

## Appendix C: Evaluation of Areas for Potential Wilderness

### Introduction

This document describes the process used to evaluate the wilderness potential of areas on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU).

The March 2009 inventory conducted according to Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70, 2007 is the basis for this evaluation. The LTBMU was evaluated to determine landscape areas that exhibited inherent basic wilderness qualities such the degree of naturalness and undeveloped character. In addition to the wilderness qualities an area might possess, the area must also provide opportunities and experiences that are dependent on and enhanced by a wilderness environment and area boundaries that could be managed as wilderness. It was determined that areas adjacent to existing wilderness and existing Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) were areas were most likely to have the characteristics described above. Other areas around the basin exhibited some of the required characteristics but not enough to be qualified for a congressional wilderness designation. Six areas were identified and evaluated.

The analysis is based on GIS mapping of existing wilderness and inventoried roadless area polygon data, adjusted based on local knowledge.

Three tests were used—capability, availability, and need—to determine suitability as described in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70, 2007. In addition to the inherent wilderness qualities an area might possess, the area must provide opportunities and experiences that are dependent on and enhanced by a wilderness environment. The area and boundaries must allow the area to be managed as wilderness.

**Capability** is defined as the degree to which the area contains the basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation without regard to its availability for or need as wilderness.

The **availability** determination is conditioned on the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value of and need for the area for other resources.

**Need** is the determination that the area should be designated as wilderness through an analysis of the degree the area contributes to the local and national distribution of wilderness.

## Overview of Areas Evaluated

### Desolation Wilderness Additions - Pyramid (0519-001)

The Pyramid area encompasses 7,732 acres. This segment of land is contiguous to the eastside of the Desolation Wilderness.

The location of the Pyramid addition runs along the eastern border of the Desolation Wilderness. It would extend the Desolation Wilderness boundary closer to Lake Tahoe and would provide a buffer between Lake Tahoe and the present Wilderness. It would also include portions of the watersheds of General Creek and Meeks Creek to the north as well as abutting boundaries with D.L. Bliss and Sugar Pine Point California State Parks.

The Pyramid area is accessed by numerous trailheads and roads that originate from Highway 89. Access roads include the Angora Lookout FS1214, Fallen Leaf road, Glen Alpine Trailhead road 12N16, Mt. Tallac FS1306, Meeks Creek FS14N42 and several other roads that access summer recreation residences. Major trailheads that access the Pyramid area are Glen Alpine, Mt. Tallac, Bayview, Eagle Falls, and Meeks trailheads.

Geology of the Pyramid area is dominated by the granite batholiths indicative of the Desolation Wilderness. The Pyramid area includes some major peaks in the Basin: Echo Peak (8,895 ft), Flagpole Peak (8,363 ft), and Angora Peak (8,588 ft). A majority of the topography is steep with slopes greater than 30%, which includes the easterly toe slopes of Rubicon Peak, Jakes Peak and Mt. Tallac. Elevations within the Pyramid area range from 8,900 ft to 6,300 ft.

Vegetation types within the Pyramid area vary from predominately white and red fir, sub-alpine conifer in the northern reaches to montane chaparral, Jeffery pine and lodgepole pine in the southern part.

Little recreational use takes place during the summer in most of the Pyramid area, and consists of trails and roads that are used to access Desolation Wilderness. However, winter recreation in the form of backcountry skiing is growing exponentially in popularity and several areas of the Pyramid area see quite significant use. These include Jakes Peak, Flagpole Peak, Mt. Tallac, and the Angora area. There is no detailed analysis at this time on specific numbers.

The area's appearance ranges from densely forested slopes in the northern reach to sparse stands of trees and barren granite slopes of rock and chaparral in the mid to southern segment. The Pyramid area incorporates the dramatic backdrop that borders Lake Tahoe and is one of the majestic view sheds in the western United States.

Cascade Falls and the dramatic summits of Angora Peak, Echo Peak and Flagpole Peak are key attractions. The cliffs found in this area provide valuable habitat for Peregrine falcon. Mature stands of timber also provide habitat for the Northern goshawk.

## Dardanelles Roadless Area (0519-002)

Dardanelles Roadless Area, commonly known as "Meiss Country" after a local ranching family's summer range, contains 14,227 acres. This roadless area lies in the southernmost tip of the Lake Tahoe Basin. It is roughly bounded by Highway 50 and 89 on the north and Highway 88 to the east and south. The Lake Tahoe Basin is defined by the parallel Sierra Crest and Carson Range. These converge at Carson Pass, and, in the "V" formed by this merging, the Upper Truckee River begins. Dardanelles lies in the high meadow at the Truckee River's headwaters. The Truckee headwaters flow through what is known as Meiss Meadows, an extensive meadow system that is bordered by the high peaks named Stevens and Red Lakes Peaks. It was from Red Lake Peak that the first European explorers John C. Fremont, and his cartographer Charles Preuss, viewed Lake Tahoe.

Elevations range from a low of 6,400 feet in Christmas Valley on the southern edge of the settled area of the Tahoe Basin, to the 10,000-foot summit of the Carson Range. Precipitation is 40-50 inches per year. The ecosystem is classified as Sierra Forest Province (Bailey) with small portions of lodgepole pine/sub-alpine forest (Kuchler). Two-thirds of the land in Dardanelles is barren, brush, sub-alpine, lodgepole pine or large productive meadows. Over three quarters of the slopes are above 30%.

Dardanelles is second only to Desolation Wilderness in popularity for non-motorized backcountry recreation. It sees prolific hiking, equestrian use and in recent years increased mountain bike use. Trailheads at Echo Summit, Big Meadow, Carson Pass, Christmas Valley and Sayles Canyon provide access to Dardanelles, and are accessed from Highways 50, 89 and 88.

There is good opportunity for primitive recreation. The southern part, where the Upper Truckee begins, has broad meadows with shallow lakes and unobstructed views of the high alpine ridges to the east and west. The northern part is more steeply dissected, with granite terrain and the cliffs of the Sierra Crest to the west and dramatic outcrops of tertiary volcanic breccias to the east. The pocket lakes scattered through this varied terrain are isolated and relatively undisturbed. Red Lake Peak and the nearby Stevens Peak are the highest peaks in the area and are formed of mudflow breccias as its geologic parent material. The two peaks are, in this respect, a unique habitat.

Key attractions are the numerous lakes, prolific wildflowers and expansive meadows that the Upper Truckee flows through. The Dardanelles area has a high degree of integrity and apparent naturalness, fostered by the physical enclosure of the landscape: very little of the outside world can be seen or heard while traveling in the heart of Dardanelles. Although non-conforming with wilderness standards, the remarkable "Meiss cabin," built in 1878, still stands in Meiss Meadow. In 1998, seven miles of the Upper Truckee River was recommended to be added to the National Wild and Scenic River inventory as a "Wild" river. It has since been managed to protect its Outstanding Remarkable values to maintain its eligibility.

## Freel Roadless Area (0519-003)

The Freel Roadless area includes 15,341 acres. Of this total acreage only 800 acres lie within ¼ mile of a road. Freel Peak (10,881 ft) is the highest point in the Lake Tahoe Basin and is the dominant feature of this roadless area. This section resides in the Carson Range looming over the South Lake Tahoe and Meyers.

The Freel potential wilderness area is accessed from the north by the High Meadows Road FS 12N05, Star Lake Trail 18E01 and by the Tahoe Rim Trail from the South Kingsbury Trailhead. Main access points to the southern section of the area are the Oneidas Road FS 1201, Hell Hole Road, Saxon Road and related trails Hell Hole 18E 12, Saxon 18E 13 and the Tahoe Rim Trail which is accessed from the Big Meadow Trailhead on Highway 89. FS25 is another major access point from the south side of Luther Pass which runs within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and leads to the south side of Armstrong Pass. This primarily is used by mountain bikers who are accessing Saxon Creek trail (Mr. Toad's Wild Ride), a very popular downhill ride.

The higher elevations of the roadless area have distinctive visual quality: high, barren peaks, wind-deformed trees, and panoramic views of regional scale down the Sierra Crest and across the basin and range country of Nevada. At the head of Cold Creek on the northern flank of Freel Peak is Star Lake, the highest lake in the Basin. Unsurpassed views of Lake Tahoe exist, in which the Crystal Range in Desolation Wilderness serves as a dramatic backdrop. The deep, decomposed granite soils conceal groundwater well below the surface. Hell Hole basin, with its cliffs and boggy meadows, and Freel meadows typify the spring fed surface water of the area. Over 80% of this area has slopes over 30%.

The ecosystem is classified as the Northern Sierra Nevada physiographic province (Bailey classification M261 0). The western portion is representative of a mixed conifer forest (Kuchler type 5) and the eastern is lodgepole pine-sub-alpine forest (Kuchler type 8). Over half of the area is timbered with species such as lodgepole pine, red fir and sub-alpine conifer. Seven percent of the area is montane chaparral and sagebrush, 3% riparian and less than 1 % aspen. Thirty-nine percent of the area is barren or has sparse high elevation lodgepole and whitebark pine.

Summer use levels have increased since the release of the previous LTBMU forest plan. The completion of the Tahoe Rim Trail from Kingsbury West Trailhead to Big Meadow has made the area more accessible to backpackers, mountain bikers and day hikers. Also, development of new trails from Oneidas Road up to Armstrong Pass and further improvements to the Saxon Creek trail have increased recreation opportunities for mountain biking. The Saxon Creek trail is now one of the most popular mountain bike trails on the south shore of Tahoe and has gained region-wide popularity among this user group. Winter use includes snowmobile and backcountry skiing in parts of the Freel Roadless Area. Currently, snowmobiles are allowed throughout the Saxon Creek and Hell Hole drainages. The Saxon Creek area receives consistent use when snow levels make it possible to ride from bordering communities. The segment of roadless area north of Freel Peak including High Meadows and the south side of Heavenly ski area is currently closed to motorized use.

The distance from the perimeter of this area to the core is short. Occasional views of the nearby urban areas and of airplanes at the Lake Tahoe Airport detract from the experience of solitude.

Combining the Freel Roadless area (15,341 acres) with the Jobs Peak Roadless area (24,052 acres) to the east (part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest), would connect a large

contiguous area of roadless terrain and would include a substantial part of the Carson Range as wilderness.

Key attractions of this area are Freel Peak (the highest mountain in the Lake Tahoe Basin), Star Lake (the highest lake in the Basin), high alpine meadows and an uncommon community of alpine cushion plants (*draba asterophora* var. *asterophora*) that grow on a 600-acre area around the summit of Freel Peak. The views from this area are among the most majestic found in the Basin.

### Lincoln Creek Roadless Area (0519-004)

This segment lies along the east shore of Lake Tahoe in Nevada.

The Lincoln Creek Roadless area has a total of 6,562 acres. It lies between U.S. Highway 50 to the west, the Genoa Peak road to the east, Kingsbury Grade on the south, and Highway 50 (Spoooner Summit) to the north. Access to the area is from the Genoa Peak Road FS14N32, FS14N33 and the multitude of suburban roads that service the subdivisions that border this area on the west and south boundaries of the segment. The Tahoe Rim Trail runs through the south east side of the segment and can be accessed by the Spoooner Summit South trailhead and the Kingsbury North Trailhead. The Tahoe Rim Trail travels in this area for a short length through the southeast corner of the segment.

Lincoln Creek is unglaciated, lower elevation topography with a lack of lakes, high peaks or cliffs. The area is composed of numerous small hills containing granite outcroppings and intermixed timber. The area is bisected from east to west by many steep, V-shaped drainages. Nearly all the land has a high erosion hazard, and 80% of the area has slopes greater than 30%. Elevation ranges from 6,400 feet near Lake Tahoe to slightly over 8,000 feet on the east.

