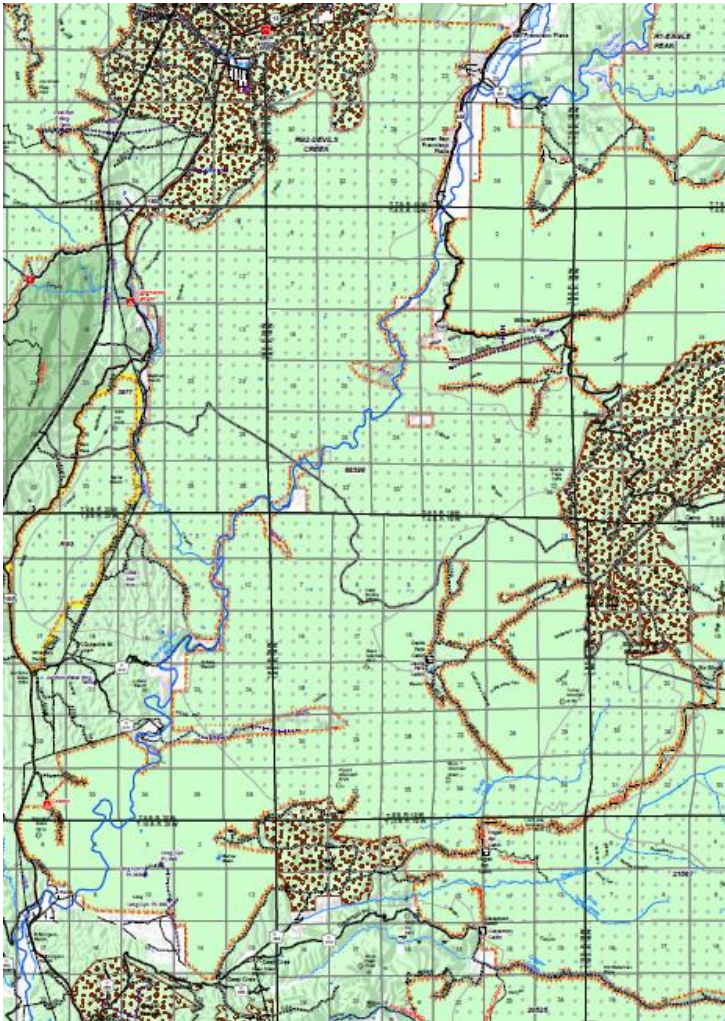
One other recommendation from some members of the ID team was to reconsider the area boundary where the Saddle Mountain Lookout and access road create a cherry-stem, to instead move the boundary to eliminate the smaller triangular area between the lookout access road and FR 209. This small area between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

RG2 – Devil’s Creek

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

General description:

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



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

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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. The ID Team removed some of the more active land management locations from the evaluation area boundaries, and these adjustments allowed for a higher score on this factor than would have been assigned otherwise.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. The ID Team felt the area ranked higher due to more active land management areas being removed by making boundary adjustments to the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **4**

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good overall opportunities for solitude, with the south portion providing better quality opportunities than the north. The ID Team felt that removing some areas with lower wilderness characteristics served to improve the wilderness characteristics rank for the overall area.

Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are few trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. There is variability of terrain from mild to challenging, some opportunities for water recreation along the river and its tributaries, and canyons. Legal ccess through private property to some areas may be difficult.

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

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

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

The San Francisco River corridor offers some scenic values, including tributaries – secluded Saliz canyon in particular. The area contains a concentration of prehistoric sites that represents a notable heritage resource. Immediately adjacent to the Cosmic Campground Dark Sky Sanctuary. The area also contains a small amount of the Desert Willow ERU, which is currently under-represented within Gila NF designated areas.

Present: **YES** Rank: **MODERATE** score: **2**

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

RG3 – Brushy Canyon

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

General description:

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

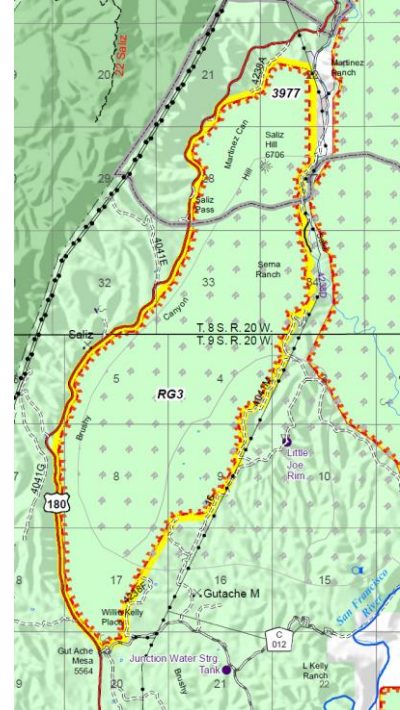
- T8S 20W, parts of Sections 21-22, 27-28, 32-34;
- T9S R20W parts of sections 3-9, 17-18, 20

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **NOT SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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



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

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

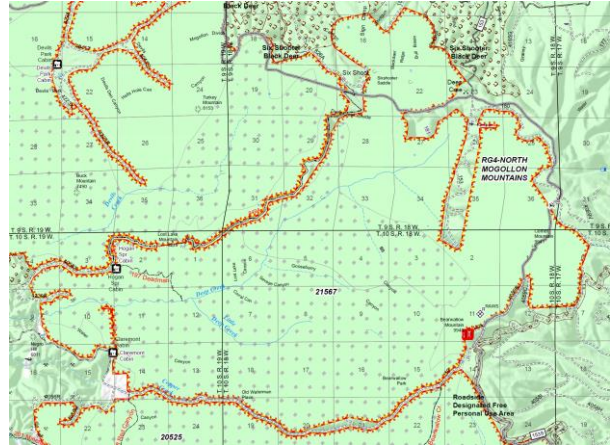
RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains

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

General description:

The RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains evaluated area is located in partly in the southwestern region of the Reserve Ranger District but crosses district boundaries, with approximately half of the area is located in the northwestern portion of the Glenwood Ranger District, and is within Catron County, New Mexico. The area is located within:

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



This is an area of mostly rugged, mountainous terrain with variable vegetation cover that is a classic example of southwestern mountain forests, mostly pinon-juniper at lower elevations varied with ponderosa pine and mixed conifer, depending upon elevation and aspect.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing great opportunities for solitude. Deep Creek is a mostly perennial stream for water-based primitive recreation along with the San Francisco River. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: 7

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

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

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

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

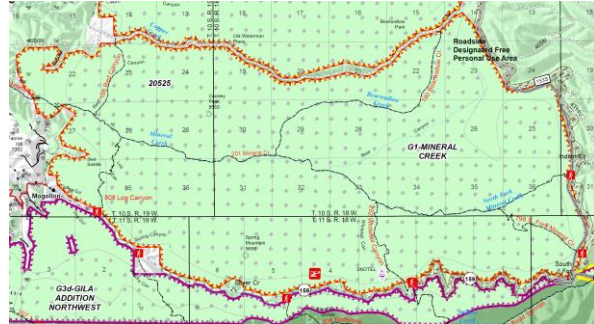
G1 – Mineral Creek

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

General description:

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

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



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the moderately large size, rugged terrain, location, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are few private inholdings or cherry-stemmed motorized routes, and the area's size, terrain and configuration allow for a sufficient core area to protect wilderness characteristics. Any existing mining claims in the area will be scrutinized in greater detail should the area move further into the process towards recommendation.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 8

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

There is nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area. The area has never been logged.

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 10

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

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

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 10

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

OUTSTANDING Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **9.3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

G2 – Blue Primitive Addition (formerly G2a – Blue Range South)

315 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The G2 – Blue Primitive Addition is a very small area located in the western region of the Glenwood Ranger District, on the state line and adjacent to the Blue Range Primitive area managed by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, in Catron County, New Mexico. The entire perimeter of the 315-acre area is enclosed by range fences, and the grazing permittee for the allotment the area is located within uses it as a “trap”, to concentrate cattle for management purposes. It is also known to be a popular staging and dispersed camping location during hunting seasons. The area was originally numbered as G2a and grouped together in the inventory with areas G2b, G2c, G2d and G2e, all named Blue Range South. However, it was determined by the ID Team that G2b and G2c were not manageable, and that the areas formerly numbered G2a, G2d, and G2e were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite their close proximity. G2d and G2e were renumbered and renamed as G9, Blue Range SE Addition, and G10, Blue Range SW Addition. This area was renamed G2, Blue Primitive Addition and occurs within:

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

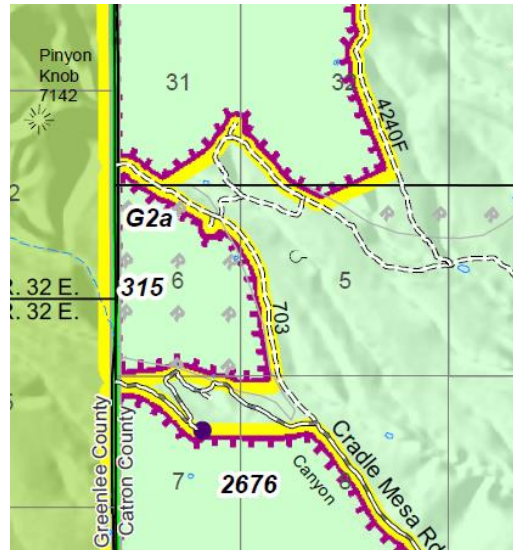
a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area is surrounded by open roads along most of its perimeter, and is completely enclosed by range fences on all sides, which tends to have an outsized effect in the context of such a small area, and the shape and contour oriented between closely situated open roads do not allow for any core area to protect wilderness characteristics. Addition of this area as wilderness would not contribute to the wilderness characteristics of, or for their protection, for the existing adjacent primitive area.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:



There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area. The nearest non-Federal lands are located far from the area's boundaries.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area, excepting that the area boundaries are oriented in close proximity to each other and adjacent to open roads that are used by recreationists and permittees.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

Although it is an Apparent Naturalness concern, and provides context rather than being a manageability consideration, the entire 315-acre polygon is fenced on all sides and has a very high concentration of infrastructure for the very small size of the area, including a large water storage tank, above ground pipelines, two metal drinkers and two stock tanks. This contributes to the absence of a core area available to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Determination:

Though much of this area consists of inventoried roadless area, its small size and configuration would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. This very small, 315-acre area is completely enclosed by fences and mostly surrounded by open roads, which tends to have an outsized effect on such a very small area. Its addition also would not contribute to the wilderness characteristics of, or their protection, for the existing adjacent primitive area.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

Additional Remarks: This area was originally found by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but based upon stakeholder input the team revisited the manageability of the area, and determined that it is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Because the G2 Blue Primitive Addition area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process by the ID Team unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

G2b and G2c – Blue Range South

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

General description:

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

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

These areas consist of narrowed, convoluted shapes, often sandwiched narrowly between adjacent open roads (and a cherry-stemmed open road in G2b), that considered in context of their small size, do not provide for a sufficient core area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, nor as an addition to the existing primitive area would they would not contribute to the areas existing characteristics or their protection.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

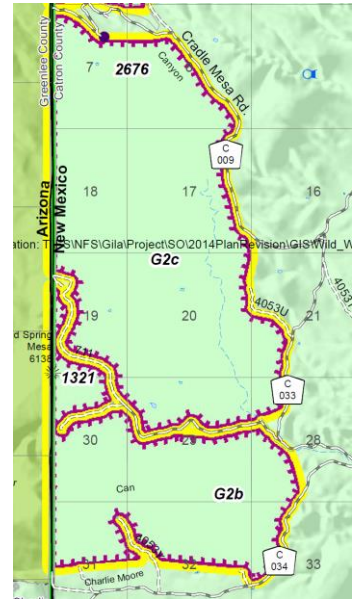
c) Specific Federal or State laws that may be relevant to availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:



The management of adjacent lands was not a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The ID Team also took into context the presence of ML1 closed but not decommissioned roads, and the gentle roadside terrain that would make these small areas boundaries generally unmanageable.

Summary of Determination:

These small areas' convoluted and narrowed shapes, their orientation narrowly sandwiched between adjacent roads, lack of manageable boundaries, presence of ML1 closed but not decommissioned roads, and the gentle roadside terrain all combine to make these areas not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

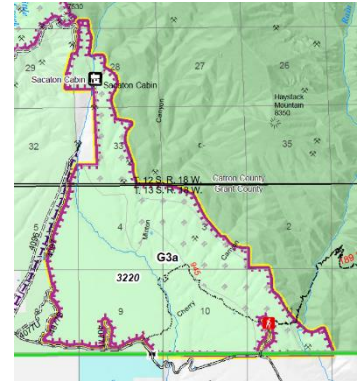
Additional Remarks: Because the Blue Range South Addition areas are evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process by the ID Team unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

G3 – Gila Rain Creek Addition (formerly G3a – Gila Addition Northwest)

1,298 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico

General description:

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



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

This is a very small area that would become an addition to the existing Gila Wilderness if designated by congress. Terrain is generally moderate, with some steep, rugged areas, and flat mesa tops. Vegetation cover is generally pinon-juniper woodlands and ponderosa pine-oak, depending upon slope aspect and elevation. Rain Creek Trail #186, and Rain Creek itself both pass through the area, and Sacaton Cabin is just outside of the area boundary to the northwest.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but only after boundaries were adjusted to the bases of where steeper slopes begin, approximately the boundary of the inventoried roadless area. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. As inventoried, the area would not be considered manageable, due to its shape and configuration, combined with existence of non-conforming uses and development on adjacent lands all contribute to compound unmanageability. Addition of this area without the boundary adjustments made by the ID Team would be of no benefit to the Gila Wilderness. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area, and this will be scrutinized in more detail if the area should move forward in the process towards possible designation.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low, and concentrated in some locations, may appear to be fairly modern, and impose limits on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a cement ditch along western boundary, and old roads in parts of Section 9. The Rain Creek trailhead has an ATV trail that follows wilderness boundary. A closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 road bisects the area from north to south. There is an old mining claim within the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.3**

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

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

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

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

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

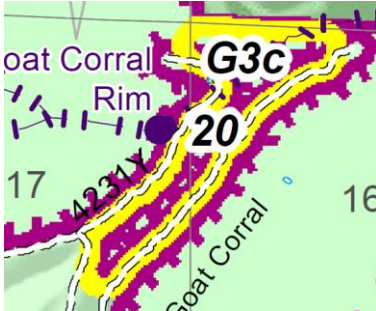
Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

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

G3c – Gila Addition Northwest

20 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:



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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This tiny area of 20 acres is oriented in a very narrow space between two open Forest roads, and lacks any core area to protect wilderness characteristics. Its shape and orientation are such that it would not contribute to the characteristics or manageability of characteristics of the existing adjacent wilderness.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Summary of Determination:

This tiny area consists of just 20 acres, and is oriented in a narrow space between two open Forest roads, without a core area to be able to protect wilderness characteristics. The ID Team has determined that this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. The area also would not contribute positively to the wilderness characteristics, or the management of existing wilderness character if it became an addition to the existing adjacent wilderness.

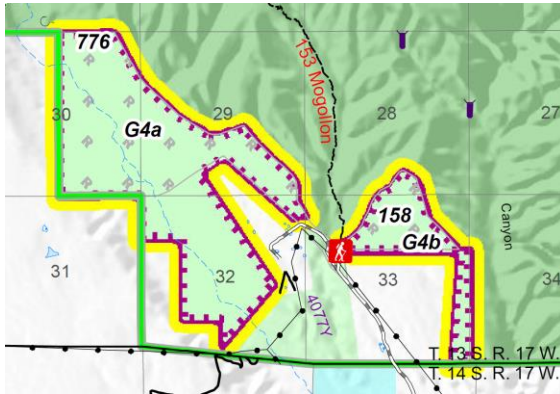
Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

G4a and G4b – Gila Additions West

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



General description:

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

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

These very small areas consist of odd, convoluted shapes, and are oriented narrowly between adjacent roads and private property. The areas would also not contribute to the wilderness characteristics or the protection of the existing wilderness characteristics of the adjacent wilderness.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands affecting the shape and orientation of the area boundaries was a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was a minor contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area, due to agricultural development on private property, and utility rights-of-way directly adjacent.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

There is relatively gentle roadside terrain throughout much of the area, making area boundaries along roadsides generally unmanageable, and contributing additional context to the ID Team's consideration of the area's manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Determination:

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

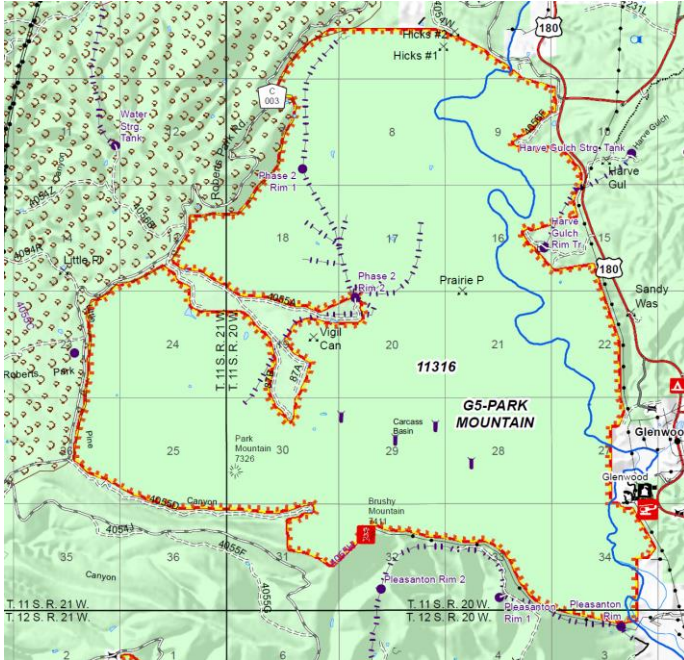
Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

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

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

G5 – Park Mountain

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



General description:

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

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

This is a relatively small area of steep to moderate terrain. Vegetation is mostly grassland and pinon-juniper. The San Francisco River flows through the area, with possible opportunities for water-based recreation such as river floating, but the canyon is steep and difficult to access.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible in this evaluated area due to the moderately large size, the rugged terrain, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. However, this determination was considered somewhat borderline because there are concerns with private inholdings on the boundary, a fuelwood cutting area located directly adjacent, there are several deeply cherry-stem motorized routes, and there are several substantially noticeable water developments. These result in a very limited core area suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, and they detract very little from the apparent naturalness of the overall area. There are some pipelines, water developments, metal drinkers, and metal storage tanks. There are some level 1 roads that intrude only slightly along area boundaries.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5.7*

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

This area is moderate in both opportunities for solitude and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to areas located nearby and with opportunities available elsewhere on the Forest. Steeper sections on east side have solitude opportunities, though there are not a lot of trails and the area may be difficult to access. People could possibly float the section of the San Francisco River passing through the area, but access might be an issue taking out to the south, and the steep bluffs prevent access to the river from within much of the area.

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

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

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

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

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

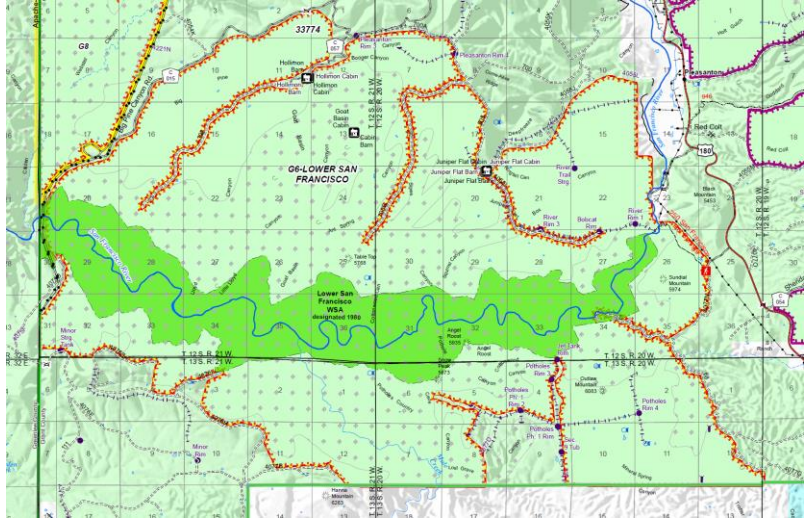
G6 – Lower San Francisco

21,196 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico

General description:

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

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



This relatively large area contains moderate to steep and rugged terrain, including the gorge of the lower San

Francisco River and tributaries. Vegetation within the river gorge is riparian, and elsewhere is a mix of grasslands, pinon-juniper, and ponderosa pine-oak. There are hot springs along the river that attract recreational use, and the San Francisco Hot Springs Trail #250 leads into the area. The New Mexico Wilderness Act of 1980 designated the Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area for review to determine if it featured wilderness characteristics worthy of designation as wilderness. The 1986 Forest Plan evaluated the area and did not recommend that it should be designated as wilderness. Until such time that Congress acts on this recommendation, these lands are mandated by law to be managed to maintain existing wilderness character.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible within this area due to the moderately large size, the rugged terrain, remote location, and lack of known existing legal rights. However, this determination was considered somewhat borderline because there are private inholdings all along the south boundary, a number of cherry-stem motorized intruding deep into the area, and substantially noticeable grazing associated water developments.

