

APPENDIX C – POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA EVALUATIONS

CHAPTER 1. POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREA INVENTORY

The following inventory identifies areas meeting certain criteria for potential wilderness areas (PWAs). Only the Congress can make the decision to designate wilderness. The responsible official is to consider all NFS lands possessing wilderness characteristics for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during plan revision.

Identification of potential wilderness areas and wilderness recommendations has always been an integral part of the NFS planning process. The first step in the evaluation of potential wilderness is to identify an inventory of all areas within National Forest System lands that satisfy the definition of wilderness. This study identifies those NFS lands possessing wilderness characteristics.

The Forest Service directives (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70, 1/31/2007) provide the detailed criteria for the identification of potential wilderness areas. These criteria are summarized in Table C-1. The Forest's interpretation of these criteria is contained in "Guidance on How to Conduct the 'Potential Wilderness Area Inventory' for the Revision to the Revised George Washington Forest Plan" in the administrative record for the plan revision.

Table C-1. Summary of Inventory Criteria as Provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70, Section 71

FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70	Potential Wilderness Criteria
71.1 Par. (1)	1) Areas contain <u>5,000 acres or more</u> , OR
71.1 Par. (2)	2) Areas contain <u>less than 5,000 acres</u> , but can meet one or more of the following criteria: a. Areas can be preserved due to physical terrain and natural conditions; b. Areas are self-contained ecosystems, such as an island, that can be effectively managed as a separate unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System; c. Areas are contiguous to existing Wilderness, primitive areas, Administration-endorsed Wilderness, or potential Wilderness in other Federal ownership, regardless of their size.
71.1 Par. (3)	3) Areas do not contain forest roads (36 CFR 212.1) or other permanently authorized roads, except as permitted in areas east of the 100th meridian (sec. 71.12), (Less than 1/2 mile of system road per 1000 acres).
71.12 Par. (4) (1995 R8 Guidance)	4) Areas have semi-primitive (SP) core solitude greater than 2500 acres on NFS lands or otherwise provide solitude (e.g. topography). Eliminates smaller and/or narrower areas with small SP cores (limited solitude). Smaller or narrower SP core areas often indicate private land influenced core.
71.11 Par. (6)	5) Areas are not excessively fragmented by interior private land. (Greater than 70% NFS land).
71.11 Par. (6)	6) Areas are not excessively fragmented by interior private mineral rights. (Greater than 70% NFS mineral rights and not currently leased).
71.12 Par. (3,4)	7) Area boundaries are less than 60% private.

The PWA inventory includes 26 standalone potential areas and 11 potential additions to existing Wildernesses for a total of 37 areas containing 378,229 acres. Table C-2 lists the Potential Wilderness Areas (PWAs) identified in 2008, using the criteria provided in FSH 1909.12. Of these, 23 "inventoried roadless areas" (IRAs) totaling 239,784 acres are included that were identified at the time of implementation of the 1993 George Washington National Forest Plan (1993 GWNF Plan). Two of the IRAs are now designated Wilderness (Priest and Three Ridges) and one IRA is now designated National Scenic Area (Mount Pleasant) and therefore were not inventoried or evaluated as Potential Wilderness Areas. One IRA, The Friars, at only 2,035 acres does not meet the requirements provided in FSH 1909.12, Section 71.1 paragraph (2) for areas less than 5,000 acres

in size. Another IRA, Southern Massanutten Mountain (11,941 acres) has less than 70% of federal minerals ownership. Therefore, these IRAs were not given further evaluation.

The inventory criteria for PWAs are less restrictive than the inventory criteria for identifying IRAs that were used during the 1993 GWNF Plan. PWAs were identified for areas that did not qualify as IRAs. There is significant overlap of IRAs and PWAs, with the IRAs often being a core area within the PWA. Table C-2 lists all of the PWAs that were inventoried in 2008 as well as the 1993 IRAs.

Table C-2. Inventoried Potential Wilderness Areas (PWAs) with Crosswalk of 1993 Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs)

Potential Wilderness Area	2008 PWA Acres	1993 IRA Acres
Adams Peak	8,226	7,133
Archer Knob	7,110	
Beards Mountain	10,152	7,501
Beech Lick Knob	14,087	
Big Schloss	28,347	20,755
Crawford Knob	14,851	9,889
Dolly Ann	9,524	7,850
Duncan Knob (Massanutten South IRA)	5,973	11,966
Elliott Knob	11,070	9,377
Galford Gap	6,689	
Gum Run	14,547	12,617
High Knob (Dry River and Skidmore IRAs)	18,447	12,971
Jerkentight	27,314	16,680
Kelley Mountain	12,892	7,589
Laurel Fork	10,236	9,961
Little Alleghany	15,395	10,208
Little Mare Mountain	11,918	
Little River	30,227	27,285
Massanutten North	16,530	9,448
Oak Knob - Hone Quarry Ridge	16,343	10,880
Oliver Mountain	13,049	13,081
Paddy Knob	5,987	
Potts Mountain	7,863	
Ramseys Draft Addition	19,072	12,777
Rich Hole Addition (Mill Mountain IRA)	12,165	10,834
Rich Patch	5,625	
Rough Mountain Addition	2,063	1,385
Saint Mary's North	3,006	
Saint Mary's South	1,651	1,451
Saint Mary's West	278	

Potential Wilderness Area	2008 PWA Acres	1993 IRA Acres
Shaws Ridge	7,268	
Shawvers Run Addition	84	
Three Ridges Addition North	83	
Three Ridges Addition South	187	
Three Ridges Addition SW	9	
Three Ridges Addition West	90	
Three Sisters	9,871	8,146

Table C-3. George Washington NF Potential Wilderness Area Inventory

Potential Wilderness Area Name	Total GWNF and Jefferson NF Acres	Jefferson NF Acres	Road Mileage Per 1,000 Acres	Total Miles of Road	Subsurface Federal Minerals Percentage	Subsurface Private Mineral Rights Acres
Adams Peak	8,226	0	0.45	3.7	100	0
Archer Knob	7,110	0	0.32	2.3	100	0
Beards Mountain	10,152	0	0.26	2.6	100	0
Beech Lick Knob	14,087	0	0.46	6.5	92	1,158
Big Schloss	28,347	0	0.5	14.1	75	7,118
Crawford Knob	14,851	0	0.21	3.1	100	0
Dolly Ann	9,524	0	0.48	4.6	100	0
Duncan Knob	5,973	0	0.46	2.8	100	0
Elliott Knob	11,070	0	0.39	4.3	100	0
Galford Gap	6,689	0	0.3	3.3	100	0
Gum Run	14,547	0	0.37	5.4	83	2,529
High Knob	18,447	0	0.46	8.6	100	0
Jerkemtight	27,314	0	0.46	12.5	90	2,617
Kelley Mountain	12,892	0	0.15	2	84	2,126
Laurel Fork	10,236	0	0.21	2.1	100	0
Little Alleghany	15,395	0	0.18	2.8	98	374
Little Mare Mountain	11,918	0	0.5	6	100	0
Little River	30,227	0	0.4	12.1	90	3,128
Massanutten North	16,530	0	0.49	8.1	91	1,465
Oak Knob - Hone Quarry Ridge	16,343	0	0.44	7.3	96	617
Oliver Mountain	13,049	0	0.19	2.4	100	0

Potential Wilderness Area Name	Total GWNF and Jefferson NF Acres	Jefferson NF Acres	Road Mileage Per 1,000 Acres	Total Miles of Road	Subsurface Federal Minerals Percentage	Subsurface Private Mineral Rights Acres
Paddy Knob	5,987	0	0.28	1.7	100	0
Potts Mountain	7,863	844	0.33	2.6	99	91
Ramseys Draft Addition	19,072	0	0.29	5.6	70	5,784
Rich Hole Addition	12,165	0	0.38	4.6	100	0
Rich Patch	5,625	4,754	0.04	0.2	100	0
Rough Mountain Addition	2,063	0	0.3	0.6	100	0
Saint Mary's North	3,006	0	0	0	79	630
Saint Mary's South	1,651	0	0	0	80	333
Saint Mary's West	278	0	0	0	100	0
Shaws Ridge	7,268	0	0.39	2.8	100	4
Shawvers Run Addition	84	0	0	0	100	0
Three Ridges Addition North	83	0	0	0	100	0
Three Ridges Addition South	187	0	0	0	100	0
Three Ridges Addition Southwest	9	0	0	0	100	0
Three Ridges Addition West	90	0	0	0	100	0
Three Sisters	9,871	0	0.44	4.4	95	491
TOTAL GWJEFF ACRES	378,229	5,598				
TOTAL GWNF ACRES ONLY	372,631					

Table C-4. Potential Wilderness Area Inventory with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Settings

Potential Wilderness Area Name	Total GWJEFF Acres	Jeff NF Acres	Roaded Natural Acres	Semi-Primitive Motorized Acres	Semi- Primitive Non- Motorized Acres	Semi-Primitive Core Total Acres
Adams Peak	8,226	0	3,801	407	4,018	4,425
Archer Knob	7,110	0	2,669	4,441	0	4,441
Beards Mountain	10,152	0	3,173	1,851	5,128	6,978
Beech Lick Knob	14,087	0	4,585	3,775	5,726	9,502
Big Schloss	28,347	0	8,632	9,974	9,741	19,715
Crawford Knob	14,851	0	3,023	2,522	9,306	11,828
Dolly Ann	9,524	0	3,491	1,361	4,672	6,033
Duncan Knob	5,973	0	2,741	3,232	0	3,232
Elliott Knob	11,070	0	3,978	3,402	3,691	7,093
Galford Gap	6,689	0	1,770	1,132	3,787	4,919
Gum Run	14,547	0	3,750	6,631	4,166	10,797
High Knob	18,447	0	6,686	8,032	3,729	11,761
Jerkentight	27,314	0	11,473	8,574	7,268	15,841
Kelley Mountain	12,892	0	5,103	2,792	4,997	7,789
Laurel Fork	10,236	0	3,240	631	6,365	6,996
Little Alleghany	15,395	0	6,613	1,501	7,280	8,782
Little Mare Mountain	11,918	0	6,934	3,043	1,941	4,984
Little River	30,227	0	9,727	4,385	16,116	20,500
Massanutten North	16,530	0	5,382	4,563	6,585	11,148
Oak Knob - Hone Quarry Ridge	16,343	0	7,539	4,273	4,531	8,804
Oliver Mountain	13,049	0	3,852	20	9,176	9,197
Paddy Knob	5,987	0	2,703	1,259	2,026	3,284
Potts Mountain	7,863	844	3,372	4,491	0	4,491
Ramseys Draft Addition	19,072	0	8,075	1,717	9,280	10,997
Rich Hole Addition	12,165	0	5,072	480	6,613	7,093
Rich Patch	5,625	4,754	1,617	0	4,008	4,008
Rough Mountain Addition	2,063	0	1,311	498	254	752
Saint Mary's North	3,006	0	1,020	1,983	3	1,986
Saint Mary's South	1,651	0	762	0	889	889
Saint Mary's West	278	0	278	0	0	0

Potential Wilderness Area Name	Total GWJEFF Acres	Jeff NF Acres	Roaded Natural Acres	Semi-Primitive Motorized Acres	Semi- Primitive Non- Motorized Acres	Semi-Primitive Core Total Acres
Shaws Ridge	7,268	0	3,315	1,878	2,076	3,954
Shawvers Run Addition	84	0	84	0	0	0
Three Ridges Addition North	83	0	79	3	0	3
Three Ridges Addition South	187	0	131	0	56	56
Three Ridges Addition Southwest	9	0	9	0	0	0
Three Ridges Addition West	90	0	90	0	0	0
Three Sisters	9,871	0	3,647	1,249	4,975	6,224
TOTAL GWJEFF ACRES	378,229	5,598				
TOTAL GW ACRES ONLY	372,631					

Areas Excluded from the Potential Wilderness Area Inventory

Fourteen areas were reviewed and subsequently excluded from the inventory for not having attainable federal subsurface ownership patterns that could ensure perpetuation of identified Wilderness characteristics. Each of these areas has less than 70% federal ownership of mineral rights. These areas are Long Mountain, Great North Mountain, Church Mountain, and Massanutten South (Lee RD); Cow Knob, Dunkle Knob, Radar Mountain, Kretchie Mountain, Hog Pen, Feedstone Mountain, and Hankey Mountain (North River RD); Priest Addition (Pedlar RD); Back Creek Mountain East (Warm Springs RD); and Panther Ridge (James River RD).

Six additional areas were identified that exceed 5,000 acres in size and meet the road density requirement, but were not included in the inventory due to a lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. In addition, the location of these areas is not conducive to the perpetuation of Wilderness values. These areas are Dyers Knob, Sidling Hill (North River RD); Warm Springs Mountain, Back Creek Mountain West (Warm Springs RD); Middle Mountain (Warm Springs and James River RDs); and Jerry's Run (James River RD).

Dyers Knob (WV) is 5,057 acres in size and is surrounded by Forest Service Roads. It is long and narrow. For about one-third of its length, the width between the boundary roads is less than 1 mile and is only 2 miles wide at its widest. It is located along the side of Shenandoah Mountain and does not encompass an entire watershed or mountain. It is entirely in a Roaded Natural ROS class. There is no core area of semi-primitive setting. The sights, sounds and other impacts of the adjacent roads would reduce the wilderness visitors' sense of solitude and diminish opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The location of this area is not conducive to the perpetuation of wilderness values.

Sidling Hill is 5,204 acres in size but it is long and extremely narrow, only 1.5 miles wide at its widest section. In addition, over half its boundary is shared with private lands. The area has some core semi-primitive ROS class (2,310 acres) but its long, narrow shape and adjacency to private land are limiting factors that reduce opportunities for solitude and impede managing it as an enduring resource of wilderness.

Warm Springs Mountain is 6,194 acres in size with 2,220 acres of core semi-primitive ROS setting. While this area currently has some relatively good opportunities for solitude, private development is encroaching along the southwest border adjacent to the area of core solitude. Additional future development is expected for this area by Bath County. As this development increases, the opportunities for solitude in this area will further diminish.

Back Creek Mountain West is 5,906 acres in size but is nearly bisected by undeveloped private land which divides this area into two parcels connected only by a narrow strip (700 feet) of National Forest land. This configuration constrains the Forest's ability to permanently manage this area as an enduring wilderness resource that provides opportunities for solitude in a remote setting.

Middle Mountain is a 5,959 acre area situated to the west of Douthat State Park. It is long and very narrow which severely limits opportunities for solitude. The northern portion is less than ½ mile wide at its narrowest and never exceeds 1 mile in width with no opportunities for solitude. The southern portion provides some semi-primitive recreation experience, but it is only a small (1,169 acres) portion of the area. The growing popularity of Douthat State Park for accessing dispersed recreation opportunities, as we heard in numerous public meetings, diminishes opportunities for solitude in this area.

Jerry's Run is 5,450 acres in size but is entirely within the Roaded Natural ROS class with no semi-primitive ROS core that provides opportunities for solitude. The northern portion is long and very narrow, rarely exceeding ½ mile in width and is bordered by seasonally open roads and Interstate 64. The southern portion also borders I-64 and has a long, undulating border with private land which further diminishes opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation.

Nine areas between 4,000 and 5,000 acres in size were reviewed to determine if they can be preserved due to physical terrain and natural conditions or are self-contained ecosystems that can be effectively managed as separate units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Three of these areas have cores larger than 2,500 acres in size that provide a semi-primitive recreation experience. These areas are Green Mountain (Lee RD); Elliott Knob South (North River RD); and Mud Run Mountain (James River RD). Green Mountain and Mud Run were not included in the inventory since their ownership pattern cannot ensure perpetuation of identified Wilderness characteristics. At Elliott Knob South there are no terrain features that can make up for the lack of acreage in managing for Wilderness. In addition, the lower portion of the area is where the roads are concentrated and it has been actively managed.

Green Mountain is a 4,506 acre area. It is long and narrow and more than half of its boundary is an undulating border with private lands where development is occurring in the Fort Valley area. The western portion is adjacent to Peters Mill ATV/OHV area. These factors severely limit opportunities for solitude and therefore eliminate this area from further consideration.