The ecosystem is classified as Sierran Forest Province (Bailey classification M261O) with a mixed conifer forest (Kuchler type 8). The Lincoln Creek area was logged intensely in the late 1800s. The second growth stand is dominated by a Sierran mixed conifer stand and pure stands of red fir, jeffery and lodgepole pine. There is minor acreage of montane riparian and montane chaparral.

Compared to other areas of the Tahoe Basin, this area has low recreational opportunity and use. The Tahoe Rim Trail is popular, but only runs through a short length of this area. It is estimated that most recreation comes from local neighborhoods in the form of short hikes, bike rides and cross-country skiing. Snowmobile use is allowed within the entire area.

The opportunities for solitude are moderate. The area is small and narrow, allowing a visitor to get only about a mile away from a road. Road noise can be audible and views of

urban development and Heavenly ski area are intrusive. The broken topography and the uniform vegetative cover do provide some visual and auditory screening from these intrusions. Because the area occupies an intermediate position on a continuous slope, it has "no top or bottom" and therefore lacks physiographic unity.

The existing boundary is complicated and is bordered nearly on all sides by development and uses that are non-conforming with wilderness. With the exception of the Lincoln Creek area itself, surrounding lands offer little primitive value or undeveloped nature.

The scenic landmark of the area is a large outcrop, Castle Rock, which is near the boundary of the roadless area, but not included within the Lincoln Creek section. Views of Lake Tahoe, the Carson Valley and the Sierra Crest are spectacular.

### Mt. Rose Wilderness Area Additions (0519-005)

The additions to the Mt. Rose Wilderness within the LTBMU total 473 acres. There are two additions, one expanding the western border of the LTBMU managed section of the Mt. Rose Wilderness, and a larger segment on the north east side of the LTBMU managed area. The western segment runs roughly north to south from Mt. Baldy along the present boundary in a narrow strip. The northeastern section occupies the land east of Relay Peak and north of Ginny and Incline Lakes. Road FS 17N 85 to the relay communication station runs along the northern boundary of this segment. In this document, the western addition is identified as the Mt. Baldy Addition and the eastern addition, the Relay Addition.

The Mt. Baldy Addition can be directly accessed from the Tahoe Rim Trail. The Mt. Baldy Addition runs down the top of the southerly reaching ridge. Baldy and the trail runs right through the northern edge of the addition. This addition could also be potentially accessed by roads FS16N54 and FS16N52, which come within a mile of the area, but do not offer direct access.

Access to the Relay Addition would be from FS 17N85 (the relay communication station road) and from the Tahoe Rim Trail.

These additions incorporate segments of land that are part of the satellite peaks of Mt. Rose (itself entirely outside of the LTBMU). Relay Peak at 10,366 ft. is second only to Freel Peak in elevation. Unlike the other prominent peaks (in the Desolation and Freel areas), these summits rise continuously three to four thousand feet from the surface of Lake Tahoe. Visual quality is distinctly alpine, though not markedly glaciated in appearance. The treeless upper slopes, when snow covered, are a visual apex of Tahoe's north shore. Because the peaks are sometimes less than two miles from the shoreline, the views of Lake Tahoe from their summits is awesome. The sparse vegetation on the decomposed granite soils is relieved at intervals by small, lush pocket - meadows and ponds at 8,900 to 9,200 feet and by frequent massive rock outcrops and cliff-bands.

The predominantly south facing slopes are dry, sandy and support sparse stands of lodgepole and whitebark pine. Intermixed are slopes of sagebrush and montane/mixed chaparral. The upper slopes are nearly barren of vegetation. The ecosystem is classified as Kuchler type 8, lodgepole pine/sub-alpine forest. Snowmobile use is intensive within the Relay Addition. It is very popular and occurs through out the identified Relay Addition. Backcountry skiing is also a favorite winter time activity. Summer use entails both overnight and day hikers on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Intrusion into the present wilderness by mountain bikers continue to present a management problem. The Mt. Baldy addition in all likelihood sees little use other than perhaps backcountry skiing in the winter.

These additions would expand the Mt. Rose Wilderness and add to an already permanently protected high elevation landscape. Opportunities for solitude are high. The Mt. Rose wilderness occupies many square miles at the head of Gray and Bronco Creeks, and this area itself is buffered by the little used lower drainages of these creeks extending ten or fifteen miles north to the Truckee River canyon. Immediately south is Incline Village which, despite its proximity, generates very few hikers willing to climb the steep slopes. Skiers on the other hand find the area well suited for winter backcountry travel.

## The Granite Chief Wilderness Additions (0519-006)

The additions to the Granite Chief Wilderness within the LTBMU total 1,160 acres in two separate segments that are bisected by CA State owned land. The additions border the present Granite Chief Wilderness along its east side and run roughly along this boundary from Barker Pass to the south up to Alpine Meadows ski area (Ward Creek Blvd.) to the north. For ease of description we will refer to the addition as Granite Chief North and Granite Chief South.

Access to Granite Chief North would be from the Alpine Meadows ski area road.

The Pacific Crest Trail/Tahoe Rim Trail runs along the Sierra Crest/wilderness boundary and presents the best opportunity to access both Granite Chief additions. The "Stanford Rock trail" also provides access to the additions from the east with a northerly spur 16E07 to the northern addition and a southerly spur 16E08 that reaches the southern addition. The Blackwood Canyon/Barker Pass road affords the closest access at Barker Pass to the Granite Chief South addition.

The geography of these additions is of a predominately eastern aspect with sections of steep granitic faces and cliffs. The western borders of the additions start at ridge top elevations of around 8,300-8600 feet and run down slope to the east to elevations around 6800-7600 feet. Tributaries of Blackwood creek start within Granite Chief South and flow from steep slopes all over 30% in grade.

A majority of the additions vegetation cover is White Fir with Sierran Mixed Conifer, Sub-alpine Conifer and Montane/Mixed Chaparral dominating the drier southerly slopes. The ecosystem could be classified as Sierran Forest Province (Bailey).

Granite Chief South sees moderate use on the Pacific Crest Trail/Tahoe Rim Trail with overnight backpackers and day hikers alike. The Granite Chief North addition sees more backcountry skiing use, as it is easily accessible from Alpine Meadows ski area. Overall it is estimated that these two additions see low to slightly moderate use year round and remain in a very natural state.

Granite buttes, rolling faces intermixed with volcanic outcroppings and soils make up the landscape here. There are dense stands of White Fir and Mixed Conifers, as well as sparse exposed slopes mostly composed of bedrock and dispersed sagebrush and chaparral vegetation. Pocket meadows are found sporadically where wetter conditions persist. It resides as the backdrop for Tahoe City and the beginning of the Granite Chief Wilderness.

These additions offer an expansion of the present wilderness to the east. The crest which the PCT runs along offers good views of Lake Tahoe and up the Truckee River canyon. A majority of the terrain is forested and is typical of the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe.

**Table C 1. Overview of LTBMU Wilderness**

Numerical ID	Area Name	GIS acreage	State	Area > 5000 ac, undeveloped?	Area < 5000 ac, adjacent Wilderness?	P or SPNM ROS setting	Carry forward for attribute rating?
0519-001	Pyramid LTBMU	7,732	CA	X	X	SPNM	X
-	Pyramid El Dorado NF	28,104	CA	X	X	SPNM	
0519-002	Dardanelles LTBMU	14,227	CA	X		SPNM	X
	Dardanelles El Dorado NF	8,116	CA	X		SPNM	
0519-003	Freel LTBMU	15,341	CA	X		SPNM	X
-	Jobs Peak Humboldt-Toiyabe NF	24,052	CA/NV	X		SPNM	
0519-004	Lincoln Creek	6,562	NV	X		SPNM	X
0519-005	Mt. Rose LTBMU	473	NV		X	SPNM	X
-	Mt. Rose Humboldt-Toiyabe & Tahoe NF	19,871	NV	X		SPNM	
0519-006	Granite Chief LTBMU	1,160	CA		X	SPNM	X
	Granite Chief Tahoe NF	6,471	CA		X	SPNM	

Notes: P – Primitive; SPNM – Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized

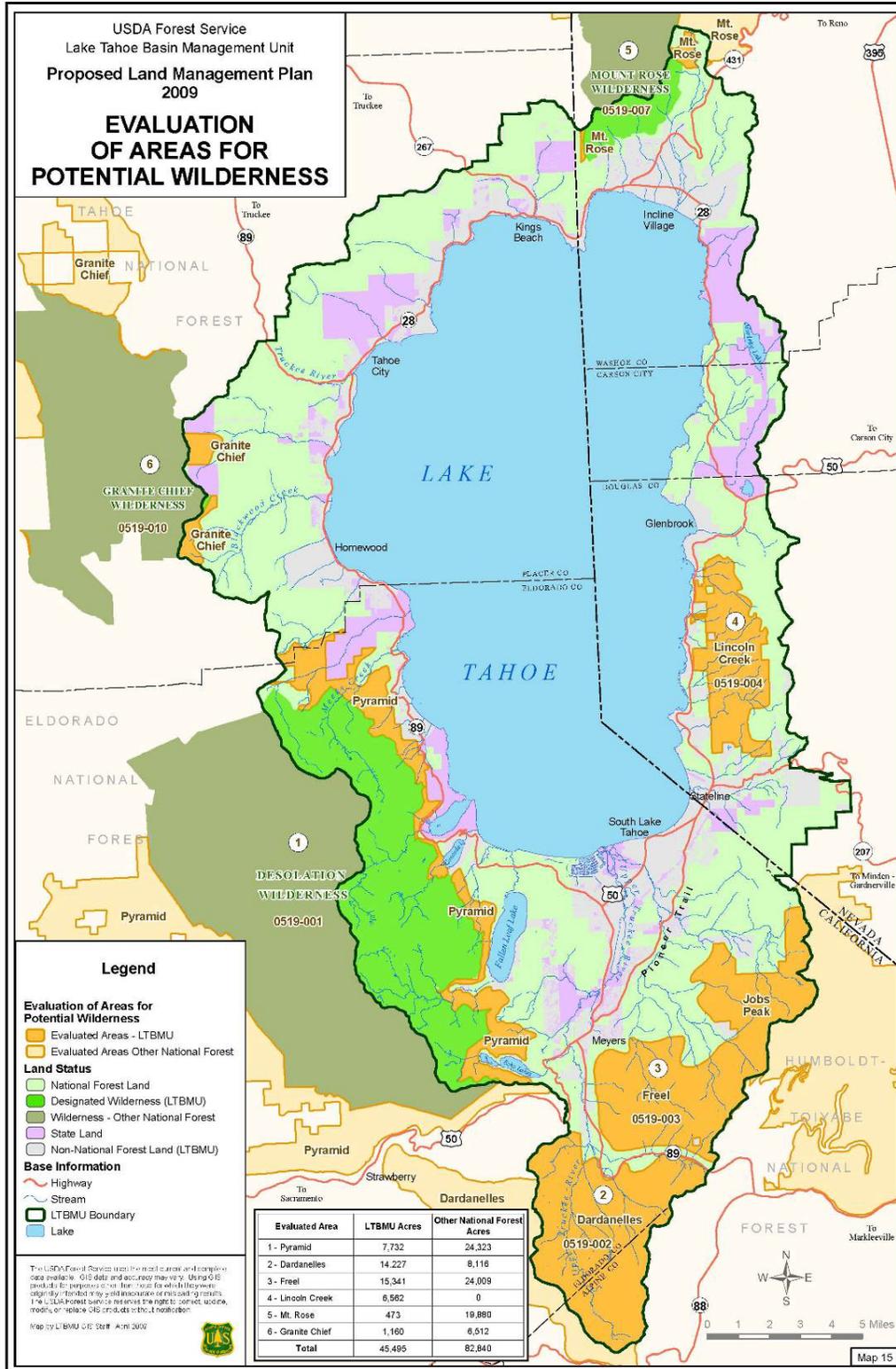


Figure C 1. LTCMU Evaluated Areas and Land Status Map

## Capability

Per Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70, Section 72.1, each potential area's capability for wilderness is described by basic characteristics that make the area appropriate and valuable for wilderness, regardless of the area's availability or need. The following characteristics were addressed:

- a) **Naturalness of the area;** the degree to which humans and past or present human activity have affected natural ecological processes and conditions.
- b) **Undeveloped;** the degree to which the area's appearance is appropriate and valuable for wilderness.
- c) **Opportunities** for experiences often unique to wilderness such as solitude, self-reliance, adventurous and challenging experiences, and primitive recreation.
- d) **Special features and values** of the area including those of ecological, geological, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, or historical value, rare and endangered plant and animal species and other wildlife.
- e) A description of **size and shape** to include the implications of the area's size, shape, and juxtaposition to external influences on the wilderness attributes.
- f) A summary of the **boundary conditions, needs, and management requirements** should the area be designated for wilderness. Addressing whether or not boundary changes would enhance the wilderness characteristics or whether or not it would be possible to use boundary modifications to separate incompatible activities from those characteristics.