Although the size of the evaluated area and the terrain within the canyon allow for very good core areas suitable for protection of wilderness characteristics, the ID Team felt the manageability and other wilderness characteristics within the area would be improved by removal of some areas with

development and most of the cherry-stems. This makes the boundary of the area approximate to that of the existing inventoried roadless area.

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

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6.3

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is exceptionally low in much of the area. Some places within the area offer a very high degree of solitude opportunities.

There are wide range of primitive recreation opportunities available, including excellent opportunities for water recreation along the river, its tributaries, and their accompanying deep canyons, including floating the river when conditions allow, swimming, and fishing, bathing in hot springs, and hiking.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH**

Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **OUTSTANDING**

Score: **9**



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

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

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

corridor. The area also contains the entire 8,800 acre Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area. The San Francisco River in this area is designated as critical habitat for both the loach minnow and spikedace species of fishes, and also contains a small amount of the Desert Willow ERU, which is under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.

Present: **YES**

Rank: **HIGH**

score: **3**

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

G7 – Hell Hole

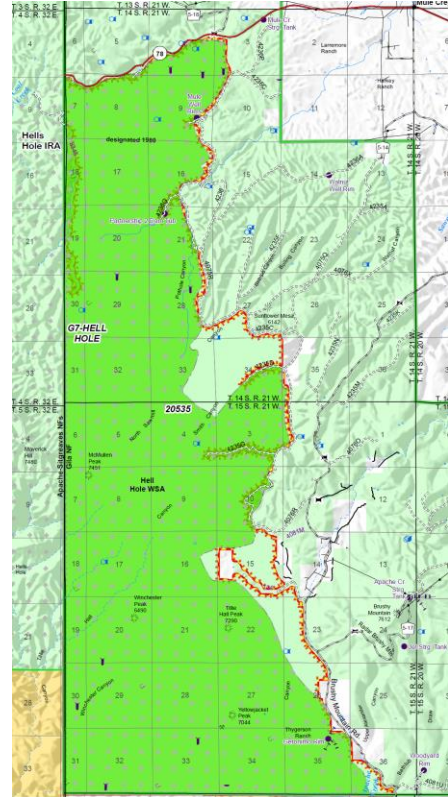
20,535 acres Glenwood District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

The landscape of the southern portion of the area is dominated by topographic features including deep, rugged canyons, rocky peaks, and steep cliffs. The northern portion of the area is primarily rolling hills. Vegetation varies greatly with elevation and aspect. The presence of ponderosa pine in the area is somewhat unusual, as it is rather scarce in surrounding areas. The area lends itself to a variety of primitive recreation activities. When the New Mexico Wilderness Act was passed in 1980, it designated the Hell Hole Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for review to determine if it feature wilderness characteristics that make it worthy of designation by Congress as wilderness. The 1986 Forest Plan evaluated the Hell Hole WSA for wilderness suitability and did not recommend that it should be designated as wilderness. Until such time that Congress acts to designate or release these lands to other forest uses, they must be managed to maintain or enhance existing wilderness character.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

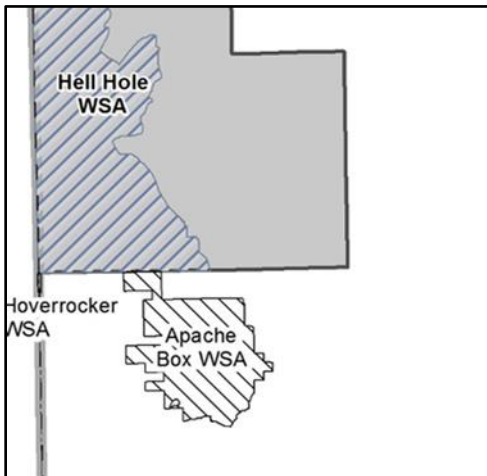
Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

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

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

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



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

immediately adjacent to development and most of the cherry-stems. This would make the boundary of the area approximate to the existing inventoried roadless area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Score: 3

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

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

Solitude Rank: **HIGH**

Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE**

Score: 5

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

This evaluated area includes the Hell Hole Wilderness Study Area, and has high scenic values.

Present: **YES**Rank: **LOW**

score: **1**

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

G8 – Smoothing Iron Mesa

3,588 acres Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

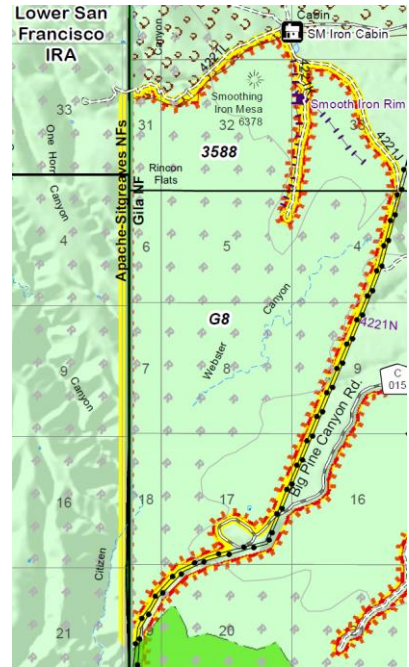
General description:

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

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

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

This is a small area of mostly moderate mesa-top terrain, but with deeply incised canyon in some areas. Vegetation is mostly pinyon-juniper and grasslands. This area is part of a much larger inventoried roadless area extending across the state line into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Webster Canyon passes through the area, and the Lower San Francisco Wilderness Study Area is to the south and southeast.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is less than 5,000 acres in size, but the ID Team determined that due to its terrain, location, and manageable boundaries, and due to being part of a much larger inventoried roadless area extending across the state line into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, the area meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

natural in the majority of the area, but is less so on the mesa tops in comparison to the canyon bottoms and drainages.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.3**

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is very low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to high opportunities for solitude experiences. Recreation opportunities are determined to be moderate compared to those available nearby and Forest-wide.

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

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

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

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

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

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

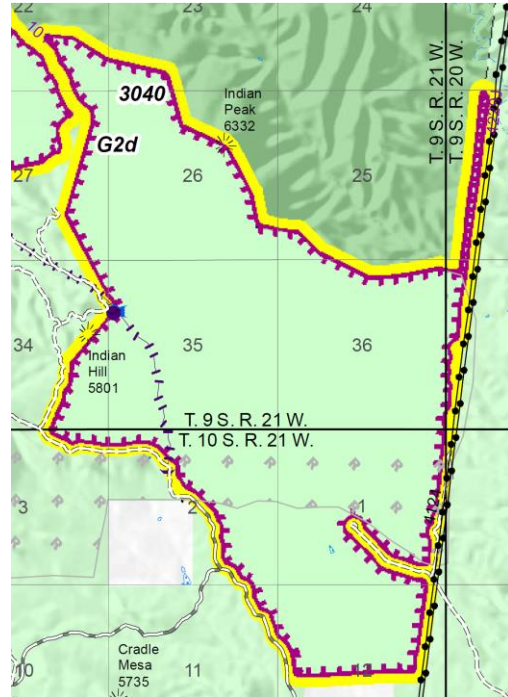
G9 – Blue Range SE Addition (formerly G2d – Blue Range South)

3,040 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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



This very small area consists of moderate to steep terrain, and vegetation cover consists mostly of pinon-juniper mixed with grass, and open grassland. The area would become an addition to the existing Blue Range Wilderness if it were designated by Congress. A strangely shaped inventoried roadless area passes through part of this area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This area is immediately adjacent to the existing Blue Range Wilderness. The existing wilderness boundary appears to have been determined largely by steep terrain, allowing for a manageable boundary with natural barriers to prevent unauthorized motorized access.

Although considered borderline because of manageable boundary concerns, the ID Team determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being contiguous to existing wilderness, and a lack of known legal established rights. The ID Team feels

that manageability of boundaries may be challenging, however, and it may be desirable to consider natural features as boundaries to better protect existing wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations. However, they may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a high density of range fences. Cherry stem road and pipeline are also present in the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 3*

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

This area is moderate in both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to areas located nearby and with opportunities available elsewhere on the Forest. As an addition to existing wilderness it would not create a significant improvement to the solitude within.

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

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

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

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

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

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

G10 – Blue Range SW Addition: (formerly G2e– Blue Range South)

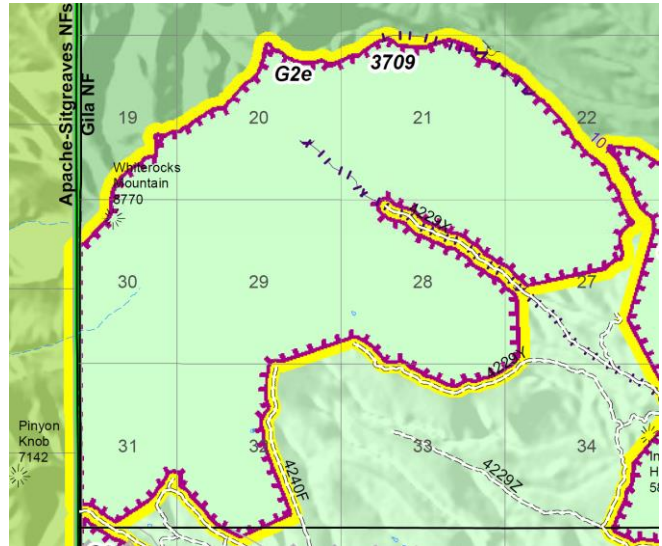
3,709 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

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

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

This is a very small area consisting of steep to moderate dissected terrain and with vegetation cover consisting mostly of pinon-juniper. If designated by congress, the recommended area would become an addition to the existing Blue Range Wilderness.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

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

Although considered by the ID Team to be somewhat borderline because of manageable boundary concerns, ultimately the ID Team determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being contiguous to existing wilderness and primitive area, and a lack of known legal established rights.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) *Composition of Plant and Animal Communities*

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 4*

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

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

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

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

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

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

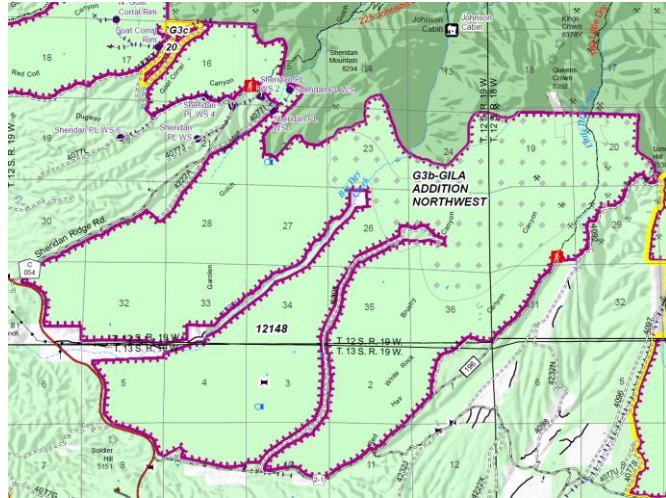
(G10) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation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

G11 – Gila Dry Creeks Addition: (formerly G3b – Gila Addition Northwest)

3,129 acres, Glenwood District, Catron and Grant Counties New Mexico

General description:

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



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

This is a small area of steep terrain adjacent to the existing wilderness. Vegetation is pinon-juniper woodlands, grasslands, and ponderosa pine-oak, often depending upon elevation and slope aspect. Dry Creek, Little Dry Creek, and the Little Dry Trail # 180 pass through the evaluated area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team found that this area could be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but only if fairly large portions were excluded to the northwest, west, south, and southwest - and the area boundary were adjusted to instead follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary in the north and northeast. The areas outside of the inventoried roadless area are not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to issues with size (core area possessing wilderness characteristics), orientation and proximity to open roads and improvements, and the presence of cherry-stemmed private inholdings accessed by single purpose roads.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the evaluated area reflects active management activity within the area, including backburning during fire suppression operations. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

Much of this area has been subject to fuel wood gathering in the past, and local residents have expressed a desire for more opportunities. Steep slopes have grass components that are at potential.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

There are Small mines by Little Dry Creek with trash and some visible tailings, and some User created roads.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 4.3*

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

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

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

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

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

(G11) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.3

G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition (formerly G3d – Gila Addition Northwest)

3,463 acres, Glenwood District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition is a moderately small area located in the central region of the Glenwood Ranger District directly on the western boundary of the Gila Wilderness. The area is contiguous with existing wilderness, and had originally had been numbered G3d and grouped together with areas G3a, G3b, and G3c, all named Gila Addition Northwest and intended to be evaluated together.

However it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were not similar enough to be evaluated together, despite being in close proximity. G3c was determined by the ID Team to not contain wilderness characteristics, and removed from further consideration. Areas G3a and G3b were renumbered and renamed as G3, Gila Rain Creek Addition; and G11, Gila Dry Creeks Addition. G12, Gila Whitewater Addition area, occurs within:



- T11S R17W, part of Section 6;
- T11S R18W, part of Sections 1-6;
- T11S R19W, all or part of Sections 1-8, 17-20, 29-32;
- T11S R20W, parts of Sections 24-26, 35-36;
- T12S R20W, parts of Sections 1-2, 11-13;
- T12S R21W, parts of Sections 5-8, 17-19

The area is contiguous with existing wilderness, located on very steep and challenging terrain. If designated by congress, this area would become an addition to the existing Gila Wilderness.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

With the recommended changes to the area boundaries to remove the southwestern portion of the original area configuration at Powerhouse Trail #810, the ID Team has determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, primarily due to being a viable, contiguous area

that would serve to improve characteristics if it were included as an addition to the existing wilderness area.

Issues with the manageability of excluded areas include high levels of water developments, shape and configuration the area around open roads, a legally designated motorized trail and the presence of level 1 closed but not decommissioned roads. Travel Management designated motorized trails that are a legally established use authorized via a NEPA decision and precludes the area from being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area, that will be scrutinized in more detail should the area move forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the reconfigured boundaries of the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past fire management actions, vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. A significant amount of backburning occurred within the area during Whitewater Baldy Fire in 2012. This set vegetation composition back into a brushy state.

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the reconfigured area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6.7

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

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

opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. Lots of trails to provide recreation opportunities.

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

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

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

(G12) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13.7

B1a, B1b, B1c, – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions (formerly south portion B1a, B1b, B1c – Aldo Leopold Addition East)

5,741 acres, 265 acres, and 78 acres
Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B1a, B1b, and B1c – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions are small, closely located, and similar areas located on the Black Range Ranger District. They lie within moderate to rugged terrain, and the vegetation is classic southwestern mountains, with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. The ID Team agreed to modify the original B1a by separating it using the south end of sections 34 and 35 as a boundary break from the northern portion that is determined to have less wilderness characteristics. The northern portion was assigned the new identifier number of B9. The separated northern portion has less rugged terrain, and a lot of issues with manageability and other wilderness characteristics, so it was determined to be more accurate to rate these separately rather than as a larger overall area.

The B1a – Aldo Leopold Seco Addition area occurs within:

- T14S R9W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 10-14, 23-25, 36;
- T14S R8W, part or all of Sections 19, 30-31

The B1b area occurs within:

- T14S R9W, part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;

The B1c area occurs within:

- T14S R9W part of Sections 33-34

These areas consist of moderate to very steep, rugged terrain along the eastern front of the Black Range Mountains, and the vegetation consists of a classic southwestern mountains mix, with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer, and each species presence generally depending upon elevation and slope aspect.

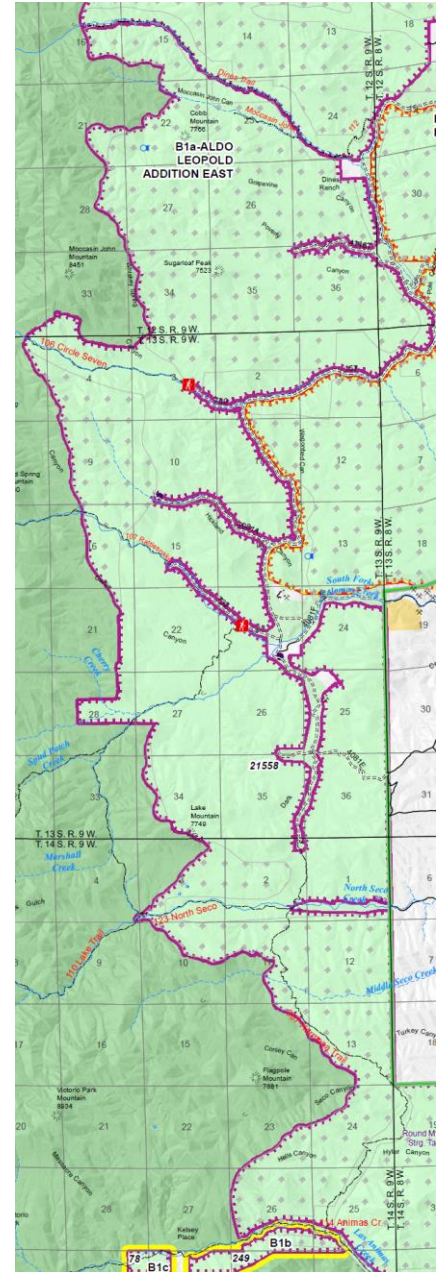
Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

B1b and B1c areas are less than 5,000 acres in size, but are contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and B1a is over 5,000 acres contiguous to an existing wilderness area, and therefore all these areas meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:



Due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights, the ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There are existing, closed roads in the area, but most are in poor condition and would be difficult if attempted to use for travel after a certain point. There has also been user-developed trailblazing in some locations; but the district is working to establish trailheads as a strategy to address the issue. The ID Team adjusted boundaries in areas with less challenging terrain to use natural features for improve the manageability of the areas' boundaries.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area, and does not appear to be manipulated by humans. This reflects very little past or current active management activity within the area.

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 8

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

The ID Team determined that the area reflected only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, mostly concentrated in some locations, some appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is some evidence of mining activity within the area but it is not prevalent throughout. There are some range improvements within the area that are not identified on the range map, including some tire drinkers, and the Round Mountain Storage Tank. Some cabins and roads can be found in Sections 1, 2, 3.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **6.3**

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

Opportunities for solitude are lower from October to February due to hunting seasons. Experiencing solitude on southern portions is possible outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons as the likelihood of encountering other visitors during non-hunting season times of the year is low. There also exist very good opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation within the area.

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

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

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

There is Chiricahua Leopard Frog habitat in Seco Creek (on southern half). The area has excellent scenery compared to other, nearby areas.