Elliott Knob South is a 4,718 acre area bounded largely by administrative use roads. Hog Back Road and Elliott Knob Road (and fire tower) separate this area from the adjacent Elliott Knob North area to the north. Within Elliott Knob South are multiple administrative and seasonally open roads including Chapin Draft, Chapin Draft Spur, Elliott Springs, Trout Branch, Daniel, Montgomery Run and Augusta Springs Road. Hite Hollow Spur Road also comes to the boundary of the area. Hite Hollow Shooting Range is just outside of the southwest boundary. The upper elevations of this area provide some opportunities for solitude however the southern portion of this area with its density of roads, active management in recent years and sounds from the shooting range does not provide opportunities for solitude.

Mud Run is a 4,295 acres area which is entirely surrounded by private lands. With a 2,929 acre semi-primitive core, there are good opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation. However, the public entry into this parcel is very limited, accessible only from a short section of State Route 619 across Hays Creek into steep terrain. There are no rights-of-way across private lands. There would be issues with trespass across private land to enter the area and the Forest would not be able to adequately enforce against illegal ATV use into the area. This presents a situation where managing the area as Wilderness would be nearly impossible. Future

development on private land around the periphery would also diminish opportunities for solitude except perhaps in the central core area.

Four of these areas (between 4,000 and 5,000 acres in size) contain smaller cores (less than 2,500 acres in size) providing a semi-primitive recreation experience: Signal Knob (Lee RD); Dameron Mountain (James River RD); Short Mountain (Warm Springs RD); and North Mountain (James River RD). None of these areas have terrain features or natural conditions that adequately enable preserving Wilderness characteristics or effectively managing them as separate Wilderness units. Their size, shape, and location in relation to roads, railroads and private lands are not conducive to perpetuating Wilderness values, particularly the value of providing outstanding opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation.

Signal Knob is a 4,908 acre area with a core of 2,340 acres of semi-primitive recreation experience. The southern portion, south of Little Passage Creek, is narrow (not exceeding 1 mile in width) and is separated from the northern portion by a 30-foot Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative transmission line authorized by special use permit.

Dameron Mountain is a 4,092 acre area with a core of 2,378 acres of semi-primitive ROS class. The majority of the area is surrounded by private lands and illegal ATV use is an ongoing problem. The upper elevations of this area offer some core areas that provide opportunities for solitude but the long and somewhat narrow shape of the area limit unconfined recreation opportunities that are desired for Wilderness recommendation.

North Mountain is 4,764 acre area which is long and narrow having a width that rarely exceeds 1 mile. Most of the eastern boundary of this area is adjacent to private land and the southern portion of the area has been actively managed in recent years. With only 1,751 acres of semi-primitive core, opportunities for solitude are limited and would be further diminished if the private land is ever developed.

The last three areas between 4,000 and 5,000 acres in size are **Snake Run Ridge** (James River RD); **Short Mountain** (Warm Springs); and **Whites Run** (Pedlar RD) and they contain no semi-primitive core areas. These areas are small, narrow, bounded by roads, and lack any measurable core areas offering solitude.

CHAPTER 2. EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Existing Situation

There are six congressionally-designated Wildernesses that lie wholly within the GWNF. The small portions of Barbours Creek (20 acres) and Shawvers Run Wildernesses (95 acres) that lie within the GWNF are managed under the revised Jefferson Forest Plan. The existing Wildernesses on the Forest total about 43,000 acres, comprising about 4 percent of the National Forest System land of 1,065,389 acres. All designated Wildernesses on the GWNF are within the Commonwealth of Virginia. No designated Wilderness on the GWNF is in West Virginia.

The Jefferson National Forest (JNF) in Virginia, with portions in West Virginia and Kentucky, offers 96,787 acres of designated Wilderness. That is about 13.4% of its total area of 723,300 acres. The combined acres of Wilderness for the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests (GW&J) are 139,461, about 7.8% of the total area of these two national forests. In addition, Shenandoah National Park and the Monongahela National Forest administer 195,358 acres of designated Wilderness in Virginia and West Virginia; most are within easy driving distance of the GWNF. Tables C-5 and C-6 provide a summary and details, respectively, of the designated Wildernesses administered by Federal land managing agencies in Virginia and West Virginia. Neither the George Washington National Forest nor the Jefferson National Forest administers any Wilderness in Kentucky. The Daniel Boone National Forest manages two Wildernesses in Kentucky totaling just over 16,000 acres. These are about a day's drive from the GWNF.

Table C-5. Summary of Units and Acres of Existing Designated Wilderness in Virginia and West Virginia Administered by Federal Land Managing Agencies*

Agency	Acres of Wilderness in Virginia	Number of Wilderness Units in VA	Acres of Wilderness in West Virginia	Number of Wilderness Units in WV	Total Acres (VA and WV)
George Washington National Forest	42,674	6	0	0	42,674
Jefferson National Forest	94,066	17	2,721	1	96,787
Monongahela National Forest	0	0	115,779	8	115,779
Shenandoah National Park	79,579	1	0	0	79,579
Grand Total	216,319	24	118,500	9	334,819

* The table does not include the small portions of Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run Wildernesses that occur in the GWNF but are primarily located in the Jefferson National Forest.

Table C-6. Existing Designated Wildernesses in Virginia and West Virginia

WILDERNESS NAME	George Washington National Forest	Jefferson National Forest	Monongahela National Forest	Shenandoah National Park	Total Acres by Agency
Barbours Creek	20*	5,362*			5,382
Beartown		5,609			5,609
Big Draft			5,144		5,144
Brush Mountain East		3,743			3,743
Brush Mountain		4,794			4,794
Cranberry			47,815		47,815
Dolly Sods			17,371		17,371
Garden Mountain		3,291			3,291
Hunting Camp Creek		8,470			8,470
James River Face		8,886			8,886
Kimberling Creek		5,805			5,805
Laurel Fork North			6,055		6,055
Laurel Fork South			5,874		5,874
Lewis Fork		5,926			5,926
Little Dry Run		2,858			2,858
Little Wilson Creek		5,458			5,458
Mountain Lake		16,511			16,511
Otter Creek			20,698		20,698
Peters Mountain		4,531			4,531
Priest	5,963				5,963
Raccoon Branch		4,223			4,223
Ramseys Draft	6,518				6,518
Rich Hole	6,450				6,450
Roaring Plains West			6,792		6,792
Rough Mountain	9,300				9,300
Saint Mary's	9,835				9,835
Shawvers Run	95*	5,591*			5,686
Shenandoah				79,579	79,579
Spice Run			6,030		6,030
Stone Mountain		3,270			3,270
Three Ridges	4,608				4,608
Thunder Ridge		2,344			2,344
Total Acres by Agency	42,674*	96,787*	115,779	79,579	334,819

* The acres of Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run that lie within the George Washington National Forest are included in the Total Acres by Agency for the Jefferson National Forest.

Process for Evaluation and Preliminary Administrative Recommendation

Section 72 of Chapter 70 of FSH 1909.12 provides direction for evaluation of potential Wilderness. This report evaluates Wilderness potential in three main categories: **Capability, Availability, and Need**.

Capability is defined as the degree to which the area contains the basic natural characteristics that make it suitable for Wilderness designation without regard to its availability for or need as Wilderness. There are six basic characteristics to evaluate the capability of an area east of the 100th meridian. These six characteristics are:

- Natural - ecological systems are substantially free of modern civilization and are affected primarily by forces of nature;
- Undeveloped – degree to which the area is without permanent improvements or human habitation;
- Primitive – ability of the area to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation;
- Special features or values - ability to provide ecologic, geologic, scientific, educational, scenic, historical, or cultural features or values of significance;
- Manageability – the ability of the area to be managed as an enduring resource of Wilderness and be protected for its natural character;
- Non-conforming uses (for areas in the East) – ability for non-conforming uses, structures and/or improvements to be effectively mitigated or terminated.

Given the size of the areas, all of them provide some opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. To assist in comparing these areas, the acreage of areas inventoried as providing a semi-primitive recreation experiences have been identified. This represents the acreage that is more than one-half mile away from a road and is referred to as the “semi-primitive core.” Areas further away from existing roads are expected to provide a greater opportunity for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation.

Availability for potential Wilderness is an assessment of the value of and need for the area as a Wilderness resource compared to the value of and need of the area for other resources. To be available for Wilderness, the tangible and intangible values of the Wilderness resource should offset the value of resources that formal Wilderness designation would forego. In essence, other resources could be satisfied in the area that may conflict with Wilderness designation.

Constraints, encumbrances and nonconforming uses as well as structures and improvements on lands are considerations in assessing the availability of lands for Wilderness designation. Generally, PWAs that contain subsurface or outstanding mineral rights are deemed a risk for Wilderness designation, as those legal rights could result in the construction of non-conforming facilities such as roads and structures. The need to actively manage for threatened or endangered species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and its associated regulations often conflicts with some of the restrictions that result from Wilderness designation. Another consideration is the effect of management on adjacent lands outside the area (FSM 1923.03, WO Amendment 1900-2006-2, effective 01/31/2006).

The other resources included in the availability evaluation were chosen due to one or more of the following reasons: (1) they have been discussed historically on this National Forest, internally and with the public, regarding which should take priority – the other resource or the Wilderness resource; (2) comments were received from the public on the need to change the GWNF Forest Plan; and (3) comments were received during or resulting from the plan revision public meetings.

Need is the degree to which an area contributes to the local or regional distribution of Wilderness and to the overall national Wilderness preservation system. The factors considered include: demand based on visitor pressure in existing Wilderness areas; proximity to other designated Wilderness; ability of a PWA to provide solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration and research opportunities; improving the quality and characteristics of an existing Wilderness; and expanding the representations of various ecosystems within the region and within the national Wilderness preservation system.

This analysis includes information and data from several sources. One of which is the public involvement done throughout the revision effort. Others include reports of Forest Service social science researchers in collaboration with the University of Tennessee and University of Georgia based on data collected during the last two National Surveys on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE). Also considered is data from gathered during the last two National Visitor Use Monitoring surveys (NVUM). Data for the existing distribution of Wildernesses, their acreages, and relative rankings between states as pertains to Wilderness designation came from www.Wilderness.net. Overall state land area rankings were obtained from the U.S. Census website at www.census.gov. Data on existing level of Wilderness use was obtained from the Southern Appalachian Assessment. The distribution of existing and potential wilderness areas and ecosystems is accomplished using geographic information systems (GIS) data.

Preliminary Administrative Recommendations from the Responsible Official will be documented in the agency's decision (Record of Decision) that approves the Revised Forest Plan. An area must meet the tests of capability, availability, and need (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 72). In addition to the inherent Wilderness quality a potential wilderness area might possess, the area must also provide opportunities and experiences that are dependent upon and enhanced by a Wilderness environment. Furthermore, the area and boundaries must allow the area to be managed as Wilderness.

An area meeting the criteria stated above may be included in a preliminary administrative recommendation that may or may not receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on Wilderness designation.

It is important to note that any areas being recommended for wilderness study designation may have their initial Potential Wilderness Area inventory boundaries adjusted as a result of this evaluation process (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 72.5).

Results

A. Capability and Availability Results

Evaluation of each of the 37 PWAs was performed by Forest Supervisor's Office and District resource specialists with consideration of personal knowledge of the areas and resources, data contained in the forest's geographic information system (GIS), comments provided by the public (both individuals and groups through public workshops and letters), and information provided in the Virginia Mountain Treasures report.

All six of the basic characteristics for Capability were evaluated for each PWA. Data for all of the characteristics are included in Table C-9 at the end of this Appendix. The following section provides a summary of only the characteristics that most contributed to each PWA's meeting, or to not meeting, the capability for Wilderness. This includes information such as the size of the semi-primitive core that offers opportunities for solitude; the configuration (size and shape) of the area and physical terrain that contributes to effectively managing for wilderness or to diminished capability for managing wilderness characteristics including opportunities for solitude; adjacency to private land that, if developed, could diminish opportunities for solitude; ongoing issues with illegal ATV use within the area; existence of privately owned mineral rights that, if developed, would be inconsistent with the wilderness resource; and other qualities of each area that support or do not support recommendation as designated Wilderness. In the Availability evaluation, there may be additional other competing uses documented, although not all are included in this summary report. Again, see Table C-9 for the detailed evaluation. Those that caused the most concern to the Forest Service and/or to members of the public are included in this section.

For the purpose of summarizing the evaluations, Capability and Availability are grouped together for each PWA. Each was evaluated individually. The areas are listed alphabetically. The evaluation of Need follows separately as it was evaluated on Forestwide, regional and national levels.

ADAMS PEAK (8,226 acres)

Capability: This area meets the requirements for size and opportunities for remoteness. It has a core of 4,400 acres of semi-primitive area. The major recreational activities include hunting and hiking and use of the long Whetstone Ridge Trail that begins at Irish Creek and climbs to the Summit of South Mountain and then follows the Whetstone Ridge to the Blue Ridge Parkway. About 68% of the boundary interfaces with private land, including the presence of at least one residential subdivision. Also adjacent to the area is a summer organizational camp under special use permit with the Forest Service. There is known illegal ATV use in the area.

Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Historic use as a field research area for Nature Camp participants.
- Offers outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, the enjoyment of old growth, Blue Ridge flora and fauna, hunting, fishing, and supreme views of the George Washington National Forest and mountains in all directions.
- The Rockbridge Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in favor of a national scenic area designation for Adams Peak.
- Scenic rock outcroppings and pinnacles occur within the area.
- Contains a post road dating from the nineteenth century. A mail carrier on horseback travelled this route delivering mail to several homes located on Big Mary's Creek.

Availability: There are two threatened, endangered, sensitive or locally rare (TESLR) species that would benefit from management activities, and about 1,076 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fire to enhance regeneration. There is heavy mountain bike use on Whetstone Ridge Trail. There are 3.7 miles of road, of which about 1.2 miles are open year round for public access. There is an ongoing issue with illegal ATV use. The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting Adams Peak for recommended national scenic area designation.

ARCHER KNOB (7,110 acres)

Capability: This area meets minimum requirements for size. Its core of semi-primitive is relatively small at 4,440 acres compared with other PWAs being evaluated. There are opportunities within this area for primitive, unconfined recreation and solitude. About 22% of the boundary is adjacent to private land. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- A combination with Elliot Knob could create a nearly contiguous wilderness unit of over 12,000 acres. The creation of an Archer Knob/Elliott Knob Wilderness would be similar to the James River Face/Thunder Ridge Wilderness or the recently approved Garden Mountain/Hunting Camp Creek Wilderness on the Jefferson National Forest where they are separated only by a road.
- The Scott Hollow Barrens conservation site lies along the crest of the mountain in the northern part of the area.
- Seven miles of the Great North Mountain Trail pass through the heart of Archer Knob. This trail continues on and through the Elliott Knob and Crawford Mountain Treasures to the north, for a total length of about twenty miles.

Availability: Two TESLR species could benefit from management activities. The Great North Mountain Trail is popular with mountain bikers. About 1,322 acres are suitable for timber production and the area contains 1,734 acres of pine species that could benefit from prescribed burning. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are no competitive recreation events that would be displaced and no open roads used for public access. The last timber management activity occurred in 1993 and entailed just one unit.

BEARDS MOUNTAIN (10,152 acres)

Capability: This area contains about 6,978 acres of semi-primitive core. While this is a moderately large area compared to others in this evaluation, the overall area's shape and location are poor for providing Wilderness qualities. The area is narrow and located along a mountainside. Close proximity to Douthat State Park with a connector trail into Wilderness may result in unacceptably high levels of user interaction that diminish opportunities for solitude and/or the mental challenge and need to rely on one's own primitive recreation skills and abilities. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Adjoins Douthat State Park, and by virtue of this location is a popular recreational destination for folks visiting the park and enables visitors to choose a less developed outdoor experience.
- Beards Mountain provides a scenic backdrop for the eastern portion of Douthat State Park
- This is one of the few roadless areas on the Forest that can be directly accessed by canoeists.
- Hiking is the primary recreational activity of Beards Mountain. The Beards Mountain Trail climbs from the Cowpasture River to the Crest of Beards Mountain and travels south to Douthat State Park. In addition to this trail several short side trails lead down to Wilson Creek.
- There is a 743 acre Special Biological Area.