In order to evaluate the basic characteristics, they were broken down into elements, activities, or features that describe the basic characteristics and provide a basis for rating. Since criteria were not of equal importance, criteria are in order of priority for each element, activity, or feature. Resource specialists evaluated each criterion, rating each as high, moderate, or low.

**Table C 2. Wilderness Capability Ratings (Desolation-Pyramid Roadless)**

<b>Desolation Wilderness Addition - Pyramid Roadless (0519-001)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>M</b>
1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.	<b>1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	<b>3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.</b>	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>M</b>
7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.	<b>7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.</b>	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.	<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.</b>	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	<b>9. Several minor improvements.</b>	9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>L</b>
10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.	<b>10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.</b>	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)	<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	

Desolation Wilderness Addition - Pyramid Roadless (0519-001)				
High	Moderate	Low	Rating	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities				
Hiking/backpacking opportunities				
<b>12. Multiple system trails into area.</b>	12. At least one system trail into area.	12. No system trails that are maintained.		
13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.	<b>13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.</b>	<b>13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.</b>		
Fishing opportunities				
14. Good populations of native game fish.	14. Fair populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Low populations of native game fish.</b>		
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities				
15. Easily accessible in winter by motorized wheeled vehicles.	15. Snow keeps wheeled vehicles several miles from area, but access is possible by snowmobile.	<b>15. Area is difficult or rarely accessed by snowmobile.</b>		
Snowmobiling use				
16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.	16. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	<b>16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.</b>		
17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.	17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.	<b>17. Snowmobile use permitted.</b>		
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>				
Scenic features				<b>L</b>
18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.	<b>18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.</b>	1820. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.		
19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	<b>19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.</b>		
Other special features				
20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	<b>20. No major or very few minor other special features.</b>		
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.</b>		

Desolation Wilderness Addition - Pyramid Roadless (0519-001)			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Scientific, educational, or historical values			
22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	<b>22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.</b>	
23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.	23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.	<b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b>	
E. & F. Manageability			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			L
24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.	24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.	<b>24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.</b>	
25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.	25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.	<b>25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.</b>	
<b>26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.</b>	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	26. Isolated, small parcel of land.	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail.	27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground.	<b>27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.</b>	
28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.	28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	<b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.	29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.	<b>29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.</b>	
30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.	<b>30. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.</b>	30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.	

Desolation Wilderness Addition - Pyramid Roadless (0519-001)			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
31. No inholdings.	<b>31. Few small inholdings may be present.</b>	31. Several small or one large inholding.	
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.	32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.	<b>32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.</b>	

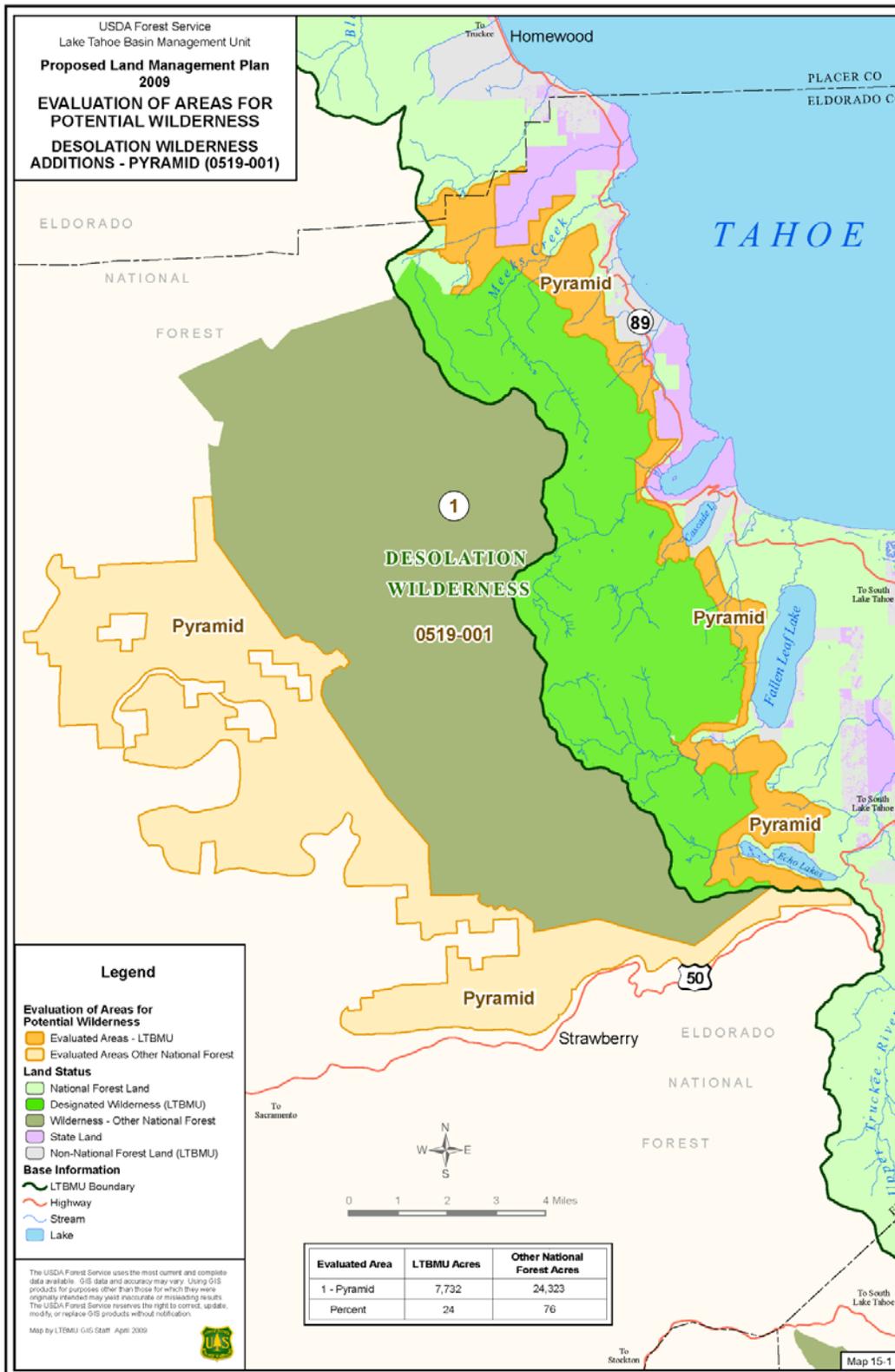


Figure C 2. Desolation Wilderness Addition - Pyramid Roadless Map (0519-001)

**Table C 3. Wilderness Capability Ratings (Dardanelles Roadless)**

<b>Dardanelles Roadless (0519-002)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>H</b>
<b>1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	<b>3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.</b>	3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>H</b>
<b>7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.</b>	7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.</b>	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	<b>9. Several minor improvements (Historic Meiss cabin/barn, circa 1878).</b>	9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>M</b>
<b>10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.</b>	10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)	<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities			

<b>Dardanelles Roadless (0519-002)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Hiking/backpacking opportunities			
<b>12. Multiple system trails into area.</b>	12. At least one system trail into area.	12. No system trails that are maintained.	
<b>13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.</b>	13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.	13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.	
Fishing opportunities			
14. Good populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Fair populations of native game fish.</b>	14. Low populations of native game fish.	
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities			
15. Easily accessible in winter by motorized wheeled vehicles.	15. Snow keeps wheeled vehicles several miles from area, but access is possible by snowmobile.	<b>15. Area is difficult or rarely accessed by snowmobile.</b>	
Snowmobiling use			
<b>16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.</b>	68. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.	
<b>17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.</b>	17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.	17. Snowmobile use permitted.	
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>			
Scenic features			<b>H</b>
<b>18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.</b>	18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.	18. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.	
<b>19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.</b>	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.	
<b>Other special features</b>			
<b>20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.</b>	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	20. No major or very few minor other special features.	
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.(Upper Truckee River segment)</b>	21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.	
Scientific, educational, or historical values			

<b>Dardanelles Roadless (0519-002)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	<b>22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.</b>	22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.	
23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.	23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.	<b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b>	
<b>E. &amp; F. Manageability</b>			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			<b>H</b>
<b>24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.</b>	24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.	24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.	
<b>25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.</b>	25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.	25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.	
<b>26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.(Free)</b>	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	26. Isolated, small parcel of land.	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail.	<b>27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground.</b>	27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.	
28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.	28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	<b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
<b>29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.</b>	29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.	29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.	
30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.	<b>30. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.</b>	30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.	

<b>Dardanelles Roadless (0519-002)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>31. No inholdings.</b>	31. Few small inholdings may be present.	31. Several small or one large inholding.	
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
<b>32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.</b>	32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.	32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.	