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

(B1a, B1b, B1c) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14.3

B2– Brushy Mountain

7,751 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

B2 – Brushy Mountain is a small area located in the Black Range Ranger District that occurs within:

- T12S R8W, part or all of Sections 19-20, 29-32;
- T13S R8W, part or all of Sections 5-8, 18;
- T13S R9W, part or all of Sections 1-2, 11-14

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

Several closed, but not decommissioned, roads extend deeply into the area from the west-northwest extending to the south, preventing a sufficient core area available for protecting wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are existing mining claims within the area that could potentially affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics, but are considered in aggregate with other factors, and on their own do not preclude manageability without additional consideration.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

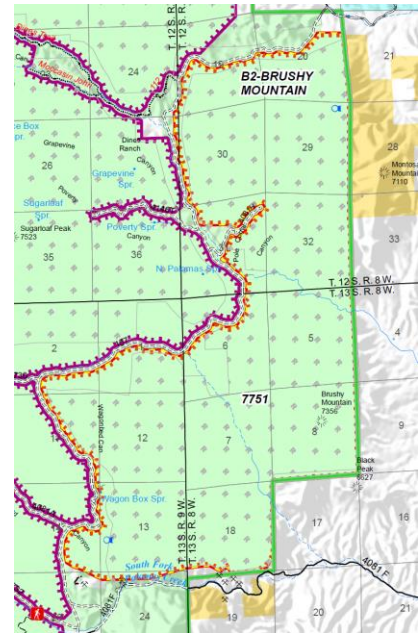
d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There is a great deal of private property along the area's boundaries, particularly to the east. This would make access for both visitors and for management purposes difficult throughout much of the area, and boundaries would be difficult to manage to protect wilderness characteristics.

Management of adjacent lands:

Mining operations occur on adjacent private lands.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:



A system of existing user-developed routes for wood cutting in Sections 12 and 7 combined with relatively flat terrain compared to the areas to the north and south, and with pinon-juniper as the primary vegetation indicate there would be great difficulty managing area boundaries to prevent non-conforming uses within the area. There are also closed, not decommissioned ML1 roads that extend across large portions of the area.

Summary of Determination:

There are multiple issues with the ability to manage the area's boundaries to protect wilderness characteristics, including relatively flat terrain, lack of vegetation cover, existing mining claims, mining operations on adjacent lands, and issues with access due to extensive private lands adjacent to area boundaries. Also, several closed, but not decommissioned, roads extend deeply into the area from the west-northwest to the south, preventing sufficient core area available for protecting wilderness characteristics. All of these factors considered in aggregate contribute to the ID Team's determination that the area is unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B2) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

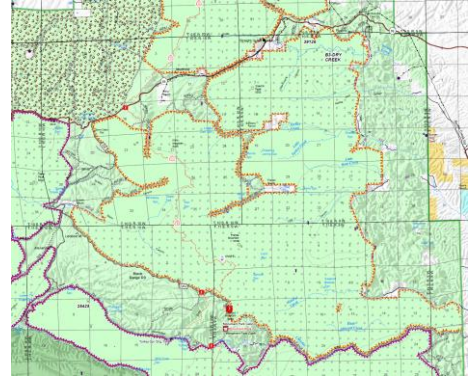
B3– Big Dry Creek

39,126 acres, Black Range District, Sierra and Catron Counties New Mexico

General description:

The B3 – Big Dry Creek area is a moderately sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District. The B3 – Dry Creek area occurs within:

- T9S R9W, part of Sections 32-34;
- T10S R10W, part or all of Sections 11-17, 20-28, 31-36;
- T10S R9W, part or all of Sections 2-10, 15-23, 26-34;
- T11S R10W, part or all of Sections 1-5;
- T11S R9W, part or all of sections 2-24, 28
- T11S R8W, part of sections 18-19



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

Although the area is moderately sized, there are several very deep incursions of cherry stem roads, and private property inholdings scattered across the area, all contributing to a lack of sufficient core area available to protect wilderness characteristics. Even if boundary adjustments were made, the resulting smaller areas would have issues of size, shape, and configuration and would not individually be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are isolated inholdings of private property throughout the area that would qualify for access under terms of the ANILCA. There may be mining claims within the area, which was not on its own a sufficient determinant for the area not being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but is mentioned here as context for the ID Team's consideration of an aggregate of contributing factors. This would have received greater scrutiny if the area were not determined unmanageable due to other factors, and should the area have moved forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

c) 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:

There are provisions within the ANILCA legislation that would qualify the two inholdings surrounded by Forest Service Lands for easement access, and depending upon the type of access granted, this access may negatively affect the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There are private property inholding associated with cherry stemmed roads, and scattered across the area without open to public road access.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of the numerous adjacent and private property lands was a minor consideration for the ID Team's determination of manageability, given consideration because some are inholdings intruding deeply inside the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

If boundary adjustments were made, the resulting smaller areas would be not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. These smaller areas would also be isolated from existing wilderness and so would not contribute to their wilderness characteristics, or the protection of their characteristics. The IDT also took into consideration the presence of ML1 roads present in much of the area.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team determined that this area was unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to very deep incursions of private property inholdings, cherry stems, unmanageable boundaries, and a lack of core area. Even if boundary adjustments were made, the resulting smaller areas would be isolated from existing wilderness and not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Compounding issues with manageability are ML1 roads accessing into much of the area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B3) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

B4 – Wahoo South

19,769 acres Black Range District, Catron and Sierra Counties New Mexico

General description:

The B4 – Wahoo South area is located on the Black Range Ranger District and lies within:

- T8S R10W, part of Section 36;
- T8S R9W, part of Section 31;
- T9S R9W, part or all of Sections 5-9, 15-23, 26-33;
- T10S R10W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-12;
- T10S R9W, part of Section 5

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

There is a lack of sufficient core area available to protect wilderness characteristics due to bottlenecks of boundaries and deeply intruding cherry stems of open Forest roads.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There may be issues with mining claims in the area that could potentially affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics, but this was not a major consideration in the determination of manageability by the ID Team. These potential conflicts would have received greater scrutiny in absence of the presence other factors leading to a determination that the area is unmanageable, and if the area had moved forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

c) 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:

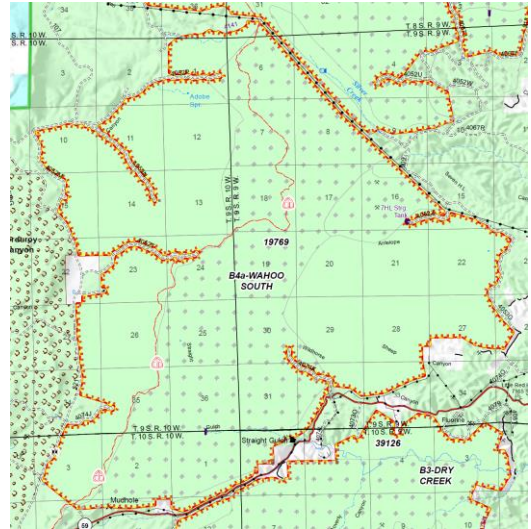
There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There is private property adjacent to the area boundaries, however this was not a major consideration of the determination of manageability.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

Management of adjacent lands was not a major consideration the ID Team's determination of manageability for the area.



Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

FR 4052t is closed at its halfway point but not decommissioned, nearly bisecting the area. There are extensive closed, decommissioned ML1 roads in the eastern portion of the area. The terrain, vegetative cover, and proximity to firewood cutting areas are also likely to contribute to area boundaries that would be generally unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics and prevent wilderness non-conforming uses to intrude into the area.

Summary of Determination:

This area was determined by the ID Team to be unmanageable due to an aggregate of management factors, including unmanageable boundaries (proximity to firewood cutting areas, private property, flatness of terrain), the presence of an extensive network of closed roads, some not decommissioned, and all of these contributing to, and also compounded by, a lack of sizeable core area due to deeply intruding cherry stems of open Forest roads. These were also considered in context to the relative size of the area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area, though this was not a deciding factor of the determination.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B4) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

B5 – Stone Creek

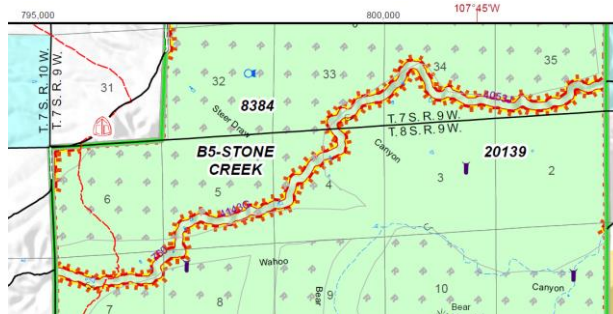
8,384 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

B5 – Stone Creek is located on the Black Range Ranger District and occurs within:

- T7S R9W, part of Sections 32-35;
- T8S R9W, all or parts of Sections 5-8

Stone Creek area is a small evaluated area with vegetation cover of primarily pinon-juniper, with stringers of ponderosa pine, depending upon elevation and aspect. A short section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through the southwest portion of the area



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible within this area due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries location, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The ID Team determined that the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations but by their presence impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are windmills, tanks, and other range improvements throughout the area, as well as closed but not decommissioned roads that are still noticeable on the ground.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.3**

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing good overall opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. The area is known to be used by outfitter guides accessing through private property. Due to terrain and surrounding private property, much of the area is inaccessible for the general public.

Throughout this small-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are few trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are moderate compared with those nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

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

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

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

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

(B5) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.3

B6 – Sand Canyon

6,136 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B6 – Sand Canyon is a small-sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District within:

- T8S R11W, parts of Sections 32-33;
- T9S R11W, part or all of Sections 3-9, 15-21, 29-30;
- T9S R12W, part of Sections 24-25

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This area has a very narrow shape relative to its small size, and it is oriented narrowly between boundaries consisting of open roads and private property, combined with a cherry stem incursion deep into the area, resulting in a lack of core area to adequately protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

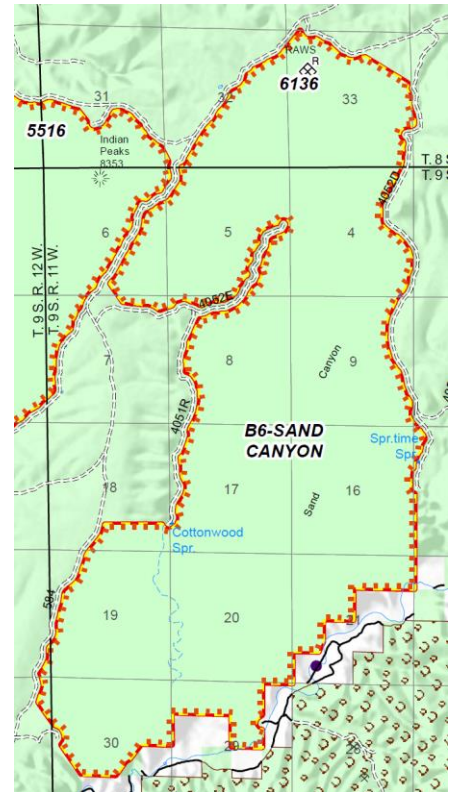
d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

Manageability of the area is negatively affected by its proximity to private property all along its southeast boundary.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

Management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor of the ID Team's determination.

Summary of Determination:



The ID Team identified a number of problems that considered together make this area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics, including its narrow shape relative to its very small size, proximity to private property all along its southeast boundary, the remaining boundary consisting of open roads, a cherry stem incursion deep into the area, and a lack of a core area to protect wilderness characteristics. There is also a closed, decommissioned level 1 road that nearly bisects the area from north to south, contributing to the insufficient core area available to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B6) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

B7 – Indian Peaks

5,516 acres Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

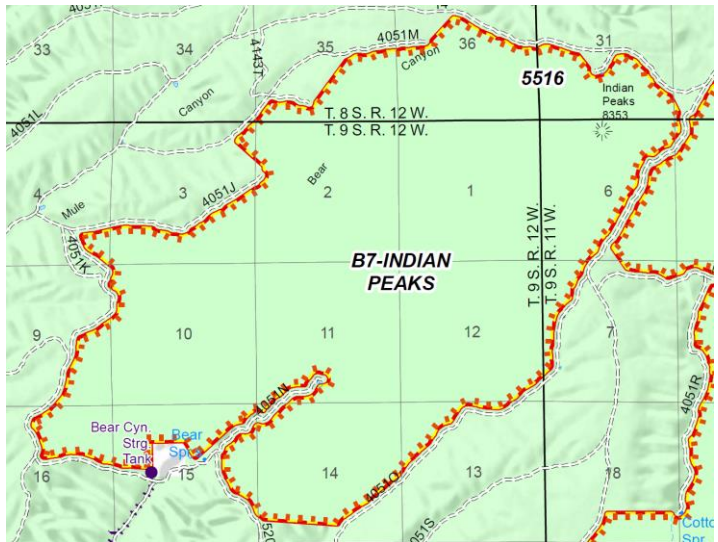
The B7 – Indian Peaks is a small-sized area located on the Black Range Ranger District within:

- T8S R12W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T8S R11W, part of Section 31;
- T9S R11W, part of Sections 6-7;
- T19S R12W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 9-16

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**



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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This area is very small, and is located such that it is bounded on all sides by open roads, and also has a deep cherry stem incursion by an open Forest road. In context of the small size of the area, this has an outsized effect compared to larger evaluated areas, and combined with the other factors considered allows for insufficient core area available to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

There is an area of adjacent private property along the south boundary of the area, however this was not a major consideration in the determination of manageability for this area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

Management of adjacent lands was not a consideration by the ID Team for determining the manageability of this area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

There is a closed but not decommissioned ML1 road along the southeast boundary, contributing to insufficient core area available to protect wilderness characteristics and the area boundaries are considered generally unmanageable to prevent continued motored incursions due to relatively mild terrain and open vegetation cover.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team determined that due to the very small size of the area combined with it being bounded on all sides by open roads, having a very deep cherry stem incursion by an open Forest road, a closed but not decommissioned ML1 road along the southeast boundary, proximity to private property to the south, and area boundaries unmanageable (due to terrain and vegetation cover) to prevent continued motored incursions, and a lack of sufficient core area to protect wilderness characteristics considered in aggregate make the area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B7) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

B8 – Beaverhead

9,849 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B8 – Beaverhead area is located in the Black Range Ranger District and occurs within:

- T10S R14W, part of Section 12;
- T10S R13W, all or parts of Sections 7-18, 21-26;
- T10S R12W, part of Sections 7, 18-19, 30



The area is located immediately adjacent to the Beaverhead Workstation, which includes a helibase, and the Beaverhead Air Base. This is a relatively small area of moderately rugged, dissected terrain primarily composed of grassland vegetation.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but there are serious existing challenges that make the area considered borderline to being determined to be unmanageable by the ID Team. The area includes flat terrain and open vegetation conditions that has been conducive to creation of unauthorized user created roads. There is also a significant cherry stem into the area in the northeast corner, and the area is bounded by open roads on three sides. Closed, but not decommissioned, ML 1 roads 4064v and 4064u fork together and run from the southcentral boundary northeast, crossing the entire area, to join open level 2 roads 4141g and 4065A. Closed but not decommissioned road 4064w, runs northeast from just east of 4064u to dead end in the center of the area. Additionally there is adjacent private property along the entire northern boundary, and most of the east boundary as well, creating issues of access into the area, and manageability of boundaries.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are range improvements throughout, but fences are not too prevalent for the size of the area. There are some tanks and underground pipelines as well, primarily on the southern end that extend far in from area boundaries.

Closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 roads 4064v and 4064u fork together and run from the southcentral boundary northeast, crossing the entire area, to join open level 2 roads 4141g and 4065A. Closed but not decommissioned road 4064w, runs northeast from just east of 4064u to dead end in the center of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

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

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons, the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low. However, due to the area's relatively small size, and, and cherrystem roads intruding deeply into the area, opportunities for solitude are considered to be moderate when compared to those available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, but there are also no system trails, and orientation of adjacent private property and terrain can make it difficult accessing much of the area. This area has moderate opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to those available nearby and in other Forest locations.

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

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

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

Much of this area is open grassland, under-represented within existing wilderness, consisting of the lower of extension of the Plains of San Agustin onto the Forest. The extensive views to the Plains are a unique scenic opportunity, and the presence of pronghorn provide a unique wildlife viewing and hunting opportunity.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** Score: **1**

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DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

(B8) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East (formerly part of B1a – Aldo Leopold Additions East)

13,558 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. ID Team agreed to split this area from the southern portion of B1a – Aldo Leopold Addition East (now Seco Addition) because it was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics. This separated northern portion has less rugged terrain and issues with manageability and differences in other wilderness characteristics, so it would be more accurate to rate these separately rather than as a larger overall area. The area occurs within:

- T12S R9W, part or all of Sections 15-16, 21-28, 32-36;
- T12S R8W, part of Section 31;
- T13S R9W all or parts of Sections 1-5, 9-11, 14-16, 21-23, 25-28, 34-36;
- T13S R8W part of Section 6

This area consists mostly of rugged, mountainous terrain dissected by canyons and drainages within a classic southwestern mountain forest of with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. Parts of the area are deeply intruded by cherrystemmed roads and private property inholdings.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Due to the rugged terrain, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights, the ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Vegetation appears natural in some locations, but not commonly in the area.

Rank: LOW Score: 2

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

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

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and concentrated in some locations, may appear to be modern, and may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a closed and decommissioned level 1 road to the south.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

LOW Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **2.7**

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

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

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

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **3**

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

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

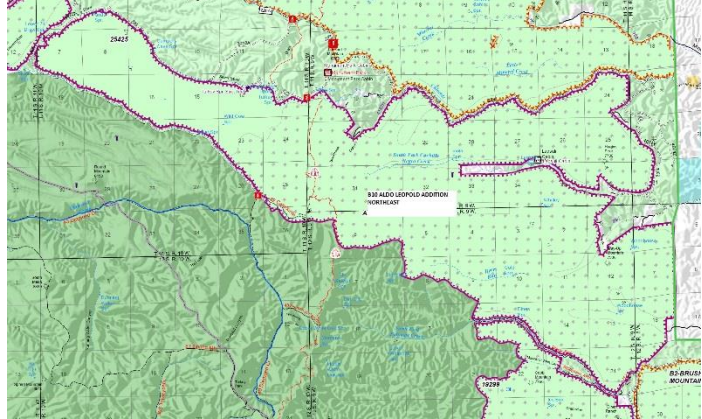
(B9) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	LOW	2.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	3
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	LOW	5.7

B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast

15,909 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. There are several proposals for water storage and trick tanks within this area that have been through the NEPA process, awaiting implementation, located in Sections 25-28 on northern side of the area. Logging previously occurred on northwest side and lots of roads remain from those activities.



The ID Team recommended that the area would be more manageable, and possess greater overall wilderness characteristics, by making an adjustment to boundaries by joining the boundary from inholding at Section 30 to inholding in Section 33, and to follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary for the western boundary to avoid development.

The area occurs within:

- T11S R10W, part or all of 4-10, 13-18, 21-26, 36;
- T11S R9W, part or all of Sections 19-36;
- T11S R8W part of Sections 30-31;
- T12S R9W part or all of Sections 1-16, 23-24;
- T12S R8W part or all of Sections 6-7, 18-19

This area consists mostly of rugged, mountainous terrain dissected by canyons and drainages within a classic southwestern mountain forest of with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. Parts of the area are deeply intruded by cherrystemed roads and private property inholdings. A section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through the area.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team reached consensus that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics because of terrain, manageable boundaries, and its location contiguous to an existing wilderness, with no known conflicts with existing legal rights.

Inholding and adjacent private property is a manageability concern, and the ID Team made the determination of manageability based upon their previously mentioned boundary adjustments. There may be issues with mining claims in the area, and this will receive greater scrutiny should the area move forward in the process towards possible recommendation. Travel Management

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects little active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in 90% of the area (contingent upon adjusting boundaries to remove logging road area, otherwise ID Team would rank as Low).

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

There are very few improvements, however there is a nearby mining complex located just outside of polygon. There are roads from logging activities in far northwest side. The ID Team adjusted the boundaries to follow inventoried roadless area for the western boundary to exclude areas considered unmanageable, but also resulting in the removal of visible improvements and improving apparent naturalness.

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6.3

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

There are some effects from cherry stems and private property inholdings. However, there are good opportunities though much of the area, and it is contiguous to the existing wilderness.

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

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

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

The area contains significant Mexican spotted owl habitat, known as protected activity centers (PACs). The area is also a representative of the role of fire being present within the ecosystem.