Availability: There are shale barren species, at least one of which is a TESLR, that benefit from management including prescribed burning. There are over 1,400 acres of pine species that also would benefit from fire, and over 1,300 acres are suitable for timber production and have been actively managed since 1993. The Beards Mountain Trail is used by mountain bikers coming out of Douthat State Park. There are no authorized competitive events that would be displaced, no open roads used for public access and no privately owned subsurface mineral rights.

BEECH LICK (14,087 acres)

Capability: Beech Lick is a large area with shape, size and topography that provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and physical challenge as well as for natural processes to dominate within the area. There is a large unbroken core of 9,502 acres of semi-primitive ROS class. About 51% of the PWA boundary interfaces with private land ownership which, if developed, could impact opportunities for solitude. Given the size and configuration of this PWA, this might be mitigated by adjusting the recommended Wilderness boundary. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- It is large and remote, and the area has wild character, relatively free of the effects of man.
- A major feature is its 4,000 acres of old growth.
- Although the Great Eastern Trail (GET) is being constructed through the area with the intention of being a shared use trail, the area of Beech Lick Knob to the east of Forest Service Road (FSR) 302 and the GET should be recommended for Wilderness study.
- A Beech Lick Wilderness would satisfy the need for Wilderness in the northern part of the GWNF, and it is the best candidate to meet this need.
- Elevations here range from 1650 to 3150 feet, with a great diversity of topography.
- A very large area of "semi-primitive" acreage occurs here where visitors can experience solitude and serenity.
- Clay Lick Trail runs north/south through the area for around six miles, connecting County Route 818 at the southern boundary with FSR 1280 at the north.

Availability: About 1,158 acres have private sub-surface mineral rights. This area is near the western boundary and could be excluded. There are no current recreational uses that are incompatible with Wilderness, however plans have been approved and NEPA analysis completed for construction of a trail in the western portion of this PWA intended for use by mountain bikers as well as equestrians and hikers. Beech Lick is currently suitable for wildlife habitat and timber management with past investments made for both of these resources. Almost 5,600 acres of this PWA is suitable for timber production primarily in the eastern portion. There are no known TESLR species that benefit from active management, but there are almost 1,300 acres of pine species

that could benefit from prescribed fires. An estimated 51% of the boundary is adjacent to private land. There is only about 0.2 mile of road open to the public for access into this area.

BIG SCHLOSS (28,347 acres)

Capability: This is a huge PWA with a semi-primitive core of 19,715 acres. There are outstanding opportunities in the interior for primitive recreation and physical challenge. Outstanding geologic features exist within this area. A dense system of existing, popular trails results in a high number of encounters with other users, diminishing or eliminating the opportunity for solitude, sense of remoteness and relying on one's own skills and abilities. The odd overall configuration of the PWA along with a high percentage of the boundary being adjacent to private lands is not conducive to the area's capability to provide solitude. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- The location of Big Schloss, its large size, and its popularity as a recreational destination for metropolitan Washington all predicate a high level of protection.
- Its extensive ridgeline and unique rock outcrops offer some of the most outstanding and memorable scenery in Virginia.
- Big Schloss is a large, popular recreation area for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.
- It offers outstanding scenery, unique rock outcrops, and a challenging trail network.
- The Big Schloss area has the Salus Spring Special Biological Area and 6,000 acres of old growth.
- Big Schloss is one of the largest inventoried roadless areas not only on the George Washington National Forest, but in all of the eastern National Forests.

Availability: There are 7,118 acres of privately owned sub-surface mineral rights and a private inholding near the east boundary. Development of either of these would be detrimental to the wilderness resource. Almost 5,550 acres are suitable for timber production. There have been investments in wildlife habitat (openings and prescribed fire). The Wood turtle exists in the area and some habitat management might be needed. Due to acidification, Little Stony Creek is limed; this can occur in designated Wilderness but requires additional analysis and approval from the Regional Forester. West Virginia has the Cove Deer Management Area. Multiple trails exist throughout the area and some are popular with mountain bikers. Competitive events are currently authorized within this area, which would be displaced if designated as Wilderness. There is a significant amount of current motorized access on 11.2 miles of open, public roads.

CRAWFORD KNOB (14,851 acres)

Capability: This area has the substantial size needed for natural processes to dominate the landscape. The semi-primitive core is about 11,828 acres. Opportunities exist for primitive recreation and physical challenge. The area contains the headwaters for both the James River and Potomac Rivers. There is known illegal ATV use occurring in the area. About 58% of the PWA boundary is adjacent to private land which, if developed, may diminish the Wilderness resource; however due to the size of this PWA, this may be mitigated by adjusting the boundary of a recommended Wilderness. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Crawford Mountain is a magnificent mountain where one can experience a feeling of remoteness and solitude.
- One unique characteristic of Crawford Mountain is Red Oak Spring which has its origin near the summit of the mountain. Due to its high elevation, the stream has created many small rock ledges and waterfalls as it descends the mountain.
- Public utilization of Crawford Mountain consists of dispersed recreational activities including hunting, hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail riding. This use occurs on a trail system that includes the Crawford Mountain Trail, Chimney Hollow Trail, and Crawford Knob Trail. In all, there are approximately 14.5 miles of trail.

- During the Civil War, this area played a brief role in the events leading up to the Battle of McDowell in 1862. Jedediah Hotchkiss rode out on Crawford Mountain to spy on Union forces camped along Jennings Branch.

Availability: There is a ridgetop private inholding in southeast portion of the area. It is not very near a boundary; excluding it without cherry-stemming would significantly reduce the size of the area recommended for Wilderness study. There are multiple trails in the southern portion of the area, some used by mountain bikers. There are competitive recreation events authorized under special use permit that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. About 3,800 acres are suitable for timber and there has been active management such as timber harvesting and prescribed burning. Only 0.4 mile of road is open to the public for access within this area.

DOLLY ANN (9,542 acres)

Capability: This is a moderately sized PWA with a core of 6,033 acres of semi-primitive land. Most of the PWA is situated on top of a mountain with potential for scenic views; while there are also opportunities for interior views and finding remoteness. The northern portion of the area is very narrow. The overall size and configuration are not ideal for ecological processes to dominate. Fifty-four percent of the boundary is adjacent to private land and it is in close proximity to an interstate and U.S. highways located on three sides. The prevailing winds often carry the odors of the paper mill in nearby Covington. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Dolly Ann contains the highest point in Alleghany County.
- There is a cliff near the top of the mountain on the west side that provides a wonderful view of Warm Springs Mountain and Falling Springs Valley.
- On the summit of Big Knob, there is a flat which presents an open park-like atmosphere with herbaceous ground vegetation.
- Dolly Ann Hollow was managed as a primitive area prior to 1986.
- This rugged area is characterized by large boulders, rock ledges and several small waterfalls.
- In Dolly Ann Hollow, the stream contains native brook trout.
- The area around Dry Run is a 2,075 acre Plan designated Special Biological Area.
- There is one trail through Dolly Ann - the Dry Run Trail climbs to the summit of Warm Springs Mountain.

Availability: This is the southernmost range for Variable sedge (TESLR) that requires fire, as well as one other TESLR species that may benefit from active management. It has been 15 years since timber and prescribed fire activities, and these activities are due again in the typical cycle. About 3,424 acres are suitable for timber production. Trails exist that are used by mountain bikers, but this use is not estimated to be heavy. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced. Only about 0.4 mile of road is open to the public for access into this area.

DUNCAN KNOB (5,973 acres)

Capability: This area meets minimum requirements for size. Its core of semi-primitive is small at 3,232 acres. It is comprised of a steep mountaintop with knobs. The entire east boundary is adjacent to private land that if developed, could diminish opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. There is known illegal ATV use. The area is not large or wide enough for natural processes to dominate. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- The density of trails, proximity to northern Virginia, and popularity of the area with recreationists make it a good candidate for wilderness study recommendation.
- The area contains the headwaters of Passage Creek.

Availability: One sensitive species exists in the area and it benefits from active management. Approximately 686 acres of pine species are present that would benefit from prescribed burning. Three trails exist within this area and all are used by mountain bikers, including technical trails. There are authorized recreation competitive events that would be displaced if designated as Wilderness. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights, and there is only 0.1 mile of road open to the public in this area.

ELLIOTT KNOB (11,070 acres)

Capability: This is a moderately large PWA as compared with other areas in this evaluation, with a semi-primitive area of 7,093 acres. It is very rugged and offers great opportunities for solitude, challenge and a sense of remoteness. It is marginally large enough for ecological processes to dominate. There is only 9% of the PWA boundary adjacent to private, which is very low compared to most of the PWAs, meaning that there is little outside influence that could diminish managing for Wilderness character into the future. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Elliott Knob is the summit of Great North Mountain; with an elevation of 4463 feet this behemoth rises high above the surrounding countryside.
- It has outstanding wild character.
- Buffalo Spring and Chestnut Flat Spring are two clear, cool springs that originate high up the ridge.
- Cold Spring bubbles out of the ground on the western flank of the mountain. These springs and others like them feed streams such as Montgomery Run, Fridley Branch, and West Dry Branch.
- The Virginia Division of Natural Heritage has identified several threatened and endangered plants along the ridgeline of Elliott Knob.
- The mature forest in this unfragmented area has pockets of old growth and several rare wildflowers that thrive in this habitat.
- Another attractive quality of the area is its black bear habitat. The dense understory vegetation and species composition makes it a desirable place for black bear.

Availability: There are three TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that benefit from active management. There is also the Smooth green snake that requires open grassy areas. There are multiple administrative and closed roads as well as some mountain biking trails within the area, and there are authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced if the area is designated as a Wilderness. There is a stocked trout stream popular with anglers. Active management has occurred around the west, north and northeast perimeter and 3,468 acres are suitable for timber management. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are no roads open to the public for motorized access into the area.

GALFORD GAP (6,689 acres)

Capability: This meets the minimum size requirements for Wilderness and has a core of 4,919 acres of semi-primitive land. The area is oddly configured, long and narrow. The PWA is located predominantly on a mountainside and mountaintop at high elevation. Approximately 66% of the boundary is adjacent to privately owned land which, if developed, could diminish opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. Due to size and primarily due to shape and configuration, this area does not provide a great opportunity for ecological processes to dominate. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Due to the steep rugged terrain of Scaffold Run, remote recreational opportunities are plentiful. There is no existing trail system.
- Mountainside and mountaintop views are certainly acceptable terrain as far as their capability to offer an experience in the Wilderness, especially as there are no trails.
- Allegheny Mountain is a special place where ecological processes dominate just as in any other place in the Forest. Ecological processes are not restricted by political or forest boundaries.
- Allegheny Mountain is one of Virginia and West Virginia's high mountains with many knobs exceeding 4000 feet.

- The area contains significant stands of high elevation old growth with northern red oak, sugar maple, and basswood.
- It is also one of the few sites on the George Washington National Forest with red spruce.

Availability: There was active timber and prescribed burning activities from 1993 to 2000 and it is nearing time to return to these areas. About 4,467 acres are suitable for timber management. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There is little to no mountain biking that occurs in this area and no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced. There is 1.8 miles of road open to the public to access this area.

GUM RUN (14,547 acres)

Capability: The semi-primitive core area consists of 10,797 acres. The shape of this area, small percentage of boundary adjacent to private land (a good portion of the eastern boundary is adjacent to the Harrisonburg reservoir), and rugged terrain with large interior drainages provide good opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined type of recreation. There is a small private inholding that can be excluded with a boundary adjustment. The area is arguably large enough for ecological processes to dominate. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- With three major ridges, the area is rugged and home to many small drainage streams; the western flank provides ground water protection for Switzer Lake. This reservoir provides water to the City of Harrisonburg.
- The area provides a wild backdrop to developed recreation and housing in the Rawley Springs area, is outstanding habitat for black bear with hunter access via FSR 304 and FSR 225, and offers tremendous views from Rt. 33 through Rockingham County.
- The large, remote nature of the area with several native brook trout streams provides important primitive recreation opportunities.
- Gum Run marks the north end of a complex of nearly contiguous roadless areas that stretch all the way to US 250.
- The remote and rugged nature of the area provides critical habitat for the black bear.
- The Cow Knob Salamander, endemic to the higher elevations in the vicinity of Shenandoah Mountain, is known to reside on the high ridges of Dundore Mountain where it prefers the late successional and old growth mixed hardwoods forests of this high ridge.

Availability: There are 2,529 acres with private sub-surface mineral rights across the north portion of the PWA. There are acidified streams in the area that would benefit from liming; there are approximately 24 miles of native brook trout streams. There is a mountain bike trail on Chestnut Ridge. There are 2.2 miles of open road currently providing motorized public access into the area.

HIGH KNOB (18,447 acres)

Capability: This large PWA has a core area of 11,761 acres of semi-primitive lands. The area is predominantly located on a mountainside with deep, rugged drainages that offer opportunities for solitude and physical challenge. The area is large enough for ecological processes to dominate. This PWA has about 28% of its boundary interface with private property, which is relatively low by comparison to many other PWAs in this evaluation. However, this PWA has a sizeable cherry stem around the Skidmore Fork Road and an odd boundary configuration around Brandywine Lake Recreation Area and a block of private land. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Ranging from flat river bottoms to steep mountainsides, this area is bounded by ridges that exceed 4000 feet on Bother Knob, High Knob, and Flagpole Knob. Challenging primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities can be found.

- Skidmore Fork, which flows into Switzer Lake, serves as the principle water source for the City of Harrisonburg and needs protection as a critical watershed.
- It is home to ten rare, threatened, or endangered species, with five being given the “extremely rare” designation by the state.
- A rare amphibian species occurs here, the Cow Knob Salamander. A 3691 acre Forest Plan Special Biological Area is another gem of this special place.
- The roadless area is crisscrossed with a significant trail network. With a total of almost eighteen miles, the area is a popular recreation destination. Most trails climb the steep ridge to the summit of Shenandoah Mountain. The Shenandoah Mountain Trail on the crest of the ridge serves to connect these side trails.
- Boundaries can be drawn to exclude the Shenandoah Mountain trail which is a segment of the Great Eastern Trail.
- In addition to the trail network, the Brandywine Lake Recreation Area is located near the northwest corner of the roadless area.
- Black bears also find remote habitat here.

Availability: There are two TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species in the area that benefit from active management. There have been a lot of wildlife management activities (about 15 openings) as well as a large prescribed burn. About half of this area is in West Virginia, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has strong reservations about Wilderness designation. About 4,300 acres are suitable for timber management. Shenandoah Mountain Trail, used by mountain bikers, traverses the ridge of the mountain through the middle of this PWA. There are no competitive recreation events authorized in this area, but there are 2.2 miles of year round or seasonally open roads.

JERKEMTIGHT (27,314 acres)

Capability: This is the third largest PWA in the evaluation. It has a huge core of 15,841 acres of semi-primitive land. It is rugged with multiple ridges and twisting drainages, offering excellent opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and physical challenge. The area is large enough for ecological processes to dominate. The shape is odd with multiple corners and curves along the boundary, many of them plunging deeply into the PWA. However, a relatively small percent of the boundary (21%) is adjacent to private land and there are no private inholdings. Nevertheless, there is known illegal ATV use within the area. A portion of an eligible National Recreational River runs through the area and nine miles of native brook trout streams. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Jerkemtight is one of the most outstanding areas being evaluated in the inventory.
- Its size and remoteness make it an ideal candidate for Wilderness; however, mountain bike organizations have been holding large trail rides on the Shenandoah Mountain Trail for several years. It would make sense to recommend the Benson Run and the Bolshers Run drainages for Wilderness and leave the rest of the Jerkemtight area open for mountain biking.
- The Benson Run watershed is pristine, remote, and unspoiled. It offers a true wilderness experience for those seeking solitude. It is unusual today to have the opportunity to preserve a whole watershed as wilderness. Benson Run is one of the gems of the GWNF.
- Bolshers Run does not have any trails, and includes the eastern slope of Sisters Knob.
- Jerkemtight Roadless Area is a favorite destination for outdoor recreational enthusiasts. The most important trail is the Shenandoah Mountain Trail. Twenty-two miles of the mountain’s crest are within the boundaries of Jerkemtight and Benson Run.
- The shale barrens near South Sister Knob have been designated as a Special Biological Area. This area protects rare plants associated with the barrens.
- The Roughhead Shiner and endangered Indiana Bat are also known to occur nearby.