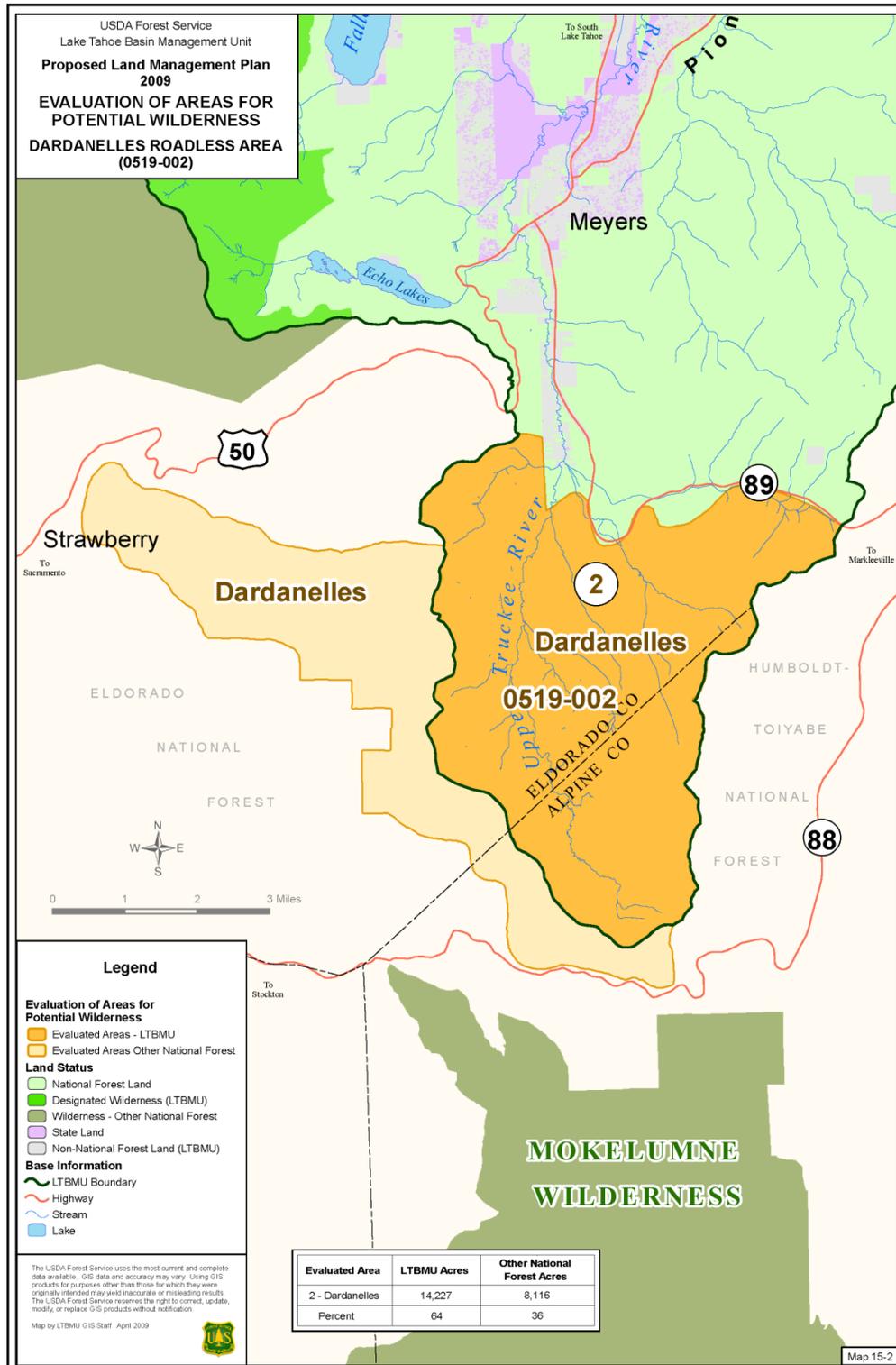


Figure C 3. Dardanelles Roadless Area Map (0519-002)

**Table C 4. Wilderness Capability Ratings (Freel Roadless)**

<b>Freel Roadless (0519-003)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>M</b>
1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.	<b>1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	<b>3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.</b>	3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>M</b>
7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.	<b>7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.</b>	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.	<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.</b>	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	<b>9. Several minor improvements.</b>	9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>M</b>
<b>10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.</b>	10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities			
Hiking/backpacking opportunities			

<b>Freel Roadless (0519-003)</b>				
High	Moderate	Low	Rating	
<b>12. Multiple system trails into area.</b>	12. At least one system trail into area.	12. No system trails that are maintained.		
13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.	<b>13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.</b>	13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.		
Fishing opportunities				
14. Good populations of native game fish.	14. Fair populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Low populations of native game fish.</b>		
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities				
15. Easily accessible in winter by motorized wheeled vehicles.	<b>15. Snow keeps wheeled vehicles several miles from area, but access is possible by snowmobile.</b>	15. Area is difficult or rarely accessed by snowmobile. Limited e.g. High Meadows)		
Snowmobiling use				
16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.	16. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	<b>16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel. (Limited, e.g. High Meadows)</b>		
17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.	17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.	<b>17. Snowmobile use permitted.</b>		
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>				
Scenic features				<b>M</b>
<b>18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.</b>	18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.	18. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.		
<b>19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.</b>	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.		
Other special features				
<b>20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.</b>	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	20. No major or very few minor other special features.		
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.</b>		
Scientific, educational, or historical values				

<b>Freel Roadless (0519-003)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	<b>22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.</b>	22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.	
23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.	23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.	<b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b>	
<b>E. &amp; F. Manageability</b>			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			<b>M</b>
24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.	<b>24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.</b>	24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.	
25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.	<b>25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.</b>	25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.	
<b>26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.</b>	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	26. Isolated, small parcel of land.	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail.	27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground.	<b>27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.</b>	
28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.	28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	<b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.	<b>29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.</b>	29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.	
30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.	<b>02. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.</b>	30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.	
31. No inholdings.	<b>31. Few small inholdings may be present.</b>	31. Several small or one large inholding.	

<b>Freel Roadless (0519-003)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.	<b>32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.</b>	32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.	

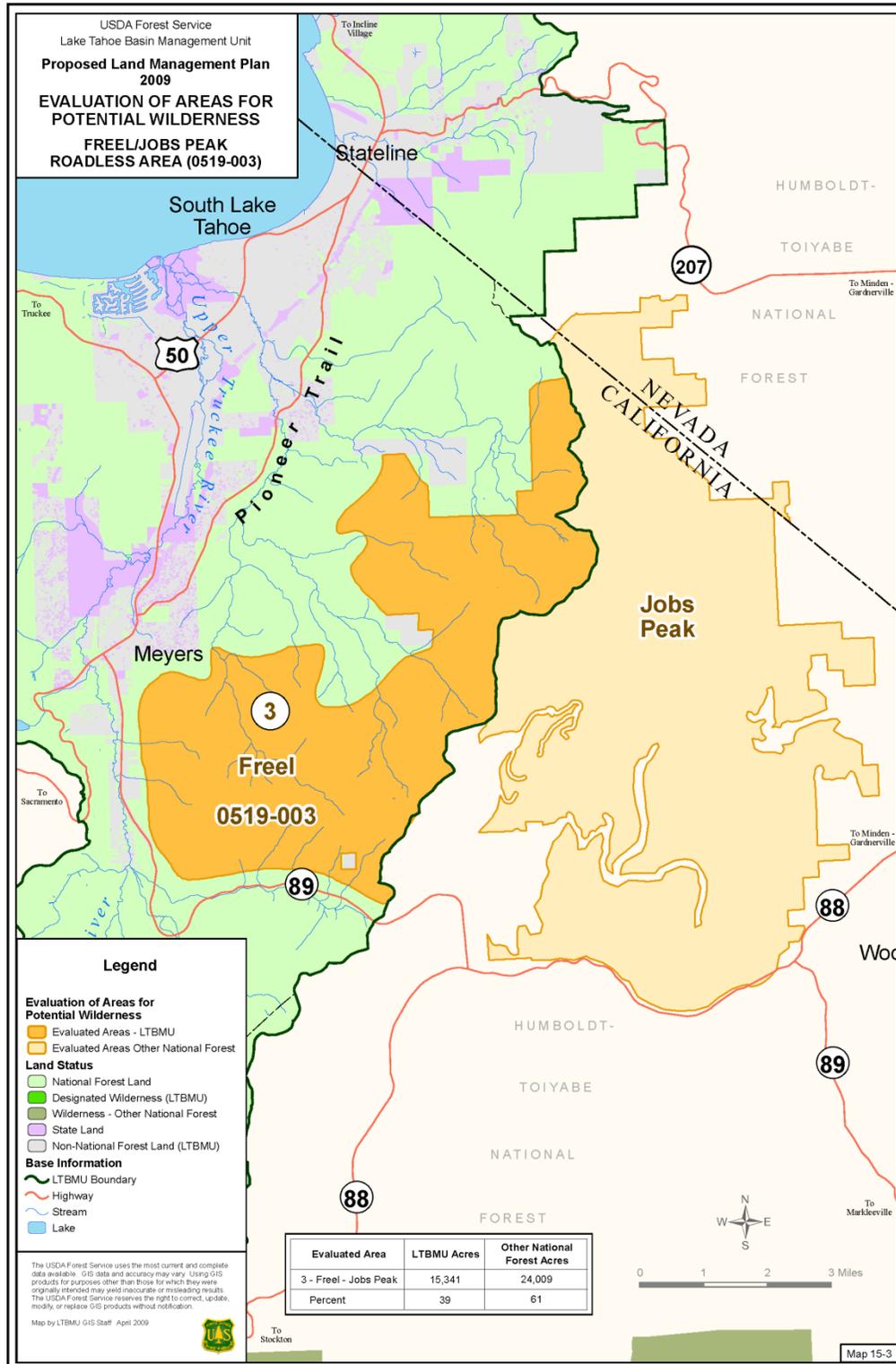


Figure C 4. Freel/Jobs Peak Roadless Area Map (0519-003)

**Table C 5. Wilderness Capability Ratings (Lincoln Creek Roadless)**

<b>Lincoln Creek Roadless (0519-004)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>M</b>
1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.	<b>1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	<b>3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.</b>	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>M</b>
7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.	<b>7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.</b>	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.	<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.</b>	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	<b>9. Several minor improvements.</b>	9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>M</b>
10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.	<b>10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.</b>	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)	<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities			
Hiking/backpacking opportunities			

<b>Lincoln Creek Roadless (0519-004)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>12. Multiple system trails into area.</b>	12. At least one system trail into area.	12. No system trails that are maintained.	
13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.	13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.	<b>13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.</b>	
Fishing opportunities			
14. Good populations of native game fish.	14. Fair populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Low populations of native game fish.</b>	
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities			
15. Easily accessible in winter by motorized wheeled vehicles.	15. Snow keeps wheeled vehicles several miles from area, but access is possible by snowmobile.	<b>15. Area is difficult or rarely accessed by snowmobile.</b>	
Snowmobiling use			
<b>16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.</b>	16. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.	
17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.	<b>17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.</b>	17. Snowmobile use permitted.	
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>			
Scenic features			<b>L</b>
18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.	18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.	<b>18. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.</b>	
19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	<b>19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.</b>	
Other special features			
20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	<b>20. No major or very few minor other special features.</b>	
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.</b>	
Scientific, educational, or historical values			

<b>Lincoln Creek Roadless (0519-004)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	<b>22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.</b>	
23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.	23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.	<b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b>	
<b>E. &amp; F. Manageability</b>			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			<b>L</b>
24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.	24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.	<b>24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.</b>	
25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.	25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.	<b>25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.</b>	
26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	<b>26. Isolated, small parcel of land.</b>	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail.	27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground.	<b>27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.</b>	
28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.	28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	<b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.	29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.	<b>29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.</b>	
30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.	30. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.	<b>30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.</b>	
31. No inholdings.	31. Few small inholdings may be present.	<b>31. Several small or one large inholding.</b>	

<b>Lincoln Creek Roadless (0519-004)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
<b>32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.</b>	32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.	32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.	