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

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(B10) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14.3

B11 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast (formerly B1d and B1e)

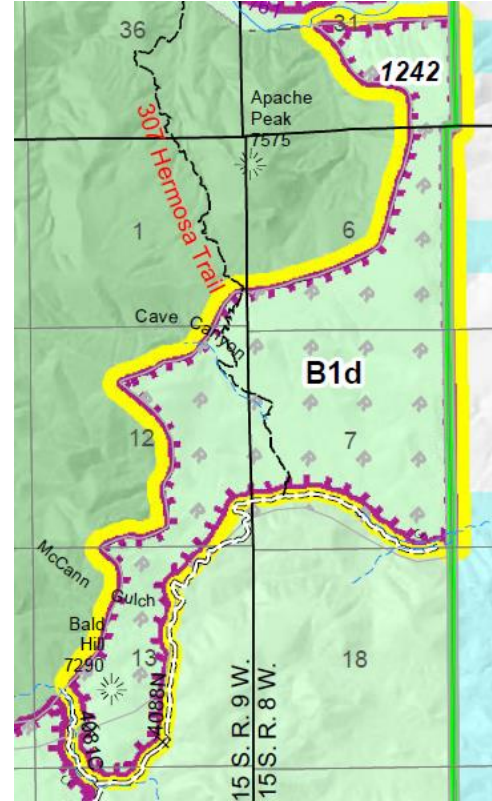
1,242 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

Originally, the DRAFT inventory map had shown B1e as separate to the very south, and B1 a, b, c, d, and were grouped together for evaluation. However, a mapping error, was corrected and what had been B1e was combined with B1d. Additionally, this area was found to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics from B1a-c, and so was renamed area B10 and evaluated separately upon its own merit. The B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast area is located on the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T14S R8W, part of Section 31;
- T15S R8W, part of Sections 6-7;
- T15S R9W part of Sections 1, 12-13, 24

This area consists mostly of rugged, mountainous terrain dissected by canyons and drainages within a classic southwestern mountains forest of with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. Parts of the area are deeply intruded by cherrystemmed roads and private property inholdings that were removed from boundaries to meet alternative criteria.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team made a determination that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics because of terrain, manageable boundaries, and its location contiguous to an existing wilderness. However, there may be valid existing rights in the form of mining claims, and this will receive greater scrutiny should the area move forward toward recommendation. Adjacent private property is also of concern, and mine reclamation activities are also planned within the area.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been only minor management activity within the area. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, mostly close to outside boundaries

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

The prevalence of improvements is low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations. Visible mining activity is present, including reclamation infrastructure such as culverts and gates. This activity is visibly from Bald Hill, but not the trail. There is very little range fence and livestock containment consists mostly of natural barriers.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.7**

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

Even during hunting season does this area does not see much visitation. The trail through the area has been reconstructed, and offers excellent views of the surrounding landscape - though not of nearby mining activities. Very good opportunities for primitive recreation are also available.

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

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

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

The scenic resources within this area are considered by the ID Team to be exemplary compared to other areas in the near vicinity, especially the long-range views available from the trail.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** Score: **1**

(B11) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12.7

B13 – Wahoo North

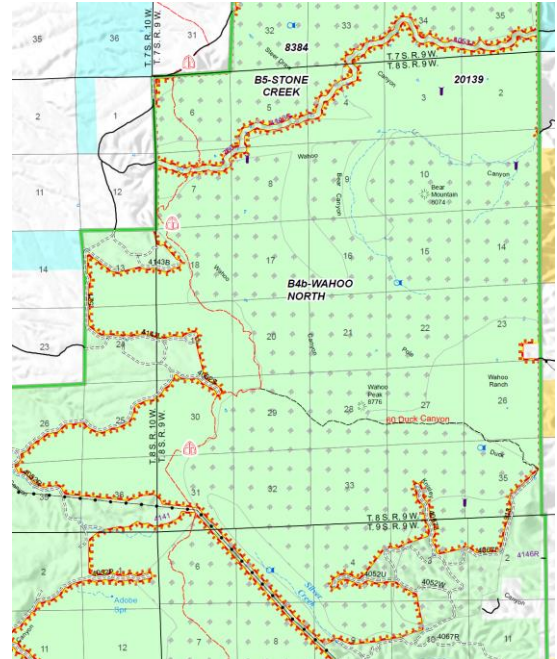
20,139 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B13 – Wahoo North area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T7S R9W, part of Sections 33-35;
- T8S R9W, part or all of Sections 2-5, 7-11, 14-23, 26-35;
- T8S R10W part of Sections 13, 24, 13-14, 25-26, 35-36;
- T9S R9W part of Sections 2-6, 8-10

This is a moderately sized area consisting of variable terrain from moderately rugged to canyons and mountains. Vegetation cover consists of pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, or mixed conifer, generally depending upon elevation and aspect of slope. A section of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail passes through the area, as well as the Duck Canyon Trail #60. Prominent peaks in this area include Bear Mountain and Wahoo Mountain.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable due to its relative size, challenging terrain and a sufficient core area to maintain wilderness characteristics. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence, and there are few known issues with existing user developed roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. There are issues with motorized intrusions on the Continental Divide Trail and it is known that the Forest is sometimes accessed from private on the eastern boundary. The area may be difficult to access due to boundaries abutting private land. The area boundaries were moved to match the roadless area boundary in the west and southwest, excluding areas where past logging activity has occurred and considered unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities reflects active management activity within the area, including past logging and management for wildlife habitat. Composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including logging. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

The prevalence of improvements is high throughout the area, are often concentrated and contribute very little to the historical character and cultural context of the area; they may appear somewhat modern, some improvements may be substantially noticeable and detract significantly from apparent naturalness in some locations. Within this area, there is some infrastructure (tanks, masonry dams) and user created roads.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.3**

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

This area is moderate in opportunities for solitude and high for opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation by comparison to areas located nearby and with opportunities available elsewhere on the Forest. This is a fairly good sized are for recreation pursuits and some trails present to provide recreation opportunities including a portion of the Continental Divide Trail.

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

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

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

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

(B13) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.3

B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek

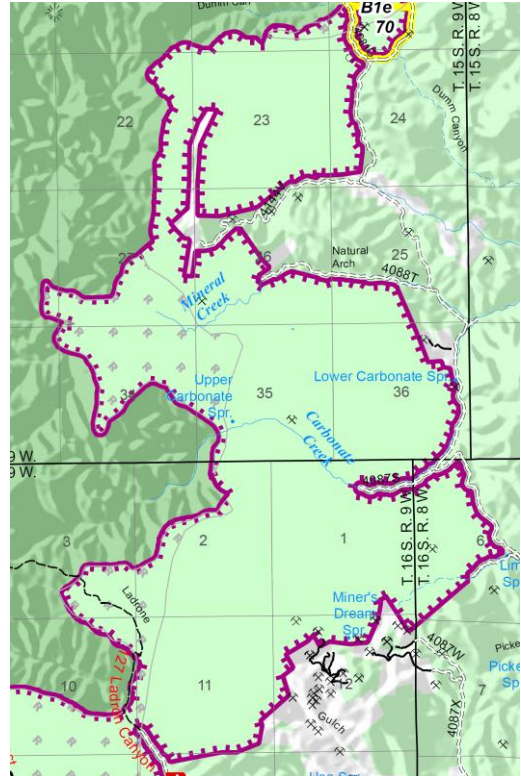
5,380 acres, Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek area is located in the Black Range Ranger District, and is contiguous with existing wilderness. The area had originally had been part of a much larger inventoried area, the Rabb Park (WSB1) area. However, it was determined by the ID Team that these areas were dissimilar enough to warrant being evaluated separately, and there was a pinch point at Ladron Canyon that made a logical separation point between the two areas. The B14 area occurs within:

- T15S R9W, part of Sections 13-15, 22-28, 33-36;
- T16S R9W, part of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 1-3, 10-12, 14;
- T16S R8W part of Sections 6-7

This area consists mostly of rugged, mountainous terrain dissected by canyons and drainages within a classic southwestern mountains forest of with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. Parts of the area have seen past mining activity, and there are private property inholdings.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has determined that this area is manageable due to being contiguous to existing wilderness, its relative size, manageable boundaries, and absence of known conflicting existing legal rights. There are some private inholdings, private property adjacent to the area, prospecting within the area as well as mining operations adjacent that could present management challenges, but area boundaries could be adjusted during the analysis step of the process in order to minimize their effects.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are some stock tanks and roadbeds, but there is not a lot of fencing.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

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

This area benefits from its adjacency to the existing Aldo Wilderness. The area does not see much in the way of visitation, and very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. Opportunities for recreation are even better, with lots of trails and access into the existing wilderness, and destinations that afford views.

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

Primitive Recreation Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Score: **8**

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

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

(B14) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14

B15 – Continental Divide WSA Addition

1,405 acres, Black Range District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The B15 – Continental Divide Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Addition area is located in the Black Range Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T8S R12W, part of Sections 13-14, 22-23

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing Bureau of Land Management managed wilderness study area, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

At just over 1,400 acres, this area is very small in size, making the open terrain, generally unmanageable boundaries, and orientation in proximity to roads, powerlines, and other infrastructure have an outsized effect on this area compared to larger ones.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

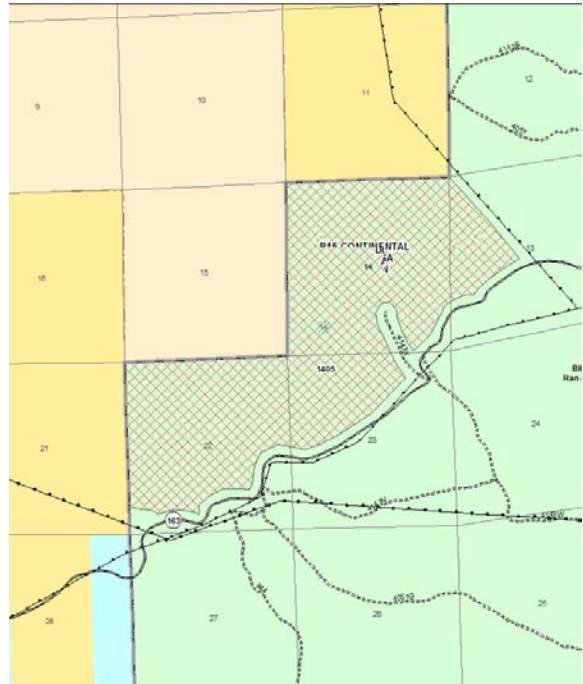
There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area, excepting that the dominating presence of powerlines contributed to making the area not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.



Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

At only 1,405 acres in size, this area was only considered for evaluation because it is adjacent to a BLM Wilderness Study Area.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team has determined that due to its very small size, open terrain, generally unmanageable boundaries, and orientation in proximity to roads, powerlines, and other infrastructure this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. The area also would not contribute positively to the wilderness characteristics (or to their protection) of the adjacent BLM Wilderness Study Area.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(B15) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

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

SB1 – Sawyer Peak

41,063 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

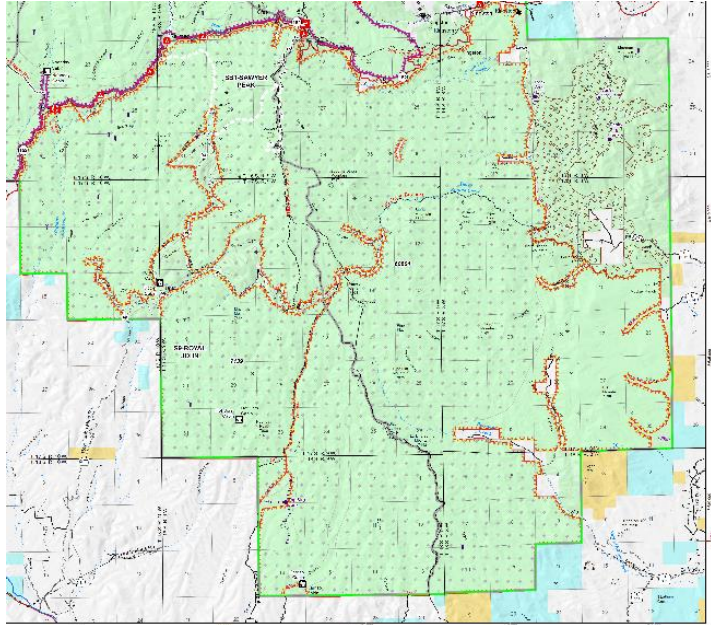
General description:

The SB1- Sawyer Peak area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State Hwy 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T17S R9W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 27-33;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

This relatively large sized area consists of primarily steep and rugged terrain, and manageable boundaries this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Vegetation in the area is a classic southwestern mountain forest of with pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer occurring depending upon elevation and aspect. Parts of the area were heavily impacted by the Silver Fire in 2012.



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

This areas contains a number of old roads, an isolated inholding (with an access trail shown on resource maps) in the central part, and a large amount of cherry stem inholdings on the southern side. A fuelwood cutting areas is adjacent to the entire northeast boundary of the area, along with private inholdings. There has been mining activity within and some extensive mine closures outside of the area. There may be issues with mining claims in the area, and this will receive greater scrutiny should the area move forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

The ID Team has determined that due to its relatively large size, rugged terrain, and manageable boundaries this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the manageability of the area has been greatly improved by making some ID Team recommended boundary adjustments to the east, southeast and southwest to exclude substantially noticeable developments that made those areas unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area does not reflect a great deal of active management activity within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but may be concentrated in some locations. Some improvements contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, but others appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

The area contains a number of range improvements, including corrals, water storage tanks (some steel rim), and windmills, although there is not a lot of fencing for the size of the area. Some rebuilding of range improvements damaged by the Silver Fire is planned and is being implemented and solar-powered wells being installed.

There is a special use permit for small structures for kids in the woods programs that has been in non-use status for a long time. Gavilon Canyon has a road access to the corral.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(SB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 –Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	13.7

Additional Remarks: The Crest Trail to Sawyer Mountain is occasionally used by mountain bikers, and although they are not currently Forest System Trails, mountain bikers do occasionally use several other routes within this area, and recommending designation of this area would likely prohibit this use, unless area boundaries were adjusted to remove these from the area being considered.

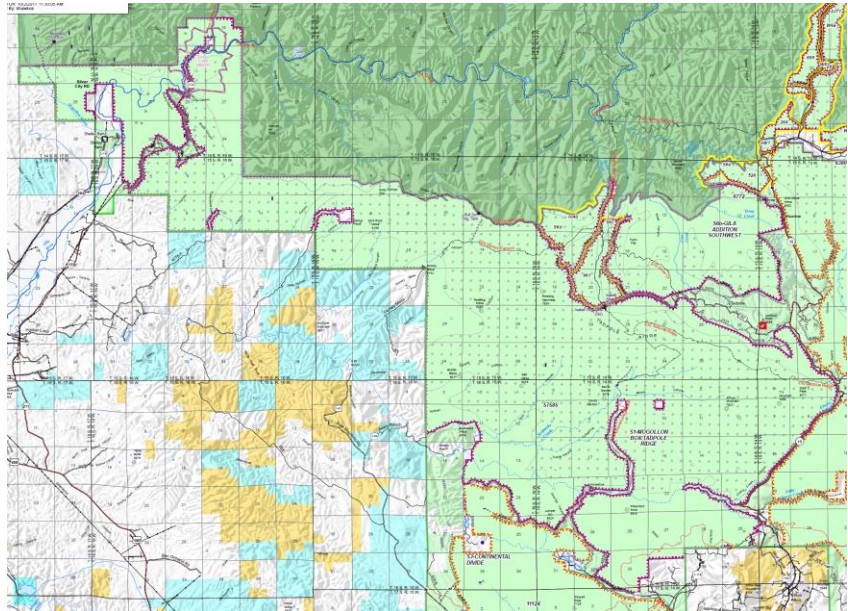
S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge

48,067 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge is a large area located in the Silver City Ranger District, with a large part of the area sharing a boundary with the Gila Wilderness. There is a lot of existing mountain bike use in the Tadpole Ridge area and Continental Divide Trail area that would be negatively impacted if the trails were included in wilderness. The area occurs within:

- 14S R17W, part or all of Sections 23-25;
- T14S R16W, part or all of Sections 15-16, 19-22, 27-34;
- T15S R16W, part or all of Sections 1-7, 9-12;
- T15S R15W, part or all of Sections 4-18, 22-27, 34-36;
- T16S R15W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-15, 22-25;
- T15S R14W, part or all of Sections 15, 19-23, 25-36;
- T16S R14W, part or all of Sections 1-35;
- T17S R14W, part of Section 4;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 29-32;
- T16S R13W, part or all of Sections 4-9, 17-19, 30



This is a large area of moderate to steep and rugged terrain, with deep rugged canyons in some areas. Vegetation consists of a classic southwestern mountains forest mix of pinon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer, each generally occurring depending upon elevation and slope aspect. The Gila River, Turkey Creek, Mogollon Creek, Bear Creek and Cherry Creek all pass through the area, and it contains a number of trails including Tadpole Ridge #232, Sycamore Canyon #234, Goose Lake #238, and Dorsey Canyon #239. The area also contains the Turkey Creek proposed Research Natural Area (RNA) that was initially proposed in the 1986 plan, and that proposal will be carried forward under the current plan revision.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Area boundaries on the easternmost part of the area were adjusted to follow the existing inventoried roadless area boundary by Bear Creek, and also adjusted in a manner to avoid private inholdings with uncertain right-of-way and ownership status and the Bear Creek area itself (which

contains a currently open road running its entire length and as a recent acquisition has no official determination yet made for how it will be managed), the ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may be issues with mining claims in the area, and this will be subjected to greater scrutiny should the area move forward in the process towards possible recommendation. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

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

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area, although there has been some past logging north of Tadpole Pole Ridge inventoried roadless area boundary. However, modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are not many water developments within the area, though there are a couple of old mining developments. For size of the area, there are not very many fence lines (and many of them are on the ground). There are some closed and decommissioned roads, in particular the area of Preachers Point and Bear Creek, and some administrative roads closed to public use that provide permitted access to private inholdings. There are more existing roads in certain areas (e.g. Dorsey Mesa) than are shown on the map.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

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

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

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

Off trail exploration of this area involves lots of steep slopes and scrambling and due to its remoteness, lack of easy accessibility to many areas, its overall large size and adjacency to existing wilderness, this area affords excellent opportunities for solitude throughout. There is a great

variability of terrain, and system trails provide access to much of the area, although it requires rough trail travel over relatively long distances to access some locations. There is not a lot of water available in some areas.

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

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

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

The area contains a formerly proposed RNA in the western section, which is also home to big horn sheep. There are scenic river bluffs, canyons, and rock formations, particularly around the Gila River in the western portion, and the scenic Cherry Creek area to the east. The area also contains a number of Mexican Spotted Owl PACS, and provides habitat to several T&E species that are known to be present.

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

(S1) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	17

Additional Remarks: There is occasional existing mountain bike use in the Sheep Corral/Tadpole Ridge area, and heavy use of the CDT through the southern portion of the area. The recently acquired by the Forest Service Bear Creek Trail is also moderately used by mountain bikers, however the management direction for use of these recently acquired lands has not yet been determined. The ID Team recommended excluding these trails from the boundary at the Analysis step of the process so as not to impact these popular recreation uses that would be likely prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

The ID Team also decided to adjust the boundary in Tadpole Ridge area by a placing a boundary from the ridge to Sycamore, excluding everything east, to avoid issues with access to private property inholdings and the Bear Creek area, a new acquisition of private property that is currently planned to be managed as open to motorized use. By the Mogollon Box day use area, the ID Team also removed the Fort West Ditch diversion point from the polygon for being a substantially noticeable improvement.