Availability: There are five TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species within the area that benefit from human intervention. The 1,280 acre Special Biological Area on the south end requires prescribed burning, and 2,006 acres of pine species would also benefit from prescribed burning. There are 2,617 acres of private subsurface

mineral rights in three blocks from roughly the center of the PWA up to the northwest portion. To exclude these would require reducing the size of the PWA by nearly half. There are two National IMBA mountain bike trails, one of which runs the length of the entire PWA. There have been significant investments in timber and wildlife projects dating 1993 to 2000. There are 2.1 miles of roads open year round or seasonally for motorized access into the area.

KELLEY MOUNTAIN (12,892 acres)

Capability: This moderately large area has a core of about 7,789 acres of semi-primitive land. In conjunction with the existing Saint Mary's Wilderness and Saint Mary's Wilderness Addition North, this could establish a large area of Wilderness. Within this area there are multiple ridges and valleys providing good opportunities for solitude, remoteness and physical challenge. This PWA, with its topography and natural features, can be dominated by ecological processes. There is a large, wide cherry-stem along Mill Creek Dam Road and a smaller one around Coles Run municipal water supply, which are not desirable in a Wilderness boundary. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Kelley Mountain Big Levels is a good candidate for extra protection since it is adjacent to Saint Mary's Wilderness. It could create a protected land mass of over 22,000 acres that would remain available for both hiking and biking, and other forms of recreation.
- Recreational activities include hunting, fishing, camping, mountain biking, and hiking. There are about 25 miles of trail with loop hikes available.
- The whole area is well served by several stunning and popular trails.
- Boundary lines can be drawn to take into consideration the importance of the jeep road to bear hunters.
- Coles Run and Mill Creek are important watersheds for two reservoirs.
- Torry Ridge offers appealing and significant rock features.
- Many of the rugged, steep slopes are covered with significant scree slopes.
- There are many rock outcrops that provide tremendous views of the Shenandoah Valley.
- The lower areas, or the "levels", are biologically significant because of geology and the subsequent evolution of disjunct flora and fauna species. Kelley Mountain is an integral component of a large ecologically important area.
- Several rare species have been identified by the Heritage Program including Swamp Pink, Variable Sedge and Large Cranberry as well as possible rare invertebrate species. There is an 8,376 acre Special Biological Area.

Availability: There are three large blocks of private sub-surface mineral rights totaling 2,126 acres along the northern portion of the area. There are three TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that exist in the area that benefit from habitat management activities. There are several trails running parallel to each other spread across the area, one of which is accessed by Mill Creek Dam Road that penetrates deeply into the interior of the PWA. There are authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. An OHV road separates Kelley Mountain from Saint Mary's Wilderness. There has been significant past investments in wildlife habitat improvements. Not including the cherry-stemmed roads or OHV road along the boundary, there are 1.9 miles of road open to the public for motorized access in the area.

LAUREL FORK (10,236 acres)

Capability: This moderately sized PWA has a core semi-primitive area of about 6,996 acres. The PWA is located in a fairly isolated area, but about 77% of the PWA boundary is adjacent to privately owned lands. The terrain within the PWA allows for opportunities for solitude and an unconfined type of recreation. The area is biologically unique on the GWNF and is the southernmost range for some northern species. There is a concern that climate change could result in these northern species migrating to the north and out of the area. There are large plantations of red pine and spruce. The area is marginally large enough for ecological processes to dominate. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Laurel Fork may be the premier candidate for Wilderness designation in the state of Virginia.
- Laurel Fork is unique in the state of Virginia, the result, in part, of its location on a high, stream-dissected plateau of the Allegheny Mountains and the Ridge and Valley. The elevations, ranging from 2700 feet to over 4000 feet, have given rise to a forest of northern hardwoods, montane red spruce, and white pine, quite unlike the Appalachian oak forest that dominates the George Washington National Forest.
- Laurel Fork and its tributaries support a native brook trout fishery highly prized by fly fisherman.
- Beaver ponds and meadows in the headwaters of various runs west of Laurel Fork attract many visitors.
- There are at least 25 species of flora and fauna that are ranked by the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage as rare in Virginia, including the northern flying squirrel, a federally listed endangered species.
- Disjunct populations of snowshoe hare and fisher have been documented.
- Two-thirds of Laurel Fork is Special Biological Area.
- The existing trail system provides good access into the area and offers excellent opportunities for hiking and backpacking.
- Due to its remote location this area offers a significant opportunity for solitude.
- Contains one of the finest examples of Northern Boreal natural community complexes in Virginia.
- Unique representative of the Allegheny Plateau Ecoregion within the Commonwealth.
- Excellent opportunities for birding, hiking, backpacking, and fishing.

Availability: The area has multiple trails, some used by mountain bikers but that use is not estimated to be heavy. There are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There are 22 miles of native brook trout streams, some are acidified and benefit from liming. This area is the southernmost range for some of the northern animal species found in this area, and some may benefit from management activities, particularly as more is learned about the effects on them of global warming. It is important to keep management options open to maintain these species in this area. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights that will be developed. There are 2.1 miles of road open for public access into this area.

LITTLE ALLEGHANY (15,395 acres)

Capability: This PWA has about 8,782 acres of semi-primitive which is oddly shaped and protruding down each "leg" of this PWA. The area is rugged and does provide opportunities for solitude and remote, primitive recreation. However, the odd configuration impedes the area's ability to have ecological processes dominate the landscape. About 75% of the boundary is adjacent to private land. And there is known illegal ATV use in the area, but there is no other evidence of human habitation or use. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Little Alleghany has an awkward shape, but that does not negate its capability for Wilderness.
- The lack of trails, location on the Virginia /West Virginia boundary, size, and ruggedness are some of the characteristics that make this area a good candidate for Wilderness recommendation.
- The long western boundary atop the high elevation of Allegheny Mountain is one of the attributes that makes this a good candidate for protection.
- The slopes of Little Alleghany Mountain contain rock rubble and ledges with bands of solid rock walls running parallel to the slope. In general, the area is steep, rugged and relatively isolated.
- Jim Dave Run is a small creek that lies in a long valley almost totally within the confines of the roadless area.
- Due to the rugged terrain and topography, an abundance of primitive recreational opportunities occur.
- There are no maintained trails within the roadless area.
- Several informal campsites exist along the crest of Big Alleghany Mountain and are utilized during hunting season.

Availability: There are two TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that are enhanced by active management. There are private sub-surface mineral rights on 374 acres. While this is not a large amount, due to its location,

the entire southeast “leg” would need to be excluded to assure development of minerals does not occur within Wilderness. Approximately 5,621 acres are suitable for timber management; the last activity occurred in 1999. There are 202 acres of pine species that would benefit from prescribed burning. There are no system trails, no authorized competitive recreation events and no current motorized access into the area that would be displaced by Wilderness designation.

LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN (11,918 acres)

Capability: Less than half of this area, a total of about 4,984 acres, is in the semi-primitive ROS class in the northern half of this PWA. The south portion has steep topography but could be described as a narrow panhandle. The larger block at the north end offers opportunities for solitude but the topography is not as rugged for offering physical challenges. The oddly shaped area is not conducive to allowing ecological processes to dominate the landscape. Close proximity to Douthat State Park with connector trails into the area may result in unacceptably high levels of user interaction diminishing the opportunities for solitude. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Little Mare Mountain’s location and use as a recreational area lend weight to the importance of its protection.
- Near the summit of Bald Knob on Warm Springs Mountain the elevation reaches almost 4,000 feet. The streams in the southwestern portion of this area feed into Smith Creek, a part of the drainage system for the Clifton Forge Reservoir and the Jackson River.
- There are many trails along Little Mare Mountain, including the Little Mare Mountain Trail and the Brushy Ridge Trail. In all there are over seventeen miles of trails. Some of these tie into the trail system that has been established at Douthat State Park.
- In addition, Little Mare Mountain provides the scenic backdrop for visitors to Hot Springs as well as motorists on US 39.
- The western edge of the ridge borders a very large Nature Conservancy reserve.

Availability: There is one TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that is enhanced by management activity. The Nature Conservancy is working with the State in controlled burning projects outside of the western boundary. There are 141 acres of pine species within the PWA that benefit from natural or prescribed fires. There are existing and planned mountain bike and equestrian trails in the area, and competitive recreation events are held. At 6,557 acres, more than half of the area is suitable for timber production and there have been active management activities in 1993 and 1997. There are about 22 miles of native brook trout stream; at least some is acidified and could benefit from liming. About 33% of the boundary is adjacent to private, and there are known illegal ATV activities occurring in the PWA. There are no roads open to public motorized access into the area.

LITTLE RIVER (30,227 acres)

Capability: This is the largest area in the inventory and possibly the largest block of land to meet potential Wilderness criteria in the east. It has a huge core of about 20,500 acres of semi-primitive ROS class that offers significant opportunities for solitude, remoteness, primitive recreation and physical challenge. This is the largest PWA in the evaluation; and with its proximity to existing Ramseys Draft Wilderness and Ramseys Draft Addition, offers a significant opportunity on the GWNF to provide adjacent Wildernesses that cumulatively are of a substantial size. The area includes a 1,088 Natural Heritage Program Biological Area. About 21% of the boundary is adjacent to private. There is a private inholding with a cabin, but it is near the north boundary of the area and could be excluded. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Little River is at the heart of the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area Proposal.
- The boundary lines can be drawn to demonstrate the ability of different users to work out a compromise.
- The Little River Roadless Area is the largest roadless area in Virginia.

- Little River served as a breathtaking backdrop in full autumn glory as President Clinton announced his Roadless Area Initiative from the top of Reddish Knob in October, 1999.
- Elevations range from 4440 feet near the summit of Reddish Knob to roughly 1600 feet near Little River.
- An eastern deciduous forest covers the entire area. Timber Ridge has deep soils that support stands of very large Red Oaks. There are pine stands on the southwest facing slopes.
- Wildflowers are abundant. They include Wood Lilly, Painted Trillium, and Yellow Fringed Orchid.
- The remoteness of Little River encourages and supports a healthy black bear population.
- The area also provides refuge to a significant number of threatened species. There is an 11,259 Special Biological Area as well as 5857 acres of possible old growth.
- An extensive trail network provides opportunities for many types of recreational activities.

Availability: Five TESLR species are found within the area that benefit from human intervention or disturbance. There are over 3,100 acres of private sub-surface mineral rights. A network of popular trails is found within the area that offers outstanding mountain biking opportunities, and competitive special recreation events are authorized within the area. The area is very popular with bear hunters. There are 3.1 miles of road open for motorized public access into the area.

MASSANUTTEN NORTH (16,530 acres)

Capability: This area contains about 11,148 acres of semi-primitive core. Sixty-eight percent of the boundary of this PWA is adjacent to private lands, much of which has been developed with farms, residential areas, cabins, etc. The area is too narrow to allow ecological processes to dominate the landscape. This narrow configuration, along with the level of use the area receives, diminishes the opportunity for solitude. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- The Lee Ranger District lacks any lands with any federal legislative protections. The location of this strip of roadless areas and its popularity present a good opportunity for the Forest Service to acknowledge their importance to recreationalists.
- Serves as a scenic backdrop to the slow moving South Fork of the Shenandoah River, Northern Massanutten Mountain stretches south from Front Royal almost fifteen miles to Camp Roosevelt.
- Many rock outcrops are visible along crest of mountain.
- The area is a recreational paradise. The Massanutten Mountain Trail travels the entire length of the ridge, and there is a shelter at Veach Gap. Numerous side trails climb from the bottom of both the eastern and western flanks to the ridge crest, connecting to the Massanutten Mountain Trail.
- The South Fork is a popular canoeing river with several sites to put in and take out.

Availability: There is one TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that may benefit from active management. There are reserved sub-surface mineral rights in five blocks totaling 1,465 acres. Two of these blocks stretch from boundary to boundary at the center of the area and at the north end of the area. Development of these minerals would result in roads and structures that are not consistent with Wilderness values and character. To exclude them would mean reducing the area by half about half its size. The area contains premiere technical mountain biking trails maintained by volunteers. Competitive recreation events are authorized in this area. There is only 0.1 mile of road open for motorized access into this PWA.

OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY RIDGE (16,343 acres)

Capability: This large PWA offers a core semi-primitive area of about 8,804 acres. There are excellent opportunities for solitude, remoteness and primitive recreation that is physically challenging. The area is of a size and shape that ecological processes can dominate the landscape. There is an undesirable cherry-stem for the Hone Quarry recreation area. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Given the proximity of Oak Knob–Hone Quarry Ridge to the Hone Quarry Recreation Area, this large roadless area offers accessible yet remote and primitive recreational opportunities.
- Oak Knob is a popular area for many types of outdoor recreation.
- Mountain biking, rock climbing and hiking are very popular in the area, with approximately 26 miles of trails inside the boundaries. Family recreation is also abundant here, favorite destinations including Hidden Rocks, Cliff trail, Big Hollow/Hone Quarry Ridge loop, and the waterfall along Slate Springs.
- Hunting, for deer, bear, and turkey, is another major recreational draw.
- This area must be managed in a way that protects and promotes the valuable recreational resources it offers.
- Several streams have sufficient water year round to support a native trout fishery.
- The area is forested with mixed eastern hardwoods.
- The area is inhabited by the Cow Knob Salamander.

Availability: There have been multiple prescribed fires between 1979 and 1999, encompassing about 35-40% of the area. About 882 acres are suitable for timber management. There are reserved sub-surface mineral rights on 617 acres near the east boundary that could be excluded with boundary adjustments. Some mineral exploration occurred in the 1980's. There is one TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species that would benefit from active management. Mountain bike trails exist throughout the area, but there no competitive recreation events that occur here. There is a rock climbing area with permanent anchors. Bear hunting is a known dispersed recreation activity in this area. There are 5.7 miles of open or seasonally open roads in the area.

OLIVER MOUNTAIN (13,049 acres)

Capability: This area has a semi-primitive core of about 9,197 acres. The topography is not rugged; it rates fairly low for providing physical and mental challenge. Due to its configuration, the area is marginally capable of allowing natural processes to dominate. Approximately 77% of the boundary is adjacent to private land that, if developed, could diminish opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Oliver Mountain is a wild and remote area. The terrain is steep and rugged.
- Oliver Mountain is the dominant feature of this roadless area.
- The area is predominately composed of eastern uplands hardwoods. The hardwoods are the dominant species with Pitch Pine, Table Mountain Pine and Virginia Pine located in drier regions.
- Much of the roadless area is regaining its natural untrammelled appearance.
- Hunting, hiking and backpacking are the primary recreational activities.
- The Oliver Mountain Trail passes through the roadless area, and beautiful stands of old growth forest.
- Lake Moomaw forms the northern boundary. There are several miles of trail located near Lake Moomaw.
- The Virginia Division of Natural Heritage has identified two special biological areas with populations of rare plants. Boundaries can be adjusted so that the shale barren and the illegal Hughes Draft Road are removed, and to accommodate mountain bike use.

Availability: There are four TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species within the area that would benefit from management activity, particular shale barren species. There are 1,735 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fires. A road used by four-wheel-drive enthusiasts runs along Hughes Draft. There are multiple trails in the area used by mountain bikes, although some are not system trails and use of those is not authorized. There are no competitive recreation events that occur here. There are 2.4 miles of road that provide motorized public access into the area.

PADDY KNOB (5,987 acres)

Capability: This area has a small core of 3,284 acres of semi-primitive land; however the area is rugged, deeply incised and can offer physical challenge. The area is small for allowing ecological processes to

dominate. About 50% of the boundary is adjacent to private and there is known illegal ATV use in the area that is not consistent with Wilderness values. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Paddy Knob is a good candidate for Wilderness recommendation given its position along the eastern flank of Allegheny Mountain.
- It is a steep and rugged mountainside capable of offering a primitive experience.
- The location of Paddy Knob is remote and the area is thinly populated.
- The habitat is unusual for Virginia and deserves protection.