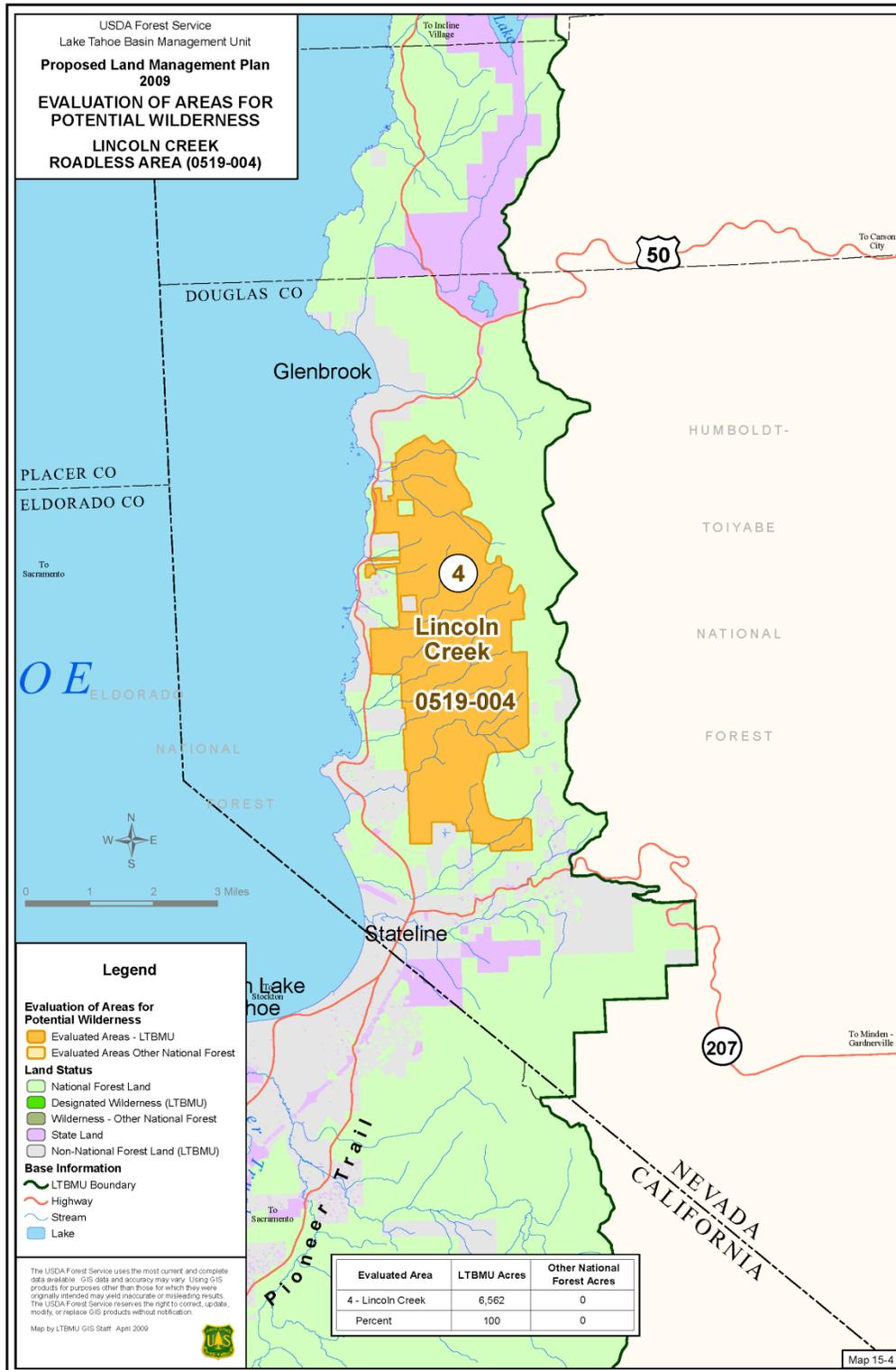


Figure C 5. Lincoln Creek Roadless Area Map (0519-004)

**Table C 6. Wilderness Capability Ratings (Mt. Rose Wilderness and Roadless)**

<b>Mt. Rose Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-005)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>M</b>
1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.	<b>1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	<b>3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.</b>	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>M</b>
7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.	<b>7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.</b>	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.	<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.</b>	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	9. Several minor improvements.	<b>9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.</b>	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>M</b>
10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.	<b>10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.</b>	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)	<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities			
Hiking/backpacking opportunities			

<b>Mt. Rose Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-005)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
12. Multiple system trails into area.	12. At least one system trail into area.	<b>12. No system trails that are maintained.</b>	
13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.	13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.	<b>13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.</b>	
Fishing opportunities			
14. Good populations of native game fish.	14. Fair populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Low populations of native game fish.</b>	
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities			
<b>15. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.</b>	15. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.	15. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.	
Snowmobiling use			
16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.	16. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	<b>16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.</b>	
17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.	17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.	<b>17. Snowmobile use permitted.</b>	
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>			
Scenic features			<b>L</b>
18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.	18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.	<b>18. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.</b>	
19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	<b>19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.</b>	
Other special features			
20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	<b>20. No major or very few minor other special features.</b>	
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.</b>	
Scientific, educational, or historical values			
22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.	<b>22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.</b>	

<b>Mt. Rose Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-005)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.	23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.	<b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b>	
<b>E. &amp; F. Manageability</b>			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			<b>L</b>
24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.	24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.	<b>24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.</b>	
25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.	25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.	<b>25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.</b>	
<b>26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.</b>	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	26. Isolated, small parcel of land.	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail.	27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground.	<b>27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.</b>	
28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.	28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.	<b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.	<b>29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.</b>	29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.	
<b>30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.</b>	30. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.	30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.	
<b>31. No inholdings.</b>	31. Few small inholdings may be present.	31. Several small or one large inholding.	

<b>Mt. Rose Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-005)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.	32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.	<b>32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.</b>	

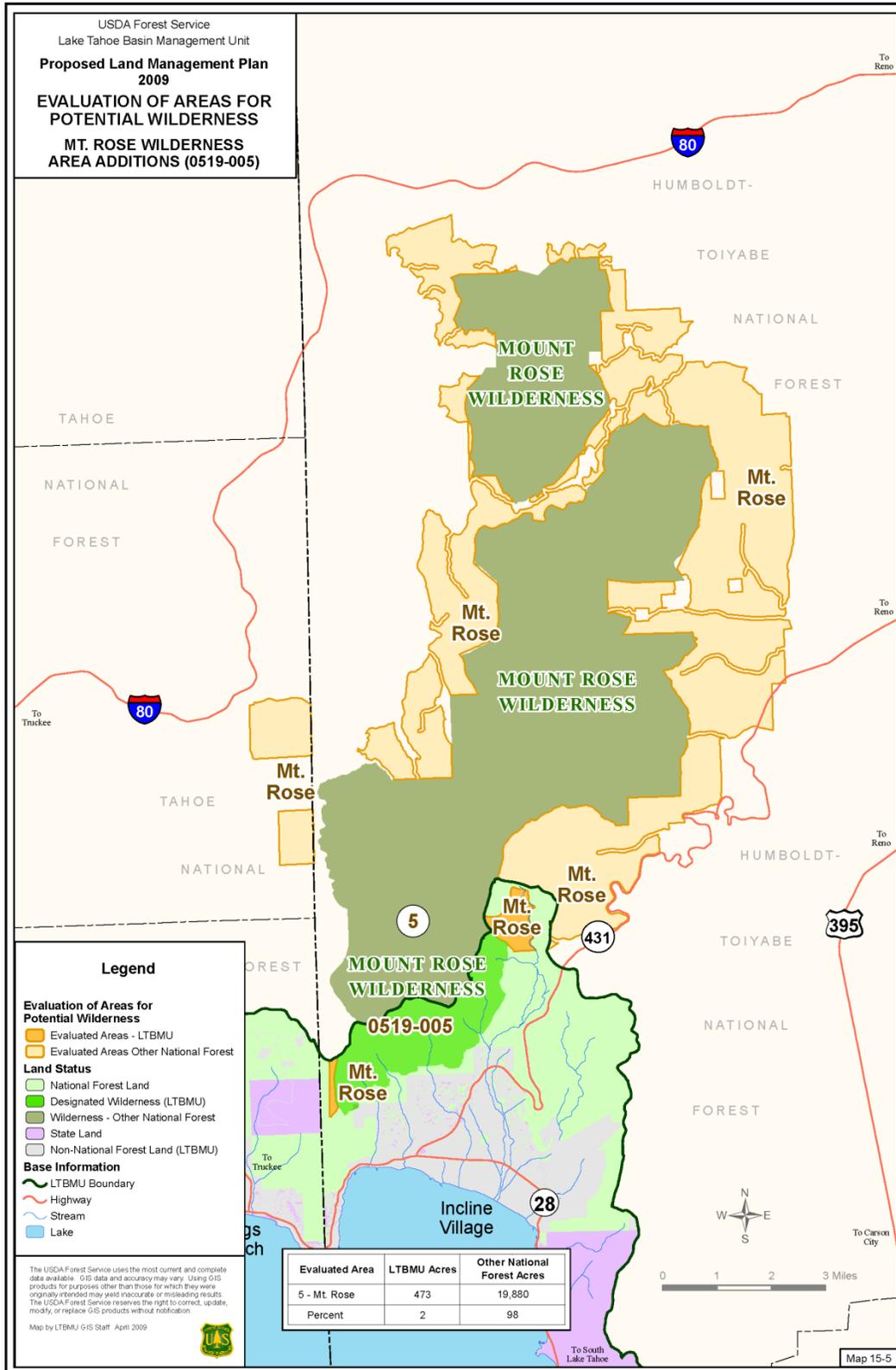


Figure C 6. Mt. Rose Wilderness and Roadless Additions Area Map (0519-005)

**Table C 7. Wilderness Capability Ratings (The Granite Chief Wilderness and Roadless)**

<b>The Granite Chief Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-006)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<b>A. Naturalness of Area</b>			
Variety and abundance of wildlife, presence of T&E, SOC			<b>M</b>
1. Diverse community of native mammals, birds, and fish.	<b>1. Moderate variety of native mammals, birds, and fish.</b>	1. Community of native mammals, birds, and fish is not diverse.	
2. Presence of threatened and endangered species.	2. Known moderate variety of threatened and endangered species.	<b>2. Low variety of threatened and endangered species.</b>	
3. Streams are critical to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	3. Streams are important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	3. Streams are not important to historic distribution of Lahontan cutthroat trout.	
4. Provides critical linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	<b>4. Provides linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.</b>	4. Does not provide linkage between wildlife areas or habitats.	
<b>5. Non-native species, Noxious weeds are not evident.</b>	5. Noxious weeds evident only along trails.	5. Noxious weeds common or scattered throughout the area.	
<b>6. High water quality. Fully supports beneficial uses.</b>	6. Good water quality. Partially supports beneficial uses.	6. Poor water quality. Does not support beneficial uses.	
<b>B. Undeveloped</b>			
Natural and free from Human disturbance			<b>M</b>
7. Area appears free of human disturbance. Disturbance appears to be natural, e.g., small wildfire.	<b>7. Area appears mostly free of human disturbance. Natural disturbance evident but does not dominate the landscape.</b>	7. Area shows signs of human disturbance.	
8. Area visible in surrounding foreground (outside the area) may show some human disturbance but does not dominate the view.	<b>8. Area visible in surrounding foreground has signs of human activities, e.g., road, farm house.</b>	8. Area visible in surrounding foreground shows obvious human activities, e.g., clearcuts, town.	
9. Only a minor improvement, e.g., trail.	<b>9. Several minor improvements.</b>	9. Major improvements, e.g., power line, dam, road or structures.	
<b>C. Opportunities for Primitive Recreation</b>			
Opportunity for solitude			<b>M</b>
10. Feeling of being alone or remote from civilization.	<b>10. Feeling of being alone is possible but signs of civilization are likely.</b>	10. Little opportunity of feeling alone.	
11. Recreation use by other parties is light. (encounters)	<b>11. Recreation use by other parties is moderate.</b>	11. Recreation use by other parties is high.	
Primitive Type Recreation Activities			
Hiking/backpacking opportunities			