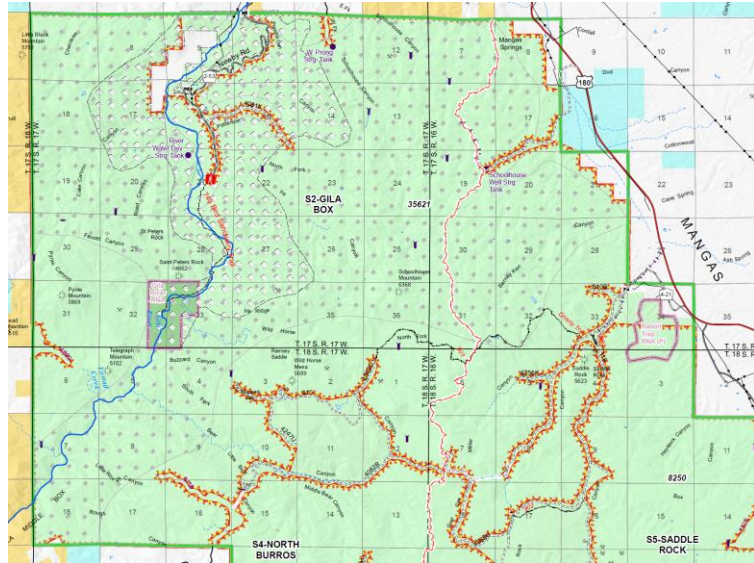
S2 – Gila Middle Box

25,335 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S2- Gila Middle Box area is located in the Silver City Ranger District. The primary vegetation type outside of the river corridor within the area is pinon-juniper semi-desert, sometimes thick, and with some Ponderosa pine stringers. This area occurs within:

- T17S R17W, part or all of Sections 7-36;
- T18S R17W, part or all of Sections 1-10, 15-18;
- T17S R16W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 17-21, 28-33



Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team has determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, but only with some adjustments made to the area boundaries. The Gila Bird Area gets a lot of visitation, and contains some fencing and roads that are substantially noticeable. The ID Team excluded the Bird Area and areas to the southwest that have past mining activities and user-developed roads by following the existing inventoried roadless area boundaries.

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

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Some ecological improvements recently, but still some visible

inconsistency (wood species encroachment, herbaceous covers). Composition along the river is good, visibly consistent with what would be there by forest type. Prescribed burning has occurred in the area.

Rank: MODERATE

Score: 5

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments, prescribed burning and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Too steep for previous, current, or future vegetation treatments.

Rank: MODERATE

Score: 5

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. When travelling cross country, visitors may come across old mining sites. There are old roads and visible mining development around Telegraph Mountain. There are range improvements throughout the area, including tanks, solar powered pumps, drinkers, and windmills. There are quite a few fences, but not relative to the size of the area. There are also a number of user created roads in the Wild Horse Mesa area, several decommissioned level 1 roads near the easternmost boundary and a closed, but not decommissioned, road extending north from a cherry-stem in the northeast part of the area.

Rank: MODERATE

Score: 5

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

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness*

Overall Score: 5

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

Some open roads on adjacent BLM lands and the access road into the Bird Area are visible from high points. There are opportunities for solitude in some of the steep, hilly parts of the area that don't see a lot of use. Solitude opportunities are moderate in comparison to those available nearby and elsewhere in the Forest, but are better in the river corridor than elsewhere within the area.

Boating opportunities through the Middle Box on the Gila River is a unique experience for the Gila region. There are very good hiking opportunities on the CDT and along the river. The river also affords good opportunities for fishing.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE**

Score: 5

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH**

Score: 7

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

The Gila River Middle Box is an outstanding whitewater boating opportunity (Class III). The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and a Research Natural Area are also within the area. Geological formations along the river, especially within the Middle Box are unique and provide outstanding scenery. Lot of T&E species with critical habitat along the Gila River, and the area

contains a significant number of acres of the Desert Willow ERU (766 acres), which is currently under-represented within designated areas on the Gila NF. Multiple cultural resources are located within this area including spectacular rock art.

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

(S2) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	OUTSTANDING	4
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	16

Additional Remarks: Most of the characteristics that provided for the overall outstanding score within this area originate from, and are primarily confined to, the river corridor itself, rather than the overall wilderness characteristics of the larger area contained within the polygon.

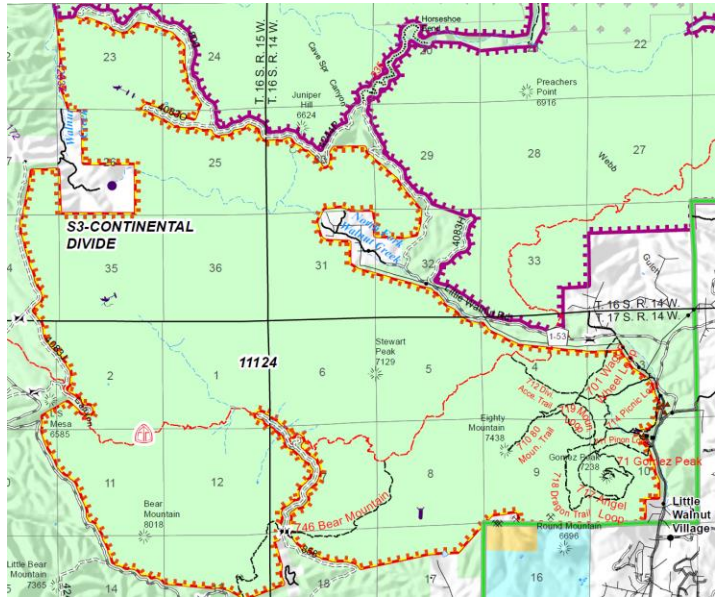
The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S3 – Bear Mountain (formerly Continental Divide) **11,124 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico**

General description:

The S3- Bear Mountain area is located in the Silver City Ranger District. The primary vegetation type is pinon-juniper with pine stringers in the drainages. The area contains prominent peaks of the Silver City Range, but much of it is open gentle terrain.

This area was originally identified on the DRAFT Inventory map as S3-Continental Divide area, however it was suggested by the Silver City District that Bear Mountain is the most prominent feature within the area, and so the name was adjusted accordingly. The area occurs within:



- T16S R15W, part or all of Sections 24-27, 34-36;
- T16S R14W, part of Sections 29-32;
- T17S R14W, part or all of Sections 3-10, 17-18;
- T17S R15W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 10-14

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The northern section of this area has both deep private inholdings that are cherry-stemmed, and contribute to boundaries creating narrow awkwardly configured areas that would be difficult to manage to protect wilderness characteristics. There is also a very high density of trails in the eastern section of the area that currently allow non-conforming wilderness uses in the form of mechanical transport. The ID Team determined that because the area's moderately large size there would be a core area that would make the area manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area, this will receive greater scrutiny should the area move forward towards recommendation. The ID Team determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including fuelwood cutting, vegetation treatments, and permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, but less so on the mesa top areas.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including fuelwood cutting, vegetation treatments, and permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations, such as mesa tops.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

There are range improvements within the area, including a water storage tank with a drinker in section 35, a windmill, and pipeline. The level of trail density is high on the eastern end at the recreation area. There are user created roads in a number of locations, as well as closed but not entirely decommissioned administrative use low-development roads. Not a lot of fence lines for the size of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

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

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

This area has moderate opportunities for solitude in comparison to what is available in nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest, and has more of a “frontcountry” feel than a backcountry opportunity. Heavily used trails that are densely located and oriented nearby to each other limit opportunities for solitude on the eastern end, with better opportunities in the western part of the area. There are good trail opportunities with the Continental Divide Trail and Gomez Peak trails, but one of the most popular trail uses is mountain biking, which is a nonconforming use in designated wilderness.

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

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

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

The area has low features of value, but cumulatively contains a popular section of the Continental Divide Trail, has scenic value with prominent peak Bear Mountain serving as a local landmark, and historic value with a number of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) installed check dams.

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

(S3) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks: There is popular system of trails in the eastern section of the area and the section of the Continental Divide Trail that passes through the area are both used heavily by mountain bikers. These trails are very popular for mountain biking with both local residents and with visitors from outside the area, and the recreation use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

S4 – North Burros 15,786 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S4- North Burros area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T18S R17W, part or all of Sections 10-16, 22-27, 34-36;
- T18S R16W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 19, 31-33;
- T19S R17W, part or all of Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-24;
- T19S R16W, part or all of Sections 3-9, 16, 19

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is borderline close to being unmanageable. However, the area is of a moderate enough size to provide core areas to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Issues with manageability include a very deep cherry stem that almost bisects the area from the east to the southwest and a deep intrusion to the northeast. Other cherry stems cause significant intrusions and there is private property along the area boundaries. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area. This will be given greater scrutiny should the area move forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

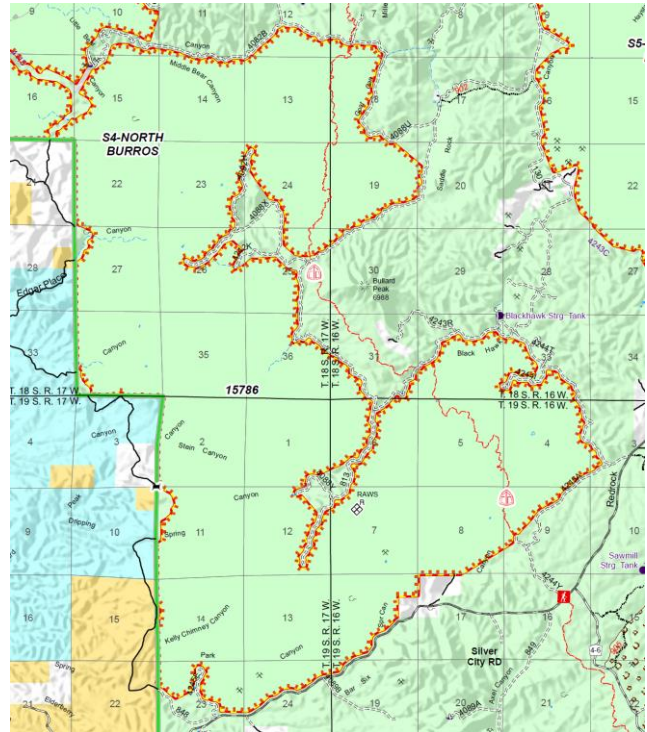
The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area, with some places more than others such as steep slopes.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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



Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. There have been lots of thinning treatments north of Bar 6 and some prescribed burning in some of the surrounding area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are not a lot of range improvements, mostly fences and some water storage tanks. The area does contain a RAWs station, and there is evidence of old mining activities on the south end. There are several closed, but not decommissioned level 1 and user-developed roads and decommissioned roads that are visible on the ground within the area as well.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

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

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **3**

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

The shape and orientation of the area doesn't provide for a good core solitude area. Solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are considered to be moderate in comparison to those available at nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest.

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

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

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

The area contains small acreages of both Desert Willow and Little Walnut-Ponderosa Pine ERUs, both of which are under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.

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

(S4) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

Additional Remarks: The Continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and if any areas that that trail passes through within the Burro Mountains were recommended for designation, this would likely prohibit this popular use unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S5 – Saddle Rock

6,734 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S5- Saddle Rock area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T17S R16W, part of Sections 33-34;
- T18S R16W, part or all of Sections 3-4, 9-11, 14-16, 21-27a

NOTE: At the time the area boundaries for S5 – Saddle Rock were determined for the inventory and analysis process, it was unknown that the Rabbit Trap recommendation for research natural area designation would be carried over in the plan revision; therefore the boundary was not adjusted to include the entire area. If this area is recommended to congress for designation, the boundary may be adjusted to include the entire recommended RNA at that time.

Evaluation Results:

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

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

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

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, because there is a narrow core area free of intrusion by cherry stems and inholdings, and there are no known existing legal rights within the area. The area's small size, the presence of a great deal of mining activity on adjacent lands and the area being very popular for motorized recreation uses create manageability issues, and the area is borderline to be unmanageable. Spectrum of recreation use is highly varied. Entire eastern boundary is privately owned. Active mining activity at Blackhawk just outside the polygon at SW corner. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area that will receive greater scrutiny should the area move forward in the process and towards possible recommendation. A closed, but not decommissioned road extends from the east to nearly bisect the area as well.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

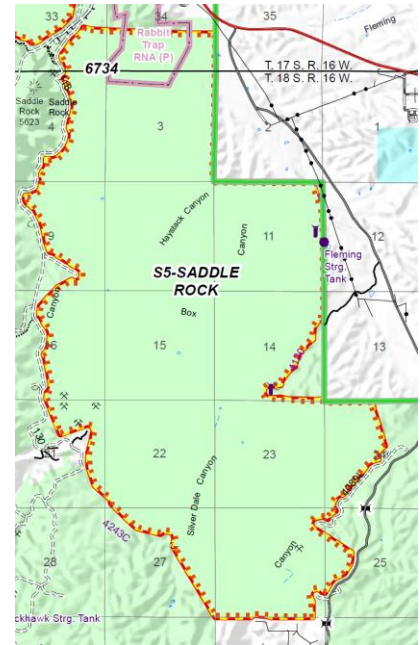
Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6



b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including some fuelwood harvest and permitted grazing of livestock.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Most of the water developments are along the eastern boundary. Quite a bit of fence for small area. There is visible evidence that lots of woodcutting has occurred within the area, and one level 1 closed but not decommissioned road nearly bisects the southern portion of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This smaller area has low opportunities for solitude in comparison to those available nearby and at other locations in the Forest. The area does not feel removed from civilization. The area is also dry, lacking water sources and not very attractive as a primitive recreation experience compared to areas available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **3**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains a portion of a recommended RNA from the 1986 plan, and this recommendation will also be carried into the revised plan. The area also contains significant acreages of Desert Willow ERU, which is under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(S5) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/ UNDEVELOPED REC)	5.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	3
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	1.5
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9.8

S6a, S6b, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest

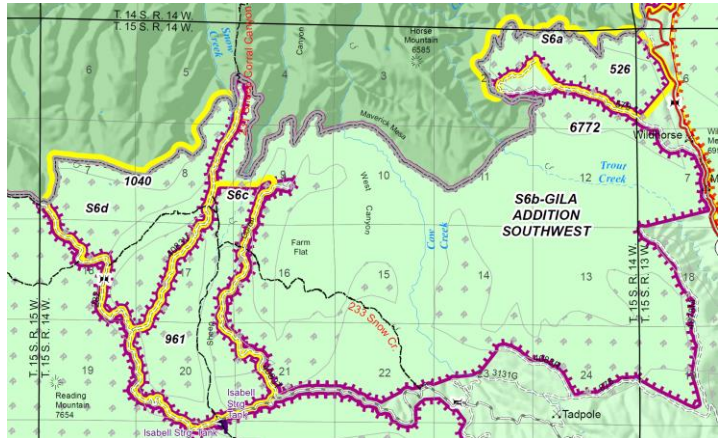
526 acres, 4,643 acres, and 1,040 acres

Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S6a, S6b, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest areas are located in close proximity and are each contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, as well as being similar in their wilderness characteristics, and therefore were grouped together by the ID Team for evaluation. However, the area labeled S6c that was previously included with these others was found to have been erroneously included as part of the Inventory step, and therefore was excluded from further consideration. The areas occur within:

- T14S R14W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T14S R13W, part of Section 31;
- T15S R14W, part or all of Sections 1-5, 7-24, 29;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 6-7, 18-19



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and S6b is also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore all meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because the areas are contiguous to existing wilderness, the ID Team determined that the area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics with boundaries adjusted to eliminate narrow and less manageable areas because of their configuration between cherry stem roads and areas where closed, but not decommissioned, level 1 roads that are evident.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. One notable exception is the presence of nonnative trout in some streams.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. The area contains few range fences. There are a number of closed but not decommissioned, and some decommissioned, level 1 roads extending in from the south boundary of S6b.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **4**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are attainable throughout these areas, but there is a great deal of use during hunting season. Although the areas are adjacent to wilderness, due to terrain and a lack of trails, they does not provide good wilderness access. Solitude is also limited by the areas' size, and close proximity to roads that are popular for dispersed camping. This is also a popular fuelwood cutting area. There is good fishing in Trout Creek, but for non-native trout.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(S6) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	4
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	9

S7 – Burro Peak

7,522 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S7- Burro Peak area is located in the Burros Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The Ausmer/Amazon Mine (patented) is located to the north, and the Burro Mtn. Homestead private inholding is located nearby. The area occurs within:

- T19S R16W, part of Sections 26-27, 33-36;
- T20S R16W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 9-16;
- T19S R15W, part of Section 31;
- T20S R15W, parts of Sections 5-8



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although relatively small in size, the ID Team determined that with boundaries adjusted to exclude some areas in the eastern and northeastern portion that contain motorized trail systems, ML 1 roads, and oddly configured boundaries, this remaining portion features enough core area to be manageable to preserve wilderness characteristics. Other challenges to manageability include a subdivision on north side with a lot of roads, and previous mining activity. The northeastern portion of the area is dissected by several interconnected closed, but not decommissioned level 1 roads, extending across the area from boundary to boundary. There may also be issues with valid mining claims and former mining lands in need of rehabilitation in the area. These will be scrutinized in more detail if the area moves forward in the process towards possible recommendation.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

Vegetation appears natural in some locations, but not commonly in the area, reflecting active management throughout the area.

Rank: LOW Score: 2

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area.

There are a lot of nonfunctioning improvements included within the area, and improvements in general for the size of the area. Some fencing. The area also contains a great deal of closed but not decommissioned and highly visible Level 1 and user created roads, and evidence of former mining. Some former mining lands may be in need of rehabilitative work.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 3

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Solitude opportunities are considered low compared to those available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest. Non-motorized primitive recreation opportunities are very poor in comparison to those available nearby and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. The area contains a moderately-sized amount of acreage of Desert Willow ERU, which is under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(S7) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	LOW (BOTH)	2
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	6

Additional Remarks: The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S8 – Knight Peak

5,618 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S8- Knight Peak area is located in the Burro Mountains unit of the Forest and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T20S R16W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 25-36;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics with the removal of the area to the southeast that contains a motorized trail, and due to being fairly contiguous, and lacking cherry stem intrusions and any known existing legal rights. However, even with removal of the motorized trail from its boundaries, this area is considered borderline to not being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to being very small and narrowly configured, without a lot of core area and a great deal of abandoned mine lands in need of rehabilitative maintenance. Bounded by roads on all sides. There may also be issues with valid existing mining claims in the area.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, but do not contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. High concentration of range improvements in a small area. There are closed but not decommissioned level 1 roads that dissect the northernmost portion of the area, and are noticeable on the ground.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **3.3**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are considered to be low in comparison to those available in other locations nearby and in elsewhere on the Forest. There are limitations to solitude due to its small size, with a limited amount of core area. Although a section of the Continental Divide Trail passes through the area, primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities overall are considered to be low in comparison to those available nearby, and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains a moderately-sized amount of acreage of Desert Willow ERU, which is under-represented within designated areas on the Forest.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(S8) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	LOW (BOTH)	2
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	6.3

Additional Remarks: The continental Divide Trail currently sees a moderate amount of use by mountain bikers through the Burro Mountains, and this recreational use would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended as wilderness unless any boundaries were adjusted to exclude them from the area.

S9 – Royal John

6,915 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S9 – Royal John area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State HWY 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T17S R9W, part or all of Sections 16-22, 27-33;
- T21S R16W, parts of Sections 2-3

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although relatively small in size, and sharing a large portion of its boundary with privately owned lands, the ID Team determined that there is enough of a core area and manageable boundaries for this area to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the area was considered to be a borderline case, due to the compromised ability to access the area due to so much private property adjacent to its boundaries. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

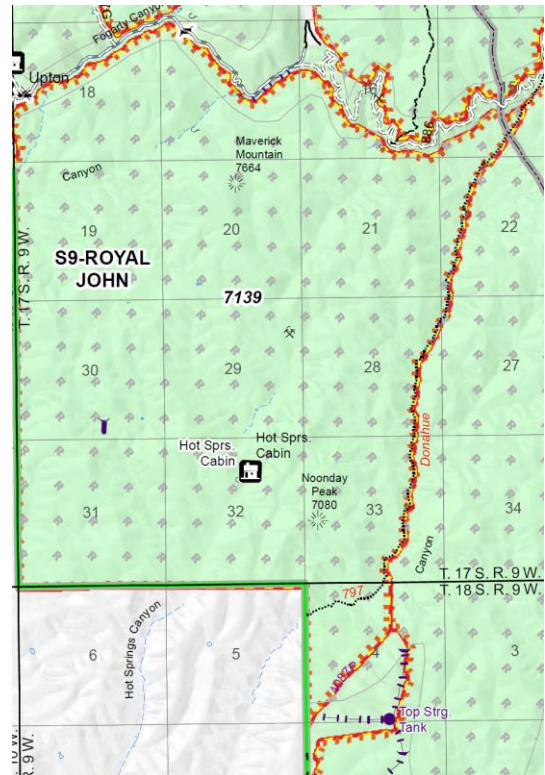
a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area does not reflect a great deal of active management activity within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.



Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and mostly concentrated in the area of Hot Springs Cabin. Some improvements contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, but others appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a closed and decommissioned level 1 road that completely bisects the area from north to south.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **5.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This is a small but relatively remote and very lightly visited area with good opportunities for solitude. There are some development close to the Forest boundary at Hot Springs but there is a decent core area for solitude. Recreation opportunities are moderate compared to those available nearby and elsewhere in the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(S9) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11.7

S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon

9,048 acres, Silver City District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon area is located in the Black Range Mountains south of State Hwy 152 and is managed by the Silver City Ranger District. This area was separated from the larger SB1 Sawyer Peak area because the ID Team felt that the areas were dissimilar enough in their wilderness characteristics that each warranted separate evaluations based upon their own merits. The area occurs within:

- T16S R10W, part or all of Sections 24-27, -33-36;
- T16S R9W, part of sections 19, 30-31;
- T17S R10W, part or all of sections 1-3, 1-14;
- T17S R9W, parts of Sections 6-7

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that although small in size, this area has a shape and configuration to provide enough of an adequate core area, combined with manageable boundaries, and a lack of known existing legal rights, to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

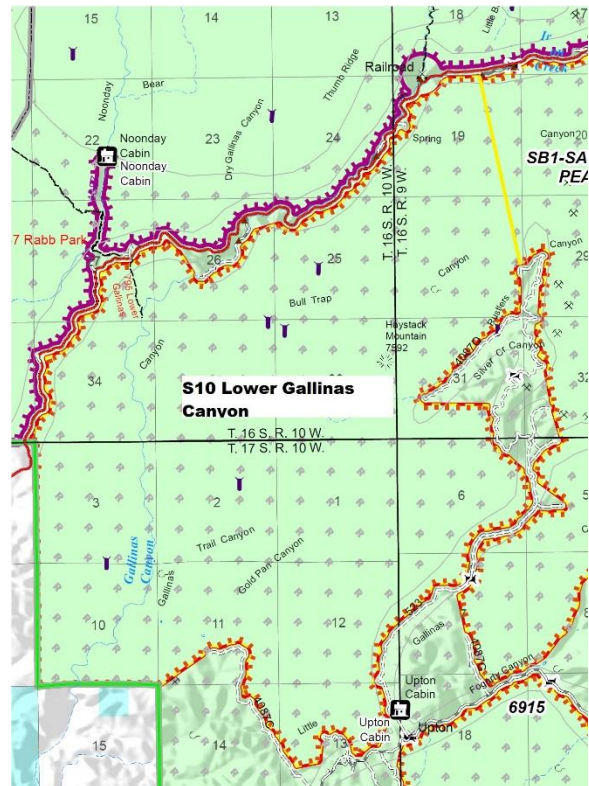
a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including the harvest of fuelwood in some locations. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including some visible evidence of fuelwood harvesting in areas. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.



Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

The prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. Range improvements include rock headers in some drainages, and dirt water storage tanks. For the area's size, there is a high density of fences and corrals.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* Overall Score: **3.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Due to its relatively small size, the opportunities for solitude are moderate when compared to those available nearby and at other locations throughout the Forest. There is better solitude located away from the northern boundary due to the variability of terrain. Primitive recreation opportunities are moderate compared to those available nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(S10) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	8.7

Additional Remarks: There is a pre-NEPA working proposal to move the Upper Gallinas Campground to Noonday cabin area as part of Highway 152 recreation corridor planning, which could affect area boundaries. Lower Gallinas campground is currently being managed as a trailhead, and camping is permanently closed.

Although not currently Forest System Trails, mountain bikers do occasionally use routes within this area, and this use would be impacted by likely being prohibited if this area were recommended for designation as wilderness.

SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo

264 acres Silver City and Wilderness Districts, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo area is located contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, partially on both the Silver City and Wilderness Ranger Districts. The area occurs within:

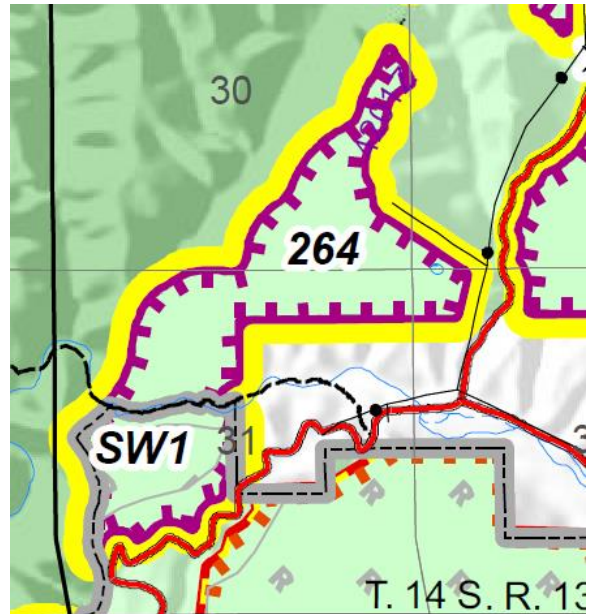
- T14S R13W, part of Sections 30-31

Evaluation Results:

**Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres
Practicability as Wilderness:**

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Because the private lands adjacent to the area was recently acquired by the Forest to be managed as public lands, the ID Team has determined that this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing contiguous wilderness.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in a limited number of locations.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. Range improvements are limited to only a few fences.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Due to the rugged terrain and adjacency to existing wilderness (to which the area would contribute wilderness characteristics) this area offers very good opportunities for solitude but only moderate opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation as compared to areas nearby and elsewhere on the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(SW1) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

SW2 – Signal Peak

66,486 acres, Silver and Wilderness Districts, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The SW2 – Signal Peak is a large-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. SW2 occurs within:

- T14S R13W part of Sections 31-32;
- T15S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-18, 20-29, 32-36;
- T16S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-3, 8-13, 33-36;
- T17S R13W, part or all of Sections 1-4, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36;
- T15S R12W, part or all of Sections 7-8, 17-20, 29-34;
- T16S R12W, part or all of Sections 1-36;
- T17S R12W, part or all of Sections 5-7, 18;
- T16S R11W, part or all of Sections 7, 18-19, 30-31;
- T17 R11W, part of Sections 5-6

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

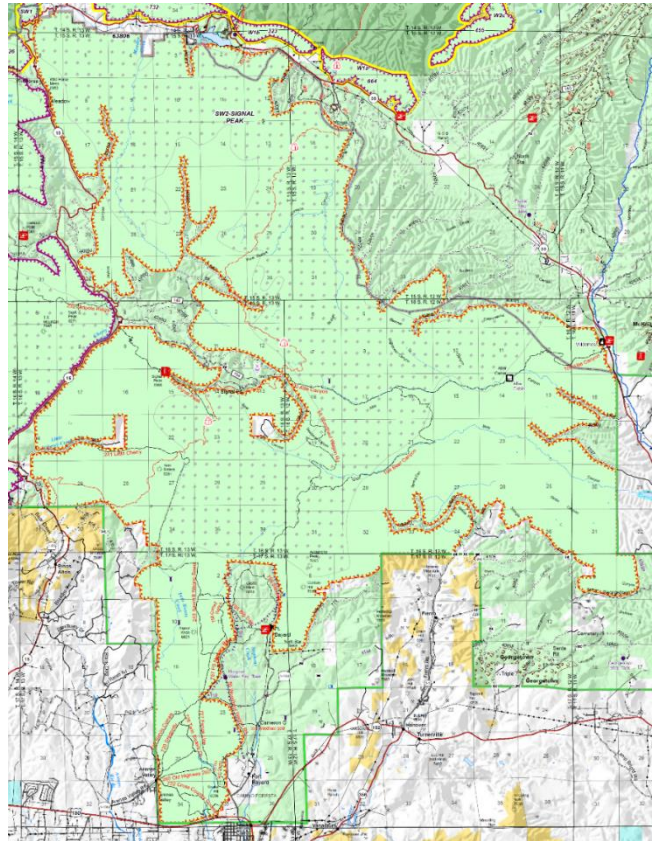
The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area is large in overall size, but has numerous and deeply intruded cherry stem roads. The overall shape is very narrow in places, and tortuous and octopus shaped overall, with multiple narrow protrusions in many different directions and numerous narrow chokepoints throughout. As a result of this and other factors, this area does not have a sufficient core area to protect wilderness characteristics. Private land borders a majority of the area boundaries on most sides, and there are also private inholdings deeply cherry stemmed into the area.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There may be issues with mining claims in the area, although this was not a major contributing factor in determination of manageability by the ID Team. Should the area have moved forward through the process towards possible recommendation, manageability issues with existing mining claims would be given more scrutiny.



c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence and amount of private property along the area boundaries was a major contributing factor to the manageability of this area to protect wilderness characteristics. Along with the prevalence of private lands inholding within and along the external boundaries, this area also lies adjacent to or in close proximity to and is oriented between residential areas of Silver City, Hanover, Santa Clara, Pinos Altos, Cherry Creek, and Lake Roberts. The area also lies immediately adjacent to Cobre Mine lands, which creates issues of access along those boundaries.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

Management of adjacent lands was a major consideration of the ID Team in determining that a major portion of this area was not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. There is a prevalence of the area boundary adjacent to mining lands, residential areas and private property within cherry stemmed areas.

The very extensive Cobre Mine is directly adjacent to the south, with very high levels continuous heavy industrial activity currently occurring and likely to continue into the foreseeable future. This activity is so extensive that it will actually involve removing the entire Hanover Mountain, which lies immediately on the area boundary, and redepositing the resulting tailings in very prominent tailings deposits. This activity is, and will continue to occur directly on the southwest boundary of the area, and its influence dominate the entire southeastern portion of the area right up to the highest elevations of Signal Peak and the other ridges of the Pinos Altos Range located within the area. The mining lands are also closed to access by the public for recreation access, further complicating manageability due to a complete lack of access into the area through all adjacent mining lands.

Although the effects of the Cobre Mine industrial activity are mitigated by the distance and aspect of the northern slopes and westernmost portions of the overall area, these locations are also affected by their tortuous shape and configuration being compounded by adjacency and proximity to residential areas, deeply intruding cherry-stemmed roads, and extensive inholding private properties. If separated from the mine-affected areas, these northern and western located and oriented areas would not, if considered together as a reduced area, or divided into several areas separately from each other, contain sufficient core area to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The wilderness act in part defines a wilderness as an area that retains its primeval nature; the ID Team considered that the shape, orientation, access throughout by cherry-stemmed roads, proximity to urban and residential areas and other considerations mentioned above combine for the area to present more of a “frontcountry” feel or experience versus a setting that establishes a “primeval” nature.

Summary of Determination:

Although this area is over 63,000 acres in size, the barriers that inhibit manageability of the overall area to protect wilderness characteristics are extensive and pervasive throughout the entirety of the area, and in combination are determined by the ID Team to make the area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

The area has numerous and deeply encroached cherry stem roads. The shape is tortuous and exceptionally narrow in many locations throughout. Private land borders a majority of the area boundaries on many of its multiple sides, and there are also private inholdings deeply cherry stemmed into the area. High levels of development are pervasive both on the private adjacent lands and within the cherry stemmed areas. There may be issues with mining claims in the area. The very extensive Cobre Mine is directly adjacent to the south, with a great deal of audible and visible heavy industrial activity currently occurring and future mining activity that will involve removing Hanover Mountain.

The ID Team considered evaluation of the area if confined to a reduced in size area with boundaries close to those for existing inventoried roadless area boundaries, eliminating areas in narrow bottlenecks and protrusions, or limited to locations away from mining lands and residential areas, but determined that the resulting shape and configuration would be tortuous, narrow, and would not provide a core area sufficient for preservation of wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(SW2) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Signal Peak area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

The trails throughout the Signal Peak area, particularly those within the Fort Bayard trail system, are known to be very popular with mountain bikers, and recommendation of the area to Congress for wilderness designation would have an outsized adverse impact to mountain biking trail use for the greater Silver City area.

W1a and W1b – Gila Additions Lake Roberts

664 acres and 323 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W1a, W1b, and W1c – Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas were initially grouped together due to their close proximity and each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness. However W1c was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics, and therefore was considered separately by the ID Team for evaluation on its own merits. The W1a and W1b areas occur within:

- T14S R13W, part of Sections 35-36;
- T15S R13W, part of Sections 1-2;
- T14S R12W, part of Section 1;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 4-9



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristic

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

Selection of the existing wilderness boundary locations seem to have taken into account existing level 1 road prisms and powerline ROWs within these areas. These very small areas are located adjacent or in close proximity to private property, roads, and are configured into narrow areas between them and natural features and contours that make up effective existing wilderness boundaries.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area. These areas are adjacent and in proximity to residential private property.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area. Adjacent and proximate private properties are primarily residential, and their influence dominates these very small areas.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The existing wilderness boundaries appear to have been established at natural barriers that are effective at protecting wilderness characteristics. These areas boundaries would not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and would not improve upon the manageability of the existing adjacent wilderness.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team determined that due to these very small areas' configuration, adjacency and close proximity to residentially developed private property, roads, and high levels of development, and unmanageable boundaries that these areas are unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. Selection of the existing wilderness boundary locations seem to have taken into account existing level 1 road prisms and powerline ROWs within these areas.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W1a and W1b) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

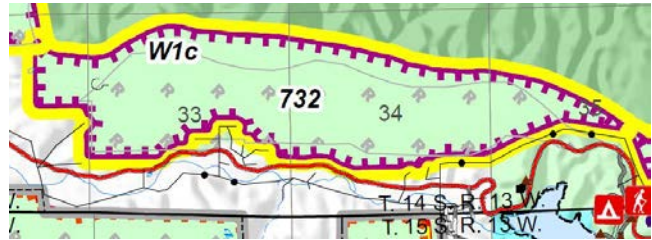
Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W1c – Gila Addition Lake Roberts

732 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W1a, W1b, and W1c – Gila Additions Lake Roberts areas were initially grouped together due to their close proximity each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, however W1c was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics, and therefore was considered separately by ID Team for evaluation. The W1c area occurs within:



- T14S R13W, part of Sections 32-35

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Although this very small area has issues with proximity to private lands, and is considered to be borderline, and would not contribute significantly to the manageability of wilderness characteristics for the existing adjacent wilderness, the ID Team determined that because of terrain contributing to manageable boundaries, this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing wilderness.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Score: 6*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Because of the area's small size and location, opportunities for solitude are low, and for primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are moderate by comparison to those available nearby and within other areas of the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(W1c) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	4
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10

W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East

2,088 acres, 393 acres, and 1,039 acres

Wilderness District, Grant and Catron Counties New Mexico

General description:

The W2a, W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions east were initially grouped due to proximity and adjacency to existing Wilderness. However, a portion of W2a was found to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to the others, and is being considered as a separate area numbered as W7. The areas occur within:

- T12S R12W, part of Sections 2-4, 9-11, 14-15, 22-23, 25-26, 36;
- T12S R11W, part of Sections 30-31;
- T13S R12W, part of Sections 1, 12-13;
- T13S R11W, part of Sections 6-7, 17-21, 29-30;
- T14S R11W part of Sections 5-8, 17-19, 30;
- T14S R12W part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 2-3

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to existing wilderness, and therefore meet evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This group of areas all have very narrow configurations between an existing higher development Forest Road (and in some locations utilities right-of-ways) and current wilderness boundaries. Existing wilderness boundary locations were likely chosen due to these considerations, and addition of these areas would not improve manageability of the existing adjacent wilderness, and in some cases inclusion of established rights of ways would be detrimental to the manageability of boundaries.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are legally established rights-of-way that occur within some of the areas that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:



The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

The established wilderness boundaries that excluded these areas from the adjacent, existing wilderness evidently were determined based upon factors such as the orientation of the existing Forest road and utility rights-of-way, as well as often making use of natural features to establish boundaries that are manageable to protect the wilderness characteristics of the existing adjacent wilderness. Addition of these evaluated areas would instead degrade the manageability of boundaries for the existing areas.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team determined that due to narrow configurations and unmanageable boundaries, these areas are unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics. In places, these areas are affected by utilities rights-of-way. Existing wilderness boundary locations were likely chosen due to these and other manageability considerations along the road corridor, and addition of these areas would not improve manageability of the existing wilderness, and they are not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics within the areas themselves.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W2) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions East areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W3 (formerly W3a) – Aldo Leopold Addition West

3,394 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W3 – Aldo Leopold West Addition area occurs within:

- T14S R13W, part of Sections 32-35

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as an addition to the existing wilderness with some boundary adjustments. The north end would be manageable if moved away from the road through sections 9 and 21. The south end is not manageable due to private land and cherry stem roads. The ID Team adjusted boundaries to work with natural contours in these locations, and all other parts of polygon are determined to be unmanageable. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

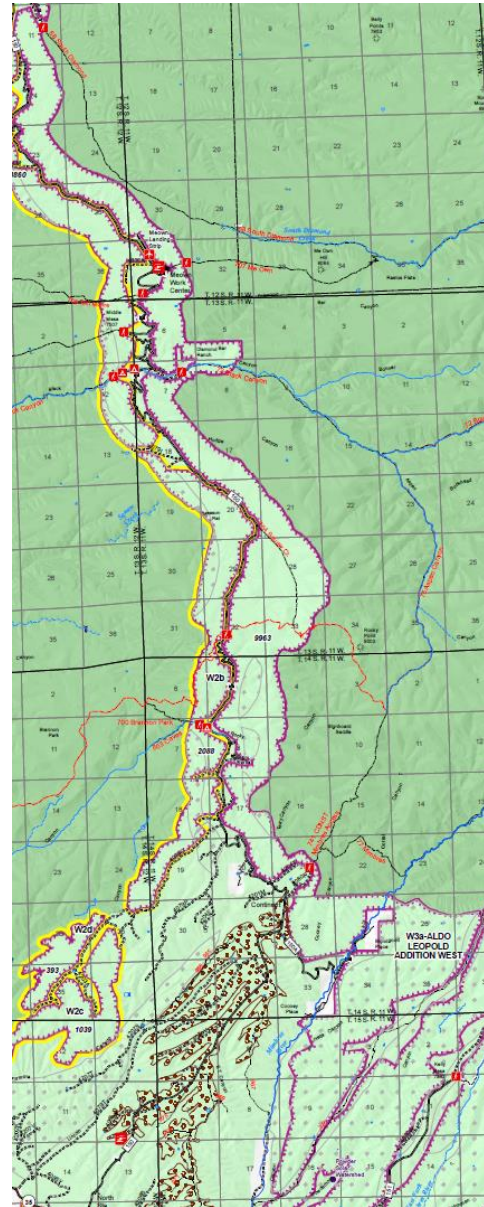
The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity. The composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH

Score: 6



b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. There is only minor evidence of any type of modern human land management activity, limited mostly to areas close to the outside boundaries.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **6**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Although the area is located adjacent to Forest Road 150, outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is very low. Terrain, vegetation cover, and low use throughout the area all contribute to excellent opportunities for solitude. There are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, and there are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits. The area compliments and is enhanced by opportunities available on the contiguous wilderness.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(W3) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (BOTH)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE/HIGH	12

W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon

12,458 acres, Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon area is located on the Wilderness Ranger District, and occurs within:

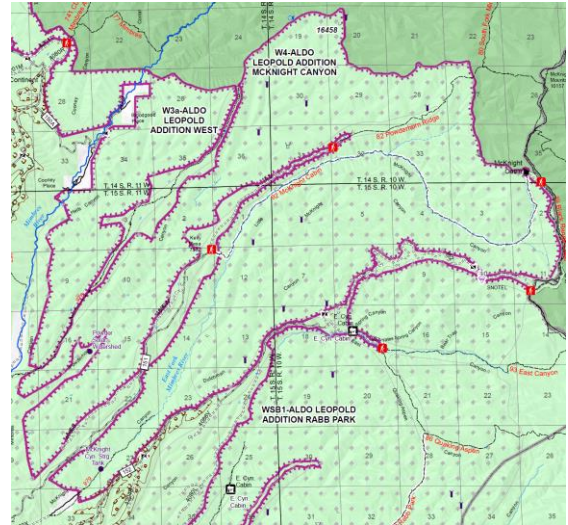
- T14S R11W, part of Sections 24-25, 36;
- T14S R10W, part or all of Sections 17-22, 27-35;
- T15S R11W, part or all of sections 1, 11-15, 22-24;
- T15S R10W, part or all of sections 1-8, 10-11

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**



This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

Manageability to protect wilderness characteristics is possible due to the moderately large size of this area, the rugged terrain, location, manageable boundaries, and lack of known existing legal rights or uses conflicts. There are few private inholdings and cherry-stem motorized routes, and the area's size, terrain and configuration allow for sizable core areas to protect wilderness characteristics. However, the ID Team adjusted the boundary to the southeast of FR 151 to remove a narrow section that abutted private lands and contained a motorized route to improve manageability. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area. This reflects little active management activity within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock.