Availability: The area has been actively managed to provide outstanding habitat for the Mourning warbler that requires a fire cycle. The very hot prescribed fire of the late 1990's also released a large component of American chestnut. The area has been actively managed for timber, with 2,149 acres currently being suitable for timber production. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. The area is not popular with mountain bicyclists and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced. There are 1.7 miles of road open for motorized public access into the area.

POTTS MOUNTAIN (7,863 acres)

Capability: This area has a core of about 4,491 acres of semi-primitive land. The PWA is situated on the side of a mountain, but it is not particularly rugged to offer physical and mental challenge. The northern part of the PWA is very oddly shaped around private lands with residences that jut into the north boundary. About 32% of the total boundary is adjacent to private land. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Potts Mountain in combination with Barbour's Creek Wilderness, though separated by Potts Jeep Road and Shawvers Run Wilderness-separated by FSR 176, would create a desirably large Wilderness complex.
- Rocky outcropping reliably lend excitement and challenge to mountain tops.
- A series of rock outcrops on the crest of Potts Mountain provide beautiful views of the Potts Creek Valley and Peters Mountain to the west.
- The steep, rugged eastern flank of the ridge forms the headwaters for Barbours Creek.
- There are several short trails in the Shanty Hollow area. These are the only trails in the entire area.
- There is a small Special Biological Area located on the crest of the ridge.

Availability: Over half of the area, 4,143 acres, is suitable for timber production although there have not been any activities in the area since prior to 1993. There are about 190 acres of pine species that would benefit from prescribed burning. There are 91 acres of land with private subsurface mineral rights at the southern boundary. While that is not many acres, excluding them would nearly divide the PWA in half. A very popular jeep road exists along the south boundary between Potts Mountain and existing Barbours Creek Wilderness. Mountain bicycling use is low if it occurs at all, and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There are no roads open to the public that offer motorized access into the PWA.

RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION (19,072 acres)

Capability: This PWA offers the largest potential addition to an existing Wilderness. It would greatly enhance opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and physical and mental challenge. It also would create a Wilderness large enough for natural processes to dominate. It contains the headwaters for the James and Potomac Rivers. Because it is adjacent to existing Wilderness, only about 19% of the boundary is adjacent to private land. Unfortunately there is some known ATV use that occurs. It meets the GWNF goal of establishing a large block of Wilderness in the east that can enhance the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Ramseys Draft Wilderness addition, when added to the existing Ramseys Draft Wilderness, would create a wilderness of nearly 20,000 acres. This would be by far the largest wilderness in Virginia.
- The elevation range of this area stretches from approximately 2200 feet to 4200 feet on Hardscrabble Knob. The topography is steep with short, choppy drainages throughout the lower elevations. Slopes vary in steepness, some with grades exceeding eighty percent.
- Dividing Ridge forms the boundary between two major watersheds. North of the ridge are the headwaters of the Potomac River Basin. South of the ridge are the headwaters of the James River Basin.
- The most notable feature in both the existing Ramseys Draft Wilderness and the proposed addition are the large trees. The steep slopes, combined with the vegetation make the area very picturesque. This forest also provides excellent black bear habitat due to lack of human disturbance.
- The Virginia Natural Heritage Division has recommended Big Bald Knob as a Special Interest Area and has identified four species of concern, including paper birch and the Cow Knob salamander.

Availability: The eastern portion of the PWA has 4,753 acres of land suitable for timber production. Timber and some wildlife habitat projects have occurred in the past. The North River Road is within the floodplain and should be relocated which would put it inside the northern boundary of this PWA. The west side of this PWA is almost entirely underlain by privately owned minerals (5,784 acres) that if developed would be a detriment to the Wilderness resource. There are no TESLR species that would benefit from management activities including prescribed burning. The southern portion of the area contains popular mountain biking trails and there are authorized competitive recreation events that occur. There is about 1.0 mile of open road that provides motorized public access into this area.

Augusta County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution opposing any additional designation of Wilderness in Augusta County.

RICH HOLE ADDITION (12,165 acres)

Capability: In line with the GWNF's goal of expanding the size of existing Wildernesses to improve their Wilderness qualities, this area offers the opportunity to expand the acreage of a small Wilderness. Furthermore, it will almost connect the Rich Hole and Rough Mountain Wildernesses, generally increasing the area of designated Wilderness in that vicinity. There were public comments that the existing Rich Hole is not a quality Wilderness due to its immediate proximity to Interstate 64, U.S. 11, S.R. 42 and an active railroad line, but this addition could improve the ability for visitors to find solitude. There are nine miles of native brook trout streams that are not acidified and do not require liming. About 36% of the PWA boundary is adjacent to private land (moderate compared to other PWAs in this evaluation), and there is known illegal ATV use. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Due to its location adjacent to the Rich Hole Wilderness, Wilderness designation of this roadless area would create a Wilderness of over 17,000 acres. This would be larger than any present Wilderness on the George Washington National Forest.
- Due to the rugged nature of the area, there is only one, little utilized trail in the area. The White Rocks Tower Trail parallels the Rich Hole Wilderness boundary to the crest of Mill Mountain and then follows the ridge to FDR 333.
- Hunting is the primary recreational activity of the area.
- Mill Mountain's rugged terrain and remote location help to foster a healthy bear population.

Availability: About one-quarter of the area has been suitable for timber production (3,152 acres). The northern section along Forest Service Road 129 has been actively managed with timber production and prescribed burning. There are about 944 acres of pine species that benefit from natural or prescribed fire. There is little or no mountain bicycling use in this area and no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced. There are 4.5 miles of open road that provides motorized public access into the area. Forest Service Road 129 is a popular forest access route for hunters and anglers.

RICH PATCH (5,625 acres)

Capability: This PWA provides a semi-primitive core of 4,008 acres. This extremely narrow sliver of land, in and of itself, is not capable of providing for ecological or recreational Wilderness qualities. The majority of the PWA is on the Jefferson National Forest. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Rich Patch is a very special spot and a good area for continued protection.

Availability: There have been no timber management activities since prior to 1993. One TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species exists in the area that might benefit from management activity. There are 316 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fire. There are many trails used by mountain bicyclists including a National Recreation Trail, but there are no authorized competitive recreation events that occur. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There is only 0.3 mile of open road that provides motorized public access into the area.

ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION (2,063 acres)

Capability: Similar to Rich Hole above, this area would enhance the Wilderness character and values of the existing, relatively small Rough Mountain Wilderness. It adds about 752 acres of semi-primitive ROS class. It provides a portion of an eligible National Recreational River. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Rough Mountain addition is a sensible way to increase the size of the Wilderness Preservation System on the GW.
- Capability and availability issues are negated by the congressional designation of Rough Mountain Wilderness.
- This Wilderness addition includes the remainder of Rough Mountain that was not included in the Virginia Wilderness bill of 1988.
- Designating the addition as Wilderness would protect the upper drainage of Big Hollow.

Availability: About 1,133 acres of this PWA have been suitable for timber production in the 1993 GWNF Plan, but no timber management activities have occurred during that time. There are shale barrens on the north end and 382 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fire. There is one TES or Forest Service sensitive species that could benefit from management activity. There is little or no mountain bicycling use, and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced. There is no open road to provide motorized public access into the area.

SAINT MARY'S ADDITION NORTH (3,006 acres)

Capability: This addition would increase the size of the existing Saint Mary's Wilderness. It has a semi-primitive core of almost 1,986 acres. The area is located on a north-facing mountainside with rugged terrain and two very deep and winding drainages providing opportunities for solitude, physical challenge and remoteness. Only about 6% of the boundary is adjacent to private land. Unfortunately, there is known illegal OHV use in the area. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Includes the extremely inaccessible Russell Rocks, a unique geological feature of large jagged boulders. Russell Rocks are drained by Loves Creek and Stoney Run.
- There is also a 2,910 acre Forest Plan designated Special Biological Area.

Availability: There are three TES or Forest Service sensitive species that could benefit from active management. There are about 310 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fire. About 630 acres, or 21%, of the area has private subsurface mineral rights. There is no or little mountain bicycling use in the area and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by

Wilderness designation. The area is bordered on the east side by a popular Forest Service road and on the west and north by VA 42. A Forest Service road runs along most of the southern border of the area, but there are no roads that provide motorized access into the PWA.

SAINT MARY'S ADDITION, SOUTH (1,651 acres)

Capability: This small addition provides 889 acres of semi-primitive core. It contains rugged topography with multiple ridges and deeply incised drainages that can offer opportunities for solitude, especially when combined with the existing Saint Mary's Wilderness. However, about 56% of the boundary is adjacent to private that, if developed, would be a detriment to this area as a Wilderness resource. There is known illegal ATV use in this PWA. Remnants of a mine exist in the area and have not yet been restored. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- The area is known for its steep V drainages and numerous scree slopes especially in Dogwood Hollow.
- There is evidence of past human activities including an old homestead site and sites of past mining activities from the early 1900s. One old mine fissure has become a bat hibernaculum.

Availability: There are three TES and Forest Service sensitive species that could benefit from management activity. There are 227 acres of pine species that would benefit from natural or prescribed fire. There are 333 acres of private subsurface mineral rights in two large blocks occupying much of the northern portion of the PWA. There is no or little mountain bicycling use in the area and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There is only 0.1 mile of open road providing public motorized access into the area.

SAINT MARY'S ADDITION, WEST (278 acres)

Capability: This addition provides no additional acres of semi-primitive; however it was acquired by the Forest Service for the express purpose of providing an addition to the existing Wilderness. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- The dominant geological feature of the area is Cellar Hollow and the small stream that drains the steep and rugged Cellar Mountain.
- While the area is small the forest is not. Cellar Hollow provides a wonderful refuge for cove hardwoods like tulip poplar and hemlock. Some of these trees are very large.

Availability: There are existing wildlife improvements and one TES or Forest Service species that may benefit from active management. There is no or little mountain bicycling use in the area and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are no roads that provide motorized access into the PWA.

SHAWS RIDGE (7,268 acres)

Capability: This area has a core area of about 3,954 acres of semi-primitive land. The area is desirable for expanding the block of Wilderness with Ramseys Draft and its potential addition. The area is situated on a mountainside, but is not very rugged or deeply incised to offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and physical challenge. This PWA has a substantial amount of boundary adjacent to private land (87%) and a private inholding near the center of the area. If these private lands are developed, that could be detrimental to managing the area as an enduring resource of Wilderness. There is known illegal ATV use in the area. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Shaws Ridge lies on the western flank of Shenandoah Mountain, immediately west of the Ramseys Draft Wilderness Addition.
- Headwaters Shale Barren, a Special Biological Area, is at the southeast end.
- The rare fishes Potomac Sculpin and Roughhead Shiner are known to occur downstream.

- Shaws Ridge Trail runs 6.3 miles along the ridgeline from FDR 501, dropping down to the Forest boundary along County Route 616 at the town of Headwaters.
- Shaws Ridge provides beautiful scenery for travelers on US 250.

Availability: There is one TESLR or Forest Service sensitive species and 396 acres of pine species that would be enhanced by natural or prescribed fire (shale barren species). There are 1.3 miles of road used for public access. There are 396 acres of pine species that would benefit from fire. There is no or little mountain bicycling use in the area and there are no authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There are 4 acres of privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are 1.3 miles of roads that provide motorized access into the PWA.

SHAWVERS RUN ADDITION (84 acres)

Capability: This area consists of 84 acres of Roaded Natural ROS and does not offer any semi-primitive core. If designated, it would add a length of road to the boundary. It would also add additional boundary that is adjacent to private land (about 32% of this addition is adjacent to private). However, there is no known illegal ATV use in this area.

Availability: The entire area has been suitable for timber production in the 1993 GWNF Plan. However, no timber management activities have occurred. There have been no wildlife management actions either. There is no or little mountain bicycling use in the area and there are no authorized competitive recreation events. There are no privately owned subsurface mineral rights. There are no roads that provide motorized access into the PWA.

THREE RIDGES ADDITIONS, ALL (369 acres)

Capability: Three Ridges South offers 56 acres and Three Ridges North offers 3 acres of semi-primitive area. The other two Additions offer no semi-primitive ROS setting. Three Ridges Southwest Addition contains a suspension bridge on the Appalachian Trail that is not compatible with the Wilderness resource. Three Ridges South and Three Ridges West additions do not appreciably bolster the size of the existing wilderness but would increase the border with private property. Three Ridges South has 51% boundary adjacent to private and Three Ridges West has 65% boundary adjacent to private. Three Ridges South has known illegal OHV use. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- It seems sensible to make additions to existing Wilderness areas whenever possible, especially when there is no reason not to do so.

Availability: The Three Ridges North Addition was acquired by the National Park Service for the Appalachian Trail corridor. Through a memorandum of understanding involving multiple tracts, the Forest Service agrees to manage these lands for the Appalachian Trail, assigning them to Management Prescription Area 4A-Appalachian Trail Corridor. There are no significant concerns for other resources or incompatible recreation opportunities.

THREE SISTERS (9,871 acres)

Capability: The area offers a semi-primitive core of about 6,224 acres. There is rugged terrain and multiple drainages to offer remote, primitive recreation opportunities. The presence of the popular Appalachian National Scenic Trail may result in unacceptably high encounters with other users, challenging one's ability to find solitude. An overnight trail shelter is also associated with the AT within this PWA; structures are inconsistent with managing an area as a Wilderness resource. The area is arguably large enough to allow natural processes to dominate. Some of the wilderness attributes of the area identified by public comments include:

- Three Sisters forms the northern slope of the James River Gorge, where the James River cuts through the Blue Ridge and debouches into the Virginia Piedmont.
- Bennetts Run supports a small population of native trout.
- Rocky Row Ridge is the most prominent geological feature. The ridge is a rocky outcropping providing outstanding view of the James River and the James River Face Wilderness.
- The position of the mountains in this area provides an ideal destination for those seeking solitude and a primitive experience.
- There are several trails that climb the ridge to the crest.
- The Appalachian Trail passes through.
- Boundaries can be drawn to leave out the Appalachian Trail. Maintenance activities on the AT would not be impacted nor would any access roads be closed.

Availability: Wildlife management activities have occurred in the area in recent years, and 879 acres are suitable for timber production. There are 387 acres of pine species that could benefit from natural or prescribed fire. Streams within the area are acidified, and there are 10 miles of native brook trout stream present. These streams may benefit from future liming. There has been a significant investment in mine reclamation just outside of the eastern boundary. Additional work may be needed there. There are 491 acres of sub-surface mineral rights. This is in one block on the northwest boundary and could be excluded. There is little or no mountain biking use in this area. There are authorized competitive recreation events that would be displaced by Wilderness designation. There are 1.3 miles of road that currently provides motorized public access.

The Appalachian Trail is maintained by volunteers who use chainsaws. The local maintaining trail club does not support designation.

B. Evaluation of Need for Additional Wilderness on the GWNF

The concept of Wilderness is multifaceted as envisioned by the authors and framers of the 1964 Wilderness Act. As such there are a number of factors to consider in assessing the need for additional Wilderness including evaluating use trends and current visitation pressures on existing wilderness; the location, size and type of other Wildernesses in the general vicinity; the need to provide a refuge for species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings (included in Capability evaluation); and ecosystems that are not represented or are under-represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Agency direction in assessing need is that it is most informative and meaningful when performed at a forest scale or regional scale.

The Eastern Wilderness Areas Act (1975) pointed out that “in the more populous eastern half of the United States there is an urgent need to identify, study, designate, and preserve areas for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System”. That Act established 15 additional areas as Wilderness and states further that “Congress finds and declares that . . . these and similar areas in the eastern half of the United States be promptly designated Wilderness...” (emphasis added). The need for such designation, as provided in this Act, is to preserve such areas as an enduring resource of Wilderness, which shall be managed to promote and perpetuate the Wilderness character of the land and its specific values of:

- solitude,
- physical and mental challenge,
- scientific study,
- inspiration, and
- primitive recreation

for the benefit of all the American people of present and future generations. The GWNF did not have any Wildernesses designated in that 1975 Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The JNF had one area designated at that time, the James River Face Wilderness. Since then, 22 more Wildernesses have been designated on the GWNF and JNF.