<b>The Granite Chief Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-006)</b>				
High	Moderate	Low	Rating	
<b>12. Multiple system trails into area.</b>	12. At least one system trail into area.	12. No system trails that are maintained.		
13. Several dispersed camping sites that are routinely used.	<b>13. At least one dispersed camping site that is occasionally used.</b>	13. No dispersed camping sites that are used, but progressive camping may occur.		
Fishing opportunities				
14. Good populations of native game fish.	14. Fair populations of native game fish.	<b>14. Low populations of native game fish.</b>		
Cross country Skiing and snowshoeing opportunities				
15. Easily accessible in winter by motorized wheeled vehicles.	15. Snow keeps wheeled vehicles several miles from area, but access is possible by snowmobile.	<b>15. Area is difficult or rarely accessed by snowmobile.</b>		
Snowmobiling use				
<b>16. Terrain is steep or vegetation too dense that cross country travel is difficult.</b>	16. Terrain is moderate or vegetation brushy that impedes cross country travel.	16. Terrain is gentle and vegetation open to allow easy cross country travel.		
<b>17. Snowmobile use prohibited, or if allowed, rarely used.</b>	17. Snowmobile use restricted to two months or less, or on half or less of the area.	17. Snowmobile use permitted.		
<b>D. Special Features and Values</b>				
Scenic features				<b>L</b>
18. Area has peaks or rocky formations considered spectacular from the rest of the Forest and/or special vegetative features that are considered very scenic.	18. Area has a peak or formation that stands out from surrounding terrain and/or vegetative features considered scenic.	<b>18. Terrain is typical of the Forest or surrounding area and vegetation is common to the surrounding area.</b>		
19. Area has alpine lakes, creeks in alpine meadows, or waterfalls.	19. Area may have bodies of water that are typical for the Forest.	<b>19. Area has no permanent lakes but may have perennial creeks or ponds.</b>		
Other special features				
20. Area has at least one major other special feature, e.g., high mountain meadow, fen, etc.	20. Several minor other special features, e.g., flat creek bottom, small waterfall, etc.	<b>20. No major or very few minor other special features.</b>		
21. Contains a designated special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	21. Contains a candidate or eligible special area, e.g., wild and scenic river, research natural area, etc.	<b>21. Does not contain an established, candidate, or eligible special area.</b>		
Scientific, educational, or historical values				

<b>The Granite Chief Wilderness &amp; Roadless Additions (0519-006)</b>			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
<p>22. Several significant scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.</p> <p>23. Identified values are unique to the Sierra Nevada region.</p>	<p>22. At least one significant or several minor scientific, educational, or historical values have been identified in the area.</p> <p>23. Identified values are common in the Sierra Nevada region but uncommon on the Forest.</p>	<p><b>22. No scientific, educational, or historical value has been identified in the area.</b></p> <p><b>23. Any identified values are common throughout the Forest and the Sierra Nevada region.</b></p>	
<b>E. &amp; F. Manageability</b>			
Ability to Manage as Wilderness Manageable			<b>L</b>
24. Size and shape of area allows effective management.	24. Size or shape will affect manageability but can be mitigated by boundary changes.	<b>24. Size is small or has irregular shape that makes management difficult.</b>	
25. Minimum activity in surrounding area that affects manageability.	<b>25. Activity is evident and ongoing in surrounding area but will not keep area from being managed.</b>	25. Activity in surrounding area will affect the manageability of the inventoried area.	
<b>26. Located adjacent to existing wilderness or other inventoried areas.</b>	26. Located near existing wilderness or other inventoried areas. May be difficult to access.	26. Isolated, small parcel of land.	
Area boundaries are recognizable			
27. The vast majority of the boundary follows features that can be easily found and identified on the ground, e.g., dominant ridge, creek, road, or trail. <p>28. Boundary can be easily adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features without significantly modifying the area boundaries.</p>	27. More than half the boundary follows a feature that can be easily found and identified on the ground. <p>28. Boundary can be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable features but will modify the general size and shape of the area. Boundary may be identified with minimal signing.</p>	<b>27. Boundary generally lies across the hillside and can rarely be located without equipment, e.g. GPS unit.</b> <p><b>28. Boundary cannot be adjusted to follow locatable and identifiable, or requires extensive signing.</b></p>	
Area boundaries are manageable			
<b>29. Area access by trail or closed and revegetated road, adjacent area has natural setting.</b>	29. May be accessed by narrow or two-track open road that is lightly traveled, minimal human presence evident.	29. Boundary adjacent to heavily used road or along area showing high human presence, e.g., a number of farm houses with outbuilding, pasture land, etc.	
30. Boundary totally on national forest and not adjacent to private property.	30. Boundary follows property line forming irregular shape.	<b>30. Boundary crosses private property so there are inholdings along the boundary.</b>	
31. No inholdings.	31. Few small inholdings may be present.	<b>31. Several small or one large inholding.</b>	

The Granite Chief Wilderness & Roadless Additions (0519-006)			
High	Moderate	Low	Rating
Area boundaries constitute barrier to prohibited use			
32. Human improvement is significant to physically provide a barrier, e.g., road cut slope.	32. Human improvement places user on notice of prohibited use, e.g., a sign.	<b>32. Human improvement not a deterrent may provide point of access of prohibited use.</b>	



## Availability

Availability of the potential wilderness area is determined by describing *other* resource potentials and resource needs beyond the wilderness characterization addressed in the Capability process. Pertinent quantitative and qualitative information including current use, outputs, trends, and potential future use and/or outputs for the applicable resources in accordance with Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70, Section 72.2. Each area has been analyzed for the following criteria, as applicable:

**Table C 8. Area Availability Resource Criteria**

<b>Resources</b>
1. Areas that are of high value for <i>communication sites</i> where installation and maintenance of improvements may be required
2. Areas with existing motorized or <i>mechanized access or use</i> . (winter summer).
3. Areas needing <i>active vegetative restoration</i> activity due to specific species survival, or identifiable fuels reduction activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, or known areas of severe insect infestation(s) that will lead to high tree mortality
4. Areas of high value <i>mineral deposits</i> of economic or strategic importance
5. Areas having such <i>unique characteristics or natural phenomena</i> that public access should be developed to facilitate public use and enjoyment including winter sports sites
6. <i>Lands</i> committed through contracts, permits, or agreements that would be in conflict with wilderness management (some minor permitted uses may still be allowed)
<b>Ratings</b>
High = areas having evidence of and high priority need the category addressed.
Moderate = areas having a need in the category addressed.
Low = areas having no to little need or management addressed.

**Table C 9. Details of the Availability Assessment for Areas Being Evaluated for Potential Wilderness on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit**

Criteria	Desolation Wilderness Additions Pyramid 0519-001	Dardanelles Roadless 0519-002	Freel/ Jobs Peek Roadless 0519-003	Lincoln Creek Roadless 0519-004	Mt. Rose Wild & Additions 0519-005	Granite Chief Wilderness Additions 0519-006
1. Areas that are of high value for communication sites where installation and maintenance of improvements may be required	L	L	L	L	L	L
2. Areas with existing motorized or mechanized access or use. (winter summer).	L	L	H	M	H	L
3. Areas needing active vegetative restoration activity due to specific species survival, or identifiable fuels reduction activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, or known areas of severe insect infestation(s) that will lead to high tree mortality	M	M	M	M	M	M
4. Areas of high value mineral deposits of economic or strategic importance	L	L	L	L	L	L
5. Areas having such unique characteristics or natural phenomena that public access should be developed to facilitate public use and enjoyment including winter sports sites	L	L	L	L	L	L
6. Lands committed through contracts, permits, or agreements that would be in conflict with wilderness management (some minor permitted uses may still be allowed)	L	L	L	L	L	L

## Need for Wilderness

Determination if the area is needed as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System is the final step of the evaluation process. As outlined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 chapter 70, section 72(e), this section summarizes the factors considered and the process used in assessing the need for each potential wilderness area.

### Desolation Wilderness Additions – Pyramid Roadless Area (0519-001)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

The Pyramid area lies along the eastern boundary and is contiguous to the Desolation Wilderness. Its boundary would interface with urbanized and semi-natural settings. Because of the proximity to urban areas, there are numerous informal trails in the Pyramid area, and several segments of system trails. Much of the Pyramid area is comprised of steep terrain, and forms a physical buffer to the Desolation Wilderness.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

Adjacent wilderness areas are all heavily used, owing to their relatively easy accessibility and proximity to urban centers in California and Nevada. Expected increases in population levels are expected to generate more pressure on existing wildernesses. The Pyramid area would accommodate some of that demand but the steep terrain would limit actual use.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, are several sizeable roadless areas (e.g. Freel, Dardanelles), that provide opportunities for many forms of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, along with winter recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Pyramid area is largely a semi-primitive area, but its relative steep terrain constrains most recreation opportunities.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Pyramid area provides some natural habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plants species. Throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin there are limited natural areas undisturbed by the extensive logging activities that took place in the late 1800's. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Desolation Wilderness has been thoroughly evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective and its current management conditions are being actively monitored. Sanctioned human use levels are unlikely to change. The Pyramid area

complements the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Desolation, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

Pyramid is predominately in a semi-primitive natural condition (ROS), and the area appears to have a stable ecosystem. However, its relatively narrow shape and length suggest that it does not have its own unique and distinctive ecosystem.

### Dardanelles Roadless Area (0519-002)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

Located in the southernmost section of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Dardanelles (Meiss) area has long served as an alternative destination for the heavily used Desolation Wilderness. It is also an alternative to the popular Mokelumne Wilderness to the south. The area is easily accessible from several trailheads off both Highway 89 and 88. While the Desolation offers visitors granite canyons, the Dardanelles area offers a large diversity of landscapes, from mountain meadows, scenic lakes to towering alpine peaks.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

Adjacent wilderness areas are all heavily used, owing to their relatively easy accessibility and proximity to urban centers in California and Nevada. Expected increases in population levels are expected to generate more pressure on existing wildernesses.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, are several sizeable roadless areas (e.g. Freel, Lincoln), that provide opportunities for many forms of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, along with winter recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Dardanelles area has long-provided a wide variety of non-motorized recreational opportunities for visitors.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Dardanelles area provides a diversity of natural habitat for a variety of native fish, wildlife and plants species. Throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin there are limited natural areas undisturbed by the extensive logging and grazing activities that took place in the late 1800's. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Desolation Wilderness has been thoroughly evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective and its current management conditions are being actively monitored. Sanctioned human use levels are unlikely to change. The Dardanelles area complements the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Desolation, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6.. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

Dardanelles is predominately in a semi-primitive natural condition (ROS), and despite past human influences from grazing and logging, and the establishment of several small dams for fisheries, the area has a stable ecosystem.

### Freel Roadless Area (0519-003)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

The Freel area lies along the southern slopes of the Lake Tahoe Basin, across the lake from Desolation Wilderness, and with an hours drive of Mt. Rose Wilderness and Mokelumne Wilderness. The Freel area is adjacent to a number of roads and trails on its northern and southern boundary and urbanized areas along the western and southern boundary. While much of the Freel area is comprised of steep terrain, many areas are easily accessible from the urban fringe.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

Adjacent wilderness areas are all heavily used, owing to their relatively easy accessibility and proximity to urban centers in California and Nevada. Expected increases in population levels are expected to generate more pressure on existing wildernesses. The Freel area could accommodate some of that demand as it is predominately undeveloped forest land with some scenic peaks and water sources.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, are several sizeable roadless areas (e.g. Lincoln, Dardanelles), that provide opportunities for many forms of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, along with winter recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Freel area is largely a semi-primitive area, with steep terrain and can accommodate most recreation opportunities. Portions are popular with snowmobiles and mountain bikers.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Freel area provides some natural habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plants species. Throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin there are limited natural areas undisturbed by the extensive logging activities that took place in the late 1800's. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Desolation Wilderness has been thoroughly evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective and its current management conditions are being actively monitored. Sanctioned human use levels are unlikely to change. The Freel area complements the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Desolation, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

Freel is predominately in a semi-primitive natural condition (ROS), and the area appears to have a high degree of natural integrity and an apparent stable ecosystem.