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 9

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Ecological conditions within the area reflect nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Rank: OUTSTANDING Score: 9

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are historic cabins and some plunge pool creation for Gila trout.

Rank: HIGH Score: 7

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

OUTSTANDING Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 8.3

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

This is a relatively large and remote area that receives little visitation outside of hunting seasons. The terrain is variable, with ridges, mesa tops, and canyons with good recreation and solitude potential, and there are several trails and trailheads providing access to the interior of the area. Compared with other nearby locations and elsewhere on the Forest, this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, and high opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Solitude Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Score: **8**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH** Score: **7**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Present: **NO** Rank: **NONE** score: **0**

(W4) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	OUTSTANDING	8.3
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (SOLITUDE)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	NONE	0
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	OUTSTANDING	16.3

Additional Remarks: Parts of the McKnight Canyon Trail receive some occasional mountain bike use, and so recommendation of this area for designation would negatively affect this use by likely prohibition.

W5 – Gila Addition North Central

27 acres, Wilderness District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The W5 – Gila Addition North Central is a very small area located within:

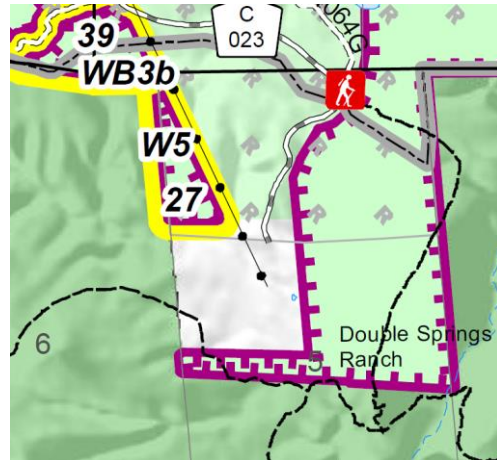
- T11S R14W, part of Section 5

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The area is very small in size at only 27 acres, and is sandwiched in a very narrow and awkward orientation to a powerline right-of-way and adjacent private lands.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area, because this very small area is oriented between a powerline and privately owned ranch properties. This makes prevents the management of the area to protect wilderness characteristics, and the addition of the area to the existing wilderness would not contribute positively to the protection of wilderness characteristics for the existing wilderness.

Summary of Determination:

Due to its very small size and awkward orientation between a powerline right of way and adjacent private lands, the ID Team determined that this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W5) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Addition North Central area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Central

2,371 acres, 25 acres, 689 acres, 115 acres, 16 acres, 178 acres, and 58 acres

Wilderness District, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Center areas were grouped together due to their proximity contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness. The areas occur within:

- T12S R12W, part of Sections 2-4, 9-11, 14-15, 22-23, 25-26, 36;
- T12S R11W, part of Sections 30-31;
- T13S R12W, part of Sections 1, 12-13;
- T13S R11W, part of Sections 6-7, 17-21, 29-30;
- T14S R11W part of Sections 5-8, 17-19, 30;
- T14S R12W part of Sections 25-26, 34-35;
- T15S R12W, part of Sections 2-3

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

These areas are contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

The shape and configuration of existing wilderness boundaries are likely due to the presence of existing legal rights (utility rights of way), proximity to and state highway rights of way, and access to private property. Addition of these areas with their odd, narrow, and tortuous shapes would not improve manageability of the existing adjacent wilderness, and their proximity to, and in some cases inclusion of, established rights of ways would actually be detrimental to the manageability of boundaries.

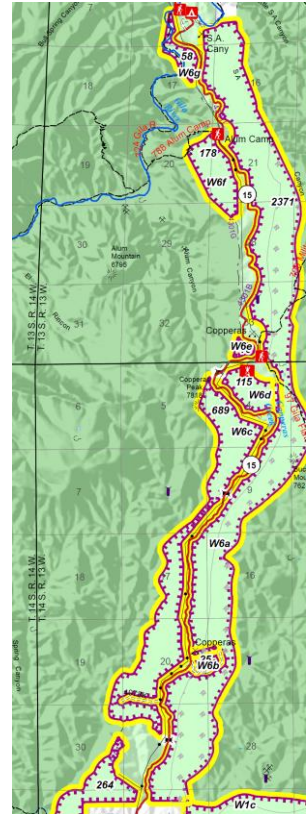
b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are known legally established highway and utilities rights-of-way that occur within the areas that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:



The presence of non-Federal lands was a minor contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of some the evaluated areas. Some of these were located adjacent to or in close proximity of residential and commercial development in the Gila Hot Springs community.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of some of these areas. Orientation between wilderness boundaries and existing highway and utilities rights of way was a contributing consideration, along with high levels of residential development within areas immediately adjacent or in close proximity to residential and commercial development in the Gila Hot Springs community.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team determined that due to existing legal rights (state highway and utility rights of way), configuration and proximity to utility and state highway rights of way, private property, and unmanageable boundaries, these very small and narrow areas are not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics. They would also not contribute positively to the protection of wilderness characteristics of the existing, adjacent wilderness.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(W6) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Additions Central areas have been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, they will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

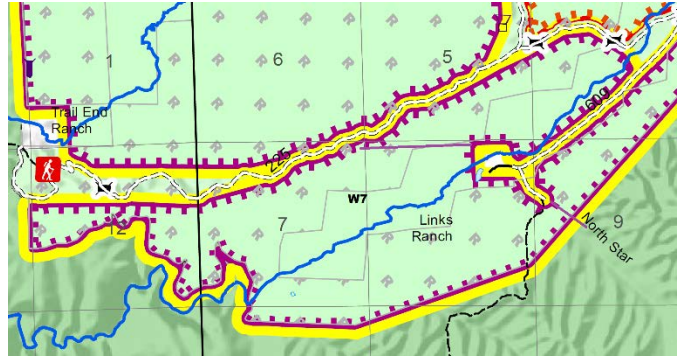
W7 – Gila Addition East

1,057 acres: Wilderness District, Grant County New Mexico

General description:

The W2a, W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East areas were grouped together due to their close proximity and each being contiguous to the existing Gila Wilderness, however a major portion of W2a was determined to be dissimilar in wilderness characteristics to the rest from this initial grouping, and therefore was instead considered as a separate area numbered W7 by the ID Team for evaluation. The W7 area occurs within:

- T12S R13W, part of Section 12;
- T12S R12W, part of Sections 7-9, 17-18



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that with significant changes made to the orientation of boundaries by excluding much of the area and only retaining the most western section - west of private land (sections 7, 8), then the remaining parts of this area would be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics as a viable addition to the existing contiguous wilderness.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural throughout the area. This reflects little active management activity within the area, including vegetation treatments and permitted grazing of livestock.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Ecological conditions within the area reflect nearly non-existent evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Proximity to the highway and development on private lands places some limitations on opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude are low, and for primitive and unconfined recreation are moderate by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **LOW** Score: **2**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **4**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains ecological values for possessing critical habitat for several Threatened or Endangered species.

Present: **Yes** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(W7) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	4
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11

WB1 – Taylor Creek

27,335 acres, Black Range District, Catron and Sierra Counties New Mexico

General description:

The WB1 – Taylor Creek area is located in the Black Range Ranger District, but it shares a boundary with the Wilderness Ranger District. The area occurs within:

- T10S R10W, part of Sections 18-19, 30-31;
- T10S R11W, part or all of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 34-36;
- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 1-3, 11-14, 22-27, 34-35;
- T11S R11W, part or all of Sections 1-22;
- T12S R12W part of sections 2-3, 11

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres

Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics due to its size, and orientation contiguous to existing wilderness, but qualified that some boundary adjustments would provide for manageability of the remaining areas. There are some private inholdings adjacent to the area, but the terrain tends to mitigate their influence, and there are few known issues with existing user developed roads, and no known legal existing rights within the area that may conflict with management to protect wilderness characteristics. It is possible there may be existing mining claims i, and if this area moves forward in the process towards possible recommendation, this will be more thoroughly examined. The ID Team made boundary adjustments to enhance wilderness characteristics, including manageability to protect wilderness characteristics. The changes included following the inventoried roadless area boundary from the in the northeast (Boiler Peak) area, in the vicinity of the private property inholding (northcentral) and around to the northwest and west, following the inventoried roadless area, but bringing it back to FR150 west of Section 31.

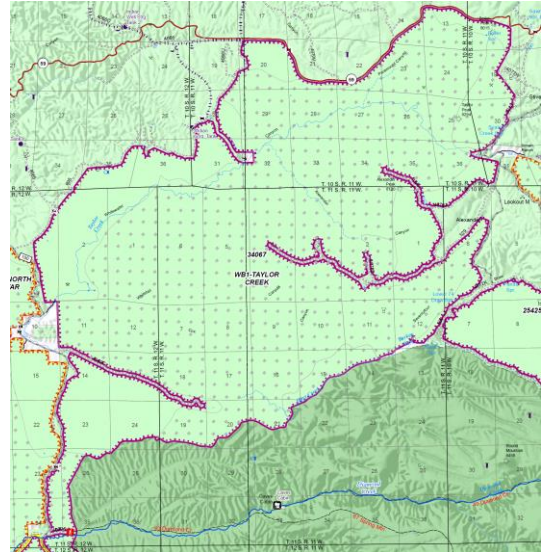
Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management, including past logging as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Non-native species are known to be present in some areas.



Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past logging and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations. Flat areas on the tops were logged in the 50s.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 4

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, are not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness. There are not a lot of range improvements and there are a few fences, but livestock containment in this area uses mostly natural barriers. On the ground, the road represented in center of the polygon doesn't go as far as shown. There is a primitive road up the bottom of Taylor Creek, but this route was not included in TMP, and would disappear if not used.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude are high, and for primitive and unconfined recreation are high by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest. There is not a lot out there and ties into the Aldo Wilderness well.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: 6

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH** Score: 7

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The geology, river bluffs and canyons within the area are exceptionally scenic. Multiple heritage resources have been identified within this area, including prehistoric rock shelters and historic mining and military sites. This is a noteworthy area for cultural resources. The area also features exceptional views out towards the west and of the Mogollon Range.

Present: **YES** Rank: **HIGH** score: 3

(WB1)-Wilderness Characteristics Ranking Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Ranking	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	HIGH	3
Overall Ranking of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15

WB2 – Gila Addition East (formerly WB2a)

4,437 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The WB2 – Gila Addition East area is located in the Black Range and Wilderness Ranger Districts. The area occurs within:

- T11S R13W, part or all of Sections 11, 14, 23-24, 25, 36;
- T11S R12W, part of Sections 30-32;
- T12S R13W part of Sections 1, 12;
- T12S R12W part of Sections 5-6

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meet the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics although there are issues with adjacent private property, cherry stem roads, and density of roads in area. The ID Team recommended possible changing or splitting the polygon into two polygons, and/or giving wider breadth around the private property to increase manageability.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects very little active management activity, appears natural throughout at least 90% the area, and does not appear to be manipulated by humans.

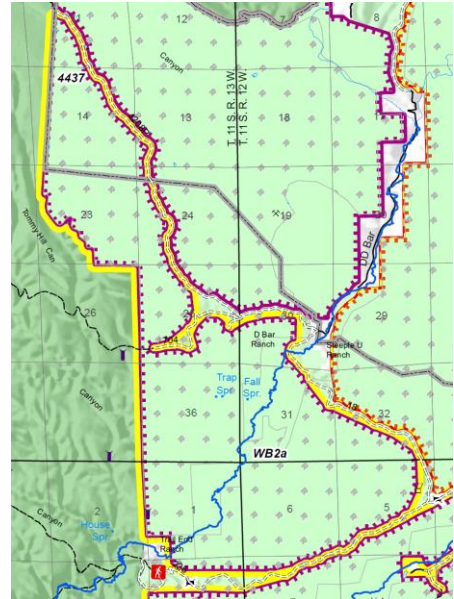
Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions within the area reflect very little evidence of any type of modern human land management activity throughout the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness



Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, but is concentrated in some locations, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There is a fairly high density of range fences, but there are no pipelines.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 5

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

The area is adjacent to an existing wilderness, and, there are very good opportunities for solitude throughout the area, particularly outside of hunting and antler gathering seasons. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are moderate compared to other locations nearby and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: 5

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Many cultural resources have been identified within the area, representing both prehistoric and historic occupations.

Present: **YES** Rank: **MODERATE** score: **2**

(WB2) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (SOLITUDE)	7
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	MODERATE	2
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	14

WB3 – Gila Addition North (formerly WB3b)

39 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The WB3 – Gila Addition North area is a very small-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts and occurs within:

- T10S R15W, part of Section 31;
- T10S R14W, part of Sections 36

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and therefore meets the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.



Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This area is very small in size, and is oriented in between adjacent open public roads, resulting in a lack of sufficient core area to protect wilderness characteristics. The area would also not positively impact the protection of wilderness characteristics within the adjacent, existing wilderness.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There are no known legally established rights or uses that occur within the area that would affect manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was a contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area, due to the southern boundary adjacent to private lands having an outsized influence upon such a small-sized area.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Summary of Determination:

Gila National Forest Plan Revision
DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

The ID Team has determined that due to its very small size, orientation, and proximity to roads that this area is not manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(WB3) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the Gila Addition North area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

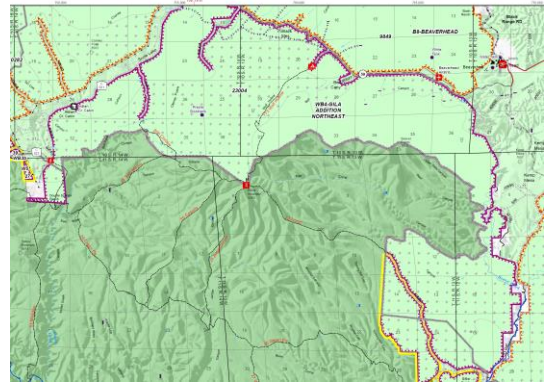
WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast

14,153 acres, Wilderness and Black Range District, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast area is located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. The ID Team agreed to split this area from the southern portion (which is now identified as WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek) of the original inventoried area that was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics in order to give each an accurate evaluation on its own merits. There is a variability of vegetation types within this area, with from grasslands with meadows in lower elevations up to mixed conifer in the higher areas. This area occurs within:

- T10s R14W, part or all of Sections 11-14, 21-36;
- T10S R13W, part or all of Sections 17-21, 25-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 30-31;
- T11 R13W, part of Section 5;
- T11S R13W parts of Sections 1,5-6;
- T11S R12W part of Sections 5-6



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore meeting the evaluation criteria for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, due to its relative size, challenging terrain and a sizeable core area. However, the ID Team predicated their conclusion on making changes of the area boundaries to make them more manageable, and exclude locations that have lower quality of wilderness characteristics. The evaluation is also predicated upon the southern portion, now identified as WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek, being evaluated separately and upon its own merit. The ID Team made boundary adjustments to provide for manageability to protect wilderness characteristics. The boundary adjustment begins at Indian Creek Cabin, keeping in line with the existing inventoried roadless area boundary. Also, the adjustment clipped off the cherry stem in Section 27, and excluded other cherry stems from the north (4064T), and then excluded the stock tanks in Section 27 and 26 and trick tank in Section 36, and tie in midpoint of Section 31.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past logging and vegetation treatments, as well as

past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments, logging, and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

There are special uses roads locate in the Cooney Prairie area, as well as access roads to tanks and pipelines. There are also pipelines within the area, and a network of user-developed roads.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 3

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: **3.7**

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Solitude overall is improved by the ID Team’s recommended changes to boundaries. However, the area has moderate opportunities for solitude in comparison to nearby locations and other areas within the Forest. The area does offer good opportunities for unconfined primitive recreation, enhanced by being contiguous to an existing wilderness.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **HIGH** Score: **6**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains a site listed as a National Historic Landmark as well as other cultural resources.

Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(WB4) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	3.7
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	HIGH (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	6
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	10.7

WB5 – North Star

7,148 acres, Wilderness Black Range Districts, Catron County New Mexico

General description:

The WB5 – North Star is a small-sized area located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts and occurs within:

- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 3-4, 8-10, 14-17, 20-22, 27-29, 32-34;
- T12S R12W, part of Sections 3-5

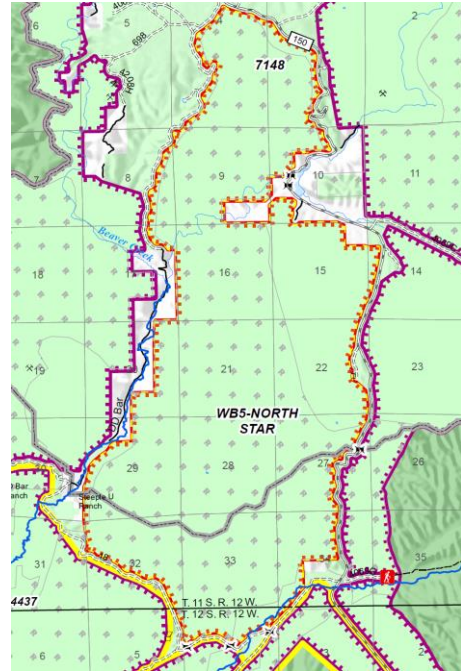
Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:



The purpose of this step is to evaluate if an inventoried area may be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics, considering such factors as (but not required by the handbook to be limited to):

a) Shape and configuration of the area:

This small area has a slightly elongated and narrow shape relative to its small size, with adjacent proximity to private property along much of its boundary, and the remaining boundary being open public roads, and there is a private property inholding deep into the area that nearly bisects it at one point, creating a very narrow “pinch point”. This does not allow for an adequate amount of core area for manageability to protect wilderness characteristics.

b) Legally established rights or uses within the area:

There may be issues with mining claims within this area; because the area was determined unmanageable due to other considerations, this consideration was tabled and was not a contributing factor for determining manageability to protect wilderness characteristics. If the area had continued further in the process towards a possible recommendation, the possible existence of mining claims would receive more scrutiny.

c) 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:

There are no known laws that may be relevant to the availability of the area for wilderness or the ability to manage the area to protect wilderness characteristics.

d) The presence and amount of non-Federal land in the area:

The presence of non-Federal lands was a major contributing factor in the ID Team’s determination of manageability of the area, due to the outsized influence it has over such a small sized area, and because they create an inholding that nearly bisects the area at one point.

e) Management of adjacent lands:

The management of adjacent lands was not a major contributing factor in the ID Team's determination of manageability of the area.

Other Relevant Factors Considered by the ID Team:

Closed, not decommissioned FR 4069e extending deeply from north to south into the area, contributing to a lack of a core area available to protect wilderness characteristics.

Summary of Determination:

The ID Team identified a number of problems that together they determined make this area unmanageable to protect wilderness characteristics, including its narrow shape relative to its small size, proximity to private property along much of its boundary, the remaining boundary being open roads, a private property inholding deep into the area that nearly bisects it at one point, with closed, not decommissioned FR 4069e extending deeply from north to south into the area, and an overall lack of core area. There may also be issues with mining claims in the area.

Rank: **NOT MANAGEABLE**

(WB5) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Score Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	NOT MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	N/A	N/A
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	N/A	N/A
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	N/A	N/A
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	NONE	0

Additional Remarks: Because the North Star area has been evaluated to not be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, it will no longer be considered in the process unless the Forest Supervisor (Responsible Official) exercises the discretion to direct otherwise.

WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek

4,975 acres, Wilderness and Black Range Districts, Sierra County New Mexico

General description:

The WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek area is located on the Wilderness and Black Range Ranger Districts. The ID Team agreed to split this area from the northern portion of the original inventoried area (WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast) that was determined to have dissimilar wilderness characteristics in order to give each a fair and accurate evaluation based on their own merits. The area occurs within:

- T11S R12W, part or all of Sections 5-6, 7-8, 17-20, 29-30;
- T11S R13W, parts of Sections 1-2 11-14, 24-25

Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

This area is contiguous to an existing wilderness, and also over 5,000 acres in size, therefore meeting the evaluation criterion for being of sufficient size to be manageable as wilderness.

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, because it has a sufficient core area and would contribute to the characteristics of the existing wilderness.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments as well as past and current permitted grazing of livestock. The composition of plant and animal communities appears natural in the majority of the area. Bull thistle is known to occur, as well as nonnative fish.

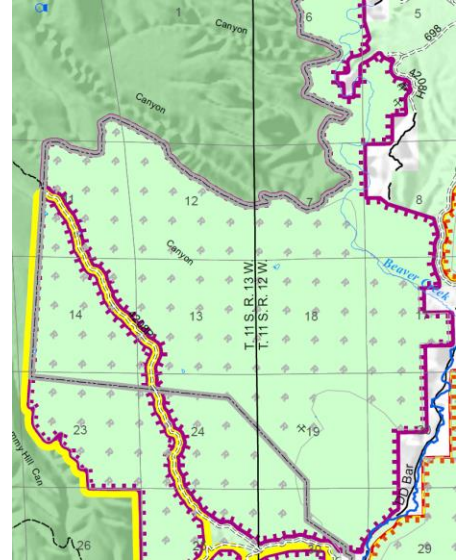
Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been management activity within the area, including past vegetation treatments and past and current permitted grazing of livestock. Modern human land management activity is noticeable in some locations.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness



Prevalence of improvements is generally low throughout the area, and may be concentrated in some locations, they contribute to a limited extent to the historical character and cultural context of the area, may appear to be fairly modern, and by their presence may impose limitations on the apparent naturalness of the area. There are some visible road prisms in the southeast part, and there are user developed roads throughout the area.

Rank: MODERATE Score: 5

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

MODERATE *Apparent Naturalness* *Overall Score: 5*

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation are moderate by comparison to opportunities available in nearby areas and throughout the Forest.

Solitude Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **MODERATE** Score: **5**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The area contains ecological values for possessing critical habitat for several Threatened or Endangered species, and on Species of Special Concern.

Present: **NO** Rank: LOW score: **1**

(WB6) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	SUFFICIENT SIZE	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	MODERATE	5
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	MODERATE (BOTH)	5
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	MODERATE	11

WSB1 – Rabb Park

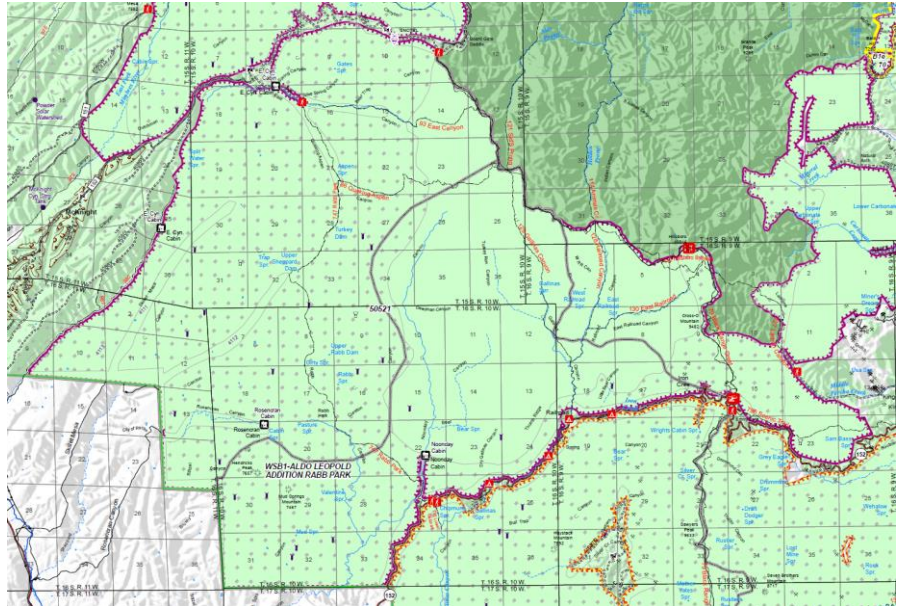
43,998 acres

Wilderness, Silver City, and Black Range Districts, Grant and Sierra Counties NM

General description:

The WSB1 – Rabb Park area is located in the Silver City, Wilderness, and Black Range Ranger Districts. This is why the numbering is for three districts. The area had previously included the area now numbered and named B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek, however the ID Team elected to separate it into the two smaller areas due to dissimilarities in their wilderness characteristics, allowing each to be evaluated separately and upon their own individual merits. The Rabb Park area occurs within:

- T10S R10W, part of Sections 18-19, 30-31;
- T10S R11W, part or all of Sections 13-14, 19-36;
- T10S R12W part of Sections 34-36;
- T11S R12W part or all of Sections 1-3, 11-14, 22-27, 34-35;
- T11S R11W, part or all of Sections 1-22;
- T12S R12W part of sections 2-3, 11



Evaluation Results:

Criterion 1 - Areas Less than 5,000 acres Practicability as Wilderness:

Rank: **SUFFICIENT SIZE**

(This area is more than 5,000 acres in size, and therefore this criterion is not applicable)

Criterion 2 -Manageability to Protect Wilderness Characteristics:

The ID Team determined that this area is manageable due to its large size, challenging terrain, manageable boundaries, and a sizeable core area. Although manageable, there could be challenges where there is a large extent of boundary contiguous to private property to the southeastern portion of the area. There is also a moonstone gemstone deposit in Rabb Canyon that has been sporadically mined in the past.

There are also Level 2 administrative use – permit only cherry-stemmed roads extending into the area from private property boundaries that may create management issues. Travel Management designated motorized trails do not meet the criterion for being manageable to protect wilderness characteristics, and are a legally established use and activity expressly authorized via a NEPA decision, therefore, they have been excluded and/or buffered from the remaining portions of the area that are determined by the ID Team to be manageable to protect wilderness characteristics.

Rank: **MANAGEABLE**

Criterion 3 -Apparent Naturalness:

The ranking of this criteria is determined by the ID Team in the context of how an average visitor to the evaluated area would perceive its apparent naturalness.

a) Composition of Plant and Animal Communities

The current composition of plant and animal communities within the area reflects active management activity within the area, and the composition of plant and animal communities visibly appears to be natural for at least 90% of the area.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

b) Appears to reflect ecological conditions normally associated without human intervention

Current ecological conditions reflect that there has been very little management activity within the area. Modern human land management activity is not noticeable in most locations.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

c) Extent to which improvements represent a departure from apparent naturalness

Improvements are not substantially noticeable, are very few in number and rarely encountered, not concentrated in location, do not appear modern, and/or they contribute to the historical character and cultural context of the area and their appearance detracts very little from apparent naturalness.

There are some stock tanks, rock headers in some drainages and roadbeds, but there is not a lot of fencing. There are existing single purpose roads within inventoried roadless area boundaries, where corridors are visible. Two level 1 roads that are not decommissioned extend into the area from adjacent private property.

Rank: HIGH Score: 6

Apparent Naturalness Overall Rank is the average of the three scores:

HIGH Apparent Naturalness Overall Score: 6

Criterion 4 -Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Outside of hunting or antler gathering seasons the likelihood of encountering other visitors is low, providing very good opportunities for solitude throughout much of the area. Throughout this moderately large-sized area, there are few limitations to the types and pursuit of primitive recreation opportunities available, including good non-motorized trail use opportunities accessing much of the area, although some of the boundary is landlocked from access due to adjacent private lands.

There is variability of terrain from moderate to challenging, with steep mountain slopes, long ridgelines, and deep canyons. There are few management restrictions to confine recreation pursuits.

Solitude Rank: **HIGH** Score: **7**

Primitive Recreation Rank: **OUTSTANDING** Score: **8**

Criterion 5 - Other Features of Value, considered only where they exist - ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The Hillsboro site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is located within this evaluation area. As such, the area can be considered significant for heritage resources. Prehistoric resources are also present.

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Present: **YES** Rank: **LOW** score: **1**

(WSB1) -Wilderness Characteristics Rank Worksheet		
Step/Criteria	Rank	Score
Step 1 – Size if less than 5,000 acres	N/A – Greater than 5,000 acres	N/A
Step 2 – Manageability	MANAGEABLE	N/A
Step 3 – Apparent Naturalness (averaged score of 3 factors)	HIGH	6
Step 4 – Solitude or Primitive or Unconfined Recreation	OUTSTANDING (PRIMITIVE/UNCONFINED REC)	8
Step 5 – Other Features of Value	LOW	1
Overall Rank of Wilderness Characteristics	HIGH	15

Additional Remarks: There is a pre-NEPA working proposal being considered by the Forest to move the Upper Gallinas Campground to the Noonday cabin area, which could affect area boundaries at a later point in the process.

There is occasional existing mountain bike use on the Gallinas Canyon, Rabb Park, and Railroad Canyon Trails, and this existing recreation use would be impacted because it would likely be prohibited if the area were recommended for wilderness designation.

Next Steps in the Process, Following the Evaluation

Step Three: Analysis

With completion of the Evaluation step, the evaluations may now be used to inform the Forest Supervisor's selection of which areas, or modified areas, are to be analyzed in each of the forest plan revision Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) alternatives. Public comments will also be an important consideration for the analysis, modification, and inclusion of the areas in the preferred alternative prior to release of the DRAFT plan revision EIS. Any evaluated area that is not analyzed in any of the alternatives will have a justification documented and included in the EIS.

Step Four: Recommendation

The Forest Supervisor may recommend in the signed Record of Decision any lands analyzed to be designated by Congress for inclusion in National Wilderness Preservation System. This is an administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Only Congress has the authority to designate wilderness through legislation. Also, the revised plan must include components that provide for managing recommended wilderness areas to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that are the basis for each area's suitability for wilderness recommendation. Only if an area is included in the Forest Plan EIS Record of Decision as Recommended Wilderness will it from that time be managed so as to protect these wilderness characteristics. This management direction will continue until Congress acts on the recommendation one way or another, or when the recommended areas are re-evaluated in the next planning cycle.

For more information on the Plan Revision Process, including the Wilderness Recommendation Process, please visit the [Gila Forest Plan Revision webpage](#).



Definition of Wilderness, from the Wilderness Act of 1964

"...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..." Section 2(a)



DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS

"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational,

scenic, or historical value." Section 2(c)

"...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historic use." Section 4(b)

References

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service). 2012. National Forest System Land Management Planning; Final Rule. 36 CFR Part 219. USDA.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12- Land Management Planning Handbook: Chapter 70- Wilderness.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. R3 Designated Areas, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Forest Plan Revision Process Guidance under the 2012 Planning Rule.

USDA FS (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service). 2015. R3 Wilderness Process Guidance (Timing/Public Engagement/Documentation) for Wilderness Inventory Evaluation, Analysis, and Recommendation under the 2012 Planning Rule.

Appendix A: Summary Tables

Summary of Quemado District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
Q1 - Largo	15,288	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	10.3	M
Q2 –The Hub	36,344	N/A	Y	H	H	H	L/M	13.5	MH
Q4 – Chavez Lake	7,237	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	10.3	M
Q5 – Agua Fria:	5,691	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q6 – Fox Mountain	12,956	N/A	Y	M	H	H	L	11.6	M
Q7 – East Gallo	13,330	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q8 – Bull Camp	14,186	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q9 – Apache Mountain	17,972	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	10.3	M
Q10 – East Boundary	6,333	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Q11 – Mother Hubbard	5,728	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	L	15.7	H
Summary of Shared Quemado and Glenwood Districts Evaluated Areas									
QG1 – Nolan North	8,685	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	L	15.7	H
QG2 – Nolan South	4,404	Y	Y	M	OS	H	N	11.7	M
Summary of Shared Quemado and Reserve Districts Evaluated Areas									
QR1 – Upper Frisco Box	41,047	N/A	Y	M	H	H	H	14.7	H
QR2 – Upper Frisco Box East	18,810	N/A	Y	M	M	H	N	9	M
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Reserve District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
R1 – Eagle Peak	31,993	N/A	Y	M	M	H	L	11.7	M
R3 – Moraga Canyon	8,527	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	10.3	M
R4 – O-Bar-O Mountain	20,010	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	12	MH
R6 – Elk Mountains	15,526	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R7 – Negrito	10,461	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R8 – T-Bar Ridge	5,270	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
R9 – Wagon Tongue	14,628	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.7	M
R10a, R10b, - Gila Additions North Reserve	536 657	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	9	M
R10c - Gila Additions North Reserve	1,451	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Summary of Shared Reserve and Black Districts Evaluated Areas									
RB1 – East Elk Mountain	9,064	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	10	M
Summary of Shared Reserve, Wilderness, and Black Districts Evaluated Areas									
RWB1 – Canyon Creek	10,282	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
RWB2 – Gila Addition North Central	3,392	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Summary of Shared Reserve and Glenwood Districts Evaluated Areas									
RG1 – Aspen Mountain	22,089	N/A	Y	H	H	H	M	16	OS
RG2 – Devil’s Creek	61,067	N/A	Y	M	H	H	M	13	MH
RG3 – Brushy Canyon	3,977	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
RG4 – North Mogollon Mountains	21,591	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	12	MH
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Glenwood District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
G1 – Mineral Creek	20,525	N/A	Y	OS	OS	OS	OS	23.3	OS
G2 – Blue Primitive Addition	315	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G2b and G2c – Blue Range South	1,321 2,676	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G3 – Gila Rain Creek Addition	1,298	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	10.3	M
G3c – Gila Addition Northwest	20	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G4a and G4b – Gila Additions West	776 158	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
G5 – Park Mountain	11,316	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	10.7	M
G6 – Lower San Francisco	21,196	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	OS	18.3	OS
G7 – Hell Hole	20,535	N/A	Y	M	H	M	L	11	M
G8 – Smoothing Iron Mesa	3,588	Y	Y	M	H	M	L	12.3	MH
G9 – Blue Range SE Addition	3,040	Y	Y	M	M	L	N	6	M
G10 – Blue Range SW Addition	3,709	Y	Y	M	M	L	N	8	M
G11 – Gila Dry Creeks Addition	3,129	N/A	Y	M	H	H	N	10.3	M
G12 – Gila Whitewater Addition	3,463	Y	Y	H	H	H	N	13.7	MH
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Black Range District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
B1a, B1b, B1c, – Aldo Leopold Seco Additions	5741 265 78	Y	Y	H	H	H	L	14.3	H
B2– Brushy Mountain	7,751	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B3– Big Dry Creek	39,126	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B4 – Wahoo South	19,769	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B5 – Stone Creek	8,384	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.3	M
B6 – Sand Canyon	6,136	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B7 – Indian Peaks	5,516	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
B8 – Beaverhead	9,849	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	9	M
B9 – Aldo Leopold Addition East	13,558	N/A	Y	L	L	M	N	5.7	L
B10 – Aldo Leopold Addition Northeast	15,909	N/A	Y	H	H	H	L	14.3	H
B11 – Aldo Leopold Addition Southeast	1,242	Y	Y	M	H	H	L	12.7	MH
B13 – Wahoo North	20,139	N/A	Y	M	M	H	N	11.3	M
B14 – Aldo Leopold Addition Carbonate Creek	5,380	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	N	14	H
B15 – Continental Divide WSA Addition	1,405	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Y = YES N = NONE/NO N/A = NOT APPLICABLE L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

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Summary of Silver City and Black Range Shared District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
SB1 – Sawyer Peak	41,063	N/A	Y	M	OS	H	N	13.7	MH
Summary of Silver City District Evaluated Areas									
S1 – Mogollon Box/Tadpole Ridge	48,067	N/A	Y	H	OS	H	H	17	OS
S2 – Gila Middle Box	25,335	N/A	Y	M	M	H	OS	16	OS
S3 - Bear Mountain	11,124	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	9	M
S4 – North Burros	15,786	N/A	Y	M	M	M	L	9	M
S5 – Saddle Rock	6,734	N/A	Y	M	L	M	L	9.8	M
S6a, S6b, and S6d – Gila Additions Southwest	526 4,643 1,040	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	9	M
S7 – Burro Peak	7,522	N/A	Y	M	L	L	L	6	M
S8 – Knight Peak	5,618	N/A	Y	M	L	L	L	6.3	M
S9 – Royal John	6,915	N/A	Y	M	H	M	N	11.7	M
S10 – Lower Gallinas Canyon	9,048	N/A	Y	M	M	M	N	8.7	M
Summary of Shared Silver City and Wilderness District Evaluated Areas									
SW1 – Gila Addition Sapillo	264	Y	Y	H	H	M	N	12	MH
SW2 – Signal Peak	66,486	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

Gila National Forest Plan Revision
DRAFT Evaluation of Lands Inventoried for Potential Wilderness Characteristics

Summary of Wilderness District Evaluated Areas									
Evaluated Area	Acres	Practicable Size less than 5,000 ac	Manageability	Apparent Naturalness	Solitude	Primitive Unconfined Rec	Other Features of Value	Overall Ranking Score	Overall Ranking
W1a and W1b – Gila Additions Lake Roberts	664 323	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W1c – Gila Addition Lake Roberts	732	Y	Y	H	L	M	N	10	M
W2b, W2c, and W2d – Gila Additions East	2,088 393 455	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W3 – Aldo Leopold Addition West	3,394	N/A	Y	H	H	H	N	12	MH
W4 – Aldo Leopold Addition McKnight Canyon	12,458	N/A	Y	OS	OS	H	N	16.3	OS
W5 – Gila Addition North Central	27	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W6a, W6b, W6c, W6d, W6e, W6f, and W6g – Gila Additions Central	2,371 25 689 115 16 178 58	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
W7 – Gila Addition East	1,057	Y	Y	H	L	M	L	11	M
Summary of Shared Wilderness and Black Range Districts Evaluated Areas									
WB1 – Taylor Creek:	27,335	N/A	Y	M	H	H	H	15	H
WB2 – Gila Addition East:	4,437	Y	Y	M	H	M	M	14	H
WB3 – Gila Addition North	39	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
WB4 – Gila Addition Northeast:	14,153	N/A	Y	M	M	H	L	10.7	M
WB5 – North Star	7,148	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N
WB6 – Gila Addition Beaver Creek	4,975	Y	Y	M	M	M	L	11	M
Summary of Shared Wilderness Silver City and Black Range Districts Evaluated Areas									
WSB1 – Rabb Park	43,998	N/A	Y	H	H	OS	L	15	H
Y = YES N = NONE/NO L = LOW M = MODERATE MH = MODERATE/HIGH H = HIGH OS = OUTSTANDING									

Appendix B: Forest System Road Definitions

Forest road. A road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System (NFS) that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the NFS and the use and development of its resources (36 CFR 212.1).

Maintenance levels. The level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road (FSH 7709.59, ch. 60, sec. 62.3).

1. Level 1. These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are to “prohibit” and “eliminate” all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps. Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for nonmotorized uses.
2. Level 2. This level is assigned to roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 “No Traffic Signs,” may be posted at intersections. Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to “discourage” or “prohibit” passenger cars. “Accept” or “discourage” strategies may be employed for high clearance vehicles.
3. Level 3. This level is assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. The manual on uniform traffic control devices is applicable. Warning signs and traffic control devices are provided to alert motorists of situations that may violate expectations. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed with single lanes and turnouts. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to “encourage” or “accept” passenger cars. “Discourage” or “prohibit” strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users.
4. Level 4. This level is assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated. The manual on uniform traffic control devices is applicable. The most appropriate traffic management strategy is to “encourage” passenger cars. However, the “prohibit” strategy may apply to specific classes of vehicles or users at certain times.
5. Level 5. This level is assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated. The manual on uniform traffic control devices is applicable. The appropriate traffic management strategy is to “encourage” passenger cars.