The following assumptions and observations are made in this assessment of need:

1. No target or formula has been provided for determining the appropriate distribution of Wilderness that is needed or should be provided in our region.
2. Some demand for primitive recreation opportunities can be met on non-Wilderness back-country lands. However, research data indicate that the public finds the permanence of Congressional Wilderness designation to be very important.
3. The ability to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, inspiration and primitive recreation is to a great extent dependent on the size and shape of the Wilderness. A relatively large area of land with relatively little to no private interface is better suited to providing this type of experience than irregularly shaped, small areas that are adjacent to private land.
4. The demands for various uses of public lands are constantly increasing. National Forest System lands once referred to as “the lands nobody wanted” now seem to be the lands everybody wants. As this occurs, the lands meeting the criteria for PWAs may decrease.

For a look at the distribution of roadless areas and Wildernesses in the southeast United States, see the Southern Appalachian Assessment, Chapter 5 (SAMAB, 1996) at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab/saa/reports/social/chapter5.pdf>. This document discusses the location, size and type of other Wilderness and roadless areas, existing recreation use of Wilderness, and the occurrences of ecosystem subsections in Wilderness in the local and regional area. See also discussion of Wilderness at <http://www.Wilderness.net/>.

Table C-7 provides information about the existing Wildernesses and their distribution by County in Virginia. None of the GWNF Wildernesses are in West Virginia. The table does not include the small portions of Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run Wildernesses that occur in the GWNF but are primarily located in the Jefferson National Forest.

Table C-7. Existing Congressionally-Designated Wildernesses on the GWNF

Wilderness	Ranger District	Total Acres	County	Acres by County	Year Designated
Priest	Glenwood Pedlar	5,963	Nelson	5,963	2000
Ramseys Draft	North River	6,518	Augusta	6,518	1984
Rich Hole	James River	6,450	Rockbridge	3,200	1988
			Alleghany	3,250	
Rough Mountain	Warm Springs	9,300	Bath	9,096	1988
			Alleghany	204	
Saint Mary's	Glenwood Pedlar	9,835	Augusta	9,835	1984
Three Ridges	Glenwood Pedlar	4,608	Nelson	4,590	2000
			Augusta	18	
Totals	4 Ranger Districts	42,674	5 Counties	42,674	

The GWNF is not the only provider of Wilderness in the vicinity. The Shenandoah National Park is in closer proximity to the large urban population of Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia. It is also a short distance from populations west in the Shenandoah Valley. The Shenandoah National Park offers 79,579 acres of designated Wilderness, or approximately 40.4% of the 197,000 acres in its ownership.

Just to the west of the GWNF is the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) in West Virginia, the northern portion of which is within a few hours' drive or less of the Washington DC metropolitan area and the Shenandoah Valley. The southern end is within a few hours' drive or less of most of the George Washington National Forest

and the population that resides within and adjacent to it. The MNF offers 115,779 acres of designated Wilderness. Just to the south of the GWNF is the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. It offers 17 Wildernesses totaling 96,787 acres.

In an effort to determine if demand for Wilderness-based recreation is increasing, the results of the last two National Visitor Use Monitoring Results (NVUM) for George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are used (USDA Forest Service, Region 8, data collected fiscal years 2000 and 2006, published August 2001 and July 2007 respectively). In 2000, 34 days were sampled in Wilderness, and in 2006, 37 days were sampled.

Based on the statistical data, the Wilderness visits in 2000 were estimated to be 69,406, and the Wilderness visits in 2006 were estimated to be 61,200, a decrease of 10.38% over six years.

Both years' reports include a survey of perceived crowding in Wilderness. Table C-8 shows the results of that portion of the surveys. Seemingly in contrast to the decreased visitation reported, visitors in 2006 perceived Wilderness to be more crowded than did the visitors to Wilderness in 2000, although not overwhelmingly.

Table C-8. Perceived Crowding in Wilderness from NVUM Reports

Crowding Rating	2000 % of site visits	2006 % of site visits
10 Overcrowded	0	0.0
9	3	6.2
8	0	0.3
7	13	12.1
6	10	19.5
5	15	24.8
4	12	6.5
3	6	0.3
2	26	30.0
1 Hardly anyone there	15	0.3

The NVUM provides a list of visitors' home zip codes. In the 2000 survey, there were a total of seven home zip codes provided by visitors; in 2006, there were a total of 89 and one foreign country, indicating that visitors are coming from a broader and more diverse area than previously.

Another source of information about demand for Wilderness recreation opportunities is the July 2002 report by Ken Cordell titled "A Survey of Residents of the Greater Southern Appalachian Region to Describe: Public Use and Preferred Objectives for Southern Appalachian National Forests, Public Survey Report, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests", commonly referred to as the Public Survey Report (Web Series: SRS-4901-2002-5). This report provides the findings of a telephone survey of residents of counties located within 75 miles of each of the 13 southern Appalachian national forests. A minimum of 400 telephone interviews were conducted for each of these national forests. The report indicates that 41% of local residents 16 and older who responded that they had visited the GWNF in the prior 12 months had visited a Wilderness area. Over 64% of local respondents 16 years of age or older indicated that designating additional acres of Wilderness was important to them, and over 42% indicated that it was extremely important to them. Since the completion of the 2006 NVUM and the 2002 Public Survey Reports cited above, six new Wildernesses and six additions to existing Wildernesses were congressionally-designated designated on the Jefferson National Forest totaling 40,340 acres. Three new Wildernesses were added and three were expanded on the Monongahela National Forest as well.

With 24 Wildernesses, Virginia ranks 1st of the states east of the Mississippi with the most Wilderness units, and 10th nationally. While Virginia is ranked 35th nationally for total area (U.S. Census), it ranks 17th nationally for total acres of designated Wilderness. Virginia also ranks 17th for percent of the state's total land area that is designated Wilderness (www.Wilderness.net).

Wilderness is valued for, among other reasons, preserving representative natural ecosystems. In terms of ecological classification, all of the PWAs are within the Central Appalachian Broadleaf-Coniferous Forest Meadow Province. Within this province, the GWNF contains portions of the Northern Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley and the Appalachian Plateau physiographic regions. All of these physiographic regions are well represented with existing Wilderness. Wilderness in the Northern Blue Ridge include Saint Mary's, Priest, Three Ridges and Shenandoah Wilderness. Wilderness in the Ridge and Valley include Ramseys Draft, Rough Mountain and Rich Hole. And the Monongahela NF's Wildernesses are found in both the Appalachian Plateau as well as the Alleghany Highlands.

At the regional and the local scales, there are no known visitor use pressures on existing Wilderness on the GWNF that would potentially be alleviated by additional Wilderness designation near population centers. In fact, per the NVUM surveys data cited above, use of Wilderness appears to have decreased between 2001 and 2006. Saint Mary's Wilderness receives the highest use on the George Washington NF, while Ramseys Draft receives moderate use. The other four Wildernesses receive low use (SAA Chapter 5 at page 193, 1996). Saint Mary's has always been popular and receives repeat visitation by people familiar with this Wilderness. Sixteen years after Saint Mary's designation, two Wildernesses, Priest and Three Ridges, were designated near to and in the same physiographic region as Saint Mary's, yet there was no apparent decline of visitation in Saint Mary's. Other management actions will be required if the pressures of use in Saint Mary's result in unacceptable numbers of encounters with other visitors or unacceptable impacts to resources. Designating new Wilderness will not solve those issues.

The primary benefit that could be achieved through additional designation of Wilderness on the GWNF would be to expand the size of one or more existing Wilderness to provide better opportunities for solitude, remoteness, challenge, and the ability of natural processes to dominate. This expansion could include designating adjacent areas as well. Though not as effective as contiguous blocks, adjacent Wilderness separated by a narrow road corridor could be effective in meeting this goal.

This page left intentionally blank.

TABLE C-9. Potential Wilderness Evaluations - Capability

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non- limestone streams)	No	No	No	No	History of liming 1 mile of Stony Creek on south end of PWA.	No
	Presence of structural improvements	Nature Camp	No	No	2 communication sites near NNW bdy	Mill Mountain Trail shelter, bridges, walkway	No
	Private inholdings	No	No	No	No	Tract near eastern boundary contains a subdivision; could be excluded with a boundary adjustment.	1 on ridgetop; SE quadrant-not very near bdy; possible to excl but big chunk.
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	Yes	No	Yes	No	Subdivisions exist to the east and west of the southern half of the PWA.	No
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	68%	22%	70%	51%	35%	58%
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	No	No	Adjacent to SP with high density trail system	No	PATC cabin at Sugar Knob under permit; in the interior of the southern "mass" of the PWA.	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	4,400 ac SP in central W; none on N & S; int opps but relatively small	Relatively small core of 4,440 ac SP, but is in mass with int views in steep drains.	Not very good. About 7,000 ac of SP, but narrow and along mountainside with mult ext views to pvt - cabins, farms, camps; poor configuration.	9,500 ac SP in mass; good opps for isolation and primitive rec; many knobs around perimeter help block views to private lands and potential future development	Almost 20,000 ac of SP; large areas of interior with no views to private can offer good primitive rec opps; however dense system of heavily used trails that offer circuits/loops makes it unlikely to achieve solitude/isolation.	11,830 ac SP in mass; opps for isolation from external sights/sounds, but mult trails may prevent solitude
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	No	No	No	No	Close to DC and Northern Va	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	No	No	Roughhead shiner	No	NE bulrush; 767 acre SBA on the eastern bdy of PWA; 979 ac. Nat. Heritage Program Biological Area	Cow Knob Salamander
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	Yes, per SELC report	No	No
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	No	No	Rec River	No	Scenic River	No
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	Big Schloss geologic area	No
	Native brook trout	5 mi.	1 mi.	2 mi.	13 mi.	12 mi.	3 mi.

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
	stream(s), miles						
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	Paper birch	No	No	No	Norway Spruce - planted	No
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Other special feature or value	No	No	No	No	No	Headwater for James & Potomac
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATV	No	ATV	ATV	ATV	Yes
	Other challenges related to manageability	No	No	NO	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non-limestone streams)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Presence of structural improvements	No	Trail bridge	Comm Towers	Oil & gas well casing	Old VDGIF building exists on eastern bdy - can be excluded (or removed?)	Foundation, steps
	Private inholdings	No	No	Possible on SE bdy-need to verify.	No	1 small inholding near south boundary contains a cabin; can be excluded.	No
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	Yes	Yes	No	No	Several along the east boundary	Yes
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	54%	44%	9%	66%	50% (includes City of Harrisonburg reservoir)	28%
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	Mine shafts being closed	No	Outside SE boundary - communication site with 2 towers.	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	5,850 ac SP, most in south mass, but mostly mountaintop with exterior views	Small core of 3,232 ac SP on mountain top; mostly ext views.	7,100 ac SP in mass; opps for isolation and challenge; very rugged; North Mtn Trail is popular.	About 4,919 ac of SP north and central w/ RN around S perimeter; PWA narrow and along mountainside with high elev views to ext pvt land; core area offers isolation - no system trails so few encounters.	10,797 ac SP in mass with SP buffer on one side and City of H'burg reservoir on other; good opps for isolation;	11,760 ac SP; S fair mass; NW oddly shaped; rugged; 2 int trails; 1 bdy trail - may hinder solitude.
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	No	No	No	No	No	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	Old iron mining area	No	Parkersburg Pike	No	Remnants of stone cabin/camp, possibly from Civil War; on boundary along FDR 225B	High Knob Tower
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	No	No	Cow knob salamander; 1,470 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area	No	Cow Knob Salamander; 4,331 acre SBA	Cow Knob Salamander; 7,597 acre SBA
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, In center of PWA along a trail
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	No	Yes-NRT	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Native brook trout stream(s), miles	11 mi	No	1 mi.	No	24 mi.	7 mi.
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	Planted Norway spruce	No	Planted Norway spruces, larch	Maybe along MNF border	Red pine	Planted Balsam fir
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	53 ac	No	359 ac.	573 ac.	24 acres	404 acres
	Other special feature or value	No	No	Headwater for James & Potomac	No	No	No
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	Papermill odors	No	No	No	No	No
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATV	Yes	No	ATV	ATV and OHV, coming in at NE on FDR 304; also at SE bdy with Oak Knob-Hone Quarry	ATV
	Other challenges related to manageability	No	No	Squatters live along SR 39	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non-limestone streams)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Presence of structural improvements	No	Mt. Torry Furnace, CCC Camp 8, bldgs	Dev rec site	Weir on NE boundary; can be excluded.	FAA site, RD weather station, stone bldg, dam	North River
	Private inholdings	No	No	No	No	No	Long narrow tract at N end has a cabin; can be excluded.
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	21%	21%	77%	75%	33%	21%
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	No	Coles Run municipal water source - dam, reservoir and pipeline near north boundary	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		JERKEMTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	15,840 ac SP up thru center; mult ridges & twisting drainages provide good interior core.	7,789 ac SP in mass; good int opps away from sights/sounds but location & Sherando prevent solitude. Wide cherrystem on Turkey Pen Ridge.	6,996 ac SP with opps for isolation and prim rec; but MULT TRAILS & adj MNF rec sites may prevent solitude and result in mult encounters.	8,782 ac SP in middle of each leg-half way down SW and most all of SE; and middle of top - surrounded by RN on most of perimeter. Lots of core area for isolation; rugged and steep. Rural farms b/w "legs".	4,984 ac SP toward upper half; mountainside; poor opps due to ext views, narrow shape; mult trails w/ high use out of Douthat; pvt dev along SW border.	20,500 ac SP in mass; excellent opps for isolation/solitude; mult trails inc NRT may result in encounters with others.
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	No	No	No	No	No	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	No	Camp 8 and Mt. Torry Furnace just outside of eastern boundary	No	No	No	Reddish Knob, Spring
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	448 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	Virginia sneezeweed, Swamp pin; 8,619 acre SBA 3 blocks along N, NE and E boundary. 1,624 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	Waterflan lichen, Va northern flying squirrel, Southern water shrew; 6,171 acre SBA. 687 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	No	No	Cow Knob Salamander; 11,969 SBA

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		JERKEMTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	no	no	No
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	Rec River	No	No	Rec River	No	Scenic river, NRT
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Native brook trout stream(s), miles	9 mi.	20 mi.	22 mi.	9 mi.	22 mi.	24 mi.
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	No	No	Heritage reports - large plantations of red pine and spruce in rows.	No	No	Mountain ash
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	No	No	58 ac.	36 ac.	No	584 ac.
	Other special feature or value	No	No	No	No	No	Largest IRA in VA; possibility for a wilderness of substantial size, especially in conjunction with Ramsey's Draft
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATV and OHV	ATV and OHV	ATV	ATV	ATV	ATVs on Trail 443 coming in from east side

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
	Other challenges related to manageability	No	Numerous disp campsites all along northern bdy (FDR 42)	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non-limestone streams)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Presence of structural improvements	Stone base, wood deck	No	No	Fire tower remains	Time capsule	VDGIF building
	Private inholdings	No	No	No	No	Not an inholding, but 2 large blocks of pvt jut into interior of PWA.	No
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	Subdivisions exist all along east side and the central west and northwest side	Yes	Yes	No	Several families live in pvt that juts into interior on N end.	Yes
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	69%	15%	77%	50%	32%	19%, mostly narrow strip on SW end
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	No	No	No	No	No	No
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	11,150 ac SP but all linear; long mountainside w/ external views	8,800 ac SP in mass; good int area but roadbed through and mult trails evidence humans. Cherry stem for Hone Quarry not desirable.	9,200 ac SP - away from Lake, but juxtaposed with non-FS; views external to PWA. Would want to exclude area near Lake due to sound.	About 3,284 ac SP in core w/ RN on W,N,E perimeter; overall small core, but area is deeply incised and offers isolation.	4,491 ac SPM; area has fairly large mass of SP, but on a mountainside with external views.	11,000 ac SP in mass; mtnside w/ deep twisting drainages; for int opps away from sights/sounds. Good opp for solitude.