### Lincoln Creek Roadless Area (0519-004)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

The Lincoln Creek area lies along the eastern slopes of the Lake Tahoe Basin, across the lake from Desolation Wilderness, and south of Mt. Rose Wilderness. The Lincoln Creek area, is adjacent to a number of roads and trails on its eastern boundary and urbanized areas along the western and southern boundary. While much of the Lincoln Creek area is comprised of steep terrain, many areas are easily accessible from the urban fringe

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

Adjacent wilderness areas are all heavily used, owing to their relatively easy accessibility and proximity to urban centers in California and Nevada. Expected increases in population levels are expected to generate more pressure on existing wildernesses. The Lincoln Creek area would accommodate some of that demand but the steep terrain, limited unique scenic character and lack of water sources would limit actual use.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, are several sizeable roadless areas (e.g. Freel, Dardanelles), that provide opportunities for many forms of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, along with winter recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Lincoln Creek area is largely a semi-primitive area, but its relative steep terrain and constrains most recreation opportunities.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Lincoln Creek area provides some natural habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plants species. Throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin there are limited natural areas undisturbed by the extensive logging activities that took place in the late 1800's. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Desolation Wilderness has been thoroughly evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective, and its current management conditions are being actively monitored. Sanctioned human use levels are unlikely to change. The Lincoln Creek area complements the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Desolation, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

Lincoln Creek is predominately in a semi-primitive natural condition (ROS), and the area appears to have a stable ecosystem. However, its relatively narrow shape and length suggest that it does not have its own unique and distinctive ecosystem.

### Mt. Rose Wilderness Additions (0519-007)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

Located in the northeast section of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Mt. Rose area is contiguous to the Mt. Rose Wilderness, on both the eastern and western boundary. The area is easily accessible from the Tahoe Meadows trailhead Highway 431. The area is also within several short hours drive of Reno and Carson City. During the winter months this area is extremely popular with cross-country skiers and the eastern parcel is also very popular with snowmobiles.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

The Mt. Rose Wilderness receives strong demand for access to such destinations as the summit of Mt. Rose itself, and in several internal areas along with demand for access of the Tahoe Rim

Trail, along its southern boundary. It does not have a permit system in place and is in general managed under the broad guidelines of the National Wilderness Preservation Act. Trends in population suggest a growing demand from adjacent populations centers (Reno, Carson and Tahoe). Additional pressure on trail uses are also predicted in and around the Mt. Rose area as new development from the Rim Trail and the neighboring Humboldt-Toiyabe NF create additional trail opportunities that will only increase over time.\_

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Much of the non-wilderness land area to the south provides recreational opportunities through the Tahoe Rim Trail system which extends around the Basin. Odd-Even mountain-biking opportunities are available on the Rim Trail segment from Hwy 431 to Tunnel Creek. Non-limited equestrian opportunities are also available. During the winter months, both sides of the Tahoe Meadows area (including the Mt. Rose Study area) are widely used by winter recreationists. The study area is very popular with snowmobilers (area south of Hwy 431 is closed to this activity).

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Mt. Rose study area provides a limited diversity of natural habitat because of its steep topography and terrain for a variety of native fish, wildlife and plants species. The area was extensively logged in the later 1800's. Later grazing activities took place in the early 1900's that have modified the original landscape. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin.

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Mt. Rose Wilderness, through the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process, has been evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective and its current management conditions are being actively monitored. Sanctioned human use levels are unlikely to change. By providing additional buffer, the Mt. Rose study area does complement the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Mt. Rose Wilderness, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs. The Mt. Rose is predominately in a semi-primitive non-motorized ROS setting. Its relatively small size is insufficient to stand alone as a designated wilderness and so would need to be added to the existing Mt. Rose Wilderness. Also, its small acreage also suggest the area does not have its own unique and distinctive ecosystem.

## The Granite Chief Wilderness Additions (0519-010)

1. The location, size, and type of other wildernesses in the general vicinity and their distance from the proposed area. Consider accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups. Public demand for wilderness may increase with proximity to growing population centers:

The Granite Chief Roadless Area lies along the western boundary of the Lake Tahoe Basin, adjacent to the Granite Chief Wilderness, and within an hours journey to the Desolation Wilderness and within two hours drive of the Mt. Rose Wilderness area. Through portions of the Granite Chief run sections of the Pacific Crest/Tahoe Rim Trail. It has a high degree of natural integrity and apparent naturalness. Its small acreage and inholdings makes the land area dependent upon the adjacent Granite Chief Wilderness to provide a full wilderness character.

2. Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use, population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation:

Adjacent wilderness areas are all heavily used, owing to their relatively easy accessibility and proximity to urban centers in California and Nevada. Expected increases in population levels are expected to generate more pressure on existing wildernesses. The Granite Chief area could accommodate some of that demand as it is predominately undeveloped forest land adjacent to some scenic peaks.

3. The extent to which non-wilderness lands on the NFS unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences

Within the Lake Tahoe Basin, are several sizeable roadless areas (e.g. Lincoln, Dardanelles), that provide opportunities for many forms of outdoor recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, along with winter recreation opportunities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The Granite Chief area is largely a semi-primitive area, with predominately steep terrain; however, it can accommodate some recreation opportunities.

4. The need to provide a refuge for those species that may have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.

The Granite Chief area provides some natural habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plants species. Throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin, there are limited natural areas undisturbed by the extensive logging activities that took place in the late 1800s. Protection of available habitat for sensitive or protected species is a strategic goal for all National Forest lands within the Basin

5. Within social and biological limits, management may increase the capacity of established wildernesses to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource.

The Granite Chief Wilderness has been evaluated as to its potential for increasing capacity from either a social or biological perspective, and its current management conditions are being actively monitored according to the guidance of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Sanctioned human use levels are likely to change. The Granite Chief Roadless Area complements the wilderness character and experience visitors receive in the Granite Chief Wilderness, however increasing use needs to be evaluated to determine appropriate capacity levels for both social and biological limits.

6. An area's ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems. Consideration of this factor may include utilization of Hammond's subdivision of landform types

and the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem classification. This approach is helpful from the standpoint of rounding out the National Wilderness Preservation System and may be further subdivided to suit local, sub-regional and regional needs.

Granite Chief is predominately in a semi-primitive natural condition (ROS), and the area appears to have a high degree of natural integrity, however its small size, unless added to the adjacent Granite Chief Wilderness area, precludes any ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems.

## Agency Recommendation

The agency recommendation varies by Alternative.

## Effect of Recommendations

The following is a discussion of the impact on the area if it were designated as wilderness and the impact on the area if it were managed as non-wilderness.

### Desolation Wilderness Additions - Pyramid Roadless Area

#### *If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: Pyramid Roadless Area would need to be designated as “wilderness,” adjacent to the existing Desolation Wilderness. The area could not be managed as wilderness without this linkage. It is not anticipated the Pyramid area would significantly receive more use because of a wilderness designation because of the steep terrain. Most of the eastern boundary of the Pyramid Roadless Area interfaces with urban development that would facilitate intrusions into the area that would make “manageability” challenging. The greatest impact would be on the Desolation Wilderness as it presently exists, by creating a “buffer,” of undeveloped land. Wilderness designation of the Pyramid area would ensure its long-term integrity as a relatively naturally appearing area providing benefits for protection of wildlife habitat.

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Some conflicts would become significant generated by a predicted conflict with adjacent urban developments and activities because of the proximity of the Pyramid area to multiple developments such as subdivisions, summer-home residences, established highways and trails. That proximity would likely generate management conflicts such as intrusions by mechanized or motorized recreationists, noise and congestion from such areas as Echo, Angora, Fallen Leaf and Cascade Lakes.

Economic and social effects: Addition of the Pyramid Roadless Area into the National Wilderness Preservation System would generate limited economic effects as the land area would remain largely unmodified and visitation would remain stable as most of the Pyramid area has been accessible and open. Because of its proximity to the long-established Desolation Wilderness (which has been a designated primitive area since 1931, and wilderness since 1969), the Pyramid area is generally viewed as a natural scenic boundary to the Desolation and that remains its strongest value.

#### *If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: Little of the Pyramid Roadless Area is expected to change if it is not added to the Desolation Wilderness. The status of the Pyramid Roadless Area as such is the critical determinant for that stability in the areas natural characteristics and future value. Its steep terrain has provided an “unofficial” buffer on the eastern boundary of the Desolation.

*Mitigation, if any. No special mitigation is necessary.*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Should the Pyramid Roadless Area remain in its current status, existing resources and uses would stay in their present condition unless the

Roadless designation was modified to allow greater development or a change in resource or vegetation treatment prescriptions.

Economic and social effects: Similar to the alternative option of wilderness, should the Pyramid area remain in its present management status, there are no anticipated noteworthy changes in either the economic or social outputs of conditions.

## Dardanelles Roadless Area

### *If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: The Dardanelles Roadless Area is a substantially natural area offering a diversity of landscapes, and scenic opportunities. The Dardanelles has been used as an alternative destination to the Desolation Wilderness because of its easy accessibility and semi-primitive natural condition. Its boundary offers a relatively well defined and manageable land area should it become wilderness. The area offers opportunities for solitude and is relatively free of human developments or modifications with the exception of a historic cabin and barn located in the southern portion of the area. Rock dams were installed 50-years ago for fisheries management at several of the major lakes within Dardanelles. If designated as a wilderness, the Dardanelles area would retain wilderness attributes for wildlife habitat but would require a vegetation management prescription appropriate to a wilderness area; though to date there have not been any treatments. For well over a century, grazing was permitted in the Dardanelles area, but this activity was eliminated several years ago (note that grazing is allowed in wilderness areas).

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: There are no motorized uses within the Dardanelles area. In recent years, there have been an increasing number of mountain bikers accessing the Dardanelles Roadless Area; however this activity has been restricted to portions of the existing trail system, and prohibited on the Pacific Crest Trail segment that traverses the southern and western portions of the Dardanelles. Should this area become designated as a wilderness, this mechanized activity would need to be variously modified and regulated to preserve the overall wilderness character of the Dardanelles, and allow users an outstanding opportunity for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Alternatives would include eliminating that mechanized use as per the guidance of the National Wilderness Preservation Act, or the boundary of the Dardanelles modified to accommodate that activity outside of designated wilderness.

Designation could lead to adverse effects to the Meiss Cabin and Barn and historic dams at Showers, Dardanelles, and Round lakes if the designation did not include enabling legislation to allow for preservation of these structures.

Economic and social effects: The Dardanelles is already well established as a “wilderness-like” natural area within the Tahoe Basin, and provides a diversity of semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Its multiple lakes and meadows offer scenic opportunities as well as opportunities for wildflower viewing and non-motorized winter recreation and horseback riding. Accordingly, the marginal increase in the economic contribution if the area was to be designated as a wilderness would be modest (estimated currently to be in excess of \$100,000), annually largely generated through camping equipment rentals and purchases, and also, there is a single outfitter guide permit at this time, authorized during the winter months to utilize the cabin).

*If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: If maintained as a roadless area, the Dardanelles would likely retain its natural character and integrity. Vegetative prescriptions however may alter the present natural appearance of portions of the area. The area would maintain its overall character and capability to support a diverse community of native plants and wildlife.