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	No	No	No	No	Jeep trail on boundary b/w Potts Mtn PWA and Barbours Creek W.	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	Morgans Road; Washington planned to use it to retreat into Fort Valley, if needed	No	No	No	Children's Forest	Confederate Breastworks
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	No	Cow Knob Salamander; 4,411 acre SBA	No	Bald eagle, Southern water shrew, Southern rock vole; 874 acre SBA; 73 ac Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	McGraw Gap xystodesmid, Rock skullcap, NE bulrush; 70 acre SBA	Cow Knob Salamander; 2,460 acre SBA on north end.
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	Massanutten Mountain NRT; Recreational River	No	No	No	No	NRT
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Native brook trout stream(s), miles	No	12 mi.	No	No	16 miles	7 mi.
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	No	Planted	No	Norway spruce - planted.	No	Red pine, planted, on north end.

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	No	117 ac.	No	374 ac.	No	204 ac.
	Other special feature or value	No	No	No	No	No	Headwater for James & Potomac
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	No	No	No	Noise, changing water levels at Pump Back Storage Unit	No	
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATVs enter from Funktown on east	ATVs enter at several points on N and E bdy	ATV	ATV	ATV and OHV	ATV
	Other challenges related to manageability	Long, narrow area with a lot of boundary against private	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH MTN ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non-limestone streams)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
	Presence of structural improvements	Fire tower foundation	No	No	No	No	No
	Private inholdings	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Houses exist all along western boundary
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	36%	37%	54%	6%	56%	19%
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	No	No	RR ROW road	No	No	

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH Mtn ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	About 7,100 ac SP on mountainside with views toward Rough Mtn to west and northwest and SR 42 to southwest. I64 and US60 are south. No great core area by itself, but makes good block when combined with existing wilderness. Not much pvt interface.	4000 ac SP, all of which is narrow and against pvt boundary on GW side.	Yes	1,985 ac SP with rugged terrain; good int opps away from sights/sounds; no trails	No	Opps for primitive recreation when combined with St. Mary's Wilderness
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	Noise from I-64, on DOD flight path, hunt camps on adjacent private land.	No	No	No	No	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	No	No	No	Swamp pink; 2,977 SBA - Habitat for TES Species.	No	Swamp pink

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH MTN ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	Rec River	No	Rec River	No	No	Wild River
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Native brook trout stream(s), miles	9 mi.	7 mi.	No	4 mi.	No	No
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Other special feature or value	No	No	No	No	No	Headwaters for both James & Potomac Rivers
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	No	No	High use RR, fire breaks along tracks	No	No	No
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATV	No	ATV	OHV	ATV	Yes

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH Mtn ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
	Other challenges related to manageability	No	No	Area provides only legal access to existing Rough Mtn Wilderness	No	Mine restoration and monitoring (req'd by Va)	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSING CAPABILITY	BASIC NATURAL CAPABILITY ELEMENTS, VALUES OR FEATURES	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
NATURE DOMINATES; SUBSTANTIALLY FREE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND HUMAN HABITATION	Acidified streams (non- limestone streams)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Presence of structural improvements	No	No	No	Suspension bridge over Tye River	No	No	Johns Hollow AT shelter
	Private inholdings	Fairly large and in middle of PWA; may be hard to exclude.	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Subdivisions adjacent to PWA boundary	Yes, all along SW boundary	No	Yes	No	No	No	Subdivision to the west
	Est. percent of boundary beside pvt lands	87%	32%	51%	40%	65%	33%	30%
	Other evidence of human habitation or use	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE AND PRIMITIVE, UNCONFINED RECREATION	Opportunities for primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration	Relatively small 3,950 ac SP thru center; mostly ridgetop but some int opps; trails & pvt inholding concern	No added SP benefit to Shawver's Run	No	No	No	No	Good core of 6,224 ac SP in mass in center; AT runs through the middle - high use may prevent solitude.

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
	Other pros or cons to opps for primitive rec and solitude	Garbage dump	Adds length along a road and along a bdy with pvt.	No	No	No	No	No
ABILITY TO PROVIDE SPECIAL FEATURES OR VALUES	National or regional heritage/historic values	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of TESLR species, FS sensitive species or species found only here that DO NOT need active management	No	No	No	Waterfan lichen	No	No	149 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area
	Presence of old growth stands (FS data; see also Va Mtn Treasures comments below)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of special area (NRT, RNA, etc)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of special geologic area	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Native brook trout stream(s), miles	No	1 mi.	1 mi.	No	No	No	10 mi.
	Area contains veg unique to VA, ie, "northern" species such as balsam fir	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Elev over 4,000 feet, acres	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Other special feature or value	Headwater for James & Potomac	No	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C1: TABLE C-9 CAPABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
MANAGEABILITY	Adjacent to long-term disturbance	No	No	No	No	No	No	Active amalite mine
	Known illegal OHV or ATV use	ATV	No	OHV	No	No	No	ATVs enter on the east and north
	Other challenges related to manageability	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

TABLE C-10. Potential Wilderness Evaluations - Availability

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	763 acres on NNE boundary	1,322 acres; multiple spines along NW bdy, along SE bdy and "boot" where FDR 382B enters from E.	1,327 acres central west border and north end	5,588 acres, mostly in the eastern portion of the PWA and an area within the SW portion.	5,548 acres; various patches scattered around the periphery; primarily east and north.	3,796 acres: SW, NE and small amount on NNW.
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	3 units in NE portion dating 1993-1995	1 unit north end 1993	Yes	1 unit at north- center bdy dated 2005 and 7 units in northeast part of area, dating 1993-2000.	All or portions of 16 units mostly around boundary of northern finger	8 units along S and NW perimeter, 1994- 1998
	Timber sales currently under contract	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	No	Gum Lick burn	Lg area at ctr on W bdy; not in GIS	1993 on NNE boundary; no existing trails near the area.	Large area on south end around Little Schloss burned in 2003; 2 in Vance Cove that are not in GIS	Large burn in 2000 on S end
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	Yes	No	No	Marshall Run	PATC has permit for cabin at Sugar Knob.	No
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	1076 acres	1,734	1,428	1,292 acres	123 acres	393 acres

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	No	No	No	1,158 acres; all one block along western boundary; can be excluded.	7,118 acres; large areas at southeast and northwest portion of southern "mass"; excluding these areas would leave only "lobster claw" at NE	No
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres	376	23	256	65 acres	10 acres	64
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	Sand grape, Mtn paper birch	Phlox buckleyi, Plains forstweed; 24 acre SBA near center of PWA on Archer Knob on Gr No Mtn Trail.	Shale barren rockcress; 853 acres Natural Heritage Program Special Biological Area	No	Wood turtle	No
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	6 shown in GIS in northern portion	1 opening and linear WL clearing in south end.	No	Along NE boundary; none are in the interior.	12 wildlife openings in GIS and district notes that more exist; Wilson Cove Deer Study Area in WV	WL opening with a pond
RECREATION	Competitive events	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	Whetstone Ridge trail, extends from SW bdy to mid-eastern bdy, all within SP core	North Mtn Trail	Yes	No trails no; however NEPA is done on planned segment of Great Eastern Trail (multi use)	System of multiple mountain bike trails	Per pub comments; multiple. Per district, not heavily used
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	No	Yes	No		Yes	No
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values		Currently, motorized access for hunters w/ disabilities; heavy disp camping on N end; geocaching on N end.	Heavy illegal ATV use along E boundary; SUP along FDR 637			
OTHER AGENCY INTERESTS	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	558	114	No	843 acres	7,550	968 acres
PUBLIC ACCESS	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	1.2	No	No	0.2 mile on north bdy; dead ends at 2005 timber unit.	11.2	0.4 mile

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Make NSA; heavy bike use on Whetstone Ridge trail; maintained by mtn bikers; keep Nature Camp and roads in the north out of wilderness; manage for WL	No. Mtn Trail used by mtn bikes; move boundary to west side of trail; old growth; agree to W west of North Mountain Trail; scenic area; WL mgmt	Mtn bike use; good WL habitat; extensive use out of Douthat; No to wilderness - remote highlands; no logging; no road building	Good quality timber and historic/current WL mgmt; yes to Wilderness but exclude Great Eastern Trail along western portion of area (Carr Mountain).	WV needs to maintain Deer Study Area; mult mtn bike trails; volunteers; horse enduros, WL mgmt; adjust bdy to only have northern finger as Wilderness, and the rest as Scenic Area; yes to Wilderness for entire Big Schloss area; public drinking water, watershed	Mult mtn bike trails on S half; agree w/ W north of trails 487, 489; WL mgmt; move W bdy to exclude suitable timber area.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		ADAMS PEAK	ARCHER KNOB	BEARDS MOUNTAIN	BEECH LICK KNOB	BIG SCHLOSS	CRAWFORD KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		Pedlar	North River	James River, Warm Spgs	North River	Lee	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		8,226	7,110	10,152	14,087	28,347	14,851
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Dominated by steep, rugged mountains; elev 1200-3000'; Whetstone is long ridge dissected by numerous, deep, narrow drainages; rock slides are common; upland hardwoods with Pitch pine; cove hardwoods in sheltered hollows; scenic rock outcrops and pinnacles; black bear and timber rattlers; prehistoric sites; lot of disp rec activities; 1066 acres of possible old growth.	Numerous drainages; Scott Hollow Barrens conservation site; old growth in northern part of PWA; 7 miles Gr No Mtn Trail connects to Elliott Knob Crawford Mtn treasures; large area of SP, but much classified suitable for timber & road building by FS; threatened by potential ATV development; 1835 ac of potential old growth.	Scenic backdrop for Douthat; many peaks; many streams dissect flanks of ridge; tribs of Cowpasture River; 1 of few areas on GW accessed by canoeists; several trails; 2,921 acres of possible old growth.	One of the largest IRAs on GW; elev 1650-3150 with diverse topo; multiple drainages; large SP area for experiencing solitude; old FDR is closed and grassed goes to interior; Blue Hole CG at north bdy; much area is suitable for timber; 4241 acres of possible old growth.	One of the biggest IRAs in the eastern national forests; elev 1600-3300'; sandstone capped mtns create notable stone outcrops where Peregrine falcons have been released to the wild; multiple streams are tribs to N. Fork of Shenandoah River; 7500 acre SMA; unsuitable, managed to maintain natural appearance; multiple existing disp rec activities; native trout stream; 866 acre SBA; 4825 acres of possible old growth	Occupies both sides of mountain; elev 1650'-3728'; hollows and streams, rugged side slopes with deep narrow drainages; Red Oak Spring near summit-stream created rock ledges, waterfalls; disp rec on system of 3 trails; Civil War history; up to 4276 ac of possible old growth. NOTE: VMT wisely excl narrow strip S of FDR 1269.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	3,424 acres on west, much of southern PWA, narrow band on east bdy, all of "panhandle".	1,228 acres around north, west and south boundaries	3,468 acres around the W, N and NE perimeter.	4,467 acres scattered throughout entire area (substantially overlaps SP)	307 acres - SE boundary	4,296 acres - most of west portion (substantially overlaps SP)
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	4 in 1993; 1 in 1997; along east side of "panhandle"		9 units and part of 2 others around perimeter dating 1994-1997	10 units and part of 11th 1993-1999; incl Mulligan helicopter sales	3 units in SE corner (TSI contract) dated 1998-1999	7 units dating 1993 to 2005 primarily along west bdy but also 2 units in south-center along 1022
	Timber sales currently under contract	No		Yes	No	No	Yes, per district note.
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	In 1993, just north of center in the "pan" or mass of PWA.		No	Near S bdy about 2000	No	Large area at the south burned in 2000
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	16	686	208	5	321	338 acres

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	No	No	No	No	2,529 acres - one block on northeast side of PWA; can be excluded.	No
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres	58	No	No	No	36 acres	136
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	Var sedge, Sword leaved phlox; 2,076 acre SBA in the center of "mass and 49 ac. Natural Heritage Program Biological Area	N. bristly sarsaparilla; 35 acre SBA; 93 ac. Nat. Heritage Program Biological Area	Least trillium, Slender wheatgrass, Mountain paper birch; big 715 ac SBA extends from S/center bdy up through middle of PWA.	No	No	Pearly everlasting, Ground juniper
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10 shown in GIS, primarily around boundary	About 15 wildlife openings shown in GIS
RECREATION	Competitive events	No	Yes	Yes	No		No
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	No	Yes	Trails exist, but not heavily used per district.	No	Trails exist, but not heavily used per district.	Yes
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values						
OTHER AGENCY INTERESTS	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	1,415	No	1,197	704	1101 acres	3,116 acres
PUBLIC ACCESS	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	2.5	0.1	No	1.8	2.2 miles	4.4 miles
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Mtn bike use and now horse use; WL mgmt for birds, bear, grouse; NSA; No to Wilderness; No to road building; no logging; protect SIA and surroundings.	Mtn bike tech trails; mtce done by vols; NSA	Add southern block of No. Mtn to be consistent with VA Treasures; watershed protection; WL mgmt-want more for birds, bear, grouse; mtn bike trails & mtce; agree w/ wilderness if exclude suitable area on W and NW third of PWA.	Special area, high elev habitat, high elev Allegheny; exclude from management; eval area to the south; extend PWA to include Chestnut Ridge on the SW. Don't lose timber, WL and hunting values.	Mtn bike use on trail from Chestnut Knob to Rawley Springs (SE portion of area); more OHV opps; yes to W-drinking water supply/watershed; watershed for public drinking water	Shen Mtn Trail through center of PWA with 4 mtn bike side trails entering along west bdy; agree to W on eastern portion of area; 4WD access; maintain early successional; yes to Wilderness-protect municipal watershed

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		DOLLY ANN	DUNCAN KNOB	ELLIOTT KNOB	GALFORD GAP	GUM RUN	HIGH KNOB
RANGER DISTRICT		James River	Lee	North River	Warm Springs	North River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		9,524	5,973	11,070	6,689	14,547	18,447
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Highest point in Allegheny Co - 4072 ft. Cliff on west side with great views ; open parklike flat on Big Knob; large old White oaks; globally rare species; D.A. Hollow large boulders, rugged, rock ledges, waterfalls; SBA; one trail; 2,735 ac possible old growth.	"Catback Mountain" area has two main parallel ridges and contains the headwaters of Passage Creek, a 34 acre SBA for Scothorn Gap Shale Barren, Waterfall Mountain Cliffs conservation site recommended by DNH as SBA, Duncan Hollow Trail that connects Camp Roosevelt to US 211 and side trails for loops; accessible boardwalk to cliffs; may contain 246 acres of possible old growth.	High elev of 4463'; steep slopes near ridge, some over 80%; clear, cool springs high on ridge; cold spring bubbles from ground on W mtn; springs feed mult streams; VA DNH id'd T&E plants; black bear habitat; 962 SBA; up to 4,407 ac possible old growth.	"Scaffold Run" is located on spine of Allegheny Mtn, one of VA and WV's highest-knobs exceeding 4000 feet. Eastern slope rugged with many drainages; tribs to Greenbrier River-ultimately Gulf of Mexico; high elev old growth stands, up to 1,752 acres; 1 of few sites on GW with Red spruce; remote rec opps plentiful; no existing trail system.	Elev 1800- >4000'; 3 major ridges drained by numerous runs; western Dundore Mtn provides groundwater protection for Switzer Lake-reservoir for Harrisonburg; remote and rugged-habitat for black bear; Cow Knob Salamander prefers late successional, old growth; mixed hardwoods; 5429 acres of possible old growth.	"Skidmore Fork" is home to 10 T&E species with 5 being extremely rare; 1200 acre tract of old growth that DNH describes as "an exemplary natural community"; SBA is a gem; elev exceed 4000 feet on 3 knobs; challenging primitive recr opps; Skidmore Fork serves as principle water source for Harrisonburg and needs protection.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	6,936 acres along E and N boundary	71 acres - a couple of blocks along north boundary	30 acres along west boundary	5,621 acres - entire north end and scattered throughout west "leg"	6,557 acres in southern tip and entire east half	2,073 acres
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	12 units and parts of 4 more around perimeter except 1 no. of The Bump, dating 1996-2000	No	No	17 units from 1993 to 1999	7 units 1993-1997 in center along E bdy	5 units around E and S perimeter, dating 1994-2005
	Timber sales currently under contract	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	Large burns in 1993, 2000 E of NE boundary but within VMT bdy	Yes, near NNE boundary	No	No	Maintained; on S end of PWA; not in GIS	West bdy (w of Trail 539) and SE bdy on Middle Mountain
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sale planned in NE quadrant of area.
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	2,006 acres	1475 acres	No	202	141	1,907 acres

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	2,617 acres in large block at NW bdy extending into center of N portion; 2 smaller blocks near center; would take 50% of area to excl.	2,126 acres; 3 large blocks on N bdy - exclude top half of PWA; small block on S bdy.	No	374 acres; 1 block from bdy to bdy; to exclude-cut off SE "leg"	No	3,127 acres in 2 blocks on E bdy either side of Hearth.Lake & Buck Mtn Tr.; can be excl.
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres	2 acres	No	No	No	No	No
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	Sword leaved phlox, Slender wheatgrass, Wild chess, Coal skink, Shale barren rockcress; 1,280 acre SBA on SW end of PWA.	Var sedge, Mtn paper birch, Big Levels salamander	No	Phlox buckleyi, roughhead shiner; 56 acre SBA at top N bdy, extends into Paddy Knob PWA.	Variable sedge; 94 acre SBA; 441 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	Barrens tiger beetle, Sword leaved phlox, Turkey beard, Mtn paper birch, coal skink; 1,088 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	Along W boundary	About 17 shown in GIS, with many along boundary	No	No	Yes	Multiple WL openings throughout the area
RECREATION	Competitive events	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	Trail goes up through center of area.	Yes	Yes	No	Planned	Yes

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	Yes	Yes	No	No	Planned	Yes
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values	No	OHV road separates Kelley Mtn PWA from St. Mary's W.				Hang gliding at Reddish Knob
OTHER AGENCY INTERESTS	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	553 acres	1,077	1,185	1,416	438	5,804 acres
PUBLIC ACCESS	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	2.1 miles	1.9	2.1	No	No	3.8 miles
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Nat'l IMBA Trail - Shen Mtn & Jerk Trails; keep trails open; okay with W on north block above The Bump; don't allow timber or road building on E side of Shenandoah Mtn.	Heavily used by mtn bikes on 3 trails throughout area; ; Keep open Cole Road. OHV trails wanted - NW portion; Along N bdy, D.N.H.B + B3 (?) and parallel loop trail would be nice (please no bikes); NSA	Manage for unique biological significance; Wilderness study area; serves many rec uses; energy use; hunting access; WL clearings; timber mgmt; leave it managed as is and lose opp to protect a valuable place; good wilderness; why wait?	Little access for W users; loss of WL mgmt; transmission lines, mineral rights; pvt interface concern for fire; inhoding breaks up area; no conflicts in SE leg and intact watershed- agree with W; do not agree with W for SW leg; okay for W at N end.	High use from Douthat State Park; comp events; historic WL and timber should continue; mtn bikes and horses use Little Mare Mtn Trail; No to Wilderness; remote highlands or similar; NRA	Mult mtn bike trails; mgmt for grouse needed; agree to a core of wilderness with a perimeter of NSA that includes allowing mtn bikes on mult trails; yes to Wilderness- drinking water supply/watershed

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		JERKENTIGHT	KELLEY MOUNTAIN	LAUREL FORK	LITTLE ALLEGHANY	LITTLE MARE MOUNTAIN	LITTLE RIVER
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	Pedlar	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	Warm Springs	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		27,314	12,892	10,236	15,395	11,918	30,227
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Relatively low elev lands with mod slopes; steep drainages; 22 miles of Shen Mtn Trail on crest; shale barrens are SMA; rare plants; 1,280 SBA; up to 6500 ac possible old growth.	Major creek drainages, native trout streams; several small waterfalls on Johns Run; eastern upland hardwoods; pockets of old growth Hemlock; dense laurel and rhodos in understory; diversity of rock types; steep rugged slopes, scree slopes; Big Levels with rare species; SBA; 958 acres of possible old growth; mult rec activities; 25 miles of trail incl loops.	Unique in VA-high, stream dissected plateau in Allegheny Mtns and the Ridge & Valley. Elev 1700 to over 4000 feet; northern hardwoods, white pine, unlike Appal oak forest; native brook trout; beaver ponds and meadows; 25 species ranked by DNR as rare in VA; 2/3 of area is SBA; up to 701 acres of possible old growth; existing trails offer access; opp for solitude due to remoteness of PWA.	Rock rubble ledges, bands of solid rock parallel to slope; steep, rugged, isolated; elev 1,850-4,200; Jim Dave Run almost totally within bdy of area; primitive rec opps; no maintained trails; hunter disp campsites; 4,161 acres of possible old growth.	Elev 3500-4000 on 3 mountains; deeply incised ridge; drainage for Clifton Forge reservoir, Jackson River; many trails offer 17 total miles-some tie to Douthat; scenic backdrop for Hot Spgs; borders large TNC reserve.	Largest IRA in VA; site chosen by Pres Clinton to announce his Roadless Area Initiative; elev 1600-4440'; headwaters for Little River and significant trib for North River; deep soils on Timber Ridge support large red oaks; pine on SW facing slopes; abundance of wildflowers; remote area-black bear; many threatened species; SBA and 5,87 acres of possible old growth; extensive trail network including NRT.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	3,615 acres - entire east side of ridge and some on SW boundary	882 acres - NE boundary of PWA	No	2,149 acres on multiple spines from east boundary 2/3 across PWA; none in north	4,143 ac scattered across most of PWA except NNE corner	4,753 acres
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	2 units near NE boundary in 1994 and 2000; district notes some cutting units missing from GIS	4 units on NE boundary dating 1997	No	5 units; parts of 2 others 1993-1997; small along FDR 141	No	8 units dating from 1994-1995 along east bdy
	Timber sales currently under contract	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	No	Five burns encompass about 35-40% of PWA, dating 1979, 1991, 1998, 1999, 2002	No	Burned east flank of Paddy Knob (west bdy of PWA) in early 1990s	No	Very small area on NE boundary
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	607	673 acres	1,735	52	190 acres	1,020 acres

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	1,465 acres in 5 blocks: 2 large which stretch from FS bdy to bdy; no excluding them.	617 acres - rectangular mass on E end on top of Back Mtn; if any exploration or production activities occur in future, they might be visually evident; this area can be excluded with bdy adjustment.	No	No	91 acres just in from S. bdy where FDR 146 ends; south end of Little Mountain; would divide PWA in half to exclude. Cate-corner to NW is pvt jutting in.	5,784 acres; entire west side of Ramsey's Draft.
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres		No	181	No	No	No
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	N. bristly sarsaparilla; 56 acre Nat. Heritage Program Biological Area	Bristly black currant, Mtn paper birch	Sword leaved phlox, App grizzled skipper, Smooth coneflower, Shale barren rockcress; 359 acre SBA and 372 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area	Morning Warbler		No
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	Only 1 exists in GIS	Yes		Yes	Yes	3 WL openings on north end.
RECREATION	Competitive events	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	Premiere technical trails maintained by vols	Mountain bike trails exist throughout the area - cannot be excluded.	More trails than shown on map.	No	No	Shen Mtn Trail and access on Sinclair Mtn Trail. Improvements planned for Sinclair Hollow trailhead.
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values		Rock climbing area with permanent anchors			Jeep trail on boundary b/w Potts Mtn PWA and Barbours Creek W.	Conf Breastworks; need to exclude Mtn House from area; competitive events on mtn trails on south end.
OTHER AGENCY INTERESTS	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	1,378	1,111 acres	1,467	916	1,018 acres	1,666 acres
PUBLIC ACCESS	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	0.1	5.7 miles	2.4	1.7	No	1.0 mile

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Prime mtn bike tech trails; mtce by vols; NSA or other special designation; include a block north of PWA on Green Mountain; status of inventory and status TBD (not clear of intent); all NSA Ridge & Valley or 12C JNF Plan	Mult mtn bike trails exist; develop OHV opps; yes to W-drinking water supply/watershed	More trails than shown on map-used by mtn bikes; 4WD road goes all the way through Hughes Draft; mtn bike use; more trails wanted in Lake front-country - potential shared use "stacked" loop trail system on N end; agree to Wilderness on SW end.	Lots of WL mgmt; change bdy to drop areas of active mgmt; Yes to W; Agree with W.	Maintain Children's Forest Trail; leave Potts Mtn Jeep Trail out of PWA; mineral rights may keep road open.	Inc. part of Nat'l IMBA Trail; mtn bike use important here; adjust bdy toward E and N of Trails 447, 448, 472, 496 to allow mtn bikes; expand W to the N of Ramsey's Draft; Expand this W! (on E side of existing). Want to continue mgmt activities on suitable eastern 1/4-1/3 of PWA.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		MASSANUTTEN NORTH	OAK KNOB-HONE QUARRY	OLIVER MOUNTAIN	PADDY KNOB	POTTS MOUNTAIN	RAMSEYS DRAFT ADDITION
RANGER DISTRICT		Lee	North River	James River	Warm Springs	James River	North River
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		16,530	16,343	13,049	5,987	7,863	19,072
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Scenic backdrop to S. fork Shenandoah River; 15 miles of IRA; many outcrops along the crest; mult streams serve as tribs to S. Fork on the east and Passage Creek to N. fork on the west; recreational paradise; Massanutten Trail the entire length with side trails; Veatch Gap shelter; S. Fork popular with canoeists; 3727 acres of possible old growth.	Good access from Hone Quarry rec area; >12.5 miles of trails; many existing disp rec activities; native trout fishery; many high knobs; stands of cove hardwoods in drainages; Cow Knob Salamander; up to 1952 acres of possible old growth.	Several creeks; eastern uplands hardwoods w/ Pitch, Table mountain and Virginia pines; elev up to 3,565 feet; steep and rugged; regaining natural appearance; trail goes through old growth; 2 VA SBAs; 1 GW SBA.	"Paddy Lick" has some of the highest elev in the GW -4477 feet. Steep ridge is dissected by streams incl Back Creek which provides fine whitewater paddling after significant rainfall. SBA and species like Bald eagle, Mourning warbler, undeveloped area; one trail; stands of old growth up to 2,649 acres.	"Toms Knob" views, elev up to 3800 feet; Many streams, several short trails; small SBA and small pockets of potential old grown.	"Bald Ridge/Lynn Hollow" should be given combo of designation; elev 2200-4200'; steep with short, choppy drainages on lower elev; some steep slopes >80%; ridge w/in PWA forms bdy b/w 2 major watersheds; large trees are notable; very picturesque; black bear habitat; VA NHD recommends Big Bald Knob as SIA with 4 species of concern; existing SBA; 6211 acres of possible old growth.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH MTN ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	3,152 acres	No	1,133 acres scattered throughout, except NNW tip	12 acres - very narrow along north boundary	137 acres in NNW boundary	No
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	Older cutting units at far south end.	No	No			
	Timber sales currently under contract	No	No	No			
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	Large area in N point in 2005.	No	No			
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	944 acres	316	382	310	227	No
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	No	No	No	630 acres; more than 20% of area in large block on N extending into center.	333	No
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres	350 acres	No	553	No	No	No

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH MTN ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	443 acre SBA in middle of PWA - Habitat for TES Species. 41 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.	Pirate bush	Millboro leatherflower; 72 acre SBA	Var sedge, Mtn paper birch, Big Levels salamander	No	Big Levels salamander; 99 acre Natural Heritage Program Biological Area.
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
RECREATION	Competitive events	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values		Too many trails incl NRT; same Rx as JNF Plan	No			No
OTHER AGENCY INTERESTS	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	1,043	1,111	No	857	111	No
PUBLIC ACCESS	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	4.5 miles	0.3	No	No	0.1	No

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		RICH HOLE ADDITION	RICH PATCH (GW PORTION)	ROUGH MTN ADDITION	ST. MARY'S NORTH	ST. MARY'S SOUTH	ST. MARY'S WEST
RANGER DISTRICT		James River & Warm Spgs	James River	Warm Springs	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		12,165	5,625	2,063	3,006	1,651	278
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Change bdy to exclude FS362 for hunters; mtn biking, hunting, fishing in area; protect area between Rough Mtn & Rich Hole Wildernesses to create larger block of W; need to hunt, harvest timber, game mgmt; remove from suitable; adjust to excl Tr 466. Close FDR 362.	Too many conflicts with mtn bike use for Wilderness; too many trails including NRT	Yes for Wilderness. Don't discount due to size - include with Rich Hole Addition acres.			Agree to Wilderness
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Nothing specific; make bigger Wilderness with Rich Hole & Rough Mountain.	Not included.	Nothing specific; make bigger Wilderness with Rich Hole & Rough Mountain.	Contains extremely inaccessible Russell Rock, unique geologic feature; 2910 acre SBA.	Known for steep V drainages and numerous scree slopes, esp Dogwood Hollow. Evidence of past include homestead site, mining activities from early 1900's, old mine fissure has become bat hibernaculum.	Addition B (St. Mary's W) is a recent FS acquisition. Cellar Hollow is a dominant geologic feature and contains cove hardwoods. Small stream is steep and rugged.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
CATEGORIES OF OTHER RESOURCES	OTHER RESOURCES DEMANDS THAT THE AREA COULD SATISFY	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments	Comments
TIMBER, VEGETATION AND FIRE - PAST AND CURRENT MANAGEMENT INVESTMENTS	Existing suitable timber from 1993 Plan	148 acres along N bdy	84 acres - entire addition	187 acres - entire area	No	No	No	879 acres on SSE boundary and NW boundary
	Timber sales harvested since 1993	No	No					5 units dated 2004 on SE boundary
	Timber sales currently under contract	No	No					No
	Presence of Rx burns or approved burns not completed yet.	No	No					No
	Existing surface contracts, permits, agreements that conflict with Wilderness	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Area contains Table mtn, Va, Pitch pine (Rx burn)	396	No	No	No	No	No	387 acres
MINERALS AND LANDS	Reserved/outstanding subsurface rights, acres	4 acres	No	No	No	No	No	491 acres in small block on NW bdy can be excluded.
	Area contains land suitable for disposal on land adjustment map, acres	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
TES SPECIES AND WILDLIFE	Area contains TES and/or FS sensitive species or habitat enhanced by human intervention or disturbance	Shale barren rockcress; SBA on SE boundary	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Existing wildlife habitat improvements using mechanical methods that conflict with W.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 wildlife openings, Sheps Pond?
RECREATION	Competitive events	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Mountain biking - heavily used trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Horseback riding - heavily used trails	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Trail partners perform mtce with chainsaws	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Other rec demands that may conflict with Wilderness values		No					
Other Agency Interests	Dept of Energy identified area as having wind power class 3 or greater	No	No	11	No	No	18	614 acres
Public Access	Presence of roads open year round or seasonally, miles	1.3	No	No	No	No	No	1.3

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Manage for WL and timber; maintain roadless	None					Agree to wilderness for western portion-keep AT and FDR 36D out of wilderness; area used for adventure competitions; NSA; WL mgmt.

APPENDIX C2: TABLE C-10 AVAILABILITY		SHAWS RIDGE	SHAWVER'S RUN ADDITION	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTH	THREE RIDGES ADDITION SOUTHWEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION WEST	THREE RIDGES ADDITION NORTH	THREE SISTERS
RANGER DISTRICT		North River	James River	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar	Pedlar
SIZE OF PWA OR ADDITION (ACRES)		7,268	84	187	9	90	83	9,871
VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN TREASURES	Comments that provide additional information for assessing availability.	Headwaters for both James & Potomac Rivers; Shale barren SBA at SE end; rare fishes downstream; 1 trail; access by 2 FS roads; beautiful scenery for US 250 travelers; up to 2619 ac possible old growth.	This small triangular addition was not specifically included in report.	Not included.	Not included.	Not included.	Not included.	North slope of James River Gorge, on bdy of 2 LTAs; elev ranging from 900-3400'; several small streams drain to Maury River; native trout stream; headwaters of Otter Creek; prominent geological feature in Rocky Row Ridge; outstanding views of James River and JR Face W; several trails including AT; 2777 acres of possible old growth.

This page left intentionally blank.