*Mitigation, if any. None required.*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Mechanized recreational activities would continue, and the Dardanelles area would continue to experience a potential increase in visitation as an alternative to the quota-limited Desolation Wilderness. That unregulated use would eventually generate user impacts around popular lakes and destination within the Dardanelles that would require management attention. Permitted use of the “Meiss” cabin & barn would continue under special use authorization and potentially expand to include summer outfitter guiding activities.

Economic and social effects: If the Dardanelles area is not converted to formal wilderness status, but its status remains unchanged, it will continue to experience growing visitation as an alternative to other roadless areas within the area, as it is meeting the public’s demand for a “wilderness-like” setting that accommodates most popular semi-primitive activities as hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, skiing and saddle stock opportunities. Because a non-wilderness designation for the Dardanelles area does not substantially alter the present economic values respective to the current values respective to the status of the Dardanelles area, the projected economic contribution would be similar to its wilderness status outputs.

## Freel/Jobs Peak Roadless Area

*If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: This prescription for the Freel Roadless Area would support the distinctive natural attributes of this moderately to severely steep land area (80% of the Freel area has slopes in excess of 30%). Along with other south shore area roadless areas, the Freel area has provided an alternative destination to the Desolation Wilderness, with relatively easy accessibility and wilderness character. The higher elevations of the Freel area offer panoramic views of the Tahoe Basin and across the lake and of the Desolation Wilderness, and shaded urban views. Along some portions of the Freel area are some moderate improvements such as roads, powerlines and structures. Some vegetation management prescriptions would be affected. Maintaining the area as “roadless,” would also ensure its long-term integrity as a relatively natural appearing land area. A cushion plant community at the top of Freel Peak would be protected.

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Approximately half of the Freel Roadless Area is presently accessible by snowmobiles and contains designated OHV routes and system roads and trails. These routes are also popular with mountain bikers, especially sections around Tucker Flat (known as “Mr. Toad’s Wild Ride.”) and a Tahoe Rim Trail segment above Star Lake. These popular activities would be prohibited or would need to be otherwise regulated. Other effects besides vegetation management prescription changes, may involve flight patterns for aircraft approaching the South Tahoe Airport, and maintenance of power lines.

Designation could lead to adverse effects to the historic dam at Star Lake if the designation did not include enabling legislation to allow for preservation of this structure.

Economic and social effects: Projections done in the 1988 Forest Plan indicated that a wilderness designation for the Freel area would generate up to 3 person years of annual employment and that would generate \$36,000 of annual income. Any income stimulated by a wilderness designation of the area would come from such actions as backcountry equipment sales and rentals, related supplies and clothing, along with map sales, and potentially income from outfitter-guiding permitting. Adjusted for inflation and the presence of outfitter-guides, that estimated annual income is estimated to be around \$100,000 annually. Most anticipated social effects will be positive with the significant exception of those nonconforming recreational uses such as mountain biking and snowmobiling, as designation of the Freel area as a formal wilderness would create substantial obstacles to the continuation of those uses which have been established in large portions of the Freel area for several decades. Accordingly, from an economic perspective of wilderness designation, there would be a loss of income if there was an elimination of access and recreational uses from mountain bikers and snowmobilers (equipment rental, maintenance, operations) of \$50,000 or more annually (note at present, there are no outfitter-guide permitted operations in the Freel area).

*If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: The Freel Roadless Area would continue to provide a substantially natural setting that largely provides wilderness-like characteristics and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Designated areas within the Freel would accommodate the demand for mechanized and motorized recreation.

*Mitigation, if any: None*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Non-wilderness designation would essentially allow the present mixed uses to continue, while allowing management of the area to continue to provide a diverse habitat for wildlife, and also opportunities for primitive recreation along with opportunities for solitude.

Economic and social effects: To maintain the Freel Roadless Area in its present non-wilderness status would accommodate a significant mixture of mechanized and motorized access opportunities along with allowing the Freel area to maintain most of its wilderness attributes and values. The natural integrity and solitude of the area would be maintained, and the effect on the economy would be relatively inconsequential. That combination of effects reflects Freel is a scenic and habitat resource that also is valued by the community for its accessibility along with its natural and scenic character. Economically, the approximate value for non-wilderness use would be similar to wilderness use.

## Lincoln Creek Roadless Area

*If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: The Lincoln Creek Roadless Area is a relatively steep (over 80% of the lands have slopes greater than 30%), moderately natural area that still provides important habitat to wildlife. With a complex boundary that interfaces with urban areas on the western and southern portions, there is moderate opportunity for solitude or primitive recreation opportunities. With few trails and limited water sources, the Lincoln Creek area is not easily accessible internally nor has any unique destinations. Its greatest value is as a substantially naturally appearing forested area overlooking the east shore of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Areas of Lincoln Creek are located adjacent to urban zones, and wilderness designation would have substantial impacts on the present recreational uses (primarily mountain biking and snowmobile uses).

Economic and social effects: Because the Lincoln Roadless Area has not attracted significant recreational use respective to its potential as a wilderness, there are mixed effects probable if it was designated. Since opportunities for solitude are moderate and the Lincoln Creek area has relatively low unique or scenic features, the social values would be moderate. Respective to the Forest LMP, the projected economic benefits of Lincoln Creek as a wilderness would also be relatively low (estimated at \$17,000 in 1988, projected to \$75,000 in 2009 if outfitter guiding services are permitted in this area).

*If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: If the Lincoln Creek Roadless Area is maintained as such, the area should retain its attributes of natural integrity, solitude and primitive recreation opportunities.

*Mitigation, if any: None*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: The Lincoln Creek area would continue to accommodate nonconforming wilderness recreational activities such as mountain biking and snowmobiling uses, and the extensive urban interface areas would remain accessible for users. The area would accommodate vegetative management prescriptions.

Economic and social effects: Maintaining the present natural condition would allow continued opportunities for solitude and maintain available scenic attributes. Non-wilderness economic effects would derive from the continuation of activities such as snowmobiling and mountain biking. There is some associated use by the permitted Zephyr Cove Resort Snowmobiling operations on small portions of the Lincoln Creek Roadless Area.

## Mt. Rose Wilderness Additions

*If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: The proposed additions to the present Mt. Rose Wilderness would further increase the contiguous area of protected land and would greater buffer the core wilderness area. Larger areas of land not only provide for greater opportunities for solitude but allow for a primitive experience away from roads and development. Ecosystem attributes are also further protected and buffered against human development and intrusion. The Mt. Rose additions would bolster wilderness character and add greater value to this wilderness unit as a whole.

Effects on non-wilderness resource and users: In particular, the Relay Addition, (northeasterly addition) would directly conflict with winter motorized use. Currently the area identified for potential wilderness designation is heavily used during the winter as a snowmobile playground. Wilderness designation would eliminate this user group, who mostly travel from the metropolitan areas of Reno and Sparks to recreate off Highway 431. During the summer months, mechanized use is generally restricted to the road that access's the Relay Communication station and doesn't travel through the Relay addition.

Economic and social effects: Wilderness designation would benefit those seeking solitude and a primitive experience. Eliminating snowmobiles would expand more area for non-motorized use during the winter. Conversely wilderness designation for the Relay addition would create a cherry-stem of non designated land between the proposed addition and another “non-motorized” segment on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest that lies further to the east further complicating an already difficult and contentious area to manage.

*If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and values: Without wilderness designation this proposed addition will continue to see intense winter motorized use. Therefore many aspects of wilderness character such as solitude and non-motorized recreation will not be available. There is little value for wilderness recreation under current conditions. The land still does provide for an overall natural setting, although small in scope.

*Mitigation, if any: None*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: The Mt. Rose addition would continue to provide a natural setting that allows for mixed use. Ever increasing motorized use could potentially lead to point source pollution of Incline Lake and the water resources of Lake Tahoe.

Economic and social effects: Maintaining non-wilderness status of this segment will continue to support local businesses that sell and service snow machines. It will also continue to provide for the whole spectrum of recreation opportunity classes. Economically, the approximate value for non-wilderness use would be similar to wilderness use.

## Granite Chief Wilderness Additions

*If wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and value: The proposed additions to the present Granite Chief wilderness would further increase the contiguous area of protected land and would provide more buffer to the core wilderness area. While its small size constrains its potential as a “stand-alone” wilderness, formal wilderness designation would permanently ensure protection of an area where the Pacific Crest Trail traverses and would allow for the wilderness attributes that the PCT tries to achieve. Inclusion into the NWPS would protect the headwaters of Blackwood Creek, increase the size of the present wilderness, buffer the core Granite Chief Wilderness and further provide true wilderness designation for another segment of the PCT. These all together increase the value and overall goals sought for wilderness designation.

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Currently these two additions allow winter motorized use by snowmobiles. Although the terrain and vegetation is not conducive to snowmobiles, wilderness designation would eliminate this use. There are also several 4WD roads and trails nearby that facilitate motorized and mechanical use (mountain bikes) which could cause management difficulties if the areas were wilderness. Vegetative prescriptions would also be eliminated if the land were wilderness.

Economic and social effects: Most anticipated effects would be positive, but not drastically different than present conditions present. The largest effect socially would be to eliminate snowmobile use from where it’s already allowed.

*If non-wilderness:*

Effects on wilderness characteristics and value: Any potential roadless area that remains undesignated is potentially subject to non-conforming wilderness uses. Vegetative prescriptions and further user-created motorized trail development are the main concerns. Also degradation of undisturbed wildlife habitat by snowmobile intrusion and increasingly motorized recreational uses could reduce wilderness character and value.

*Mitigation, if any: None*

Effects on non-wilderness resources and uses: Use would remain the same, unchanged under a non-wilderness status. Mixed use would be allowed to continue.

Economic and social effects: To maintain the Granite Chief additions in non-wilderness status would accommodate the mixed use regime that is established today. Economic effects pertaining to this area would remain the same.

**Table C 10. Summary of Assessments (by Area)**

Area Name	Capability <sup>1</sup>	Availability <sup>2</sup>	Need <sup>3</sup>
Desolation Wilderness additions - Pyramid 0519-001	0 High	0 High	L
	2 Moderate	1 Moderate	
	3 Low	5 Low	
Dardanelles Roadless 0519-002	4 High	0 High	H
	1 Moderate	1 Moderate	
	0 Low	5 Low	
Freel/ Jobs Peek Roadless 0519-003	0 High	1 High	M
	5 Moderate	1 Moderate	
	0 Low	4 Low	
Lincoln Creek Roadless 0519-004	0 High	0 High	L
	3 Moderate	2 Moderate	
	2 Low	4 Low	
Mt. Rose Wilderness Additions 0519-005	0 High	1 High	L
	3 Moderate	1 Moderate	
	2 Low	4 Low	
The Granite Chief Wilderness Additions 0519-006	0 High	0 High	L
	3 Moderate	1 Moderate	
	2 Low	5 Low	

**Key <sup>1</sup> – Areas capability for wilderness designation**

- Desirable ratings are High and Moderate
- Variety and Abundance of wildlife Natural and Free from Disturbance
- Outstanding opt for Solitude & Unconfined Rec. Special Feature and Values

- Manageability

**Key <sup>2</sup> – Potential for other resource potentials beyond wilderness**

- Desirable ratings are Low or Moderate

- Areas with high value for comm. Sites
- Areas with existing OHV or mechanized use
- Areas needing active vegetation restoration

- Areas having high mineral value

- Areas with unique character

- Lands committed thru contracts-wild conflicts

**Key <sup>3</sup> – Determination of need for an area to be designated as wilderness**

- Desirable rating is High

- Analysis narrative describes the degree to which it contributes to the overall National Wilderness Preservation System.

Stated Rating is a summary average based upon narrative of the six stated criteria.